MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2013 mrt★com *Delivering life ... every day*

NFL

See our special section dedicated to the 2013 season.

Page 1C

MEET SHIN-SOO CHOO

Shin-Soo Choo will be the leadoff hitter for the Texas Rangers in an offense they feel they have successfully remade this offseason. Choo was formally introduced Friday, nearly a week after agreeing to a $130 million, seven-year deal.

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2013 oil boom is biggest ever, data show

Nation is on track to produce 1 million gallons more per day than 2012

By Simone Sebastian
Houston Chronicle

The United States' average daily oil production is on track to surge by 1 million barrels per day this year, the biggest one-year jump in the nation's history, according to federal data.

The country has pumped an average of 7.5 million barrels of crude per day in 2013, up from 6.5 million barrels per day in 2012. That breaks last year's record, when oil production jumped by 837,000 barrels per day between 2011 and 2012.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration projects that oil production will jump by another 1 million barrels per day in 2014, largely buoyed by drilling activity in Texas' Eagle Ford Shale and Permian Basin regions, as well as North Dakota's Bakken Shale.

The Gulf of Mexico also is seeing a boost, with oil production expected to grow to 1.4 million barrels per day in 2014, up by 100,000 barrels.

The data is evidence of the astonishingly rapid turnaround in the nation's energy story. Oil production declined in 29 of the 40 years between 1971 and 2011. In total, oil production fell by about 40 percent during that time, from 9.5 million barrels per day in 1971 to 5.6 million barrels per day in 2011.

While the U.S. oil boom has sparked conversation of energy independence, Americans consume about 18 million barrels of liquid fuels per day, far more than is produced domestically.

Still, the production surge has caused oil imports to drop considerably. The nation shipped in an average of 7.9 million barrels per day of crude in September, the most recent period for which import data is available. That's a significant drop from the peak in 2005, when the nation imported an average of 10.1 million barrels per day.

Inside

- Oil closes above $100 on upbeat economic outlook
- U.S. rig count down this week to 1,757

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CLASSIC SHOWDOWNS

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland Classical fans and parents cheer on their girls Friday afternoon at the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic basketball tournament. See page 1B for coverage of all of Friday's games at the tournament.

Hunters For the Hungry program aids Texas families

By Edgar Walters
Texas Tribune

For hunters like Rick Prekup, deer season is the jolliest time of the year.

"I go hunting every chance I get," Prekup said in a telephone interview from his home in Horseshoe Bay. Several times each week from November to early January, he rises at 5 a.m., grabs his lucky sweater and a semiautomatic Remington rifle and drives about an hour to his hunting lease in Mason County.

But Prekup, who is allowed to shoot up to five deer a year under Texas Parks and Wildlife regulations, generally ends up with more venison than he needs. So he donates a deer or two to the Texas Hunters for the Hungry program, which this year was adopted and expanded by the Texas Food Bank Network to provide hunger relief to needy Texans. He calls the program a way to share the "bounty of Texas."

"I like doing it," Prekup said. "It's important for someone to give back if they're blessed with the ability to go out and hunt."

The start of this year's deer season on Nov. 2 coincided with a cut to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the food stamp program. Celia Cole, chief executive of the Texas Food Bank Network, said that those cuts had left millions of Texans scrounging for new sources of nutrition and that food banks had struggled to keep up.

"We see a spike for demand during the holidays," Cole said. "The cut to SNAP came at a particularly bad time."

The Hunters for the Hungry program will help offset some of the losses, Cole said, by providing needy families with a source of protein, often the most expensive part of their diet.

"One of the things that's least often donated and is hardest to acquire is that source of low-fat protein," she said.

Charlie Ward, chief operating officer of the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas, agreed, saying that local pantries demanded protein-rich foods more than any other types and that venison was particularly popular.

"When we put it in inventory here, it doesn't last but a day," he said.

In some communities, participation in the program is widespread. Horseshoe Bay has a deer overpopulation problem, said City Manager Stan Farmer. To deal with it, the city hires a trapper each year to catch roughly 300 deer, which are processed and donated to Hunters for the Hungry.

In addition to contributing to a good cause, Farmer said, the program manages the community's deer population. "Otherwise we'll have maybe 500 deer per year get hit by cars, which is dangerous for drivers and dangerous for deer," he said.

But overall venison donations are inconsistent from year to year, Ward said. In 2011, his food bank, which serves 21 counties in Central Texas, received more than 8,000 pounds of meat donated by hunters; in 2012, that number fell to just under 2,000 pounds. Ward said the processing fee — hunters pay an average of $40 per deer — could be a hurdle to donations.

Cole emphasized that charitable initia-

Please see HUNTERS/4A

How you can help

Clark's and Winford's Meat Co., 6002 S. Highway 349, is accepting deer donations for a $35 processing fee though Jan. 31. Donors will receive a receipt.

For more information, go to htfth.tfbn.org.

In a future edition of the Reporter-Telegram, see how Midlanders helped Hunters for the Hungry.

Flu cases spike in Texas

By Juan Carlos Llorca
Associated Press

EL PASO — The rate of flu infections in Texas is among the highest in the nation, and the virulent H1N1 form of the illness has claimed the life of a Houston teenager, officials said Friday.

The teen, whose identity was not released, died Thursday, said Kathy Barton, spokeswoman for the city's health department. Several other deaths related to the illness have also been reported, though the state doesn't keep a tally of adult deaths.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Texas is one of 6 states with "high" activity of influenza-like illnesses. Carrie Williams, spokeswoman for the Texas Department of State Health Services, said flu activity is "high and widespread, because it's increased and because it's been reported in multiple parts of the state."

The other states classified as having high rates are Oklahoma, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi and Alabama. About 95 percent of the Texas influenza cases are H1N1, also known as the swine flu.

County officials across Texas have reported deaths from flu-related illnesses, though hospitals are only required to report the flu deaths of children to the state.

Please see FLU/4A

City: Midland flu activity on the rise

The city is reporting increasing flu activity in Midland this holiday season.

This mirrors officials' reports of a spike in flu cases in Texas with more than a dozen deaths in the Houston area, most of which were caused by the H1N1 strain known as the swine flu.

According to a count compiled by KHOU in Houston, 13 people have died in the Greater Houston area, including a teenager (http://bit.ly/1fKUsjA). Kathy Barton, spokeswoman for the city's health department, said the teenager was infected with the H1N1 strain of the virus. About 95 percent of the Texas influenza A cases are H1N1.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Texas is one of four states with "high" activity of influenza-like illnesses.

Health officials said influenza has become widespread across Texas.

Midland's increased flu cases are more singular and sporadic, differing from Houston and South Texas' flu clusters, said Becky Gates, Midland Health Department's nursing supervisor.

She said singular cases of flu are not reportable to the CDC, unlike pediatric flu deaths, any variant or novel flu and flu clusters.

Gates said there has been an increase in H1N1 cases in Midland, as well, but the most basic flu test only determines if a patient's illness is influenza A or B. Further testing is required to determine if cases are H1N1.

Information from: KHOU-TV, http://www.khou.com

From staff reports. The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Weather
Partly cloudy
60/33
Get your complete forecast on 4C

Energy prices

WTI Futures	$100.32 ▲	$0.77
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WTS Posted	$99.40 ▲	$1.00
Natural Gas	$4.407 ▼	$0.026
Gasoline	$3.055 ▲	$0.071

The big number
Texas hunter has more than
300 trophies
he's collected over his career.
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Today in News
For divided Congress, water projects unify. Page 4A

Coming Sunday
See who — or what — our Newsmaker of the Year is.

Vol. 85, No. 291
Daily $1, Sunday $2

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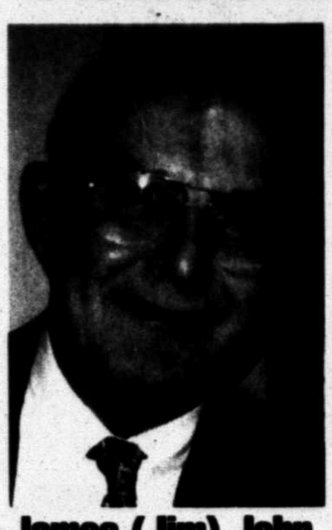
Obituaries



James (Jim) John Manusos

James (Jim) John Manusos, 72, of Newton, IA, formerly of Mason City, IA, and of Midland, TX, died Sunday December 22, 2013 at his home.

A Mass of Christian Burial for James will be held at 10:30 A.M. Monday, December 30, 2013, at Epiphany Parish Holy Family Catholic Church, 714 North Adams, Mason City. Visitation will be held Sunday December 29, 2013 from 5:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. with a time for sharing of memories at 6:30 P.M., followed by a Parish Rosary at 7:00 P.M. at the Hogan-Bremer-Moore Colonial Chapel, 126 3rd St. N.E., Mason City.

Burial will be in the Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery in Mason City, with military graveside honors conducted by members of Mason City Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Jim Manusos was born on April 15, 1941, in Mason City, the son of John James and Rose (Martin) Manusos. He received his education at the Holy Family Catholic School and Mason City High School. Jim was inducted into the Marines Corps and served his country until his honorable discharge. Soon after his military service he was united in marriage to Kathy Bonte. Together they had three children, Cindy, Jay and Carrie. He worked for Sunoco for 27 years in Des Moines, IA, Stillwater, Oklahoma and Midland, Texas, retiring in 1998.

Jim later married his high school sweetheart Judy (Hutzell) Lytle on April 12, 1991 in Barrington, IL. They began their new lives together in Midland, TX, moving to Alexandria, MN in 2001, and recently to Newton, IA.

Jim was a faithful husband, loyal friend and devoted son; caring for his mother, Rose until her death. He was an avid sports fan, golfer and inventor.

Jim is survived by his wife, Judy Manusos; his children, Cindy (Keith) Katch of Victoria, Texas, Jay Manusos of Grimes, Iowa, and Carrie Ward of McKinney, TX; his grandchildren, Elyse, Nicholas, Kelsey, Taylor and Dylan; step mother Virginia, half-sister, Nancy of Big Springs, Texas; Judy's seven children and 12 grandchildren as well as many extended family members and friends.

James was preceded in death by his parents, John and Rose. He had a special relationship with his uncle Billy and other aunts and uncles from the Martin family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that mass be dedicated to Jim at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Alexandria, MN, Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Newton, IA, and at Epiphany Parish Holy Family Catholic Church and Epiphany Parish Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Mason City, IA.

Hogan-Bremer-Moore Colonial Chapel, 126 3rd St. N.E. Mason City, IA: (641) 423-2372
ColonialChapels.com

Patricia Anne Moore

Patricia Anne Moore passed away on December 24, 2013 in Odessa TX. Services will be held on Monday December 30th 2013 at 10:00 A.M. at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home. Malcolm Tyree of Grace Point will be conducting the service.

Patricia was born in Norristown, PA to Francis and Marion O'Brien on August 3rd 1951. She went to school in Franklin, NC. She married Thomas E. Moore on January 29th 1972 in Franklin NC. She graduated from Southwestern Community College and worked as a legal secretary for Cotton Bledsoe and later for Shafer Law Firm.

Patricia is preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband Thomas Moore, her two sons Scott and Zac, her sister Kathleen and brother-in-law Jim and their two sons James and Mike and their families, her two grandchildren Taylar and Ethan, as well as many friends. Memorials may be given to Sunset Memorial Funeral Home.

The family of Patricia A. Moore wishes to extend a special thanks to Dr. Wong, the nurses and staff of ORMC, and Malcolm Tyree. Patricia will be missed and loved forever by all.

Services are under the direction of Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.sunsetodessa.com

SUNSET MEMORIAL GARDENS & FUNERAL HOME

Ronald Glenn Wade

Ronald Glenn Wade, 68, of Midland, passed away surrounded by his family on Tuesday, December 24, 2013. The family will receive friends on Sunday, December 29, 2013, from 5:00-7:00PM at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Memorial services will be held at 1:00PM, Monday, December 30, 2013, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel with Chaplain Robert Kirk officiating.

Ron was born March 28, 1945, to James and Hilda Wade in Fairfield, Iowa. He graduated from Fairfield High School in 1963 and received his BA degree in accounting from Parsons College in 1967. Ron married his high school sweetheart, Carol Biles, on February 12, 1966. He served with the Iowa National Guard, 34th Army Band from 1962 to 1970.

Ron started his career with Hy-Vee Food Stores in Chariton, Iowa in 1967 and rose to the position of Divisional Controller. In 1983, Ron decided he wanted to enter public accounting and purchased a practice in Midland. In order to better serve his clients, Ron passed the CPA exam and received his license in 1993. For the last 30 years he has continued to serve his clients to the best of his ability and considered them to be his friends.

He was a member of AICPA and TSCPA, where he held various offices at the local and state level. Ron was also a Mason and a Shriner with Abu Bekr Temple.

Survivors include his wife, Carol Wade of Midland, Texas; daughter, Kristen and husband, David Henry of Dallas, Texas; and son, Steven and wife, Holli Wade of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; 2 grandchildren, Zachary and McKenzie Wade; and 1 granddog, Maddie. He is also survived by a sister, Joyce Jeffrey of Fairfield, Iowa.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Pamela Foster.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be donated to Hospice Midland, PO Box 2621, Midland, TX 79702; Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals, PO Box 50426, Midland, TX 79710: or Shriners Hospitals for Children International Headquarters, 2900 Rocky Point Dr, Tampa, FL.

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

Stuart M. Hacken

Stuart M. Hacken of Gardendale, Texas, passed away on December 24, 2013 in Midland, Texas. He was 58 years old.

He was born May 6, 1955, in Jersey City, N.J.

In 1973, the family left New York for California. Stuart worked in his family-owned business at Portrait World. After leaving the family business, he went to work for Western Radio. From Western Radio, he soon found his home at Motorola in 1979. During this time, Stuart also served as a Reserve Deputy for the San Diego County Sheriff's office. Stuart continued to work professionally with several law enforcement agencies throughout his career. Stuart was passionate about his work at Motorola. In 2005, he transferred from San Diego to West Texas to further his career as Territory Manager. Stuart's career with Motorola spanned 34 years. He accomplished many great things in his life and has left behind quite a legacy.

Stuart enjoyed many hobbies including photography, HAM radio, and playing bass guitar. He loved music and was active in several different bands throughout his lifetime. While in San Diego, he played for both The Dynamix and in the Hot House Band. In West Texas, he played bass in the Glove Box Band. He also played with several other local bands. Everywhere he went, "Kronos" went too. That was the nickname given to his bass rig.

It seemed that Stuart never knew a stranger - he had a genuine love of people.

He leaves behind his wife, Kathy and his son, Ben - both of Gardendale, Texas; two nephews, an aunt and uncle, several cousins, his longtime Motorola, HAM Radio, and band families, and many, many friends. He touched everyone with his unique and warm personality. It seems that everybody has a story. Stuart will be sorely missed by all.

Funeral services have been scheduled for 2:00 pm on Sunday, December 29, 2013 with Rabbi Cohn officiating. Interment immediately following at Resthaven Memorial Park.

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

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

Death Notices

Jane Benton

Jane Benton, 70, of Midland, TX passed away on December 23, 2013.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, December 29, 2013 from 2:00p.m. - 4:00p.m. at Ellis Funeral Home located in Midland, TX. The funeral service will be held on Monday, December 30, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel, with a graveside service following at Rest Haven North.

She is survived by her husband Ted Benton; her sister Judy Hayes; her brother Bill (Brother Bill) Murray; and numerous other family and friends.

Jeffery Collins

Jeffery Collins, 43 passed away on December 16, 2013.

He leaves to cherish his memories a daughter of Ft. Worth, Tx, two brothers David Collins Jr. (Toni), Sam Collins, both of Big Spring, Annie Samuels (Raymond), Zelma Dickens (Carl) both of Midland. Also several nieces, and nephews, and cousins. He will be greatly missed by his family, and friends.

Jo Etta Fourqurean

Jo Etta Fourqurean, of Midland, passed away on Thursday, December 26, 2013.

The family will receive friends from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 29, 2013 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Monday, December 30, 2013 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel. Interment will follow at Resthaven Cemetery.

Survivors include husband, George Fourqurean; two sons, Mike and Heather Fourqurean and Steve and Tami Fourqurean; two sisters, Ruth Wild; and Lissa Anderson; and five grandchildren.

mywesttexas.com
Questions about death notices or online Guest Books?
Email to obits@mrt.com

Sense of adventure comes first for hunter

By Cindy Horswell
Houston Chronicle

James Nielson/Houston Chronicle

Gary Ingersoll poses in his trophy room Dec. 21 in Houston. Ingersoll was recognized by the Conklin Foundation in 2003 for hunting in the world's remotest places in his quest for big game. At least 15 of the more than 330 trophies he's collected over the years have set world records, he said, adding that at least four of those records still stand. His massive collection fills 3,000 square feet.

HOUSTON — After spending the last four decades traipsing across six continents to the remotest corners of the world, Gary Ingersoll is not easily intimidated.

On a trip to the Sudan, Ingersoll, 74, of Spring Branch, tells of slogging through a swamp where his legs became covered in leeches, fetching water from a mission hospital coping with an outbreak of ebola, and hunkering down in a safe house as bullets flew during a coup attempt.

The Conklin Foundation in 2003 recognized him for hunting in the world's remotest places, saying that he "left few wild spots on Earth untouched" in his quest for big game.

"I've seen things in the world that few others have. Hunting was always secondary to the adventure," Ingersoll said. "It's a great way to see the world and become that mountain man I dreamed about as a child."

At least 15 of the more than 330 trophies he's collected over the years have set world records, he said, adding that at least four of those records still stand.

His massive collection fills 3,000 square feet — with one room dedicated to North America, another to Africa and the last to the other continents — on his two-acre estate north of Interstate 10 off Bunker Hill. It includes several species that are now off-limits to hunters, including a 10-foot-tall polar bear from Alaska, a walrus with huge ivory tusks taken off St. Lawrence Island, located in the Bering Sea, and a large black rhinoceros in Kenya.

When he dies, Ingersoll wants to donate his trophies to a museum. For now he enjoys giving tours of his home collection to schoolchildren.

He is one of only a few hunters in the world to win the three most prestigious hunting awards.

Besides the Conklin award, in 1991 he snagged the Weatherby Hunting and Conservation Award, which is annually voted upon by one's peers, and in 2001 the Safari Club International Hunting Award, which requires a minimum collection of 300 species.

Ingersoll's 2010 book, "Born to Hunt," details some of his exploits, such as his trip to the Sudan during a brief truce in its civil war in 1977.

"My group was the first to go in there on a hunting tour since the fighting began about a decade earlier," he told the Houston Chronicle.

Responding to criticism about big game hunting, Ingersoll defended the pursuit. "I only take the grandpas," he said, "weeding out the old animals that won't be breeding much anymore."

The Conklin Foundation, which views hunting as a vital component of wildlife conservation, identified Ingersoll as a generous contributor who occasionally was the sole underwriter of conservation projects.

On its website, the foundation said Ingersoll became only the sixth hunter known to have completed the so-called "North American 27" list of big game.

His interest in hunting grew from watching his father train champion bird dogs while he was growing up in a small town in Minnesota. He was also intrigued by the "Tarzan" movies and dreamed of becoming some sort of "mountain man."

But after striking out on his own at age 17, he grew more practical and worked nights to put himself through Mankato State University, where he earned a business degree.

He found he had a knack for sales and established a company that helped developers market Houston-area homes.

But his money-making skills were important only as a means of financing his hunting trips as well as numerous animal conservation projects.

Ingersoll is sometimes away from home for as much as six months of the year, he admits.

Elizabeth, his wife of 15 years, has been understanding. "We put it into our marriage vows that I would support his crazy passion," she said.

As Ingersoll nears retirement, he keeps wondering whether each trip will be his last.

"But then I just book another one," he said, like his trip this month to Turkey where he climbed to where the air was so thin that his heart was pumping in overdrive.

But then, he smiles, noting he also completed his collection of chamois, a type of goat. He snagged the last of the eight species there.

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

HOUSTON

Gay rights group sues over same-sex benefits

A gay rights group has filed a federal lawsuit meant to preserve Houston's extension of benefits to legally married same-sex spouses of city employees.

New York-based Lambda Legal filed the suit Thursday on behalf of three municipal workers to maintain the extension of health and life insurance benefits. Lambda's Kenneth Upton said "this case is about equal pay for equal work."

Houston Mayor Annise Parker, who is gay, announced the expanded coverage last month. The action flouts an opinion issued in April by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott that said local governments and school districts that offer same-sex domestic partner benefits are violating the state Constitution.

A state district judge has since imposed a temporary order that halts Houston's same-sex coverage. The policy will be the focus of a court hearing scheduled for Jan. 6.

SAN ANTONIO

Teen turns in envelope stuffed with $100 bills

A teenager is receiving many happy returns after turning in an envelope she found stuffed with $100 bills.

Kayla Blackmon was sweeping the dining room floor after a rush of customers last week at Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers in San Antonio. She found the envelope on the floor with $1,600 inside.

The 17-year-old turned it over to restaurant managers who then checked video to determine which customer may have dropped it. Soon after a man walked in who "looked really nervous." He had intended to use the money for a Christmas vacation.

Blackmon told the San Antonio Express-News on Thursday that the customer expressed his gratitude by giving her $100. The restaurant owner, meanwhile, gave her a $100 gift card. She also was chosen employee of the month.

FORT WORTH

Bike route to connect Metroplex

New bike trails will be added to already-established ones to connect Dallas and Fort Worth.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments plans to use 30 miles of already-established bike trails in Fort Worth, Arlington, Grand Prairie, Irving and Dallas and then connect those routes with 34 additional miles.

The mayors of the five cities have all signed onto the plan pitched by Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price.

The council's Karla Weaver told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that 10 of the needed miles already have identified funding and a plan for construction.

Cities can start applying for funding from a federal grant program beginning in February.

Weaver said the connected trail could take up to ten years to complete.

Midland Reporter-Telegram

AT YOUR SERVICE

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MPD: Homeless man arrested for aggravated assault

From staff reports

Bevis

A homeless man was arrested Thursday for seriously injuring another man in an assault earlier this month, according to his arrest affidavit.

Kenneth Don Bevis, 32, is being held on a $150,000 bond for a second-degree felony charge of aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury.

Midland police officers and emergency personnel responded to an assault at about 12:50 p.m. Dec. 19 in the 400 block of West Interstate 20.

The alleged victim's face had been severely beaten. His eye sockets, jaw and cheek bones were all fractured and his nose was broken, according to court documents. The man was airlifted to a Lubbock hospital for treatment.

A witness told investigators that a man known as "Bevis" punched the alleged victim, knocking him to the ground. "Bevis" then started kicking the man in the face. The witness identified Kenneth Bevis as the assailant, according to the arrest affidavit.

Investigators arrested Bevis at about 3 p.m. Thursday in the 4300 block of North Midland Drive.

The arrest affidavit states that Bevis, who has an extensive criminal history, is homeless. But he was booked into Midland County jail with an address near where he was arrested.

If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in prison.

MPD: Man found with 'brick' of marijuana

From staff reports

Romero

A Midland man was arrested Thursday after a Midland County deputy found a "brick" of marijuana in his vehicle, according to court documents.

Rion L. Romero, 18, is being held on a $10,500 bond for a state jail felony charge of possession of marijuana between 4 ounces and 5 pounds and a class A misdemeanor charge of driving while intoxicated for the second time.

The deputy was on patrol at about 11 a.m. Thursday in the 2200 block of Rankin Highway when he saw a vehicle coming straight at him.

The deputy later conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. The driver, Romero, smelled of alcohol and failed a field sobriety test administered by a DPS trooper at the scene.

The deputy used a police K9 unit and discovered a "green leafy brick" of marijuana, wrapped with a plastic bag, inside the vehicle's hood near the left headlight. The trooper found a bag of marijuana in Romero's pants, according to the arrest affidavit.

A passenger was arrested after he was found with three bags of marijuana. That man was charged with a class B misdemeanor for marijuana possession less than 2 ounces.

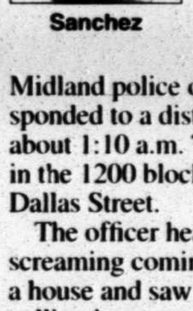
The Reporter-Telegram does not name misdemeanor offenders unless they are public figures.

If convicted, Romero faces up to two years in prison for the felony charge and up to one year for the misdemeanor charge.

MPD: Man arrested for slamming door into police officer

From staff reports

A Midland man was arrested Thursday after he pushed a door into a police officer, according to court documents.


Sanchez

Christopher Michael Sanchez, 23, is being held on a $25,000 bond for a third-degree felony charge of assault on a public servant.

A Midland police officer responded to a disturbance at about 1:10 a.m. Thursday in the 1200 block of South Dallas Street.

The officer heard screaming coming from a house and saw a man yelling into a woman's face. The officer ordered the man to open the door, and the man started yelling at him. Another man, Sanchez, had yelled at the officer and became very aggressive with the officer, according to the arrest affidavit.

The other man resisted when the officer wanted to search for weapons and Sanchez pushed the front door into the officer two times before the officer detained both men.

The other man faces a class A misdemeanor charge for resisting arrest, search or transport.

The Reporter-Telegram does not name misdemeanor offenders unless they are public figures.

If convicted, Sanchez faces up to 10 years in prison for the felony charge.

Ring found at treatment plant returned to owner

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION — An Aggie ring that spent a couple of years being cycled through a wastewater treatment plant has been returned to its owner thanks to a sharp-eyed plant employee.

Megan Marie Hubbard's ring fell into a toilet two weeks before her 2011 graduation from Texas A&M. Her efforts to retrieve it were washed away by the toilet's automatic flush.

The Eagle newspaper reported the ring reappeared earlier this month when Ron Waters, a plant technician for College Station, saw it shine against a debris slab he was washing down.

He used Texas A&M records to contact Hubbard, asking if she'd lost something prior to graduating. After a pause, she exclaimed, "You found my ring!"

MFD: Dog injured in trailer fire

From staff reports

A dog was injured Friday afternoon in a travel trailer fire, according to the Midland Fire Department.

MFD Battalion Chief Drew Peters said officials responded to the blaze at about 1 p.m. Friday in the 6300 block of East County Road 62.

The trailer was a complete loss, but firefighters rescued a dog that was inside the trailer and transported it to an animal hospital in the area, Peters said.

The extent of the dog's injuries is unknown.

Peters said no person was injured or displaced because of the fire.

The fire's cause has not been released in the ongoing investigation.

FELONY ARRESTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Kenneth D. Bevis, 32, of Midland, was charged Thursday with aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury.

Clifton Dickerson, 25, of Midland, was charged Thursday with possession of marijuana between 4 ounces and 5 pounds in a drug-free zone.

Daniel R. Jasso, 28, of Midland, was charged Thursday with driving while intoxicated three or more times.

Rion L. Romero, 18, of Midland, was charged Thursday with possession of marijuana between 4 ounces and 5 pounds.

Christopher M. Sanchez, 23, of Midland, was charged Thursday with assault on a public servant.

Deavon J. Schlueter, 23, of Midland, was charged Thursday with burglary of a habitation.

Tredon B. Smith, 18, of Midland, was charged Thursday with hindering the apprehension and prosecution of a known felon.

Joshua B. Vasquez, 19, of Midland, was charged Thursday with sexual assault of a child.

Davionta D. Wilson, 17, of Midland, was charged Thursday with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Wesley R. Allison, 25, of Midland, was charged Wednesday with unauthorized use of a vehicle.

Joel Fuentez, 24, of Odessa, was charged Wednesday with evading arrest and detention with a vehicle.

Fabian Nava, 32, of Midland, was charged Wednesday with possession of a controlled substance between 1 and 4 grams.

Source: Midland County Sheriff's Office

Read Terry Williamson, real life columnist Sundays in the Reporter-Telegram

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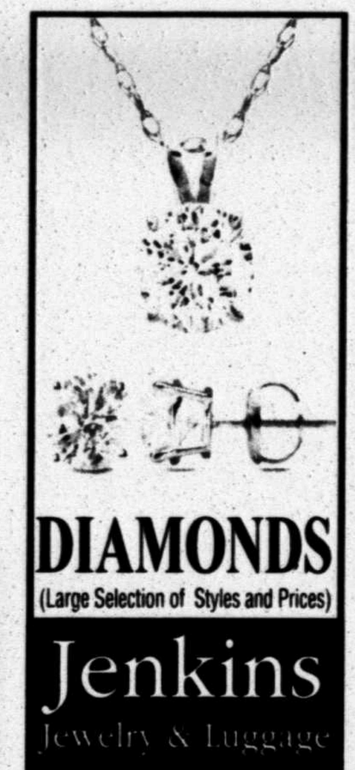

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

■ Children's storytime, 10:30 a.m., Barnes & Noble Booksellers. 682-8880.

■ Celtic Heritage Society of the Permian Basin concert at Ector Theater, Odessa.

■ High School basketball, Byron Johnston Holiday Classic at Chap Center.

Coming Sunday and Monday

Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

Support group, club meetings

■ Slyker's Professional Toastmasters Club, 10 a.m. Saturday, Texas Tech University Health Science Building, Room 1C12 (west side), 800 W. Fourth St., Odessa; 522-2716, marken1986-slykers1@yahoo.com, http://slykersprofessionaltoastmastersclub.blogspot.com.

When it's open today

Midland County Public Library
■ Downtown branch
301 W. Missouri Ave.
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Return bins available 24 hours a day
688-4320
■ Centennial branch
2503 W Loop 250 N
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Return bins available 24 hours a day
742-7400

U.S. Postal Service
Graves, 3304 W Wadley Ave.
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Recycling container locations

Large 30-cubic yard open top containers:
■ Midland Citizens Collection Station — 4100 Smith Road, 685-7278 — has recycling containers for cardboard, aluminum, paper and No. 1 and No. 2 plastics.
■ Grande Communication Stadium — Cardboard, paper No. 1 and 2 plastics
■ Wal-Mart Supercenter — 200 West Interstate 20 — Cardboard, paper and No. 1 and 2 plastics
■ Midland College (Chaparral Center) — 3200 N. Garfield Road — Cardboard, paper, aluminum and No. 1 and 2 plastics
■ Citibank Ballpark west side — 5514 Champions Drive — Cardboard, No. 1 and 2 plastics
■ H-E-B — 3325 W. Wadley Ave. — No. 1 and 2 plastics and cardboard
■ Super Mercado — 2208 N. Big Spring St. — Cardboard
There are also 3-cubic yard containers at most of the local elementary schools where you can recycle cardboard, paper and aluminum.
All recyclables can be taken to Butts Recycling Monday through Saturday. Butts Recycling is located at 26 West Industrial Loop.
For more information call Keep Midland Beautiful at 687-7400 or visit KMB's website at keepmidlandbeautiful.org.

Christmas tree disposal

The city of Midland has two drop-off areas designated for Christmas tree disposal.
Residents are encouraged to take their trees to the following areas:
■ Citizen Collection Station, 4100 Smith Road (north of ClayDesta post office off Veterans Airpark Lane)
■ Hogan Park - Field No. 7, 1201 E. Wadley Ave. (behind the Armory; enter off Lamesa Road) -- trees can be dropped off through Monday.
Parks and sanitation crews will pick up the trees from the Hogan Park location and haul them to the city landfill for mulching.
Disposal of trees in other areas is considered illegal dumping.

Gas prices in Midland

Cheapest gas: $2.89 (Murphy USA, Midland Drive/Briarwood Avenue)
Most expensive: $3.34 (Town and Country, Andrews Highway/Boeing Drive)
Most common prices: $2.99, $3.09
Cheapest prices in West Texas: Lubbock $2.65, Midland $2.89, Abilene $2.95, Odessa $2.95, San Angelo $2.95

	Mid-Odessa	Texas
Friday	$3.057	$3.100
Last week	$2.990	$3.026
Last month	$3.100	$3.136
Last year	$3.166	$3.074

Source: TexasGasPrices.com

What's on the radio

News Talk: KCRS (AM 550); KWEL (AM 1070), FM 107.1)
Sports Talk: KMND (AM 1510)
Contemporary Christian: KFRI (FM 88.7), KLVW (FM 90.5)
NPR: KOCV (FM 91.3)

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 7-3-4
Pick 3 day: 0-8-1
Pick 3 evening: 8-9-8
Pick 3 night: 7-0-0
Daily 4 morning: 6-1-5-6
Daily 4 day: 0-8-9-3
Daily 4 evening: 6-7-0-4
Daily 4 night: 8-6-2-4
Cash Five: 7-10-21-22-37
Mega Millions: 4-15-35-48-49 MB: 11 Megaplier: 5
All or Nothing morning: 3-5-8-12-13-14-15-16-17-19-22-24
All or Nothing day: 3-5-8-12-13-14-15-16-17-19-22-24
All or Nothing evening: 2-3-5-6-7-9-13-15-18-19-20-24
All or Nothing night: 1-2-3-4-6-7-8-14-15-16-17-24

Chris Turney/AP

In this image provided by Australasian Antarctic Expedition, Russian ship MV Akademik Shokalskiy is trapped in thick Antarctic ice 1,500 nautical miles south of Hobart, Australia, on Friday. The research ship, with 74 scientists, tourists and crew on board, has been on a research expedition to Antarctica, when it got stuck Tuesday after a blizzard's whipping winds pushed the sea ice around the ship, freezing it in place.

Rescue of icebound Antarctic ship faces setback

By Kristen Gelineau
Associated Press

SYDNEY — A Chinese icebreaker that was en route to rescue a ship trapped in Antarctic ice was forced to turn back on Saturday after being unable to push its way through the heavy sea ice.

The Snow Dragon icebreaker came within 7 miles (11 kilometers) of the Russian ship MV Akademik Shokalskiy, which has been stuck since Christmas Eve, but had to retreat after the ice became too thick, said expedition spokesman Alvin Stone.

The Akademik Shokalskiy, which has been on a research expedition to Antarctica, got stuck Tuesday after a blizzard's whipping winds pushed the sea ice around the ship, freezing it in place. The ship wasn't in danger of sinking, and there are weeks worth of supplies for the 74 scientists, tourists and crew on board, but the vessel cannot move.

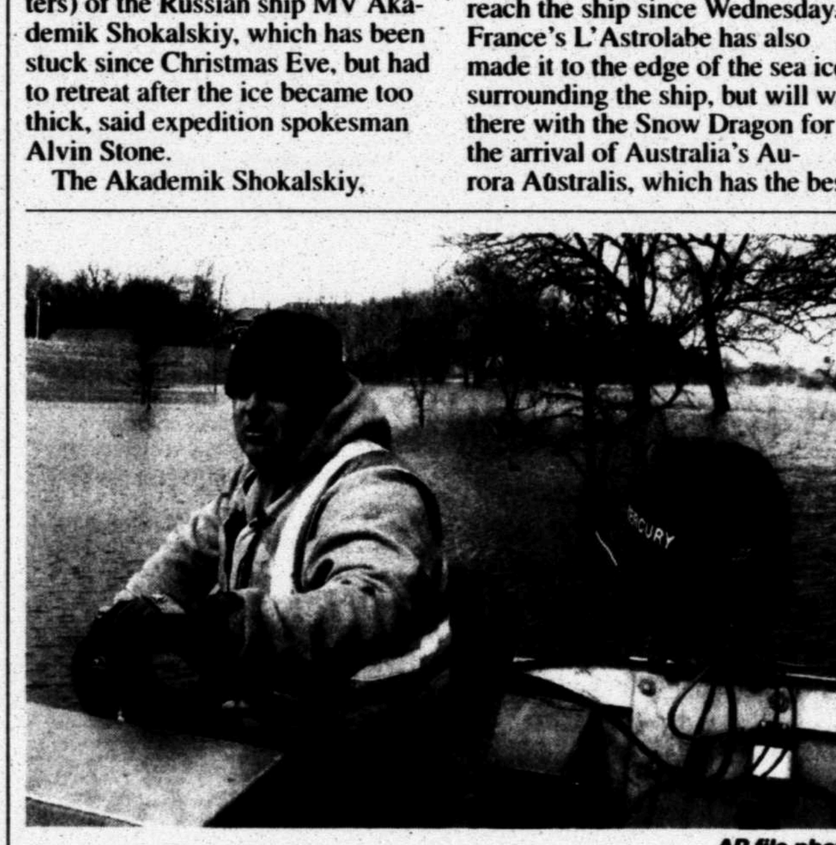
Three icebreakers, including the Snow Dragon, have been trying to reach the ship since Wednesday. France's L'Astrolabe has also made it to the edge of the sea ice surrounding the ship, but will wait there with the Snow Dragon for the arrival of Australia's Aurora Australis, which has the best chance of breaking through the thick ice, Stone said. The Australian vessel is not expected to reach the area until Sunday.

"I think we're probably looking at another 24 hours of twiddling our fingers and waiting for something to happen," Stone said.

The scientific team on board the research ship — which left New Zealand on Nov. 28 — had been recreating Australian explorer Douglas Mawson's century-old voyage to Antarctica when it became trapped. They plan to continue their expedition after they are freed, expedition leader Chris Turney said.

Passengers and crew initially had to contend with blizzard conditions, including winds up to 70 kilometers per hour (40 miles per hour), but the weather has calmed considerably since then, Turney said.

Despite the interruption to the expedition, the scientists have continued their research while stuck, counting birds in the area and drilling through the ice surrounding the ship to photograph sea life. Those on board also managed to celebrate the holiday with a traditional Christmas feast and a "Secret Santa" gift exchange, which helped keep everyone's spirits high, Turney said.



AP file photo

In this April 30 file photo, Mike Andersen of the US Geological Survey maneuvers a boat on the Red River in Fargo, N.D., so a USGA hydrologist can take stream flow measurements. Big money water projects used to be a favorite target of good-government types who railed against political pork. Now the same projects are a rare unifying factor in a dysfunctional Congress.

For divided Congress, water projects are a unifier

By Henry C. Jackson
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Those occasionally infamous multimillion-dollar water projects that have been derided by good-government types over the years as Exhibit A of pork-barrel spending in Congress are making a comeback. The reason: Apparently, this is one of the few areas where members of both party see eye to eye.

Republicans and Democrats who found little common ground in 2013 are rallying around a bill they hope to pass early next year authorizing up to $12.5 billion over the next decade for flood diversion in North Dakota, widening a Texas-Louisiana waterway, deepening Georgia's rapidly growing Port of Savannah and other projects.

That's the Senate bill's total. The House version would cost about $8.2 billion. Negotiators are confident they can merge the two and pass the package for President Barack Obama's signature early in 2014.

Unlike a farm policy-food stamp bill also the subject of ongoing House-Senate negotiations, the differences in the two houses' water project bills are modest and the acrimony is less.

Negotiators say the roughly $4 billion gap between the two bills is more about how they are written than substantive policy or political differences.

"The important thing is that we all care about reform," said Rep. Bill Shuster, R-Pa., chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Shuster's Senate counterpart, Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., has said much the same thing.

The last time Congress enacted a water projects bill was 2007, and it took two-thirds majorities in both houses to override President George W. Bush's veto of it.

Negotiators held their first formal meeting just before Thanksgiving on blending the two versions. Staff talks continued until Congress left for its year-end break and will resume in January.

Lawmakers have been drawn to the big investment in infrastructure sketched out in both bills — and the promise of jobs that entails. Business groups, led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, have lobbied members to support the bills, saying they'll help keep American businesses competitive.

The bills try to address perceptions of years past that water project legislation was loaded with favors inserted by key lawmakers for their home districts and states. This time, both bills eliminate billions of dollars in dormant and duplicative projects. Shuster stressed that this bill contains no such "earmarks."

Those reforms still aren't enough for some conservative groups that pressed lawmakers to oppose the bills, saying they are reform in name only and don't do enough to cut spending.

"Even before the predictable increase in authorizations as this bill goes through the process, this legislation would only shave a few billion dollars off the backlog," Heritage Action and other groups wrote House members.

Tea party sympathizers in the House largely brushed off conservative critics, buying into the idea that this water projects bill represents both reform and needed investment. To wavering Republicans, Schuster cited Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, which directs Congress to establish roads and regulate interstate commerce.

For their part, Democrats breezed past environmental groups concerned about language that speeds up the environmental review process for projects.

The House bill passed 417-3 in late October, winning support of everyone from Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi to tea party stalwarts like Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Kan. The Senate easily passed its version of the bill in May by a vote of 83-14.

Both bills accelerate environmental reviews and allow more money from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to be spent on harbor improvements, but the House version of the bill ramps up spending from the fund more slowly.

The legislation would affect virtually every facet of America's waterways and authorizes or reauthorizes dozens of projects, though Congress still has to pass separate bills appropriating money for them.

Among them:

■ Dredging and widening the Sabine-Neches Waterway, billed as "America's Energy Gateway" because the nearly 80-mile waterway services many oil and natural gas refineries in Texas and Louisiana.

■ $954 million for environmental restoration along the Louisiana coast.

■ Expanding the Port of Savannah. Georgia officials have long lobbied for federal backing to improve one of the country's fastest growing ports; the bills designate up to $461 million for that purpose.

■ Flood diversion for the flood-prone Red River Valley region of North Dakota and parts of Minnesota. The bills authorize spending of about $800 million to relieve flooding in a region that includes the cities of Fargo, N.D., and Moorhead, Minn. The region has suffered major floods in four of the past five years.

■ Up to $43 million to reduce hurricane and storm damage risks along the San Clemente, Calif., shoreline.

The bills would shelve about $12 billion in old, inactive projects that had been approved in water resources bills prior to 2007.

Police file on Newtown school shooting yields chilling portrait

Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Connecticut police released thousands of pages Friday from their investigation into the Newtown massacre, providing the most detailed and disturbing picture yet of the rampage and Adam Lanza's fascination with murder, while also depicting school employees' brave and clearheaded attempts to protect the children.

Among the details: More than a dozen bodies, mostly children, were discovered packed "like sardines" in a bathroom where they had hidden. And the horrors encountered inside the school were so great that when police sent in paramedics, they tried to select ones capable of handling what they were about to witness.

"This will be the worst day of your life," police Sgt. William Cario warned one.

The documents' release marks the end of the investigation into the Dec. 14, 2012, shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary that left 20 first-graders and six educators dead.

Lanza, 20, went to the school after killing his mother, Nancy, inside their home. He committed suicide with a handgun as police arrived at the school.

Last month, prosecutors issued a summary of the investigation that portrayed Lanza as obsessed with mass murders and afflicted with mental problems. But the summary said his motive for the massacre was a mystery and might never be known.

In releasing the huge investigative file Friday, authorities heavily blacked out the paperwork, photos and videos to protect the names of children and withhold some of the more grisly details. But the horror comes through at nearly every turn.

Included were photographs of the Lanza home showing numerous rounds of ammunition, gun magazines, shot-up paper targets, gun cases, shooting earplugs and a gun safe with a rifle in it. The documents also indicated Lanza was interested in mass killings, played violent video games and had books that dealt with death.

A former teacher of Lanza's was quoted as telling investigators that Lanza exhibited anti-social behavior, rarely interacted with other students and wrote obsessively "about battles, destruction and war."

"In all my years of experience, I have known (redacted) grade boys to talk about things like this, but Adam's level of violence was disturbing," the teacher told investigators. The teacher added: "Adam's creative writing was so graphic that it could not be shared."

FLU

From 1A

A network of Texas hospitals tracks the flu's progression each year. This season, infections are spiking weeks earlier than normal, according to statistics compiled by State Health Services. The percentage of hospital visits due to flu symptoms is double what is typical for December, and rates don't usually reach these levels until late January or February.

Three men suffering from other health problems recently died from H1N1 in Harris County, according to Tricia Bentley, a spokeswoman for the county's Institute of Forensic Sciences. Northeast Texas Public Health District also reported three deaths in Longview.

One person has died in Austin, Travis County officials said, while five others were in critical condition at Seton Medical Center Austin. A Euless man in North Texas has also died from the disease, according to his family.

The flu shot currently available defends against H1N1. Health officials said it is not too late to get vaccinated. They note that since the media has begun reporting flu deaths, demand for the shots have spiked.

HUNTERS

From 1A

tives, while important, could not make up for the federal cuts. November cuts to SNAP eliminated $36 of assistance a month for an average family, which Cole said amounted to a reduction in roughly 180 million meals in Texas a year. By comparison, Cole said, the entire Texas Food Bank Network provides about 250 million meals each year.

"We can't expect programs like Hunters for the Hungry to solve the problem," she said.

1.3 million losing unemployment benefits today

By Bradley Klapper
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 1 million Americans are bracing for a harrowing, post-Christmas jolt as extended federal unemployment benefits come to a sudden halt this weekend, with potentially significant implications for the recovering U.S. economy. A tense political battle likely looms when Congress reconvenes in the new, midterm election year.

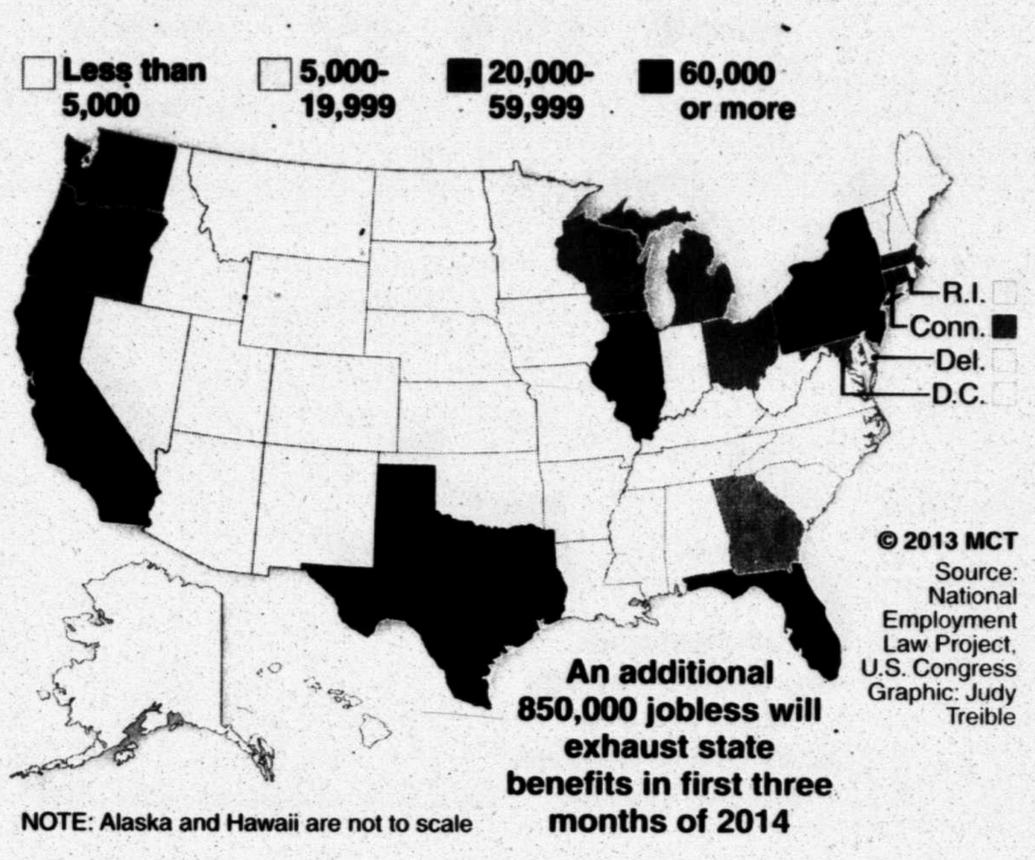
Nudging Congress along, a vacationing President Barack Obama called two senators proposing an extension to offer his support. From Hawaii, Obama pledged Friday to push Congress to move quickly next year to address the "urgent economic priority," the White House said.

For families dependent on cash assistance, the end of the federal government's "emergency unemployment compensation" will mean some difficult belt-tightening as enrollees lose their average monthly stipend of $1,166.

Jobless rates could drop, but analysts say the economy may suffer with less money for consumers to spend on everything from clothes to cars. Having let the "emergency" program expire as part of a budget deal, it's unclear if Congress has the appetite to start it anew.

An estimated 1.3 million people will be cut off when the federally funded unemployment payments end today.

Some 214,000 Californians will lose their payments, a figure expected to rise to more than a half-million by June, the Labor Department said. In the last 12 months, Californians received $4.5 billion in federal jobless benefits.



More than 127,000 New Yorkers also will be cut off this weekend. In New Jersey, 11th among states in population, 90,000 people will immediately lose out.

Started under President George W. Bush, the benefits were designed as a cushion for the millions of U.S. citizens who lost their jobs in a recession and failed to find new ones while receiving state jobless benefits, which in most states expire after six months. Another 1.9 million people across the country are expected to exhaust their state benefits before the end of June.

But Obama has no quick fix. He hailed this month's two-year budget agreement as a breakthrough of bipartisan cooperation while his administration works with Democratic allies in the House and Senate to revive an extension of jobless benefits for those unemployed more than six months.

The Obama administration said those payments have kept 11.4 million people out of poverty and benefited almost 17 million children. The cost of them since 2008 has totaled $225 billion.

At the depth of the recession, laid off workers could qualify for up to 99 weeks of benefits, including the initial 26 weeks provided by states. The most recent extension allowed a total of up to 73 weeks, depending on the state.

Restoring up to 47 extra weeks of benefits through 2014 would cost $19 billion, according to the Congressional Budget office.

House Democrats led by Reps. Sander Levin of Michigan and Chris Van Hollen of Maryland sought to include an extension through March by offsetting the costs with potential farm bill savings. They were rebuffed.

Senate Democrats and some Republicans plan another push in 2014. Sens. Jack Reed, D-R.I., and Dean Heller, R-Nev., have introduced a bill offering a similar three-month extension, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., has promised to bring it up. But as with much in Congress, an extension is no sure thing.

In phone calls on Friday, Obama told Reed and Heller he was glad they were working together to address the problem. "It defies economic sense, precedent and our values," Obama economic adviser Gene Sperling said in a statement.

House Speaker John Boehner spoke with Obama about an extension earlier this month. Boehner said his caucus would consider the possibility "as long as it's paid for and as long as there are other efforts that will help get our economy moving once again." He said White House has yet to introduce a plan that meets his standards.

For other Republicans, the bar is higher. Many of them look at signs of economic growth and an unemployment rate now down to 7 percent and expected to drop further as evidence the additional weeks of benefits are no longer necessary.

The effect of jobless benefits on the unemployment rates has been fiercely debated for decades. To qualify, people have to be seeking work. Tea partiers such as Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky argue that the payments aggravate rather than relieve unemployment.

The benefits allow some jobseekers to hold out for higher wages. Without the benefits, they might accept lower-paying jobs, reducing the unemployment rate. Others may be looking for work only to keep the benefits flowing and will drop out of the job market entirely once the checks stop. In theory, that also would push the unemployment rate lower.

The flip side is that the benefits — in addition to alleviating suffering — get spent on consumer goods, stimulating the economy and creating jobs.

Extended unemployment insurance "is really a lifeline to help pay the bills, put food on the table, and put gas in the tank so people can look for work," argued Maurice Emsellem, policy co-director at the left-leaning National Employment Law Project.

Michael Feroli, an analyst at JPMorgan Chase, said ending the extended benefits will lower the unemployment rate by half a percentage point as the long-term unemployed leave the labor force. While that statistical change may look good on the surface, Feroli cautioned the drop could be accompanied by a similar decrease in consumer spending. That would also hurt clothing retailers, car dealers and other Main Street businesses.

Extending the program, on the other hand, would boost GDP growth by some 0.2 percent and increase full-time employment by 200,000 next year, the Congressional Budget Office estimated, but at the price of increasing the government's debt.

Advocates of extended benefits said communities hardest hit by the recession will feel the sudden loss of cash in circulation the most.

They cite a set of their own troublesome figures: three jobseekers still competing for each opening; some 4 million people in the ranks of long-term unemployed and unemployment lasting on average 37 weeks, two months longer than most states provide insurance.

NATIONBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NORTH CAROLINA

Police: No beer led to ceramic squirrel stabbing

South Carolina authorities say a 44-year-old woman angry at a man for returning home without beer on Christmas beat and stabbed him with a ceramic squirrel.

The Charleston County Sheriff's office said in a report that deputies found a man covered with blood when they arrived at Helen Williams' North Charleston home early Wednesday. She told investigators the man fell and cut himself, but couldn't explain why her hands and clothes were also bloody.

Deputies said the man said Williams was so angry when he returned without beer because stores were closed on Christmas Eve that she grabbed a ceramic squirrel, beat him in the head, then stabbed him in the shoulder and chest.

Williams was in jail Friday and charged with criminal domestic violence.

PENNSYLVANIA

New Year's jam: Strawberry busted in test drop

HARRISBURG — An 80-pound illuminated strawberry that's lowered every New Year's Eve in downtown Harrisburg has ended up in a messy jam.

The berry fell three stories and smashed during a practice run at the Hilton Harrisburg on Friday. Officials said a faulty harness clip is to blame.

LAS VEGAS

Gambler rewards man who returned $300K left in cab

A poker player who left $300,000 in the back seat of a Las Vegas taxi made good on his promise this week, handing over a $10,000 reward to the honest cabbie who returned the stash.

Yellow Checker Star Cab Company CEO Bill Shranko confirmed that Gerardo Gamboa had been paid by the gambler. The company also honored the driver's good deed by naming him employee of the year.

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HENRY
Luke 2:15-16
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Now that you've finished their wish list...
Start on yours!
Corner of Garfield and Wadley
(432) 682-2843

Lack of customers dooms many Cuban businesses

By Andrea Rodriguez and Anne-Marie Garcia
Associated Press

HAVANA — The dented metal pizza trays are packed away, so too the old blender that never worked when it was needed. Gone is the sweet smell of rising dough that infused Julio Cesar Hidalgo's Havana apartment when he and his girlfriend were in business for themselves, churning out cheesy pies for hungry costumers.

Two years on the front lines of Cuba's experiment with limited free market capitalism has left Hidalgo broke, out of work and facing a possible crushing fine. But the 33-year-old known for his wide smile and sunny disposition said the biggest loss is harder to define.

"I feel frustrated and let down," Hidalgo said, slumped in a rocking chair one recent December afternoon, shrugging his shoulders as he described the pizzeria's collapse. "The business didn't turn out as I had hoped."

The Associated Press recently checked in with nine small business owners whose fortunes it first reported on in 2011 as they set up shop amid the excitement of President Raul Castro's surprising embrace of some free enterprise.

Among them were restaurant and cafeteria owners, a seamstress and taekwondo instructor, a vendor of bootleg DVDs and a woman renting her rooms out to well-heeled tourists.

Their fates tell a story of divided fortunes.

Of the six ventures that relied on revenue from cash-strapped islanders, four are now out of business, their owners in more dire financial straits than when they started. But the three enterprises that cater to well-heeled foreigners, and to the minority of well-paid Cubans who work for foreign businesses, are still going and in some cases thriving.

While the sample size is small, the numbers point to a basic problem that economists who follow Cuba have noted from the start: There simply isn't enough money to support a thriving private sector on an island where salaries average $20 a month.

"Clearly, there is a macroeconomic environment that does not favor the private sector or the expansion of demand that the private sector requires," said Pavel Vidal, a former Cuban Central Bank economist.

Vidal has long called on Communist authorities to adopt a huge stimulus package or more aggressively seek capital from foreign investors. Now a professor at Colombia's Javeriana University, he said one has only to look at the trends since 2011 to see the private sector economy is nearly tapped out. After a surge of enthusiasm, the number of islanders working for themselves has stalled for the past two years at about 444,000 — or 9 percent of the workforce.

Even in developed countries where entrepreneurs have access to capital, loans and a wide pool of paying customers, startups are risky ventures. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, about half of all new establishments in America close within five years, and two-thirds are gone within a decade. The failure rate of Cuban entrepreneurs followed by AP was 44 percent in less than two years, and worse if one considers only those that relied primarily on Cuban customers.

"There's not enough money circulating in the economy in the hands of everyday people," said Ted Henken, a professor of Latin American studies at Baruch College in New York and author of an upcoming book on private enterprise in Cuba. "You're all competing for the same customers, most of whom are poor and have very limited disposable income."

Economists have criticized the Cuban government for a series of measures to crack down on what it sees as illegal activities — including banning private movie cinemas, taxing the import of hard-to-get products in travelers' luggage, and banning the sale of imported clothing. But on Saturday, Castro came down firmly in favor of increased regulation, sternly warning entrepreneurs that "those pressuring us to move faster are moving us toward failure."

Henken and Vidal said Cuba must find a way to raise state salaries, expand state-funded microcredits and create a functional wholesale market to service the new businesses. They also noted that for a relatively well-educated society like Cuba's, there are remarkably few white collar jobs on the list of nearly 200 activities that have been legalized.

Still, not every entrepreneur is struggling.

High-end bars and glamorous new restaurants have become common in Havana, with shiny state tour buses disgorging photo-snapping travelers to sample lobster tail and filet mignon at upward of $20 a plate. Private rooms and homes that rent to foreigners can go for $25-$100 a night, less than most tourist hotels. Cubans with the means, and the business sense, to tap into the gravy train can do very well.

Chef-owner Javier Acosta sank more than $30,000 into Parthenon, a private restaurant catering to tourists and diplomats. He struggled at first, telling the AP back in 2011 that there were nights when nobody came in and he and his four waiters just sat around.

But the restaurant slowly gained a reputation, in part because Acosta makes a potent Cuban mojito and offers a special suckling pig that can feed up to five people for $50.

These days, Acosta is expanding. He recently added tables in a new room decked out with mosaic tiles and faux Greek pillars, and plans to build a roof deck. He even has started advertising, paying $300 a year to have his establishment included in a tourist magazine.

"I haven't yet managed to recover my initial investment and the other money we've put into the place," the 40-year-old said. "But in two or three more years maybe I can."

Even more humble operations can do well, as long as they have some access to foreign money. One woman who rents an apartment to foreigners for $25 a night in the upscale Vedado neighborhood said her business provides a stable income that supports her and allows her to help her son and granddaughter.

Two women who sell $1.25 box lunches to Cubans and foreigners in a building in Old Havana with many international firms and consular offices have managed to stay afloat despite a sharp drop in customers following the departure of several companies, and what they say has been a steady rise in prices of key ingredients like black beans, rice, cooking oil and pork.

"This has become difficult," said Odalis Lozano, 48. "But we're still here, because we can always make some money."

For those without access to that foreign cash line, the results have been grim. Besides, the failed pizzeria, a DVD salesman, seamstress and street-side cafe owner who allowed the AP to tell their stories shut down after less than a year in business, citing high monthly taxes, a lack of customers and limited resources and business sense.

The only two operations that rely on everyday Cubans for revenue that remain in business are gymnasiums. One is run by Maria Regla Zaldivar, who in 2011 was giving taekwondo classes to children in Nuevo Vedado and dreamed of converting a ruined dry cleaning factory into a proper gymnasium. The factory remains a crumbling shell, but Zaldivar said her business continues. She declined to grant a formal interview, but said in a brief phone call that she had rented a small space near her apartment and continued to give classes.

The other success story belongs to Neysi Hernandez, the mother of Julio Cesar Hidalgo's girlfriend. Hernandez opened a simple gymnasium for women in the courtyard and garage of her home in Havana's La Lisa neighborhood, charging the equivalent of $5 a month for membership.. Two years later, she has 25 paying clients and ekes out a small profit.

Hernandez said her customers are loyal, despite the fact the gymnasium lacks basic amenities like a shower room, lockers and towels. Unable to afford imported equipment, Hernandez uses sand-filled plastic water bottles for weights. Her three exercise bicycles and mechanical treadmill are creaky and aging.

"My gymnasium is modest, but they like it," Hernandez said, adding she has dreams of one day installing a small massage room and sauna. "A little bit at a time."

For the pizza man Hidalgo, however, the experience with private enterprise has been a bitter one. He said he lost between $800 and $1,000 on the pizzeria. He is appealing a $520 fine levied by tax authorities who accuse him of understating his profits, even though the business failed.

He has had bouts with illness, and has been unemployed since the pizzeria closed in April.

Hidalgo said he has not given up on the idea of opening a new business one day. But he is also setting his sights beyond Cuba's shores.

"What I wanted was to work and make money so that I could live a normal life, have money to buy myself shoes, eat, and go out with my girlfriend," Hidalgo said, punctuating each modest desire with a flip of his hand and a rueful smile. "I hope that kind of work materializes in my country, but if the opportunity presents itself to work somewhere else, I won't turn it down."

Recently, Hidalgo's girlfriend, Gisselle de la Noval, 25, took out a license to operate a nail salon in the space once occupied by the pizzeria. The salon has been open a matter of weeks and it is too soon to know if it will do well. But she said she is content, charging about 40 cents for a manicure and slightly more for a pedicure.

"I don't miss the pizzeria, but I am sad it wasn't a success," she said with a shrug. "But I am young, so whatever. Now I'm dedicated to this."

ENERGYBRIEFS

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

HOUSTON

US rig count down 11 this week to 1,757

The number of rigs exploring for oil and natural gas in the U.S. decreased 11 this week to 1,757, according to a report released Friday by Houston-based oilfield services company Baker Hughes.

There were 1,382 rigs listed as searching for oil, down 13; 374 as searching for natural gas, up two; and one as miscellaneous, unchanged. A year ago this week there were 1,327 rigs searching for oil and 431 searching for natural gas.

By trajectory, there were 387 vertical drilling rigs, down 18; 1,146 horizontal drilling rigs, up six; and 224 directional drilling rigs, up one.

There were 1,763 rigs in the U.S. at this time last year.

The number of rigs exploring for oil and natural gas in Texas dropped 10 this week to 835. A year ago this week there were 822 rigs in Texas.

The Permian Basin shed seven rigs for a total of 469, and the Eagle Ford lost one to end the week at 228. The Granite Wash had 53 rigs, down one, and the Barnett had 33 rigs, unchanged.

Rounding out the top five states by rig count were Texas; North Dakota with 173, unchanged; Oklahoma with 172, down two; Louisiana with 112, up one; and New Mexico with 78, unchanged.

Among the other major oil- and gas-producing states, Alaska added two rigs and Pennsylvania added one. West Virginia lost four rigs. Arkansas, California, Colorado, Kansas, Ohio, Utah and Wyoming were unchanged.

In the U.S. there were 1,676 rigs listed as one land, down 11; 20 as in inland waters, unchanged; and 61 as offshore, unchanged. There were 59 rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, unchanged.

The number of rigs exploring for oil and natural gas in Canada dropped 135 this week to 263. There were 131 rigs listed as searching for oil, down 96; 132 as s searching for gas, down 39; and zero as miscellaneous, unchanged. A year ago this week there were 204 rigs in Canada.

The total number of rigs in North America — which includes the U.S. and Canada — decreased 146 this week to 2,020. There were 1,967 rigs in North America at this time last year.

For more information about the weekly rig count, visit the Baker Hughes website at bakerhughes.com.

NEW YORK

Oil closes above $100 a barrel

Oil prices closed above $100 a barrel Friday, the first time it crossed that threshold since October.

Benchmark U.S. oil for February delivery rose 77 cents to close at $100.32 in trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The price of oil got a boost from a drop in applications for unemployment benefits, the latest sign of recovery in the U.S. job market, and expectations of a decline in U.S. crude stockpiles. Optimism about the U.S. economic recovery lifted expectations for the country's energy demand.

The last time oil traded above $100 a barrel was Oct. 21. The last day it closed above $100 a barrel was Oct. 18. During the abridged holiday trading week, oil gained $1.

A report from the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration released Friday showed that U.S. crude stockpiles fell 4.7 million barrels last week to 367.6 million barrels. The supply fell in the last week from 23.4 days' worth of oil to 22.8 days.

At the gas pump, the average price of a gallon of gasoline is $3.28. That's up 6 cents from a week ago, and up 2 cents from this time last year.

Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, rose 20 cents to $112.18 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London.

In other energy futures trading on the Nymex:

Wholesale gasoline was down 0.4 cents to $2.82 a gallon.

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Car bombing kills pro-Western Lebanese politician

By Ryan Lucas and Bassem Mroue
Associated Press

Hussein Malla/AP

A Lebanese Army soldier stands next to a destroyed car at the scene of an explosion in central Beirut on Friday. The state news agency said a bombing in central Beirut has killed several people, including Mohammed Chatah, a senior aide to former Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri.

BEIRUT — A powerful car bomb killed a prominent Lebanese politician critical of Syria and its ally Hezbollah, hitting his SUV Friday as it drove through a ritzy business district near Beirut's waterfront, shredding trees and scattering glass and twisted scraps of metal across the pavement.

Allies of the slain politician, former finance minister Mohammed Chatah, indirectly blamed the Shiite Hezbollah group for the bombing, raising tensions between Lebanon's two main political camps at a time when the country's factions are already deeply at odds over the civil war in neighboring Syria.

The morning explosion echoed across Beirut and threw a pillar of black smoke above the city's skyline. The force of the blast punched a nearly 2-meter wide crater in the street, set at least three cars on fire and shattered windows in office buildings and apartment towers up to a block away.

The 62-year-old Chatah, who was also a former Lebanese ambassador to the United States and a senior aide to ex-Prime Minister Saad Hariri, was killed along with his driver and four others, the National News Agency reported. The Health Ministry said at least 70 people were wounded.

In a statement, the 15 members of the U.N. Security Council strongly condemned the attack and "reiterated their unequivocal condemnation of any attempt to destabilize Lebanon through political assassinations."

The bombing deepened the sense of malaise in Lebanon, which is struggling to cope with the fallout from the civil war in Syria, including the influx of more than 1 million Syrians who have sought refuge from the violence in their homeland.

Lebanon also has had only a weak and ineffectual caretaker government since April, with the two main political blocs unable or unwilling to reach a compromise to form a new Cabinet.

Hariri, a Sunni politician, heads the main, Western-backed coalition in Lebanon, known as the March 14 alliance. Hezbollah, which enjoys the support of Syria and Iran and commands a militia stronger than the national military, leads those on the other side of Lebanon's political divide.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Friday's attack, but the bombing was reminiscent of a string of assassinations of around a dozen members of the anti-Syrian Hariri camp that shook Lebanon between 2004 and 2008.

The most dramatic of those was the massive suicide bombing in 2005 in downtown Beirut — some four blocks from the site of the explosion — that killed Hariri's father, Rafik, also a former prime minister. Hariri's allies accused Syria of being behind the killings, a claim Damascus denied.

The opening session in the Hariri assassination trial is due to be held in less than three weeks in The Hague, Netherlands, where the U.N.-backed tribunal investigating his killing is based. Five Hezbollah members have been indicted for their alleged involvement in the assassination. Hezbollah rejects the accusations, and has refused to hand the men over.

Saad Hariri said in a statement that "the ones who are running away from international justice and refusing to appear before the international tribunal" were behind Chatah's assassination.

Hariri said those responsible are "the same ones who are opening the doors of evil and chaos into Lebanon" and "brought regional fires to our country," in a clear reference to Hezbollah's armed intervention in support of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Hezbollah strongly denounced Chatah's assassination, saying it serves "the enemies of Lebanon."

The Shiite group's overt role in Syria has inflamed Lebanon's already simmering sectarian tensions. A wave of violence that has washed across the country this year has fueled predictions that Lebanon, which is still recovering from its own 15-year civil war that ended in 1990, is on the brink of slipping back into full-blown sectarian conflict.

In recent months, a series of explosions have struck districts dominated by Hezbollah, apparently in retaliation for the group's decision to dispatch its fighters to Syria, while a deadly twin car bombing hit the northern city of Tripoli, a Sunni stronghold. There have also been repeated clashes between Sunnis — who largely back Syria's rebels — and Shiites and Alawites who back Assad.

The last major assassination in Lebanon took place Oct. 19, 2012, when a car bomb killed Lebanon's top intelligence chief, Wissam al-Hassan. Al-Hassan, a member of Hariri's security circle, was a powerful opponent of Syria's influence in Lebanon and many here blamed his killing on Syria.

Friday's bombing punctured the early morning lull along a quiet street in a posh neighborhood in downtown Beirut that is home to five-star hotels, luxury high-rises and high-end boutiques.

"We were having breakfast when the explosion went off, shattering the glass and shaking everyone," said Iman Mohammed, a 36-year-old Egyptian visiting Beirut who was staying at the Ramada Hotel less than 100 meters (yards) from the blast site. "People started running, children were barefoot and some people fled their room in their pajamas."

The army quickly cordoned off the area to prevent people from getting close to the scene, where the twisted wreckage of several cars was still smoldering. Hours later, forensic experts in white hazmat suits were still scouring the site while workers at the neighboring office blocs were sweeping glass into the street from windows several stories up.

Security officials said the car that blew up was rigged with up to 130 pounds of explosives, and parked along Chatah's route. The blast struck the former minister's SUV as he was driving to a meeting at Hariri's downtown residence, the officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

Prosecutor General Samir Hammoud said a preliminary investigation indicated the explosives were packed into a stolen Honda CRV and detonated by remote control. He said investigators will now focus on analyzing footage from security cameras in the area.

Chatah's death marks a serious loss for the pro-Western camp in Lebanon.

The 62-year-old was a prominent economist who once worked at the International Monetary Fund in the U.S. and later served as Lebanese ambassador to the U.S. He was one of the closest aides of Rafik Hariri. He later served as finance minister when Saad took over the premiership, and stayed on as his senior adviser after he lost the post in early 2011.

Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati denounced the assassination, "which targeted a political and moderate figure who believed in dialogue, the language of reason and logic and the right to different opinions."

In Washington, Secretary of State John Kerry also condemned Friday's bombing, calling it an "abhorrent terrorist attack" and describing Chatah as "a voice of reason, responsibility and moderation."

Hariri's 2005 assassination sparked massive demonstrations that eventually led to the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon, following nearly three decades of military presence and domination of its smaller neighbor.

Chatah was a moderate Sunni politician who opposed Hezbollah and Assad.

His last tweet, posted an hour before the explosion, read: "Hezbollah is pressing hard to be granted similar powers in security & foreign policy matters that Syria exercised in Lebanon for 15 yrs."

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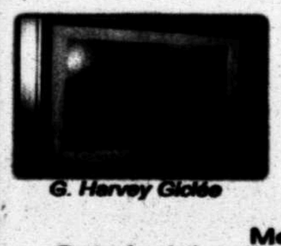

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Opponents to fight new US military base on Okinawa

By Ken Moritsugu
Associated Press

Photo credit

Hundreds of protesters stage a rally opposing the approval on the U.S. base relocation by Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima, at the lobby of Okinawa prefecture's government building in Naha on Friday. The governor of Okinawa signed off Friday on the long-awaited relocation of a U.S. military base.

TOKYO — Threatening lawsuits and protests, opponents are gearing up to fight a decision by Okinawa's governor that could pave the way for a new U.S. military base on the southern Japanese island.

U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel welcomed Friday's decision, calling it "the most significant milestone" so far in a long-running battle to realign U.S. forces in Okinawa.

The new base is designed to reduce the impact of the heavy U.S. military presence in Okinawa by replacing another base in a more congested area, but opponents want the operations moved off Okinawa completely.

"What the governor has done is unforgivable," Yuichi Higa, the head of the assembly in Nago city, said in a phone interview. Nago would house the new base.

"Residents who are opposed will surely resort to the use of force, such as blocking roads, to stop this from happening," Higa said.

Hiroshi Ashitomi, head of a Nago group opposing the base, said his organization would file a lawsuit challenging the governor's decision.

Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima on Friday approved the Japanese Defense Ministry's application to reclaim land for the proposed American base on Okinawa's coast. It would replace the U.S. Marine Corps Futenma base in Ginowan city.

But he later told a news conference that he would continue pressing to move the Futenma troops off Okinawa entirely, noting estimates that it would take 9 1/2 years to build the base.

"My thinking remains it would be fastest to relocate outside (Okinawa) prefecture to a place where there is already an airport," he said.

The new base is part of a U.S.-Japan agreement that would also move 9,000 Marines off Okinawa, including transferring 5,000 to Guam.

Hagel said the effort to realign American troops in Okinawa was "absolutely critical to the United States' ongoing rebalance" to the Asia-Pacific region.

"Moving forward with this plan will reduce our footprint in the most populated part of Okinawa ... while sustaining U.S. military capabilities vital to the peace and security of the region," the defense secretary said in a statement.

The debate over the future of Futenma dates to 1996, when the U.S and Japan signed an agreement to close the base and move its operations elsewhere in Okinawa. In 2006, the two countries agreed to relocate the base to a relatively unpopulated area called Henoko in Nago city. But after the Democratic Party of Japan took power in 2009, it raised the possibility that the base could be moved off of Okinawa. While it later agreed to the Henoko plan, the proposal energized a movement to move the base elsewhere.

About half of the 50,000 American troops in Japan are based in Okinawa, and many residents complain about base-related crime, noise and the risk of accidents. Some feel the island is bearing an unfair share of the burden of protecting Japan from attack.

A key factor could be the outcome of a mayoral election in Nago next month that pits an opponent of the Henoko plan against a supporter.

"The governor is taking a risk putting the prestige of his office behind the project," said Jun Okumura, a political analyst and former national government official. "I still don't see the project going forward without the consent of the Nago mayor, but I see that this improves the chances of success."

The rise of China's military is reinforcing in the minds of some Japanese the need to have a strong defense, though it's unclear whether it's enough to sway public opinion in Okinawa.

"The government of Japan is poised to take whatever measures are necessary to maintain a strong deterrent while reducing the burden on the people of Okinawa," said the government's top spokesman, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga.

Suga expressed his gratitude to Nakaima for what he called a "bold step."

The politically difficult decision came only after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with Nakaima in Tokyo on Wednesday and offered him a package that included pledges of increased financial assistance for Okinawa.

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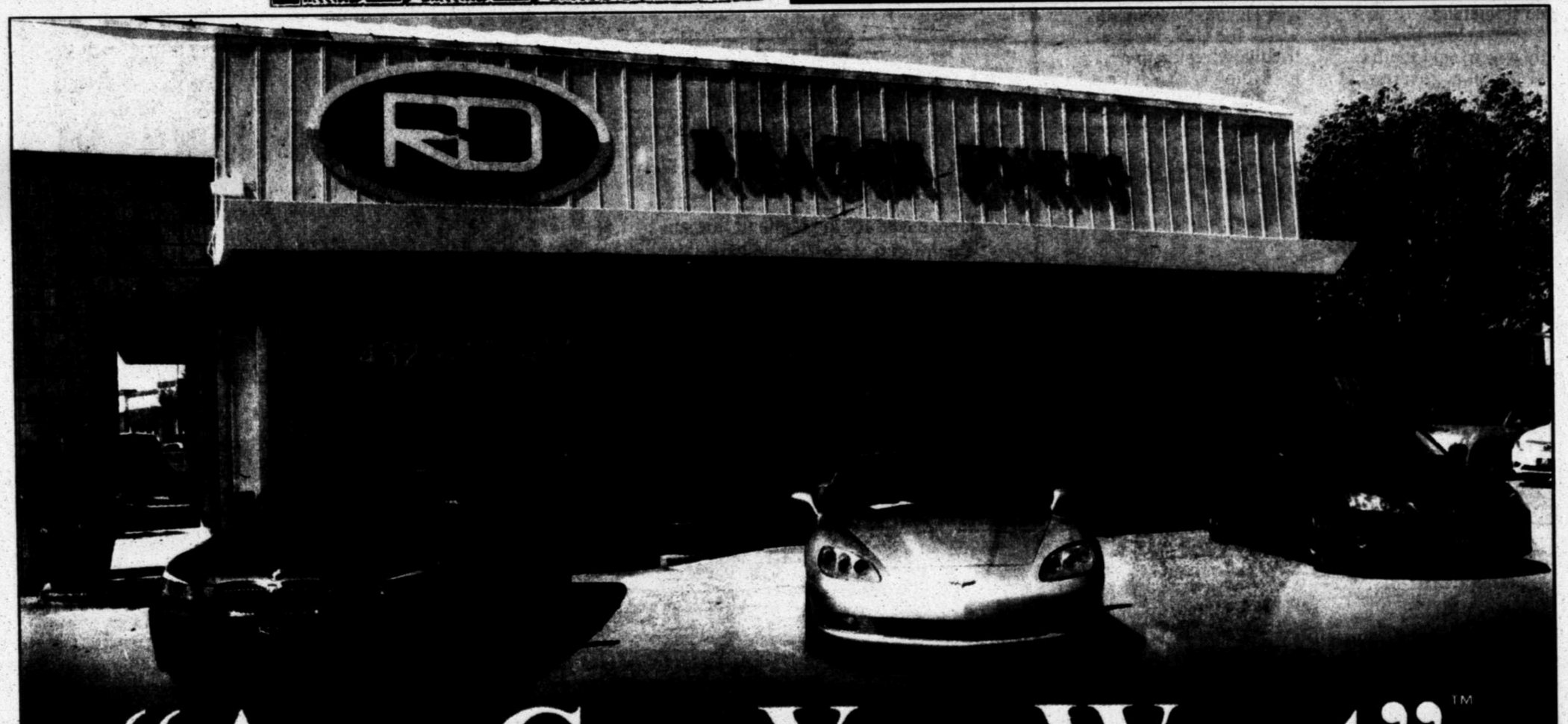

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Rangers introduce outfielder Shin-Soo Choo

Tim Sharp/AP

Shin-Soo Choo, of South Korea, answers questions during a news conference announcing his signing to the Texas Rangers, on Friday in Arlington. Choo was signed to a $130 million, seven-year contract.

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Shin-Soo Choo will be the leadoff hitter for the Texas Rangers in an offense they feel they have successfully remade this offseason.

Choo was formally introduced Friday, nearly a week after agreeing to a $130 million, seven-year deal.

"It was a perfect fit," general manager Jon Daniels said. "His skill set, his personality, his personal goals and desires really lineup up perfectly with ours and what our club needed. ... He's really been one of the most productive offensive players in the game for a period of time now."

The 31-year-old South Korean outfielder has a .288 career average and .389 on-base percentage in 853 major league games for Seattle (2005-06), Cleveland (2006-12) and Cincinnati (2013).

Choo has at least 20 homers and 20 stolen bases three times, including last season when he started 150 games in center field and was the primary leadoff hitter for the Reds in his only year there.

With numerous teams interested during free agency, Choo said he was looking for a winning team and somewhere his wife and three young children would be comfortable.

"The Texas Rangers were the best fit for me," Choo said. "It was very easy to pick."

Agent Scott Boras called it a "tremendous baseball fit" for both sides.

Texas last month acquired five-time All-Star first baseman Prince Fielder from Detroit in a trade for second baseman Ian Kinsler.

Only Mike Trout (564) and Miguel Cabrera (562) have reached base more than last two seasons than Choo (556) and Fielder (542).

"We talked early on about our desire to remake our offense, both in personnel, but also equally importantly in style," Daniels said. "We feel very good about what we've been able to accomplish to this point."

Texas missed the playoffs for the first time in four years and scored only 730 runs, its fewest in a non-strike season since 1992.

Choo was presented jersey No. 17, which had been worn by free-agent slugger Nelson Cruz, the 2011 AL championship series MVP who hit 27 home runs with 76 RBI in 109 games for Texas last season. Cruz was suspended 50 games after Major League Baseball's investigation into a Florida clinic accused of distributing banned performance-enhancing

Please see **RANGERS**/4B

Good matchups ahead

Lee to play for BJHC title

■ Midland High will play for fifth place

By Jonathan Hull
jhull@mrt.com

When Chris Packer was playing at Lee in the late 1990s, he remembers a run of talented Midland High teams that consistently played in the championship game of the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic.

Some of those Bulldogs squads featured current Midland High coach Charles Tatum. But today it will be Tatum watching Packer and the Rebels playing for the championship.

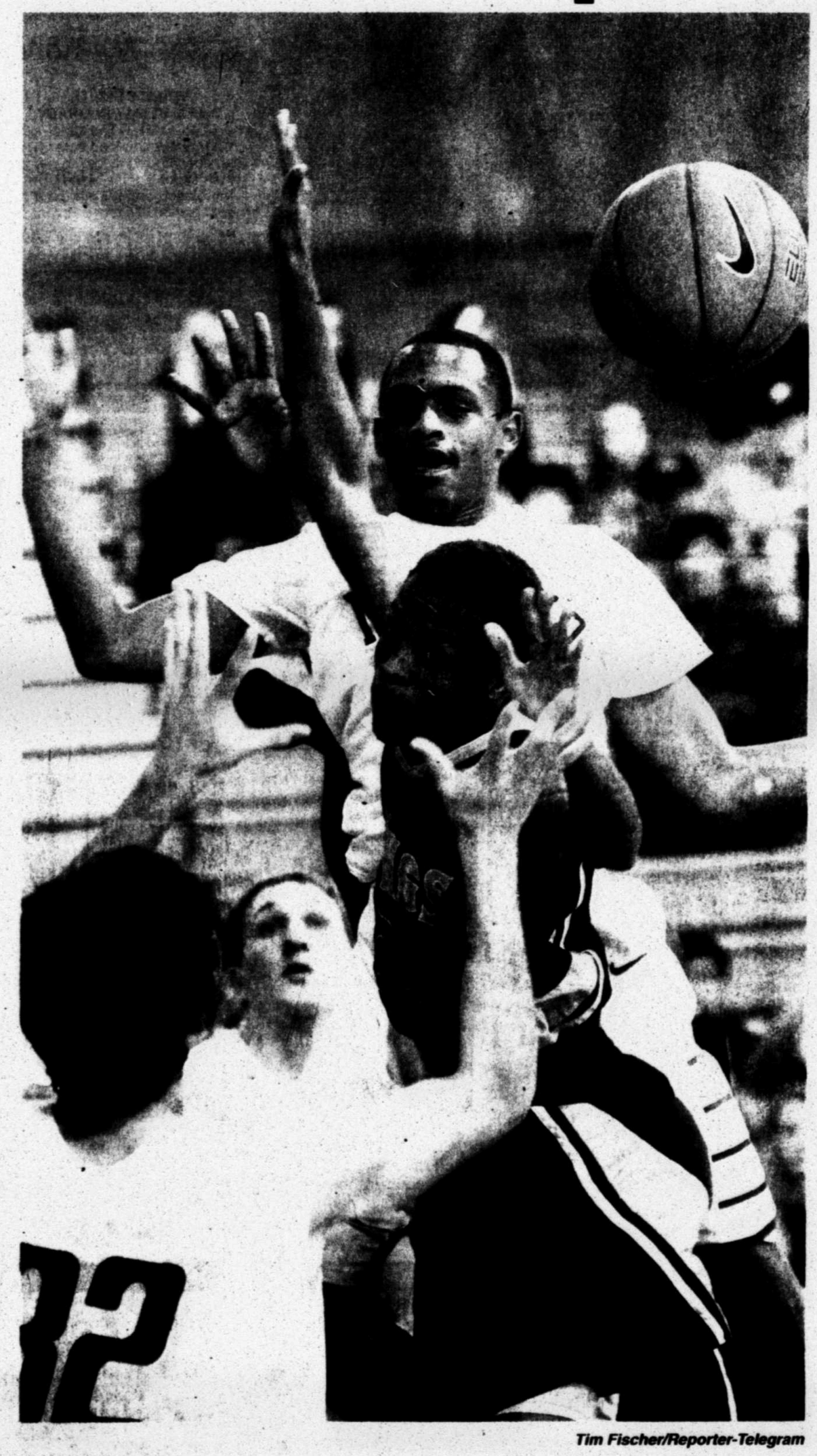
Lee (6-5) finished pool play with a perfect 3-0 record, including a pair of victories Friday against Bushland (49-31) and last year's BJHC champion Alief Hastings (49-43). As a result, the Rebels won Pool B and move on to face Pool A winner Crowley, which also went 3-0, including a 65-47 victory against Midland High on Friday night. Lee will take on the Eagles at 4:30 p.m. today at Chaparral Center.

"It's a big opportunity for us," said Packer, who is in his first year as coach at his alma mater. "I'm looking forward to seeing us play with something on the line. We've had two tournaments canceled due to weather this year, so this is all new for us."

During his playing days, Packer never got the opportunity to play in a BJHC title game, and is relishing the opportunity to coach in one today. Although, he's looking forward to the experience for his player more so than himself.

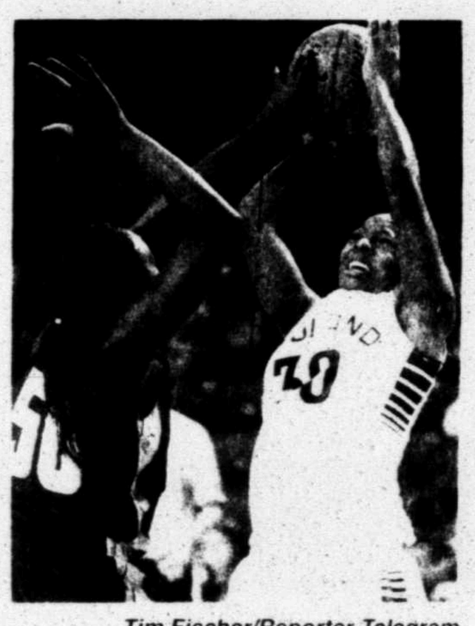
"Midland High had some

Please see **BJHC**/3B



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Lee's Anthony McCoy passes around Alief Hastings' Darvine Thomas to Jonathan Maldonado on Friday during the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic at Lee High School.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Desare' Allen goes up for a shot as Odessa Permian's Akwal Maywin defends Friday evening at the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic at Chaparral Center

Lee-MHS to meet for 3rd place at BJHC

By Jonathan Hull
jhull@mrt.com

The Byron Johnston Holiday Classic is going to get its "money game" after all, at least on the girls side of the bracket anyway.

In the past, Midland High and Lee were pitted against one another on the first day of the Byron Johnston in an attempt to get a large attendance and a better payday for the tournament. That game wasn't scheduled this year, but the Lady Bulldogs and Lady Rebels are prepared to square off anyway.

Lee and Midland High finished second in their respective pools Friday, pitting the crosstown rivals against each other in the BJHC third-place game at noon today at Chaparral Center.

The two head coaches have very different feelings about the matchup.

"This would be the main reason not to get into this tournament," Lee coach Monica Ramirez said. "Ideally you try not to get in a tournament where you're playing a district opponent. But it offers the girls an opportunity to get a win. It's they're choice, though. I've got kids who can do what needs to be done. It's just a matter of them actu-

Please see **THIRD**/3B

Houston area coaches see positives in bringing teams to Midland

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Alief Hastings coach Darrell Collins talks with his players during a timeout Friday in a matchup against Lee in the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic at Lee High School.

By Len Hayward
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The paths that Alief Hastings boys basketball coach Darrell Collins and Baytown Lee girls basketball coach Terry Gray took to Midland were different, but the idea was the same — return to a place that holds great memories for the two coaches.

The two coaches brought their Houston-area teams for the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic again this season hoping to give their players a chance to play some new teams in a different part of the state.

And in Collins' case it was a chance to see his family as he's a native of Andrews, while Gray was returning to a place he once coached.

"If I don't come back, I might get disowned," Collins joked before a game on Friday at Midland High. "It's just a good experience for our kids, and there's the team bonding and seeing different aspects of basketball. I just think it's good for the kids."

The University Interscholastic League did not allow teams to travel on Christmas Day (Wednesday) so Collins said his team met at Hastings High School in Alief, which is Southwest of Houston, at 5 a.m. and made the trip for their first game at 6 p.m. at Midland High.

Collins said his squad is used to getting up early as school starts at 7:20 a.m. so that wasn't an issue, even though the Bears lost, 55-53, to Bushland in the tournament's opening game.

"(The basketball) is a little bit different, but at the same time as a basketball player and a person you've got to be able to adapt," Collins said.

Collins said the team did some fundraisers to help with the cost of travel for the tournament, but he said he also gets some help from his former coach at Andrews, Frank Bice, along with some other donations to make the trip. Even without that, though, Collins said he would do what he can to keep coming back just

Please see **HOUSTON**/3B

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

WHAT'S ON TV

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Pinstripe Bowl, Rutgers vs. Notre Dame, 11 a.m., ESPN

Belk Bowl, Cincinnati vs. North Carolina, 2:20 p.m., ESPN

Russell Athletic Bowl, Miami vs. Louisville, 5:45 p.m., ESPN

Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl, Michigan vs. Kansas St., 9:15 p.m., ESPN

AHL

San Antonio at Texas, 7 p.m., Fox Sports Southwest Plus

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Nebraska at Cincinnati, 11 a.m., ESPN2

FIU at Georgetown, 11 a.m., Fox Sports 1

Villanova at Syracuse, 1 p.m., CBS

E. Michigan at Duke, 1 p.m., ESPN2

Samford at Marquette, 1 p.m., Fox Sports Southwest

St. John's vs. Columbia, 1:30 p.m., Fox Sports 1

Louisville at Kentucky, 3 p.m., CBS

Wake Forest at Xavier, 4 p.m., Fox Sports 1

Old Dominion at Richmond, 5:30 p.m., NBC Sports Network

Missouri at NC State, 7 p.m., ESPN2

Alabama at UCLA, 9 p.m., ESPN2

NBA

Dallas at Chicago, 7 p.m., Fox Sports Southwest

SOCCER

Premier League, West Bromwich at West Ham, 6:40 a.m., NBC Sports Network

Premier League, Manchester United at Norwich, 8:55 a.m., NBC Sports Network

Premier League, Sunderland at Cardiff City, 11:30 a.m., NBC

WINTER SPORTS

Olympic trials, speed skating, 2 p.m., NBC

Olympic trials, women's hockey, United States vs. Canada, 3 p.m., NBC Sports Network

WHAT'S ON DECK

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Byron Johnston Holiday Classic

Greenwood, Midland Christian at Caprock Tournament

Trinity at Cotton Classic, Grady

Garden City, Stanton at Sands Tournament

Big Spring at Bridgeport Tournament

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Byron Johnston Holiday Classic

Greenwood, Midland Christian, Big Spring at Caprock Tournament

Garden City, Stanton at Sands Tournament

JUNIOR COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Midland College vs. Westwind Prep at Pima College Classic, Tucson, Ariz.

NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE

Lone Star at Jacksonville, 7:17 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

American League

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Agreed to terms with OF Raul Ibanez on a one-year contract.

TEXAS RANGERS— Signed OF Shin-Soo Choo to a seven-year contract. Designated 1B Chris McGuiness for assignment.

National League

CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with RHP Jose Veras on a one-contract.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

NBA — Fined Memphis F Zach Randolph $25,000 for public criticism of officiating following a Dec. 26 loss to Houston.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

NFL — Fined Tampa Bay S Dashon Goldson $60,000 for his helmet-to-helmet hit on St. Louis Rams wide receiver Stedman Bailey in a Dec. 22 game. Fined St. Louis LB Jo-Lonn Dunbar $21,000 for a helmet-to-helmet hit. Fined New York Jets DL Sheldon Richardson $15,750 for roughing Cleveland QB Jason Campbell.

BUFFALO BILLS — Signed WR Cordell Roberson from the practice squad. Placed S Aaron Williams on injured reserve.

CHICAGO BEARS — Agreed to terms with K Robbie Gould on a four-year contract extension through the 2017 season.

DETROIT LIONS — Placed DE Israel Idonije on injured reserve. Signed CB Akwasi Owusu-Ansah from the practice squad.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed CB Jumal Rolle from the practice squad.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed DT Sen Derrick Marks to a four-year contract.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Placed LB Audie Cole on injured reserve. Signed CE Robert Steeples from the practice squad.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed RB Sam McGuffie to the practice squad. Released RB Cierre Wood from the practice squad. Released WR Austin Collie.

OAKLAND RAIDERS — Signed DB Nnamdi Asomugha to a one-day contract and announced his retirement.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Activated CB Walter Thurmond from roster exempt status. Released CB Perrish Cox.

Canadian Football League

MONTREAL ALOUETTES — Agreed to terms with OL Luc Brodeur-Jourdain on a three-year contract.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled F Zach Boychuk from Charlotte (AHL). Activated G Anton Khudobin from injured reserve and assigned him to Charlotte. Placed D Jay Harrison on injured reserve.

DALLAS STARS — Activated D Aaron Rome from injured reserve. Placed D Sergei Gonchar on injured reserve.

FLORIDA PANTHERS — Recalled D Alex Petrovic and F Drew Shore from San Antonio (AHL). Placed D Erik Gudbranson on injured reserve.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Placed RW Damien Brunner on injured reserve, retroactive to Dec. 20. Activated LW Ryane Clowe from injured reserve.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Recalled D Dmitry Korobov from Syracuse (AHL).

American Hockey League

AHL — Suspended Bridgeport RW Justin Johnson for one game for his actions in a game on Dec. 26.

SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE — Loaned G Rob Madore to Cincinnati (ECHL). ECHL

SOUTH CAROLINA STINGRAYS — Loaned G David LeNeveu to Providence (AHL). Central Hockey League

ARIZONA SUNDOGS — Activated D Garrett Clarke from leave of absence. Placed D Karl Linden on waivers

COLLEGE

DELAWARE — Agreed to terms with field hockey coach Rolf van de Kerkhof on a five-year contract extension.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC — Named Brian Wright associate head football coach and offensive coordinator. Named Roger Harriott assistant head football coach and running backs coach.

FRESNO STATE — Announced sophomore WR Davante Adams will enter the NFL draft.

MARQUETTE — Announced freshman G Duane Wilson will redshirt this season because of a left leg injury.

NEBRASKA — Suspended LB Jared Afalava, WR Richard Wynne and WR Ishmail Jackson for the Gator Bowl for violating team rules.

NOTRE DAME — Announced sophomore basketball G-F Cam Bedsched plans to transfer.

OREGON — Announced the retirement of defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti following the Alamo Bowl.

ST NORBERT — Named Steve Oppenorth football coach.

GLANTZ-CULVER LINE

NFL

FAVORITE	OPEN	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
Sunday				
Carolina	8	6	(45 1/2)	at Atlanta
Green Bay	3	3	(53)	at Chicago
at Tennessee 6	7	(44)		Houston
at Pittsburgh 5 1/2	7	(44)		Cleveland
at N Y Giants 3	3 1/2	(46)		Washington
at Cincinnati 4	6 1/2	(44 1/2)		Baltimore
at Indianapolis 4	11	(45 1/2)		Jacksonville
Philadelphia	2 1/2	6 1/2	(52 1/2)	at Dallas
at Miami	6 1/2	5 1/2	(41)	N Y Jets
at Minnesota 2	3	(51 1/2)		Detroit
at New England 7 1/2	9	(47)		Buffalo
at New Orleans 12 1/2	12 1/2	(47 1/2)		Tampa Bay
Denver	10 1/2	12	(53 1/2)	at Oakland
at Anzona	3	Pk	(42 1/2)	San Francisco
at San Diego 10	9 1/2	(45)		Kansas City
at Seattle	10 1/2	11	(43)	St. Louis
Today				
Pinstripe Bowl				
At New York				
FAVORITE	OPEN	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
Notre Dame	15 1/2	14	(52 1/2)	Rutgers
Belk Bowl				
At Charlotte, N.C.				
North Carolina 3	2 1/2	(57)		Cincinnati
Russell Athletic Bowl				
At Orlando, Fla.				
Lousville	3	3 1/2	(57)	Miami
Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl				
At Tempe, Ariz.				
Kansas St.	3	5	(54 1/2)	Michigan

HS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Boys

SHALLOWATER 86 MIDLAND CHRISTIAN 69

LUBBOCK — Midland Christian couldn't overcome a four-point second quarter and fell to Shallowater during a consolation bracket game at the 55th Annual FiberMax Caprock Classic on Friday.

Shallowater held a 21-14 lead after the first quarter but then outscored Midland Christian (9-6) 22-4 in the second quarter to open up a lead MCS could not overcome.

Grant Little led MCS with 22 points and Daniel Venzant added 21 in the loss.

Midland Christian will take on a team to be determined at 1:30 p.m. today at Wolfforth Frenship High School.

SHALLOWATER 86, MIDLAND CHRISTIAN 69

Shallowater — Cervantes 3, Nelson 2, Johnson 17, Elliott 7, Black 2, McCutcheon 7, Pearson 8, Scaff 16, Bailey 22, McGuire 2

Midland Christian (9-6) — Daniel Venzant 21, Sam Gilbert 2, Grant Little 22, Mason McClendon 9, Parker King 3, Kaleb Warren 8, Jeremy Bailey 2, Luke McComic 2

Shallowater	21	22	17	26—86
MCS	14	4	18	33—69

Free throws — Shallowater 9-15. MCS 18-21. 3-point goals — Shallowater 9 (Johnson, Elliott, McCutcheon, Pearson 2, Scaff 2, Bailey 2). MCS 9 (Venzant 2, Little 3, McClendon 3, King). Total fouls — Shallowater 17, MCS 15. Fouled out — none.

Next: Midland Christian vs. TBA. 1:30 p.m. today, Wolfforth Frenship HS, Caprock Classic

TRINITY LOSES TWICE AT GRADY

LENORAH — Trinity lost a pair of games during the first day of the Cotton Classic at Grady High School on Friday.

The Chargers (5-6) dropped a 55-49 decision to Ira in the tournament's first game, and then fell to Klondike, 52-46, in the second game of the day.

Jonah Starck led Trinity in both games with 14 points each against Ira and Klondike. Jacyree Stubblefield scored 11 against Klondike for the Chargers.

Trinity will play a guarantee game at 10:30 a.m. today.

IRA 55, TRINITY 49

Trinity (5-5) — Anthony Dagun 2, Vincent Baiano 7, Jacyree Stubblefield 7, Ethan Samuels 9, Boomer Selvera 5, Will Farish 5, Jonah Starck 14				
Ira — Culliter 2, Morris 18, Z. Goodwin 1, Mixon 12, T. Goodwin 18, Baker 4				
Trinity	10	9	17	13—49
Ira	16	11	17	11—55

Free throws — Trinity 4-7, Ira 14-23. 3-point goals — Trinity 5 (Stubblefield, Samuels, Farish), Ira 1 (Morris). Total fouls — Trinity 20, Ira 9. Fouled out — Trinity, Baiano.

KLONDIKE 52, TRINITY 46

Trinity (5-6) — Jacob Webb 4, Ethan Samuels 6, Vincent Baiano 7, Boomer Selvera 2, Jonah Starck 14, Jacyree Stubblefield 11

Klondike — Tidwell 14, Antemendez 12, Skiles 13, Barbousky 6, Solis 7

Trinity	10	9	9	18—46
Klondike	14	9	12	15—52

Free throws — Trinity 6-17, Klondike 14-21. 3-point goals — Trinity 0, Klondike 0. Total fouls — Trinity 16, Klondike 15. Fouled out — none.

Next: Trinity vs. TBA, 10:30 a.m., Grady Cotton Classic, Lenorah

OTHER AREA BOX SCORES

GRADY 64, LUBBOCK KINGDOM PREP 39

Grady — Cameron Seiffert 2, Kyle Garza 5, Aaron Perez 6, EJ Rodriquez 14, Taylor Polson 3, Alejandro Jimenez 4, Beau Lucas 15, Cole Avery 9, Bryce Blocker 2, Andrue Robles 4

Kingdom Prep — Jeremy Brown 14, Sawyer Squires 6, Casson Squires 18

Grady	19	20	17	8—64
Kingdom Prep	9	13	6	10—39

Free throws — Grady 12-16, LKP 12-22. 3-point goals — Grady 8 (Rodriquez Garza, Lucas 3, Avery 2), Kingdom Prep 0. Total fouls — Grady 17, LKP 12

GRADY 50, HIGHLAND 26

Grady — Cameron Seiffert 1, Kyle Garza 5, Aaron Perez, 8, Joseph Briseno 2, EJ Rodriquez 4, Alejandro Jimenez 3, Beau Lucas 19, Cole Avery 8

Highland — Richburg 4, Box 4, Ethan Wilson 5, Rios 3, Stevens 2, Hyde 4, Wood 4

Grady	15	16	6	13—50
Highland	8	9	7	2—26

Free throws — Grady 2-7, Highland 2-8. 3-point goals — 10 (Garza, Perez 2, Jimenez 1, Lucas 4, Avery 2), Highland 2 (Wilson, Rios). Total fouls — Grady 13, Highland 8

MEMPHIS 76, LAMESA 68

Memphis — Parr 3, Little 30, Altman 2, Triplett 3, Monroe 3, Fisher 2, Montgomery 2, Rodriguez 7, Clark 24				
Lamesa (7-3) — Dre Smiley 2, KJ Hunter 6, Kendrick Hunter 12, Jaleel Edwards 10, Tyquail Maxwell 7, Keshawn Hunter 1, Josh Enriquez 2, Edward Enriquez 2, Darius Jackson 6, Jahlani Edwards 20				
Memphis	26	17	17	16—76
Lamesa	12	23	7	26—68

Free throws — Memphis 20-27, Lamesa 12-25. 3-point goals — Memphis 6 (Little 6), Lamesa 6 (Kendrick Hunter 2, Jaleel Edwards 2, Maxwell, Jackson). Total fouls — Memphis 21, Lamesa 22. Fouled out — Memphis, Clark.

HALE CENTER 72, LAMESA 64

Lamesa (7-4) — Dre Smiley 4, KJ Hunter 3, Kendrick Hunter 17, Jaleel Edwards 15, Tyquail Maxwell 10, Keshawn Hunter 2, Darius Jackson 3, Jahlani Edwards 10				
Hale Center	12	13	10	29—64
Hale Center	17	19	23	13—72

Free throws — Lamesa 15-24, Hale Center 12-30. 3-point goals — Lamesa 7 (Kendrick Hunter 4, Jaleel Edwards 2, Maxwell), HC 4 (Ruiz 2, Rossi 2). Total fouls — Lamesa 17, HC 16. Fouled out — none.

Next: Lamesa vs. TBA, 10:30 a.m., Lubbock Estacado HS, Caprock Classic

Girls

MCS WINS TWO IN LUBBOCK

LUBBOCK — Midland Christian won a pair of games on Friday at the Caprock Tournament, beating Andrews and Lubbock Monterey.

Midland Christian (16-2) beat Andrews, 54-28, and then defeated the Lady Plainsmen, 43-34, in the second game of the day.

Against Andrews, Midland Christian's Lindsey Mills led the team with 11 points and Morgan Ashton added 10, including two 3-pointers.

Against Monterey, the Midland Christian held Monterey to one point in the second quarter to to open up a 19-12 halftime lead. Ashton scored 19 points to lead Midland Christian.

MIDLAND CHRISTIAN 54, ANDREWS 28

Andrews — Taylor Bailey 6, Saige Tyler 2, Ceci Santibanez 7, Mikyla Alvidrez 2, Oceana Ridge 11

Midland Christian (15-2) — Lisa Blair 9, Megan Ashton 5, Morgan Ashton 10, Catherine Hammond 3, Lindsey Mills 11, Megan McClendon 2, Abby Needham 6, Bailey Wright 8

Andrews	5	6	3	14—27
MCS	15	18	14	7—54

Free throws — Andrews 9-11, MCS 13-17. 3-point goals — Andrews (Santibanez), MCS 3 (Morgan Ashton 2, Mills). Total fouls — Andrews 13, MCS 15. Fouled out — Andrews, Santibanez

MIDLAND CHRISTIAN 43, LUBBOCK MONTEREY 34

Lubbock Monterey — Jodi Davis 4, Kenzie Heinrich 3, Abby Hansard 8, Courtney Lawley 3, Kimberly Storms 2, Brittany Hays 6, Shazay Norris 8

Midland Christian (16-2) — Lisa Blair 4, Megan Ashton 4, Morgan Ashton 19, Lindsey Mills 3, Abby Needham 3, Bailey Wright 4, Caroline Hammond 6

Monterey	11	1	10	12—34
MCS	9	10	12	14—43

Free throws — LM 6-13, MCS 9-20. 3-point goals — LM 2 (Lawley, Hays), MCS 2 (Morgan Ashton, Mills). Total fouls — LM 19. MCS 16. Fouled out — Monterey, Hansard, Davis.

Next: Midland Christian vs. Wichita Falls Riders, Noon, Lubbock Estacado HS, Caprock Classic

TRINITY SPLITS ON FIRST DAY IN GRADY

LENORAH — The Lady Chargers rebounded from an opening-round loss to win their second game at the Cotton Classic and will play for a consolation title today.

Trinity (8-4) lost to Ira, 57-42, to open the tournament, and then beat the Monahans JV, 45-22, in the second game.

Against Ira, Mylyra Ball led Trinity with 15 points and Mykelti Ball had 10. Plus the Lady Chargers ended the game playing with four players as Mykelti Ball and Macy Essman both fouled out.

Trinity's luck improved against the Monahans JV as Mykelti Ball scored 18 points and Essman had 10.

Trinity will play for the consolation title at 3 p.m. today at Grady High School.

IRA 57, TRINITY 42

Trinity (7-4) — Macy Essman 11, Mylyra Ball 15, Katie Pack 2, Mykelti Ball 10, Ashley Stroup 4

Ira — Womack 2, Dunn 4, Juarez 5, Clayton 21, Bloom 5, Varboo 2, Taylor 7, Welch 8, Deluna 3

Trinity	10	13	9	10—42
Ira	14	12	15	16—57

Free throws — Trinity 4-14, Ira 6-10. 3-point goals — Trinity 2 (Mylyra Ball 2), Ira 7 (Clayton 7). Total fouls — Trinity 14, Ira 16. Fouled out — Trinity, Mykelti Ball, Essman.

TRINITY 45, MONAHANS JV 22

Trinity (8-4) — Macy Essman 10, Mylyra Ball 5, Katie Pack 4, Mykelti Ball 18, Ashley Stroup 8

Monahans JV — Vidana 4, Holt 2, Sauceda 6, Cutbirth 2, Brandon 8

Trinity	17	9	7	12—45
Monahans JV	8	4	6	4—22

Free throws — Trinity 8-15, Monahans JV 2-10. 3-point goals — Trinity 1 (Mykelti Ball), Monahans JV 0. Total fouls — Trinity 9, Monahans JV 11.

Next: Trinity vs. TBA, 3 p.m. Consolation Final, Grady Cotton Classic

OTHER AREA BOXES

GRADY 54, LUBBOCK KINGDOM PREP 26

Grady — Ariel Arnold 5, Emily Glaze 3, Cari Richards 8, Jenny Fields 7, Kristen Blocker 6, Lupita Jimenez 10, Brittney Garza 7, Laura Ramirez 4, Faith Hunt 4

Kingdom Prep — Wendy Griffith 4, Abby Langford 7, Emma Jones 10, Karli Scott 5

Grady	14	17	15	8—54
Kingdom Prep	4	11	1	10—26

Free throws — Grady 6-10, LKP 8-20. 3-point goals — Grady 2 (Glaze, Richards), LKP 2 (Jones 2). Total fouls — Grady 20, LKP 7.

GRADY 33, HIGHLAND 25

Grady — Cari Richards 3, Jenny Fields 6, Lupita Jimenez 10, Brittney Garza 4, Laura Ramirez 1, Faith Hunt 9

Highland — Hannah Allen 6, Beth Richburg 6, Schyler Kimbrell 13

Highland	12	3	6	4—25
Grady	7	6	5	15—33

Free throws — Grady 7-11, Highland 1-5. 3-point goals — Grady 4 (Richards, Hunt, Jimenez 2), Highland 2 (Allen 2). Total fouls — Grady 4, Highland 11.

HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT BRACKETS

Grady's Black Gold Cotton Classic
Friday-Saturday
Grady High School
Lenorah

BOYS

Friday's Games

Game 1: Ira 55, Trinity 49

Game 2: Forsan 60, Klondike 49

Game 3: Highland 44, Wink 43

Game 4: Grady 64, Lubbock Kingdom Prep 38

Championship Bracket
Semifinals

Game 6: Forsan 53, Ira 45

Game 8: Grady 50, Highland 26

Consolation Bracket
Semifinals

Game 5: Klondike 52, Trinity 46

Game 7: Wink 51, Lubbock Kingdom Prep 49

Today's Games

Guarantee Game: Trinity vs. Lubbock Kingdom Prep, 10:30 a.m., Wildcat Gym

Consolation Final: Klondike vs. Wink, 4:30 p.m., Wildcat Gym

Third-place Game: Ira vs. Highland, 1:30 p.m., Wildcat Gym

Championship: Grady vs. Forsan, 7:30 p.m., Wildcat Gym

GIRLS

Friday

Game 1: Ira 57, Trinity 43, JH Gym

Game 2: Forsan 78, Monahans JV 21, 9:30 a.m., Wildcat Gym

Game 3: Highland 71, Wink 38

Game 4: Grady/54, Lubbock Kingdom Prep 26

Championship Bracket
Semifinals

Game 6: Forsan 64, Ira 29

Game 8: Grady 33, Highland 25

Consolation Bracket
Semifinals

Game 5: Trinity 45, Monahans JV 22

Game 7: Wink 44, Lubbock Kingdom Prep 30

Today's Games

Guarantee Game: Monahans JV vs. Lubbock Kingdom Prep, 9 a.m., Wildcat Gym

Consolation Final: Trinity vs. Wink, 3 p.m., Wildcat Gym

Third-place Game: Ira vs. Highland, Noon, Wildcat Gym

Championship: Grady vs. Forsan, 6 p.m., Wildcat Gym

55th Annual FiberMax Caprock Classic
Thursday-Saturday
Lubbock
BOYS
Boren Bracket (Large School Boys)
Thursday

Game 1: Midland Christian 78, Borger 64

Game 2: Lubbock Monterey 55, Levelland 27

Game 3: Lubbock Trinity 66, Greenwood 50

Game 4: Seminole 49, Dumas 44

Game 5: Monahans 66, Shallowater 64

Game 6: Lubbock High 71, Perryton 35

Game 7: St. Andrews 56, Lubbock Cooper 44

Game 8: El Paso Harmony 69, El Paso Austin 43

Game 9: Lubbock Estacado 83, Devine 64

Game 10: Lubbock Coronado 62, Pampa 36

Championship Bracket
Quarterfinals

Game 11: Lubbock Monterey 86, Midland Christian 48

Game 12: Lubbock Trinity 54, Seminole 42

Game 13: Lubbock High 57, Monahans 46

Game 14: Lubbock Estacado 78, El Paso Harmony 75

Friday

Championship Bracket
Quarterfinal

Game 20: Lubbock Coronado 61, St. Andrews 35

Semifinals

Game 21: Lubbock Monterey 65, Lubbock Trinity 55

Game 22: Lubbock High 59, Lubbock Estacado 56

Game 30: Lubbock Coronado vs. Lubbock Monterey, late

Consolation Bracket

Game 15: Lubbock Cooper 59, Pampa 46

Game 16: Levelland 55, Borger 39

Game 17: Greenwood 62, Dumas 59

Game 18: Shallowater 51, Perryton 49

Game 19: El Paso Austin 65, Devine 39

Quarterfinals

Game 23: Monahans 69, Lubbock Cooper 30

Game 24: Seminole 68, Levelland 61

Game 25: El Paso Harmony 86, Greenwood 51

Game 26: Shallowater 86, Midland Christian 68

Game 27: St. Andrews 48, El Paso Austin 32

Guarantee Games

Game 28: Borger 55, Dumas 52

Game 29: Perryton 74, Devine 66

Today's Games

Consolation Bracket

Game 32: Monahans vs. Seminole, 9 a.m., Frenship HS

Game 33: El Paso Harmony vs. Pampa, 10:30 a.m.

Game 34: Shallowater vs. St. Andrews, Noon, Lubbock High

Game 35: Lubbock Cooper vs. Levelland, Noon, Coronado HS

Game 36: Game 32 winner vs. Greenwood, 1:30 p.m., Monterey HS

Game 37: Midland Christian vs. El Paso Austin, 1:30 p.m., Frenship HS

Game 38: Game 33 winner vs. Devine, 3 p.m., Estacado HS

Game 39: Borger vs. Game 33 loser, 3 p.m., Estacado HS

Game 40: Perryton vs. Dumas, 10:30 a.m., Estacado HS

Championship Bracket
Third-place Semifinal

Game 31: Lubbock Trinity vs. Lubbock Estacado, 9 a.m., Estacado HS

Third-place Game

Game 41: Game 30 loser vs. Game 31 winner, 3 p.m., Coronado HS

Championship

Game 42: Game 30 winner vs. Lubbock High, 9:30 p.m., Rip Griffin Center

GIRLS

Chick-fil-A Bracket
Large School Girls
Thursday's Games

Game 1: Shallowater 64, Amarillo Tascosa 36

Game 2: Lubbock Titans 56, Big Spring 28

Game 3: Seminole 51, Lubbock High 41

Game 4: Lubbock Trinity 108, Pampa 42

Game 5: Lubbock Monterey 45, Greenwood 34

Game 6: Lubbock Cooper 56, Odessa High 25

Game 7: Lubbock Coronado 50, Midland Christian 33

Game 8: Perryton 73, Monahans 31

Game 9: Brownwood 57, Andrews 28

Game 10: Levelland 43, WF Rider 28

Game 11: Gainesville 50, Wolfforth Frenship 48

Game 12: Lubbock Estacado 47, Coppell 45

Championship Bracket
Quarterfinals

Game 13: Lubbock Cooper 49, Lubbock Titans 41

Game 14: Shallowater 61, Lubbock Monterey 37

Game 15: Lubbock Trinity 56, Seminole 40

Game 16: Levelland 61, Perryton 30

Game 17: Lubbock Coronado 65, Brownwood 46

Friday

Consolation Games

Game 19: Lubbock High 60, Pampa 51

Game 20: Midland Christian 54, Andrews 28

Game 21: Wolfforth Frenship 58, Coppell 29

Game 22: Wichita Falls Rider 58, Monahans 15

Game 23: Big Spring 42, Odessa High 29

Game 24: Greenwood 51, Amarillo Tascosa 48

Game 25: Lubbock Estacado 60, Lubbock High 55

Game 26: Brownwood 45, Greenwood 44

Game 27: Coppell 49, Pampa 47

Game 28: Andrews 45, Monahans 35

Game 29: Amarillo Tascosa 69, Odessa High 24

Game 30: Big Spring vs. Perryton, late

Game 31: Wolfforth Frenship 45, Seminole 41

Game 32: Wichita Falls Rider 44, Lubbock Titans 42

Game 33: Midland Christian 43, Lubbock Monterey 34

Championship Bracket
Quarterfinals

Game 18: Gainesville 54, Lubbock Estacado 43

Semifinals

Game 34: Shallowater 71, Lubbock Cooper 50

Game 35: Lubbock Coronado 36, Levelland 31

Game 36: Lubbock Trinity 66, Gainesville 45

Today's Games
Consolation Games

Game 38: Lubbock Monterey vs. Lubbock Titans, 9 a.m., Lubbock High

Game 39: Seminole vs. Lubbock High, 9 a.m., Frenship HS

Game 40: Game 30 loser vs. Greenwood, 9 a.m., Estacado HS

Game 41: Amarillo Tascosa vs. Pampa, Noon, Frenship HS

Game 42: Andrews vs. Odessa High, Noon, Trinity School

Game 43: Coppell vs. Monahans, Noon, Monterey HS

Game 44: Wolfforth Frenship vs. Lubbock Estacado, 10:30 a.m., Monterey HS

Game 45: Game 30 winner vs. Brownwood, Noon, Estacado HS

Game 48: Midland Christian vs. Wichita Falls Rider, Noon, Estacado HS

Championship Bracket
Semifinals

Game 37: Lubbock Trinity vs. Shallowater, 9 a.m., Coronado HS

Championship Bracket
Third-place Game

Game 47: Game 43 winner vs. Game 44 loser, 3 p.m., Estacado HS

Championship

Game 46: Gainesville vs. Lubbock Cooper, Noon, Coronado HS

Third-place Game

Game 49: Levelland vs. Game 37 loser, 3 p.m., Trinity School

Championship

Game 50: Lubbock Coronado vs. Game 37 winner, 7:45 p.m., Rip Griffin Center

Lone Star Brahmas rally to defeat Odessa Jackalopes

From staff reports

ODESSA — The Lone Star Brahmas rallied for a 2-1 shootout victory against the Odessa Jackalopes on Friday night at the Ector County Coliseum in North American Hockey League action.

The Jacks took a 1-0 lead less than two minutes into the second period when Trace Jablin scored off assists from Connor Thie and Matt Beranek.

The Brahmas, though, tied the game with less than eight minutes to go in the game when Kellen Wasell scored a power-play goal after an assist from Johan Steen.

The shootout then went to six shooters as Odessa's Connor Chambers tied it at two before Lone Star's Matt Lison gave the Brahmas the lead. But the Jacks' Connor Thie was stopped to give the Brahmas the victory.

Jackalopes goalie Eric Hancock stopped 31 of 32 shots in the game.

Odessa fell to 10-23-1 with 21 points this season and will take on Lone Star at 7:17 p.m. today at the Ector County Coliseum.

FIGHT SKED

Dec. 31

At Tokyo, Takashi Uchiyama vs. Daiki Kaneko, 12, for Uchiyama's WBA World super featherweight title. Takashi Miura vs. Dante Jardon, 12, for Miura's WBC super featherweight title.

At Osaka, Japan, Kazuto Ioka vs. Felix Alvarado, 12, for Ioka's WBA World junior flyweight title.

Jan. 3

At Target Center, Minneapolis, (ESPN2), Argenis Mendez vs. Rances Barthelemy, 12, for Mendez's IBF super featherweight title. Caleb Truax vs. Derek Ennis, 10, middleweights. Jan. 10

At the Emerald Queen Casino in Tacoma, Washington (ESPN2), Arash Usmanee vs. Juan Antonio Rodriguez, 10, super featherweights.

Jan. 11

At Pervez, Belgium, Alexander Miskirtchan vs. Sofiane Takiouht, 12, IBF featherweight eliminator.

Jan. 17

At the Cook Convention Center in Memphis, Tenn. (SHO) Ivan Redkach vs. Tony Luis, 10, lightweights.

Jan. 18

At Bell Centre, Montreal (HBO), Jean Pascal vs. Lucian Bute, 12, light heavyweights.

Jan. 24

At Indio, Calif. (FS1), Cornelius Bundrage vs. Joey Hernandez, 12, IBF junior middleweight eliminator.

Jan. 25

At DC Armory, Washington (SHO), Lamont Peterson vs. Denny Jean, 12, for Peterson's IBF junior welterweight title.

Jan. 30

At Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y. (FS1), Victor Ortiz vs. Luis Collazo, 10, welterweights.

Jan. 31

At Richard J. Codey Arena, West Orange, N.J. (ESPN2), Jorge Diaz vs. Luis Rosa, 10, super bantamweights.

Feb. 1

At Monte Carlo, Gennady Golovkin vs. Osumanu Adama, 12, for Golovkin's WBA World middleweight title; Ilunga Makabu vs. Pawel Kolodziej, 12, for the interim WBA World cruiserweight title; Nkosinathi Joyi vs. Rey Loreto, 12, for the vacant IBO light flyweight title.

Feb. 15

At Staples Center, Los Angeles, Jhonny Gonzalez vs. Abner Mares, 12 for Gonzalez's WBC featherweight title.

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FRIDAYATTHEBYRON

FROM STAFF REPORTS

TOP POINT PERFORMERS

Here's a look at some of the tournament's players who scored 15 or more points in single games on Friday at the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic.

Girls

Dalja Stanford, Lee — The speedy Lee guard scored 16 points in Lee's 63-32 blowout victory against Baytown Lee on Friday morning at Midland High. Stanford also had two of Lee's 3-pointers in the victory.

Krys Spence, El Paso Eastlake — The junior scored a game-high 17 points in Eastlake's second victory against a District 2-5A opponent in the tournament on Friday morning. Spence then followed with 15 points in a victory against Bushland later on Friday.

Desare' Allen, Midland High — The senior led the Lady Bulldogs with 16 points in a key victory against Bushland on Friday to begin the day, which helped them rebound from Friday night's frustrating loss to El Paso Eastlake.

Aubrie Elliott, Midland High — Elliott came up big in the Lady Bulldogs' victory against District 2-5A rival Odessa Permian with 21 points on Friday night.

Bailey Baron and Emily Chapman, Bushland — In a , losing cause against Midland High, Baron and Chapman combined for 33 points as Baron scored 17 and Chapman 16.

Boys

Jon Maldonado, Lee — Maldonado had a big game for the Rebels against Bushland with 21 points, including five of Lee's six 3-pointers in the contest.

Donald Ekman, Lee — The Rebels' forward scored a game-high 21 points in Lee's 49-43 victory against Alief Hastings.

Gary Ringo, Midland High — The wiry junior led Midland High with 19 points in its impressive victoy against El Paso Eastlake.

Markus Jones, Crowley — The Eagles' 6-4 senior guard scored a game-high 16 points against Midland High to help clinch Crowley's spot in today's title game.

Emilio Garza, Alief Hastings — Garza was big for the Bears in its second loss of the tournament on Saturday at Midland High. He scored 17 points, including knocking down three 3-pointers.

Shawn Johnson, Alief Hastings — Johnson led Hastings with 16 points in a six-point loss to Lee as the defending Byron Johnston Holiday Classic champion Bears finished winless in the tournament.

Jayton Ellis, Plainview — Ellis had a big game for the Bulldogs in a loss to Crowley on Saturday at Midland High. Ellis scored 21 points, including three 3-pointers. Ellis then knocked down four 3-pointers in Plainview 67-42 victory against El Paso Eastlake and scored a game-high 18 points.

Tristen Licon, El Paso Americas — Licon isn't even listed on the Trailblazers' roster in the tournament program, but he certainly made his name known on Friday. He scored a game-high 24 points in Americas' lost to Bushland, and previously on Friday he scored 15 in a victory against defending tournament champion Alief Hastings.

NOTES

MIDLAND CLASSICAL IN FIFTH-PLACE GAME

Midland Classical wanted to be challenged in the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic and believes it definitely was during pool pay.

The Lady Knights finished 1-2 in Pool B, including a 45-31 loss to Plainview and a 47-30 victory against Baytown Lee on Friday. As a result, MCA finished third in the pool and faces Class 2A Bushland at 9 a.m. today in the fifth-place game at Chaparral Center.

Bushland has shown the ability to hang with larger school opponents this weekend. The Lady Falcons notched an overtime victory against Odessa Permian on Thursday and hung with Midland High until the fourth quarter Friday.

Seeing how competitive the Lady Falcons have been with 5A schools tells MCA it is in for another much-needed challenge today.

"I don't know a lot about them, but they seem to play a lot of kids and sub five at a time," MCA co-head coach Carla Cunneen said. "Obviously they're a very competitive team. They were right there with Midland High and I think Midland High is well-coached."

PLAINVIEW GIRLS BACK IN FAMILAR TERRITORY

The Lady Bulldogs missed out on a chance to win the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic for a third consecutive year in 2012 when El Paso El Dorado, who was coached by current Lee girls head coach Monica Ramirez at the time, beat the Lady Bulldogs in pool play.

This season, though, Plainview made sure it would have a spot in the title game. Plainview averaged 57 points a game on Thursday and Friday, and completed its run to today's championship game with a 55-47 victory against Lee at Lee High School on Friday night.

The Lady Bulldogs will be going for their 11th Byron Johnston Holiday Classic title today as they won eight straight from 1999-2006, and then won in 2010 and 2011.

INTERESTING FREE-THROW ALIGNMENT

El Paso Eastlake girls junior Krys Spence uses an unusual alignment when she shoots free throws. Spence lines up on the left side of the line, on the corner of the free-throw line and the arc. Spence, who led the Lady Falcons in wins against Permian and Bushland on Friday morning, connected on four of six free throws during that game.

TOUGH WEEKEND FOR DEFENDING BOYS CHAMPS

Alief Hastings coach Darrell Collins knew he had a young team that needed a chance to mature, and after this weekend that maturity will get a test. The Bears, who beat Lee for last year's tournament title, lost all three of their pool play games on Thursday and Friday and will play for seventh-place against El Paso Eastlake at 10:30 a.m. today at Midland High.

Hastings dropped a 55-53 decision to Bushland on Thursday, and then lost to El Paso Americas 45-41 and Lee 49-43 on Friday.

THIRD

From 1B

ally doing it."

Midland High coach Wes Torres didn't seem to have any issue playing the Lady Rebels in a non-district situation, though. In fact, the Lady Bulldogs, who went 2-0 on Friday, defeated District 2-5A rival Odessa Permian 51-41 in their final pool play game.

"It's just like any other game for us," Torres said. "We preach to our girls one game at a time. It doesn't matter the opponent, we've just got to focus on getting better as a team.

"I'm looking forward to it. I'm the one who put this bracket together, trying to get good teams into it. I knew that coming in. I feel like this has been good for Midland, having Permian, Midland Classical and other teams from around here. It's boosted the attendance."

Lee had a chance to be playing for the championship, but a 55-47 loss to Plainview on Friday night placed the Lady Rebels in the third-place game instead. The Lady Rebels, who defeated Baytown Lee 62-32 earlier Friday, had a rough start in the first period against Plainview, but played point for point with the Lady Bulldogs in every other quarter. Lee simply couldn't put a significant dent into Plainview's early lead. Plainview advances to the championship game to play El Paso Eastlake, which won Pool A with a 3-0 record.

Instead, the Lady Rebels now get an opportunity to erase what has seemed to be a serious mental block for them over the past five seasons. Midland High currently owns a 16-game win streak against its crosstown rival, including a 59-41 victory on Nov. 26 during 2-5A play.

"To a certain extent, it's a mental block because that's all they hear about and if you hear it enough then you tend to believe it," Ramirez said. "Both games we won in this tournament, we won but not in a fashion that convinces me we're playing with confidence, that they believe what I'm saying about them.

"The win streak is what it is when it comes to Midland High." Ramirez added. "We've got the team and pieces to beat Midland High, whether or not we do is about whether or not we have the team chemistry we need to do so."

Follow Jonathan on Twitter: @Hull_MRT

Photo credit

Midland High's Alexis Washington puts up a shot as Odessa Permian's Ke'Avionni Ramzy defends Friday evening at the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic at Chapparal Center.

BJHC

From 1B

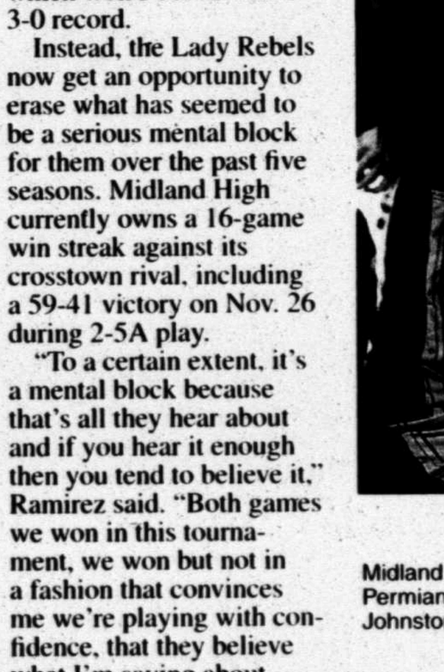
exceptional teams back then," Packer recalled. "It's definitely a blessing for me, but it's not about me. It's about the kids and the experience it gives them. I'm excited for them."

Packer says he's seen the Rebels come together more as a team during the first two days of the tournament, and hopes to see that bond continue to grow today.

"It's been the little things for us," Packer said. "We're playing together. We've been good on the boards and we're taking care of the basketball better than we ever have. We've been able to put a couple possessions together in succession. We're learning about ourselves in a situation where the money isn't on the line because it's not a district game. It's been really good for us."

Midland High (4-9) finished pool play with a 1-2 record with its lone win coming Friday against El Paso Eastlake, 63-49. Tatum felt like that game was one of the best performances of the year for the Bulldogs' halfcourt defense.

"In the afternoon game, I think we really played well," Tatum said. "I think that was one of our best performances with halfcourt defenses and rebounding this season. And we actually scored the ball pretty well because we converted some of those opportunities we were getting from our defense and rebounds."



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Lee's Antony McCoy tries to get around Alief Hastings' Darvine Thomas on Friday during the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic at Lee High School.

The Bulldogs are set to play in the fifth-place game against El Paso Americas at 10:30 a.m. today at Chaparral Center. It's an opportunity Tatum said this young group of Bulldogs needs.

"It's a learning thing," Tatum said. "This is my first year with these kids and I've changed the entire culture. There's nothing they did last year that they're doing this year. It's difficult to make that adjustment, but I'm proud of my kids for not giving up.

"You take your lumps and learn from them. Hopefully losing some games and playing in the fifth-place game in your own tournament will kind of stick in their head and hopefully light a fire under these guys."

But while Tatum is happy for his good friend Packer and Lee to be playing in the championship game today, he admits that he hopes it stings his players a bit to see their crosstown rival trying to win the BJHC title.

"I hope so. Lee is a great team, they're well-coached," Tatum said. "That's a lot of their friends. There's a lot of relationships between our players and theirs. (Packer) is a great friend of mine. He's a great guy. Hopefully the rivalry will be restored.

"I do want it to sting our guys Lee is playing for the title. I don't want them to look down on themselves that it's a bad thing, but I do want it to sting."

Follow Jonathan on Twitter: @Hull_MRT

HOUSTON

From 1B

to give his kids a chance to see this part of the state.

Plus, for Collins he gets to see his parents, who live in Andrews, while he added that he has plenty of cousins, aunts and uncles that live in the Midland-Odessa area.

"The teachers, they donate money, and there are people in the community that help take care of the kids," said Collins, who graduated from Andrews in 1984 and later went on to play basketball at Angelo State. "They want the kids to be successful."

Gray, meanwhile, said his squad of 10 Baytown Lee players and two coaches were able to catch a Southwest Airlines flight on Thursday morning, but added they will drive home after their final game today.

Gray is coming back to a tournament that he participated in as a girls basketball coach at Midland High from 1999-2003, and before that he'd served as the head women's coach at Howard College in Big Spring.

So, he knows what it's like to be a part of basketball out here, and he wanted his players to have that chance as well.

"I like to come here every few years, and my varsity assistant played for me at Midland High," Gray said. "It's her hometown, and it's a chance to come back and see everybody. It lets our kids see a different part of Texas, and there's lots of things they've never seen before."

Gray added that this weekend has been a chance for his players to see how well teams use the fundamentals in West Texas and the Panhandle.

"Basketball in my opinion is a lot more fundamental out here and in the Panhandle, and we don't see a lot of that," Gray said. "The basketball is a big part of if, but it's a chance to travel and bond as a team."

Follow Len on Twitter: @Len_Hayward_MRT

BOXES AND SCHEDULE

Girls

MIDLAND HIGH 51, ODESSA PERMIAN 41

Permian (5-8) — Tatanesha Fleming 3, Arianna Gonzales 4, Ruthie Fox 1, Te'Ana Washington 10, Ariel Brown 6, Jasmine Watkins 7, Maliyah Comer 6, Akwai Mayem 4

Midland High (8-10) — Arcie Guardiola 3, Mari Martin 1, Aubrie Elliott 21, Alexis Washington 7, Alexandrea Washington 7, Desare' Allen 5, Claire Lancaster 4, Val Hall 3

Permian	9	7	10	15—41
Midland High	6	19	13	13—51

Free throws — OP 6-16, MHS 23-34. 3-point goals — OP 3 (Fleming, Washington, Watkins). MHS 0. Total fouls — OP 17, MHS 16. Fouled out — None

MIDLAND HIGH 64, BUSHLAND 58

Midland High (7-10) — Arcie Guardiola 8, Miranda Mast 3, Aubrie Elliott 13, Alexis Washington 9, Alexandrea Washington 9, Desare' Allen 16, Claire Lancaster 6

Bushland — Madde Fredrikson 9, Kaitlyn Bauer 6, Bailee Barger 2, Bailey Baron 17, Emily Chapman 16, Bree Romo 1, Camryn Crist 5

Midland High	15	9	17	23—64
Bushland	12	10	16	18—56

Free throws — MHS 9-16, BL 12-20. 3-point goals — MHS 3 (Guardiola, Alexis Washington, Alexa Washington), BL 6 (Fredersksen 3, Baron, Chapman, Crist). Total fouls — MHS 16, BL 23. Fouled out — None

LEE 63, BAYTOWN LEE 32

Lee — Yanzta Rivas 7, Allison Valdez 13, Daja Stanford 16, Savannah Sutton 2, Kyra Lewis 12, Bri Ann Washington 8, Jackie Rivas 3, Hannah Payne 2

Baytown Lee — Aisha Adams 15, Tarun Bean 2, Kierra Levon 9, Karissa Bailey 6

Lee	21	17	11	13—62
Baytown Lee	8	14	2	8—32

Free throws — Lee 3-9, Baytown Lee 7-16. 3-point goals — Lee 3 (Valdez, Stanford 2), Baytown Lee 1 (Levon). Total fouls — Lee 17, Baytown Lee 12

PLAINVIEW 55, LEE 47

Plainview — Jaden Gonzales 6, Meredith McDonough 13, Stacey DeLa Garza 7, Carlee Hardage 3, Tavia Hearn 8, Davis 2, Kari Wheeler 11, Khyra Riddley 5

Lee (13-6) — Yantza Rivas 2, Allison Valdez 11, Daja Stanford 13, Savannah Sutton 4, Kyra Lewis 2, Bri An Washington 4, Jackie Rivas 5, Hannah Payne 6

Plainview	15	12	13	15—55
Lee	8	11	12	16—47

Free throws — PV 22-39, Lee 15-25. 3-point goals — PV 3 (Gonzales, McDonough, Hardage, Lee 2 (Stanford, J. Rivas). Total fouls — PV 16, Lee 20. Fouled out — Washington

PLAINVIEW 45, MIDLAND CLASSICAL 31

Plainview — Jaden Gonzales 7, Meredith McDonough 4, Brittany Rincon 2, Tavia Hearn 8, Kari Wheeler 18, Shalee Bennett 2, Khyra Riddley 2, Harlee Davis 2

MCA (9-4) — Alissa Beathe 10, Kristen Johnson 4, Kayla Beathe 9, Rachel Long 2, Delanie Griffin 6

Plainview	10	18	13	4—45
MCA	10	8	4	9—31

Free throws — PV 5-9, MCA 9-19. 3-point goals — PV 5 (Wheeler 2, McDonough, Gonzales), MCA 4 (A Beathe 3, K Beathe). Total fouls — PV 18, MCA 9. Fouled out — None

MIDLAND CLASSICAL 47, BAYTOWN LEE 30

Lee — Karissa Bailey 9, Jakaila Thompson 9, Aishia Adams 7, Kierra Levan 5

MCA (10-4) — Kayla Beathe 14, Delanie Griffin 14, Alissa Beathe 9, Kristen Johnson 6, Summer Sparks 4

Lee	4	11	11	4—30
MCA	10	8	15	14—47

Free throws — Lee 7-11, MCA 5-6. 3-point goals — Lee 1 (Levan), MCA 0. Total fouls — Lee 10, MCA 10. Fouled out — None

EL PASO EASTLAKE 48, ODESSA PERMIAN 44

Eastlake — Krys Spence 17, Paola Ponce 2, Caitie Aguirre 5, Alyssa Aguirre 2, Elisa Gonzalez 11, Heather Crittendon 11

Odessa Permian — Rhianna Jones 2, Tatanesha Fleming 6, Ke Avionni Ramzy 6, Latasha Griffin 3, Kathrine Claxton 4, Te Ana Washington 7, Jasmine Watkins 11, M' Comer 4, Akwai Mayem 1

Eastlake	10	15	11	12—48
Permian	12	8	8	16—44

Free throws — Eastlake 9-13, Permian 11-19. 3-point goals — Eastlake 3 (Spence, Gonzalez 2), Permian 2 (Ramzy, Watkins). Total fouls — Eastlake 12, Permian 12. Technical fouls — Eastlake, Spence

EL PASO EASTLAKE 69, BUSHLAND 58

Bushland — Madde Fredrikson 6, Kaitlyn Bauer 5, Bailee Barber 10, Kori Wilhelm 2, Bailey Baron 2, Emily Chapman 12, Bree Romo 1, Rachael Climer 2, Lauren Mayer 6, Camryn Crist 8, Lexi Harrison 3

EP Eastlake — Cassandra Aquero 1, Krys Spence 15, Caitie Aguirre 6, Alyssa Aguirre 8, Calley Johnson 4, Elias Gonzalez 17, Crystal Tena 17

Bushland	9	12	18	19—58
Eastlake	20	14	21	13—69

Free throws — Bushland 12-19, Eastlake 15-23. 3-point goals — Bushland 8 (Fredrikson, Barber 2, Chapman, Crist 2, Harrison), Eastlake 4 (Spence 2, A. Aguirre 2). Total fouls — Bushland 24, Eastlake 16. Fouled out — none

Boys

LEE 49, BUSHLAND 31

Lee (5-9) — Jon Maldonado 21, Jordan Williams 11, Donald Ekman 12, Dedrick Thompson 4, Anthony McCoy 5, Tre Guerrero 2, Semaj Davis 4

Bushland — Teagan Shelton 8, Colter Cornelius 2, Taylor Cornelius 2, Collin Smith 2, Baylor Andrews 2, Tucker Thrash 5, Josh Richardson 2, Tate Smallgan 6, Blane Barnett 2

Lee	15	21	8	5—49
Bushland	10	10	5	6—31

Free throws — Lee 7-13, BL 13-21. 3-point goals — Lee 6 (Maldonado 5, McCoy), BL 0. Total fouls — Lee 18, BL 15. Fouled out — Daniel Nelson

LEE 49, ALIEF HASTINGS 43

Hastings — Toma'Edore 1, Eric Nwadike 2, Darvine Thomas 12, Ejike Okocha-Ojeah 2, Tobenna Okezie 3, Emilio Garza 5, Deon Ekwere 2, Shawn Johnson 16

Lee (5-5) — Semaj Davis 3, Daniel Nelson 3, Dedrick Thompson 2, Anthony McCoy 5, John Maldonado 2, Donald Ekman 21, Jordan Williams 13

Hastings	15	8	8	12—43
Lee	9	14	19	15—49

Free throws — Hastings 6-10, Lee 14-24. 3-point goals — Hastings 6 (Thomas, Okezie, Garza, Johnson 3), Lee 2 (McCoy, Davis). Total fouls — Hastings 18, Lee 12. Fouled out — none

MIDLAND HIGH 83, EL PASO EASTLAKE 49

Midland High (4-9) — Juan Melendez 2, Shawn Rivers 13, Justin Ledner 5, Gary Ringo 19, Aaron Collins 1, Will Norwood 8, Mazelle Justice 7, Trevor Abney 8

Eastlake — Joseph Corral 8, Daniel Wasinger 6, Mando Vasquez 6, Rick Ballard 1, Josh Lam 2, Thomas Martinez 9, Sam Quintila 2, Alex Vasquez 4, Brody Moore 7, Isaiah Hargett 4

Midland High	9	19	23	12—63
Eastlake	16	6	16	11—49

Free throws — MHS 20-34, EPE 11-20. 3-point goals — MHS 3 (Rivers, Ringo, Abney), EPE 0. Total fouls — MHS 21, EPE 24. Fouled out — Corral, Technical fouls — EPE, Corral

CROWLEY 65, MIDLAND HIGH 47

Crowley — Martinez Edwards 1, Brandon Cooke 6, Daneaz Moses 14, Byron Cooke 11, Wyatt Beene 10, Markus Jones 16, Nick Johns 3, Adam Aguire 4

Midland High (4-9) — Juan Melendez 2, Shawn Rivers 10, Justin Ledeatr 1, AD Johnson 1, Gary Ringo 4, Brandon Sanchez 3, Lawerence Windham 7, Will Norwood 4, Mazelle Justice 5, Miguel Villanueva 8, Trevor Abney 2

Crowley	15	19	14	17—65
Midland High	8	8	17	14—47

Free throws — CHS 15-31, MHS 8-14. 3-point goals — CHS 7 (Moses 4, Beene 2, Johns), MHS 1 (Sanchez). Total fouls — CHS 16, MHS 29. Fouled out — Rivers, Windham

BUSHLAND 56, EL PASO AMERICAS 49, OT

Bushland — Teagan Shelton 2, Colter Cornelius 8, Taylor Cornelius 13, Baylor Andrews 12, Bayler Boydstund 2, Tucker Thrash 1, Tate Smallgan 12, Blane Barnett 1

Americas — Elijah Maldon 1, Chris Pantoja 2, Tristen Licon 24, Steve Ortiz 12, Robert Flores, Chrestan Mitchell 8

Bushland	17	5	17	10	7—56
Americas	11	14	13	11	0—49

Free throws — BUSH 12-19, AMER 13-21. 3-point goals — BL 3 (C Cornelius 2, Shelton), EPA 4 (Licon 6, Total fouls — BL 11, EPB 14. Fouled out — None

EL PASO AMERICAS 45, ALIEF HASTINGS 41

Hastings — Toni Edore 4, Eric Nwadike 2, Darvine Thomas 10, Paul Ortiz 1, Mo Lawson 1, Christian Michaud, Jr. 9, Emilio Garza 14

Americas — Elijah Maldon 1, Christian Pantoja 2, Tristen Licon 16, Raul Ortiz 12, Mo Lawson 1, Christian Michaud, Jr. 9, Robert Flores

Hastings	2	21	7	11—41
Americas	13	9	7	16—45

Free throws — Hastings 11-19, Americas 9-13. 3-point goals — Hastings 4 (Thomas, Garza 3), Americas 5 (Pantoja, Licon 3, Flores). Total fouls — Hastings 19, Americas 15. Fouled out — Hastings, Eanoe, Swanson

CROWLEY 79, PLAINVIEW 53

Crowley — Martinez Edwards 6, Tre Williams 12, Brandon Cooke 4, Darneal Moses 13, Byron Cooke 8, A'guire 2, Blake Austin, Wyatt Beene 8, Markus Jones 24, Nick Johns, De'aundre Mahoney 3

Plainview — B. Riddley 4, Kaleb Hunter 6, Jaylon Ellis 21, Thomas Smith 1, Dominic Gonzales 2, Parish Oldfield 2, Zach Riddley 12

Crowley	20	20	21	18—79
Plainview	12	15	14	12—53

Free throws — Crowley 14-20, Plainview 20-29. 3-point goals — Crowley 5 (Williams, Moses 2, Cooke, Austin), Plainview 6 (Ellis 3, Smith, McGee). Total fouls — Crowley 23, Plainview 17. Fouled out — Plainview, Hunter

PLAINVIEW 67, EL PASO EASTLAKE 42

EP Eastlake — Joseph Corral, Danny Wasinger, Mando Vasquez 7, Thomas Martinez 8, Samuel Quintila 2, A Vasquez 4, Brody Moore 4, Holguin 2

Plainview — Kaleb Hunter 4, Jaylon Ellis 18, Thomas Smith 6, Desmond Ivory 2, Ben McGee 19, Parish Oldfield 2, Zach Riddley 12, Austin Doherty 2

Eastlake	12	12	4	14—42
Plainview	19	13	18	17—67

Free throws — Eastlake 7-13, Plainview 19-28. 3-point goals — Eastlake 2 (Corral, A Vasquez), Plainview 6 (Ellis 4, McGee 2). Total fouls — Eastlake 22, Plainview 15. Fouled out — Eastlake, Martinez

Byron Johnston Holiday Classic
Thursday-Saturday
All games at Chaparral Center unless noted

Girls

Pool play

Pool A — Midland High, Odessa Permian, El Paso Eastlake, Bushland

Pool B — Lee, Midland Classical, Plainview, Baytown Lee

Thursday

Lee 42, Midland Classical 37
Bushland 63, Odessa Permian 62, OT
Plainview 71, Baytown Lee 28
El Paso Eastlake 47, Midland High 46

Friday

Plainview 45, Midland Classical 31
El Paso Eastlake 48, Odessa Permian 44
Lee 62, Baytown Lee 32
Midland High 64, Bushland 58
Midland Classical 47, Baytown Lee 30
Plainview 55, Lee 47
El Paso Eastlake 69, Bushland 57
Midland High 51, Odessa Permian 41

Today

Seventh-place Game

9 a.m. — Odessa Permian vs. Baytown Lee

Midland High

Fifth-place Game

9 a.m. — Midland Classical vs. Bushland

Third-place Game

Noon — Midland High vs. Lee

Championship

3 p.m. — Plainview vs. El Paso Eastlake

Boys

Pool play

Pool A — Midland High, Plainview, Crowley, El Paso Eastlake

Pool B — Lee, Bushland, Alief Hastings, El Paso Americas

Thursday

Lee 59, El Paso Americas 51
Bushland 55, Alief Hastings 53
Crowley 59, El Paso Eastlake 54
Plainview 81, Midland High 62

Friday

Lee 49, Bushland 31
El Paso Americas 44, Alief Hastings 41
Midland High 63, El Paso Eastlake 49
Crowley 79, Plainview 53
Bushland 56, El Paso Americas 49
Plainview 67, El Paso Eastlake 41
Lee 49, Alief Hastings 43
Crowley 65, Midland High 47

Today

Seventh-place Game

10:30 a.m. — El Paso Eastlake vs. Alief Hastings, Midland High gym

Fifth-place Game

10:30 a.m. — Midland High vs. El Paso Americas

Third-place Game

1:30 p.m. — Plainview vs. Bushland

Championship

4:30 p.m. — Lee vs. Crowley

Tiebreakers within pool play

A two-team tie for first-place goes to head-to-head record

A three-team tie for any place goes to point differential

RANGERS

From 1B

drugs, but returned to play in the AL wild-card tiebreaker game the Rangers lost.

The addition of Choo, whose salary will average about $18.6 million per season, also lessens the likelihood of Texas being serious bidders for Japanese star pitcher Masahiro Tanaka.

Rangers co-owner Bob Simpson said the team is 'comfortable where we are in terms of financial commitment '' and that "Tanaka would be a tough thing."

The Texas payroll is expected to be over $130 million next season. When the ownership group took over during the 2010 season, the same year the Rangers went to the first of consecutive World Series, the payroll was less than $60 million.

Choo's deal is the third-richest this offseason, behind only Robinson Cano ($240 million, 10 years from Seattle) and Jacoby Ellsbury ($153 million, seven years from New York Yankees). Choo will make $14 million in 2014 and 2015, $20 million from 2016-18, and $21 million the last two years of the deal. There is also a limited no-trade clause and award bonuses, the largest being $250,000 for being selected AL MVP.

Rangers manager Ron Washington plans to play Choo in left field and utilize him at the top of the batting order. He had a .423 OBP with Cincinnati and scored 107 runs last season.

"He'll be the kind of guy to come back to the dugout and let everyone know exactly what that pitcher is doing. ... That's old-school baseball right there," Washington said. "He's a young man bringing old-school values, and that's what I like the most."

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

THUNDER 89
BOBCATS 85

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kevin Durant had 34 points and 12 rebounds, and the Oklahoma City Thunder held on to defeat the Charlotte Bobcats 89-85 Friday night without injured guard Russell Westbrook.

Thunder announced before the game that Westbrook had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee and will be out until after the All-Star break.

MAGIC 109
PISTONS 92

ORLANDO, Fla. — Arron Afflalo scored 23 points to lead five teammates in double figures and Orlando snapped a three-game skid by beating Detroit.

The Magic led the Pistons by as many as 22 and cruised in the fourth quarter. Nik Vucevic added 20 points and 11 rebounds, and rookie Victor Oladipo finished with 16 points and a career-high 11 assists.

PELICANS 105
NUGGETS 89

NEW ORLEANS — Tyreke Evans had 19 points and 10 assists, and New Orleans handed Denver its fifth straight loss.

Jrue Holiday had 17 points and four steals, causing two turnovers that led to late fast-break points as the Pelicans slammed the door on Denver's comeback bid.

RAPTORS 95
KNICKS 83

NEW YORK — Jonas Valanciunas had 16 points and a career-high 18 rebounds, DeMar DeRozan scored 25 and Toronto rallied to beat New York.

The Raptors trailed by 12 in the third quarter, but outscored the Knicks 29-12 in the fourth to take the opener of the home-and-home series.

TIMBERWOLVES 120
WIZARDS 98

MINNEAPOLIS — Kevin Love had 25 points and 11 rebounds, and J.J. Barea scored 17 points off the bench to help Minnesota top Washington.

Ricky Rubio had 11 points, nine assists and eight rebounds in 26 minutes, and Nikola Pekovic added 18 points and 10 boards for the Timberwolves. Minnesota outrebounded Washington 44-35 and only turned the ball over five times.

NETS 104
BUCKS 93

NEW YORK — Shaun Livingston scored 20 points, Mirza Teletovic added 19 off the bench and Brooklyn rebounded from an embarrassing Christmas Day performance by ending its four-game losing streak with a victory over Milwaukee.

Paul Pierce added 13 points for the Nets, who lost by 17 in each of their previous two games.

JAZZ 105
LAKERS 103

SALT LAKE CITY — Derrick Favors had 18 points and 14 rebounds and made a put-back dunk with 2.1 seconds remaining to lift the Utah Jazz to a 105-103 victory over the depleted Los Angeles Lakers on Friday night.

With the game tied at 103, Gordon Hayward drove to the basket on Utah's final possession but missed his off-balance attempt as the Lakers converged. Favors grabbed the rebound and slammed the ball through the hoop to snap Utah's four-game home losing streak. Hayward finished with 24 points and nine assists.

Tim Sharp/AP

Dallas Stars left wing Jamie Benn (14) celebrates with teammates Jordie Benn (24) and Valeri Nichushkin (43) after scoring against the Nashville Predators during the first period of Friday's game in Dallas.

Cole scores 2 goals in Stars' win over Predators

Associated Press

DALLAS — Erik Cole scored two goals in the second period when Dallas snapped a tie, and the Stars went on to beat the Nashville Predators 4-1 on Friday night.

Cole has scored in his last three games against Nashville, including three in two games this season.

Dallas (19-12-6) is 4-0-1 in its last five games and 5-1-1 since a 3-1 loss at Nashville on Dec. 12.

The Predators (16-18-4) are 1-4-1 since then and are winless in their last five games. They have allowed 21 goals in those five games.

Jamie Benn scored on Dallas' first shot, a wrap-around just 42 seconds into the game. Antoine Roussel missed a penalty shot at 16:35 of the first period.

Nashville tied it on Kevin Klein's first goal this season at 7:14 of the second. The defenseman skated down the slot and knocked Colin Wilson's centering pass from low in the left circle past goalie Kari Lehtonen at 7:14.

Stars	**4**
Predators	1

Just 24 seconds later, Cole sent a drive from the right circle into the near corner of the net for a 2-1 lead. Rich Peverley's back-handed pass from the goal line set up Cole.

On his second goal, Cole skated in hard at Hutton, then stopped abruptly. The goalie spread-eagled across the net, but Cole fitted the puck between Hutton's left skate and the right post.

Ryan Garbutt tipped in a shot at 4:09 of the third for Dallas' final goal.

Lehtonen made 33 saves, and Hutton finished with 30. Nashville had changed goalies in its three previous games.

Benn beat Hutton after skating behind the net. Hutton was late getting across, seemingly more concerned with Tyler Seguin on the left side.

Dallas had a chance for a two-goal lead at 16:35 of the first period. Roussel was awarded a penalty shot when he was pulled down after taking a pass at the blue line and splitting two defenders.

It was Roussel's second penalty shot this season. He scored the winning goal in a 4-3 victory at Chicago on Dec. 3.

Nashville outshot the Stars 9-7 in the first, but Dallas also missed seven shots to the Predators' three.

NOTES: The line of Benn, Seguin and Valeri Nichushkin has totaled 12 goals in the last six games. Dallas' Alex Chiasson missed his second consecutive game because of the flu. The Stars removed Aaron Rome (lower-body injury) from the injured list, but placed defenseman Sergei Gonchar (concussion) on the list. . Nashville rookie defenseman Seth Jones, 19, made his first NHL appearance in his hometown.

NBA STANDINGS AND BOXES

STANDINGS
EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	12	15	444	--
Boston	12	17	414	1
Brooklyn	10	19	345	3
New York	9	20	310	4
Philadelphia	8	20	286	4 1/2

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	22	6	786	--
Atlanta	16	13	552	6 1/2
Charlotte	14	16	467	9
Washington	12	14	462	9
Orlando	9	20	310	13 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	23	5	821	--
Detroit	14	17	452	10 1/2
Chicago	11	16	407	11 1/2
Cleveland	10	18	357	13
Milwaukee	6	23	207	17 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	23	7	767	--
Houston	20	11	645	3 1/2
Dallas	16	13	552	6 1/2
New Orleans	13	14	481	8 1/2
Memphis	12	16	429	10

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	24	5	828	--
Oklahoma City	24	5	828	--
Denver	14	14	500	9 1/2
Minnesota	14	15	483	10
Utah	9	23	281	16 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	20	11	645	--
Phoenix	17	10	630	1
Golden State	17	13	567	2 1/2
L.A. Lakers	13	17	433	6 1/2
Sacramento	8	19	296	10

Friday's Scores

Orlando 109, Detroit 92
Oklahoma City 89, Charlotte 85
Toronto 95, New York 83
Brooklyn 104, Milwaukee 93
Minnesota 120, Washington 98
New Orleans 105, Denver 89
Utah 105, L.A. Lakers 103
Miami at Sacramento, late
Phoenix at Golden State, late

Today's Games

Cleveland at Boston, Noon
Brooklyn at Indiana, 6 p.m.
Detroit at Washington, 6 p.m.
New York at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Charlotte at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Dallas at Chicago, 7 p.m.
New Orleans at Houston, 4 p.m.
Denver at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Miami at Portland, 9 p.m.
Utah at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY'S BOXES
NETS 104, BUCKS 93

MILWAUKEE (93): Middleton 3-11 7-7 15, Ilyasova 2-11 2-2 6, Henson 4-5 0-0 8, Knight 4-13 2-4 11, Antetokounmpo 5-12 5-6 16, Butler 0-7 0-0 0, Mayo 5-13 0-0 13, Sanders 4-5 2-6 10, Wolters 2-5 0-0 5, Pridmor 3-5 0-0 7, Raduljica 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 33-86 18-25 93

BROOKLYN (104): Johnson 2-12 1-2 6, Pierce 4-11 4-5 13, Garnett 3-5 4-5 10, Williams 4-9 0-0 9, Livingston 6-11 8-8 20, Teletovic 7-13 0-0 19, Terry 4-7 0-0 12, Plumlee 2-4 1-4 5, Anderson 1-5 1-2 3, Evans 1-2 3-4 5, Taylor 0-0 2-2 2, Shengelia 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 34-79 24-32 104

Milwaukee	18	19	23	33 — 93
Brooklyn	31	17	28	28 — 104

3-Point Goals—Milwaukee 9-32 (Mayo 3-7, Middleton 2-6, Wolters 1-2, Ridnour 1-3, Knight 1-4, Antetokounmpo 1-5, Butler 0-1, Ilyasova 0-4). Brooklyn 12-26 (Teletovic 5-9, Terry 4-5, Williams 1-3, Pierce 1-4, Johnson 1-4, Anderson 0-1). Fouled Out—Middleton, Sanders. Rebounds—Milwaukee 56 (Antetokounmpo 10, Brooklyn 59 (Evans 13). Assists—Milwaukee 20 (Knight, Ridnour 5). Brooklyn 22 (Livingston 6). Total Fouls—Milwaukee 26, Brooklyn 23. Technicals—Mayo, Milwaukee defensive three second, Brooklyn delay of game. A—17,732 (17,732).

MAGIC 109, PISTONS 92

DETROIT (92): Smith 2-13 1-2 5, Monroe 3-9 0-2 6, Drummond 5-12 0-4 10, Jennings 7-16 6-7 21, Caldwell-Pope 0-2 0-0 0, Stuckey 3-6 0-0 6, Singler 3-5 0-0 7, Hamilton 4-8 0-0 9, Bynum 8-13 1-1 18. Datome 1-6 0-0 2, Jerebko 3-5 1-2 8. Totals 39-95 9-18 92

ORLANDO (109): Harris 6-10 4-6 16, Davis 7-15 0-1 14, Vucevic 9-16 2-2 20, Nelson 3-7 0-0 6, Afflalo 9-11 3-4 23, Oladipo 5-12 5-8 16, Harkless 1-6 0-0 2, Lamb 0-0 0-0 0, Price 3-4 0-0 7, Maxiell 2-3 0-0 4, O'Quinn 0-0 1-2 1, Jones 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 45-85 15-23 109

Detroit	21	27	18	26 — 92
Orlando	26	29	30	24 — 109

3-Point Goals—Detroit 5-18 (Jerebko 1-1, Singler 1-2, Bynum 1-3, Harrelson 1-3, Jennings 1-4, Datome 0-1, Smith 0-2, Caldwell-Pope 0-2). Orlando 4-14 (Afflalo 2-2, Price 1-1, Oladipo 1-4, Harkless 0-1, Harris 0-2, Nelson 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Detroit 58 (Drummond 11), Orlando 55 (Vucevic 11). Assists—Detroit 16 (Jennings 8), Orlando 26 (Oladipo 11). Total Fouls—Detroit 22, Orlando 19. A—16,464 (18,500).

THUNDER 89, BOBCATS 85

OKLAHOMA CITY (89): Durant 14-28 4-6 34, Ibaka 6-8 0-0 12, Perkins 0-3 0-0 0, Jackson 4-19 1-2 10, Sefolosha 3-5 3-4 12, Jones 0-0 0-0 0, Lamb 4-10 1-2 10, Adams 1-1 4-6 6, Fisher 1-4 0-0 3. Collison 0-2 2-2 2. Totals 33-80 15-24 89

CHARLOTTE (85): Tolliver 2-5 0-0 6, McRoberts 5-13 0-0 13, Jefferson 7-16 2-2 16, Walker 6-17 4-6 18, Henderson 6-12 1-1 14, Zeller 5-5 3-4 3, Biyombo 1-2 0-0 2, Sessions 2-3 4-5 9, Douglas-Roberts 0-3 2-2 2. Gordon 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 30-80 16-20 85

Oklahoma City	21	21	20	27 — 89
Charlotte	20	16	24	25 — 85

3-Point Goals—Oklahoma City 8-25 (Sefolosha 3-5, Durant 2-6, Fisher 1-3, Lamb 1-4, Jackson 1-5, Ibaka 0-1, Collison 0-1), Charlotte 9-23 (McRoberts 3-7, Walker 2-4, Tolliver 2-5, Sessions 1-1, Henderson 1-2, Gordon 0-2, Douglas-Roberts 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Oklahoma City 58 (Durant 12), Charlotte 52 (Jefferson 11). Assists—Oklahoma City 19 (Durant 6), Charlotte 20 (McRoberts, Walker 7). Total Fouls—Oklahoma City 18, Charlotte 18. Technicals—Oklahoma City defensive three second. A—18,129 (19,077).

RAPTORS 95, KNICKS 83

TORONTO (95): Johnson 3-6 1-1 7, Ross 4-8 0-0 11, Valanciunas 7-11 2-4 16, Lowry 4-10 5-8 15, DeRozan 7-13 9-10 25, Hansbrough 0-1 0-0 0, Patterson 1-1 0-0 2, Hansbrough 0-2 4-4 4, Vasquez 1-7 2-2 4. Totals 31-73 23-33 95

NEW YORK (83):	Bargnani 6-17 4-5 18, J.Smith 7-15 0-2 17, Chandler 3-7 1-3 7, Udrih 6-11 2-2 15, Shumpert 0-2 0-0 0, Martin 0-4 0-0 0, Hardaway Jr. 5-13 1-1 15, Stoudemire 2-5 3-6 7, World Peace 0-1 0-0 0, Murry 1-4 2-2 4. Totals 30-79 13-21 83			
Toronto	18	22	26	29 — 95
New York	25	24	22	12 — 83

3-Point Goals—Toronto 10-28 (Ross 3-6, Salmons 3-7, DeRozan 2-5, Lowry 2-5, Patterson 0-1, Johnson 0-2, Vasquez 0-2), New York 10-19 (Hardaway Jr. 4-5, J.Smith 3-7, Bargnani 2-3, Udrih 1-1, World Peace 0-1, Shumpert 0-1, Murry 0-1). Fouled Out—Udrih. Rebounds—Toronto 58 (Valanciunas 18), New York 51 (Bargnani 12). Assists—Toronto 21 (Lowry 11), New York 19 (Udrih 10). Total Fouls—Toronto 20, New York 29. A—19,812 (19,763).

TIMBERWOLVES 120, WIZARDS 98

WASHINGTON (98): Ariza 3-9 2-2 10, Booker 5-7 0-0 10, Gortat 3-6 2-2 8, Wall 11-20 3-3 26, Beal 5-12 2-2 14, Webster 4-11 0-0 11, Nene 4-10 5-8 13, Porter Jr. 1-2 0-0 2, Vesely 1-1 0-0 2, Temple 0-1 0-0 0, Singleton 1-3 0-0 2, Maynor 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 38-83 14-17 98.

MINNESOTA (120): Brewer 4-9 2-2 10, Love 8-18 7-7 25, Pekovic 6-13 6-8 18, Rubio 2-5 7-8 11, Martin 5-12 2-5 12, Cunningham 3-7 0-0 6, Mbah a Moute 1-2 2-2 4, Shved 3-7 5-6 13, Barea 8-10 0-0 17, Muhammad 1-1 0-0 2, Price 0-0 0-0 0, Hummel 1-1 0-0 2, Dieng 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 42-85 31-36 120.

Washington	23	24	27	24 — 98
Minnesota	22	39	27	32 — 120

3-Point Goals—Washington 8-21 (Webster 3-7, Beal 2-3, Ariza 2-5, Wall 1-4, Porter Jr. 0-1, Singleton 0-1), Minnesota 5-15 (Shved 2-2, Love 2-7, Barea 1-1, Martin 0-2, Brewer 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Washington 45 (Booker 9), Minnesota 53 (Love 11). Assists—Washington 18 (Wall 7), Minnesota 26 (Rubio 9). Total Fouls—Washington 25, Minnesota 12. Technicals—Minnesota defensive three second. A—16,473 (19,356).

PELICANS 105, NUGGETS 89

DENVER (89): Chandler 7-20 5-6 22, Hickson 7-9 2-6 16, Mozgov 4-8 0-0 8, Lawson 3-12 8-8 14, Hamilton 5-13 0-2 12, Robinson 0-3 0-0 0, Randolph 3-7 2-2 8, A.Miller 0-3 0-0 0, Faye 0-1 0-0 0, Q.Miller 4-6 0-0 9. Totals 33-82 17-24 89.

NEW ORLEANS (105): Aminu 5-8 1-2 11, Anderson 6-19 0-0 16, Davis 7-12 3-6 17, Holiday 8-13 0-0 17, Morrow 3-8 0-0 8, Ajinca 2-3 0-0 4, Evans 7-17 4-4 19, Roberts 0-4 0-0 0, D.Miller 3-4 2-3 11, Amundson 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 42-89 10-15 105.

Denver	25	20	21	23 — 89
New Orleans	34	24	23	24 — 105

3-Point Goals—Denver 6-23 (Chandler 3-9, Hamilton 2-6, Q.Miller 1-1, A.Miller 0-1, Robinson 0-2, Lawson 0-4), New Orleans 11-24 (Anderson 4-11, D.Miller 3-4, Morrow 2-5, Holiday 1-1, Evans 1-2, Roberts 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Denver 50 (Hickson 10), New Orleans 58 (Anderson 10). Assists—Denver 19 (Lawson 12), New Orleans 28 (Evans 10). Total Fouls—Denver 15, New Orleans 21. A—18,089 (17,188).

JAZZ 105, LAKERS 103

L.A. LAKERS (103): Johnson 0-2 0-0 0, S.Williams 2-6 0-0 4, Kaman 7-11 5-6 19, Farmar 6-13 3-4 16, Meeks 4-15 2-2 13, Henry 5-7 0-2 12, Kelly 1-1 0-0 2, Young 3-9 0-0 7, Hill 3-5 6-6 8. 16. Sacre 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 40-80 16-23 103.

UTAH (105): Jefferson 2-7 2-2 7, M.Williams 6-14 1-2 16, Favors 9-15 0-0 18, Burke 6-10 0-0 14, Hayward 9-17 4-5 24, Burks 3-9 6-7 13, Lucas III 0-6 0-0 0, Kanter 3-6 2-2 8, Evans 2-4 1-2 5, Rush 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-88 16-26 105.

L.A. Lakers	23	25	29	22 — 103
Utah	25	30	28	22 — 105

3-Point Goals—L.A. Lakers 7-23 (Meeks 3-9, Henry 2-3, Farmar 1-1, Young 1-4, Johnson 0-2, S.Williams 0-4), Utah 9-23 (M.Williams 3-7, Burke 2-4, Hayward 2-5, Burks 1-1, Jefferson 1-2, Evans 0-1, Lucas III 0-3). Fouled Out—Young. Rebounds—L.A. Lakers 47 (Kaman 10), Utah 52 (Favors 14). Assists—L.A. Lakers 16 (Farmar 7), Utah 25 (Hayward 9). Total Fouls—L.A. Lakers 19, Utah 18. A—19,911 (19,911).

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	38	26	10	2	54	111	77
Tampa Bay	37	23	11	3	49	106	87
Montreal	38	22	13	3	47	96	84
Detroit	39	17	13	9	43	99	108
Toronto	40	19	16	5	43	110	116
Ottawa	40	15	18	7	37	111	131
Florida	38	14	19	5	33	88	120
Buffalo	38	10	24	4	24	69	109

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	40	28	11	1	57	125	91
Washington	38	20	14	4	44	120	114
Philadelphia	37	17	16	4	38	93	104
Columbus	38	17	17	4	38	103	107
N.Y.Rangers	39	18	19	2	38	90	105
New Jersey	39	15	16	8	38	93	101
Carolina	38	14	15	9	37	89	109
N.Y.Islanders	38	11	20	7	29	96	129

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	40	27	7	6	60	152	109
St. Louis	36	24	7	5	53	128	92
Colorado	37	23	11	3	49	108	86
Minnesota	40	20	15	5	45	92	102
Dallas	37	19	12	6	44	110	109
Winnipeg	40	17	18	5	39	109	120
Nashville	39	16	16	4	36	98	113

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	39	27	7	5	59	127	98
Los Angeles	38	25	9	4	54	106	76
San Jose	38	24	8	6	54	125	97
Vancouver	39	22	11	6	50	108	93
Phoenix	37	19	10	8	46	114	114
Calgary	38	14	18	6	34	85	120
Edmonton	40	13	24	3	29	103	135

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

Friday's Scores

Columbus 2, New Jersey 1, SO
Toronto 4, Buffalo 3, SO
San Jose 4, Phoenix 3, SO
Boston 5, Ottawa 0
Washington 3, N.Y.Rangers 2
Pittsburgh 4, Carolina 3, OT
Chicago 7, Colorado 2
Winnipeg 6, Minnesota 4
Dallas 4, Nashville 1
Edmonton 2, Calgary 0

Today's Games

Boston at Ottawa, 6 p.m.
Montreal at Tampa Bay, 6 p.m.
Detroit at Florida, 6 p.m.
New Jersey at N.Y.Islanders, 6 p.m.
Chicago at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Anaheim, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Edmonton, 9 p.m.

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Boston Marathon bombing AP sports story of year

By Rachel Cohen
Associated Press

Charles Krupa/AP

In this April 15 file photo, medical workers aid injured people following an explosion at the finish line of the 2013 Boston Marathon in Boston. The Boston Marathon bombing has been selected the sports story of the year in an annual vote conducted by The Associated Press.

NEW YORK — The Boston Marathon bombing was selected the sports story of the year Friday in an annual vote conducted by The Associated Press.

Two pressure cooker bombs exploded near the finish line of the April 15 race in an area packed with fans cheering the passing runners. Three people were killed and more than 260 injured, including at least 16 who lost limbs.

Authorities say brothers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, ethnic Chechens from Russia who emigrated to the United States as children, planned and carried out the bombings in retaliation for U.S. involvement in Muslim countries.

Ninety-six ballots were submitted from U.S. editors and news directors. Voters were asked to rank the top 10 sports stories of the year, with the first-place story receiving 10 points, the second-place story nine points and so on.

Here are 2013's top 10 stories:

1. BOSTON MARATHON BOMBINGS: The throngs of spectators lining the streets at a storied big-city marathon were once a wholesome scene of civic pride and friendly support. April's attack came as a haunting reminder that the crowds at a high-profile event are also a vulnerable target. Bag searches and metal detectors were a common sight at games the rest of the year. As victims persevere on prosthetic limbs, the 118th edition of the world's oldest marathon is set for the spring, with security undoubtedly heightened but runners determined to take part.

2. LANCE ARMSTRONG: The disgraced cyclist was also the No. 2 sports story last year. In 2012, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency stripped him of his record seven Tour de France titles, releasing mounds of evidence that he used PEDs to win them. In January, after years of defiant denials, Armstrong finally admitted it, telling Oprah Winfrey: "It's this myth, this perfect story, and it wasn't true."

3. NFL CONCUSSION SETTLEMENT: The NFL's settlement of lawsuits brought by thousands of former players will cost the league $765 million but won't end the turmoil over head injuries in football — or the litigation. The retirees, who had accused the NFL of concealing the long-term dangers of concussions, will be eligible for compensation for certain neurological ailments. The league did not admit to any wrongdoing after mediation resulted in a settlement in August.

4. BASEBALL DRUG BANS: Alex Rodriguez's 211-game suspension was the longest of the 13 announced in August for players connected to a Florida anti-aging clinic accused of distributing banned PEDs. The Yankees' slugger was the only one to contest the penalty, and the year ends with an arbitrator yet to rule. In July, Ryan Braun, the 2011 NL MVP who had previously denied using banned substances, accepted a 65-game suspension.

5. HERNANDEZ ARREST: On Jan. 20, New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez had nine catches for 83 yards in an AFC championship game loss to Baltimore. Just more than five months later, he , was charged with murder. Prosecutors accuse him of shooting a friend to death on a secluded gravel road for talking to the wrong people at a nightclub. Hernandez awaits trial amid revelations of a history of violence by the player.

6. RED SOX WIN: Boston's 2011 season ended with a collapse and tales of fried chicken and beer in the clubhouse; 2012 ended with a last-place finish and 93 losses. New manager John Farrell and his bearded sluggers embraced "Boston Strong" and tied for the best record in the majors in a turnaround few predicted. With timely hits up and down the lineup throughout the playoffs, the Red Sox beat the St. Louis Cardinals in six games for their third World Series title in a decade.

7. RAVENS SUPER: The power came back on, and Baltimore held on. Ravens coach John Harbaugh beat younger brother Jim's San Francisco 49ers, 34-31, in the Super Bowl in an unprecedented sibling showdown. But the game will be remembered most for the 34-minute outage at the Superdome in New Orleans. Baltimore star linebacker Ray Lewis rode into retirement with a ring.

8. AWESOME AUBURN: The Tigers' turnaround from a 3-9 record to the national title game was stunning enough. Even more shocking was how they did it. A deflected 73-yard touchdown pass with 25 seconds left gave Auburn a 43-38 win over Georgia on Nov. 16. The play that ended their next game will go down as one of the most memorable in college football history: Chris Davis' return of a missed field goal attempt more than 100 yards to beat No. 1 Alabama, 34-28.

9. TE'O HOAX: Heisman Trophy runner-up Manti Te'o struggled in Notre Dame's lopsided loss to Alabama in the national title game Jan. 7. Nine days later, his name became forever linked to a most bizarre sports story. That tragic tale about his girlfriend's death told over and over as the linebacker starred for an undefeated team? She didn't exist. Te'o insisted he was duped into believing the woman he never met in person was real.

10. HEAT TITLE: One more free throw or one more defensive rebound, and the San Antonio Spurs prevent Miami from repeating as champion. Instead, Ray Allen made one of the biggest shots in NBA Finals history, knocking down a second-chance 3-pointer with 5 seconds left to send Game 6 to overtime. The Heat won in the extra period and again in Game 7 to give LeBron James another title.

POWER POINTS

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Entry forms will appear in Monday's paper for the week's game.

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TODAY'S BOWL GAMES

FROM WIRE REPORTS

PINSTRIPE BOWL
NO. 25 NOTRE DAME (8-4) VS. RUTGERS (6-6), 11 A.M. (ESPN)

Line: Notre Dame by 14.
Series record: Notre Dame 4-0.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

The Fighting Irish are trying to avoid a third 8-5 season in four years under coach Brian Kelly — a season after reaching the BCS championship with a perfect regular season. The Scarlet Knights are trying to salvage a disappointing season with what would be one of their biggest upsets in recent years.

KEY MATCHUP

Notre Dame WRs TJ Jones and DaVaris Daniels and TE Troy Niklas against Rutgers' secondary. The Scarlet Knight's pass defense has been among the worst in the country, suffering through a combination of inexperience and injuries. Rutgers is tied for 100th in yards per pass, 103rd in completion percentage allowed and 122nd in yards passing allowed per game. It's bad. And Notre Dame's receivers are very good.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Notre Dame: DE Stephon Tuitt. The junior could be playing his final college game, with the NFL in his future. Tuitt wasn't quite as good this season as he was in 2012, but he still lead the team with six sacks and had 13 quarterback hurries.

Rutgers: DE Darius Hamilton. The talented sophomore has improved as the season has gone on and leads the team with 10 tackles for loss. Hamilton's ability to get pressure on QB Tommy Rees is the Scarlet Knights' only hope to stop the pass.

FACTS & FIGURES

Rutgers has allowed at least 400 passing yards four times this season. ... Notre Dame is 16-6-3 at Yankee Stadium. All but two of those games were against Army. ... The Fighting Irish beat five teams that reached bowl games this season. The Scarlet Knights have no victories against teams that reached six wins. ... Notre Dame is playing with two interim coordinators. Mike Denbrock runs the offense after Chuck Martin left for Miami, Ohio. Kerry Cooks took over the defense after Bob Diaco became head coach at UConn. ... Rutgers has an interim defensive coordinator. Special teams coordinator Joe Rossi took over after Dave Cohen was fired ... Rutgers RB Paul James needs 167 yards to reach 1,000 for the season, despite missing four games.

BELK BOWL
CINCINNATI (9-3) VS. NORTH CAROLINA (6-6), 2:20 P.M.

Line: North Carolina by 3.
Series Record: Third meeting, North Carolina leads 2-0.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

North Carolina has a chance to finish with a winning record after starting the season 1-5 and capture their first bowl victory under second-year coach Larry Fedora. Cincinnati is a bowl-tested team; this is the Bearcats' seventh postseason appearance in the last eight years. Cincinnati defeated Duke 48-34 in the Belk Bowl last year.

KEY MATCHUP

North Carolina TE Eric Ebron vs. Cincinnati's secondary. Few teams have a tight end as their leading receiver like the Tar Heels. Ebron is a tough matchup and has caught 55 passes for 895 yards and three scores this season. Cincinnati's defense has limited its opponents to 19.5 points per game.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

North Carolina: DE Kareem Martin has been tough to slow down. He has 11 sacks and 78 tackles with 20 of those for a loss.

Cincinnati: QB Brendon Kay, the game's MVP last year with four touchdown passes, has thrown for 3,121 yards and 22 TDs this season with 11 interceptions.

FACTS & FIGURES

Kay was granted a sixth year of eligibility last year after NCAA approved his request for an extension of his eligibility waiver. Kay has missed multiple games during his Cincinnati career. ... WR Chris Moore has a team-high nine TD catches for Cincinnati. ... K Tony Milano is only 6 of 15 on field goal attempts. ... The Bearcats are averaging 33.3 points per game. ... Tar Heels QB Marquise Williams has thrown for 14 touchdowns and run for six since taking over for Bryn Renner. He's also the team's leading rusher with 490 yards. ... North Carolina is just the sixth team since the regular season expanded to 12 games in 2006 to begin the season 1-5 and earn a bowl bid. ... UNC is 2-0 all-time against Cincinnati. The last meeting was a 51-16 North Carolina victory on Sept. 14, 1991, in Chapel Hill, N.C.

RUSSELL ATHLETIC BOWL
MIAMI (9-3) VS. NO. 18 LOUISVILLE (11-1), 5:45 P.M. (ESPN)

Line: Louisville by 3 1/2.
Series record: Miami leads 9-1-1.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

The 18th-ranked Cardinals missed out on their second straight BCS bowl berth, but can join the 2006 team as the only other squad to post 12 wins in a season. Louisville junior Teddy Bridgewater also has a chance to tie the school record of 27 wins for a starting quarterback. The highly-rated NFL prospect says he will decide after the season whether or not to forgo his senior year and enter the draft. Miami is back playing in the postseason for the first time since 2010 after a self-imposed bowl ban in 2011 and 2012 because of an NCAA investigation. The game is a preview of future conference foes with Louisville joining the ACC next season.

KEY MATCHUP

Louisville passing attack vs. Miami secondary. Louisville's offense has thrived this season primarily on the arm of Bridgewater, who threw for 28 touchdowns and more than 3,500 yards. The Cardinals passing offense ranks 18th in the nation (302.9 yards per game), and racks up 13 yards a completion. Miami's has at times been vulnerable defending the pass, allowing just 233.4 yards per game through the air, which ranks 71st in the country.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Miami: The Hurricanes do have players capable of disrupting the Cardinals passing attack. It starts with LB Denzel Perryman, who leads the team with 104 tackles and DL Shayon Green, who has 10.5 tackles for a loss on the year. CB Tracy Howard (four interceptions) will also be called upon to have a big game. On offense Miami will look to QB Stephen Morris, who has thrown for more than 2,800 yards and 21 touchdowns.

Louisville: It starts with Bridgewater who, in addition to posting his secpnd straight 3,500-yard passing season, had a touchdown pass in all but one game in 2013. One of his favorite targets, WR DeVante Parker, also managed to post a career-high 46 catches for 743 yards and 10 TDs. DE Marcus Smith has had at least one sack in each of the Cardinals last four games and seven of their last eight.

FACTS & FIGURES

Louisville has scored at least 20 points in 28 straight games. ...Louisville has 26 players on its roster from the Miami area. ...The Cardinals are 1-2 all-time against ACC teams under coach Charlie Strong. ... Bridgewater (28 TDs in 2013) is approaching Brian Brohm's single-season school-record of 30 set in 2007. ...Miami is 19-17 all-time in bowl games. ...The Hurricanes have lost their previous three bowl games. Their last bowl victory was in 2006 against Nevada in the MPC Computers Bowl. ... Miami enters the Russell Athletic Bowl after the school's first nine-win season since 2009.

BUFFALO WILD WINGS BOWL
MICHIGAN (7-5) VS. KANSAS STATE (7-5), 9:15 P.M. (ESPN).

Line: Kansas State by 4 1/2.
Series record: First meeting.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Kansas State is trying to keep its momentum going after surging at the end of the season, while Michigan is looking to end on a good note after faltering. The Wildcats lost four of their first six games before going 5-1 down the stretch and are trying to end a five-game bowl losing streak. The Wolverines opened 6-1 and lost four of their final five games.

KEY MATCHUP

Michigan's rushing offense against Kansas State's defense. The Wolverines will be starting a quarterback who has attempted nine career passes, so they'll need to find some kind of run game to take the pressure off. Michigan was dreadful running the ball during the regular season, finishing 101st in the FBS with 130.8 yards per game, its worst season rushing in over a decade.

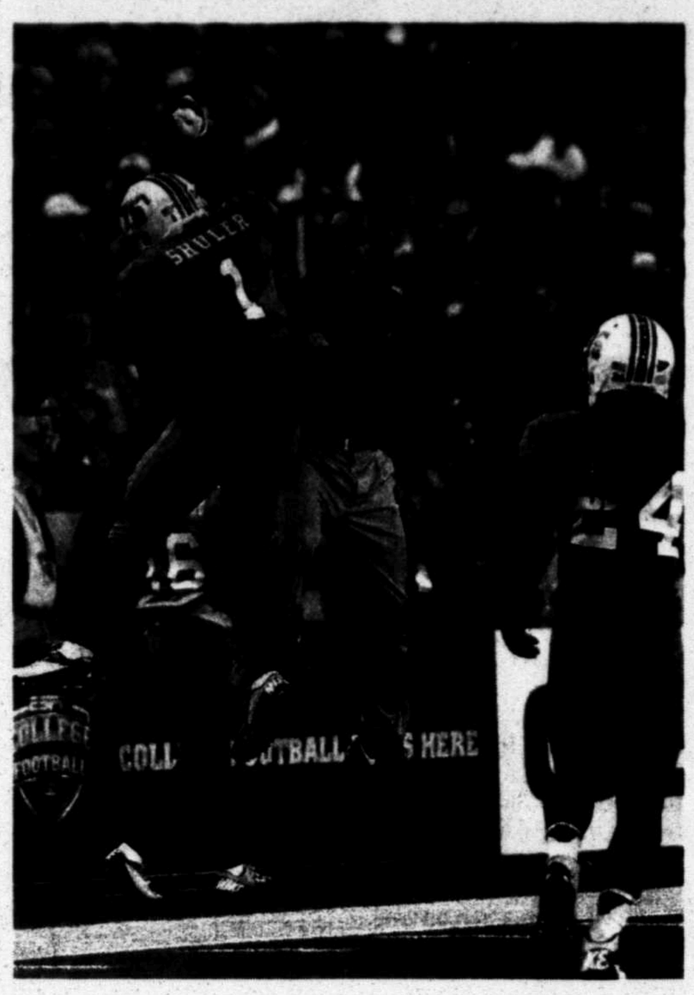
PLAYERS TO WATCH

Michigan: QB Shane Morris. The freshman will be thrust into the spotlight with starter Devin Gardner out because of a toe injury. Morris played just four games as a senior in high school because of mononucleosis and saw limited action his first college season, getting in three games for mop-up duty.

Kansas State: DE Ryan Mueller. A disruptive force on the line, he finished sixth nationally with 11 sacks and seventh in tackles for loss at 18.5. If he can get to Morris a couple of times early, it could be a long day for the Wolverines.

FACTS & FIGURES

Michigan is playing in a bowl for the 37th time in 39 years, including four straight. ... Kansas State is in its fourth consecutive bowl game but looking for its first postseason win since the 2002 Holiday Bowl. ... Michigan WR Jeremy Gallon is a big-play threat, evidenced by his Big Ten record 369 yards receiving against Indiana on Oct. 19. ... Kansas State led the Big 12 and was among the national leaders in converting third downs at 47 percent. ... Michigan's Devin Funchess had 727 yards receiving this season, most ever by a Wolverines tight end. ... Kansas State WR Tyler Lockett led the Big 12 and was 14th nationally with 151.4 all-purpose yards per game.



Gail Burton/AP

Marshall's Tommy Schuler, left, celebrates after scoring a touchdown with coach Mike Furrey in the first half of the Military Bowl on Friday against Maryland in Annapolis, Md.

BOWL ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

MILITARY BOWL
MARSHALL 31
MARYLAND 20

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Rakeem Cato threw for 337 yards and three touchdowns, and Marshall used two fourth-quarter scores to rally past Maryland 31-20 Friday in the Military Bowl.

The Thundering Herd (10-4) trailed 20-17 before Cato brought them back. After directing a 63-yard march to put Marshall up 24-20 with 12:05 left, Cato clinched it with an 8-yard touchdown throw to Gator Hoskins with 3:42 to play.

Cato completed 28 of 44 passes — with no interceptions — to help Marshall reach double digits in wins for the first time since 2002. The Thundering Herd came in averaging 43 points per game, but its underappreciated defense played a huge role in this one.

Maryland (7-6) scored only one touchdown after halftime, and A.J. Leggett followed Cato's final TD pass with an interception to set off a celebration among the huge gathering of Marshall fans among the crowd of 30,163.

TEXAS BOWL
SYRACUSE 21
MINNESOTA 17

HOUSTON — Terrel Hunt scrambled 12 yards for a touchdown with 1:14 remaining to lift Syracuse to a 21-17 win over Minnesota in the Texas Bowl on Friday night.

Brisly Estime set up Hunt's touchdown with a 70-yard punt return.

Syracuse (7-6) led 14-3 entering the fourth quarter before Mitch Leidner threw two touchdown passes and a 2-point conversion to put the Golden Gophers up 17-14.

After the Orange regained the lead, Minnesota attempted two long passes to the end zone on the final plays. The first slipped through the arms of Drew Wolitarsky and the final Hail Mary as time expired was knocked down near the end zone.

Minnesota (8-5) got a boost to start the second half when coach Jerry Kill returned to the sideline for the first time since Sept. 28 before Syracuse rallied for the victory.

Hunt finished with 188 yards passing and 74 rushing with two scores.

BOWL GLANCE

Saturday, Dec. 21
New Mexico Bowl
At Albuquerque
Colorado State 48, Washington State 45

Las Vegas Bowl
Southern Cal 45, Fresno State 20

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
San Diego State 49, Buffalo 24

New Orleans Bowl
Louisiana-Lafayette 24, Tulane 21

Monday, Dec. 23
Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East Carolina 37, Ohio 20

Tuesday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Oregon State 38, Boise State 23

Thursday, Dec 26
Little Caesars Pizza Bowl
At Detroit
Pittsburgh 30, Bowling Green 27

Poinsettia Bowl
At San Diego
Utah State 21, Northern Illinois 14

Friday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl
At Annapolis, Md.
Marshall 31, Maryland 20

Texas Bowl
At Houston
Syracuse 21, Minnesota 17

Fight Hunger Bowl
At San Francisco
BYU (8-4) vs. Washington (8-4), late

Today
Pinstripe Bowl
At New York
Notre Dame (8-4) vs. Rutgers (6-6), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

Belk Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Cincinnati (9-3) vs. North Carolina (6-6), 2:20 p.m. (ESPN)

Russell Athletic Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Miami (9-3) vs. Louisville (11-1), 5:45 p.m. (ESPN)

Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Kansas State (7-5) vs. Michigan (7-5), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday
Armed Forces Bowl
At Fort Worth
Middle Tennessee (8-4) vs. Navy (8-4), 10:45 a.m. (ESPN)

Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Mississippi (7-5) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 2:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Oregon (10-2) vs Texas (8-4), 5:45 p.m. (ESPN)

Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Arizona State (10-3) vs. Texas Tech (7-5), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday
AdvoCare V100 Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Arizona (7-5) vs. Boise College (7-5), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)

Sun Bowl
At El Paso
Virginia Tech (8-4) vs. UCLA (9-3), 2 p.m. (CBS)

Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Rice (9-3) vs. Mississippi State (6-6), 3 p.m. (ESPN)

Chick-fil-A Bowl
At Atlanta
Texas A&M (8-4) vs. Duke (10-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday
Heart of Dallas Bowl
At Dallas
UNLV (7-5) vs. North Texas (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPNU)

Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Nebraska (8-4) vs. Georgia (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)

Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Wisconsin (9-3) vs. South Carolina (10-2), Noon (ABC)

Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Iowa (8-4) vs. LSU (9-3), Noon (ESPN)

Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Stanford (11-2) vs. Michigan State (12-1), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Baylor (11-1) vs. UCF (11-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Jan. 2
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Alabama (11-1) vs. Oklahoma (10-2), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Jan. 3
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Ohio State (12-1) vs. Clemson (10-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Cotton Bowl
At Arlington
Missouri (11-2) vs. Oklahoma State (10-2), 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

Saturday, Jan. 4
BBVA Compass Bowl
At Birmingham, Ala.
Vanderbilt (8-4) vs. Houston (8-4), Noon (ESPN)

Sunday, Jan. 5
GoDaddy.com Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
Arkansas State (7-5) vs. Ball State (10-2), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

PRO BOWL ROSTER

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Sunday, Jan. 26
At Aloha Stadium
Honolulu
OFFENSE

Quarterbacks — Tom Brady, Patriots; Drew Brees, Saints; Peyton Manning, Broncos; Cam Newton, Panthers; Philip Rivers, Chargers; Russell Wilson, Seahawks.

Wide Receivers — Antonio Brown, Steelers; Dez Bryant, Cowboys; Josh Gordon, Browns; A.J. Green, Bengals; Andre Johnson, Texans; Calvin Johnson, Lions; Brandon Marshall, Bears; Demaryius Thomas, Broncos).

Tackles — Branden Albert, Chiefs; Jason Peters, Eagles; Tyron Smith, Cowboys; Joe Staley, 49ers; Joe Thomas, Browns; Trent Williams, Redskins.

Guards — Jahri Evans, Saints; Ben Grubbs, Saints; Mike Iupati, 49ers; Logan Mankins, Patriots; Louis Vasquez, Broncos; Marshal Yanda, Ravens.

Centers — Ryan Kalil, Panthers; Alex Mack, Browns; Mike Pouncey, Dolphins; Max Unger, Seahawks.

Tight Ends — Jordan Cameron, Browns; Vernon Davis, 49ers; Jimmy Graham, Saints; Julius Thomas, Broncos.

Running Backs — Jamaal Charles, Chiefs; Matt Forte, Bears; Frank Gore, 49ers; Marshawn Lynch, Seahawks; LeSean McCoy, Eagles; Adrian Peterson, Vikings.

Fullbacks — Marcel Reece, Raiders; Mike Tolbert, Panthers.

DEFENSE

Defensive Ends — Greg Hardy, Panthers; Cameron Jordan, Saints; Robert Quinn, Rams; Cameron Wake, Dolphins; J.J. Watt, Texans; Mario Williams, Bills.

Interior Linemen — Gerald McCoy, Bucs; Haloti Ngata, Ravens; Dontari Poe, Chiefs; Justin Smith, 49ers; Ndamukong Suh, Lions; Kyle Williams, Bills.

Outside Linebackers — John Abraham, Cardinals; Ahmad Brooks, 49ers; Tamba Hali, Chiefs; Justin Houston, Chiefs; Robert Mathis, Colts; Terrell Suggs, Ravens.

Inside/Middle Linebackers — NaVorro Bowman, 49ers; Vontaze Burfict, Bengals; Luke Kuechly, Panthers; Patrick Willis, 49ers.

Cornerbacks — Brandon Flowers, Chiefs; Brent Grimes, Dolphins; Joe Haden, Browns; Patrick Peterson, Cardinals; Darrelle Revis, Bucs; Richard Sherman, Seahawks; Aqib Talib, Patriots; Alterraun Verner, Titans.

Free Safeties — Jairus Byrd, Bills; Earl Thomas, Seahawks; Eric Weddle, Chargers.

Strong Safeties — Eric Berry, Chiefs; Kam Chancellor, Seahawks; Troy Polamalu, Steelers.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Punters — Brandon Fields, Dolphins; Johnny Hekker, Rams.

Placekickers — Matt Prater, Broncos; Justin Tucker, Ravens.

Punt Returners — Antonio Brown, Steelers; Dexter McCluster, Chiefs.

Special Teamers — Justin Bethel, Cardinals; Matthew Slater, Patriots.

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Name	Div	Last	Chg
ADT Corp		39.41	+.15
AES Corp		20114.45	-.01
AFLAC Inc		61.18	+.01
AT&T Inc		1.84	+.18
AbbVie n		47.39	+.02
Abbott		1.60	+.02
Accenture		1.74	+.01
Actavis		1.74	+.01
Aetna		1.74	+.01
Agilent		1.74	+.01
Air Prod		1.74	+.01
Airgas		1.74	+.01
Alcoa		1.74	+.01
Allstate		1.74	+.01
Altria		1.74	+.01
Amazon		1.74	+.01
Ameren		1.74	+.01
Amerigas		1.74	+.01
Ameriprise		1.74	+.01
Anadarko		1.74	+.01
Apache		1.74	+.01
Apple Inc		1.74	+.01
Applied Mat		1.74	+.01
Archer-Dan		1.74	+.01
Assurant		1.74	+.01
AstraZen		1.74	+.01
Atmos		1.74	+.01
AutoNatn		1.74	+.01
AutoZone		1.74	+.01
Avalonbay		1.74	+.01
Avery		1.74	+.01
BB&T Cp		1.74	+.01
BHP Bill		1.74	+.01
BP PLC		1.74	+.01
BakerHu		1.74	+.01
Ball Corp		1.74	+.01
BallardPw		1.74	+.01
BancLaPac		1.74	+.01
BkofAm		1.74	+.01
BkofAm wt		1.74	+.01
BkofAm pfL		1.74	+.01
Bard		1.74	+.01
Barrick g		1.74	+.01
BaxHlthC		1.74	+.01
Baxter		1.74	+.01
BectDck		1.74	+.01
BerkHatha		1.74	+.01
BerkHathb		1.74	+.01
BestBuy		1.74	+.01
BigLots		1.74	+.01
BioMedR		1.74	+.01
BlackHC		1.74	+.01
BlackRock		1.74	+.01
Boeing		1.74	+.01
BostBeer		1.74	+.01
BostPpty		1.74	+.01
BostSci		1.74	+.01
BrMySq		1.74	+.01
BrkfldAs		1.74	+.01
BrkfldPrp		1.74	+.01
Brunswick		1.74	+.01
BungeLtd		1.74	+.01
BurgerKing		1.74	+.01
CBRE Grp		1.74	+.01
CBS B		1.74	+.01
CSX		1.74	+.01
CVS Care		1.74	+.01
CYS Invest		1.74	+.01
CblvsNY		1.74	+.01
CabotOG		1.74	+.01
Calpine		1.74	+.01
CampSp		1.74	+.01
CanNRs gs		1.74	+.01
CanPacRy		1.74	+.01
CapitlOne		1.74	+.01
CardnlHlth		1.74	+.01
CareFusn		1.74	+.01
Carlisle		1.74	+.01
Carnival		1.74	+.01
Caterpillar		1.74	+.01
Celanese A		1.74	+.01
Celgene		1.74	+.01
CelldexTh		1.74	+.01
CenterPnt		1.74	+.01
CntryLink		1.74	+.01
Cephln		1.74	+.01
Cerner s		1.74	+.01
ChkFree		1.74	+.01
ChinaTel		1.74	+.01
Cimarex		1.74	+.01
Cisco		1.74	+.01
Citigroup		1.74	+.01
Clarcor		1.74	+.01
CleanEngy		1.74	+.01
CogntCogn		1.74	+.01
Comcast		1.74	+.01
Comm spcl		1.74	+.01
Compuware		1.74	+.01
CntrlNC		1.74	+.01
Costco		1.74	+.01
CrdtcdeS		1.74	+.01
Crexe Inc		1.74	+.01
Chrp.com		1.74	+.01
+2.21		1.74	+.01
CumMed		1.74	+.01
CypSemi		1.74	+.01

Name	Div	Last	Chg
Datarm rs		1.74	+.01
Deere		1.74	+.01
Dndreon		1.74	+.01
DiamaCont		1.74	+.01
DirecTV		1.74	+.01
DishNetw h		1.74	+.01
DollarTree		1.74	+.01
DomRsPR		1.74	+.01
DonlleBn		1.74	+.01
DrilQuip		1.74	+.01
DrmWksh		1.74	+.01
DryShips		1.74	+.01
DuPont		1.74	+.01
DukeEngy		1.74	+.01
DukeRlty		1.74	+.01
DunBrdSt		1.74	+.01
Dynegy rs		1.74	+.01
E-Trade		1.74	+.01
eBay		1.74	+.01
EagleBulk		1.74	+.01
EagleRkEn		1.74	+.01

Name	Div	Last	Chg
EdisonInt		1.74	+.01
EdwLife		1.74	+.01
ElPasoPpl		1.74	+.01
EldorGld g		1.74	+.01
EmbraerSA		1.74	+.01
EmCmtg g		1.74	+.01
EmrsnElec		1.74	+.01
ENSCO		1.74	+.01
EntPrPt		1.74	+.01
EscoTec rt		1.74	+.01
Exelon		1.74	+.01
ExpressScr		1.74	+.01
ExtraSpace		1.74	+.01
ExxonMbil		1.74	+.01
FMC Tech		1.74	+.01
FairIsaac		1.74	+.01
FamilyDlr		1.74	+.01
FedExCp		1.74	+.01
FedInvPHD		1.74	+.01
FidNtlFn		1.74	+.01
FifthThird		1.74	+.01
Finisar		1.74	+.01
FstHorizon		1.74	+.01
FstSolar		1.74	+.01
FiveBelow		1.74	+.01
Fluor		1.74	+.01
Fortinet		1.74	+.01
FossilGrp		1.74	+.01
FosterWhl		1.74	+.01
FrontierCm		1.74	+.01
FuelCellE		1.74	+.01
FullonFnl		1.74	+.01

Name	Div	Last	Chg
GT AdvTc		1.74	+.01
Gannett		1.74	+.01
Gap		1.74	+.01
GenDynam		1.74	+.01
GenElec		1.74	+.01
GenMills		1.74	+.01
GenMotors		1.74	+.01
Genworth		1.74	+.01
Gerdau		1.74	+.01
GileadSci		1.74	+.01
GlaxoSmKn		1.74	+.01
Gogo n		1.74	+.01
Goodyear		1.74	+.01
Google		1.74	+.01
Gpo n		1.74	+.01
Graftech		1.74	+.01
GtPlains		1.74	+.01
GtWstFn g		1.74	+.01
Groupon		1.74	+.01
GulfportE		1.74	+.01
Gymboree		1.74	+.01

Name	Div	Last	Chg
HCA Hldg		1.74	+.01
HCP Inc		1.74	+.01
HalconRes		1.74	+.01
Halliburt		1.74	+.01
HarmonyG		1.74	+.01
HarrisCp		1.74	+.01
HartfordF		1.74	+.01
HarvNRes		1.74	+.01
HltMgmt		1.74	+.01
HeclaM g		1.74	+.01
Hertz		1.74	+.01
Hess		1.74	+.01
HewlettP		1.74	+.01
Hilton n		1.74	+.01
HollyFront		1.74	+.01
HomeDp		1.74	+.01
HostHotls		1.74	+.01
HuntBncsh		1.74	+.01
Huntsmn		1.74	+.01
Hyperdyn		1.74	+.01
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iShJapn		1.74	+.01
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iShSilver		1.74	+.01
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iShSmCap		1.74	+.01
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iShR2K		1.74	+.01
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iShUSTrsry		1.74	+.01
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iShSPHiDv		1.74	+.01
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iShHiYld		1.74	+.01
iShIntlSel		1.74	+.01
iShEMLocB		1.74	+.01
iShIntDv		1.74	+.01
iShUSPfdF		1.74	+.01
iShIntlPfd		1.74	+.01
iShEMDbt		1.74	+.01
iShMBS		1.74	+.01
iShIntCrBd		1.74	+.01
iShCorpBd		1.74	+.01
iShTIPS		1.74	+.01
iShIntlTrB		1.74	+.01
iShShtTrB		1.74	+.01
iShTrsBd		1.74	+.01
iShTrs1-3		1.74	+.01
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iShCaBd		1.74	+.01
iShNatAMT		1.74	+.01
iShNtlMuni		1.74	+.01
iShNYMuni		1.74	+.01
iShCalMuni		1.74	+.01
iShSTNatl		1.74	+.01
iShSTCalAMT		1.74	+.01
iShSTMuni		1.74	+.01
iShCalTxF		1.74	+.01
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iShCalTxZ		1.74	+.01

Name	Div	Last	Chg
NewsCpA n		17.73	-.04
NorTrst		1.24	61.45
Novavax			5.13
NuanceCm			14.93
Nvidia		34f	15.76
Octaro			u2.54
OmniVisn			17.12
OnSmcnd			8.24
Orexigen			5.56

Name	Last	Chg
PDL Bio	60	8.39
PMC Sra		6.40
ParkDrlls	50	11.67
Patterson	64	41.09
PattUTI	20	25.92
Paychex	1	40.45
PeopUtdF	65	14.99
Polycom	11	10.99
PwShs QQQ	88	80.27
PriceTR	1	52.03
PrmrEgy		50.50
ProShtQQQ		40.02
PrognicsPh		5.36
ProUltSP500		102.44
ProspctCap3	32	10.17
Qualcom	1	40.73
Questcor	1	20.54
QuickLog	1	86.14
RF MicD		5.16
RPX Corp		17.01
RagnPh		7.74
RiverbedT		17.58
RockwlM		11.06
RossStrs	68	73.75

Name	Last	Chg
SBA Com	88	10
SLM Cp	60	26.01
SanderFm	80f	72.33
SanDisk	90	70.24
Sanofi rt		82
Santarus	31	98
Sapient		17.39
SatropaTh		19.80
SeagateT	1	72.75
SearsHldgs		46.16
Semtech		25.02
Sequenom		2.30
SiernaW		23.18
SigmaAld	86	94.19
SilvStd g		6.95
Sina		82.64
SinoMX	25	56.12
SkywksSol		27.85
SmithWes		13.21
SolarCity		53.93
Solazyme		10.61
Sprouts n		38.19
Staples	48	15.79
StarScient		1.27
Starbucks	1	68.72
StlDynam	44	17.92
Stericycle		115.57
Stratasys		129.00
SungyMo n		43.90
SunPower		28.91
Supernus		7.96
Swisshelm h	9	54.68
Symantec	60	23.05
SynrgyPh		5.32
SynthBiol		4.93
TaroPhm		17.68
TASER		15.95
TalismE g	151	12.44
TeamInst	1	20.43
TelcoSth		22.47
TelexAnt		18.11
TiVo Inc		12.94
TowerGp rf	66	2.94
TractSupp	52	75.54
TripAdvis		81.64
TriQuint		8.16
21stCFcxA	25	34.98
21stCFcxB	25	34.37
Umpqua	60a	19.19
USBVV	1.28f	31.18
UltaTherap		113.57
UrbanOut		37.06

Name	Last	Chg
VandaPhm	12	19
VertexPh		73.45
Viacom B	1	20.04
Vical		1.21
VimpelCm	1.59e	12.97
ViperShs		u31.20
Vivus		9.17
Vodafone	1.61e	30.29
Wendys Co	20	8.77
WDigital	1.20f	82.82
Walgreen	g	19.47
WhitingPet	4f	68.14
Windstrm	1.00	8.13
WisdomTr		u17.65
XOMA		9.28
Xilinx	1.00	45.29
YRC Wrdw		17.45
YY Inc		50.45
Yahoo		40.49
Yandex		42.58
Zillow		80.71
ZionBcp	16	29.79
Zogenix		3.41
Zynga		3.95

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Name	Div	Last	Chg
AbdnAsPac	.42	5.82	-.04
AbraSilv g		1.22	+.02
AcadiaPh n		1.59	+.03
AmApprasal		1.20	
AmLeain	.79		+.01
AmPhrma		7.10	-.33
AudioNet		.57	+.03
BPZ Rsrc		2.14	-.04
Bacterin		.52	-.01
BarcUltSt		.51	-.01
BarcUltSt wt		37.27	-.08
BarcGSOil		23.46	+.14
Bellatrix g		2.37	-.07
BrigusG g		.79	+.01
CanSolar rs		.42	-.02
CardiumTh		.77	-.01
CelSci		.60	+.01
CFCda g .01		13.60	+.07
ChemtexEn		43.75	-1.15
ChinaEn n		18.75	-.25
ChiNtGas		3.49	+.02
ComstPrg rs		5.12	+.02
ConnectSt rs		6.53	+.06
CrimsnEx g		3.11	-.04
DanielsIf g		1.22	-.01
Delmar		2.12	+.16
EV UltDvrt .22		15.23	+.09
EVMuniBd .77		11.47	+.02
ElephTalk		1.26	-.03
EmersbtO		7.58	+.17
EnteroMed		.52	+.01
FstShPrp .76		12.05	-.09

Name	Last	Chg
FstTrEnMg	13.33	-.16
FstTrMLP	19.79	+.17
FstTrSenFl	20.00	+.01
FstTrStrVal	20.00	+.01
FstTrUtilDv	20.00	+.01
FstTrustIPO	20.00	+.01
FstTrustNDX	20.00	+.01
FstTrustTech	20.00	+.01
FstTrustUtil	20.00	+.01
FstTrustVal	20.00	+.01
FstTrustVal	20.00	+.01
FstTrustVal

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Life without Romo

Surgery on Friday will keep Tony Romo out of Sunday's game against the Eagles

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

IRVING — Tony Romo's season is over, and the Dallas Cowboys will have to win without their star quarterback in a third straight playoffs-or-bust finale.

Coach Jason Garrett said Romo had back surgery Friday, and Kyle Orton will start when Dallas faces Philadelphia on Sunday night with the NFC East title and a postseason berth on the line.

Garrett said Romo underwent treatment all week in hopes of playing after injuring his back in a season-saving 24-23 victory against Washington. The winning touchdown came after the injury on Romo's fourth-down pass to DeMarco Murray in the final 2 minutes.

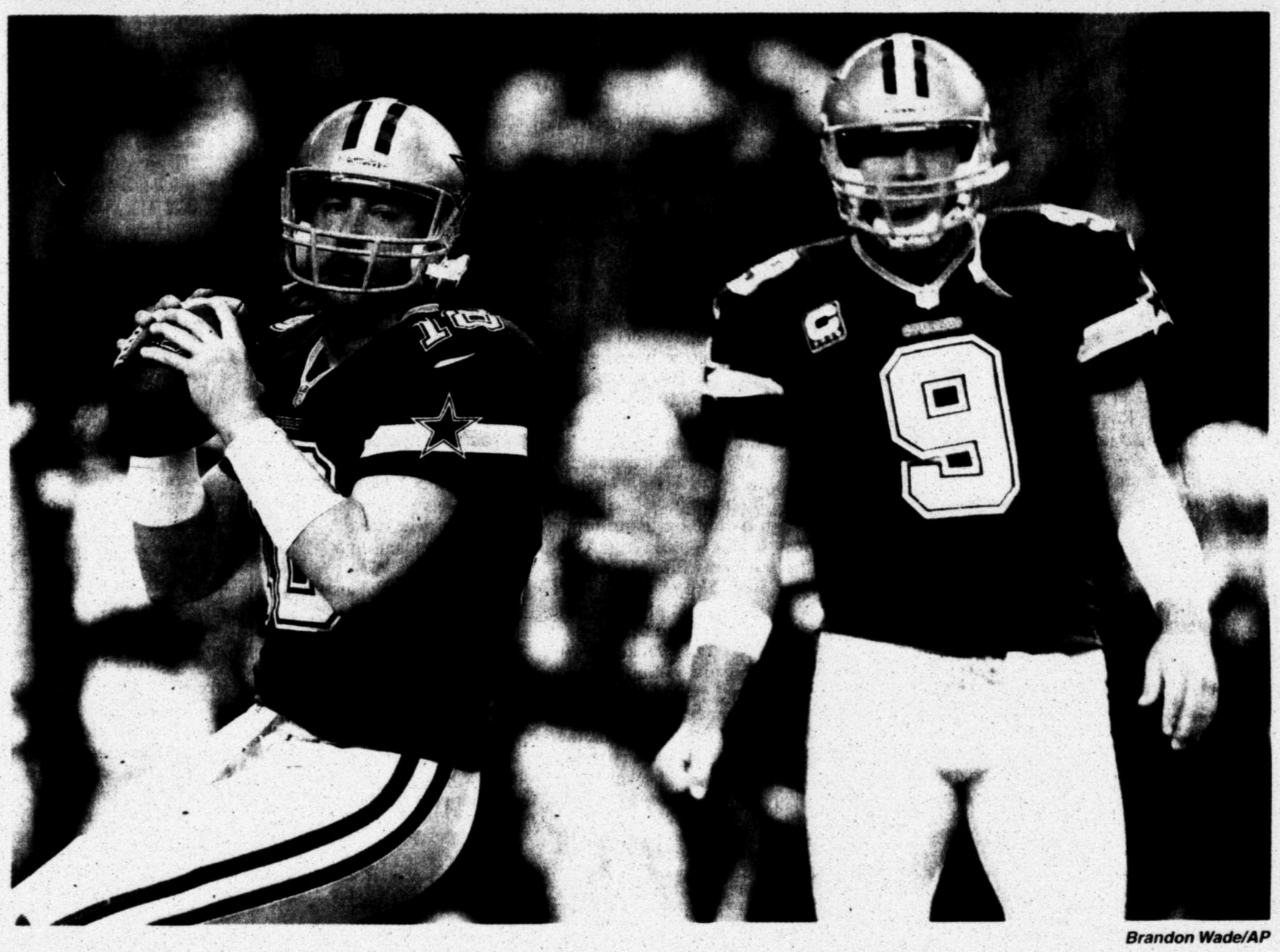
Romo hurt himself when he tripped over his foot while trying to escape pressure earlier in the fourth quarter.

"He might have had his finest hour against the Redskins last week, what he did at the end of that ballgame under the circumstances," Garrett said. "Pretty special."

Romo lost the past two winner-take-all finales — to the New York Giants two years ago and Washington last season. He also lost to the Eagles in the same situation in 2008 and now will miss a chance to improve his 1-6 record in elimination games.

"He's devastated," Garrett said. "Devastated. He puts a lot into this."

Philadelphia (9-6) is trying to complete a worst-to-first turnaround from a 4-12 season under first-year coach Chip Kelly. The Cowboys (8-7) want to end a three-year playoff drought and avoid a third 8-8 finish in Garrett's three full seasons as coach.



Brandon Wade/AP

Kyle Orton warms up prior to the game against Oakland at AT&T Stadium in Arlington last month. Orton will get his first start for the Cowboys on Sunday as Romo had surgery on his back on Friday, ending his season.

Dallas will have to do it without its defensive leader, too.

Linebacker Sean Lee will miss his third straight game with a sprained neck. He'll wind up sidelined for five of the last six regular-season games. He was out for two with a hamstring injury.

Lee was forced to watch last year's season-ending loss to the Redskins with a toe injury sustained in the sixth game.

"You have this picture of how the season is going to go and two years in a row, it doesn't go the right way from a personal standpoint, from a physical standpoint," Lee said. "I'm just trying to stay positive, trying to help out any way I can, but I hate not being on the football field."

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said on his radio show that the team and Romo hoped an injection would ease the pain enough to allow him to play. But his condition didn't improve, and Jones said doctors advised it was better not to wait for surgery.

Jones said the hope is that Romo will be ready for offseason practices in May.

Romo missed all the offseason workouts this year after surgery to remove a cyst from his back in April. Garrett and Jones said the latest injury is not related, but wouldn't be more specific about Friday's procedure.

News of the second back surgery comes nine months after Romo signed a six-year, $108 million extension with $55 million guaranteed.

"He played very well coming off the first procedure he had in the spring," Garrett said. "We are completely confident he's going to rehab and come back 100 percent."

Orton, who declined to talk to reporters Friday, will make his first start since the finale in 2011, when he finished the season in Kansas City after getting replaced by Tim Tebow in Denver. He's appeared in three games and thrown just 15 passes in two seasons as Romo's backup.

"We've been operating as if Kyle Orton is going to be our starting quarterback," Garrett said. "At the same time we were trying to do whatever we could to see if we could help Tony and get him back as quickly as possible. We just felt like this was the best course of action."

Eagles preparing for Cowboys without key players Lee, Romo

By Rob Maaddi
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Sean Lee played a bigger role than Tony Romo in the Dallas Cowboys' victory over the Eagles in October.

Lee had 11 tackles, an interception and helped the Cowboys become the first team to shut down Chip Kelly's high-flying offense in a 17-3 win at Philadelphia on Oct. 20. Both Romo and Lee will miss the NFC East championship game Sunday night at Dallas.

While Romo's injury dominates headlines, Lee's absence might have more impact.

"He's obviously one of the top linebackers in the game and seeing him up close and personal when we played them in October, he was all over the field," Kelly said. "He's as good a linebacker as there is in this league."

The Eagles (9-6) need a win or tie over the Cowboys (8-7) to clinch their first division title since 2010 and secure the No. 3 seed. The loser goes home.

Foles

Kyle Orton will make his first start since 2011 for Romo, who had back surgery Friday. Lee will miss his third straight game with a sprained neck.

Without their offensive and defensive leaders, the Cowboys are 7 1/2-point underdogs at home in their third consecutive all-or-nothing regular-season finale. They lost to the Redskins last year and the Giants in 2011. Romo and the Cowboys also lost in Philadelphia in the same situation in 2008.

So, maybe Orton gives the offense a chance. But not having Lee against these Eagles is tougher to overcome.

The Eagles had scored 30 or more points in four of their first six games, and had gained at least 400 yards in all six before their first meeting against Cowboys and a depleted defense missing four-time All-Pro defensive end DeMarcus Ware.

Yet Lee and Co. shut them down.

LeSean McCoy, the NFL's leading rusher, was held to 55 yards on 18 carries. DeSean Jackson had only three catches for 21 yards. Nick Foles, making his second start for an injured Michael Vick, was awful, completing just 11 of 29 passes for 80 yards before sustaining a concussion at the end of the third quarter. Rookie Matt Barkley replaced him and threw three interceptions in the fourth quarter.

"Sean Lee is an incredible player," Foles said. "He's everywhere. He makes a lot of big plays. I know that they're going to miss him, but teams rally when guys get hurt and I'm going to be ready for their best shot."

DeVonte Holloman, a rookie sixth-round pick, has filled in for Lee. Since the victory over the Eagles, the Cowboys have struggled terribly on defense. They've allowed more than 600 yards in a game twice; an NFL-record 40 first downs in a blowout loss to New Orleans; and eight straight scoring drives in an embarrassing defeat at Chicago.

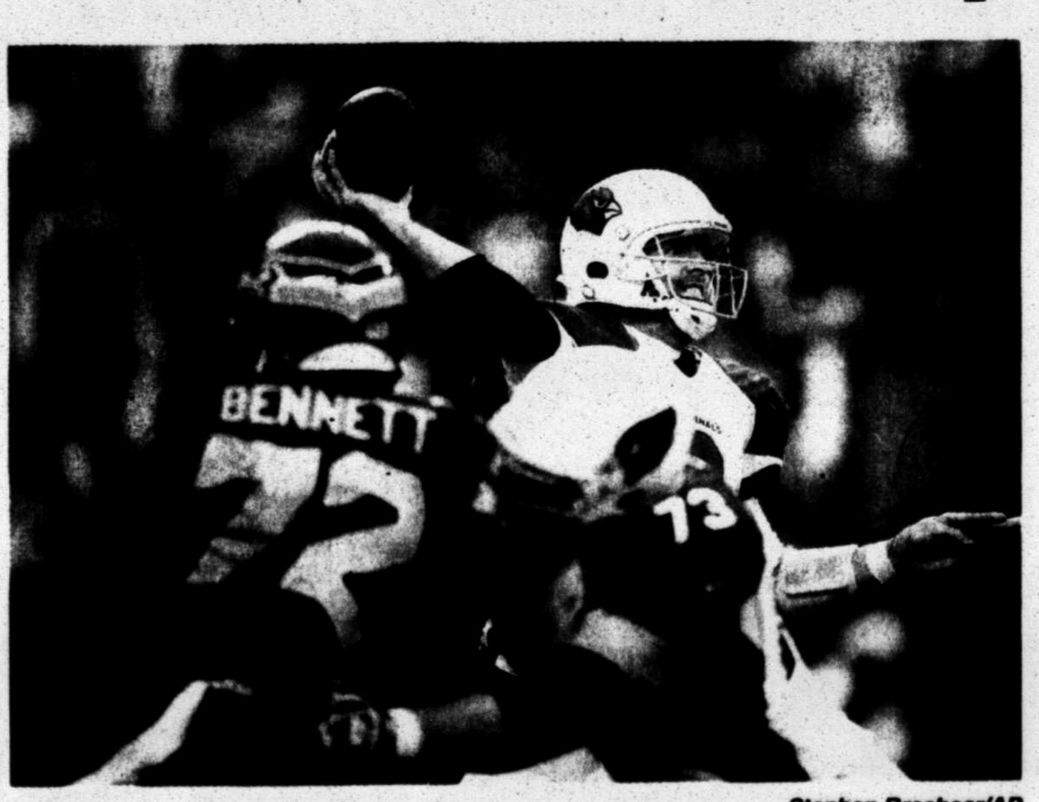
Overall, the Cowboys are ranked last in yards allowed, giving up an average of 418.6 per game. They're 25th in points allowed (27.2). It's no coincidence the defense has played poorly without Lee, who will be out five of the last six regular-season games.

"He's a terrific player," Eagles offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur said. "When he's been in there playing, he obviously has a significant impact on why their defense can play well."

McCoy, who is on the verge of becoming the first Eagles to lead the league in rushing since Hall of Famer Steve Van Buren in 1949, didn't give Lee and the Cowboys all the credit for their win two months ago.

"I don't think we played well. I didn't play well," he said. "There were reads I should make nine out of 10 times and I didn't make them. It was me more than anything."

Arizona GM Keim shakes up Arizona roster, creates winner



Stephen Brashear/AP

Arizona Cardinals quarterback Carson Palmer passes the ball as Cardinals right tackle, and Lee graduate, Eric Winston blocks for him during last week's game against Seattle. Both Palmer and Winston are a pair of new additions to the Cardinals this season that have helped move them into contention for the playoffs.

By Bob Baum
Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — When Steve Keim walked off field at Seattle a year ago, the scoreboard read: Seahawks 58, Cardinals 0. Keim, then Arizona's vice president for player personnel, felt sick.

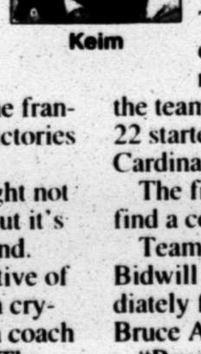
A few weeks later, Rod Graves was fired and Keim was promoted to general manager. At the news conference announcing his hiring, Keim promised he would never forget that feeling in Seattle.

Last Sunday, he left the same stadium after the Cardinals beat the Seahawks 17-10, ending Seattle's 14-game home winning streak. He was "at peace" and "content."

Not for long.

It's nice for a second," he said Friday in an interview with The Associated Press, "but I'm too concerned with how did we lose five games — how do we get better."

The 41-year-old bear of an ex-college football lineman has overhauled the roster of a team that limped home to a 5-11 season by losing 10 of its last 11 games in 2012. Heading into Sunday's regular-season finale at home against San Francisco, Arizona is 10-5, has won seven of eight, and has a shot at tying the franchise record of 11 victories in a season.



Keim

The Cardinals might not make the playoffs, but it's still quite a turnaround.

"If he's not executive of the year I think it's a crying shame," Arizona coach Bruce Arians said. "The job he's done as a rookie GM, turning over our roster and then finding guys I think are keepers. I'm not afraid to play young players, or new players, as long as they're capable, and Steve's done a great job of bringing us capable people."

Keim worked up from the scouting ranks of the Cardinals for 15 years. When general manager Rod Graves, Keim got the job.

He's since made 192 roster moves. Twenty-eight players on the 53- man roster are new to the team this year. Half the 22 starters weren't with the Cardinals a year ago.

The first chore was to find a coach.

Team President Michael Bidwill and Keim immediately fell for 60-year-old Bruce Arians.

"Bruce Arians was able to come in," Keim said, "and within two minutes

Please see CARDS/2C

Rodgers' return opens up options for Packers

By Genaro C. Armas
Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The buffet line is open again for the Packers' offense with Aaron Rodgers back.

Coach Mike McCarthy has made a few adjustments to the playbook with the franchise quarterback back for the first time in nearly two months after breaking his left collarbone. Rodgers is expected to start Sunday in Green Bay's showdown in Chicago with the Bears for the NFC North title.

Keeping Rodgers untouched and upright is as paramount as ever. At the same time, the return of Rodgers figures to give the Bears' defense a dilemma that hasn't existed for Packers opponents in nearly two months — focus on the passing game at the expense of giving 1,100-yard rusher Eddie Lacy more room to run, or stop the run and give Rodgers more room to operate.

"Well, it's a lot like going to the restaurant. You have a menu. You decide what you want to use and what you probably shouldn't use," McCarthy said Friday about play-calling. Tweaks could also be made the next few days.

"You have to trust your plan, trust the process and we definitely trust Aaron Rodgers," McCarthy said.

It's hard not to after Rodgers helped lead Green Bay (7-7-1) to a 5-2 record before getting hurt Nov. 4 during the 27-20 loss to Chicago at Lambeau Field. The 2011 NFL MVP was a big reason why the team weathered the spate of early injuries.

Mike Roemer/AP

The Green Bay Packers' Aaron Rodgers and Randall Cobb watch warmups previous to the Packers' game last week against Pittsburgh in Green Bay.

The Packers were 2-5-1 without Rodgers, counting the loss to the Bears. McCarthy said Rodgers has looked good in his first couple days as a full practice participant this week since before the injury.

"The decision's been made. Obviously, it was a thorough one, and it's time for Aaron to play," McCarthy said. "We're going to cut him loose and we're going to go play. We're going to play to win."

Things could get even trickier for Chicago if the Packers activate playmaking receiver Randall Cobb from the injured reserve/designated for return list. Cobb has been moving well during the brief spurts of practice open to media.

Sidelined since October, Cobb was given extra work Friday to determine how he would feel Saturday, when the Packers could decide to activate him.

Green Bay knows it will already be without pass-rushing linebacker Clay Matthews, who had surgery this week after re-aggravating a right thumb injury. There's no timeline for his return, and it appears highly unlikely that Matthews would be available for a first-round playoff game the weekend of Jan. 4 should the Packers beat Chicago on Sunday to win the NFC North.

Defensive coordinator Dom Capers should otherwise have a full complement of linebackers with inside man Brad Jones (ankle) and outside rushers Nick Perry (foot) and Mike Neal (abdomen) all listed as probable for the Bears game.

Chicago gave them trouble the last time around, when the Packers also didn't have Matthews. Matt Forte ran for 125 yards and a score, while physical receivers Brandon Marshall and Alshon Jeffery each had touchdown catches.

Marshall (6-foot-4) and Jeffery (6-3) have distinct height advantages over cornerbacks Sam Shields and Tramon Williams, each listed at 5-11.

"I have 100 percent confidence in our ability to cover them. It just becomes harder if they're allowed to push and pull and grab, and we're not allowed to stand our ground to stay with them," cornerbacks coach Joe Whitt said.

Aiding the Packers the last few weeks is an increase in takeaways that were too few and far between earlier in the year. Working against them is the absence again of Matthews, who has been OK this year when healthy but still had a team-high 7 1/2 sacks.

One star down, another star back. Rodgers doesn't play defense, but he can provide an emotional boost to players on that side of the ball.

"It'll be nice to see him back out there," Capers said. "But I think our guys know, hey, we've got to go do our part, you know?"

NFL STANDINGS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-New England	11	4	0	.733	410	318	7-0-0	4-4-0	8-3-0	3-1-0	3-2-0
Miami	8	7	0	.533	310	315	4-3-0	4-4-0	7-4-0	1-3-0	2-3-0
N.Y.Jets	7	8	0	.467	270	360	6-2-0	1-6-0	4-7-0	3-1-0	2-3-0
Buffalo	6	9	0	.400	319	354	4-4-0	2-5-0	5-6-0	1-3-0	3-2-0

South

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-Indianapolis	10	5	0	.667	361	326	5-2-0	5-3-0	8-3-0	2-2-0	5-0-0
Tennessee	6	9	0	.400	346	371	2-5-0	4-4-0	5-6-0	1-3-0	1-4-0
Jacksonville	4	11	0	.267	237	419	1-7-0	3-4-0	4-7-0	0-4-0	3-2-0
Houston	2	13	0	.133	266	412	1-7-0	1-6-0	2-9-0	0-4-0	1-4-0

North

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-Cincinnati	10	5	0	.667	396	288	7-0-0	3-5-0	7-4-0	3-1-0	2-3-0
Baltimore	8	7	0	.533	303	318	6-2-0	2-5-0	6-5-0	2-2-0	3-2-0
Pittsburgh	7	8	0	.467	359	363	4-3-0	3-5-0	5-6-0	2-2-0	3-2-0
Cleveland	4	11	0	.267	301	386	3-5-0	1-6-0	3-8-0	1-3-0	2-3-0

West

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-Denver	12	3	0	.800	572	385	7-1-0	5-2-0	8-3-0	4-0-0	4-1-0
x-Kansas City	11	4	0	.733	406	278	5-3-0	6-1-0	7-4-0	4-0-0	2-3-0
San Diego	8	7	0	.533	369	324	4-3-0	4-4-0	5-6-0	3-1-0	3-2-0
Oakland	4	11	0	.267	308	419	3-4-0	1-7-0	4-7-0	0-4-0	1-4-0

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Philadelphia	9	6	0	.600	418	360	4-4-0	5-2-0	8-3-0	1-3-0	3-2-0
Dallas	8	7	0	.533	417	408	5-2-0	3-5-0	7-4-0	1-3-0	5-0-0
N.Y.Giants	7	8	0	.400	274	377	3-4-0	3-5-0	5-6-0	1-3-0	2-3-0
Washington	3	12	0	.200	328	458	2-6-0	1-6-0	1-10-0	2-2-0	0-5-0

South

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
x-Carolina	11	4	0	.733	345	221	7-1-0	4-3-0	8-3-0	3-1-0	4-1-0
New Orleans	10	5	0	.667	372	287	7-0-0	3-5-0	8-3-0	2-2-0	4-1-0
Atlanta	4	11	0	.267	333	422	3-4-0	1-7-0	3-8-0	1-3-0	1-4-0
Tampa Bay	4	11	0	.267	271	347	3-5-0	1-6-0	2-9-0	2-2-0	1-4-0

North

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Chicago	8	7	0	.533	417	445	5-2-0	3-5-0	4-7-0	4-0-0	2-3-0
Green Bay	7	7	1	.500	384	400	4-3-1	3-4-0	5-5-1	2-2-0	2-2-1
Detroit	7	8	0	.467	382	362	4-4-0	3-4-0	6-5-0	1-3-0	4-1-0
Minnesota	4	10	1	.300	377	467	4-3-0	0-7-1	3-7-1	1-3-0	1-3-1

West

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
x-Seattle	12	3	0	.800	390	222	6-1-0	6-2-0	9-2-0	3-1-0	3-2-0
x-San Francisco	11	4	0	.733	383	252	6-2-0	5-2-0	8-3-0	3-1-0	4-1-0
Arizona	10	5	0	.667	359	301	6-1-0	4-4-0	6-5-0	4-0-0	2-3-0
St. Louis	7	8	0	.467	339	337	5-3-0	2-5-0	4-7-0	3-1-0	1-4-0

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Sunday's Games

Houston at Tennessee, Noon
Detroit at Minnesota, Noon
Carolina at Atlanta, Noon
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, Noon
Washington at N.Y.Giants, Noon
Baltimore at Cincinnati, Noon
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, Noon
N.Y.Jets at Miami, Noon
Denver at Oakland, 3:25 p.m.
Kansas City at San Diego, 3:25 p.m.
St. Louis at Seattle, 3:25 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 3:25 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 3:25 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 3:25 p.m.
Buffalo at New England, 3:25 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

CARDS

From 1C

was able to express to Michael and myself, "here's what's wrong, here's how I fix it and these are the men that I'm going to bring with me to help teach and coach my system."

Keim's next priority was to get a quarterback, and he was able to acquire Carson Palmer and a seventh-round draft pick for just Arizona's sixth-round pick.

Keim worked to add depth, bringing in the likes of defensive lineman Frostee Rucker and outside linebacker Matt Shaughnessy.

He watched the veteran free agents in the offseason and waited until the last minute to get outside linebacker John Abraham, inside linebacker Karlos Dansby and right tackle Eric Winston at bargain prices.

Looking to help the beleaguered offensive line, Keim drafted guard Johnathan Cooper as the seventh pick overall but lost him in the preseason with a broken leg. Paul Fanaika, a lightly used player who had mostly been a tackle, moved in.

Keim had two big hits in the draft. He took a chance on defensive back Tyrann Mathieu and his troubled background in the third round and the diminutive dynamo was a standout until he sustained a season-ending knee injury. Speedy Andre Ellington, picked in the sixth round, adds a dynamic element as a runner and receiver.

Working with a "ready list" of players without jobs, Keim kept adding pieces throughout the season and the Cardinals evolved from a team that blew an 11-point first quarter lead and lost their opener in St. Louis to one that toppled mighty Seattle on the road.

"Now Calais Campbell is telling people we're the best team in the NFC," Keim said. "There's quite a change from hoping to win to now your players think we're the best team in the NFC."

The offseason looms large. Keim wants to talk with cornerback Patrick Peterson about a new contract, and that's bound to be big money.

There is a long list of players who will become unrestricted free agents, six of them starters. Among them is Dansby, who leads the NFL in solo tackles.

"I'll go on record as saying we want Karlos Dansby back," Keim said.

But only at the right price.

As for restructuring Larry Fitzgerald's big contract, Keim said the contract's current figures are in the existing budget although "if there are things we can do to help our team from a cap standpoint and to get better around Larry, if it makes sense on our end and it makes sense on his end, we'll certainly approach him."

The aggressive young executive remains as fired up as ever about his "dream job."

AROUNDTHENFL

FROM STAFF REPORTS

SAINTS

Payton OK with NFL's playoff format

Sean Payton can accept if New Orleans misses the playoffs while a division winner with fewer victories makes it.

He's also OK if the Saints have to go on the road in the postseason against a team with a less impressive record.

"I kind of like the way it is set up right now," the Saints coach said of the NFL's playoff format, which gives the first four seeds to division winners, regardless of record, and the last two seeds to wild cards.

Heading into Sunday's regular-season finale, it's possible for the Saints to finish as a wild card at 11-5, and go on the road to play the winner of either the NFC North or NFC East divisions — teams which may have as few as nine wins (Philadelphia is the only one with a chance to reach 10).

The Saints could also miss the playoffs with 10 wins if they lose (and if Arizona beats San Francisco).

The system has worked against Payton before. In 2010, the Saints were an 11-5 wild card team, hitting the road to play a 7-9 Seattle team that won a weak NFC West. The Saints lost.

Payton said the NFL could fix the problem somewhat by getting rid of byes and letting two more teams from each conference get in. But he doesn't necessarily favor that.

"We are one of the only sports with the byes," Payton said. "We just look at the schedule. What are the rules? What does it take to get in? And then let's go compete and make sure we give ourselves a chance to do that. So for this weekend, we are not really ... looking at the scenarios, the records.

"We are looking at playing our best game."

LIONS

Lions sign ruby player to practice squad

Usually, transactions involving NFL practice squads don't make news. The Detroit Lions generated an exception.

They signed 24-year-old rugby star Carlin Isles on Thursday to their practice squad.

"Particularly a guy that doesn't have much of a background, you get a little bit more of an extended look," Detroit coach Jim Schwartz said. "That certainly gives you an advantage going in to see if there is any future to move ahead with."

The 5-foot-8, 165-pound Isles ran a 4.22-second 40-yard dash in a workout with the Lions earlier in the week, the Detroit Free Press reported.

"His speed was impressive," Schwartz acknowledged.

Isles, from Massillon, Ohio, ran a 10.13 100-meter dash and 6.68 60-meter dash at Ashland University, where he was an all-conference football player. The Lions are going to take a look at him at wide receiver.

"When you're in rugby and catching the ball, it's a lot different," Schwartz said. "I wouldn't necessarily classify him as a rugby guy as much as of a track guy. He has a lot more track experience. That's something over the course of the NFL that that's happened a bunch of times where guys with track experience have come in and some of them have transitioned and some of them haven't. He has some natural ability.

"He played some college football and he has some interesting things. No. 1 of which is speed."

EAGLES

Some on squad lack big-game experience

Only 15 Eagles who played on the team when it won the NFC East title in 2010 remain, including injured wide receiver Jeremy Maclin. So one of the youngest rosters in the league also lacks playoff experience going into Sunday's winner-take-all game at Dallas.

Coach Chip Kelly isn't worried.

"I think everybody understands what's at stake," he said. "It's the first game of the playoffs for us and for them. If you win on Sunday, you get to play again and if you don't win on Sunday, you go home."

The Eagles do have key players who went to the playoffs with other teams, including cornerback Cary Williams, safety Patrick Chung and linebackers DeMeco Ryans and Conor Barwin.

Williams started for the defending Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens last year. Ryans went to the playoffs with Houston in 2011 and Barwin did so with the Texans in 2011 and 2012. Chung spent the previous four seasons with New England, which won the AFC East each year.

"The key is to be who you are, but understand the situation," Barwin said. "You have to kind of elevate your preparation, pay attention to small details because you never know what detail or what point in the game is going to make the difference. You just want to be prepared for everything because it's win or go home, and nobody is ready to go home."

RAMS

QB Clemens seeing extended play

St. Louis Rams backup quarterback Kellen Clemens is winding up a string of nine starts after Sam Bradford sustained a season-ending knee injury.

They Rams are 4-4 with Clemens running the show in his first regular playing opportunity since 2007 with the Jets.

"It's been a lot of fun," Clemens said. "There's been some things you'd like to maybe do over, but some moments that I will cherish for a long time. And not all of them have been plays on the field. A lot of it's just been memories and interactions with the guys, being in the huddle."

Clemens has earned respect with toughness. He hasn't missed a snap despite taking some tough shots, including a hit by Cardinals linebacker Karlos Dansby "that seems to stick out as less than enjoyable."

BENGALS

Coordinators beginning to get looks for head coaching jobs

Both of the Cincinnati Bengals' coordinators already are getting a lot of mention for head coaching jobs.

The Bengals have won the AFC North with a balanced team. Coordinator Mike Zimmer's defense is ranked No. 5 in the NFL despite missing lineman Geno Atkins and cornerbacks Leon Hall and Terence Newman. Coordinator Jay Gruden's offense is ranked No. 10.

Cincinnati is one of only two teams in the league with both its offense and defense ranked in the Top 10 heading into the final regular-season game. New Orleans is ranked No. 5 on offense and No. 4 on defense.

The Bengals haven't finished in the Top 10 in both offense and defense since 1989.

Zimmer has interviewed for jobs over the years, but has never been hired as a head coach. Gruden has been content to build Cincinnati's offense around Andy Dalton and A.J. Green, but will get a lot of interest from other teams looking to replicate the Bengals' West Coast offense.

"I don't know if I'll be one of the most mentioned guys," Gruden said, in response to a question this week. "There are a lot of great coordinators out there. Hell, we've got one on our staff right now that should be mentioned (Zimmer)."

VIKINGS

Birk back to serve as captain in final game at Metrodome

The Minnesota Vikings will play their final game at the Metrodome on Sunday, and former center Matt Birk will serve as an honorary captain.

The six-time Pro Bowl pick, who grew up in nearby St. Paul and was drafted in the sixth round out of Harvard in 1998, played 11 of his 15 years in the NFL with his hometown team.

Birk is also set to join ex-teammates Robert Smith and Adrian Peterson and former Vikings coach Bud Grant in addressing the crowd during a farewell postgame ceremony for the stadium, which the Vikings have used for 32 seasons. The dome will be torn down next month to make room for a new venue on the same site set to open in 2016.

"Maybe I'll walk home with a goal post," Birk said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Who knows?"

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LEVEL

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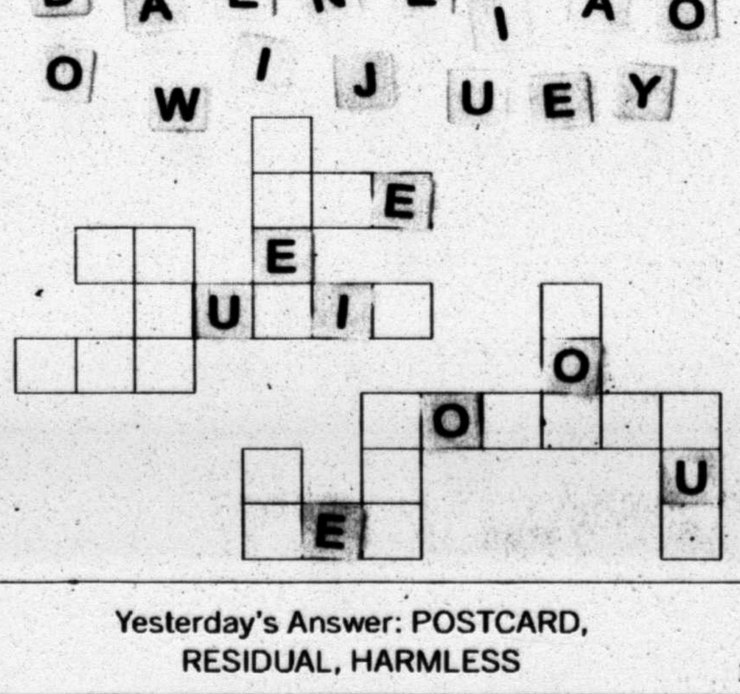

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Yesterday's Answer: POSTCARD, RESIDUAL, HARMLESS

12.28

Wade Phillips: NFL agrees 50th TD was a bobble

By Arnie Stapleton
Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Wade Phillips would like to put an asterisk on Peyton Manning's touchdown record.

The Houston Texans' interim coach said Friday the league agreed with him that Manning's record-tying 50th TD toss Sunday shouldn't have counted because Eric Decker bobbled the ball.

Manning

The touchdown still counts, however, as does Manning's 51st TD throw. That one to Julius Thomas minutes later capped Denver's 37-13 win and broke Tom Brady's record of 50 TD passes set in 2007.

Phillips

That football, along with Manning's grass-stained No. 18 jersey and his cleats, were sent to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

Decker said Phillips should just let it go, telling The Associated Press on Friday, "I caught it. This doesn't change anything. It's still a big catch for me and one I'll remember for a while."

Same with Manning, who told Decker after the reception with 6:57 left, "Great catch, man!"

Decker's 20-yard reception with 6:57 left in the fourth quarter gave Denver a 30-13 lead, and the TD was upheld on replay, much to the chagrin of Phillips, who felt Decker didn't have control of the ball until after his momentum carried him out of the back of the end zone.

Phillips sent the play to the league this week, contending the wrong call was made.

"We did get some good news. Actually, it's bad news for Peyton Manning because the league did come back and say that the ball was juggled by Decker and shouldn't have been a touchdown," Phillips said at the beginning of his Friday news conference.

He jokingly added, "I guess they're going to have to take that Hall of Fame ball that they sent to the Hall of Fame back. I feel bad for Peyton celebrating breaking the record and it really didn't happen."

"I guess they still count it, don't they? Anyway, the League came and said that it was not a touchdown. Unfortunately, they ruled it a touchdown on the field and then they reviewed and said it was a touchdown. But now the league came back and said it wasn't, which we said all along."

Broncos coach John Fox shrugged off Phillips' comments, noting there's been plenty more TD passes that Manning has had this season that were overturned on replay.

"I'm on the other side of a lot of those too but it really doesn't change anything. So I'll just leave it at that," Fox said at his Friday news conference.

Later, Fox told The AP there was one play in particular, against Tennessee on Dec. 8, in which Decker caught a pass and rolled into the end zone for the apparent score but he was ruled down shy of the goal line upon further review.

TV replays, however, don't clearly show a defender touching him before he rolls across the goal line.

"I still thought that was a touchdown, but I don't pay much mind to all that stuff because it doesn't change anything," Fox said. "I don't really put much stock in all that."

Decker said he still doesn't think he was touched on that play, but those kinds of calls all even out in the end.

As for Phillips checking with the NFL on his record-tying TD catch, Decker added: "Obviously, coaches want the games to be called fair. He didn't think it was the right call, which I thought it was. So, he's going to voice it to the league. But it still counts."

Texans QB situation unclear for final game at Titans

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Interim coach Wade Phillips doesn't know who will start at quarterback for the Texans in their finale Sunday at Tennessee.

Phillips said Friday that Case Keenum was limited in practice because he was sore and that the decision on who will start will be made Sunday.

Keenum has an injury to a ligament in his right thumb and missed last week's game. If Keenum can't play, Matt Schaub will start as the Texans try to snap a franchise-record 13-game losing streak.

Schaub was benched after six games in favor of Keenum. He threw for 176 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions in Houston's 37-13 loss to Denver last week.

"We're going to wait and see how Case is," Phillips said. "It could be a situation where he wouldn't be able to start but he could be the backup."

Keenum fell on his thumb and injured it on the last of his four sacks in a loss to the Colts two weeks ago. If he is unable to play, T.J. Yates will be the backup to Schaub.

Keenum, who went undrafted after wrapping up a record-setting career at the University of Houston in 2011, wants another chance to pick up his first win.

Keenum has thrown for 1,760 yards with nine touchdowns and six interceptions this season but has lost all eight of his starts.

"I want to go win and that's my mindset," Keenum said. "I think everybody in that locker room feels the same way. I love playing. I love competing and I love winning. It's definitely better than the alternative and I think that's what we all want to go do."

Houston has the worst record in the NFL, and a loss will guarantee the Texans the top overall pick in next year's draft.

The Texans are also dealing with injuries to their running backs. Phillips said that last week's starter, Dennis Johnson, didn't practice and is "very questionable" for Sunday's game. Deji Karim, his backup against Denver, is out after breaking his collarbone Sunday.

Phillips said that Jonathan Grimes, who was signed last week, will start at running back against Tennessee.

Grimes will be the fifth different running back Houston has started this season.

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SATURDAY MORNING — DECEMBER 28, 2013

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

		G	S	R	C	W	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
BROADCAST	KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	WildA.	House	GMA Saturday		Wild C.	Ocean M.	Explore	S.Rescue	Wildlife D	E. Wild	Family	Family
	KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	Morning Saturday		David Crosby, Stephen Stills		LuckyDog	Dr. Chris	RecRehab	Meals	All In	Changers	Bucket	Paid
	KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	Chuck	Heroes	Sonic X	Bolts/Blip	SpiderM	Justice	DragonB.	B-Daman	YuGiOh!	Yu-Gi-Oh	ChatRoom	On Spot
	KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	FeelHome	House	Animal R.	Into Wild	Animals	Aqua Kid	Weekend	Marketplace			FamilySt	Outdoors
	KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	(5:00) Light of south		Donkey	Wonder	News	Warriors	Pendleto	Fire	J.McGee	Stringer	Dollars	Zion
	KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	FamR.	Mercury	Saturday Today (N)			Noddy	Chica	Animals	Justin	Tree Fu	LazyTown	Soccer
	KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	C.George	Cat/ Hat	Peg + Cat	DinoTrain	D.Tiger	SuperWI	Thomas	Bob Build	Rogers	SciGirls	Baking	V.Garden
	KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Mercury	Mercury	Pocoyo	Backyard	Zigby	Maya&M.	Dora	Diego	Iglesia	Mercury	La hora pico	
	KOSA MNT	16	16		16		JTV	JTV Direct	Aqua Kid	Dragon	Dog Tales	Pets.TV	Missing	Awesome	Whadd	News	Holiday	River Parade
PREMIUM	FLIX	340	65		165		(:15) ★★ Joe the King (99, Drama) Noah Fleiss.				★★★ Three Fugitives				(:40) ★★ Captain Ron (88, Comedy) Kurt Russell.			Movie
	HBO	300	68	14	14		Movie	★★ Jack the Giant Slayer (13, Fantasy) Nicholas Hoult.			24/7		Real Sports			Fight	★ Meet the Fockers	
	HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	(5:05) ★ Dirty Rotte...		★ Seeking a Friend for the En...		(:45) ★★ Lake Placid				(:10) ★★ Red Eye		SportUSA	
	HBO3	304	70	16	102		★★ Big Fat Liar (02, Comedy) Frankie Muniz.		★★ Dragonfly (02, Drama) Kevin Costner.		(:15) ★★★ The Hurricane (99, Drama) Denzel Washington.				(:45) Get On			
	MAX	380	71	17	120	24	★★ Volcano (97, Drama) Tommy Lee Jones.		(:50) ★★★ Alexander ('04, Adv) Angelina Jolie, Colin Farrell.						(:40) ★★ Mission: Impossible			
	MAX2	382	72	18	122		(5:40) ★ Spy Hard		(:05) ★★ Just Like Heaven		(:40) ★ Anna Karenina (12, Drama) Keira Knightley.				(:50) ★★ Scoop			
	PLEX			96			Movie	(:40) ★★★ Gleason			(:15) ★★ On the Line				(:45) ★★★ The River Wild (94, Suspense) Meryl Streep.		Movie	
	SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	(5:30) ★ It's a Disaster	Inside the NFL			★ The Darkest Hour		★ Inescapable (12, Drama) Alexander Siddig.		(:05) ★ 50/ 50			
	TMC	336	67	22	155	26	(5:30) ★ Autumn in ...		(:15) ★★ Step Up Revolution				★★ Diary of a Mad Black Woman				★★ Even Money	
CABLE	A&E	27	32	28	35	47	Minds "Snake Eyes"		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Flip "Pipe Dreams"		Flipping Vegas		Flipping "Frat House"	
	AMC	40	21	23	42	51	Rifleman	Rifleman	Rawhide		★★★ Space Cowboys ('00, Sci-Fi) Clint Eastwood.						Breaking Bad "Over"	
	BET	58	26		40		(5:00) BET Inspiration		Moesha	Moesha	Scandal		Scandal		Scandal		Scandal	
	BRAVO	65	63		41		(5:00) ★★★ Gangs of New York (02, Drama) Leonardo DiCaprio.					To Be Announced	Top Chef		Courtney	Courtney	Million	
	CNBC	46	45		39	72	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
	CNN	43	24	51	30	56	(5:00) New Day					Money	CNN Newsroom					
	DISC	50	20	31	24	42	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced	
	DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	M.Mouse	McStuffins	Jake	Sofia 1st	Dog Blog	Dog Blog	Good Luck	Jessie	Liv/Mad	Jessie	Jessie	Jessie
	ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter				NCAA Football	
	ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	(5:00) 30 for 30		S.Sci.	MatchUp	After Further Review		NFL Kickoff		NFL Live		NCAA Basketball (L)	
	FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	Middle	Middle	★★ Bring It On: Fight to the Finish				★★ Bring It On: In It to Win It				★ Bring It On: All	
	FNC	45	58	53	23	55	(5:00) Fox & Friends Saturday						Bull Bear	Cavuto	Forbes	Cash In	America's News HQ	
	FOOD	64	59	27	68	54	Sandwich	Big Bite	Best	BestAte	Brunch	Pioneer	Pioneer	Southern	Barefoot	Giada	Chopped	
	FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	Game365	E. Games	Huddle	Texans	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	LoneStar	Big 12	Crimson Classics	
	FX	31	31	59	64	69	Ellen	Buffy "Real Me"		2½Men	2½Men	2½Men	2½Men	★★ Alvin and the Chipmunks (07, Comedy) Jason Lee.			Movie	
	HALLMARK	54	49	58		34	(5:00) ★ The Santa ...		★ It's Christmas, Carol! (07, Comedy) Carrie Fisher.				★ Help for the Holidays (09, Comedy) Summer Glau.				★★ Silver Bells	
	HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	Crashers	Crashers	Crashers	Crashers	Crashers	Crashers
	HISTORY	71	62	29	50	43	Mankind: The Story of All of Us		Inventors'		Mankind: The Story of All of Us		Empires		Mankind: The Story of All of Us		'Survivors'	
	LIFETIME	28	25	25	28	48	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Rockers	Rockers	★ A Mother's Rage	
	MSNBC	47	51		49	73	Weekends	Alex Witt	Up With Steve Kornacki				Melissa Harris-Perry				Weekends	Alex Witt
	NBCSN	38	39				Live	(:45) EPL Soccer	West Brom vs. West Ham U. (L)			(:45) Live	EPL Soccer	Manchester United vs. Norwich (L)			Live	Whitetail
	NICK	55	34	39	34	37	Penguins	Parents	SanjayCr	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	SanjayCr	Ninja	Rabbids	Sponge	Sponge
	SPIKE	30	22	55	53	58	Paid Program		Paid Program		★★★ Star Wars: Episode I: The Phantom Menace ('99, Sci-Fi) Liam Neeson.						Movie	
	SYFY	66	64	41	57	67	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	★ Species: The Awakening				★★★ Star Trek: Nemesis			
	TBS	25	11	44	66	41	Fresh P.	Ground	Payne	Browns	ThereYet	Rules	Rules	Rules	★★ You, Me and Dupree (06, Comedy) Owen Wilson.			
	TCM	41	61	24	63	66	(5:15) ★ Annie Get ...		(:15) ★★★ Don't Make Waves				(:15) S. light	★ Up Goes Maisie			★ The Dirty Dozen	
	TELE	20	8	10	20		Pagado	Pagado	Raggs	Jay Jay	Jay Jay	LazyTown	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Op. Repo	Reventón	
	TLC	51	33	32	38	52	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Extreme Couponing		Coupon	Coupon	Coupon	Coupon	Coupon	Coupon
	TNT	24	23	40	26	50	Boston's Finest		Marshal Law: Texas		Major Crimes		Cold Justice		Justice: Mother		★★ Valkyrie	
	TVLAND	49	48	35	54	35	(:10) Nanny	(:50) Nanny	(:25) The Nanny		BradyB.	BradyB.	BradyB.	BradyB.	BradyB.	BradyB.	BradyB.	BradyB.
	USA	26	30	42	27	49	Paid Program		Paid Program		Law&O :SVU "Fault"		SVU "Starved"		SVU "Rockabye"		Law&O :SVU "Fl	
	WGN	19	18				Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Matlock		Matlock		In Heat of Night		In Heat of Night	

SATURDAY AFTERNOON — DECEMBER 28, 2013

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

		G	S	R	C	W	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
BROADCAST	KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Mr. Box	Mr. Box	Paid	Paid	C'mas Light Fight		X Games 19		Sports Saturday		Paid	News
	KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	NCAAMen	NCAA Men	NCAA Basketball		Villanova vs. Syracuse (L)		(:15) NCAA Basketball		Live/Kelly (L)		Green	News
	KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	ThereYet	There Yet?	Payne	Payne	Made in Hollywood		★★ Mixed Nuts ('94, Comedy) Steve Martin.				★ Death at a Fun	
	KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Mazda	Younger	Mother	Mother	Outdoors	Puzzle	★★ A Christmas Carol (09, Animation) Jim Carrey.				Consumer	Consumer
	KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	News	Walking	BASPires.	Uri Harel	Light of the Southwest				DoorwaytoWisdom		Jean-Cla	Day Disc.
	KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	(11:30) EPL Soccer	Sunderland vs. Cardiff City (L)			Speed Skating (L)		PGA Golf		Red Bull Highlights		Havas	News
	KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	Texas	Old House	House	HomeT.	Woodsh p	Motor.	AutoLine	Aviators	Fishing	Parks	News	Arts in
	KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Sabadazo								Como dice el dicho		Nacional	Noticiero
	KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Access Hollywood		RedCarpe	Green	Homeown	Hazelton	O.House	Homes	AmAthlete	CARS.TV	Latino	LatiNat
PREMIUM	FLIX	340	65		165		(11:30) ★ Melvin & ...		(:05) ★★ Man on the Moon (99, Comedy) Jim Carrey.				(:05) ★★ Billy Bathgate (91, Drama) Dustin Hoffman.				★ October Sky	
	HBO	300	68	14	14		(11:00) ★ Meet the F...		Six by Sondheim		First Look (N)	(:45) ★ Jack the Giant Slayer (13, Fantasy) Nicholas Hoult.			(:45) ★★ Battleship			
	HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	(11:40) SportAmerica		(:15) ★ Taken 2 (12, Action) Liam Neeson.		(:50) ★★ Identity Thief (13, Comedy) Jason Bateman.				(:50) ★ Beautiful Creatures			
	HBO3	304	70	16	102		(:15) Angels in America: Part I						(:05) Angels in America: Part 2					
	MAX	380	71	17	120	24	Movie	(:35) ★★ Chain Reaction (96, Action) Keanu Reeves.			(:25) ★ Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (02, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe.						(:10) ★ End of Days	
	MAX2	382	72	18	122		Movie	★★★★ Casino ('95, Cri) Sharon Stone, Joe Pesci, Robert De Niro.					★★ Die Hard II: Die Harder (90, Action) Bruce Willis.				Movie	
	PLEX			96			(11:40) ★ Black Dragon		★ Three Can Play That Game		(:05) ★★ On the Line				(:35) ★★★ Gleason			
	SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	Movie	(:45) ★★★ The Wood ('99, Dra) Omar Epps			(:45) ★ Welcome to the Punch				★★★ Carlito's Way			
	TMC	336	67	22	155	26	(11:00) ★ Even Money		★ Breaking Upwards				★★ Step Up Revolution				(:10) ★★ Diary of a Mad Black Woman	
CABLE	A&E	27	32	28	35	47	Rodeo Girls		Rodeo Girls		★★★ Goodfellas ('90, Cri) Joe Pesci, Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta.						The First 48	
	AMC	40	21	23	42	51	(1:05) Breaking Bad		(:10) Breaking Bad		(:10) BreakBad "ABQ"		(:15) Breaking Bad		(:20) Breaking Bad		(:25) BreakBad	
	BET	58	26		40		Scandal		Scandal		Scandal		Scandal		Scandal		Scandal	
	BRAVO	65	63		41		Million	Millionaire		VanderR	Addicted	Vanderpump Rules		Beverly Hills		★ The Fast and the Furious		
	CNBC	46	45		39	72	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
	CNN	43	24	51	30	56	(9:00) CNN Newsroom		Money	CNN Newsroom				Sanjay	CNN Newsroom			
	DISC	50	20	31	24	42	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced	
	DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	Jessie	Jessie	A.N.T.	A.N.T.	A.N.T.	Dog Blog	Dog Blog	Dog Blog	Good Luck	Dog Blog	Dog Blog	Austin
	ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	(11:00) NCAA Football	Penstripe Bowl (L)			(:20) NCAA Football	Belk Bowl (Commercials: Tenth Encounter) (L)						Football
	ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	(11:00) NCAA Basketb.		NCAA Basketball (L)	Michigan vs. Duke (L)			BowlPre	NCAA Golf		S.Sci	SportsCenter	
	FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	(11:00) Bring It On		★★★ Another Cinderella Story				★ A Cinderella Story: Once Upon a Song				★ A Cinderella Sto	
	FNC	45	58	53	23	55	America's News HQ		Journal E	America's News HQ			Healthy	News HQ	The Five		America's News HQ	
	FOOD	64	59	27	68	54	Restaurant		Restaurant		Restaurant Stakeout		Diners	Diners,	Guy's Game		Diners,	Diners
	FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	(11:00) Crimson Cl		NCAA Basketball	Samford vs. Marquette (L)			Lunch With Rangers	Icons	Icons		Icons	Lights
	FX	31	31	59	64	69	(11:30) ★ Alvin & the Chipmun		★★★ Night at the Museum (06, Comedy) Ben Stiller.								★ Night at the Museum: Bat	
	HALLMARK	54	49	58		34	(11:00) ★ Silver Bells		★ Matchmaker Santa (10, Comedy) Lacey Chabert.				★ A Bride for Christmas (12, Drama) Andrew W. Walker.				★ The Christmas	
	HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	Love It or List It		Buy Sell	David	Buying and Selling		Buying and Selling		Buying and Selling		House H	House
	HISTORY	71	62	29	50	43	Story of All of Us	"New World"			Story of All of Us		(:05) Angels in America: Part 2		Story of All of Us	"Survivors"		
	LIFETIME	28	25	25	28	48	(11:00) ★ A Mother' ...		★ Missing at 17 (13, Dra) Tricia O'Kelley.				★ The Nightmare Nanny (13, Adv) Jeffrey Scott.				★ Hidden Away	
	MSNBC	47	51		49	73	(11:00) Alex Witt		MSNBC News Live		MSNBC News Live		Disrupt		MSNBCDocumentary		MSNBCDocumentary	
	NBCSN	38	39				Blitz TV	Whitetail	Bill Dance	Fishing	FLW Outdoors		Hockey	Olympic Trials (L)			Basket	
	NICK	55	34	39	34	37	Mega	Sponge	Rabbids	SanjayCr	Fairly Odd Parents		Sam, Cat	Sam, Cat	Sam, Cat	Sam, Cat	Sam, Cat	Sam, Cat
	SPIKE	30	22	55	53	58	(11:30) ★★★ Star Wars:	Episode II: Attack of the Clones					★★★ Star Wars: Episode III: Revenge of the Sith					
	SYFY	66	64	41	57	67	Movie	★ Outlander ('08, Sci-Fi) James Caviezel.					★ Drive Angry ('11, Act) Nicolas Cage.				★★ The Matrix	
	TBS	25	11	44	66	41	★★★ 50 First Dates (04, Comedy) Adam Sandler.				Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Queens	Queens	Loves Ray	Loves Ray
	TCM	41	61	24	63	66	(11:00) ★★★ The Dirty Dozen		(:05) ★★★ The Far Country (55, Western) James Stewart.				★★★ The Black Swan				★ Jason & the Arg	
	TELE	20	8	10	20		La ruta blanca						★ Mi Pobre Diabolito 2: Perdidos en Nu		Deportivo	Op. Repo	Videos asombrosos	
	TLC	51	33	32	38	52	Coupon	Couponing	Coupon	Coupon	Untold Stories		Untold Stories		Untold	Rattled	Untold Stories	
	TNT	24	23	40	26	50	(11:00) ★★ Valkyrie		(:15) ★★★ Angels and Demons ('09, Myst) Tom Hanks.								★★★ The Da Vinci Code (06, Myst) Tom Hanks.	
	TVLAND	49	48	35	54	35	BradyB.	BradyB.	Cosby	Cosby	Cosby	Cosby	Cosby	Cosby	Cosby	Cosby	Cosby	Cosby
	USA	26	30	42	27	49	Law&O.:SVU "Clock"		SVU "Spectacle"		SVU "Snatched"		SVU "Signature"		SVU "Inconceivable"		SVU "Stranger	
	WGN	19	18				In Heat of Night		Walker, TX		Walker, TX		Law & Order: C.I.		Law:CI "Revolution"		Bones	

SATURDAY PRIME TIME — DECEMBER 28, 2013

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

		G	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
BROADCAST	KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	★★★ Just Go With It (11, Com) A plastic surgeon convinces his assistant to pose as his soon-to be ex-wife.				Trophy Wife		Apex	(:35) Garrett	(:05) White Collar	
	KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7 News	OMG! Insider	Mike & Molly	Mom	48 Hours				CBS 7 News	(:35) Glee		(:35) Glee
	KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	(5:00) ★★★ Death at a Funeral		Cheaters		Cops: Reloaded	Cops: Reloaded	Rules of Engage.	Rules of Engage.	Commu-nity	Commu-nity	Commu-nity	Commu-nity
	KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Two and Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Almost Human "Are You Receiving?"		Bones "The Secrets in the Proposal"		Criminal Minds "No Way Out"		AxeCop (:15) School	AxeCop (:45) School	The Arsenio Hall Show	
	KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	Dr. Rik Wadge	Yohanan Salamanca	House Calls	Joe McGee	Light of the Southwest		Best of Week		Fruits of Zion	Biblical Israel	Doorways to Wisdom	
	KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	News-West 9	Country Reporter	WWE Tribute to the Troops (N)		The Blacklist "General Lutrll"		Saturday Night Live		News-West 9	Saturday Night Live		
	KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	The Lawrence Welk Show "Christmas"		American Masters "Marvin Hamlisch: What He Did for Love"		Downt-nAbbey		Lidia Cele. "Moments and Milestones"		Austin City Limits "Rodrigo y Gabriela"		Woodsongs	
	KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	La Familia P. Luche		Sábado gigante						Humor comed.	Noticiero Univision	Estrellados	
	KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Game	Trobadour.	Castle		Castle		Private Practice		30 Rock	Sunny	Office	Comedy
PREMIUM	FLIX	340	65		165		(5:00) ★ October Sky		★★★ Sling Blade (96, Drama) Billy Bob Thorton.				(:15) ★ Halloween: Resurrection (02, Horror) Ethan Hawke.		(:45) ★★ Steel Dawn			
	HBO	300	68	14	14		(4:45) ★ Battleship		★★★★ Warm Bodies (12, Comedy) Nicholas Hoult.			Making	24/7		★★★★ Warm Bodies		Movie	
	HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	(4:50) ★ Beautiful C...		Girls	Girls	Get On	Ja'mie	Treme		Treme		★ Taken 2	
	HBO3	304	70	16	102		(:15) ★ Mama ('13, Hor)	Jessica Chastain.			Game of Thrones		Thrones "The Climb"		★ For a Good Time, Call...		Movie	
	MAX	380	71	17	120	24	(5:10) ★ End of Days		(:15) ★ Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter				★ The Man With the Iron Fists (12, Action) Dave Bautista.		(:50) ★ Dark Secrets			
	MAX2	382	72	18	122		(5:35) ★ Date Movie		StrikeBk	(:50) ★★★ Gangster Squad (13, Action) Sean Penn.			Lingerie	Lingerie	(:50) ★★★ Office Space			
	PLEX			96			(:10) ★ Black Dragon ('89, Act) Jackie Chan.				★★★ The River Wild (94, Suspense) Meryl Streep.				★★ On the Line		Movie	
	SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	(4:30) ★ Carlito's Way		★★★ Killing Them Softly (12, Cri) Brad Pitt.				★ Sinister (12, Hor) Ethan Hawke.				★ Richard Pryor.	
	TMC	336	67	22	155	26	(:10) ★★ The Perks of Being a Wallflower						★ Beware (12, Adventure) Adam Leadbetter.				(:05) ★ Wreckage	
CABLE	A&E	27	32	28	35	47	First 48 "Wild Ride"		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48	
	AMC	40	21	23	42	51	BreakBad	Breaking Bad			Breaking Bad	"Mas"	(:35) Breaking Bad		(:40) Breaking Bad		(:45) Breaking Bad	BreakBad
	BET	58	26		40		★ Eve's Bayou ('97, Dra) Dia		Diahann Carroll, Samuel L. Jackson.						★★★ The Secret Life of Bees ('08, Dra) Dakota Fanning.			
	BRAVO	65	63		41		(4:30) ★ The Fast & T...		★★ xXx ('02, Act) Samuel L. Jackson, Vin Diesel.						★★★ The Fast and the Furious ('01, Act) Vin Diesel.			
	CNBC	46	45		39	72	20 Under 20	1/2	20 Under 20	2/2	Suze Orman (N)		The Profit		Profit "LA Dogworks"		Suze Orman Show	
	CNN	43	24	51	30	56	CNN Special Report		CNN Special Report		Anthony Bourdain		Anthony Bourdain		CNN Special Report		Anthony Bourdain	
	DISC	50	20	31	24	42	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced	
	DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	Austin	Austin	★★★ High School Musical		Mickey		Lab Rats	Mighty M	Jessie	Jessie	Jessie	Jessie
	ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	(5:45) NCAA Football	Russell Athletic Bowl Miami vs. Louisville (L)					(:15) NCAA Football	Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl Mich./Kan St. (L)				
	ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	(5:00) SportsCenter		NCAA Basketball	Missouri vs. N.C. State (L)			NCAA Basketball	Alabama vs. UCLA (L)			SportsCenter	
	FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	(5:00) ★ A Cinderel...		★★★ Cinderella				(:45) ★★★ The Little Mermaid				★★ Along Came Polly	
	FNC	45	58	53	23	55	FOX Report Saturday		Huckabee		Justice JudgeJeanine		Fox News Reporting		Red Eye		Justice JudgeJeanine	
	FOOD	64	59	27	68	54	Diners...	Diners, Dr.	Cupcake Wars (N)		Chopped		Chopped		On the Rocks		Chopped	
	FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	Mavricks	Mavs Pre	NBA Basketball	Dallas Mavericks vs. Chicago Bulls (L)			Maverick	CottonBo	H.S. Football			
	FX	31	31	59	64	69	(4:30) ★ Night at the...		★★ Hall Pass ('11, Com) Owen Wilson.				★★ Hall Pass ('11, Com) Owen Wilson.				Archer	Archer
	HALLMARK	54	49	58		34	(5:00) ★ The Christ...		★ A Princess for Christmas (11, Com) Katie McGrath.				★ Christmas With Holly (06, Comedy) Sean Faris.				★ All I Want for C	
	HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	House H	House	Love It or List It		Love It or List It, Too		House H	House	House H	House	Love It or List It, Too	
	HISTORY	71	62	29	50	43	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star
	LIFETIME	28	25	25	28	48	(5:00) ★ Hidden Away		★ The Wrong Woman (03, Thr) Daniela McKellar.				★ The Husband She Met Online				★ The Wrong W	
	MSNBC	47	51		49	73	MSNBC Documentary		MSNBCDocumentary		MSNBCDocumentary		MSNBCDocumentary		MSNBCDocumentary		MSNBCDocumentary	
	NBCSN	38	39				(5:30) NCAA Basket.	Old D/Rich (L)

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TODAY: Partly sunny
High: 60
Low: 33

SUNDAY: Mostly sunny
High: 41
Low: 21

MONDAY: Sunny
High: 47
Low: 27

Local forecast

Expect partly sunny skies today with a high around 60 and southwest winds between 5 and 15 mph. Tonight's forecast calls for mostly clear conditions with a low around 33 and southwest winds between 10 and 15 mph becoming northwest after midnight.

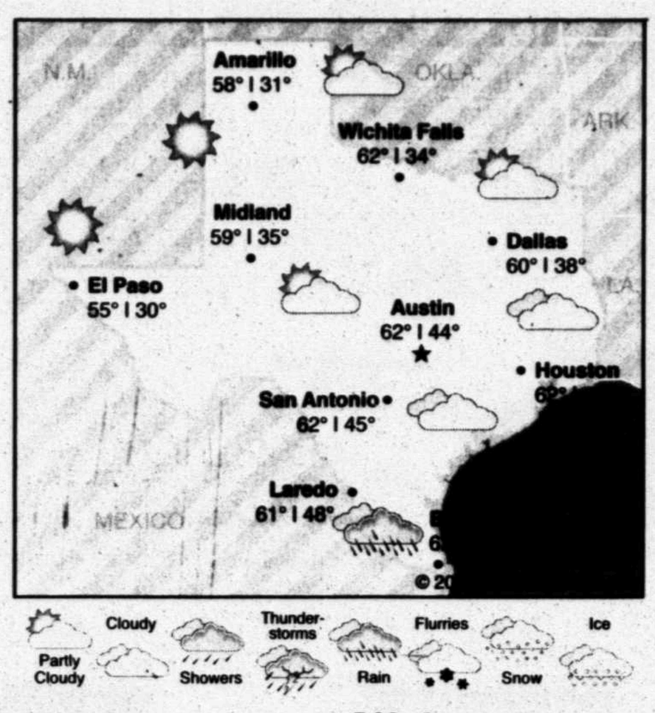
Sunday, look for mostly sunny skies with a high around 41 and north winds between 10 and 15 mph. Expect mostly clear conditions at night, with a low around 21 and north winds between 5 and 10 mph becoming light and variable in the evening.

Monday, the forecast calls for sunny skies during the day, mostly clear skies at night, with a high around 47 and a low around 27.

The high on Friday reached 53, while the low dropped to 27. The record high for Dec. 27 is 75 set in 1964, 1970 and 1996. The record low is 9 set in 1939.

National forecast

Areas from New England and the Middle Atlantic Coast west to the Pacific Coast will be dry and tranquil torday. High pressure along the Atlantic Coast and over the Southwestern states will drive the stable conditions. Warm air, short of record levels, will build in much of the East.



Precipitation

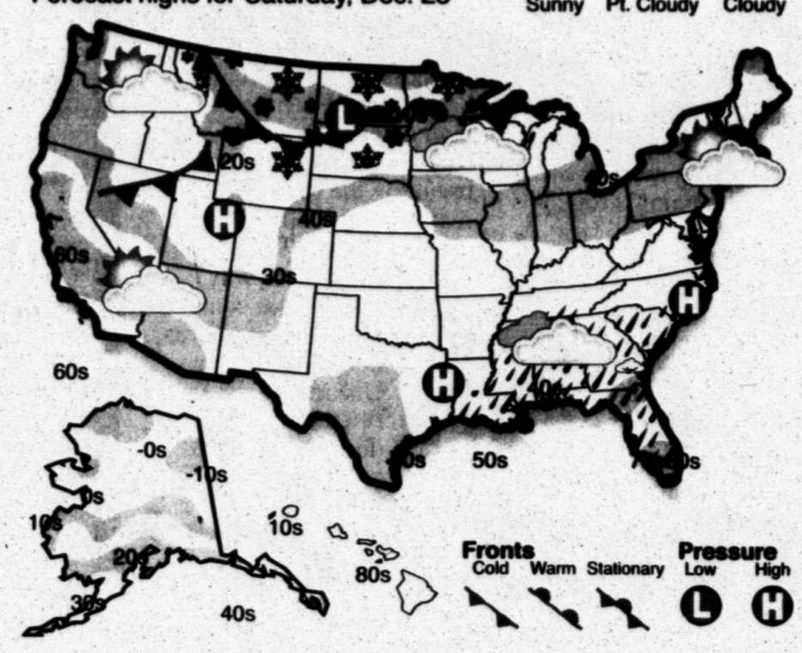
Wednesday	0.00 in.
Thursday	0.00 in.
Month total	1.44 in.
Year total	8.51 in.
Normal total (year to date)	14.53 in.

Friday's temperatures

High	53
Low	27
Normal high	57
Normal low	30
Sunrise	7:48 a.m.
Sunset	5:53 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Saturday, Dec. 28



Teen won't leave abusive home despite friend's pleas

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: Last week, my best friend, "Lana," tried to kill herself. I'm not sure anyone else knows. Her brother beats her, and her mom yells at her for being "ungrateful" when she asks to spend a night elsewhere. My family has offered several times to let Lana live with us, as have her grandparents. After this week, I have begged her to. She still refuses.

Her plan is to move in with her boyfriend when she turns 18 in a few months. He's a good guy, but I don't think it will be good for her. I know they always say to tell an adult about a situation like this one, but Lana claims she's not strong enough to actually leave before then — and she kept a secret of mine almost as big.

I'm scared and don't know what to do. I love Lana and I know doing the wrong thing could end up with her dead. — TERRIFIED BFF IN TENNESSEE

DEAR TERRIFIED: If Lana tried to kill herself because of what's happening at home, she can no longer remain there. Talk to her again. Moving in with her boyfriend is not the answer. It could be jumping from the frying pan into the fire. If she lives with him under these circumstances, she will be emotionally and financially dependent, and it's not a healthy way to start a relationship.

Point out that if she lives with her grandparents — who understand how dysfunctional her home life has been — or your family, she will be in a safe place while she considers her options about finding a job or getting more education. Once she's independent, she will be in a stronger position to make wise decisions about her future.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend lost the "love of his life" to cancer two years ago. He talks about her and their life together endlessly. He says he wants to build a new life with me, but he constantly criticizes me because "she would handle the situation better."

Abby, the woman was a physician from a wealthy family. I'm a blue-collar worker who single-parented two children. My parents passed away 20 years ago. Is there any hope for a future with him? Can I ever feel comfortable being who I am — not the ghost he wants me to be? — BLUE-COLLAR LOVER

DEAR LOVER: As long as your boyfriend continues to compare you unfavorably with his lost love, the answer is no. Have you told him how it makes you feel when he does it? If you haven't, speak up! And when you do, suggest he find a grief support group, where he can talk and talk until he works through his loss better than he has. Until he does, you'll never be happy. Competing with a ghost is a fight you can't win.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a college student who has never had a boyfriend. I have been on a few dates with a guy I'll call "Richard," and while he's nice, I don't see this going anywhere.

On the other hand, I don't want to break it off just yet because it's nice having that kind of attention for once. But is it leading him on?

He likes me a lot more than I like him, but he knows I'm going to transfer next semester. What should I do? — CONFUSED DATER IN DES MOINES

DEAR CONFUSED DATER: You should be honest with Richard. Tell him you like him as a friend and remind him that your plan is to transfer next semester. That way, if he wants to continue seeing you, he'll know the score and you won't have led him on.

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 Saturday, Dec. 28, 2013:

This year you might be more deliberate in your choices than others realize. Follow-through counts. You also might choose to surround yourself with likeminded people. Still, know that you have a lot to gain from others whose minds work differently. If you are single, avoid getting involved with someone substantially older than you. You will have a very difficult time getting away from this person, should you change your mind. If you are attached, the two of you have strong commitments to other activities. Make it a point to get involved in a common interest. You both will enjoy being together more. SCORPIO understands you very well.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ Spend your day with a loved one. It is inevitable that you will have a conversation about a touchy matter. You tend to express optimism, and others could find that attitude to be contagious. Discussions revolve around a public commitment. Tonight: Be a duo.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Defer to someone else, and allow him or her to get past any negativity or fear. Your positive attitude goes far to loosen up a key person in your life. Remember, you can't make this person lighten up, but you can point the way. Tonight: Discuss a change on the homefront.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★ It is time to get through a project. Make a point not to be too upset about what you might be missing in the meantime. You could feel tense, until you see the way through this stage of the project. You might decide to take a nap instead. Tonight: Relax at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Take time to play and enjoy yourself with a child or loved one. You might be determined to carry the fun spirit of Christmas through the weekend. A new friend might have difficulty expressing his or her feelings. Tonight: Make a gesture, and someone will open up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Staying close to home will suit you perfectly. You might want to handle a personal matter or have an important one-on-one talk with a friend. Be positive about what you want to do. Discuss a domestic change. Tonight: Stay anchored.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Consider getting something off your chest in order to get past a problem. The other party will listen, but only to a certain point. Try to be open; otherwise, the listener could completely close down. Make fun plans with a child or loved one in the late afternoon. Tonight: Hang out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Be sensitive to a family member and his or her needs. Don't risk having to deal with this person's defiance. You will want to rein in your spending and start budgeting again. Bills will start coming in soon. Tonight: Fun does not have to cost much.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ You will want to make an effort to express yourself more fully. You might be tense most of the time, which holds you back. You need to choose a relaxing pastime to share with a friend or loved one that will open you up. Tonight: The night is yours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Take off and go do what you want. You can head out alone or invite a like-minded person to join you. The sense of relaxation you experience as a result of this venture will help you return to your normal life feeling refreshed. Tonight: Use your free time well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ Calls come in and invitations will be extended. You might want to get out and forget the holidays by joining your contemporaries. Opt to do what you enjoy most, but remember to put the company you choose as a higher priority. Tonight: Go to a spontaneous party.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ Take charge, but also listen to someone who has been in a similar position. Perhaps you can delegate part of what falls on you to this person. Still, realize that the buck stops with you. Choose someone who you know will follow through as you would like. Tonight: Meet friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ Understanding evolves in a discussion; you will be able to walk in someone else's shoes as a result. You could gain an understanding because of your willingness to be open. You also might see how a mix-up could have occurred. Tonight: Go along with an imaginative idea.

***

BORN TODAY

Former U.S. president Woodrow Wilson (1856), actor Denzel Washington (1954), singer/songwriter John Legend (1978)

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Bidding Quiz

Q 1 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ K Q 8 6 ♡ K 4 ◇ A K J 7 ♣ K 9 7

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	?	

What call would you make?

Q 2 — East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A 4 ♡ K J 10 9 8 6 4 ◇ J ♣ A Q 5

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass

What call would you make?

Q 3 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A 10 9 8 7 5 2 ♡ J ◇ 7 5 4 3 ♣ 7

As dealer, what call would you make?

Q 4 — East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A K 8 3 ♡ J 10 9 5 3 2 ◇ 8 ♣ 7 4

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Pass	?		

What call would you make?

Look for answers on Monday.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 There may be fears in them
6 Track event
15 Like some office boxes
16 Track event
17 Yellow-flowered medicinal plant
18 Champing at the bit, and then some
19 "__ Cheerleaders": 1977 comedy-horror film
21 Campus not far from LAX
22 Camera that uses 70mm film
23 Exploit
24 Casual evening?
26 Inedible orange
27 Aspire to greatness
29 "84, Charing Cross Road" novelist Hanff and others
31 "Violator" band
33 Deco designer
34 Agreeing words
35 Latin quarters?
39 1996 film with the tagline "YIKES! They've Landed!"
41 Arizona retirement community
45 Black-footed albatrosses
46 Ring material
47 Savory, e.g.
48 Tex.-based carrier
49 "Such a shame"
50 It's a mess
52 Zen awakening
54 Daily reading for many
57 Nitpick
58 New members
59 Whence Icarus fled
60 Ones on the way up
61 Had a row

DOWN

1 Convince otherwise
2 More disturbed
3 Disdain
4 Skipjack, perhaps
5 Tinny
6 Nursery product word
7 Follies
8 Draft picks
9 Traffic blocker?
10 Shade provider?
11 Extol
12 Dealer in old clothing
13 Way more than a cold snap
14 Darius I's successor
20 Reacts to with an eye roll, perhaps
25 Something to test
26 Cry of approval
28 Laugh line?
29 Respect
30 Corrections staff?
32 Humanities degs.
35 Soup holder
36 Best kind of full house
37 Use lofty words?
38 Pounced on
39 Short time?
40 Caldwell's "__ Road"
41 Most popular baby girl's name of 2011 and 2012
42 They may be civil
43 __ acid
44 Prairie predator
47 Bouncing off the walls
50 Large amount
51 Haul
53 Frank Kennedy saved it from foreclosure
55 Moral lapse
56 Twisty character

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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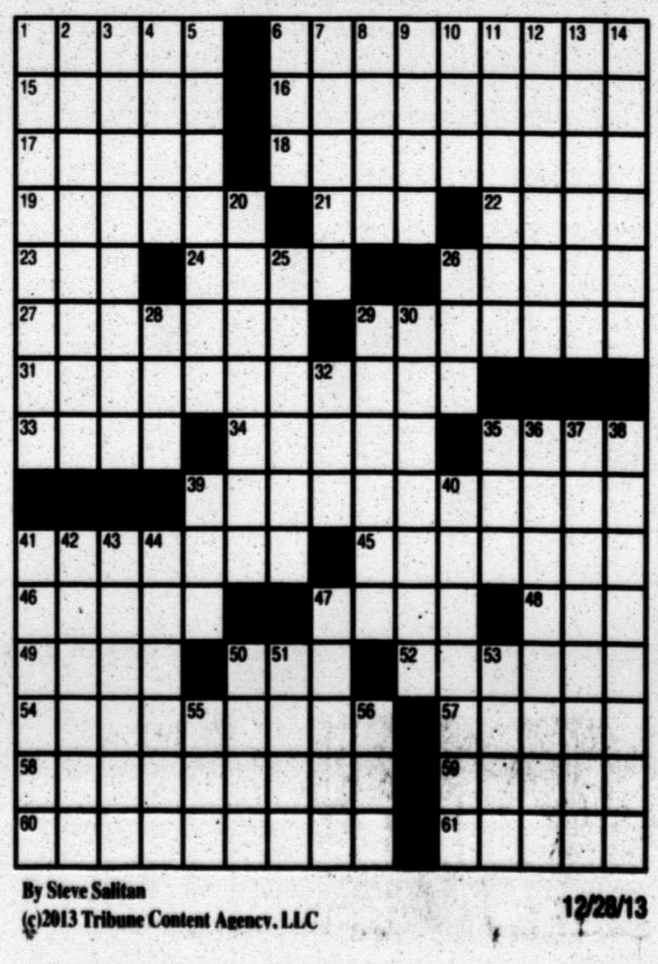
R	A	S	H		B	A	B	A	S		E	L	A	N
A	R	T	E		C	R	A	N	E		T	E	N	G

xwordeditor@aol.com 12/28/13



By Steve Salitan
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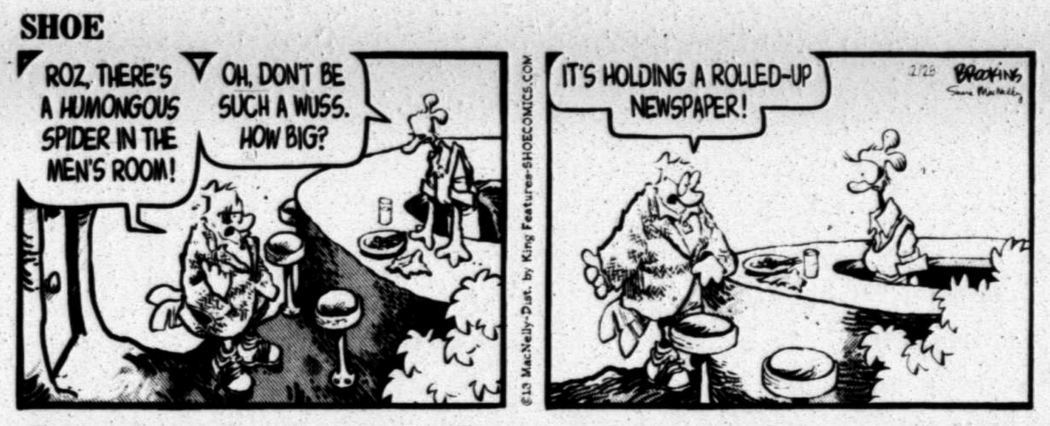
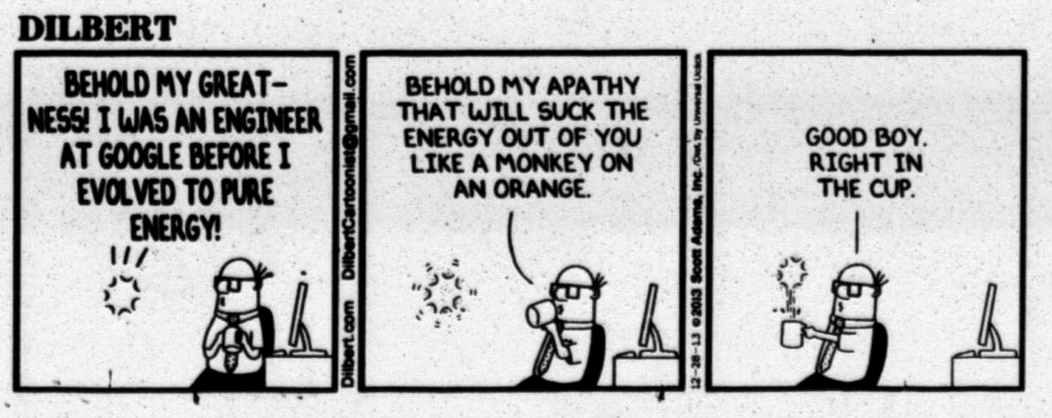


GARFIELD

DUSTIN

WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

LUANN

MARY WORTH

ZITS

BABY BLUES

MUTTS

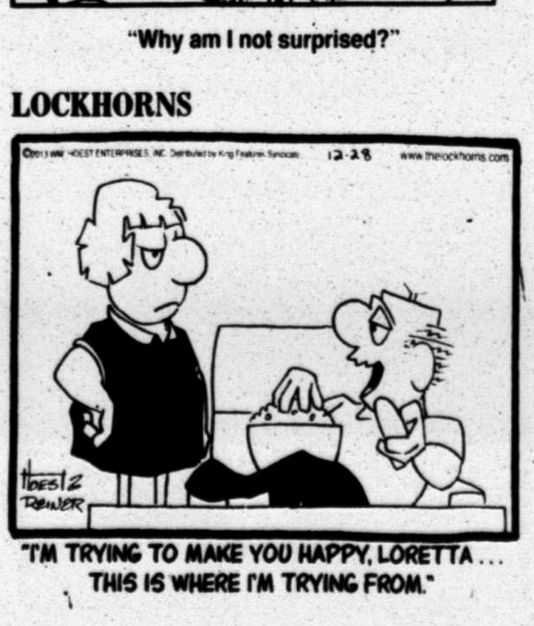
CLOSE TO HOME

"Why am I not surprised?"

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I BET SANTA'S ON VACATION BY NOW." "I WOULD BE,TOO, IF I HAD TO LIVE AT THE NORTH POLE."

LOCKHORNS



"I'M TRYING TO MAKE YOU HAPPY, LORETTA... THIS IS WHERE I'M TRYING FROM."

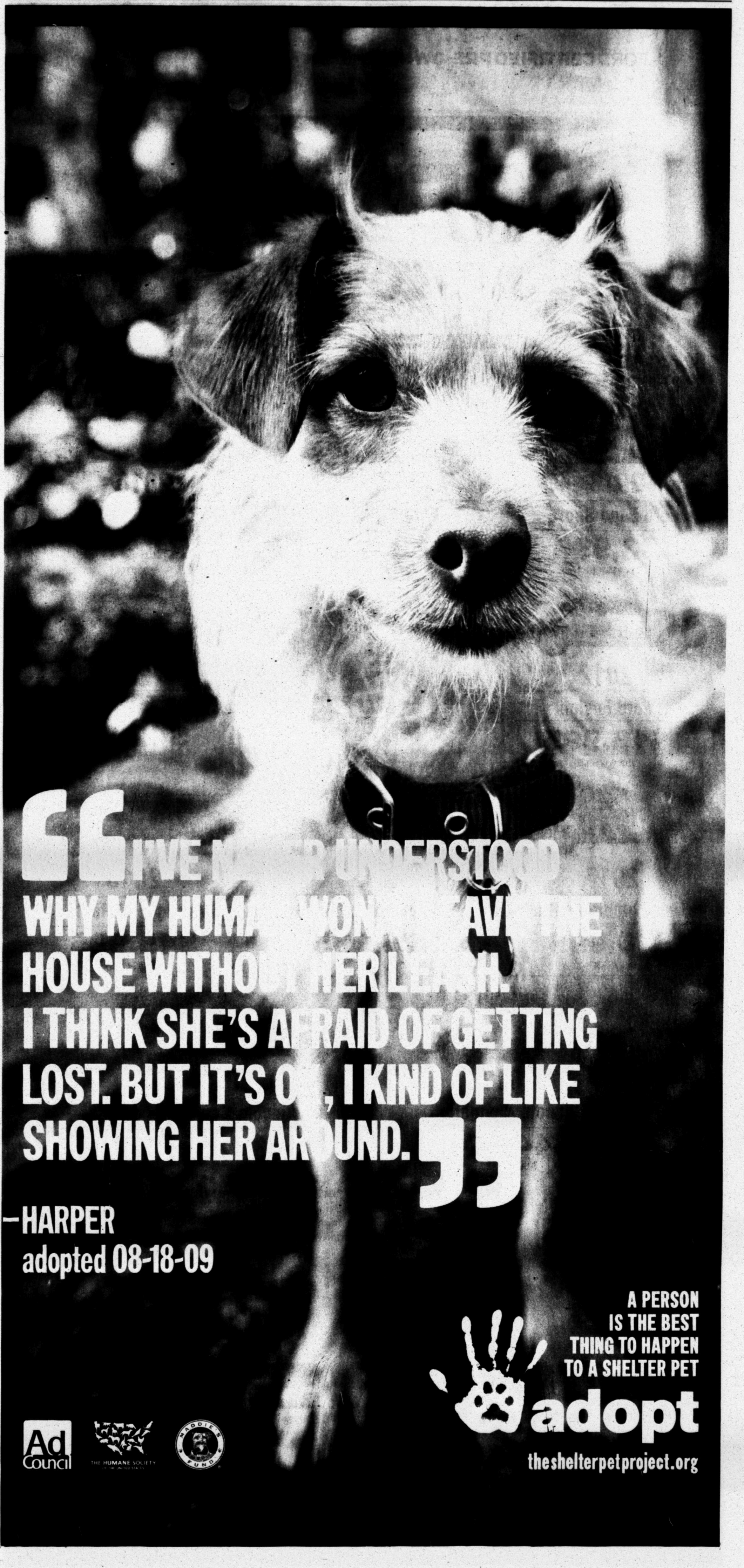
FAMILY CIRCUS

"Don't be sad, little tree. Somebody will pick you next Christmas."

Midland's FIRST BABY 2014 contest

Guess the time and gender of the first baby born in Midland in 2014 for your chance to win a $100 gift card!

Visit mrt.com for contest details.


"I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD
WHY MY HUMAN WON'T LEAVE THE
HOUSE WITHOUT HER LEASH.
I THINK SHE'S AFRAID OF GETTING
LOST. BUT IT'S OK, I KIND OF LIKE
SHOWING HER AROUND."
–HARPER
adopted 08-18-09
A PERSON
IS THE BEST
THING TO HAPPEN
TO A SHELTER PET
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theshelterpetproject.org
Ad Council
THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
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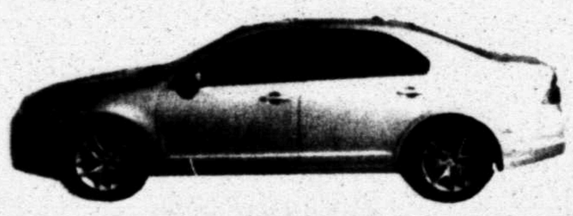
FORD **CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED**

RELAX
IT'S COVERED™

2013
Ford Edge Sport
$33,995
Stk #55389

2013
Ford Explorer
$33,995
Stk #343281

2010
Ford F-150 XLT
$21,995
Stk #338701

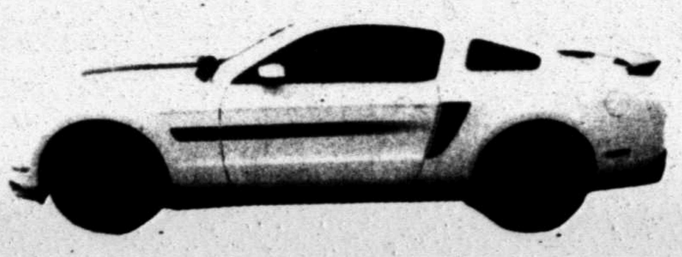


2012
Ford Fusion
$15,995
Stk #325945

INTEREST RATES AS LOW AS **.9%****

2012
Ford F-150 Harley
$42,995
Stk #339001

2013
Ford Expedition Ltd.
$36,995
Stk #55363



2012
Ford Mustang GT CS
$25,995
Stk #346561

2010
Ford F-150 Raptor
$45,995
Stk #347381

2012
Lincoln Navigator
$44,995
Stk #331162

2011
Lincoln Navigator
$40,995
Stk #817561

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SATURDAY
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homes & classified

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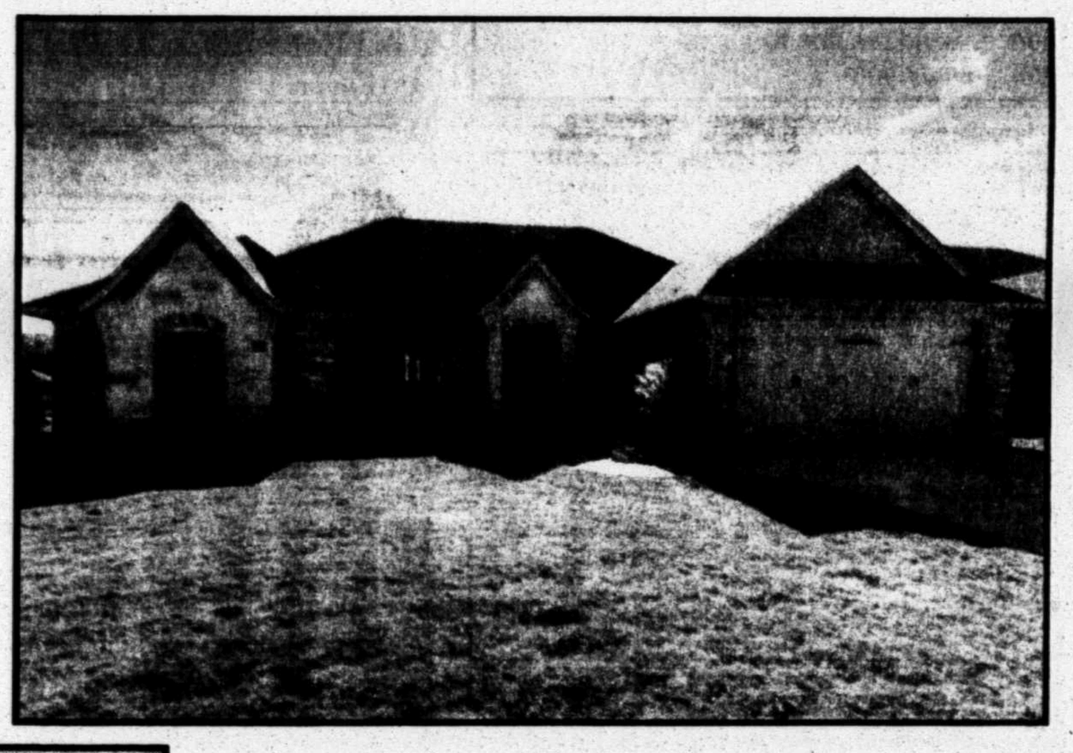
Lake Granbury Weekend Retreats

5618 Equestrian Court – $[illegible]
– 3 BR/2.1 BA

Beautiful custom built split bedroom home located in the sought after gated community of Pecan Plantation in the difficult to find area designed for horses and horse lovers. Welcome your guests from the inviting front porch into a home with bay windows, remarkable crown molding, a custom marble and wood fireplace and energy efficient ceiling fans. This magnificent home boasts an open concept floor plan, a large open living area, a gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, gorgeous custom cabinets, built in microwave, an impressive island and a large breakfast bar perfect for informal meals or snacks.

709 Panama Ct. – $259,000
3 BR/2 BA –

New waterfront construction home located in The Shores. Close to shopping with the added bonus of no city taxes or HOA dues. This fabulous home has extensive upgrades throughout including hand scraped wood floors, crown molding and much more.



2916 Bob White Drive – $[illegible]
– 3 BR/4 BA

Beautiful custom built home on 5 acres with breath taking views. The property has so much to offer the discriminating buyer. This home features vaulted ceilings, a kitchen fit for a gourmet cook, a pool and a separate 600 square foot mother-in-law quarters. This property is designed for entertaining both inside and out. The outdoor living center is equipped with a built in grill and seating for 12.

10048 Flight Plan Drive -- $365,000
4 BR/3 BA →

Luxurious home offering open concept living with granite countertops throughout as well as stained concrete floors and eye pleasing color tones. Stainless steel appliances, crown molding, tray ceilings and a Durango door are just a few of the amenities featured in this home. Accented with beautiful landscaping makes this home a must see!

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http://www.mywesttexas.com/jobs

Midland Reporter-Telegram in partnership with monster

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

EXPERIENCED TAX ACCOUNTANT
Johnson, Miller & Co., CPAs FT
Immediate openings for experienced tax accountants in our Odessa and Midland tax offices. Competitive salary and benefits. Come join our team of professionals at Johnson, Miller & Co., CPAs. Submit your resume to jobs@jmcotexas.com.

AUTOMOTIVE

Applicants for various positions
Stanley Ford - Andrews FT
Stanley Ford- Andrews is currently seeking applicants for the following positions:
Service Advisors
Cetified Diesel Techs
Experienced Techs
Sales Associate
State Inspectors
Parts Manager
We are willing to offer top pay depending on experience. Benefits include: vacation and medical benefits.
Qualified individuals may send resumes by fax to: 432-524-9112 or via email at: pplunkett@stanleyautogroup.com

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Full-Tume Warehouse
BenMark Supply Co. FT
Must be able to lift 50lbs.receive incoming freight,maintain/organize warehouse,etc. We offer health insurance, 401k, and paid vacation. Compensation based on experience, attitude, and ability to think. Apply in person at 1101 S. Garfield or fax Resume to 432-682-4110.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Financial Literacy Specialist
Tax experience preferred. Please apply M-F, 9am-5pm at Casa de Amigos. 1101 Garden Ln. Midland. For more info. Contact HR at 432-682-9701

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Hunt

A privately held exploration and production company, Hunt Oil has successfully conducted worldwide petroleum operations for over 75 years, and is one of the world's leading in dependent energy companies.

We are currently seeking candidates to work in Midland, TX in the following positions:

- **Production Foreman** - 10+ years' experience in field level supervision; High school diploma or equivalent required
- **Lease Operator** - 5+ years production experience; High school diploma or equivalent required
- **EHS & Regulatory Specialist** - strong oil & gas operational knowledge; experience in implementing safety & regulatory plans
- **Field Clerk** - experience as an Administrative Assistant or Field Clerk; High school diploma with college degree a plus
- **Production Engineer** - 3+ years' experience in Production Engineering and/or Well Completions; BS in Engineering required
- **Sr. Production Engineer** - 8+ years' experience in Production Engineering and/or Well Completions; BS in Engineering required
- **Assistant Foreman** - 7+ years' experience in operations; experience in field level supervision preferred
- **Gang Pusher** - 5+ years' experience in production; High school diploma or equivalent required.

Interested parties; please visit our website at www.huntoil.com and select the Career Opportunities link to find the appropriate position. You can "Apply for this Position" or if you are already registered use your email and password and select "Add to my Jobs" to be considered for this opportunity.

DIRECTIONAL DRILLER
Directional drilling company seeking experienced drillers in West Texas. Must have at least 2 yrs experience. Send resume to resumes@aimdir.com.

Plant Operator
West Texas Gas FT
PLANT OPERATOR NEEDED IMMEDIATELY: Experience preferred but not required. Location near Stanton, TX. Fax resume to: (432) 458-3423 or mail to: Sale Ranch, 2873 FM 829, Stanton, TX 79782. Can Email resume to dsatterfield@wtgbenedum.com.

Sr. Production Foreman & Production Foreman
Diamondback Energy, a publicly traded E&P company with extensive acreage holdings in the Permian Basin, is in the process of expanding. We are currently seeking a **SENIOR PRODUCTION FOREMAN & PRODUCTION FOREMAN**. Must have complete knowledge of all types of artificial lift, production operations and flowback operations for horizontal wells. Will be responsible for coordinating and supervising the activities of lease operators and production technicians. Must have knowledge of chemical and corrosion programs. Requires basic computer skills with knowledge of Wellview or similar well data base program. Successful candidate will have a High School Diploma and at least 10 years' oil field experience. Excellent compensation package, including very competitive salary (based on experience) and medical, dental, vision, LTD, STD, life insurance, 401(k) (with 6% match). Please submit resume with salary requirements to: diamondback4man@yahoo. DIAMONDBACK Energy

Tubing Testers & Scanners
Confidential FT
Odessa, TX 79763
Oilfield Service Company in Odessa, TX looking to hire Tubing Testers and Scanners. Must have clean driving record and be able to pass a drug test. Come to 1535 Windcrest, Odessa, TX to fill out application.

Multiple Positions
Peak Completion Technologies FT
Midland, TX
Peak Completion Technologies, an acknowledged leader in the field of well completions, is expanding our local office. We have opportunities for qualified applicants in our accounting and supply departments, our machine shop, and Midland shop operations. If you are experienced, energetic, and entrepreneurial, we would like to review your resume. Peak offers an excellent benefits package, competitive pay, and is an equal opportunity employer. If you are interested in joining the Peak team, please submit your resume to hr@peakcompletions.com to begin the review process.

HEALTHCARE

Activity Assistant
Legacy Ranch FT
Now hiring FT Activity Assistant to work with elderly clients in a professional environment. Apply in person at: 4800 Briarwood Ave. , Midland, TX 79707

Caregivers wanted for 24 HR shifts
Visiting Angels is searching for Part Time and Full Time Caregivers in the Odessa/Midland, TX area. We have all shifts available including 24Hr live in shifts. Please call 432-897-1700 or apply online at 157.axiscare.com
•Location: Odessa/Midland. TX
•Compensation: 10.00 per hour/ 125.00 per day
•This is a part-time job.
•Principals only. Recruiters, please don't contact this job poster.
•Please do not contact job poster about other services, products or commercial interests.

Housekeeper
Legacy Ranch FT
Midland, TX
Now Hiring FT Housekeeper to work with elderly clients in a professional environment. Apply in person at: 4800 Briarwood Ave., Midland, Tx 79707

Mansfield Chiropractic
Our team has an opening for a motivated, energetic and dependable member to help us provide quality care to our patients. Experience is not mandatory but a great attitude is. Please bring resume to Mansfield Chiropractic at 4107 West Illinois

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Medical Assistant needed for busy physicians practice. Great Beneifit Package. Please fax resumes to 682-2284 or mail to Premier Physicians, Attn: Arita Routh, PO Box 5291, Midland, Texas 79704. No phone calls please
PP-7233

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Midland, TX
Now Hiring PRN Nurses and FT experienced Caregivers to work with elderly clients in a professional environment. Apply in person at: 4800 Briarwood Ave., Midland, Tx 79707.

OTHER JOBS

NOW HIRING EXTRA! EXTRA!

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS 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

Pay $10.00 per hour paid every 2 weeks

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 [illegible]

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS 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

Pay $10.00 per hour paid every 2 weeks

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 [illegible]

HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

Hiring all Positions
Hampton Inn FT/PT
5011 North Loop 250 W.
Midland, TX 79707
Now hiring all positions for Full/Part time. Apply in person

OTHER JOBS

All Positions
Firehouse Subs FT
Midland, TX 79701
Now hiring Slice, Prep, Cashiers, Catering & Kitchen help for AM/PM positions. Apply in person: 2900 W. Loop 250 North, Ste 162.

Housekeeper
Villa Chateau Apartments FT
Full time Housekeeper needed. Physical/Drug screen & Background check done. Apply in person at: Villa Chateau Apts., 1603 N. Midkiff Rd, Midland, TX 79701. No phone calls please.

Janitorial Help
Part-time Janitorial work in the evening. Apply at: 2311 Elizabeth Ave or call 432-570-9903.

The Midland Reporter Telegram has an opening in its Production Department for the position of:

Pressman Pressman Trainee

for our Harris N1650 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

John Maddox, Production Director
c/o Midland Reporter Telegram
201 E. Illinois St., Midland, TX 79701
E-mail: jmaddox@hearstmp.com
or
come by 201 E. Illinois Street to fill out an application.

HEARST corporation

Midland Reporter-Telegram is a part of Hearst Corp.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Pump Down Supervisors and Operators
O-Tex FT/PT
Midland, TX
O-Tex Pumping is currently hiring experienced pump down supervisors and pump down operators. We offer competitive pay, job bonuses, matching 401K, full medical benefits, and life insurance. Please come by 2611 E. I-20 or go to www.otexpumping.com and fill out an application. Must be able to pass a MVR and drug screen. O-Tex Pumping is an EOE.

PURCHASING / WAREHOUSE CLERK
Purchasing from vendors, maintaining stock, inventory count. Requires Microsoft Excel, communication skills and Team player. FT, Benefits. Send Resume to info@blazinsafety.com

Wyndham Garden Hotel & Wall Street After 5 Sports Lounge
Positions needed: Front Desk agents, Admin Assistant, Housekeepers Food & Beverage Director & Supervisor, Cooks, Servers/Hostesses, Breakfast Attendants, Bar Managers, Bartenders
Pay based on experience. Please email resume wyndhammidlandgm@gmail.com or hand deliver at 3100 W. Wall Street, Midland, TX.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Oilfield Construction Manager
Minimum 5 years experience with bidding, invoicing and job cost tracking. Oversee building locations, roads, and containment pads. Please send resume to M-31 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, Tx. 79701

QA & QUALITY CONTROL

NACE Level 1 Inspector
NACE Level 1 Inspector with ASME code experience needed to act as Quality Assurance Manager. Salary DOE. Send resume and salary requirements to **RWI Construction, 10700 State Hwy 191, Midland, TX 79707.**

SALES JOBS

Salesperson
Salesperson needed for mattress store in Midland. Are you tired of working furniture store hours from dawn to dark? Personable, energetic individual needed for full time position. Should be good with people and have a professional appearance. Job description includes both sales and clerical/administrative duties. Compensation includes full commission (no tiers, minimums or holdbacks), plus spiffs, vacation, and 401k. No late hours or Sundays. Mail resume to Sleep Shop, 3303 W. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79703

STORE MANAGERS and CASHIERS
Smoker's Outlet is looking for **Store Managers** and **Cashiers** in the Midland area. We offer competitive wages and a good work environment. Paid weekly. Go by your nearest **Smoker's Outlet** to apply.

SKILLED LABOR

ESI
ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS AND INSTRUMENTATION INC

Huge opportunity for the right individual!

- **Experience Linemen**
- **Journeymen Electricians**
- **Instrument Techs**
- **Electrical Estimators**
- **Shop Hands**

Comprehensive Benefit Plan including Health, Vision Plan, Life Insurance, Paid Vacation, Sick and Holiday Pay. Salary is negotiable DOE
ESI is a Drug Free Workplace
Ph. (432) 563-5858 • Contact Jonathan Dahl,
[illegible]

Apprentice/Journeyman Electricians
Apprentice/Journeyman Electricians needed. Fort Worth Electrical Contractor needs Apprentice and Journeyman Electricians for work in Andrews, TX area. Please fax resume, list of experience & salary requirements to: 817-355-5355, Attn: H.R. Dept.

Document Preppers
Kelly Services now hiring Document Preppers, Drug & background screen required. $11.75/hour. Must be flexible and willing to work occasional Saturdays. Both Full Time and Part Time positions available. Apply in person at 4800 E. 42nd, Suite 205, Odessa. Or call 432-363-0123 for more information. Equal Opportunity Employer; Never an applicant fee.

Electrician
Apple Electrical Contractors FT
Odessa, TX
Apple Electrical Contractors, Inc. has immediate openings for experienced and/or licensed Journeyman and Apprentice Electricians. Pre-employment drug test required. Fill out an application at 7540 Andrews Hwy, Odessa, TX 79765 or fax a resume to 432-363-0192 or email alan@appleelectric.com. No phone calls please.

I&E Tech : IMMEDIATELY NEEDED
West Texas Gas FT
I&E Tech for natural gas processing plant and gathering system near Rankin, Texas. Must have experience with electronic and pneumatic instumentation and be able to troubleshoot 480V 3 phase electrical service. Experience with generators and plant automation a plus. Must be willing to take night and weekend call outs. Fax resume to (432)639-2132 or mail to Benedum Gas Plant, HC 34 Box 63, Midkiff, Texas, 79755.

Licensed Commercial Plumber & Exp. Helpers
TMI Mechanical currently hiring **Licensed Commercial Plumbers & Experienced Helpers** for local jobsites. We offer top pay **(up to $28/hr and we will pay additional for medical gas endorsements).** Paid medical, paid vacations and holidays. Must have good driving record. Please call **432-686-0002** for interview.

Long time respected drilling fluids company needs Experienced Drilling Mud Technician in the Permian Basin. Applicant needs to have 2+ years experience in the Permian or equivalent area and be versed in water based and oil based systems. Company offers insurance, 401K, scheduled days off, vacations and FRC clothing reimbursement and other incentives. Please send resume to c/o MRT Box M34 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX, 79701

mywesttexas jobs
http://www.mywesttexas.com/jobs
Midland Reporter-Telegram in partnership with monster

SKILLED LABOR

Forklift Operator

The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an opening in its Production Department for the Position of "Fork Lift Operator" and other duties as assigned.

Job requirements:
- Ability to read and write
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs.
- Ability to bend and reach overhead
- Ability to count accurately and do simple math
- Able to operate a forklift and willing to be certified
- Be reliable, responsible and able to follow instructions
- Capable of standing and walking for extended period of time
- Able to work in various environments that include winter and summer conditions.
- Must be able to work weekends when necessary

Responsibilities:
- Accurate loading and unloading of printed materials in a safe and efficient manner
- Ensure material are efficiently/properly stacked and stored in appropriate and designated areas
- Perform other non-forklift duties when assigned

The Hearst Corporation is one of the largest diversified communications companies. Its major interests include magazines, newspapers and business publishing, cable networks, television and radio broadcasting, internet businesses and more. As an associate of the Midland Reporter-Telegram, you join more than 20,000 in the Hearst family.

Send resume and salary requirements to: John Riddle, Director of Production/Facilities
c/o Midland Reporter Telegram - 201 E. Illinois St. - Midland, TX 79701
Email to: jriddle@hearstrep.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

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Multiple Positions
Confidential — FT/
Midland, TX — 0-1 Years Exp.
Wood production facility has immediate openings for production laborers, fork-lift operators and CDL holders in Midland. Please call 806-773-2520 to schedule an interview.

Now Hiring
Mattlock Drilling — FT
Are you needing a change? Want to work close to home?
Have at least 6 months experience working as a actual hand on a drilling rig and have never worked for us. Then Mattlock Drilling is the place for you. We offer insurance after 90 days and vacation after a year.The schedule is 12 days on and 4 off. NO CAMP JOBS.
Hiring for
• Drillers
Top Wages. If interested come in and apply at 12505 WCR 124, Odessa Texas, 79765. Off of business 20 and the coors road. NO PHONE CALLS. Drug and Alcohol Testing. EOE

Rocker A Cementers
Rocker A Cementers is currently hiring Pump Operators, Bulk Equipment Operators, P&A Supervisors, and Wireline Operators. All positions are in the Lubbock area. Must have a Class A CDL, and be able to pass regular DOT drug testing. Fax resumes and contact information to 806-495-0066, or email to mlmccall@gmail.com

Shop/Field Mechanics
Basin Engine and Pump — FT
Shop and Field Mechanics needed for Industrial Oilfield Shop. Uniforms provided. Benefits package. Pay DOE. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email to felicia@basinengine.com. Office 432-570-1114. Applications may be filled out at: 1914 South County Rd 1083, Midland, TX.

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

CDL and Non CDL Drivers
B & B Wrecker Service is looking to hire **CDL** and **Non CDL Drivers**. Must be 21 years or older. Good driving record. Paid every Friday. Health Insurance provided. Please come by **2823 S. Rankin Hwy**

Class A CDL Truck Drivers
Prefer drivers with Pneumatic Tanker experience. Benefits include: driver $2,000 sign-on bonus, medical, life and dental insurance, and paid vacation. Applicants having experience hauling sand and/or dry cement helpful. Good driving record, DOT, drug & alcohol testing required. Apply in person, call **432-563-1894** for interview or online @ **www.rockwaterenergy.com**

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Vacuum Truck Driver
5 Star Transport LLC — FT
Tarzan, TX — 2-3 Years Exp.
Looking for experienced Vaccum Truck Driver 2-3 years experience preferred. Must travel to Tarzan and pass drug test. For details call 432-556-5806

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

General

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(avg. Income $50.00 - $100.00/day)
MUST BE AT LEAST 14 YEARS OLD
SUNDAYS ONLY
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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

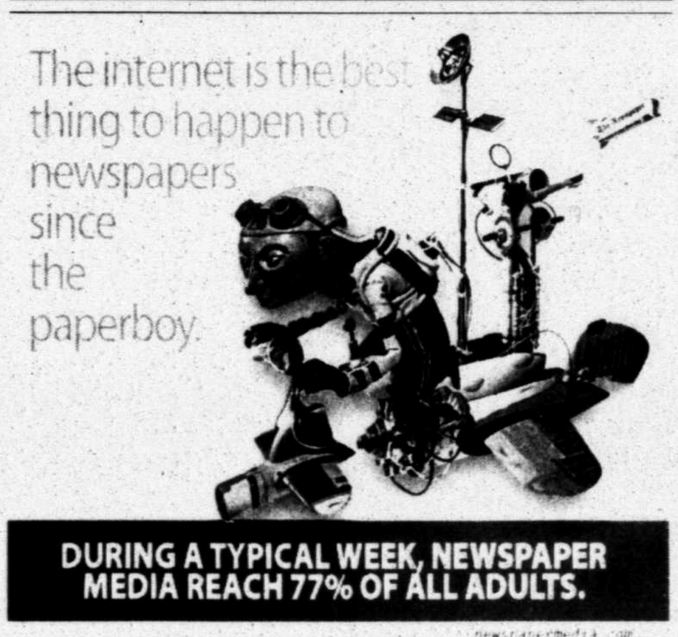
EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone?? Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

Contact: Linda 687-8807

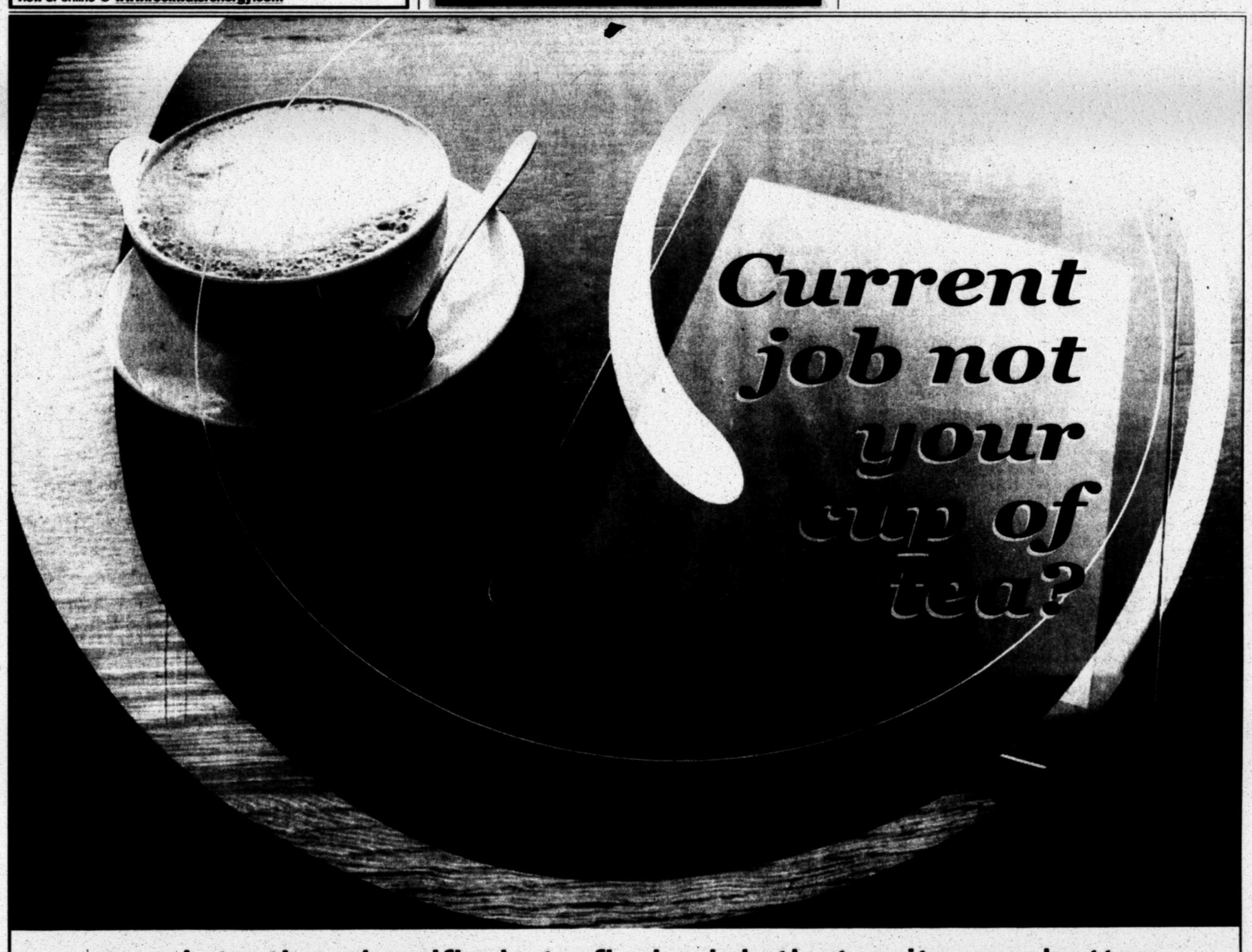
LEGAL

Leagal Assistant
Experienced Legal Assistant for busy law office in the Claydesta area. Please email your resume to charles@wardmyers.com



DURING A TYPICAL WEEK, NEWSPAPER MEDIA REACH 77% OF ALL ADULTS.

mywesttexas



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Listings are updated daily.

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mazda

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~ Bloomberg

[The CX-5] simply stood above the competition.
~ Motor Trend

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~ Popular Mechanics

Mazda has the lowest 5-Year Cost to Own as an overall brand
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2079YA	2014	MAZD MAZDA6 4DR SDN AUTO I SPORT	$23,991
U12675	2013	TOYO TUNDRA 4WD CREWMAX 5.7L	$35,981
U12704	2013	NISS JUKE 5DR WGN CVT S FWD	$19,881
U12680	2013	MERC C-CLASS 4DR SDN C250	$29,981
M12593	2013	MAZD CX-5 AWD 4DR AUTO SPORT	$23,881
U12653	2013	JEEP WRANGLER 4WD 2DR RUBICON	$35,781
S10497	2013	JEEP GRAND CHER RWD 4DR LIMITED	$34,441
U12672	2013	INFI FX37 AWD 4DR BLACK	$38,881
U12651	2013	FORD F-150 4WD SUPERCREW 145"	$37,881
M12609	2013	CHRY 300 4DR SDN 300C RWD	$28,750
U12688	2013	CHEV SILVERADO 2WD CREW CAB	$27,581
S10485	2012	VOLK JETTA SEDA 4DR AUTO SE	$15,225
U12659	2012	MITS LANCER 4DR SDN CVT GT FWD	$16,881
S10482	2012	JEEP WRANGLER U 4WD 4DR SAHARA	$34,900
U12693	2012	GMC SIERRA 150 4WD CREW CAB	$34,581
U12687	2012	FORD F-150 4WD SUPERCREW 145"	$35,781
S10490	2012	DODG GRAND CARA 4DR WGN SXT	$19,025
M12544	2012	BMW X5 AWD 4DR 35I PREMIUM	$38,789
S10459	2012	BMW X3 AWD 4DR 28I	$35,750
U12673	2011	LEXU ES 350 4DR SDN	$27,881
S10496	2011	JEEP PATRIOT FWD 4DR SPORT	$12,221
U12677	2011	HOND PILOT 2WD 4DR EX-L	$25,741
U12682	2011	GMC YUKON XL AWD 4DR 1500 DENALI	$39,891
U12696	2011	FORD F-150 2WD SUPERCREW 145"	$29,881
U12681	2011	DODG DURANGO 2WD 4DR EXPRESS	$20,741
S10471	2011	CHEV TAHOE 2WD 4DR 1500 LTZ	$43,125
U12644	2010	LEXU IS 350C 2DR CONV	$33,864
U12697	2009	LEXU ES 350 4DR SDN	$25,881
U12668	2008	INFI FX35 RWD 4DR	$20,781
S10513	2007	PORS BOXSTER 2DR ROADSTER	$23,881

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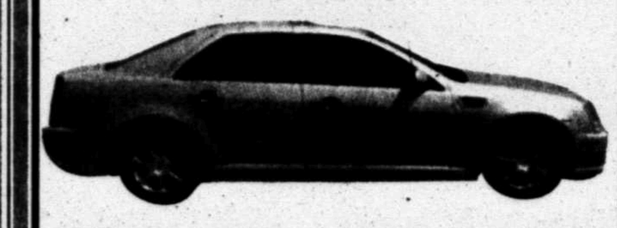
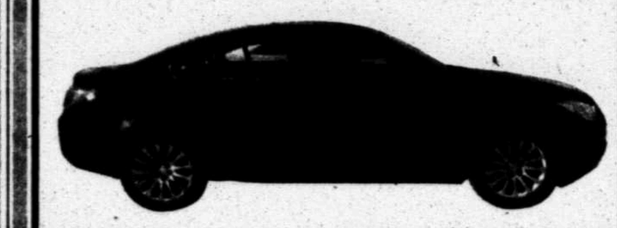
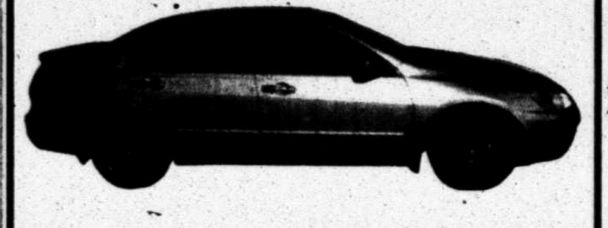
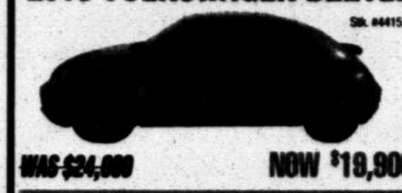
2008 CADILLAC STS Stk. #0703

WAS $21,000 NOW $15,900

2004 TOYOTA AVALON XLS Stk. #7109

WAS $14,900 NOW $8,900

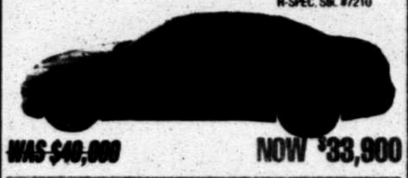
2011 BUICK REGAL Stk. #9254

WAS $20,000 NOW $16,900

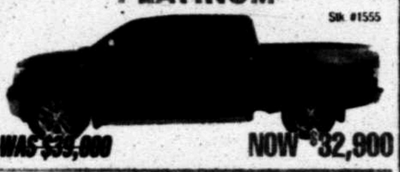
2005 HONDA ACCORD Stk. #6593

WAS $17,000 NOW $11,900

2013 VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE Stk. #4415

WAS $24,000 NOW $18,900

2006 JEEP WRANGLER Stk. #9069

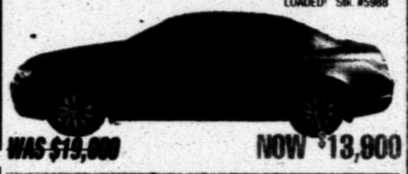
WAS $15,000 NOW $12,900

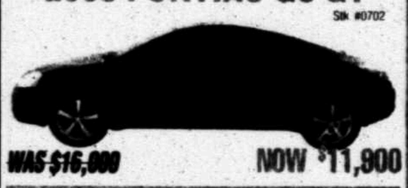
2012 HYUNDAI GENESIS R-SPEC Stk. #7210

WAS $40,000 NOW $33,900

2011 TOYOTA TUNDRA PLATINUM Stk. #1555

WAS $35,000 NOW $32,900

2005 CHEVY SUBURBAN Stk. #1825

WAS $15,000 NOW $11,900

2009 HONDA ACCORD LOADED! Stk. #5988

WAS $19,000 NOW $13,900

2008 PONTIAC G6 GT Stk. #0702

WAS $16,000 NOW $11,900

2007 CADILLAC ESCALADE Stk. #5027

WAS $35,000 NOW $25,900

1998 Volvo S-70 Turbo $4,950
1999 Dodge Dakota SLT King Cab, V8 $4,950
2004 Dodge Intrepid SE $4,950
2006 Kia Sorento $7,950
2007 Saturn Vue $7,950
2007 Dodge Caliber $8,950
2007 Toyota Corolla CE $8,950
2011 Chevy HHR LS Alloy Wheels $11,950
2010 Dodge Nitro Nice $12,950
2012 Chevy Impala $14,950
2007 Toyota Tundra Double Cab, V8 $15,950
2010 Honda Accord EX-L $15,950
2012 Chevy Malibu 3 to choose from $15,950
2012 Mitsubishi Eclipse GS $15,950
2013 Chrysler 200 Touring Edition $15,950
2013 Dodge Avenger Alloy Wheels $15,950
2013 Dodge Avenger SE $16,950
2013 Chevy Impala $17,950
2009 Lincoln MKX $18,950
2012 Honda Civic EX Sunroof $18,950
2009 Toyota 4 Runner Sunroof $18,950
2010 Ford Explorer, Sport Trac XLT Power Seats, Running Boards $19,900
2012 Ford Escape Limited V6, Leather $19,950
2013 Chevy Captiva Sport $19,950
2013 Chevy Captiva Sport $19,950
2013 Dodge Charger SE $19,950
2010 Honda CRV EX-L $20,950
2012 Nissan Rogue SV Navigation $20,950
2013 Chevy Impala LTZ Leather $20,950
2013 Chevy Captiva Sport LTZ $22,950
2009 Ford F-150 Super Crew Lariat $22,950
2012 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad SLT $22,950
2013 Ford F150 Reg. Cab STX Big 6.2 Engine $22,950
2012 Chevy Camaro LT-RS $23,950
2012 Chevy Camaro V6 $23,950
2010 Ford F-150 King Ranch $24,950
2013 Ford Edge SEL $24,950
2010 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer $24,950
2013 Ford F-150 XLT Crew Cab, Just Arrived $25,950
2011 GMC 1500 Crew Cab $26,950
2011 Chevy LTZ Crew Cab 4x4 $32,950
2013 Chevy Suburban $36,950

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2013 RAM 2500 TRADESMAN CREW CAB 4X4 DIESEL

Stk #14373, MSRP $47,600
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $13,210
SALE PRICE $34,390
23 TO CHOOSE FROM!

2013 RAM 2500 CREW CAB 4X4

Stk #R75408, MSRP $39,915
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $12,085
SALE PRICE $27,830
16 TO CHOOSE FROM!

2013 RAM 2500 LARAMIE LONGHORN CREW CAB 4X4 DIESEL

Stk #R19059, MSRP $62,260
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $14,930
BIG
SALE PRICE $47,330
12 TO CHOOSE FROM!

2014 RAM 1500 LONE STAR CREW CAB

$349/MONTH!**
Stk #422209, MSRP $36,210
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $7,010
8 TO CHOOSE FROM!
SALE PRICE $29,200

2014 RAM 1500 EXPRESS

9 TO CHOOSE FROM!
Stk #R48752, MSRP $28,980
Blake's Preferred Discount $5,000
REBATE $4,000
$234/MONTH!**
SALE PRICE $19,980

2013 RAM 3500 4X4 CUMMINS DIESEL

$424/MONTH!**
Stk #R77804, MSRP $48,525
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $5,345, REBATE $7,000
26 TO CHOOSE FROM!
SALE PRICE $36,180

2013 RAM 3500 4X4 LARAMIE DIESEL

Stk #R10177, MSRP $59,655
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $8,425, REBATE $6,500
SALE PRICE $44,730
4 TO CHOOSE FROM!

2013 RAM 3500 CAB AND CHASSIS

Stk #R10280, MSRP $42,445
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $6,865,
REBATE $6,500
SALE PRICE $29,080

2013 RAM 2500

Stk #R36137, MSRP $29,220
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $2,240
REBATE $7,000
$233/MONTH!**
SALE PRICE $19,980
5 AVAILABLE!

2012 RAM 4500 CAB AND CHASSIS

Stk #RR06770, MSRP $45,470
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $9,000, REBATE $2,500
SALE PRICE $33,970

2014 RAM 1500

Stk #R42084, MSRP $25,450
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $3,470, REBATE $4,000
$209/MONTH!**
SALE PRICE $17,980
5 AVAILABLE!

2014 RAM 1500 4X4

$303/MONTH!**
Stk #RR50906, MSRP $35,010
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $4,100, REBATE $4,500
6 TO CHOOSE FROM!
SALE PRICE $26,330

2014 JEEP WRANGLER

Stk #W78405, MSRP $29,765
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $2,785
REBATE $1,000
$298/MONTH!**
SALE PRICE $25,980
3 AVAILABLE!

2014 JEEP CHEROKEE

Stk #L21707, MSRP $25,685
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $2,350
REBATE $1,000
$263/MONTH!**
SALE PRICE $22,335
4 TO CHOOSE FROM!

2013 CHRYSLER 200 TOURING

Stk #D78122, MSRP $25,075
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $5,080,
SALE PRICE $19,995
4 TO CHOOSE FROM!

2013 DODGE CHARGER SE

Stk #RD84220, MSRP $29,280
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $3,285
SALE PRICE $23,995

2014 DODGE DURANGO SXT

Stk #D91669, MSRP $33,085
BLAKE'S PREFERRED DISCOUNT $3,090
SALE PRICE $29,995

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Events and Notices

General Announcements

ABRAXAS BOOKKEEPING is closing permanently on January 6, 2014. If you have any records that you would like to pick up, the office, located at 4500 W. Illinois suite 201-A, will be open from January 1-January 3--9:00am-12 noon and 1:30pm-5:30pm.

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FOUND PUPPY near the Museum of the Southwest. Call 432-770-6337 to identify & claim.

Lost Diamond Bracelet
Wed. 12/18, Offering Reward! If found please call 432-528-8729

LOST DOG she is a female Schnauzer. She is salt and pepper color and shaggy. Answers to the name Pinball. She has a red collar with no tags. Last seen on Edgewood and Storey. Owner-Dana McBride. Address 311 Edgewood 432-770-0710 or 432-770-6798. REWARD

Fax Your Classified Ad In Today! 682-6999

LOST PARK PUG DOG near Humble and Godfrey. Reward offered. 432-631-9456

LOST WEDDING RING at Graves Post Office across from HEB on Wadley. Reward offered. Call 432-553-9410.

ATTN: READERS
Re: Advertising
It is against the estimate feathers are billed as advertising matter in any adults pets.
Please contact Office of Midland Code Enforcement Office 685-7240 for additional information

Schools & Instruction

Schools & Instruction

ART LESSONS for Children. Basic Art Instruction. For more information contact Margaret Hover at 432-934-4989 or 432-262-1206

Find It! Buy It! Sell It!
432-682-6222

Business Center

Business Opportunity

EARN 10% Interest on your money-secured by 1st lien on a home serious inquiries only. Please write: PO Box 4101 Midland, Tx 79704

Legal & Public Notices

Contruction Manager at Risk Solicitation
The Glasscock County Independent School District solicits credentials and pricing from qualified firms to provide Construction Manager at Risk services associated with proposed improvements to the school's facilities.
Interested firms should contact the school at 432-354-2230 or Tom Weeaks at 432-270-1312 to request a copy of the Request for Proposal. You may also go to our website: www.gckats.net and download the inforambon packet and RFP.
All submissions must be elevevered to the school office in Garden City, Texas, no later than 3:00pm CST on January 7, 2014.
Glasscock County ISD reserves the right to overlook any irregularities, and wave any and all formalities.

Legal & Public Notices

Request For Bids
Lee Lewis Construction, Inc., as construction manager, will be receiving bids for the Odessa High School Phase 1 New Science Building and Athletics Locker Room Building, Odessa, TX.

A Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 30, 2013 at 1:30 PM at the Odessa High School Cafeteria, 1301 Dotsy Ave., Odessa, TX 79763

Bids are due by Thursday, January 9, 2014 on or before 3:00 pm

Location:
Lee Lewis Construction, Inc.
7810 Orlando Ave.
Lubbock, Texas 79423
Phone: 806-797-8400
Fax: 806-797-8492

Bid packages will be available at the following locations:
AGC Plan Rooms & Dodge Plan Rooms - Lubbock, Odessa, Midland
Lee Lewis Construction - Lubbock, Texas
Website: http://leelewis.thomasrepro.com

Lee Lewis Construction specifically invites Small Business Concerns and Women Owned Business Concerns and Small Business Concerns Owned/Controlled By Socially And Economically Disadvantaged Individuals to bid this project

4WD & SUV

2007
ESCALADE
PEARL White
132,800 miles
New Tires
$23,900
432-557-5557

4WD & SUV

Auto Sure Sell

30 days
Midland Reporter-Telegram
30 days
Mywesttexas.com
New Today Banner
1st day only
Up to 10 lines of text
$40
(each line after $5)
(Private Parties Only)

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

2010 MUSTANG Runs Great! $15K. (432) 631-7202

In A Hurry?
E-Mail Your Ad Today!
It's Quick & Easy
mrtclassified@mrt.com

Lost & Found

FOUND AN ITEM?

If you are trying to return an item to its rightful owner, let us help you. Call 432-682-6222 For Your Complimentary Ad!

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

1				4	6		2	
			3		7			
	4	2						6
5			4					3
		1		8				
3					2			9
4						1	5	
			7		4			
	8		5	6				2

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO FRIDAY'S PUZZLE

3	9	8	4	5	6	1	2	7
7	2	6	1	8	9	4	3	5
4	1	5	7	2	3	9	6	8
9	8	7	3	1	4	2	5	6
5	3	2	6	9	8	7	1	4
1	6	4	5	7	2	8	9	3
6	7	3	2	4	1	5	8	9
2	4	9	8	3	5	6	7	1
8	5	1	9	6	7	3	4	2

12/28/13

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Attention Readers

In observance of

New Year's Day

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Jan. 1st	Tues., Dec. 31st, NOON
Thurs., Jan. 2nd	Tues., Dec. 31st, 2 PM

Classified Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Jan. 1st	Mon., Dec. 30th, 5 PM
Thurs., Jan. 2nd	Mon., Dec. 30th,, 5 PM
Fri., Jan. 3rd	Tues., Dec. 31st, NOON

Retail Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Jan 1st -	Mon., Dec. 30th, 5 PM
Thurs., Jan 2nd	Mon., Dec. 30th, 5 PM
Sun., Jan 5th (Oil Report/West Texas Living, Arts & Ent.)	Mon., Dec. 30th, 5 PM
Fri., Jan 3rd	Tues., Dec. 31st, Noon

Midland Reporter-Telegram

CIRCULATION HOURS
Customer Service calls will be taken Wednesday, January 1st from 7 AM-11 AM only.
We will re-open Thursday, Jan. 2nd for regular business hours.

Marty's Marketplace

...leading you to the best bargains in the Permian Basin

Passenger Cars

FORD 2010 MUSTANG Candy Apple Red, Tan Leather Interior. Automatic V6. Power Windows, Seats, Mirrors. 6 CD Disk Changer One Owner, Non-Smoker Only 36,000 miles $13,500 432-967-0080

NEW TODAY!

NISSAN 1987 Mitsubishi 300ZX Red Sport Car low mileage automatic $2,000 OBO. 432-262-2685

PONTIAC 2009 G8 GT White 95,800 Miles, new tires. Great Car. Loaded. $19,500 OBO 432-288-8018

WANTED!
Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. FREE pick-up. 432-685-4078

Pickup Trucks

DODGE 2002 Ram 1500. 4X4. Large Mud Tires. Dark Blue. 172000 miles. Newer Engine. $5750 OBO. 432-528-8994

FORD 1990 F250, propane and gasoline. $1000 OBO. 432-212-0346

Passenger Cars

BMW of the Permian Basin
3715 Andrews Hwy. • Midland
432-927-3980

2009 BMW 528i
Alpine/ Cream Beige Prem , Xenon, Assist & Bluetooth, 98k miles

2011 BMW X5 50i
Jet Black / Blk Sport Activity, Cold, Tech, Spare saver, Head up Avlive seats 13k miles, CPO

2013 BMW 335i Convertible
Jet Blk/Blk Conv, Prem, Nav, SaT, Though Loading System heated seats 4k miles, DEMO

2013 BMW 535i
Dark Graphite / Blk M sport , Tech, Prem , heated , head up display 6k miles, Service loaner

2013 BMW 528xi
Space Gray/Oyster Prem, Heated seats, rear view camera , Nav, 4k miles, Demo

2007 GMC Yukon
Gray/Blk Sat, Rear Seat Ent, 3rd row, 125k Super Clean

2012 BMW 535i
Space Gray/Oyster Prem sound, Sport , Prem. 11k miles, CPO

2012 Mercedes CLS550
Blk/Blk Harman Kardon, Nav., 20k miles

2012 BMW 328i Coupe
Mineral Wht/Oyster M sport , Prem., hi- fi, nav.,12k miles

2013 BMW 328i
Wht/Blk-Red Blk racing Stripe Sport line, Sport Trans, Nav, Heated seats, 3k miles, Unique

bmwpermianbasin.com

Pickup Trucks

FORD '97 F150 3 door step side white exterior with burgandy interior . $2000. 432-559-5936 .

4WD & SUV

GMC 2004 Envoy Red Come see at 3900 Farwood CT. Good condition. Asking $6,250.00 432-553-3248

JEEP 2006 BLACK Wrangler X 2 door, 26700 m, $18,000, garage kept, great condition. Call 432-556-7724

Commercial Vehicles

Heavy Equipment

INTERNATIONAL 2004 4300. Bucket truck with chip box. Great condition. With 68,390 miles. $72,400. Call 432-553-2155.

Motorcycles

2002 GOLDWING. GL1800, beautiful black, perfect condition with lots of extras. 10,200 miles. 432-520-3177 or 432-559-1674 L/M

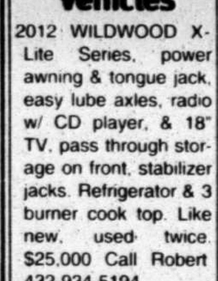
2003 HARLEY Davidson Centennial Edition Duece. Fuel injected with 10,000 garaged miles. 1 year only Gun Metal Peal paint. all the chrome and whistles you could want. $9500.00 OBO or trade. Please call 432-557-1228.

HARLEY Davidson 2012. 1200 Sportster 72. stage 1 upgrade, Open air Willie G breather, Basanni pipes, Burly lowering kit. Leather side saddle bag. Only 3,600 miles. Garage kept. $9,500 or best offer 432-559-2508.

RVs

2011 TRAIL Runner for sale $10,000. Clean, and roomy travel trailer, has plenty of storage both inside and outside. Two 30 gallon propane bottles located on the front of the trailer. Fully equipped kitchen. Travel trailer sleeps six comfortably, fold out couch, kitchen table folds down to make a bed. Furnace and A/C work perfectly. Call 832-579-6484

PROWLER 1997 30' 5th wheel. Ready to go. 3 slides with apartment size washer and dryer. Very comfortable. Las Cruces, NM. 575-522-2939.



Recreational Vehicles

2012 WILDWOOD X-Lite Series, power awning & tongue jack, easy lube axles, radio w/ CD player, & 18" TV, pass through storage on front, stabilizer jacks. Refrigerator & 3 burner cook top. Like new, used twice. $25,000 Call Robert 432-934-5194

FLEETWOOD 2006 Discovery 39L Diesel 4 slides 17k miles $94,000. Call 432-631-9868

FOR SALE
2012 Lexion S-Lite. 31' with 1 slide. Loaded! Pulled 1 time. Used retail $30,310. Asking $27,300 or best offer. 432-687-2621 after 5pm

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Estate Sales

**Estate Sale by Joseph and Team*
2101 "H" Ave 9:00 am-12:00 pm Saturday**

We are conducting a clearance sale of items from a previous sale. There are still may quality items left including tools, furniture, and household items.

Auto Services and Parts

BUYING/Hauling Off Junk Or Unwanted Vehicles. Dependable Junk Removal. 432-352-5031

Real Estate Rentals & Sales

Residential Rentals

Apartments for Rent Furnished

REMODELED SMALL efficiency, washer, dryer, cable, RO water, ice. $1650 monthly. $1000 deposit. 432-631-8100.

Apartments for Rent Unfurnished

1 BEDROOM/1 Bath Apartment, all bills paid $1500 monthly. $1000 Deposit. Call 432/894-3460

LOFT APARTMENT, will be ready 1st week of January. $1200mo. $500dep. 1bdrm, 1 1/2 bath. Must have references. 432-425-4871

NEW MANAGEMENT Spacious 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments. Call 432-687-4514.

Townhouse/ Condo for Rent Unfurnished

Newly remodeled, New Appliances 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, W/D, $1200 Month $500 deposit. No smoking, no pets. 3112 W. Kansas Call 432-522-2659.

SPACIOUS REMODELED 1600 +/- sf., 2/2 w/garage & fenced patio. 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

VERY NICE Townhome for rent in Midland. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. Call or text 325-207-0173

Townhouse/ Condo for Rent Furnished

CONDO FOR lease, 2 bdr, 2 1/2 bth. $1500 a month. $1500 deposit. No pets, credit check and background check., Please call (432)349-4468

Houses for Rent Furnished

2 BEDROOM 3 miles out of town. Includes all utilities. Direct TV/DVR, High speed internet. Washer and dryer, fridge & stove, microwave and dishwasher, and jacuzzi tub, $1400 month. 1st and last month due at signing. $500 damage deposit. Available 1/01/14. Call Bob for application. 432-352-4509

NICE NEW totally furnished 1 bedroom, 1 bath. washer, dryer, cable, ice, RO water, $1950/mo. $1,000 deposit. 432-631-8100

Residential Rentals

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

3603 HUMBLE. LARGE 4/3/3/2, new carpet, Rusk/Alamo/ Lee. $2950/mo. UP Group 889-2934.

3 BEDROOM 1 1/2 bath. $1,400/mo and $1,400 deposit. No Pets, Non Smoking. 4704 Seminole. Call 432-999-7316 or 432-553-8712.

3BR/1BA HOUSE for Rent, available now. $1,650 per month + deposit. For more info please email me at delanohouses@yahoo.com

4705 A Harvard. 2 Bedroom 2 Bath, 2 carport,fenced yard. No pets. $1550 monthly. 432-620-9222 432-694-2074

Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

3608 SINCLAIR, 4bedroom 3 bath 2900 + sq. ft. Owner finance. 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

3611 BAUMANN Ave. Well Maintained 3/2/2 Large living with lava rock fireplace with gas logs. Nice kitchen, dining with breakfast bar. dbl closets, walk in closet in master. large back yard with storage $195K 432-218-8869

3BD, 2BA, 313 S. Bentwood $139,000 will assist with closing costs. OPEN HOUSE 2pm-4pm every Sunday until sold. Call 432-683-2243

3BR/2BA NORTHSIDE completely remodeled in 2009. $189,000. 432-238-1777.

FOR SALE by owner- 4508 Lanham St.; 2BR/2BA; 1400 sqft. patio home. $165,000; Call 940-597-6743 to make appointment to see

FSBO EXECUTIVE home 4/5/3+ Gourmet kitchen, green house. Artist/dance studio, office/hobby room, wood floors, waterwell, 5000+ sq ft. $575,000. 1704 West Missouri. Call 432-254-2744.

HOME TO BE MOVED! Pier & beam, 3 bed/ 3 bath, 2273 sq. ft., metal roof, large master, his/her closet, remodeled kitchen open to living, office. Appraisal value $188,205 asking $155,000 located 40 miles SE of Midland. 432-268-5897.

Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

IN MIDLAND home 3 bedroom 1 bath. Ready to move in $95,000. No owner finance 4715 Comanche Dr Call 432-262-3841

LAKE BROWNWOOD lake front. Stone ranch house, $119,000. Remodelled, 3/3, 2200 sq ft, 1.4 ac. Call 305-658-0014.

OWNER FINANCED 3 bed 2 bath, nice neighborhood. 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

OWNER FINANCED 4403 Trevino, 3 /2, Small down. 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

REDUCED $25K: 2201 W. Golf Course, 2,871 sqft., indoor pool, 4 car garage, $299k. Check zillow.com 432-530-8844.

WE BUY HOMES! Fair prices, quick cash! Call 432-266-1212, 432-631-8100.

Lots & Land

Acreage

1.1 Acre lots 22K., 1.1 Acre lots with water well 28K., 1.5 Acre lot 30K., Greenwood area, new roads, electricity, mobile or modular OK. Britt 512-573-5479

40 ACRES I-20
Odessa location, $25,000 per acre Ask for Don 432-352-2067.

4.17 ACRES in Stanton City Limits. Has electricity and water, but will need septic. $50,000 Call 432-894-6015

HOUSE AND 50 acres for sale, 1 mile south of Interstate off Cotton Flat. Will Divide. $13,500 per acre. 432-661-5742

I-20 MIDLAND
location, 27 acres. $60,000 per acre Ask for Don 432-352-2067.

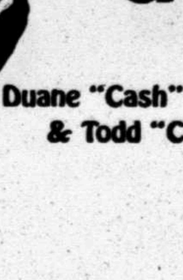
Owner finance 5 acres water, Site built homes only, off Hwy 349, 20 mins south of Midland. $59,500 432-631-8100/266-1212

Hunting Leases

Booking limited number - Sept 2014 Dove/fishing and March/April fishing 2 nights lodging and food included. Minimum 4 people. $400 ea. Rockinp-ranch.com **325 423 2000**

In A Hurry? E-Mail Your Ad Today! It's Quick & Easy mrtclassified_mrt.com

Homes for Sale



Call Callie
ANN CALLIE
REAL ESTATE
CALLIE STEVENS 682-0000 • 967-1059

2006 Caldera: Almost New 4br, 2 1/2 bath, with 2 living and 2 dining area. Open floorplan, high ceilings, tile in most areas, granite on all countertops.....$329,900

2510 LEGACY OAKS: 2013 Parade Of Homes 4 br, 4.5 bath contemporary style in Mockingbird Oaks. Over 3350 sq. ft., custom cabinets, awesome floorplan, room for pool.....SOLD

803 W I-20: 1.94 acres on busy corner of Rankin Hwy & I-20. Perfect for strip center.....$799,900

801 W I-20: PROFITABLE Mechanic Shop on BUSY corner of I-20 & Rankin Hwy.....$1,500,000

Appliances

We buy broken appliances w/ free removal. Also we repair appliances. 432-570-8278

Furniture

QUEEN BEDROOM set, nice rustic, Includes 2 dressers. Will text picture. $450. Call 432-210-6070.

Miscellaneous

If You Have Items You Are Giving Away For FREE, Your Ad is On Us! CALL 432-682-6222 TODAY!

Merchandise

Appliances

1- AAA Appliance Free pickup. Call 556-0104 / 528-3046.

FREE 30 minute pick-up appliances & metal. Call 432-352-7988.

REFRIGERATOR $225, Washer $150, Dryer $150, Electric stove $150, small Freezer $75, Organ $200. 432- 352-7988.

Free Stuff

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!
Midland Reporter-Telegram
(on dock side)

Furniture

CAPTAINS BED with drawers underneath, book case Headboard, includes Mattress. Matching Dresser with Mirror. $300. or best offer 432-349-2812.

Miscellaneous

NEW TODAY!

Secretary low top desk $150. 432-262-2685

Miscellaneous for Sale

SEASONED OAK firewood, $350 for 1 cord, $190 for 1/2 cord. Delivered & stacked. 325-648-2818 or 512-913-7406.

Wood burning stove $300, Camper Shell $350, 55 gl plastic barrels $15 Call 352-8419

Fax Your Classified Ad In Today! 682-6999

Miscellaneous for Sale

Musical

Piano & Bench Sale Henry F. Miller, $500. 432-559-2046.

Sporting Goods

NEW TODAY!

BOWFLEX CLASSIC home gym, $400. Call 432-238-7079

Nordic Track E-3800 Treadmill, Total Gym Schwinn exercise bike, 432-559-2046.

Tools & Hardware

NEW TODAY!

32 FT. LOUISVILLE Heavy Duty Fiberglass Extension Ladder $250. 432-238-7079

FIREWOOD FOR sale $85 per truck load. Call 432-296-9040

Miscellaneous for Sale

YORKIE PUPPIES, Teacup. CKC Registered. First Shots, Ready Now! $900 432-213-2138 or 432-816-4216.

YORKIPOO AND Malshi pups. can text 432-258-5034

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

OAK, PECAN, mesquite, pinon, 432-209-0416, 325-762-4262.

Animals & Pets

Pets

BLUE AKC GREAT DANE puppies 6 weeks old, 4 strong males asking $1,000. 325-933-0235

SCHNAUZER AKC register 2 males left. $350 Please call 432-889-4044.

SCOTTISH TERRIER puppies. Adorable AKC register. Black beauties. Born 10/04/13. Current on shots . Call 325-207-0042.

Lots & Land

Ranches

562 ACRES for sale south of Abilene in Runnels County. Lots of trees, wildlife & water. Two homes / lodges; main lodge 4,600sf. with large open floor plan. 2nd lodge 750sf. Awesome getaway, home or business. $1.6 mil. 325-668-9299

RANCH FOR SALE
4,212 Acres near Snyder, TX. * Water, 3 houses, great hunting. Owner Financing $795/ Acre (432) 664-7764

4 CEMETERY PLOTS in Resthaven, Garden of Love.
432-682-3974

Commercial

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 and Fenced Yards
Various locations. Call 432-661-4057.

Commercial

RED WAREHOUSE Yard for sale or lease 1015 West Industrial. 432-553-4596.

REGENCY CENTER available for lease commercial spaces. 2203 A & B, Big Spring Street and 1700 W. Texas Street. Call 817-583-9736

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Fax Your Classified Ad In Today! 682-6999

Condos/Townhouses

Real Estate Quick Sale
(Private Parties Only)
- 14 days in the Midland Reporter-Telegram
- 14 days on mywesttexas.com
- Up to 10 lines of text
- New Today Banner-1st Day Only
- (1) Homes Gallery listing with photo

$75
(each additional line $5)

Call 682-6222 today!

Homes for Sale

Real Estate Sure Sell
Call 682-6222 Today!
(Private Parties Only)
- 30 days - Midland Reporter-Telegram
- 30 days - mywesttexas.com
- New Today Banner on 1st Day Only
- Up to 10 lines of text

$55
(each additional line $5)

Homes for Sale

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL real estate advertising herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to indicate any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, age, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations ot discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on equal opportunity basis.

To file a complaint, contact www.hud.gov or 1-800-669-9777

Residential Sales

By Owner - 2807 Sentinel Drive
$229,000 - 2300 sq ft
Wonderful family home in Old Midland has lots of flexible space inside and out with 2 large living areas, 3 bedrooms, 2 ½ baths, galley kitchen, laundry room, 2 car garage, 2 workshops, storage building and 20 feet behind the back fence for parking boats, trailers or cars. The home is well maintained with new carpet, fresh paint and many other amenities.
See pictures and more information on Zillow.com
Please call (432) 770-3003 to see.

Lots & Land

Hunting Leases

UNDERCOVER WHITETAIL Ranch is offering $500 off of all deer hunts that are booked before 12/31/2013. We are located just north of San Angelo, TX on Hwy 277 North. We have all inclusive hunting packages starting at $5250 ea. Deer range from 150"-250" and weigh from 165-200+ lbs. Visit our website: www.undercoverwhitetail.com

Ranches

Lots & Land

617 Ac., Kerrville area, 3-cabins, rolling oaks. Price Reduced!

500 Ac., Near Junction, loaded with deer, $2,450 per acre.

2,589 Ac., South of Sheffield, great hunting, nice improvements, $469 per acre.

6,080 Acres, Terrell County, whitetail/mule deer, minerals, $375 per acre.

3.38 Ac., Lake Amistad, views, level bldg. sites, water, $359,000

653 Ac., Lake Amistad, good hunting, paved access, min. from lake, $825 per acre.

—Meek Ranch Sales—
www.meekranchsales.com • 830-257-8881

Commercial

READY-RANCH RR
WWW.READY-RANCH.COM
YOUR FUTURE DEBUTS AT WWW.READY-RANCH.COM

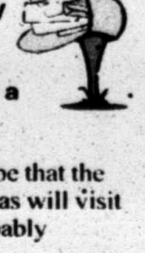
- **Reed County**
- *11,155 ac. n. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. mtn., creek, lakes, Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail.....$795/ac
- *4,212 ac. Maverick Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail.....$825/ac
- *1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great wt.-tail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail.....$850/ac
- **Stone County**
- *646 ac. over 1 mile SOLD creek, blinds, feeders, plentiful deer, rolling hills.....$2,295/ac
- *565 ac. Pecan Creek, approx 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill, minerals.....$2,095/ac
- **Howard County**
- *842 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, deer/elk.....$895/ac
- *150 ac. big canyons, blinds, cedar/mesquite, great deer, turkey, jim SOLD.....$695/ac
- **Martin County**
- *135 ac. Sulphur Springs Draw, mule deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, metal storage building.....$1,150/ac

(432) 684-7784 or (432) 894-7777
Ric Realtors - Buy Direct!!!
Deal with Landowners that know the Country!!!
Owner Financing Available

Passenger Cars

Ask the Guys

Dear Classified Guys,
While most people are toasting with eggnog at their office parties, I'm singing the blues. It turns out I work for Scrooge! I put in extra hours almost every week this year and worked harder than ever before. I didn't mind because I thought my boss rewarded hard work. When the bonus checks came around this season, there wasn't much of a reward. You could say my check was made from coal dust. It has me making a New Year's resolution to never let it happen again. Even though the employment ads are a bit thin this time of year, I've been scanning them ever since I got my check. A few have caught my interest and I plan on interviewing with them. I don't mind working hard, but I want to find someone who will reward it come holiday time. Is there any way to tell if I'll be working for one of Scrooge's relatives at a new company?



• • •

Cash: You could hope that the three ghosts of Christmas will visit your boss, but you probably shouldn't bank on it.

Carry: While you may be disappointed, it is possible that your boss is not Ebenezer Scrooge. Depending on the size of your company, the decision for a bonus check may not even be his to make.

Cash: If this is a larger company, it could be that managers in a higher position make the decision. For many companies, bonus checks are often a percentage of salary or based on management levels.

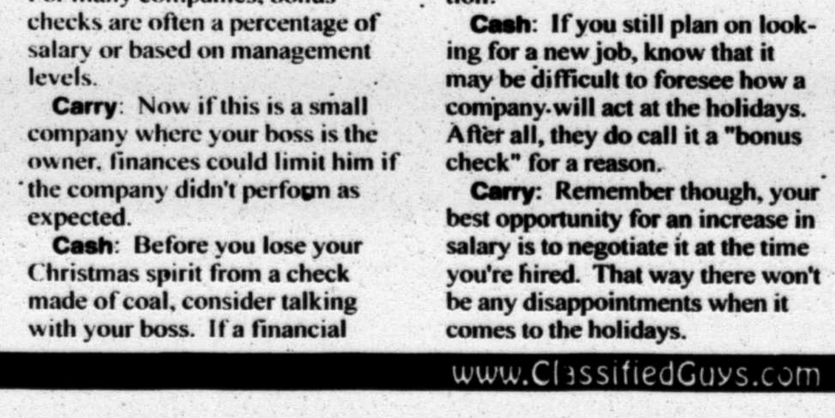
Carry: Now if this is a small company where your boss is the owner, finances could limit him if the company didn't perfom as expected.

Cash: Before you lose your Christmas spirit from a check made of coal, consider talking with your boss. If a financial reward isn't possible, maybe he could compensate for your additional efforts with alternatives such as more vacation time or flexible work hours.

Carry: Then next year, you won't mind as much when you receive your bonus check on vacation!

Cash: If you still plan on looking for a new job, know that it may be difficult to foresee how a company will act at the holidays. After all, they do call it a "bonus check" for a reason.

Carry: Remember though, your best opportunity for an increase in salary is to negotiate it at the time you're hired. That way there won't be any disappointments when it comes to the holidays.



Fast Facts

Scrooged

What would Christmas be without the story of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens? First published in 1844, the story took Dickens about six weeks to complete. Desperately in need of money, he hoped the royalties of the book would help his financial crisis. Despite the book's success, selling out the entire run of 6,000 on the first day, Dickens made little money. Today his original manuscript of the book resides at Pierpont Morgan Library in New York City and is typically on display around the holidays.

Party Crashers

Every year, many companies treat their employees to an office Christmas party. It's one of the few times a year when all levels of staff have the opportunity to mingle and socialize. However, for some the party can break their career. Surveys suggest that about 15% of all office parties have employees with inappropriate behavior. The experts advise that moderation is best during the festivities, dressing appropriately and keeping your eating and drinking in check. After all, no one wants to be the next day's conversation at the water cooler.

Reader Humor

Deal Maker

When the purchasing manager of my company quit, the president was quick to hire a deal-making genius in his place. Whether it was secretarial supplies or computer equipment, this guy knew how to find amazing prices.

Recently at our weekly meeting, our boss once again congratulated our new purchasing manager on his ability to save money when buying the Christmas cards.

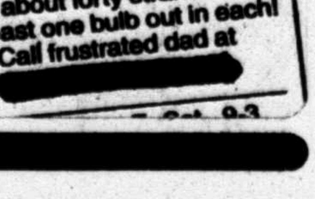
"Thank you," the manager said. "I got them at next to nothing because the printer made a typo."

"That's great," the president replied. "But I don't think we should send cards to our clients that say, 'Merry Christmas and Best Dishes!'"

(Thanks to Jenn K.)

Laughs For Sale

We've all been there...



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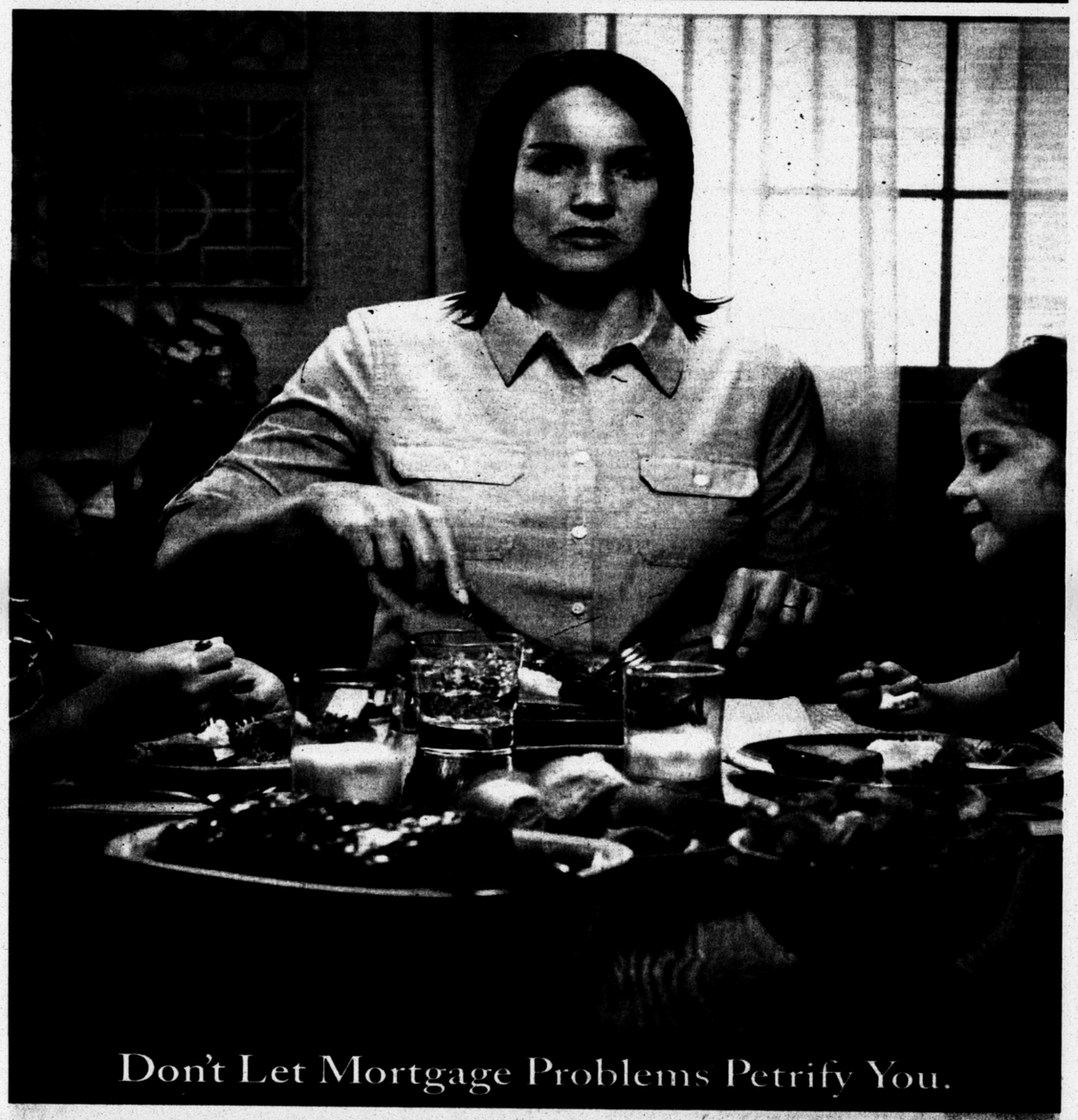

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