MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

OUR VIEW

It pays to pay more attention to the roads we have to improve

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BIG PERFORMANCES

It's a big week in Midland for live music as two legendary female artists come to town. Loretta Lynn will perform today at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. Diana Ross is set to perform Wednesday.

mrt.com

RRC: Rule changes have upped water recycling

Amount of water used in hydraulic fracturing being conserved, reused unknown, regulators say

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Oil and gas drilling companies using hydraulic fracturing in Texas say they are recycling more water than ever before thanks to a change in state rules, Texas' three railroad commissioners told two House committees Monday.

But exactly how much water is being conserved or reused during production is unknown, according to the regulators who oversee the oil and gas industry, because the companies aren't required to report those figures.

During the commonly used process of hydraulic fracturing, water and other substances are injected at high pressures into rock in order to extract oil and gas.

The rule change removed restrictions for companies in the permitting process for recycling water on their own leases.

Railroad Commission Chairman Christi Craddick told members of the House Energy and Natural Resources committees it was adopted in 2013 to encourage more water conservation. She said companies report recycling more but told lawmakers there was no set target of how much recycling should occur.

There are "no reporting requirements in place," she said, adding that the commission relies on companies to self-report recycling efforts on a voluntary basis.

Dallas Democratic Rep. Rafael Anchia asked commissioners how they would know if their rule was working without a set goal.

"In order to be able to measure success, you have to start with a baseline," he said.

Craddick said industry leaders requested the changes and were starting to recycle water and experiment with conservation on their own, anyway. She added that the rule change was "the carrot, not the stick, approach" and continued, "If companies are allowed to be innovative, they usually go above and beyond."

Because of the amount of water needed in the fracturing process, some companies have started using brackish water instead of freshwater, state and industry officials said. Canadian drilling company GASFRAC — which recently filed for bankruptcy protection — had for years fractured wells in South Texas using a waterless process, Craddick said.

According to the Railroad Commission, the amount of water needed to fracture a well varies across the state, from 1.2 million gallons to complete one vertical well in the Barnett Shale in North Texas to 3.6 million gallons in the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas.

Water used for fracturing and mining represents about 1 percent of statewide water use, according to the commission.

Commissioners also touted a second rule change from 2013 that addresses well construction in an effort to better protect Texans' groundwater. According to Commissioner David Porter, the commission has not received any reports of groundwater contamination caused by fracturing.

MIDLAND FIGHTS ICE

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland police officers and firefighters block lanes of Interstate 20 on Monday, after several tractor-trailers jackknifed on the ice-covered roads.

Wintry weather notes

Weather advisory

The National Weather Service has extended its winter weather advisory for the Permian Basin to noon today. The advisory was originally set to expire at 6 p.m. Monday, but the NWS is expecting freezing drizzle in areas and below freezing temperatures overnight. The advisory warns of black ice and slippery roads throughout southeast New Mexico and most of West Texas through this morning.

Slick roads

■ As of 3:30 Monday, MPD responded to a total of 73 wrecks, a majority of which were weather-related. January's freeze, by contrast, yielded about 120 accidents.

■ This number tends to rise as people begin taking advantage of their day off and get back onto the roads, said city spokeswomen Sara Bustilloz.

■ The city has also been sending trucks of brine water to address slick intersections, namely the Big Spring Street and I-20 underpass, which is typically the first intersection to freeze over in below-freezing temperatures. The city also assists the Texas Department of Transportation in de-icing roads and the interstate.

Weather facts

■ High temperature: 23 degrees (12:53 a.m., 1:53-3:53 p.m. report)

■ Low temperature: 20 degrees (7:53-8:53 a.m. reports)

■ Wind chill low: 5 degrees (7:53-8:53 a.m. reports)

■ Record "low high" temperature: 23 degrees (the previous record low high temperature for Feb. 23 was 40 degrees in 2010).

■ Precipitation: No measurable precipitation. NWS reported light freezing rain/fog/mist from midnight Sunday through the 8:53 a.m. report.

Forecast

■ Today: High of 48, low of 31, 20 percent chance of precipitation

■ Thursday: Slight chance of snow at night, low around 27

■ Friday: Slight chance of snow and rain, high near 40, low near 40

■ Saturday and Sunday: Highs of 59 and 70 respectively

■ Chance of precipitation six of the next seven days

Weather closures

Due to the inclement weather, the following public entities, schools, services and events were closed or canceled Monday:

■ Midland County offices

■ Commissioners Court - delayed until noon today.

■ City of Midland offices

■ City landfill

■ City garbage collection - Monday routes to be serviced Tuesday, Tuesday routes to be serviced Wednesday.

■ Midland ISD schools

■ Midland College classes

■ University of Texas of the Permian Basin classes

■ League of Women Voters forum

■ West Texas Food Bank

■ EZ Rider

School delay

Greenwood ISD will start at 10 a.m. today with bus schedules running on a two-hour delay.

From staff reports

Poor weather a factor in several fatalities

From staff reports

Inclement weather and poor road conditions were factors in several fatalities in this in the region Sunday and Monday.

Midland County

A 65-year-old man from Lagrande, Oregon, was held Monday on a $250,000 bond for an intoxication manslaughter charge after a California man died in a fatal three-vehicle wreck Sunday afternoon on Business 20.

The Chevrolet Silverado being driven by Bruce Ronald Peterson rear-ended a Dodge Ram being driven by Johnny Chalo Contreras, 36, of Oak View, California, according to a press release from the Department of Public Safety. Contreras' pickup was forced into a tractor-trailer driven by a 30-year-old man from Kilgore, according to the release.

Contreras was the fourth person to die on roads in Midland County this year, and the second on Sunday, according to previous Reporter-Telegram reports.

Wet road conditions and alcohol were determining factors in the wreck that occurred at the intersection of the Business 20 south service road and La Force Boulevard at about 3:30 p.m. Sunday. DPS troopers determined that Peterson was intoxicated, according to the release. Bond has not yet been set in the second-degree felony, according to the

Please see **FATALITIES**/2A

Midland is No. 1 in pay for engineers in the US

By Rye Druzin

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Engineers in Midland earn more than their counterparts across the country, according to a study by NerdWallet.

But after factoring in the high cost of living and the lower number of engineers per 1,000 people, the Tall City fell to seventh place on NerdWallet's Best Places for Engineers list.

Engineers in Midland took home a mean yearly salary of more than $141,000. That is nearly $20,000 more than the next highest paid group of engineers in Houston. NerdWallet attributed the city's position to its oil, gas and budding aerospace industry, and also said that it boasts one of the lowest unemployment rates in America.

While Midland engineers made more than their colleagues, the Tall City, overall, was ranked No. 7 because of a lower proportion of engineers based here and the high cost of living. Huntsville, Alabama, ranked No. 1 overall with a total score of 85.06 compared with Midland's 54.05. A low cost of living, salaries

Please see **PAY**/2A

Abbott to speak at March 3 Bush Day Dinner

By Stewart Doreen

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Gov. Greg Abbott will return to Midland next week as the featured speaker at the Bush Day Dinner.

The event is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. March 3 at the Horseshoe and will mark the governor's first public appearance in Midland since taking the oath of office on Jan. 20.

Still, while his time as Texas' 48th governor has just begun, Abbott already has acknowledged one of the state's more influential Republican regions in two significant ways.

He re-appointed Mickey Long of Midland to the Board of Regents of the Texas Tech University System. Then, earlier this month, Abbott selected former state Rep. Tryon Lewis to serve on the five-member Texas Transportation

Please see **ABBOTT**/2A

Weather Mostly sunny 48/31 Get your complete forecast on 2B

Energy prices

WTI Futures	$48.48	▼ $1.56
WTI Posted	$48.36	▼ $0.89
WTS Posted	$49.86	▼ $0.89
Natural Gas	$2.679	▼ $0.072
Gasoline	$1.553	▼ $0.052

The big number

Midland ranks **first** for highest cost of rent in the state. Page 2A

Today in Election 2016

Poll: Wisconsin Gov. Walker ties Cruz in popularity. 4A

Coming Wednesday in Education

Read news, opinions and more in this week's section.

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Daily $1, Sunday $2

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

Note: Subject to change due to inclement weather.

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

■ Loretta Lynn, 8 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Meetings schedule

City Council
10 a.m.
Council Chambers City H all
300 N. Loraine Ave.

County commissioners
(rescheduled due to inclement weather)
Noon
Midland County Courthouse auxiliary courtroom.
500 N. Loraine Ave.

Support groups, club meetings

Note: Subject to change due to inclement weather.

■ Pop-Up Toasters Toastmasters Club., 6:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church's Family Life Center - Room 228, 800 W. Texas Ave.; 432-242-2061 or popuptoasters@gmail.com.

■ Survivors of sexual abuse; interactive Bible study to help deal with the consequences of sexual abuse meets Tuesdays. Child care available; House of Hope, 570 5935.

■ Midland Optimist Club, noon, Abuelo's, 4610 N. Garfield St.; 685-7486.

■ Peer to Peer support group for veterans, active duty, guard, reserves and their families, 6 p.m., Permian Basin Community Center, 401 E. Illinois Ave., Suite 403; Wil Hoggard, 213-5342, william.hoggard@wtcmhmr.org.

■ Classic Movie Club, 7 p.m., Cigar Frog's, 216 N. Main St.; 687-1671.

■ Permian Basin Dance Club, 7:30 p.m., St. Stephen's Catholic Church; cost is $5 for members. $6 for non-members; 520-4343.

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

Alzheimer's Association event

"An Evening to Remember," hosted by FirstCapital Bank of Texas, Ortloff Engineers and Concho, will be 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Petroleum Club.

The evening will include a wine reception and dinner, live and silent auctions and will feature internationally recognized graffiti artist, Erik Wahl.

Reservations are required; to attend contact Janene Binnion at jbinnion@coronadomidstream.com or 221-9721.

CDBG meetings

The city will host three public meetings in March to discuss the use of funds for the improvement of low- to moderate-income areas of Midland.

City officials are preparing its new consolidated plan, which sets priority levels for various needs of these areas and will be a guide on the future use of Community Development Block Grant funds.

The city will receive $656,282 CDGB funds for the 2015-16 program year. The meetings to discuss the distribution of these funds are scheduled for:

■ 7 p.m. March 3 at the Southeast Senior Center, 1803 E. Indiana Ave.;

■ 7 p.m. March 5 at Casa de Amigos, 1101 E. Garden Lane; and

■ 1:30 p.m. March 17 at City Hall Council Chamber, 300 N. Loraine St.

An online survey is available at www.midlandtexas.gov/CDBGsurvey.

For more information, call 685-7472 or 685-7408.

American Red Cross luncheon

The American-Red Cross of the Permian Basin is hosting its Moments Matter luncheon March 4 at Green Tree Country Club. Guest speaker is Dave Sanderson, who was a passenger on U.S. Airways Flight 1549, "Miracle on the Hudson."

Meet-and-greet begins at 10 a.m.; luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m.

The event is free, but reservations are required. To make a reservation, call 563-2267 or email Michelle.Alvarado@redcross.org.

Lottery

Note: Lottery numbers drawn late Monday were not available before press time.

Pick 3 morning: 8-8-1
Pick 3 day: 4-1-9
Pick 3 evening: 9-6-0
Daily 4 morning: 2-4-6-9
Daily 4 day: 2-9-9-8
Daily 4 evening: 6-9-5-3
All or Nothing morning: 1-3-4-5-6-12-13-16-20-21-23-24
All or Nothing day: 2-3-6-8-10-12-13-15-16-19-23-24
All or Nothing evening: 1-3-6-8-9-10-11-15-16-18-19-23

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Midland has state's highest rent, online source shows

By Rye Druzin
rdruzin@mrt.com

The Tall City was ranked as the state's most expensive area for renters in January despite slight drops in rent month-to-month, according to information from online resource ApartmentList.com.

Cost of living has been one of the biggest issues Midland has faced since the oil boom began about five years ago. The city topped the Texas rent list with median monthly rents for one- and two-bedroom apartments of $1,310 and $1,520, respectively. Year-over-year, one-bedroom rents grew by 9.5 percent and two-bedroom rents by 8.7 percent. But month-to-month one- and two-bedroom rates dropped 2.3 and 1.2 percent, respectively, from December. It is not yet known if this drop is tied to the slowdown in the oil industry since the price of crude was halved in the past six months.

Midland has recently added new luxury apartment complexes, including the long-anticipated Wall Street Lofts in downtown and The Azure apartment homes in south Midland. The Lofts range in price from $1,600 and up for a one-bedroom apartment to more than $2,800 for a two-bedroom apartment, while The Azure ranges from $1,325 for one-bedroom apartments to $1,950 for a three-bedroom apartment, according to previous Reporter-Telegram articles.

Frisco came in at No. 2 in the state, with Odessa following closely at No. 3. Odessa's year-to-year change for one- and two-bedroom rentals increased by 11.1 and 12 percent, respectively, a significantly larger increase than Midland's rental growth. Odessa's one-bedroom rent did not change month-to-month, but two-bedroom rents dropped at a faster rate than anywhere else in the state, falling by 1.6 percent from December.

REGIONBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

AUSTIN

Authorities arrest man on list of most-wanted sex offenders

Texas authorities say a 59-year-old man on the state's list of 10 most-wanted sex offenders has been arrested.

The Texas Department of Public Safety on Monday announced that Carlos Lopez Isaac turned himself in last week. He was being sought for a parole violation and failure to comply with sex offender registration requirements.

Isaac was taken into custody by the Bexar County Sheriff's Office in San Antonio. DPS said his criminal history includes sexual assault, assault on a peace officer and multiple drug charges.

DPS said so far this year authorities have arrested six felons who were on the state's list of most-wanted fugitives or sex offenders.

NEW MEXICO

Fugitive fatally shot after standoff

RUIDOSO — Authorities have released the name of a fugitive from Texas who was fatally shot after a barricade situation in southern New Mexico.

New Mexico State Police announced Monday that 41-year-old Jason Moncrief Carter was pronounced dead at the scene Saturday morning.

The U.S. Marshals Service said Carter had an outstanding warrant out of Texas for sexual contact with a minor.

He was located Friday at an RV park outside of Ruidoso and barricaded himself inside his RV.

Authorities said Carter was armed and despite hours of negotiations, he told law enforcement officers that he wouldn't surrender.

Around 7 a.m. Saturday, police said Carter threatened officers with a firearm and shots were exchanged.

STEPHENVILLE

'American Sniper' trial delayed because of weather

Winter weather delayed the murder trial of the ex-Marine charged with killing famed Navy SEAL and "American Sniper" author Chris Kyle.

Prosecutors were to continue Monday their rebuttal against the defense of Eddie Ray Routh, but icy conditions forced a postponement. The trial is now scheduled to resume today, weather permitting.

HOUSTON

Hundreds of DNA matches as city clears rape kit backlog

Evidence from more than 6,600 rape kits that went untested for years in Houston have turned up 850 hits in the FBI's nationwide database of DNA profiles, marking a major step in the city's $6 million effort to address the backlog, officials announced Monday.

Charges have been filed against 29 people, six of whom have been convicted, since the city launched an effort in 2013 to test 6,663 rape kits — some of which dated back nearly three decades. Testing was completed in the fall, and the results have now been uploaded to a database used by investigators nationwide to compare DNA profiles of possible suspects, Mayor Annise Parker said.

ABBOTT

From 1A

Commission, which governs the Texas Department of Transportation.

"Gov. Abbott's swearing-in marked our first new governor in 14 years, and to have him here in Midland only a little over a month into his term says a lot about the importance of our community in the political process today," said James Beauchamp, chairman of the Midland County Republican Party.

Acknowledgment matters, especially considering what Midland has done for Republican candidates. Hearst Newspapers has reported that no Texas community gives more per-capita to political candidates. Beauchamp said this week that Midland County raised more for GOP candidates during the last presidential campaign than 13 different states.

And the GOP does keep coming back. During the last elections cycle, which produced another GOP statewide sweep, Victory Texas held five events statewide, Beauchamp said. The lone event outside a major metropolitan area was the event with Sen. Ted Cruz, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and former Hewlett-Packer CEO Carly Fiorina at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center.

Previous speakers at the Bush Day Dinner have included Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush and Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Christi Craddick.

"We have been on their radar in a very positive way," Beauchamp said. "We didn't want to be a place where they just come and get money. We want to talk about issues important to the Permian Basin."

Beauchamp estimates the event will last around 90 minutes and will feature a barbecue dinner. Tickets to hear the governor are $50, and they can be purchased online at eventbrite.com.

Want to go?

■ Bush Day Dinner
■ Featured speaker: Gov. Greg Abbott.
■ When: 6:30 p.m. March 3.
■ Where: Horseshoe Education Building.
■ Tickets: $50, includes dinner, can be purchased at eventbrite.com.
■ For more information: James Beauchamp at 940-9100.

PAY

From 1A

above $100,000 and a large concentration of engineers at a NASA flight center and Army arsenal pushed the Alabama city into the top spot.

Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown ranked one position higher than Midland because of the area's central purpose around oil production and refining, and it was also ranked as a Top 10 destination for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates. Houston and Midland were the lone Texas communities to make the top 10.

By the numbers

Mean engineering salary
(of cities in overall top 20)
1. Midland $141,628
2. Houston $122,970
3. San Jose, California, $119,709
4. Bakersfield, California, $106,337
5. Boulder, Colorado, $103,956

Best place for engineers
1. Huntsville, Alabama
2. Warner Robins, Georgia
3. Palm Bay, Florida
4. Warren, Michigan
5. San Jose, California
6. Houston
7. Midland
8. Decatur, Alabama
9. Kennewick, Washington
10. Dayton, Ohio

Source: www.nerdwallet.com

Your feedback

If you're an engineer in Midland, do you find that Midland is a great place to live and work? Is the cost of living, remoteness and work schedule prohibitive? If you could move to another market but would get paid less, would you?

Email your feedback to Rye Druzin at rdruzin@mrt.com or call 687-8818.

FATALITIES

From 1A

Midland County Sheriff's Office website.

Contreras, who was wearing his seat belt, died at the scene, according to the release.

Ector County

An Andrews driver traveling without a seat belt on an icy U.S. Highway 385, six miles north of Odessa, died after a rollover accident Sunday night.

Octavia Avila Acosta, 27, of Andrews, was driving a 2007 Chevrolet northbound on Highway 385 when he lost control of the vehicle and it rolled over into a ditch east of the road at about 9:25 p.m. The vehicle came to a stop upside down on its top.

The passenger inside the vehicle, Joshua Sears, 27, was injured, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Acosta's next of kin was notified. Sears refused medical treatment, according to DPS.

Highway Patrol troopers from Odessa are still investigating the crash, according to DPS.

The crash happened in the middle of a National Weather Service-issued winter storm warning. The NWS predicted 0.25 of an inch of ice accumulation on roads from 6 p.m. Sunday through 6 p.m. Monday.

Martin County

A 57-year-old Lubbock man died Monday morning in a one-vehicle wreck on State Highway 137, about 14 miles north of Stanton, according to a press release from the Department of Public Safety.

Billy Clyde Steen Jr. was driving a Ford F-350 southbound on an icy SH 137. He allegedly was driving about 75 mph and lost control of the pickup, which began to slide across the northbound lane toward the east barrow ditch and rolled over, according to the release. He was wearing his seat belt, according to the release.

Steen's passenger, a 33-year-old man from Wolfforth, was taken to Midland Memorial Hospital, where he was listed in stable condition Monday afternoon, according to the release.

Howard County

Icy roads and unsafe driving speed were the causes of a fatal two-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 87, 2 miles south of Big Spring on Sunday night.

According to the Department of Public Safety, Martine Guerrero, 66, of Lamesa and Delia Guerrero Lopez, 71, of La Porte died as a result of the crash that took place around 10 p.m. Guerrero was wearing a seat belt, and Lopez was not.

A 20-year-old Lamesa man, the driver of the 1998 Toyota that Martine Guerrero and Delia Guerrero Lopez were traveling in, was injured because of the crash.

According to the description of the crash, the Toyota was traveling north on US 87 when it crossed over into the southbound lane because of the icy conditions. The Toyota struck a tree in a ditch, veered back onto the road and rolled over, stopping in the southbound lane of US 87.

A 2002 Pontiac Grand Am, traveling southbound on US 87, hit the 1998 Toyota's front right quarter panel. The 29-year-old driver of the Grand Am was not injured.

Next of kin was notified.

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Early exposure to peanuts helps prevent allergies in kids

By Marilynn Marchione
Associated Press

For years, parents of babies who seem likely to develop a peanut allergy have gone to extremes to keep them away from peanut-based foods. Now a major study suggests that is exactly the wrong thing to do.

Exposing infants like these to peanuts before age 1 actually helped prevent a peanut allergy, lowering that risk by as much as 81 percent, doctors found. Instead of provoking an allergy, early exposure seemed to help build tolerance.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, called the results "without precedent" and said in a statement that they "have the potential to transform how we approach food allergy prevention."

His agency helped fund the study, the largest and most rigorous test of this concept. Results were published online Monday in the New England Journal of Medicine and discussed at an American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology conference in Houston.

A big warning, though: The babies in the study were checked to make sure they didn't already have a peanut allergy before they were fed foods that included peanuts, so parents of babies thought to be at risk for an allergy should not try this on their own.

"Before you even start any kind of introduction these children need to be skin-tested" to prevent life-threatening reactions, said Dr. Rebecca Gruchalla, an allergy specialist at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

Also, small children can choke on whole peanuts, so smooth peanut butter or other peanut-based foods are safer, said Gruchalla, who wrote a commentary on the study in the journal.

The main finding — that early exposure to a problem food may keep it from becoming a long-term problem — should change food guidelines quickly, she predicted.

"Isn't it wild? It's counterintuitive in certain ways and in other ways it's not," she said.

Peanut allergies have doubled over the last decade and now affect more than 2 percent of kids in the United States and growing numbers of them in Africa, Asia and elsewhere. Peanuts are the leading cause of food allergy-related severe reactions and deaths. Unlike many other allergies, this one is not outgrown with age.

Food allergies often are inherited, but research suggests they also can develop after birth and that age of exposure may affect whether they do.

Researchers at King's College London started this study after noticing far higher rates of peanut allergies among Jewish children in London who were not given peanut-based foods in infancy compared to others in Israel who were.

The study involved more than 600 children ages 4 months to 11 months old in England. All were thought to be at risk for peanut allergy because they were allergic to eggs or had eczema, a skin condition that's a frequent allergy symptom.

All had been given skin-prick tests to make sure they were not already allergic to peanuts. They were put into two groups — 530 who did not show signs of peanut allergy and 98 others with mild-to-moderate reactions, suggesting an allergy might be developing.

Half of each group was assigned to avoid peanuts and the other half was told to consume them each week, usually as peanut butter or a snack called Bamba, a peanut-flavored puff.

The results at 5 years of age:

■ Among children with no sign of allergy on the skin test: Only 2 percent of peanut eaters developed a peanut allergy versus 14 percent of abstainers.

■ Among children with some reaction to peanuts on the skin test: Only 11 percent of peanut eaters developed an allergy versus 35 percent of abstainers.

Hospitalizations and serious reactions were about the same in all groups.

Questions remain: How much peanut protein do infants need to consume, how often and for how long, to avoid allergy? If a child stops eating peanuts for a while, will an allergy develop? Would the same approach work for other foods such as milk, eggs and tree nuts?

"These questions must be addressed, but we believe that because the results of this trial are so compelling, and the problem of the increasing prevalence of peanut allergy so alarming, new guidelines should be forthcoming very soon," Gruchalla and Dr. Hugh Sampson of Mount Sinai Hospital in New York write in the medical journal

What to know about the research

Children at high risk of developing peanut allergies are far less likely to do so if they are given peanut-containing foods before they turn 1, finds a major study that is expected to quickly change dietary advice to many parents.

Some things to know:

Peanuts pose a serious problem

Peanut allergies are rising and affect more than 2 percent kids in the United States alone. They are the top cause of food allergy-related severe reactions and deaths.

Food allergies often are inherited, but also can develop during life, and age of exposure may matter. In recent years, doctors have wondered whether avoiding certain foods in infancy does harm or good.

The experiment

Researchers in England studied more than 600 children ages 4 months to 11 months old with possible signs of an allergy but no strong evidence of one on a skin test. They were assigned either to avoid peanuts until age 5, or to regularly eat them, usually as peanut butter or a peanut puff snack.

At age 5, peanut allergies had developed in 3 percent of peanut eaters versus 17 percent of abstainers.

Warnings to parents

Don't try this on your own. Babies in the study were tested to ensure they didn't already have a peanut allergy before they were fed peanut-based foods.

Also, whole peanuts pose a choking risk. Doctors recommend peanut butter or other peanut-containing foods instead.

What's next

Food guidelines might change. The American Academy of Pediatrics used to recommend against giving children peanut-based foods before age 3 but dropped that advice in 2008 because there was no evidence it prevented allergies. Now, most parents introduce peanut-based foods when other solid foods are added unless a child is known to have a peanut allergy.

Associated Press

CAPITOLALMANAC

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Border security

Calls for an unprecedented Texas border security spending spree to buy spy planes, 500 more state troopers and a 10-acre training base near Mexico came under heavy bipartisan scrutiny Wednesday in a show of frustration with a priority of Republican Gov. Greg Abbott.

Tense questioning by powerful Senate budget writers, however, fell short of resistance toward doubling border security funding to more than $815 million over the next two years — or opposition to what Abbott has made a defining issue in the early stages of his administration.

But Democrats and some Republicans are revealing irritation with a skyrocketing tab and a sense that nearly $1 billion already spent on the Texas-Mexico border since 2008 has lacked accountability. State leaders and the Department of Public Safety have claimed success when apprehensions both rise and fall and without ever defining the long-stated goal of a secure border.

Border security was a major issue among GOP voters last year, but some Republicans want better metrics attached to more money.

"I don't care what it polls," Republican state Sen. Kevin Eltife said. "Christmas polls well in my house, but I make sure what I spend is in my budget."

Arguably no spending in the proposed $205 billion Senate budget is more eye-popping than the hike in border security funding. The money would indefinitely extend the mission of the Texas National Guard on the border, boost manpower and give $500 monthly stipends to troopers stationed in the Rio Grande Valley.

DPS Director Steve McCraw told the Senate Finance Committee that replacing the Guard with troopers would put the state on a path toward declaring the border secure and emphasized the impact of high-tech cameras and $5 million surveillance planes.

Oil trains

Texas officials have reconsidered their decision to withhold details of how many trains carry at least 1 million gallons of crude oil across the state each week.

The Texas Attorney General's office decided last week that the records BNSF and Kansas City Southern railroads gave the state should be disclosed.

Previously, the Texas Department of Public Safety refused to share those records when The Associated Press and others requested them.

It was not immediately clear Monday morning how quickly Texas officials will produce the records.

Last spring, federal transportation officials ordered the railroads to begin notifying states about trains carrying at least 1 million gallons of crude oil.

The crude oil shipments are being scrutinized because of several fiery derailments, including a 2013 incident in Canada when 47 people died.

Perry indictment

Former Gov. Rick Perry's legal team again argued Monday that felony abuse-of-power charges against their client should be tossed, saying that a special prosecutor's attempts to modify the original indictment seek to "substitute his own version of the facts."

Perry was indicted in August on charges stemming from a 2013 veto of state funding for a public corruption division within the office of Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg. Special prosecutor Michael McCrum earlier this month modified a charge of coercion of a public servant in response to an order by judge overseeing the case, Republican Bert Richardson.

In 30 pages of filings Monday, Austin attorney David Botsford states that McCrum "should not be allowed to take inconsistent positions and insert facts not found by a grand jury into an indictment."

The filing also says that if it's allowed to stand, another charge Perry faces, abuse of official capacity, should be converted to a misdemeanor. That's because, the filings argue, the case centers on the veto, not the state funding. It therefore had no monetary value — and any action worth less than $20 doesn't constitute a felony in Texas.

The charges Perry faces combined carry a maximum penalty of 109 years in prison.

Richardson refused the defense team's prior string of motions to have the case dismissed on constitutional and technical grounds, but he suggested last month that McCrum should clarify the coercion charge.

Perry's attorneys responded to the modified count Monday by saying McCrum's fixes were "woefully deficient." They argued that with the new language, McCrum attempts "to substitute his own version of the facts" and yet still fails to accuse Perry of a crime.

The filing goes on to argue that the special prosecutor never established sufficient grounds for either count, and therefore the entire case should be thrown out.

On deck

The House starts work at 10 a.m. today, and the Senate is in an hour later. Both chambers continue to crank through committee meetings, with Senate Finance and the House Public Education and Homeland Security and Public Safety panels all convening.

Quote of the day

"My dad was one of those Marines. I just couldn't let today get by without calling this body to attention in their memory, because we owe those marines a huge debt of gratitude." — A tearful state Rep. Debbie Riddle, R-Tomball, who reminded the Texas House that Monday was the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

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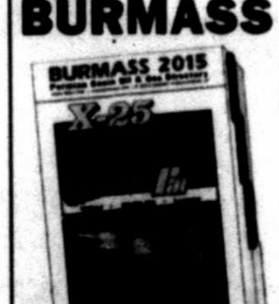

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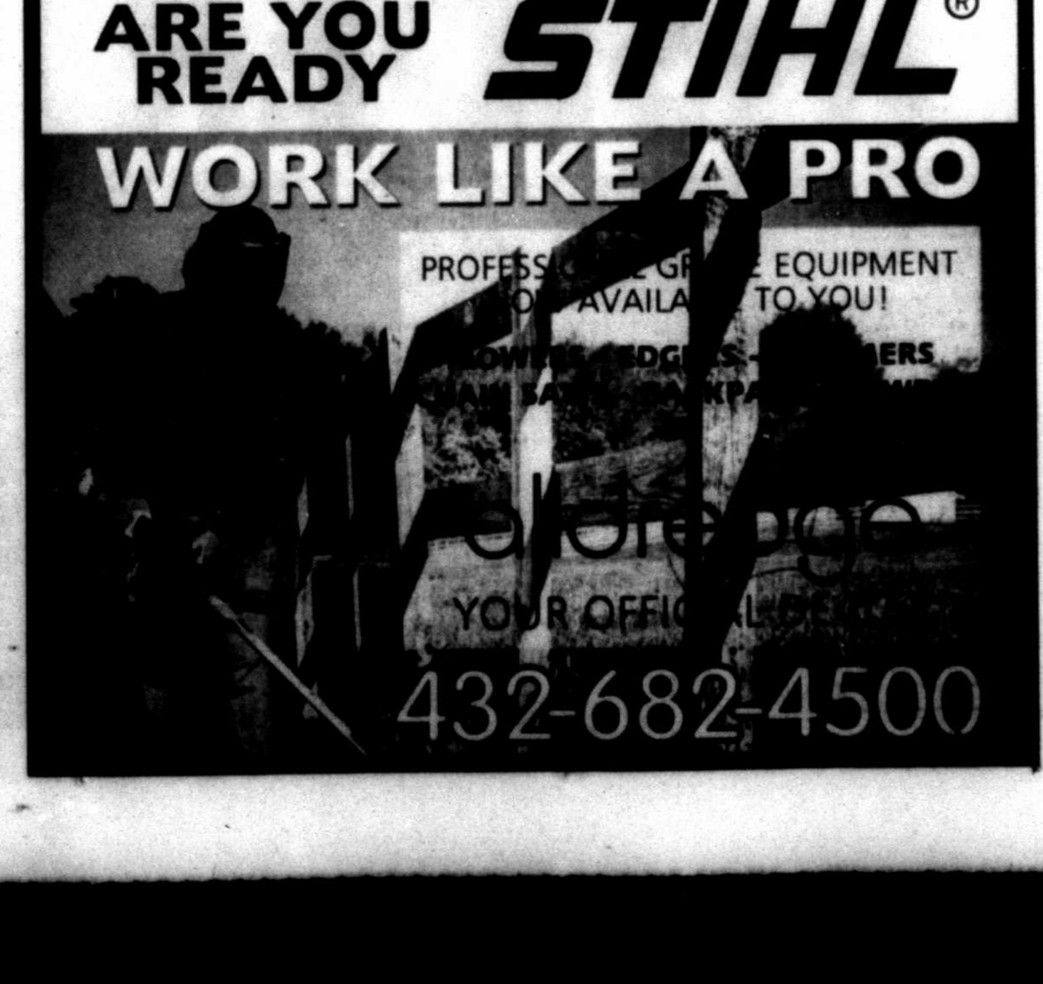


Poll: In Texas, Walker ties Cruz; Clinton soaring

By Ross Ramsey
Texas Tribune

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has erased U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz's strong lead among Texas Republicans in the volatile and still-developing race for the party's 2016 presidential nomination, according to the latest University of Texas/Texas Tribune Poll.

Cruz's 25 percentage-point lead over Walker in October has vanished: The Texan won the support of 20 percent of the state's registered voters to Walker's 19 percent — a statistical tie. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and author Ben Carson were tied at 9 percent, and former Gov. Rick Perry was next at 8 percent.

"Scott Walker is clearly breathing some of the oxygen on the right. The big take-away here is that Ted Cruz is still a giant among Texas Republicans — but he is not invulnerable," said Jim Henson, co-director of the poll and head of the Texas Politics Project at UT-Austin. "Conservatives are willing to look at another candidate who fits that profile."

In the October UT/TT Poll, Cruz registered 27 percent of the support to Walker's 2 percent. Perry, now running fifth, was running second a few months ago.

"This is the first real shakeup in this that we have seen," Henson said. "We're now a year out from primary season. It's not really a race yet, but it is a shift, and people are probably starting to think about it."

Other candidates lagged behind: Mike Huckabee, at 5 percent; Rand Paul and Marco Rubio, at 4 percent; Sarah Palin at 3 percent; Chris Christie, 2 percent; Bobby Jindal, John Kasich and Rick Santorum, at 1 percent; and Carly Fiorina, John Bolton and Lindsey Graham at zero. Thirteen percent of the voters said they have not made up their minds.

"It clearly is a jumble," said Daron Shaw, a professor of government at UT-Austin who co-directs the poll. "Cruz continues to distinguish himself as the Texas candidate, but Walker has made a move — we have a momentum candidate."

That could be a mixed bag for the insurgent, Shaw said. "If you start out strong really early, the other candidates tend to turn their cannons on you."

For the state's tea party voters, it appears to be a three-way race between Cruz, Walker and Carson, in that order. Among voters who said they would remain with the GOP if the tea party were separate, the leaders in order were Cruz, Walker, Bush and Perry.

"As the field has become a little more crowded, it looks like it has hurt Rand Paul and complicated things that were already complicated for Rick Perry," Henson said.

The Democratic race still belongs to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Texas; she had the support of 62 percent of the state's registered Democratic voters, according to the survey. U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren was second, at 12 percent, followed by Vice President Joe Biden at 6 percent and U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders at 5 percent. Jim Webb and Martin O'Malley each attracted 1 percent of the voters, and 14 percent said they haven't thought enough about the race to register an opinion.

Popularity and job ratings

Two of five voters said they have a favorable impression of Cruz, while 36 percent had an unfavorable view. Perry's numbers were almost even, with 31 percent giving him favorable marks and 30 percent giving him unfavorable marks. But the number of people with neutral impressions of the governor or who say they have no opinion has risen sharply. Shaw said that's because he's no longer the governor.

"What we see here is what happens when somebody leaves office," Shaw said. The intensity has fallen off, too, with 10 percent saying they have favorable impressions of the former governor and 16 percent saying they have unfavorable ones.

"The 'verys' have sheathed their swords on Perry," Shaw said.

The new governor, Greg Abbott, is viewed favorably by 46 percent of Texas voters and unfavorably by 28 percent — largely mirroring partisan feelings about the Republican. For Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, about half of the voters have either a neutral impression or no impression at all; 27 percent have a favorable view, while 24 percent have an unfavorable one. And House Speaker Joe Straus comes closer to anonymity than any of the statewide officials on this list: 12 percent have a favorable impression, 14 percent have an unfavorable one, 25 percent are neutral and 49 had percent no impression at all.

Job ratings for the president and Congress remain low in Texas: 37 percent said they approve of the job Barack Obama is doing, while 54 percent disapprove. Within those numbers, the intensity is on the negative side, with 17 percent saying they strongly approve of the president's work, while 46 percent disapprove strongly.

The numbers for Congress, while better than in the last UT/TT Poll, are even worse: 20 percent approve of the job Congress has been doing, while 58 percent disapprove. Only 3 percent strongly approve of Congress' work, while 34 percent strongly disapprove.

"With the Republicans in the majority in both houses, it's not surprising to see approval moving up, even if it is hardly positive," Henson said. "In a conservative state like Texas, when they get to 20 percent, it looks like they've achieved something."

Mood of the state

The economy and federal spending/national debt top Texas voters' list of most important issues facing the country, followed closely by national security/terrorism and political leadership/corruption. That said, no single issue jumps out: Those four items together account for less than half of the respondents on a list where all other issues were named by 6 percent or fewer.

The list of most important issues facing the state, on the other hand, is still topped by border security, at 21 percent, and immigration, at 17 percent. The two issues have persisted at the top of Texans' concerns about the state for years, as is reflected in political attention to those issues in the 2014 elections and in the legislative session that is currently underway.

"It seems to be one-third to 40 percent consistently identify border security and immigration as the issue facing Texas, period," Shaw said. "The other thing worth mentioning is that political corruption/leadership nationally almost breaks double digits. In the state, it's No. 3. It beats education and the economy."

About a quarter of Texas voters said the country is headed in the right direction, while 59 percent said it is on the wrong track. The state gets higher marks: 50 percent said Texas is headed in the right direction, and 30 percent said it is on the wrong track.

Voter views of the economy are brightening some: 36 percent said the national economy is somewhat or a lot better than it was a year ago — that's up from 31 percent in the October UT/TT Poll. On the other end of the seesaw, 29 percent said the economy is somewhat or a lot worse, down from 37 percent in October. A third said the national economy is about the same now as it was last year.

Nearly half said the Texas economy is about the same as last year, while 32 percent said it's better now and 17 percent said it's worse. Asked about their own family finances, 27 percent said they are better off now, 44 percent said things are about the same, and 28 percent said their family is worse off economically than it was a year ago.

The University of Texas/Texas Tribune internet survey of 1,200 registered voters was conducted from Feb. 6 to Feb. 15 and has an overall margin of error of +/- 2.83 percentage points. Among registered voters in Republican primary races, the margin of error is +/- 4.19 percent; in Democratic primary races, it is +/- 4.89 percent. Numbers in charts might not add up to 100 percent because of rounding.

Disclosure: UT-Austin is a corporate sponsor of The Texas Tribune. A complete list of Tribune donors and sponsors can be viewed here.

Presidential race revs up in Texas

Texas doesn't open the voting in presidential campaigns like Iowa and New Hampshire do, but the 2016 Republican race already feels well underway in America's largest conservative state.

Much earlier than usual, potential candidates, operatives and donors are maneuvering for advantage here. The urgency comes from Texas moving its election from the end of the primary calendar toward the beginning. For Republicans, this changes everything.

Already, would-be presidential hopeful and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul has recruited the state's Republican Party chairman to handle communication strategies. Former Gov. Rick Perry is enlisting powerful Texas donors to prove he's serious about 2016, notwithstanding his flame-out three years ago. New Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush is stepping forward as a more prominent conservative voice as his father Jeb readies a run, and Sen. Ted Cruz is building a broader fundraising apparatus.

Texas' plan to hold its 2016 primary on March 1 means that only the traditional two early voting states, along with South Carolina and Nevada, would predate it, though some other states might eventually move their primaries up, too. In 2012, Texas' primary came in late May, when the GOP race was already settled.

Traditionally, opening the campaign with small states has allowed the candidates to concentrate on connecting with highly motivated groups of voters rather than wooing the masses, and gradually building momentum. Adding an early behemoth like Texas makes a difference. More than 150 delegates to the GOP nominating convention are at stake in one place, dozens more than Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada combined. And Texas's 270,000 square miles requires more campaigning by television across 20 cash-draining media markets.

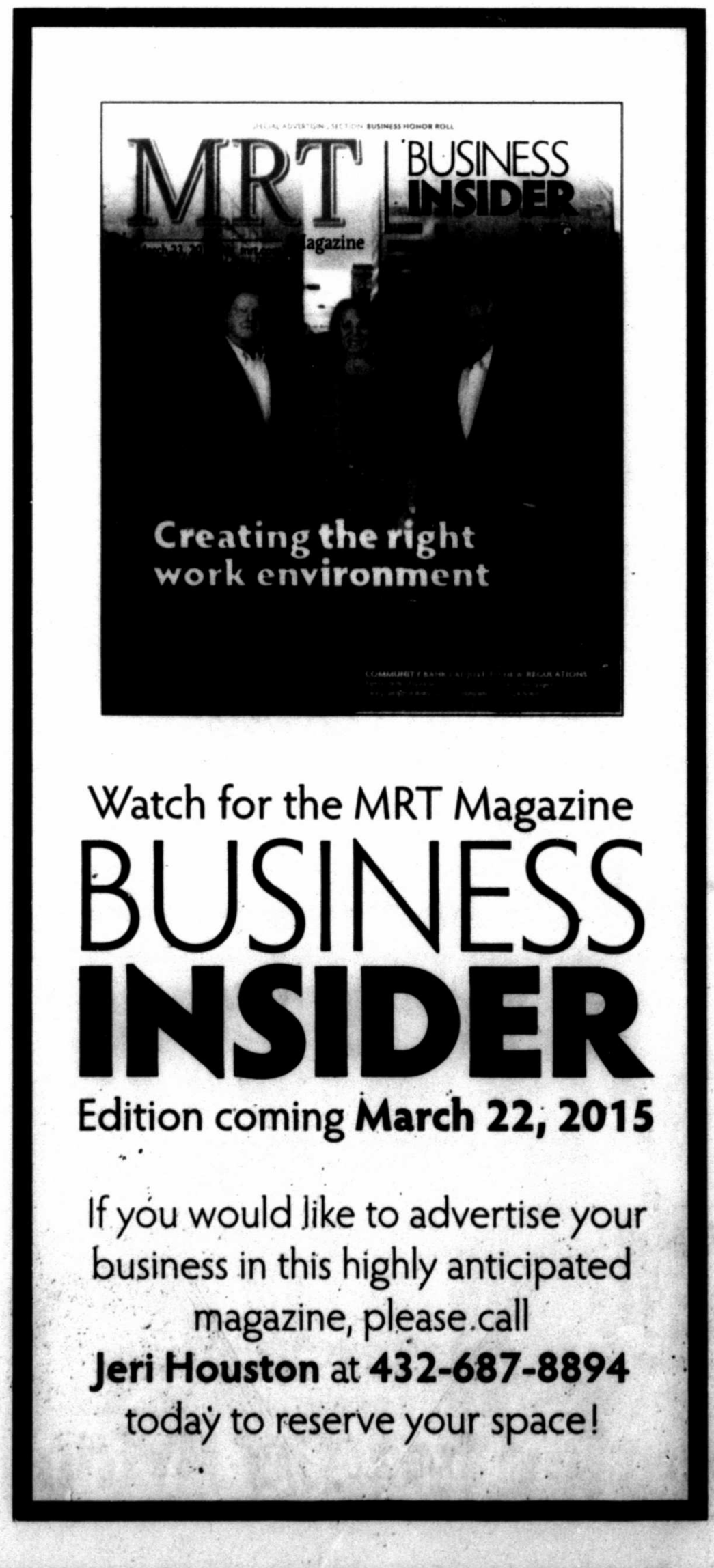
Thus, no longer would Texas be primarily a political ATM, where national GOP candidates come to stockpile campaign cash they can spend elsewhere. And Texas donors may have to decide sooner where to place their money.

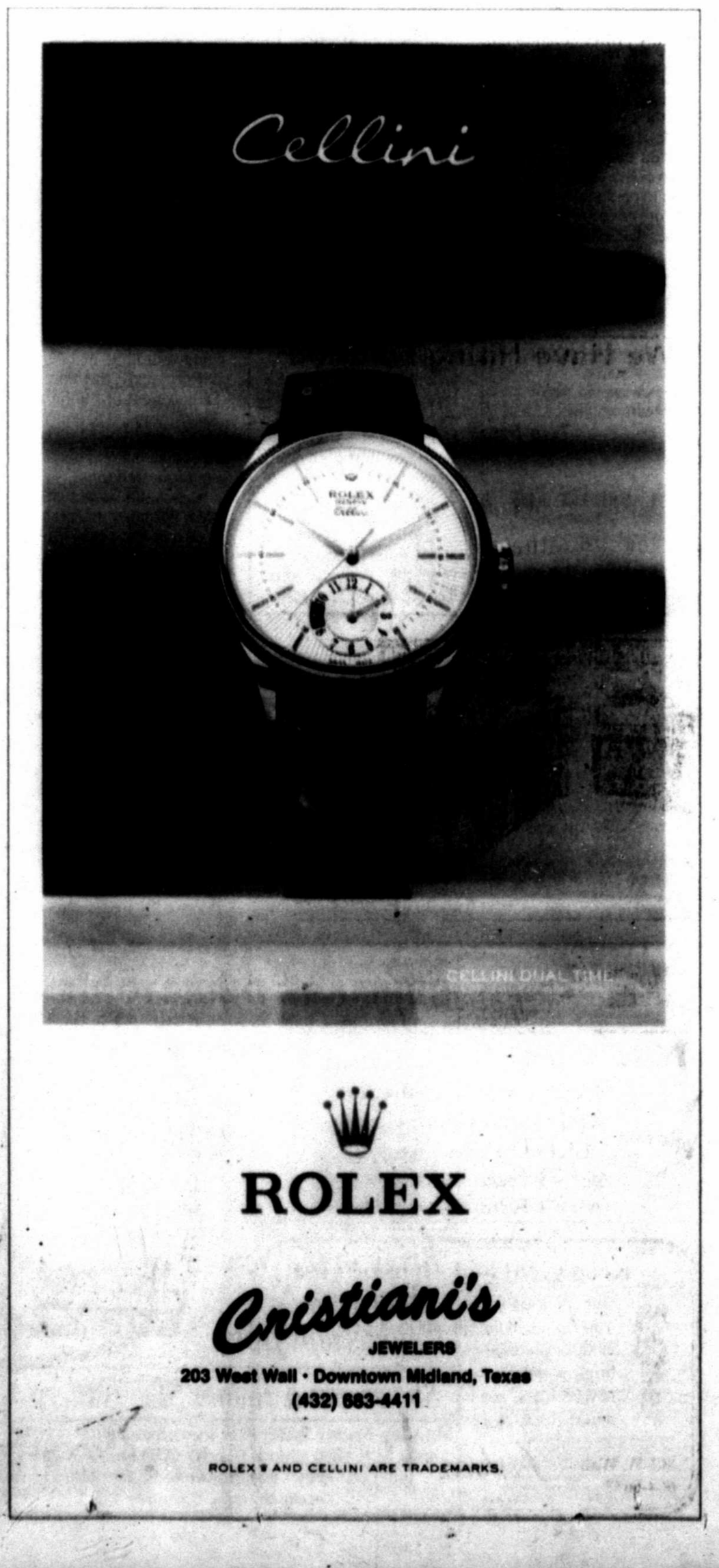
Having so many Texans and former Texans in the race is helping stoke the campaign atmosphere.

Perry flexed his fundraising muscle this month by announcing the backing of nearly top 90 donors. At least some of those on the list, however, say they see it more as a salute to Perry's gubernatorial accomplishments than an endorsement of his future campaign.

Cruz has proven to be a powerhouse fundraiser among activist conservatives nationwide. But Rick Tyler, a spokesman for Cruz's Jobs Growth and Freedom political action committee, said the senator won't overlook his home state's mainstream donors.

Associated Press





PAID CONTENT

for your information

To appear in *For Your Information* call Paul Wiseman at 697-7468 or your Midland Reporter-Telegram account executive at 682-5311.

New fanfold patio door opens up all the way

Most patio doors excel at letting in light, but most have limits as to how much you can open them. For example, a sliding glass door only opens halfway, and even a four-section door only opens 75 percent of the way. Now American Home Improvement offers a new door from the king of sunrooms, Four Seasons, that opens 100 percent of the way.

This door's unique fanfold pattern (you might also call it an "according" design) lets you open an area all the way. American Home Improvement's Kelly Kennedy points out how amazingly useful this design is. "This is perfect for opening your sunroom to traffic flow when you guests, whether it's a party or just some family or friends. And because even when it's closed it's a wall of windows, you can use it to give your home the feel of wide open spaces."

They can even replace windows in many cases.

And while its most obvious use may be in a sunroom—either between it and the house or it and the outdoors—Kelly notes that it can be used in homes with two adjacent living areas—to make them one for a large gathering.

When these doors are closed, they are CLOSED! Double pane insulated glass, airtight weather stripping all around and other insulating features let these doors keep out the wind, noise heat and cold and dust when they're closed.

They are customizable to any height and almost any width. Because they can be made in any height desired, Kelly suggests using them like windows to close off an outdoor kitchen's counter area. "Basically, these are so versatile, they can be used for just about any opening and closing function you can imagine," he says. They can replace any sliding door or French doors with a system that gives you 100 percent opening ability.

Kelly says there are commercial applications for these doors as well, especially for any business that has a dining area on a patio, a meeting room or any other room that needs the flexibility of being opened or closed as needed.

As you can teli, Kelly is as enthusiastic about this product as any that American Home Improvement has added recently. He and other American Home Improvement staff are ready to share all the possibilities with you. There is a display set up at the showroom so you can see just how it operates, check out the quality workmanship and ask any questions you may have.

American Home Improvement has been locally owned and operated for more than 20 years. Call them at 550-7224 for a free estimate and home demonstration. They are at the corner of 191 and FM 1788. Their website is www.ahi-texas.com.

Jacy joins everyone at American Home Improvement in her excitement about these new, customizable, insulated fanfold doors that open all the way when needed. See them at American Home Improvement's showroom at SH 191 and FM 1788 near the airport.

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As challenging as the near future seems in the oil patch, the one good thing is that good help will be easier to find. Gone are the days wherein you had to make do with someone who was short on experience, training or motivation (or maybe all three). Now you can find someone who really meets your qualifications.

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OPINION

GOP candidates need to be ready for litmus test

■ The president can be smarter with his comments, but Republicans have to stop making unforced errors

KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

Republicans seem ceaselessly enamored of litmus tests, but the newest one — *Do you believe President Obama loves America?* — makes birthers seem witty.

The question arose after former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani told a private audience that he doesn't think Obama loves America. He further noted that Obama wasn't raised like him or members of the audience (conservative business people and assorted media), which, though probably true (Obama grew up in Hawaii and for a time in Indonesia), wasn't really the point.

Translated, Giuliani's observation was to question whether Obama is really on the home team, specifically when it comes to defeating the Islamic State. Whether Giuliani intended to dredge up the "otherness" of Obama, a remnant of the 2008 presidential election, isn't clear (or likely), the effect was to stoke long-simmering doubts about Obama's legitimacy.

To certain people, he is still an alien who doesn't think the way "we" do and is the son of a Kenyan anti-colonialist. (Aren't we all anti-colonialists these days?) The fact that he also happens to be African-American has many viewing Giuliani's comment as dog whistling to racists, which probably is not true.

Still, what he said had a certain familiar ring to it. And racists will embrace Giuliani's comments as speaking to them regardless of what was intended. As a result, Giuliani not only has tarnished his own legacy as America's mayor but has created problems for the Republican Party, which needed no new reasons for black voters to see them as unwelcoming.

Now, in the litmus test du jour, Republican presidential candidates are being forced to indicate whether they agree with Giuliani and also whether they believe President Obama is a Christian who loves his country. Good grief.

To be fair, these questions are coming from the media, but litmus-voters are paying attention — and so are Democrats. It is hard to fathom what exactly certain Republicans want from Obama. Tears? A public declaration of love?

Several years back, some insisted that Obama wasn't a patriot because he didn't want to wear a flag lapel pin. This was absurd on its face. Wear a little flag pin and we're all good? Refuse to wear one and you might be a Muslim operative?

Giuliani's comments followed closely on the heels of Obama's much-criticized speech at the National Prayer Breakfast, which did fall short of inspiring, one has to admit. In his attempt to appear humble, the president tried to give equal time to our nation's flaws as he commended its accomplishments, saying:

"Lest we get on our high horse and think this is unique to some other place, remember that during the Crusades and the Inquisition, people committed terrible deeds in the name of Christ."

Well now, there's a comparison unlikely to curry favor among the brethren. This weird teaching moment might work in an op-ed piece or in academia, but when the enemy invokes these very events, we might want to avoid lending legitimacy to their justifications for savagery and genocide.

Uniqueness, meanwhile, is irrelevant. Using history as a guide lest we repeat it is one thing; it is quite another to essentially minimize present horrors because, hey, we've all been bad. Christians aren't currently burning people alive or beheading them in an attempt to convert the world to Christianity.

Obama's failed attempt to show the world how even-handed he is revealed a surprising lack of logic. But this hardly means that he doesn't "love" America, whatever *that* means.

It isn't really so shocking that Obama's too-careful wording might cause someone like Giuliani to react strongly in the moment. The fact that Republicans aren't eager to distance themselves from the comments suggests that there are enough on the right who agree with him that a denunciation might be risky.

The first summoned to the interrogatory was Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, for whom the dinner was intended when Giuliani stole the show. Walker has been asked repeatedly whether he thinks Obama loves America, an idiotic question that only a fool would answer except to say, "Absolutely!"

Instead, Walker grabbed a shovel and starting digging a hole right next to Giuliani's. Though he first replied that he didn't feel he needed to comment on Giuliani's comments, he later said he doesn't know if Obama is a Christian.

Well, of course he doesn't "know," but everyone knows what Obama has said. He's a Christian. I'm no less inclined to believe the president when he says he's a Christian than I am to believe Walker when he says *he's* one. If either man is a fake Christian, he has plenty of company, the fact of which makes very little difference to most Americans.

This is all politics and Republican candidates need to get smarter. Litmus tests will keep coming their way, and anyone seriously considering running for president needs to know what he thinks before he's asked. When the camera is running is no time to share one's deliberations.

It seems that Walker could use better advisers and advance people — and the president might want to shake up his speech-writing department. In the meantime, only Giuliani owns his opinions.

Too bad they're so repugnant.

OUR VIEW

If perception matters, city's crime numbers have to improve

The Midland Police Department compiled its annual crime statistics for 2014, and they are not good.

All "Part 1," or major crime, categories were up compared to 2013. Those categories are murder and manslaughter by negligence, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, theft, auto theft and burglary. Four categories were up by double digits: murder (40 percent), forcible rape (64 percent), aggravated assault (15 percent) and auto theft (18 percent). These are not crimes in which you want to see increases, much less double-digit increases.

Some people will point to the silver lining that crime has decreased 19.2 percent since 2003, and that the 3,673 crimes were well below the 4,547 major crimes reported more than a decade ago. Still, it was a blow not being able to report that even one category decreased compared to 2013.

Perception is everything when it comes to safety, and a report like the one released on Friday isn't going to make residents feel safer. We will be the first to say Midland doesn't have the overall crime problems experienced by some other West Texas communities. At least it doesn't feel that way.

These numbers must not become a trend. All the work being done to make Midland a better place can be undone quickly if there is the perception that Midland isn't safe.

We encourage programs that promote partnerships between law enforcement and residents. We hope Midlanders get to know their neighbors better so we can all look after each other. Every little bit can help.

But forgive us if we are anxious going into 2015. Last year was one of the more prosperous times in the history of our community. By comparison, this year will be a struggle. People will be impacted negatively, and there are some law enforcement leaders who have said slowdowns bring out the criminal element (MPD Chief Price Robinson doesn't not necessarily buy into this theory).

Major crime has risen the last two years. Our community must do better to change these statistics.

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TO OUR READERS
Opinions, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the author's or artist's views and not necessarily the view of the Reporter-Telegram.

Abbott acts smart in wake of address

■ The new governor is more Bush than Perry as he gets to work in Austin

PEGGY FIKAC
San Antonio Express-News

Texans who remember how lawmakers sold the state lottery, funded private-school vouchers and abolished so-called sanctuary cities are living in a world where every word of every governor's State of the State address comes true.

Back in the real world, it's time to watch how many of the priorities outlined by Gov. Greg Abbott make it out of the Legislature alive.

So far, Abbott has made the right moves to turn his State of the State rhetoric into reality.

He invited state senators to the Governor's Mansion to talk about his priorities, an honor and a treat that some happily flagged on Twitter and Facebook. State representatives are next on the invitation list.

He lined up sponsors from both sides of the aisle for some key legislation.

He reached out to Texans on social media and plans to amplify his message around the state with stops including Houston this week and Dallas the week after that.

Most importantly, his agenda is in line with issues already being talked up by legislative leaders and lawmakers — a balancing act of boosting education, transportation and border security while cutting taxes.

There's also a little red meat on the Abbott menu in the form of his support for allowing Texans to open carry handguns, a controversy-stirring issue. There's a good-government component with ethics-reform proposals.

His emphasis on a limited number of key issues is reminiscent of another governor — and not necessarily his immediate predecessor, Rick Perry, who had a string of hits and some misses in his record 14 years in office.

"I was reminded actually in this not of Perry but of George W. Bush, who came into office with the four items that he wouldn't come off of: tort reform, education reform, welfare and juvenile justice reform," said political scientist Brandon Rottinghaus of the University of Houston.

Bush "really came into the office with a big head of steam. He pushed those four issues. His first 100 days in the Legislature were probably as successful as any governor that we've seen in recent memory," Rottinghaus said.

Perry, with more time in office, had a lot more opportunities to rack up successes and to pitch some ideas that fell flat.

Among the failures were efforts to target "sanctuary cities" that prevent local police officers from inquiring about the immigration status of detainees and selling the state lottery to private interests to pay for health care and cancer research.

Bush advocated state-paid vouchers for private schools during a State of the State address, and Perry pushed the same idea by advocating choice for students — both to no avail. Abbott cited the need for school choice in his State of the State address but didn't specify if that would include state-paid private school tuition.

Among Perry's successes was an idea that has come full circle: creation of incentive programs to help Texas compete for jobs. Those programs have come under some criticism as slush funds. Abbott is championing reform of those initiatives.

Rottinghaus, in a look at State of the State addresses starting in 2003, found that Perry had more success passing initiatives early in his tenure than later.

"If Abbott is to take something from this, the best bet for him is to put his most preferred policies up front because the Legislature seems to be more likely to play ball with him early on," Rottinghaus said. "There is something of a honeymoon effect for governor."

Abbott also might take some comfort from past governors in contemplating reviews that found his State of the State less than riveting. Bush won praise for his governorship even from people who derided his presidential performance, but he didn't impress all comers in his first State of the State address.

State Rep. Harold Dutton, D-Houston, gave the future president's State of the State this assessment in 1995, via the Houston Post: "I had a root canal last night, and it was more exciting."

From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore

US seeks stay of ruling on Obama immigration action

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The U.S. government asked a federal judge Monday to lift his temporary hold on President Barack Obama's action to shield millions of immigrants in the country illegally from deportation.

The Justice Department's motion for a stay was filed with the court of U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen in Brownsville.

The federal government on Monday also filed a three-page notice with Hanen, telling him it is appealing his decision to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court in New Orleans.

Last week, Hanen issued a preliminary injunction sought by 26 states suing to halt the executive action by Obama, who wants to spare from deportation as many as 5 million people who are in the U.S. illegally.

The states, led by Texas, have argued the action is unconstitutional and would force states to invest more in law enforcement, health care and education.

If Hanen puts his ruling on hold during the appeal to the 5th Circuit, then Obama's immigration action would be allowed to go forward while the lawsuit proceeds through the courts.

Obama announced the executive action in November, saying lack of action by Congress forced him to make sweeping changes to immigration rules on his own. Republicans, who say Obama has overstepped his authority, are blocking funding for the Department of Homeland Security unless Democrats agree to cancel Obama's order.

Justice Department attorneys said a stay of Hanen's ruling is necessary "to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is able to most effectively protect national security, public safety, and the integrity of the border." The 20-page motion argued that keeping the temporary hold "would also harm the interests of the public and of third parties who will be deprived of significant law enforcement and humanitarian benefits of prompt implementation" of the president's immigration action.

Government lawyers also contended Hanen lacked the authority to issue the injunction, the national effect of which is "vastly" excessive.

The injunction issued by Hanen should only focus on Texas "so that we can move forward with these executive actions in other states," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Monday.

Meaning of 4 words at center of high court health law fight

By Mark Sherman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court next week is scheduled to hear a challenge to President Barack Obama's health care overhaul that hinges on just four words in the massive law that seeks to dramatically reduce the ranks of the uninsured. The argument threatens subsidies that help make insurance affordable to consumers in about three dozen states.

The lawsuit focuses on the health insurance marketplaces, or exchanges, that have been set up to allow people to find coverage if they don't get insurance through their jobs or the government. The challengers argue that the health law provides subsidies only to people who get their insurance through an exchange "established by the state." But most states have not established their own marketplaces and instead rely on the federal healthcare.gov.

The administration says consumers in all 50 states are eligible for subsidies and that Congress would not have passed a law that omits help for so much of the nation.

Q. Why is the eligibility for subsidies such an important part of the law?

Aware of failed efforts on the state level to reduce the number of uninsured, the architects of the health law included three related requirements: Insurers can't deny coverage because of "pre-existing" health conditions; almost everyone must be insured, in order to get enough healthy people into the system; and consumers who otherwise would spend too much of their paycheck on their premiums get financial help in the form of tax credits. That last piece, the subsidies, is designed to keep enough people in the pool of insured to avoid triggering a so-called death spiral of declining enrollment, a growing proportion of less healthy people and premium increases by insurers.

Q. Would Congress have distinguished between consumers based on whether they get insurance through the federal government or the states?

The opponents say Congress could have made such a distinction, and did. Congress wanted two things — nationwide subsidies and state-run insurance exchanges. So in the challengers' view, the availability of subsidies was conditioned on states setting up their own exchanges. They say the case is "extraordinarily straightforward" because the phrase "established by the state" cannot refer to exchanges established by the Health and Human Services Department, which oversees healthcare.gov. There is no other way to read the law, they argue. One piece of outside evidence in their favor is a talk in 2012 by former administration health care adviser Jonathan Gruber in which he said states risked losing billions of dollars if they did not create their own exchanges.

Q. That seems pretty convincing. Has the administration given up?

No. The administration says the law's own "text, structure, design and history" refute the other side's arguments. Attempting to divine the meaning of four words in isolation from the rest of massive law is foolhardy, the Justice Department says. Several portions of the law indicate that consumers can claim tax credits no matter where they live, and that a central purpose of the law was to make health care affordable to all Americans. No member of Congress indicated that subsidies would be limited, and several states argue in a separate brief to the court that they had no inkling they had to set up their own exchange for their residents to get tax credits. The administration also says it is nonsensical to think Congress would have set such a "self-defeating scheme." The only possible reading of the law allows subsidies nationwide, the administration says.

Q. What if the court concludes the language isn't as clear as each side says?

That should produce a win for the administration because Supreme Court precedent holds that federal agencies get the benefit of the doubt when the meaning of a law, or part of it, can't be definitively determined from the text. The administration would rather not win in that fashion, however, because it leaves open the prospect of a future administration changing its view. That's much harder to do when a law has been interpreted as having a clear meaning. Then, only Congress can make changes.

Q. How many people would be affected and in how many states?

Independent studies by the Urban Institute and the Rand Corp. estimate that 8 million people would lose insurance if the court rules for the challengers. Subsidies appear to be safe for people living in the 13 states and the District of Columbia with their own markets — California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington — and perhaps in three others — Nevada, New Mexico and Oregon — that set up their own exchanges, but rely on the federal government for eligibility determinations.

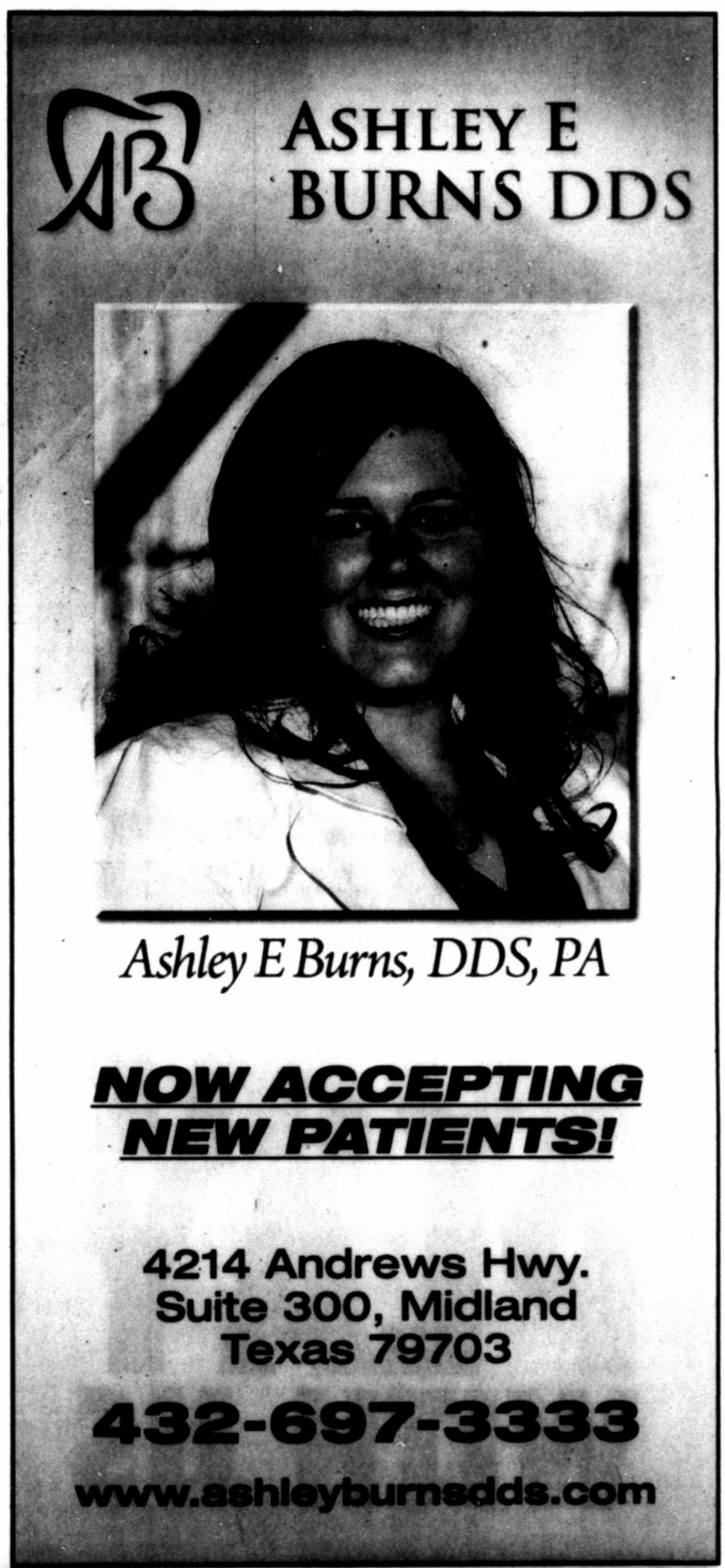
Q. How have courts ruled so far?

A three-judge panel in the federal appeals court in Richmond, Virginia, unanimously sided with the administration. That is the case on appeal to the Supreme Court. A second appeals court, in Washington, D.C., initially ruled 2-1 in favor of challenges. The full court, however, threw out that opinion and agreed to rehear the case. The Supreme Court's intervention put that rehearing on hold. The Supreme Court rarely takes cases without differing opinions in the lower courts. But as Justice Antonin Scalia told a Swiss interviewer in December, the case poses "a very, very significant question" that should be decided by the Supreme Court.

Q. Is there a partisan or ideological slant apparent?

As with everything else involving Obama's health overhaul, the answer is a resounding yes. This latest lawsuit is part of a long-running political and legal campaign to try to kill the overhaul that passed Congress without a single Republican vote and President Barack Obama signed into law in 2010. Of the six appellate judges who have ruled, four who were appointed by Democrats upheld the provision at issue and two Republican appointees voted to strike it down. The Supreme Court does not reveal how justices vote when they decide to hear a case. But in the two earlier cases involving Obama's health care law, the pattern held, with one important exception — Chief Justice John Roberts' vote in 2012 to uphold the law against a challenge to its constitutionality. The other four Republican appointees would have struck it down in its entirety.

Last year, the court by a different 5-4 majority said businesses with religious objections don't have to pay for contraceptives for women covered under their health plans.



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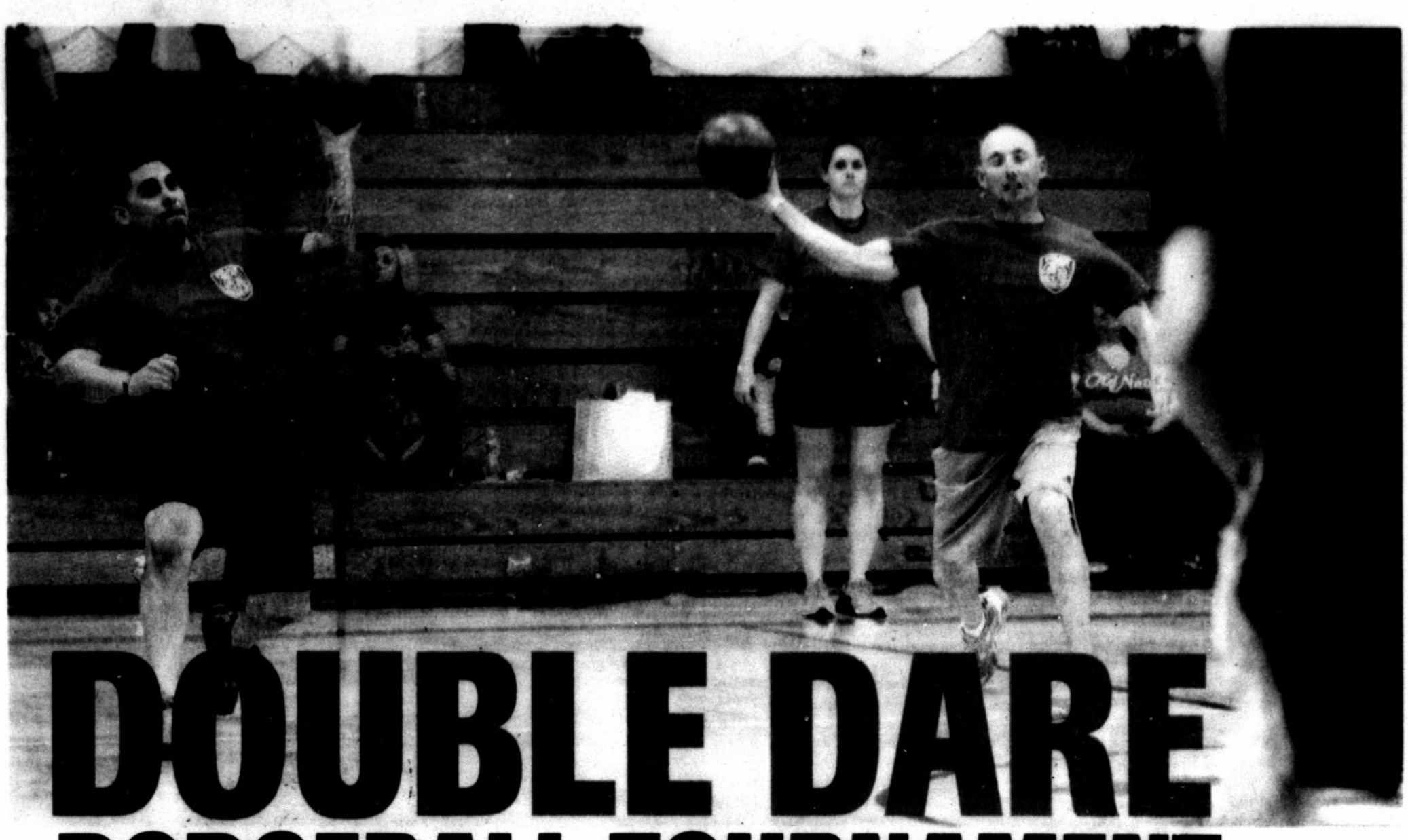

DOUBLE DARE DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

Members of the Midland Police Department team, above, and teams from ProPetro and Concho compete in the Double Dare Dodgeball Tournament benefiting National MS Society. The tournament, presented by Concho, was Saturday in the Midland College athletic building.

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Children and adults eat pancakes and sausage during the 58th Annual Lions Club Pancake Jamboree last year at the Lions Club Building.

Downtown Lions Club hosts day of endless pancakes

By Steve Kuhlmann
skuhlmann@mrt.com

Endless pancakes, all day long. No, it's not a dream, it's the 59th annual Pancake Jamboree hosted by the Midland Downtown Lions Club. Open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, $7 will buy you all the pancakes you can eat.

Midland Downtown Lions Club President Aubrey Linne said, weather permitting, he hopes to have nearly 4,000 patrons in attendance for this year's event.

"It's turned into a community event where a lot of people come out to just see old friends because it's a big social event as well," Linne said. "There a lot of people that you might not see all year long that you see at the Pancake Jamboree."

With up to 700 patrons seated at once, the nonprofit operates a dozen grills and cranks out up to 36 pancakes at a time. In addition to an endless stream of fresh pancakes, each patron will start off with three pieces of sausage and access to coffee, milk and juice.

With the help of sponsors, Linne said the event usually nets a profit of nearly $30,000, all of which goes directly toward the organization's service budget.

"Lions Club international has basic bylaws that we go by that (say that) the proceeds from any event that he have with the

Please see LIONS/3B

Opener for Loretta Lynn starts country music career with local gig

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Just a year ago, George Navarro found himself in Midland meeting with a potential new management team for his budding country music career.

The 22-year-old who was meeting strangers in a new city — a new country even — had no idea where that day would take him.

"I never imagined my dreams could come true in such a short time since leaving home," Navarro said. "But I was truly committed to pursuing this and follow my heart. And in such a short time, dreams have already come true."

One would be his performance today as the opening act for country legend Loretta Lynn at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center.

"It's such an honor to open for her. She's part of the history of country music," he said. "And this will actually be my first show in Midland so I'm excited to go back there."

Originally from Chihuahua, Mexico, Navarro came here without knowing English. In the last year, he's learned the language while writing a slew of country songs and getting his career on track. Despite the language barrier, he had quality experience in music.

Navarro describes February 2013 as the time his life changed completely.

"My dad was recovering from a stroke, so he asked me to take his place in the band Caballo Dorado while on tour. We toured around Mexico and the U.S. for a year. So I gained a lot of experience in front of big crowds," he said.

This was kind of a big deal. Caballo Dorado is a Grammy-winning band — Navarro was getting big exposure fast.

Music has been in Navarro's family for six generations. His father and uncle are in Caballo Dorado. His grandmother was the first professional mariachi in his hometown. But where they maintained roots in Mexican music, Navarro was drawn to mainstream country music, thanks mostly to George Strait.

"It was because of my dad that I got into American music and so I would always listen to his CDs, but when I heard George Strait, I knew I wanted to do music like that. It was something special to listen to him," Navarro said.

But he didn't just discover popular country music. In his father's collection, Navarro was also exposed to southern rock, '70s pop and even metal. These have even helped Navarro with his style.

"I tried to emulate guitarists like Jimmy Page and Angus Young after hearing their music," he said. "So their influence in my music is shown in my guitar skills and I try to mix that into a country sound. I tried rock and pop, but I love country and it feels more authentic to me and fans sense that."

The Oklahoma-based Navarro's been working on his fan base by playing clubs and honktyonks and scored opening slots for Joe Lewis. He's released a video for his song "Heavenly Grace." He's navigating the label set while he works to finish his first album.

Now he's opening for Loretta Lynn.

"I don't know if it's a good thing or a fault but I tend to dream big. This is what I'm shooting for and I know one day, it's all going to hap-

Please see MUSIC/4B

Performing this week

It's a big week in Midland for live music as two legendary female artists come to town.

Loretta Lynn

Loretta Lynn will perform 8 p.m. today at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. The show originally was set for Jan. 28 and Lynn's management rescheduled to allow her an opportunity to perform with Jack White at a Nashville engagement celebrating the 10th anniversary of Van Lear Rose, the album White and Lynn produced together.
Lynn's career has spanned 50 years and includes such hits as "Coal Miner's Daughter," "Don't Come Home A' Drinkin' (with Lovin' on Your Mind)" and "The Pill."
Tickets range from $42-$77 and can be purchased at wagnernoel.com.

Diana Ross

Motown legend Diana Ross will perform 8 p.m. Wednesday at Wagner Noel. Also boasting five decades of making music, Ross' success started in the 1960s as the lead singer of The Supremes. Ross left the group in 1970 and since has recorded with artists such as Marvin Gaye and Michael Jackson. This year's "Return to Love" tour pairs her with other members of The Supremes.
Tickets to Wednesday show range from $78-$138 and can be purchased at wagnernoel.com.

Disney hikes ticket prices at US parks

By Alex Veiga
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Visiting Mickey and Minnie just got more expensive.

The Walt Disney Co. raised ticket prices to attend Disneyland, Walt Disney World and the rest of its U.S. theme parks, effective Sunday.

A one-day ticket for either Disneyland or California Adventure in Anaheim, California, is now $99 for anyone 10 or older, the company said. That's up from $96.

Single-day tickets for the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, are now $105, up from $99.

Disney has continued to see strong attendance growth at its theme parks and resorts.

For the quarter that ended Dec. 27, revenue for the segment rose 9 percent to $3.9 billion, as attendance at the company's California and Florida parks climbed 7 percent, with Walt Disney World and the Disneyland Resort each setting all-time quarterly attendance records.

A measles outbreak linked to Disney's Southern California theme parks hasn't hurt attendance.

Earlier this month, CEO Bob Iger said in an interview with CNBC that the company was seeing no discernible impact on attendance or bookings from the outbreak, which was revealed last month.

More than 70 people in California, including six Disneyland employees, and about two dozen others in six states, Mexico and Canada have been sickened in the outbreak.

Among other price changes that took effect Sunday: A one-day ticket to Epcot, Disney's Hollywood Studios and Disney's Animal Kingdom now is $97, up from $94.

Disney also bumped up ticket prices for children ages 3 to 9.

Kids in that age bracket will be charged $93 for a single-day ticket at Disneyland. That's up from $90. For the Magic Kingdom, that ticket is now $99, up from $93. For the other theme parks it's now $91, up from $88.

Disney typically raises ticket prices at its U.S. theme parks annually, said Suzi Brown, a Disneyland Resort spokeswoman.

Academy notes Joan Rivers' absence from memorial

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences issued a statement Monday acknowledging the complaints that Joan Rivers was not featured in the "In Memoriam" tribute during Sunday night's Oscar ceremony.

"Joan Rivers is among the many worthy artists and filmmakers we were unfortunately unable to feature in the In Memoriam segment of this year's Oscar show. She is, however, included in our In Memoriam gallery on Oscar.com," the statement said.

Fans on social media complained about Rivers' absence from the tribute. Elaine Stritch was also a notable omission from the entertainment world, though her career was built on stage, not on screen.

Rivers was also not well-known for her film work, though she made a regular sideline out of her snarky critiques of red-carpet fashion.

Elizabeth Much, a spokeswoman for Rivers' daughter, Melissa Rivers, said she would have no comment.

Convict in murder plot that inspired 'Blind Faith' book dies

By David Porter
Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — A New Jersey insurance salesman convicted of plotting to kill his wife in a crime that inspired the bestselling book "Blind Faith" and a TV movie has died.

New Jersey's Department of Corrections said Robert O. Marshall died Saturday at South Woods State Prison in southern New Jersey. Citing privacy rules, the department didn't disclose a cause of death. Marshall was 75.

Marshall was convicted in 1986 of arranging the slaying of his wife, Maria. She was found shot to death in a picnic area along the Garden State Parkway as the couple returned from a night in Atlantic City. Prosecutors contended Marshall had his wife killed so he could collect a $1.5 million life insurance policy.

Marshall was to have appeared before the state parole board next month, according to parole board Chairman James Plousis. Marshall's two sons had testified at a victim impact hearing this month, Plousis said.

For nearly 20 years, Marshall was first in line for execution in New Jersey after the state reinstated the death penalty in 1982. But his death sentence was overturned in 2004 when a judge agreed with Marshall that his defense lawyer had erred by not calling any witnesses in the penalty phase of his trial. New Jersey abolished the death penalty three years later.

In a 2007 interview with The Associated Press, Marshall maintained his innocence and said he was framed. Referring to his move from death row to the prison's general population, Marshall said: "You always have that hanging over your head. You think your appeals are going to run out and you're going to take the long walk."

His story was the subject of Joe McGinniss' book "Blind Faith" and a 1990 movie of the same name.

The case resurfaced last year when Larry Thompson, who had been acquitted of being the triggerman by the same jury that convicted Marshall, confessed to the crime. In prison in Louisiana for armed robbery at the time, he told authorities that witnesses who said he was in Louisiana when Maria Marshall was killed were lying or mistaken.

Jerry Wayne Ruffner

On February 21, 2014, Jerry Wayne Ruffner, 74, of Midland, Texas, was graciously escorted home by Jesus.

Jerry was born in Hobbs, New Mexico, on February 11, 1941. He graduated from Hobbs Senior High School. While in high school, he worked at Ruffner's Foods and Butcher Shop until entering the Air Force. He worked for a time as a police officer in Hobbs. He then spent many years in various oil field related jobs. In his later years, he was employed at JCPenneys.

Jerry married Betty Nipp in 1961; they were married 19 years. They have two children, Norma Frasier and Rickey Ruffner. He later married Carol "Cassie" Ruffner in 1991; they were married 24 years.

He enjoyed his family, wood working projects, reading, arts and crafts. He was an avid story teller, sharing many interesting tales about his youthful exploits.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Alva A. Ruffner and Nellie Mae Ruffner; and his siblings, Larry Ruffner, Kenny Ruffner, and Connie Scroggins.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Cassie Ruffner; his children, Norma Frasier and Rickey Ruffner; his step children, Todd Jenkins, Don and Heather Jenkins, Stephanie and Joel Hegeman, Leigh and Jeff Mains; his grandchildren, Teresa Rodgers, Eugene Rodgers, Jr., Johnny Douglas Junior Frasier, Jonathan Caleb Jenkins, Sierra Nicole Jenkins, Rachael Marie Jenkins, and Matthew Isaac Jenkins, Joel August Hegeman, Jr., Samuel Zane Hegeman, Isabella Joy Hegeman, Ashleigh Zoe Mains, Jessica Brooke Mains, Joshua Knight Mains; and great grandchildren, Skye Anne Rodgers-Small, Perrin Alexander Rodgers-Small, Gaia Lynn Rodgers, Brean Starseeker Rodgers-Marsh, Evan Christopher Frasier, Kaylee Marie Frasier, and Lyllah Isabelle Frasier.

A memorial service will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at Ellis Funeral Home with Mickey Eckels officiating. A reception will be held following the service at the Ruffner residence, 3204 Cimmaron Ave., Midland.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be given in Jerry's name to the Midland Children's Advocacy Center, P.O. Box 10081, Midland, Texas 79702.

The family of Cassie Ruffner wishes to thank the many family and friends who have prayed and graciously helped us during this difficult time.

Online condolences may be offered at *www.ellisfunerals.com*.

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-5555

Jose A. 'Fred' Covarrubias, aka 'Cobra'

Jose A. 'Fred' Covarrubias, aka 'Cobra', 57, passed away comfortably in his home to enter the spiritual world to be a SPIRIT IN THE SKY with our Heavenly Father on February 20, 2015.

Visiting hours will be Tuesday and Wednesday, February 25 and 26, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and concluding at 8:00 p.m.

A celebration of life will be held February 26, 2015, 12:30 p.m. at American Heritage Cemetary & Funeral Home, 4100 N.F.M. 1788, Midland, TX 79707, with Pastor Manuel Perez officiating. We will then take him for his final ride to be laid to rest at Resthaven Memorial Park, 4616 N Big Spring St, Midland, TX 79705.

Fred was born October 2, 1957 in Midland, Texas and raised by his parents, Fred and Emma Grado. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School. He later married the mother of his children, Lydia Rodriquez, and was blessed with six children. Cobra lived a wild and crazy life, but was a very respected man. He was blessed with many talents from building custom homes, to his fancy artwork and to what he truly loved, playing his guitar. Many will remember his many performances at his favorite hangout Riley's Bar & Grill, amongst other places.

Fred is survived by his mother, Emma Grado; two sons, Christopher Grado and Alexander Grado; his three daughters, Mary Alice (Aaron) Flores, Roseanna 'Bonnie' Grado, and Frances 'Kiki' (Jerry) Strambler; his 11 grandchildren whom he loved the most, Marcus, Jordan, Miguel, Ayanna, Deyanna, Gilbert, Ciera 'Dot' Robert-Issak 'El Pollo', Angel, Jerry and baby Leah; seven sisters; three brothers; and brother Martin Grado, his biological mother, Josefina Covarrubias.

He is preceded in death by his father, Federico 'Fred Grado; his son, Gilbert Covarrubias; and his grandmother, Francisca 'Kika Covarrubias; his brothers, Desiderio 'Desi' Covarrubias and Ricardo Covarrubias.

The family would like to give a special thank you to Compass Hospice Home Health Care and their staff for their service and support in helping Fred through his battle with cancer.

Arrangements are entrusted to American Heritage Cemetery and Funeral Home. To express online condolences *www.theheallingstartshere.com.*

American Heritage
CEMETERY & FUNERAL HOME
The Healing Starts Here

Mary Sue Rowden

Mary Sue Rowden, 74, of Abilene, Texas, passed away February 19, 2015 at an Abilene hospital.

Born January 31, 1941 to Willie Earl Lawson and Mary Jane Abernathy of Seymour, Texas, she grew up in Stanton and attended Stanton High and was married to Royce Don Rowden for 40 years.

She was a cosmetologist for 20 years and worked for Harmony Health Food for many years. A devoted Christian, mother, and grandmother, she loved and cherished her family, friends, and life-long friendships.

She was preceded in death by her parents, four siblings, and her eldest son, Randal.

She is survived by her husband, Royce; her children, Wally and his wife Shaunna Overby, and Albert and his wife Shana Overby; daughter-in-law, Debbie Overby; and nine grandchildren.

Her service will be held on February 25, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. at College Baptist Church in Big Spring, TX 79720. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a charity of your choice. Under the direction of Girdner Funeral Home of Abilene.

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

Sheril Guinn Berryhill

Sheril Guinn Berryhill, 78, passed away at his home on the morning of Saturday, February 21, 2015. He was a Christian and believed in Jesus Christ.

Sheril was born on an open prairie farm outside of Tatum, New Mexico. He was the fourth of five children born to Lee and Ruth Berryhill. At a young age, Sheril developed a strong work ethic that was with him until his last breath. There was nothing he couldn't fix or for which he could not find a solution.

Sheril attended a small school in Tatum; his senior year, he was voted "Most Handsome." He always said, "You should have seen the other guy." After high school, he attended the University of New Mexico, but soon returned to Eastern New Mexico and West Texas working construction and oilfield-related jobs.

He was drafted into the United States Army in 1959, and was stationed in Germany when the Berlin Wall was built.

After returning from Germany, he renewed his friendship with Marion Brown. It blossomed into a storybook romance with Marion becoming the love of his life. They married October 13, 1962. With great love and mutual respect, they built a wonderful life together. They raised two sons, Perry and Darren, who loved and respected their dad. He was the best husband and greatest dad ever! When his grandchildren came along, he shared even more love to them. He tried to instill in his grandchildren honesty and to always keep your word.

Sheril became a stockbroker in 1980, after a career in the finance business. He soon joined the A.G. Edward and Sons brokerage firm where he had a most successful career. Financial planning and the stock market were his true calling. He loved his clients! He retired in 2002. During his career, he and Marion traveled extensively. Sheril loved to travel; having dinner in the Vatican was his most treasured memory.

Once he was retired, he became active in the Permian Basin Oil Burners, a chapter of the VMCCA, a national antique touring car club. He loved the club and his old classic cars. Sheril worked on these cars on a daily basis and was in the process of restoring a 1957 Cadillac. Most of all he loved the club members; they were like extended family and they loved him.

Sheril loved his family and shared a special bond with his brother, B. D. Berryhill. They gathered every morning at Norma's to convene their round table of cronies, playfully dubbed the "Romeo" Club (Retired Old Men Eating Out).

On his daily walks, he often spoke of the beautiful sunrises, as so, he was a light in our lives. Sheril will be missed by all who knew him. He was our leader! Our hearts are heavy as we grieve for our loss, but rejoice because we know he is in a better place.

Even the most glorious sunrise must ascend.

Sheril was preceded in death by his parents, Lee and Ruth Berryhill; brother, Gary Berryhill; his in-laws, Sam and Wilma Brown; brother-in-law, Sammy Long; sister-in-law, Catherine Berryhill; and brother-in-law, George Hamlin.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Marion; sons, Perry Berryhill, and Darren Berryhill and wife, Kathy; his brother, B. D. Berryhill; sisters, Gloria Hamlin, and Patricia Hodgson and husband, David; sisters-in-law, Wanda Berryhill and Martha Long; grandchildren, Ryan Berryhill, Zachery Berryhill, Nicholas Woolley, and Emily Berryhill; nephews, Gregg Berryhill and wife, Ana, Michael Berryhill and wife, Peggy, Tracy Long and wife, Tina, Brian Berryhill, Phillip Berryhill, Kyle Long, Robert Hodgson, and Kyle Hodgson; nieces, Addison Long, Lisa Kelly and husband, Michael, Stormie Aldridge and husband, Darrell, Cherylene LeBeaux and husband, Mike, Deri K. Tohkubbi and husband, Don, Laci Derkowski and husband, Ricky, Molly Hodgson, and Gennifer Tvrdik and husband, Greg.

Family visitation will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at Sherwood Church of Christ with Lynn Money officiating. Interment will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Pallbearers will be Ryan Berryhill, Zachery Berryhill, Nicholas Woolley, Gregg Berryhill, Bill Mills, Michael Berryhill, Greg Eddings, and Gary Homsey.

Services entrusted to Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home of Odessa.

Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home
Dignity 601 North Alleghaney Odessa, TX 79761 (432) 332-3991

Condolences may be offered at www.hubbardkellyfuneralhome.com

Death Notices

Lynda A. Flow

Lynda A. Flow, 89, of Midland, died Monday, February 23, 2015.

Services are pending at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland.

To Submit Obituaries:

Contact
Monday-Friday
8:00am-5:00pm

Direct:
432-682-6222

Fax:
432-682-6999

Email:
obits@mrt.com

Midland Reporter-Telegram

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

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"Change the Path of a Pet's Life"
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(Inside PetSmart)
432-520-3134 ext. 7
www.midlandhumane.org
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MIDLAND NEED TO READ
ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM
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info@midlandneedtoread.org
432-682-9693
1709 W. Wall St. Midland, Texas 79701

TUESDAY PRIME TIME — FEBRUARY 24, 2015 — For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

						6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID	ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Fresh Off-Boat (N)	Repeat After (N)	Agent Carter "Valediction" (SF) (N)		Forever "Memories of Murder" (N)		KMID News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) News Nightline
KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7 News	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Blast From the Past" (N)		NCIS: New Orl "My Brother's Keeper" (N)		Person of Interest "Blunt" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) Dletter, Matthew Broderick, Ellie Kemper	(:35) Late Show
KWWT	CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Hogan's Heroes	Twilight Zone	Taxi	Taxi	Carol Burnett	P. Mason "The Case of the Shifty Shoebox"	McCloud
KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Masterchef "The Finale" (SF) (N)	Junior	New Girl (N)	MindyP-roject (N)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Hot in Cleveland	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother
KMLM	IND	11	11	12	11	11	Joe McGee	HaYesod	Update News	Mission: M25	Light of the Southwest				Exploring With the Scholars		Ministerios Vida	Nueva
KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 at 6 p.m.		The Voice "The Blind Auditions, Part 2" The 'blind auditions' continue. (N)				Parks and Recreation (F) (N)		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) Jimmy Fallon	(:35) Late Night (N)
KPBT	PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Genealogy Roadshow (N)		The Italian Americans (N)		The Italian Americans (N)		Charlie Rose (N)		Tavis Smiley (N)	Tavis Smiley
KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	La sombra del pasado		Mi corazón es Tuyo		Hasta el fin del mundo		Que te perdone Dios... Yo no		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	La Que No Amar	Podia
KOSA	MNT	16	16		16		Fam.Feud	Million..	Law & Order: C.I.		Law & O: CI "Poison"		My News	Million..	Anger M.	M&M	Office	Access H.
FLIX		340	65		165		(5:15) ★★ Cocktail		★ Carlito's Way: Rise to Power				(:35) ★★ Snake Eyes		(:15) ★★★ Haven ('04, Dra) Bill Paxton.			
HBO		300	68	14	14		Movie	Together	★★★★ Dallas Buyers Club				Real Sports (N)		Boxing WCB		(:15) Girls	Looking
HBO2		302	69	15	101	23	★★ The Heat ('13, Com) Sandra Bullock.				Looking	LastWeek	Bill Maher		★★ The Purge Ethan Hawke.			Alzheim.
HBO5		304	70	16	102		The Jinx	(:45) Making	★★ Stoker Mia Wasikowska.		Second		★★ The Conjuring Patrick Wilson.				(:55) ★ The Way ...	
MAX		380	71	17	120	24	(4:55) ★ The Best M...		★★★★ Rush Hour Jackie Chan.		(:45) ★★ 2 Guns Denzel Washington.					Topless	Topless	Movie
MAX2		382	72	18	122		(:15) ★ The Fast & the Furious: Tokyo Drift				★★★ Draft Day ('14, Spt) Kevin Costner.				(:55) Spring	★★★ Batman Begins		
PLEX				96			(3:25) ★ Superbable...		★★ Milk Money				(:50) ★★ Cousins ('89, Rom) Ted Danson.		(:45) ★★ The Odd Couple II			
SHOW		320	66	19	140	25	(5:40) ★ Last Holiday		★★ Get Rich or Die Tryin'				Lies	Boyhood	★ Nas: Time Is Il...		(:15) QUIET RIOT	
TMC		336	67	22	155	26	(5:30) ★ The Last Ex...		★★★★ Django Unchained ('12, West) Christoph Waltz, Jamie Foxx.						★★ Hostel Eythor Gudjonsson.			Movie
A&E		27	32	28	35	47	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Shipping Wars (N)	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars
AMC		40	21	23	42	51	(4:00) ★ X2: X-Men ...		★★★★ The Day After Tomorrow Dennis Quaid.						★★★ The Day After Tomorrow Dennis Quaid.			
BET		58	26		40		(5:30) ★ Madea's Big Happy Family ('11, Dra) Tyler Perry.					KeyshiaC	Being Mary Jane (N)		Being Mary Jane		Wendy Williams	
BRAVO		65	63		41		Beverly "Sister Act"		Beverly "Surprise!"		Beverly Hills (N)		Girlfriends' Guide (N)		Watch (N)	Beverly Hills		Guide
CNBC		46	45		39	72	Startup "Movin' Out"		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Restaurant Start (N)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN		43	24	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		CNN Report (N)		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360		CNN Special Report	
DISC		50	20	31	24	42	Amish "The Return"		Amish Mafia (N)		Amish Mafia (N)		Amish Mafia		Amish Mafia		Amish Mafia	
DISNEY		56	27	36	25	36	Jessie	KC Under	★ Bad Hair Day Laura Marano.		Mickey		I Didn't	Liv/Mad	I Didn't	A.N.T.	GoodLuck	GoodLuck
ESPN		32	29	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball Wisconsin vs. Maryland (L)				NCAA Basketball Florida vs. Missouri (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2		34	28	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball Texas vs. West Virginia (L)				NBA Coast to Coast (L)				Basketb.	NBA	30/30 "The Bad Boys"	
FAMILY		53	54	34	42	33	Pretty Little Liars		Liar "Bloody Hell" (N)		Switched at Birth (N)		Liar "Bloody Hell"		The 700 Club		Gilmore Girls	
FNC		45	58	53	23	55	On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
FOOD		64	59	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped (N)		Chopped		Chopped	
FSSW		37	43	50	45	29	Girls/ Go (N)	Stars Insider (N)	Mavs Pre (L)	NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Dallas Mavericks Site: American Airlines Center -- Dallas, Texas (L)					Maveric-ks Live (L)	RDOHo-uCow	WPT Poker Legends of Poker	
FX		31	31	59	64	69	M&M		★★★ Immortals ('11, Act) Mickey Rourke, Henry Cavill.						Justif. "Alive Day" (N)	Justified "Alive Day"	Justified "Sounding"	
HALLMARK		54	49	58		34	The Waltons		Waltons "The Call"		Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV		63	50	26	48	44	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper (N)		H.Hunt	House (N)	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper	
HISTORY		71	62	29	50	43	Counting	CountCars	Counting	Counting	Counting Cars (N)		(:05) Gangland U.		(:05) Mississippi Men		Counting	Counting
LIFETIME		28	25	25	28	48	Dance Moms "Nia Risks It All"		Dance Moms "Wild Wild West Coast" 1/2		Dance Moms "Wild Wild West Coast" (N)		Genius "We All Want to Win, Right?" (N)		Little Women: LA "Into the Woods"		Dance Moms "Wild Wild West Coast" 1/2	
MSNBC		47	51		49	73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN		38	39				NHL Hockey Philadelphia Flyers at Carolina Hurricanes (L)					Overtime	Rivals	NHLTop10	EPL Soccer			
NICK		55	34	39	34	37	Thunder	Hathaway	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	Friends	(:10) Ray	(:50) Ray
SPIKE		30	22	55	53	58	Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue		Bar Res. "Beach Rats"		Framework		Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue	
SYFY		66	64	41	57	67	Face Off		Face Off		Face Off (N)		Close Up Kings (N)		Face Off		Close Up "Phoenix"	
TBS		25	11	44	66	41	Seinfeld	Seinf. "The Smelly Car"	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Cougar Town (N)	Conan Artie Lange. Victoria Justice (N)		Cougar Town	Conan
TCM		41	61	24	63	66	(5:30) ★ It Happene...		★★★★ A Little Romance Diane Lane.				★★★★ Being There ('79, Com) Peter Sellers.					Movie
TELE		20	8	10	20		Caso cerrado		Los miserables		Tierra de reyes		Dueños del paraiso		Al rojo	(:35) Titular.	Tierra de reyes	
TLC		51	33	32	38	52	Our Little Family	Our Little Family	19 Kids: Recount "Jill's Secret" (N)		19 Kids & Count (N)	19 Kids & Count (N)	Our Little Family (N)	Our Little Family (N)	19 Kids & Count	19 Kids & Count	Our Little Family	Our Little Family
TNT		24	23	40	26	50	Castle "A Deadly Affair"		Rizzoli & Isles "Bridge of Tomorrow"		Rizzoli & Isles "Foot Loose" (N)		Perception "Meat" (N)		Rizzoli & Isles "Foot Loose"		Perception "Meat"	
TVLAND		49	48	35	54	35	Walker, Texas Ranger		Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens	Friends	Friends
USA		26	30	42	27	49	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Sirens (N)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Sirens	Sirens
WGN		19	18				America's Funniest Home Videos		★★ Deep Blue Sea (1999, Horror) Samuel L. Jackson, Michael Rapaport, Saffron Burrows.				OutlawCountr "Good Town, Bad Blood" (N)		OutlawCountr "Good Town, Bad Blood"		OutlawCountr "Good Town, Bad Blood"	

'Marmaduke' still doing new tricks

By Tumbleweed Smith
Big Spring storyteller

Brad Anderson of Montgomery started drawing the cartoon "Marmaduke" in 1954. "It has been syndicated for over 60 years in nearly 600 newspapers around the world," said Brad, who has been cartooning all his life and has won numerous awards for his work. His mother told him his first word was "pencil."

"I wanted a pencil so I could draw a picture of a truck. I went outside to the sidewalk and tried to draw a truck on it. But the lead wore out so fast on the pencil I couldn't finish the drawing," he said.

He sold his first cartoon to a model airplane magazine called "Flying Aces" when he was a teenager. He had planned to buy a car with the income he was expecting from the magazine. "They ran two of my cartoons and paid me $3 apiece for them. At least I could take a date for hamburgers and malts."

Soon he was getting $25 for each cartoon. That was a lot of money back in the late 1930s. While serving in the Navy he earned a reputation as someone who could draw a humorous poster. He enjoyed that and felt encouraged that people got a kick out of his work. After serving in the Navy he attended Syracuse University where he studied industrial design. He then started selling his cartoons to magazines in New York City. The subject matter covered nearly everything.

"The guys at the post office got to know me because I would bring in these big envelopes with cartoons in them and mail them to Saturday Evening Post, Collier's, True Magazine and others. Soon, I was getting $250 for each cartoon. Then I got a contract with Saturday Evening Post. One day, they sent me a letter saying they were going to hand out 10 contracts and they wanted me to have one of them. I had to send them a batch of cartoons every week, and they paid me even if they didn't use any. They usually used a few of them. It was worth a bunch of money."

Brad grew up near Buffalo, New York, and spent most of his adult life in California. He moved to Montgomery in 1992. He got the idea for "Marmaduke" from a gag writer friend who wrote funny things about dogs. He patterned "Marmaduke" after his puppy, a great dane. The name came from an early cartoon mouse that was called "Marmaduke."

"I can't give up the cartoon," said Brad. "I'm 90 years old and still like to come up with ideas and do sketches. So I lay out Sunday pages and dailies. I do a panel cartoon six days a week and a strip for Sunday. And every Sunday I have what's called 'Doggone Funny.' I had so many people writing me letters telling about their dogs I thought I should share some of those with readers. It's amazing how people respond to that 'Marmaduke' cartoon."

LIONS

From 1B

with the public must be spent on service projects," Linne said. "We can't buy hats or anything else out of the funds that we make off of (the event). Every penny (of) profit is going into next year's service project."

One of the main service projects for the nonprofit is building two to three access ramps a year for those who have trouble getting in and out of their homes, Linne said. Additionally, he said the group offers monetary support to the Texas Lions Camp, a free summer camp held in Kerrville for children between the ages of 7 and 16 who are living with physical disabilities.

Want to go?

Midland Downtown Lions Club 59th Annual Pancake Jamboree
When: 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday
Where: Midland Downtown Lions Club, 200 Plaza St.
Cost: $7 for all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage
Benefits: Service projects of Midland Downtown Lions Club

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED MOTHER-(never known to fail)

O Most Beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful is the splendor of Heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. O Star of the sea- help me and show herein you are my Mother. O holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart, grant me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.(3 times) O Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands. (3 times) Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands . (3 times) Thank you for your mercy to me and mine. Amen.

This prayer must be said for 3 days. After 3 days, your request will be granted. This prayer must be published. Thank You.

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

For each phrase below, rearrange the letters to spell two things that are parts of animals. For example: SHOWN RING can be rearranged to spell HORN and WINGS.

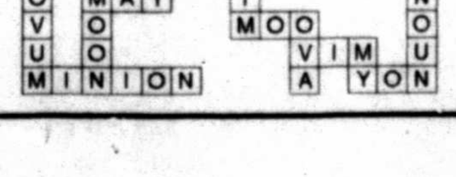
STUCK SEALS
S _ _ _ _ T _ _ _ _

TEN SHARE TOFU
F _ _ _ _ _ S _ _ _ _

HULA TOPIC
P _ _ _ T _ _

WILL GASP
G _ _ _ _ P _ _

Yesterday's Answer:



1.2.24

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James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

DAY OF THE DOGS

West Texas Kennel Club hosted its dog show Friday at Horseshoe Pavilion.

Nielsen: Viewership down for Oscars

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Oscar viewership was down 16 percent from last year and reached its lowest point since 2009, with 36.6 million people watching the Neil Patrick Harris-hosted awards show on ABC Sunday night.

The Nielsen company's preliminary estimate of U.S. viewership was down from the 43.7 million people who watched last year, a feel-good show where host Ellen DeGeneres attracted attention for posting a "selfie" with various movie stars and having pizzas delivered to the audience.

Last year's show, which also had the star power of "Frozen," Matthew McConaughey and U2, reached the biggest audience for any Academy Awards show since 2000.

The Oscars tend to be the most-watched entertainment program of the year on television, often second only to the Super Bowl. But viewership can be affected by the relative popularity of the movies up for big awards, and best picture winner "Birdman" wasn't a particularly big box office draw. "American Sniper" was the most popular movie, but received one relatively minor award.

There was also a movement among black viewers to boycott the awards show because all of the major acting nominees were white. There's no way to immediately tell whether this had an impact on the decrease in viewers since Nielsen did not have an immediate breakdown of ethnic viewership.

This year's Oscars audience was the lowest since 36.3 million watched in 2009, when "Slumdog Millionaire" won best picture.

After a couple of years where awards show ratings in general were going up — a reflection of the desire among viewers for live programming — they appear to have flattened.

Nielsen also said there were 5.9 million messages about the Academy Awards sent out through Twitter in the U.S. That's roughly half the 11.2 million tweets sent out last year, when DeGeneres' selfie replicated like wildfire online.

The biggest individual moment for Twitter and Facebook was the same: Lady Gaga's medley of songs from "The Sound of Music."

MUSIC

From 1B

pen," he said.

And it seems like he's off to a good start.

George Navarro with Loretta Lynn at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. FM 1788. 8 p.m. today. $42-$77. Wagnernoel.com.

NEIL SPERRY

Neil Sperry's "Plant Talk Texas" and "Texas Lawn and Garden Hour" can be heard on radio stations across the state. Email him at mailbag@sperrygardens.com.

Roses need pruning now, before spring growth

Dear Neil: What is the best time to prune plum trees, figs and roses?

Answer: Plums should be pruned in late January or early February, before buds start to swell for spring growth. Your goal is to keep the trees low (to 9 or 10 feet tall) and spreading (15 to 16 feet wide). Figs should not be pruned regularly — only to remove dead or damaged branches. Pruning stimulates strong regrowth, usually at the expense of fruit production. Roses are pruned in mid-February, again before growth begins. Bush roses should be trimmed back by 50 percent, with each cut just above a bud facing out from the center of the plant.

Dear Neil: My tall, beautiful Leyland cypress is slowly turning brown in spite of being watered regularly. What is an easy care evergreen for Texas? This is for property we have in Central Texas, and pines have not done well there, either.

Answer: Your Leyland cypress has probably succumbed to Seiridium canker. It's a fatal disease for which we have no control, and tens of thousands of Leylands have died from it in the past decade in Texas alone. Eastern redcedar juniper (Juniperus virginiana) is a great substitute. It's native to big areas of Texas, and it has essentially the same mature size, growth form and look as the Leyland cypress tree.

Dear Neil: I have what look and smell like wild onions in my backyard. Their leaves are very thin, and they have small, white bulbs. Are they edible?

Answer: No. Be very careful! There are members of the onion family that grow wild in Texas and that cause illness and occasional death when people harvest and eat them. Stick with onion-family members you have either bought in the grocery or intentionally raised in your garden. The risks are far too high otherwise.

Dear Neil: I have a snow-on-the-mountain camellia that is always covered with buds, but the buds never open. They turn brown and stay on the plant. Otherwise, the plant looks healthy. I'm about to redo my garden. Should I move it to another location in the process, or should I consider it a poor plant choice? I have better luck with other varieties, but they get more shade. Would that help?

Answer: You could certainly try the move. The farther north and west you go in Texas, the more challenging camellias become. It's partly because of alkaline soils and irrigation water in many cases, and it's partly because of winter cold. In East Texas, they're much better suited. Varieties that habitually flower later into the winter are often caught in full bud when cold temperatures hit. The buds, being rather vulnerable to freezes, often just turn brown and hang on. Earlier flowering types bloom and get it over with before the extremely cold weather. Compare blooming dates of this variety with the others you're growing. Perhaps that will help give you an answer of whether to save it.

Dear Neil: What is the best fertilizer to apply to a common bermuda lawn, and when should I put it out. Also, what is the timing for pre-emergent weed-killer applications?

Answer: Soil tests from Texas A&M repeatedly tell us that clay soils need fertilizers containing primarily nitrogen, so an all-nitrogen plant food such as 24-0-0 (or any similar analysis) would be best. Avoid ammonium sulfate (21-0-0), however. It consists entirely of fast-release nitrogen. Half or more of the nitrogen in the product you buy should be quality slow-release nitrogen. In sandy soils, a 4-1-2 ratio such as 16-4-8, 20-5-10 or 24-6-12 would be ideal. Fertilize one to two weeks after the average date of your last killing freeze. Repeat every two months until early October. Pre-emergents for crabgrass and grassburs need to be applied March 1-15 and repeated June 1-15. Use Halts or Dimension.

Dear Neil: I usually plant celebrity tomatoes. Can you recommend a second good variety?

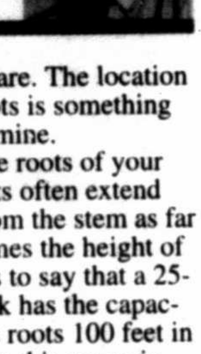
Answer: Stick with small to mid-sized types. Celebrity has been outstanding for more than 25 years. (It wasn't mentioned in the book you referenced, because that book goes back more than 30 years.) Tycoon is a newer type that everyone loves. It would be my second choice. Cherry, pear and Porter tomatoes are excellent producers, as are the super-sweet hybrids. Roma, super fantastic and early girl are other options, and several other new types are being introduced each year.

Dear Neil: I enjoy morning glories, but in recent years, the plants I've grown from seed have had weak mixes of colors. What is the old-fashioned blue type that bloomed so heavily?

Answer: That is a variety called heavenly-blue. Remember that morning glories don't really bloom very well until fall. They also must be kept "hungry." Don't apply nitrogen around their root systems to encourage stem growth, because that's all that you'll get — vigorous stem and leaf growth.

Weed-and-feed products can do more harm than good in lawns

JEFF FLOYD



Jeff Floyd is a horticulturist with Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Email him at jeff.floyd@ag.tamu.edu.

Every year as the mercury arises from its winter nap and homeowners experience the pangs of spring fever, weeds also begin to punch through the soil. Although it may not rise to the level of a New Year's resolution, many folks will vow to kill the weeds that dotted their lawns last year. On the surface there are products that seem to offer a solution to the weed issue. These are the many weed-and-feed combinations available over the counter. But can weed-and-feed products do more harm than good?

Weed-and-feed products contain a combination of some type of fertilizer and some type of weed killer. There are a variety of ways manufacturers combine the two very different products. Usually it is simply a mixture of fertilizer pellets and weed killer pellets. Most combination products contain post-emergent broadleaf weed killers. Post-emergents are designed to kill weeds after they have sprouted. Pre-emergents are designed to destroy weeds before they grow. There are products that combine pre-emergents and fertilizers, but I want to talk about weed-and-feed products because they have the potential to cause you the most misery.

First let me mention this: Fertilizer should never be applied unless a specific nutrient limitation has been identified through a soil analysis. In other words, fertilization should be prescriptive, like getting advice from a doctor. Laboratories that process soil samples usually want to know what kind of plant you think may need fertilizer so they can make their best recommendations. A soil analysis may save you money by showing that your soil already contains what your plant needs.

One problem with granular combination weed-and-feed products is the fertilizer particles are not the same size as the herbicide particles. This may cause each product to form separate layers in the fertilizer spreader. The separated particles will disperse unevenly. In this scenario, portions of the lawn will receive too much fertilizer and too little weed killer, while other areas will receive too much weed killer and not enough fertilizer.

Another problem is most of these combination products contain broadleaf weed killers. Broadleaf weed killers make no distinction between broadleaf plants that you want to kill and those you want to keep. Trees can be particularly hard hit by repeated applications of weed-and-feed products. Weed-and-feed product labels almost always warn against applying the granules over areas that have tree roots. Of course, the manufacturer does not know where your tree roots are. The location of your tree roots is something you must determine.

Where are the roots of your trees? Tree roots often extend horizontally from the stem as far away as five times the height of the tree. That is to say that a 25-foot tall live oak has the capacity to spread its roots 100 feet in all directions. In this scenario, according to the label directions, there is no safe place to apply the product.

What do I recommend? Fertilize your plants based on a proper analysis of the soil and do not use a combination product. Avoid using weed killers if at all possible. Instead, create a competitive advantage for your landscape by selecting the very best native and adapted plants for West Texas. Put those plants in a part of your lawn where they will receive the amount of light and water that makes them happiest. Maintain those plants with time-proven and science-based best management practices.

To receive a list of the best plants for West Texas lawns, contact the Midland County Extension office at 686-4700 or email me at jeff.floyd@ag.tamu.edu.

RE-LEAF BY DEBBIE FROST

Just when many narcissus were making their red carpet appearance, West Texas gets an icy reminder that it is still winter. Despite the icy cold, many members of the narcissus genus will continue their spring walk down the runway when seasonal weather returns.

Narcissus is the genus name that daffodils, jonquils and paperwhites belong to. There are hundreds of different species in the genus and numerous cultivars. Bulb catalogues just scratch the surface of the range and variety of the famed daffodil plant group. Many members of the narcissus genus do well in West Texas landscapes, but you need to do some homework to find out which ones are worth investing in for long-term results.

Everybody wants a daffodil with flowers the size of golf balls, but that's not practical, unless they are silk. Most of the large flowering daffodils are native to cold winter areas that need a long, sustained cold period to induce flowering. Because the narcissus genus is rather large, here are a few guidelines for making selections. Select species or cultivars with smaller flowers and clusters of flowers, those that naturalize easily and those whose bloom time is described as "very early, early and early mid-season." These have a better chance of doing well in West Texas.

Here are a few cultivars (cultivated varieties) to consider for your spring garden.

- Avalanche: Clusters of small, white flowers with a yellow-gold cup, 16-18 inches tall.
- Beersheba: A graceful, warm, white ivory flower, 14-16 inches tall.
- Carlton: A classic daffodil with bright yellow-gold flowers, 18-20 inches tall.
- Campernelle: Small, bright yellow, with reed-like leaves, naturalizes, 10-14 inches tall. Blooming now.
- Erlicheer: Clusters of 15-20 richly fragrant, creamy white and gold-flecked flowers. 14-16 inches tall.
- Grand primo: Clusters of flowers with white petals and yellow cups, a very vigorous heritage bulb, 14-16 inches tall.
- Icefollies: A large flower with white petals and a yellow ruffled cup that matures to almost white, blooming right now. 20-24 inches tall.
- Trevithian: Clusters of highly fragrant, yellow jonquils that will multiply rapidly, 18-20 inches tall.

Now is not the time to plant, but as soon as the weather warms it is time to have your camera and notebook handy to research and search for narcissus bulbs to plant next fall or early winter.

Re-leaf can be found in the charming and resilient beauty of narcissus.

Debbie Frost is a local horticulturist specializing in regionally appropriate horticulture. Email her at garden.frost@gmail.com.

TODAY: Mostly sunny High: 48 Low: 31

WEDNESDAY: Sunny High: 61 Low: 35

THURSDAY: Mostly sunny High: 48 Low: 27

FRIDAY: Mostly cloudy High: 49 Low: 31

SATURDAY: Mostly sunny High: 59 Low: 44

SUNDAY: Mostly sunny High: 70 Low: 41

Local forecast

Brutally cold weather moves out of the region, making way for below-average temperatures today, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The chance of precipitation remains in the forecast, according to the National Weather Service, with some chance of wet weather six of the next seven days.

The high on Monday reached 23, while the low dropped to 20. The record high for Feb. 23 is 84 set in 1956, 1982 and 2012. The record low is 14 set in 1966.

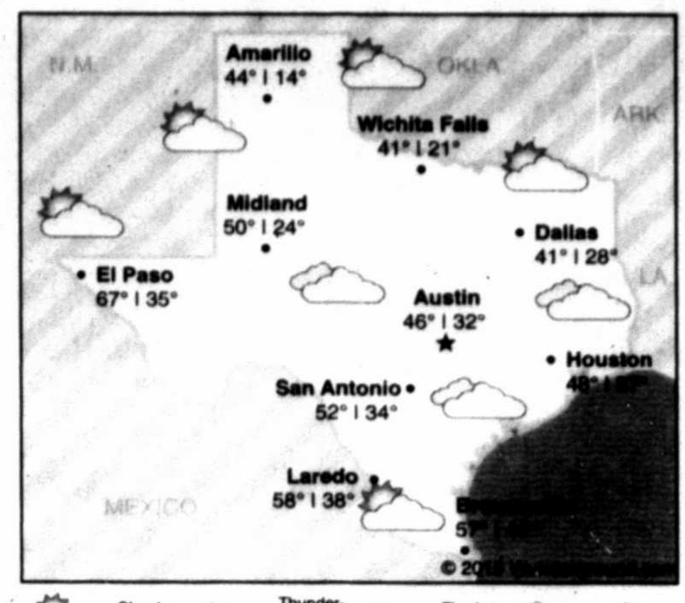
National forecast

As arctic high pressure settles along the Middle Atlantic coast, the Northeast will have a frigid start to the day, only negated by late-February sunshine. While this air mass will bring dangerous cold, it will not be quite as extreme as that of last week.

Farther south, a swath of snow will push across part of North Carolina, upstate South Carolina and northern Georgia.

A weak storm will move eastward and off the coast of Georgia, producing rain over much of Florida.

A zone of ice is forecast to stretch from part of central Alabama to coastal South Carolina.



Precipitation

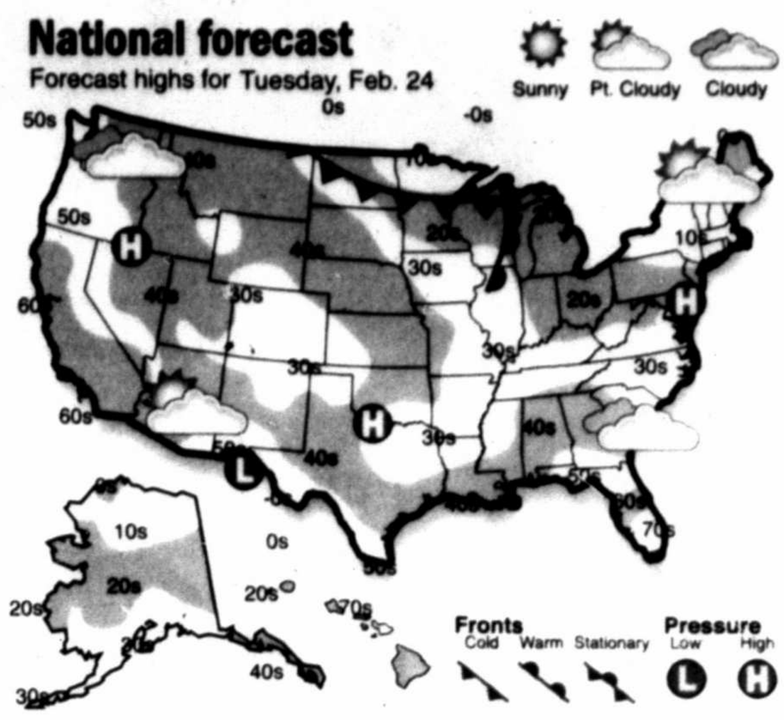
Sunday	0.14 in.
Monday	trace
Month total	0.15 in.
Year total	2.58 in.
Normal total (year to date)	1.15 in.

Monday's temperatures

High	23
Low	20
Normal high	65
Normal low	36
Sunrise	7:22 a.m.
Sunset	6:42 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Tuesday, Feb. 24



Seldom-seen wife spends more time with mom than husband

DEAR ABBY

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Her column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "Carla" for 16 years. It's my second marriage. My problem is I never see her. She has always spent more time with her mother than with me. We see each other for about an hour a day after she returns from her mom's, usually at 9:45 to 10 p.m.

I have had several conversations about this with her over the years, but nothing seems to work. We'll argue and she starts to cry, and it ends without a resolution. Her mother is in her mid-80s and has had her share of health problems.

Carla has a sister who could help out, but rarely does. I have had health problems of my own — a kidney transplant and several bouts of skin cancer — but she doesn't seem to care as much about my problems as she does her mom's. Her mother even tells her to go home to be with me, to no avail.

I love my wife, but my isolation and loneliness are finally getting to me. How can I convince her that this isn't fair to me or our marriage? How much longer do I take it? — LONELY IN ILLINOIS

DEAR LONELY: I feel sorry for both of you. Your wife may be trying so hard to be a responsible daughter that she has forgotten you need her, too. Your sister-in-law should have stepped up and started doing her share long ago — and she still may if you and your wife talk to her about it together.

I don't know what your schedule is like, but you might have more time with Carla if you went with her to your mother-in-law's occasionally. It might also improve your communication if the two of you went for marriage counseling. If Carla's mother has to insist she go home to you, there may be reasons other than her mother's health for Carla's spending so much time away.

Nothing will change until you get to the bottom of it, so don't let your wife's tears prevent you. And if your wife resists seeing a counselor, go without her.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I recently quit our jobs and moved to London from New York. Being a freelancer and having lived here before, he's never had trouble finding work. But I have just changed careers, and I'm finding it hard to earn a consistent paycheck here.

Despite his constant assurances that he is happy supporting both of us right now, I can't shake feeling guilty. I have never felt right living on someone else's dime — not even my parents' while I was growing up. Should I man up and find a job I don't exactly love to better contribute, or "keep on truckin"' without guilt with hopes of getting there? — GUILTY IN LONDON

DEAR GUILTY: Because of your history, I'm not sure you are capable of happily "keepin' on truckin"' without contributing financially. For some people, the sense of independence they derive from having a job is important to their self-worth.

I say, look around and see if there are some job openings. It's better than sitting around moping and feeling guilty, and it might give you and your husband a chance to make some new friends.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015:

This year you will be very outgoing and communicative at times, yet introspective and reticent at other times. You will spend a lot of time thinking about what you want. You also will change your mind frequently as you juggle these very different facets of your personality. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone of significance after July. You will have difficulty being realistic with your expectations of this person. Remember that he or she is human and therefore not perfect. If you are attached, the two of you might decide to manifest a much-discussed dream. GEMINI changes his or her mind all the time!

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ You might want to have a long-overdue chat with a friend who lives at a distance. You could be noticing that this person seems more aloof than usual. Know that he or she might be going through some changes that he or she might prefer not to discuss. Tonight: Return calls.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ You'll be in the mood to try something different, yet someone could be holding you back. You can't avoid a serious talk with a partner or associate with whom you have financial interests. Try to find out more of what he or she is thinking. Tonight: Try to bypass a friend's rigidity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ You could end an ongoing argument if you are willing to open up, talk and change the pace. Know when to back off in a conversation — you can do only so much. Realize that you cannot force the other party to talk or change. Tonight: Go for what you want.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ Use the morning to pursue what you want. Whether a conversation is one-on-one or within a meeting, it will reveal important information that you are likely to miss if you don't listen carefully. A little self-discipline will go a long way. Tonight: Let the party begin.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Try not to get so involved with a problem that isn't really yours. You might see a solution, but it will be better for the other parties to find one on their own. A partner could share a fear that has been scaring him or her. Stay on top of what you want. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ You might want to slow down a bit in order to get a better sense of what seems to be going. Recognize where you could be vested in a certain outcome, and let go of that expectation through detachment; otherwise, you won't be able to see the big picture. Tonight: Out late.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You might feel as if you have come to an understanding with someone. Don't just assume that the issue is cleared up, as verification at a later point probably will be necessary. News will head your way that causes a moment of reflection. Tonight: Paint the town red.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ You could be in the midst of working through a problem that you can't seem to justify or understand. Your attitude could be part of the problem. You also might be feeling the need to withdraw. Know what you want. Tonight: Don't feel as if you have to do anything.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ You could be vying for attention by being aloof. Do you think that will really work? The danger lies in the fact that people will stop responding to you if you keep this up. Make an effort to open a conversation with someone you care about. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ You could be overly serious and somewhat touchy. Use the daylight hours to the max, which is when you'll feel more appreciated. If you feel as if you need a change, go for it. Be direct; shyness or manipulation is likely to backfire. Tonight: Give yourself a break.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ You might have difficulty getting going in the morning. Take some time just for you; your effectiveness will be multiplied as a result. A friend could be holding back, but you might wonder why. You can ask, but it is unlikely you'll get a clear answer. Tonight: In the limelight.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ Your imagination will be at its peak. How you handle a conversation where someone is withholding information could be important. It will come as no surprise that you likely will have to have this talk again. Be open in a meeting. Tonight: Make it early.

BORN TODAY

Entrepreneur Steve Jobs (1955), actor Billy Zane (1966), politician Joe Lieberman (1942)

Get breaking news and more at mrt★com

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

A different transfer

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 4
♡ Q 8 3 2
◇ A 8 5 3
♣ Q 4

WEST
♠ 9 6
♡ 6
◇ K 9 7 4
♣ 10 9 8 7 5 3

EAST
♠ Q 10 8 5 3 2
♡ 10 7
◇ J 6 2
♣ A J

SOUTH
♠ A 7
♡ A K J 9 5 4
◇ Q 10
♣ K 6 2

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
2♣	3♡	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♡
Pass	6♡	All pass	

*Strong heart raise, better than a four-heart bid

Opening lead: Nine of ♣

South played low from dummy at trick one and captured the nine of spades opening lead with his ace. He cashed the ace of hearts, drawing one round of trumps only, then led a low club to dummy's queen. East won with his ace and returned the club jack, won by declarer with the king. What next?

Should East hold the king of diamonds, South had an easy line — ruff his club, cash the ace of diamonds, then run all of his hearts. He would come down to a simple two-card ending with the king-jack of spades in the dummy and a singleton spade plus the queen of diamonds in his hand. East would not be able to keep two spades and the king of diamonds. He would be forced to present South with his slam.

East, however, was unlikely to hold the king of diamonds. He had already shown up with the ace-jack of clubs, plus the presumed queen of spades. The king of diamonds was most likely with West. Declarer found an elegant solution to the problem. He led the queen of diamonds, forcing West to cover with the king, and won the ace in dummy. A low trump back to his hand was followed by a club ruff in dummy.

South now ran all of his hearts, coming to a similar two-card ending, except this time he held the 10 of diamonds rather than the queen. East, with two spades and the jack of diamonds, could not defend the position. South claimed when East discarded the diamond jack.

This technique is known as "transferring the menace," a different kind of transfer.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Rosie of "The Jetsons," for one
6 Recede
9 Downloadable programs
13 Golden Gloves venue
14 Chimney substance
16 Toondom's __ E. Coyote
17 Camp shelters
18 Single proprietor
20 The Old Spaghetti Factory alternative
22 Big D hoopster
23 West Coast sch. with more than 100 NCAA championships
24 Martini order
25 Gloomy
27 Golf hole starting points
29 On the topic of
32 Fed. power dept.
33 "__ Legend": Will Smith movie
35 Nook and Kindle
38 Self-defense option
40 Emphatic military reply
42 Actor McKellen
43 Japanese soup noodle
44 Formula for salt
46 Brewpub lineup
50 Mr. Fixit's forte
53 Singer Orbison
55 Aflame
56 Chinese chairman
57 Fragrant bloomer with typically pink flowers
61 Comment after a feast ... or what the first word of 18-, 20-, 38- and 57-Across would sometimes say—if it could talk
63 Christmas celebrity
64 Future plant
65 Nonstick cookware brand
66 __ salts
67 Grinds to a halt
68 Seek damages from
69 Poker-faced

DOWN

1 Squeal on
2 Parental warning words
3 "No fighting, kids!"
4 "As seen __": ad phrase
5 Used a stun gun on
6 College application pieces
7 Mannerless fellow
8 Like headline typefaces
9 "So-o adorable!"
10 Cash for fun
11 Crowd __: popular performer
12 Order takers
15 Overflow (with)
19 Artist with the website imaginepeace.com
21 Pa's pa
26 Hill-building biter
28 "Burnt" crayon color
30 __ firma
31 Surg. sites
34 Mil. mail address
36 Literary wrap-up
37 Football's Parseghian
38 Popped the question
39 Bavarian article
40 Conjecture
41 Think tank guys
45 Baby rocker
47 King in Shakespeare's "The Tempest"
48 Moving engine part
49 Hot and humid
51 Post-surg. area
52 Rapids transport
54 Go-aheads
58 Inseparable pals, to texters
59 Brummell or Bridges
60 Captivated
62 NFL scores

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

M	C	A	N			Z	E	T	A	S		E	S	T	O
T	A	R	O			I	N	E	R	T		S	P	U	N
V	L	A	D			P	I	N	T	A		P	Y	R	E
		F	L	O	R	I	D	A	O	R	A	N	G	E	S
				Z	O	T		M	O	L	L		L	E	I
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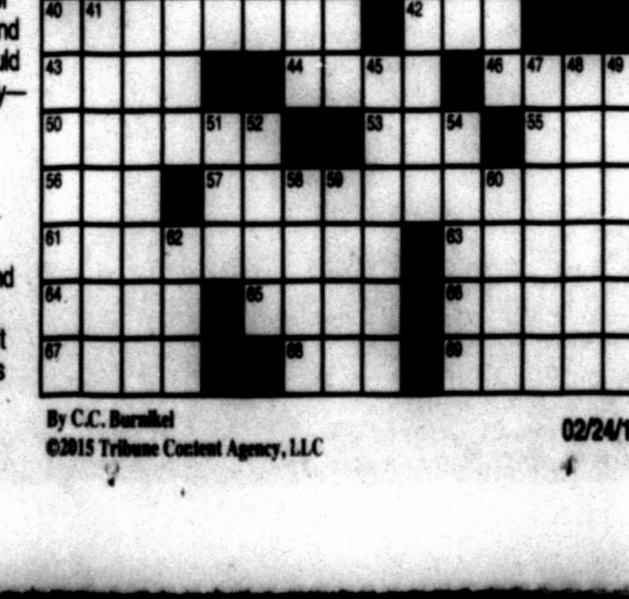
xwordeditor@aol.com 02/24/15



By C.C. Burnikel
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02/24/15

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Permian Basin Builders Association

HOME & GARDEN Show

MIDLAND COUNTY HORSESHOE PAVILION

9AM TO 6PM
Saturday, Feb. 28

NOON TO 5PM
Sunday, March 1

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LANDSCAPE EXPERT
AHMED HASSAN

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Rangerettes want more after getting past area round

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com

Bell

The success of the Greenwood girls basketball team up to this point has been no accident.

Even before the season started, senior guard Amanda Bell said that her and the other returners from last year organized offseason workouts and practices just to get into game shape and be ready for the season. In a way, they knew they had something special ahead for them this year.

For the first time in a long time, the Rangerettes (24-12) advanced to the third round of the playoffs and now will get to face No. 6-ranked Levelland (31-2) in a Class 4A regional quarterfinal game at 5 p.m. today at Lubbock's Rip Griffin Center.

That's the first time in the seven years that Quint Anthony has been the head coach that Greenwood has gone past the area round. And according to Bell, the Rangerettes haven't been this far in playoffs since the 1980s. Either way it has been a long time coming for the Rangerettes, and that is why they were so thrilled after beating Dalhart, 59-55, in the area round on Friday.

"We're excited to see how far we can go this year," Bell said. "We know that nothing is going to be easy or given to us."

Anthony said he saw getting past the area round more of a relief than just getting over a hump.

"We knew we were capable of getting past area, we just had to face some really tough competition and played the eventual state champion a couple of times," he said. "We played Abilene Wylie twice and then we played Levelland when they went a long way. We had a goal in mind to get past area this season, and it was the will and determination from the girls that got us to this point."

Against Dalhart, the Rangerettes jumped out to an 18-4 lead before Dalhart cut it to 35-26 at

Please see **RANGERETTES**/3C

The game

CLASS 4A REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS GREENWOOD VS. NO. 6 LEVELLAND

When: 5 p.m. today
Location: Rip Griffin Center, Lubbock

Relaxed in tight games

After 2 close ones, Lady Dawgs ready for Aztecs

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

In each of its first two playoff games, the Midland High girls basketball team has had to fight hard to close out the win and advance to the next round.

Now MHS (29-5) will face El Paso El Dorado (24-7), the second place team from District 1-6A in the regional quarterfinals. Tip for that game is slated for 7:30 p.m. today at Sul Ross State University's Pete Gallego Center, in Alpine.

In MHS' 49-44 bi-district win over Arlington Lamar last Tuesday, things got interesting late in the fourth quarter. But Alexandrea Washington's spectacular play and clutch free throws late punched the Lady Bulldogs' ticket to the area round. In its next game, a 39-35 win over El Paso Franklin last Friday, MHS improved it's late-game play.

"Friday night, we did a really good job of closing out that game," MHS head coach Wes Torres said. "We had a couple calls that didn't go our way, but our kids did what they had to do to win at the end."

Winning a pair of playoff games against two quality opponents in such fashion has solidified the Lady Bulldogs' confidence heading into its matchup with a very talented El Dorado team.

"We're very confident," Torres said. "They (the Lady Bulldogs players) know they can win. We know we can beat good teams. This team has been through a lot and we've faced adversity."

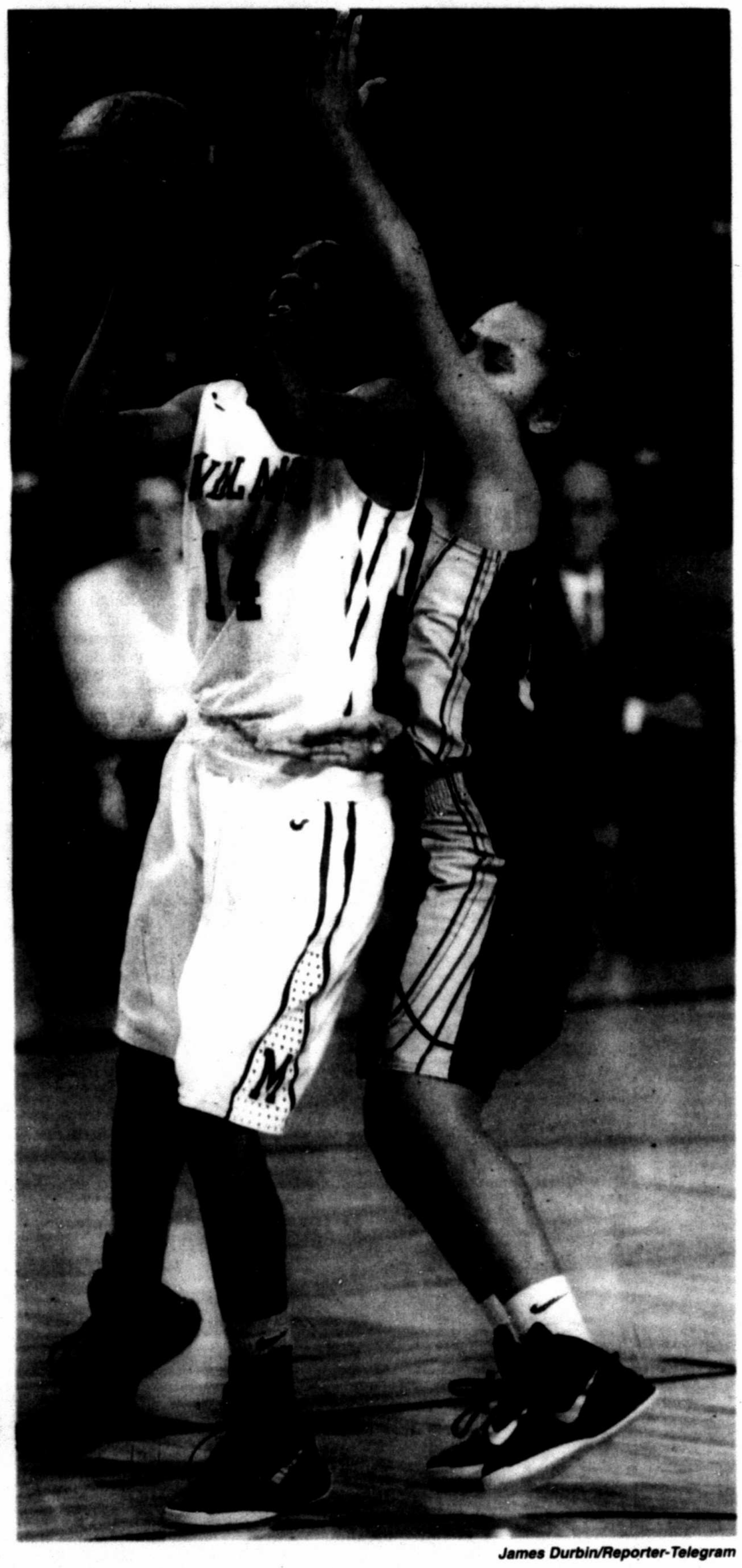
Another bonus for MHS in this matchup could be its familiarity with Pete Gallego Center. It's a venue where the Lady Bulldogs have had success in the past, most recently in the win against El Paso Franklin last Friday. For Torres, it's nice to be playing again in a place that has been comfortable for his team.

Please see **LADY DAWGS**/3C

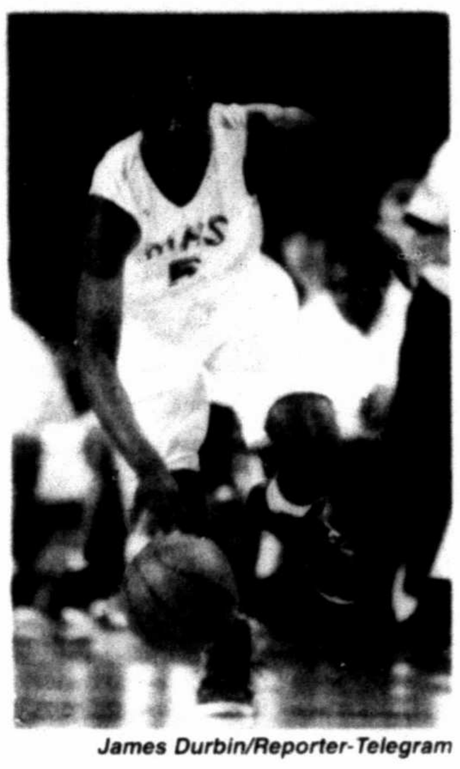
The game

CLASS 6A REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS MIDLAND HIGH VS. EL PASO EL DORADO

When: 7:30 p.m. today
Location: Pete Gallego Center on the campus of Sul Ross State University, Alpine


James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Alexis Washington, left, goes up for a shot against Odessa Permian's Tatanesha Fleming, right, Jan. 9 at Chaparral Center.


James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Gary Ringo takes the ball down the court during a Feb. 6 game against San Angelo Central at Chaparral Center.

MHS looking to be more consistent as playoffs begin

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

Throughout the regular season, Midland High head basketball coach Charles Tatum has emphasized the importance of his team putting together a full 32 minutes of solid play. But the playoffs are a different animal and when it's "win or go home," consistent play is at an even greater premium.

MHS (17-10) enters the Class 6A state playoffs as the second-place team out of District 3-6A. The Bulldogs earned a bi-district matchup with Arlington Lamar (18-14), the No. 3 team out of District 4-6A. The game is set to tip at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Brownwood High School.

The most successful teams in the playoffs aren't always the most talented or athletic ones. Sometimes, the ones that make the fewest mistakes in crunch time advance the furthest. Tatum knows that some of the mental miscues that cost his team at times during the season will be especially damaging in postseason play.

"There is no room for lapses in the playoffs," Tatum said. "The ability to minimize runs and counter-punch will be the difference in winning and losing against Lamar."

MHS is a squad that has plenty of talent, but has lacked that elusive

Please see **BULLDOGS**/3C

The game

CLASS 6A BI-DISTRICT MIDLAND HIGH VS. ARLINGTON LAMAR

When: 6 p.m. Wednesday
Location: Brownwood High School

Manfred says pace of game rules crucial to luring young fans

By Bob Baum
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Commissioner Rob Manfred says new rules intended to speed up the pace of games are aimed at luring younger fans to baseball.

Manfred, speaking publicly on the changes for the first time since they were announced last Friday, said the rules are a "measured" approach worked out with the players' association.

This season, batters will be required to have one foot in the batter's box and pitchers and batters will be required to be ready to go at the conclusion of television commercials.

"The issue of attracting a younger audience and a pace of game is related," he said.

Manfred said he has four children in their 20s.

"I have a passing familiarity with that generation," he said, "and one thing I can say for sure is their attention span seems to be shorter than the rest of ours."

Last season, the average length of a major league game was a record 3 hours, 2 minutes.

"I certainly want to reverse the trend of increasing the length of the game," Manfred said, "and I'm really intent on the idea that we're going to have an average game time that's going to start with a 'two' next year as opposed to a 'three.'"

The commissioner spoke at a news conference on spring training media day, an event that draws the managers and general managers from the 15 clubs that train in Arizona.

Any rules changes have to be done with the cooperation of the players' association, Manfred said.

"I talked with (players union executive director) Tony Clark on Thursday, the night before the changes were announced," Manfred said. "I had a very positive conversation with Tony. We began these discussions with a conceptual understanding between Tony and me that we were going to proceed with caution on pace of the game."

He said they wanted to make sure nothing was done to "change the way the game is played."

Manfred declined to speculate on what might be done if the rule changes

Please see **SPEED**/4C

Ross D. Franklin/AP

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred talks about new rules aimed at speeding up play of baseball games among other major topics of conversation at spring training media day Monday in Phoenix.

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

TODAY

WHAT'S ON TV

COLLEGE BASEBALL

UT Pan American at Texas, 6 p.m., LHN

Long Beach State at UCLA, 8 p.m., P12/P12 BAY/P12 LA

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Wisconsin at Maryland, 6 p.m., ESPN

Texas at West Virginia, 6 p.m., ESPN2

LSU at Auburn, 6 p.m., ESPNU

Providence at Villanova, 6 p.m., FS1

South Carolina at Alabama, 6 p.m., SEC

Texas A&M at Arkansas, 8 p.m., ESPN

Boston College at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m., ESPNU

Creighton at DePaul, 8 p.m., FS1

Florida at Missouri, 8 p.m., SEC

UNLV at Utah State, 8:30 p.m., CBSSN

New Mexico at Boise State, 10 p.m., ESPNU

MEN'S SOCCER

UEFA Champions Round of 16, Leg 1: Manchester City vs. Barcelona, 1:30 p.m., FS1/FOXDEP

UEFA Champions Round of 16, Leg 1: Juventus vs. Borussia Dortmund, 1:30 p.m., FS2/ESPNDEP

Copa MX: Puebla vs. Deportivo Toluca, 6:55 p.m., ESPNDEP

CONCACAF Champions Quarterfinal, Leg 1: CD Olimpia vs. CS Herediano, 7 p.m., FS2/UniDep

Copa MX: Iraputo vs. Guadalajara, 8:55 p.m., UniDep

CONCACAF Champions Quarterfinal, Leg 1: Pachuca vs. Montreal Impact, 9 p.m., FS2/GALA

NBA

Indiana at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m., NBAtv

Toronto at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., FSSW

NHL

Philadelphia at Carolina, 6 p.m., NBCSN

TENNIS

ATP: Dubai Duty Free Championships, 9 a.m., TENNIS

ATP: Abierto Mexicano Telcel, 4 p.m., TENNIS

ATP: Dubai Duty Free Championships, 4 a.m., TENNIS

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Purdue at Michigan, 6 p.m., BTN

West Virginia at TCU, 7 p.m., FSSWP/FCSC

Minnesota at Nebraska, 8 p.m., BTN

WHAT'S ON DECK

TODAY

JUNIOR COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Midland College at South Plains College, 7:45 p.m.

JUNIOR COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Midland College at South Plains College, 5:45 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Class 3A bi-district, Stanton vs. Texas Leadership Christian Academy, 7 p.m. Roscoe

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Class 6A regional quarterfinal, Midland High vs. El Paso El Dorado, 7:30 p.m., Sul Ross State

Class 3A regional quarterfinal, Greenwood vs. Levelland, 5 p.m., Rip Griffin Center, Lubbock

Class A regional quarterfinal, Grady vs. Highland. 6 p.m. Tuesday, Big Spring

Class A regional quarterfinal, Garden City vs. Menard, 6 p.m. Tuesday, San Angelo Lake View HS

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER

Lee at Abilene High, 7 p.m.

Odessa High at Midland High, 7:30 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER

Odessa High at Midland High, 5:30 p.m.

Lee at Abilene High, 5 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Lee at Wolfforth Frenship, 6:30 p.m.

Kermit at Greenwood, 5 p.m.

Midland Christian at Monahans, 5 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE — Suspended Arizona OF Matt Railey 50 games for a violation of the Minor League Drug Prevention and Treatment Program. Announced the resignation of senior vice president intern-ational operations Paul Archey, effective Feb. 27. American League

DETROIT TIGERS — Agreed to terms with LHP Ian Krol, INF Nick Castellanos and RHPs Buck Farmer, Shane Greene, Bruce Rondon, Chad Smith, Alex Wilson and Josh Zeid on one-year contracts.

TEXAS RANGERS — Amended the contract of 3B Adrian Beltre, eliminating the team's conditional right to void 2016 salary. Agreed to terms with INF-OF Elliot Johnson on a minor league contract.

National League

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Dustin McGowan on a one-year contract.

International League

PAWTUCKET RED SOX — Named Larry Lucchino chairman and James Skaffington president.

American Association

GARY SOUTHSHORE RAILCATS — Signed RHP Chris Squires and RHP Charle Rosario.

GRAND PRAIRIE AIR HOGS — Signed RHP Dakota Watts and OF Victor Ferrante

LINCOLN SALTDOGS — Signed LHP Conor Spina.

Atlantic League

LONG ISLAND DUCKS — Signed LHPs Tommy Organ and Patrick Crider.

Can-Am League

OTTAWA CHAMPIONS — Signed OF Chris Winder.

Frontier League

NORMAL CORNBELTERS — Signed RHPs Josh Mooney and Brad Drosey.

RIVER CITY RASCALS — Signed RHP Heith Hatfield.

SCHAUMBURG BOOMERS — Released RHP Justin Erasmus.

WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS — Signed RHP James Jones.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

SACRAMENTO KINGS — Named Vance Walberg assistant coach. Women's National Basketball Association

LOS ANGELES SPARKS — Signed C Jenniffer Hamson.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with general manager Steve Keim and coach Bruce Arians on contracts extensions through 2018. Released WR Ted Ginn Jr.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Released DT Ricky Jean Francois.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed LB Brian Peters.

Canadian Football League

CFL — Named Jamie Dykstra director, broadcast and video.

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Signed WR Tyrone Goard and LBs Rodney Lamar and Khalil Bass.

Arena Football League

SPOKANE SHOCK Announced DL Terrance Taylor was assigned to the team.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

NHL — Suspended Ottawa D Jared Cowen three games for interference against Florida F Jussi Jokinen during a Feb. 21 game.

ARIZONA COYOTES — Recalled D Dylan Reese from Portland (AHL).

FLORIDA PANTHERS — Recalled F Garrett Wilson.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Recalled G Scott Clemmensen from Albany (AHL)

VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Released LW Tom Sestito. Recalled G Jacob Markstrom from Utica (AHL).

WINNIPEG JETS — Recalled F Eric O'Dell from St. John's (AHL). Placed D Ben Chiarot on injured reserve.

American Hockey League

AHL — Suspended Bridgeport D Scott Mayfield six games and Hershey LW Liam O'Brien three games.

BINGHAMTON SENATORS — Reassigned F Brandon Wong from Evansville (ECHL) to South Carolina (ECHL).

HERSHEY BEARS — Recalled F Braden Pimm from South Carolina (ECHL) and reassigned him to Evansville (ECHL).

MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS — Reassigned D Jayner Rissling to Cincinnati (ECHL). Released D Jared Nightingale from his professional tryout contract.

SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE — Recalled F Steven Hodges from Cincinnati (ECHL).

COLUMBIA — Named Al Bagnoli football coach.

IOWA — Granted men's basketball G Trey Dickerson a release from his scholarship.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Montreal	59	38	16	5	81	157	131
Tampa Bay	62	37	19	6	80	203	167
Detroit	57	33	14	10	76	170	149
Boston	59	29	21	9	67	157	156
Florida	59	26	21	12	64	143	166
Ottawa	57	24	23	10	58	162	161
Toronto	60	24	31	5	53	167	183
Buffalo	60	17	38	5	39	110	202
Metropolitan Division	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
N.Y. Islanders	61	39	20	2	80	195	172
N.Y. Rangers	58	36	16	6	78	185	145
Pittsburgh	60	34	17	9	77	172	149
Washington	61	33	18	10	76	181	152
Philadelphia	60	26	23	11	63	161	174
New Jersey	60	25	26	9	59	136	158
Columbus	58	26	28	4	56	153	180
Carolina	58	21	30	7	49	130	158
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Nashville	60	40	13	7	87	181	141
St. Louis	59	38	17	4	80	186	146
Chicago	60	35	20	5	75	177	144
Winnipeg	61	30	20	11	71	169	166
Minnesota	59	31	21	7	69	168	156
Dallas	60	27	24	9	63	189	198
Colorado	60	26	23	11	63	159	170
Pacific Division	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Anaheim	60	37	16	7	81	178	168
Vancouver	59	34	22	3	71	169	155
Los Angeles	58	28	18	12	68	161	152
Calgary	59	32	23	4	68	171	156
San Jose	61	30	23	8	68	171	174
Arizona	60	20	33	7	47	133	201
Edmonton	61	17	34	10	44	140	205

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

Monday's Scores

New Jersey 3, Arizona 0

Detroit at Anaheim, late

Today's Games

Vancouver at Boston, 6 p.m.

Arizona at N.Y. Islanders, 6 p.m.

Calgary at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m.

Philadelphia at Carolina, 6 p.m.

Buffalo at Columbus, 6 p.m.

Montreal at St. Louis, 7 p.m.

Colorado at Nashville, 7 p.m.

Edmonton at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

Dallas at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.

Florida at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.

Detroit at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

FIGHT SCHEDULE

Friday

At Paramount Theatre, Huntington, N.Y. (ESPND), Cletus Seldin vs. Johnny Garcia, 10, junior welterweights; Derrin Rodriguez vs. Eliezer Gonzalez, 10, junior middleweights.

At Fantasy Springs Casino, Indio, Calif. (FS1), Pablo Cesar Cano vs. Juan Carlos Abreu, 10, welterweight.

Saturday

At Odyssey Arena, Belfast, Northern Ireland, Carl Frampton vs. Chris Avalos, 12, for Frampton's IBF super bantamweight title.

At O2 Arena, London, Dmitry Chudinov vs. Chris Eubank Jr., 12, for the interim WBA middleweight title; Tyson Fury vs. Christian Hammer, 12 for Fury's WBO international heavyweight title; Liam Walsh vs. Joe Murray, 12, for Walsh's British and Commonwealth junior lightweight titles; Frank Buglioni vs. Ivan Juric, 12, for Buglioni's WBO European super middleweight title; Ahmet Patterson vs. Glenn Foot, 10, welterweights.

March 6

At Echo Arena, Liverpool, England, Zoford Tete vs. Paul Butler, 12, for Tete's IBF super flyweight title; Richar Abril vs. Dorry Mathews, 12, for Abril's WBA lightweight title; Kevin Sinclair vs. Luke Wilton, 12, for Sinclair's European and Commonwealth flyweight title; Jazza Dickens vs. Josh Wale, 12, for the vacant British junior featherweight title.

March 7

At Macao, China, Ammet Ruenroeng vs. Zou Shimin, 12, for Ruenroeng's IBF flyweight title.

At MGM Grand, Las Vegas (NBC), Keith Thurman vs. Robert Guerrero, 12, for Thurman's WBA welterweight title; Adrien Broner vs. John Molina, 10, junior welterweights.

March 12

At the Fireman Coliseum, San Antonio, Francisco Vargas vs. Will Tomlinson, 10, junior lightweights.

March 14

At The Bell Centre, Montreal (HBO), Sergey Kovalev vs. Jean Pascal, 12, for Kovalev's WBO-IBF-WBA light heavyweight titles; Steve Cunningham vs. Vyacheslav Glazkov, 12, heavyweights.

March 21

At Rostock, Germany, Juergen Brashmer vs. Robin Krasniqi, 12, for Brashmer's WBA light heavyweight title.

March 28

At Hialeah, Fla. (ESPN2), Breidis Prescott vs. Fredrick Lawson, 10, welterweights, March 28.

At Sheffield, England, Kell Brook vs. Jo Jo Dan, 12, for Brook's IBF welterweight title; Adam Etches vs. Sergey Khomitsky, 12, middleweights; Oleksandar Vgorov vs. Gavin McDonnell, 12, for Vgorov's European junior featherweight title; Willo Limond vs. Chris Jenkins, 12 super lightweights.

April 24

At Madison Square Garden, New York (HBO), Wladimir Klitschko vs. Bryant Jennings, 12, for Klitschko's IBF/WBA/WBO heavyweight titles.

HSTRACKROUNDUP

FROM STAFF REPORTS

MHS BOYS WIN IN WEATHERFORD

WEATHERFORD — The Midland High boys track team won the Weatherford Kangaroo Relays with a score of 137.65 points over the weekend.

Bryce Hoppel led the Bulldogs by winning the 800-meter and the 1,600-meter races, plus he also anchored the 1,600-meter relay team to a second-place finish.

Distance runners Ruben Guerra, Chad Schmidt, Hoppel and Albert Cano combined for 66 points of the team's total. Slade Harrell won the shot put.

The MHS 800 relay team and Paxton Heiting, in the shot put, also placed second to help lead the Bulldogs.

The Lee boys placed fourth in the team standings with 70.5 points.

Terry Sims won the 100 meters and Michael Marsh placed first in discus to lead the Rebels. Heavyn Burnett also won the triple jump for Lee.

The Lee girls placed third with 114.28 points and were led by Brown Brandee, who won first in the shot put and Hailey Sparks, who placed first in the discus.

Kristian Ruiz (300 hurdles), the 800 relay team, the 1,600 relay team and Kindal Gainey (high jump) took silvers in their events.

The MHS girls were fifth with 61 points as Jimmiriyia Goodley was first in the 200 meters

Keaton Fricker (400 meters), the 400 relay team and the 800 relay team took home second place finishes.

Weatherford Kangaroo Relays

Boys

Team standings — 1. Midland High137.65. 2. Fort Worth Boswell 136. 3. Weatherford 82i 4. Lee 70.5. 5. Abilene Cooper 66. 6. Springtown 44. 7. Burleson 39.5; 8. Fort Worth Western Hills 17. 9. Mineral Wells 16.65

Running events

Local medalists

100 meters — 1. Terry Sims, 11.21, Lee

200 meters — 3. Isaiah Terrell, 23.06, Lee

400 meters — 3. Rene Madrid, 54.40, Midland High

800 meters — 1. Bryce Hoppel, 1:57.56, Midland High; 2. Jalen Tryon 2:05.21, Midland High

1,600 meters — 1. Bryce Hoppel, 4:32.81, Midland High; 3 Ruben Guerra, 4:43.30, Midland High

3,200 meters — 2. Ruben Guerra, 10:14.50, Midland High; 3. Chad Schmidt, 10:27.09, Midland High

110 hurdles — 3. Denim Rogers, 15.49, Lee

300 hurdles — 1. Alex Aguirre, 44.21, Lee

400 relay — 3. Lee (Aron Dobbins, Josh Lewis, Conner Friel, James Lydia), 44.41

800 relay — 2. Midland High (Blake Humble, Montres McLaughlin, Ricky Hubert, Raewkon Anderson), 1:33.96

Field Events

Shot put — 2. Paxton Heiting, 43-09.75, Midland High

Discus — 1. Michael Marsh, 133-05. Lee

High jump — 1. Denim Rogers, 6-02.00. Lee

Pole vault — 1. Slade Harrell, 12-06.00, Midland High; 3. Chandler Bernonas, 12-00.00, Midland High

Triple jump — 3. Jordan Trimble, 40-08.50. Lee

Girls

Team standings — 1. Abilene Cooper 123; 2. Fort Worth Boswell 123; 3. Lee 114.28; 4. Weatherford 101.5; 5. Midland High 61; 6. Mineral Wells 35.78; 7. Springtown 26; 8. (tie) Fort Worth Western Hills 6; Temple Christian 6; 10. Burleson 3

Local medalists

Running events

200 meters — 1. Jimmiriya Goodley, 26.37. Midland High; 3. Jasmine McCalister, 27.78, Midland High

400 meters — 2. Keaton Fricker, 1:03.40, Midland High

3,200 meters — 1. Emily Ray, 13:18.21, Lee; 3. Amanda Vasquez, 13:50.15, Lee

300 hurdles — 2. Kristian Ruiz, 49.61, Lee

800 relay — 2. Midland High (Tammie Hickey, Ariyeah Pleasington, Goodley, Zatymbria Lewis), 1:47.62; 3. Lee (Arienne Guerero, Alex Brambler, Heavyn Burnett, Ashlin Lee), 1:49.74

1,600 relay — 2. Lee (Burnett, Frankie Dean, Lee, Guerero)

Field events

Shot put — 1. Brown Brandee, 33-07.75, Lee

Discus — 1. Hailey Sparks, 100-10, Lee

High jump — 2. Kindal Gainey, 4-10, Lee; 3. Kristian Ruiz, 4-08, Lee

Long jump — 3. Kindal Gainey, 14-11, Lee

Triple jump — 1. Heavyn Burnett, 35-07. Lee

BURDITT LEADS MUSTANGS

LUBBOCK — Midland Christian's Zyan Burditt won two events and set two school records along the way over the weekend at the Wes Kitley High School Indoor Open at Texas Tech University.

Burditt won the 55-meter dash in 6.58 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 22.39 seconds.

Alex Causey won the 800-meter race with a time of 2:00.68, while teammate Adam Suggs was second with a time of 2:00.93.

MCS' Hammond places 4th, team 7th in Mason Shootout

From staff reports

MASON — Maddie Hammond placed fourth over the weekend in girls singles at the Mason Shootout Tennis Tournament.

Ryan Ramos placed fourth in boys singles.

As a team, Midland Christian placed seventh in the team standings.

Midland Christian results from Mason Shootout over the weekend

Boys singles — 5. Ryan Ramos; 13. Joshua Ramos, 15. Garrett Bushman

Boys doubles — 12. Ryan Adams-Tristan Tannich;16. Roy Bateman-Bryan Brunson

Girls singles — 4. Maddie Hammond; 12. Kristal Wight; 13. Kamryn Hendley; 15. Emma Holder

Girls doubles — Consolation champions. Faith McKinney-Bailey Warpula; 10. Ashley Hedrick-Kylie Vaughan; 16. Kendall Blagrave-Caitlyn Walker

Mixed doubles — 12. Martin Lilly-Faith Windham; 13. Preston Clements-Morgan Stubbs 15. Zach Carnett-Lauren Elrod

Monday's MC basketball games postponed to today due to weather

From staff reports

Monday's Midland College basketball games at South Plains College were postponed until today because of inclement weather.

The women's game will begin at 5:45 p.m. today, while the men will begin at 7:45 p.m. at the Texan Dome in Levelland.

Eight out of the nine games in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference were postponed because of the weather, with the exception being a men's game between Clarendon College at New Mexico Military Institute.

WJCAC Standings

WOMEN	Conference		Overall		MEN	Conference		Overall	
Team	W	L	W	L	Team	W	L	W	L
xy-New Mexico JC	11	1	24	2	x-Howard College	11	3	20	7
x-Midland College	9	4	18	10	x-South Plains	11	3	21	6
x-Odessa College	9	4	23	6	x-New Mexico JC	10	4	21	7
South Plains	6	7	9	17	x-New Mexico Military	9	6	15	10
Frank Phillips	6	7	18	8	Odessa College	8	7	20	8
Clarendon College	4	8	14	14	Midland College	7	8	17	12
Western Texas	3	8	11	13	Frank Phillips	4	10	15	13
Howard College	2	10	9	19	Western Texas	3	11	12	14
x-clinched regional tournament berth					Clarendon College	2	13	5	21
y-clinched share of WJCAC title					x-clinched regional tournament berth				

Thursday's Scores

Odessa College 70, Midland College 56; Western Texas 99, Clarendon 65; Frank Phillips 74, South Plains 59; (non-conference) Howard 84, Southwest Texas JC 34; New Mexico JC is open

Monday's Games

Postponed

Today's Games

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

Thursday's Scores

Odessa College 89, Midland College 87 (OT); Western Texas 71, Clarendon 65 (OT); South Plains 77, Frank Phillips 60; New Mexico Military Institute 68, Howard 63; New Mexico JC is open

Monday's Score

New Mexico Military Institute 89, Clarendon College 77

Today's Games

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

Harden's triple-double helps Rockets over Wolves

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

Rockets	**113**
Timberwolves	102

HOUSTON —James Harden had 31 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his second triple-double this season, leading the Houston Rockets to a 113-102 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Monday night.

Harden got off to a slow start, missing his first seven shots. He got going late in the first quarter, had 13 points at halftime and was a rebound away from wrapping up his fourth career triple-double entering the fourth.

Houston led by nine at the start of the final period, but Andrew Wiggins led a charge that cut the lead to one point with less than 4 minutes left.

The Rockets took over after that, using a 14-2 run, with five points from Harden, to make it 111-98 with less than a minute to go.

Wiggins scored 30 for the Timberwolves, who lost for the third time in four games.

It was the 25th 30-point game this season for Harden, the league's leading scorer. He also helped out on defense, finishing with four blocks to tie a career high.

Houston scored six straight points to extend its lead to 92-78 early in the fourth quarter. Then Wiggins got going, scoring seven points in a 10-0 run that cut the lead to 92-88.

A 3-pointer by Jason Terry about a minute later pushed Houston's lead to eight, before a three-point play by Wiggins started a 7-0 run for Minnesota that made it to 97-96 with about 3 1/2 to play.

Adreian Payne, who made his first NBA start Monday, made a 3 for Minnesota before Wiggins got a steal and finished with a layup for the first five points of a 7-1 run by the Wolves in the third quarter that cut the lead to 76-72.

But the Rockets closed out the period with an 8-3 spurt to extend the lead to 84-75. Harden capped that run when he juked Ricky Rubio, causing him to fall to the court, and finished with a 3-pointer with 3.6 seconds left in the period.

Harden's first basket came with about 3 1/2 minutes left in the second quarter. He was fouled on the shot and made the free throw to put Houston up 45-44.

The Rockets were up by five soon after that when Minnesota used a 10-2 run to take a 56-53 lead. But Harden hit a 3-pointer with less than a second remaining in the half to leave it tied at 56-all at halftime.

NBA STANDINGS AND BOXES

STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Toronto	37	19	.661	—
Brooklyn	22	31	.415	13 1/2
Boston	20	33	.377	15 1/2
Philadelphia	12	44	.214	25
New York	10	45	.182	26 1/2
Southeast Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Atlanta	44	12	.786	—
Washington	33	23	.589	11
Miami	24	31	.436	19 1/2
Charlotte	22	32	.407	21
Orlando	19	39	.328	26
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Chicago	36	21	.632	—
Cleveland	35	22	.614	1
Milwaukee	31	25	.554	4 1/2
Detroit	23	33	.411	12 1/2
Indiana	22	33	.411	12 1/2
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Memphis	40	14	.741	—
Houston	38	18	.679	3
Dallas	38	20	.655	4
San Antonio	34	21	.618	6 1/2
New Orleans	29	27	.518	12
Northwest Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Portland	36	19	.655	—
Oklahoma City	31	25	.554	5 1/2
Utah	20	34	.370	15 1/2
Denver	20	35	.364	16
Minnesota	12	43	.218	24
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Golden State	43	10	.811	—
L.A. Clippers	37	19	.661	7 1/2
Phoenix	29	27	.518	15 1/2
Sacramento	19	35	.352	24 1/2
L.A. Lakers	14	41	.255	30

Monday's Scores

Miami 119, Philadelphia 108

New Orleans 100, Toronto 97

Chicago 87, Milwaukee 71

Houston 113, Minnesota 102

Boston at Phoenix, late

Brooklyn at Denver, late

San Antonio at Utah, late

Memphis at L.A. Clippers, late

Today's Games

Golden State at Washington, 6 p.m.

Cleveland at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.

Indiana at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.

Toronto at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY'S BOXES

ROCKETS 113, TIMBERWOLVES 102

MINNESOTA (102): Wiggins 12-24 5-5 30, Payne 4-15 2-4 11, Pekovic 6-18 4-4 16, Rubio 2-9 10-10 14, Martin 5-18 8-8 21, Dieng 1-4 5-6 7, Budinger 0-1 1-2 1, LaVine 1-4 0-0 2, Robinson III 0-0 0-0 0, Brown 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-93 35-39 102.

HOUSTON (113): Ariza 4-11 0-0 10, Jones 6-9 3-5 15, Motiejunas 5-10 2-5 12, Terry 3-8 0-0 9, Harden 7-26 12-15 31, Brewer 3-12 5-8 11, Smith 7-15 1-1 17, Prigioni 1-4 0-0 2, Dorsey 3-4 0-0 6, McDaniels 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 39-94 23-34 113.

Minnesota	**25**	**31**	**19**	**27—102**
Houston	**26**	**30**	**28**	**29—113**

3-Point Goals—Minnesota 5-18 (Martin 3-7, Payne 1-2, Wiggins 1-3, LaVine 0-2, Rubio 0-4), Houston 12-38 (Harden 5-11, Terry 3-8, Smith 2-6, Ariza 2-8, Motiejunas 0-1, Brewer 0-1, Prigioni 0-3). Fouled Out—Smith. Rebounds—Minnesota 70 (Dieng 14), Houston 62 (Jones 15). Assists—Minnesota 17 (Rubio 7), Houston 23 (Harden 10). Total Fouls—Minnesota 22, Houston 18. Technicals—Wiggins, Terry A—18,240 (18,023).

HEAT 119, 76ERS 108

PHILADELPHIA (108): Mbah a Moute 3-11 0-2 7, Sims 5-6 2-3 12, Noel 5-10 8-10 18, Canaan 4-9 0-0 11, Covington 6-15 1-3 16, Thompson 2-9 0-0 4, Sampson 2-8 1-2 5, Frazier 0-1 0-2 0, McGee 3-5 0-0 6, Smith 3-7 1-4 7, Aldemir 2-2 0-0 4. Totals 40-84 15-28 108

MIAMI (119): Deng 11-14 3-4 29, Haslem 2-6 0-0 4, Whiteside 5-8 2-4 12, G.Dragic 9-14 3-4 23, Wade 7-13 4-5 18, Walker 4-5 0-0 11, Chalmers 4-8 0-1 9, Anderson 2-3 4-4 8, Ennis 1-6 0-0 3, Napier 0-1 0-0 0, Johnson 1-3 0-0 2, Z.Dragic 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 46-83 16-22 119.

Philadelphia	**31**	**29**	**19**	**29—108**
Miami	**32**	**29**	**30**	**28—119**

3-Point Goals—Philadelphia 13-31 (Thompson 6-8, Canaan 3-7, Covington 3-8, Mbah a Moute 1-3, Smith 0-1, Frazier 0-1, Sampson 0-2), Miami 11-21 (Deng 4-5, Walker 3-4, G.Dragic 2-4, Chalmers 1-2, Ennis 1-4, Wade 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 62 (Noel 7), Miami 58 (Whiteside 14). Assists—Philadelphia 27 (Smith 7), Miami 27 (G.Dragic 10). Total Fouls—Philadelphia 18, Miami 20. Technicals—Philadelphia Coach Brown, A—19,832 (19,600).

BULLS 97, BUCKS 71

MILWAUKEE (71): Antetokounmpo 3-10 5-6 11, Ilyasova 6-16 0-0 15, Henson 1-3 0-2 2, Bayless 4-10 0-2 8, Middleton 8-19 1-1 17, Pachulia 0-3 0-0 0, Mayo 4-12 0-0 9, Dudley 0-4 0-0 0, Ennis 2-7 0-0 4, Plumlee 2-5 1-2 5, O'Bryant 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 30-89 7-13 71

CHICAGO (97): Dunleavy 1-3 2-2 4, Gasol 5-9 5-8 15, Noah 3-9 2-2 8, Rose 1-13 5-6 8, Butler 4-10 2-2 11, Mirotic 4-11 6-8 16, Snell 7-11 2-2 20, Brooks 2-9 0-0 4. Moore 0-0 1-2 1, Mohammed 0-0 0-0 0, McDermott 0-1 0-0 0, Bairstow 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 27-76 25-32 87.

Milwaukee	**15**	**18**	**16**	**22—71**
Chicago	**21**	**27**	**16**	**33—97**

3-Point Goals—Milwaukee 4-18 (Ilyasova 3-8, Mayo 1-4, Middleton 0-1, Dudley 0-2, Ennis 0-3), Chicago 9-26 (Snell 4-6, Mirotic 2-6, Butler 1-2, Rose 1-7, Dunleavy 1-3, Gasol 0-1, Brooks 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Milwaukee 48 (Ilyasova 11), Chicago 73 (Noah 16). Assists—Milwaukee 16 (Bayless 5), Chicago 20 (Rose 8). Total Fouls—Milwaukee 21, Chicago 16. A—21,434 (20,917).

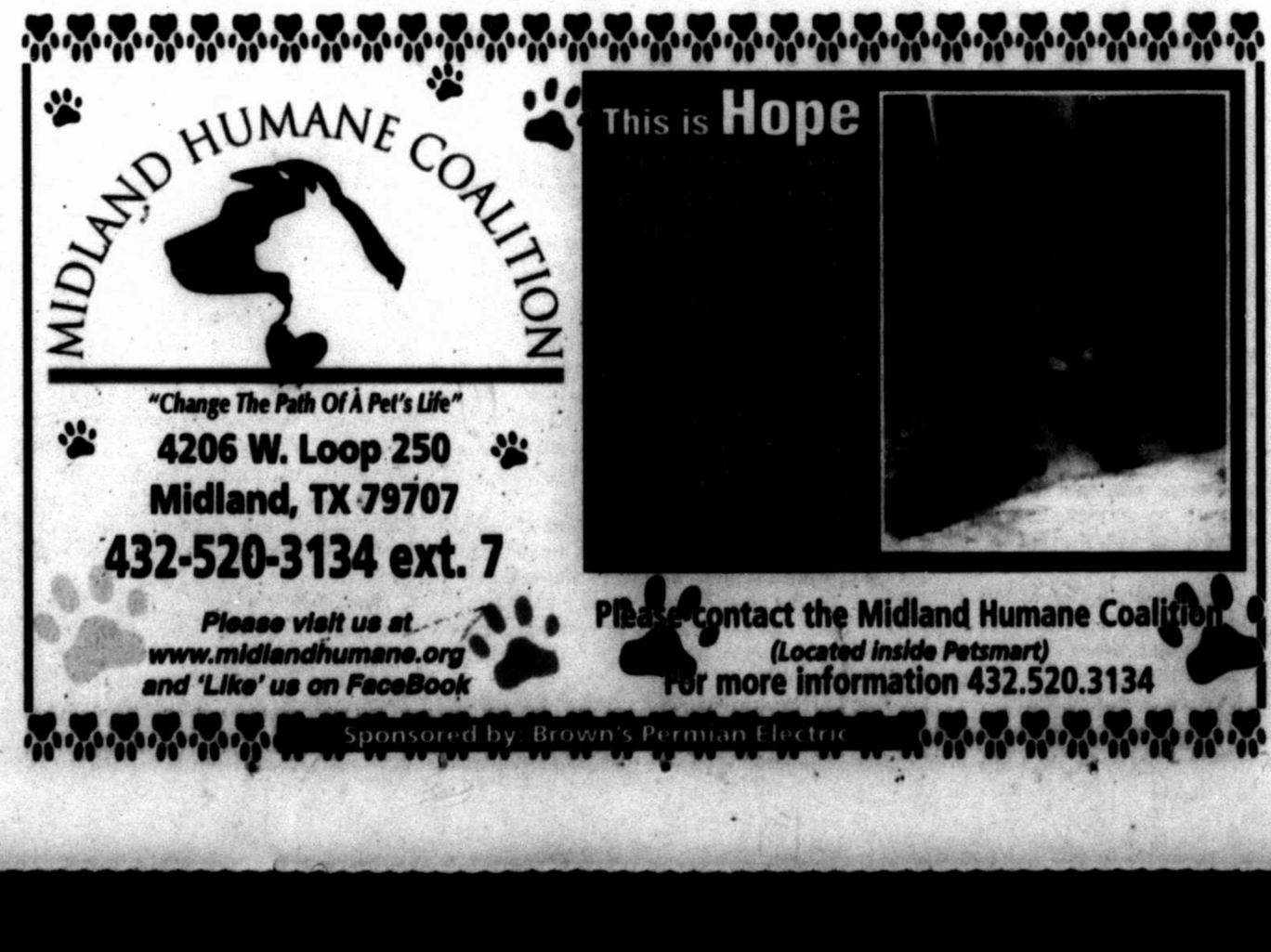
PELICANS 100, RAPTORS 97

TORONTO (97): J.Johnson 7-10 0-0 15, A.Johnson 4-9 0-2 8, Valanciunas 5-10 7-10 17, Lowry 8-19 5-6 22, DeRozan 6-18 2-4 14, L.Williams 1-8 6-7 9, Hansbrough 0-0 0-0 0, Vasquez 2-6 2-2 6, Ross 2-7 0-0 6. Totals 35-84 22-31 97.

NEW ORLEANS (100): Pondexter 1-6 0-0 2, Cunningham 2-4 1-2 5, Asik 4-6 6-10 14, Evans 5-13 1-2 13, Gordon 4-14 0-0 11, Ajinca 9-12 0-0 18, Cole 7-11 0-0 15, Withey 2-3 0-0 4, Babbitt 7-9 0-0 18, Fredette 0-0 2-2 2. Totals 40-78 10-16 100.

Toronto	**29**	**28**	**18**	**23—97**
New Orleans	**17**	**27**	**23**	**33—100**

3-Point Goals—Toronto 5-23 (Ross 2-5, J.Johnson 1-2, L.Williams 1-5, Lowry 1-6, A.Johnson 0-1, DeRozan 0-1, Vasquez 0-3), New Orleans 10-22 (Babbitt 4-5, Gordon 3-9, Evans 2-4, Cole 1-2, Pondexter 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Toronto 49 (Valanciunas 14), New Orleans 53 (Asik 11). Assists—Toronto 13 (Lowry 5), New Orleans 27 (Evans 12). Total Fouls—Toronto 15, New Orleans 20. A—16,514 (16,867).



AREAHSBASKETBALLCAPSULES

BY WILL KORN AND OSCAR LEROY

Girls

CLASS A REGION II REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS
NO. 7 GARDEN CITY VS. NO. 15 MENARD

Where/when: 6 p.m. today, San Angelo Lake View HS

Records: Garden City 26-4, Menard 23-9

Last game: Area round, Garden City 32, No. 21 Eula 25 (Feb. 20); Menard 49, Sterling City 35 (Feb. 20)

Notes and quotes: Garden City head coach Chris Sumrall said Menard makes for a difficult regional quarterfinal opponent. "Menard has a very good post player that has given teams fits all year," he said. "Combine that with their experience and good defense and you have a formidable opponent". ... Sumrall added that just because the stakes are now much higher with the right to advance to the regional semifinals on the line, his team's approach will not change. "Our expectations are what they are every game. Give a great effort and execute. Do that and winning and losing will take care of itself". ... Garden City, the winner of District 14-A, comes into this game following a close victory against No. 25 Eula in the area round. ... Menard was the champion of District 16-A, and is coming off a convincing win against Sterling City in its area game.

Next: Winner plays winner of Grady-Roscoe Highland in regional semifinals, Friday, Abilene

CLASS A REGION II REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS
GRADY VS. NO. 4 ROSCOE HIGHLAND

Where/when: 6 p.m. today, Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, Big Spring

Records: Grady 21-9; Roscoe Highland 24-5

Last game: Area round, Grady 45, No. 25 Rankin 21 (Feb. 20); Roscoe Highland 62, Balmorhea 27 (Feb. 20)

Notes and quotes: Grady head coach Jimmy Avery said Roscoe Highland is going to be one of its toughest tests yet. "They are ranked No. 4 in the state. They are very tall and we are not. They have experience, size and are athletic, well-coached and win a lot. They went to state last year and are the favorite to repeat again this year. They even have tradition on their side. That is a lot working against us. But we have a lot of heart and we believe in our defense and each other and we know that anything is possible on any given night with a lot of hustle and teamwork"... Grady, the second-place team out of District 11-A survived a scare from No. 25 Rankin in its area game, while Roscoe Highland crushed Balmorhea. ... Highland also beat No. 6 Valley by 20 points in a practice game on Feb. 14.

Next: Winner plays winner of Garden City-Menard in the regional semifinals, Friday, Abilene

Boys

CLASS 3A BI-DISTRICT
STANTON VS. SAN ANGELO TLCA

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

Records: Stanton 20-9, San Angelo Texas Leadership Charter Academy 17-8

Notes & Quotes: Stanton goes into playoffs as the champion out of District 5-3A, while TLCA was the fourth-place team out of District 6. ... Stanton coach Doug Gordon said TLCA, who is coached by former Greenwood coach Cliff Thompson, is a good, athletic team that is led by sophomore guard Lorenzo Gonzales, who is shooting 36 percent from 3-point range. "It's hard to play against really good athletes," Gordon said. "We don't have to face someone who is 6-(foot)-6 but we don't have that guy either. Our key is using our speed because we don't have much size." Gordon added that it's also going to be important that they rebound the ball well. ... Stanton is led by senior shooting guard David Ramsey, who is averaging a little more than 15 points per game. Senior guard/forward K.J. Glaspie chips in around 14 ppg, while junior point guard Estevan Chavez is the floor leader. ... With one more win, Gordon will win his 500th career game

Next: Winner plays Breckenridge-Bangs winner, area round, TBA

RANGERETTES

From 1C

the half. It was a battle the rest of the way, but getting off to a fast start was a key for Greenwood.

"We came out and didn't expect to have that much of a lead against them, but we just used some of our speed and some of our faster pace breaks against them," Bell said. "That's what we're hoping to do against Levelland and stun them at the beginning like we did against Dalhart. We know we have depth, and we can run up and down the court. And if the first five have to come out, we know we can put in a new set of five who are just as capable of scoring."

Anthony said another key for his team is to get the ball to Bell, the team's leading scorer at 18.1 points per game.

Bell said she doesn't even keep up with statistics. She's more concerned about the team's success.

"It's all about winning and doing what it takes," she said. "To still be playing in the playoffs is every kid's dream. This is what every kid dreams of when they're out in the backyard or on the court shooting the ball by themselves. It's just exciting to finally be at this point with a group of girls who want to win and a group of coaches who are doing everything they can to get us there."

And the Rangerettes hope to keep making history with each win they get in the playoffs.

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

CLASS 4A REGIONAL QUARTERFINAL
GREENWOOD VS. NO. 6 LEVELLAND

When/where: 5 p.m. today, Rip Griffin Center, Lubbock

Records: Greenwood 24-12; Levelland 31-2

Last game: Area round, Greenwood 59, Dalhart 55 (Feb. 20); Levelland 91, Andrews 46 (Feb. 20)

Notes & Quotes: These teams met early in the season on Dec. 19 with Levelland getting a 50-38 home win against the Rangerettes. ... Greenwood coach Quint Anthony said the Loboettes are led by a pair of sisters, Sujei and Elizabeth Cera — both featured in a recent New York Times article about the Levelland program — and post play Haylee Jackson, who is a threat to score on the inside. ... Anthony said he feels good about the way his team has been playing. "We've been playing well over the last month, well since Christmas actually," he said. "We had a good win against Dalhart, we maintained a lot of the lead and we finished the game on a positive note." ... In the win against Dalhart, Natalie Karcher led the Rangerettes with 23 points and Amanda Bell had 14.

Next: Winner plays Abilene Wylie-Bridgeport winner, Friday, Rip Griffin Center, Lubbock

BULLDOGS

From 1C

consistency at times this season. It was particularly costly against Odessa Permian, which beat the Bulldogs in both meetings this season to claim the District 3-6A title. In both contests, MHS held an early lead, but lost its rhythm quickly and gave it away over the next few minutes. It was unable to minimize Panther runs and momentum and the Bulldogs dug themselves too deep of a hole to fight back.

But whereas the Bulldogs haven't always excelled in the consistency department, they've played some difficult games in the second half of their District 3-6A schedule especially. Tatum believes that his team gained valuable experience in those trying situations. Because of it, he feels his players are prepared for Lamar and playoff basketball as a whole.

"I wouldn't want us to be in any different position than we are in now," Tatum said. "We've had to grind out wins. We were down by 18 against Abilene High and won (on Feb. 3) and we played a tough game against Odessa High (a 63-57 MHS win to close out the District 3-6A season on Feb. 17). Those are the kinds of games you need to be able to play to have success in the playoffs. The tough games we played late in our season put us in a great place."

With a win against Lamar, the Bulldogs would advance to the area round and face the winner of the game between El Paso El Dorado and Amarillo High, two teams who are a combined 51-12 this season.

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT

CLASS 6A BI-DISTRICT
MIDLAND HIGH VS. ARLINGTON LAMAR

When/where: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Brownwood High School

Records: MHS 17-10, Arlington Lamar 18-14

Last game: Midland High 63, Odessa 57 (Feb. 17); Arlington Lamar 63, Arlington Sam Houston (Feb. 17)

Notes and quotes: Tatum on what makes Lamar a dangerous bi-district opponent: "They have four prototypical guards who are just great individual basketball players. They combine that with a great 6-(foot)-6, 210-pound post man who can run the floor and score. At any moment, anyone can hurt you. They're a very fast tempo team. With Lamar, it's going to come down to making plays. It's going to come down to our team strategy. We need to key in on the ball and focus on stopping the ball. If we do that, we'll be in good shape". ... The Vikings have played a challenging schedule this season and should be well prepared for playoff action themselves. ... Lamar doesn't have many quality wins to its credit, but it has played several games against upper echelon competition — such as No. 10 Amarillo High, Denton Guyer, No. 19 North Crowley and the No. 15-ranked Class 5A team, Fort Worth Dunbar — this season.

Next: Winner plays winner of Amarillo High-El Paso Dorado in the area round.

LADY DAWGS

From 1C

"I'm happy with the familiarity," Torres said. "It has a similar depth perception to Chap Center. It's good for us to play there and I'm happy to play there."

With a win against the Aztecs, the Lady Bulldogs will advance to the regional semifinals, where they'll play the winner of the Plano-Flower Mound game in Fort Worth.

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT

CLASS 6A REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS
MIDLAND HIGH VS. EL PASO EL DORADO

When/where: 7:30 p.m. today at Sul Ross State University, Alpine

Records: MHS 29-5, El Dorado 24-7

Last game: Area round, MHS (W, 39-35 against El Paso Franklin, Feb.20), El Dorado (W, 62-57 against Arlington Bowie, Feb. 20)

Notes and quotes: Torres on what makes El Dorado a formidable regional quarterfinal opponent: "They have a strong post game. They have a couple good post players and they'll score with their back to the basket. They and (El Paso) Franklin split in district play. They shoot the ball extremely well and it'll be a challenge"... Six-foot-1 senior forward Adeola Akomolafe leads the Aztecs in scoring and rebounding with per game averages of 13.2 points and 15.3 rebounds. ... Akomolafe has scored 10 or more points in 24 of El Dorado's 31 games so far this season and she is shooting 62 percent from the field... Aztec senior guard Ciara Fields is averaging 11.1 points per game and is a threat from the perimeter, as she has hit 46 3-pointers this season.

Next: Winner plays the winner of Plano-Flower Mound in the regional semifinals in Fort Worth.

HS PLAYOFF PAIRINGS

Boys

Region I
Class 5A
Bi-District

North Crowley (26-4, W4) vs. Abilene High (12-14, F3), 7p.m. today, Eastland HS

El Paso Americas (22-7, R1) vs. Amarillo Tascosa (21-6, T2), 7:30 p.m. today, Seminole HS

Odessa Permian (19-10, W3) vs. Arlington Martin (11-17, F4), 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Clyde

Lubbock-Coronado (22-8, R2) vs. El Paso Eastwood (19-11, T1), 6 p.m. today, Pecos HS

DeSoto (28-4, W8) vs. Colleyville Heritage (20-10, F7), 7 p.m. today, Arlington Sam Houston HS

Keller (21-9, R5) vs. Lewisville High (18-11, T6), 7:30 p.m. today, Coppell HS

Richland (22-8, W7) vs. South Grand Prairie (16-15, F6), 7:30 p.m. today, Arlington Martin HS

Allen (22-9, R6) vs. Trophy Club Nelson (20-9, T5), 7 p.m. today, Carrollton Turner HS

Amarillo High (28-3, W2) vs. El Paso El Dorado (23-9, F1), 6 p.m. today, Seminole HS

Midland High (17-10, R3) vs. Arlington Lamar (18-14, T4), 6 p.m. Wednesday, Brownwood HS

El Paso Coronado (19-8, W1) vs. Wolfforth Frenship (21-11, F2), 6 p.m. today, Fort Stockton HS

Arlington Bowie (23-9, R4) vs. San Angelo Central (12-18,T3), 7:30 p.m. today, Clyde HS

Plano West (26-2, W6) vs. Keller Timber Creek (22-10, F5), 6 p.m. today, Coppell HS

Coppell (14-16, R7) vs. Duncanville (25-9, T8), 7:30 p.m. today, Irving MacArthur HS

Denton Guyer (24-10, W5) vs. Flower Mound Marcus (25-10, F8), 7:30 p.m. today, Prosper HS

Cedar Hill (26-3, R8) vs. Euless Trinity (16-12, T7), 7:30 p.m. today, Mansfield Timberview HS

Class 4A
Bi-District

Seminole (22-8, W4) vs. Fabens (F3), 6 p.m. today, Pecos HS

Borger (17-10, R1) vs. Levelland (T2), 7:30 p.m. today, Amarillo Tascosa HS

Clint Mountain View (19-16, W3) vs. Andrews (F4), 6 p.m. today, Sul Ross State University's Gallego Center, Alpine

Lamesa (18-10, R2) vs. Pampa (23-5, T1), 6:30 today, Abernathy HS

Bridgeport (26-4, W8) vs. Venus (13-15, F7), 6 p.m. today, Saginaw Chisholm Trail HS, Fort Worth

Iowa Park (17-16, R5) vs. Stephenville (16-13, T4), 6 p.m. today, Jacksboro HS

Kennedale (26-4, W7) vs. Lake Worth (17-12, F8), 7 p.m. today, White Fort Worth Lake County Christian HS

Mineral Wells (20-11, R6) vs. Buckholts (6-20, T5), 7 p.m. today, Graham HS

Lubbock Estacado (19-5, W2) vs. Perryton (10-14, F1), 6 p.m. today, Estacado HS

San Elizario (17-12, R3) vs. Pecos (17-11, T4), 6 p.m. today, Alpine HS

Bushland (17-9, W1) vs. Big Spring (18-11, F2), 4:30 p.m. today, Wolfforth Frenship HS

Monahans (23-10, R4) vs. Clint (5-18, T3), today, Alpine HS

Abilene Wylie (21-7, W6) vs. Vernon (4-15, F5), 8 p.m. Monday, Stamford HS

Godley (R7) vs. Springtown (T6), 6 p.m. today, Aledo HS

Wichita Falls Hirschi (11-16, W5) vs. Graham (6-19, F6), 7:30 p.m. today, Jacksboro HS

Decatur (19-9, R8) vs. Alvarado (13-14, T7), 6 p.m. today, Keller HS

Class 3A
Bi-District

Kermit (27-4, W4) vs. Slaton (F3), 6 p.m. today, Denver City HS

Spearman (R1) vs. Muleshoe (T2), 6 p.m. today, Amarillo Tascosa HS

Brownfield (W3) vs. Crane (F4), 7:30 p.m. today, Andrews HS

Dimmitt (15-14, R2) vs. Amarillo River Road (T1), 7 p.m. Monday, Canyon HS

Eastland (W8) vs. Comanche (F7), 6:30 p.m. today, DeLeon HS

Reagan County (21-9, R5) vs. Ballinger (T6), 7 p.m. today, Sterling City HS

Coleman (W7) vs. Quitaque (F8), 7 p.m. today, Cross Plains HS

Wall (R8) vs. Colorado City (T7), 7:30 p.m. today, Angelo State University's Junell Center, San Angelo

Shallowater (14-5, W2) vs. Amarillo Highland Park (14-13, F1), 7:30 p.m. today, United Supermarkets Arena, Lubbock

Denver City (R3) vs. Alpine (T4), time TBA today, Buena Vista HS, Imperial

Childress (24-4, W1) vs. Whitehouse (12-16, F2), 8 p.m. today, Lubbock Christian University's Rip Griffin Center

Tornillo (R4) vs. Idalou (T3), 7 p.m. Monday, Andrews HS

Tuscola Jim Ned (W6) vs. Sonora (F5), 6 p.m. today, Angelo State University's Junell Center, San Angelo

Brady (R7) vs. Cisco (T8), 6 p.m. today, Tuscola Jim Ned HS

Stanton (20-9, W5) vs. San Angelo TLCA (17-8, F6), 7 p.m. today, Roscoe HS

Breckenridge (R8) vs. Bangs (T7), 6 p.m. today, DeLeon HS

Class A
Region II
Bi-District

Iraan (R2), bye

Dell City (R6) vs. Buena Vista (T10), 7 p.m. today, Marfa HS

Rankin (W10), bye.

Sands (R11) vs. Roscoe Highland (T12), 6 p.m. today, Sterling City HS

Menard (W16), bye

Luders-Avoca (R13) vs. Bronte (14-13, T14), 6 p.m. today, Menker HS

Water Valley (W14), bye

May (R15) vs. Santa Anna (T16), 6 p.m. today, Zephyr HS

Grady (W11), bye.

Wink (R10) vs. Balmorhea (T9), 7:30 p.m. today, Fort Stockton HS

Marfa (W9), bye

Borden County (R12) vs. Dawson (T11), time TBA, today, Post HS

Eula (W13), bye

Garden City (R14) vs. Trent (T13), 8 p.m. today, San Angelo Lake View HS

Jayton (W13), bye

Eden (R16) vs. Baird (T15), 6 p.m. today, Coleman HS

Girls

Region I
Class 6A
Area

El Paso El Dorado (R1, 24-7-1) 62, Arlington Bowie (T2, 19-13) 39

Midland High (W29-5) 39, El Paso Franklin 35

Plano (16-22-1) 56, Duncanville 49

Flower Mound (R4, 25-1-1) 61, Southlake Carroll 50

Amarillo High (W2, 33-2) 52, Lee 39

Arlington Martin (R4, 20-10-1) 47, El Paso Coronado 40

Plano West (W6, 26-4-1) 71, Lewisville Hebron (R3, 23-8-1) 63, Keller (T7, 19-13) 51

Regional quarterfinals

Midland High (29-5) vs. El Paso El Dorado (24-7), 7:30 p.m. today, Sul Ross, Alpine

Plano (22-10-1) vs. Flower Mound (25-1-1), today, Lewisville Hebron HS

Amarillo High (30-2) vs. Arlington Martin (20-10-1), 6 p.m. today, Shotwell High (Fort West) (26-4-1) vs. Lake Worth (20-13-2), 6 p.m. today, Highland Park

Class 4A
Area

Seminole (R1, 27-4-1) 52, Pampa (T2, 24-7-1) 41

Bushland (T1, 30-1-1) 77, Hereford (R2, 27-4-1) 44

Stephenville (T3, 26-6-1) 44, Decatur (R4, 24-7-1) 42

Borger (R1, 27-4-1) 52, Levelland (T2, 31-2) 46

Levelland (W2, 31-2) 91, Andrews 46

Greenwood (R4, 24-12) 59, Dalhart 55

Abilene Wylie (R1, 26-7-1) 63, Kennedale Bridgeport (R4, 31-3) 40

Regional quarterfinals

Seminole (W1, 28-4-1) 52, Bushland (T1, 30-1-1) 44, Wolfforth Frenship (R2, 27-4-1) 43, Big Spring (T2, 24-7-1) 41

Greenwood (24-12) vs. Levelland (W2, 31-2), 5 p.m. today, Rip Griffin Center, Lubbock

Abilene Wylie (R1, 26-7-1) vs. Bridgeport (R4, 31-3), today, Site

Class 3A
Area

Lubbock Roosevelt (R1, 31-4) 44, Ballinger (T2, 29-5) 41

Idalou (W1, 31-3) 71, Hereford (R2, 30-5) 45

Childress (R3, 31-4) 44, Sanford-Fritch (T4, 29-7) 37

Tuscola Jim Ned (R4, 29-7) 57, Santa Anna (T3, 27-8) 37

Shallowater (W2, 31-3) 57, Brownfield (T1, 30-4) 53

Muleshoe (R2, 31-3) 63, Brownfield (T1, 30-4) 53

Wall (R4, 34-4) 67, Eastland (T3, 30-5) 41

Breckenridge 46, Sonora 41

Regional quarterfinals

Lubbock Roosevelt (R1, 31-4) vs. Idalou (W1, 31-3), 6 p.m. today, Rip Griffin Center, Lubbock

Tuscola Jim Ned (R4, 29-7) vs. Childress (R3, 31-4), 7:30 p.m. today, Rip Griffin Center, Lubbock

Shallowater (W2, 31-3) vs. Muleshoe (R2, 31-3), today, United Supermarkets Arena, Lubbock

Wall (R4, 34-4) vs. Breckenridge 46, Sonora 41, McMurtry Events Center, Abilene

Class A
Region II
Area

Hooker (Highland) (R1) 45, Balmorhea (T2) 41

Grady (21-9) 45, Rankin 41

Menard (W16, 29-3) 49, Sterling City 35

Garden City (W14, 26-4) 32, Eula 25

O'Donnell (W15, 32-4) 49, Robert Lee (T14, 23-8) 41

Klondike (R15, 20-9) 49, Cross Plains (W13, 32-2) 40

Ruby (R16, 20-9) 42, Baird (T13, 24-7) 41

Regional quarterfinals

Grady (21-9) vs. Roscoe Highland, 6 p.m. today, Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, Big Spring

Garden City (26-4) vs. Menard, 6 p.m. today, San Angelo Lake View HS

O'Donnell vs. Klondike, 4 p.m.

Cross Plains vs. Ruby, Monday

TABC POLLS

BOYS
Class 5A

1. Plano West (26-2, 2. Humble Atascocita (30-1, 3. DeSoto (29-4, 4. Cedar Hill (26-3, 5. Houston Clear Lake (29-2, 6. League City Clear Creek (29-3, 7. Galena Park North Shore (26-6, 8. Converse Judson (29-5, 9. Schertz Clemens (26-4, 10. Amarillo (27-3, 11. SA Northside Brennan (29-2, 12. Richardson (26-4, 13. Killeen Ellison (23-7, 14. Killeen Harker Heights (23-6, 15. Cypress Lakes (28-5, Cypress Woods (23-7, 17. Duncanville (25-9, 18. Houston Sam Houston (26-4, 19. North Crowley (26-6, 20. Katy Cinco Ranch (26-4, 21. Keller Forest (25-5, 22. Allen (22-9, 23. SA Northside Reagan (23-7, 24. Laredo United (21-9, 25. Laredo United South (24-7

Class 5A

1. Lancaster (26-4, 2. Beaumont Central (28-3, 3. Beaumont Ozen (27-3, 4. EP Bel Air (30-0, 5. EP Andress (28-1, 6. Dallas Kimball (24-6, 7. Dallas South Oak Cliff (28-5, 8. Rockwall Heath (28-2, 9. Austin LBJ (24-7, 10. Fort Bend Bush (26-7, 11. Fort Bend Elkins (26-4, 12. Frisco Liberty (27-3, 13. Dallas Wilson (25-4, 14. FW Arlington Heights (21-7, 15. FW Dunbar (18-10, 16. Frisco Lone Star (23-5, 17. Mission Sharyland (28-5, 18. Edinburg Vela (27-4, 19. Mansfield Summit (22-8, 20. Houston Yates (21-9, 21. WF Rider (25-5, 22. Marshall (31-1, 23. Houston King (25-5, 24. Cedar Park (23-6, 25. CC Flour Bluff (24-6

Class 4A

1. Dallas Triple A Academy (21-5, 2. Houston Sterling (23-6, 3. Dallas Madison (20-7, 4. Liberty Hill (31-0, 5. Bridgeport (27-4, 6. Lubbock Estacado (25-7, 7. Argyle (24-8, 8. Wharton (27-5, 9. Navasota (13-3, 10. Sinsbee (26-5, 11. Fairfield (26-1, 12. West Columbia (24-5, 13. Kennedale (25-6, 14. Decatur (18-9, 15. Abilene Wylie (20-7, 16. Sour Lake Hardin-Jefferson (27-6, 17. Paris (32-1, 18. CC West Oso (24-7, 19. Hidalgo (28-5, 20. Houston Wheatley (27-2, 21. Paris North Lamar (27-4, 22. Lake Hudson (26-6, 23. Rockwall (24-7, 24. Princeton (27-4

Class 3A

1. Brock (30-2, 2. Brownfield (25-4, 3. Alice Jake (25-3, 4. Kountze (26-4, 5. Burnet (26-5, 6. Jacksonville (27-4, 7. Amarillo Palo Duro (30-3, 8. Dallas Faith Family (26-5, Kermit (27-4, 10. Whitehouse (23-6, 11. Whitney (27-4, 12. Hearne (22-7, 13. Crockett (24-5, 14. Gilmer (25-6, 15. Jarrell (24-7, 16. Denver City (24-7, Hallettsville (23-4, 18. Hooks (26-2, 19. Childress (24-4, 20. University City Randolph (25-7, 21. Stephenville (23-8, 22. Mount Pleasant (23-4, 23. Vanderbilt Industrial (26-4

Class 2A

1. Deanderville Big Sandy (32-2, 2. Martins Mill (26-4, 3. Muenster (29-3, 4. Port Aransas (30-2, 5. Smyer (25-2, 6. Olney (26-5, 7. Carlisle (15-1, 8. La Rue La Poynor (26-4, 9. Kenney (22-10, Schwenimer (25-5, 11. Hamshire Fannett (23-7, 12. Clarksville (25-8, 13. *Normangee (25-6, 14. Normangee (19-6, 15. Mumford (29-5, 16. Wimberley (23-5, 17. Rangerville (25-5, 18. Sabinal (26-5, 19. Blue Ridge (26-3, 20. New Summerfield (24-5, 21. Gruver (24-15, 22. Clarendon (22-7, 23. Val Verde (24-4, Wolfe City (20-6, 25. West Rappoport (23-7

Class A

1. Tavina (29-1, 2. Lanexa (23-3, 3. Crowell (27-4, 4. Grady (26-4, 5. Sterley (27-4, 6. Throckmorton (18-3, 7. Calvert (16-1, 8. Eula (25-5, 9. Coolidge (27-6, 10. Nazareth (24-8, 11. Iraan (25-6, 12. Jayton (27-4, 13. Happy (21-7, 14. Marquez Premier (27-4, 15. Huckabay (19-12, 16. Ingleville (23-6, 17. Bellevue (20-6, 18. Paducah (16-6, 19. Mount Enterprise (27-3, 20. Water Valley (24-3, 21. Blum (17-12, 22. Avinger (24-2, 23. Sabine (20-11, 24. McMullen County (26-3, 25. Menard (26-3

COLLEGEBASKETBALL

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Men

MONDAY'S SCORES
SOUTHWEST

Incarnate Word 77, Houston Baptist 64
Stephen F. Austin 103, Lamar 74
Texas Southern 83, MVSU 75

SOUTH

Alabama A&M 73, Alcorn St. 69
Coastal Carolina 72, Longwood 59
E. Kentucky 76, Austin Peay 64
Howard 75, SC State 65
Louisville 92, Georgia Tech 51
Morehead St. 86, Tennessee St. 70
NC A&T 80, Morgan St. 57, OT
New Orleans 74, SE Louisiana 73
Norfolk St. 81, Delaware St. 71
Northwestern St. 79, Nicholls St. 57
Savannah St. 63, Florida A&M 52

EAST

Manhattan 67, Marist 54
St. John's 58, Xavier 57

TODAY'S GAMES
SOUTHWEST

Texas A&M-CC at Abilene Christian, 7 p.m.
McNeese St. at Cent. Arkansas, 7 p.m.
Texas A&M at Arkansas, 8 p.m.

SOUTH

South Carolina at Alabama, 6 p.m.
LSU at Auburn, 6 p.m.
Wisconsin at Maryland, 6 p.m.
NC State at North Carolina, 7 p.m.

MIDWEST

W. Michigan at Ball St., 6 p.m.
Cent. Michigan at E. Michigan, 6 p.m.
Kent St. at Miami (Ohio), 6 p.m.
Bowling Green at Ohio, 6 p.m.
N. Illinois at Toledo, 6 p.m.
Syracuse at Notre Dame, 7 p.m.
Creighton at DePaul, 8 p.m.
Florida vs Missouri, 8 p.m.

FAR WEST

UNLV at Utah St., 8:30 p.m.
New Mexico at Boise St., 10 p.m.

EAST

Akron at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Providence at Villanova, 6 p.m.
Texas at West Virginia, 6 p.m.
Niagara at Canisius, 7 p.m.
Boston College at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m.

POLLS
AP TOP 25

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. Kentucky (65)	27-0	1,625	1
2. Virginia	25-1	1,526	2
3. Gonzaga	26-1	1,471	3
4. Duke	24-3	1,448	4
5. Wisconsin	25-2	1,390	5
6. Villanova	25-2	1,306	6
7. Arizona	24-3	1,228	7
8. Kansas	22-5	1,111	8
9. Notre Dame	24-4	1,109	10
10. N. Iowa	26-2	1,032	11
11. Wichita St.	25-3	930	13
12. Iowa St.	20-6	887	14
13. Utah	21-5	876	9
14. Maryland	22-5	695	16
15. North Carolina	19-8	655	15
16. Oklahoma	19-8	622	17
17. Louisville	21-6	613	12
18. Arkansas	22-5	564	18
19. Baylor	**20-7**	**473**	**20**
20. West Virginia	**21-6**	**423**	**23**
21. SMU	**22-5**	**357**	**21**
22. VCU	21-6	182	25
23. Butler	19-8	165	19
24. San Diego St.	22-5	117	—
25. Providence	19-8	72	—0

Others receiving votes: Georgetown 58, Michigan St. 58, Murray St. 42, Oklahoma St. 25, Ohio St. 12, Valparaiso 10, **Texas A&M 8**, Rhode Island 3, **Stephen F. Austin 2, Oregon 1, Texas 1.**

USA TODAY TOP 25

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Kentucky (32)	27-0	800	1
2. Gonzaga	26-1	746	2
3. Virginia	25-1	725	3
4. Wisconsin	25-2	709	4
5. Duke	24-3	690	5
6. Villanova	25-2	648	6
7. Arizona	24-3	603	7
8. Notre Dame	24-4	582	10
9. Kansas	22-5	530	8
10. Northern Iowa	26-2	508	11
11. Wichita State	25-3	460	13
12. Utah	21-5	442	9
13. Iowa State	20-6	425	14
14. Maryland	22-5	347	15
15. Louisville	21-6	324	12
16. Arkansas	22-5	297	17
17. Oklahoma	19-8	288	17
18. North Carolina	19-8	272	16
19. West Virginia	21-6	214	22
20. Baylor	**20-7**	**202**	**20**
21. SMU	**22-5**	**178**	**21**
22. San Diego State	22-6	99	25
23. Butler	19-8	73	19
24. VCU	21-6	70	—
25. Michigan State	19-8	48	—

Others receiving votes: Georgetown 31, Providence 28, Murray State 23, Valparaiso 16, Ohio State 10, Oklahoma State 10, **Stephen F. Austin 9, Texas A&M 6,** Davidson 4, Oregon 4, Purdue 4, Mississippi 3, Boise State 2, Colorado State 2

Women

MONDAY'S SCORES
SOUTHWEST

Prairie View 84, Ark.-Pine Bluff 63
Texas Southern 70, MVSU 46

SOUTH

Alcorn St. 73, Alabama A&M 49
Chattanooga 56, Mercer 51
Hampton 69, Coppin St. 44
Jacksonville St. 69, E. Kentucky 65
Maryland 65, Penn St. 34
Mississippi 87, Kentucky 59
Morehead St. 90, Tennessee Tech 82
NC A&T 67, Morgan St. 59
Norfolk St. 85, Delaware St. 55
SC State 78, Howard 66
Samford 69, ETSU 46
Savannah St. 77, Florida A&M 55
Southern U. 72, Alabama St. 58
UConn 84, Tulane 47
UNC-Greensboro 85, Wofford 59
W. Carolina 77, Furman 64

MIDWEST

Notre Dame 88, Louisville 52

EAST

Bryant 84, Wagner 47
CCSU 72, St. Francis (Pa.) 59
Fairleigh Dickinson 60, St. Francis (NY) 57
LIU Brooklyn 48, Mount St. Mary's 45
Marist 56, Fairfield 50
Sacred Heart 69, Robert Morris 60

TODAY'S GAMES
SOUTHWEST

West Virginia at TCU, 7 p.m.
Texas Tech at Iowa St., 7 p.m.

SOUTH

Coastal Carolina at Campbell, 6 p.m.
Presbyterian at Charleston Southern, 6 p.m.
High Point at Gardner-Webb, 6 p.m.
Winthrop at Liberty, 6 p.m.
UNC Asheville at Radford, 6 p.m.
Houston at UCF, 6 p.m.
Tulsa at Memphis, 7 p.m.

MIDWEST

South Florida at Cincinnati, 6 p.m.
Purdue at Michigan, 6 p.m.
Minnesota at Nebraska, 8 p.m.

EAST

Niagara at Canisius, 4 p.m.
Quinnipiac at Marist, 6 p.m.
Md.-Eastern Shore at NJIT, 6 p.m.

POLL
AP TOP 25

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. UConn (34)	26-1	850	1
2. South Carolina	25-1	807	2
3. Baylor	**26-1**	**786**	**3**
4. Notre Dame	25-2	750	4
5. Maryland	24-2	699	5
6. Tennessee	23-3	692	6
7. Oregon St.	25-2	635	7
8. Louisville	23-3	618	8
9. Florida St.	25-3	574	9
10. Arizona St.	24-4	516	12
11. Mississippi St.	25-4	483	14
12. Texas A&M	**22-6**	**484**	**15**
13. Kentucky	19-7	414	11
14. Princeton	25-0	401	16
15. North Carolina	22-6	400	17
16. Duke	19-8	361	10
17. Iowa	21-6	263	13
18. Chattanooga	24-3	246	20
19. Stanford	20-8	217	18
20. Rutgers	20-7	184	19
21. Florida Gulf Coast	25-2	143	22
22. Georgia Washington	24-3	101	24
23. Syracuse	20-8	86	25
24. California	21-7	78	—
25. Northwestern	21-6	72	—

Others receiving votes: Seton Hall 44, Minnesota 33, South Florida 30, Nebraska 25, James Madison 18, DePaul 16, Green Bay 16, Oklahoma St. 9, Texas 9, Dayton 7, Oklahoma 6, Ohio St. 4, W. Kentucky 4, Quinnipiac 2, Wichita St. 2, Gonzaga 1, NC State 1, Washington 1.

Azarenka wins and Venus Williams advances

Associated Press

DOHA — Two time champion Victoria Azarenka beat Angelique Kerber 6-0, 6-3 in the first round of the Qatar Total Open on Monday.

The Belarusian, who won in 2012 and 2013, was forced to withdraw last year due to a foot inflammation.

Returning to Doha as a wild card entrant, Azarenka needed just 66 minutes to beat the eighth-seeded Kerber.

"I'm pretty happy with it. You know, there isn't a lot of things to complain about, but I always try to look at things what I can do maybe better or just stay more consistent," said the former world No.1, who has now slipped to 48.

Kerber, who lost to Simona Halep in last year's final, was blown away in the first set in which Azarenka dropped just nine points.

The German world No.11 came back in the second set in which she got her first service break in the sixth game. However Azarenka, playing her first match since hiring Wim Fissette as her new coach, broke back in sixth and went on to break Kerber's serve again in the eighth to seal the contest.

Azarenka's forehand winners proved too good for Kerber who did not help her cause with six double faults.

"In the first set, I really stepped with the right attitude, game plan and executed it well," Azarenka said.

"And in the second set, I knew she was going to fight back and for me it was important to just stay consistent and stay in the moment still stay in command." added Azarenka who hopes to become the first player to win Qatar Total Open three times.

A-Rod back early with Yanks, still avoiding PED specifics

By Mark Didtler
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Alex Rodriguez reported to the New York Yankees three days ahead of schedule. He spoke for 8 1/2 minutes about his season-long drug suspension.

But on his first day back with the team since September 2013, he never said why he resumed the use of performance-enhancing drugs, never explained what he did and avoided getting into any specifics.

"I cringe when I look at some of things I did," Rodriguez said, surrounded by about 40 reporters on the sidewalk outside the Yankees minor league complex. "No mistake that I made has any good answer, no justification. It's unexplainable, and that's on me. I've dug a big hole for myself. Paid a price."

New York asked him to hold a pre-spring training news conference at Yankee Stadium, but Rodriguez declined. The Yankees told them they didn't want him holding one at Steinbrenner Field, where they felt it would be a distraction.

So Rodriguez improvised.

Wearing a green University of Miami sweatsuit, he arrived at Steinbrenner Field on Monday morning for his physical, three days before the first workout for Yankees' position players. Shortly before 1 p.m., he showed up at the minor league complex, a little less than 1 mile away, carrying what appeared to be a tan bat box.

After changing into Yankees' shorts, a T-shirt and a spring training cap, Rodriguez worked out for about an hour. He hit six home runs in 71 swings and took grounders at shortstop.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi and general manager Brian Cashman say Chase Headley will be their starting third baseman and Rodriguez will compete for at-bats at designated hitter.

Rodriguez called Headley an "excellent addition" to the team. Rodriguez did not take grounders at first base.

Rodriguez

"I'm willing to try," he said. "When Joe needs me, I'm going to be ready. I'm here early, trying to get a jump-start. It's a process. It's going to take time."

Suspended for violations of baseball's drug agreement and labor contract, Rodriguez apologized to team officials during a meeting at Yankee Stadium on Feb. 10 and to fans in a statement last week. His handwritten statement to fans offered no details.

"I'm fortunate for a lot of people, especially the commissioner's office, the players' union, the Yankees to give me an opportunity to play the game that I love," he said.

Asked whether he thought the Yankees' organization was on his side, Rodriguez said he didn't know.

"You'd have to ask them," he responded. "I created a big headache for a lot of people. So, I don't blame whoever is mad at me."

When asked if at any point he would address specifics regarding his mistakes, Rodriguez answered: "Right now I'm just focused on making this team. Obviously, it was a rough year."

Before speaking with reporters, Rodriguez spent 10 minutes signing autographs for a group of around 50 fans, who all cheered him.

Rodriguez stopped his SUV near the complex entrance, got out and walked toward the fans, who surged forward and, semi-surrounded him. He also posed for photos with many of them, interacting with questions like "Where are you from?"

When he was done, Rodriguez turned to the group of reporters and said, "Let's keep this nice and short."

He said he has no plans to address Yankees teammates as a group.

"I have a lot of good relationships in there," Rodriguez said. "Stayed in touch with a lot of them. I feel welcomed back."

Rodriguez, who turns 40 in July, has not played a full season since 2007 because the suspension, operations on both hips and other injuries.

"I don't know. ... We'll see," Rodriguez said about his body holding up. "If I stay healthy, I can do good things."

He admitted in 2009 that he used performance-enhancing drugs from 2001-03 while with Texas. Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig suspended Rodriguez for 211 games in August 2013, citing conduct from 2010-12 uncovered during MLB's investigation of the Biogenesis of America clinic, which was based in Coral Gables, Florida, not far from Rodriguez's home.

Arbitrator Fredric Horowitz reduced the penalty to the 2014 season, finding "clear and convincing evidence" Rodriguez used three banned substances and twice tried to obstruct baseball's drug investigation. The suspension cost Rodriguez just over $22 million of his $25 million salary last year.

Rodriguez said it's not for him to say if the penalty was fair.

"There's a system in place," Rodriguez said. "I paid my penalty. I'm moving on."

Rodriguez also sued Major League Baseball, the players' association and the Yankees' team physician, then dropped the cases.

He is owed $61 million in the final three seasons of his $275 million, 10-year contract. A marketing agreement signed at the time of his contract provides for five $6 million bonuses he could earn for historic achievements; the Yankees told him they don't plan to pay those.

When asked what he would have done differently the past two years, Rodriguez responded by saying: "I don't have time for that."

Rangers' Fielder excited to be back on field

Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Prince Fielder got an earful from Texas Rangers teammate Adrian Beltre during batting practice Monday.

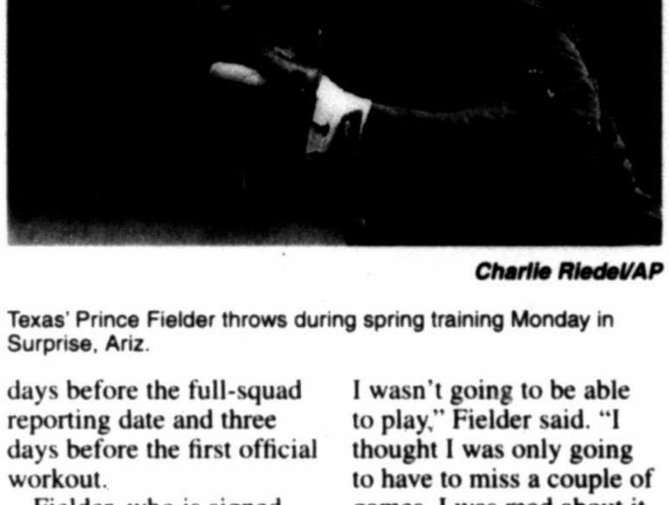
"I haven't heard him talk trash since May," Fielder said. "It was a lot of fun."

Fiedler missed that kind of interaction after neck surgery last season limited him to 42 games in his first year with the Rangers.

Having a healthy Fielder back alongside Beltre in the middle of the batting order should provide a huge boost for the Rangers after an AL-high 95 losses last season.

"You don't know how much you miss it until it gets taken away," Fielder said. "This is probably the most excited I've been for spring since my first one. ... I'm 100 percent, nothing is hurting. I feel good."

The slugger's first day in camp came on the same day Texas reworked the final two seasons of Beltre's $96 million, six-year contract, eliminating the team's conditional right to void the third baseman's 2016 salary. It was two days before the full-squad reporting date and three days before the first official workout.


Charlie Riedel/AP

Texas' Prince Fielder throws during spring training Monday in Surprise, Ariz.

Fielder, who is signed through 2020, had played in a majors-best 547 consecutive games and missed just one of 810 games since the start of the 2009 season before the Rangers acquired him. He came from Detroit in a November 2013 trade for Ian Kinsler.

"I was definitely sad that I wasn't going to be able to play," Fielder said. "I thought I was only going to have to miss a couple of games. I was mad about it. It was just a nagging thing that I thought would go away. It's not like I haven't played a little banged up before. I thought once that goes away, I would be fine, but it never went away.

"Once they told me what it was, I was kind of relieved to at least know what it is and they could fix it," he said. "But I was definitely sad not to be able to play."

Fielder had only three homers and 16 RBI in 42 games, and didn't play after May 16. The only time his numbers were lower was his rookie season with Milwaukee in 2005, before he hit at least 25 home runs in eight consecutive seasons (2006-13) with 106 or more RBI seven times.

The 30-year-old Fielder's goals this season are based on his health, not potential numbers.

"Usually I would say stay healthy just to give you an answer, but now I just really want to stay healthy," he said. "It's a real feeling now, while before it was just a protocol answer. Now I really want to be healthy enough for the whole year to see what happens."

NOTES: INF/OF Elliot Johnson agreed to a minor league contract and will be at big league spring training. He was on Cleveland's opening day roster last year, but played in only seven games before going to the minors for the rest of the season.

Rangers rework Beltre's deal, eliminate right to void 2016

Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Adrian Beltre and the Texas Rangers have reworked the final two seasons of the third baseman's $96 million, six-year contract, eliminating the team's conditional right to void his 2016 salary.

Beltre was due to be paid $18 million this year and $16 million in 2016, but the team had the ability to void 2016 if the four-time All-Star and Gold Glove winner didn't have at least 586 plate appearances this season.

Under the amendment announced Monday, Beltre is guaranteed $16 million this year and $18 million in 2016.

"It was really a no-brainer for us," general manager Jon Daniels said. "He is one of the best players in the game, a team leader and a future Hall of Famer. We didn't want it to be a story this season."

The 35-year-old made $17 million last season, when Beltre hit .324 with 19 homers and 77 RBI.

Beltre is a .285 hitter over 2,424 games in a career that began with his debut for the Los Angeles Dodgers in June 1998 when he was 19. He played with the Dodgers through 2004, then went to Seattle (2005-09) and Boston (2010) before signing with the Rangers.

"I'm comfortable here," Beltre said Sunday after reporting to camp. "The main focus for me for what I've got left is to win. If this team shows that they want to win, I don't want to go anywhere else."

Texas is coming off an injury-plagued season with an AL-high 95 losses. But in the four years before that, the Rangers went to back-to-back World Series, made it to the AL wild-card game and lost a 163rd-game wild-card tiebreaker.

The sides did not change the provision that would allow the Rangers to defer $12 million of Beltre's 2016 salary at 1 percent interest if he ends this season on the disabled list and a mutually agreed on physician determines he will not be healthy by spring training 2016.

Profar likely out 2nd year in row after shoulder surgery

Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Rangers second baseman Jurickson Profar has undergone shoulder surgery and is expected to miss his second season in a row.

Team physician Dr. Keith Meister repaired a labrum tear in Profar's right shoulder Monday in Texas.

According to the team, Meister reported that surgery went well and nothing else needed to be surgically repaired in the shoulder.

After missing last season because of his shoulder, Profar had started throwing while getting an MRI every three weeks. The 22-year-old infielder was throwing at 105 feet, the same distance before a previous setback last September, when an MRI last week revealed the same muscle strain.

Once the team's top prospect, Profar was 19 when he homered in his first major league at-bat in 2012.

Houston's Castro hoping for offensive bounce back

By Noah Tristar
Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Although he'll turn 28 this June, Jason Castro has really only played two full seasons in the major leagues.

The Houston catcher is still learning how to outsmart opposing pitchers.

"With the way baseball is at this point, there's so much information and video and ways that the opponents can try to gain a competitive advantage by studying you as a player basically, breaking you down," Castro said. "Adaptation is kind of your best tool to combat that. Being able to adjust to what your opponent is trying to do to you is really your best offense."

Castro was an All-Star in 2013, when the Astros lost 111 games. Houston finally began making some strides last year, but Castro's offensive numbers dipped significantly. He's hoping this will be the season when everything comes together — and he can establish himself as a standout catcher both offensively and defensively.

Castro made his big league debut in 2010, then had to miss the whole 2011 season because of a torn knee ligament. There were knee issues the following two years as well, but in 2013 he was able to play 120 games, hitting .276 with 18 home runs and earning an All-Star nod.

That's the level the Astros would like Castro to return to after his offensive performance regressed in 2014. He batted .222 last year, and although he hit 14 homers, he struck out every 3.39 plate appearances, the fifth-worst ratio in baseball.

Houston's 70-92 season in 2014 came on the heels of three straight years of at least 106 losses. There is clearly some talent on the roster now. Jose Altuve won a batting title last season, while Chris Carter hit 37 home runs and George Springer added 20 in only 295 at-bats.

The Astros added another power hitter in the offseason when they acquired Evan Gattis from Atlanta. Gattis was a catcher last year, but he can also play the outfield, so that deal wasn't necessarily a threat to Castro's spot.

New manager A.J. Hinch sounds eager for Castro to contribute through what figures to be his physical prime.

"He's a player that's an important player on our team, and he needs to be himself. He can have an impact on both sides of the ball," Hinch said Monday. "I really believe that he's settling into an important few years of his career. ... As he's getting older and more mature and more comfortable in the league, and getting into his rhythm and game plan on catching and hitting, he's in a great spot to have a great impact."

Lester ready to help Cubs take step toward a winning culture

Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. — Jon Lester has been through this before.

He knows all about a desperate fans base going through a difficult drought. He's seen an organization go through a sharp cultural change. He knows what it's like to lose — a lot.

Lester is also a World Series champion.

OK, so Chicago's North Siders don't know much about the latter, but it's a big reason why the Cubs went out and signed the 31 year-old left-hander to a 6-year, $155-million deal in the offseason.

Not only is he 116-67 with a 3.58 ERA in nine seasons, but Lester brings a know-how and familiarity that falls in line with what the Cubs are trying to accomplish.

"Boston has prepared me for those ups and downs here in Chicago," he said. "I lucked out. I got a lot of things good things going in my direction. I became a free agent at the right time. I'm happy to be here and ready to win."

Lester helped lead the Red Sox to the 2007 World Series title and was in the organization when Boston broke through for its first championship in 2004.

And now he is not tip-toeing around the idea that the Cubs can contend — and finally put an end to the struggles within the organization.

"It starts with attitude," Lester said after reporting to camp last week." You can work as hard as you want, but if you don't have the right attitude, it's not going to get you anywhere."

"The goals you set have to be high, to the point where you almost can't reach them," he said. "If you set goals that you can consistently reach every year, what's the point of setting goals? You're not making yourself better."

He picked that credo up as a young starter while working with the Red Sox's Curt Schilling, Tim Wakefield and Josh Beckett during their time during spring training in Fort Myers, Florida, and with the big league club throughout the season.

The hope is he can instill that work ethic in Jake Arrieta, Travis Wood, Felix Doubront, Jason Hammels, Kyle Kendricks, Jacob Turner and others as Chicago looks to make the leap from fifth-place to consistent contenders.

"I put my head down," he said." I do my work.

SPEED

From 1C

don't have the desired result.

"I have said repeatedly that I think pace of play is going to be an ongoing, multi-year evolutions," Manfred said, "a series of changes over a period of time. We were pleased with the experiment with a pitch clock in the Arizona Fall League. We were pleased enough with the experiment that it was expanded it to Double-A and Triple-A.

"I have no set position with respect to whether we're going to go beyond that at this point," he said.

He said, "The reason we're doing experimentation is to make sure we understand it really well before we make a decision on what we're going to do at the big league level. And obviously that's a (collective) bargaining topic as well."

A sampling of managers showed they are in favor of the new rules.

"I don't think it's going to be a major adjustment," Kansas City manager Ned Yost said. "Except for a few guys."

"There's guys you sit there in the dugout and then they take 45 seconds in between pitchers," he said. "I'm like, 'Get your tail in there and let's go.' That (the rules) hopefully will eliminate that."

With stricter rules in the minors, the next generation will be accustomed to a faster pace, Arizona manager Chip Hale said.

"It's going to take some time," he said. "Once you get this generation of minor league kids that are even under harder rules to the big leagues, you'll see them play the game quicker. And you might not even have to have rules."

Players are subject to a possible $500 fine for violating the batter's box rule. Manfred said the names of those fined will not be made public.

As for the drop in offense in the majors, Manfred said he's waiting to see if it really is a problem before considering any changes to help.

He was asked about the possibility of eliminating the call of low strikes.

'If and when we reach the conclusion that we have a lack of offense problem that's persistent and needs to be addressed," he said, "there's a list of topics that we've thought about and that is one on the list."

Manfred said it was just speculation of possible action when he earlier spoke of eliminating defensive shifts.

On another matter, Manfred said whether he would do anything about Pete Rose's ban from baseball "will depend on whether or when I receive a request from Mr. Rose."

"I'm not going to comment on the substance of Mr. Rose's situation since ultimately I have to make that decision," Manfred said. "But the process will be set as a result of private communications between Mr. Rose and my office.

Stewart-Haas sticks with fill-in Regan Smith

Associated Press

KANNAPOLIS, N.C. — Stewart-Haas Racing is sticking with Regan Smith in place of suspended driver Kurt Busch.

SHR made the announcement Monday, one day after Smith drove the No. 41 Chevrolet to a 16th-place finish in the Daytona 500. Smith will be behind the wheel for Sunday's race at Atlanta Motor Speedway. It will be his seventh Sprint Cup Series start at the track.

The 2008 Cup Series rookie of the year, Smith also will continue driving full time in the Xfinity Series.

NASCAR suspended Busch last week after a Delaware judge said the 2004 champion almost surely choked and beat his former girlfriend at Dover International Speedway last fall. Chevrolet suspended ties with Busch, but SHR has not decided who will drive at Las Vegas Motor Speedway next week.

NASCAR got the drama-free Daytona 500 it needed

Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — It was a bumpy buildup to the Daytona 500, which for days was overshadowed by disputes, drama, an injury to Kyle Busch and the suspension of his older brother, Kurt.

Dozens of cars were wrecked, and on the morning of NASCAR's season-opening showcase, reigning series champion Kevin Harvick warned "we're going to tear up some (more)."

So there was every reason to feel anxious going into "The Great American Race."

It wasn't necessary, as the Daytona 500 proved entertaining and trouble free — exactly what NASCAR needed.

"It was a great day, a really good event, and we enjoyed it," NASCAR chairman Brian France said Monday on SiriusXM NASCAR radio.

After Jeff Gordon, racing in his final Daytona 500, led the field to green, he set the pace and led a race-high 87 laps as the event settled into a rhythm. With anticipation building for the final 50 miles, known as go-time at superspeedways because the intensity inches toward its fevered pitch, the racing picked up tremendously.

Drivers fanned out three-wide all the way through the field as cars rode door-to-door in some of the most breathtaking racing in years. It was Joey Logano for Team Penske who grabbed the checkered flag, albeit under caution because when the racing is that frenzied, something is always going to give. A wreck in the middle of the field occurred on the last lap of the two-lap sprint to the finish, and NASCAR threw the yellow flag that froze the field.

Logano, a 24 year old from Connecticut who is cementing himself as one of NASCAR's next stars, drove to victory lane. The drivers who finished second, third and fourth headed for post-race media obligations, their moods light and playful even though they'd failed to catch Logano with the win on the line.

That last-lap caution? Maybe it robbed NASCAR of a potentially spectacular finish, but after 10 messy days, everyone just needed a drama-free event.

The first exhibition of Speedweeks, with drivers racing for the first time since November, lived up to what it always has been: A crash-fest with only a dozen or so cars running at the end. It's a product of the race not counting toward anything of significant value, and drivers shaking the rust off after an idle offseason.

But things went amiss during the first round of Daytona 500 qualifying, which was an absolute debacle under a new format. An accident in the first group session sent several drivers to backup cars, and NASCAR's biggest stars pounced on the sanctioning body for creating something that favored entertainment over practicality and speed.

The final session was calculated scheming, as drivers idled on pit road watching a clock tick down before they made a hurried last-gasp run for the pole. It was a mockery of the system and NASCAR needed just three days before it set restrictions in place for the Xfinity and Truck Series qualifying.

The new rules didn't help much — Xfinity qualifying was marked by its own multi-car pileup.

Danica Patrick had her share of drama after a pair of incidents with Denny Hamlin forced her into two different backup cars. After their second fracas, she angrily confronted him on pit road for a heated confrontation that Hamlin repeatedly tried to soften by placing his hand on her shoulder while presenting a measured defense.

The two made up a day later, but attention swiftly moved on to real-life issues and away from the typical NASCAR controversy.

A Delaware family judge issued a lengthy opinion that found Kurt Busch almost certainly committed a domestic assault against an ex-girlfriend last fall. NASCAR immediately suspended the 2004 champion, and Busch urgently tried to appeal.

He spent several hours Saturday before a three-judge panel, which ultimately upheld his indefinite suspension. He filed to have his case heard before NASCAR's final appeals officer, and the hearing was scheduled for the eve of the Daytona 500.

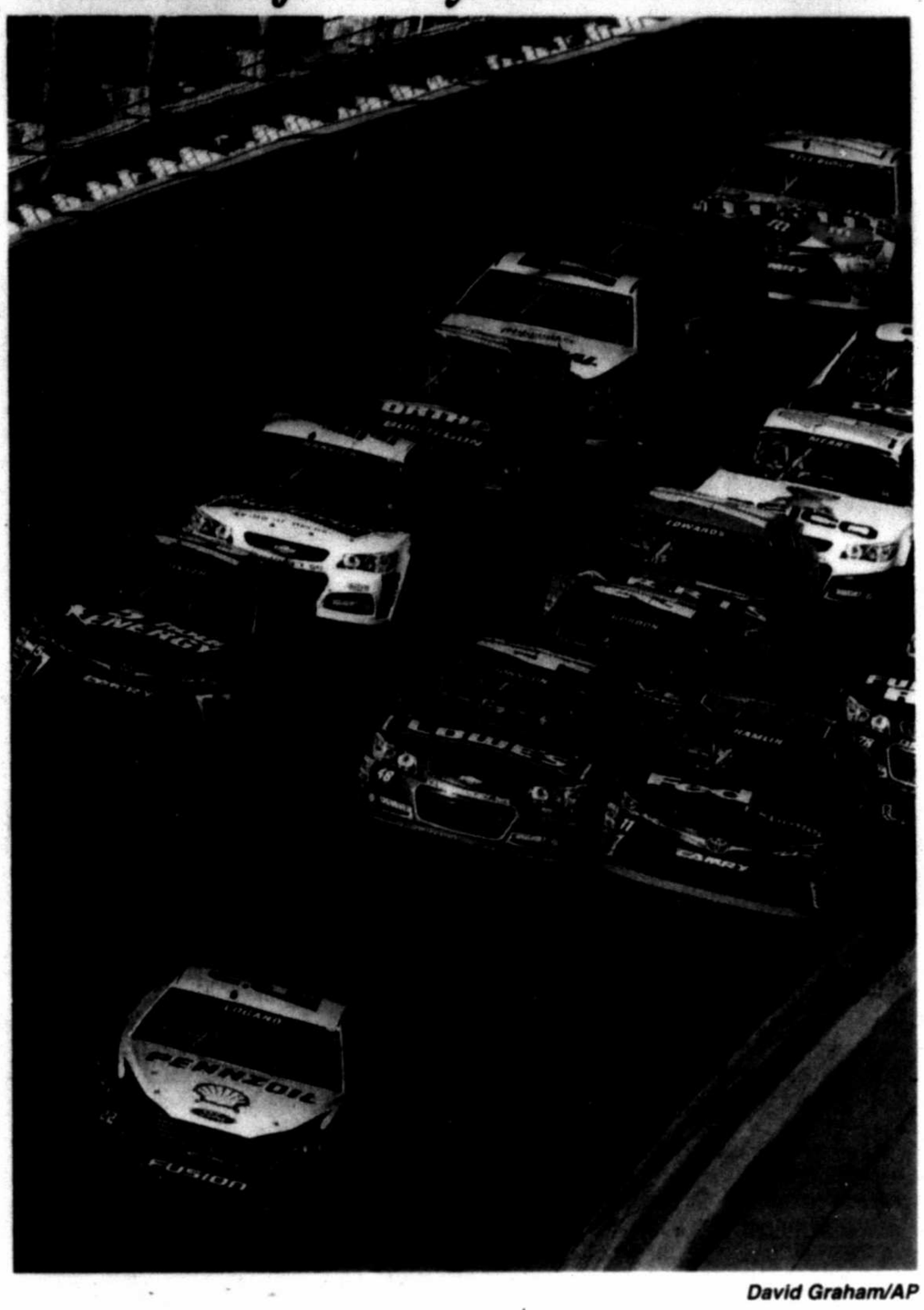
But as Busch prepared his defense, younger brother, Kyle, was in a violent crash into a concrete wall during Saturday's Xfinity race. He broke his right leg, his left foot, and forced Daytona officials to admit they had failed in safety precautions by not having a SAFER barrier where Busch hit the wall.

The track vowed to cover every inch of the speedway in expensive SAFER barriers to atone for its error, but it was too late for Kyle Busch. He was in surgery at the same time the appeals officer denied Kurt Busch's attempt to be reinstated for the Daytona 500.

For the first time since 2000, a Busch brother was not in the Daytona 500, and both are out for an undetermined length of time.

So by the time the actual event rolled around, it was time for just one easy day.

NASCAR got it, along with a new winner and every indication that this season might be one very bumpy ride.



David Graham/AP

Joey Logano (22) leads the field during the Daytona 500 on Sunday at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Alonso making 'solid recovery' after crash in F1 testing

Associated Press

MONTMELO, Spain — McLaren driver Fernando Alonso is making a "solid recovery" after being concussed following a crash in Formula One testing and is staying in hospital for further observation.

The Spanish driver escaped serious injury, but was airlifted by helicopter to the hospital for precautionary checks after his McLaren collided with a wall at the Barcelona-Catalunya circuit on Sunday.

In a statement released Monday, McLaren said Alonso is chatting to family, friends and hospital staff as he recovers "from the effects of the medication that successfully managed his routine sedation."

"In hospital, a thorough and complete analysis of his condition was performed, involving CT scans and MRI scans, all of which were completely normal," McLaren said.

The team will decide later whether Alonso is able to take part in the next testing session scheduled in Catalonia at the same track from Feb. 26-March 1.

Alonso went off the circuit at the exit of the demanding curve three and slammed the right side of his McLaren into the wall. He received first aid at the track's medical center and was sedated before being transferred to hospital.

"In order to provide the privacy and tranquillity required to facilitate a peaceful recuperation, he is being kept in hospital for further observation, and to recover from the effects of the medication that successfully managed his routine sedation yesterday," his team said.

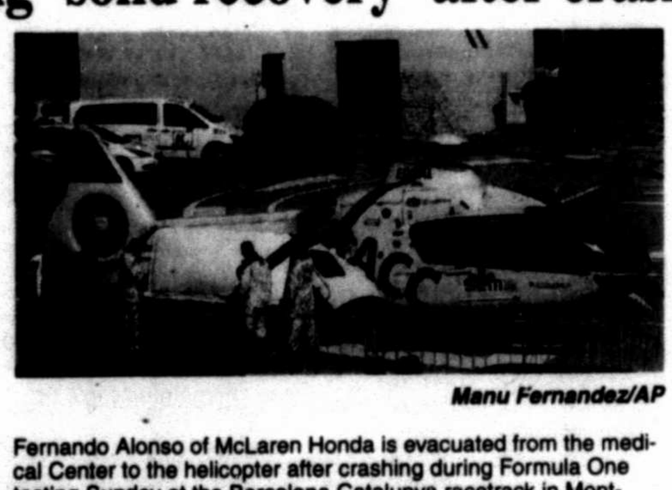
After assessing the damage to Alonso's car, McLaren said his crash was caused by "unpredictably gusty winds at that part of the circuit at that time, and which had affected other drivers similarly."

Toro Rosso's Spanish newcomer Carlos Sainz Jr. also hit the wall exiting turn three.

McLaren said it found no evidence of mechanical failure on the car and dismissed rumours that Alonso lost consciousness at the time of the crash because of an electrical discharge in the ERS (Energy Recovery) system.

"Our data clearly shows that he was downshifting while applying full brake pressure right up to the moment of the first impact, something that clearly would not have been possible had he been unconscious at the time," McLaren said.

Alonso's accident came after a difficult preseason for McLaren in its switch to Honda engines. A faulty seal twice limited Jenson Button's runs earlier this week. The British driver was scheduled to drive Sunday afternoon, but McLaren cancelled any further running.



Manu Fernandez/AP

Fernando Alonso of McLaren Honda is evacuated from the medical Center to the helicopter after crashing during Formula One testing Sunday at the Barcelona Catalunya racetrack in Montmelo, Spain.

Stakes high as teams try to judge character at NFL combine

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The questions were similar, and Dorial Green-Beckham had virtually the same response for each one.

"I'm disappointed in myself for all those things I did at Missouri," said the wide receiver, who spent last season on the sideline in large part because of legal troubles, including allegations that he pushed a woman down a flight of stairs.

Green-Beckham repeated some version of that nine times during the 10 minutes he spent with reporters at the NFL scouting combine last week. He could have said it 100 times, and it wouldn't have answered — or ended — the questions.

Because of the domestic violence scandals involving Ray Rice, Adrian Peterson and others that came to light last season, the scrutiny for the receiver with first-round talent but all those character questions is only beginning.

Now more than ever, teams are using the combine not so much to find out what sort of player they're getting — they can watch the tapes for that — as what kind of person they're getting. The 15-minute interviews the teams get with the players, along with tests that evaluate their psychological profile, have never been more important.

"It changes with the times," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said of the vetting process. "We are a microcosm of society. We have our problems just like everyone else, and hopefully we will be able to help educate our people about what is not acceptable."

Placing the issue into even sharper focus is the fact that arguably the most talented player in the upcoming draft, quarterback Jameis Winston, has been a fixture in police blotters during an athletically stellar but personally challenging three years at Florida State.

Sexual assault accusations against him while in college didn't result in charges, but his past puts him at more risk under the NFL's new personal-conduct policy, beefed up in the aftermath of the Rice case.

The policy, which calls for a six-game suspension after a first offense, makes clear that a criminal conviction isn't needed for the league to determine players took part in prohibited conduct. The NFL will have its own investigative arm, and the commissioner can use his discretion based, in part, on a player's previous behavior.

"I understand there are some things in college that a lot of people do that they wish they hadn't later on," said Lovie Smith, coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who hold the top pick. "I understand there are a lot of things on his record. We take all the information we can possibly get at this point. It's still early. Right now, we haven't taken him off our list."

Winston's travails have been widely documented, and with the growth of the Internet over the past decade, a few keystrokes are all it takes to discover a player's police record. The teams work with law enforcement and hire their own people to do some detective work — talking to friends, family, high school coaches and others to uncover details about a player's off-the-field behavior.

"I know I made mistakes and I know I have a past, but right now it's about me moving forward and earning the trust of all these 32 teams out there," Winston said.

Can he really move forward? The teams also hire psychologists to analyze tests that help build a psychological profile of all their prospective draft picks.

"I never felt that, as football people, we were qualified to judge whether a person was psychologically prepared to play in the National Football League," said Bill Polian, the former NFL executive who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this year. "We left that to the psychologist and left it to the professionals. We were guided by their opinions, which were terrific. Then, we added that to our football judgment to get a full profile."

Among those who design the psychological tests are Dr. Mike Sanders of Human Resource Tactics. He said his tests measure mental toughness, respect for authority and work ethic, among other hard-to-quantify aspects. The HRT test given to Aaron Hernandez, the former Patriots tight end now on trial for murder, had plenty of red flags: For instance, he scored a 1 on a 1-10 scale in the category of "social maturity."

"We point out which players may disrupt team activity," Sanders said in a recent interview with Men's Journal. "We use algorithms that take into account past behavior and compare scores with guys who have had problems in the past. We give teams a heads-up."

Draft guru Mike Mayock, a former player who is now an analyst for NFL Network, thinks the decision on Green-Beckham will make for the most "polarizing conversation" of the draft. He was once considered among the top high school recruits in the nation. Based solely on his athletic ability, there's little debate that he'd be a first-round pick. But he's been arrested twice for marijuana possession and once for pushing a woman down the stairs. No charges were ever filed in that case, but the combination of all the problems led to the receiver's dismissal from Missouri.

Given that record, and the current climate in the NFL, Green-Beckham is the truest definition of a high-risk, high-reward draft prospect.

"How do you not mess up? That's your question," Mayock said. "I'm not sure there is a right answer other than being a little more conservative. And I think we all get overwhelmed with talent and you want to buy into the fact that your building or your organization can change people when most of the time, statistically, it can't."

Williams tells TV station Panthers are releasing him

By Steve Reed
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Panthers running back DeAngelo Williams said the team plans to release him after nine seasons.

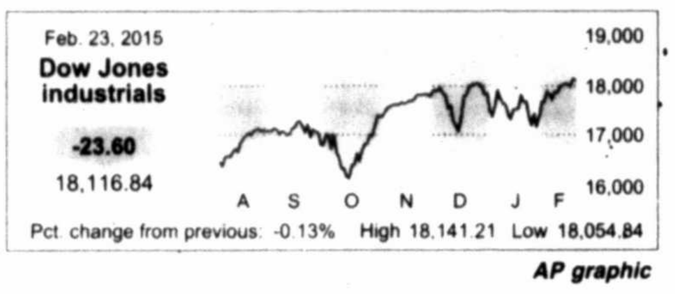
Williams told Charlotte television station WBTV Monday that he was informed of the decision in a meeting last week with general manager Dave Gettleman and coach Ron Rivera.

Panthers spokesman Steve Drummond confirmed the meeting, but said the team hasn't released Williams and there would be no action taken on Monday.

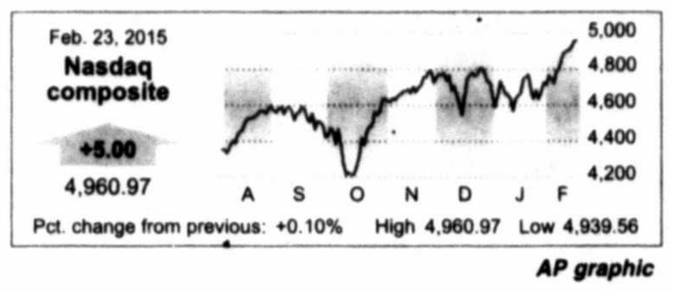
Gettleman did not immediately return phone calls.

Although Williams is the franchise's all-time leading rusher with 6,846 yards, his production dropped off this past season. Williams, who turns 32 in April, missed 10 games due to injuries last season and was limited to 219 yards rushing.

A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP graphic



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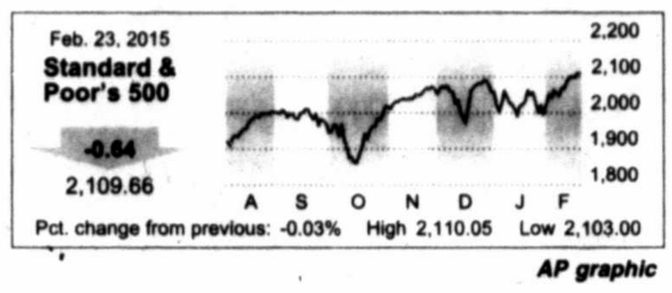

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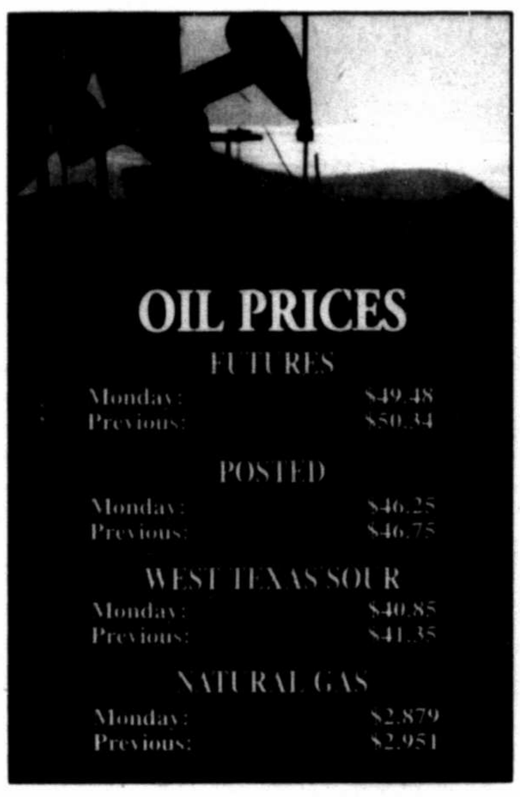

Most West Coast ports are bustling again after labor deal

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Nearly all West Coast seaports began the work week with crews hustling to load and unload cargo ships that were held up amid a months-long dispute over a new contract for dockworkers.

The exception Monday was the Port of Oakland, where problems persisted three days after negotiators for the dockworkers' union and for employers reached a tentative agreement covering all 29 West Coast ports. Those ports handle roughly one-quarter of U.S. international trade, an amount worth about $1 trillion annually.

In Oakland, nine ships were at berth and ready for cranes to move cargo Monday, but only one was being worked because of what port spokesman Mike Zampa called a "temporary shortage of experienced crane operators." He said port officials expected experienced crane drivers to return for the night shift.

Other Oakland dockworkers were still putting containers that already had been unloaded onto trucks and trains. The port handles about 10 percent of the coast's total seaborne trade.

Operations at the other West Coast ports from Seattle to Southern California appeared to be back to normal. The job of restoring the free flow of goods will take at least two months — and more like three at the Port of Los Angeles, the nation's largest.

Put in a line, the cargo containers sitting on ships off the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach on Monday morning would stretch 731 miles. Stacked up, they'd rise more than 300 miles — higher than the orbiting altitude of the International Space Station.

There are smaller, though substantial, backups in San Francisco Bay and Washington's Puget Sound.

Negotiators for the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime Association of companies that own, load and unload massive, ocean-going ships reached a tentative deal Friday night. Leaders for both sides pledged to keep labor peace on the West Coast waterfront as their respective members vote on the deal.

The union's 13,000 voting members could make their decision in April, though the timing is not set. The maritime association has not said when it expects its members to vote.

The issues in Oakland marked the second day of disruptions there.

A labor-management dispute related to work breaks escalated to the point that the port shut down Sunday.

An arbitrator ordered a return to work on the night shift after finding that longshoremen took part in illegal work stoppages. Melvin Mackay, a spokesman for the local union branch that covers Oakland, did not return calls requesting comment.

Stocks edge lower

The slump in crude oil prices and disappointing U.S. home sales data helped nudge stocks mostly lower on Monday, pulling the market back from an all-time high reached last week.

The Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index spent much of the day hovering slightly below their most-recent highs. But the Nasdaq composite mounted a late-afternoon comeback that extended its recent win streak for the ninth day in a row.

Oil drilling companies and homebuilders notched broad declines, while traders bid up shares in utilities stocks.

Investors were looking ahead to the start of a two-day round of congressional testimony by Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen. The remarks could provide insight into when the central bank will begin raising its key interest rate from near zero.

"The markets are in a holding pattern," said Erik Davidson, chief investment officer of Wells Fargo Private Bank. "We'll have some very interesting information coming up from Janet Yellen today and Wednesday, so the markets are looking at that very closely."

The Dow ended down 23.60 points, or 0.1 percent, to 18,116.84. The S&P 500 fell 0.64 points, or 0.03 percent, to 2,109.66. The Nasdaq gained 5.01 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,960.97. The index is now within 87 points of that March 2000 peak.

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
CSVLgCrde	886618	2.92	-.28
BkofAm	690590	16.20	-.18
S&P500ETF	683415	211.21	-.03
US OilFd	460112	18.11	-.54
NBGreece	366084	1.90	-.06

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
ValeantPh	198.75	+25.49	+14.7
Dynegy wt	4.00	+.51	+14.6
Nationstar	31.48	+3.55	+12.7
Polypore	59.70	+6.75	+12.7
EKodak wt	5.45	+.60	+12.5

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
GoodrP pfD	7.27	-2.16	-22.9
GoodrP pfC	7.60	-2.09	-21.6
500.com	12.81	-2.85	-18.2
DxRsaBll rs	22.40	-4.63	-17.1
EnzoBio	2.57	-.36	-12.3

DIARY

Advanced	1,557
Declined	1,581
Unchanged	107
Total issues	3,245
New Highs	178
New Lows	21
Volume	3,006,001,449

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
BarcGSOil	69300	10.95	-.38
NwGold g	40122	3.47	-.04
GranTrra g	39049	2.59	-.02
EmeraldO	28299	1.21	-.03
CorMedix	24469	4.92	+.29

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Flanign	36.54	+3.54	+10.7
SynthBiol	2.23	+.17	+8.3
CorMedix	4.92	+.29	+6.3
FstWV	23.10	+1.30	+6.0
AtlsrcAst	215.00	+12.00	+5.9

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
AvalnnHld	3.10	-.43	-12.2
Bactenn rs	3.20	-.40	-11.2
AmShrd	2.37	-.28	-10.6
GlblScape	3.02	-.28	-8.4
SupDrill n	3.33	-.26	-7.2

DIARY

Advanced	189
Declined	211
Unchanged	31
Total issues	431
New Highs	7
New Lows	5
Volume	94,221,428

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Apple Inc s	664958	133.00	+3.51
HmeLnSvc	389196	18.35	+1.59
Microsoft	313808	44.15	+.29
SalixPhm	254896	155.76	-2.09
Intel	247477	33.76	-.65

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
GtBasSci n	3.42	+1.62	+90.0
Biocept	2.20	+.75	+51.7
HeliosMAn	2.47	+.68	+38.2
RigelPh	3.23	+.68	+26.7
NephroGen	7.74	+1.44	+22.9

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Chanticleer	2.02	-.68	-25.2
CyberArk n	58.42	-11.93	-17.0
FullCircle	3.92	-.74	-15.9
SpectPh	6.28	-1.18	-15.8
Quotinet wt	6.00	-1.00	-14.3

DIARY

Advanced	1,175
Declined	1,541
Unchanged	150
Total issues	2,866
New Highs	128
New Lows	42
Volume	1,705,365,318

Target cuts free-shipping minimum in half

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Target has sliced its minimum online purchase to qualify for free shipping in half to $25 as the Internet becomes a bigger and bigger sales hub for retailers.

The minimum takes aim at competitors Wal-Mart and Amazon.com, both of which have higher minimums for standard purchases, and could be another step in a slow march among retailers toward eliminating separate shipping fees.

Target said free shipping is now available to all online orders coming from the continental U.S. or from military postal facilities. The company said handling fees may still apply to some orders.

Amazon and Wal-Mart might follow suit or cut their minimums even further, said Brian Sozzi, CEO and chief equities analyst for the research firm Belus Capital Advisors.

"The U.S. consumer now views free shipping as a right," said Sozzi. He said he thinks retailers will do away with the charges altogether in a few years. They can do that, Sozzi said, because they are building more distribution centers, which makes it easier and cheaper to ship items.

Target began offering free shipping for Target.com orders worth $50 or more in June, and it offered free shipping on all items over the holiday shopping season. Target also provides free shipping on most online purchases for shoppers who participate in its REDcard loyalty program.

Amazon offers free shipping in the U.S. for some items when the value of the order exceeds $35, for those without a free-shipping Prime membership.

Customers who order more than $50 worth of merchandise from Wal-Mart Stores Inc.'s website can get free shipping if they're willing to wait six to eight days for delivery.

Target and Walmart also allow customers to have their orders delivered to stores for free.

Marshall Cohen, chief retail analyst for the market research firm NPD Group, said online retailers like Amazon are forcing companies like Target, which runs physical stores, to change their methods.

"Online (retailers), because of their advantage of generally lower overhead, gives them the ability to change the rules of engagement," he said. "Now the stores are learning that they have to play by the same rules to keep the consumer engaged."

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $63.69 Up 0.12

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $117.07 Down 0.15

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $5.72 Down 0.19

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $74.36 Down 0.73

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $12.72 Down 0.12

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $5.41 Down 0.24

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $19.39 Down 0.13

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $27.92 Down 0.19

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $9.27 Down 0.06

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $17.86 Down 0.40

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.88f	28	33.85	-.23	+.8
AbbVie	2.04f	56	60.57	-.73	-7.4
Abraxas	...	11	3.09	-.07	+5.1
AdamsEx	1.18e	...	14.13	+.01	+3.3
Alcoa	12	82	15.51	-.28	-1.8
AlonUSA	.40a	56	13.48	+.34	+6.4
Ambev	.27e	...	6.44	+.08	+4.4
AmIntlGrp	.50	9	54.57	-.65	-2.6
ARltCapP II			9.75	+.31	+7.7
Amgen	3.16f	24	158.42	+.76	-.5
Anadarko	1.08	...	85.52	+.07	+3.7
Apache	1.00	...	66.22	...	+5.7
Apple Inc s	1.88	18	133.00	+3.51	+20.5
ApidMatl	.40	26	24.91	-.22	...
ATMOS	1.56	18	53.13	+.20	-4.7
AutoData	1.96	30	89.17	+.49	+7.0
BP PLC	2.40f	7	41.22	-.06	+8.1
BabsCCInv	1.20	...	15.90	+.04	+.1
BakrHu	.68	15	62.92	-.57	+12.2
BkofAm	.20	46	16.20	-.18	-9.4
B IPVixST	...	...	29.14	+.09	-7.5
BarrickG	.20	67	12.71	-.18	+18.2
BasicEnSv	...	...	6.86	-.24	-2.1
BerkHa A	...	a1722	1000.00	-2100.00	-2.2
Biocept	...	...	2.20	+.75	-11.3
BlkHillsCp	1.62f	17	49.78	+.07	-6.1
BostonSci	...	66	16.31	-.16	+23.1
BrkMySc	1.48f	51	51.29	+.77	+3.8
BrownFA	1.26f	30	92.92	+.34	+5.9
BrownFB	1.26f	30	92.27	+.06	+5.0
CVS Health	1.40f	26	103.26	+.56	+7.2
Cameron	...	12	47.53	+.44	-4.8
Caterpillar	2.80	14	83.49	-.95	-8.8
Celestic g	...	13	11.99	+.03	+2.1
CntryLink	2.16	27	36.63	-.39	-7.5
ChesEng	.35	21	19.71	-.59	+.7
Chevron	4.28	11	107.86	-.74	-8.9
Chicos	.30	29	18.07	+.07	+11.5
Cimarex	.84	20	115.69	-.21	+9.1
Cisco	.84f	18	29.63	+.02	+7.3
Citigroup	.04	23	51.32	-.46	-5.2
CleyEng	...	14	63.69	+.12	-.2
CocaCola	1.32f	26	41.85	-.12	-.9
ColgPalm	1.52f	30	70.68	+.44	+2.2
Comcast	.90	18	58.21	-.29	+.3
ConAgra	1.00	...	34.53	+.01	-4.8
ConchoRes	...	25	117.07	-.15	+17.4
ConocoPhil	2.92	12	66.92	-.46	-3.1
CrackerB	4.00	23	134.25	-.46	-4.6
CSVLgNGs	...	...	3.22	-.29	-19.1
CSVLgCrde	...	...	2.92	-.28	-40.3
CSVelIVST	...	...	31.14	-.14	...
CSVixSht	...	...	2.30	+.02	-16.7
CrosTim	2.65e	8	21.02	-.01	+21.4
DCP Mid	3.12f	32	40.40	-.85	-11.1
DTE	2.76	16	83.90	+.70	-2.9
Dataram h	...	...	2.36	-.04	+38.8
DeltaAir	.36	20	47.19	-.25	-4.1
DevonE	.96	16	63.96	+.13	+4.5
DxGldBull	...	...	14.16	+.17	+26.9
DiaCmA s	...	12	32.34	+1.41	-6.1
Disney	1.15f	23	104.99	+.44	+11.5
DowChm	1.68	17	49.49	-.04	+8.5
EMC Cp	.46	22	28.75	-.29	-3.3
EOG Res s	.67	17	91.93	+.85	-.2
EmpDist	1.04	17	25.72	+.24	-13.5
Energen	.08	28	67.97	+.26	+6.6
EngyTsfr	3.98f	36	59.32	-.88	-8.7
EnPro	.80	77	65.52	-.40	+4.4
EntPrdPt s	1.48f	23	33.55	-.45	-7.1
Ericsson	.46e	...	12.90	-.12	+6.6
ExtterranH	.60	21	31.39	-.23	-3.7
ExxonMbl	2.76	12	89.01	-.91	-3.7
Facebook	...	72	78.84	-1.05	+1.1
FireEye	...	...	43.35	-2.80	+37.3
FordM	.60f	21	16.38	-.02	+5.7
FrptMcM	1.25	...	20.59	-.69	-11.9
GATX	1.52f	14	61.24	+.27	+6.4
GeoMetT	1.08e	...	9.80	...	-2.1
GrAlny	3.50e	...	36.61	-.01	+1.7
GenElec	.92	17	26.17	-.04	+.4
GlfMainEn	.90	16	27.56	+.21	-2.9
HalconRes	...	...	2.09	-.01	+17.4
HalliBrtn	.72	10	43.22	-.14	+9.9
HmeLnSvc	2.16	6	18.35	+1.59	-6.0
HostHotls	.80s	13	21.61	-.16	-9.1
iShBrazil	1.38e	...	34.75	-.11	-5.0
iShJapan	.15e	...	12.26	-.07	+9.1
iShEMkts	.88e	...	40.26	-.41	+2.5
iShCorUSTr	.32e	...	25.32	+.07	+.7
iS Eafe	2.26e	...	64.80	-.23	+6.5
iShR2K	1.51e	...	122.50	+.12	+2.4
IntegrysE	2.72	19	77.78	+.60	-.1
Intel	.96	14	33.76	-.55	-7.0
InterDig	.80	...	52.12	+.46	-1.5
JPMorgCh	1.60	11	59.35	-.45	-4.6
JohnJn	2.80	18	100.18	-.08	-4.2
KimbClk	3.52f	27	110.99	+.03	-3.9
LegacyRes	2.44	...	12.72	-.12	+11.3
Lubys	...	...	5.29	-.22	+16.3
MktVGold	.12e	...	20.54	+.09	+11.8
MktVRus	.64e	...	16.98	-1.01	+16.1
McDnlds	3.40	20	94.31	+.12	+.7
Merck	1.80f	14	58.30	-.05	+2.7
MeritMed	...	37	18.07	+.23	+4.3
MexcoEn	...	...	5.41	-.24	-.4
MicronT	...	10	31.40	-.63	-10.3
Microsoft	1.24	18	44.15	+.29	-5.0
Nabors	.24	11	12.85	-.67	-1.0
NBGreece	...	...	1.90	-.06	+6.1
NatGrid	3.48e	...	69.51	-.01	-1.6
NOilVarco	1.84	9	54.30	-.17	-17.1
NvMdAd	.80e	...	13.76	+.04	+.7
NvPNII	.85e	...	13.90	+.06	-.5
NuvPI	.82e	...	13.90	-.04	+.3
NSTFI3	.59e	...	14.59	+.10	+2.5
NTXQI	.65e	...	14.31	-.02	-1.0
OcciPet	2.88	14	79.80	-.30	-1.0
OcwenFn	...	9	10.40	+.80	-31.1
OfficeDpt	...	...	9.44	-.05	+10.1
ParTech	...	...	8.09	-.06	-17.2
ParkDrl	...	10	3.34	+.17	+8.8
PatUTI	.40	16	17.80	-.72	+8.1
Penney	...	...	8.47	+.25	+30.7
PennaRE	.84f	...	23.50	+.13	+1.9
Prmian	.96e	9	10.05	-.07	+5.2
PetrbrsA	.85e	...	6.59	-.15	-13.1
Petrobras	.46e	...	6.48	-.18	-13.2
Pfizer	1.12f	24	34.39	+.17	+10.4
PioNtrl	.08	25	156.20	-2.56	+4.9
PlainsAAP	2.70f	22	51.00	-.60	-.8
PwShs QQQ	1.45e	...	108.52	+.11	+5.1
Praxair	2.80f	23	120.39	-.92	-.9
PrmEgy	...	10	57.11	-1.85	-21.5
PUltVixST	...	...	19.95	+.14	-20.7
PrUltCrude	...	...	7.94	-.42	-23.4
ProctGam	2.57	26	85.39	+.52	-6.3
RangeRs	.16	23	51.35	-.49	-3.9
RegionsFn	.20	12	9.57	-.09	-9.4
RigelPh	...	...	3.23	+.68	+42.3
RiteAid	...	25	8.26	+.11	+9.8
Rowan	.40	14	23.92	-.76	+2.6
RoyDShltA	3.76	13	65.17	-.63	-2.7
SpdrDJIA	3.52e	...	180.92	-.22	+1.7
S&P500ETF	3.83e	...	211.21	-.03	+2.8
SabnR	4.02e	10	41.89	+.49	+17.1
SalixPhm	...	...	155.76	-2.09	+35.5
SanderFm	.88e	8	82.46	-.93	-1.9
SandRdge	...	44	2.18	-.14	+19.8
Schlmbrg	2.00f	21	85.54	-.34	+.2
SeadrillLtd	...	1	11.95	-.39	+.1
SigmaAld	.92	33	138.60	-.15	+1.0
SiriusXM	...	43	3.83	-.04	+9.3
Smucker	2.56	20	113.25	-.19	+12.2
Sprint	...	...	4.67	-.16	+12.5
SP Engy	1.85e	...	80.21	-.33	+1.3
SPDR Fncl	.40e	...	24.38	-.06	-1.4
SunEdison	...	...	22.46	+.33	+15.1
SunocoL s	1.60f	81	45.50	-.46	+8.9
TelefEsp	.97e	...	15.15	-.20	+6.6
Tesoro	1.70f	14	91.67	+1.09	+23.3
3M Co	4.10f	23	168.81	+.69	+2.7
Torchmrk s	.51	13	53.73	-.45	-.8
Transocn	3.00	...	16.26	-.75	-11.3
TriContl	.75e	...	21.98	+.02	+2.7
21stCFoxA	.30	8	35.37	+.07	-7.9
Twitter	...	...	48.47	-.64	+35.1
TylerTech	...	66	117.66	-.41	+7.5
UBWV	1.28	19	36.92	+.02	-1.4
US NGas	...	...	14.59	-.44	-1.2
US OilFd	...	...	18.11	-.54	-11.1
Vale SA	.55e	...	7.51	-.32	-8.2
ValeantPh	...	...	198.75	+25.49	+38.9
ValeroE	1.60f	9	62.50	+1.78	+26.3
VerizonCm	2.20	20	48.77	-.20	+4.3
VulcanM	.40f	50	60.22	-.79	+22.0
WalgBoots	1.35	37	78.59	+1.46	+3.1
WellsFargo	1.40	13	55.10	+.27	+.5
WstnRefin	1.20	12	43.41	+1.20	+14.9
WhitingPet	...	9	37.92	-.23	+14.9
WmsCos	2.32f	74	49.15	+.18	+9.4
XcelEngy	1.28f	18	36.36	+.46	+1.3
Xerox	.28f	17	13.92	-.08	+.4
Yahoo	...	6	43.53	-.58	-13.8

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INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
18,144.29	15,855.12	Dow Jones Industrials	18,116.84	-23.60	-.13	+1.65	+11.78
9,310.22	7,133.72	Dow Jones Transportation	9,143.52	+12.36	+.14	+.04	+24.56
657.17	506.36	Dow Jones Utilities	604.06	+4.00	+.67	-2.27	+15.71
11,111.41	9,886.06	NYSE Composite	11,074.59	-34.08	-.31	+2.17	+6.80
4,957.02	3,946.03	Nasdaq Composite	4,960.97	+5.00	+.10	+4.75	+15.56
2,110.61	1,814.36	S&P 500	2,109.66	-.64	-.03	+2.47	+14.18
1,516.84	1,269.45	S&P Midcap	1,515.62	-1.22	-.08	+4.35	+11.17
22,278.72	19,160.13	Wilshire 5000	22,260.00	-18.55	-.08	+2.72	+12.35
1,231.92	1,040.47	Russell 2000	1,231.83	+.04	...	+2.25	+4.80

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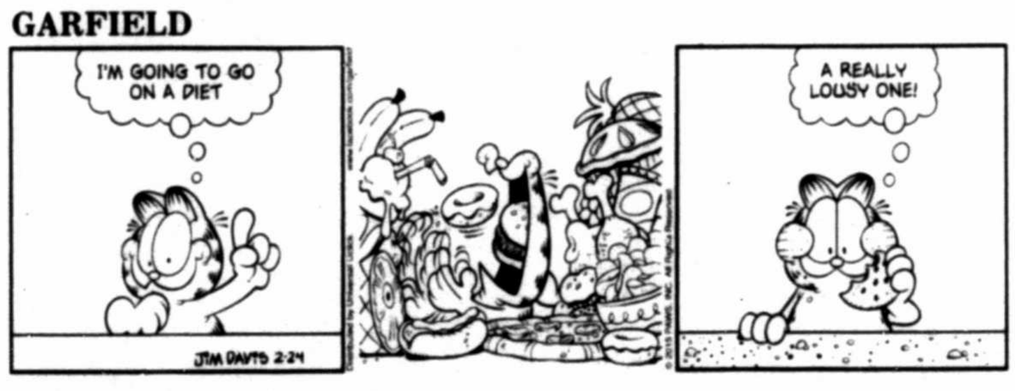
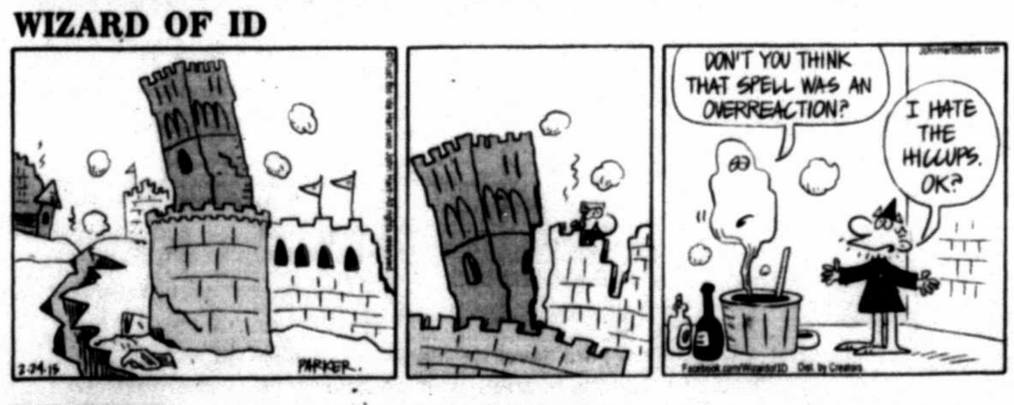


PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

LUANN

MARY WORTH

ZITS

BABY BLUES

MUTTS

CLOSE TO HOME

"Oh, that. The landlord lives downstairs and likes to make sure we don't have any pets in here."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"IF MR. WILSON STILL MAKES YOUR HEART SKIP A BEAT, MAYBE YOU JUST NEED A PACEMAKER."

FAMILY CIRCUS

"Wow! I didn't know you can play solitaire without a computer."

LOCKHORNS

"YES, MR. LOCKHORN, WE CAN REFINANCE TO LOWER YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS, BUT NOT EVERY WEEK."

Hahn finds no substitute for desire and hard work

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The next two months suddenly are loaded with perks James Hahn never imagined.

His victory Sunday at Riviera gives him a two-year exemption on a PGA Tour that took him a decade to reach. He qualified for two World Golf Championships. He's going to the Masters for the first time. What's more, his wife is expecting their first child in three weeks.

But like so many other players who toiled like Hahn, winning is sweeter when looking back, not forward.

"Came from a small town. Didn't do well in college. Was never an All-American. Sold shoes for a living," he said, reciting a journey that sounded more back roads than Autobahn. "And then just one day, the putts started going in and I started playing a little better. Won a couple of golf tournaments, and now I'm here."

If only it were that simple.

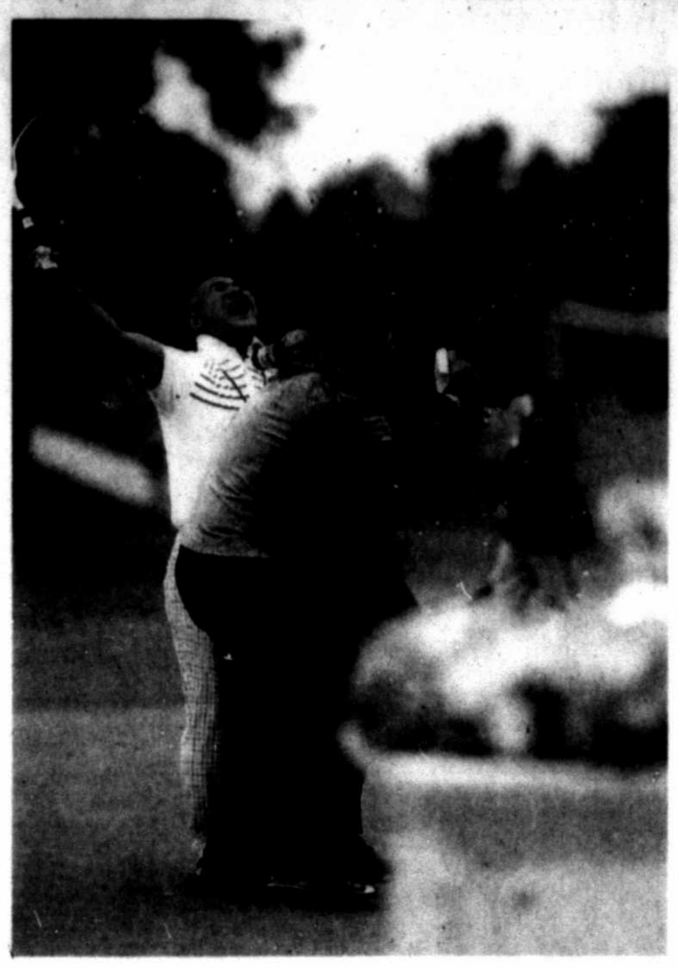
Hahn, born in South Korea and raised in the Bay Area, walked through the locker room at Riviera and saw portraits of the past champions. It's an impressive collection, ranging from Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson, from Johnny Miller to Tom Watson, from Fred Couples to Mickelson.

None of them ever worked at Nordstrom.

"I sold a lot of shoes," Hahn said with a smile, the silver trophy from the Northern Trust Open at his side. "I was pretty good at it."

Golf was a little harder.

He tried the mini-tours. He played one year in South Korea, two more in Canada, trying to find his way. What he remembers distinctly is a tournament in Edmonton, Alberta, where he had about $200 in his wallet and was asking himself if it was worth the effort.



Mark J. Terrill/AP

Jason Oh, left, and Noh Seung-Yul, right, pour beer on James Hahn on the 18th green after Hahn won the Northern Trust Open golf tournament on the third playoff hole Sunday at Riviera Country Club, in Los Angeles.

And that's when he questioned his own effort.

"I'm sitting there in my room," he said. "I've got to borrow money to pay for my caddie fee. It was a little embarrassing. I was going to borrow money from my parents to get a flight home. And I'm sitting there on the computer going on Craigslist and I start looking for jobs. It kind of hit me like, 'Hey, you have an opportunity to do something with your life.' And I was just wasting it, hanging out with friends, partying on the weekends. I wasn't putting in the time."

Perhaps it was that honestly that cleared his mind and allowed him to finish in the top 10 that week. He recalls making around $3,000, which felt closer to $1 million. When he returned to Edmonton a year later, he won.

"I thought I was a millionaire," he said. "I was like, 'Dinner's on me, guys. Got $1,000 in my bank account. Don't worry about.' Seeing exactly a year ago where I was and how much work I put into it, and to be able to play golf at that point ... that was a big, big goal of mine, just to keep playing golf."

He has more in the bank account now.

Hahn rolled in a 25-foot birdie putt on the third extra hole at Riviera — the par-3 14th — to beat Dustin Johnson and Paul Casey in a playoff. Hideki Matsuyama, Jordan Spieth, Keegan Bradley and Sergio Garcia all missed the playoff by a shot.

He earned $1.26 million, and when he was asked if it felt like a million, Hahn quickly corrected him.

"No, it is $1 million. It's not like $1 million," he replied with that easy smile.

He spent Wednesday afternoon on the practice range trying to hit 60-yard wedges into small nets because it reminded him of his days as a kid. That came in handy with a flop shot over the back bunker on No. 10 that set up a birdie and allowed him to stay in the playoff with Johnson.

And the rain that hit Riviera over the final two hours? More memories of his road to winning.

"I love the rain, absolutely love it," he said. "Not to be spiritual about it, but I feel like it's God's way of just washing the streets and making everything fresh again. Because that's what happens in the Bay Area when we get a lot of rain. The streets are clean, spotless.

"I remember days when I was living at home, I would go to Metropolitan Golf Links and it would be raining every single day and I would be the only guy on the range," he said. "I would go home and look at myself in the mirror and say, 'You worked hard today. You deserve to sleep. You deserve all the good things that happen to you.'"

The rain made him feel good. It was a reminder that golf is not a fair-weather sport, and not an easy one. Of course, it started pouring as he was trying to hang on with pars in the final hour, and at one point he thought the rain was a little much.

"But it stopped," he said. "It turned out to be a beautiful day."

With Woods in decline, a sport thinks of future

By Karen Crouse
NY Times

LOS ANGELES — Since joining the PGA Tour in 1996, Tiger Woods has been golf's transcendent figure, credited with expanding the sport's television audience, fan base, tournament purses and sponsorship deals. During the last six years, he has missed chunks of time because of personal travails and injuries, enabling the todr to test its preparedness for life after the gold rush.

Now Woods, 39, has taken another leave of absence with his game in shambles and his body on the mend, and the end of his long, lucrative run feels nearer than ever.

The Tour, a multibillion-dollar industry, does not lack accomplished players and colorful characters. But for all the skill and social media savvy of players like Rory McIlroy and Bubba Watson, can they captivate as many people as Woods, who raised the level of athleticism in the game while remaking a sport known for its mostly white country-club composition?

Appraising the tour's post-Woods fortunes while he takes his third sabbatical in less than a year is like reading a tricky putt: There is no consensus.

Bob Dorfman, the executive creative director of Baker Street Advertising, sees tough times ahead after Woods and his competitive foil, Phil Mickelson, 44, are no longer regulars on the PGA Tour.

"The majors will always be major and get a decent following because they're always fascinating," Dorfman said. "It's the other tournaments that are going to suffer a lot more without having a Tiger Woods playing on the weekend."

Dorfman added, "The game definitely needs more rising stars in the Tiger and Phil mold to bring in the casual fan and grow the game's popularity."

The top-ranked McIlroy, from Northern Ireland, is scheduled to play his first U.S. tournament of the season this week at the Honda Classic, two weeks after Woods announced an indefinite break, saying his play was "not acceptable for tournament golf."

McIlroy is in the vanguard of a generation of players in their 20s who were drawn to the game after falling under Woods' spell. The new wave of golfers, all of whom have risen to the fore as Woods' game has ebbed, includes Jordan Spieth, Patrick Reed and Rickie Fowler of the United States; Jason Day of Australia; Hideki Matsuyama of Japan; Victor Dubuisson of France; and Sang-moon Bae and Seung-yul Noh of South Korea.

The deep pool of young talent was a factor in Fox Sports' decision to dive into golf. In 2013, the network signed a 12-year, $1.2 billion contract with the U.S. Golf Association to televise the organization's championships, including the U.S. Open, beginning in 2015. As a nontraditional golf outlet, Fox believes it is well suited to capture the interest of the nontraditional golf fan.

"When we were negotiating the contract, it had been five years since Tiger won the U.S. Open," Mark Loomis, Fox's coordinating producer for golf, said, referring to Woods' last major victory, in 2008. "The good thing about what Tiger has done is there's been a real influx of young, talented golfers. Our job is to make sure the public is interested in the next wave of players and becomes invested in their stories."

House cleaner says she saw 2 guns in Aaron Hernandez's home

By Michelle R. Smith
Associated Press

FALL RIVER, Mass. — A woman who cleaned the home of former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez testified Monday at his murder trial that she saw two guns there before the killing.

Hernandez has pleaded not guilty to the June 17, 2013, killing of Odin Lloyd, who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancee. His body was found in an industrial park not far from Hernandez's home. The .45-caliber gun used to shoot him six times was never found.

Marilia Prinholato testified under questioning from prosecutors that she saw the first gun around May 7, 2013, her second time cleaning the house. She said she was straightening the fitted sheet on the bed in a basement guestroom when she discovered it.

"When I took it off, something, a gun, fell out on the floor," she said.

Prinholato described it as black, heavy and 30 to 40 centimeters long, and she said she put it back under the mattress where it had been. She said she saw the same gun once more, the following week, when she lifted up the mattress to see whether it was still there.

A few weeks later, Prinholato said, she was in Hernandez's bedroom with her boss, who was folding Hernandez's dirty khakis. As the boss put the pants away in the closet, Prinholato said, the boss pulled a smaller silver gun with black details from the pocket. This gun was 15 to 20 centimeters in length, she said.

Hernandez's lawyer Michael Fee asked Prinholato if she knew the company that made the gun or the caliber of bullets it used, and she said she did not.

Brazilian player bitten by police dog during match

Associated Press

SAO PAULO — A Brazilian player was taken to a hospital for an anti-rabies shot after being bitten by a police dog during a match.

The incident happened in the second half of a first-division game between Democrata and Tupi on Sunday in the Minas Gerais state regional championship.

Democrata striker Joao Paulo was bit on his left arm after running out of bounds and falling too close to a police officer's dog behind one of the goals. The dog was on a leash but the officer was not able to pull it back in time to avoid the attack.

Joao Paulo returned to the match after doctors wrapped his arm in bandages, but the team said he was taken to a hospital immediately after the game to receive the anti-rabies vaccine.

WESTTEXASSPORTS

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For more info: Contact 889-6080.

WTX Baseball
What: Instruction for players 5 and up.
For more info: wtxbaseball.com; facebook.com/wtxbaseballmidland; 413-0329.

Basketball

Permian Basketball Association needs officials
For more info: Jim Cox, 685-4143 or 553-3714.

YMCA needs basketball referees
For more info: 682-2551.

Midland Hoops 32 Basketball Skills Training
Cost: $25 per session, one to two people; $15 for groups of three or more.
For more info: Contact Eddie Venzant at 254-6894 or go to midlandhoops32.com; venzantedde@yahoo.com.

Bowling

Tuesday Night Petroleum Men's League
When: Meets at 6:45 p.m.
For more info: Marion Post 684-5176 or Cactus Lanes 694-0177.

Edith McElvaine Three-Person League
When: 10 a.m. Wednesdays.
Where: AMF Lanes.
For more info: Call AMF Lanes at 689-9725.

Camps/Clinics

Ten Star All Star Camp
For whom: Boys and girls ages 10-19.
For more info: Call (704) 373-0873 for a brochure.

COM Aquatic Camps
What: Swimming, diving, snorkeling.
Ages: Preschool and grade school.
For more info: Call 684-7755.

Cycling

Permian Basin Bicycle Association Meetings
When: 7 p.m., third Monday of every month.
Where: Beak Park Ranch House, 5200 W. Wall Street, Midland.
Dues: $25/$30 for a family.
For more info: Peyton's Bikes 699-1718 or go to www.pbbatx.com.

Dodgeball

Sticks and Kicks Leagues
Who: Kids, adults, co-ed players.
Cost: $25 per player (8 game season).
Where: Register at Sticks and Kicks, 3918 W. Wall.
For more info: Call 520-6633.

Flag Football

YMCA Officials Needed
What: The YMCA needs officials for Youth Flag Football games Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
For more info: Call 682-2551.

Football

Permian Basin Officials Chapter seeks officials
Note: Education and training will be provided.
For more info: Call Terrell Pierce at 559-5004 or Don Omen at 631-2395.

Golf

West Texas Lacrosse day camps/clinics
For: Boys divisions — U-9, U-11, U-13.
When: 2:30 p.m. Sundays on March 22, March 29, April 12, April 19, April 26.
Where: Fields to be determined.
For more info: go to www.westtexaslacrosse.org or email info@westtexaslacrosse.org.

Lacrosse

West Texas Lacrosse day camps/clinics
For: Boys divisions — U-9, U-11, U-13.
When: 2:30 p.m. Sundays on March 22, March 29, April 12, April 19, April 26.
Where: Fields to be determined.
For more info: go to www.westtexaslacrosse.org or email info@westtexaslacrosse.org.

Martial Arts

Aikido
When: Monday-Friday, 7 to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 12:30 p.m.
Note: Specializing in traditional Hombu style Aikido.
For more info: Call John Riggs, 684-7008 or 770-3155.

Private Martial Artist-Defense Lessons
Ages: Men-Women-Children.
What: Learn Basic Skills to Advanced Techniques.
Note: Private, Semi-Private and Group Lessons are available.
For more info: Call Master Oscar Jimenez, 432-559-5009, Ojimenez5@att.net.

Women's Self Defense Class
When: Monday and Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 7:30 p.m., Friday, 6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.
Where: Jiminez Tae Kwon-Do Studio, 4400 N. Midland Dr.
For more info: Call 697-8554.

Private Tae Kwon-Do lessons
Where: Jimenez Tae Kwon-Do Studio, 4400 N. Midland Dr.
For more info: Call 697-8554.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
When: 6-8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays; 2-3 p.m. Saturdays.
Where: Perez Martial Arts Academy, 350 N. Midland Dr., Suite A.
For more info: Call 634-9621 or (469) 248-8472.

Matthews Martial Arts
When: Monday through Thursday, 5-6 p.m.
What: Karate-Judo-Jujitsu-Kempo-KungFu.
For: Ages 3 and up.
Where: 3205 Cuthbert.
For more info: Contact Jason Matthews at 488-7467 or 889-8444.

Miscellaneous

Student-Athlete Sports Consultant
For: Assisting high school student athletes with academic-athletic scholarships.
For more info: Call Jacob Santillano at (915) 240-1030.

Poker

Lone Star Poker League
What: Free to play Texas Hold 'em Poker tournaments.
For: Beginners to experienced players. Ages 21 and up.
When/where: 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at Woolers & Tweeters; 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday at Rednecks Drafthouse. Players must be signed in by 6:15 p.m. each night.
For more info: Go to www.lonestarpokertour.net.

Professional Wrestling

Old School Wrestling School
What: Professional wrestling school for all ages.
Where: 404 E. 6th St., Odessa.
When: 7-10 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 2-6 p.m. Sunday.
Cost: $50 down; $35 a month.
For more info: Call Red, 770-7001, or Sam, 349-3055.

Rugby

Mad Dog Rugby Football Club
Practices: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. at Reyes-Washburn Park (north field).
For more info call: 432-697-6418.

Running

Permian Basin Running Club
Cost: $20 per year for individual membership; $30 for per year for family membership.
For more info: Go to www.pbrunningclub.com or email Shawn Hailey, president at haileyshawn@pbrunningclub.com.

Gazelles Training Group
When: 6 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
For more info: Call Popcorn Leonard at 512-762-1020 or 682-0988.

Shooting

Comanche Hill Shootists
What: Single Action Shooting Society affiliated club in Midland.
When: Monthly shoots first Saturday and third Sunday of each month; first Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. Third Sunday from 1 p.m. (Mandatory safety meeting at 12:30 p.m.) Also shoot on fifth Sunday on months that have them (begin at 1 p.m. and are no cost to the shooter). Mandatory safety meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Where: Timberline Ranch adjacent to Jake's Clays.
For more info: Go to comanchetrailshootists.org or call Hoodoo Brown 682-1422.

Midland Shooters Association
What: All types of shooting practice and competition, featuring archery, benchrest rifle, bulls-eye rifle, high power rifle, pistol silhouette, rimfire silhouette, 3 gun, practical pistol, skeet, trap, 5 stats and sporting clays.
When: Members can access rifle and pistol ranges from sunrise to sunset seven days a week. Shotgun ranges open 11 a.m. until dusk Wednesday to Sunday.
For more info: Go to www.midlandshooters.com.

Soccer

Permian Basin Soccer Association
What: Registration for women's spring/summer season.
Where: Dunagan Park, located at corner of Gist and Terrell.
When: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
For more info: Contact Jesus Chavez at 557-7032 anytime or Josh Chavez at 238-6947 after 6:30 p.m.

Midland Soccer Association
For: Youth Recreational League Ages 4-18
When: Spring/Fall Games
Note: Also information on becoming a certified referee.
For more info: Register online at www.midlandsoccer.com and go to 432-684-5425.

Softball

Midland Softball Association Tournament Schedule
Now available at www.midlandsoftball.com.
For more info: call Tommy Hawkins at 520-9100.

Midland Men's Woodbat Fastpitch Association
What: Men's fastpitch softball.
For more info: Call 634-6474 or visit www.facebook.com/pages/Midland-Texas-Mens-Fastpitch or wyofastpitch@gmail.com.

Midland United Girls Softball Registration
What: Online registration is now open and registration will only be available online.
Fees: Tball ($75), 8U-18U ($100), late fee $25.
For ages: A girl must be 4 by Jan. 1, 2015 to play Tball. The same date will used to place child in each division. A parent may have opportunity to bump their child up one division.
To register: go to Midlandfastpitch.com or registration will also be available at Midland Park Mall on March 7 and March 14 from 1-5 p.m.

Swimming

COM Pre-competitive swimming
Where: Mabee Aquatic Center.
Cost: $49 per month.
Prerequisite: Must be able to swim 25 yards or freestyle or backstroke.
For more info: 684-7755.

COM Water Aerobics Classes
When: All ages, Monday through Saturday.
Who: All skill levels.
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755.

COM Learn to Swim
Ages: All ages.
Note: Private, semi-private and group lessons are available.
For more info: 684-7755.

COM Masters Swimming
What: Competitive or non-competitive program for adults of all skill levels.
When: 5-6 p.m., 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday.
Cost: $40 per month (includes cardio training).
For more info: Call 684-7755.

COM Diving Instruction
Who: All ages and levels invited.
For more info: 684-7755.

COM Learn to Dive
What: Learn basic skills for beginners then advance to pre-competitive and competitive diving that emphasize skilled diving techniques and participation in diving meets.
Ages: 4 and up.
For more info: 684-7755.

COM Competitive Dive Team
Who: Try out for Bronze, Silver, Gold Prep or Gold levels of COM Dive Team.
What: Emphasizes is on diving techniques and participation in local and out of town competitive meets.
For more info: 684-7755.

COM Elite Dive Team
What: Highest level of COM diving. Concentrates on perfecting Olympic level skills, national and international travel.
For more info: 684-7755.

COM Competitive Swim Team
Who: Try out for COM Swim Team, tryouts available by appointment.
What: Emphasizes stroke correction and participation in local and out of town competitive meets.
For more info: 684-7755.

COM Adult Conditioning
What: Allows adult participation use of top quality lap pools and fitness room during specified hours.
For more info: 684-7755.

COM Water Walking Class
What: Unstructured, self-paced class.
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755.

COM Senior Fitness Class
Who: Senior citizens that need help with physical conditions resulting from injury, disease, chronic conditions, advanced age, etc.
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755.

Central YMCA Water Aerobics Classes
When: Early morning, morning and evening.
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551.

Central YMCA Arthritis Water Exercise Classes
When: Monday, Wednesday, Friday.
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551.

Central YMCA Swimming Lessons
Who: All ages and ability.
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551.

Central YMCA Synchronized Swimming
For: Ages 6 and up.
For more information: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551.

Tennis

West Texas Tennis Association
What: West Texas Tennis Association, a non-profit community tennis association, promotes and oversees USTA leagues, programs and events in the area.
For more info: Call 432-563-1333 or www.westtexastennis.com for more information.

Bush Tennis Center Clinics
What: Balloon Tennis 3/4 (ages 3-4); Redball 56 (ages 5-8); Orange and Green Ball 910 (ages 9-10); Junior Development (6th-8th grade, freshman-JV); Junior Select (varsity); RSR Adults (adult beginners); Intermediate Adults; 4.0-5.0 Adults (advanced adults); Also Junior Team Tennis registration now open.
Where: Bush Tennis Center.
For more info: Visit www.bushtenniscenter.com and or call, 620-8180.

USTA Team Tennis Adult Leagues
When: Leagues run May through November.
Where: Midland College Tennis Center.
For more info: Sherry 820-8610 or Email www.midlandtennis@aol.com.

Midland College tennis classes
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 to 1:50 p.m.
Where: Midland College.
For more info: Call 686-4266.

Youth Clinics
When: For children 4-8 years of age (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 to 4 p.m.) and 9-15 years of age, Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Where: Midland College Tennis Center.
For more info: 686-4266.

Midland Women's Tennis Association fall league
For more info: 689-4340.

Midland Tennis Club
Where: Midland College Tennis Center.
Annual dues: Adults $65; youth $30; families $140.
For more info: Call 686-4266 or email midlandtennisclub@yahoo.com.

Men and women doubles tournament
When: Feb. 28.
Where: Midland Tennis Club.
Deadline: Sign up by Feb. 26 at Armstrong Pro Shop at Midland College tennis center or email midlandtennisclub@yahoo.com.

OCC starting men's and women's leagues
Odessa Country Club men's and women's leagues in all level of play at the end of February.
Cost: For ladies beginning on Feb. 24, $30 for six weeks of play. For men beginning on Feb. 26, $30 for six weeks of play.
For more info: Go to the pro shop of Odessa Country Club or contact David Mendez at 432-803-9222 or 272-4520, or email dmendez@odessacc.com.

Walking

Midland Walkabout AYA Club Meetings
When: Fun Walks, 10K, 3rd Saturday morning of the month; Monthly meeting 3rd Sunday at 5 p.m.
Where: Fun Walks, vary; meetings in Room 227, First Presbyterian Church, 800 W. Texas Ave.
Who: All ages.
For more info: Call Alex Rose 687-2686 or go to www.midlandwalkabout.org.

mrt★com/jobs

Employment ads by:

- 432.682.6999
- 432.682.6222
- mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Financial Accountant

Oil & Gas energy firm in Midland, TX. is looking to fill a Financial Accounting position. This position will maintain and control all general ledger accounts and business transactions. Duties will also include the preperation of monthly financial statements and all year-end audit reconciliations. Candidate must have excellent computer and communication skills. College degree in Accounting or Finance required. Benefits include 401K and Cafeteria Plan. Mail resume to Financial Accountant, 211 N. Colorado, Midland, TX. 79701 or email to employment@westtexasgas.com

AUTOMOTIVE

Body Techs

Seeking dependable, honest hard working individuals. We offer Top Wages, Health Insurance, Dental, Vision, Paid vacation, and Retirement plan. Applications can be picked up @ Platinum Collision Repair Center 1501 S. Midkiff, Midland Texas 79701 432-686-0317

GM Certified Tech

Multi-line Dealership in Ruidoso, NM is seeking GM Certified Technicians. Please visit www.needtechs.com for more detailed information regarding this opportunity.

Mechanic

Petroplex Pipe & Construction, Inc.
2802 WCR 111
Midland, TX 79706-3840
Shop and field mechanic wanted. Need to be able to use scanners and lap top to diagnose and repair vehicles. Need to have valid drivers' license, good driving record and pass alcohol and drug test. Contact Keith Poertner, 432-557-5202

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Call Center Reps

Outpost Communications FT
Call center reps needed. 3pm-11pm, weekends and Holidays required. Call 432-563-6826 to schedule interview

Manager

America's Storage Center in Midland is Looking to hire a full time manager. Must work weekdays with flexible hours between 8am-6pm & some Saturdays. No phones calls, please stop by or mail resumes to 4011 N. Midland Drive, Midland, TX. 79707 for more information.

Receptionist/Assistant

Immediate opening for front office receptionist/office assistant. Must be able to multi-task, dependable, self-starter, computer literate (Microsoft Office). Job duties include answer phones, file, data entry, errands. Full time position offers excellent benefits. Real estate experience preferred. Salary DOE. Email resumes to accounting@thismgmt.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Insurance Customer Service Sales Rep

CONFIDENTIAL
MIDLAND, TX
Position available for a Customer Service Representative with excellent communication skills who's enthusiastic, organized and a fast learner with a great personality. This position requires an individual who is bilingual with basic computer skills and who will be assisting current customers with their policies. Complete training is provided with the necessary materials to obtain your Texas Insurance License Certification. A guaranteed salary plus bonus is provided. Please e-mail resumes to ricrivera@allstate.com

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Field Technicians & Operations Managers

UMC Automation & Compression an oilfield industry leader since 1966 in the design of LACT, VRU and compression packages is currently seeking qualified candidates for FIELD TECHNICIANS AND FIELD OPERATION MANAGERS. Prior oilfield sales experience is required for this position. Email resume to lacy@umcenergy.com. EOE

Oilfield Mechanics & Machinist

Payton Machine & Supply in Borger, TX. seeking oilfield mechanics & machinists needing a steady job. We offer holiday pay, health insurance & vacation. Please call 806-274-5221 - ask for Payton Lumpkin.

O&M Manager and Wind Technician

Invenergy LLC Garden City, TX
Primary responsibilities include performing maintenance and technical support for the Rattlesnake Energy Center, a 207.2 MW wind power generation facility. **Qualifications**: 1 year of technical experience (mechanical, electrical, I&C, etc.) and/or education in a related discipline; ability to work outdoors in inclement weather, climb ladders without assistance, work at heights greater than 250 ft. and manipulate up to 100 lbs. For a complete position description please visit the Career Opportunities section of our website at www.invenergyllc.com and click on "Career Opportunities"

Permian Basin Area Sales Manager

UMC Automation & Compression an oilfield industry leader since 1966 in the design of LACT, VRU and compression packages is currently seeking a qualified candidate for PERMIAN BASIN AREA SALES MANAGER. Prior oilfield sales experience is required for this position. Email resume to lacy@umcenergy.com. EOE

Supervisor, Crew Members, Vacuum Truck Driver

Local Oilfield company seeking Supervisors & Crew Members for Pit Cleaning/ Tally & Drift Casing. Vacuum Truck Drivers needed. Please call 337-504-5412

Mechanical Engineers - Abilene, Texas

Lauren Engineers & Constructors, "Designing and Building Success" **Lauren** is seeking Mechanical Engineers for our office in Abilene, Texas. ● 5+ years of experience required. ● Experience in power and refining preferred. ● Professional license preferred. Send resumes to: adminjobs@laurenec.com. About Lauren: Lauren Engineers & Constructors provides comprehensive engineering, procurement and construction services to the heavy industrial sector through North America and select international markets. Through a network of strategic offices across the United States, Canada and India, Lauren serves the following markets: power generation, solar power, oil and gas, refining, metals and mining, chemicals and polymers. www.laurenec.com. 325-734-3936. Lauren is an Equal Opportunity Employer. EEO W/W/Veterans/Disabled.

LAUREN ENGINEERS & CONSTRUCTORS

HEALTHCARE

Available Position

Desert Gardens Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
3203 Sage Street
Midland, TX 79705
Desert Gardens, located in Midland, Texas, is currently seeking staff to fill the following position:
● Social Worker
Full Benefits
$1,000 SIGN ON BONUS AFTER 6 MONTHS!!!
Apply in person.

Let Classifieds Work for You! Call

432-682-6222

OTHER JOBS

NOW HIRING EXTRA! EXTRA!

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN IT'S DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm -4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person

Starting pay $10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be $11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifiting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday, Friday, & Sat or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN IT'S DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

NOW HIRING EXTRA! EXTRA!

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person

Starting pay $10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be $11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifiting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday, Friday, & Sat or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

HEALTHCARE

MIDLAND PLASTIC SURGERY CENTER

Is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

- **RN/ LVN/ MEDICAL ASSISTANT**
- **RECEPTIONIST/ SCHEDULER**
- **BILLING AND COLLECTIONS**

All positions are full time Monday thru Friday 8:30 to 5:30

Benefits include Health, Life and AFLAC insurance coverages, PTO and 401-K

Please email kevin.cook@msa.bz or fax resume to 432-697-7069

JOB SEARCH AIDS

Management Hiring Fair

ClearTalk is having a manager hiring fair on Feb. 24th-26th at the Grand Texan Hotel in Midland from 10:00-6:00. Can't come? Email your resume to: sburrus@flatwireless.com

CLEARTALK

LAW ENFORCEMENT & SECURITY

BECOME A COMMUNICATIONS OPERATOR

Interested in a Career in Law Enforcement?
Become a Police Communications Operator with the Texas Department of Public Safety.
For information on locations, salary, benefits and qualifications go to www.joindps.com
Click on Become a Communications Operator

OTHER JOBS

All Positions

La Bodega Mexican Restaurant now hiring for all positions. Please apply in person at 2700 N. Big Spring Street Mon. - Fri. 2-4pm.

Purchasing Agent

Basin Engine and Pump
Purchasing Agent- Inventory management experience required, knowlege of pumps and related products preferred. Benefit package. Salary based on experience. Please send resume to Todd@basinengine.com

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Social Worker (Case Worker)

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services is seeking a Child/Family Specialist in Midland. Visit http://texas.pchss.org/employment/ or apply online at: http://texas.pchss.org/employment/application/

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

Host Staff, Cooks and Dishwashers

The Garlic Press is hiring Host Staff, Cooks and Dishwashers. Flexible hours. Great work environment and benefits. Apply in person at The Garlic Press in Oak Ridge Square at Wadley and Garfield. 11am-2pm only.

Fax Your Ad
682-6966

SKILLED LABOR

PRESSMAN/ PRESSMAN TRAINEE

The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an immediate opening in its Production Department for the position of: PRESSMAN/ PRESSMAN TRAINEE for our Harris N 1650 Printing presses.

This 5-6 day per week, fast paced, deadline oriented position, requires: night shift/weekend work, with a strong emphasis on safety. The Midland Reporter-Telegram offers a full package of company benefits including 401K program. Salary DOE

$1,000 Sign On Bonus
(payable after 90-day probation period)

Send resume and salary requirements to:
John Maddox, Director of Production/Facilities
c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram 201 E. Illinois St., Midland, TX 79701. E-mail:jmaddox@hearstnp.com
Midland Reporter-Telegram is part of Hearst Corporation.
NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

Restaurant Positions

Osaka Japanese Steakhouse FT
Pay range from **$15-$20** an hour, depending on position. Now hiring Hibachi Chefs, Managers, Assistant manager w/experience, Waitresses, Hostesses, Cashiers, Bartenders, Bus Help, Dishwashers & Kitchen Help. Please apply in person. **1207 Tradewinds Blvd. 79706**

RETAIL JOBS

Cashier

Health Food Store is taking applications for energetic and friendly full-time cashiers. Morning shifts or afternoon shifts. Pleasant work environment, friendly customers, caring management, generous employee discount and paid vacations. Apply in person Monday through Friday only 9am to 5pm at Natural Foods Market, 2311 W. Wadley, Midland.

SALES JOBS

SALES ASSOCIATES - FULL AND PART TIME

Wood's Boots in Midland is adding to our team. We are looking for talented **full and part time Sales Associates.** Stop in today and pick up an application at 4803 Andrews Hwy, Midland.

SALES

Fast growing insurance agency looking for a Sales Superstar. Will train, this is salary plus commission. Property & Casualty Insurance Sales. Call **432-638-9500** or email resume: **a017502@allstate.com.**

Sales

National Award Winning Company hiring in Midland! Credit Acceptance Corporation is looking for Sales Professionals to join our team. Compensation: 60K base salary + uncapped commission. Please visit www.creditacceptance.com to learn more and apply directly.

SKILLED LABOR

Cabinet Maker

Experienced Cabinet Maker starting at $15.00 per hour with probation period of 90 days to determine hourly rate increase. 40 hours per week. Paid weekly. Experienced applicants only apply. Please send resumes to P-105 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79701

Electrician and Apprentices

TTG Electric Co., is hiring electricians and apprentices at high scale. Send resume to ttg@hot.rr.com or call our office at 254-526-7284.

mrt★com/jobs

Employment ads by:

432.682.6999

432.682.6222

mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

OTHER JOBS

Landscape Employee

Landscape Employee wanted call Richards Horticulture 686-0643

WANTED: GROUNDSKEEPER / MAINTAINENCE PERSON

WANTED: GROUNDSKEEPER/MAINTAINENCE PERSON FOR NEW RESTAURANT IN MIDLAND.
EMAIL NAME AND PHONE NUMBER TO **gacbecky@cableone.net**

SKILLED LABOR

Electrician Helper

18 years of age with good transportation. Must live in Midland area, must pass drug test. Call 432-967-5529 from 8am-5pm

First Class Lineman/Journeyman

Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. is seeking a First Class Lineman/Journeyman. The position requires 5-years experience as an electrical line worker or equivalent experience. Must possess a valid Texas Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with a good driving record. Anyone interested may pick up a Job application, along with a copy of the position description at CVEC's headquarters building located at 2530 Pullman Street, San Angelo, Texas. If out of town please call for application at 325-655-6957.

Heavy Equipment Mechanic

Permian Tractor Sales seeking **Experienced Heavy Equipment Mechanic** Must furnish own tools. Vacation, Insurance, 401K, Uniforms. Competitive pay. Apply in person **210 E 67th Odessa, TX. 432-367-8628**

Instrumentation Technician

Qualifications:

- Oil Field Facilities
- Emerson
- ABB Total Flow
- Cameron Meters
- Hart Protocols
- MOD Bus Protocols

Send Resume To: Renzo.Navarrete@proctekweb.com

Lease Operator

Resolute Energy has an immediate opening for a Lease Operator in Reeves County, Texas. This position performs all production related duties regarding field operations to produce oil and/or gas from company operated wells. The Lease Operator maintains well sites in acceptable condition according to safety, environmental and company requirements.

Must have ability to:

- Operate and be primarily responsible for maintenance of artificial lift and wellhead equipment.
- Operate and be primarily responsible for maintenance of surface production and injection equipment and pipelines.
- Evaluate, recommend and implement projects to optimize production and minimize costs.

Please visit www.ResoluteEnergy.com to apply. No phone calls or agencies please. Resolute Natural Resources Company is an equal opportunity employer.

Lineman/Operator

Primary Utility Services has openings for Lineman and Operator positions in the Midland/Stanton area. Both positions will be FT and offer great medical, dental & vision benefits. Please apply online at primaryutilityservices.com or mail in an application to PO Box 1393, Snyder TX, 79550.

Pipefitter

Morrow Renewables needing Pipefitter with 5 to 10 years experience. Contact Yael at 432-934-5455 for more information or apply in person at 10818 WCR 72, Midland, Texas.

QUALIFIED HVAC TECHNICIANS WANTED

Established commercial HVAC Service Company seeks qualified HVAC technicians for its Midland/Odessa service operations. Five years experience with Texas commercial certification required. Full benefit package. Respond to service@berger-engr.com

Small Engine Mechanic

Experience preferred, but will train the right person. Apply at Lawnmower Sales & Service, 901 N. Whitaker, Odessa or call 432-333-3126

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

CDL Class A Drivers

Phoenix Lease Services - Midland, Texas. Minimum Requirements for Drivers: N or X Endorsement. HAZMAT endorsement a PLUS! Good MVR and Work History. Winch and/or Vacuum Trucks. 2 yrs experience (preferred) **Driver Benefits:** Sign-On Bonus, Safety / Performance Bonus, FREE Health insurance (Employee ONLY), Employee Housing Available, Local runs ONLY. Paid holidays and vacations. Apply in person at **8310 West IH 20** OR contact **432-563-9800.**

CDL Drivers & Certified Crane Operators

B-Dun Trucking **FT**

Now Hiring CDL Drivers for the following positions: Road Trucks, Rig Up Trucks, Road Winches. Also needing Certified Crane Operators. Competitive wages and benefits. Please call 432-218-6843 or come by 2107 ECR 123, Midland, Texas 79706

CDL Drivers

Class A CDL Drivers Needed!!!! Great pay, benefits and work environment. Qualified Class A CDL drivers must have clean driving record and background, pass pre-employment drug test and good work history. Call **432-617-5000** for more information or apply at **7600 WCR 116** Midland, TX.

TNT

YOU WANT TO BE THE BEST, COME WORK FOR THE BEST!

Our Midland, TX Branch is looking for

Certified Crane Operators & Class A Drivers

Class A CDL required

Apply in person or email resume to

jharrison@tntcrane.com

Fax Resume (432) 242-4980

DRIVERS AND SPOOLERS

JW Enterprise is looking for Drivers and Spoolers with Class A CDL. Must have a good driving record and pass drug screen. Competitive Wages and on the job training for spooling. Contact 432-425-9036 or 432-458-3675 for more information. Serious applicants only.

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

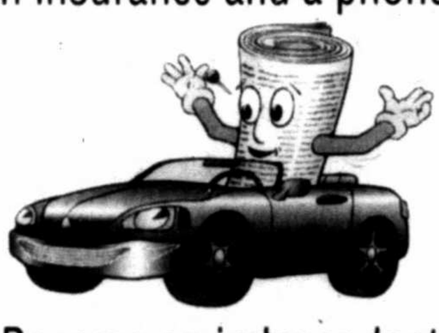
Lead Diesel Mechanic

R&C Trucks - Thermopolis, WY. Immediate openings available for diesel Mechanic position. Will be diagnosing and repairing medium to heavy-duty trucks, various heavy equipment and trailers. Must be experienced in CAT & Cummins ISX engines. Salary DOE. Competitive wages, benefits & OT over 40 hrs. Must have drivers license, clean MVR & pass a drug test. Please call 307-864-3340 with any questions. Resumes can be sent to PO BOX 1249 Thermopolis, WY 82443

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

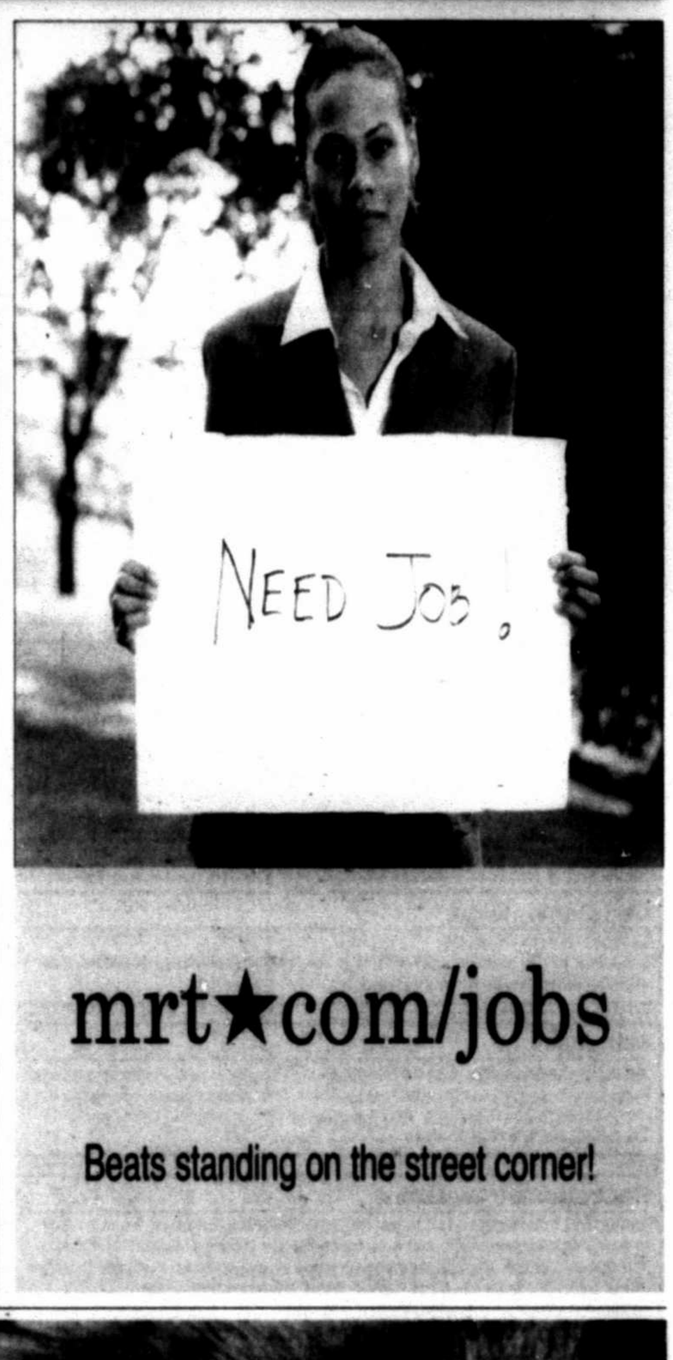
EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone??



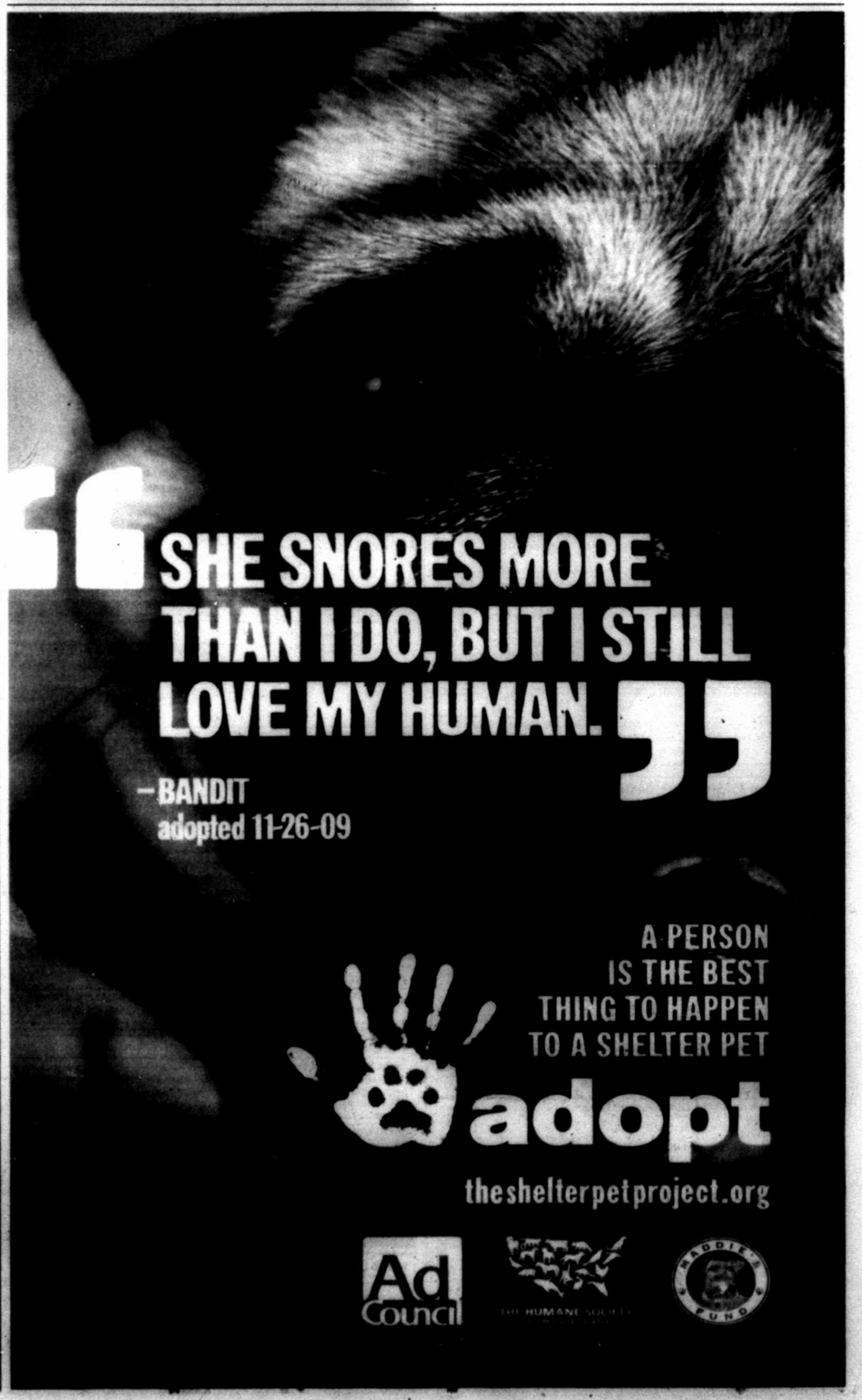
Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

Contact: Linda 687-8807



mrt★com/jobs

Beats standing on the street corner!



mrt classifieds

432.682.6999 432.682.6222 mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

Events and Notices

BETTER READ
Mark Berryhill.com
Ministering for Christ.

General Announcements

NEED SMALL economical truck or car. Prefer Honda or Toyota for around $2,500. 432-230-1859

FAX YOUR AD 24/7 682-6999

LOST DOG - Tan short hair Dachshund wearing a green collar. Her name is Lola, she got out on 2/20/15 near Trevino St. She needs daily medication so it is very important that she is found. Call 575-302-5053. REWARD

Lost & Found

REWARD MOLLY HAS BEEN MISSING OVER A WEEK. Vicinity of 4308 SCR 1201, Midland, TX. Sweetest dog you'll meet. I need her home. Please keep a look out for my girl. 432-664-1595

Personals

WOULD ANYONE who witnessed the accident between a white pickup and a semi truck on Thursday February 19th around 7:30 pm at Midkiff and Wall Street. Please call 432-694-5666

Business Center

Business Opportunity

EXISTING concrete precasting business is looking for an investor with $160K for a project to start building precast concrete homes. 432-847-9610

WELL ESTABLISHED Women's Boutique for sale. Great location. Great price. Owner is relocating. Please call for more information. 432-631-3545

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

1997 4 Door Honda Accord. 4 cyl automatic. $2300 OBO

1999 4 Door Toyota Avalon. 6 cyl automatic. $2700 OBO Call 432-238-3185

2012 FORD Mustang Boss 302, 14K miles. $34,000. 432-335-3026

BMW 2011 328i sedan, showroom nice, white with light tan leather, premium package, all service up to date by BMW. 58,000 easy miles. 432-528-0471

BMW 2011 535i Xdrive M-Sport for sale. 56K miles. Call for more details. $32K OBO 432-553-0344

Fax Your Classified Ad in Today! 682-6999

Passenger Cars

HONDA 2008 CRV, EX, 77,300 miles. sunroof, lots of extras, $14,200. Call 432-631-2281.

HONDA 2012 Civic LX 4 door Sedan. Super clean, no problems, 38 mpg, 32K miles, $14,500. 432-967-3110.

NEW TODAY!

MERCEDES BENZ 2015 C300, 4-Matic AMG, 4 months old, still showroom quality. 11K miles. $45K OBO. White, twin Turbo, 4 cylinder, AMG package. Black interior. Panoramic sunroof. Pre-paid maintenance included. Call/text 432-556-0262

NEW TODAY!

PORSCHE 2000. 911 Carrera Cabriolet. Forrest green. 18,300 miles. 6 speed manual. Satelite radio. Navigation. back-up camera, always garaged, excellent condition, well maintained. $22,500. 432-894-2335

WANTED!
Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. FREE pick-up. 432-685-4078

Pickup Trucks

DODGE 2000 Ram 2500HD Quad Cab Laramie SLT. 5.9L diesel, white, long bed, 2WD, automatic, power, running boards, grille guard, low mileage tires, great condition, 52k miles, $15,000 432.210.4435.

DODGE 2006 Ram 2500, Megacab, Laramie Edition. 5.9 diesel, high MPG, 130k miles. Excellent condition. 1 owner. $20,499 OBO 214-240-9039

Fax Your Classified Ad in Today! 682-6999

Pickup Trucks

NEW TODAY!

DODGE 2014 Lone Star pickup, 18,000 miles only asking payoff. $30,685. 432-528-1609

FORD 2009 F150 XLT extended cab pickup. Very clean, new tires, auto, 5.4 V8, 2 wheel drive with locking differential, chrome headache & toolbox, with bug deflector & bed mat & cellular booster. 113k miles. Asking $16,000. Call 432-556-9629

GMC 2008 Sierra SLT. 4 dr Z71, red w/black leather, 81k miles. Garage kept. $24K No owner finance. 432-557-7386

TOYOTA 1986 4x4 pickup with camper shell. Single cab, 4 cylinder, with 2 sets of tires. $4,000 432-559-2280

TOYOTA 2006 Tundra SR5, double-cab, 2WD, 80,000 miles, silver, original owner, well maintained $13,600. Call 432-553-3017

Vans & Minivans

CHRYSLER 2008 Town & Country van, loaded. TVs, nav system only 19,200 miles was wife's car asking $18,500. Call 432 697 1317 or 559-6212

4WD & SUV

FORD 2010 Flex 57,500 miles Asking $18,600 432-934-6198

GMC 2005 Yukon, excellent condition, one owner, fully loaded, DVD entertainment package, like new tires, white exterior, tan leather interior $9750 OBO 432-694-3608

TAHOE 2005, Z71 122K miles, fully loaded, new tires, great condition. $8900 432-557-8220 text only.

Commercial Vehicles

Heavy Equipment

CHEVY 1973, 3 ton, mobile home toter w/3000 lb. wench & gin poles, sm. 5th wheel. $1,000 or best offer. Call 685-3643, 638-0766 or 413-7266 (leave message).

1/3 OWNERSHIP of 1980 PA32R Piper Saratoga for sale. Hanger @ Airpark. $35K for details email stevejones@cforesource.net

RVs

2015 HERITAGE Glenn by Forest River. 43' 5th wheel. 4 slides. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, fully loaded. Cost $55,000, must sell $39,500 personal reasons. 3 months old. Call 432-268-8612

NEW TODAY!

MONTE CARLO 2013 5th wheel, 42ft, 2bed, 3 slide outs, sleeps 8, 2 A/Cs, washer, dryer, many extras, like new. $30,700. Locally located 806-429-2399

Fax it.. 682-6999

Appliances

We buy broken appliances w/ free removal. Also we repair appliances. 432-570-8278

Miscellaneous for Sale

KEN'S RV SALES
LARGEST SELECTION OF USED TRAILERS IN THE BASIN
TRY US ONCE YOU'LL BE BACK
TOY HAULERS FIFTH WHEEL 60 RVing DAYS SUPER PULLS MOTORHOMES

Utility Trailers

TANDEM TRAILER Custom built. 5000# axles with brakes both axles. 2 5/16" bulldog hitch, ramps, small hoist. Very sturdy $1800.00 Car Dollie Master Tow. $450.00 Dale 432-557-2500

Recreational Vehicles

2002 29.5' Montana 5th wheel. $18,000 OBO. 432-557-2257

2012 V-CROSS platinum M-32V TS by Forest River. 34' hitch pull with new 16" 10 ply tires including spare. Top of the line in excellent condition. Three slides - all electric jacks. Avg. List for $32.5K will sell for $28.5k firm. 559-7868

$2500 CASH

1989 Motor Home 35 Sprinter. Runs, moves in ready. 2 ACs, queen bed. Call 432-254-2317

HARLEY DAVIDSON 2012 Road Glide Ultra. 1500 miles. $18,000 OBO. Call or text 432-425-4764

SPORTSMAN 2007 5th wheel, 4 slide outs, kitchen includes island, lots of storage space. $20,000 325-338-0954

WILDCAT 2007 5th wheel, M28RK, excellent condition. $19,000 OBO. 432-413-3307

Garage -Estate & Yard Sales

Yard & Garage Sales

79707

4000 WESTMINISTER Drive, Midland. Saturday Feb. 28. 8am-12pm. Moving Sale. Kids to Kitchen.

Merchandise

Antiques

FOR SALE. Beautiful 1800s Wood burning stove in excellent condition. Would be perfect for a lodge, ranch or cabin $1600. 432-570-5206

Appliances

AAA Appliance 15 minute pickup. 432-556-0104 / 432-528-3046

Free Stuff

FREE BLUE Heeler mix puppies (2), one chihuahua mix puppy & 2 adults. 770-6920

FREE DOG, female border collie mix, sweet with kids. Call 432-894-2733

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!
Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

Miscellaneous for Sale

4 CEMETERY spaces Resthaven Memorial in the Garden of Love, lots 341 & 342, spaces 1 & 2. $2,000 each OBO. Call Jim 432-682-9315

GEORGE BUSH Jr. Presidential signatures on 4 Christmas cards, and 2 portraits all for $75. 432-214-4143

MIZ B's BOOK STORE BLOWOUT SALE ALL BOOKS $1.00 2505 W. OHIO MIDLAND, TX 79701

OAK PECAN, mesquite, pinon. 432-209-0416, 325-762-4262

Industrial Products & Supplies

Agriculture & Farm Equipment, Parts & Supplies

2&3/8 AND 2&7/8 FENCE grade material needed. 817-614-2358

Animals & Pets

Livestock & Feed

HORSE QUALITY Coastal Square bales $8 per bale. Call 254-693-5366

Pets

CKC REGISTERED Poodles. 3 females 2 males. $800 OBO each.Serious inquires only! 432-352-3475

FOR SALE English Bulldog puppies ready to take home. 432-254-1762

Real Estate Rentals & Sales

Residential Rentals

Apartments for Rent Unfurnished

FOR SENIORS 55 & up. Very nice 2 bed covered parking, W/D connections. $1,100 month. No pets. Call 432-694-9853.

HUNTERS RIDGE APARTMENTS
now leasing
4201 Andrews Hwy, Midland, TX
1 bedroom
432-520-5271

NEW MANAGEMENT Spacious 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments. Call 432-687-4514.

SPACIOUS 1600 + - sq ft. Patio apartment. 2 bedroom 2 bath, garage. $1695 monthly. No pets. 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

Townhouse/ Condo for Rent Unfurnished

NEWLY REMODELED 3 bedroom, 2 bath, no pets 2107 Northrup. $2,000 per month, $2,000 deposit. 432-413-8904

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

3 BEDROOM 2 bath 2 car garage 3318 Camerie. $2,300 month $2,300 deposit. 432-230-5281

3 BEDROOM 2 bath. Must have referenced, non smoking & no pets. Call 432-638-3512.

NICE 2B D/1B A. $1200/mo $1200 deposit. 432-694-9853

Residential Rentals

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

NICE 3BD/1BA Carport. $1250/mo $1250 deposit. Call 432-694-9853

Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

1407 W. Golf Course Road. 3BD/2BA Townhome with pool complete remodel move-in ready $365,000 no realtors. 432-687-5952

3BD 2ba in Greenwood. 42 acres, large living and kitchen, water softener, pool w/ pool house, 40x50 shop, horse stalls, pond, metal fencing, large covered patio. $450,000. Call 325-262-1304

4105 ST. Andrews 4/3/2/2. $269,500. In-law suite. Open Saturday, 11am-1pm. UP Group 889-2934

4502 ROOSEVELT beautiful 3 bedroom 2 bath, plus sunroom. $145,000. Open house every Sunday until sold. Call 432-683-2243

4511 MEADOWLARK
Horse property! 4/2/2/2 2 acres, more available. Stalls, pens, pastures. Barn city & well water. Greathouse. Abell. $320,000. Open SAT. 11am-1pm. UP Group 889-2934

4902 FM 1213 house on 1.25 acres with rental house needs repairs. $139,000. Possible financing. 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

4 bd/3 ba/ 3 car Custom Troy Hunt Resale. Spacious & open. Large master suite. Island kitchen w/ lots of cabinetry, granite tops throughout & plantation shutters. Call Daniel Hunt 432-889-7832 or dhunt1234@gmail.com

4 BEDROOM, 3 bath, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, brick house, new roof, fireplace, cinder block fence with storage building, 2 car carport. 2568 sq. ft., large back yard. Located at 1003 Mogford, needs some TLC. As is priced to sell quick at $170,000. Great opportunity for investor. Have current survey & 1 year warranty. 432-559-6769

64 AC, 2 homes, 14 stalls, Coastal, Comanche, Tx. Rita Freels, agent. 254-485-1118

NEW TODAY!

BEAUTIFUL 3BD/2BA. Granite countertops. Cathedral ceilings. Built in 2012. $172,000. 1804 E Pecan. Open house every Saturday & Sunday from 2pm-4pm. Call 432-683-2243

COUNTRY Property in the city. 4622 Princeton, fencing $385,000. UP Group 889-2934

FOR SALE by owner. Polo Park. 4 bedroom 2 1/2 baths, gameroom. Santa Rita Elementary. Great condition all rooms have walk-in closets. Tons of storage. $349,000. 432-312-8155 or 432-230-2318

FSBO $98,500. 2bd, 1 bath new paint throughout, Central Air/Heat, wood & tile floors. Laundry area,new windows, large storage building. Call 432-262-0880 for appointment. No owner finance. Not a rental.

WE BUY HOMES, LAND & BLDGS! Fair prices, quick cash! Call 432-266-1212, 432-631-8100.

Lots & Land

Acreage

FOR SALE 200 acres Upton County. Good hunting. Two blinds and feeders. $1,500.00 acre. 432-301-0052.

Lots & Land

Acreage

LAND FOR Sale North of Cristoval. 20, 40, 80 and 150 acre tracks. One 300 acre track. Only 21 tracks available. Private, gated entrance, beautiful scenic home sites. 12 minutes from San Angelo. 20ac track $170K. 40ac track $260K. 325-650-9960

Hunting Leases

DEER LEASE white tail & Mule deer. Near Big Lake at Best Texas. Now accepting need up to 6 or 7 hunters. 940-284-1518

Ranches

RANCH FOR SALE
4,212 Acres near Snyder, Tx. Water, 3 houses, great hunting. Owner Financing. $795 Acre. (432) 664-7764

4516 Cardinal Lane
2 acres country horse property. Fabulous neighborhood & schools. Greathouse Abell Lee. $220,000. Up Group 889-2934

YARD FOR LEASE. 2 Acres in Big Lake. One mile north off of Highway 137. Cleared and ready to move in today. For more information call 325-653-1013.

Commercial

Commercial Building For Lease
13,500sq.ft. Fenced/Paved Yard. Midland, Texas. $12,500/month. 432-664-7764

COMMERCIAL/LIGHT INDUSTRIAL Building for lease. Excellent condition, good traffic. Former Curiosities Antique Mall 904-906 W. Florida Ave. Midland, TX. Over 8400 SQ. FT. available. $1.00-$1.25 per SQ. FT. depending on space taken & lease terms. ADA Compliant restrooms. Central AC. New Roof. Overhead door in rear. Contact Susan Stiles at (432) 889-1933

COMMERCIAL YARD FOR LEASE
5 ACRES FENCED 2 AC CALICHED ELECTRIC GATE $2200/MONTH JUST EAST OF MIDLAND 432-664-7764

FOR LEASE approximately 2400 sq. ft. building with yard area. Call CR 90 Properties, LP 432-230-9139

FOR LEASE /Build to Suit
Commercial shop with 5 acre yard East of Midland 432-664-7764 432-934-7777

"MAN CAVE"
New storage on 1788. 1500-4500 square ft. starting at $650. RV's/cars/industrial. ask for Don 352-2067

NOW LEASING Office/Warehouses Small Office Suites
Various locations. Call 432-661-4057

Retail Space for Lease - Midland, Texas 4313 W. Illinois Ave., Building A&B. Status Active. No. Spaces 1 Space Available 2,400 Sq. Ft., Primary Type Retail, Sub-Type Retail (Other). If you have any more questions please call Ricky at 432-894-2454

NEW CONSTRUCTION
5/10/20/50 acres +/- yard with 5,000 or 10,000 sq. ft. building with Bridge Cranes/ wash bays. Ask for Don. 563-1610 or 352-2067

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Chad Dewayne Simpson, Deceased, were issued on January 27, 2015, in Cause No. P18150, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to: Keith Simpson.

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: **L. SHANE STOKES**
Attorney at Law
300 North Marienfeld, Suite 700
Midland, TX 79701

DATED the 30th day of January, 2015.

L. Shane Stokes
Attorney for Keith D. Simpson
State Bar No.: 19273500
300 North Marienfeld, Suite 700
Midland, Texas 79701
Telephone: (432) 683-3351
Facsimile: (432) 683-8346
E-mail: sstokes@lcalawfirm.com

General Announcements

PERMIAN BASIN HOME & GARDEN SHOW
MIDLAND COUNTY HORSESHOW PAVILION
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH, 9AM-9PM
SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST, NOON-5PM

Featuring landscape expert, **AHMED HASSAN**, the original host of **DIY Network's Yard Crashers**. He will sign autographs at Noon on Saturday before his 1pm discussion on the main stage.

Purchase tickets at any **KENT KWIK CONVENIENCE STORE**!

ADMISSION - $10
CHILDREN UNDER 3 - FREE
A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Texas Permian Basin Honor Flight.

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE IS hereby given that pursuant to the State's Self-Storage Facility Lien Law, on March 6, 2015 at 10:00 AM. CubeSmart General Managers, state that the following property is being sold to satisfy the landlord's lien and will sell at www.storagetreasures.com.

3111 Caldera Blvd, Midland, TX 79705
Marcella Lott: Golf Clubs, car ramps, car seat, clothing, 10 plus misc. boxes and totes.
Samuel John Wilson: Multi ladder, suitcase, tools, computer chair, misc. boxes.
Gilbert Nde: Sectional sofa, kitchen table and 2 kitchen chairs.
Marsha Hodges: China Cabinet, armoire, 2 dressers, 14 totes, 9 misc boxes.
Jose Diaz: Commercial shelving, counters , cooler, filing cabinet, television stand, 2 dvd players, vacuum cleaner, futon, bag of Pantene samples.
Ann Sosa: Bed frame, boxspring, 4 wardobe boxes, 10 plus misc. boxes, 2 dressers, coffee table, glass dining table, 2 night stands, television, microwave stand, mirrors, drum set.

2504 N Loop 250 W, Midland,TX 79707
Thomas Marsh: Suitcase, lamp, boxes, clothes and toys
Sylerra Nycole Thomas: Toys, clothes, DVD player and DVD's, totes and boxes.
Robert Hunt: Beds, books, boxes, totes, clothes, dressers, tools and fishing poles.

5305 N Grandview Ave, Odessa, TX 79762
Chriarty Valencia: 2 mattresses, computer desk, sofa, end table, entertainment center, 5 plastic totes, small appliances, suitcase and household items.
Troy Perason: Photography equipment
Yvette Matyousian: Toys, night stand, plastic totes, picture frames, clothing and misc. bags.
Edgar Arambula: Loveseat, Sofa, kitchen table, television, clothing, mattress and misc.
Leroy Rodriguez: Front loading washer and dryer, toolboxes, tools and chairs.

3125 Kermit Hwy, Odessa, TX 79764
Athena Walker: Bags, boxes, kitchen table & chairs, microwave, mirror, plastic totes, shelves, stereo, television, vacuum, keyboard, printer, toys, crates.
Lisa Llanez: Bags, bed frame, boxspring, headboard, mattress, kitchen chairs and table, pictures, plastic totes & misc.
Lisa Llanez: Baskets, mattress, large boxes, clothing, pictures, plastic totes, 3 tool boxes.

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR EXCEPTION TO SWR 26/27
SURFACE COMMINGLING PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that XTO Energy Inc., Operator 945936, has filed with the Texas Railroad Commission the following P-17 application for the exception to SWR 26 and/or 27 to surface commingle production from oil and gas leases in (Lease ID 240773) Windham, R.S. lease, Wilshire (Consolidated) field; (Lease ID 226024) Windham, R.S. 118 lease, Wilshire (Consolidated) field; (Lease ID 242352) McElroy Ranch Co. lease, Wilshire (Consolidated) field; (Lease ID 250817) McElroy Ranch Co. lease, Wilshire (Consolidated) field; (Lease ID 18402) McElroy Ranch B lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) field; (New Lease ID) Windham, R.S. lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) field; (New Lease ID) Windham, R.S. B lease, Spraberry (Trend Area) field in Upton County. This application is for common separation and common storage. Production will be measured by W-10. Any royalty interest owners who have not received written notification please consider this your Notice of Application. If you have objections to the issuance of this permit, you may submit a letter to Ericka Davis, P-17 Department, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. Unless the Commission receives a protest to this application, the Commission may issue a permit within 21 days after the date the application is filed.

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

					4		2	
1		5	2		3			
	2			6			8	
9			5		1			3
								6
2			9		6			7
	1			7			9	
			6		9	4		5
	3							

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

1	2	9	7	5	8	3	6	4
7	4	6	1	9	3	8	2	5
8	5	3	2	4	6	1	9	7
3	1	4	6	2	7	5	8	9
2	9	8	5	1	4	6	7	3
5	6	7	8	3	9	4	1	2
4	3	2	9	6	1	7	5	8
6	7	5	3	8	2	9	4	1
9	8	1	4	7	5	2	3	6

2/24/15

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Lots & Land

Acreage

15 - 20 AC. EDWARDS, MENARD OR CONCHO COUNTIES. LIVE OAK, MESQUITE, CEDAR COVER, ABUNDANT NATIVE & EXOTIC GAME. STARTING AT $2,695 DOWN, $491/MO. 800-876-9720 ranchenterprisesltd.com

45 AC. VAL VERDE COUNTY N. OF COMSTOCK. GOOD BRUSH COVER. DEER, TURKEY, HOGS, JAVELINA, QUAIL. NEAR LAKE AMISTAD. $2,239 DOWN, $408/MO. 800-876-9720 ranchenterprisesltd.com

Residential Rentals

⇒FOR RENT⇐
4316 Leddy 3 bedroom 2 bath $1700
4510 Erie 3 bedroom 2 bath $1600
4210 Pasadena 3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath $1800
4705 Thomason 3 bedroom 2 bath $1800
4701 Dentcrest B 2 bedroom 2 bath $1885
Call Ali 432-689-7770

Homes for Sale

We buy homes in any area in any condition.

Call the Scott Williams Team of Realtors 432-689-7770.

Lots & Land

Acreage

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY
Reduced for Quick Sale
Private Wooded Homesite $19,900
Only $180/mo!
18-hole golf course, lake, resort style pool, new clubhouse. EZ Terms
(888) 963-2008
NMLS #1228042

Commercial

READY-RANCH
WWW.READY-RANCH.COM
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.READY-RANCH.COM

- **Kent County**
*11,156 ac, ft. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. mtn., creek, lakes, Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail $795/ac
*4,212 ac, Maverick Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $825/ac
*1,771 ac, windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great w-tail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850/ac
- **Nolan County**
*646 ac, over 1 mile **SOLD** d creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, cattle $3,550/ac
*365 ac, Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres ceded for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $3,550/ac
- **Howard County**
*842 ac, canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oilfield traffic $750/ac
*150 ac, big canyon **SOLD** anks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, jav $895/ac
- **Martin County**
*135 ac, Sulphur Springs **SOLD** deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, metal barn $1,150/ac

(432) 664-7764 or (432) 934-7777
No Realtors - Buy Direct!!!
Deal with Landowners that know the Country!!!
Owner Financing Available

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

Modular & Mobile Homes

Mobile Homes for Rent

18' TRAVEL Trailer $550 per month you pay propane. 1 person, no pets. 432-413-6451

SEVERAL RVs and RV Spaces for rent. Cable, Wi-Fi and utility included. Sleeps 2. Call 770-7054, 634-0978 or 432-634-6857

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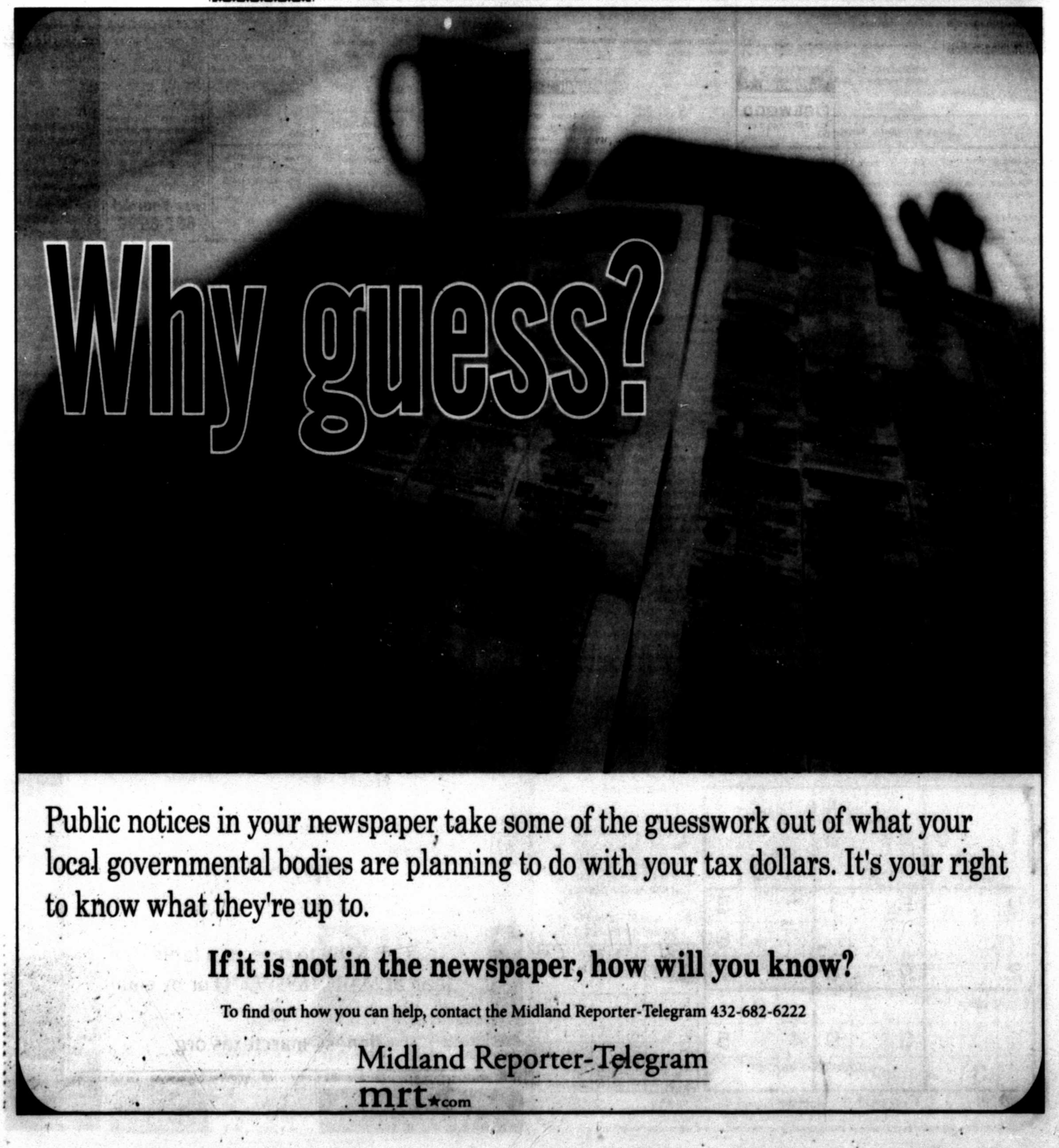

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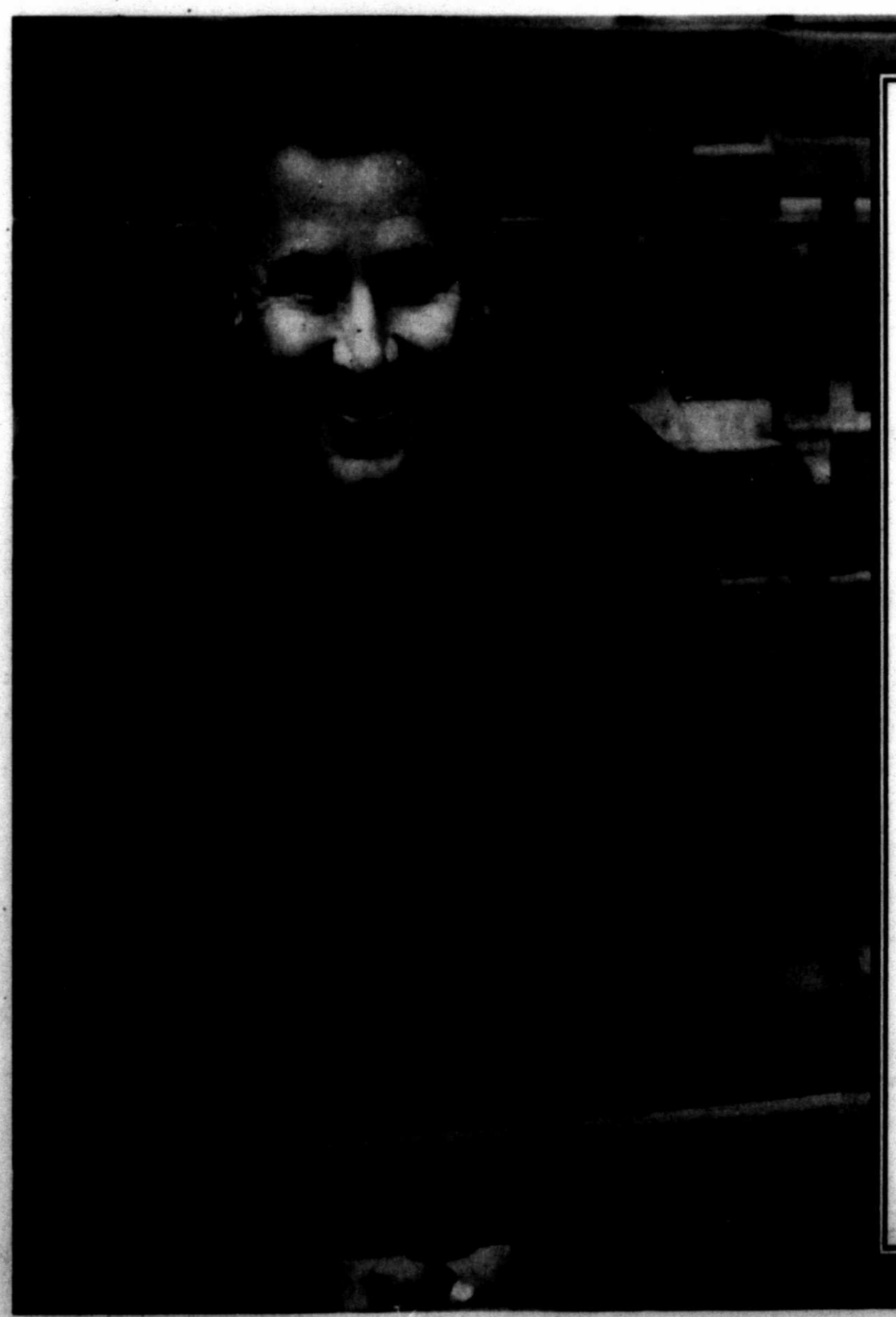

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SPACE REPAIRMEN

Associated Press

In this image from television, astronaut Barry "Butch" Wilmore begins the spacewalk Saturday morning to wire the International Space Station in preparation for the arrival in July of the international docking port for the Boeing and Space-X commercial crew vehicles.

Spacewalking astronauts turn into cable guys in 1st of 3 jobs

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Spacewalking astronauts routed more than 300 feet of cable outside the International Space Station on Saturday, tricky and tiring advance work for the arrival of new American-made crew capsules.

It was the first of three spacewalks planned for NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Terry Virts over the coming week.

Altogether, Wilmore and Virts have 764 feet of cable to run outside the space station. They got off to a strong start Saturday, rigging eight power and data lines, or about 340 feet.

"Broadening my résumé," Virts observed.

NASA considers this the most complicated cable-routing job in the 16-year history of the space station. Equally difficult will be running cable on the inside of the complex.

The extensive rewiring is needed to prepare for NASA's next phase 260 miles up: the 2017 arrival of the first commercial spacecraft capable of transporting astronauts to the orbiting lab.

NASA is paying Boeing and SpaceX to build the capsules and fly them from Cape Canaveral, which hasn't seen a manned launch since the shuttles retired in 2011. Instead, Russia is doing all the taxi work — for a steep price.

The first of two docking ports for the Boeing and SpaceX vessels — still under development — is due to arrive in June. Even more spacewalks will be needed to set everything up.

There were so many cables that NASA color-coded them. That helped the spacewalkers only so much; they expected a lighter blue for one of the lines.

"I worked up a lather on that one," Wilmore informed Mission Control. After successfully attaching the first four cables, he added, "I've got to cool down."

Mission Control left two cables — or about 24 feet worth — for the next spacewalk coming up Wednesday. Four hundred feet of additional cable will be installed March 1 on spacewalk No. 3.

"We've got a lot of work still," Mission Control said as Saturday's 6 ½-hour spacewalk drew to a close. "We want to make sure we look after your health and get you back inside now, so we're going to claim victory here."

It was the first spacewalk for Virts, who arrived at the space station in late November. He savored the moment as he floated out high above the South Pacific. "Pretty cool," he said.

Spacesuit concerns stalled the work by a day.

NASA wanted to make certain that the suits worn by Wilmore and Virts had reliable fan and pump assemblies. Two other fan-pump units failed aboard the space station in recent months and were returned to Earth earlier this month for analysis. Corrosion was discovered, the result of water intrusion from testing.

Their suits appeared to work fine Saturday.

"I just wanted to say thanks to everyone for their hard work and diligence," Wilmore, the station's commander, said once he was safely back inside.

More worries rise from the ashes

By Jane E. Brody
New York Times News Service

A major new study of smoking and death has banged more nails into the coffin of cigarette smoking, though chances are it will do little to persuade any of the 42 million American smokers to quit.

If current smokers have not already responded to the well-established links between smoking and 21 diseases that together cause 480,000 deaths each year, adding another five diseases and 60,000 deaths to this grisly total is unlikely to make a difference — at least not by itself.

"Health effects are not enough to decrease smoking rates," said Brian D. Carter, public health specialist with the American Cancer Society and lead author of the new study.

However, he and his co-authors hope that publication of their study in the The New England Journal of Medicine will prompt more doctors to aggressively address smoking cessation with their patients.

Perhaps even more important, our elected officials need to add muscle and money to quit-smoking programs and do more to thwart the persistent efforts of the tobacco industry to hook new young smokers and to keep older ones at it.

Nine in 10 smokers start before age 19. Every day, nearly 3,900 adolescents try their first cigarette, a quarter of whom are destined to become daily smokers. Nearly 1 in 3 will ultimately die of a smoking-related disease. That means some 5.6 million youngsters now under 18 will die prematurely because they smoked.

Many experts worry that the aggressive marketing of e-cigarettes, the latest gimmick to create and maintain an addiction to nicotine, could ultimately assure a healthy market for real cigarettes decades hence. No data exist to establish the long-term safety of this nicotine delivery system, nor is there convincing evidence that e-cigarettes are helping current smokers abandon tobacco.

Adolescents could be easily enticed by many of the flavors of e-cigarettes, including chocolate, vanilla, banana, cherry and strawberry, which sounds a lot like the menu in my local frozen yogurt store.

Certainly, tremendous progress has been made in curbing cigarette smoking since the first Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health in January 1964. At the time, 44 percent of adults smoked, and just about anywhere they pleased. We're now down to 18 percent of adults who smoke, and smoking is banned in many public buildings, workplaces, modes of transportation, and bars and restaurants.

But there has been a decided slowdown in smoking cessation rates in recent years, fueling a belief that getting the remaining hard core of smokers to quit will require new strategies.

For example, raising taxes on cigarettes is repeatedly proposed as an effective way to curb smoking, primarily by keeping young people from starting. Yet smoking rates are highest among the poor. While 17 percent of Americans at or above the poverty level smoke, the rate is nearly 28 percent among those living below the level.

People with few pleasures in life often cite smoking as one for which they are willing to make sacrifices. Since 1997, the smoking rate for adults has fallen 27 percent, but among the poor it has declined just 15 percent.

The Affordable Care Act requires insurance providers to cover tobacco cessation services with no copay from patients. Fully covered are two cessation attempts a year, each involving four counseling sessions and access to all tobacco-cessation drugs, over-the-counter and prescription, approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

However, political resistance in some states to expanding Medicaid under the act to many more low-income residents will effectively prevent those most in need of smoking cessation programs and tools from getting them.

Furthermore, death is by no means the only consequence of smoking. Countless millions of Americans are living with chronic smoking-induced illnesses that can impair their productivity and greatly increase health care costs. While heart disease, stroke, diabetes, chronic lung disease and 12 kinds of cancer were previously tied to smoking, the new study added kidney failure, intestinal blood vessel blockage, hypertensive heart disease, infections, various respiratory diseases, breast cancer and prostate cancer to the list.

Organizing business cards can be a frustrating ordeal

Q: Dear PropellerHeads, despite being in the digital age where everything is done on our phone or laptop, I still have a drawer full of business cards. Can you help me get organized?

A: It's always frustrating that in most parts of business, we are constantly working to cut paper use and take advantage of online tools, yet when it comes to business cards we typically treat our connections like one of those restaurant fishbowls where a physical card will win you a free lunch. If you want to hold onto all the cards and go low-tech, buy this and stop reading the article, you troglodyte (amzn.to/1A5Tivh).

If you're still with us, let's look at other options. First, there are several methods using phone apps and built-in features. All three of the major phone operating systems provide ways of exchanging vCard information without much fuss. If you go into your contacts on your phone, there is typically an option to share the contact's info in the menu. You can do this via email, text, or — if your phone is NFC (Near Field Communication) enabled — by simply touching your phone to another.

Ask the PropellerHeads

While that may help you cut down on gathering new business cards, you probably need something to help with the drawer full you already have. You're going want something robust, yet simple to use, like CamCard (camcard.com). This app works on all mobile platforms (yes, even Blackberry for you nostalgic suits), and allows you to scan physical cards into your phone.

CamCard lets you exchange information with other users as mentioned above, and scans physical cards, importing information from the scans. Depending on how complex the card design is, you may have to tinker with a contact's information after scanning, but it typically gets it right. If you meet someone that is an MD, PhD, PMP, LMNOP (ok, I made that one up) and has them all listed on their card, the app may have trouble knowing where that person's name ends and their bragging … er, certifications, begin.

Additionally, this app can sync all of your contacts online for easy editing and organization. As an added bonus, you can attach pictures, websites, notes, and other media to a particular contact, which can help when meeting with that guy you met at that thing who talked about that really interesting subject back then. Yeah, that guy …

While we think CamCard is one of the more complete apps out there, there are plenty of alternatives for you to check out too. If you prefer a minimalist, easy-to-use app that just stays on your phone, BizzCard (bizzcard.us) is worth a look.

Clinck (clinck.me) makes sharing information easy, using email to send your vCard to others, and doesn't require them to have the same app to receive it. It also has built-in card management for those you receive.

For current Evernote users, the recently defunct Evernote Hello app has been discontinued, but the main app has absorbed its functionality. If you need a refresher on how to use it, look here (bit.ly/1vWElMp).

Lastly, we thought that Flextown (flextown.com) was an interesting product. Instead of buying hundreds of paper business cards of your own to hand out (the vast majority of which make it into the trash), Flextown provides you with a physical digital business card. Confused yet?

You receive a limited number of these physical cards that include an NFC chip with your contact information and QR code as well. When you want to share your information, rather than handing out your card, your new contact can import the information into their phone and move on. Flextown has multiple subscription options that give you varying levels of detail in how you manage your growing army of business acquaintances.

Now that that is settled, you are free to use all of those outdated business cards you've been collecting for your real passion … making paper mache piñatas! What? You don't do that? It's totally a thing. Lots of people think it's cool. Seriously. No one laughs at all …

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