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THURSDAY
DECEMBER 15, 2011
Daily 75¢, Sunday $2
Vol. 83, No. 279

Oil price plummets to below $95 a barrel

By Chris Kahn
Associated Press

NEW YORK— Growing concerns about the European debt crisis on Wednesday pulled oil prices down to their lowest level this month.

Prices tumbled early in the day as traders focused on Europe's credit problems and its weakening currency. Oil has wavered around the $100-per-barrel mark for the past month while eurozone leaders wrestled with ballooning government debts. Now analysts say the latest financial reforms won't fix underlying credit problems within the 17-nation currency bloc.

Europe is expected to fall back into recession, and investors fear the banking system could collapse if nations don't find a way to reduce debts soon.

Benchmark crude fell $5.19, or 5.2 percent, to end the day at $94.95 per barrel in New York. Prices dropped as low as $94.21 — the lowest since Nov. 7. Brent crude, which is imported by some U.S. refineries, lost $4.83, or 4.4 percent, to finish at $104.25 a barrel in London.

Doug Robison, president of ExL Petroleum in Midland, said it's hard to tell if Wednesday's decline was an isolated event or the beginning of a trend.

"The price drop was not tied to supply and demand but was a reflection of the fall of the euro," he said via email. "As the euro falls, the dollar rises. Since oil is priced in U.S. dollars, as the U.S. currency increases in value, oil also becomes more expensive and as a result becomes less attractive to investors.

"Bottom line is that speculation from an investment viewpoint is, and has been, largely driving the price of crude as opposed to the historic market supply and demand parameters that used to drive the price of crude," he added. "Future crude prices may continue to be influenced by European money policy, and therefore hard to predict. We will have to watch happens in the European monetary theater."

A key indicator of Europe's debt problems, the euro, fell to its lowest level against the dollar in 11 months. Economists pointed out that new requirements for balanced budgets and more central control may keep nations from building sizable debts in the future, but they do little to reduce the massive debts already on the books.

Oil prices have traded as low as $75.67 and as high as $113.93 this year.

In the U.S., the government reported that oil demand last

Please see **OIL PRICES**/4A

Living the Nativity

Cindelia Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

First Baptist Church's presentation of its Living Nativity continues 7-8 p.m. today at N Street and Cuthbert Avenue. The annual community event features church members portraying the holy family, the three wise men, shepherds, angels and live animals. Hoot Beckett and his wife, Janecka, portrayed Joseph and Mary on Wednesday night. For more photos see **RELIGION** on Dec. 23.

Some report cards will be incomplete

Younger students taking high school courses won't have credits, final averages

By Meredith Moriak
Staff Writer

When report cards go out this month, seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders taking classes for high school credit will notice there's no semester grade or credit awarded.

Because of a state mandate requiring newly implemented end-of-course examinations to account for 15 percent of a student's final course average, fall grades will not be finalized until June when exam scores are released by the state, said Elise Kail, Midland ISD executive director of accountability.

Online

View a sample report card on our website: www.MyWestTexas.com.

> "Most of the discussions revolve around ethical issues. What do you do for kids that doesn't penalize them for something the state has done that we didn't develop?"
>
> — ELISE KAIL
> Midland ISD executive director of accountability

At that time, 7.5 percent of the EOC grade will be applied to the fall semester grades. Each of the three grading cycles will account for about 14 percent of the grade, and credit will be awarded based on the student's final grade, she said.

The additional 7.5 percent of the EOC grade will be applied to the spring semester grades, and the average will determine whether a student receives credit for the second half of the year.

Students in the 2011-12 freshman class and younger are the only ones subject to new EOC requirements and State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test. Sophomores, juniors and seniors will graduate under the existing Texas Assesment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) requirements.

All students will be required to pass 12 end-of-course examinations, scheduled four per year, per high school grade, and students must pass them to advance to the next grade. Students also must meet subject-level cumulative score requirements as defined by the state to graduate.

While the state mandates that 15 percent of the grade is based on the EOC, the state does not mandate how the district applies those grades, Kail said.

As a result, some districts may choose to give every student who passes the EOC a score of 100 or higher and every student who fails a score of 69. Others may choose to give students a score based on the number of questions answered correctly.

At this time, Midland ISD has not decided how it will award grades based on EOC results. It is an issue Kail said the district will begin to discuss in January.

"Most of the discussions revolve around ethical issues," Kail said. "What do you do for kids that doesn't penalize them for something the state has done that we didn't develop?"

Because districts have the freedom to award grades to their own standards, Kail said it is possible the application of EOC exam scores will affect students in different districts different ways.

"Everybody wants to do what's right for kids, but we don't exactly know what to expect because we've never had this test before and don't know what failing is," Kail said, noting the district doesn't want to adopt a grade guideline without knowing how students will perform. "No district in the state wants to penalize kids for something they have no idea what it will look like."

The Texas Education Agency is expected to release passing standards for the EOC exams in February.

Although students can retake the EOC exams up to three times each year to achieve a higher cumulative score for graduation distinction, only the first score students receive will be calculated into their GPA, according to district policy.

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

State allows county to ban all fireworks

■ Judge says the county requested the ban to protect the community from grass fires.

By Kathleen Thurber
Staff Writer

Lt. Governor David Dewhurst issued an extended disaster declaration on Wednesday that will ban the sale and use of all fireworks in Midland County through the holiday season.

Midland County officials requested the ban to protect the community from grass fires during the continued drought, County Judge Mike Bradford said.

"When you ban them, you, in theory and in practice, take away all that risk," Bradford said. "Our citizenry that I've talked to have not forgotten the horrendous fire season we had. We're not interested in repeating it."

Bradford signed a temporary disaster declaration Wednesday morning and then sent a letter to Gov. Rick Perry's office requesting the declaration be extended through the new year.

Because Perry is campaigning out of the state, Dewhurst responded to the request and extended the ban on fireworks through 7 a.m. Jan. 2.

Ector, Crockett and Lubbock counties also have been provided disaster declarations and firework bans, said Josh Havens, a spokesman with Perry's office.

Bradford said he consulted with Emergency Management Coordinator Dale Little and officials at the Texas Forest Service and the National Weather Service before making the decision to enact a temporary ban Wednesday. Today is the

Please see **FIREWORKS**/4A

Midland teen dies in crash with semi

From staff reports

One teen died and another remained hospitalized after an early Wednesday morning traffic accident.

A tractor-trailer driving on Business 20, near County Road 1140, struck a vehicle about 2:30 a.m. Wednesday. The accident killed Krysta Tipsword, 18, of Midland, and seriously injured Sean Green, 19, of Georgia, a Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman said.

Green was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital with a fractured skull and broken vertebrae and remained in critical condition, as of press time Wednesday night.

The 32-year-old driver of the tractor-trailer was not injured. No citations have been issued.

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Gasoline	$2.947	▼ $0.001

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Midland Reporter-Telegram

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ISSN 0890-0892

A Hearst Newspaper

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

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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weddings@mrt.com

How can I obtain a photo reprint? 687-8833

How do I submit a Letter to the Editor?
By fax: 570-7650
By email: Letters@mrt.com
Letters must have name, phone number and address. Limit: 350 words.

How do I submit an obituary? obits@mrt.com

How do I handle billing problem?
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Advertising: 687-8828

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When Baron Batch, a standout football player at Midland High, suffered a season-ending injury after being recruited to Texas Tech, he never could have predicted how his personal tragedy would ultimately lead to saving the life of suicidal football fan several years later.

Batch's mywesttexas.com column about the story, "When Ripples Collide," quickly became the most read story in our site's history after it appeared in March.

However, last week – more than eight months after the column's debut – "When Ripples Collide" surprisingly again became the most-read story on mywesttexas.com thanks to readers who found hope in its message after a recent string of suicides among Midland students.

"Each of us has our own ripple, but our lives are primarily made up of other peoples ripples crashing into our own. Many people like to think that our ripples crash randomly into each other without purpose or reason. Maybe that's true, but then again maybe it's not."

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Win a Samsung Galaxy Tab

The Reporter-Telegram and AT&T are giving away a Samsung Galaxy Tab, one of the hottest Christmas items of the season, to one of our lucky Facebook readers.

Weighing in at just under a pound, the full-size, full-color Galaxy Tab 8.9 (approx. retail value $629.99) comes with a 7-inch screen, 1.0 GHz processor, 4G LTE speed for faster surfing and downloading, along with the popular Android 3.2 operating system and access to more than 100,000 apps in the Android Market. The Galaxy 8.9 also includes a built in 3.15 megapixel camera for taking pictures on the fly and sharing instantly on the device with all of your Facebook and Twitter friends. (For full specs, see www.att.com).

To win, just find the contest link at www.mywesttexas.com and post the photo included to the Midland Reporter-Telegram Facebook wall at www.facebook.com/TheReporterTelegram and ask your friends to "like" it. (Pro tip: Tag your friends in the pic to call their attention to it.) The photo with the most Facebook likes by 5 p.m. Dec. 22, wins the Samsung Galaxy 8.9 Tab.

For complete rules, visit mywesttexas.com.

#schooldaydaze
#most-commented

MRT Facebook readers have said "bah-humbug!" to an unapproved draft of the 2012-'13 Midland Independent School District calendar that would shorten next year's Christmas break from 10 days to seven.

"Good luck with that one," Facebook fan Kneely Rene Hall said. "The attendance will be terrible. No one will go for that idea!"

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The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed on Thursday, December 15th, from 1 until 3 pm in order for our employees to enjoy our annual

Christmas Party.

Happy Holidays!
FROM THE
Midland Reporter-Telegram

Holly Pendant With Red Chalcedony Beads

Timeless and true — Vibrant and colorful even in winter's coldest months, holly has long been a symbol of enduring life. This pendant joins two graceful leaves with three bright chalcedony berries of varying size. To see this and other designs in our Christmas collection, please visit us at

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James Avery
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Dems drop millionaire's tax in year-end dispute

By David Espo
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats backed away from their demand for higher taxes on millionaires as part of legislation to extend Social Security tax cuts for most Americans on Wednesday as Congress struggled to clear critical year-end bills without triggering a partial government shutdown.

Earlier in the day, Republicans signaled an eagerness to avoid gridlock and adjourn for the holidays. With a massive, $1 trillion funding bill blocked by Democrats, GOP lawmakers and aides floated the possibility of a backup measure to keep the government in operation for several days after the money runs out Friday night.

It all comes at the close of a year of divided government — with a tea party-flavored majority in the House and Obama's allies in the Senate — that has veered from near-catastrophe to last-minute compromise repeatedly since last January.

The rhetoric Wednesday was biting at times.

"We have fiddled all year long, all year," the Republican leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell, of Kentucky, complained in a less-than-harmonious exchange on the Senate floor with Majority Leader Harry Reid. McConnell accused Democrats of "routinely setting up votes designed to divide us ... to give the president a talking point out on the campaign trail."

Reid shot back that McConnell had long ago declared Obama's defeat to be his top priority. And, he warned that unless Republicans show a willingness to bend, the country faces a government shutdown "that will be just as unpopular" as the two that occurred when Newt Gingrich was House speaker more than a decade ago.

It was a reminder — as if McConnell and current Speaker John Boehner, of Ohio, needed one — of the political debacle that ensued for Republicans when Gingrich was outmaneuvered in a showdown with former President Bill Clinton.

At issue now are three year-end bills that Obama and leaders in both parties in Congress say they want. One would extend expiring Social Security payroll tax cuts and benefits for the long-term unemployed, provisions at the heart of Obama's jobs program. Another is the $1 trillion spending measure that would lock in cuts that Republicans won earlier in the year. The third measure is a $662 billion defense bill setting policy for military personnel, weapons systems and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, plus national security programs in the Energy Department.

After a two-day silence, the White House said Obama would sign the measure despite initial concern over a provision requiring the military to take custody of any suspect deemed to be a member of al-Qaida or its affiliates and involved in plotting or committing attacks on the United States. U.S. citizens would be exempt.

Reid and other top Democratic senators met with Obama at the White House at mid-afternoon, and congressional aides said the topic was the end-of-year legislation.

Democrats have made the proposed millionaires' tax central to their plan for the payroll tax cut extension, and officials stressed no decision had been made on whether to drop it. They spoke on condition of anonymity to talk about legislative strategy.

Any such move would represent a concession to the Republicans in both houses who are opposed to the surtax. But, it could also require Democrats to agree to politically painful savings elsewhere in the budget to replace the estimated $140 billion the tax would have raised throughout a decade.

In its most recent form, the surtax would have slapped a 1.9 percent tax on income in excess of $1 million, with the proceeds helping pay for the extension of tax cuts for 160 million workers. Senate Democrats have twice forced votes on the proposal in what officials have described as a political maneuver designed to force GOP lawmakers to choose between protecting the wealthy on the one hand and extending tax cuts for millions on the other.

Wednesday's maneuvering occurred the day after the House passed a payroll tax extension that contained no higher taxes. That House measure drew a veto threat from Obama that cited spending cuts the White House said would harm the middle class without requiring a sacrifice from the wealthy.

The bill would extract nearly $43 billion from the year-old health care bill; extend a pay freeze on federal employees while also increasing their pension contributions and raise Medicare premiums on seniors with incomes more than $80,000 beginning in 2017. It also would raise a fee that is charged to banks whose mortgages are guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Obama's veto message also alluded to a requirement for the construction of an oil pipeline from Canada to Texas that Republicans said would create 20,000 jobs. The provision is designed to force the administration's hand because Obama announced recently that despite three years of review under two administrations, he was putting off a decision until after the election.

Senate rejects 2 balanced budget amendments

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Wednesday voted against changing the Constitution to require a balanced budget as Congress hit yet another dead end in its search for a way out of its fiscal morass.

Two proposals for balanced budget amendments were doomed by the partisanship that dominates Congress. All but one Republican voted against a Democratic measure, and every Democrat opposed the GOP-backed version. Amendments to the Constitution must be approved by two-thirds of the House and Senate and three-fourths of state legislatures.

With the votes, Congress fulfilled a commitment to take up balanced budget amendments that were part of the agreement last summer to raise the government's debt limit in exchange for $2 trillion in future spending cuts.

The House held its vote last month, falling 23 votes short of reaching the two-thirds majority.

Last month also marked the failure of the supercommittee, another product of the debt limit agreement, to come up with a course of action for making inroads into $1 trillion-a-year deficits and a national debt that has topped $15 billion.

Other efforts this year to "go big" on deficit reduction, including talks between President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner and a bipartisan commission led by former Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., and former Clinton White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles, also proved futile.

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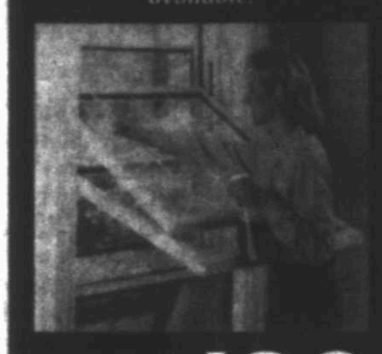
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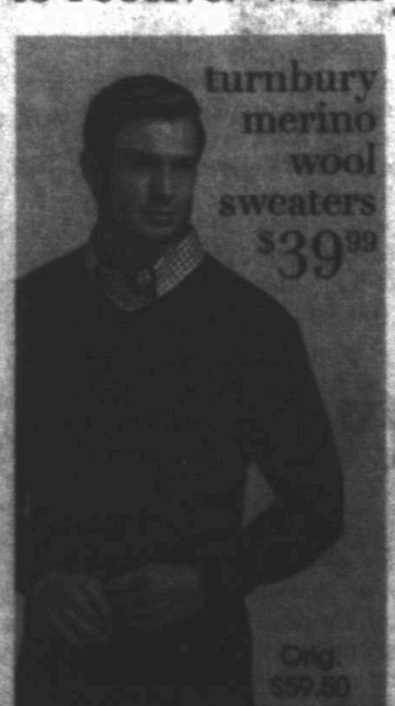
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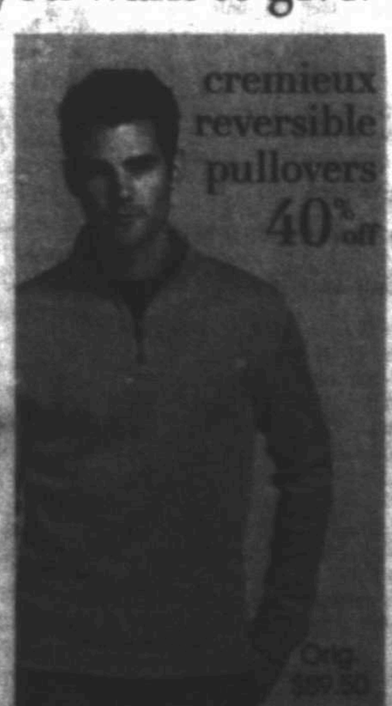
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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

■ A Christmas concert that benefits Family Promise of Midland is planned for 7 p.m. at Memorial Christian Church, 1001 Andrews Highway. Guest artists are the Voces Del vocal group and pianist Terry Rothermich.

■ The George W. Bush Childhood Home's monthly reading event for children is 4:30 p.m. This month's featured book will be "Grandmother Remembers Christmas at the White House." Each child will receive a copy of the book. Refreshments will be served. To make a reservation, call 685-1112.

■ Lone Star Brass will perform 11:45 a.m. at ClayDesta atrium.

■ Mary Lou Cassidy is to present "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" 11:30 a.m. at the Petroleum Museum. Those attending may bring lunch; the museum will provide drinks and cookies.

Friday

■ Representatives of the Midland Soup Kitchen will collect food and monetary donations Friday and Saturday nights at a Grasslands Estate Christmas display. The collections will be accepted from 6-9 p.m. at 5600 Ashwood Court. For more information, call 557-3737 or email rickythames@yahoo.com.

Meeting schedule

The Midland Crime Prevention Commission will meet at 7 p.m. in the third-floor classroom of the police department, 601 N. Loraine St.

Recycling container locations

Large 30-cubic yard open top containers:

■ Midland Citizens Collection Station — 4100 Smith Road, 685-7278 — has recycling containers for cardboard, aluminum, paper and No. 1 and No. 2 plastics.

■ Grande Communication Stadium — Cardboard, paper No. 1 and 2 plastics

Walmart Supercenter — 200 West Interstate 20 — Cardboard, paper and No. 1 and 2 plastics

■ Western Park Plaza — 1020 Andrews Highway — Cardboard, aluminum, No. 1 and 2 plastics, paper and aluminum

■ Midland College (Chaparral Center) — 3200 N. Garfield Road — Cardboard, paper, aluminum and No. 1 and 2 plastics

■ Citibank Ballpark west side — 5514 Champions Drive — Cardboard, No. 1 and 2 plastics

■ H-E-B — 3325 W. Wadley Ave. — No. 1 and 2 plastics and cardboard

■ Super Mercado — 2208 N. Big Spring St. — Cardboard

There are also 3-cubic yard containers at most of the local elementary schools where you can recycle cardboard, paper and aluminum.

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.com or Stewart Doreen at sdoreen@mrt.com. For more information, call 687-8852.

■ Religion news: email information and photo to Lifestyle 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.

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Daily 4 day: 4-9-9-6
Daily 4 night: 3-2-4-3
Cash Five: 6-9-12-29-31
Lotto Texas: 9-13-14-31-32-38

Today in history

Today is Thursday, Dec. 15, the 349th day of 2011. There are 16 days left in the year.

Today's highlight:

On Dec. 15, 1961, former Nazi official Adolf Eichmann was sentenced to death by an Israeli court for crimes against humanity. (Eichmann was hanged 5 1/2 months later.)

On this date:

In 1791, the Bill of Rights went into effect following ratification by Virginia.

In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, S.D., during a confrontation with Indian police.

In 1938, groundbreaking for the Jefferson Memorial took place in Washington with President Franklin D. Roosevelt taking part in the ceremony.

In 1939, the motion picture "Gone With the Wind" had its world premiere in Atlanta.

Obama can't say it enough: Iraq war over

By Ben Feller
Associated Press

■ Analysis

WASHINGTON — Over and over, the Iraq war is over.

President Barack Obama, who opposed the war all the way to the White House, can't remind people enough that he is the one ending the conflict and getting every last troop home.

He is not just commander in chief intent on lauding the valor of the military. He is a president seeking re-election and soaking up every chance to mark a promise kept.

On Wednesday at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, a post that sent thousands of troops to Iraq and saw more than 200 of them die there, Obama summoned glory and gravity. In a speech full of pride in American fighting forces, Obama declared to soldiers that the "war in Iraq will soon belong to history, and your service belongs to the ages."

If the thought sounded familiar, it was because Obama has essentially been declaring an end since the start of his term.

Every milestone allows him to reach all those voters who opposed the unpopular war, including liberals in his party, whose enthusiasm he must reignite to win a second term.

There was the speech in Camp Lejeune, N.C., back in February 2009, when he said: "Let me say this as plainly as I can: By Aug. 31, 2010, our combat mission in Iraq will end."

When that mission did end, Obama held a rare Oval Office address to the nation to celebrate the moment and declare: "It's time to turn the page."

In the past two months, Obama has taken three more swings at it, all of them commanding the attention the White House wanted.

In October, from the press briefing room: "As promised, the rest of our troops in Iraq will come home by the end of the year." On Monday with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki at his side: "This is a historic moment. A war is ending." On Wednesday to troops: "Iraq's future will be in the hands of its people. America's war in Iraq will be over."

He also made time this week to speak about Iraq to regional television stations serving military communities, most of them in states targeted by his re-election campaign.

Without question, the ending of a war is a moment for any president to reflect with the country. Yet, even Obama noted people have seen this one coming for a while.

Since George W. Bush was president, in fact.

Associated Press

President Barack Obama smiles as he meets with Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, not seen, in the Oval Office of the White House on Monday in Washington.

Bush was the one who struck a deal with Iraq to set Dec. 31, 2011, as the final day of the war. Yet, it was Obama who accelerated the end of the U.S. combat mission when he took office, shifted attention to Afghanistan, and decided to leave no troops behind in Iraq after this year.

The final U.S. forces will leave in a few days.

This, in essence, is Obama's mission accomplished: Getting out of Iraq as promised under solid enough circumstances and making sure to remind voters that he did what he said.

It is harder to remember now, with joblessness dominating the presidential debate and souring the public mood, but it was not long ago that the Iraq war consumed about everything.

In a new Associated Press-GfK poll, about half of those surveyed called the Iraq war highly important to them. It placed lower in importance than all but one of 14 current issues.

"It's understandable that he's trying to bring it back to the forefront of the public consciousness," said Ole Holsti, a retired Duke University professor who has written a book about American public opinion of the Iraq war.

"From a purely domestic political viewpoint, this is something that the president can bank on — most Americans are eager to bring it to an end," he said. "I think after all this time, there's probably a kind of overriding sense of relief: 'This is when we'll have the boys home.'"

Obama's approval rating on handling the situation in Iraq has been above 50 percent since last fall. In the new AP-GfK poll, he has ticked up four points since October to 55 percent.

Twice now, Obama has delivered "we're ending the war" speeches in North Carolina, a state he barely won in 2008 and that is integral to his re-election prospects.

This is hardly a moment of national unity. About every issue seems politically toxic now.

As troops leave Iraq, 77 percent of Democrats approve of Obama's handling of the war compared to 33 percent of Republicans, an enormous gap. Independents are in the middle.

Obama's challenge has been to get out of the war without leaving Iraq in mess, to be consistent in his opposition without undermining the military under his command.

Nearly 4,500 Americans have been killed in the war. More than 1.5 million Americans have served in Iraq. The toll stretches in all directions.

So, Obama was effusive in heralding the troops and their families. With no mention of victory, he called their service toward a self-reliant Iraq an extraordinary achievement.

"Americans expect the valor of the troops to be lauded no matter what they thought of the war itself, and Obama is very sensitive to that," said Cal Jillson, a professor of political science at Southern Methodist University. "That's one big part of what he's doing."

But mainly, Obama's message has been that it's all over, on his terms, just like he said. Again and again.

EDITOR'S NOTE — AP White House Correspondent Ben Feller has covered the Obama and Bush presidencies.

Occupy Wall Street's center shows some cracks

By Amy Westfeldt
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Before the housing, sanitation and nonviolent communication groups had their say, the Occupy Wall Street facilitator began the night meeting with guided meditation. Someone stood up to object, saying all that controlled, deep breathing was oppressive.

In the disorganized democracy that Occupy prides itself on, everything — even the right way to breathe — is up for debate.

The moment exposed the new, more scattered leadership that has crept into the movement since its largest encampments shut down.

Instead of 24-hour base camps, Occupy Wall Street's center of gravity has devolved into dozens of smaller groups with different agendas and objectives. Some want to find other places to occupy. Others want to shut down the ports, march for Egypt, move the downtrodden into foreclosed homes.

Some protesters say the smaller groups are getting in the way of the larger message of bridging the country's gap between the superrich and the poor.

"I'm going to set up a committee to disband all committees," joked Andrea Townsend, who has led general assembly meetings in Portland, Ore.

Key organizers — they don't call themselves leaders, because they say no one person is in charge — say the movement and its protesters are staying true to the mission of embracing and promoting every member's issue.

"I think we're big enough at this point that people can be working on different things," said Sandy Nurse, a member of New York's direct action committee. "I don't think anyone's in competition with anybody."

But experts say that as the presidential campaign season heats up, Occupy could become a powerful force at political conventions if it got on the same page and pushed key issues.

FIREWORKS

From 1A

last day counties can request firework bans from the state.

"The forecast is no appreciable moisture, so to abide by the law and the comments I was given, I found it in the best interest of the community," Bradford said.

Some people in the fireworks industry were not pleased with the decision.

Joe Daughtry, president of the Texas Fireworks Association, said his group supports a ban of fireworks that pose dangers, including skyrockets with sticks and missiles with fins. But a complete ban is unnecessary and damaging to the industry, he said.

"Until we prove that other items are an issue of concern, I do not believe that any of us believe that all fireworks are an issue," he said. "I just don't think that's the intent of what the disaster declaration was meant for."

Daughtry said he thinks the sale of some fireworks should be permitted because it's the use of fireworks, not their sale, that causes issues. Restricting certain types of fireworks — which the industry already had agreed to do — likely would have prevented any problems, he said.

"We don't believe the judge should ever have the right to prohibit the sale, no more than he should have the right to prohibit the sale of guns or cigarettes or lighters or anything else," he said. "If they ban fireworks, (they should) also ban those things."

Little said a number of factors went into his recommendation to

MRT file photo

Midland County commissioners listen to statements by county residents in June on their support of a ban on fireworks sales and use during a special session meeting.

request the ban, including the county's ranking on the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI). On Wednesday, Midland was at a 575 on the 800-point KBDI scale. The ranking means Midland isn't at the most extreme level of danger but still is in danger and in a drought.

So far this year, Midland County has received 4.57 inches of precipitation, according to the National Weather Service. That total is 9.69 inches less than what is normally received and 11.81 inches less than what was received last year.

Greg Murdoch, senior meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said the recent rain and snow has added some "shallow" moisture to the ground, but it didn't have much impact. If there isn't significant rain soon, then the moisture will evaporate and the ground will remain dry.

"There's obviously been no run off since it's just light stuff," he said.

There is a chance of showers on Saturday night and Sunday, according to the National Weather Service, but the forecast doesn't call for a significant amount of rain.

"Surprisingly, our moisture levels in the ground are still amazingly high because we have been so dry," Bradford said.

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

OIL PRICES

From 1A

week fell by 5.6 percent compared to a year ago, while wholesale gasoline demand dropped by 4.5 percent. Demand for distillate fuel, which includes diesel, rose 1.8 percent and jet fuel demand fell 2.6 percent.

The Energy Information Administration report said the nation's oil supplies fell by about 2 million barrels last week. That was close to analysts' forecasts. Gasoline supplies rose by nearly twice what was expected.

Retail gasoline prices slipped by half a cent to a national average of $3.264 per gallon, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. A gallon of regular gasoline is about 15 cents cheaper than it was a month ago, but it's still nearly 29 cents higher than a year ago.

Although they have declined in recent weeks, pump prices still are on track to be the highest ever this year with an average of $3.52 per gallon. Gasoline was cheapest at the beginning of the year at $3.07 per gallon. The national average rose as high as $3.98 in April with Middle East unrest, tightened oil supplies and forecasts for record oil demand. Prices began to slide as the economy cooled off, major industrialized countries released emergency stockpiles and U.S. drivers conserved gasoline.

Meanwhile, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said Wednesday that it will keep oil production targets at 30 million barrels per day. OPEC countries typically flaunt the group's production quotas, but traders still took the announcement as an indication that OPEC will not try to control oil prices in coming months.

Libya also said it is pumping 1 million barrels per day of oil, about two-thirds what it produced before the uprising that brought down Moammar Gadhafi broke out earlier this year. Experts say Libya should return to its previous production levels early next year.

In other energy trading, heating oil lost 9.89 cents, or 3.4 percent, to end the day at $2.8299 per gallon, while gasoline futures fell by 12.2 cents, or 4.6 percent, to finish at $2.5037 per gallon. Natural gas futures lost 14.3 cents, or 4.4 percent, to finish at $3.136 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Census shows 1 in 2 people are poor or low income

By Hope Yen
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Squeezed by rising living costs, a record number of Americans — nearly 1 in 2 — have fallen into poverty or are scraping by on earnings that classify them as low income.

The latest census data depict a middle class that's shrinking as unemployment stays high and the government's safety net frays. The new numbers follow years of stagnating wages for the middle class that have hurt millions of workers and families.

"Safety net programs such as food stamps and tax credits kept poverty from rising even higher in 2010, but for many low-income families with work-related and medical expenses, they are considered too 'rich' to qualify," said Sheldon Danziger, a University of Michigan public policy professor who specializes in poverty.

"The reality is that prospects for the poor and the near poor are dismal," he said. "If Congress and the states make further cuts, we can expect the number of poor and low-income families to rise for the next several years."

Congressional Republicans and Democrats are sparring over legislation that would renew a Social Security payroll tax cut, part of a year-end political showdown over economic priorities that could also trim unemployment benefits, freeze federal pay and reduce entitlement spending.

Robert Rector, a senior research fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation, questioned whether some people classified as poor or low-income actually suffer material hardship. He said that while safety-net programs have helped many Americans, they have gone too far, citing poor people who live in decent-size homes, drive cars and own wide-screen TVs.

"There's no doubt the recession has thrown a lot of people out of work and incomes have fallen," Rector said. "As we come out of recession, it will be important that these programs promote self-sufficiency rather than dependence and encourage people to look for work."

Mayors in 29 cities say more than 1 in 4 people needing emergency food assistance did not receive it. Many middle-class

Associated Press

Zenobia Bechtol, 18, and her 7-month-old daughter Cassandra play in the dining room of her mother's apartment Wednesday in Austin. Bechtol and her boyfriend were evicted from their apartment after he lost his job. Squeezed by rising living costs, a record number of Americans — 1 in 2 — have now fallen into poverty or are scraping by on earnings that classify them as low-income.

Americans are dropping below the low-income threshold — roughly $45,000 for a family of four — because of pay cuts, a forced reduction of work hours or a spouse losing a job. Housing and child care costs are consuming up to half of a family's income.

States in the South and West had the highest shares of low-income families, including Arizona, New Mexico and South Carolina, which have scaled back or eliminated aid programs for the needy. By raw numbers, such families were most numerous in California and Texas, each with more than 1 million.

The struggling Americans include Zenobia Bechtol, 18, in Austin, who earns minimum wage as a part-time pizza delivery driver. Bechtol and her 7-month-old baby were recently evicted from their bedbug-infested apartment after her boyfriend, an electrician, lost his job in the sluggish economy.

After an 18-month job search, Bechtol's boyfriend now works as a waiter, and the family of three is temporarily living with her mother.

"We're paying my mom $200 a month for rent, and after diapers and formula and gas for work, we barely have enough money to spend," said Bechtol, a high school graduate who wants to go to college. "If it weren't for food stamps and other government money for families who need help, we wouldn't have been able to survive."

About 97.3 million Americans fall into a low-income category, commonly defined as those earning between 100 and 199 percent of the poverty level, based on a new supplemental measure by the Census Bureau that is designed to provide a fuller picture of poverty. Together with the 49.1 million who fall below the poverty line and are counted as poor, they number 146.4 million, or 48 percent of the U.S. population. That's up by 4 million from 2009, the earliest numbers for the newly developed poverty measure.

The new measure of poverty takes into account medical, commuting and other living costs. Doing that helped push the number of people below 200 percent of the poverty level up from 104 million, or 1 in 3 Americans, that was officially reported in September.

Broken down by age, children were most likely to be poor or low-income — about 57 percent — followed by seniors older than 65. By race and ethnicity, Hispanics topped the list at 73 percent, followed by blacks, Asians and non-Hispanic whites.

P. Douglas Cochran, M.D.
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Opinion

Gingrich recycles attack Kennedy used against Romney

■ Former House speaker faults his opponent for 'acts of capitalism.'

GEORGE WILL
Washington Post Writers Group

Newt Gingrich — the friend of his detractors, to whom he offers serial vindications — provided on Monday redundant evidence for the proposition that he is the least conservative candidate seeking the Republican nomination. He faulted Mitt Romney for committing acts of capitalism.

Gingrich did so when goaded by Romney regarding his (Gingrich's) self-described service as a "historian" for Freddie Mac, which paid him more handsomely than anyone paid Herodotus. Romney was asked by an interviewer about the $1.6 million Gingrich earned, or at any rate received, from Freddie Mac, the misbegotten government-backed mortgage giant. In the service of Washington's bipartisan certitude that too few people owned houses, Freddie Mac helped produce the housing bubble and subsequent crash. It did so even though it paid Gingrich $30,000 an hour. That is about what he received if, as he says, he worked for Freddie Mac about an hour a month, telling it that what it was doing was "insane."

Anyway, Romney's interviewer mischievously asked him if he thought Gingrich should "give that money back" to Freddie Mac. Romney said, "I sure do." Soon thereafter, Gingrich, when asked about Romney's cheeky judgment, replied: "I would just say that if Governor Romney would like to give back all the money he's earned from bankrupting companies and laying off employees over his years at Bain, that I would be glad to listen to him."

This departure from his pledge that his campaign "will be relentlessly positive" represents the virtue of recycling applied to politics. Gingrich is reusing the attack honed by Ted Kennedy in 1994, when Romney suffered a 17-point loss in attempting to take Kennedy's Senate seat.

The Kennedy-Gingrich doctrine is this: What the economist Joseph Schumpeter called capitalism's "creative destruction" is not really creative. Rather, it is lamentable and, when facilitated by capitalists, reprehensible. For Kennedy, this made sense: Reactionary liberalism holds that whatever is, from Social Security to farm subsidies to the Chrysler Corp., should forever be. But Gingrich supposedly is our infallible guide to the sunny uplands of a dynamic future.

Gingrich has three verbal tics which, taken together — and they usually come in clumps — signal his depth and seriousness. Deploying his three F words, he announces his unique candor by prefacing this or that pronouncement with the word "frankly." What he frankly says is that "fundamental" change is necessary for America. He knows this because he sees over the horizon, into a "future" requiring "transformational" (Gingrich's self-description) leadership.

Romney, while at Bain Capital, performed the essential social function of connecting investment resources with opportunities. Firms like Bain are indispensable for wealth creation, which often involves taking over badly run companies, shedding dead weight and thereby liberating remaining elements that add value. The process, like surgery, can be lifesaving. And like surgery, society would rather benefit from it than watch it.

Romney surely anticipated such an attack would come — but from Democrats, in the general election, not from a volatile Republican. He now understands Rep. Paul Ryan's response when Gingrich attacked his entitlement reform as "right-wing social engineering." Said Ryan: "With allies like that, who needs the left?"

Intra-party competitions are supposed to reveal candidates' potential susceptibilities to attacks. Two unfair attacks against Romney concern his polish and his past. Four years ago, Mike Huckabee, targeting Romney without mentioning him, slyly said, "I want to be a president who reminds you of the guy you work with, not the guy who laid you off." And there is a photograph of Romney that will eventually be seen far and wide (and can be seen at http://bit.ly/svv3Ho). It shows a young Romney and six Bain colleagues feeling their oats, with paper currency protruding from their dark suits. The young men are overflowing with what John Maynard Keynes called "animal spirits."

We should welcome such spirits and should hope for political leadership that will hasten the day when American conditions are again receptive to them. Until then, economic dynamism will not return. We should not expect Gingrich to understand this until he understands that his work for Freddie Mac was not, as he laughably insists, in "the private sector."

He probably believes that. He seems to believe there always is some higher synthesis, inaccessible to lesser intellects, that makes all his contradictions disappear. One awaits the synthesizing of his multicity tour in 2009 with Barack Obama's Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Al Sharpton promoting "a common education reform" of primary and secondary schools.

OUR VIEW

Warren is right to delay bond vote until public has the facts

Midland Independent School District has given fair notice that it plans to bring a bond proposal for a public vote. But now MISD Superintendent Ryder Warren thinks that public vote should be in November 2012 instead of May 2012.

We couldn't agree more with Warren on this issue. We think such a delay will give time for the public to better understand the district's plans and the needs. Certainly, we don't think the public now has a grasp of what the district is trying to accomplish.

We don't have a clear idea of what the district will propose for a May bond vote, and we would have to have a clear perspective of the entire issue before we could make a judgment.

In that regard, we think it is necessary to postpone the issue and we hope the district will deliver a precise plan to the public.

For instance, we think it's impossible to formulate an opinion on the bond issue without knowing the cost to the taxpayer. At this time, we still do not know what the district is thinking in terms of money.

We could agree on the district's vision and needs of various campuses around town. We even could agree on grade alignment that mirrors the state's standards with ninth through 12th grades in one building, if the arguments merited doing so. But without knowing the price tag, we could never yield a judgment pro or con.

We rather would have this ongoing discussion and debate with the price tag included. At least, we would have a clear perspective of where we are headed.

MISD eventually will have to roll out a dollar amount and we wish it would come sooner than later. What we fear most is that at the end of the day the cost will produce sticker shock even though voters may have become convinced of the district's needs.

It would be better to explain the overall vision by showing in tandem the costs associated with the planned changes. The voter then will not have to make up his/her mind twice.

We support delaying the bond vote until the public is educated on the district's needs and the associated costs so voters can make a decision based on all the facts.

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CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

The following is a list of local officials West Texans may wish to contact:

LOCAL TAXING ENTITIES

MISD
615 W. Missouri, Midland, TX 79701
Phone: 689-1000; Fax: 689-1932
Website: midlandisd.net
Superintendent Ryder Warren 689-1001

Midland County
P.O. Box 421, Midland, TX 79702
Website: www.co.midland.tx.us
County Judge Mike Bradford 688-4310

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P.O. Box 1152, Midland, TX 79702 or
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e-mail: cityofmidland@midlandtexas.gov
Website: midlandtexas.gov
Mayor Wes Perry 685-7204

Midland College
3600 N. Garfield, Midland, TX 79705
Phone: 685-4500; Fax: 685-4522
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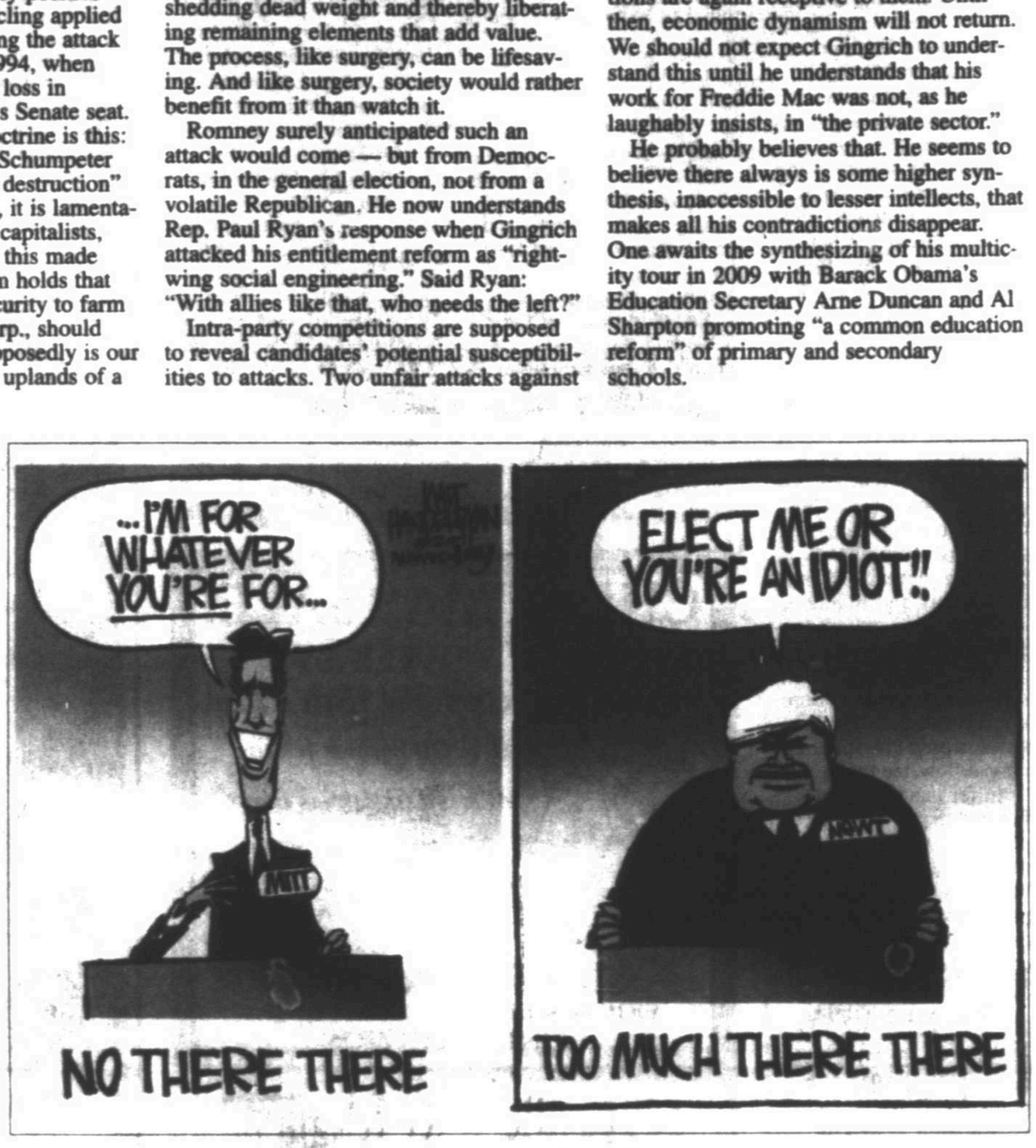


Justice nominations are political battlegrounds

■ Because control of the Supreme Court matters to both conservatives and liberals, it does matter who wins the White House.

WILLIAM MURCHISON
Creators Syndicate

A respectable school of political thought holds that most of the political nastiness on constant view today can be traced back to the liberal and Democratic vilification of Robert H. Bork's nomination to the U. S. Supreme Court, a quarter of a century ago. By the time Ted Kennedy and his associates were through with Bork, he seemed fitter for the gallows than for the country's highest bench. This was ridiculous. If Bork had been confirmed, he would have brought to the court great excellences of character, scholarship and fairness.

In any case, the point here isn't to re-open the Bork case. It's to focus on why U.S. Supreme Court nominations are political battlegrounds. To wit, because the court runs the country whenever it decides to.

On Monday, the justices announced they would consider the new Arizona statute that is viewed as restricting illegal immigration by forthright means, including the arrest, during traffic stops or wherever, of illegal aliens. Just a couple of weeks earlier, the court said it would decide challenges to the 2010 health care act having to do with, conspicuously, Congress' right to compel the purchase of health insurance. Nowadays, loftier than these perches of judgment, you simply don't go. Five justices intend to figure out all of this and tell us what to do. Your honor, counsel for the defense pleads that not only have we gotten off the constitutional track, but we're wandering further and further from it.

Politicians and interest groups fight over Supreme Court nominations because they know, given the court's eccentricities, how fearful the power of five or more justices is. Justices cram down the nation's throat a view of the Constitution that is controversial at best, subversive of liberty at worst. It matters who ends up on the court. That is why we fight over the seats on it. Nor will the hostilities soon subside.

The view of the Constitution the Supreme Court will adjudicate in the immigration and health care cases is that on great matters of policy, Congress wins and the states and the people (as the 10th Amendment phrases it) knuckle under. Congress, on this showing, can order the purchase of health insurance on the grounds that the great unspecific collectivity of "we" needs to have such insurance. On immigration, Congress — by this same showing — can decide the people's power to participate in the choice of their neighbors and the conditions under which those neighbors may come and go.

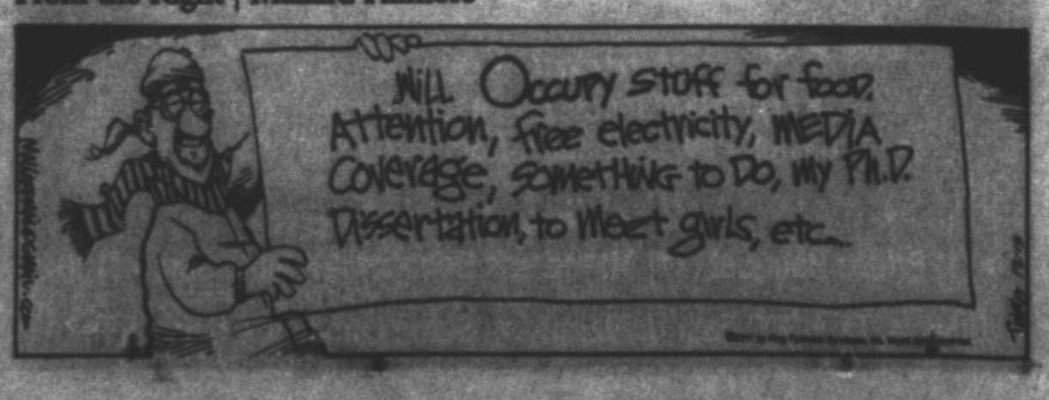
The questions at stake are subtle. The Constitution is indeed "the supreme law of the land," but the American system of government presupposes balance in our understanding of that postulate. The Arizona case is instructive. On account of the porosity of the Arizona border, the legislature gave law enforcement officials power to determine whether the people they arrest are illegally in the country. The law also bans illegal aliens from voting. The question isn't: Should Arizona do such things? The question is: Hasn't Arizona at least the power to try to do such things? If it lacks such power, what meaningful power has it as a state of the union? Does it wait for the federal government's permission to perform all but the most basic forms of government, such as paving the highways?

Frankly, therefore it matters which party wins the White House. The Democratic philosophy of government broadly holds that the federal government can do as much as it pleases. Judges who, broadly speaking, hold this view get appointed to the court by Democratic presidents. Republican presidents generally appoint to the bench candidates skeptical of giving the national government too much power. Robert Bork was feared by Ted Kennedy as a leader in checking government power, so he peddled an anti-Bork bill of goods to the effect that "in Robert Bork's America" justice and civil rights would approach extinction.

On goes the electoral war for the philosophical soul of the American people. The Supreme Court's current line-up of cases reminds us how much control of the court matters both to conservatives and liberals. Can't we — or the media — stop pretending all justices are alike? They aren't.

From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Survey says 1 in 4 women attacked by intimate partner

Associated Press

ATLANTA — It's a startling number: 1 in 4 women surveyed by the government say they were violently attacked by their husbands or boyfriends.

Experts in domestic violence don't find it too surprising, although some aspects of the survey may have led to higher numbers than are sometimes reported.

Even so, a government official who oversaw the research called the results "astounding."

"It's the first time we've had this kind of estimate" on the prevalence of intimate partner violence, said Linda Degutis of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The survey, released by the CDC Wednesday, marks the beginning of a new annual project to look at how many women say they've been abused.

One expert called the new report's estimate on rape and attempted rape "extremely high" — with 1 in 5 women saying they were victims. About half of those cases involved intimate partners. No documentation was sought to verify the women's claims, which were made anonymously.

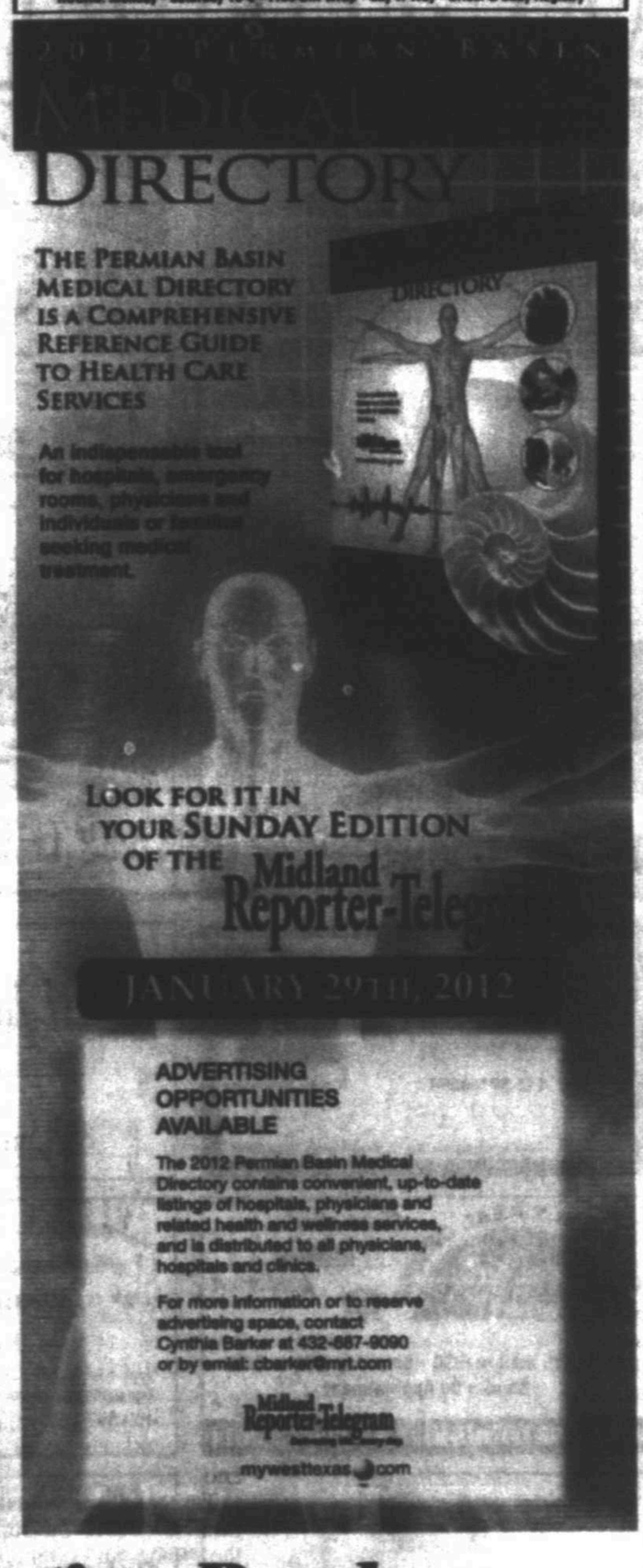
But advocates said the new rape numbers are plausible.

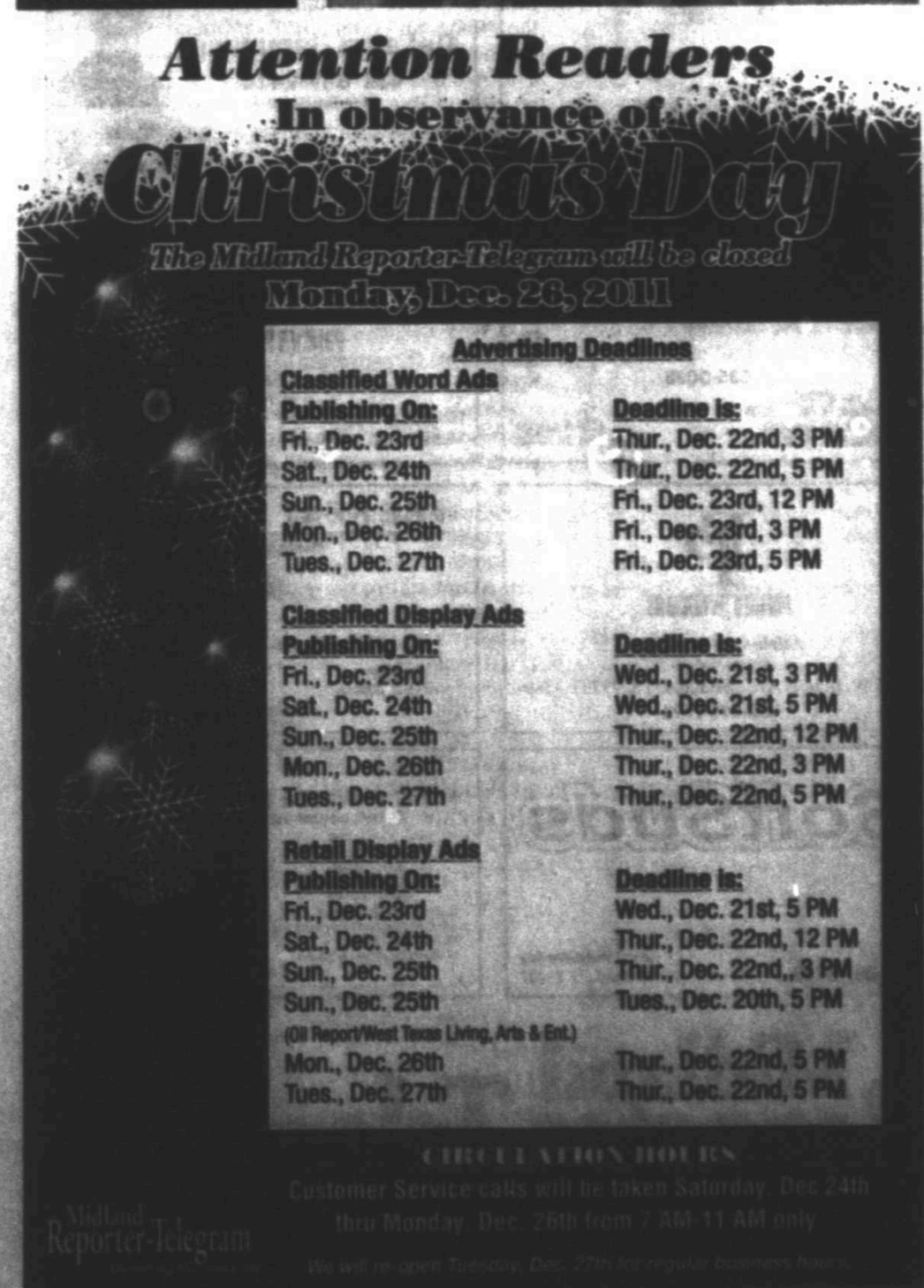
"It's a major problem that often is underestimated and overlooked," said Linda James, director of health for Futures Without Violence, a San Francisco-based organization that advocates against domestic abuse.

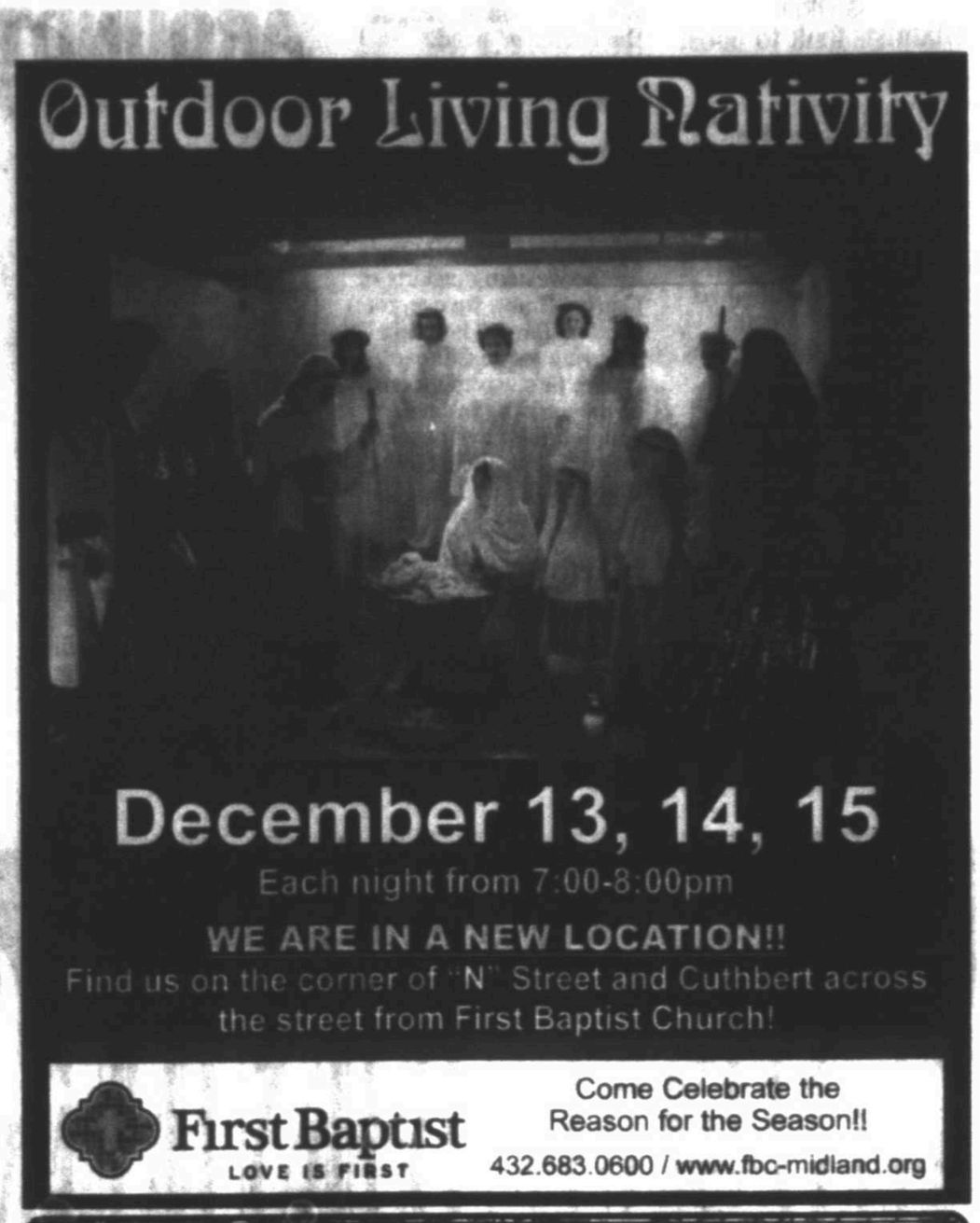
The CDC report is based on a randomized telephone survey of about 9,000 women and 7,400 men.

Among the findings:

- As many as 29 million women say they have suffered severe and frightening physical violence from a boyfriend, spouse or other intimate partner. That includes being choked, beaten, stabbed, shot, punched, slammed against something or hurt by hair-pulling.
- That number grows to 36 million if slapping, pushing and shoving are counted.
- Almost half of the women who reported rape or attempted rape said it happened when they were 17 or younger.
- As many as 1 in 3 women have experienced rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetimes, compared to about 1 in 10 men.
- Both men and women who had been menaced or attacked in these ways reported more health problems. Female victims, in particular, had significantly higher rates of irritable bowel syndrome, asthma, frequent headaches and difficulty sleeping.
- Certain states seemed to have higher reports of sexual violence than others. Alaska, Oregon and Nevada were among the highest in rapes and attempted rapes of women, and Virginia and Tennessee were among the lowest.







CAIRO

Islamists look to boost edge in new voting

Egyptians turned out in large numbers Wednesday for a second round of parliamentary elections, with Islamists looking to boost their already overwhelming lead and liberal voters concerned the outcome will push the country in a more religious direction.

Two Islamist blocs won close to 70 percent of seats in the first round on Nov. 28-29, according to an AP tally compiled from official results. The secular and liberal forces that largely drove Egypt's uprising were trounced, failing to turn their achievement into a victory at the polls.

The final two rounds of voting are not expected to dramatically alter the result and could strengthen the Islamists' hand.

"We have to try Islamic rule to be able to decide if it's good for us," said 60-year-old voter Hussein Khattab, an accountant, waiting to vote at a polling station near the famous pyramids in Giza province on the western outskirts of Cairo. "If not, we can go back to Tahrir," he said, referring to the Cairo square that was the focus of the uprising in January and February that ousted longtime President Hosni Mubarak.

BEIRUT

Activists say more than 25 killed

Violence across Syria killed at least 25 people Wednesday, including eight soldiers who were gunned down by army defectors in a retaliatory ambush after government troops destroyed a civilian car, activists said.

It was the second day in a row in which an attack by President Bashar Assad's forces on civilians appears to have brought a quick and deadly act of revenge by anti-regime fighters. The ambush was the latest sign that the once-peaceful protest movement is growing into an insurgency.

The brazen midday attack came hours after troops fired upon a civilian car traveling through the village of Khattab in the countryside of the central province of Hama, killing all five passengers inside.

AROUNDTHEGLOBE

FROM WIRE REPORTS

The vehicle "exploded in a ball of fire," said Rami Abdul-Rahman, director of the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a network of activists on the ground inside the country.

BEIJING

Police put village on lockdown amid unrest

Police have sealed off a southern Chinese village and cut food supplies in an attempt to crush an uprising by villagers angered by government land seizures and the death of a man in police custody, residents said Wednesday.

The protests in Guangdong province are part of a growing trend of confrontation between Chinese and their government over the seizure of land for business development projects.

Police started blocking roads leading to Wukan, a fishing village of 20,000 people, late last week and prevented food from being transported in, said Qiu Yankun, a man who owns a shop selling farming tools.

Some food was allowed into the village, located in Shanwei city, starting Monday but police continued to prevent villagers from fishing and supplies are running low, said Qiu, who was reached by phone.

BAGHDAD

Double bombing kills 2 in northern Iraq

Iraqi officials said a double bombing in northern Iraq has killed at least two people and wounding dozens.

Police and hospital officials in Tal Afar said a parked car bomb first went off in the western part of the city, causing no casualties. As people gathered at the scene, a truck packed with explosives blew up nearby, tearing through the crowd.

The officials said at least 29 people were wounded in Wednesday's blast.

Tal Afar is 260 miles northwest of Baghdad.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

The violence came the same day that President Barack Obama met with troops in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, to honor their service in Iraq as U.S. forces depart the country.

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Midland Postal Service may see expansion

Possible closure of Abilene facility could bring operations to Tall City

By Sara Higgins
Staff Writer

Part of the U.S. Postal Service's mail processing operations in Abilene could be consolidated into Midland but officials have delayed any closures until May 2012, according to a statement.

Postal Service officials decided to postpone any closings or consolidations until after May 15, 2012, after a request by U.S. senators, according to the organization's news release.

"The Postal Service hopes this period will help facilitate the enactment of comprehensive postal legislation," the statement said. "Given the Postal Service's financial situation and the loss of mail volume, the Postal Service must continue to take all steps necessary to reduce costs and increase revenue."

Mail volume began to significantly decline after 2006, USPS spokesman Sam Bolen said. There has been a decline of about 35 percent in first-class letter mail since, and the Postal Service expects an even greater decline before 2020, with only about half of the mail volume it had in 2006. Electronic commerce, email and other online communication is mostly to blame for the decline, Bolen said.

"It's the first time in our history, at least that we can remember, that we're having to manage a declining volume, whereas before it was to build more facilities and handle the increased volume every year," he said.

If the mail processing facilities in Abilene are closed, its operations would be distributed between Midland and Austin, according to the spokesman. Abilene's facilities are among 252 the Postal Service is considering for closure out of its 487 mail processing centers, according to a Sept. 15 announcement.

The future of mail sorting in Abilene partially rests on another proposal by the Postal Service to change standards for first-class mail service. Under that proposal, delivery would be slowed from one to three days to two to three days for contiguous U.S. destinations. The move would allow the Postal Service to cut down to about a third of its current facilities, Bolen said. The cutbacks would save USPS about $3 billion over the next few years, he added, in an effort to cut $20 billion by 2015 in order to stay profitable.

"We're faced with some hard realities in some places," the spokesman said.

Preliminary figures show the move would affect 119 employees at the Abilene facility with the relocation of about 75 positions and the elimination of more than 40 jobs. Annual savings for the Postal Service would be

Please see **POSTAL/3B**

OPERATIONELF

Cindeka Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

Priscilla Rodriguez's eyes light up as Kids First Director Carol Taylor hands the 5-year-old a princess book Wednesday during Operation Elf at Centers for Children and Families. Also pictured is 4-year-old Addison Sanchez.

Event provides gifts, holiday cheer to kids

By Kathleen Thurber
Staff Writer

As Santa smiled and waved in an effort to look friendly, 1-year-old John Sanchez smushed his face into dad's shoulder and tried to ignore the man in red.

Dad, Mark Sanchez, walked a little closer to Santa as his older daughter reassured her brother everything would be OK. After waiting a moment, John lifted his head to look around and then let out a shrill scream as he realized how close he was to St. Nick.

"It's OK," 5-year-old Priscilla, said, watching the scene unfold.

The family was one of dozens able to visit with Santa on Wednesday as part of Centers for Children and Families' Operation Elf. In addition to a picture with Santa, children also were provided a toy, stuffed animal and book to take home.

Executive Director Ann Bradford said the center has been holding the event for more than 10 years. Centers provides counseling for divorce and grief to behavioral problems or anxiety. It also provides post-adoption support, supervised visitations with non-custodial parents and other programs.

"This is the fun stuff," said Bradford, standing amid the toys in her elf shoes and purple TCU Santa hat. "A lot of stuff we do is tough; this is fun."

Parents and kids, too, said the outreach was tons of fun.

"We love it," said Jo Hanks.

Her 13-year-old daughter, Alexis, said she was able to pick out a gift card while her younger sister, Arianna, got to select a toy from a table filled with talking dolls, play dough and other treats.

Lee Carrillo said as a single parent, the event provided something fun for his children.

"It's great. It helps them get into the spirit," he said. "It really helps out. Not everybody is lucky enough to be in the oil field."

Bradford said they're able to provide gifts only because of generous donors and businesses that either dropped off toys or provided funds to allow the nonprofit's staff to shop.

The approximately 160 children who received gifts either attend counseling or have a family member attending one of the center's programs. Bradford said Operation Elf is just another way to show kids the staff members really care about them and the situations they go through.

"We counsel and work with these children all year long," she said. "This is just another way we can show we care and do love them."

Amanda Sanchez said her 10-year-old son loves the way the counseling programs are operated.

"His exact words were, 'She's more of a friend than she is a therapist,'" Sanchez said. "I was really relieved."

Sanchez looked at her daughters, who both had a cookie clutched in one hand and a pink stuffed animal in the other, and said they, too, were enjoying the center.

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

Hospital OKs Medicaid risk-sharing agreement

By Audrie Palmer
Staff Writer

Midland Memorial Hospital board members voted Wednesday to enter into a Medicaid risk-sharing agreement with FirstCare, a managed care organization in the Permian Basin.

"This puts us at a seat at the table in the region," said Steve Bowerman, MMH chief financial officer.

On Sept. 1, MMH suffered a cut in state funding at a loss of $1.6 million for Medicaid.

By entering into the agreement with FirstCare, Bowerman said this will help the hospital manage the Medicaid population needing care while ensuring they are not excessively using the resources.

While the majority of those who use Medicaid are pregnant women and children, officials said this will help them work with insurance companies and ensure patients are taking their vitamins and prenatal care so costs don't increase because of a lack of preparation.

Please see **MMH/2B**

Library launches music downloading program

By Kathleen Thurber
Staff Writer

Midland County Public Library users will have the option of downloading music rather than borrowing CDs in a new program launched this week.

"It gave us access to a lot more songs than if we had spent the same amount of money just buying CDs," said Diana Decker, liaison between the library and the Commissioners' Court. "Plus, there's something for everyone."

The library joined what's known as the Library Ideas' Network of Public Library websites, which offer access to "Freegal Music." The service includes songs from Sony Music's catalog.

Midland County paid a $7,500 annual subscription fee that provides access to the catalog.

Library users will be limited to three

Please see **LIBRARY/3B**

Parents, counselors, fellow students can prevent teen suicide

PATRICK RAMSEY
Clinical director, Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas

During the past several weeks, my new community, Midland, has experienced some severe heartbreak, with several kids taking their lives. It has sparked concern in the community, both from kids, who have created a Facebook group to combat suicide and depression, and a parent group combating a related issue, bullying.

As a counselor, these issues have been a prime concern. Whenever I see a client for the first time, possible suicide is always one of the exceptions I note when promising confidentiality, and if a client exhibits signs of depression, we concentrate on coping skills and resources to help.

Issues such as depression and bullying also were a priority as a school counselor in Keller. The school resource officer and I regularly went to classrooms to educate students about bullying and how it related to depression. Many students visited my office to talk about depression or bullying, and many of them were experiencing suicidal ideation. As a district, Keller ISD used the Signs of Suicide program to screen students for depression and suicidal ideation.

As social media sites have become more prevalent, they have been used heavily in student communication. When

Please see **RAMSEY/2B**

Suicide prevention forum

BCA of the Permian Basin, a behavioral health hospital, is presenting a forum on child and teen depression 6:30 p.m. today at the CEED building, 1400 N. Farm to Market Road 1788.

The panelists are Dr. Roddy Strobel, a child psychiatrist; registered nurse Charisse Rook, director of admissions and program director of Children's Services; and child therapist John Silas.

They will discuss warning signs, access to care, treatment options and coping skills for those who have been affected by depression or teen suicide, or for a parent concerned about their child's well-being.

The public is invited to attend. For more information, call 561-5915.

Obituaries

Larry Adrain Green

Larry Adrain Green was born in Stanton, Texas, he departed this life on December 9, 2011.

He was a Vietnam Veteran and was a retired fire captain with the Midland Fire Department.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Wynel Green, and a brother, M. H. Green.

He is survived by his children, Rhonda Rena Miller of Abilene, Mickey Green of Abilene, and Mitzy Parrish of Garland; six grandchildren; a brother, Rex Allen Green (Linda); two nephews, Tim and Todd Green; and a niece, Tracy Staun.

Graveside services will be today, at 1:00 p.m., at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton, with Rev Bob Porterfield officiating.

Services are under the direction of Thomas Funeral Home.

Thomas Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
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(432) 683-5577

Roberta Graham Clarke

Roberta Graham Clarke, of Midland, passed away December 10, 2011. She was born in Wichita Falls, Texas, on February 4, 1918. She was the youngest of five children born to Robert H. Graham, M.D. and Lelia Stevenson Graham. After living in Wichita Falls, Texas, and Palmer Lake, Colorado, her family moved to Clayton, New Mexico, where her dad opened a medical clinic. She attended the University of New Mexico, graduating in 1939. She met her future husband, Robert C. Clarke, while at the university. They were married November 15, 1941. During the war she was a civil service laboratory technician at the Army Air Corp Basic Flying School, at Enid, Oklahoma. Her memberships included DAR, Palmer Lake Art Group, Garden Clubs, Homemaker Clubs, and Christ Church Midland. She spent nearly thirty years with her husband in the Navy, living in many places in the United States, Saipan, and Truk Atoll. She was a homemaker all her life.

Her husband, Robert C. Clarke, of 69 years, preceded her in death on August 29, 2011. She is survived by her sons, Steven G. Clarke and wife, Barbara, and their two sons, Russell (Jessica) and Scott (Ashley), and Robert S. Clarke and wife, Ann, and their two sons Christopher (Chriss) and Michael Jody (Meredith). She also had 3 great grandchildren, Jensen, Cassidy, and Reese.

Memorial services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, December 16, 2011, at Christ Church Midland, with Fr. Jonathan Hartzer, officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Christ Church Midland, 5501 N. Midkiff Rd, Midland, TX 79705.

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

Nalley-Pickle & Welch
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(432) 550-5800

Death Notices

Buster McCullough

Funeral services for Buster McCullough, 93, from Seminole, Texas, will be held Saturday, December 17, 2011, at 2:00 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church. Burial will follow in Gaines County Cemetery (south).

All services are under the direction of Boyer Funeral Home.

Buster McCullough passed away Monday, December 12, 2011, in Seminole.

Mr. McCullough is survived by two sons, Buster F. McCullough (Donna) and Wayland McCullough (Margret); two daughters, Toni Taylor and Brenda Danley; one daughter-in-law, Ruth McCullough; eight grandchildren; twenty-one great grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

Debra Renee "Debi" Davis

Debra Renee "Debi" Davis, 55, of Andrews, passed away Sunday, December 11, 2011, at her home in Andrews.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Thursday, December 15, 2011, at First Baptist Church in Andrews. Burial will be in Andrews North Cemetery, under the direction of McNett Funeral Home.

She is survived by her husband, Kenny Davis; sons, Coby Moore (Brenda), Chisum Moore (Carissa), and Beau Moore (Reesa); daughter, Tabitha Swiniarski (Brian); her parents, Gene and Jerry Ross; two brothers; and seven grandchildren.

Juana Villa

Juana Villa, 74, of Midland, passed away on Monday, December 12, 2011.

She is survived by her sons, Miguel A. Villa, Rosario Leyva, Carlos Leyva, and Jose Leyva; daughters, Paula Villa Rosas, Flor Villa, and Olivia Ruiz; brother, Francisco Gabaldon; sisters, Natividad Gabaldon and Lorenza Gabaldon; numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and cousins.

A funeral mass will be held today, Thursday, December 15, 2011, at 11:00 a.m., at St. Stephen's Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Serenity Memorial Gardens.

Funeral services are under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home.

Sandra Hoover

Sandra Hoover, 51, of Gardendale, Texas, passed away Wednesday, December 14, 2011, in Andrews.

She is survived by her husband, Mark; daughters, Jessica Ham and Jeanie Ham; and brothers, Henry Pullin and Wallace Pullin; and one grandchild.

A memorial service will be held at Permian Residential Care Center, at a later date.

Ramsey

From 1B

I began my counseling career, I heard more about students bullied on My Space. As times have changed, I hear more about students sharing more freely on Facebook or Twitter. As a counselor, I always encouraged parents to monitor such sites.

Parents and friends of those experiencing symptoms of depression often wonder how they can help. The friends don't want to be invasive, and they especially don't want to put bad ideas in the air, but they want to be a good friend or parent to those suffering.

The Facebook group combating suicide and depression has the right idea, and it uses a title I like: "Teen Suicide: 100% Preventable. Help Us." It tells me those students are serious and committed to watching for signs of depression or suicidal ideation, reaching out to them and getting in their business if necessary.

It is important for all of us to get comfortable with educating ourselves and others with the signs of depression: Lack of interest in almost everything, depressed mood (or irritability in children and adolescents), sleeping too much or too little, eating too much or too little, fatigue, feelings of worthlessness or guilt, difficulty concentrating or suicidal ideation.

As a school counselor, I regularly met with students in my office about such signs, and often would call parents, who would ask what could be done. I had a list of counselors to whom I regularly referred students. Occassionally, a student would have frequent or intense suicidal ideation or a plan, and the parents would take him to a local psychiatric hospital that would provide medication for depression and help see there were better ways to cope with problems.

In private practice, and now as a therapist at Samaritan Counseling Center, I see students to whom counselors in their schools have recommended more intense help than can be given at the school. Routinely, our counselors assess the level of depression, and, depending on its intensity, we work on changing negative beliefs, and sometimes refer to a hospital for more intense care or a doctor to see about getting medication to help manage the depression.

All members of the community can be watchful of their neighbors and loved ones exhibiting these signs. Schools can use screening programs like Signs of Suicide to provide a way for students to anonymously say they need help. Churches and community groups can organize educational programs. Parents should feel the freedom to make themselves available, and even to be invasive if necessary when monitoring their kids. Friends or neighbors can keep being friendly and neighborly, but if they see even subtle signs, they could risk deeper conversations.

Sometimes it's as easy as prodding past the typical "How's it going?" When someone says, "fine," instead of going about your business, you could say, "Are you sure? You've looked tired and fatigued lately, and I've been a little concerned about you. Are you sure everything's OK?"

Online:
Kids Facebook group:
https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/194564703963645
Parent Facebook group:
https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/262527140451661

Mark Lambie/El Paso Times

A pair of bighorn sheep are rushed to a processing area Tuesday at Beach Mountain Ranch after they were captured in the surrounding mountains and transported by helicopter in Culberson County. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials plan to trap more than 100 sheep from the nearby Beach Mountains, where they are thriving, and relocate them to other areas in West Texas where they once roamed. Seven ewes that were captured Tuesday morning will get a new home at Big Bend Ranch State Park near Presidio.

Officials: Bighorn sheep relocation working in West Texas

By Chris Roberts
El Paso Times

VAN HORN — The silhouettes of desert bighorn sheep can once again be seen on West Texas mountain ridges, thanks to a 50-year-old reintroduction program that is now bearing fruit.

A group of nearly 60 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials and volunteers gathered Tuesday morning on a private ranch north of Van Horn to begin a weeklong capture program.

They plan to trap more than 100 sheep from the nearby Beach Mountains, where they are thriving, and relocate them to other areas in West Texas where they once roamed. Seven females, called ewes, that were captured Tuesday morning will get a new home at Big Bend Ranch State Park near Presidio.

The sheep, with horns that curve around the sides of their heads, were wiped out in the late 1950s in Texas by disease and unregulated hunting.

Ray Watley, a trapper hired by the department in the 1960s to help start the reintroduction project, was on hand to watch the capture operation Tuesday.

"They told us it would never work," said Watley, sitting on the step of a trailer with three ewes inside. "We had lots of ups and downs. It seemed like, sometimes, it wasn't going to work."

In the mid-1800s, an estimated 3,000 bighorns roamed 16 West Texas mountain ranges, said Froylan Hernandez, leader of the state Wildlife Division's Desert Bighorn Sheep Program.

About 1,500 sheep now populate eight mountain ranges, thanks to the program, he said, and a goal is to return the sheep to their 1800s population numbers and all the ranges.

On Tuesday, a capture team flying in a small helicopter with an egg-shaped cockpit cruised over the rugged Beach Mountains looking for the animals.

Guns that fire a net with weights on the corners were used to snare the sheep. Then team members jumped out of the helicopter as it hovered close to the ground. They hobbled the sheep and put them in a sling that dangled below the aircraft as it delivered its cargo to a processing station.

At the station, volunteers took hair, blood and stool samples from the sheep. After veterinarians determined the animals were healthy, they were gently put into trailers for transport to their new homes.

The samples taken from each animal will help wildlife biologists create a profile of a healthy sheep. Some animals were also fitted with radio collars that track their movements.

Big Bend Ranch State Park now has about 30 sheep, Hernandez said. It will take about 100 before the population can support itself, he said.

"It's a flagship species," Hernandez said. "If we do good for the sheep, lots of animals under them are going to benefit."

Growing populations will also allow the state to slowly increase the number of bighorn hunting permits it issues each year, Hernandez said.

However, the numbers are still relatively small, he said. That means wildlife officials must watch for disease, heavy predation by mountain lions and other threats.

Without support from private groups like The Bighorn Society, the effort would have failed, Watley said.

The society installed 39 "guzzlers," contraptions that catch rainwater and feed it into troughs for wildlife, in the bighorns' range. Including installation, each guzzler costs about $35,000, said Daniel Boone, a society member.

Although it will be years before self-sustaining populations are back in their historic habitat, the program appears to be a wildlife management success story.

"We've got (growing) bighorn populations, and they are disease-free," said Clay Brewer, chairman of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which represents many states and Canadian provinces with bighorn populations. "This has been a long time coming."

Death sentence for man accused of killing 6 upheld

By Michael Graczyk
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Texas' highest criminal court on Wednesday upheld the conviction of a man condemned for killing two teenage girls as part of a cross-country murder spree four years ago that left six people dead, five in Texas and another in Pennsylvania.

Lawyers for 48-year-old Paul Devoe raised nine points of error from his trial in 2009 in Austin, including claims of insufficient evidence, improper jury selection and jury instructions and improper conduct by trial prosecutors.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals rejected each of the claims. Devoe does not have an execution date. He can take his case to the federal courts and can return to the state courts for additional review.

"I'm disappointed to hear his death sentence has been affirmed but there's a number of avenues for relief that he still has yet to explore," Karyl Krug, who filed the appeal for Devoe, said.

"So I'm still hopeful that he'll get some kind of relief."

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MMH

From 1B

The program doesn't cost the hospital anything, but it provides a different structure to manage the system, Bowerman said.

The Medicaid managed care will begin March 1, 2012.

MMH board members also received an update on the status of the new patient tower from Cory Edmoldson, vice president of support services.

The new cafeteria is expected to be completed by May and a move-in date of mid-November for the new tower was announced.

The board also approved the purchase of a plasma freezer for $8,644.65 to replace one recently removed from service.

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

IT'S A BOY

Kevin M. Cox/Galveston County Daily News

Riley, a 4-day-old harbor seal pup, looks inquisitively at the large number of visitors to the North Pacific seal exhibit in the Moody Gardens Aquarium Pyramid on Wednesday morning in Galveston. Riley is the first birth for parents Porter and Presley, who have been together since 2006. "Since there are just more than 100 harbor seals in captivity, this birth and Riley's health is important to the entire species," said Greg Whittaker, animal husbandry manager.

LIBRARY

From 1B

songs per week and will be able to keep the song in their digital files permanently, said John Trischitti, library director.

"You get it forever. You have a limit of three per week," he said. "It's not like a downloadable book."

Other libraries participating in the launch of the service include the Princeton Public Library in New Jersey, the Maricopa County Library District in Arizona and the Nashville Public Library in Tennessee.

Those with a Midland County Public Library card can download songs in an MP3 format from the library's website, Trischitti said. They simply need their library card number.

He said the library anticipates the service will be popular with patrons and also hope it will help in the overall marketing of the library's programs.

After three songs have been downloaded in one week, Library Ideas allows users to put other songs on their "wish list" so they can come back and download them at a later time.

Brian Downing, co-founder of Library Ideas, said in a statement that the service is meant to give libraries another way to excite users about the library and its offerings.

"Sony Music has an incredibly expansive and popular catalog and we are really excited to partner with them on this, a very important product for libraries," Downing said. "A library is a focal point of the community that requires many tools to excite people about library resources. More than anything, that is the reason for the service."

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

Online:
www.co.midland.tx.us/lib

Police: Welfare standoff mom had gun in 2010

By Paul J. Weber
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A mother who shot her two children before killing herself in a welfare office was found a year ago with a gun on a beach and told authorities her children were bathing at a gas station, according to a police report released Wednesday.

Rachelle Grimmer was also found with food stamps, a New York driver's license and said her family was staying on the beach "as a learning experience," according to a September 2010 report filed by a Kleberg County sheriff's deputy.

Grimmer's children, 12-year-old Ramie and 10-year-old Timothy, died from their gunshot wounds days after a Dec. 5 standoff in a Texas Department of Health and Human Services building in Laredo. Grimmer, 38, had applied there for food stamps but was denied.

"I asked her why she had the weapon, Grimmer told me that she carried for protection while traveling," Kleberg County sheriff's deputy Robert Wright wrote in the report. "The weapon was returned to her. Ms. Grimmer told me that they would be fine because they were just on vacation."

Authorities visited Grimmer on the beach after receiving a concerned call about the children's welfare.

Wright told Grimmer he was concerned about the children's well-being. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services sent an investigator that same day to interview Grimmer but ultimately did not intervene with the family.

Patrick Crimmins, an agency spokesman, said Wednesday the investigator verified that Grimmer had $700 in Ohio food stamps and that she claimed to be receiving more than $500 a month in child support. He has said that generally speaking, there may be no cause for the state to intervene if the children appear to be well fed, cared for and don't show obvious signs of abuse.

"There are no concerns noted about the children in our documentation," Crimmins said. "They were fully-clothed. Law enforcement documented they were registered for home-schooling through Ingleside (school district). The family appeared to have adequate food."

POSTAL

From 1B

about $4.1 million, according to projections.

"At this point, we continue to stress in all the facilities we're studying across Texas that no decisions have been made," he said. "It'll be some time until we know for sure which way we're going to go."

Sara Higgins can be reached at shiggins@mrt.com.

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Woman gets prison for stealing toys

From staff reports

A Midland woman was sentenced to the maximum prison time of two years for shoplifting two items from a local toy store.

Pineda

Jurors in the 385th District Court convicted Bianca Renee Pineda, 34, on one count of felony theft Wednesday.

Authorities said that on Jan. 30 Pineda went into the Toys 'R Us store off Loop 250 and took two items off the shelf and tried to return them at the customer service counter.

When store employees refused to allow her to return them without a receipt, Pineda left the store with the merchandise, a press release stated.

Judge Robin Darr assessed Pineda's punishment at two years in prison to run consecutively with a one-year sentence Pineda had also received in a previous theft case.

The case was prosecuted by assistant district attorneys Michael McCarthy and Bethany Stephens. Pineda was represented by attorney Justin Low.

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WHEN
December 15, 2011
WHERE
UTPB CEED Building
1400 N. FM 1788
Midland, Texas
TIME
6:30 p.m.
PANELIST
Roddy Strobel, MD
Medical Director
Brittany
Tim
Community Forum will provide information regarding warning signs, access to care, treatment options, and coping skills for those who have been deeply affected, or personally concerned about their child's wellbeing.
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Cindelia Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

"Ultra" shakes hands with a group of first-graders after she and three other superheroes demonstrated the importance of not littering Wednesday during the Don't Mess with Texas Litter Force program at Crockett Elementary.

Combs: Texas likely will tap rainy day fund

By Chris Tomlinson
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas lawmakers will almost certainly have to tap the rainy day fund to balance the budget in 2013, but by how much depends largely on the global economy and policy decisions made in Washington, state Comptroller Susan Combs told the Associated Press.

Many lawmakers have said they did not budget enough money to cover the state's obligations for the 2012-13 budget cycle, but the keeper of the state's books said in an interview Tuesday that lawmakers will need to pass what is called a supplemental bill to make ends meet at the end of the biennium.

A day earlier she forecast that Texas will earn $1.6 billion more revenue than expected during over the next two years, due to the recovering national economy. But that won't be enough to cover the cost of Medicaid, which lawmakers deliberately underfunded by an estimated $4.8 billion.

"That is the fungus that will eat the planet ... that is a national problem," Combs said of the health insurance program for the poor and disabled.

The Republican said she supported a new law that will allow Texas to enter into interstate agreements that proponents say will reduce Medicaid costs, but that won't save enough.

"Sales tax revenue is up 9.4 percent year-over-year, and oil and gas is up more than 70 percent, but that's still not enough to get us out of the Medicaid hole, and that has to have a national discussion," Combs said.

Combs said there still will be a shortfall when lawmakers meet again in 2013 and they likely will have to tap the $7.3 billion in the rainy day fund.

"I think that's probably where they will need to get some money," she said, based on her agency's economic projections based on current conditions. "I don't think the Legislature will have a problem with that. The question always is, how big?"

That will depend largely on oil and gas revenue.

"We are significantly better off now than we were in (2011)," Combs said of the last budget biennium, when lawmakers spent $3.8 billion from the rainy day fund to make up a shortfall.

State agencies shouldn't see any unexpected budgets before the end of 2013, but that depends on the global economy. She said that while Texas ranks as the nation's top exporting state, the state's continued progress is dependent partly on how China, India and Europe respond to current economic woes.

Could US drivers ever abide by cellphone ban?

By Jamie Stengle
Associated Press

DALLAS — Junior Woods has a well-practiced routine for conducting business on the road: While driving throughout rural Arkansas, the electronics salesman steals a glance at his cellphone every so often, checking for text messages and emails.

"I can keep both hands on the steering wheel and just look down my nose and read in 10-second intervals," Woods said in a phone interview from Rogers, Ark. "I'm actually doing that right now."

Like millions of other Americans, Woods uses his car as a mobile office, relying on his phone almost every hour of every workday to stay productive and earn a living. So would drivers ever abide by a proposed ban on almost all cellphone use behind the wheel, even if it is hands-free? Could they afford to?

Those are just a few of the questions looming over a federal recommendation that seeks to rein in what has become an essential tool of American business.

Woods said the ban, if adopted, would devastate his sales. Because he lives in a rural state, his minimum drive is an hour and a half.

"If I have a 3 1/2-hour drive to Little Rock, and I've got 100 messages to return, it's going to turn that into a six-hour drive," he said. "I've got no secretary. I'm the administrative assistant. I'm the salesman. I'm the sales director."

The National Transportation Safety Board declared Tuesday that texting, emailing or chatting while driving is just too dangerous to be allowed anywhere in the United States. It urged all states to impose total bans except for emergencies.

The NTSB, an independent agency that investigates accidents and makes safety recommendations, doesn't have the power to impose regulations or make grants. But its suggestions carry significant weight with lawmakers and regulators.

Still, a decision rests with the states, meaning that 50 separate legislatures would have to act. And many lawmakers are just as wedded to their cellphones as Woods.

"I think all of us have mixed feelings on this issue. How could you not?" said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, whose northern Virginia district has some of the longest, most traffic-choked commutes in the country.

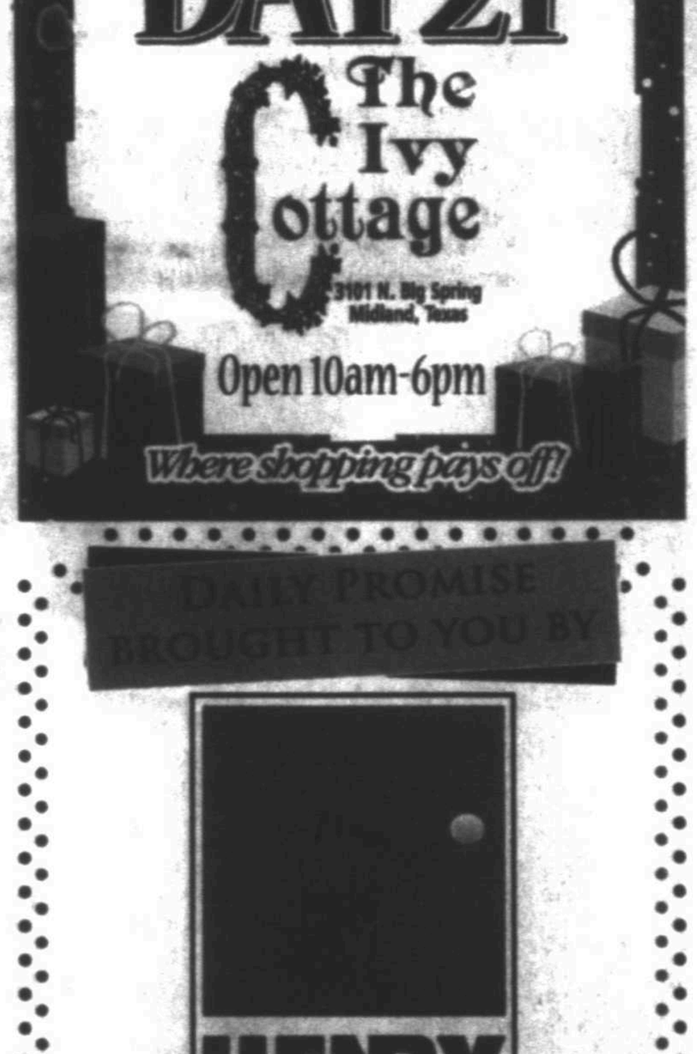
Big Spring officers arrest 26 drug suspects

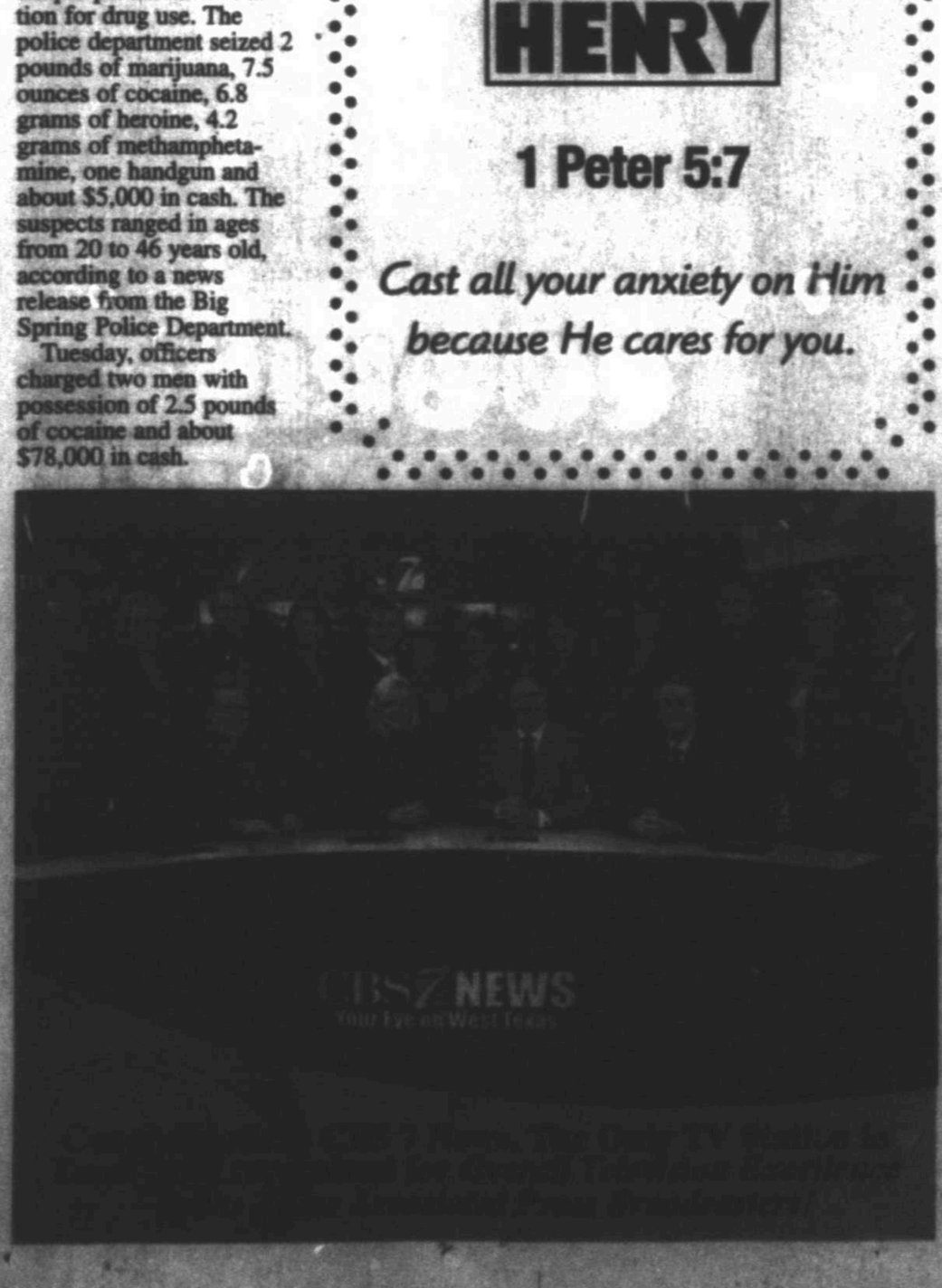
From staff reports

For the second day in a row, Big Spring police officers on Wednesday served multiple drug warrants and arrested 26 suspects.

Most arrests were for distribution of a controlled substance, but some were simple probation revocation for drug use. The police department seized 2 pounds of marijuana, 7.5 ounces of cocaine, 6.8 grams of heroine, 4.2 grams of methamphetamine, one handgun and about $5,000 in cash. The suspects ranged in ages from 20 to 46 years old, according to a news release from the Big Spring Police Department.

Tuesday, officers charged two men with possession of 2.5 pounds of cocaine and about $78,000 in cash.





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TODAY — Mostly sunny — high 55 low 30
FRIDAY — Mostly sunny — high 53 low 31
SATURDAY — Mostly cloudy — high 43 low 34

LOCAL FORECAST

Expect mostly sunny skies today with a high around 55 and north winds between 5 and 15 mph. Tonight's forecast calls for mostly clear conditions with a low around 30 and east winds between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday, look for mostly sunny skies with a high around 53, a low around 31 and east winds between 5 and 10 mph.

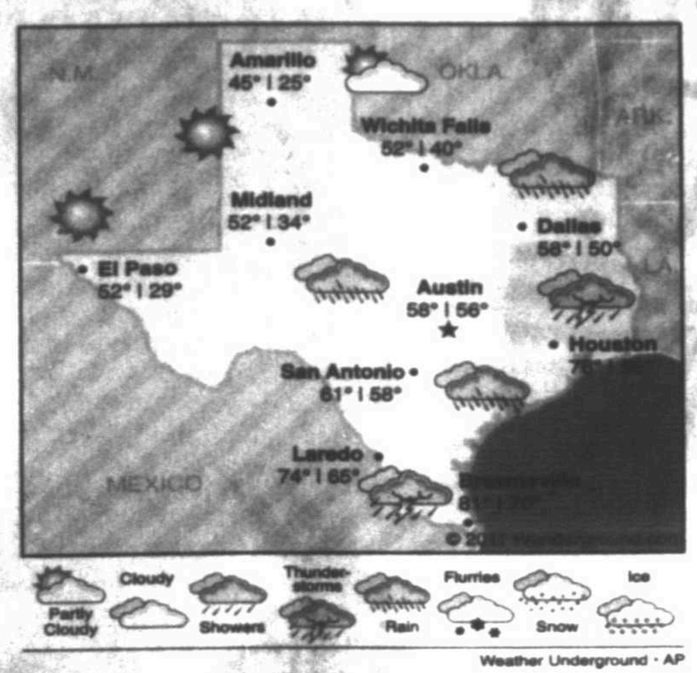
Saturday, look for mostly cloudy skies with a high around 43 and a low around 34.

The high on Wednesday reached 63 while the low dropped to 52. The record high for Dec. 14 is 82 set in 1995. The record low is 14 set in 1985.

***

Warmth will surge north along the Atlantic seaboard today, thanks to a southerly flow off the coast and ahead of an approaching cold front. The high pressure area will keep rain away from states on the southern Atlantic Coast.

From New England to coastal Texas, rain of varying intensity will fall along and ahead of the cold front. Portions of northern New England and the Ohio, Tennessee and lower Mississippi valleys can expect drenching rain, with the potential for flooding in poor-drainage areas.



Precipitation

Tuesday	0.00 in.
Wednesday	0.00 in.
Total for month	0.71 in.
Total for year	4.57 in.
Normal total (year to date)	14.28 in.

Wednesday's temperatures

High	63
Low	52
Normal high	58
Normal low	31

Sunrise ... 7:41 a.m.
Sunset ... 5:46 p.m.

Child's way of saying goodbye defies funeral etiquette

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: "Saddened" should never have removed the 4-year-old from the casket. It was not her place. The child was giving her grandmother a good-bye gift. If the woman wanted to remove the stickers before the casket was closed, she should have done it after the child left the room.

I have seen many friends and relatives place things in caskets as gifts and remembrances. It is not disrespectful to the deceased, but gives closure and a warm memory to those who are still living.

Putting stickers on Grandma was the child's way of saying goodbye. A funeral is a celebration of life and no matter what their age, people are entitled to say goodbye in their own way. — MELODY IN NEVADA

DEAR ABBY: If the sticker incident is the worst that can be said about the 4-year-old's behavior that day, what's the harm? Had she thrown a tantrum during the service or before placing the stickers, I'd agree the child should not have been there. But because the behavior took place after "Saddened" made an issue of the stickers, the situation could have been handled more effectively.

All "Saddened" had to do was wait until the service was over, take the funeral director aside privately and ask him to remove the stickers before the deceased was interred. No drama, no scene, no tantrum, and everybody goes home in peace. Funerals, like any other event, are only as stressful as you want them to be. — NO DRAMA, PLEASE

DEAR ABBY: I own the West's oldest funeral firm and I disagree with your answer. Funerals are about learning we are mortal. To stand on ceremony when a young child is participating in one of life's most important lessons misses the point. Memorials are not about formality but humanity. Let the child place those stickers and let everyone learn something from that. — DAN IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR ABBY: Our grandchildren love stickers, put them all over themselves and their clothing, and are thrilled if they can share them with me to "wear" for a while. If any of our grandkids are still young enough to want to "decorate" ME in my casket when I go, I would hope everyone around me would appreciate the gesture and smile at the loving relationship I had with that child. — GRANDMA OF (ALMOST) 13

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

With a little bit of luck!

Neither vulnerable. North deals

NORTH
♠ A 10 9 8 6
♡ Q 7 6
◇ A Q 10 6 5
♣ Void

WEST
♠ Q
♡ A
◇ 8 3 2
♣ K J 10 9 8 6 5 3

EAST
♠ K 5 3
♡ 9 8 3 2
◇ J 9 7
♣ 7 4 2

SOUTH
♠ J 7 4 2
♡ K J 10 5 4
◇ K 4
♣ A Q

The bidding:

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

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

You are playing in an interclub KO Teams event and with only a few boards to play, you are trailing by quite a bit. A wild auction lands you in a heart slam and your LHO leads the queen of spades. Do you have any play?

Yes. First, the opponent who has the ace of trumps must have started with no more than one spade. Secondly, the diamonds must break favorably — you will need the suit to split 3-3. Lastly, play well!

Win the ace of spades and avoid the natural-looking play of a low heart — the 4-1 trump split will be one more than you can handle because of shortage of entries to hand. You must lead the queen of trumps! West wins the ace and supposes he shifts to a diamond. Win with the king, ruff the queen of clubs in dummy, draw trumps and run the diamonds, discarding three spades. Six hearts bid and superbly played!

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011:

This year you often feel very sure of yourself. Your thinking might be grounded, but for whatever reason, an element of confusion runs through your life. You can count on yourself; you cannot predict others' behavior. Often, you take a different meaning from a situation than you intend. Learn to clarify. Your positive attitude helps you work through problems. You will attract people who are more upbeat. If you are single, you could date to your heart's content; don't consider a date a marriage proposal. If you are attached, take up a new hobby together. VIRGO can push you beyond your limits.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ You can, get as much accomplished as possible. You are definitely overworked, but you can effectively get through that extra work. Confusion surrounds you and/or a project. You might need to wait a little while to clear out the fog. Tonight: Head home, but squeeze in some exercise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ You come from a solid position and greater depth and understanding. Your ability to understand the way others work and empathize allows for a strong rapport. Your creativity comes forward, allowing greater give-and-take in the late p.m. Tonight: Start thinking "weekend." Make plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ Don't stand on ceremony with another person. Jump over a barrier and let it dissolve. Confusion surrounds this situation anyway. Verify what you are hearing. Don't be goaded into a disagreement. Stay centered, and listen. The end result will be that you are very content. Tonight: Happy to get home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ Be aware of your limitations — those that are self-imposed as well. You might want to see if you can move past a particular boundary. A partnership adds an element of confusion. Ask questions and make sure you are on the same page. Tonight: Head on out. Meet friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Rethink the possibility of making a change. Say "yes" and head in a new direction. Use the daylight hours to the max. Confusion surrounds a personal matter. Make sure the fog doesn't hit your finances. A respected boss or relative surprises you. Tonight: Think "gifts." Think "Santa."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ Your major focus could be just getting through the day. You

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Zero in on your priorities, knowing full well the choices you need to make. Remain upbeat and direct in all your dealings today. Still, there is a vague aside effect with a loved one or a meeting. Somehow you note a disconnect. Maintain calm with a sense of humor. Tonight: Vanish while you

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ You know what you want, but do you understand which path is the correct path? Touch base with several different people. Your sense of humor helps when confusion messes up the best-laid plans. Stay on top of a personal matter. Tonight: Treat it like it is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Trust out a hunch and brainstorm with those in the know. Although the solution appears to be in the haze, it seems appropriate. Take a stand, but know that you will need to take steps to follow through. Clarify just where others are coming from. Tonight: Expect to be burning the midnight oil.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ Deal directly with one other person. You could be unusually persuasive when following through on an idea. Use care with your finances, as you easily could make a mistake. Tonight: Follow the music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ If you think a key person might have an ulterior motive, you could be misreading the situation. Just accept what is offered, and make less of a judgment. Has anyone told you that you over-think situations? Today could be a prime example. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ Continue the hectic pace. You know what you are doing. Schedule your meetings for late in the day. What starts out as a business meeting turns into a warm get-together, which could evolve into a lot more. Tonight: Socializing to your heart's content.

***

BORN TODAY

Actor Don Johnson (1949), industrialist J. Paul Getty (1892), architect, engineer Gustave Eiffel (1832)

DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
1 Goes on
6 "Dude!"
11 Jamboree gp.
14 Wise youngster?
15 Dumas's Edmond Dantès, e.g.
16 PC-to-PC system
17 Tomato-based concoctions
19 Not safe
20 Do-it-yourselfers' projects
22 Lee org.
23 Word after mess or media
24 End of the war
25 Lowdown
28 They may be tipped in acknowledgment
29 Birthplace of the Bauhaus movement
36 Totally dominate
37 "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" actress
38 High deg.
41 Mughal emperor, 1556-1605
44 Race invented about 800,000 years before its time
45 Schools of thought
46 Field workers
47 End of many a riddle
50 Range part: Abbr.
52 Lone Star State collegiate athlete
58 Greek vowel
59 Show since 12/17/1989 whose five main family members are hidden in this puzzle's other long across answers
60 Dreamer's acronym
61 Coastal safety measure
62 Lincoln and Ford
63 Return addressee, briefly?
64 "Waiting for Lefty" playwright
65 Sudden burst

DOWN
1 Nies, for one
2 "Horton Hears __"
3 Not good, chance-wise
4 BellSouth, for one
5 Moves a muscle
6 Thom __ shoe brand
7 Concerned query
8 XCV years from now
9 Troubled a lot
10 Leaves home?
11 A and B, e.g.
12 Hot spots
13 Not sitting well?
18 Noted septet member
21 Russian John
25 __ Jima
26 Mint
27 Reason for cramming
28 Dan __, Nederland
30 Prefix with dexterity
31 River inlet
32 Spanish fish
33 Racquetballer's outfit
34 Word of support
35 G.I. chow
39 One acting badly
40 Boozer's syndrome
42 __ Coast, Hawaiian coffee district
43 Calls, in Chelsea
44 English cathedral city
46 Former "SNL" regular Chen
47 Sounded content
48 Novelist Binchy
49 Atlas enlargement
50 "Delicious!"
51 Spanish bar snacks
53 D-Day target city
54 Fizzles out
55 "__ light?"
56 Trying to get unfied, briefly?
57 To be, to Brutus

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

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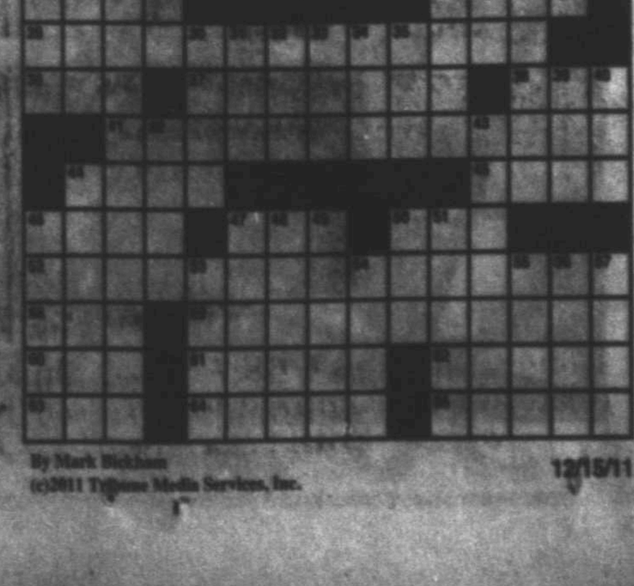

By Mark Nielsen
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A Refreshing Twist!

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- Mint Aromatique Facial
- Aromatique Pedicure
- Complimentary Tall Cinnamon Latte

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Youth sports

Check out how area athletes have fared on page 2C.

Bonds' sentencing brings BALCO saga near close

Barry Bonds: Will be sentenced Friday after being found guilty of obstruction of justice in April.

By Paul Elias
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The largest federal criminal investigation into sports doping began more than nine years ago with a tax agent digging through the trash of the now notorious Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative. Barring an appeal, the government's work comes to an anti-climactic end Friday when Barry Bonds — the probe's highest-profile catch — is sentenced for obstruction of justice.

In between, the federal government spent millions of dollars and untold staff hours obtaining the convictions of 11 people. Six of them, including track star Marion Jones, were ensnared for lying to grand jurors, federal investigators or the court. Five men, including Bonds' personal trainer Greg Anderson, pleaded guilty to steroid distribution charges stemming from their BALCO connections.

The investigation in general — and the pursuit of Bonds in particular — ignited a debate over whether the government's long involvement was the best use of public resources.

More than seven years after he testified before a grand jury investigating BALCO, Major League Baseball's all-time home runs leader was convicted on just one of four remaining counts against him. And the jury deadlocked on whether Bonds lied about taking performance enhancing drugs.

Now, federal sentencing guidelines suggest a prison term of between 15 months and 21 months. But federal probation officers are recommending that Bonds receive no time, citing his charitable work, the nature of the crime and his otherwise spotless criminal record. U.S. District Judge Susan Illston has sentenced two other BALCO figures convicted of similar crimes to probation and house arrest.

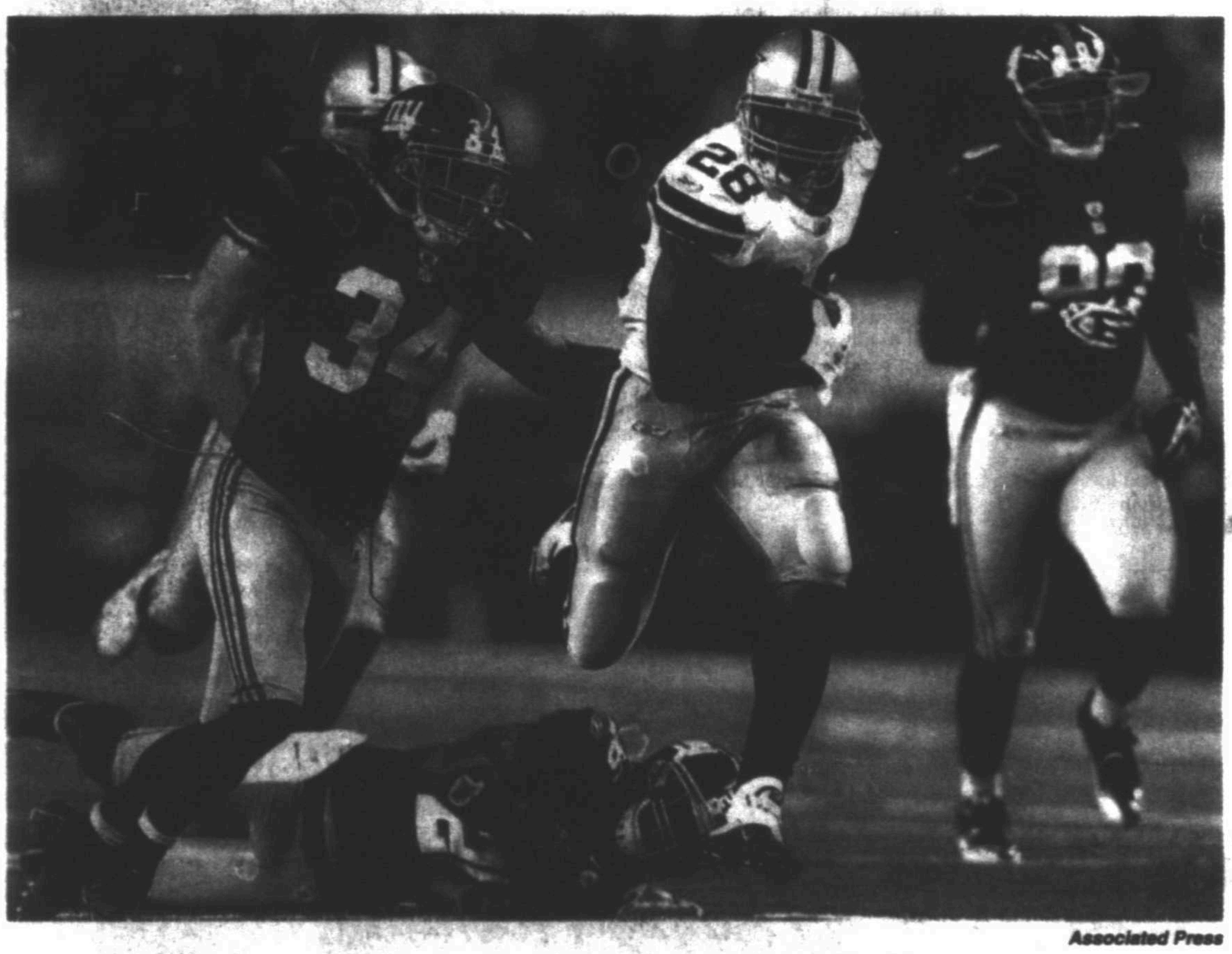
Was it all worth it?

"It absolutely was," said MacGregor Scott, the former U.S. attorney for Sacramento, now in private practice at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe. "It brought a focus and awareness to the steroids issue that wasn't there before."

Scott said prosecutors had to go after Bonds once they concluded he lied to the grand jury when he

Please see BONDS/4C

Ready to step it up



Associated Press

Dallas Cowboys running back Felix Jones (28) is chased by New York Giants safety Deon Grant (34), safety Antrel Rolle (26) and defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul (90) during the first half of a game Sunday in Arlington. Jones regained his role as lead runner after DeMarco Murray suffered an ankle injury Sunday.

Coach confident Jones can handle bigger role

By Tom Orsborn
San Antonio Express-News

Felix Jones put his ego aside the month he was sidelined with an ankle injury and closely watched the kid who took his job.

"He gets downhill and gains yards with every step," the veteran Dallas Cowboys running back said of rookie DeMarco Murray. "He's a tough runner ... It showed me maybe I need to run a little tougher. I learned a lot from that guy."

It showed against the New York Giants. Regaining the role of lead runner after Murray suffered a season-ending ankle fracture in the first quarter of the 37-34 loss, Jones rushed for 106 yards on 16 carries.

Now, Jones must prove he can put together consecutive workhorse outings. Despite his strong showing against the Giants, Jones still has a question mark attached to his name because he's never had back-to-back games of 15-plus carries in his four NFL seasons.

But Jason Garrett is confident Jones is finally at the point in his career where he can do the heavy lifting.

"I think we have a pretty good feel for it," Garrett said of the number of carries Jones can handle Saturday night, when the Cowboys (7-6) play at Tampa Bay (4-9).

A nine-carry effort in Week 2 at San Francisco snapped Jones' career-best streak of nine-consecutive games in which he logged double-digit carries.

"If you look back on his situation, starting probably at the middle of last year, he started to carry the load a little bit more, and he did that the early part of this year, as well," Garrett said Wednesday in Irving.

"We've tried to inch (up Jones' carries) ... He's always been a complimentary back ... but he proved to us the other night he can carry the ball more, that we can throw it to him more."

In addition to notching the third 100-yard regular-season rushing performance off his career, Jones also caught six passes for 31 yards against New York.

"He went into that game thinking he was going to be a third-down guy and would spot on first and second, and he carried the load and did a really nice job for us," Garrett said. "We have a lot of

Please see JONES/4C

Should Packers chase 16-0 or rest key players?

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

Going 16-0. It could happen.

Having won their first 13 games, and with three mediocre opponents left on the schedule, the defending Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers will try to do something no other National Football League team has done since the 1972 Miami Dolphins. And that's going undefeated, start to finish.

The Dolphins won every game and added the NFL championship, going 17-0 overall. It took another 35 years before there was a true challenger, the 2007 New England Patriots, followed by the 2009 Indianapolis Colts.

The pursuit of perfection, however, poses a dilemma — figuring out if it's worth the chase.

The Packers will need to decide whether to stick with their stars and other regulars or rest them to prepare for the playoffs and, hopefully, another Super Bowl title.

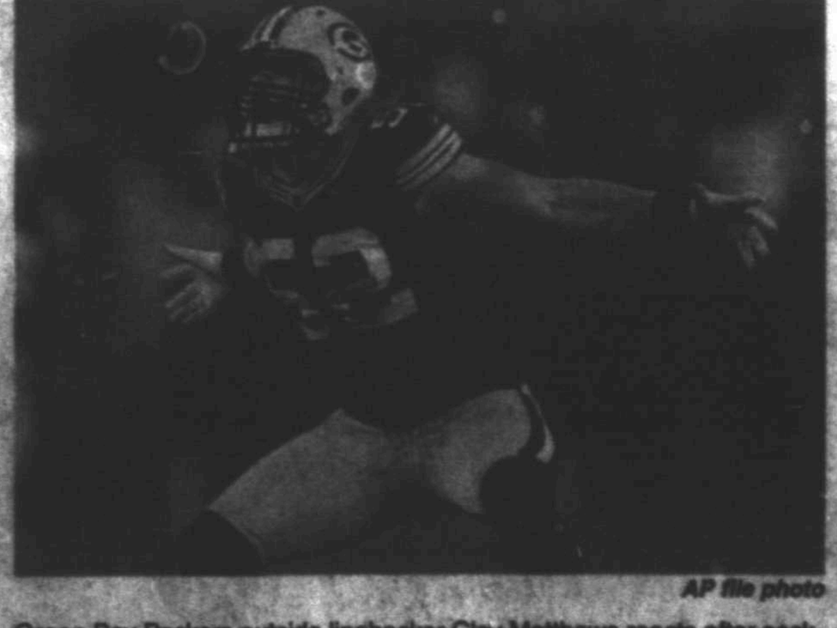
Even within their own ranks, there is uncertainty.

"There's risk every time you take the field," says quarterback Aaron Rodgers, the favorite to win the NFL's Most Valuable Player award. "We're going to keep playing the way we're playing."

Yet, linebacker Clay Matthews sees the value of playing it safe.

"We're here to win ballgames, but at the same

Please see CHASE/4C



AP file photo

Green Bay Packers outside linebacker Clay Matthews reacts after sacking Minnesota Vikings quarterback Christian Ponder and causing a fumble during a game in Green Bay, Wis., on Nov. 14. Having won their first 13 games, and with three mediocre opponents left on the schedule, the defending Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers will try to do something no other National Football League team has done since the 1972 Miami Dolphins: Going undefeated from start to finish.

Surgery to sideline Texans coach Phillips

By Chris Duncan
Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans have been overcoming injuries to players virtually every week since the season began.

Now, naturally, they must adjust to the loss of their top assistant coach.

Wade Phillips, who's turned the Houston defense into the NFL's best, will have surgery this week to resolve a kidney condition and will be away from the team for a week to 10 days.

Wade Phillips: Texans assistant coach will miss a week or more to have surgery to correct a kidney condition.

The 64-year-old Phillips disclosed the medical issue after working with the team at practice on Wednesday. He would not specify the condition, but said it is not life-threatening, is not cancer, and that doctors recommended that he have the procedure.

"I feel good," Phillips said. "I don't have any physical problems right now, so if I get this done, this procedure that I'm doing, then I'll be fine."

Linebackers coach Reggie Herring will run the defense for Houston (10-3) in Sunday's game against Carolina (4-9). Herring was Phillips' linebackers coach in Dallas from 2008-10, then joined Houston's staff after Phillips was hired last January.

"He's ready to do it," Houston coach Gary Kubiak said. "Reggie's called defenses before. We got a lot of confidence. We just need to keep going."

The Texans play at Indianapolis on Dec. 22, and Phillips is hoping to return in time for the regular-season finale against Tennessee on Jan. 1. In the meantime, Herring won't change anything.

"At the end of the day, I'm not Wade Phillips," Herring said, "but it's Wade Phillips' system. It's our calls. It's what the players know."

Phillips' leave is just the latest roadblock for the Texans.

Outside linebacker Mario Williams (torn chest muscle) and quarterbacks Matt Schaub (right foot injury) and Matt Leinart (broken left collarbone) are all out for the season, and star receiver Andre Johnson has a strained left hamstring after missing six games with an injury to his right hamstring.

Starting right guard Mike Brisiel had surgery on his broken right leg on Monday, and Johnson only jogged during Wednesday's practice.

Somehow, the Texans have managed to win a franchise-record seven straight games and clinch the AFC South for the team's first postseason berth.

Still, the latest helping of bad luck has everyone in the locker room shaking their heads in disbelief.

"The 'next man up' theme is hitting us everywhere," said two-time Pro Bowl linebacker DeMeco Ryans.

And Phillips has probably made as a big an impact as anyone the Texans acquired this offseason.

Fired as the coach of the Dallas Cowboys in the middle of last season, Phillips talked earlier this season about feeling rejuvenated in Houston, where he played in college and began his coaching career. He took over the league's 30th-ranked 2010 defense, implemented a 3-4 alignment, moved Williams to outside linebacker and the transformation was swift.

Houston now leads the league in total defense at 275 yards per game, ranks fourth in rushing defense at 91.5 yards per game and third in pass defense at 183.5 yards per game. The Texans have held each of their last seven opponents below 20 points.

NASCAR PAGE 8C

UTPB ROUNDUP

FROM STAFF REPORTS

UTPB WOMEN ROLL BY UNIVERISTY OF THE SOUTHWEST

ODESSA — Thirteen players scored at least two points as the University of Texas of the Permian Basin cruised to a 98-59 win over the University of the Southwest on Wednesday.

The win keeps UTPB's home steak intact as they have now won four-straight in the Falcon Dome.

Lauren Unger continues to light it up from long distance as she knocked down five-of-eight three pointers for a team-high 15 points. She has now made 38 3-pointers and is shooting 52 percent from behind the arc.

Teisha King nearly recorded the first triple-double of her career as she put in eight points, pulled down eight rebounds and dished out a career-high seven assists — all with just two turnovers.

UTPB shot 55.4 percent from the field and knocked down 16 of the 22 free throws it attempted. The Falcons outrebounded the Mustangs 54-31 which led to 27 second half points.

UTPB will next host Sul Ross State on Monday at 1 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

TEXAS MEN
NO. 6 BAYLOR 69, BETHUNE-COOKMAN 42

WACO — Pierre Jackson scored 13 points to lead Baylor.

Jackson had a steal then a bounce pass to Deuce Bello for a dunk, and turned another Bethune-Cookman turnover right after that into a pass to Anthony Jones for another slam. That was part of an early 10-0 run that put the Bears (8-0) ahead to stay.

Baylor has won its first eight games for the first time under 10th-year coach Scott Drew. The Bears have won 25 consecutive non-conference home games over the past five seasons.

TEXAS WOMEN
NO. 24 TEXAS 79, ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF 40

AUSTIN — Chassidy Fussell scored 14 of her 22 points in the first half and No. 24 Texas rolled to a 79-40 victory over Arkansas-Pine Bluff on Wednesday.

Associated Press

UCLA's Lainey Gera (6) and Kelly Reeves (2) celebrate after defeating Penn State during an NCAA regional semifinal volleyball match Friday in Lexington, Ky. UCLA won 3-0.

Penn State isn't missed at NCAA volleyball semis

By Paul J. Weber
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — So dominant was Penn State volleyball that Florida State senior Rachael Morgan never even heard of another team in her native New Zealand.

Illinois coach Kevin Hambly said the Nittany Lions, whose four consecutive NCAA titles are unprecedented, deprived an entire generation of college players outside State College, Pa., the feeling of being champions. UCLA's Michael Sealy described two of Penn State's champion teams as "ridiculous."

Each said so Wednesday at the NCAA semifinals — where Penn State wasn't for the first time since 2006.

"It's good for the NCAA that possibly someone else could win," Hambly said.

Penn State's rein of invincibility ended in the regional finals, brought down by UCLA for its first postseason loss in a record 26 matches. The Bruins didn't exactly topple the Nittany Lions in their prime: They rebuilt this season with underclassmen, and rivals say another Penn State streak may be on the horizon.

In the meantime, Illinois, Florida State, UCLA and USC aren't complaining.

"It's funny, because Penn State was the only school I really heard of in America just because of volleyball," said Morgan, who grew up in Tauranga, New Zealand. "I really didn't know a lot about anything else. They were always on that pedestal."

Florida State (28-6) plays UCLA (28-6) today, followed by USC (29-4) against Illinois (31-4). The championship is Saturday in the Alamodome.

The Seminoles are making their national semifinals debut and are the first ACC school to make it this far. Illinois is another relative newcomer, having not played in the semifinals in 23 years.

"I think a lot of us took a risk in coming to Illinois in that it did not have a great history, but we wanted to make team history," Illinois senior Michelle Bartsch said. "This was a good starting block for the program."

Hornets, Clippers agree on Chris Paul trade

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Chris Paul is headed to Los Angeles for real this time — to the Clippers, not the Lakers.

The Hornets have traded Paul to the Clippers for guard Eric Gordon, forward Al-Farouq Aminu, center Chris Kaman and a first-round draft choice.

The deal required the approval of NBA Commissioner David Stern because the Hornets are owned by the league.

Courtesy photo

BULLDOGS WIN IN FORT STOCKTON The Midland Freshman boys basketball team won the Fort Stockton Junior Varsity Tournament on Dec. 3. Brandon Sanchez scored 18 points and Malik Evans has 12 in the title game. The Bulldogs beat Odessa Permian's junior varsity 62-61 in the championship. Top from left to right, coach Matt Medley, Aaron Collins, Miguel Villanueva, Blake Canis, Deonte Kendricks, Justin LeClear, Dexture Collier, and Gary Ringo. Bottom row from left to right, Brandon Sanchez, Xavier Whiteside, Darius Reed, and Malik Evans.

YOUTHSPORTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

TENNIS
USTA Midland ZAT Tennis Tournament
Note: Only finals listed
Boys
10 Singles

David Allen (1), Austin def. Cameron Coker (2), San Angelo, 8-6

Consolation

Sami Sharif, Lubbock def. Britton Boren, Midland, 8-5

Girls
10 Singles

Leighanna Moskos (1), Lubbock def. Erin Boles (2), Lubbock, 8-4

Consolation

Lauren Stanfield, Lubbock def. Isabella Sikes, Lubbock, 8-6

18 Singles

Jenna Smith (2), Ransom Canyon def. Ashley Roberts (1), San Antonio, 6-4; 3-6; 10-5

Consolation

Nicole Johnson, Horseshoe Bay def. Reba Smith, Big Spring, 6-2; 5-7; 10-1

BASKETBALL
Freshman
Lee 45, Lubbock High 34

For Lee: Morgan Barr 22 points, Savannah Sutton 10 points

Lee 38, Odessa High 15

For Lee: Morgan Barr 12

Lubbock Monterey 60, Lee 19

Lee 40, Lubbock Trinity 26

For Lee: Kylee Hessman 12

SWIMMING
COM SWIMMERS PARTICIPATE IN ALL-STAR CAMP

A seven swimmers were invited to participate in the first Texas All-Star Swimming Camp in San Antonio last month. Participants were Braden Vines, Matthew Tubbs, Kyle Martin, Mollie Wright, Daily Parker, Kile Carriger and Lindsay Hellerich.

Junior high tennis coach wins award

From staff reports

Wilkins

Alamo and Abell junior high tennis coach Lee Ann Wilkins was named the State Junior High Coach of the Year by the Texas Tennis Coach Association this month. Wilkins was honored at a TTCA/Wilson Awards Banquet earlier this month.

Wilkins has been a coach for 24 years and has been working in Midland since 2007. Both Abell and Alamo feed into Lee High School.

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TEXAS HS FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

CLASS 5A DIVISION I
State Championship

Southlake Carroll (15-0) vs. Fort Bend Hightower (13-2), 4 p.m. Saturday, Cowboys Stadium, Arlington

CLASS 5A DIVISION II
State Championship

Spring Dekaney (13-2) vs. Cibolo Steele (15-0), 8 p.m. Saturday, Cowboys Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION I
State Championship

Hewitt Midway (13-2) vs. Lake Travis (15-0), 8 p.m. Friday, Cowboys Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION II
State Championship

Aledo (13-2) vs. Manvel (15-0), noon Saturday, Cowboys Stadium

CLASS 3A DIVISION II
State Championship

Argyle (14-1) vs. Wimberley (14-0), 4 p.m. Friday, Cowboys Stadium

CLASS 2A DIVISION I
State Championship

Melissa (12-1) vs. Hempstead (14-0), 8 p.m. today, Cowboys Stadium

CLASS 2A DIVISION II
State Championship

Cisco (14-0) vs. Refugio (14-0), noon Friday, Cowboys Stadium

CLASS 1A DIVISION I
State Championship

Stamford (13-2) vs. Mason (14-0), noon today, Cowboys Stadium

CLASS 1A DIVISION II
State Championship

Munday (13-2) vs. Tenaha (13-0), 4 p.m. today, Cowboys Stadium

TEXAS APSE 4A ALL-STATE TEAM

FROM WIRE REPORTS

The 2011 Texas Associated Press Sports Editors Class 4A all-state high school football team, released Wednesday. Voting based on regular-season performance. Players are listed in alphabetical order at each position.

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE
Linemen

— REGGIE HARRIS, Killeen, Sr. — Graded 95 pct., no sacks allowed, 40 pancakes, 35 knockdowns
— LATHAM JOHNSON, Aledo, Sr. — Graded 94 pct., 2 pancakes per game; offense averaged 533 yds, 58 pts per game
— JORDAN MATHEWS, Mansfield Summit, Sr. — Graded 99 pct., 2 sacks allowed on 228 passes, 61 knockdowns
— JOHN MICHAEL MCGEE, Texarkana Texas, Sr. — Army All-Star Game selection
— TANNER STONE, Dallas Highland Park, Sr. — Top lineman on offense that averaged 463 yds per game

Receivers/ends

— DYLAN CANTRELL, Whitehouse, Jr. — 78 catches, 1,277 yds, 19 TDs
— TRE-MUND MOORE, Brenham, Sr. — 60 catches, 833 yds, 18 TDs

Quarterback

— DALYN WILLIAMS, Lake Dallas, Sr. — 3,211 passing yds, 31 TDs, 4 INTs; 68 pct. completion; 597 rush yds, 7 TDs

Running backs

— JOHNATHAN GRAY, Aledo, Sr. — 2,422 rush yds, 47 TDs; 405 receiving yds, 5 TDs
— DARRELL HARRIS, Waco, Sr. — 2,316 rush yds, 21 TDs; 207 receiving yds, 1 TD
— CAMERON WASHINGTON, Corsicana, Sr. — 1,980 rush yds, 29 TDs

Kicker

— JUAN CARRANCO, Dayton, Jr. — School-record 21 FGs

Offensive Player of the Year: Johnathan Gray, Aledo

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE
Linemen

— GLYNN CHEEKS, Manvel, Sr. — 59 tackles, 18 TFL, 15 sacks, 14 hurries, 3 pass breakups, 2 forced fumbles
— MARIO EDWARDS, Denton Ryan, Sr. — 56 tackles, 28 TFL; 10 sacks; 3 forced fumbles; 1 safety
— LUIS HERNANDEZ, Edcouch-Elsa, Sr. — 68 solo tackles, 41 assists, 19 sacks, 21 TFL, 3 forced fumbles, 2 TD fumble returns
— DEQUAN RAINDLE, Corsicana, Sr. — 84 tackles, 9 sacks, 8 TFL, 2 forced fumbles, 8 QB hurries

Linebackers

— J.D. ALLEN, Canyon Randall, Sr. — 150 tackles; 2-time district defensive player of year
— CORBIN CROW, Lake Travis, Sr. — 121 tackles, 41 solo, 8 TFL, 5 sacks
— NICK MCCRORY, Port Lavaca Calhoun, Sr. — 108 tackles, 10 sacks, 15 TFL, 4 defensive TDs, 6 punt/kick blocks

Defensive backs

— DANE BALAZS, Lake Travis, Sr. - 12 INTs, 56 tackles, 24 solo, 3 sacks
— PAUL CASTILLO, CC Calallen, Sr. — 80 tackles, 47 solo, 10 TFL, 6 INTs, 10 pass breakups, 2 forced fumbles
— XAVIER HOWARD, Houston Wheatley, Sr. — 9 INTs (2 TD returns), 33 pass breakups, 32 solo tackles
— ADRIAN NORWOOD, Waco, Jr. — 9 INTs, 4 pass breakups, 58.5 tackles, 42 solo

Punter

— ANDREW MITCHELL, Northwest Nelson, Sr. — 45-yd avg. on 36 punts; 8 over 50 yds, long of 66; 12 inside 20

Defensive Player of the Year: Dane Balazs, Lake Travis

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

Linemen (six listed because of voting tie):
— T.J. Armstrong, Lake Travis, Sr.; Carlos Cuellar, Weslaco East, Sr.; Roclan Drain, Corsicana, Sr.; Chris Edling, Corsicana, Sr.; Kyler Nicotre, Port Neches-Groves, Sr.; Taylor Romero, Manvel, Sr.

Receivers/ends

— Jonathan Aldridge, Whitehouse, Sr.; Corey Coleman, Richardson Pearce, Sr.

Quarterback

— Hunter Taylor, Whitehouse, Sr.

Running backs

— Bobby Huey, Wolforth Frenship, Sr.; Daje Johnson, Pflugerville Hendrickson, Sr.; Tim Wright, La Marque, Sr.

Kicker

— Austin Shoemake, Frisco Centennial, Jr.

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE
Linemen

— Darriel Collins, Killeen, Sr.; Roland Gonzales, SA McCollum, Sr.; Jesse Hooper, Montgomery, Sr.; Taiwan Johnson, Manvel, Sr.

Linebackers (four listed because of voting tie):
— Keegan Bradley, Austin Travis, Sr.; A.J. Davis, Kilgore, Jr.; Alex De La Torre, Denton Ryan, Sr.; Alex Facro, FW Arlington Heights, Sr.

Defensive backs

— Mookie Carlisle, Stephenville, Soph.; Braden Coverdale, Stephenville, Sr.; Trey Ingram, Canyon Randall, Sr.; Cameron O'Reilly, Richardson Pearce, Sr.

Punter

— James Potts, Pflugerville Hendrickson, Sr.

HONORABLE MENTION OFFENSE

LINEMEN: Jacob Aguilar, Waxahachie; Chase Anderson, Killeen; Derek Baldeschwiler, Burleson; Andrew Billings, Waco; Jake Brearton, CC Calallen; Moises Castaneda, Sherman; Christian Garcia, Weslaco East; Reese Harred, Sulphur Springs; Joey Hunt, El Campo; Donald Jackson, Kilgore; Bryan Manley, Stephenville; Tevin McCray, Denton Ryan; Travis Romero, Manvel; David Roulston, Canyon Randall; Thaelen Villarreal, Port Lavaca Calhoun; Gabe Whitman, Pflugerville Hendrickson; Jordan Williams, Denton Ryan.

RECEIVERS/ENDS: Marcell Ateman, Wylie East; Zach Austin, Lake Travis; Addison Busbe, Amarillo Caprock; Cody Clayton, Sulphur Springs; Kason Fornes, Kerrville Tivy; Chance Garey, Wichita Falls; Griffin Gilbert, Lake Travis; Brice Gunter, Stephenville; Brandon Moss, EP Chapin; Jayce Nelson, Port Neches-Groves; Deon Price, Austin McCallum; Robbie Rhodes, FW Southwest; Fred Ross, Tyler; Mike Williams, Pearland Dawson.

QUARTERBACKS: J.T. Barrett, WF Rider; Collin Bowen, Canyon Randall; Michael Guerrero, Amarillo Caprock; Dean Haveman, Brenham; Andres Herrera, Dayton; Gary Kimble, Pearland Dawson; Don King III, Waxahachie; Baker Mayfield, Lake Travis; Jacorey McQueen, Manor; Greg Ward, Tyler.

RUNNING BACKS: Jabari Anderson, Wylie East; Chase Bertrand, Port Neches-Groves; Calvin Burns, Mansfield Summit; Johnathan Garner, Victoria East; Ryan Jackson, Angleton; Jakobi Jones, Beaumont Ozen; Arthur Lockett, Houston Yates; Lawrence Mattison, Smithson Valley; Preston Miller, Dallas Highland Park; Aaron Munguia, Weslaco East; Marcus Price, CC Calallen.

KICKERS: Jake Brearton, CC Calallen; Dalton Hestand, Denison; Conner Hollabaugh, Amarillo Caprock; Austin Lightle, Hallsville; J.B. McBride, Frisco Liberty; Mark Orozco, Denton Ryan.

HONORABLE MENTION DEFENSE

LINEMEN: Andrew Allen, Frisco Liberty; Chase Appleby, Frisco Centennial; Jay Arnold, Rockwall-Heath; Dominique Banks, Denton Ryan; Tyus Bowser, Tyler; Corbin Carr, Nederland; Eric Davis, Tyler; Andrew Garza, Edcouch-Elsa; Jaylen Hill, Aledo; Jude Jefress, Lake Travis; Dylan McDorman, WF Rider; Richard McKinney, Denison; Chris Paige, Kilgore; Drew Pardo, Frisco Liberty; Jordan Points, Rockwall-Heath; Darick Roberson, Northside Brennan; K.J. Smith, Frisco Centennial; Michael Wiser, CC Calallen.

LINEBACKERS: Amir Adkins, Hutto; Chris Belmares, Weslaco East; Nick Bush, Frisco Centennial; Daniel Carrillo, El Paso; Ian Compton, Dallas Adams; Dayne Davis, Aledo; Colton Estill, Wolforth Frenship; Padyn Giebler, Stephenville; Frankie Guerra, Rosenberg Terry; Bryson Haywood, Jacksonville; Shaquille Jones, Dallas Molina; Webster Jones, Angleton; Justin McMath, CC Moody; Brayton Mitchell, Sherman; Skylar Nelson, SA Alamo Heights; Montana Quirante, Vidor; Jordan Richmond, Denton Ryan; Justin Richter, Hewitt Midway; Mason Shaw, Dallas Highland Park; Stephen Smith, Wolforth Frenship; Jacob Studdard, Hutto; Alex Trevino, Port Lavaca Calhoun; Kahlee Woods, Sherman.

DEFENSIVE BACKS: Steven Aikens, Arlington Seguin; Victor Davis, Rosenberg Terry; Marquise Elder, Angleton; Mark Gottsacker, Dallas Highland Park; Mario Henderson, Rockwall-Heath; William Jackson, Houston Wheatley; Justin Kalinowski, Victoria East; Tre Mask, Sherman; Bryant McClendon, Livingston; Kameron Miles, West Mesquite; Trey Mohair, Denton Ryan; Aaron Potter, Smithson Valley; Ryan Reid, Sherman; Chase Romero, Port Neches-Groves; Ty Scott, Dripping Springs; Zach Sreuling, Lake Travis; Shea Wood, Aledo.

PUNTERS: Leland Hamilton, Beaumont Ozen; Conner Hollabaugh, Amarillo Caprock; Roy Petit, Denison; Ethan Perry, Smithson Valley.

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NFL

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East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	396	274
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	.615	327	270
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	288	341
Miami	4	9	0	.308	256	246

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	10	3	0	.769	330	209
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	266	251
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308	193	252
Indianapolis	0	13	0	.000	184	382

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	320	202
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	282	198
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	285	270
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	178	254

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	5	0	.615	269	302
Oakland	7	6	0	.538	290	354
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	324	299
Kansas City	5	8	0	.385	173	305

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	6	0	.538	324	349
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	317	281
Philadelphia	5	8	0	.385	297	292
Washington	4	9	0	.308	229	290

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	415	286
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	300	267
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	313	355
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	.308	232	370

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	0	0	1.000	466	278
Detroit	8	5	0	.615	367	305
Chicago	7	6	0	.538	301	255
Minnesota	2	11	0	.154	274	364

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	10	3	0	.769	307	182
Seattle	6	7	0	.462	246	259
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	253	288
St. Louis	2	11	0	.154	153	326

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Today's Game
Jacksonville at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
Saturday's Game
Dallas at Tampa Bay, 7:20 p.m.
Sunday's Games
New Orleans at Minnesota, Noon
Seattle at Chicago, Noon
Cincinnati at St. Louis, Noon
Carolina at Houston, Noon
Green Bay at Kansas City, Noon
Tennessee at Indianapolis, Noon
Miami at Buffalo, Noon
Washington at N.Y. Giants, Noon
Detroit at Oakland, 3:05 p.m.
New England at Denver, 3:15 p.m.
Cleveland at Arizona, 3:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia, 3:15 p.m.
Baltimore at San Diego, 7:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 19
Pittsburgh at San Francisco, 7:30 p.m.

INJURY REPORT
TODAY'S GAME
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS at ATLANTA FALCONS — JAGUARS: OUT: DE Matt Roth (concussion), WR Cecil Shorts (hamstring), WR Mike Thomas (concussion). QUESTIONABLE: K Josh Scobee (groin). PROBABLE: DT Tyson Alualu (not injury related), RB Maurice Jones-Drew (not injury related), RB Greg Jones (not injury related), S Dwight Lowery (shoulder), T Guy Whimper (thigh). FALCONS: DOUBTFUL: CB Brent Grimes (knee), CB Kelvin Hayden (toe). QUESTIONABLE: DT Jonathan Babineaux (ankle), LB Stephen Nicholas (quadriceps), T Will Svitek (groin). PROBABLE: DE John Abraham (not injury related), K Matt Bryant (illness), T Tyson Clabo (not injury related), WR Harry Douglas (groin), DE Ray Edwards (neck), TE Tony Gonzalez (not injury related), WR Julio Jones (back), C Todd McClure (not injury related), CB Christopher Owens (hand), RB Michael Turner (groin).

NBA Preseason

Friday's Games
Philadelphia at Washington, 6 p.m.
Chicago at Indiana, 6 p.m.
Cleveland at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Saturday's Games
New York at New Jersey, 1 p.m.
Milwaukee at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Houston, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Boston at Toronto, Noon
Orlando at Miami, 5 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Dallas, 6:30 p.m.

NBA DL

East Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Springfield	5	1	.833	—
Iowa	5	3	.625	1
Dakota	3	3	.500	2
Fort Wayne	3	3	.500	2
Canton	3	4	.429	2 1/2
Maine	2	4	.333	3
Sioux Falls	2	5	.286	3 1/2
Erie	2	6	.250	4

West Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Bakersfield	5	1	.833	—
Los Angeles	7	3	.700	—
Austin	4	2	.667	1
Tulsa	5	3	.625	1
Rio Grande Valley	5	4	.556	1 1/2
Idaho	2	4	.333	3
Reno	2	4	.333	3
Texas	1	6	.143	4 1/2

Wednesday's Scores
Springfield 114, Erie 107
Bakersfield at Idaho, late
Today's Games
Erie at Springfield, 6 p.m.
Texas at Austin, 7:30 p.m.

Golf

Dubai Ladies Masters Leading Scores
Wednesday
At Emirates Golf Club
Dubai, United Arab Emirates Purse: $650,000
Yardage: 6,425; Par: 72
First Round

Lotta Wahlin, Sweden	30-36 —	66
Becky Brewerton, Wales	33-34 —	67
Minea Blomqvist, Finland	34-34 —	68
Julieta Granada, Paraguay	33-35 —	68
Stacy Lee Bregman, South Africa	35-33 —	68
Linda Wessberg, Sweden	34-34 —	68
Jaclyn Sweeney, United States	33-36 —	69
Lee-Anne Pace, South Africa	35-34 —	69
Elizabeth Bennett, England	32-37 —	69
Christel Boeljon, Netherlands	33-36 —	69
Tandi Cuningham, South Africa	32-37 —	69
Julie Maisongrosse, France	33-36 —	69
Diana Luna, Italy	32-37 —	69
Maria Verchenova, Russia	34-35 —	69
Beth Allen, United States	33-36 —	69
Liebelei Elena Lawrence, Greece	37-33 —	70
Margherita Rigon, Italy	35-35 —	70
Becky Morgan, Wales	37-33 —	70
Sophie Giquel-Bettan, France	35-35 —	70
Stacey Keating, Australia	35-35 —	70
Alexis Thompson, United States	35-35 —	70
Alison Walshe, United States	33-37 —	70
Karen Lunn, Australia	35-35 —	70
Charlie Douglass, England	32-38 —	70
Elisabeth Esterl, Germany	36-34 —	70
Cassandra Kirkland, France	34-36 —	70
Caroline Afonso, France	36-34 —	70
Caroline Westrup, Sweden	34-36 —	70
Lynnette Brooky, New Zealand	36-35 —	71
Carlota Ciganda, Spain	34-37 —	71
Kaisa Ruuttila, Finland	36-35 —	71
Louise Larsson, Sweden	37-34 —	71
Sara Brown, United States	34-37 —	71
Sophie Gustafson, Sweden	34-37 —	71
Rachel Jennings, England	37-34 —	71
Also		
Michelle Wie, United States	37-36 —	73
Laura Davies, England	37-38 —	75
Anna Nordqvist, Sweden	37-38 —	75

Ski Report

New Mexico
Red River — Wed Reopen 12/16 4 new powder machine groomed 32 - 32 base am Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p; Open Fri-Sun;
Sandia Peak — Wed 9:00 am 12 new powder machine groomed 6 - 34 base 30 of 30 trails 100% open, 4 of 5 lifts, Wed-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p; Open Wed-Sun;
Sipapu — Wed 8:29 am 7 new powder machine groomed 22 - 29 base 16 of 41 trails 40% open, 3 of 5 lifts, am Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;
Ski Apache — Tue 10:26 am packed powder machine groomed 18 - 24 base 33 of 55 trails 60% open, 7 of 10 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;
Ski Santa Fe — Wed 9:11 am 8 new powder machine groomed 21 - 38 base 28 of 74 trails, 45% open, 4 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9:30a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9:30a-4p;
Taos — Wed Reopen 12/15 9 new powder machine groomed 45 - 53 base am Thu/Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p; Open Thu-Sun;
Enchanted Forest XC — Wed 5:11 am 8 new packed powder machine groomed 20 - 25 base 40 of 40 trails, 35 miles Mon-Fri: 9a-4:30p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4:30p

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NJCAA Polls

NJCAA Division I
Men's Basketball Poll
First place votes in parenthesis

Rank College	Record	Pts.	Pvs.
1. Monroe College	12-0	312 (13)	1
2. Northwest Florida State	12-0	301 (2)	2
3. Indian Hills CC	13-0	277	3
4. South Plains College	11-0	272 (1)	4
5. Salt Lake CC	11-0	234	5
6. Chipola College	13-0	226	7
7. Barton CC	14-0	194	8
8. Colleyville CC	11-1	189	6
9. Vincennes University	14-1	178	10
10. Hutchinson CC	13-1	160	11
11. Western Wyoming CC	13-0	150	14
12. Coll of Southern Idaho	12-1	143	12
13. Kansas City Kan CC	11-0	117	15
14. E Oklahoma State	12-1	101	13
15. Odessa College	12-1	87	17
15. Palm Beach St Coll	12-2	87	9
17. Shelton State CC	8-1	55	16
18. ND St. Coll.of Science	14-1	35	RV
19. Pensacola State	15-2	28	RV
20. Northeast Mississippi CC	7-1	21	20

Others receiving votes: Sheridan College 21, Arizona Western Colleg 14, Garden City CC 14, Northwest College 14, **Midland College 13**, Waycross College 13, Lawson State CC 12, Utah State University-College of Eastern Utah 12, Kankakee CC 11, Cowley County CC 10

NJCAA Division I
Women's Basketball Poll
First place votes in parenthesis

Rank College	Record	Pts.	Pvs.
1. Trinity Valley CC	12-0	160 (8)	1
2. Northwest Florida St	10-0	152	2
3. Hutchinson CC	12-0	142	3
4. Central Ariz College	11-1	134	4
5. Pensacola St College	10-1	130	5
6. Casper College	11-1	117	6
7. Gulf Coast State	10-1	112	7
8. Weatherford College	11-0	104	8
9. Walters State CC	11-1	95	10
10. Seward County CC	11-2	93	11
11. Independence CC	10-1	75	12
12. N Oklahoma College	11-2	68	9
13. Chipola College	9-3	57	14
14. Hill College	14-0	44	20
15. North Idaho College	7-4	39	16
15. Shelton St CC	8-2	39	13
17. Jefferson College	10-2	38	17
18. Middle Ga College	10-0	29	19
19. Ariz Western College	11-2	21	15
20. Paris Junior College	11-2	13	18

Others receiving votes: Southwest Tennessee CC 9, Otero Junior College 6, New Mexico Junior College 1, Itawamba Community College 1

Men

WEDNESDAY'S SCORES
SOUTHWEST
Arkansas St. 87, Seattle 74
Baylor 69, Bethune-Cookman 42
Houston Baptist 87, Campbell 76
Lamar 88, Huston-Tillotson 59
Rice 109, Louisiana College 51
MIDWEST
Cincinnati 78, Wright St. 58
DePaul 75, N. Illinois 52
Ohio 88, Marietta 54
Ohio St. 82, SC-Upstate 58
Wichita St. 94, Chicago St. 4
SOUTH
Charleston Southern 88, The Citadel 69
Coppin St. 71, Towson 57
Iona 88, Richmond 79
Louisiana Tech 60, McNeese St. 58
Maryland 65, FIU 61
Mississippi 66, Louisiana-Lafayette 54
Norfolk St. 73, LIU 62
FAR WEST
Denver 71, N. Colorado 65

WEDNESDAY'S TEXAS BOXES
NO. 6 BAYLOR 69, BETHUNE-COOKMAN 42
BETHUNE-COOKMAN (3-7): Holloman 5-12 2-2 13, Scotland 0-1 0-0 0, Breeze 5-8 2-3 12, Elliott 0-3 1-2 1, Johnson 2-10 1-2 6, Coleman 0-4 0-0 0, Smith 1-1 1-2 3, Bryant 0-1 0-0 0, Mack 2-4 1-4 5, Dukes 0-0 0-0 0, McAfee 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 16-46 8-15 42.
BAYLOR (8-0): Jones III 4-7 0-0 8, Acy 8 2-6 10, Miller 3-8 0-0 7, Heslip 1-4 0-0 3, Walton 4-5 1-3 9, Ellis 1-3 0-0 3, Bello 4-5 1-2 9, Jefferson 1-3 0-0 2, Jones 2-3 1-2 6, Jackson 4-6 2-2 12. Totals 29-60 7-15 69.
Halftime—Baylor 31-16. 3-Point Goals—Bethune-Cookman 2-7 (Johnson 1-2, Holloman 1-4, Elliott 0-1), Baylor 6-11 (Jackson 2-2, Ellis 1-2, Jones 1-2, Miller 1-2, Heslip 1-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Bethune-Cookman 25 (Coleman, Holloman 4), Baylor 35 (Miller 8). Assists—Bethune-Cookman 11 (Bryant, Holloman 3), Baylor 15 (Jackson 4). Total Fouls—Bethune-Cookman 16, Baylor 14. A—6,836.

LAMAR 88, HUSTON-TILLOTSON 59
HUSTON-TILLOTSON (0-0): Richardson 4-13 2-2 10, Ford 6-16 7-8 19, Morgan 3-8 0-0 6, McGhee 2-4 0-0 4, Williams 0-1 0-0 0, Arnold 1-2 0-0 3, Baker 1-5 3-4 6, James 3-11 0-0 7, Spaid 0-1 0-0 0, Stephens 0-2 0-0 0, Arguezo 0-1 0-0 0, Bousqeto 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 21-65 12-14 59.
LAMAR (7-3): Nelson 2-5 0-0 4, Ebonwonyi 0-1 2-4 2, Lynch 4-6 4-7 12, Davis 4-10 2-3 10, Minor 2-7 0-0 4, Miles 7-10 0-0 18, Acosta 1-2 1-2 3, Lamb 2-7 2-4 6, James 6-14 3-3 16, Harper 3-5 0-0 6, Brown 1-2 0-0 2, Norman 1-2 3-4 5. Totals 33-71 17-27 88.
Halftime—Lamar 32-26. 3-Point Goals—Huston-Tillotson 5-15 (Morgan 2-4, Arnold 1-1, Baker 1-3, James 1-5, Stephens 0-1, Richardson 0-1), Lamar 5-14 (Miles 4-6, James 1-5, Davis 0-3). Fouled Out—Fort. Rebounds—Huston-Tillotson 37 (Richardson 12), Lamar 51 (Harper 9). Assists—Huston-Tillotson 10 (McGhee, Morgan 3), Lamar 21 (Davis, Lamb 4). Total Fouls—Huston-Tillotson 18, Lamar 15. A—2,248.

RICE 109, LOUISIANA COLLEGE 51
LOUISIANA COLLEGE (4-2): Gardner 4-8 0-0 8, Salmon 7-13 1-2 16, Mitchell 0-7 0-0 0, Jackson 4-14 1-1 10, George 1-10 1-2 4, Atkins 2-4 0-2 5, S. Johnson 0-4 0-1 0, Sumner 3-8 2-2 8, Williams 0-5 0-0 0. Totals 21-73 5-10 51.
RICE (7-2): Kazemi 4-6 12-12 20, Kuipers 3-4 1-1 7, Jackson 3-7 5-8 11, Frizzelle 4-11 2-2 11, Ennis 6-10 4-6 16, Ibrahim 1-4 2-2 4, Schwarze 0-0 0-0 0, Herndon 1-1 1-1 3, Reischel 2-5 2-2 6, DeBose 6-11 1-2 13, Chadwick 3-4 0-0 7, Oraby 2-3 1-2 5, Gearhart 2-2 0-0 5, Reynolds 0-2 1-2 1. Totals 37-70 32-40 109.
Halftime—Rice 58-21. 3-Point Goals—Louisiana College 4-29 (Atkins 1-2, Salmon 1-3, George 1-6, Jackson 1-8, Williams 0-1, Mitchell 0-4, Sumner 0-5), Rice 3-15 (Gearhart 1-1, Chadwick 1-1, Frizzelle 1-5, DeBose 0-1, Jackson 0-1, Kuipers 0-1, Reynolds 0-1, Ibrahim 0-2, Reischel 0-2). Fouled Out—Mitchell. Rebounds—Louisiana College 35 (S. Johnson 7), Rice 55 (Kazemi 16). Assists—Louisiana College 10 (George 3), Rice 16 (Jackson 4). Total Fouls—Louisiana College 25, Rice 14. A—603.

HOUSTON BAPTIST 87, CAMPBELL 76
CAMPBELL (8-2): Harris 1-4 2-4 4, Griffin 6-12 9-12 21, Freeman 8-13 1-3 19, Ferguson 2-5 2-4 6, White 6-14 4-6 18, Celestin 0-0 0-0 0, Horton 2-2 0-0 5, Ryan 0-4 1-2 1, Merthie 1-3 0-0 2, Kalpic 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 26-57 19-31 76.
HOUSTON BAPTIST (4-6): Bernardi 5-8 0-2 10, Lates 1-4 1-2 3, Smith 3-7 7-7 14, Russell 3-7 5-6 11, Davis 6-11 0-1 12, March 4-6 2-3 12, Thomas 0-1 0-0 0, Hill 3-5 2-2 10, Bembry 3-4 3-4 9, Evans 2-5 0-0 6. Totals 30-58 20-27 87.
Halftime—Houston Baptist 40-38. 3-Point Goals—Campbell 5-15 (White 2-4, Freeman 2-5, Horton 1-1, Merthie 0-2, Ryan 0-3), Houston Baptist 7-16 (Hill 2-3, Evans 2-4, March 2-4, Smith 1-3, Russell 0-1, Davis 0-1). Fouled Out—Davis. Rebounds—Campbell 36 (White 10), Houston Baptist 33 (Bembry 8). Assists—Campbell 13 (Ferguson 4), Houston Baptist 19 (Bernardi, Davis 4). Total Fouls—Campbell 21, Houston Baptist 25. Technical—Harris. A—602.

TOP 25 FARED
Wednesday
1. Syracuse (10-0) did not play. Next: at N.C. State, Saturday.
2. Ohio State (9-1) beat South Carolina-Upstate 82-58. Next: at South Carolina, Saturday.
3. Kentucky (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Chattanooga, Saturday.
4. Louisville (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Memphis, Saturday.
5. North Carolina (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Appalachian State, Saturday.
6. Baylor (8-0) beat Bethune-Cookman 69-42. Next: at BYU, Saturday.
7. Duke (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. UNC Greensboro, Monday, Dec. 19.
8. Xavier (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. Oral Roberts, Sunday.
9. UConn (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Holy Cross, Sunday.
10. Missouri (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Kennesaw State, Thursday.
11. Marquette (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Northern Colorado, Saturday.
12. Kansas (7-2) did not play. Next: vs. Davidson, Monday, Dec. 19.
13. Florida (7-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 22 Texas A&M, Saturday.
14. Wisconsin (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Savannah State, Thursday.
15. Pittsburgh (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. South Carolina State, Saturday.
16. Georgetown (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. American, Saturday.
17. Mississippi State (10-1) did not play. Next: at Detroit, Saturday.
18. Indiana (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Notre Dame, Saturday.
19. Illinois (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. UNLV, Saturday.
20. Michigan (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama A&M, Saturday.
21. Michigan State (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Bowling Green, Saturday.
22. Texas A&M (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 13 Florida, Saturday.
23. Alabama (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Kansas State, Saturday.
24. Murray State (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Lipscomb, Thursday.
25. Creighton (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Houston Baptist, Saturday.
25. Vanderbilt (6-3) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana State, Saturday.

TODAY' SCHEDULE
SOUTHWEST
South Alabama at Texas A&M-CC, 7 p.m.
Wentworth Tech at Texas-Pan American, 7 p.m.
Jackson St. at SMU, 7:30 p.m.
EAST
Bradley at George Washington, 6 p.m.
SOUTH
Montreat at UNC Asheville, 6 p.m.
Wesley College at William & Mary, 6 p.m.
Winthrop at Jacksonville, 6:30 p.m.
Troy at Belmont, 7 p.m.
UC Irvine at LSU, 7 p.m.
Northwestern St. at Louisiana-Monroe, 7 p.m.
Lipscomb at Murray St., 7 p.m.
MIDWEST
Ark.-Pine Bluff at Akron, 6 p.m.
Kennesaw St. at Missouri, 7 p.m.
S. Dakota St. at North Dakota, 7 p.m.
Texas Southern at Northwestern, 7 p.m.
Savannah St. at Wisconsin, 7 p.m.
FAR WEST
Oral Roberts at Gonzaga, 8 p.m.
Howard at Oregon St., 9 p.m.
NC A&T at Saint Mary's (Cal), 9 p.m.
CS Bakersfield at Portland St., 9:05 p.m.

Women

WEDNESDAY'S SCORES
SOUTHWEST
McNeese St. 70, Texas Southern 37
Texas 79, Ark.-Pine Bluff 40
Texas-Pan American 94, Huston-Tillotson 51
MIDWEST
Ill.-Chicago 49, N. Illinois 47
Louisville 64, Cincinnati 59
Northwestern 87, Morgan St. 74
EAST
Duquesne 77, Akron 70
Fairleigh Dickinson 51, Stony Brook 48
LIU 69, Cal Poly 61
Winthrop 88, Monmouth (NJ) 54
SOUTH
Cent. Michigan 78, Mississippi 75, OT
FAU 63, North Florida 52
Georgia St. 65, Kennesaw St. 59
NC Central 65, Coker 64
Savannah St. 41, Louisiana-Lafayette 36
South Carolina 66, SC State 21

WEDNESDAY'S TEXAS BOX
NO. 24 TEXAS 79, ARK.-PINE BLUFF 40
ARK.-PINE BLUFF (0-8): Quarles 0-1 0-0 0, Gentry 3-11 1-2 8, Haggie 0-3 2-2 2, Vaden 0-5 3-4 3, Marsh 3-9 0-0 9, Lasane 1-2 1-2 3, Walker 1-4 1-1 3, Wormley 1-4 0-0 2, Pitts 0-0 0-0 0, Victorian 0-0 0-0 0, Okwumabua 4-9 2-3 10, McRae 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 13-49 10-14 40.
TEXAS (7-2): Gayle 2-4 2-2 6, Reed 3-5 4-6 10, Anderson 6-9 1-4 14, Fussell 8-12 3-4 22, Fontenette 4-10 0-0 10, Brewer 2-2 1-2 5, Enemkpali 0-2 0-0 0, Bass 4-7 0-0 9, Major 0-5 0-0 0, Hartung 1-3 1-2 3. Totals 30-59 12-20 79.
Halftime—Texas 41-17. 3-Point Goals—Ark.-Pine Bluff 4-11 (Marsh 3-6, Gentry 1-1, Lasane 0-1, Vaden 0-1), Texas 7-18 (Fussell 3-7, Fontenette 2-4, Anderson 1-1, Bass 1-4, Enemkpali 0-1, Major 0-1). Fouled Out—Gentry, Hartung. Rebounds—Ark.-Pine Bluff 31 (Okwumabua 7), Texas 36 (Gayle, Hartung 6). Assists—Ark.-Pine Bluff 6 (Marsh, Okwumabua 2), Texas 20 (Fontenette 9). Total Fouls—Ark.-Pine Bluff 19, Texas 18. A—6,742.

TOP 25 FARED
Wednesday
1. Baylor (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 2 UConn, Sunday.
2. UConn (9-0) did not play. Next: at No. 1 Baylor, Sunday.
3. Notre Dame (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 8 Kentucky, Sunday.
4. Stanford (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Princeton, Saturday.
5. Maryland (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. Lafayette, Wednesday, Dec. 28.
6. Tennessee (6-2) did not play. Next: at UCLA, Saturday.
7. Miami (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Louisiana-Monroe, Friday.
8. Kentucky (10-0) did not play. Next: at No. 3 Notre Dame, Sunday.
9. Duke (7-2) did not play. Next: vs. UNC Wilmington, Tuesday, Dec. 20.
10. Texas A&M (7-2) did not play. Next: vs. Southern Cal, Sunday.
11. Rutgers (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Iona, Sunday.
12. Ohio State (9-0) did not play. Next: at California, Saturday.
13. Georgia (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Gonzaga, Monday, Dec. 19.
14. Louisville (9-2) beat Cincinnati 64-59. Next: at Portland, Saturday.
15. Texas Tech (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. Illinois, Saturday.
16. Penn State (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Wagner, Sunday.
17. Georgetown (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 7 Miami, Wednesday, Dec. 21.
18. North Carolina (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. South Carolina, Sunday.
19. Green Bay (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. Ball State, Tuesday.
20. Vanderbilt (10-0) did not play. Next: at N.C. State, Sunday.
21. Delaware (8-0) did not play. Next: at Providence, Monday, Dec. 19.
22. Purdue (7-3) did not play. Next: at Auburn, Sunday.
23. DePaul (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona State, Friday.
24. Texas (7-2) beat Arkansas-Pine Bluff 79-40. Next: vs. North Texas, Saturday.
25. Nebraska (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Vermont, Sunday.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE
SOUTH
Longwood at Marshall, 11 a.m.
Alabama A&M at UAB, Noon
NC A&T at William & Mary, 3:30 p.m.
Jacksonville St. at Jacksonville, 4 p.m.
Troy at Alabama St., 6 p.m.
Belmont at Chattanooga, 6 p.m.
Virginia Union at Liberty, 6 p.m.
Richmond at NC State, 6 p.m.
MIDWEST
Chicago St. at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
SOUTHWEST
Southern Cal at Arkansas St., 7:05 p.m.
Grambling St. at Oral Roberts, 7:05 p.m.
FAR WEST
Wyoming at Weber St., 1 p.m.
N. Colorado at New Mexico, 6 p.m.
UC Riverside at Idaho, 8 p.m.
CS Bakersfield at Fresno St., 9 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Bowls

Saturday
New Mexico Bowl
At Albuquerque
Wyoming (8-4) vs. Temple (8-4), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Utah State (7-5) vs. Ohio (9-4), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
New Orleans Bowl
Louisiana-Lafayette (8-4) vs. San Diego State (8-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Dec. 20
Beef 'O'Brady's Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Marshall (6-6) vs. FIU (8-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Dec. 21
Poinsettia Bowl
At San Diego
TCU (10-2) vs. Louisiana Tech (8-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Dec. 22
MAACO Bowl
At Las Vegas
Boise State (11-1) vs. Arizona State (6-6), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Nevada (7-5) vs. Southern Mississippi (11-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Dec. 26
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
North Carolina (7-5) vs. Missouri (7-5), 4 p.m. (ESPN2)
Tuesday, Dec. 27
Little Caesars Pizza Bowl
At Detroit
Western Michigan (7-5) vs. Purdue (6-6), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
Belk Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
North Carolina State (7-5) vs. Louisville (7-5), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Dec. 28
Military Bowl
At Washington
Air Force (7-5) vs. Toledo (8-4), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Texas (7-5) vs. California (7-5), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Dec. 29
Champs Sports Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Florida State (8-4) vs. Notre Dame (8-4), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Baylor (9-3) vs. Washington (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday, Dec. 30
Armed Forces Bowl
At Dallas
Tulsa (8-4) vs. BYU (9-3), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
Pinstripe Bowl
At Bronx, N.Y.
Rutgers (8-4) vs. Iowa State (6-6), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Mississippi State (6-6) vs. Wake Forest (6-6), 5:40 p.m. (ESPN)
Insight Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Oklahoma (9-3) vs. Iowa (7-5), 9 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Dec. 31
Meineke Car Care Bowl
At Houston
Texas A&M (6-6) vs. Northwestern (6-6), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
At El Paso
Georgia Tech (8-4) vs. Utah (7-5), 1 p.m. (CBS)
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Vanderbilt (6-6) vs. Cincinnati (9-3), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Fight Hunger Bowl
At San Francisco
UCLA (6-7) vs. Illinois (6-6), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Chick-fil-A Bowl
At Atlanta
Virginia (8-4) vs. Auburn (7-5), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Jan. 2
TicketCity Bowl
At Dallas
Penn State (9-3) vs. Houston (12-1), 11 a.m. (ESPNU)
Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Nebraska (9-3) vs. South Carolina (10-2), Noon (ESPN)
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Georgia (10-3) vs. Michigan State (10-3), Noon (ABC)
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Florida (6-6) vs. Ohio State (6-6), Noon (ESPN2)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Oregon (11-2) vs. Wisconsin (11-2), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Stanford (11-1) vs. Oklahoma State (11-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Jan. 3
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Michigan (10-2) vs. Virginia Tech (11-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Jan. 4
Orange Bowl
At Miami
West Virginia (9-3) vs. Clemson (10-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday, Jan. 6
Cotton Bowl
At Arlington
Kansas State (10-2) vs. Arkansas (10-2), 7 p.m. (FOX)
Saturday, Jan. 7
BBVA Compass Bowl
At Birmingham, Ala.
Pittsburgh (6-6) vs. SMU (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
Sunday, Jan. 8
GoDaddy.com Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
Arkansas State (10-2) vs. Northern Illinois (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Jan. 9
BCS National Championship
At New Orleans
LSU (13-0) vs. Alabama (11-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Playoffs

NCAA Football Championship Subdivision Playoff Glance
Semifinals
Friday
Montana (11-2) at Sam Houston State (13-0), 7 p.m.
Saturday
Georgia Southern (11-2) at North Dakota State (12-1), 1:30 p.m.
Championship
Friday, Jan. 7
At Pizza Hut Park
Frisco
Semifinal winners, Noon

NCAA Division II Football Playoff Glance
Championship
Saturday
At Braly Municipal Stadium
Florence, Ala.
Wayne State (12-3) vs. Pittsburg State (12-1), 10 a.m.

NCAA Division III Football Playoff Glance
Championship
Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl
Friday, Dec. 16
At Salem Stadium
Salem, Va.
Mount Union (14-0) vs. Wisconsin-Whitewater (14-0), 6 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	LOT	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	29	19	7	3	41	106	82
N.Y. Rangers	28	17	7	4	38	83	61
Pittsburgh	31	17	10	4	38	95	79
New Jersey	30	16	13	1	33	79	86
N.Y. Islanders	28	9	13	6	24	65	93

Northeast Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	30	20	9	1	41	102	61
Toronto	30	16	11	3	35	93	95
Buffalo	30	15	12	3	33	81	82
Montreal	31	13	11	7	33	79	80
Ottawa	32	14	14	4	32	96	112

Southeast Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	31	16	9	6	38	84	80
Winnipeg	30	14	12	4	32	84	93
Washington	29	15	13	1	31	89	94
Tampa Bay	30	12	16	2	26	79	101
Carolina	32	9	18	5	23	80	110

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	31	19	8	4	42	103	95
Detroit	29	19	9	1	39	93	63
St. Louis	29	17	9	3	37	71	62
Nashville	30	15	11	4	34	79	80
Columbus	30	9	17	4	22	73	100

Northwest Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	32	20	8	4	44	83	70
Vancouver	30	18	10	2	38	98	73
Edmonton	30	14	13	3	31	83	80
Calgary	30	14	14	2	30	74	82
Colorado	31	14	16	1	29	82	94

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	29	17	11	1	35	74	78
San Jose	28	15	10	3	33	78	68
Phoenix	29	15	11	3	33	77	76
Los Angeles	30	13	13	4	30	65	70
Anaheim	29	8	16	5	21	67	95

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

Wednesday's Scores
Chicago 4, Minnesota 3, SO
Boston 5, Ottawa 2
Phoenix at Anaheim, late
Today's Games
Dallas at N.Y. Islanders, 6 p.m.
Vancouver at Carolina, 6 p.m.
Los Angeles at Columbus, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.
Calgary at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Washington at Winnipeg, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Phoenix, 8:30 p.m.
Colorado at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S SUMMARIES
BLACKHAWKS 4, WILD 3, SO

Chicago	0	2	1	0	— 4
Minnesota	0	2	1	0	— 3

Chicago won shootout 2-0
First Period—None.
Second Period—1, Chicago, Hossa 13 (J.Toews, Sharp), 9:19 (pp). 2, Chicago, Frolik 5 (Kruger, Mayers), 10:48. 3, Minnesota, Brodziak 11 (Johnson), 13:10. 4, Minnesota, Cullen 9 (Clutterbuck, W.Peters), 15:41.
Third Period—5, Chicago, J.Toews 18 (Stalberg), 6:54. 6, Minnesota, Koivu 8 (Clutterbuck, Stoner), 14:56.
Overtime—None.
Shootout—Chicago 2 (J.Toews G, Kane G), Minnesota 0 (Cullen NG, Heatley NG).
Shots on Goal—Chicago 11-10-7-3—31. Minnesota 2-10-16-2—30.
Goalies—Chicago, Emery. Minnesota, Backstrom. A—19,254 (18,064). T—2:36.

BRUINS 5, SENATORS 2

Boston	1	1	3	— 5
Ottawa	0	1	1	— 2

First Period—1, Boston, Peverley 6 (Ference, Corvo), 12:10.
Second Period—2, Ottawa, Alfredsson 8 (Spezza), 4:23. 3, Boston, Kelly 12 (Boychuk, Peverley), 13:47.
Third Period—4, Boston, Bergeron 6, 4:54. 5, Boston, Paille 4 (Thornton, Ference), 5:50. 6, Ottawa, Spezza 10 (Phillips, Alfredsson), 15:55. 7, Boston, Paille 5 (Bergeron), 18:56.
Shots on Goal—Boston 6-13-10—29. Ottawa 13-14-22—49.
Goalies—Boston, Thomas. Ottawa, Anderson. A—18,088 (19,153). T—2:23.

BASEBALL

Free Agent Signings
NEW YORK — The 49 free agents who have signed, with name, position, former club if different, and contract. The contract information was obtained by The Associated Press from player and management sources. For players with minor league contracts, letter agreements for major league contracts are in parentheses:
AMERICAN LEAGUE
BOSTON (2) — Announced David Ortiz, dh, has accepted salary arbitration; signed Kelly Shoppach, c, Tampa Bay, to a $1.35 million, one-year contract.
CLEVELAND (1) — Re-signed Grady Sizemore, of, to a $5 million, one-year contract.
DETROIT (3) — Signed Gerald Laird, c, St. Louis, to a $1 million, one-year contract; re-signed Ramon Santiago, ss, to a $4.2 million, two-year contract; signed Octavio Dotel, rhp, St. Louis, to a one-year contract.
KANSAS CITY (2) — Re-signed Bruce Chen, lhp, to a $9 million, two-year contract; signed Jonathan Broxton, rhp, Los Angeles Dodgers, to a $4 million, one-year contract.
LOS ANGELES (2) — Signed Albert Pujols, 1b, St. Louis, to a $254 million, 10-year contract; signed C.J. Wilson, lhp, Texas, to a $77.5 million, five-year contract.
MINNESOTA (3) — Signed Jamey Carroll, of, Los Angeles Dodgers, to a $6.5 million, two-year contract; signed Ryan Doumit, c, Pittsburgh, to a $3 million, one-year contract; re-signed Matt Capps, rhp, to a $4.75 million, one-year contract.
NEW YORK (1) — Re-signed Freddy Garcia, rhp, to a $4 million, one-year contract.
TAMPA BAY (1) — Signed Jose Molina, c, Toronto, to a $1.8 million, one-year contract.
TEXAS (1) — Signed Joe Nathan, rhp, Minnesota, to a $14.5 million, two-year contract.
TORONTO (1) — Announced Kelly Johnson, 2b, has accepted salary arbitration.
——— NATIONAL LEAGUE
ARIZONA (6) — Re-signed John McDonald, inf, to a $3 million, two-year contract; re-signed Henry Blanco, c, to a $1.5 million, one-year contract; re-signed Willie Bloomquist, inf, to a $3.8 million, two-year contract; re-signed Aaron Hill, 2b, to an $11 million, two-year contract; re-signed Lyle Overbay, 1b, to a $1 million, one-year contract; signed Takashi Saito, rhp, Milwaukee, to a $1.75 million, one-year contract.
CHICAGO (1) — Signed David DeJesus, of, Oakland, to a $10 million, two-year contract.
COLORADO (1) — Signed Ramon Hernandez, c, Cincinnati, to a $6.4 million, two-year contract.
LOS ANGELES (4) — Re-signed Juan Rivera, of, to a $4.5 million, one-year contract; signed Adam Kennedy, 2b, Seattle, to an $800,000, one-year contract; signed Chris Capuano, lhp, New York Mets, to a $10 million, two-year contract; signed Jerry Hairston Jr., inf-of, Milwaukee, to a $6 million, two-year contract; signed Aaron Harang, rhp, San Diego, to a $12 million, two-year contract.
MIAMI (3) — Signed Heath Bell, rhp, San Diego, to a $27 million, three-year contract; signed Jose Reyes, ss, New York Mets, to a $106 million, six-year contract; signed Mark Buehrle, lhp, Chicago White Sox, to a $58 million, four-year contract.
MILWAUKEE (3) — Announced Francisco Rodriguez, rhp, has accepted salary arbitration; signed Alex Gonzalez, ss, Atlanta, to a one-year contract; signed Aramis Ramirez, 3b, Chicago Cubs, to a $36 million, three-year contract.
NEW YORK (1) — Signed Jon Rauch, rhp, Toronto, to a $3.5 million, one-year contract.
PHILADELPHIA (4) — Signed Jim Thome, 1b, Cleveland, to a $1.25 million, one-year contract; signed Jonathan Papelbon, rhp, Boston, to a $50,000,058, four-year contract; re-signed Brian Schneider, c, to an $800,000, one-year contract; signed Laynce Nix, of, Washington, to a $2.5 million, one-year contract.
PITTSBURGH (5) — Signed Rod Barajas, c, Los Angeles Dodgers, to a $4 million, one-year contract; signed Clint Barmes, ss, Houston, to a $10.5 million, two-year contract; signed Nate McLouth, of, Atlanta, to a $1.75 million, one-year contract; signed Erik Bedard, lhp, Boston, to a $4.5 million, one-year contract.
ST. LOUIS (1) — Re-signed Rafael Furcal, ss, to a $14 million, two-year contract.
SAN DIEGO (1) — Signed Mark Kotsay, of, Milwaukee, to a $1.25 million, one-year contract.
WASHINGTON (1) — Re-signed Chien-Ming Wang, rhp, to a $4 million, one-year contract.

FISHING REPORT

WEST
ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 51-58 degrees; 7.85' low. Black bass are good on finesse jigs, drop shot rigs, squarebill crankbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on jigs and live minnows (also jig/minnow combinations). Catfish are fair on prepared bait.
ARROWHEAD: Water off color; 50-56 degrees; 8.33' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, jigs, spinnerbaits and shakyheads. Crappie are fair on minnows. White bass are good on slabs and minnows. Blue catfish are good on live shad.
FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear; 50-57 degrees; 9.87' low. Black bass are fair to good on shallow crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps, Texas rigs and jigs. Crappie are fair to good on live minnows. White bass are fair to good on slabs and Rooster Tails. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers.
HUBBARD CREEK: 52-56 degrees; 14.5' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, weightless flukes, finesse jigs and DT 10s. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Catfish are fair to good on prepared bait and nightcrawlers.
OAK CREEK: Water stained; 51-55 degrees; 14.24' low. Black bass are fair to good on squarebill crankbaits, Texas rigs, Rat-L-Traps and shakyheads. Crappie are fair to good on live minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers.
O.H. IVIE: Water stained; 51-58 degrees; 37.94' low. Black bass are fair to good on squarebill crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps, Texas rigs and 1/4-oz. shakyheads with a 4.5" RattleSnake. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers.
POSSUM KINGDOM: Water fairly clear; 52-58 degrees; 10.67' low. Black bass are fair on DD 22s, drop shot rigs, Texas rigs and jigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on slabs and small swimbaits. Striped bass are fair to good on live shad and 4"-5" swimbaits. Catfish are fair to good on prepared bait and nightcrawlers.
SWEETWATER: Water murky; 51-57 degrees; 13.8' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, Rat-L-Traps and shakyheads. Crappie are fair to good on jigs and minnows. Catfish are fair to good on prepared bait and nightcrawlers.
WHITE RIVER: Water stained; 51-58 degrees; 23.95' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, jigs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Catfish are fair on prepared bait and nightcrawlers.
PANHANDLE
GREENBELT: Water stained; 51-55 degrees; 37.83' low. Black bass are fair Rat-L-Traps, Texas rigs and jigs. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. The Old Marina Point ramp is still open.
MACKENZIE: Water stained; 50-54 degrees; 85.65' low. Black bass are fair on chatterbaits, Texas rigs and medium and shallow running shad pattern crankbaits. Striped bass are fair to good on live shad and swimbaits. Catfish are fair on trotlines. Ramp (fresh)1 is still open.
SOUTH
AMISTAD: Water clear; 60-64 degrees; 8.69' low. Black bass are good on green Rat-L-Traps, crankbaits, and soft plastics. Striped bass are good on slabs, jigging spoons, and Rat-L-Traps. White bass are good on slabs, jigging spoons, and Rat-L-Traps. Catfish are good on cheesebait, shrimp, and stinkbait over baited holes. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch. Everyone in a boat must have a Mexico fishing license (if fishing the Mexico side) whether fishing or not.

ON THE AIR

What's on TV

GOLF
Ladies European Tour, Dubai Ladies Masters, second round, (same-day tape), 2 p.m., TGC
PGA Tour Australasia, JBWere Masters, second round, 7:30 p.m., TGC
Asian Tour, Thailand Championship, second round, 12:30 a.m., TGC
NFL
Jacksonville at Atlanta, 7 p.m., NFL
NHL
Dallas at New York, 6 p.m., Fox Sports Plus
HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL
Oak Hill Academy (Va.) vs. Miller Grove (Ga.), 7 p.m., ESPN
Montrose Christian (Md.) vs. Flower Mound Marcus, 8:30 p.m., ESPN
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
Class A Division I State Championship, Stamford vs. Mason, Noon, Fox Sports Southwest
Class A Division II State championship, Munday vs. Tenaha, 4 p.m., Fox Sports Southwest
Class 2A Division I State Championship, Melissa vs. Hempstead, 8 p.m., Fox Sports Southwest
WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
NCAA Division I, playoffs, semifinal, UCLA vs. Florida St., 6 p.m., ESPN2
NCAA Division I, playoffs, semifinal, Illinois vs. Southern Cal, 8 p.m., ESPN2

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Agreed to terms with LHP Tsuyoshi Wada on a two-year contract.
BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with INF Nick Punto on a two-year contract.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Released RHP Mario Santiago.
SEATTLE MARINERS—Agreed to terms with C Chris Gimenez on a one-year contract.
National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Agreed to terms with RHP Takashi Saito on a one-year contract.
COLORADO ROCKIES—Named Dave Hajek infield coordinator, Kevin Riggs hitting coach for Tulsa (Texas), Jon Stone hitting coach for Modesto (Cal), Mike Devereaux hitting coach for Asheville (SAL) and Drew Saylor hitting coach for Grand Junction (Pioneer).
HOUSTON ASTROS—Acquired INF Jed Lowrie and RHP Kyle Weiland from Boston for RHP Mark Melancon. Designated INF Brian Bixler for assignment.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms with 3B Aramis Ramirez on a three-year contract.
NEW YORK METS—Agreed to terms with RHP Jon Rauch on a one-year contract.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Agreed to terms with SS Rafael Furcal on a two-year contract.
American Association
SIOUX CITY EXPLORERS—Released RHP Andrew Snowdon.
FRONTIER LEAGUE
RIVER CITY RASCALS—Signed RHP Brennen Glass.
WASHINGTON WILD THINGS—Exercised the 2012 contract options on RHP Steve Grife, RHP Ross Gusky, RHP Justin Hall, INF Scott Lawson, RHP Gary Lee, RHP Jhonny Montoya, OF Luis Rivera, OF Chris Sidick, RHP Chris Smith and INF Doug Thennis. Declined the options on OF Tim Battle, RHP Matt Barnes, LHP Davis Bilardello, C Jonathan Cisneros, INF Ryan Dittfurdt, INF Kevyn Feiner, LHP Kevin Hammons, OF Estee Harris, C Blake Ochoa, INF Emilio Ontiveros, RHP Jake Ramsey, INF Drew Rossi, C Greyson Schram, RHP Ryan Gardner and INF Eric Stephens.
WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS—Signed OF Eddie George and RHP Jordan Hartley. Exercised the 2012 contract options on C Zach Aakhus, INF Nick Kuroczko, INF Mike Torres, RHP Dustin Williams, LHP Matt Jernstad, RHP Donald Jordat, RHP Kurt Frymier, LHP Matt Costello, INF Chris Wade, RHP Bryant Cotton, C Larry Pempek, RHP Wes Alsup, RHP Brett Durand, RHP Guido Fonseca, LHP Michael Scudero, LHP Shane Zegarac, INF Tyler Keeble, OF Chad Cregar, OF Quentin Luquette, LHP John Mincone, OF Billy Nowlin, RHP Nelson Curry, OF Chase Porch and RHP Jesse Oster. Declined the options on C Lee Rubin, INF Alex Chavez, RHP Tommy Gately and OF D.J. Fitzgerald.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
CHICAGO BULLS—Signed G Richard Hamilton.
CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Waived G Baron Davis.
DALLAS MAVERICKS—Signed G Jerome Randle.
DENVER NUGGETS—Signed C Nene to a five-year contract.
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS—Signed C Kwame Brown to a one-year contract.
LOS ANGELES LAKERS—Signed F Josh McRoberts to a two-year contract.
MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES—Signed C Marc Gasol.
MIAMI HEAT—Waived G Cameron Jones.
MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES—Signed G J.J. Barea to a four-year contract.
NEW ORLEANS HORNETS—Traded G Chris Paul and two future second-round draft picks to the Los Angeles Clippers for G Eric Gordon, F Al-Farouq Aminu, C Chris Kaman and a first-round draft choice.
NBA Development League
IDAHO STAMPEDE—Activated F Kendall Dartez from the injured list.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
DALLAS COWBOYS—Placed QB Jon Kitna on injured reserve. Signed WR Dwayne Harris from the practice squad. Signed QB Chris Greisen to the practice squad.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Signed S Sterling Moore to practice squad.
HOUSTON TEXANS—Announced defensive coordinator Wade Phillips took a medical leave.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Signed LB Michael Wilhoite to the practice squad. Released RB Ian Johnson from the practice squad.
Canadian Football League
EDMONTON ESKIMOS—Re-signed FB Mathieu Bertrand to a two-year contract.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ANAHEIM DUCKS—Activated D Lubomir Visnovsky from injured reserve. Placed C Saku Koivu on injured reserve.
CAROLINA HURRICANES—Recalled G Justin Peters from Charlotte (AHL). Reassigned G Mike Murphy to Charlotte.
MONTREAL CANADIENS—Recalled RW Michael Blunden from Hamilton (AHL).
NEW YORK RANGERS—Recalled D Tim Erixon from Connecticut (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Sent D Evan Oberg to Norfolk (AHL). Reassigned D Charles Landry from Norfolk to Florida (ECHL).
WINNIPEG JETS—Reassigned D Arturs Kulda to the St. John's (AHL).
American Hockey LeagueNORFOLK ADMIRALS—Signed D Jean-Philippe Cote.
PEORIA RIVERMEN—Signed F Chris Bruton from Alaska (ECHL).
ECHL
FLORIDA EVERBLADES—Announced F Justin Shugg was reassigned to Charlotte (AHL).
READING ROYALS—Signed F Andrew Favot.
SOCCER
Major League Soccer
PORTLAND TIMBERS—Named Mike Toshack goalkeeper coach.
COLLEGE
ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE—Named Brad Hostetter Associate Commissioner for Compliance and Governance.
ARKANSAS STATE—Named Gus Malzahn football coach.
BARTON—Announced the resignation of women's soccer coach Ike Onyeador.
BROWN—Announced the retirement Michael Goldberger, director of athletics, effective at the end of the academic year.
FRESNO STATE—Named Tim DeRuyter football coach.
HOWARD PAYNE—Named Roger Geise football coach.
ILLINOIS—Announced defensive coordinator and interim coach Vic Koenning turned down an offer to stay at Illinois after Fight Hunger Bowl.
NEW JERSEY CITY—Announced the resignation of men's volleyball coach Carlo Edra.
OAKLAND, MICHIGAN—Announced junior G Blake Cushingberry has been ruled academically ineligible.
SOUTH CAROLINA—Announced it will eliminate six football scholarships in the next three years as punishment for committing three major NCAA violations.
TEXAS—Announced sophomore WR Darius White will transfer and won't play in the Holiday Bowl.

GLANTZ-CULVER LINE

NCAA Football

FAVORITE	OPEN	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
		Saturday		
		New Mexico Bowl		
		At Albuquerque		
Temple	7 1/2	6 1/2	(48 1/2)	Wyoming
		Famous Idaho Potato Bowl		
		At Boise, Idaho		
Utah St	3	2 1/2	(57 1/2)	Ohio
		New Orleans Bowl		
San Diego St	5 1/2	5	(58 1/2)	La.-Lafayette
		Tuesday		
		Beef 'O'Brady's Bowl		
		At St. Petersburg, Fla.		
FIU	4 1/2	4	(48 1/2)	Marshall
		Dec. 21		
		Poinsettia Bowl		
		At San Diego		
TCU	11	10 1/2	(55 1/2)	Louisiana Tech
		Dec. 22		
		MAACO Bowl		
		At Las Vegas		
Boise St	11 1/2	14	(66)	Arizona St
		Dec. 24		
		Hawaii Bowl		
		At Honolulu		
Southern Miss	5 1/2	6	(63)	Nevada
		Dec. 26		
		Independence Bowl		
		At Shreveport, La.		
Missouri	3 1/2	4 1/2	(52 1/2)	North Carolina
		Dec. 27		
		Little Caesars Pizza Bowl		
		At Detroit		
Purdue	2 1/2	2 1/2	(60)	W. Michigan
		Belk Bowl		
		At Charlotte, N.C.		
NC State	1 1/2	2 1/2	(44 1/2)	Louisville
		Dec. 28		
		Military Bowl		
		At Washington		
Toledo	3	3	(70 1/2)	Air Force
		Holiday Bowl		
		At San Diego		
Texas	3	3	(47 1/2)	California
		Dec. 29		
		Champs Sports Bowl		
		At Orlando, Fla.		
Florida St	3	3	(47)	Notre Dame
		Alamo Bowl		
		At San Antonio		
Baylor	8 1/2	9	(78 1/2)	Washington
		Dec. 30		
		Armed Forces Bowl		
		At Dallas		
BYU	Pk	2 1/2	(55 1/2)	Tulsa
		Pinstripe Bowl		
		At New York		
Rutgers	2	2	(44 1/2)	Iowa St.
		Music City Bowl		
		At Nashville, Tenn.		
Mississippi St.	6 1/2	6 1/2	(47 1/2)	Wake Forest
		Insight Bowl		
		At Tempe, Ariz.		
Oklahoma	15 1/2	14	(58)	Iowa
		Jan. 9		
		BCS National Championship		
		At New Orleans		
LSU	1	Pk	(40)	Alabama

NFL
Today

FAVORITE	OPEN	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
at Atlanta	10 1/2	11	(42 1/2)	Jacksonville
		Saturday		
Dallas	6 1/2	7	(47)	at Tampa Bay
		Sunday		
at N.Y. Giants	7 1/2	7	(45 1/2)	Washington
Green Bay	14	14	(45 1/2)	at Kansas City
New Orleans	7	7	(50 1/2)	at Minnesota
at Chicago	4	3 1/2	(35 1/2)	Seattle
at Buffalo	OFF	OFF	(OFF)	Miami
at Houston	6 1/2	6 1/2	(45 1/2)	Carolina
Tennessee	7	6 1/2	(41)	at Indianapolis
Cincinnati	6 1/2	6	(38 1/2)	at St. Louis
Detroit	Pk	1	(46)	at Oakland
New England	4 1/2	6	(45 1/2)	at Denver
at Philadelphia	2	3	(44 1/2)	N.Y. Jets
at Arizona	6 1/2	7	(37 1/2)	Cleveland
Baltimore	1	2 1/2	(44)	at San Diego
		Monday		
at San Francisco	OFF	OFF	(OFF)	Pittsburgh

Off Key
Miami QB questionable
Pittsburgh QB questionable

JONES

From 1C

confidence in him."

Still, Garrett suggested he'll be careful with Jones' touches. The Arkansas alum has been plagued by injuries throughout his career, and there's not much quality depth at the position even after the Cowboys signed 34-year-old Jay grad Sammy Morris this week.

"You are always doing that with all your players — (asking) how much can they handle, what are the right number of plays, the right number of touches for a guy to get him to be his best," Garrett said. "(Jones has) shown some endurance that we feel really good about, but you always have to monitor that situation."

One thing Jones learned from Murray is the importance of being a patient runner.

"He slowed down things he's been rushing and was more patient, and it actually worked out for him on stretch plays and inside run plays," running backs coach Skip Peete told DallasCowboys.com.

Some veterans would have pouted about being replaced by a rookie, but Jones kept his chin up.

"You put your ego aside when it comes to the team," he told reporters in Irving. "You definitely want to win. If you have a chance to get better, why not? That's learning from a younger back or an older back. Whoever it may be, if you can pick up something from them and make yourself better, why not?"

CHASE

From 1C

time you don't want to compromise people's health when it comes down to trying to remain undefeated when you have your goals locked up," he said during a recent interview.

Already, there's a whiff of trouble ahead.

Top receiver Greg Jennings will miss two to three weeks with a left knee sprain, but is expected back for the playoffs, and two players sustained concussions in last Sunday's rout of Oakland.

A win Sunday against 5-8 Kansas City, which just fired coach Todd Haley, will give the Packers homefield advantage throughout the NFC playoffs. Although they lost their most recent postseason game at Lambeau Field for the 2007 NFC title against the Giants, generally the venerable stadium is a den of horrors for visitors. Not having to visit New Orleans or San Francisco in January is highly desirable for the Pack.

Once they've guaranteed that scenario, the Packers' challenge becomes how to approach the postseason. Their last two opponents, both at Lambeau, are division rivals Chicago and Detroit.

Not only are both desperate to grab a wild-card playoff spot, there's likely to be a little more incentive against the Packers.

Bears-Packers is the oldest rivalry in football, and the teams will meet on Christmas night on national TV.

Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh was suspended two games for stomping on Packers guard Evan Dietrich-Smith in their Thanksgiving Day meeting.

Packers nose tackle B.J. Raji sees no benefit in holding back.

"I know coach," he said, referring to Mike McCarthy. "You don't win a Super Bowl by being scared. You just play. That's the message he's preaching. Just play the game because it's the game. That's the way you're supposed to play it. You're not supposed to be playing a game and looking at all of these scenarios of who you want to play. Generally, if you do things the right way, hopefully you get some luck in the injury thing.

"You have to respect the game of football. Obviously, we're in a great position. We're 13-0. We have a lot of things wrapped up. But ultimately you never accomplish anything great by being scared. We have an option to go either way, but if you want to make history and do some things that haven't been done in a while, you have to take a chance."

New England took the chance in 2007, Indianapolis didn't in 2009. Both got to the Super Bowl and lost.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick barely broached the subject of a perfect season even while his team was marching through its schedule. It came up during news conferences, but only when he was asked about it. It did not come up in team meetings or during game-planning sessions or during flights home from the road. According to several players from the '07 squad that went 18-0 before being stunned by the Giants in the Super Bowl, Belichick's approach never wavered.

"Even when we were 12-0 and 14-0, he always preached finishing what we started, finishing the game," said former safety Rodney Harrison, a defensive leader in New England and now an analyst on NBC.

Associated Press

Green Bay Packers running back Ryan Grant runs past Oakland Raiders defensive back Mike Mitchell to score a touchdown Sunday in Green Bay, Wis.

New Jaguars owner approved

Associated Press

IRVING — Shahid Khan was 16 when he moved from Pakistan to the United States to attend the University of Illinois. While hanging out in the basement of his fraternity house, he began his American dream of owning an NFL team.

After building a multibillion-dollar company, Khan started working toward spending some of his fortune on fulfilling that college fantasy. He reached out to owners such as Wayne Weaver of the Jacksonville Jaguars to learn the business from the inside, and for them to get to know him.

Khan's dream-turned-plan crossed the goal line Wednesday. He joined the fraternity of NFL owners as his purchase of the Jaguars from Weaver was unanimously approved by the other owners.

The deal is for an estimated $760 million. The ownership transfer will be complete Jan. 4.

"What I want to share with the Jacksonville fans is: Here I am, reporting for duty and ready to serve the fans. Let the fun begin," Khan said during a news conference.

NFL renews television deals

Associated Press

NEW YORK — With NFL games enjoying seemingly invincible ratings while most everything else on TV goes down, down, down, the league's traditional broadcast partners embraced a deal that sends their rights fees up, up, up.

CBS, Fox and NBC renewed their contracts for nine years through the 2022 season, the NFL announced Wednesday. The average fees from the three networks will increase by an average of 7 percent annually, a person familiar with the details said. That will take the total revenue from them from the current $1.93 billion per year to $3.1 billion by 2022.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the figures weren't made public.

The current agreements expire after the 2013 season.

"(The deals) will ensure the NFL will stay on free television for another 11 years, which I think is great for fans," Commissioner Roger Goodell said at the owners' meetings outside Dallas.

BONDS

From 1C

denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs and said he allowed only doctors to inject him. Dozens of other athletes testified truthfully, Scott said.

"There aren't two sets of laws, one for Bonds and one for everybody else," Scott said. "The grand jury is the bedrock of the criminal justice system in the United States."

The probe did lead directly to former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell's in-depth investigation of drug use in Major League Baseball and his seminal Mitchell Report, which in turn prompted MLB and its players' union to strengthen their steroids policy.

Yet the relatively short list of convictions leaves some, perhaps most notably the BALCO founder himself, unimpressed.

"Obviously, the BALCO case brought about a greater public awareness regarding the rampant use of drugs at the elite level of sport, which is a good thing," said Victor Conte, the BALCO founder and president — who spent four months in prison after pleading guilty to steroids distribution. "As the BALCO case comes to a close, I don't think it was the highest and best use of the tens of millions of taxpayer dollars that were spent on the case."

Bonds will have 14 days after his sentencing to file a notice of appeal.

The trial itself ended ambiguously in April about three weeks after it began.

The jury concluded Bonds purposely evaded responding during testimony to a grand jury investigating steroids distribution in sports with a rambling non sequitur to a question about drug injections, and the jurors convicted him of obstruction of justice. But they couldn't reach a unanimous agreement on the heart of the case, deadlocking on three charges alleging Bonds lied to the grand jury when he denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs and testifying that no one other than his doctors ever injected him.

Prosecutors in September dropped those charges, foregoing another trial and declaring the one conviction showed the value of the Bonds prosecution.

The government's lead investigator, Jeff Novitzky, said Bonds first came to his attention during his weekly Monday night raids of BALCO's trash during the summer and fall of 2002. Novitzky, who was with the Internal Revenue Service then and is now a Food and Drug Administration investigator, said he found a magazine article quoting Bonds as crediting BALCO with helping him pump up and increase his power.

Novitzky gathered more evidence connecting Bonds to BALCO during September 2003 raids of the lab and the home of Greg Anderson, Bonds' personal trainer at the time. Three months later, Bonds was called before the grand jury and granted immunity from prosecution so long as he testified truthfully.

Despite the jury's mixed verdict, prosecutors still insist Bonds lied.

"The evidence at trial demonstrated that Bonds went into the grand jury with the intention of providing false statements and obstructing the grand jury's efforts to get to the truth in the BALCO matter," prosecutors wrote the judge last week seeking a prison sentence of 15 months for the former San Francisco Giants slugger. "Without truthful testimony, the judicial system simply cannot function properly in its mission to get to justice."

In recommending that Bonds serve a term of house arrest, probation and community service — but no prison time — the federal probation department called Bonds' conviction an "aberration" and cited his "significant history of charitable, civic and prior good works" as reasons for the judge to "downward depart" from federal guidelines.

The department's report is confidential, but was cited in part by Bonds' lawyers last week in arguing for probation and volunteer work. Earlier this year, Bonds announced he would pay for the college education of the two children of Bryan Stow, the Giants fan who remains hospitalized after the highly publicized opening day beating in the parking lot of Dodger Stadium.

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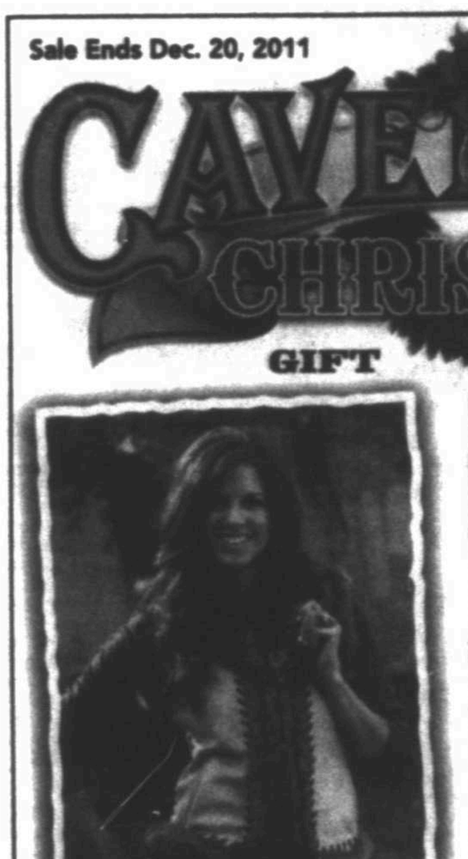

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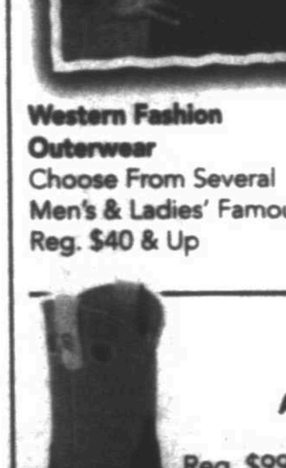

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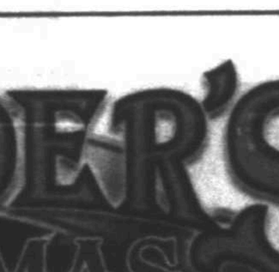

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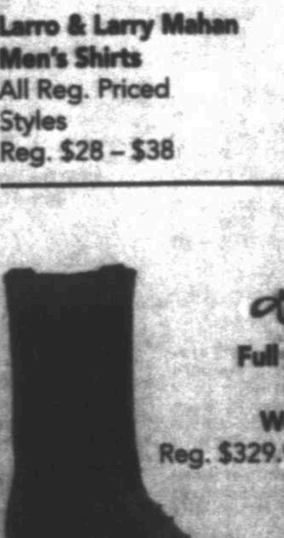

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LSU corners market on AP All-American cornerbacks

Associated Press

NEW YORK — LSU's Tyrann Mathieu and Morris Claiborne became the first cornerback teammates to lock down spots on the AP All-America team.

Mathieu, a Heisman Trophy finalist, and Claiborne were joined on the All-America team by Heisman Trophy winner Robert Griffin III ,of Baylor, and finalists Montee Ball, of Wisconsin, and Trent Richardson, of Alabama.

Heisman runner-up Andrew Luck, from Stanford, was the second-team quarterback.

The team released Wednesday was selected by a panel of 16 AP poll voters.

The second-ranked Crimson Tide had the most first-teamers with four. Richardson was joined by tackle Barrett Jones, linebacker Dont'a Hightower and safety Mark Barron. Tide linebackers Courtney Upshaw and cornerback Dre Kirkpatrick also made the second team, giving Alabama the most players selected overall.

The LSU duo was joined on the first team by Tigers punter Brad Wing. LSU guard Will Blackwell was a second-team selection and defensive end Sam Montgomery made the third team.

The top-ranked Tigers will play SEC West rival Alabama on Jan. 9 in New Orleans for the BCS title.

Since the AP began selecting both an offensive and defensive team in 1964, no team had put a pair of cornerbacks on the first team. Few teams have had two cornerbacks as talented as Mathieu and Claiborne.

Mathieu, also known as Honey Badger, has been a mayhem-maker for LSU on defense and special teams. He forced five fumbles, intercepted two passes and scored four touchdowns — two on punt returns, two on fumble returns. The 5-foot-9, 180-pound sophomore also had 71 tackles and was versatile enough to be moved around the defense at times.

Claiborne is a prototypical shutdown corner. The 6-1 junior made six interceptions and averaged 29 yards per return, with a touchdown.

"We have one of the best defenses in the country," Mathieu said. "We've got a lot of NFL talent in our secondary, and our defense as a whole."

The talented tandem was a major reason why LSU (13-0) heads to the BCS national championship game against Alabama with a pass defense ranked third in opponents' efficiency, ninth in yards allowed per game and second in fewest touchdown passes allowed.

No. 3 Oklahoma State also had five selections on the three teams, including wide receiver Justin Blackmon, one of two players to be selected to the first team for the second straight season. Blackmon caught 113 passes for 1,336 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Boston College linebacker Luke Kuechly, the nation's leading tackler at 15.9 per game, is the other two-time All-American on this year's team.

Griffin, who is second in the nation in total offense at 396 yards per game, won the Heisman on Saturday, beating out preseason favorite Luck, who was a second-team All-American for the second straight year.

Richardson was third in the Heisman voting and Ball, who is one touchdown away from tying Barry Sanders' single-season record of 39, was fourth.

Mathieu finished fifth in the Heisman voting and USC quarterback Matt Barkley, a third-team All-America, was sixth.

The List

FIRST TEAM
OFFENSE

Quarterback — Robert Griffin III, junior, 6-foot-2, 220 pounds, Baylor.
Running backs — Montee Ball, junior, 5-11, 210, Wisconsin; Trent Richardson, junior, 5-11, 224, Alabama.
Tackles — Barrett Jones, senior, 6-5, 311, Alabama; Matt Kalil, junior, 6-7, 295, Southern California.
Guards — David DeCastro, senior, 6-5, 310, Stanford; Kevin Zeitler, senior, 6-4, 318, Wisconsin.
Center — David Molk, senior, 6-2, 288, Michigan.
Wide receivers — Justin Blackmon, junior, 6-1, 215, Oklahoma State; Robert Woods, sophomore, 6-1, 180, Southern California.
Tight end — Dwayne Allen, junior, 6-4, 255, Clemson.
All-purpose player — Sammy Watkins, freshman, 6-1, 180, Clemson.
Kicker — Randy Bullock, senior, 5-9, 212, Texas A&M.

DEFENSE

Ends — Melvin Ingram, senior, 6-2, 276, South Carolina; Whitney Mercilus, junior, 6-4, 265, Illinois.
Tackles — Devon Still, senior, 6-5, 310, Penn State; Jerel Worthy, junior, 6-3, 310, Michigan State.
Linebackers — Luke Kuechly, junior, 6-3, 237, Boston College; Jarvis Jones, sophomore, 6-3, 241, Georgia; Dont'a Hightower, junior, 6-4, 260, Alabama.
Cornerbacks — Morris Claiborne, junior, 6-0, 185, LSU; Tyrann Mathieu, sophomore, 5-9, 175, LSU.
Safeties — Mark Barron, senior, 6-2, 218, Alabama; Bacarri Rambo, junior, 6-0, 218, Georgia.
Punter — Brad Wing, freshman, 6-3, 184, LSU.

SECOND TEAM
OFFENSE

Quarterback — Andrew Luck, junior, Stanford.
Running backs — LaMichael James, junior, Oregon; David Wilson, junior, Virginia Tech.
Tackles — Jonathan Martin, senior, Stanford; Nate Potter, senior, Boise State.
Guards — Will Blackwell, senior, LSU; Austin Pasztor, senior, Virginia.
Center — Peter Konz, junior, Wisconsin.
Wide receivers — Ryan Broyles, senior, Oklahoma; Kendall Wright, senior, Baylor.
Tight end — Tyler Eifert, junior, Notre Dame.
All-purpose player — Joe Adams, senior, Arkansas.
Kicker — Caleb Sturgis, junior, Florida.

DEFENSE

Ends — Frank Alexander, senior, Oklahoma; Vinny Curry, senior, Marshall.
Tackles — Joe Vellano, junior, Maryland; Derek Wolfe, senior, Cincinnati.
Linebackers — Courtney Upshaw, senior, Alabama; Lavonte David, senior, Nebraska; Manti Teo, junior, Notre Dame.
Cornerbacks — David Amerson, sophomore, North Carolina State; Dre Kirkpatrick, junior, Alabama.
Safeties — Markelle Martin, senior, Oklahoma State; Antonio Allen, senior, South Carolina.
Punter — Ryan Allen, junior, Louisiana Tech.

THIRD TEAM

Quarterback — Matt Barkley, junior, Southern California.
Running backs — Ronnie Hillman, sophomore, San Diego State; Bobby Rainey, senior, Western Kentucky.
Tackles — Levy Adcock, senior, Oklahoma State; Cordy Glenn, senior, Georgia.
Guards — Ryan Miller, senior, Colorado; Gabe Ikard, sophomore, Oklahoma.
Center — Grant Garner, senior, Oklahoma State.
Wide receivers — Jordan White, senior, Western Michigan; Patrick Edwards, senior, Houston.
Tight end — Coby Fleener, senior, Stanford.
All-purpose player — [illegible], junior, West Virginia.
Kicker — Quinn Sharp, junior, Oklahoma State.

DEFENSE

Ends — Sam Montgomery, sophomore, LSU; Andre Branch, senior, Clemson.
Tackles — John Simon, junior, Ohio State; Fletcher Cox, junior, Mississippi State.
Linebackers — Tank Carder, senior, TCU; Sammy Brown, senior, Houston; Emmanuel Acho, senior, Texas.
Cornerbacks — Nigel Malone, junior, Kansas State; Brodrick Brown, junior, Oklahoma State.
Safeties — Josh Bush, senior, Wake Forest; George Iloka, senior, Boise State.
Punter — Shawn Powell, senior, Florida State.

Barkley's favorite target, sophomore receiver Robert Woods, was a first-team AP All-America selection, along with USC tackle Matt Kalil also made the first team.

Clemson also had two players on the first-team, with tight end Dwayne Allen and freshman Sammy Watkins, selected as an all-purpose player.

Watkins and Wing were the only freshman picked to any of the three teams.

The rest of the first-team line had Stanford's David DeCastro and Wisconsin's Kevin Zeitler at guard and Michigan's David Molk at center.

Groza Award winner Randy Bullock of Texas A&M was the All-American kicker.

On defense, three Big Ten defensive linemen made the All-America team: 300-pound tackles Devon Still from Penn State and Jerel Worthy from Michigan State, along with Illinois end Whitney Mercilus, who leads the nation with 14 1-2 sacks.

South Carolina's Melvin Ingram was the other defensive end. Georgia had two defensive All-Americans in safety Baccari Rambo and linebacker Jarvis Jones.

Seven of the 11 All-America defensive players were from the Southeastern Conference, befitting its reputation as the best league in the nation.

Shanna Sisson

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THURSDAY PRIME TIME — DECEMBER 15, 2011

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

	G	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	A Charlie Brown Christmas		The Year With Katie Couric Detailing the biggest stories from the past year. (N)				KMID News	(:35) News Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live	
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory	Rules of Eng (N)	Person of Interest "Number Crunch" (N)		The Mentalist "Fugue in Red" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) LateS Tom Hanks, My Morning Jacket (N)		(:35) LateL
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	Sein. "The Finale"	Seinfeld	The Vampire Diaries "Ghost World"		The Secret Circle "Slither"		Cops	'Til Death	King of Queens	South Park	South Park	Rose. "Be My Baby"
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Two and Half Men	Two and a Half Men	The X Factor "Live Results" (N)		Bones "Finder"		The Simpsons	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Loves Ray "Liars"	Law & Order: C.I. "Faithful"	
KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	Jean-Claude	Alan Lee	Update News	Y.Salamanca	Light of the Southwest				Dr. Diana Dye	Jack Van Impe	Thurman Scrivner	Y.Salamanca
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	News-West 9	Be Millionaire	Community	Parks and Rec	The Office	Whitney	Prime Suspect "A Gorgeous Mosaic" (N)		News-West 9	(:35) Tonight Show J. Leno Al Michaels		(:35) LateNight
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		The Aviators	Parks and Wildlife	Antique "Madison (Hour Three)"		Independent Lens "Lioness"			Sky Island	BBC News	Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Cuando me enamoro		Una familia con suerte		La fuerza del destino		La rosa de Guadalupe		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Hasta que el dinero nos separe	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Office	30 Rock	W.Trace "Wanted"		W.Trace "Once Lost"		My News	Earl	30 Rock	Sunny	Scrubs	Access H.
FLIX	340	65		165		(5:30) Scenes Fro...		High Heels and Low Lifes			★★★ Knock Off			(:05) ★★ Just a Kiss			Movie
HBO	300	68	14	14		(5:45) Charlie St. Cloud			★★★ The Blind Side Sandra Bullock.				1stLook	Taxicab Confessions		24/7 "Flyers/Rangers"	
HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	(5:15) 8 Heads in ...		★ Hall Pass Owen Wilson.			Preview	★★ She's Out of My League			(:50) Boardwalk E.		Movie
HBOS	304	70	16	102		(5:15) Don't Let ...		Boardwalk Empire		Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps				(:15) ★★★ Gladiator Russell Crowe.			
MAX	380	71	17	120	24	(5:00) The A-Team		(:15) Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son			Cedar Rapids Ed Helms.				The Right to Ba...		Movie
MAX2	382	72	18	122		(:15) ★★ Witness Protection				My Big Fat Greek Wedding			(:40) Chemistry		(:40) Secret Lives (Adult)		
PLEX			96			(:15) Big Girls Don't Cry, They Get Even				When Zachary Beaver Ca...			★★ Mixed Nuts Steve Martin.			(:10) Joe and Max.	
SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	Movie	★★★ The Italian Job Mark Wahlberg.				(:25) The Mechanic			Penn &...	Beach H.	The Canyon	
TMC	336	67	22	155	26	(5:00) The Extra M...		★★★ Super Size Me			(:40) ★★★ The Thin Blue Line ('88, Doc)				An Unreasonable Man		
A&E	27	32	28	35	47	The First 48 "Marked for Death"		The First 48 "Mother and Child"		The First 48 "Love Kills/ Justified"		Beyond Scared Stra. "St. Clair County, IL"		Beyond Scared Stra. "Richland Country, SC"		The First 48 "Mother and Child"	
AMC	40	21	23	42	51	(4:15) White Chris...		★★★★ Miracle on 34th Street				(:15) ★★★★ Miracle on 34th Street					Movie
BET	58	26		40		(5:00) 106 & Park (L)		Reed	Reed	Game	★★ Notorious ('08, Bio) Jamal Woolard.					Wendy Williams	
BRAVO	65	63		41		Top Chef "Game On"		Housewives Atlanta		Beverly Hills		Beverly /(:15) Atlanta		(:15) Housewives Atl.		(:15) Beverly Hills	
CNBC	46	45		39	72	The Kudlow Report		How I Made Millions		Marijuana USA		Crime Inc.		Mad Money		Target: Bullseye	
CNN	43	24	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Piers Morgan		A. Cooper 360		OutFront		Piers Morgan	
DISC	50	20	31	24	42	Storm Chasers		Storm Chasers		2011: Earth/Wild		Weed Wars		2011: Earth/Wild		Weed Wars	
DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	Wizards	Shake Up	SoRandom	Santa Buddies Craig Anton.			(:10) Wizard	(:35) Shake	SoRandom	GoodLuck	Wizards	Wizards
ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	Audibles (L)		H.S. Basketball (L)			H.S. Basketball (L)			SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	NCAA Volleyball Division I Tournament (L)				NCAA Volleyball Division I Tournament (L)					Football	NFL Live (L)	
FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	(5:30) ★★★★ Finding Nemo				★★★★ Beauty and the Beast				The 700 Club		Line?	Line?
FNC	45	58	53	23	55	FOX Report		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity		On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity	
FOOD	64	59	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chef Hunter (N)		Cupcake Wars		Chopped	
FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	NHL Hockey Dallas Stars vs. New York Islanders Site: Nassau Coliseum -- Uniondale, N.Y. (L)					Stars Live (L)	H.S. Football UIL State Championship 2A Division I -- Arlington, Texas (L)				Cowboys Insider	Randy White
FX	31	31	59	64	69	Mother	M-Mother	2½Men	2½Men	2½Men	2½Men	Sunny (N)	League	Sunny	League	League	Sunny
HALLMARK	54	49	58		34	(5:00) Silver Bells		The Christmas Pageant Melissa Gilbert.				The Most Wonderful Time of the Year				Frasier	Frasier
HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	House	HouseH	HouseH	House	Spelling Manor (N)		Selling LA	Sell NY	HouseH	House	Spelling Manor	
HISTORY	71	62	29	50	43	Shrimp. "Rising Storm"		Big Shrimpin'		Swamp People		Big Shrimpin'		The Universe		Big Shrimpin'	
LIFETIME	28	25	25	28	48	Unsolved Mysteries		Accessory "Beach Blanket Blingo"		Project Accessory "Fall for Kenneth"		Project Accessory "Bugging Out" (N)		Project Accessory "Bugging Out"		Accessory "Beach Blanket Blingo"	
MSNBC	47	51		49	73	Hardball		The Ed Show		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		The Ed Show		Rachel Maddow	
NICK	55	34	39	34	37	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	'70s	'70s	G. Lopez	G. Lopez	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	22	55	53	58	Jail	Jail	Jail	Jail	Impact Wrestling (N)				Damage Steve "Stonecold" Austin.			
SYFY	66	64	41	57	67	★★ Resident Evil ('01, Act) Milla Jovovich.				★★ Jeepers Creepers 2 Ray Wise.				★★ Wrong Turn 3: Left for Dead			
TBS	25	11	44	66	41	Sein. "The Boyfriend"	Seinf. "The Boyfriend"	Family Guy	Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan Guests Dawes		The Office	The Office
TCM	41	61	24	63	66	(5:00) In a Lonely...		★★★★ Life With Father William Powell.				(:15) The Girl Who Had Ever...			★★★★ Mister Roberts		
TELE	20	8	10	20		Caso cerrado		Maid en Manhattan		Flor salvaje		La casa de al lado		Noticiero	Titulares	Sin senos	Decision
TLC	51	33	32	38	52	All-American Muslim "Friday Night Bites"		DUI	DUI	DUI	DUI	Cellblock 6: Female "This Too Shall Pass"		DUI	DUI	Cellblock 6: Female "This Too Shall Pass"	
TNT	24	23	40	26	50	Bones "The Girl in Suite 2103"		CSI: NY "Holding Cell"		CSI: NY "The Closer"		CSI: NY "Do Not Pass Go"		CSI: NY "Corporate Warriors"		CSI: NY "Enough"	
TVLAND	49	48	35	54	35	Married	Married	Home I.	Home I.	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	30	42	27	49	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Hate"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Wannabe"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Shattered"		Burn Notice "Fail Safe" (N)		Covert Affairs "The Wake-Up Bomb"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Soulless"	
VERSUS	38	39				3 Gun	Qwests	Wild	Legends	★★★ Rocky III Sylvester Stallone.				NBC Sports Talk		NFL Turning Point	
WGN	19	18				America's Funniest Home Videos		Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	WGN News at Nine		30 Rock	Scrubs	Scrubs	Always Sunny

COLLEGEFOOTBALLBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

ARIZONA

Pitt's Graham to coach Arizona State

TEMPE — Arizona State has hired Todd Graham as its next football coach.

Arizona State athletic director Lisa Love announced Wednesday that Graham will replace Dennis Erickson, who was dismissed following a 6-6 season in which the Sun Devils dropped their final four games.

Graham spent just one season in Pittsburgh, where he led the Panthers to a 6-6 mark and a tie for second place in the Big East.

The move caps a tumultuous season for the Panthers, who announced in September that they're leaving the Big East for the ACC by 2014 and will now be looking for their fourth head coach in the last 13 months.

Graham is 49-29 in a six-year head coaching career that includes stops at Tulsa and Rice.

CALIFORNIA

Fresno State hires A&M's DeRuyter as coach

FRESNO — Fresno State has hired Texas A&M interim coach Tim DeRuyter to replace the fired Pat Hill as head coach.

DeRuyter was introduced at a news conference Wednesday. He will start his new job after coaching the Aggies at the Meineke Car Care Bowl on Dec. 31, against Northwestern.

DeRuyter had spent the past two seasons as defensive coordinator at Texas A&M before getting the interim job when Mike Sherman was fired earlier this month.

LOUISIANA

LSU warns against selling 'Honey badger' gear

LSU has issued a cease-and-desist order warning vendors to stop selling goods depicting a honey badger if they are connecting the image in any way to cornerback Tyrann Mathieu.

The popular player and Heisman Trophy candidate has sparked a demand for T-shirts with his nickname, but school officials warn that the merchandise is not sanctioned and should not be sold.

NCAA rules forbid selling any goods with a player's name, number or likeness on it.

LSU compliance officer Jayson Santos says the school issued the order to protect Mathieu from the threat of losing his eligibility because of the booming business in goods with his nickname on them.

Vendors selling clothing in LSU colors of purple and gold with pictures of a honey badger, or the words "honey badger," have popped up everywhere, Santos said.

"They're beside the road, in parking lots, on the Internet, on Face Book, you name it," Santos said.

If it's just a picture of a honey badger, even one holding a football, and makes no reference to Mathieu, that's OK, Santos said. But if it has his name, number or "LSU" on it, it is not OK.

"I'd hate to see a kid lose his eligibility over something like this," Santos said. "But under NCAA rules if we did not take steps to stop it, that could happen."

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LEVEL

Each set of letters below is arranged alphabetically, and the ? is in the correct alphabetical position. Figure out what letter the ? represents and rearrange the letters to spell a six-letter word. For example, in A?ENTV the ? could be an A, B, C, D or E. Here it represents a D, which can be combined with the other letters to spell ADVENT. The last letter is placed to get you started.

E E I O R ? — _ _ _ _ _ E

A B G ? L O — _ _ _ _ _ L

E P R S U ? — _ _ _ _ _ E

A B H I O ? — _ _ _ _ _ A

E M ? S U U — _ _ _ _ _ M

? F I M N Y — _ _ _ _ _ Y

Yesterday's Answer: Common H;
FLASHY, HEALTH, THRIVE, CHOSEN

12.15

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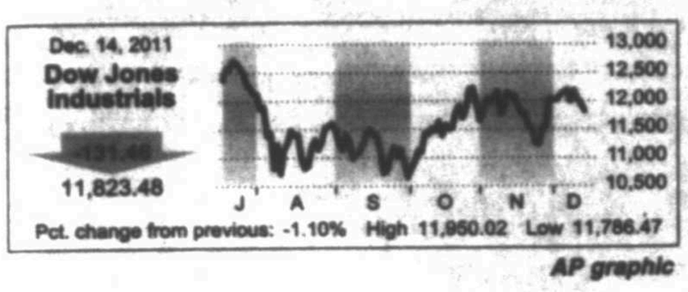
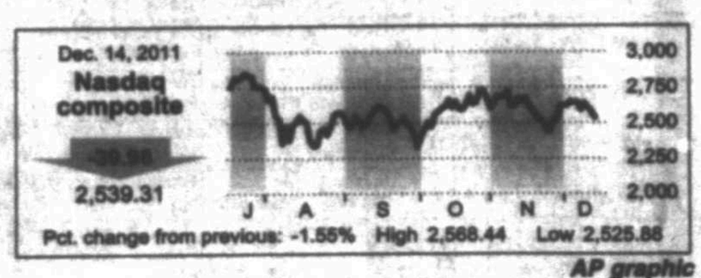
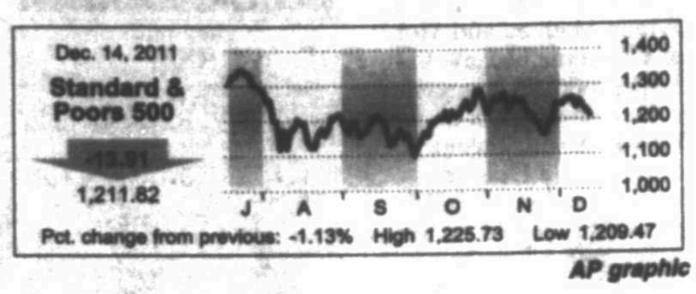
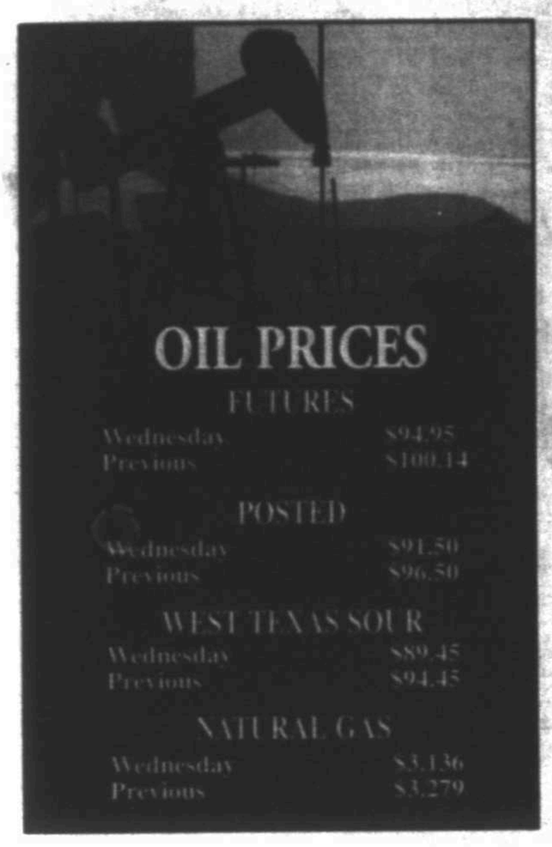
Business & Oil

A DAY ON WALL STREET









Mel Evans/AP

Kruti Sheth refurbishes iPods Dec. 8 at Liquidity Services Inc., in Cranbury, N.J. Liquidation.com has four warehouses full of returned merchandise. Christmas still is several days away, but shoppers already are suffering from buyers' remorse. People who rushed to snag discounts on everything from TVs to toys this holiday season are quickly returning those bargains for much-needed cash.

Take that back! Returns big for holidays

By Anne D'Innocenzio
Asociated Press

NEW YORK — Ah, the warm feelings of the holidays: Comfort and joy. Good cheer.

And buyer's remorse.

People who rushed to snag discounts on TVs, toys and other gifts are quickly returning them for much-needed cash. The shopping season started out strong for stores, but it looks like the spending binge has given way to a holiday hangover.

Return rates spiked when the Great Recession struck and have stayed high. For every dollar stores take in this holiday season, they'll have to give back 9.9 cents in returns, up from 9.8 last year, according to the National Retail Federation's survey of 110 retailers. In better economic times, it's about 7 cents.

This time of year, fractions of a penny add up. Stores are expected to ring up $453 billion during the holiday season. Merchants make up to 40 percent of their annual sales in the last two months of the year.

Returns are typically associated more with January than December. After all, that hot pink sweater with yellow stars on the sleeves may not be exactly what your sister had in mind. But these days, more is going back before it ever gets to Santa's sack.

"When the bills come in and the money isn't there, you have to return," says Jennifer Kersten, 33, of Miami. She spent $300 the day after Thanksgiving on books, movies and clothes for her nephews. Last week she returned half of it.

Some reasons for the many unhappy returns:

■ Shoppers are binging on big discounts. Stores are desperate to get people in the door. But the same shoppers who find a "60 percent off" tag too good to resist may realize at home that they busted the budget.

■ Stores have made it easier to take things back. Nordstrom is letting online shoppers return items at no extra charge this year. It used to charge $6. Other stores are offering more time to return or rolling out "no questions asked" policies — no tag or receipt required. But that can backfire.

"Spurring more returns wasn't part of the plan," says Al Sambar, a retail strategist for consulting firm Kurt Salmon.

■ Stores are undercutting each other in a tough economy. Wanda Vazquez spent $39.99 at a New York Target on iPad speakers for her 12-year-old daughter, then returned them when she found something similar for $16.99 at Marshalls.

Consumer electronics in particular are being returned at a rapid clip. Stores and manufacturers are expected to spend $17 billion re-boxing, repairing, restocking and reselling electronics this year, up 21 percent from four years ago.

At about half of the 100 electronics manufacturers and stores surveyed by Accenture, a consulting firm, return rates have increased over the past three to five years. Most of the items are returned without flaws.

In an industry where profit margins are thin and competition is brutal, those return rates are unsustainable, says Mitch Cline, managing director of Accenture's electronics and high-tech group.

Euro falls below $1.30

The euro fell below $1.30 Wednesday on fears that European leaders won't be able to solve the region's debt crisis. It's the first time the euro has fallen below that level since January.

"Confidence is certainly seeping," said Kathleen Brooks, research direct at FOREX.com in London. "The EU summit was so off the mark of what needs to be done that sentiment has drained."

The euro fell to $1.2977 in late trading Wednesday from $1.3043 late Tuesday. It fell to $1.2943 earlier, its lowest point since Jan. 7.

In other trading Wednesday, the U.S. currency was higher against most other currencies. The British pound fell to $1.5466 late Wednesday from $1.5487 late Tuesday.

The dollar rose to 78.07 Japanese yen from 77.97 Japanese yen, to 0.9533 Swiss franc from 0.9448 Swiss franc and to 1.0402 Canadian dollar 1.0322 Canadian dollar.

Gold for February delivery fell $76.20, or 4.6 percent, to end at $1,586.90 an ounce. It was the first time gold dropped below $1,600 an ounce since September and the lowest level since July.

Stocks slide

A growing sense that Europe's leaders have failed to contain that region's debt crisis swept through financial markets Wednesday.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 131.46 points, or 1.1 percent, to close at 11,823.48. Caterpillar Inc. fell 4.4 percent, the worst drop among the 30 stocks in the Dow.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 13.91 points, or 1.1 percent, to 1,211.82. The Nasdaq fell 39.96, or 1.6 percent to 2,539.31.

European markets fell broadly. Germany's DAX dropped 1.7 percent; France's main stock index lost 3.3 percent.

Energy stocks led the U.S. stock market lower after the price of crude oil lost $5 to $94.95 a barrel.

NYSE

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
BkofAm	2181369	5.29	-.09
SAPR08ETP2071070121	74	+1.31	
SPDR Fncl	933799	12.56	-.05
GenElec	833279	16.61	+.19
Citigrp rs	672871	26.05	-.85

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
CSVSSdnSvs55.15		+7.85	+16.6
ProUSSlv rs	15.40	+1.85	+12.0
DrDNGBear	22.55	+2.22	+10.9
CSVS3dnG	57.91	+5.65	+10.8
TRC Cos	5.56	+.52	+10.3

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Sequans n	2.63	-.92	-25.9
Hyperdyn	2.16	-.52	-19.4
CS VS3xSlv	31.78	-7.21	-18.5
ETRx3SSD	25.12	-4.08	-14.0
DrxDNGBull	35.09	-4.89	-11.8

Diary

Advanced	867
Declined	2,194
Unchanged	77
Total issues	3,138
New Highs	60
New Lows	107
Volume	4,159,241,200

Amex

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
ChanlereEn	214141	8.39	-.95
NwGold g	98200	9.75	-.26
NovaGld g	98811	8.89	-.53
GoldStr g	51706	1.92	+.01
CFCda g	44782	19.84	-.98

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
ChinaShen	2.02	+.25	+14.1
EstnLtCap	2.92	+.32	+12.3
MdstnBcp	14.27	+1.55	+12.2
Argan	15.51	+1.26	+8.8
VistaGold	3.37	+.24	+7.7

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Barvo g	2.88	-.37	-11.4
OrientPap	3.23	-.41	-11.3
ChanlereEn	8.39	-.95	-10.2
Crewcdo	2.64	-.25	-8.7
AtmadrM g	2.03	-.19	-8.6

Diary

Advanced	165
Declined	292
Unchanged	32
Total issues	489
New Highs	12
New Lows	35
Volume	130,217,565

Nasdaq

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
PwShs QQQ	591159	54.89	-.87
Cisco	585383	17.98	-.49
Intel	548798	23.31	-.25
Microsoft	468658	25.59	-.17
MicronT	365429	5.45	-.16

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
AmpioPhm	6.00	+1.00	+20.0
AlbnyMlc	2.75	+.43	+18.5
ViroPhrm	27.80	+4.21	+17.8
Lantronix	2.84	+.42	+17.2
SenecaB	24.75	+3.52	+16.6

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
FstSolar	39.45	-8.12	-21.4
SilicSrlm	11.48	-2.55	-18.2
SunPower	5.30	-1.01	-16.0
BioSante	2.12	-.40	-15.9
ArabAmDv	8.41	-1.57	-15.7

Diary

Advanced	889
Declined	1,667
Unchanged	106
Total issues	2,662
New Highs	10
New Lows	149
Volume	1,760,775,408

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Basic Energy Services (BAS)
Closing Price $16.95 Down 0.87

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $75.02 Down 3.42

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $91.40 Down 5.49

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $34.63 Down 1.38

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $25.96 Down 0.57

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $6.80 Down 0.50

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $14.08 Up 0.38

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
vAMR	...	...	.69	+.07	-91.2
AT&T Inc	1.72	15	28.81	-.23	-1.6
Abraxas	...	11	3.08	-.13	-32.8
AdamsEx	.85e	...	9.37	-.13	-12.8
AlcatelLuc	...	...	1.53	-.03	-46.3
Alcoa	.12	9	8.94	-.10	-41.9
AlonUSA	.16	20	8.41	+.41	+40.6
Amgen	1.12	14	57.62	+.19	+5.0
AmidaHo	.36	...	29.72	-2.77	-3.2
Apache	.60	9	87.99	-4.64	-28.5
ApldMatl	.32	7	10.93	-.17	-26.5
ATMOS	1.38f	14	31.99	+.11	+2.8
AutoData	1.56f	20	51.11	-.33	+10.4
Avon	.92	10	18.96	+.82	-41.6
BP PLC	1.68	16	41.10	+.93	-7.0
BakrHu	.60	12	45.98	-1.92	-19.8
BkofAm	.04	...	5.23	-.09	-60.8
Bar iPVix	...	...	40.77	+.16	+8.4
BasicEnSv	...	31	18.95	-.97	+2.9
BerkHa A	...	1011	1200.00	-800.00	-5.0
BerryPet	.32	13	35.70	-2.17	-18.3
BkvillleCp	1.48	22	31.77	-.43	+5.9
BostonSci	...	14	5.13	-.20	-32.2
BrklyBq	1.36f	17	39.74	+.21	+27.4
Broadcom	.36	17	28.46	+.26	-34.7
BrownFA	1.40f	19	75.66	-.39	+8.2
BrownFB	1.40f	19	77.83	+.07	+11.4
CVS Care	.50	15	37.84	-.65	+6.5
Cameron	...	19	49.66	-1.66	-8.2
Caterpillar	1.84	13	87.00	-3.98	-7.1
Celestic g	...	7	7.22	-.06	-25.8
CntryLink	2.90	16	35.35	-.11	-23.4
ChanlereEn	...	...	8.39	-.95	+52.0
ChsiEng	.35	7	22.57	-.85	-12.9
Chevron	3.12	7	100.83	-3.09	+10.2
Chicos	.20	13	10.33	-.41	-14.1
Cimarex	.40	10	60.05	-3.37	-32.2
Cisco	.24	16	17.98	-.49	-11.1
Citigrp rs	.04	7	26.05	-.85	-44.9
CitrixSys	...	9	76.65	-3.42	-10.7
CocaCola	1.88	19	69.39	-.22	+.7
CodgPal	2.32	18	89.30	-.39	+11.1
CompPrdS	...	13	31.85	-.83	+7.8
ConAgra	.86	14	25.29	-.09	+11.9
ConocoPhs	...	...	91.40	-5.49	+4.3
ConocPhil	2.64	9	68.52	-1.33	+.8
CrackerB	1.00f	14	49.30	-.24	-10.0
CrosTim	2.96e	16	47.75	-.41	+19.7
DCP Mid	2.56f	34	44.15	-.54	+18.0
DTE	2.35	12	51.72	-.27	+14.1
Dataram h	...	...	1.00	-.02	-36.3
Dawson	...	...	24.83	-1.38	+8.6
Dell Inc	...	8	15.05	-.14	+11.1
DeveoE	.68	5	61.07	-2.31	-22.5
DirFnBull rs	...	...	57.68	+.48	-58.4
DirSCBr rs	...	...	30.88	+1.21	-34.1
DirFnBr rs	...	...	42.93	+.41	-9.1
DirxSCBull	...	...	39.69	-1.51	-45.2
Disney	.60f	14	36.16	-.57	-6.3
DowChm	1.60	11	25.36	-.37	-25.7
EMC Cp	...	22	22.18	-.50	-3.1
EOG Res	.64	23	93.17	-5.33	+1.8
EmpDist	...	16	20.13	-.17	-9.3
Energen	.54	12	46.36	-1.82	-3.9
EnrgyTsfr	3.56	33	44.39	+.26	-14.2
EnPro	...	15	32.76	-.74	-21.2
EntPrPt	2.45f	35	44.85	-.39	+7.8
EricsnTel	.37e	...	9.50	-.01	-17.6
EvbnkwA	...	...	9.99	-.57	-91.6
ExtendMd	1.68	16	79.44	-1.60	+8.6
FordM	.20	5	10.15	-.39	-39.5
ForestOil s	...	12	13.02	-1.02	-52.3
FMCG s	1.00a	7	37.44	-.34	-37.6
FrontierCm	.75	32	4.87	-.12	-49.9
FrozenPd	...	...	1.26	-.06	-71.4
GATX	1.16	21	40.63	-1.08	+15.2
GeoGlobR	1.08f	...	6.12	+.11	-35.5
GAInv	.80e	...	24.19	-.31	-9.6
GenElec	.68f	14	16.61	+.19	-5.2
GoSmnh	...	...	3.58	-.28	+39.8
GoodrichPt	1.16	29	122.80	+.88	+39.4
GtPlainEn	.60f	15	20.73	-.36	+6.9
GreenMC	...	36	47.72	-2.23	+45.2
HalliBrtn	.20	11	31.60	-.86	-24.1
Helmrich	1.92	17	52.69	+.60	+6.3
HewlettP	.48	6	25.36	-.42	-37.3
Hitachi	...	...	53.61	-.45	+.3
iShGold	...	...	15.32	-.58	+10.2
iShBrsz	3.42e	...	56.55	-1.10	-28.9
iShJapn	.17e	...	9.10	-.10	-16.6
iShSilver	...	...	28.07	-1.75	-7.0
iShChina25	.85e	...	34.38	-.36	-23.2
iShEMkts	.94e	...	37.00	-.54	-22.3
iS Eafe	1.68e	...	48.30	-.58	-17.0
iShR2K	1.02e	...	71.04	-.90	-8.2
IntegrysE	2.72	15	50.58	-.27	+3.9
Intel	.84	10	23.31	-.25	+10.8
InterDig	.40	18	39.97	+.85	-4.0
JPMorgCh	1.00	7	31.51	+.22	-25.7
JohnJn	2.28	15	63.10	-.18	+2.2
KimbClk	2.80	17	70.21	+.09	+11.4
KindME	4.64f	...	78.62	-.30	+11.9
KindMM	4.64f	...	71.82	+.02	+7.4
LegacyRes	2.16f	10	25.96	-.57	-9.8
Lowes	.56	17	24.49	+.30	-2.4
Lubys	...	45	4.60	+.17	-28.2
MdrWGold	.40e	...	52.39	+1.66	-14.8
MarathOp s	1.20	...	19.31	...	+19.8
McDnlds	2.80f	19	97.61	-.39	+27.2
Merck	1.68f	13	35.58	+.57	-1.9
MerMMed s	...	22	13.48	+.09	+6.4
MexcoEn	...	57	6.80	-.50	-11.1
MicronT	...	36	5.45	-.16	-32.0
Microsoft	.80	9	25.59	-.17	-8.3
MorgStan	.20	9	15.06	-.11	-44.7
Nabors	...	12	16.42	-.87	-30.0
NatGrid	3.00e	...	48.81	+.82	+6.5
NOilVarco	.68f	15	65.97	-2.66	-1.9
NewsCpA	.19f	15	17.14	-.12	+17.7
NobleCp	.85e	...	8.02	+.03	-51.4
NvMAd	.20e	...	14.43	-.86	+16.2
NvPtIB	.84	...	14.68	+.04	+11.8
NovPt	.92	...	14.39	+.19	+11.8
NSTFB	.89e	...	14.21	-.04	+8.5
NTXGI	.85	...	16.04	+.07	+7.8
OcciPet	1.84	11	89.42	-3.26	-9.8
Oracle	.24	17	29.87	-.90	-4.6
ParTech	...	14	3.67	...	-35.7
PerkDnl	...	29	6.36	-.30	+89.2
PetsDTI	.20	10	18.14	-1.26	-15.8
PetroRE	.80	...	8.58	+.17	-34.1
Pmrian	1.56e	15	19.80	+.13	-12.9
Pfizer	.88f	13	20.86	+.10	+19.1
PioNtrl	.08	10	82.84	-4.19	-4.6
PlainsAA	3.99f	16	68.23	-.01	+8.7
PwShs QQQ	.41e	...	54.89	-.87	+.8
Praxair	2.00	23	101.86	-.34	+6.7
PrmEgy	...	...	20.80	+.10	+4.0
PrUltS&P	...	...	20.90	+.42	-12.0
ProctGam	2.10	16	64.45	+.38	+.3
RAM En h	...	16	1.22	+.02	-33.7
RenjnPh	.16	...	59.79	-2.15	+32.9
RegionsFn	.04	23	3.98	-.04	+43.1
RschMotn	...	3	15.08	-.40	-74.1
Rowan	...	24	33.20	-.56	-13.5
RoyDShlA	3.36	14	58.59	-1.62	+4.2
SpdDJIA	3.16e	...	118.32	-1.19	+2.3
SpdrGold	...	...	152.89	-5.58	+10.2
SAP500ETP	2.46e	...	121.74	-1.31	-3.2
SbbnR	3.97e	16	63.75	-.81	+7.1
SandersFm	.68	...	49.80	-.56	+27.5
SandRidge	...	10	6.70	-.38	-8.8
Sasol	.35e	29	11.51	-.49	-4.9
Schlmbrg	1.00	20	67.00	-3.41	-19.8
Schwab	.24	16	10.97	-.59	-35.9
SigmaAld	.72	17	61.70	-1.28	-7.3
SiriusXM	...	44	1.76	-.04	+8.0
Smucker	1.92	19	76.39	+.11	+16.4
SprintNex	...	...	2.27	-.12	-46.3
SP Matls	.82e	...	32.33	-.40	-15.8
SP Engy	1.08e	...	66.00	-1.91	-3.3
SPDR Fncl	.20e	...	12.56	-.05	-21.3
SP Indx	.69e	...	32.32	-.39	-4.7
SunocoLs	1.85f	14	34.81	-.37	+24.2
TelefBrasp s	2.14e	...	18.77	-.85	-28.6
Tesoro	...	5	21.83	+.27	+17.7
3M Co	2.20	13	78.51	-.80	-9.0
Trchmrk s	.48	9	42.30	+.38	+6.3
TriDentS	.20e	...	13.77	-.15	+.1
TylerTech	...	38	29.52	-1.00	+42.2
USMV	1.24f	17	27.44	-.07	-6.0
US NGs rs	...	...	6.91	-.39	-42.5
US OilFd	...	...	39.86	-1.85	-6.0
ValeroE	.80f	7	20.36	-.10	-11.9
VangEmg	.82e	...	37.90	-.55	-21.3
VulcanM	.04e	...	37.87	+.73	+14.4
Walgrn	.90	11	33.81	-.68	-13.7
WellsFargo	.48	10	25.86	+.07	-18.6
WellsRefin	...	7	12.16	+.12	+15.1
WhitngPt s	...	10	43.10	-3.31	-25.4
WmsCos	1.00f	19	30.59	-.78	+23.7
XcelEngy	1.04	15	25.87	+.09	+8.9
Xerox	.17	13	7.79	-.13	-32.4
Yahoo	...	18	15.02	-.40	-9.7

Can't find your favorite stocks or mutual funds listed?
Send your favorite to sdoreen@mrt.com or mmcewen@mrt.com. We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Ytd %Chg	YTD %Chg	52-wk %Chg
12,876.00	10,404.49	Dow Jones Industrials	11,823.48	-131.46	-1.10	+2.12	+2.12	+3.19
5,627.85	3,950.88	Dow Jones Transportation	4,757.44	-69.97	-1.45	-5.84	-5.84	-5.23
459.94	381.39	Dow Jones Utilities	440.77	+4.26	+.98	+8.83	+8.83	+11.11
8,718.25	6,414.89	NYSE Composite	7,194.75	-92.87	-1.28	-9.76	-9.76	-7.97
2,400.51	1,941.89	Amex Index	2,213.68	-21.82	-.97	+.24	+.24	+4.91
2,867.75	2,269.89	Nasdaq Composite	2,539.31	-39.96	-1.55	-4.28	-4.28	-2.39
1,370.59	1,074.77	S&P 500	1,211.82	-13.91	-1.13	-3.64	-3.64	-1.80
14,562.01	11,208.42	Wilshire 5000	12,088.39	-153.73	-1.26	-4.95	-4.95	-3.05
868.57	601.71	Russell 2000	709.46	-9.80	-1.34	-8.59	-8.59	-7.80

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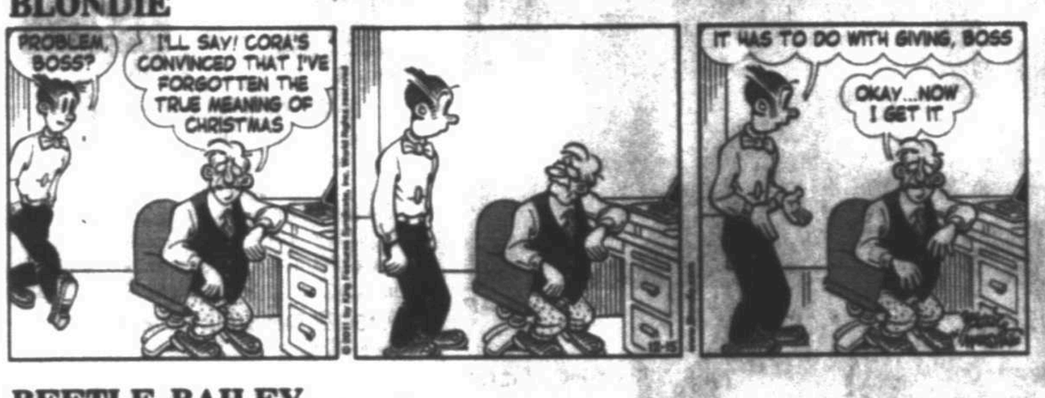
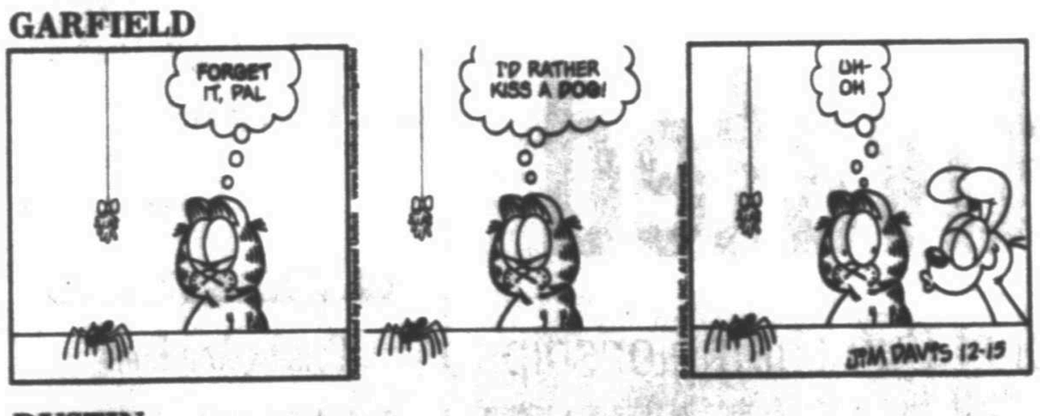


BEETLE BAILEY

CLASSIC PEANUTS

SHOE

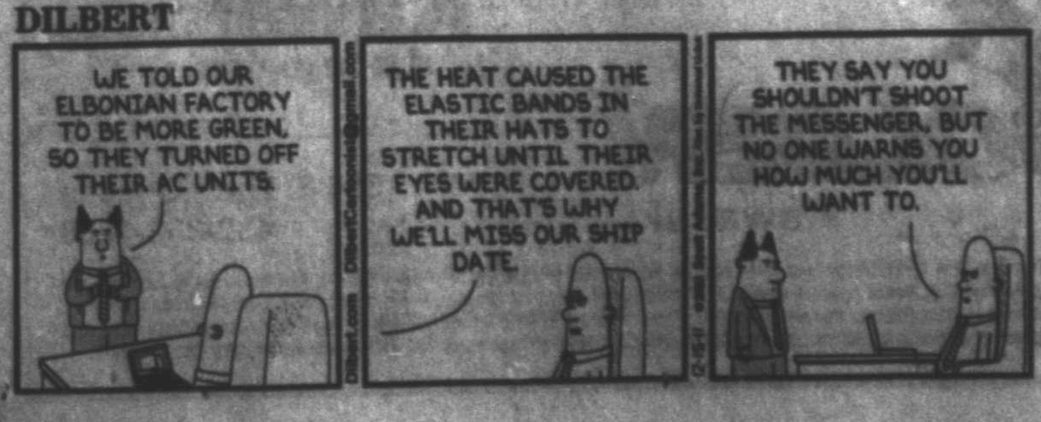
GARFIELD



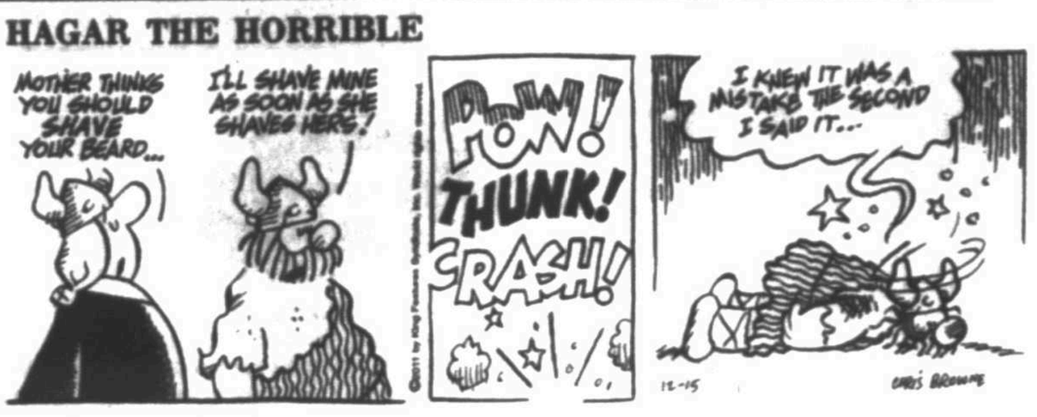
DUSTIN

WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



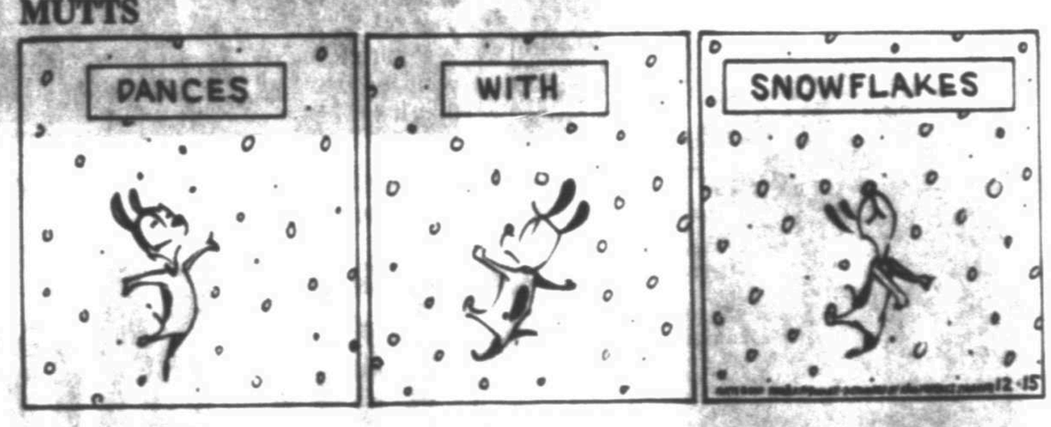
LUANN

MARY WORTH

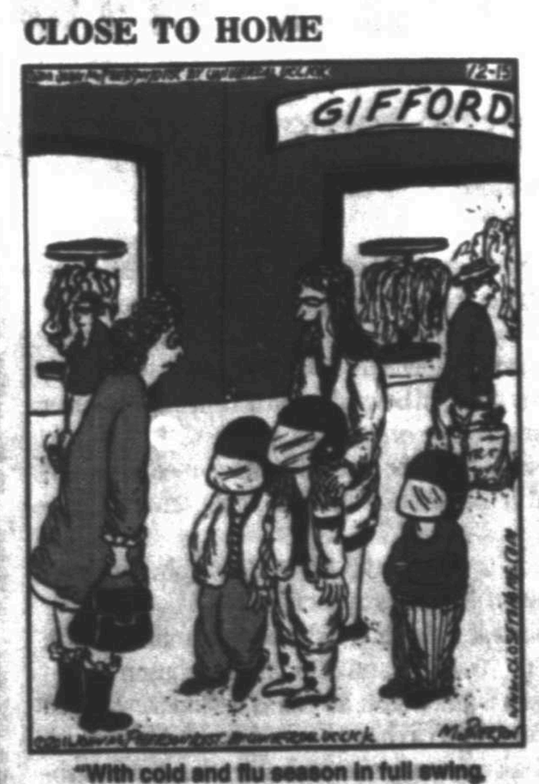
ZITS

BABY BLUES

MUTTS



CLOSE TO HOME



"With cold and flu season in full swing, the motorcycle helmets are a fun way to keep them from getting a bug."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"SOME OF MY FRIENDS COULDN'T MAKE IT HERE TODAY, SO I BROUGHT THEIR CHRISTMAS LISTS."

LOCKHORNS

"I HAD YOUR PICTURE ON MY DESK, LORETTA, BUT THE EYES KEPT FOLLOWING ME AROUND THE ROOM."

FAMILY CIRCUS

"You better stop poutin', PJ, and I don't think I need to tell you why."

NASCAR THIS WEEK

If you have a question or comment, write: NASCAR This Week, c/o The Gaston Gazette, P.O. Box 1538, Gastonia, NC 28053 or send an e-mail to mdutton@gastongazette.com. You can also send your NASCAR questions to Monte on Facebook at Facebook.com/monte-dutton and at Twitter.com/MonteDutton. Please specify you are submitting them for the NASCAR This Week page.

ON THE TUBE

Sprint Cup 2012
Daytona 500,
Feb. 26, Time TBA
FOX

Nationwide Series 2012
DRIVE4COPD 300,
Feb. 25, Time, TV TBA

Truck Series 2012
NextEra Energy Resources 250,
Feb. 24, Time TBA
SPEED

BURNING ISSUES

▶ It seems incredible that, for the moment, Kurt Busch's best options seem to be at minor teams Phoenix Racing and TRG Motorsports.

▶ Those kinds of prospects are enough to send a NASCAR driver to drag racing, which is apparently one of Busch's options.

▶ Reports suggest that David Ragan will sign a one-year contract with Penske Racing as Busch's successor.

▶ In addition to Brian Pattie's hiring as Clint Bowyer's crew chief with Michael Waltrip, apparently a number of laid-off Red Bull Racing crewmen will join Michael Waltrip Racing, as well.

▶ Sprint will remain as corporate sponsor of NASCAR's top series until at least 2016.

▶ Michael Waltrip and his NASCAR business partner, Rob Kauffman, will compete together in the Rolex 24 endurance race at Daytona on Jan. 28-29. MWR will field the Ferrari to be driven by Waltrip, Kauffman, Travis Pastrana and Rui Aguas.

▶ One of NASCAR's familiar public-relations faces will become slightly more familiar as Dennis Worden moves from "manager" at Michigan International Speedway to "director" at Darlington Raceway.

▶ Brendan Gaughan, most noted for his Truck Series victories, is scheduled to run a limited Nationwide Series schedule at Richard Childress Racing.

▶ It appears likely that Daytona 500 winner Trevor Bayne's status will remain parttime at the Sprint Cup level, and there appears to be no place for the Nationwide champion, Ricky Stenhouse Jr., to move up.

▶ It's hard to remember a December with so many incomplete plans still lingering. The 2012 season is drawing ever closer, and economic uncertainty continues to plague NASCAR.

John Clark/NASCAR This Week

On Oct. 9, 2005, Matt Kenseth was one of four Roush Fords to finish in the top five of the Camping 400 at Kansas Spd. Speed

LEGENDS AND LORE

Roush Memories

Roush Fenway Racing had a great day at Kansas Speedway on Oct. 9, 2005 when the team's Fords took four of the top five positions in the Banquet 400. Mark Martin won by .557 of a second over teammate Greg Biffle, with another teammate, Carl Edwards, finishing third and Matt Kenseth fifth. The only driver in the top five who didn't drive for Jack Roush was the season's eventual champion, Tony Stewart, who finished fourth. Roush then fielded five Fords in every race. The team's other driver, Kurt Busch, finished 14th.

2012 LOOKAHEAD

SPRINT CUP SERIES

The first of the season's two all-star events will be run for the 34th time and for the ninth consecutive year under the lights. In the years 1979-87, it was known as the Busch Clash. It was the Bud Shootout 1998-2000 and became the Budweiser Shootout officially in 2001.
Next up: Budweiser Shootout, Daytona International Speedway (2.5 mi.), Daytona Beach, Fla., Feb. 18.
Last year's winner: Kurt Busch, Dodge.
Recent winners: Busch (2011), Kevin Harvick (2009-10), Dale Earnhardt Jr. (2003, '08), Tony Stewart (2001-02, '07), Denny Hamlin (2006), Jimmie Johnson (2005), Dale Jarrett (2000, '04).

NATIONWIDE SERIES

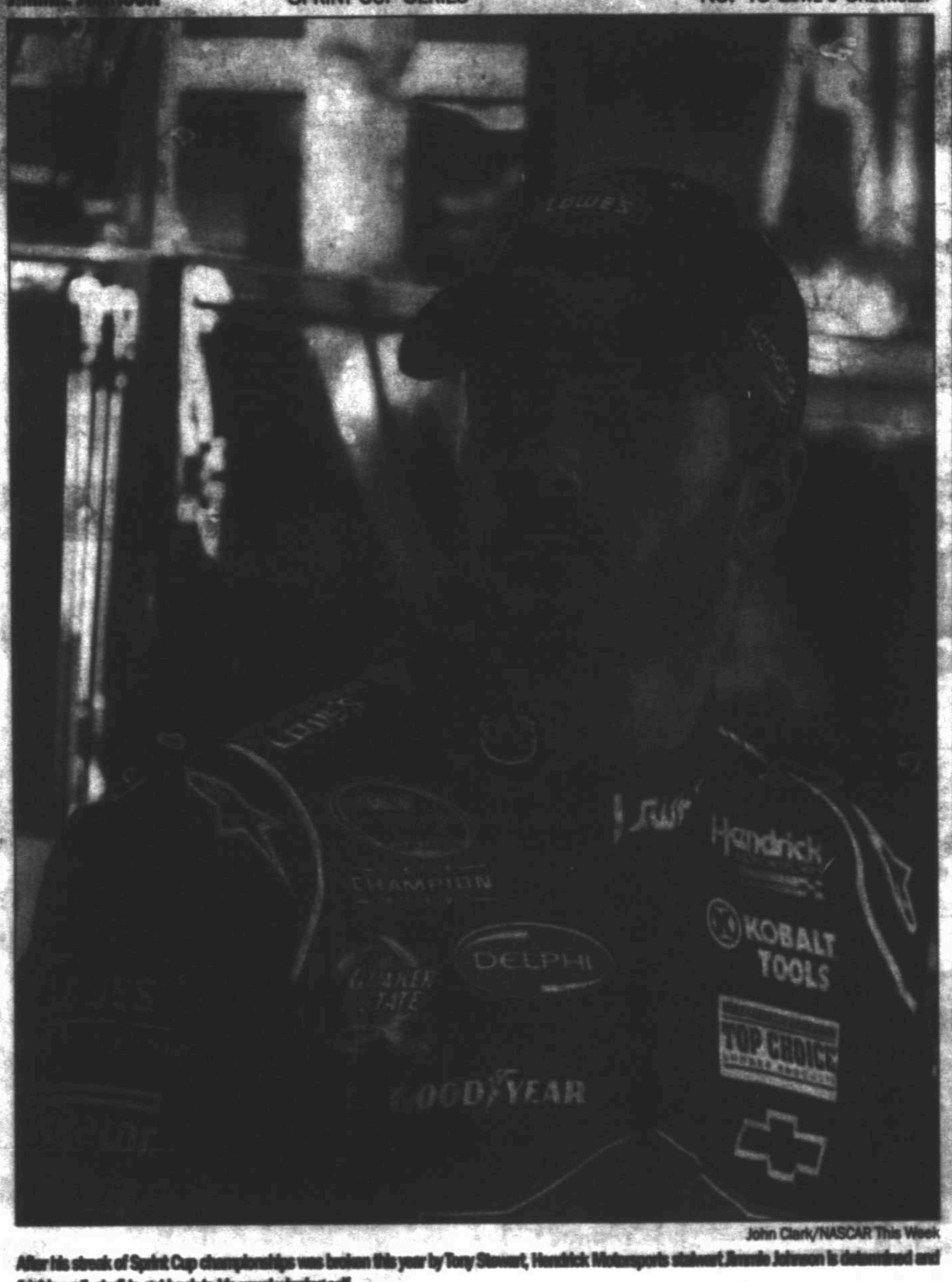
For many years, Daytona hosted a National Sportsman race known as the Permatex 300 on the day before the 500, but this race's lineage officially began when what is now the Nationwide Series was founded in 1982. Dale Earnhardt won the first one and later captured five in a row from 1990-94.
Next up: Drive4COPD 300, Daytona International Speedway (2.5 mi.), 120 laps/300 miles, Daytona Beach, Fla., Feb. 25.
Last year's winner: Tony Stewart, Chevy.
Recent winners: Stewart (2005-06, '08-'11), Kevin Harvick (2007), Dale Earnhardt Jr. (2002, '03, '04), Randy LaJoie (1999, 2001), Matt Kenseth (2000).

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK SERIES

Trucks never raced at Daytona until 2000, when Mike Wallace won the cash-named debut of the series on a so-called restrictor-plate track. Toyota drivers have won the past five races and, surprisingly, no driver has ever piloted a Chevy to victory. The first seven races saw Fords win four and Dodges three. A Toyota has visited victory lane in each race since.
Next up: NextEra Energy Resources 250, Daytona Int'l Speedway (2.5 mi.), 100 laps/250 miles, Daytona Beach, Fla., Feb. 24.
Last year's winner: Michael Waltrip, Toyota.
Previous winners: Waltrip (2011), T. Peters (2010), T. Bodine (2008-09), J. Sprague (2007), M. Martin (2006), B. Hamilton (2005), C. Edwards (2004), R. Crawford (2003), R. Pressley (2002), Joe Ruttman (2001), M. Wallace (2000).

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

JIMMIE JOHNSON — SPRINT CUP SERIES — No. 48 LOWE'S CHEVROLET



John Clark/NASCAR This Week

After his streak of Sprint Cup championships was broken this year by Tony Stewart, Hendrick Motorsports stalwart Jimmie Johnson is determined and "highly motivated" to get back to his usual winning self.

Still Motivated

Johnson targeting more Sprint Cup championships

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

Tony Stewart won his third championship in 2011, and no one has ever been more spectacular down the stretch. He won five of the final 10 races, the most ever since the Chase was implemented in 2004, and yet still won only by tiebreaker over Carl Edwards, who had the same number (2,403) of points.

Edwards has finished second or third three times now and had the best average finish, 4.9, of any driver in Chase history.

So who is the favorite for 2012? It's obvious, even though it's neither Stewart nor Edwards.

The favorite is the driver who won championships in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010: Jimmie Johnson.

Johnson finished sixth, 99 points behind Stewart and Edwards. It wasn't a championship season, but it wasn't bad, at least not by any standards other than those established by Johnson and his Hendrick Motorsports crew chief, Chad Knaus.

"Highly motivated" was the way Johnson referred to himself at the Sprint Cup Awards Ceremonies in Las Vegas.

"Motivation comes easy for all of us," he said. "I know that question is asked a lot, but we just want to race, and if we're going to spend all the time to do all this, we want to be racing for the championship."

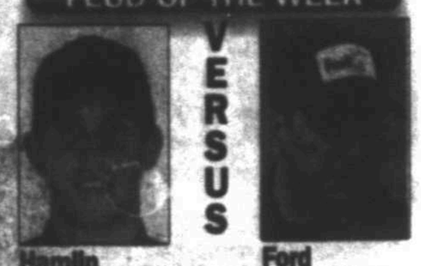
Johnson won five straight championships. Only Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt have ever won more than five total. Can Johnson win eight and break the record?

"I want to believe in it," he said. "How long can I race into my career? I think there is a chance, I don't know how realistic that chance is, but I want to believe in it and think that I can."

Johnson paid tribute to Stewart, who became the first driver-owner to win a championship since Alan Kulwicki in 1992.

"I didn't think it was possible," Johnson said. "I don't think any of us felt that we would see it take place again or even get close to it. ... It's a huge feat that I think everybody wrote off and said would never happen again."

FEUD OF THE WEEK



Hamlin — VERSUS — Ford

DENNY HAMLIN VS. MIKE FORD

To appearances, Hamlin and Ford worked in concert in spite of a season that felt far shy of the previous one. When, however, Ford was released at Joe Gibbs Racing last week, he reportedly said, "I'm kind of relieved. It had been dragging on for so long, I'm actually relieved there's finally a resolution."

NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton gives his take: "It's hard to be critical of Gibbs officials since Ford's replacement is Darian Grubb, who only won the championship with Tony Stewart. Few crew chiefs were as valued a year earlier, but now it'll be seen for Hamlin as a trade up."

Know Your NASCAR

1. Who was the upset winner of the 1966 Firecracker 400 at Daytona?
2. Who won the first race sanctioned by NASCAR?
3. In what year did William H.G. France turn over the reins of NASCAR to his son, William C. France?
4. Who was the first woman driver to compete in the Daytona 500?
5. In what year did Richard Petty win the last of his seven championships?
6. In what year did Dale Earnhardt win the last of his seven titles?
7. In what year was use of the fuel cell first implemented in NASCAR?
8. In what year was the series now known as Nationwide begun?
9. In what year did NASCAR first run "a demonstration race" in Suzuka, Japan?
10. In what year was every Cup race first televised live?
11. What was the date of Richard Petty's 200th victory?
12. Who was the first driver to run a qualifying lap at over 200 mph?

1. Sam McQuagg
2. Red Byron, on Feb. 15, 1948, in Daytona Beach.
3. 1972.
4. Janet Guthrie, who finished 12th in 1977.
5. 1979.
6. 1994.
7. 1985.
8. 1982, then known as the Busch Series.
9. 1996.
10. 1989.
11. July 4, 1984.
12. Benny Parsons at Talladega on April 29, 1982.

FAN TIPS

Coming And Going

■ NASCAR drivers Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano were part of a USO/Armed Forces Entertainment Tour that visited the facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on Dec. 12-14. The tour was part of an ongoing effort between NASCAR and the USO to strengthen a connection to the military and help boost the morale of U.S. troops and their families stationed around the world.

■ The NASCAR Sprint Cup Awards Ceremonies completed, at least contractually, its three-year run in Las Vegas. The banquet and Champion's Week moved from New York to Vegas in 2009. That doesn't mean it's moving somewhere else. "We certainly have a desire to come back," said NASCAR's chief marketing officer, Steve Phelps on nascar.com. "There's a desire, I think, from them to have us back. I think we're just trying to figure out what are the right assets that work for them. What is the best way to engage with the fan base and bring as many people to the city as possible? But we're excited about the possibilities of getting something renewed. We don't have anything right now. There are discussions that are going on."

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Events and Notices

General Announcements

TIA CLARICE & The Live Band will be performing at Midland's own Velvet Room located at 3100 West Wall. The show will be held on 12/16/11 from 7 to 9pm and 10 to 12am. The band has been creating quite a buzz in the local music circuit playing everything from your favorite oldies to putting their own spin on pop and world music. For more information contact The Velvet Room at 432-699-4144.

Lost & Found

FOUND GRAY and white adult male Pitbull. Call to identify 956-689-0702.

FOUND MALE Boxer. South of Midkiff Rd. No tags. Call to identify. 432-664-9828.

General Announcements

P. Douglas Cochran, M.D.
As of Dec. 2, our office has moved to a new location at:
4212 Andrews Hwy.
(MMH West Campus),
3rd floor, Suite 306.
Our office phone number is still the same 432-699-6000.

Legal & Public Notices

MOTOR POLICY BOARD
Announcement of Meeting:
Date: December 19, 2011
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Located at: Wright Office Complex, Suite 1
9601 Wright Drive
Midland, Texas 79705
Conduct Executive Session concerning any and all subjects and for any and all purposes permitted by Chapter 551 of the Texas Administrative Code, including but not limited to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 for the purpose of consulting with the board's attorney; Texas Government Code Section 551.072 to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property; Texas Government Code Section 551.074 to discuss personnel matters.

Lost & Found

FOUND MALE German Shorthair on CR 120, on Dec. 7. Has orange collar. 432-413-0022.

FOUND YOUNG female white and tan dog. Polo Parkway & loop 250. 685-3698.

KEYS FOUND in snow at Gretta Park. Call 432-559-8530.

WHITE AND black Blue Heeler FOUND near Wadley and Werd. Dec. 8th. Call 432-553-8221.

LOST BLUE Pitbull, E. Midland on Parker St. Reward! Call 432-236-1975.

LOST CAT. Raggedy Ann a siamese variety from 1400 block of Bedford since Saturday, December 10th. 432-682-0803

LOST-SEAL Point Siamese, [illegible] eyes, neutered male named Chai. -REWARD; call 432-556-9133

LOST..FEMALE Dixie. 9 yrs old Dalmation Pointer Mix. Last seen in vicinity of Whitney and Frontier. Reward of $50. Call 432-694-7832 or 432-528-1051.

LOST MALE Lab mix, tan and white. Lost in 2800 block of Cimmaron Ave. Call 559-3696 with any info

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Legal & Public Notices

NO. P16886
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Nina Mae Cheshire, Deceased, were issued on December 13, 2011, in Cause No. P16886, pending in the County Court of Midland, Texas, to Juanita Kay Porter, Independent Executrix, whose residence address is 3302 Rosemont, Midland, TX 79707.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law, in care of the Executrix.
Dated the 13 day of December, 2011
By: Juanita Kay Porter
Independent Executrix of the Estate of Nina Mae Cheshire, Deceased, No. P16886 in the County Court of Midland County, Texas.

Meetings

Acacia Masonic Lodge #1414
1600 W. Wall
Stated Communication, 2nd & 4th Tues. @ 7:30pm.
432-557-6041
Mike Patton, W.M.
Ed Wilson Sec
Did you know, Christopher "Kit" Carson was a Master Mason?

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BETTY SUGGETT GEORGE, DECEASED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Betty Suggett George, Deceased, were issued on October 7, 2011, in Cause No. P16815, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to: Clem E. George, Meredith George Tinsley, and Kenn S. George Independent Co-Executors, Estate of Betty Suggett George, Deceased.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are hereby required to present them within the time prescribed by law. The Independent Co-Executors of the referenced Estate have directed that any such claims shall be presented to the following:
Stephen T. Krier, Attorney for Clem E. George, Meredith George Tinsley, and Kenn S. George Independent Co-Executor(s) for the Estate of Betty Suggett George, Deceased
HUND, KRIER, WILKERSON & WRIGHT, P.C.
P.O. Box 54390
Lubbock, TX 79463-4390
EXECUTED this 10th day of October, 2011
By: Clem B. George, Meredith George Tinsley, and Kenn S. George, Independent Co-Executors, Estate of Betty Suggett George, Deceased

Personals

BABYSITTER NEEDED Mon.-Fri. 4p.m. to 6p.m. Must have references, driver license and no felonies. Call 432-978-5106

LOOKING FOR someone to instruct Hebrew to a novice. 978-1057

Real Wheel Deals! only $35 w/Photo
Call for Information
432-682-6222

General Announcements

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed on Thursday, December 15th, from 1:00pm until 3:00 pm in order for our employees to enjoy our annual
Christmas Party.
Happy Holidays!
FROM THE
Midland Reporter-Telegram

Attention Readers
In observance of
Christmas Day
The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed
Monday, Dec. 26, 2011

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Fri., Dec. 23rd	Thur., Dec. 22nd, 3 PM
Sat., Dec. 24th	Thur., Dec. 22nd, 5 PM
Sun., Dec. 25th	Fri., Dec. 23rd, 12 PM
Mon., Dec. 26th	Fri., Dec. 23rd, 3 PM
Tues., Dec. 27th	Fri., Dec. 23rd, 5 PM

Classified Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Fri., Dec. 23rd	Wed., Dec. 21st, 3 PM
Sat., Dec. 24th	Wed., Dec. 21st, 5 PM
Sun., Dec. 25th	Thur., Dec. 22nd, 12 PM
Mon., Dec. 26th	Thur., Dec. 22nd, 3 PM
Tues., Dec. 27th	Thur., Dec. 22nd, 5 PM

Retail Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Fri., Dec. 23rd	Wed., Dec. 21st, 5 PM
Sat., Dec. 24th	Thur., Dec. 22nd, 12 PM
Sun., Dec. 25th	Thur., Dec. 22nd, 3 PM
Sun., Dec. 25th (Oil Report/West Texas Living, Arts & Ent.)	Tues., Dec. 20th, 5 PM
Mon., Dec. 26th	Thur., Dec. 22nd, 5 PM
Tues., Dec. 27th	Thur., Dec. 22nd, 5 PM

CIRCULATION HOURS
Customer Service calls will be taken Saturday, Dec 24th thru Monday, Dec. 26th from 7 AM-11 AM only.
We will re-open for the Dec. 27th for regular business hours.
Midland Reporter-Telegram

Sudoku Is Brought To You Daily By:
BASIN Foundation Repair
Midland, TX 79702
432-210-1126
Serving The Permian Basin
FREE Evaluations & Lifetime Transferable Warranty!

SUDOKU
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

		3					8	2
1	9					3	6	
		1	6		4	2		
2		9	5		8	6		1
		4	2		3	7		
	4	2					3	
7	1					9		

12/15/11

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

6	4	2	5	1	9	7	5	8
8	3	1	2	7	8	6	9	4
8	7	9	5	6	4	1	3	2
7	6	5	8	9	1	2	4	3
4	9	3	6	5	2	8	1	7
1	2	8	7	4	3	9	6	5
3	8	6	1	2	5	4	7	9
2	1	4	9	3	7	5	8	6
9	5	7	4	8	6	3	2	1

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mywesttexas jobs

Midland Reporter-Telegram

In partnership with monster

http://www.mywesttexas.com/jobs

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Position
Company FT
Small, local, non-profit organization is seeking candidate for a full-time office manager. Must be organized and possess great people skills. Experience in accounting preferred. Experience with Word and Excel a must. Please send resume to :

Secretary
Hillard Companies FT
Hillard companies is looking for an experienced secretary to fill a full time position. This applicant must be proficient in Microsoft office, exhibit superior customer service skills, and have the versatility of performing different task. For questions, please call 432-683-9100. To apply, please send resume to sterlingh@mmbo.com

TAX ACCOUNTANT

Clayton Williams Energy Inc. is looking for a tax accountant for federal and state income tax compliance and planning. Degreed candidate should have experience in oil and gas taxation as well as corporate and partnership taxation.

Email resume to: kjones@claytonwilliams.com

CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES

Construction Help
Campbell Construction Co FT
Campbell Construction Company seeking a Superintendent, Carpenter and Laborer. 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)683-9845.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES
Customer Service Reps needed in Midland! Mon-Fri; $11-12/hr; need some clerical or call center experience. Call 719-874-3082 to apply or visit www.cheesesource.com.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Field Manager
Confidential FT
Oil and gas service company seeking a local candidate for an open Field Management position. Recent college graduate with a background in agriculture, Customer Service and Mechanics preferred. Salary pay, health and dental benefits available. Other benefits to be discussed. Training will require traveling, but the permanent position will be local Midland/Odessa. Email resume to: oilfieldmanagement@gmail.com

Fluid Level Technician
Sheridan Production Company FT
Opening for experienced E&P Fluid Level and Well Optimization Technicianfor the Lorenzo, TX field office. Requires a minimum of 2 years general fluid level teck. Experience. Must have operational knowledge of echometer and dynamometer usage a plus interpretation of information. Basic computer skills required including total well management software, microsoft office, and web-based production reporting systems. Excellent compensation and company employee medical, dental, life insurance and 401k match. Please email resume to employment@sheridanproduction.com. EEO

Plant Supervisor
Reliant Holdings, LTD. FT
Plant Supervisor needed to ensure that product quality, safety and availability (ice or liquid) meets the required demand and specifications to be sold to our customers with safety in the workplace as the top priority on all functions. Problem solving skills a must. Chemical and/or gas processing experience required. Current opening in Midland/Odessa area. Send resume to: jobs@flocc2.com

STROBEL STAROSTKA TRANSFER

WE ARE A LEADER IN DESIGN, BUILD AND OPERATIONS TRANSLOAD CENTERS FOR THE ENERGY INDUSTRY

SEEKING IMMEDIATE APPLICANTS FOR TERMINAL MANAGER, OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR, 2 CLERICAL, & 2 ADMIN

Terminal Manager $70,000-$90,000

MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION, 401K, VACATION, HOLIDAY PAY

jobFAIR Hampton Inn in Midland December 15th & 16th 12 p - 8 p

APPLICATIONS ON SITE

Mud Engineers
Confidential FT
WANTED: Experienced Mud Engineers. Minimum 3 years West Texas. Generous sign-on bonus. Excellent pay and benefits, including, Medical, Dental, Vision and matching 401K. Equal Opportunity Employer. Submit resume to M- 47 c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram. 201 E. Illinois Midland, TX 79701.

HEALTHCARE

CNA's
Nurses Unlimited, Inc. FT
Nurses Unlimited, Inc. is seeking enthusiastic CNA's to assist client in the home. P-T. Call Codee 1-800-458-3257. E.O.E.

Resident Assistants and Medication Aides
Saddleridge Lodge FT
1808 W. Loop 250 N.
Midland, TX 79705
Resident Assistants and Medication Aides for 10 pm to 6am shift needed at Saddleridge Lodge. 401K & Health Ins. Please apply in person at 1808 W. Loop 250 N. in Midland or on line at www.emeritus.com NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. E.O.E

RN Case Manager
Martin County Hospital District FT
Martin County Home Health, in Stanton, Texas is seeking dedicated, energetic, compassionate, employee. Benefits included. Martin County Home Health has an immediate opening for the following position: RN Case Manager
If interested please contact Allison Roy, RN at 432-756-3259 or apply in person at 116 N St. Peter Street, Stanton, TX 79782.

RNs and LVNs
Encompass Home Health FT or PRN
Encompass Home Health is hiring nurses for our adult and pediatric divisions. Please contact Chad at 866-953-3444 or apply online at www.ehhi.com.

Sitters/CNA'S
Nurses Unlimited, INC FT
Nurses Unlimited, INC seeking Sitters/CNA'S to work for private duty clients. Hourly rate. Call 432-522-8080. All shifts available. E.O.E.

HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

Front Desk
Holiday Inn Express FT/PT
5309 N. Loop 250 W. Apply in person
Midland, TX 79707 No phone calls
Now hiring Front Desk FT& PT. Professional appearence required. Will train the right person. Competitive pay. Apply in person only. No phone calls.

Housekeepers/Laundry
Immediate opening for Housekeepers and Laundry. Apply at: 2500 Commerce Dr, Midland, Tx.

Maintenance
Holiday Inn Express FT
5309 N. Loop 250 W. Apply in person
Midland, TX 79707 No phone calls
Now hiring full time & part time Maintenance. Professional appearence required. Will train the right person. Serious inquires only. Previous applicants need not apply. Apply in person only. No phone calls. Competitive pay.

OTHER JOBS

CARETAKER
Full time night shift 8pm-8am for small assisted living facility. Care for elderly ladies. Please call 432-687-2503.

Detailers
UNIVERSAL FT
Detailers needed for Local new car dealership. Used experience is helpful. Good pay. Please call 832-499-9574

Field Crew
Growing oilfield surveying company looking for Field Personnel, no experience required. Candidates must be able to pass a drug screen and background check. Salary DOE. Excellent benefits package available after completion of 90 days probationary period. Interested candidates should send their resumes to: corey.morris@topographic.com

First United Methodist Church
Tremendous opportunity in a wonderful work environment for the right person. After completing a 90 day probationary period with our custodial crew, health insurance, sick leave, pay raise and paid vacation will be offered. Seeking hard working applicants. Contact Bobby Darst at bobbydarst@firstmethodistmidland.com or 432.682.3701.

Kelly Services Now Hiring:
• General Laborers - $10.00 hr. • Shophands - must have forklift experience, $14.00 hr. • Admin., Reception, Clerical - various assignments • Direct Hire Opportunities - clerical and store managers. • Front Desk Clerks - 2 positions, 32 hrs and 40 hrs., $9.00 hr. Apply in person at 6 Desta Drive Ste. 1250 or call 432-699-9801. Never an applicant fee. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Kennel Tech
Lonestar Sanctuary for Animals FT
Kennel technicians' given needed immediately at Lonestar Sanctuary for Animals. Duties include animal care and general cleaning. Some office/computer skills would be a plus. Full time position. Please apply at 4200 N Fairgrounds Rd. No phone calls please.

Maintenance
Hillard Companies FT
Hillard companies is looking for an experienced person to mange and maintain Hillard Companies properties. Applicant must be knowledgeable and experienced in plumbing, electrical, automotive, landscaping, with time management, and have the versatily with performing different task. For questions, please call 432-683-9100. To apply, please send resume to sterlingh@mmbo.com.

Maintenance Supervisor
BH Management is now hiring a Maintenance Supervisor for Dakota Apts. Must have HVAC. Apply online at www.bhmanagement.com/careers.html and select Dakota. EOE.

General

NEWSPAPER CARRIER/COUNTER 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

NEED EXTRA CASH???

FT /PT

Set Your Own Hours!!

Manager Training Program

Call

505-850-5398

Midland Reporter-Telegram has immediate openings in it's Distribution Department (Midtown)

Part-Time Shift Work Available
Schedule consists of a combination of day and night shifts. Night Shifts - 12 (midnight) until 3-5 a.m. Starting pay is $9.80 per hour.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk
Monday-Friday 8-5 or email: ettsworth@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Route Person Needed
Jordan Amusements FT
Route Person Needed - Must have valid driver's license, communication skills, trustworthy and pass drug test. Apply in person or fax resume to Jordan Amusement Co. 10100 W. Hwy 80 432-563-2740

The Top 5 Ways to Get Your Ad To The Public:

1. Call 432-682-6222
2. Fax 432-682-6999
3. mrtclassified@mrt.com
4. Just Mail or Drop It By: 201 E. Illinois

Come On In And Stay A While! We'll Leave The Computer On!

The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an opening in its Production Department for the position of:

Pressman/Pressman Trainee

for our Harris N-1650 printing presses. This 5 to 6 day per week, fast paced, deadline oriented position requires night shift, weekend work, and a strong emphasis on safety. The Midland Reporter-Telegram offers a full package of company benefits including 401K program. Salary DOE.

Send resume and salary requirements to:
John Maddox, Production Director
c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram
201 E. Illinois St., Midland, TX 79701
E-mail: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
or
come by 201 E. Illinois Street to fill out an application.

HEARST *corporation*

Midland Reporter-Telegram is a part of Hearst Corp.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

NEWSPAPER CARRIERS NEEDED

EARN EXTRA MONEY

Do You:
Need help paying monthly bills and enjoy early Morning hours

Call Tony Gonzalez (432) 687-9002

*Must have vehicle, insurance, & valid driver's license
Midland and Big Spring Areas Available

Warehouse
Wayne Workware FT
Uniform Co. in Midland needs Warehouse workers for shipping, receiving and stocking. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Salary based on experience. Excellent benefits. Send resume via fax 832-300-4545.

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

Cooks, Dishwasher & Waitstaff
Murray's Deli FT
Now hiring Cooks, Dishwashers and Waitstaff. Day shift and night shift Apply in person 9am-11am or 2pm-4pm Monday thru Friday. Murray's Deli, 3211 W. Wadley.

Cooks & Kitchen Helpers
Emeritus at Saddleridge Lodge FT
1808 W. Loop 250 N
Midland, TX 79705
Cooks for mornings and evenings and a Kitchen Helper for evening shift needed. Health Ins./401K. Please apply in person at 1808 W. Loop 250 or online at www.emeritus.com . E.O.E

Kitchen/Cashiers
Waltons Family Restaurant
Serving Odessa for 30+years. Now open. Great family restaurant, closed Sunday's. Come join our team. Now hiring Kitchen & Cashiers. Salary DOE. Apply in person at: 4416 Briarwood #100, Midland, TX.

SALES JOBS

MCU MARKETING

Account Sales Manager

Set up and Maintain Accounts

Manage a small sales team

2 Years in sales and management

Average Annual Income FT 40-50k

Send resume to:

mkelley@mcumarketing.com

Outside Sale Representative
Hillard Office Solutions FT
is looking for an Outside Sales Rep. Training is provided. Must have ability to make cold calls, have customer service & closing skills, and a drivers license with a clean record. For questions, please call 432-683-9100. To apply, send resume to: sterlingh@mmbo.com

Sales Assistant
Help Wanted: Sales Assistant. Seeking dependable detail oriented person to join our team. Must have computer skills, work well in a fast paced environment, able to meet deadlines. Hours M-F, 8-5. Send resumes to melissa@centurygs.com.

mywesttexas jobs

http://www.mywesttexas.com/jobs

Midland Reporter-Telegram in partnership with monster

SALES JOBS

Sales
Fender Truck Access. FT
Midland, TX 79701
Position open for person knowledgeable in truck accessories or automotive industry. Salary plus commission, Monday-Friday 7:30 am-5:30 pm, vacation, insurance option. Bilingual a plus. Salary DOE. Send resume to: kerry@fendergroup.com

SKILLED LABOR

Electrician Apprentice
Immediate opening for an Electrician Apprentice. Call 432-697-4439

Field Service Technician
Solman & Associates FT
Field Service Technician- Clean driving record, able to pull 30' trailer. Oilfield instrumentation delivery and setup. Midland/Odessa area. Fax resume to 800-842-4789.

Landscape Mainteance Foreman
Arbor-Tech Horticulture
Weekly pay with benefits. Experienced individuals only. Please call 432-682-8222.

Lead Maintenance
Summerhill Apartments FT
Now hiring **Lead Maintenance**. Must be HVAC certified. Apply in person only at: **3001 North Midland Dr. Midland, TX 79707**.

Licensed Experienced Journeyman Electrician
Now hiring! Email resume with references & salary requirements to: **journeymanelectrican-resume@yahoo.com**.

Needed
Oilfield Solutions FT
2614 S. County Rd. 1257
Midland, TX 79706
Needed: Someone with experience in forklift operating, chemical blending, inventory control and warehouse knowledge. Must pass pre-employment drug screen. Please apply in person 8-12pm or call 432-561-5071.

Propane Delivery Truck Driver
WTG Fuels Inc. FT
WTG Fuels Inc is hiring for the following positions in Midland/Odessa: Propane Delivery Truck Driver and Propane Service Technician. WTG Fuels inc offers competitive pay, benefits and quality equipment. Apply in person at: 11501 West Count Rd. 125, Odessa, TX or call 432-563-0848.

SKILLED LABOR

PRODUCTION FOREMAN
Long-time Midland independent oil operator looking for a Production Foreman with 15-20 yrs experience. Drilling experience would be a plus. Age not a problem. Duties include overseeing contract pumpers, daily operations, maintenance of oil/gas wells and equipment, and supervision of pulling units, workovers and completions. Good communication and reporting skills required. Send resume of education, work experience and any specialty training to **Purvis Operating Co., PO Box 51990, Midland, TX 79710 or betty@purviscp.com**

Sand Blasters, Painters & Helpers
Accurate, Inc. FT
Hiring sand blasters, painters, helpers. Please call Accurate, Inc. at 432-563-1224 or 512-352-5278 or apply at 9504W CR 127, Midland.

Service Technician
1st Alarm FT
1st Alarm Security seeking Service Technician. Experience required. Fire License a plus. Qualified applicants call 432-530-3535.

TIRE TECHNICIANS
Discount Tire is now hiring! We offer flexible schedules, benefits, and great starting pay. No experience needed; we will train. If you have a great attitude and you are a hard, reliable worker, please apply in person at one of our three Discount Tire Stores: **3100 N. Loop 250 (Midland), 2201 Rankin Highway (Midland),** or **4211 Grandview Ave. (Odessa)** No phone calls please.

Welders
Structural and Pipe Welders needed. Must be able to pass weld test and provide references. Top pay for experienced capable welders. No contract welders need apply. Call for appointment at 432-697-7400. Please leave name, telephone number, and time you can reached.

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Bus Drivers
The Boys & Girls Club of Midland FT
Monday-Friday, 2:45pm - 4:45pm. $25 per hour. For more information please call Michael at 432-683-0050

CDL Driver - Day/Night Shifts
Mid-West Transport FT
Mid-West Truck Center Odessa, TX has immediate openings for: ***CDL Drivers.*** Comprehensive Benefits include company paid Health and Life insurance, plus Vision/Dental/401k! **432-355-6760 / 432-209-9484**

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Class A CDL Truck Drivers
Silverline Transportation 432-563-1884
Prefer drivers with Pneumatic Tanker experience. Benefits include: driver sign-on bonus, medical, life & dental insurance, paid vacation, & 401k. Applicants having experience hauling sand and/or dry cement helpful. Good driving record, DOT, drug & alcohol testing required. Apply in person, call for interview or online @ **www.silverlinetx.com**

Drivers Wanted
Reagent Chemical & Research, Inc FT
Find out why our average length of driver employment is 9 years. Reagent Chemical, a family owned company dedicated to providing great service to our customers and taking care of our employees, is currently hiring professional drivers in Stanton, Tx. Requirements include Class A CDL with tank and Hazmat Endorsement. Minimum of 2 years driving or 1 year tanker experience. Paid weekly by check or direct deposit. Benefits include family health & dental insurance with no premium contribution by the employee. 401K with company match plus profit sharing. Company paid life insurance, short and long term disability, additional life and disability is available thru group coverage. Up to 10 days vacation starting first year plus 10 paid holidays. Uniforms provided. Call 432-458-3446 or 432-661-4079

Truck Driver
Gary Carlisle, Inc. FT
Midland, TX 2 Years Exp.
Owner operator seeking over the road driver Class A CDL driver pulling flatbed. Run Texas and adjoining states. 432-694-0778

Do You Have A Special Skill? Try Our Who's Who for Service Call Classified 682-6222

mywesttexas.com
wtxgardening.ning.com
Green or Purple Thumbs Welcome!

Unwrap a new career for the holidays.

'Tis the season to find the right job for you.

At mywesttexas.com, we can give you the career management tools to help you find not just any job, but the right one. Tools that will help your resume stand out from the crowd. So give yourself a great gift this year - a new career.

Find it today at www.mywesttexas.com

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Marty's Marketplace

... leading you to the best bargains in the Permian Basin

Merchandise

Antiques

OLD CIRCULATED American coins from 1893-1985, 432-557-9378.

Appliances

1 Hour Free Pickup AAA Appliances. Call 238-9735 / 528-3046.

1HR. FREE Appliance Removal, 978-5211.

Food, Fruit & Produce

FUFFY'S PEANUT Brittle and Divinity available. 432-413-1303.

Free Stuff

4yr male, Lab/Rott, has shots, papers. Loyal, sweet, no good w/ kids /other dogs. 230-6249

6 1/2 mo. kitten, nds good home, family travels for work, shots, spayed 432-699-4271

FEMALE CHIHUAHUA & Male Chihweenie Together free to a good home. 432-853-2215

FOR FREE, 2 male Anatolian shepherds, approx 1 yr. BIG dogs, 1 or both, 563-4330

FREE female German Shephard, spayed with current shots. 432-270-8303.

FREE MALE cat. 2 years old, Lovable, friendly Good homes only. 432-362-7954.

FREE MALE Chihuahua to good home. 432-270-8303.

FREE SOLID oak entertainment center & computer desk. Call 432-352-3394.

Free to good home. 1 female mixed breed puppy. Call 432-528-8983.

FREE TO good home. male & female mixed puppies, 8weeks old. Great Christmas Puppies! 432-599-3620

FREE TO good home, small to medium pups. Call 432-934-6670

In A Hurry? E-Mail Your Ad Today! It's Quick & Easy mrtclassified@mrt.com

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!
Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

Furniture

OLD HICKORY, brown brocade oversized sofa, chair and ottoman set with two bar stools. perfect condition, originally $10,000 sacrifice for $3500. 563-8045.

Jewelry & Watches

Diamond wedding ring set, $995. Paid $2000 at Kay's Jewelry, 432-557-9378.

Miscellaneous for Sale

KEN'S RV SALES
5904 W. Hwy 80
Midland, TX
432-697-6447
KENSRVSALES.COM

SAVE 1000's ON A LARGE INVENTORY OF QUALITY USED RVs! TRY US ONCE, YOU'LL BE BACK
• A FULL SERVICE DEALER
• INSURANCE ESTIMATES
• ALL TYPES OF REPAIR
• PROPANE

1 EA. 48X86x1/4 unframed, single pane of mirror, good condition $45, 432-553-9849

1 NEW tire, LT24575R16 $50. 432-352-8419

Couches, art, silk plants, office furniture, mirrors. Call 432-685-1980.

CRYSTAL STEMWARE, claret bottle, & canister set. $20 each. Call 432-699-1336.

Fax Your Classified Ad In Today! 682-6999

FEATHERWEIGHT 221 SINGER. Original and complete, $450. 432-697-6960 or 432-770-3503.

HILL COUNTRY split oak firewood. Delivered, $325 a cord. Call Rob the Wood Guy 830-377-9274.

LADIES NICE winter pants, sweaters and vests. Size 10 & 12. $5 each, call 432-570-4108.

LOTS OF very nice children's toys & Christmas items. All for $25, 553-2173.

Miscellaneous for Sale

SNOW VILLAGE, sixteen pieces, in original boxes. $400 for all. Not sold separately. Cash Only. 559-1313.

WOOD PEDESTAL dining table with wood grain laminate top, 6 wood chairs $150.00. Upholstered chair $75.00, lift chair, motor doesn't work, $75.00. Bath/shower door, never installed, $75.00. Call after 4pm to see 520-5814.

Sporting Goods

WINCHESTER 1894 "Trapper" saddle ring carbine. In original box, never fired, never cocked. Brand new 1980. 30-30, 16" barrel, all paperwork including original Winchester jacket patch. $900 OBO, 288-0039

Tools & Hardware

GENERATOR, PACIFIC Equipment 8500M, $3,460 new, 1 hour on meter. $2,500 OBO. 432-349-1563.

Industrial Products & Supplies

Oil & Gas

6 BRAND new acid frac tanks for sale. $35,000 each. Call 432-770-2426.

Need some cash? Call CLASSIFIED 682-6222

Animals & Pets

Pets

CKC YORKIE puppies. Will be ready Christmas Day. Female $400 & male $300. Call 432-213-7585.

FULL BLOODED pugs 3 females & a male, 6 weeks old, $200 each. Info call 432-697-1253

KING CHARLES Cavalier, new puppies, born just in time for the perfect Christmas gift, 1 female $2000, 3 males $1500. Serious inquiries only. Call Wes, 432-889-3472.

Pets

PETS AT Peace now providing cremations and burials. Pre-need, 12 months, 0% interest. 620-8677.

What's Read!
Classifieds are. Studies show that more readers turn to Classifieds everyday than almost any other section of the newspaper.
Call Classifieds Today!
432-682-6222

Business Center

Business Opportunity

WELL ESTABLISHED Successful Franchise business. Owner Retiring. Send serious inquiries to P.O. BOX 8205 Midland, Texas 79708.

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

► NEW TODAY! ◄

2010 FORD Fusion SE. Charcoal, 4 dr, pwr, 44k. Great car! $14,000. 262-2024

BMW 2003 330ci 104500 miles, 2 door, 5-Speed transmission good condition, Silver Gray Metallic exterior, Black interior, WBABN53493JU29218 2WD All options. Loaded. $11,000 call 432-889-8279

BMW of the Permian Basin
2008 BMW 335i Silver/Gray Prem pkg, sport pkg, Logic 7 sound system, heated seats 72k miles
2006 Pontiac GTO red/blk HP & Torque boost Am. Racing rims 46k miles
2008 MERCEDES BENZ C300 Sand Beige/Cashmere, Prem. Pkg. II, Multi-Media Pkg., Fold Down Rear Seats Heated Seats - 73k miles REDUCED
2008 CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE LL3 Blk/Blk, auto trans 9k miles
2011 BMW 328i Prem., value pkg Heated seats 15k miles
2008 PONTIAC SOLSTICE GXP SILVER/EBONY RED STITCHING HIGH PERFORMANCE AUDIO, AUX. PORT, 5K MILES

BMW 2007 328i convertible. Premium package, extended Warranty, 41k mi., $27,500 OBO. Call 432-425-6201.

BMW 2007 750li, black, tan interior, 70K miles, excellent condition, loaded. Call 432-413-5040.

BUICK 1999 Park Avenue Ultra. 107k miles, very nice car, $3500. Call 432-664-4690.

CADILLAC 1992 DeVille, 88,000 mi, $4,500, great condition. Serious inquiries only, 432-294-3336.

CADILLAC 2007 DTS, V-8, leather. We finance W.A.C, 24 mo warranty, 683-6222.

CHEVROLET 1972 Chevelle drag race car. Complete body and drive tran, $9,000. 556-9945.

CHEVROLET 2002 Z28 convertible, 24K, looks and drives new, garaged, non smoker. $12,900. 685-4013.

FORD 2002 Mustang, V-6, Auto, low miles. We finance W.A.C. B&B Auto 683-6222.

FORD 2007 Fusion SE, V6, dark blue, 104K, Good condition. $8,500. 432-556-1901

FORD 2007 Taurus. 76K miles, 24 mo. warranty, B&B Auto Sales 683-6222.

FORD 2008 Focus SE, 4 Door, 4 Cylinder. We finance W.A.C. B&B Auto 683-6222.

HONDA 2003 Accord 4 door, heat/air, 127k mi, black, $3000 down & $4000 in payment. Call David at 432-238-3185.

LINCOLN 1998 Continental. V8, leather, loaded, 127k miles, $1900. 432-664-4690.

MERCEDES 2004 E Class, looks brand new, black w/leather interior, new tires, 33K miles. $21,500. Call 631-6045 / 683-5625 At Carter's Furniture.

NISSAN 2004 350Z, Touring Roadster, Nice/Clean. $12,800. 432-266-2662

NISSAN 2010 Altima Silver, 4 dr, auto, 2.5L, 47k. Excellent car! $15,000. 218-9941.

PONTIAC 2001 Grand AM GT. V6, very sporty, $1900. Call 432-664-4690.

SATURN 2004 ION, 4 dr Sedan, 193,995 mi. Engine runs well, needs transmission and other work, interior poor/exterior good. Great car for parts. AS IS, $1200. Call 432-528-7024 if no answer leave message.

TOYOTA 1986 Celica GT, nds motor, Make offer, 432-889-8513

TOYOTA 2006 Prius Hybrid. 35k miles, loaded, leather, rear back up camera, garaged, new tires, 1 owner, $15,000. 432-978-9335.

TOYOTA 2010 Camry Hybrid 23,000 miles, like new condition, $21,500 432-230-7994 reinhwb@hotmail.com

VW 2000 Beetle, 82k miles, automatic, sunroof, leather, $5250. Call 694-1100.

WANTED!
Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars & pickups. 432-685-4078

Hybrid

FORD 2008 ESCAPE HYBRID, 30MPG City, We finance W.A.C, B&B Auto 683-6222.

Hybrid

TOYOTA 2006 Prius white, loaded, plus navigation $14,975, 82k mi, 684-6666

Exotic Cars

230" R.E.D. Dragster. rave ready, $25,000 obo. 28' tag along enclosed pace trailer, $22,500. 559-0600.

LOTUS 2006 Elise, 43K miles, hard and convertible tops, original and custom wheels, XM radio, good tires. $27,500. Call 432-699-7629.

Antique & Vintage

FORD 1966 Thunderbird, perfect condition, reduced price, $11000 obo, 432-694-1429.

FORD 1977 RANCHERO-RARE Squire Trim. 351M-V8, runs good, interior good, needs exterior restoration, $2,000 OBO, 432-694-9663.

FORD 1978 150 Pickup XLT interior and race track trim. Call for info, 432-889-4413.

Pickup Trucks

CHEVROLET 2004 Silverado Super Cab LS. V6, 84k miles, bedliner, new tires, $9500. Call 432-889-9374.

CHEVY 2004 2500 HD great cond/clean, extras, 103k, $12,000 firm, 432-238-4825.

CHEVY 2004 Colorado, extended cab, auto, 72K miles, B&B Auto 683-6222.

CHEVY 2006 Extended Cab LS, 24mo warranty, B&B Auto Sales 432-683-6222.

CHEVY 2008 COLORADO Crew Cab, 4 cylinder, $15,900 OBO, 556-6947.

DODGE 2008 Cummins 4x4, 65K miles, 100K mile warranty, 10" aluminum wheel. $26500. 325-227-2455

Ford 2001 F150, single cab, long bed, V8 automatic, 61k miles. $5,600. 432-934-2318.

FORD 2003 F350 Super Crew Lariat. 130k miles, will financing. $12,800. 661-0173

FORD 2006 F150 SuperCrew XLT. Black with gray interior. Nice truck, 87K mi., 3-year transferrable warranty available. $15,500. Pictures @ www.chipmccarver.com 432-553-9972.

GMC 2007 2500, HD, crew cab, 4x4, LS, $17,999, 24 mo. warranty, 683-6222.

MITSUBISHI 2008 Raider, crew cab, 34k miles, w/ warranty, B&B Auto 683-6222.

► NEW TODAY! ◄

TOYOTA 2002 Tundra good condition, detailed entire vehicle, $6995 OBO 967-2285

TOYOTA 2006 Tundra TRD, 4.7 L V-8, 2WD, Towing Package, 71k, $15,000, 770-6643

Vans & Minivans

PONTIAC 2004 Montana minivan, 7-passenger seating. Nice van, $2800, 432-664-4690.

4WD & SUV

2003 CHEVROLET Suburban, LS, extra clean, only 87,000 miles, 3 seats, good tires, Bose Sound, new detail, 2nd owner, $9,900 432-853-5229

CADILLAC 2007 SRX, leather, 3rd row seat, we finance W.A.C. B&B Auto 683-6222

Pickup Trucks

FORD 2008 F-250, super duty, crew cab, power stroke V-8 diesel, tow package, power seats, power tow mirrors, power windows, audiophile AM-FM, CD, Sirius, premium stereo package, Pueblo gold metallic with tan interior, 53K miles, some warranty remaining, Yokohama new tires & factory alloy wheels, still smells & looks new! NADA $31,200 will take $29,800. Call 432-258-8250

4WD & SUV

CHEVROLET 1997 Suburban, 4WD, runs good, like new tires, $2000. 432-686-9214.

CHEVROLET 2007 Trailblazer SS with a D-1SC Intercooled ProCharger, Kooks headers, Magnaflow muffler, packed with power, loaded, black with black leather, 20 inch chrome wheels with oversized tires, clean, non-smoker. $28,200. Call Chip 638-8372.

CHEVY 1978 Blazer, no motor, good body. $1200, 432-967-5965

CHEVY 1997 Blazer V6 S10, 4dr., 166k mi, needs transmission work $1600, 934-1104

CHEVY 2005 2500HD 75000 miles 4 door, burgundy exterior, tan interior, 4WD, 8.1 Big Block V8, Allison 5 speed Automatic Transmission, Entertainment DVD System, loaded, priced $5000 below KBB $17000, 432-425-4553

CHEVY 2005 Tahoe Z71 4X4, black/tan leather, 126k mi., non-smoker, DVD, very good cond., $15,750, Tiffany 432-940-3631

DODGE 2008 Nitro, 48,000 miles, 4 door, automatic transmission, like new condition, black exterior, 2WD, A/C, power windows, highway miles, 20" black rims. $17,527 O.B.O. 432-664-0722. bobbyburkholder@yahoo.com

FORD 1994 Explorer XLT. New tires, 147k miles, $1800. Call 432-664-4690.

FORD 1995 Explorer XLT. 4WD, loaded, all power, $2250 OBO. 432-661-5874.

JEEP 2003 Wrangler Sport, black on black, 6cyl., 61k mi., Mickey Thompson wide mud tires and wheels. Great Christmas gift for that hunter. Slightly wrecked, lists for 12-14k, $8500 OBO. Serious, call 631-8268.

LEXUS 2004 GX470 4WD. 4 or 6 seats. All options, 39k mi, 1-owner, always garaged, KBB $28,600 OBO. 432-685-1865 or 432-267-1000.

LEXUS 2010 RX350 Black on tan/28k. All the bells & whistles plus NAVIGATION & heated and cooled seats. $39k. Call 432-889-2357

LINCOLN 2006 Navigator, black, fully loaded, 60k mi., $17,000. Call 432-661-0315

NISSAN 2008 Pathfinder SE, 38K miles. Warranty to 100K miles. Third row seat. Very nice, $19,000. Call 432-664-9191

NISSAN 2011 MURANO SL, 2800k mi, nav, $34000, 432-528-9497.

VOLVO 2005 XC90TG, 3rd row seat, premier, sound, leather, roof, rack, loaded, 105K miles. $12,500. Call 432-889-1822.

Commercial Vehicles

Heavy Equipment

CHEVY 2007 C5500, diesel, single cab, flat bed, 97k mi, $25,500, 432-686-7949.

WINCH TRUCK For Sale 1995 Western Star 4964F, Caterpillar 3406C Rebuilt Less then 10K,Tandem rear axles, 60 Tulsa winch. Price $30,000 Call 432-631-7612

Special Occasion! Call Classified 682-6222

Specialty Vehicles

23T ALTERED 1996 454 with 2speed power glide. New paint, comes with 35 ft Sidhan trailer., overhead air, winch, generator & new tags. Ready for use. $15000 obo. 634-3034.

23T ALTERED 1996 454 with 2speed power glide. New paint, comes with 35 ft Sidhan trailer., overhead air, winch, generator & new tags. Ready for use. $22,000 obo. 634-3034.

Recreational Vehicles

Motorcycles

2003 Harley Davidson V-Rod 100th Anniversary. Custom paint. Tons of Chrome $7500. 432-230-9417.

HONDA 2000 Valkyrie Interstate 1500 19k/mi black and red very nice bike $7200. 432-413-5107

2011 POLARIS SPORTSMAN 800. Only 7 hours on 4 wheeler. 4X4 with about $900.00 worth of addons. Hunting ready with lots of storage. Paid $9200.00 Plus addons, Will take $7000 bought 9/23/2011. 432-556-3992.

RVs

2009 ROCKWOOD Hi-Wall pop up trailer with slideout. Bryan 432-349-3547.

2010 5TH WHEEL, 37' 3 slides, W/D, many extras, $26,000, 817-875-0374.

YAMAHA 2009 R6. Black/Gold!! Only 655 miles!! $5,500. (432) 631-1214.

RVs

► NEW TODAY! ◄

2011 TRAVEL Trailer, Luxury By Design, located in Big Spring, 38 ft. self-contained, double slideout, 2 A/C's, washer, dryer, immaculate, $26,500. Call 281-924-7125

ROCKWOOD 2002 1540 LTD Pop-up Camper, great condition, heated bed covers, fridge, sleeps six, $3000, 432-352-1126, leave message before 5:00p.

► NEW TODAY! ◄

SANDPIPER 2011 5th Wheel, 39ft. Fiberglass, 3 slideouts, 2 A/C'S, Washer/Dryer, Perfect condition, must see! $36,500 call 956-239-1647

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GARAGE SALES

CALL 682-6222 TODAY!!

Estate Sales

2102 ALLENDALE, Big Spring - take FM 700 E. to Birdwell Ln., turn right go to 1st street on left. Friday and Saturday 9am-5pm, 432-638-0485. 18 golfbags with clubs, 2 king bedroom sets, 2 full, 1 twin, dinette set, washer/dryer, lrg computer desk, lrg desk, 2 office chairs, 2 couches, 3 recliners, 4 occasional chair & tables, 3 TV's 46", 60", small, 2 massage tables, medical scales, belts, ties, wheel chair, pictures & mirrors, and antique ice chest.

THE ANTIQUES BARN
Join Us For Our Annual Christmas Sale - Everything Discounted!
Saturday, December 17th
Shop from 8a.m. till 3p.m.
1112 East County Road 150

Beautiful furniture, vintage kitchen and household gadgets, books, LPs & 45s, gumball machines, vintage Fiesta and Harlequin, Occupied Japan, Nippon, sterling silver, Hall pottery, Homer Laughlin pottery, vintage Pyrex, salt and pepper shakers, dollhouse furniture, vintage toy metal vehicles, and lots of good old-fashioned neat stuff.

Come on out, and don't forget to bring your friends!

South on Rankin Hwy four miles past I-20, left at Cotton Flat Baptist Church on ECR 150, straight 1.1 miles to the end of ECR 150, red brick house on your right, sale is in the barn. Follow the signs-- It's worth the drive!

Yard & Garage Sales

79707

3715 MARK Lane. December 15th-17th from 10am - 3pm. New clothes, toys, holiday gifts, high end antiques and lots of miscellaneous.

3902 BUCHANAN Pl. (Alley) Sat 8am-12pm. Benefitting BUILD ON Charity - Dell desktop with flat screen monitor, serger, CD's, books, bikes, oak high chair and much more!

Fax It. 682-6999

ATTN: READERS Re: Advertising
It is against City ordinance to attach any notices or advertising matter to any utility pole. Please contact City of Midland Code Enforcement Office, 685-7410, for additional information

Estate Sales

The Cats Meow
408 Andrews Hwy., Midland
Fri.- Sat. - 10-6

Vintage Fur Sale

Gently worn furs from the 1940's through the present. Vintage Fur Specialist Marilyn Harris from Dallas will send her furs ahead so that we may start the sale on Friday. She will be here on Saturday. She is sending over 30 furs and numerous fur hats including Full length Mahogany Mink, Female Black Mink, Full length Ranch Mink, Black Ranch full length, Canadian Majestic mink coat, Sid Menaker Ranch mink, Gucci Cocoon coat, Fendi Sable, Blush Mink with Fox sleeves, Russian Fitch. Autumn Haze Stroller, Sheared Beaver with Mink collar, Red Fox jacket, Sable coat with matching scarf, Canadian Lynx Jacket, Chinchilla Jacket, White Tourmaline 3/4 jacket, Cerulean blue Jacket and more. The hats include a mink cowboy hat, Fox, Chinchilla, Lynx, Minks, Leopard etc.. Come have fun and get a great fur at a great price. Visa, MC, AMEX, accepted. 432-687-2004

Estate Sale
3319 Pinemont
Thurs & Fri 9-2
Sat 9-12
Services by Wall St. Antiques

Marantz stereo, Vizio TV, Emeril & Wearever pots & pans, mountain bikes, Honda mower, sofa, loveseat, coffee table, DVD's, CD's, books, accent tables & lamps, Kenmore washer, Refrigerator, table & 4 chairs, full bed, 2 TV armoires, bistro set, Men's clothing, rugs, Mercedes & Ford Escort.

Go to estatesales.net for photos

MOVING SALE out of Manor Park
2216 North H. (In alley) Thursday 10am-3pm
Lots of great gift items, bedding, heaters, tools, full and queen beds, clothes, books, and much more!
By: Linda L. Biden

Real Estate Rentals & Sales

Roommates

NICE ODESSA area. $600 month. Utilities included. Deposit required. 727-612-6819.

Residential Rentals

Apartments for Rent Furnished

@GARDEN SUITE@
Private 1 Bdrm/1Ba
Fully furnished, includes microwave and small fridge.
Decorated like 4 star hotel room. Cozy cottage located in Old Midland, $1500 per month
All bills paid.
Available Dec. 1st
432-685-9914

Apartments for Rent Unfurnished

★ GARDEN ★ COURT APARTMENTS
"A jewel, tucked away in Old Midland"
Spacious 1 & 2 Bdrms w/ patios
★ Ceramic Tile
★ W/D Connections
★ In Select Units
2301 N. Pecos
★
432-614-1710

NEW MANAGEMENT Spacious 1, 2, and 3 Bedroom Apartments. Call 432-687-4514.

Townhouse/ Condo for Rent Unfurnished

2 Bedrooms
1 bath, new W/D
$1000 month, $400 deposit. No smoking, no pets
3106 W. Kansas.
Call 432-522-2659

TOWNHOME 2/2 at 1102 Humble St. Quiet neighborhood, Pool and clubhouse, no pets, $1500/mth + $1200 deposit. References req. 770-2341.

Houses for Rent Furnished

CORPORATE
♠ LEASE ♠
MAKE A NEST IN GREENTREE!
Country Club Home Ready for you!
Fully furnished & Beautiful Decor
$3,800 per month.
No pets.
432-685-9914.

CORPORATE TOWNHOME, 1500SF, newly remodeled, all new everything, 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 2 car garage, fully furnished including amenities. All bills paid including cable and wi-fi. Non-smoking. $3,200 a month, $3,000 deposit. Call 432-425-5940 or 432-556-8607. Broker's welcome.

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

1 BEDROOM house, small fenced yard, near West Kentucky Baptist Church. $600 month, bills paid, $300 deposit. Call 684-7535.

3 BEDROOM, 1 bath, $1300/mo. Trailer with 2 bedrooms, 2 bath, $850/mo. Deposit required on both. 3002 West County Rd. 130, Midland, TX 79706. 432-634-4762, if no answer, please leave a message.

Residential Rentals

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

3 BEDROOMS, 1 bath with den, and 1 car garage. Near Lamar Elementary. $1300 month & $700 deposit. Call 684-7535.

NEWER 3 bedroom, 2 baths, 1 car garage brick home. 1500 S. Baird. $1200 monthly plus deposit. No pets. Aztec Realty, 432-520-7653.

Rooms for Rent

ROOM FOR rent, single BR, single BA, shared amenities. $500/mo call Victoria at 432-788-1480

Residential Sales

Condos/ Townhouses

FOR SALE by owner, 2bd 2ba, 1240 sq ft, move in ready. 2100 Wadley. $110,000. Call 432-694-0803.

Homes for Sale

3BD, 2BA, 1400sq.ft. and complete hook up for mobile home with 24'X38', covered carport, & 8'X40' storage work shop, $130,000. May finance with 20% down. Greenwood schools, 528-1809

4983 RUSTIC Trail, Greentree, 3/2.5/3, 3180sqft, $324,900 Call 432-694-8662

4 BEDROOM 2 bath $118,000. 5207 Thomason. Open house every Saturday and Sunday 2pm-4pm. Call 432-683-2243.

504 PARKWOOD 3br/2ba 2 car garage. Totally updated, abundant storage. Large covered patio. Quite neighborhood. $135,500. 432-349-5374

5305 SAN Antonio, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. New roof, new fence, new AC and furnace, new water heater, new garage door. Very well maintained. Spotless and move-in ready. $149,900. Call 432-349-3190.

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BRIARWOOD SUB., 4/3/3,/ appx. 2,894sf per MCAD, excellent condition, $359,900. 4812 Woodhollow Dr. Call 432-770-1471.

HOUSE FOR sale completely remodeled, cute, 3/1, Eastside, 817-938-5834.

Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

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BY OWNER 3606 Meadowridge LN. in prestigious Trinity with pool. 4 bed, 4 bath, 2 living, 2 fireplaces, 3 car garage, pool w/slide and new landscaping, hardwood floors, updates and over 3500 sq ft on a quiet street. MUST SEE! $389,900. Call for appointment 432-978-9340.

BY OWNER - 4904 Timber Ct. Midland, 2490sqft, 4bd, 2.5bth, 3 living, 2 car. New: A/C, water heater, roof, flooring, & granite. Cul-de-sac, lots of tile, big kitchen, sprinkler, lrg patio, His/Her mstr vanities & closets. Santa Rita, Abell, Lee. $240,000, Call April 432-697-2580.

BY OWNER Wallace Patio Townhouse 1110 W. Tennessee 3BD, 2BTH, 2 car, 2180 sq ft, 1 owner, new roof, light fixtures, area rugs, stone fireplace. For appointment call 432-697-4010

FOR SALE BY OWNER, Wallace Patio Townhouse: Brick floors in living, dining, eat-in kitchen, laundry, hallway & patio. 2011 Updates: double pane insulated windows, A/C with gas heating, faux wood floors in bed rms, new paint, 50 gal. hot water heater. 683-1989 / 553-1207

Gorgeous Spacious Home in Vista Del Norte between Midland & Odessa, 16 La Promesa Circle, Price $595,000 with 5 Bedrooms Plus Study, 4 Baths, 2 Living, 2 Dining, 3 Car Garage. Trade-in Considered. Contact Realty Unlimited Phone 432.362.3666 or 432.552.7777.

HOUSE FOR sale by owner, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Master bedroom has his & her closets & vanities, 24x32 shop, granite counter tops in kitchen & bath. 3600 Willingham. $189,000. Call 432-557-8910.

Homes for Sale

GREEN TREE: 4806 Teakwood Trace, On golf course, 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 bath, 2 studies, large patio, tile flooring, 3 car garage. 432-352-8367.

Homes for Sale

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Get Framed See how this ad caught your eye with its effective use of a border as a frame? Ask your Rep. about framing your ad today! 432-682-6222 or fax to 432-682-6999

The Bottom Line

76 percent of adults have read a daily newspaper in the past five days.

Source: Scarborough Research, 2005

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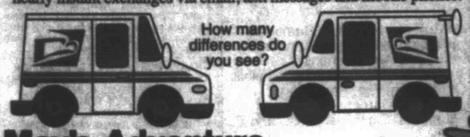
MAIL

Homing pigeons, dogsleds, balloons and mules have all been used to carry messages. The need to communicate brought about advances in transportation and communication systems. The delivery system for mail has moved from animal carriers to railways and air, from mail trucks to today's nearly instant exchanges via email, text messages and mobile phones.



How many differences do you see?

May's Adventure

In 1914, a four-year-old girl called May Pierstoff was mailed from her hometown of Grangeville, Idaho to her grandparents in Lewiston. At 48 1/2 pounds—just shy of the 50-pound parcel post limit—she was "mailed" for 53 cents in stamps attached to her coat. She traveled in the train's mail compartment and was delivered right to her grandparents' house by the mail clerk on duty.

DO THE MATH: How much would the postage have been if May were sent by the Pony Express? $ _____

The Pony Express

In 1860, Pony Express horseback _____ carried messages in relays across a 2,000-mile trail from Missouri to California. Postage cost $5 per half ounce. Riders changed horses at 160 _____, at roughly 10 to 15 mile intervals along the rugged and often dangerous mountain and prairie _____. This was thought to be the longest distance a horse could gallop without tiring.

At each station, the rider changed to a fresh horse taking only his special mail _____ called a *mochila*. He blew a horn when approaching a station in order to alert the stationmaster to prepare a _____ horse. Each rider rode about 75 miles per day. But by late 1861, when telegraph lines _____ the east and west coasts, the Pony Express ended.

Dang it! My horse galloped off without me, knocking some of the words out of this story. Can you replace them?

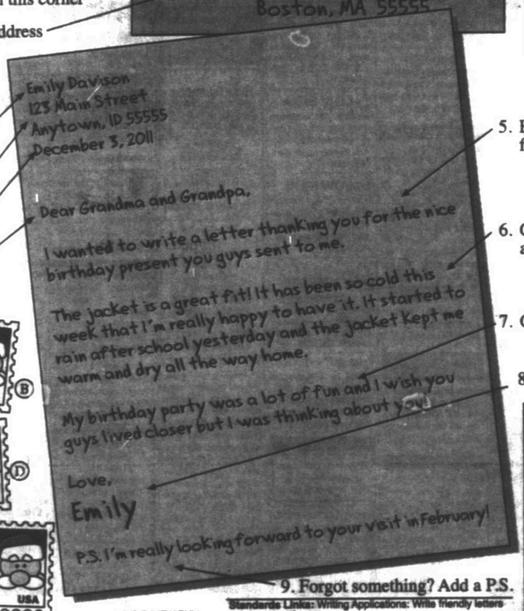
STATIONS
SADDLEBAG
ROUTE
CONNECTED
RIDERS
FRESH

Letter Writing Basics

Follow the steps below to address an envelope and write a letter the correct way.

1. Your name and address goes here on the envelope
2. Postage stamp in this corner
3. Full name and address

1. Your full name
2. You own address
3. Today's date
4. Greeting
5. Explain your reason for writing
6. Give details clearly and briefly
7. Conclude your letter
8. Sign off
9. Forgot something? Add a P.S.



Find the two identical stamps.

ANSWER: B & C

Standards Links: Writing Applications: Writes friendly letters using correct format.

Extra! Extra! Riders Rule

Find six words in the newspaper that you might use to describe a Pony Express rider.

Standards Links: Grammar: Recognize adjectives in written compositions.

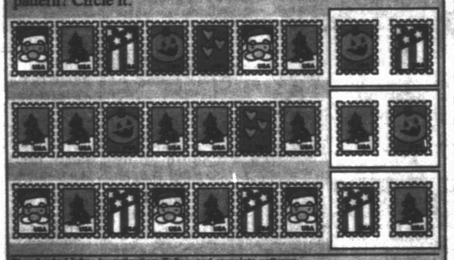
What does P.S. mean?

P.S. stands for *post scriptum*. Unscramble the letters below to find out what this Latin phrase means.

RATEF
GRINWIT

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Which stamp should come next in each row to continue the pattern? Circle it.



Standards Links: Investigation: Follow and complete patterns.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

SADDLEBAG
MESSAGES
DELIVERY
RAILWAYS
MOCHILA
GALLOP
RIDERS
RELAYS
CLERK
OUNCE
EMAIL
HORN
TEXT
SIGN

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

Standards Links: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

The Online Scoop

Santa has a website which you can use to write to him and receive a reply. Go to: www.kidscoop.com/kids

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY www.kidscoop.com

Dear Sir/Madam

Find the Letters to the Editor section in the newspaper. Select one letter and write a response to its author, imagining that you are the newspaper editor.

Standards Links: Writing Applications: Use general skills and strategies of the writing process.

JOKE

What two words have thousands of letters in them?

ANSWER: Post office

Weekly Writing Corner

Do we still need post offices in this day of email and texting? Why or why not?

Well, I can't wait to see your grandma send you a Christmas present through a text or email! I don't know about you but I would have a hard time with that. Email and text are great to send a quick message to a friend or telling your co-workers that you're going to be 10 minutes late. Letters, on the other hand are great for formal invitations, Christmas cards, and issues of magazines. Technology is great but it can only do so much. Post offices should be kept up and running.
Mark Hendrix, 6th grade, Hillander

Yes, we still need post offices because when we want a package from Amazon or e-Bay we need the post office to mail it. When we are sending a package to another state, we need the post office to mail it.
Baovan Ngo, 6th grade, Hillander

I think there is no use for post offices except for packages with objects in them. Otherwise, I think that letters are just a waste of time, money and paper. Plus, in emails and texts you can send videos. Those are the reasons I think post offices are of no use.
Neil Patel, 6th grade, Hillander

We do not need post offices. Well, at least in my opinion. I think sending letters is very unnecessary for the following reason. The paper we use to write a letter means fewer trees, which translates to less clean air. When we have another option it is almost despicable to use paper. Now, I'll be the first to say that one of the best feelings is to receive a letter, but I am still putting my foot down that hand written letters are unnecessary.
Abby Brown, 6th grade, Hillander

Yes, without post offices there would be no way to receive packages. What about Pen Pals, or your cousin in Antarctica? We would lose so much more than we think if we close the post offices.
Noah Tinker, 6th grade, Hillander

Yes, we do need post offices because some people don't have the equipment required to text or email. Also, think about our soldiers. They wouldn't be able to receive care packages sent from family members and friends. You can't send gifts with text or email.
Hannah Douglas, 6th grade, Hillander

I think that we don't need post offices anymore, everyone just texts and emails. It is so much faster and you don't have to drive to the post office and wait in line for hours and hours.
Carter Petty, 6th grade, Hillander

I do think that we still need post offices because what about the people who don't have cell phones or email accounts. Also, how would you receive Christmas cards and thank you notes? When you write or receive a letter, don't you feel more special that you would feel to receive a text or email?
Caroline Harper, 6th grade, Hillander

Write On!

Hope for the Future

Write a poem that describes what you would like to happen in your future.

Deadline: January 8, 2012
Published: Week of Feb. 5, 2012
Send your story to:

Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
ebowington@mrt.com
Please include your school and grade.

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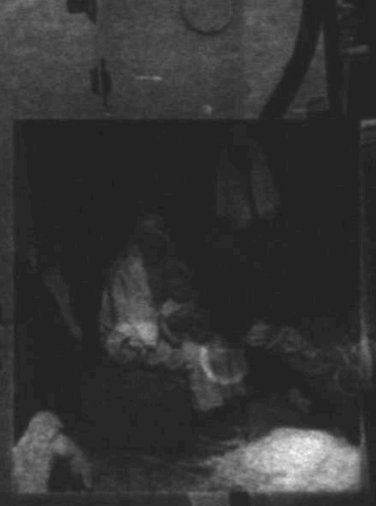
Reporter-Telegram
December 15, 2011

Pulse

mywesttexas
entertainment & dining guide



One Night in Bethlehem
page 8

Brandi Hanson
Friday at Graham's

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- Everyone to be healthy
- Families and individuals take care of themselves

United Way
United Way of Midland

Text iHelp to 85944 to donate $10 or give online: www.umidland.org

find out what's going on...

Live and in concert 4-5

Beau Edmondson plays Graham's in Odessa and the Lone Star Brass performs its Christmas concert at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center.

Christmas offerings 8-9

Walk through Bethlehem in biblical times at First United Methodist Church and share in the Miracle on Tyler Street.

Book signing 11

Hollywood plans big binge for Christmas.

Also

This week 3
On screen/DVDiva 6-7
What's Coming 10
Dining Guide 12-15

Welcome to Pulse, a guide to things to do and places to go in our area. To have your event listed here, email gtemple@mrt.com or sdoreen@mrt.com. To be listed in Live Wire, email nedamson@mrt.com. Please do so as soon as your organization, club or venue has a firm date.

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Give something meaningful this year and help us continue to preserve history

thisweek

Today

LONE STAR BRASS
When: 11:45 a.m.
Where: Atrium at ClayDesta
Info: Free. The LSB is a performing ensemble of the Midland-Odessa Symphony & Chorale, Inc.

"THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER" AS TOLD BY MARY LOU CASSIDY
When: 11:30 a.m.
Where: The Petroleum Museum, 1500 Interstate 20 West, Exit 136
Cost: Free.
Info: Bring your lunch. Museum provides free drinks and cookies. Sponsored by The Hahl Proctor Charitable Trust.

COMIC ILLUSTRATION CLASS
When: Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Midland County Public Library, 301 Missouri Ave.
Info: Designed for anyone who has picked up a pencil and wanted to learn to draw comics. Ages 14 and up.

FAMILY PROMISE OF MIDLAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Memorial Christian Church, 1001 Andrews Highway
Info: Guest artists the Voces Dei vocal group and pianist Terry Rothermich.

HERITAGE HOLIDAY STARBRIGHT VILLAGE
When: 6 to 11 p.m. to Dec. 24. Visits with Santa scheduled at 7 to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights
Where: McKinney Park, 625 W. Pool Road, Odessa
Call: 432-335-4682 or 368-3548.

Friday

"THE SOUND OF MUSIC"
When: Friday through Sunday
Where: Davis Theatre I, Cole Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave.
Tickets: $18 adults; $12 child 18 or younger; $15 senior 65 or older; and $10 active military with ID. All ticket requests must be applied to a membership or paid for. Tickets not purchased online may be exchanged or refunded up to two days before the date on the tickets. All online sales are final.
Curtain: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinees. Ticket holders must be in their seats before curtain.

"THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SCROOGE"
When: Closes Sunday
Where: Permian Playhouse, 310 W. 42nd., Odessa
Tickets: $14 adults, $12 seniors and students and $7 for ages 12 and younger. Purchase at the box office, or by calling 550-5456 or on the website, www.permianplayhouse.com.

BEST BET FOR DANCE

"NUTCRACKER" BALLET SATURDAY @ BIG SPRING MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM, BIG SPRING

The Russian ballet, "The Nutcracker," has become a holiday tradition in this country. If you are among those wanting to see this ballet performed with live music, call 432-264-7229 in Big Spring to see if tickets are still available to Midland Festival Ballet's performance Saturday in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. For that performance the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra will be playing Tchaikovsky's magnificant music. Tickets are $15 adults, $10 seniors and $5 students. Seating is open. The Moscow Ballet will be using taped music during its performance Dec. 26 at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center.

COMEDY NIGHT AT THE VELVET ROOM
When: Every Friday night
Where: Midtown Hotel, 3100 W. Wall St.
Tickets: $10
Info: This Friday comedian Haley Jane from San Antonio

Saturday

AUTHOR SIGNING: "HARSH COUNTRY, HARD TIMES: CLAYTON WHEAT WILLIAMS AND THE TRANSFOMATION OF THE TRANS-PECOS"
When: 2 p.m.
Where: Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 2617 West Loop 250 N
Info: Author Janet Williams Pollard collected, organized and visited France, Texas and New Mexico to gather all the information in this historical adventure.

"GENEALOGY OFF THE SHELVES" CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
When: 10 a.m. Saturday
Where: Midland County Public Library, 301 W. Missouri Ave.
Admission: free
Info: Events include First Baptist Church Handbell Choir followed by gift exchange of Internet Secrets & Favorite Websites. Also, there will be a Grandma's Favorite Recipe Swap. Bring Samples to share w/recipe. Finger food potluck. Old Fashioned holiday fun. Sponsored by Redfern Genealogical Research Center and the Midland Genealogical Society (MGS). Music, games and a pecial video. For more information, to have recipe printed, or website included, please call 688-4325/4326 or email marie_humphrey@co.midland.tx.us

TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER TOURNAMENTS: LONESTAR POKER TOUR
When: Saturday-Thursday
Where: The Hog Pit, Woofers and Tweeters and The Velvet Room
Admission: Free to join, free to play.
Info: Seven games a week with cash prizes. Players accumulate points throughout the year to qualify for quarterly tournaments and onto a year end tournament that offers a grand prize of $10,000 to play in the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas. Day and evening games, smoking and non-smoking games. Every skill level. Go to www.lonestarpokertour.net for more information or call 349-8147.

Sunday

LONE STAR BRASS
When: 2 p.m.
Where: Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center
Tickets: Call the Midland-Odessa Symphony office, 563-0921.

Monday

CHESS CLUB
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Barnes and Noble Booksellers.

MIDLAND COMMUNITY SYMPHONIC BAND
When: 7-9 p.m.
Where: Midland College Fine Arts Building Band Hall
Info: Weekly meeting. New members welcome. Call Chuck: 694-7153.

Tuesday

PERMIAN BASIN DANCE CLUB
When: 7:30-10 p.m.
Where: St. Stephen's Catholic Church
Cost: $5 members, $6 non-members.
Call: 520-4343 or 218-8215.

CLASSIC MOVIE CLUB
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Cigar Frog's
Film: "Love in the Afternoon"

PAINT TIME
When: 9 a.m.-noon Tuesdays
Where: Midland Palette Club, 907 West Wadley Ave.
Info: Call 432-352-8297.

Kids Zone

BARNES AND NOBLE BOOKSELLERS
Where: 2617 West Loop 250 N.
Call: 682-8880
Saturday: 10:30 a.m. "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"
Tuesday: 4 p.m. "Super Hero Tuesday."
Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. Storytime for Preschool

Road Trip

San Angelo

ANGELO CIVIC THEATRE: "YES VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS" BY ANDREW J. FENADY.
When: 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
Tickets: $17 adults, $15 children, military and seniors and $12 members.
Call: 325-949-4400 from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

live and in concert

Campbell

Edmondson

BEAU EDMONDSON FRIDAY @ GRAHAM'S, ODESSA

Edmondson began writing his own songs at the age of 19, got his first guitar on his 21st birthday and formed a band by the time he was 22. His rapidly growing fan base, "The Southland Mob," takes its name from his debut CD, produced by Lloyd Maines. As Edmondson's popularity has grown so has his touring radius. Recent shows have found him stepping beyond the borders of the Lone Star state, with stops in Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Virginia and New Jersey.

GLEN CAMPBELL SUNDAY @ THE INN OF THE MOUNTAIN GODS, MESCALARO, N.M.

Campbell topped the country and pop music charts in the 1960s and 1970s singing songs about life, love, work and heartache and has released more than 70 albums during his 50 years in the business. Campbell was one of the leading figures in country-pop during that era, racking up a steady stream of Top Ten singles, highlighted by classics like "By the Time I Get to Phoenix," "I Wanna Live," "Wichita Lineman," "Galveston," "Rhinestone Cowboy" and "Southern Nights."

In 1994, he published his autobiography, "Rhinestone Cowboy."In 2008 he released "Meet Glen Campbell, " produced by Julian Raymond and Howard Willing on Capital Records. In June of 2011, Campbell, now 75 years old, announced he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. In spite of the ailment, he finished an album, "Ghost on the Canvas," which was released in August and began his farewell tour.

Show time is 8 p.m. Tickets start at just $25 and are available at www.InnOfTheMountainGods.com.

LIVE WIRE

Midland/Odessa

Thursday, Dec. 15

Cory Morrow @ Rockin' Rodeo

Friday, Dec. 16

Black Eye Shiner @ Detour

Bleu Edmondson @ Graham's

Cory Yeager Band @ Torino's

DJ Rob @ Sedona Grill

Jennifer B. and The Groove Kings @ Cigar Frog's

Richard Jaquez, Alan Childs @ Music City Mall

3 Lit Pigz @ Riley's

Friday, Dec. 16, and Saturday, Dec. 17

Blue Midnight @ Your Place

Electric Gypsies @ The Bar

Glovebox @ Hot Shots

Saturday, Dec. 17

Cascabel @ Sedona Grill

Cory Yeager @ Cigar Frog's

Daybreaker, Victorian Halls, Venetia Fair @ Pine Box

Kevin Seale Band @ Hog Pit

Rey Reyna & Aftershock @ Gritos

Samuel Zachary, Ty Miller, Tucker Binkley, Lois Stone @ Music City Mall

3 Lit Pigz @ Hawks Nest

Sunday, Dec. 18

Goodtimers, Ernesto Calderon, Cozetta Baker, Ann Russell @ Music City Mall

Monday, Dec. 19

The Greenery @ Pine Box

Tuesday, Dec. 20

DJ Albert @ Sedona Grill

Wednesday, Dec. 21

Cory Yeager @ Zucchi's

DJ Danny G @ Sedona Grill

Media Blitz @ Pine Box

New Mexico

Sunday, Dec. 18

Glen Campbell @ Inn of the Mountain Gods

Dallas/Fort Worth

Saturday, Dec. 17

Bob Seger & the Silver Bullet Band @ American Airline Center

ALL THE DETAILS

LONE STAR BRASS
When: 11:45 a.m. today
Where: Atrium at ClayDesta
Info: Free. The LSB is a performing ensemble of the Midland-Odessa Symphony & Chorale, Inc.

And:

When: 2 p.m. Sunday
Where: Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center
Tickets: Call the Midland-Odessa Symphony office, 563-0921.

Lone Star Brass performs Christmas concert

Join the Lone Star Brass Quintet as the players celebrate the holiday season with some traditional holiday favorites and fun arrangements today at ClayDesta and Sunday at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center.

Formed in 1981, the LSB has toured the United States and Mexico and issued several recordings. Michael Santorelli, co-principal trumpet of the Midland-Odessa Symphony, has been a member of the quintet since its formation. Current members, all of whom are members of the MOS orchestra, are Eric Baker, trumpet; Scott Millichamp, horn; Joseph W. Frye, trombone; and Kevin Young, tuba.

Members are:

SANTORELLI

After studying at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Santorelli graduated from Murray State University with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education. He completed his master's degree at the University of Louisville and has performed as Principal Trumpet with the Chamber Orchestra of the Northwest, Autonoma University Orchestra and Guadalajara Symphony Orchestra. In addition to playing co-principal trumpet with the MOSC, he is the director of bands at Trinity School and serves as a member of the adjunct faculty at Midland College.

BAKER

After growing up in Fort Worth, Baker received his Bachelor of Music in Music Education from UT at Arlington, where he was also a three-year member of the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps. He earned his master's degree in trumpet performance from Arizona State University. Baker began his tenure as co-principal trumpet with the MOSC in 2006 and is also a member of the Moonlight Serenade Big Band. He was invited in 2007 to be a featured soloist at the Western International Band Clinic in Seattle.

MILLICHAMP

A Detroit native, Millichamp was previously fourth horn of the Arkansas Symphony, and has also performed with the Honolulu Symphony, the Missouri Symphony, and the Lyrique en Mer opera festival on France's Belle Ile en Mer. He studied horn at Interlochen Arts Academy and Indiana University, and was subsequently a graduate assistant in composition at the University of Hawai'i.

FRYE

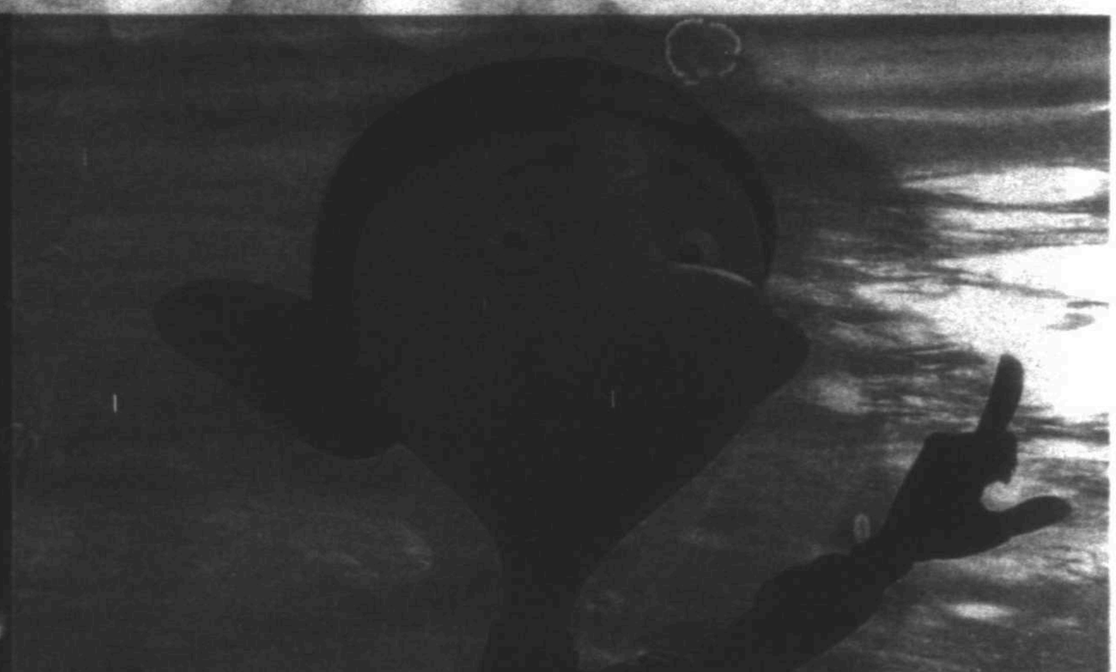
A native of White House, Tenn., Frye received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Tennessee and a Master of Music in Trombone Performance from Florida State University. In April 2008, he graduated with a D.M.A. with an emphasis in Trombone Performance from Florida State University. In addition to his duties with the MOSC, Frye plays trombone and euphonium with the 572nd Air National Guard Band of the Smoky Mountains, where he holds the rank of Staff Sergeant and is the current trombone soloist. He has performed with the Tallahassee, Albany, Knoxville and Oak Ridge symphony orchestras.

YOUNG

Originally from Baton Rouge, La., Young was playing both trombone and tuba by age 11. After starting college at LSU, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving his country in the 1st Calvary Division Band in Texas, 8th Army Band in Korea, 389th Army Band in Maryland and The United States Continental Army Band. Young completed both his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees at LSU. He played principal tuba with the Rapides Symphony Orchestra and has performed with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Dominion Brass Band, and Salt River Brass.

onscreen

"New Year's Eve"



"Arthur Christmas"

"NEW YEAR'S EVE" — This is the second in a remarkably shallow series of holiday-themed, celebrity-stuffed confections, following "Valentine's Day." Garry Marshall again directs a script by Katherine Fugate that weaves together a dozen or so plotlines that crisscross a holiday prone to sentimentalizing. If there is some kind of world record for schmaltz, this may have set it. Included here are first kisses, midnight rendezvous, dying fathers, newborn babies, husbands at war and trapped strangers. It's narcotic mawkishness, with notes played on heartstrings like a 12-string guitar. Though it's pure, rosy fantasy on screen, this is cynical, paint-by-the-numbers entertainment, sold with a gaggle of stars spread across its movie poster like a telethon lineup. Among them: Hilary Swank as a producer of the Times Square ball drop, Jon Bon Jovi as a rock star, Katherine Heigl as a catering chef, Abigail Breslin as Sarah Jessica Parker's rebelling teenage daughter, Zac Efron as an ultra-confident courier, Jessica Biel as Seth Meyers' pregnant wife and Halle Berry as the nurse of a dying Robert De Niro. Maybe the really good stuff will come once they get to "Columbus Day," or maybe, just maybe, "Ash Wednesday." PG-13 for language, including some sexual references. 117 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

— Jake Coyle, AP Entertainment Writer

"THE SITTER" — Jonah Hill, world's worst babysitter. Must have sounded like such movie magic that director David Gordon Green and his team grabbed the first three brats they found on the street, shoved them in a minivan with Hill and started filming. As broad, dumb comedy goes, it's not a bad idea to cast Hill as a chubby slacker roped into a hellish night tending to a high-maintenance brood. Yet other than Hill's admirable work ethic trying to squeeze laughs out of this dismally underdeveloped scenario, the movie has nothing going for it, slogging from one rotten gag to the next. The movie's also a serious racial offender, parading a gang of black actors around as hoods stealing cars, talking jive or looking for a fight. Hill plays an idler minding three annoying siblings (Max Records, Landry Bender and Kevin Hernandez), who tag along with him on a mirthless trek through Manhattan in search of the cocaine he needs to keep his sort-of girlfriend (Ari Graynor) happy. To his credit, Hill tries to make this mess work, without success. Co-starring Sam Rockwell in a wretched role as a psychotic drug dealer. R for crude and sexual humor, pervasive language, drug material and some violence. 81 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

— David Germain, AP Movie Writer

"ARTHUR CHRISTMAS" — This pleasant holiday treat from Aardman, the British animation outfit behind "Chicken Run" and the "Wallace and Gromit" cartoons, has the old-fashioned spirit of Christmas at heart, spinning a snowflake-light tale with warmth, energy and goofy humor. The movie unveils the vast high-tech enterprise run by Santa to deliver all those presents as his big-hearted but bumbling younger son, Arthur (voiced by James McAvoy), races to deliver a single gift that fell through the cracks. The delightful, drolly funny voice cast includes Jim Broadbent, Bill Nighy, Hugh Laurie, Imelda Staunton and Ashley Jensen. Director Sarah Smith offers a fresh look at the Santa legend with a flawed Claus whose family is as dysfunctional as everyone else's. There are lulls and comic misfires that feel like stocking stuffers thrown in to pad the simple story to feature length, and the manic banter comes a bit too fast for viewers to digest it all. Still, the visual gags will carry youngsters along, while there are plenty of clever wisecracks to keep their parents occupied. PG for some mild rude humor. 97 minutes. Three stars out of four.

— David Germain, AP Movie Writer

Other recent releases distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

"HAPPY FEET TWO" — "Happy Feet's" tap-dancing penguin hero, Mumble, has fathering problems of his own when it turns out his son Erik can't dance or sing. But when melting Antarctic ice threatens the safety of their colony, father and son — along with an obstreperous elephant seal and a self-help-spouting seabird named Sven — cross the continent to save their species, learning a few new steps along the way. 1 hr. 57 PG (rude humor and mild peril). 3 1/2 stars

"HUGO" — Martin Scorsese adapts "The Invention of Hugo Cabret," the Caldecott-winning graphic novel for kids, diving headlong into a magical world of old silent cinema and a bustling 1930s Paris train station, where the title character lives — and looks for clues to the mysterious machine his father left in his care. Movie buffs will delight in the homage to early cinema; kids may get a little restless, but it is a spectacle to behold. 2 hrs. 07 PG (violence, menace, adult themes) 3 stars

"J. EDGAR" — Clint Eastwood directs Leonardo DiCaprio in this surprising but arduous biopic of the iconic D.C. lawman. It's a love story, really, as Hoover and his second-in-command, Clyde Tolson (Armie Hammer), carry on an unspoken romance down through the turbulent decades. Lots of aging makeup, not enough depth. 2 hrs. 17 R (violence, profanity, adult themes) 2 1/2 stars.

"THE MUPPETS" — Jason Segel stars with Amy Adams and a little felt guy named Walter in this rollicking reboot of the late Jim Henson's furball franchise. Goofy song-and-dance numbers, slapstick silliness, winking we-know-this-is-a-movie cut-up asides — and all of it with heart. And with Kermit, Miss Piggy, Fozzie, Gonzo and Animal, too. 1 hr. 38 PG (mildly rude humor, adult themes) 3 stars.

"THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN — PART I" — Swoony to the point of delirium, the one where the Virgin (Kristen Stewart) marries the Vampire (Robert Pattinson) implicitly links sex and death with undying love. Well directed by Bill Condon. 1 hr. 57 PG-13 (sexual suggestion, vampire and werewolf violence, surgical candor) 3 stars

"TOWER HEIST" — Ben Stiller and Eddie Murphy lead a motley team of vengeful sadsacks, plotting to rob the Madoff-like fiend who made off with their retirement savings. Comedic breaking and entering ensues. There are a few funny bits, but the Brett Ratner-directed vehicle doesn't build suspense so much as it builds impatience — for the thing to be over. PG-13 (profanity, cartoon violence, adult themes). 2 1/2 stars

DVDIVA'S
pick of the week

presented by Hastings

Ensemble classic 'The Help' proves it's worthy of Oscar buzz

By Nancy Adamson
DVDiva Columnist

Pick of the week —

THE HELP (PG-13) Although there are still quite a few blockbusters yet to be released that will catch Oscar's eye, this remarkable film still should be among the front-runners for several awards, including best picture, adapted screenplay and at least two supporting actress nods for Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer (though it is Jessica Chastain who already has won a couple of awards). But the entire cast is to be commended — which they have been by at least three award panels. Don't be fooled into thinking this is just a chick flick, either. It is a glorious film about an important subject that should be seen by all. A

ARCHIE'S FINAL PROJECT (unrated) Coming of age dark comedy about a high school geek who announces he's going to kill himself on camera as part of a class project. Filled with pop culture references and the kind of cutaway clip format that the old HBO series "Dream On" made famous but with a frenetic pace that grows very annoying very quickly. Something is lacking in this movie and I disagree profoundly with the critics who hailed it. This subject matter may never be handled more brilliantly than in 1971's "Harold and Maude." D

CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS (G) Documentary filmmaker Werner Herzog ("Grizzly Man") and a skeleton crew were given unprecedented access to the Chauvet caverns in France, which house the oldest cave paintings ever discovered. My scant 32 inch TV screen was suffocating the images that Herzog filmed for the first — and maybe last — time, so some quality was lost. The lack of opportunity to see this in its intended 3D format also inhibits viewing, but allow your imagination to take over and you're in for a real treat. The artwork speaks for itself. That humans were spending their spare time on art projects while trying to survive in a world they had to share with bears and other predators is testament to how important indulging the creative process can be. And how wonderful it can be 20,000 years later. B+

COWBOYS AND ALIENS (PG-13) Stupid but fun sci-fi action flick won't win any awards — even the special effects are lackluster — but it will put a smile on your face for sheer inventiveness. Also gets bonus points for casting Harrison Ford as the bad guy, for a change. B-

THE DEBT (R) Helen Mirren and Sam Worthington headline this spy thriller about a trio of Mossad agents in 1965 trying to determine if an East Berlin doctor is a notorious Nazi war criminal. As the film jumps between the 1965 setting and the present, where two of the agents mourn the loss of the third, a handful of shocking surprises and strong performances highlight this smart film. B+

MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS (PG) Jim Carrey plays a career-obsessed man who inherits a small flock of penguins. Absolutely creamed at the box office when it opened against "Green Lantern" the same weekend, this cute family film deserves a second chance. It is Carrey's most fun and accessible film since "Bruce Almighty" (although I highly recommend "I Love You, Phillip Morris" for adult fans.) The CGI penguins are way over the top but the real ones are adorable and it's easy to spot the difference. B

Nancy Adamson can be reached at nadamson@mrt.com.

DVDs are provided courtesy of Hastings, located at 3111 W. Cuthbert Ave.

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ALL THE DETAILS

ONE NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

When: 5-7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Where: First United Methodist Church, 300 N. Main St.

Info: Tours begin every 10 minutes, last approximately 30 minutes. Reservations recommended — www.firstmethodistmidland.com through 3 p.m. Friday. Call the church office at 682-3701 for more information.

Admission: Free.

FUMC invites people to spend 'One Night in Bethlehem'

Sample treats from a first-century bakery, visit market place shops, run into a frantic census taker, meet shepherds eager to share the story of the birth of Jesus and speak with Mary and Joseph when First United Methodist Church presents "One Night in Bethlehem."

"We turn our fellowship hall into the town of Bethlehem," said Deborah Wilson, who has been involved with this special event since its inception four years ago. "When they register at the census, the children all get a gold Roman coin, and they can purchase things at the market. They really shop diligently."

The children are "really excited," said Wilson, who plays the role of the innkeeper's wife. "One of their favorite things is the marketplace."

This year marks the first time the church has held the event on two nights.

"Last year in three hours we had 450-plus people go through," Wilson said. "That's why we expanded it to two nights and we offer preregistration. Some people had to wait as long as 45 minutes because we had so many people come through."

Tours begin every 10 minutes and last approximately 30 minutes.

"First they do the market place, and then they go into another part of the building where we have the village set up," Wilson said. "The inn keeper's wife actually takes the groups to see Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus in the manger. Then they can go to the chapel and receive a family blessing from one of our pastors."

When a group tarries a little too long, Wilson said, "We do have a Roman gladiator who tells them the city is getting too crowded, and they have to move along. The tours all have tour guides who explain to them what they are seeing."

The adults seem to enjoy the experience as much as the children, Wilson said. "They really, really do. When they are crowding around to see Mary and Joseph and the baby, we have to ask the parents to step back so the children can see. It's interactive. They can ask questions. It truly is for all ages."

The final tour leaves the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are recommended and can be made online at www.firstmethodistmidland.com through 3 p.m. Friday. Interpreters will be provided during certain tour times by the South West Collegiate Institute for the Deaf. For more information, call the church office at 682.3701.

The idea for "One Night in Bethlehem" came from a vacation Bible school theme that was called "Five Days in Bethlehem," Wilson said. "We took the main idea and decided to make it one night."

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MIRACLE on Tyler Street

Greater Ideal presents fourth annual event

By Sara Higgins
Staff writer

The 23-foot tree is lit bright at night, beckoning families to visit the wintry village that surrounds it. The lights sparkle in children's eyes as they take in the structures that make up Greater Ideal Family Life Center's fourth annual Miracle on Tyler Street.

More than 200 volunteers and friends of Greater Ideal have worked for months to make the village a reality so all area families can receive a Christmas blessing.

"We hope and believe that those who live in this community can take pride that this is happening right here and that they may even come to take part each year," said Beki Moorehead, who handles public affairs for the church. "It's important to all of us to know we are part of something more than one person."

Miracle on Tyler Street will take place 6-9 p.m. Saturday at the Greater Ideal Family Life Center. The church has set a goal of giving out 500 bikes, more than 1,000 toys and gift cards and more than 300 food baskets. They'll continue to collect donations until the event. The church has budgeted $65,000 for the event, up from $50,000 last year and $35,000 from the year before, Moorehead said. Dinner and entertainment will be provided, and Santa will be available to hear Christmas wishes. This year brings a few new attractions to the park, and the church hopes to incoporate giving away scooters sometime in the future.

More than 3,000 people showed up to the event last year, and Moorehead said the church is expecting to exceed that number this season, with people coming from as far as New Mexico and Abilene to attend the event.

The Greater Ideal Family Life Center has been open for nine years to provide Midlanders, especially those living in the southeast area, programs to improve quality of life and educational opportunities.

The tree was lit Dec. 1 as a way of dedicating the event to God in prayer and action, and the village will be open every night from around 6:30 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 31.

Leftover gifts in the past have gone to children in area hospitals and at some apartment complexes housing low-income families.

Donations of cash, gifts or food can be donated to Greater Ideal Family Life Center by calling 683-0838.

CHURCH SERVICES, EVENTS THIS WEEK

LIVING NATIVITY
Final day: First Baptist Church annual living nativity scene 7-8 p.m. today at the corner of Cuthbert Avenue and N Street. Also, Sunday: 6 p.m. White Christmas food collection. Monday: delivery of food baskets.

CONCERT
Memorial Christian Church, 1001 Andrews Hwy, 694-5321
Today: 7 p.m. choral concert performance by Voces Dei in sancturary. This is a benefit program for Family Promise of Midland. Free.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY
Stonegate Fellowship Church, 6000 W. Wadley Ave., will host "It's Christmastime in the City," 6- 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Events will include hayrides through Grasslands Estates to see Christmas lights, music, movies, kettle corn, hot dogs and hot chocolate. For more information, call 694-5100.

MIRACLE ON TYLER STREET
Greater Ideal Baptist Church, 411 S. Tyler St., along with Stonegate Fellowship will host Miracle on Tyler Street 6-9 p.m. Saturday. Volunteers will hand out food baskets for 300 families as well as bicycles, gift cards and toys. Santa will be on hand to hear Christmas wishes. Lighted wonderland village, food and entertainment. Free and open to the public.

ONE NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM
First United Methodist Church, 300 N. Main St., is hosting "One Night in Bethlehem" 5-7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tours will leave every 15 minutes to lead visitors through the church's display of Bethlehem how it may have looked the night Jesus was born. Tickets are free. For more information or to make reservations, call 682-3701 or email donnafields@firstmethodistmidland.com.

NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM
First Christian Church, 1301 W. Louisiana Ave., is hosting "Night in Bethlehem" 6-8 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 682-2541. First Christian Church, 1301 W. Louisiana Ave., 682-2541.
Sunday: 11 a.m. Christmas musical in sanctuary; 6-8 p.m. "Night in Bethlehem" and "Market Square." Get a CD to listen to in your car as you drive around the church to hear the Nativity story. In the market square, kids can taste, feel and make things from Bible times. Open to the public.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Cornerstone Christian Fellowship, 901 N. Midland Drive, 689-8898.
Sunday: 10 a.m.-noon candlelight and Communion with a Christmas message.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
Midland Bible Church, 2800 N. "A" Street, 684-9722
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. children's Christmas program, "Caroling, Caroling, Caroling"

SPECIAL PROGRAM
Grace Presbyterian Church, 2801 N. Garfield St., 684-6542
Sunday: 6 p.m. "The Longest Night" — a service of wholeness and healing, helpful for anyone finding the Christmas season particularly difficult or for those who have suffered a loss in the last year. Spend time in prayer, reflection and preparation for the coming of the Christ child.

what'scoming

MOSCOW BALLET'S "NUTCRACKER"
When: Dec. 26
Where: Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, intersection of Highway 191 and FM 1788.
Tickets: Go to www.etix.com or call 800-514-3849. Performed to recorded music.

THE PLANETS: A MULTIMEDIA SHOW
When: 7 p.m. Jan. 7
Where: Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center
Info: Series add-on for the Midland-Odessa Symphony
Call: 563-0921

RAY PRICE WITH GENE WATSON
When: 7:30 p.m. Jan. 10
Where: Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center
Tickets: $25 - $65. May be purchased at the Wagner-Noel box office, www.wagnernoel.com or by calling 552-4430.

"STEEL MAGNOLIAS"
When: January
Where: Cole Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave.
Info: Presented by the Maverick Players.

Road Trip

Alto, N.M.

FLYING J WRANGLERS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
When: 7 p.m. Dec. 21:
Where: Spencer Theater
Tickets: $30. Tickets:
Call: 888-818-7872 or 575-336-4800.

Lubbock

BRAD PAISLEY WITH THE BAND PERRY
When: Feb. 16.
Where: United Spirit Arena
Tickets: On sale now at $ 62.50, $ 52.50 and $ 32.50 plus applicable service fees. Lubbock area Select-a-Seat outlets, www.selectaseatlubbock.com, by phone at 806-770-2000 or 1-800-735-1288.

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Midlander publishes book on West Texas pioneer father after decades of research

By Megan Lea Buck
Features Editor

Janet Williams Pollard, the daughter of the late Clayton Wheat Williams and sister of Midland oilman Clayton Williams,will be signing copies of her book, "Harsh Country, Hard Times: Clayton Wheat Williams and the Transformation of the Trans Pecos," at 2 p.m. Saturday at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2617 West Loop 250 North.

Published in September, the book is co-written by Louis Gwin. It examines the life and influence of Pollard's father in the context of West Texas history.

Clayton Wheat Williams was born in 1895 in Fort Stockton and died in 1983 in his hometown.

"He went from horses and buggies to moon landings in his life and many different wars," Pollard said, noting her father's interests spread from oil to cattle to water.

"He went to Texas A&M in 1911," she said. "It took him three days by train."

Pollard spent 23 years collecting family letters, documents and books and traveling around the world to research her father's life and the historical events he experienced.

"I quote letters from the 1800s in the book," she said. "People really get a sense of what it was like to pioneer and change the Trans Pecos."

In her efforts to retrace her father's footsteps, Pollard traveled three times to France to walk on the battlefields where he fought in World War I.

"I went to Halifax, Nova Scotia and that's where my dad sailed for WWI to France, and I'd read his letters but what he'd not mentioned was like two months after he'd sailed, Halifax had the largest man-made explosion in the world when one ship hit another ship in the harbor," she said.

Pollard also traveled with her two oldest sons to visit the site where Pancho Villa invaded Columbus, N.M., an event she speculates influenced her father's decision to join the U.S. war effort.

Though she follows her father's travels, Pollard said the book provides a glimpse of West Texas during the early oil boom years.

She recounts stories from her father's involvement in the 1928 drilling of the University 1-B, the deepest producing oil well in the world at the time.

"It took them years, and the rig burned down three times," Pollard said, noting the story taught her a lesson in dealing with uncertainty and trying again after failing the first time.

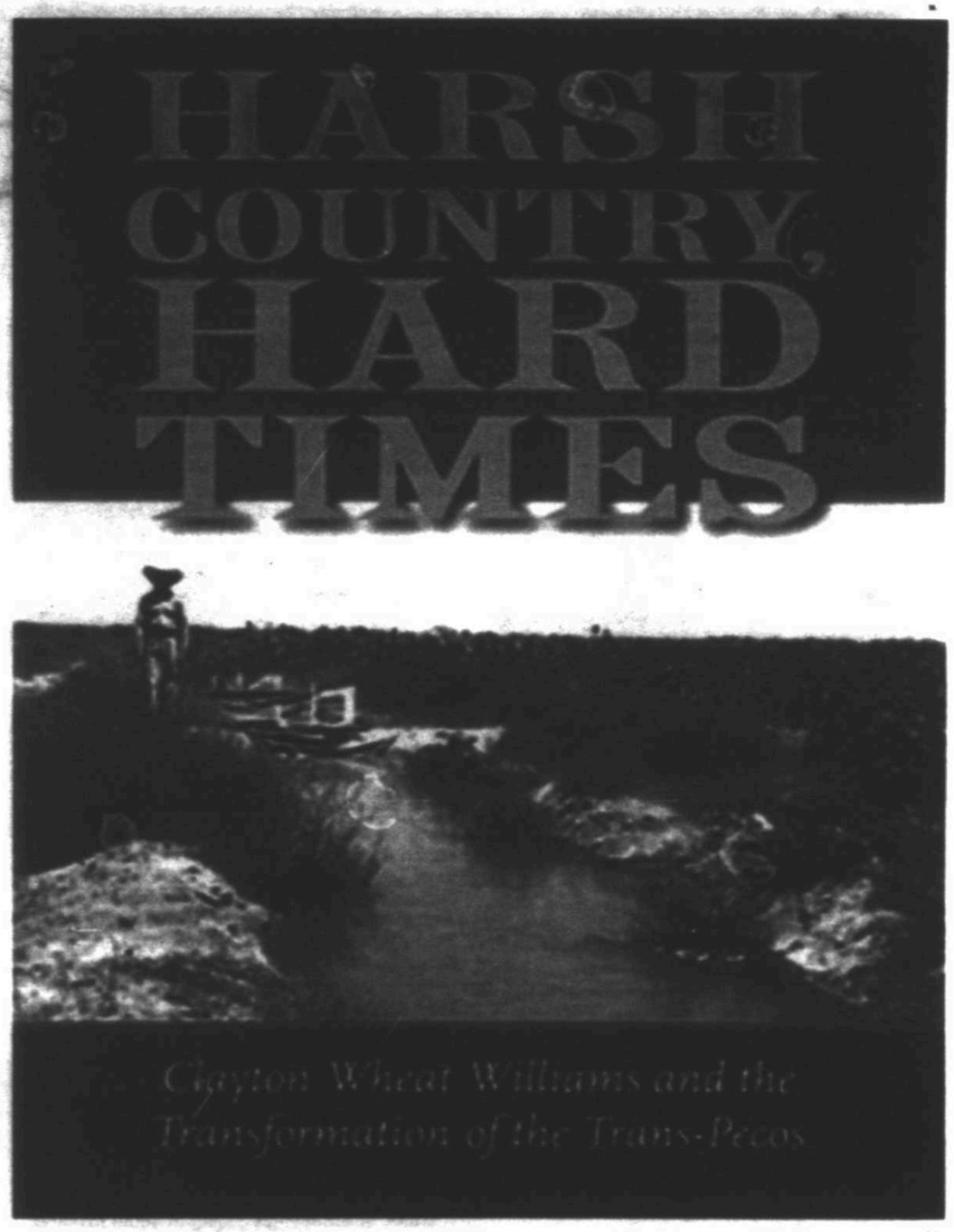
Pollard said eading her families' letters and stories and writing the book was transformative.

"It gave me a new perspective on history and how it enriches your life if you see what people have done before," she said.

ALL THE DETAILS

JANET WILLIAMS POLLARD SIGNING COPIES OF "HARSH COUNTRY, HARD TIMES: CLAYTON WHEAT WILLIAMS AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE TRANS PECOS"

When: 2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 17
Where: Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2617 West Loop 250 North
Info: Book reviews and information available on Amazon.com



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diningguide

Restaurant Guide: Pulse publishes a portion of the Restaurant Guide each week. Restaurants are listed in broad categories according to the type of food they serve. Additionally, they are classified as order at counter (OAC) then sit down, or sit down (SD) and be waited on. Several are listed as cafeteria or buffet style, a few are carry out.

American/Grill

Addie's Diner
304 E. Florida Ave.
686-2044

Bobbie socks not required, but you may want to bring some quarters with you to pop into the jukebox in the corner of Addie's Diner. Waitresses wearing poodle skirts will take your order. Records dangle from the ceiling, black and white countertops at the bar seating area, red tables, chairs and booths for more seating in addition to the painting and pictures on the walls give this place a true "diner" vibe. Breakfast menu, appetizers, sandwiches and delicious burgers and salads. Chicken fried steak or steak fingers, chicken fried chicken or chicken fingers, fried catfish, hamburger steak and grilled pork chop entrees come with a house salad and choice of two sides and a dinner roll. Entrée price range: breakfast daily until 10:30 a.m., 325-$7.99; Lunch $3.99-$9.99. Payment accepted: major credit cards, cash, no checks. Hours: Monday-Friday 5:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Kid's menu available.

Bush's Chicken (OAC)
2210 N. Big Spring St.
687-7090

Midlanders voted it No. 1 for best chicken in the Reporter-Telegram's Top 100. Three-lane drive through. Chicken meals and combos. All combos include fries, gravy, roll and a large drink. Snack packs and family size meals available. Kid's menu. Red cinnamon apple pie for dessert. Their ice tea is sold by the gallon if you want to take it home. Payment accepted: cash, credit cards.
Entrée price range: $2.89-$7.69 Family Packs available.
Hours: Daily 10 a.m.-10 p.m. drive through, lobby hours 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Café at The Gardens (SD)
3300 Fairgrounds Road
687-1478

Located in the back of Alldredge Gardens, this unique restaurant offers one of the most relaxed atmospheres around town. Sit in the garden center and enjoy the beautiful fish in the pond as you eat your lunch. Sandwiches, soups, quiche, burgers and wonderful desserts will have you staying longer than you planned. Kid's menu. Catering available as well as party area.
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Claudia's Kitchen
3601 W. Wall St.
(Inside the Bradford Inn and Suites)
Phone: 432-694-8821, ext.165

Friendly service and diner atmosphere. Try the Texas toothpicks and jalapeno bottle caps. Breakfast dishes including eggs, bacon, sausage, pan fried potatoes with toast or biscuits as well as heartier meals including pork chops, chicken fried steak with eggs and potatoes or a ribeye with eggs, potatoes, toast, biscuits or pancakes. Omelettes, French toast and breakfast burritos are also offered. Breakfast items can be ordered throughout the day. Large selection of burgers and sandwiches also are featured, as well as chicken fried steak, steak fingers, and ribeyes. Payment accepted: cash, credit cards. Entrée price range: $4.50-$9. Open Monday-Saturday for breakfast and lunch 6 a.m.-2 p.m. On the last Friday of the month, Claudia's Place is also open for dinner from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. and features Christian karaoke.

Graham Pharmacy (SD)
1601 W. Wall St.
684-5756

Graham Pharmacy moved from its location in the "Old Town" shopping center on Dodson Street to a larger building on Wall Street. Its "old-fashioned" soda fountain remains the same with homemade fudge and desserts, simple lunch favorites and shakes and ice cream dishes. Lunch entrees include sandwiches such as BLT, tuna, pimento cheese and ham and cheese as well as club sandwiches with turkey and/or ham and cheese. Hot dogs, corn dogs, salads and Frito pie also are available. The soda fountain serves a different soup each day of the week along with tomato, chicken noodle and vegetable beef daily. Prices are more than reasonable with sandwiches ranging from $2-$3.
Entrée price range: $1.75-$4.25
Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Down Home Kitchen (SD)
102 N. Lee St.
682-3696

A small, unassuming building in south Midland, Down Home Kitchen serves homestyle entrees for lunch and dinner. Diners may choose from a few freshly-made entrees — meatloaf, pork chops, chicken fried steak and more — and sides such as corn, macaroni and cheese, green beans and boiled cabbage. Each plate is around $8 and includes an entree, two sides and bread. Dessert options include peach cobbler and a variety of cakes. The menu and the prices remain the same for lunch and dinner.
Payment accepted: cash, major credit cards
Entree price range: about $8
Hours: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

Cracker Barrel (SD)
3108 N. Loop 250 West
689-3137

Home-style meals. Serving breakfast (all day), lunch and dinner. Soups, sandwiches, pork barbeque, fried chicken tenderloin, grilled pork chops, sugar cured ham, smoked ham, hamburger steak and meatloaf are all on the menu. Friday fish fry, Saturday offers made from scratch chicken n' rice with vegetables and Sunday features homestyle chicken. Lots of side dishes and desserts on the menu. Kid's menu available. Old country store in front of restaurant. Payment accepted: all major credit cards, cash and checks.
Entrée price range: breakfast-$2.99-$8.69, lunch/dinner-$6.39-$12.99.
Hours: Sunday-Thursday 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday-Saturday 6 a.m.-11 p.m.

The Bar (SD)
606 W. Missouri Ave.
685-1757

The Bar opened in 1979 and serves lunch, dinner and Saturday brunch. Menu items at the downtown bar and grill include sandwiches, burgers, chili, soups, steaks and more. Smoking is permitted in part of the restaurant. A full menu is available on the website, www.thebarmidland.com.
Entrée price range: $5.99-$20.99
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. lunch, 5-10 p.m. dinner, Saturday brunch: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Midland Donuts (OAC)
2100 W. Wall St.
and 307 N. Midland Drive
686-7766

Large assortment of doughnuts and breakfast pastries as well as breakfast burritos and biscuits. Menu also includes croissant rolls and croissant sandwiches. More than 100 drink options including blended coffees, smoothies, chai teas, shaken iced teas, tapiocas and sno-cones. Open daily 3 a.m.-9 p.m. Dining room and drive-through window service available. Payments accepted: cash, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express.

The Ranch House (OAC)
5103 W. Wadley Ave.
699-0695

Stop by for a quick sandwich. They offer more than just ham. Choices include: chicken or tuna salad, turkey breast, peppered beef or ham, honey glazed ham, smoked brisket and their only warm sandwich which is barbecue. Sandwiches are $4.50 and come with potato chips. You also may order a combination meal for $6.50 which includes a side of homemade beans. Homemade bread. Catering available. Payment accepted: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, Cash, and Checks.
Entrée price range: $4.50, $6.50 (combo meals).
Hours: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily

Clear Springs Cafe (SD)
5707 Andrews Highway
522-1188

Large menu with something for everyone. Burgers, Po'boy, catfish, shrimp, crawfish, oysters, chicken strips, steaks, chicken fried steak and chicken. Specials offered daily. Claim to have the "best onion rings and catfish in Texas, the World and the known Universe." Kid's menu. Walls are covered in antiques and memorabilia to look at after you order your meal. Catering available. Payment accepted: all major credit cards, cash, no checks.
Entrée price range: $6.25-$16.95.
Hours: Sunday-Thursday 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Friday-Saturday-11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Four G's Café (SD)
2907 North Big Spring St.
686-8013

Owned by the Sanchez family of Midland. Cheery atmosphere and very friendly service. Serving a wide variety of breakfast menu items including Huevos Rancheros, omelettes, pancakes, French toast, eggs, bacon and sausage, even chicken fried steak cooked to your specifications. Play a game of checkers as you wait on your meal.
Entrée price range: $4-$6.
Hours: Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Friday 7-11 a.m.; Saturday 7-noon; Sunday 8-noon.

Green's Restaurant (SD)
20 Village Circle Drive
682-2132

Open for breakfast and lunch, Green's Restaurant offers simple, American diner-style food in a very casual atmosphere. Smoking is permitted inside the restaurant. Breakfast items - served all day - include hotcakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, ham and omelets. The lunch menu consists of daily specials and everyday specials such as chicken fried steak, baked chicken, lemon pepper chicken and fish. Sandwiches such as a patty melt, BLT, club or grilled chicken are available as well as burgers and salads.
Entree price range: $1.75 - $5.50
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Hilton's Le Bistro (SD)
117 W. Wall St.
683-6131

Full breakfast and lunch buffet with daily specials. Also offers full menu of items from specialty appetizers (mini hamburgers and hotdogs) hot wings, fish assortment and stuffed potato skins. Steaks, seafood, sandwiches and salads are available with various side dishes. Quiet, relaxing atmosphere with attentive service and delicious food. Payment accepted: all major credit cards, checks, cash.
Buffet $10.95.
Hours: Daily 6:30-10 a.m. for breakfast (breakfast buffet too); 11 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. lunch buffet; regular menu all day until 10 p.m.

diningguide *cont.*

JoJo's Eatery
214 W. Texas Ave. (Petroleum Building)
682-3134

Home cooking at its best! Start your day off with breakfast and come back for lunch. Offering a large selection of sandwiches, salads and burgers. Super friendly service and atmosphere. Absolutely do not leave before trying the pie (any kind). Buy it by the slice or whole pies and cakes made to order. Daily specials, catering and call in orders welcome. Entrée price range $3.25-$6. Hours: Monday-Friday 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Payment types accepted: cash, checks.

Nueva Vista Grill (OAC)
6101 West Wadley Ave.
(Neuva Vista Golf Course)
522-7455

An "oasis" found in Midland offering a very relaxing and casual lunch or dinner atmosphere. As the menu says, they "Serve golfers before, during and after their game. Serving friends and neighbors anytime." They also will accept call in orders for take-out. Salads include grilled chicken, crispy chicken or chef salad, delicious grilled sandwiches, barbecue and a wide variety of burgers. Daily lunch specials at great prices. They also serve a variety of fountain drinks, sports drinks, bottled soft drinks and can and tap beer. Price range: $3-$8.95. Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (during cold weather); 7:30 a.m.-8 p.m. (Summer hours). In summer, offer breakfast items. Payment: credit cards and cash.

Lori's Café (SD)
2201 W. Wall St.
570-1701

Homestyle cooking at this restaurant offering breakfast, lunch and dinner menu items. Breakfast includes pancakes, omelettes, waffles, breakfast enchiladas and burritos, as well as traditional eggs, toast, bacon and grits. Lunch offers sandwiches (French dip, Philly cheesesteak, Reuben and chicken Parmesan.) Burgers, a large selection of salads, chicken fried steak and many appetizers are on this extensive menu. Fast, friendly service at great prices. Payment accepted: cash, check and credit cards.
Entrée price range: $2.75-7.95.
Hours are Tuesday-Saturday 6 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sunday 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Strawberry Fields Cafe (SD)
2311 W. Wadley Ave.
684-5869

Fresh foods made from the finest organic and natural ingredients. Natural meats and poultry are free-range, raised on a natural diet, and are free of chemicals used on conventional factory farms. All foods are made fresh daily and are free of refined sugars, hydrogenated oils, artificial colors, flavors and preservatives. Bright green salads can be purchased by the pound. Sandwiches, wraps, no-bull burger (veggie burger) and soups. This is the place to go for a guilt free delicious meal with Beatles memorabilia on every wall. Kid's menu. Payment types accepted: checks, all major credit cards, cash.
Entrée price range: $6-$8.
Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

Tater World (SD)
802 S. Garfield St.
682-9111

Taters are front and center on the menu including tater twisters (homemade tater chips), cheddar fries, tater skins, and baked potatoes, which weigh one pound or more. Brisket, steak stuffed taters or regular stuffed potatoes. Offering other dishes besides taters such as some of the best catfish in town, a variety of salads, sandwiches, burgers, chicken fried steak and "hot doggs." Breakfast burritos too. Catering available. Payment accepted: all major credit cards, checks, cash.
Entrée price range: $3.95-$7.95.
Hours: Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.- 7 p.m. Friday 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Eddie's Catfish Company (OAC)
301 N. Lee St.
684-4422

The owners of Eddie's Catfish Company used to serve catfish only on Fridays at Greater Ideal Family Life Center. When they moved into the building on Lee Street, they began serving catfish Monday through Saturday. The menu features one- or two-piece catfish meals, fried shrimp or a combination. Meals include hushpuppies, coleslaw and French fries or onion rings. Eddie's also offers family packs with a combination of shrimp, catfish, hushpuppies and French fries.
Entree price range: $3-$9.50
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Central Cafe (OAC)
600 N. Marienfeld, Ste. 199, Inside the Security Bank Building
684-7017

Hidden inside the Security Bank Building, Central Cafe serves breakfast and lunch. The breakfast menu includes burritos with a variety of fillings, egg sandwich, bagel with cream cheese or fresh fruit. The lunch menu includes sandwiches, burgers, quesadillas, burritos, chicken strips and salads. Cookies and muffins are available for snacks or desserts. Diners may eat in or take their meal to go.
Entree price range: breakfast: $0.89 - $3.25, lunch: $1.25- $5.95
Hours: Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Café Unique (OAC)
San Miguel Shopping Center
3303 N. Midkiff Rd.
262-5993
Website: www.MidlandsUniqueCatering.com

Dinners to go, catering and a café all under one roof. For a small café, they have an impressive variety of food items. Salads such as a Palm Desert Salad consisting of mixed greens, chili peanuts, apples, Blue cheese crumbles, avocado

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dininguide cont.

and barbecue Ranch dressing with grilled chicken. Sandwiches include chicken salad on a toasted croissant with chips; turkey, bacon and tomato melt on sourdough with chips; or pulled pork sandwiches with saucy pinto beans. A variety of quiches also are offered and are served with fresh fruit. Soup can be purchased by the cup or bowl. Add a side of fresh fruit, beans or a house salad for a small extra charge. Top off your lunch with a desserts such as pie, cake or ice cream. Payment accepted: cash, credit cards. Café hours: Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-3: p.m. Drop in for dinners to go Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Triple Threat Sports Bar & Grill (SD)
12 Meta Drive
(Village Shopping Center, behind Walgreen's)
683-5300

Watch the next big game on one of their 13 big-screen televisions. Happy hour Monday-Thursday from 3-7 p.m. with drink specials and free chips and salsa. Sports bar atmosphere with pool tables and several video games. Large menu features a wide selection of appetizers including popcorn shrimp, Buffalo wings, chicken tenders, chips and salsa or queso, fried mushrooms, mozzarella sticks and a sampler platter. Philly cheese steaks are served with fries. Choose a sandwich or one of their burgers sized to your appetite.Lighter menu items also available. Payment accepted: cash, credit cards, no checks. Price range: $4.99-$10. Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-2 a.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-12 a.m.

Cotton Patch Cafe (SD)
2320 W. Loop 250 N.
618-0070
www.cottonpatch.com

Casual with a grill-style atmosphere. There is something for everyone on their large menu that offers a wide choice of flavors, combinations and sizes of meals. Start with appetizers and finish up with a steak, sandwich, burger or fish. Grilled favorites as well as soups and salads are available. Daily specials include chicken fried steak with a choice of two sides for $6.99 or all you can eat catfish for $9.99 on Fridays. Payment accepted: cash, checks, credit cards. Entrée price range: $5.99-$14.99. Hours: Monday-Thursday 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday 11a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Mexican

Ajuua's Mexican Restaurant and Drive-Thru (SD)
3205 W. Cuthbert Ave.
694-4116

Serving authentic Tex-Mex cuisine for lunch and dinner, Ajuua's offers an expansive menu with traditional favorites such as enchiladas, tacos, burritos and combination plates. The seafood menu features dishes with catfish, shrimp and oysters. Fajitas with beef, chicken, pork, shrimp or fish are available for $7.99 daily. Menudo is available Saturday and Sunday.
Entrée price range: $5.99 - $31.95
Hours: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Casa Lopez Cafe (SD)
4411 W. Illinois Ave.
699-7373

Extensive menu featuring all types of Mexican food specialties. Appetizers include items such as nachos, chile con queso, bacon wrapped shrimp and stuffed jalapenos. Variety of fajitas, combination plates, enchiladas, salads, steaks and a kid's menu. Sports bar in separate room with large TV. Delicious food and friendly service. Catering. Payment accepted: all major credit cards, cash, checks.
Entrée price range: $5.99-$13.90 Lunch specials, Monday-Friday for $5.99-11 a.m.- 2 p.m. dine-in only.
Hours: Monday-Wednesday 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday-Friday 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday-9 a.m.- 10 p.m.. Sunday 9 a.m.- 9 p.m..
Meals served: lunch, dinner on Monday-Friday. Breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday, Sunday. Drive in window for take-out orders.

Casa Madrid
911 S. Big Spring St.
685-1350

Casa Madrid obviously has their recipes for Mexican food tweaked just right. They have been in business for 25 years and it is apparent Midlanders enjoy the ingredients they put together to make the many dishes on their menu. Traditional Mexican dishes, fajitas, combination dinners, steak, Mexican plates featuring items such as tacos, tamales, flautas or enchiladas. Each of them comes with rice and beans. Salads include a diet chicken fajita salad and a chicken, beef or fajita taco salad. Rib-eye or T-bone and pork chops, chicken, burgers and fish are also on the menu. They seem to have something for everyone. Kids have their own menu with items including one cheese enchilada or one taco with a chile con queso quesadillas and rice and beans, or chicken tenders and fries, a beef smothered burrito with rice and beans or two bean and cheese burritos and a side of queso or a hamburger. Daily lunch buffet for only $8.25 and it is all you can eat. Items on the buffet include a salad bar, flour tortillas, chicken fajitas, enchiladas, menudo, asado, tacos, beans, posole, and rice and beans just to name a few. Happy hour is each day from 5-7 p.m. offering $2 domestic longnecks and $2 margaritas. They also make their own tortillas in their tortilla factory inside the restaurant. Payment accepted: Cash, checks, all credit cards. Entrée price range: average about $8, a la carte items available. Hours: Monday-11 a.m.-2 p.m., Tues., Wed, Thurs., Sat.-11 a.m.-2 p.m.; 5-9; Friday-11 a.m.-2 p.m.; 5-10 p.m., Closed Sunday

El Banquete (SD)
1802 Rankin Highway
620-0123

Popular Mexican food establishment featuring daily specials. Appetizers such as chili con queso, guacamole, nachos and quesadillas. Taco salads, numerous burritos, beef or chicken fajita salads as well as various enchiladas plates are also on the menu. Beef tacos as well as soft pork tacos and T-bone steaks are also offered. Breakfast burritos served daily. Kid's menu available. Payment types accepted: all major credit cards, checks.
Entrée price range: $6.50-$10.49, T-bone dinner $15.99.
Hours: Monday -Friday 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Jorge's Café (SD)
3323 N. Midland Drive (Fairmont Shopping Center near Miss Cayce's) 689-0032

4400 N. Big Spring 683-6303
Voted top Mexican food restaurant and best salsa in town by readers of the Midland Reporter-Telegram. Lunch specials from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Quick service and nice atmosphere. Appetizers, salads, Mexican specialties, combination plates, fajitas, and steaks. Breakfast served on Saturday and Sunday. Full service bar with happy hour Monday-Friday 3-6 p.m, televisions in bar tuned to sports. Room for party. Catering available. Payment accepted: all major credit cards, cash, no checks.
Entrée price range: $4.99-$11.49. Hours: Monday 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-10 p.m., and Sunday 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Cancun Grill (SD)
223 W. Wall St.
618-0390

Located inside the Midland Tower Building across from the courthouse, this Mexican restaurant offers everything. Colorful dining room and décor. Full service bar. Large menu offering traditional Mexican dishes as well as numerous specialties and seafood, chicken and salads. Food is beautifully displayed on the serving dishes. Tres Leches cake is delicious. Cancun Grill is perfect for those working downtown. Catering and kid's menu available.
Entrée price range: Lunch, $6.50-$11.95; Dinner, $7.75-$19.95.
Hours: Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 5:30-9 p.m.; Saturday 5:30-9 p.m.

Casa del Sol Restaurante y Cantina (SD)
523 East Illinois Ave.
686-1118

No reservations required, but handy when you have a group of six arriving at lunch. The inside is reminiscent of a Mexican cantina. Numerous appetizer selections, Mexican specialties and combination plates, Mexican stir-fry, West Texas specialties including country-fried steak, shrimp, grilled or fried catfish. Kid's menu available. Payment accepted: all major credit cards, cash, checks.
Entrée price range: $5.75-$12.50.
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Charlas Restaurante & Bar (SD)
3330 W. Illinois Ave.
699-2440

Enjoy delicious Mexican food while enjoying an informal and relaxed dining experience. Full service bar. Appetizers, enchiladas, tacos, shrimp nachos, tortilla soup, taco and tropical salad. Large choice of steaks, fajitas, burgers, seafood and chicken dishes as well. Delicious chips and salsa. Combination meals available as well as daily lunch specials. Kid's menu.
Entrée price range: $4.99-$14.99.
Hours: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

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*Additional ticket processing fees applied for all non-member ticket purchases.
Box Office: 432-570-4111 or www.mctmidland.org

diningguide *cont.*

Rosa's Café & Tortilla Factory (OAC)
903 Andrews Highway 520-2358
2501 N. Big Spring St. 620-0634
4301 N. Midland Drive 520-0489

Winner of the Midland Reporter Telegram's Top 100 for the "best fast food restaurant" and "best queso," this restaurant has a large menu of tacos, burritos, nachos and salads and a la carte items. Offering Mexican platters such as a beef burrito plate, cheese enchilada plate, deluxe Mexican plate and chicken or beef fajita plates in addition to a tamale dinner. Most of these "plates" come with rice and beans on the side and a small salad. Family sized portions available (try the fajita fiesta) as well as catering. Great atmosphere and quick service. Watch as they make fresh tortillas daily. Kid's menu available.
Entree price range: $1.19-$8.99
Hours: Sunday-Thursday 10:30 a.m.-11 p.m.
Friday-Saturday 10:30 a.m.-midnight

Caramba's Spanish Inn (SD)
3116 W. Front St.
520-9724 or 520-9525

Bustling Mexican restaurant with a wide variety of Mexican foods. Menu features appetizers, lite plates offering 10 different choices, a "customer favorites" section, Mexican specialties and combination plates, burritos, burgers, steaks and seafood. Several rooms available for parties. Payment accepted: cash, local checks, major credit cards.
Entrée price range: $4.95-$10.95.
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 5-9 p.m.

Dos Compadres (SD)
2200 W. Wadley Ave,
#1 Oak Ridge Square
684-7239
www.Doscompadres.net

Mexican restaurant offering various rooms for seating. Appetizers offered include a variety of nachos and quesadillas as well as chile con queso. There are 15 house specials to choose from as well as a large selection of combination plates. Also on the menu are steaks, seafood and fajitas. Kid's menu available. Catering. Full service bar. Daily specials. Friendly service and family atmosphere. Payment accepted: major credit cards, checks, cash.
Entrée price range: $5.25-$16.95 for a 12-ounce rib-eye.
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Gerardo's Casita (SD)
2407 N. Big Spring St.
570-8012
www.gerardoscasita.net

Mexican food restaurant offering an extensive menu with a wide variety of appetizers such as fajita and Tejano nacho and quesadillas. Mexican entrees, tacos, enchiladas and burritos, grilled specials including burgers, fajitas, steaks, taco salad and delicious tortilla soup. Daily specials, kid's menu and several rooms for meetings or parties. Full service bar. Catering available. Payment accepted: checks, credit cards, cash.
Entrée price range: $5.99-$12.99. Lunch Specials: Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

La Herradura Mexican Cuisine (SD)
1422 Rankin Highway
687-3000

Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, La Herradura offers diners numerous choices on their expansive menu. Breakfast plates including huevos rancheros, omelettes, pancakes, French toast and other options with potatoes, beans and tortillas are served from 6 -11 a.m. Lunch and dinner options include tacos, quesadillas, tostadas, fajitas, steaks, carne asada, enchiladas, flautas and burritos as well as hamburgers and other sandwiches. The restaurant serves menudo, caldo de res and cabrito en salsa verde on the weekends and a daily lunch buffet from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Kids menu offers a variety of options for under $5.
Payment accepted: cash, major credit cards
Entree price range: $2-$14.99
Hours: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. daily

La Mission (SD)
1008 S. Big Spring St.
682-0320

Festive Mexican atmosphere with colorful décor and lights. Delicious chips and salsa with your meal. Large menu with large selection of appetizers, main dishes such as cheese enchiladas, carne guisada, hamburgers and fries, and chicken fried steak, fajitas, chili rellenos, grilled specialties. There is something for everyone on this menu. Try the sopapillas with ice cream for a delicious ending to your meal. Full service bar and outdoor seating available. Kid's menu. All major credit cards, checks and cash accepted.
Average entrée price range: $8.
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Dona Anita's (SD)
305 W. Florida Ave.
683-6727

Serving traditional Tex-Mex entrees such as tacos, burritos, enchiladas, chile rellenos and combination plates, Dona Anita's is located near downtown and offers weekday lunch specials. The menu also includes fajitas with chicken, steak or shrimp, flautas, salads, quesadillas and other Tex-Mex specialties as well as American dishes such as hamburgers, a catfish platter and chicken fried steak. On Sundays, customers may order specials such as huevos con chorizo, menudo, huevos rancheros and migas.
Entree price range: $6.95-$14.95
Hours: Lunch: Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-2 p.m; Dinner: Monday-Saturday 5-9 p.m.; Sunday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Fajitas Bravo
409 E. Scharbauer Drive
682-6848

Don't let the "cover" of this restaurant fool you, open the door and find delicious food waiting to satisfy your hunger. Serving up the most delicious tender and flavorful beef and chicken fajitas I have had. Order at your table from the large menu on the wall offering barbecue brisket and ribs or grilled chicken breasts with potato salad and beans as well as traditional Mexican dishes such as nachos, burritos, burgers and quesadillas. Larger portion family packs with meats and side dishes also on the menu. Catering available for parties, meetings or any event. Thursday night pool contest from 9 p.m. until closing. Happy hour 7-9 p.m. daily. Payment accepted: cash, credit cards. Entrée price range: $3-$16 for family packs. Hours: Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-2 p.m; 6 p.m.-midnight.

La Bodega Mexican Restaurant and Bar (SD)
2700 N. Big Spring St.
684-5594

Opened in 1972, La Bodega serves a variety of traditional and unique Mexican dishes. Popular dishes include the chile rellenos — stuffed with beef, chicken, cheese or shrimp, deep-fried and topped with red sauce, sour cream, pecans and raisins — and the rueda which is described on the menu as a Mexican pizza. Traditional Tex-Mex entrees include fajitas, enchiladas, nachos, tacos, burritos and flautas. A variety of salads, seafood dishes and Southwest-inspired plates also are available. La Bodega has several dining rooms, including an enclosed patio room. The bar is located upstairs and is accessible from both inside and outside the building. The bar keeps later hours than the restaurant.
Entree price range: $4.55 - $15.50
Hours: 11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. daily

Romie's Mexican Restaurante (SD)
701 S. Marienfeld St.
432-683-5344

Mexican dining establishment offering daily specials, most at $6.99. Large selection of appetizers including, stuffed jalapenos and flautitas, nachos and homemade salsa. Choose your favorite Mexican dish such as chalupas, tacos, enchiladas, quesadillas, burritos and pick from the variety in each category. Steak, catfish and burgers are also on the menu as well as a kid's menu. Friendly and speedy service. The perfect place to go for those working downtown and anyone looking for a delicious Mexican meal. Catering and take out available. Hours: Monday-Friday 11-2 p.m. Payment types accepted: checks, credit cards and cash.

Sedona Mexican Grill & Cantina (SD)
2101 W. Wadley Ave., #45
570-9600

Sit out on the patio and enjoy traditional Mexican food dishes. Start your meal off with delicious chile con carne queso. Enchiladas, quesadillas, burritos, carne guizada and tacos are all on the menu. All Mexican dinners are served with rice, beans, guacamole, and two flour tortillas. Assorted selection of soups, taco salads and sandwiches, burgers and salads, seafood and steaks also offered. Daily specials and catering available. Payment types accepted: all major credit cards, checks, cash.
Entrée price range: Mexican dishes, $5.99-8.99, fish and steak dishes, $9.99-24.99.
Hours: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily for restaurant, bar is open until midnight daily.

Tampico Spanish Inn (SD)
2411 W. Wall St.
682-5074

Go early to get a table at this popular Midland eatery. Wide variety of appetizers including jalapeno chips, queso, chile con queso, guacamole, avocado salad, stuffed jalapenos and a selection of quesadillas and nachos (available in whole and half orders). Lunch specials are offered and change daily. Traditional Mexican selections in addition to burgers, chicken fried steak, pork chops and salads. Kid's menu and catering available. Payment accepted: major credit cards, cash, and checks.
Entrée price range: $4.99-$14.99.
Hours: Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; 5-9:45 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m.-9:45 p.m., Sunday 8-11 a.m. (breakfast), 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (lunch).

Javi's Mexicano Restaurante (SD)
1511 Rankin Highway
694-4898

Serving breakfast and lunch. Also features a bakery offering all types of baked goods as well as a tortilla and tamale factory — all located right beside the restaurant. Menu includes a wide choice of burritos such as combination, steak with potatoes, chile relleno, great fajitas of chicken and beef or carne guisada. Nachos including bean, beef, chicken and beef fajita or combination. Single entrées can be ordered with a side of rice, beans and two flour tortillas for $5.99. For those who love hamburgers, Javi's menu offers several different types of burgers with a side of fries. Breakfast burritos with ham, chorizo, beans, potatoes or bacon are on the menu as well as plates such as two eggs and bacon or sausage or eggs with pork chops or short ribs in addition to huevos rancheros. Plates include beans, potatoes and two flour tortillas. Breakfast dishes can be ordered throughout the day. Entrée price range: breakfast $2.69-$7.99; lunch $3-$7.99. Payment accepted: major credit cards, checks, cash.
Hours: Monday-Friday 6 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

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