Youth and Government
Program teaches students about legal process
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A tale of two teams
Texans on an upswing; Cowboys struggle
Learn more in SPORTS/1C

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mywesttexas.com
TUESDAY
DECEMBER 13, 2011
Daily 75¢, Sunday $2
Vol. 83, No. 277

Forest Service continues to move in personnel

Commissioners say agency will use former Midland County Exhibit Building

By Kathleen Thurber
Staff Writer

The Texas Forest Service is continuing to move personnel into Midland County as it sets up a permanent West Texas headquarters in the Tall City.

Midland County commissioners on Monday acknowledged the Forest Service will use the county's former Midland County Exhibit Building for an office and storage facility.

"This is a real win for us," said Jimmy Smith, commissioner for Precinct 1.

The Texas Forest Service already has brought in five employees who are operating from portable trailers set up next to the Midland County Exhibit Building, said April Saginor, a communication specialist with the service.

In the coming months, the staff will grow to include 10 people who will primarily respond to calls in the more than 36-county service area around Midland, she said.

Before the new office was opened, the closest Texas Forest Service headquarters was in Granbury, which is about 280 miles east of Midland.

During that time, if an incident in West Texas required attention from the Forest Service, which had happened several times this year, it often would set up a temporary staging area in Midland and send crews out from there. That required the Texas Forest Service to pay for lodging and meals because the crews came from other regions.

"Employees based in Midland respond to Texas Forest Service's 'West Branch,' which covers 36 counties," Saginor said. "However, they are a statewide resource and can be called to other parts of the state to assist in an emergency."

In addition to an assistant fire chief who is running the office, the Midland location also will include a full bulldozer crew, motor grader crew, task force leader and fire prevention specialist, said Dale Little, emergency management coordinator.

Saginor said the five positions to be added in Midland have not been filled. All five will be classified as resource specialists, she said.

Tim Harris, director of facilities for Midland County, said the county will add partition walls and drop-in ceilings to create an office space for the crews. He said the county won't have to perform major rehabilitation to make the facility usable for the Texas Forest Service.

The move of fire crews to West Texas

Please see SERVICE/2A

GIFT-GIVING SPIRIT

Cindeka Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

Elva Mejia, left, is assisted by Rocio Perez as she picks out toys for her three children Monday at the First Baptist Church "Christmas store."

'Christmas store' gives out gifts to 300 families

By Audrie Palmer
Staff Writer

As she walked through the basement of the activities center at First Baptist Church Monday, mom Melissa Cruz looked through the baby items on the table to decide on which two things she wanted for her 1-year-old.

Next to her, a volunteer followed holding baby Emmanuel so Cruz could shop freely.

Her mother had told her about the program, and, with this being her son's second Christmas, knew she didn't have much money to get her son gifts.

"I'm a little tight on money, and this helps out a lot," she said.

Cruz was one of 60 families that rotated through the "Christmas store" at FBC in Midland on Monday.

With folding tables set up throughout the downstairs roller rink of the building, parents came through, approximately six every 15 minutes, to choose gifts for their children, have them wrapped and then delivered out to their cars.

It's the 20th year the church has hosted the program for community members who are in need, said Hank Henry, associate minister of missions.

While the church averages about 400 families that need help each Christmas, Henry said the numbers are down to only about 300 this year.

"With the economy being good in the area, we're hoping it's an indicator as to why we don't have as many signed up," he said.

The Christmas Store will be open

Please see GIFTS/2A

School warned for giving advance notice of steroid tests

■ Violation broke state law, but punishment up to UIL.

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Houston Sterling High School was placed on two years' probation and given a public reprimand Monday by Texas' governing body for high school sports for giving athletes advance warning of a pending steroids test, a violation of state law.

Sterling interim principal Sam Dominguez and school officials apologized to the University Interscholastic League at a disciplinary hearing in Austin. They said the phone calls to students the night before the test in November was a misunderstanding of testing rules and not an attempt to cheat.

It was the first time Sterling had been chosen for steroid testing, which is conducted on behalf of the UIL by the National Center for Drug Free Sport.

"We made a mistake, but it was not out of malice," Dominguez said.

Although a violation of state law, school officials were not subject to a criminal penalty because punishment is left up to the UIL, which could have banned Sterling from competition.

Testing rules require the drug testing company to notify schools 24 to 48 hours before arriving on campus. Only a handful of school officials are supposed to know they are coming and they are forbidden from notifying students, who can be banned from competition if they test positive.

A student can also be considered as having a positive test if they skip the test or are absent the day the tests are conducted.

Dominguez said Sterling officials worried that absent students would be

Please see WARNING/2A

MARC's resale store to debut Thursday; open house set for today

By Kathleen Thurber
Staff Writer

With its sleek display of shoes in one corner and its tidy racks of coats, suits, pants and tops dispersed through the middle of the shop, Marc-et looks like any other women's boutique.

Photos on the wall of MARC's clients — who each are living with developmental disabilities, though — show this upscale resale store has a purpose that goes far beyond just selling clothes.

The shop that will open Thursday was started by MARC and will be run by volunteers and clients of MARC. The hope is for the store to provide an extra income stream to the nonprofit as it works to make up for Medicaid reimbursement cuts that were sustained this year, said Charlotte Bosecker, executive director.

"Midland doesn't really have anything like this," Bosecker said.

A preview reception is planned for 5 to 7 p.m. today so the community can get a first look at Marc-et.

Bosecker said the idea for the shop was one she threw out during a brainstorming session more than a year ago. Administrative staff at MARC knew the Medicaid program with which their clients' services are paid would sustain cuts and they wanted to be ready.

Her idea was written down and, for the moment, left alone.

Then, about six months ago, they decided to make it a reality.

A small space off Cuthbert Avenue was located by a board member and with yellow paint, some rehab to the floors and a lot of interior design magic, it was turned into a women's clothing store.

"We're really excited," said Jean Jones, marketing and development director at MARC.

Jones said in addition to giving Midlanders a place to buy designer

Please see MARC/2A

Want to check it out?

Marc-et Open House:
- 5 to 7 p.m. today
- 3205 W. Cuthbert Ave., Suite A-4
- 617-4553
- A grand opening and ribbon cutting are set for 11:30 a.m. Thursday.

Cindeka Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

Jean Jones, MARC development and marketing director, shows some of the clothing that will be sold in the Marc-et. The Marc-et is an upscale women's resale boutique that will sell clothing, handbags, shoes and accessories. The proceeds will assist in funding MARC and its vocational programs.

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WTI Posted	$94.00	▼ $2.00
WTS Posted	$91.95	▼ $2.00
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Gasoline	$3.237	▼ $0.014

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High: 63 Low: 50

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

■ Midland County Public Library open house, 5:30-7 p.m., 301 W. Missouri Ave. Features games, prizes, crafts, refreshments and entertainment. Donations of canned goods for the West Texas Food Bank will be accepted.

■ Michael Martin Murphey Christmas Show, 8 p.m., Ector Theatre, 500 N. Texas, Odessa. Tickets: $25 reserved seating. Call: 580-0555 for more information.

■ Flying J Wranglers Christmas Show at Globe Theatre, 2308 Shakespeare Road, Odessa. Tickets: $25 reserved seating. Call: 580-3177 or on line at globeaw.org

■ Classic Movie Club presents "The Grass is Greener" 7 p.m., Cigar Frog's

Meetings schedule

City Council
10 a.m. today
Council Chambers City Hall
300 N. Loraine St.

MISD school board
5:30 p.m. today
Lee High School auditorium, 3500 Neely Ave. (for a student recognition ceremony)

Library Advisory Board
4 p.m. today
Midland County Public Library
301 W. Missouri Ave.

City 191 corridor meetings/forums

■ The Working SH 191 Corridor Design Charrette
8 a.m.-5 p.m. today-Thursday
Midland International Airport Conference Room.

■ Dennis Wilson Overview Presentation
5:30-7 p.m. today
Info: Informative presentation by Dennis Wilson on mixed use development, traditional town planning, value creation and multi-use streets.
Note: open to the public but not a public forum.

Community calendar

■ A Christmas concert benefiting Family Promise of Midland will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday at Memorial Christian Church, 1001 Andrews Highway.
Guest artists are the Voces Dei vocal group and pianist Terry Rothermich.
Family Promise of Midland helps homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence, and is strongly supported by a collection of local churches in the Midland area.

■ Palmer Drug Abuse Program's sixth annual Celebration Midland is 7 p.m.-midnight Dec. 31 at Midland Center.
The alcohol-free New Year's Eve event features entertainment, food and door prizes. Admission is free.

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

Book signings

Bill Modisett, author of "The King of Monument: The Life and Times of Henry Clay McGonagill," has three signings scheduled:

■ 4-6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Haley Library & History Center (artist Mike Capron, who produced 21 pen & ink drawings for the book, also is expected to be present).

■ Thursday at Lea County Museum's Commercial Hotel, 103 S. Love in Lovington, N. M.

■ 1-5 p.m. Saturday at Tractor Supply, 7800 Highway 191, Odessa.

Today in history

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 2011. There are 18 days left in the year.

Today's highlight:

On Dec. 13, 1981, authorities in Poland imposed martial law in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. (Martial law formally ended in 1983.)

On this date:

In 1862, Union forces suffered a major defeat to the Confederates in the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg.

In 1944, during World War II, the U.S. cruiser Nashville was badly damaged in a Japanese kamikaze attack that claimed more than 130 lives.

In 1978, the Philadelphia Mint began stamping the Susan B. Anthony dollar, which went into circulation in July 1979.

In 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured by U.S. forces while hiding in a hole under a farmhouse in Adwar, Iraq, near his hometown of Tikrit.

Lottery

Pick 3 day: 5-2-7
Pick 3 night: 5-0-4
Daily 4 day: 5-3-9-5
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Cindeka Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

Jennifer Quintero watches as Phyllis Maxwell wraps toys she picked out for her three children Monday at the First Baptist Church "Christmas store."

GIFTS

From 1A

noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday this week and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday.

About 300 volunteers will donate 900 hours of their time over those three days to help out with the program, Henry said.

While many of the families that come through are referred by church members and friends, Henry said he also meets with school counselors in October to give them applications that they may pass on to get those students registered, as well.

"The counselors have a good idea as to the families that are in need," he said.

The toys and gift items in the store are bought by the church throughout the year. On Sunday evening, during the children's Christmas musical program, church members also were encouraged to bring toys into the sanctuary that could be put on the tables, as well.

Each family is allowed to pick out two items, one large and one small, as well as a pair of socks for each child in their family.

"This is a means of reaching the community. We're meeting the immediate needs and at the same time, minister from a spiritual perspective," Henry said. We're trying to show them the true meaning and what Christmas is all about."

For a Midland mom named Veronica, this was the first time she had come to the "store" to shop and had heard about the program from a lady at her church. She was looking through items on the tables Monday afternoon in hopes of finding the perfect gifts for her three children, ages 16, 15 and 6.

"This helps out some. The older children pretty much understand. But for the little one, it's a little hard to understand when there's no money," she said.

As she sat in the gift-wrapping room filling out gift tags for her children, another mother of three, Lorena, said her sister had told her about the program and that she had first tried to register at the Salvation Army before learning they were full.

She walked around with a volunteer Monday and said it was fun to get to shop for her children, ages 15, 10 and 9.

"I couldn't believe it. There was so much stuff to choose from," she said.

For her son, she was able to pick out a scooter that she said he had asked for and has been wanting for a while.

Church member Linda Cranfill picked out green and gold leaf-printed wrapping paper and laid the scooter on the table on it as she folded and taped the edges.

"It's fun," she said of her volunteering. "The wise men gave Jesus presents so we give them for the same reason. We're sharing love with more people than just our own families."

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

You're greedy: Romney, Gingrich tussle before Iowa

Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Trading accusations of greed, Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich challenged each other Monday to return millions made in private business as the race for the GOP presidential nomination turned increasingly acerbic and personal at the start of a three-week sprint to the Iowa caucuses.

Far from Iowa, the two men campaigned miles apart from each other in next-up New Hampshire, where Romney has long dominated in polls but where Gingrich is aggressively working to make inroads.

Romney called on Gingrich to return the estimated $1.6 million he received for providing strategic advice to Freddie Mac, the quasi-government agency that guarantees home mortgages. Gingrich has said he acted as a historian, not a lobbyist.

"That would make him the highest paid historian in history," Romney told Fox News Channel during an interview from the Chez Vachon diner, a regular New Hampshire stop for presidential candidates. He suggested that Gingrich was an ultimate insider who leveraged his position as a former House speaker to line his pockets when he left office. Said Romney: "One of the things that I think people recognize in Washington is that people go there to serve the people and then they stay there to serve themselves."

Gingrich, campaigning in nearby Londonderry, countered quickly, saying that Romney should give back the millions he made working at Bain Capital, a venture capital firm that sometimes laid people off as part of its efforts to make businesses more efficient.

"If Gov. Romney would give back all the money he's earned from bankrupting companies and laying off employees over the years at Bain, then I would be glad to listen to him," Gingrich said. "But I bet you $10 — not $10,000 — that he won't take the offer." That was a dig at Romney's offer of a $10,000 wager with Rick Perry at Saturday night's debate.

ELECTION 2012

Unbowed, Romney chided Gingrich anew, saying: "There's a big difference between working in the private economy and working on K Street, and working as a lobbyist and working as a legislator, and working to connect businesses with government." Romney's campaign also pressed the notion of Gingrich as a Washington insider, with news releases labeling him an "unreliable leader" and pictured with House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

Romney's stepped-up his criticism of Gingrich came two days after the new front-runner in the GOP nomination fight held his own during a nationally televised debate, turning aside attacks from Romney and other rivals. In recent weeks, Gingrich has risen to the top of polls nationally and in early voting states. He's even started to eat into Romney's lead in New Hampshire, a must-win state for the former Massachusetts governor.

Time is running short for Romney to curb Gingrich's rise, with the Jan. 3 caucuses in Iowa, and the Jan. 10 New Hampshire primary coming early next month.

Romney has been promising a more aggressive campaign style.

"We aren't running any negative ads ... but we may," Romney said Monday. "This is, after all, politics. There's no whining in politics."

Perry's new ad goes viral, sparks parodies

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rick Perry's new presidential campaign ad, "Strong," has become a viral video sensation since being released last week — but not necessarily for the reasons the campaign might hope for.

By Monday afternoon, the ad had registered nearly 650,000 "dislikes" on YouTube, compared to just over 20,000 likes. And it has sparked nearly 700 reply videos, including some mercilessly funny parodies that feature people wearing the same kind of jacket Perry wears, and lots of chatter about how Perry looks like a gay cowboy from the movie "Brokeback Mountain."

In the ad, Perry suggests that President Barack Obama is waging a "war on religion" after signing legislation allowing gays to serve in the military. It's drawn some 6 million views on YouTube, more than any other campaign video this year, company officials said.

As he struggles for traction three weeks before the GOP nominating contest opens in Iowa, Perry is using the ad to appeal to the kind of Christian conservatives who typically dominate the state's precinct caucuses. In it, he makes some eyebrow-raising claims.

Perry is seen walking up a grassy hillside, dressed in a brown barn jacket and blue shirt.

"I'm not ashamed to admit that I'm Christian," Perry says. "But you don't need to be in the pew every Sunday to know that there's something wrong in this country when gays can serve openly in the military but our kids can't openly celebrate Christmas or pray in schools."

He continues, "As president, I'll end Obama's war on religion and I'll fight against liberal attacks on our religious heritage."

Obama has had nothing to do with banning school prayer — the Supreme Court ruled in 1962 that prayer in public school was an unconstitutional violation of the First Amendment. Perry's suggestion that gays serving in the military represent an assault on religious faith has drawn scorn from Democrats and gay rights activists.

SERVICE

From 1A

comes amid one of the worst droughts on record for this area. Last week's snowfall pushed Midland over the 4.5-inch precipitation mark for the year and ensured 2011 wouldn't be recorded as the driest year. In 1951, 4.24 inches of precipitation was recorded in Midland, according to the National Weather Service.

Even with the recent drizzle, conditions still are extremely dry, said Greg Murdoch, senior meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

"In the short-term it has obviously added some shallow moisture in the ground," he said.

But, in the long-run it didn't create enough precipitation to cause runoff into water supply sources and didn't come at a heavy enough volume to thoroughly saturate the ground, he said.

Vegetation will remain dry and create a continued high risk for fires in the coming year.

Through Monday, Midland had received 4.57 inches of precipitation for the year — down 9.65 inches from the normal level for this area, according to the National Weather Service.

Murdoch said the long-range forecast calls for continued below normal precipitation and above average temperatures.

There is a 20 percent chance of showers today and a slight chance of rain this weekend, according to the National Weather Service.

With these conditions, county officials said they're grateful the Forest Service will have staff permanently stationed in Midland.

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

Cindeka Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

Designer shoes are on a display shelf at Marc-et. The new resale shop will host an open house today from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and officially open Thursday.

MARC

From 1A

items at a low price, the store also will help raise awareness of what MARC does. The organization has been in existence 52 years and currently serves just more than 100 adults and children who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"(We) meet the needs of families who have sons and daughters with disabilities," she said.

"This will also be a place where the community can learn about other vocational initiatives," Jones said. "They'll learn a lot about MARC just by being here."

Jones said they spread the word about the store among women in the community and have since received several donations of higher-end, gently used clothing. They'll continue accepting donations both at the store and at MARC's headquarters.

"We've just had a wonderful turnout of donations," Bosecker said. "It's brought us a whole new stream of donors."

Bosecker said the decrease in Medicaid reimbursements became effective in September so they're still not certain how much funding they will lose, though they anticipate it could be anywhere from $200,000 to $500,000.

MARC staff and board members are hoping to raise $12,000 through sales at Marc-et during its first year, she said.

"We're not going to get rich off it or anything, but every little bit helps," Bosecker said.

Other vocational initiatives run by MARC include a tomato growing and selling venture, a pecan cracking and shelling service and a shredding business.

Marc-et, 3205 W. Cuthbert Ave., Suite A-4, will be run by volunteers from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

A few women who are enrolled in MARC's programs also will work shifts in an effort to learn job skills that can transfer at some point to employment in the private sector.

"It gives our clients a purpose," Jones said. "They're happy to be getting up and going to work."

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

WARNING

From 1A

punished, so they called their families to tell them the tests would be the next day.

According to the UIL, the school self-reported the violation when they realized they had broken the rules.

Mike Motheral, the superintendent of Sundown Independent School District, and other members of the UIL executive committee criticized Sterling officials for not knowing all the rules of the testing program, which began in 2008.

Placing Sterling on probation means the school could face stiffer penalties if it's caught breaking the rules again during the next two years.

Although the school could have faced much harsher penalties, the UIL didn't want to punish the athletes for the adults' mistake.

"We're not going to penalize kids. It's not their fault," Motheral said.

Texas' steroid testing program was the largest of its kind in country when it began, but the program has been significantly scaled down after the first 50,000 tests yielded only about 30 positive tests.

The state earlier this year restructured the program to focus only on a few sports, including football, baseball and track.

MPD: Stabbing under investigation

From staff reports

One man was transported late Monday to Midland Memorial Hospital with non-life threatening injuries after he was stabbed by a woman at a Midland apartment complex, Midland police spokeswoman Tasa Watts confirmed.

MPD officers were investigating after the call came in to dispatch around 9:05 p.m. for the incident at 500 W. Tennessee.

The relationship between the man and woman was unknown Monday evening, authorities said.

Midland Reporter-Telegram

AT YOUR SERVICE
ISSN 0890-5932

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

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AP file photo

A protester is arrested by Phoenix Police Department officers after refusing to move while blocking an intersection during a protest against Arizona immigration law SB1070 on July 10, 2010. The Supreme Court agreed Monday to rule on Arizona's controversial law targeting illegal immigrants. The justices said they will review a federal appeals court ruling that blocked several tough provisions in the Arizona law.

High court to review tough Arizona immigration law

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court stepped into the fight Monday over a tough Arizona law that requires local police to help enforce federal immigration laws — pushing the court deeper into hot, partisan issues of the 2012 election campaign.

The court's election-year docket now contains three politically charged disputes, including President Barack Obama's health care overhaul and Texas redistricting.

The debate over immigration already is shaping presidential politics, and now the court is undertaking a review of an Arizona law that has spawned a host of copycat state laws targeting illegal immigrants.

The court will review a federal appeals court ruling that blocked several provisions in the Arizona law. One of those requires that police, while enforcing other laws, question a person's immigration status if officers suspect he is in the country illegally.

The case is the court's biggest foray into immigration law in decades, said Temple University law professor Peter Spiro, an expert in that area.

The Obama administration challenged the Arizona law by arguing that regulating immigration is the job of the federal government, not states. Similar laws in Alabama, South Carolina and Utah also are facing administration lawsuits. Private groups are suing over immigration measures adopted in Georgia and Indiana.

"This case is not just about Arizona. It's about every state grappling with the costs of illegal immigration," Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, a Republican, said following the court's announcement Monday.

Fifty-nine Republicans in Congress, including presidential candidate Michele Bachmann, filed a brief with the court backing the Arizona law.

The immigration case, like the challenge to Obama's health care overhaul, pits Republican-led states against the Democratic administration in an argument about the reach of federal power. The redistricting case has a similarly partisan tinge to it, with Republicans who control the state government in Texas facing off against Democrats and minority groups that tend to vote Democratic.

In the immigration arena, the states say that the federal government isn't doing enough to address a major problem and that border states are suffering disproportionately.

The issue has been widely discussed by the Republican candidates for president. They have mostly embraced a hard line to avoid accusations that they support any kind of "amnesty" for the some 12 million illegal immigrants estimated to be living in the U.S.

Newt Gingrich was most recently criticized by his opponents for saying he would grant legal status to some with longstanding family and community ties, and Gingrich has since endorsed the South Carolina law that allows police to demand a person's immigration status. That law is among the four state laws that have been challenged by the administration.

In April, a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco upheld a federal judge's ruling halting enforcement of several provisions of the law. Among the blocked provisions: requiring all immigrants to obtain or carry immigration registration papers; making it a state criminal offense for an illegal immigrant to seek work or hold a job and allowing police to arrest suspected illegal immigrants without warrants.

In October, the federal appeals court in Atlanta blocked parts of the Alabama law that forced public schools to check the immigration status of students and allowed police to file criminal charges against people who were unable to prove their citizenship.

Federal report: Home flipping drove housing bubble

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A federal report shows that speculative real estate investors played a larger role than originally thought in driving the housing bubble that led to record foreclosures and sent economies plummeting in Nevada, California, Arizona, Florida and other states.

Researchers with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York found that investors who used low-down-payment, subprime credit to purchase multiple residential properties helped inflate home prices and are largely to blame for the recession. The researchers said their findings focused on an "undocumented" dimension of the housing market crisis that had been previously overlooked as officials focused on how to contain the financial crisis, not what caused it.

More than a third of all U.S. home mortgages granted in 2006 went to people who already owned at least one house, according to the report. In Arizona, California, Florida and Nevada, where average home prices more than doubled from 2000 to 2006, investors made up nearly half of all mortgage-backed purchases during the housing bubble. Buyers owning three or more properties represented the fastest-growing segment of homeowners during that time.

"This may have allowed the bubble to inflate further, which caused millions of owner-occupants to pay more if they wanted to buy a home for their family," the researchers noted.

Investors defaulted in large numbers after home values began to drop in 2006. They accounted for more than 25 percent of seriously delinquent mortgage balances nationwide, and more than a third in Arizona, California, Florida and Nevada from 2007 to 2009

As a result, millions of homeowners saw their home values decline so that they were worth less than the original purchase price. Foreclosures skyrocketed as people couldn't or refused to pay their underwater mortgages. Residential construction also languished, putting hundreds of construction workers in the hardest-hit states out of work.

The report concludes that lenders and regulators must limit speculative borrowing to avoid future housing busts. For example, in China, government officials are now requiring higher down-payments and mortgage rates on investment homes, according to the report.

In Nevada, which has the nation's highest foreclosure rate, the housing market remains weak, with home prices continuing to fall in the Las Vegas area, where most of the state lives.

Home prices were down 7.3 percent in November compared to a year before, according to the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors. That means the median price dropped from $134,900 to $125,000 in one year. More than half of all home sales were purchased with cash.

Paul Bell, president of the real estate association, said amateur investors were behind the soaring home values seen during the first half of the last decade but noted those buyers took advantage of how easy it was to buy homes at the time because of questionable lending practices and government pressure on banks to promote home ownership.

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NATION BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

MONTANA

State aims to cut abuse of disabled hunter permits

HELENA — Montana wildlife regulators suspect more and more people are faking disabilities to take advantage of privileges granted to disabled hunters, so they want to remove one of those perks in hopes of curbing abuse.

Permits to hunt from a vehicle, called PTHV permits, are given to Montana hunters with certain disabilities certified by a doctor, chiropractor, nurse or physician's assistant. The permit allows a disabled person who can't get around without assistance to hunt from a self-propelled or drawn vehicle.

In some prime hunting areas, those permit holders are allowed to drive along roadways normally gated and closed to all other vehicles. They are also allowed to shoot cow elk without buying an additional antlerless elk license, even in some areas where licenses aren't available to the general public.

That kind of access has led to abuse of the permits by apparently healthy hunters, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials said.

MIAMI

Ponzi schemer begins 2-week lawyer grilling

To avoid possibly dying in prison, convicted Ponzi schemer Scott Rothstein is naming names and pledging to tell the truth about who else was involved in the $1.2 billion fraud, attorneys said Monday.

More than 30 lawyers representing dozens of wronged investors lined up to question Rothstein about the scheme he ran in his now-defunct Fort Lauderdale law firm, and how much assistance he got from outsiders, mainly bankers and other attorneys.

William Scherer, who represents about 25 investors, said the first few hours of the two-week, closed-door questioning revealed fresh details about other players and illegal actions in the scheme, which imploded in fall 2009.

VIRGINIA

Another name change for former Blackwater firm

McLEAN — The security firm once known as Blackwater on Monday changed its name for the second time in less than three years as its owners continue to reshape the company they bought from its founder a year ago.

The Arlington-based company announced it will no longer be known as Xe Services and is now called Academi. The name is inspired by Plato's Academy in ancient Greece and is designed to connote elite, highly disciplined warriors who are thinkers, as well as fighters.

$1T-plus spending bill taking shape in Congress

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Weary after a year of partisan bickering, lawmakers tried Monday to wrap up a sprawling $1 trillion-plus spending bill that chips away at military and environmental spending but denies conservatives many of the policy changes they wanted on social issues, government regulations and health care.

The measure implements this summer's hard-fought budget pact between President Barack Obama and Republican leaders. That deal essentially freezes agency budgets, on average, at levels for the recently-completed budget year that were approved back in April.

Drafted behind closed doors, the proposed bill would pay for the war in Afghanistan but give the Pentagon just a 1 percent boost in annual spending, while the Environmental Protection Agency's budget would be cut by 3.5 percent.

The bill also covers everything from money to combat AIDS and famine in Africa, patrolling the U.S.-Mexico border, operations of national parks, and budget increases for veterans' health care.

A spokeswoman for House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers, R-Ky., said that bargainers had struck an agreement but would not formally unveil it until Tuesday. A House vote is expected Thursday and the Senate is likely to follow in time to meet a midnight Friday deadline before a stopgap funding measure expires.

The generally smooth, businesslike negotiations on the omnibus spending bill contrasts with the ongoing partisan brawl over Obama's demand that Congress extend jobless benefits and a cut in the Social Security payroll tax. The House is slated to vote on a GOP-friendly version of the payroll tax cut Tuesday; negotiations with the Democratic-controlled Senate on a compromise measure have yet to begin.

The spending measure, meanwhile, is likely to go over like a lead balloon among tea party conservatives, many of whom believe the August budget and debt compromise didn't cut enough. Last month, 101 House Republicans opposed a smaller bundle of spending bills.

Conservative ire is likely to be magnified once the negotiating outcome regarding dozens of GOP policy "riders" is finalized. Republicans larded the measures with provisions aimed at rolling back Environmental Protection Agency rules, such as regulations on coal ash, large-scale discharges of hot water and greenhouse gases from electric power plants, and emissions from cement plants and oil refineries.

The most controversial riders are sure to be dumped overboard due to opposition from Obama and Democrats controlling the Senate. But Democrats realize that they have to show some flexibility to win GOP votes in the House. That means Democrats are likely to accept, reluctantly, a rider that blocks the city of Washington, D.C., from funding abortions for poor women.

> "Americans will receive the disaster aid that they are entitled to."
>
> — SEN. MARY LANDRIEU
> R-Louisiana

"We'll get dozens of riders for industries and the social conservatives," said Jennifer Hing, spokeswoman for the House Appropriations Committee.

In addition to the cut in EPA funding, foreign aid spending also would drop and House lawmakers would absorb a 6 percent cut to their office budgets.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers, R-Ky., was pushing until the end to block clean water rules opposed by mining companies that blast the tops off mountains, while House leaders pressed riders to block the Obama administration's 2009 policy lifting restrictions on travel and money transfers by Cuban-Americans to families remaining in Cuba.

Meanwhile, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., abandoned efforts to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue tough new rules on window blind cords that can strangle children and tiny but powerful batteries that can harm small children if ingested.

On spending, the measure generally consists of relatively small adjustments to thousands of individual programs. Agencies like the Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement will get a boost within the Department of Homeland Security, while GOP defense hawks won additional funding to modernize the U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal. The troubled, over-budget next generation F-35 fighter plane program would be largely protected.

Democrats won a modest increase in funding for schools with large numbers of disadvantaged students.

To placate conservatives, money for disasters will be addressed in a separate bill, though on a parallel track as the omnibus measure. At issue is billions of dollars for disaster aid that would be on top of the $1.043 trillion cap set in August.

It's a sticky issue for conservatives because approving the disaster aid would bring the total amount of money allotted for agency budgets above last year's budget. By putting the aid in a separate bill, the GOP can lean heavily on Democrats to pass it.

"Americans will receive the disaster aid that they are entitled to," said Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., chairwoman of the panel responsible for homeland security. She said she dropped a proposal to increase Transportation Security Administration per-ticket security fees to $4 per leg for a maximum of $16 per round trip that would have been used to raise money to finance TSA operations.

Real-time reporting allowed from Sandusky hearing

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Court officials setting media rules for a preliminary hearing for a Penn State assistant football coach accused of molesting boys will let news reporters in the courtroom electronically relay reports of the testimony in real time.

Jerry Sandusky is charged with more than 50 counts of child sex abuse involving 10 boys. The 67-year-old acknowledges showering with boys but said he didn't molest them.

An order posted Monday says reporters will be allowed to email, send text messages and tweet from their laptop computers and handheld devices from inside the courtroom in Centre County.

News organizations including the Associated Press had sought to change an earlier court decorum order banning the wireless communication but allowing laptops for note-taking only.

No recording of Tuesday's proceedings may take place.

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Shop American Home Improvement for grilling gifts

Derek Rotan already knows how great it is to have a top-of-the-line Holland Maverick grill in his back yard. He won this exciting grill in the drawing at American Home Improvement's open house last month, and has made good use of it for himself and his family (see picture).

Holland grills, with their no flare-up guarantee and other great features, give that expert griller in the family a result to brag about every time. And because they're built to last and last, "every time" just goes on and on!

American Home Improvement's showroom is literally wall to wall with exciting gifts for the dad who loves to cook out. In addition to Holland, you'll find Firemagic, DCS and other can't-miss gas grills.

For the purist, who insists on the through-cooked flavor that comes only from the perfect charcoal fire, see Primo Ceramic grills. It sounds cold and calculated to say these grills are scientifically designed for flavorful cooking, but the results are hot and tasty any time of year. This is the grill whose results always beg the question, "Is there any of that (fill in: chicken, steak, potato, fish, etc.) left?"

The grill is the heart and soul of the cookout, but accessories like extra burners to heat the beans, a chiller to keep the butter and sauces (and beverages) cool and storage for utensils are what gives the cookout legs. You'll find all those items—enough for a whole outdoor kitchen—at American Home Improvement.

Speaking of utensils, check out the Spice Store at American Home Improvement's showroom. There is where you'll really get the flavor of the Southwest! Special recipe rubs and sauces from the region's finest chefs are packed in together on these shelves. Plus, there are all the utensils any chef would need, from pocketed aprons to specially designed spatulas to shish kabobs and more. Spice store chief Vincent Miles invites you to go by and imagine how great your home cookout can be with just a little help.

Because there are so few cold days in these parts, your family can enjoy outdoor cooking in just about any season. You're probably getting hungry just thinking about it.

For keeping warm indoors in this season's cold weather, see the great selection of Peterson gas logs for your fireplace. A gas log set radiates warmth into the room, and you never need to haul firewood or sweep up ashes.

A grill or outdoor kitchen is not only a great gift for the griller in the family, it's the gift that gives to the *whole* family, all year long. Go by American Home Improvement this week.

DEREK'S HOLLAND Derek Rotan won this Holland Maverick grill at American Home Improvement's open house. You can still make a Christmas present of a grill from American Home Improvement.

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

Fashion takes special care of holiday fabrics

This is the season for entertaining and for specially-themed table cloths, table runners, napkins, placemats, tree skirts, bedspreads and draperies—plus holiday clothing like sweaters and party dresses.

Fashion Cleaners' Philip McCain says his people go the extra mile to give these fabrics the extra care they need. For example, some tablecloths need to be both dry cleaned and washed in order to get all the stains out. Gravy stains can be particularly challenging. Some holiday sweaters that have bells or even flashing lights must be hand washed to keep all the attachments intact.

Philip notes that you can do some things to protect your fabrics. If you have a dog, it would be a good idea to keep him away from the Christmas tree skirt for obvious reasons. Some pet stains just won't come out with dry cleaning.

It's also smart to have all your holiday fabrics cleaned before you put them away after the season. If you store them with stains intact, those stains will probably be permanently set by next fall.

Fashion Cleaners has two convenient locations: 801 W. Wall and in the Imperial Shopping Center at Midkiff and Wadley. They do all kinds of cleaning and laundry, as well as alterations, reweaving and keepsaking of bridal gowns. Pickup and delivery are available.

Owner Philip McCain says Fashion Cleaners takes extra care with your holiday fabrics.

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Opinion

Only Gingrich's wife thinks he can beat Obama

■ Former colleagues attempt to find nice way to say GOP candidate 'can't lead.'

KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

'Anybody but Mitt" has become a familiar mantra throughout the Republican primary campaign. It also is weird and self-defeating.

Republicans apparently want to nominate anyone except the one person who can defeat Barack Obama. And for all the strangest reasons:

One: He's changed his mind. True. He changed his mind, thus becoming more conservative.

Two: He's too perfect.

Three: You can't drink beer with him. Whatever.

The result of these petty obsessions has been a pathological flirtation with a parade of lesser candidates who could replace Romney. This parade has persisted despite polls consistently showing Romney as the most likely to defeat Obama. It continues even though it's perfectly clear the White House worries most about Romney.

First came Rick Perry, who, now desperate for attention, has turned his sights on gays in the military and Obama's "war on religion." Next was Herman Cain, who, though he has suspended his campaign, seems unable to leave the stage.

Now it's Newt Gingrich's turn.

You don't get more un-Romney than Gingrich. Imperfect and untidy, he's the serial husband with whom anyone could feel comfortable sharing a beer. Or a keg. A sinner like the rest of us, he's as familiar and comfortable as an old sofa.

But no one other than Callista Gingrich thinks her husband can prevail in a general election. No. One. The consensus on Gingrich is so overwhelming that conventional wisdom has taken a holiday. That is, no one in Washington thinks he can win, and Washington is where Gingrich is known best. Instead of rallying to support him, former colleagues are going out of their way to politely say, "He can't lead."

Gingrich's record of leadership is demonstrably erratic. He is, in the words of former Sen. Jim Talent, who served with Gingrich from 1993-99, "unreliable."" Another insider speaking to me privately was blunter: "He's unstable and everybody knows it, but no one wants to say it. Yes, he's a genius and is respected for his many great ideas. But he's Icarus. He flies too close to the sun."

Examples of Gingrich's unreliability are plentiful and soon will become familiar through political ads, including:

■ Ethics violations when, just before he was sworn in as speaker of the House, Gingrich tried to cash in with a book contract. While campaigning even now, he's lining his pockets with book sales, profits that supporters may mistakenly believe are going toward the campaign.

■ Throwing Paul Ryan under the bus by calling Ryan's Medicare reform plan "right-wing social engineering," though Gingrich later recanted and said he would implement the plan as an option while keeping the current system in place.

■ Accepting $1.6 million in consulting fees from Freddie Mac to help convince conservatives not to dismantle the mortgage company, even as he called people who supported Freddie criminals.

But this is Washington talking and too many Americans beyond the bubble don't want to hear what Washington has to say. They prefer to hear Gingrich say, "I'd rather be effective representing the American people than be popular inside Washington."

This is music to the ears of those who have come to loathe and distrust all things Washington, even though Gingrich is as much a Washington insider as anyone. And there's a reason for his unpopularity. It isn't because of his marriages or his Tiffany's expense account. It is because his erratic behavior and his inability to resist the sound of his own voice have caused Republicans to lose too many fights.

Gingrich's campaign may tell the larger tale. Thanks to poor management, he has been playing catch-up in Iowa. He accumulated massive debt during his high-flying early days of the campaign. Might voters extrapolate that as one runs a campaign, one may also run the country? By comparison, Romney's campaign is a seamless, debt-free marvel of spreadsheets and bottom lines.

This is not to diminish Gingrich's many good qualities, which even his detractors are eager to acknowledge. He is creative and stimulates fresh thinking. He is a unique legislator who knows history. He cuts a swath through any room and commands an audience as no other.

But when a man who intends to lead the country cannot marshal the loyalty of those he has attempted to lead before, voters might pay heed. Then again, if Republicans want to make Democrats happy, Gingrich is their man.

OUR VIEW

Stats don't always tell college's worth

The 2011 Texas Public Higher Education Almanac recently reported that only 17.4 percent of full-time, degree-seeking students in Texas finish associate degree programs at community colleges in four years. That number is 17.3 percent at Midland College.

While we always look at statistics on education in a serious manner, we wonder just how realistic these numbers are. Of course, our frame of observation always begins with Midland College because it has the greatest service to our community. But in general, we also have to view other area community colleges, such as Howard College in Big Spring and Odessa College.

We do understand that an associate degree is designed for a two-year curriculum. Yet, most students in today's society can't complete the 62 hours of coursework required for an associate degree in two years because they have to work to help pay for school.

Also, many students going the junior college route may be full-time students but are not bent on obtaining an associate degree. For them, the path is to take as many courses as possible before moving on to a four-year institution for their degree. This path, too, makes sense because it allows students to stay near home at a cheaper cost for part of their college degree.

When you look at the service of a community college, such as MC, it is much more important to assess how the college fulfills the goals of the community. Many times, that does not play a role in giving or obtaining an associate degree.

MC should be a springboard for students on the way to a four-year degree, as well as providing continuing education for residents. In this, MC is undeniably a positive influence in the community and the Permian Basin.

If we do have a concern, it is in regard to an issue raised by MC President Steve Thomas: "We do know that many of our students come to us underprepared, and part of our mission is to remediate them and get them ready for the college-level work."

The rising number of students who need remedial math, writing or reading classes before starting on their core curriculum is a big reason it takes students longer to graduate. It seems to us that is where our focus should be.

If we are not producing students who are college-ready after high school, then we have a problem. We should be working harder for students to be prepared for college course work than we are for getting them prepared for a high school graduation exams.

We see all kinds of studies with shocking statistics, but the truth still comes from looking at the details.

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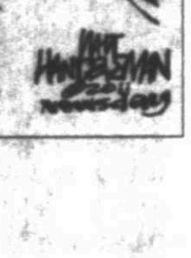
It's a tough time for Jews

■ Forget the tough love for our Middle East friend. What about tough talk for those neighbors causing choas in the region?



CAL THOMAS
Tribune Media Services

In a season in which there is very little "peace on Earth" and even less "good will towards men," it is a particularly tough time for Jews, who may be finding it more and more difficult to tell who their real friends are.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta fired an unusually harsh salvo across the Israelis bow. In a speech at a Brookings Institution forum, he urged Israel to get to the "damn table" for peace talks. It must have escaped Panetta's notice that the Palestinians are the ones refusing to come to the "damn table" unless their unacceptable demands are met. These include, depending on the day, the cessation of construction projects, even on pre-1967 Israeli land, the so-called "right of return" of "Palestinian refugees," a concession by Israel to re-draw its borders to 1967 lines — though such borders would be completely indefensible against an inevitable attack — and the re-division of Jerusalem, which Israel rightly sees as its capital. Meanwhile, the Palestinian side concedes almost nothing and fulfills none of its promises. Neither is it held accountable for its behavior.

Next, we heard from Howard Gutman, the U.S. ambassador to Belgium. In the ultimate case of blaming the victim, Gutman seemed to blame Israel for anti-Semitism when he spoke recently at an event hosted by the European Jewish Union. According to the Weekly Standard, Gutman said, "A distinction should be made between traditional anti-Semitism, which should be condemned and Muslim hatred for Jews, which stems from the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians."

If Gutman had studied history, he would know that Muslim hatred of Jews predates by many centuries Israel's 1948 rebirth as a Jewish state.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton took her own jabs at Israel. She was quoted in the English edition of the Arab publication, Al-Arabiya, as saying she fears for the future of democracy in Israel and the rights of women. Why? Because of a newspaper story that told of patterns in certain small Orthodox Israeli neighborhoods where women are required to be separate from men in certain situations, such as when taking public transportation.

In case Clinton hasn't noticed, gender segregation has long been practiced in religiously conservative Muslim societies. Events surrounding the so-called "Arab Spring" do not encourage confidence that women will have more rights and freedom under emerging regimes than they have had under previous dictatorships.

But it is not only Jews who are being singled out for verbal abuse and physical attacks.

In last month's Smithsonian magazine, there was a revealing story by Joshua Hammer about the stepped-up attacks by Egyptian Muslims against Coptic Christians, who trace their lineage to the time of Christ. In fact, notes Hammer, attacks against Coptic churches and individual Christians have increased since Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was deposed. Radical Muslims have little regard for other religious viewpoints. Arab-Israeli relations, or U.S.-Arab relations for that matter, are not likely to improve if the Muslim Brotherhood takes power in the coming election, though you won't be able to convince the U.S. State Department of that. In a November address to the Atlantic Council, William Taylor, the State Department's special coordinator for Middle East transitions pronounced, "What we need to do is judge people and parties and movements on what they do, not what they're called."

Really? The Muslim Brotherhood's motto is "Allah is our objective. The Prophet is our leader. The Qur'an is our law. Jihad is our way. Dying in the way of Allah is our highest hope." Hamas, whose charter calls for the destruction of Israel, grew out of the Muslim Brotherhood. Is that good enough to conclude for everyone, except Taylor, that the Muslim Brotherhood plans to behave very badly toward Israel?

No intelligent person who has observed the media attacks against Israel (not to mention the many wars, countless terrorist incidents and continuing threats directed at Israel's destruction) can credibly conclude that Israel's enemies are merely hyperbolic. Despite all the agreements, goodwill gestures and disproportionate prisoner exchanges in which Israel has released hundreds of alleged terrorists in exchange for a single captured Israeli soldier or civilian, there are people who continue to advance the fiction that only Israel stands in the way of peace.

It's past time to stop taking potshots at Israel and start directing "fire" at the prime suspects behind

From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore

NATION BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

LOS ANGELES

Man injured in Hollywood rampage still critical

A music industry executive who was shot by a rampaging gunman on a Hollywood street remains hospitalized in critical condition.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center spokeswoman Simi Singer says there was no change Monday in the condition of John Atterberry.

The 40-year-old executive, who's worked with the Spice Girls, Jessica Simpson and others, was shot in the face and upper body as he drove his Mercedes-Benz during Friday's random attack.

He was the only seriously injured victim of 26-year-old Tyler Brehm, who stalked the street firing nearly 20 bullets in the air and at cars as he screamed that he wanted to die. He was killed by police minutes later.

Brehm's ex-girlfriend has said she and Brehm had recently broken up. But police said they're still looking for a motive for the attack.

OHIO

Dems hope union victory spurs House takeover

COLUMBUS — Unionized teachers, local government officials and veterans are among public workers running for office in an effort by Ohio Democrats to take control of the state House after a successful fall campaign to repeal a collective bargaining overhaul championed by Gov. John Kasich and fellow Republicans.

Without the option of a gubernatorial recall like Wisconsin's, a 2012 takeover of the Ohio House, where Republicans hold a 19-seat advantage, is Democrats' best next step for capitalizing on voter anger over the union-limiting law.

Taking control of the Ohio Senate, which is about two-thirds Republican and has been GOP hands since 1985, is a long shot for Democrats. But House control would give them the ability to block bills supported by Senate Republicans and Kasich.

NEW YORK

Billy Joel gets portrait at Steinway Hall

The Piano Man is now officially a Steinway man.

A Billy Joel portrait has been unveiled in New York City at Steinway Hall, home to the famed piano maker Steinway & Sons.

Joel is one of only two living artists included in a collection featuring greats such as Hungarian composer Franz Liszt. He's the only non-classical performer.

The 62-year-old pop legend joked Monday about his painting's proximity to Vladimir Horowitz's, saying he doesn't know how crazy Horowitz is about having him that close.

Obama says Iraq won't stand alone

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Eager to put the long and divisive Iraq war to rest, President Barack Obama declared Monday "those days are over" with the last American troops heading home, but he pledged the U.S. would remain committed to the fledgling government they leave behind. He and Iraq's leader somberly saluted America's war dead at Arlington National Cemetery.

"A war is ending," the president said, standing with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki at the White House. U.S. troops are leaving "with honor and with their heads held high," said Obama, who strongly opposed the war as a candidate for the White House.

The last American troops are to be out of Iraq by Dec. 31. Thousands of others are still in Afghanistan.

Just 6,000 remain in Iraq, down from 170,000 at the war's peak in 2007.

The withdrawal will cap a war in which nearly 4,500 Americans were killed, roughly 32,000 were wounded, hundreds of billions of dollars were spent and the American political debate was consumed until economic woes brought attention back home.

Obama had already said weeks ago that he was pulling all troops by year's end, leaving his appearance with al-Maliki to focus instead on what's next — a relationship both leaders described as rich in shared interests, from education to oil, politics to security.

To the Iraqi people, who still face massive challenges in rebuilding a society ripped apart by nearly nine years of war, Obama said: "You will not stand alone."

Associated Press

President Barack Obama and Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki pause after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns on Monday at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

The United States, in fact, needs the help of Iraq in dealing with the volatile Middle East and two of neighbors in particular, Iran and Syria. In getting out of Iraq, Obama emphasized that "our strong presence in the Middle East endures" and the United States won't soften in its defense of its interests.

In the midst of a re-election run, Obama is using the war's end to both honor the military's sacrifice and to remind the nation the unpopular war is ending on his watch. He is to deliver his war-is-over message in TV interviews on Tuesday and then again on Wednesday in remarks to troops at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Obama opposed the war from the start and eventually rode that stand to the White House.

In a 2002 speech during the months before the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq began, when Obama was a U.S. senator from Illinois, he that "What I am opposed to is a dumb war. What I am opposed to is a rash war."

On Monday, speaking as a commander in chief, Obama put the focus on Iraq's future.

"I think history will judge the original decision to go into Iraq," Obama said. What's clear, he added, is that because of the huge sacrifices by American soldiers and civilians and the courage of the Iraqi people, "we have now achieved an Iraq that is self-governing, that is inclusive and that has enormous potential."

Said al-Maliki: "Anyone who observes the nature of the relationship between the two countries will say that the relationship will not end with the departure of the last American soldier."

Early signs of how Iraq may orient itself could come from how it handles troubles in Syria, where the United Nations says 4,000 people have been killed in a government crackdown. The crisis has exposed differences in the U.S. and Iraqi positions: Obama says Syrian President Bashar Assad must step down. Al-Maliki has not.

"I do not have the right to ask a president to abdicate," said al-Maliki. He suggested anew that Assad's removal could lead to a civil war in Syria that could spread across the region and be difficult to control, calling for some other solution that would "avoid all the evils and the dangers."

Obama said he and al-Maliki had "tactical disagreements" on Syria but shared the goals of free expression there without violence. Obama said he had no doubt that Iraq was acting in its own interests and not under the meddling influence of Iran.

Canada says Kyoto Protocol 'doesn't work,' pulls out

Associated Press

TORONTO — Canada's environment minister said Monday his country is pulling out of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change.

Peter Kent said that Canada is invoking its legal right to withdraw and said Kyoto doesn't represent the way forward for Canada or the world.

Canada, joined by Japan and Russia, said last year it will not accept new Kyoto commitments, but renouncing the accord is another setback to the treaty concluded with much fanfare in 1997. No nation has formally renounced the protocol until now.

The protocol, initially adopted in Kyoto, Japan, in 1997, is aimed at fighting global warming. Canada's previous Liberal government signed the accord but did little to implement it and Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government never embraced it.

Kent's announcement comes a day after marathon climate talks wrapped up in the South African port city of Durban.

Negotiators from nearly 200 countries agreed on a deal that sets the world on a path to sign a new climate treaty by 2015 to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires at the end of next year.

"The Kyoto Protocol does not cover the world's largest two emitters, United States and China, and therefore cannot work," Kent said. "It's now clear that Kyoto is not the path forward to a global solution to climate change. If anything it's an impediment."

Monday's announcement was not a surprise. Canada faced international criticism at the recent climate talks in South Africa amid reports it would pull out of Kyoto. Kent had said previously that signing the Kyoto Protocol on climate change was one of the previous government's biggest blunders.

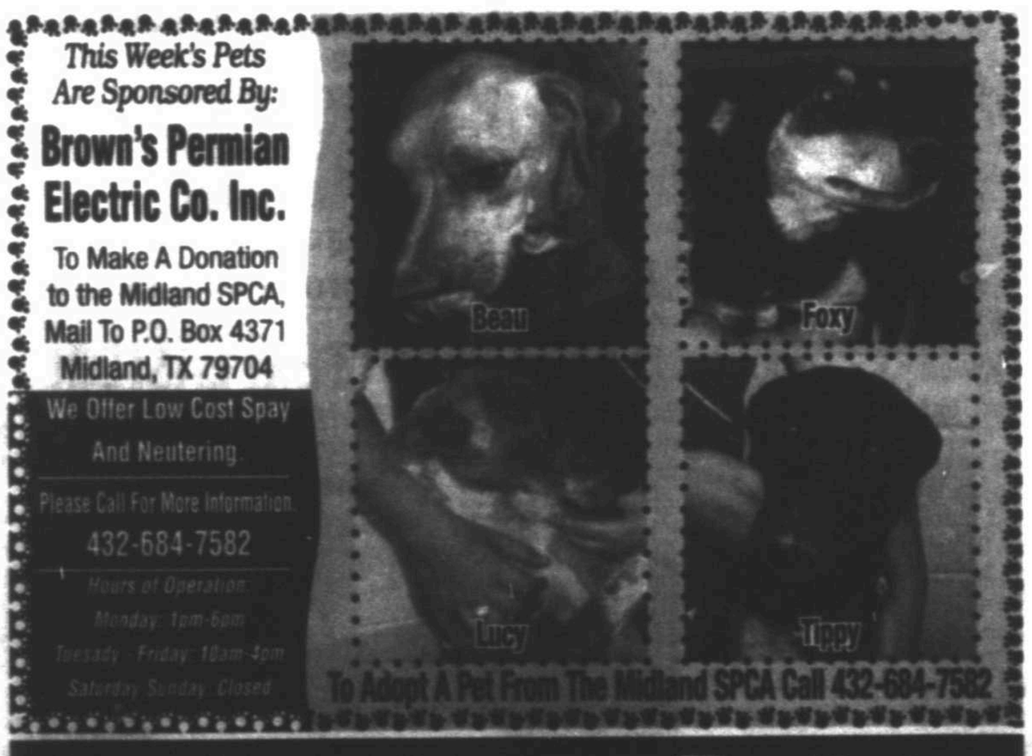
The accord requires countries to give a year's notice to withdraw. Kent said the move saves Canada $14 billion in penalties for not achieving Kyoto targets.

"To meet the targets under Kyoto for 2012 would be the equivalent of either removing every car, truck, ATV, tractor, ambulance, police car and vehicle of every kind from Canadian roads or closing down the entire farming and agriculture sector and cutting heat to every home, office, hospital, factory and building in Canada," Kent said.

Kent said the Durban agreement does represent a path forward. Durban's accord envisions a new treaty with binding targets for all countries to take effect in 2020.

"It allows us to continue to create jobs and growth in Canada," Kent said.

Harper's Conservative government is reluctant to hurt Canada's booming oil sands sector, which is the country's fastest growing source of greenhouse gases and a reason it has reneged on its Kyoto commitments.



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NATION BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON

Driver was texting in Missouri traffic pileup

A 19-year-old driver was texting just before his pickup, two school buses and a tractor truck collided in a deadly pileup on an interstate highway in Missouri last year, the National Transportation Safety Board said Monday.

Two people — the pickup driver and a 15-year-old student on one of the buses — were killed and 38 others were injured in the Aug. 5, 2010, accident on the interstate highway near Gray Summit, Mo. Nearly 50 students, mostly members of a high school band from St. James, Mo., were on the buses heading to the Six Flags St. Louis amusement park.

The chain of rear end collisions began when the pickup rammed the back of the tractor truck, the board said. The pickup was then rear-ended by a school bus, which was in turn struck by the second bus.

DETRIOT

Mother wins in criminal, custody cases

A Detroit mother won two legal victories Monday in cases involving the custody of her teenage daughter and criminal charges stemming from a standoff with police over the girl's medical care.

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Gregory Bill upheld a lower court ruling that there was not enough evidence to charge Maryanne Godboldo with resisting arrest and shooting a gun off inside her house. And Wayne County Juvenile Court Judge Lynne Pierce closed a custody case against Godboldo.

The Michigan Department of Human Services had removed Godboldo's daughter, Ariana, from their home earlier this year after Godboldo took the girl off Risperdal, a medication used to contain aggression and treat autism. Ariana was 13 at the time.

State officials had maintained that Ariana was at risk without the proper medication. Human Services spokesman Dave Akerly said Monday that officials were "assessing the basis" for Pierce's decision.

NEW YORK

Elizabeth Taylor's jewelry, art up for sale in NYC

The glittering gems, fabulous clothes, accessories and memorabilia amassed by Elizabeth Taylor are up for sale — but any would-be buyers had better have some deep pockets.

Taylor's necklaces, earrings, pendants and rings with diamonds, sapphires and other gems will go on auction at Christie's auction house in New York City starting today.

Among the high-profile items is a diamond bracelet given to the "National Velvet" and "Cleopatra" actress by Michael Jackson, with an estimated sale price of $30,000 to $50,000.

Lowe's stands by decision to pull ads

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Home improvement chain Lowe's plans to stick by its decision to yank its ads from a reality TV show about American Muslims amid growing debate over the move.

California Sen. Ted Lieu said Sunday that he is considering calling for a boycott of Lowe's Cos., sparking criticism of the chain from both inside and outside of the Muslim community.

On social media web site Twitter, actor Kal Penn began directing people to a petition on signon.org in support of the TLC cable network show, "All-American Muslim." By Monday afternoon, there were about 9,200 signatures.

U.S. Representative Keith Ellison of Minnesota, who is Muslim, released a statement Monday condemning Lowe's for choosing "to uphold the beliefs of a fringe hate group and not the creed of the First Amendment."

And Democratic state Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Detroit, the first Muslim elected to the Michigan Legislature, voiced her concern in a letter to Lowe's CEO Robert Niblock.

"I told them I was extremely disappointed that you give credibility to these hate groups," Tlaib said. "People of Muslim faith are being attacked. It's disappointing, disheartening."

Lowe's, based in Mooresville, N.C., said it stands by its statement on Sunday that it pulled the ads after the show became a "lightning rod for people to voice complaints from a variety of perspectives — political, social and otherwise."

"All-American Muslim," which premiered last month, chronicles the lives of five families who live in and near Dearborn, Mich., a Detroit suburb with a large Muslim and Arab-American population. It airs Sundays on TLC and ends its first season Jan. 8.

TLC spokeswoman Laurie Goldberg said the show has garnered a little over a million viewers per week.

"We stand behind the show 'All-American Muslim,'" she said. "We're happy the show has strong advertising support."

Lowe's stopped its commercials after a conservative group known as the Florida Family Association emailed companies to ask them to do so. The group said the program is "propaganda that riskily hides the Islamic agenda's clear and present danger to American liberties and traditional values."

Florida Family Association, based in Tampa, Fla., said that more than 60 companies that it emailed, from Amazon to McDonalds, pulled their ads. So far, Lowe's is the only major company to confirm that it pulled ads from the show.

Amazon, McDonald's and other advertisers did not immediately return calls from the Associated Press seeking comment.

Atlanta-based Home Depot, which was cited by Florida Family Association as a company that stopped advertising, said Monday that it never intended to run any ads during the show. But spokesman Stephen Holmes said one commercial ran "inadvertently and without our knowledge."

The controversy highlights the fine line companies walk when they select shows to advertise on.

Branding expert Laura Ries said Lowe's made two mistakes. The first was advertising during a show that could be construed as controversial. The second was pulling advertising too quickly.

"For a big national brand like Lowe's, they've always got to be incredibly careful when advertising during any show that could be deemed controversial," she said. "Will it seriously damage the brand in the long term? Probably not. But it is a serious punch in the stomach."

Overall, analysts said the furor is unlikely to damage Lowe's brand in the long term.

"For a company that generates $50 billion in annual revenue, I don't view this as something that will have a meaningful impact," said Morningstar analyst Peter Wahlstrom. "I'm hopeful this blows over and I'm certain management is as well."

Still, some worry Lowe's ad flap could hurt Muslims, particularly those among the 150,000 to 200,000 who live in the Detroit area. Earlier this year, Florida pastor Terry Jones held an anti-Islam rally outside Dearborn City Hall after being barred from protesting outside a Muslim mosque in the city.

The burning of a Quran in March at Jones' church in Florida led to a series of violent protests in Afghanistan that killed more than a dozen people.

"Metro Detroit and Dearborn have been the focal point of a number of anti-Muslim movements," said Dawud Walid, executive director of Council on American-Islamic Relations' Michigan chapter. "There are organized forces in our society that want to marginalize American Muslims to the point where they don't want to see any portrayals of Muslims that regular Americans can connect to."

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

Christmas Party.

Happy Holidays!

FROM THE

Midland Reporter-Telegram

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Attorney general Abbott endorses 2 primaries

Opponents say proposal would keep minorities from voting

By April Castro
Associated Press

AUSTIN — A proposal to split Texas' 2012 primaries into two elections — with some races decided in March and others in May — would have a devastating effect on minority voter strength, particularly if maps drawn by the Legislature are used, attorneys argued Monday.

Attorney General Greg Abbott has suggested a separate primary be held for legislative and congressional races to allow time for court fights over redistricting to be resolved.

Lawmakers redraw districts every 10 years to reflect changes in population reported by the census. Minority groups have sued in federal court in San Antonio, claiming the plan approved this year by the Republican-controlled Legislature didn't reflect the growth in the state's Hispanic and black populations.

With two unresolved court cases, the San Antonio judges issued temporary maps for the Legislature and U.S. House that could be used in the 2012 primary elections.

But last week the U.S. Supreme Court granted Abbott's request that it block their use. Abbott insisted the Legislature's maps rather than maps drawn by federal judges in San Antonio should be in place until the lawsuits are resolved. He suggested Texas delay legislative and congressional primaries until May, arguing that "legal, delayed elections are preferable to legally flawed, timely elections."

The Supreme Court said it will hear oral arguments on the matter Jan. 9.

Maintaining minority voting strength, as required by the 1965 Voting Rights Act, is at the center of the two lawsuits.

"When you move elections to unusual dates, everyone agrees it has a negative impact on minority turnout," said Nina Perales, an attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund. "Even the state's expert agrees, when you have an unusual election day, minority voters are less likely to turn out.

"We are very, very concerned that the election process has been thrown into chaos."

Although Abbott proposed separate primaries, his spokeswoman said Monday his office doesn't have a position on the timing of elections.

Minorities make up most of the population in 10 of Texas' 32 congressional districts. The court-drawn map would have increased that to 13 out of 36 districts, as Texas gains four seats because of population growth.

In the Texas House, 33 out of 150 districts are

Please see **PRIMARIES**/2B

MONDAYFOGJOG

Cindeka Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

Jose Anchondo jogs up East Ohio Avenue in downtown Midland en route to Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Anchondo began his run in Odessa.

Exchange student from Ukraine makes Midland first stop on hitchhiking tour

By Sara Higgins
Staff Writer

Anton Dudko stood on the side of the interstate somewhere in Fort Worth, watching car after car pass. In one hand, he held a makeshift cardboard sign saying "ODESSA" in thick black letters; his other arm stuck straight out from his body with his thumb in air.

He thought of whatever he could to pass the time. He wondered where the cars were going. He solved math problems in his head. Over his dark blond hair, he sported a red and black buffalo plaid hat with ear flaps, and around his neck was a small, green, plaid scarf from his homeland, almost 6,000 miles away.

Dudko, 19, is a foreign exchange student from Ukraine studying physics at the University of Louisiana at Monroe and is spending his winter break hitchhiking in the Southwest and along the West Coast. He hopes to reach Oregon by New Year's Eve and loop back around to Monroe, all within five weeks, and get back in

Please see **TOUR**/4B

Police arrest suspect in robbery of 85-year-old

From staff reports

A 28-year-old man was brought back to Midland County on Monday night after being arrested in San Angelo and charged with robbing an 85-year-old woman at gunpoint last month.

On Nov. 18, Midland County deputies alleged that Kevin Duane Thorp, of Cresson, was wearing a beige baseball cap and driving a dark-colored pickup when he approached the female victim at the stop sign at the intersection of State Highway 349 and East County Road 138.

Authorities said the woman had stopped at the stop sign and was waiting for traffic to clear so she could pull onto Highway 349. She told officers she was approached by the man when he asked her how to get to Odessa.

While she was trying to give him directions, Thorp allegedly pointed a pistol in the victim's face and asked for her purse. The woman gave over her purse and the man drove away.

Last week, the crime was featured as the crime of the week with the Midland Crime Stoppers and several tips were received, authorities said.

Investigators said Thorp bought a can of silver spray paint to paint over his black pickup but ran out of paint halfway through the job, an MCSO press release states.

Thorp was identified by name by a Crime Stoppers tip. The victim then positively identified him from a photo lineup, police said.

On Thursday, a warrant for aggravated robbery was issued for Thorp and he was arrested in San Angelo.

Two investigators were sent to the Tom Green County Jail on Monday afternoon to bring Thorp back to Midland.

Authorities said Thorp has confessed to the aggravated robbery charge.

He will be placed in the Midland County Detention Center to appear before a magistrate and await trial.

Pathway to homelessness as diverse as those displaced

SHANNA SISSOM
City Editor

Many years ago a photojournalist and I did a documentary on migratory homeless people by spending considerable time with more than a dozen of them. One common thread, as they would all share, is that the lifestyle was of their own choosing.

They lived mostly outdoors near truck stops, at various times of year hitching rides back and forth from Texas to Louisiana, where I found them. Sometimes they would "splurge" as one married couple put it — and get a cheap motel room for special occasions. Their anniversary was one of them.

The man would clean hubcaps for beer money. His wife sometimes would do other things, which bothered him, but not enough to find an alternative income.

On good days, they would watch the sunset near a desolate pond behind the truck stop, with supper in their bellies and a six-pack to share. On bad days they dealt with harsh elements and hunger.

There was another man with a master's degree who said he couldn't conform to the life his family expected of him. While his eyes didn't look like those of a junkie, we suspected he had addiction issues. But, in any case, he didn't want help to change.

They were non-conformists to the core. Everyone had a story, but the bond they shared for freedom from responsibilities and expectations of normal lives ran deep.

But, when I had occasion to speak briefly with a homeless crowd gathered near Midland's Salvation Army awaiting the 5 p.m. meal one recent cold afternoon, that didn't appear to be the case.

Please see **SISSOM**/2B

Midlander in race for State Board of Education seat

From staff reports

Midlander Steve Schafersman has announced he will run for the State Board of Education.

Schafersman

Republicans Marty Rowley and Anette Carlisle, both of Amarillo, also are running for the District 15 seat. Bob Craig, a Lubbock attorney, currently holds the position and has announced he will not seek re-election.

Midland County is new to District 15. Previously it was part of District 1, which is represented by Republican Carlos "Charlie" Garza, of El Paso.

Schafersman is a consulting scientist in petroleum and environmental industries. He holds a Ph.D. in geology from Rice University and has taught science courses in area high schools, at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, Miami University of Ohio, the University of Houston and Houston Community College.

Schafersman said he's been concerned about the state of education in Texas for decades and has spent much of his time, particularly in recent years, visiting Austin and advocating for education and curriculum standards.

"I have been lobbying the state board of education and the Legislature for over 30 years about public education, specifically science education," he said.

Schafersman said he's been concerned with the adoption of curriculum that's influenced by "radical" Republicans who advocate for things such as pro-creationist science curriculum.

In the coming term, Schafersman said the board will discuss social studies curriculum and whether health curriculum should include information about contraceptives, which he wants to be a part of.

Schafersman said when it comes to the Legislature, his main focus would be in advocating for appropriate funding. He said the Republican-dominated Legislature grossly under-funded education, which not only resulted in a shortage for school

Please see **BOARD**/2B

Obituaries

Lester E. Shirley

Lester E. Shirley, aged 89 was called home to his lord to join his beloved wife of 67 years, Lillian on Sunday December 11, 2011.
He was preceded in death by Lillian, his parents Jack and Leona Shirley and his sister Juanita Carter.

He was a Marine who proudly served his country in the Pacific Front as a member of Roosevelt's Raiders. He was a charter member of VFW Post 4149 in Midland. He was a faithful, active member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church since 1954. He worked as a refrigeration and microwave repair technician at Merriman Appliance for 20 years.

He and Lillian loved to fish and camp out in their R.V. and wintered in Arizona for many years. He was a loving, exceptional father and wonderful granddad and great-grandfather called "Pa-Pa" much loved by all.

He is survived by his daughters Linda James and husband Gary of Adrian Texas, daughter Evelyn and Charlie Corbett of Big Spring, Texas; four grandchildren, Mike James of Sydney Australia, Thomas James and wife Charla of Amarillo, Texas, Buddy Chancellor of Bemidji, Minnesota, Dawn Blashill of Minnesota; 4 great-grandchildren David, Kendra and Derrick Vigil of Minnesota, Kolby Chancellor of Colorado; and four great-great-grandchildren Elizabeth, Serinity and Jeremia Vigil of Minnesota and Chloe James of Amarillo, Texas.

The family requests memorials be made to Hospice of Midland (P.O. Box 2621, Midland, Texas 79702) or to the charity of your choice in his name

Graveside service will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 2:00pm at Resthaven Memorial Park. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 from 6-8 p.m. at Ellis Funeral Home.

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

Mark Dale Wilson

Mark Dale Wilson, 85, of Midland, TX, went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on December 9, 2011 at MMH. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 10:30 AM at First Presbyterian Church with Rev. Clark Ford and Dr. Steve Schorr officiating. Graveside services will be held at 1:00 PM Wednesday at Resthaven Memorial Park, where the Commemorative Air Force will fly over in honor of his Naval service during World War II.

Mark was born on the family farm on August 26, 1926 in Kennonsburg, Ohio to Henry and Daisy Wilson. In 1943, at the age of 17, he was accepted in the Naval V-12 Corps at Ohio State University where he was also a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He was transferred to the University of Pennsylvania for his junior and senior years by the Navy where he was commissioned as an Ensign upon graduation with a Bachelor of Science in Geology in 1947. He attained the rank of Lieutenant JG at the end of his naval career in the Naval Reserve during World War II. In 1949, he received a Master of Science in Geology from Ohio State and was a member of Alpha Epsilon, a graduate scientific fraternity.

He met the love of his life, Mary Lou Evans, at Ohio State University where he rented a room in her home one block from Ohio State University campus. They married on September 18, 1949 in Columbus, Ohio. On January 9, 1950, Mark and Mary Lou moved 2000 miles to Midland, TX where he worked for Shell Oil for three years. During this time, they welcomed their first three children, Scott Evans Wilson, on August 12, 1950, Todd Montgomery Wilson, on October 7, 1951, and Holly Lynn Wilson on September 16, 1952. In 1953, Shell transferred Mark and his family to Roswell, NM as a district geologist where they lived for 8 years. They welcomed their fourth child, Heather Gwen Wilson, on April 3, 1957. From 1961-1963, Shell transferred them back to Midland. In 1963, Mark resigned from Shell in Midland, and moved the family to Artesia, NM, where he worked as an independent geologist and had a close association with Yates Petroleum Corporation. Because of his extreme generosity he started his family corporation, Rio Pecos, in 1976 in Artesia, NM, and eventually employed three of his children and two sons-in-law. Along with his amazing geologic accomplishments, he was a very devout Christian, which was demonstrated by his incredible integrity and high moral values. Mark always put God first and loved his family with all of his heart. He devoted his life to his family and his zest for life gave him the nickname of the "Eternal Optimist." He was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Artesia, NM for 19 years and served as an elder and chairman of the board, and he was also a member of Memorial Christian Church in Midland and First Presbyterian Church in Midland.

Mark was a loyal supporter of the New Mexico Boys Ranch, the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale, Trinity School, and the Republican Party. He was a member of AAPG, AAPG Trustees Foundation, WTGS, SIPES, SEPM, and was president of the Midland Exchange Club in 1998. Mark received the Pioneer Award from the West Texas Geological Society in 2003.

Mark was an avid reader, loved nature, played golf and softball, loved fishing, hunting, bridge, poker, blackjack, and ping-pong. He loved New Mexico, Taos, and Santa Fe, and he owned a second home in Cloudcroft, New Mexico overlooking the golf course. He always said that Cloudcroft was his favorite place on earth. Mark was known by his grandchildren as "Two Daddies" and the name was surely befitting to him because almost everyone called him Two Daddies.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mary Lou Wilson, of Midland; his children, Scott Evans Wilson and his wife Cindy Wilson, of Austin, and their three children Ryan Wilson and his wife Robin Wilson of Telluride, Colorado, Shelby Wilson Strattman and her husband Kai Strattman of Houston, and Garrett Wilson and his wife Liz Wilson of Austin; Todd Montgomery Wilson and his wife Carol Wilson of Midland and their son Colton Wilson and his wife Kim Wilson and their daughter Lila Wilson of Austin; Holly Lynn Wilson Elliott and the late Roger Elliott of Midland and their children Carson Elliott of Santa Fe, NM, Forest Elliott Wallace and her husband Mike Wallace and their children Lynnley Wallace and Laney Wallace of Midland, Cody Elliott and his wife Lacy Elliott and their children Parker Elliott and Thomas Elliott of Midland; and Heather Gwen Wilson Echols and her husband John Echols of Midland and their children Tarabeth Echols of Arlington, John-Mark Echols of Midland, and Wilson Echols of Austin.

In place of flowers, please make donations to the Alzheimer's Association of Midland.

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

Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory
(432) 550-5800

Death Notices

Beth Mosley

Beth Mosley, 47, of Midland died on Friday, Dec. 9, in Midland.

Survived by husband, John Mosley; father, Robert Montgomery; sons, Jared Mosley and Matthew Mosley; Candace Fisher; brother, Bobby Montgomery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland.

Billye Goode

Billye Sue (Bender) Goode, 85, of Odessa, died on Sunday, Dec. 11, in Midland.

Services will be at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011 at the First United Methodist Church Odessa. Visitation will be at Sunset Funeral Home from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13. Graveside services at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, in the Eastland Cemetery in Eastland. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Funeral Home.

Survived by children, Julie (Jim) Brown, Annette (Don) McGee, Charles Goode; eight grandchildren; four great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews.

David Brownlow

David "Mason" Brownlow, 21, died on Friday, Dec. 9 in Lubbock.

Survived by parents, David and Lori Brownlow; sister, Kayley Brownlow (Daniel) Howard; maternal grandparents, Bill and Patsy Dubose; paternal grandparents, David and Oralia Brownlow; several uncles and aunts.; his great aunt; and great cousin; 2 cousins; and many family friends.

Celebration will be Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 4:00 p.m. at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home Chapel in Odessa. Visitation on Tuesday, Dec.13, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Funeral Home.

Donald Bauer

Donald Lloyd Bauer, 84, of Midland, died on Sunday Dec. 11, in Midland.

No services are planned at this time. The family requests memorials be directed to the Humane Society. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Funeral Home.

Geri Swindler

Geri Swindler died on Dec. 9.

Survived by children, Linda Watson (Bill), Mark (Kathy); two granddaughters, four great grandchildren; step grandchildren.

Services will be on Friday, Dec. 16, at 11 a.m. at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Funeral Home.

Joel Sauceda Luna, Jr.

Joel Sauceda Luna Jr., infant, died on Friday, Dec. 9.

Survived by, Joel Luna Sr. and Christina Sauceda; Paternal grandparents, Fernando and Arleen Luna, Maternal grandparents, Manuel and Viviana Sauceda; Paternal great grandparents, Efren and Irene Campolla and Margarito and Elena Lopez.

Service will be today at 11:00 a.m. at Serenity Memorial Gardens. Graveside services are under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home.

Larry Green

Larry Adrian Green, 64, died on Friday, Dec 9.

Services are pending at Thomas Funeral Home.

Myrtle Holder

Myrtle Ione "Granny" Holder, 89 died on Sunday, Dec. 11, in Odessa,

Survived by daughter, Francis Workman; sister, Sue Coleman; 3 grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild.

Services will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home Chapel. Burial to follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Visitation for friends and family will be 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Funeral Home.

Ray Tindall

Ray Tindall died on Sunday, Dec. 11.

Survived by wife, Era Tindall; children, Billy Tindall (Bonnie), Betty Ingram (JC); Judy Cabral (Charles); daughter-in-law, Libby Tindall; sister, Ruth Duncan (Leland); 15 grandchildren; 37 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren.

Visitation at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home on Tuesday, Dec. 13, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Funeral services will be on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 1 p.m., at The Sunset Memorial Chapel with. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Funeral Home.

Thomas Mollohan

Thomas Grant Mollohan, 40, of Odessa died onThursday, Dec. 8.

Survived by mother, Ollie Mollohan; siblings, Sharon Tammalavich, Danny Fluharty Doug Fluharty, and Mike Fluharty. Arrangements are under direction of American Heritage at West Texas Memorial Park.

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

Sissom

From 1B

One woman was happy to explain she had gotten a job earning livable wages, and when she gets her next paycheck, she'll be able to rent a place of her own.

There was a man who just had been released from prison, and was looking to start over and rebuild family relationships. He even had ambitions of starting a non-profit aimed at keeping families together.

Many of them had jobs, but weren't earning enough to pay rent in our city. At least one woman said she was 100 percent disabled.

There also was a man who appeared as if he should be in a nursing home. One woman had been ill, got behind a paycheck, and lost her apartment as a result.

They bond quickly, particularly when it's cold outside, one woman explained.

"We huddle together."

Again, these encounters were brief and only offered a small glimpse into their situations.

But during the holiday season many of us are inclined to reflect upon — and help if we can — the less fortunate among us.

It leaves me to ponder a point illustrated by the woman who missed a week of work and lost her place to live.

How many in our city are just one paycheck away from being homeless?

Shanna Sissom can be reached at shanna@mrt.com.

Board

From 1B

districts but also will prevent instruction materials from being updated and class sizes from remaining at sufficiently low levels.

He said on his website the State Board of Education and Texas Education Agency's practice of funding charter schools and virtual home schools that promote religious instruction need to be re-examined.

Schafersman previously ran for the State Board of Education in the 1980s while living in Houston.

Carlisle is a longtime school board trustee in Amarillo. Rowley is an attorney and mediator.

Primary elections are scheduled for March 6.

An order issued by the U.S. Supreme Court late Friday has the potential to postpone that date for at least some elections while the courts determine what redistricting maps will be used.

The State Board of Education map is not among those being debated.

Primaries

From 1B

considered predominantly Latino districts. The legislative plan would have reduced that number to 31, while the court plan would have increased it to 35, Perales said.

In the second of the court cases, a federal court in Washington has refused to approve the Legislature's redistricting plan without a trial, agreeing with the Justice Department that there was sufficient evidence to question whether it hurt minority representation.

Like other states with a history of racial discrimination, Texas can't implement new maps or other changes to voting practices without federal approval under the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The state asked a panel of federal judges in Washington to sign off on the maps, but they refused. That case is continuing.

Perales said minority voters could be further discouraged by a new law requiring Texas voters to show photo identification before casting a ballot. Texas is awaiting federal approval before the new law can be implemented.

"Certainly, anything layered on to an irregular election day, such as implementation of more restrictive voter identification, is only likely to make things worse," she said.

Democrats contend blacks, Hispanics, senior citizens and the poor are less likely to have required photo IDs and a series of new laws could lead to some voters being disenfranchised if they fail to carry an ID with them.

The redistricting case so far does not appear to raise the broader issue of whether Texas and other states should still be subject to the voting rights law.

Still, Matt Angle, a Democratic consultant who has been working with the plaintiffs in the litigation, said the Republican maps are a "shameful" attempt to erode the intent of the Voting Rights Act.

"The state of Texas can take great pride that LBJ passed the Voting Rights Act and you've got leaders a generation later in Texas, Republicans, who want to erase it," he said.

Abbott's office has argued the Legislature's original map accounts for minority growth and ensures they get adequate representation. But others say it doesn't.

"The whole atmosphere in Texas over the past few months has been a hostile environment for minority voters and minority participation," said Jose Garza, an attorney for the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, one of the plaintiffs in the case. "The situation we find ourselves in now is harmful to all voters, not just minority voters. It may have particular obstacle for minority voters, but this kind of chaos is not good for any voter, regardless of race and ethnicity."

Infamous Texas 7 gang leader loses appeal

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The U.S. Supreme Court has refused an appeal from George Rivas, the mastermind of the notorious "Texas 7" gang that engineered the biggest prison escape in the state's history.

The 41-year-old Rivas is set for execution Feb. 29 for gunning down a suburban Dallas police officer during a sporting goods store robbery on Christmas Eve 11 years ago. It occurred two weeks after he and six other convicts fled a South Texas prison.

Evidence showed Rivas planned the escape from the Connally Unit south of San Antonio while serving a life sentence for kidnapping, robbery and burglary.

Mexican troops kill 11 gunmen near Brownsville

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexican soldiers battled suspected drug cartel members just south of the Texas border, killing 11 gunmen, the army said Monday. One soldier was reported wounded.

The clash began when soldiers on patrol were fired on Saturday from a building in the city of Valle Hermoso, south of Brownsville, the Defense Department said in a news release.

The troops later seized the building, finding 11 dead gunmen and 73 rifles inside, it said. Two suspects were arrested.

The wounded soldier was taken to a hospital for treatment. His condition was unknown.

Both the Gulf and Zetas drug cartels operate in that area.

In Veracruz, a Gulf coast state bordering Tamaulipas to the south, unidentified assailants tossed a bomb into a building where a cockfight was being held early Sunday, state prosecutors said in a statement.

One man was killed and nine others slightly wounded, the statement said. The wounded were treated at hospitals and released.

State prosecutors did not specify what type of explosive was involved. They also did not say if they had arrested any suspects or uncovered a motive for the attack.

Federal prosecutors also announced Monday that a judge sentenced five former soldiers to 25-year prison terms for aiding a drug cartel.

The rare convictions occurred in the northern state of Sinaloa, home to the drug cartel of the same name.

The five included a major assigned to the military court system, three lieutenants and a sergeant. They were convicted of organized crime and assisting in drug trafficking.

Prosecutors said in a statement the former officers gave "strategic military information and protection" to Alfredo Beltran Leyva, who was a leader of the Beltran-Leyva drug cartel before he was arrested in January 2008.

Beltran Leyva and his brothers were allied with the Sinaloa cartel, but the two gangs split in part because of Alfredo's arrest.

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Perry going for broke in Iowa with 3 weeks to go

By Thomas Beaumont
Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — Seen just four months ago as conservatives' potential savior, Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry is fighting for his life in Iowa.

With three weeks until Iowa's leadoff caucuses, the Texas governor has retooled his message from the strict jobs focus he began with in August to one promoting him as a conservative outsider.

And he's doubled down on television advertising for the home stretch, having already spent more than $2 million in Iowa only to see his support remain in single digits.

ELECTION 2012

Perry's revamped charge to the Jan. 3 caucuses is a sign of the pressure he faces to revive his faltering national campaign. And it's far from clear whether it's working.

"I'll suggest to you, we've got to send an outsider to Washington, D.C., that is willing to stand up to all those special interests," Perry told more than 200 people crammed into a cozy coffee shop near Iowa State University Sunday.

It's a far cry from the "get America working again" theme he carried into the race in August, touting Texas' nation-leading job growth during his 10 years as governor. And it's not clear Perry is accustomed to the new approach.

Perry entered the race hoping to cobble together a coalition of economic, Christian and tea party conservatives. After a hot start with fundraising in September, however, he fumbled his way through a series of nationally televised debates.

Meanwhile, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, a former private sector executive, managed to hold on to the mantle of the party's chief economic candidate. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, the new national and Iowa leader of the GOP race, emerged as a candidate seen to have the most experience.

Perry has fallen back on his Christian faith, with two recent ads promoting Christian themes. He has also campaigned at forums sponsored by conservative evangelical groups.

Despite the difficulties, Perry has retained an upbeat demeanor on the campaign trail, and has been at ease meeting voters one-on-one.

It's an asset his campaign hopes to feature during the 14-day Iowa bus tour he begins in northwest Iowa on Wednesday, ahead of Thursday's debate in Sioux City, the final debate before the caucuses.

It's a chance for him to feature his courtly charm, as he did promoting the daily blend for sale at Cafi Diem in Ames. "It's a light little coffee," he said with a grin.

In a barbershop in Beaufort, S.C., last week, Perry was asked how he was coping with campaigning after undergoing back surgery last summer. "I've gotten my second wind," Perry replied, rocking in his black orthopedic shoes.

Whether Perry can claw his way back into contention is unclear.

Last week, he opened a new line of attack against Romney and Gingrich, pointing out their past support for requiring people to acquire health insurance, a mandate very unpopular with conservatives.

Perry began airing an ad in Iowa attacking the two for the position, and jabbed at both on the issue during Saturday's nationally televised debate from Des Moines. Perry's back-and-forth with Romney on the health care mandate produced its most memorable moment, when Romney tried to bet Perry $10,000 that the Texan had misstated his position.

Still, Perry has at times failed to press the attack on other Republicans.

On Sunday in Iowa, he failed to remind his audience that Romney and Gingrich had supported a key principle of the health care law President Barack Obama signed last year.

"I don't think you need to be forced to buy a product, a private product, like insurance. That is not government's role to demand that you buy that. That's one of the reasons I think this is an unconstitutional piece of legislation," Perry said, outlining the key objection conservatives have to Obama's chief policy accomplishment.

Ames Republican Bill McCall, who came to see Perry, said the candidate seemed hesitant to make the sale.

"He could have said: 'Did you see the debate last night? Well, then you know what I told Romney and Gingrich,'" said McCall, a retired engineer who is undecided and considering Perry. "But it's like he didn't know how to handle the audience. We were ready, and he couldn't close the deal."

Mexico marines catch founder of Zetas drug cartel

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexican marines captured a founding member of the brutal Zetas drug cartel Monday, the navy announced.

Marines arrested Raul Lucio Hernandez Lechuga in the city of Cordoba in the state of Veracruz, where the Zetas are fighting for control against a gang allied to the Sinaloa drug cartel, the navy said in a statement.

Hernandez, known as "Lucky," was the leader of the Zetas for the states of Veracruz, Puebla and Oaxaca, it said. The federal government had offered a 15 million-peso reward, about $1.2 million, for information leading to his arrest.

The Zetas organization was formed by a small group of elite soldiers based in Tamaulipas state, across the border from Texas, who deserted to work for the Gulf drug cartel in the 1990s.

The Zetas began gaining independence from the Gulf cartel after their then leader, Osiel Cardenas Guillen, was extradited to the U.S. in 2006. They finally split from their former bosses last year, setting off bloody fights throughout Mexico as they seek to expand south.

The navy didn't say if Hernandez was a soldier when he joined the Zetas in the 1990s or give any other details about him.

Earlier Monday, the Mexican army said its soldiers battled suspected drug cartel members just south of the Texas border, killing 11 gunmen. One soldier was reported wounded.

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TUESDAY PRIME TIME — DECEMBER 13, 2011

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

						6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Last Man St (N)	Man Up! "Fear" (N)	The Middle	Suburgatory	Body of Proof "Missing"		KMID News	(:35) News Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live	
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Newborn King" (N)	NCIS: Los Angeles "Higher Power" (N)			Unforgettable "Spirited Away" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) Late5 Barbara Walters, Wild Flag (N)		(:35) Late5.
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	Sein. "The Maid"	Seinf. "The Conversion"	90210 "Up in Smoke"		Ringer "Shut Up and Eat Your Bologna"		Cops	'Til Death	King of Queens	South Park	SouthPk "Raisins"	Roseanne
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Two and Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Glee "Extraordinary Merry Christmas" (N)		The Simpsons		Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Loves Ray	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Art"		
KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	Mark Blitz	Cardoza Moore	Update News	Rico Cortes	Light of the Southwest				Jean-Claude	Newdle-ginning	Ministerios Nueva Vida	
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	News-West 9	Be Millionaire	William and Kate (N)		The Biggest Loser The winner is revealed. (SF) (N)				News-West 9	(:35) Jay Leno Carvey, Lenny Kravitz	Dana (:35) LateNight	
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Mormon Choir (N)		L.A. Holiday Celebration		Christmas on the Trail		Charlie Rose		BBC News	Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Cuando me enamoro		Una familia con suerte		La fuerza del destino		Aquí y ahora		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Hasta que el dinero nos separe	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Office	30 Rock	Case "The Sleepover"		Cold Case		My News	Earl	30 Rock	Sunny	Scrubs	Access H.
FLIX	340	65		165		(5:30) ★★ Camille		(:05) ★★★★ Gray Lensing				(:45) ★★★★ Harlan County, USA				★★ The Society of Objects	
HBO	300	68	14	14		Movie	(:45) Strangers No More		★★ Hot Pursuit (L) Cont. Owen Wilson.				Enlight	Boardwalk	Empire	★★★ Unknown	
HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	(5:15) ★ Crazy 2 L...		Lady Gaga Born This (TV-14) Jude Law.				Enlight	Real Sports		Boxing WCB		
HBO3	304	70	16	102		(5:45) ★ Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps				★★★ The Lovely Bones (PG-13) Rachel Weisz.						★ Charlie St. Cloud Zac Efron.	
MAX	380	71	17	120	24	(5:00) ★ Another 48 H...		(:15) ★★ The Rage: Carrie 2 Emily Bett R.				★★★★ Unstoppable				(:45) Lingerie "Sheer Delight"	
MAX2	382	72	18	122		(5:15) ★★★ Pulp Fiction John Travolta.				★★ Little Fockers Ben Stiller.				(:45) ★ Fancy Cords vs. Lusty ...		★★★ Identity	
PLEX			96			(5:00) ★★ Dirty Mary, Crazy Larry				★ Let It Be Mr. Perry King.				(:45) ★ The Truth About Cats ...		(:20) ★ The Break...	
SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	(5:35) ★ The Sum of ...		Shameless		Shameless		Dexter		Homeland "The Vest"		Gigolos	Old Porn
TMC	336	67	22	155	26	(5:30) ★ Deadline		★ Chernobyl (14) Paul Anton Johnson.				★★★★ Wild Cherry				★★ Johnny Was Vivian Jones.	
A&E	27	32	28	35	47	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars
AMC	40	21	23	42	51	(4:30) ★★★ Ghost		★★★★ White Christmas (54, Mus) Bing Crosby.				(:45) ★★★★ White Christmas (54, Mus) Bing Crosby.					
BET	58	26		40		(5:00) 106 & Park		★★ Stomp the Yard Columbus Short.				Reed (N)	Reed (N)	Reed	Reed	Wendy Williams	
BRAVO	65	63		41		Chef Roblé & Co.		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atl. (N)		Housewives Atl. (N)		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta	
CNBC	46	45		39	72	The Kudlow Report		Trash Inc.		60 Minutes		Greed "9/11 Fraud"		Mad Money		60 Minutes	
CNN	43	24	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Piers Morgan		A. Cooper 360		OutFront		Piers Morgan	
DISC	50	20	31	24	42	Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Swamp Loggers		Dirty Jobs		Swamp Loggers	
DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	Wizards	Shake Up	Austin	★★ Charlie and the Chocolate Factory				Shake Up	Austin	GoodLuck	Wizards	Wizards
ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball Tennessee vs. Rutgers (L)				NCAA Basketball C. Mich./Min. (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball Boston U. vs Villanova (L)				NBA Preview (L)		SportsCenter (N)		K Mayne	K Mayne	Year Quarterback	
FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	Cat Hat	Dr. Seuss	★★★★ Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas.				★★★★ Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas.					
FNC	45	58	53	23	55	FOX Report		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity		On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity	
FOOD	64	59	27	68	54	Cupcake Wars		Cupcake Wars		Chopped		Chopped (N)		Chopped		Chopped	
FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	NHL Hockey Dallas Stars vs. New York Rangers Site: Madison Square Garden -- New York City, N.Y. (L)					Stars Live (L)	H.S. Football Classics 2010 Pearland vs. Trinity				WPT Poker L.A. Classic	
FX	31	31	59	64	69	2½Men	Two 1/2...	★★ Alvin and the Chipmunks Jason Lee.				★★ Alvin and the Chipmunks Jason Lee.				★ America's Swe...	
HALLMARK	54	49	58		34	(5:00) ★ The Christ...		★ Forever Mr. Kringle Christine Taylor.				★ A Holiday Engagement Haylie Duff.				Frasier	Frasier
HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	House	HouseH	My Place	My House	Property	Property	HouseH	House	House	Property	Property	Property
HISTORY	71	62	29	50	43	Restore	Restore	Restore	Restore	Proving God				Modern Marvels		Restore	Restore
LIFETIME	28	25	25	28	48	Wife Swap "Cooper/Kukta"		Wife Swap		Supernanny "The Denton Family"		1BornEverMin "The Heart to Survive" (N)		OneBorn "The Rocky Road to Parenthood"		Wife Swap	
MSNBC	47	51		49	73	Hardball		The Ed Show		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		The Ed Show		Rachel Maddow	
NICK	55	34	39	34	37	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	'70s	'70s	G. Lopez	G. Lopez	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	22	55	53	58	Auction	Auction	Auction	Auction	Auction	Auction	Flip Men	Flip Men	Auction	Auction	Auction	Auction
SYFY	66	64	41	57	67	★★★★ Underworld: Evolution				★★ Underworld: Rise of the Lycans				★★★★ War Wolves Michael Worth.			
TBS	25	11	44	66	41	Seinfeld	Seinfeld "The Susie"	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Best of Conan		Conan Guests Nick Vatterott		Office "PDA"	The Office
TCM	41	61	24	63	66	(5:00) ★ Madame Bo...		★ The Lemon Drop Kid (1951)				(:45) ★★★ Fitzwilly Dick Van Dyke.			(:45) ★★ The Great Rupert		
TELE	20	8	10	20		Caso cerrado		Maid en Manhattan		Flor salvaje		La casa de al lado		Noticiero	Sin senos no paraiso	Decision	
TLC	51	33	32	38	52	What Not to Wear "Leanne"		What Not to Wear "Linda"		What Not to Wear "Tenessa"		What Not to Wear "Bryan and LT"		What Not to Wear "Linda"		What Not to Wear "Tenessa"	
TNT	24	23	40	26	50	Bones "The Soldier on the Grave"		Bones "The Male in the Mail"		★ Good Morning, Killer (2011, Mystery) Cole Hauser, Catherine Bell. (P)				Rizzoli "Seventeen Ain't So Sweet"		★ Good Morning, Killer Catherine Bell.	
TVLAND	49	48	35	54	35	Married	Married	Home I.	Home I.	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Hot In	The Exes	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	30	42	27	49	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Hell"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Crush"		WWE Tribute to the Troops WWE superstars perform for the troops in Iraq.				Psych "The Tao of Gus"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Protection"	
VERSUS	38	39				Adventure Sports		AdvSprt	NHL Live!	NHL Hockey San Jose Sharks vs. Colorado Avalanche (L)					NHL Live!	NHL Overtime (L)	
WGN	19	18				America's Funniest Home Videos		Mother "Benefits"	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	WGN News at Nine		30 Rock	Scrubs	Scrubs	Always Sunny

Agent sues liquor board for harassment

By Danny Robbins
Associated Press

DALLAS — A female agent with Texas' liquor control board has filed a federal lawsuit claiming she was repeatedly harassed by male colleagues, including behavior that was physically demeaning and verbally abusive, in a case that raises more questions about the culture at the agency.

Leigh Sosebee's lawsuit against the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, which regulates alcohol sales, is the latest development in a case agency records show already has resulted in disciplinary action against six officers and agents, four of whom lost their jobs.

The lawsuit, filed in September in Dallas, follows a series of episodes that cast an unfavorable light on the agency, including a raid at a gay bar that left a patron severely injured and the sexual assault of 16-year-old girl who was participating in a commission sting operation.

Sosebee, 28, seeks unspecified damages from the agency, where she has worked since 2007, for sexual harassment and retaliation she claims started in the Dallas office and continued even after she aired her complaints and was allowed to work elsewhere.

"If I really thought things had changed, it wouldn't have come to this," she said in an interview.

The complaint claims male co-workers called Sosebee offensive and derogatory names and vandalized her desk and computer. One refused to help her subdue a combative suspect, according to the lawsuit

The lawsuit also says a male sergeant sent an inappropriate text about Sosebee and made her do pushups and sit ups as punishment for mistakes, a form of discipline that wasn't imposed on others in his command.

TABC spokeswoman Carolyn Beck said the agency's administrator, Alan Steen, couldn't comment on Sosebee's claims because they are part of a pending lawsuit.

Agency records recently obtained by the Associated Press show most of the claims in the lawsuit were supported by internal affairs investigations last year. The disciplinary action immediately followed, the records show.

The sergeant who allegedly required Sosebee to do pushups and sit ups was fired. Three agents also were terminated, but they later won appeals that allowed them to resign instead. Two others, a sergeant and an agent, received suspensions.

Just two years ago, the TABC fired two agents and an officer and changed numerous policies after a raid at a Fort Worth gay bar, the Rainbow Lounge, resulted in a patron being hospitalized for head trauma and stirred a national controversy.

The commission that year also revised how it conducts sting operations aimed at catching businesses serving alcohol to minors when an agent based in Bastrop was arrested for sexually assaulting a teen working with him. The agent, who was fired immediately after his arrest, has since pleaded guilty and been sentenced to 30 years in prison.

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LEVEL

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Yesterday's Answer: ASP, SNAKE, COBRA

12.13

© Bananagrams, Inc. by Rory Resnick, Jonathan Feinberg, Steven Wagner

TOUR

From 1B

time for the spring semester.

Dudko made the leg of his journey to Midland on Saturday after four young men who said they were students at Midland Christian School picked him up in Fort Worth. They quickly became friends, discussing Chuck Norris' "superpowers" over cheeseburgers at Wendy's in Sweetwater.

The students invited Dudko to a party celebrating their school's victory at the TAPPS Division II State championship football game, and "the Ukraine guy in the hat" became an instant celebrity. He soaked in the Texan culture, learning the two-step and how to play football — the "American" kind — on Xbox 360. Midland was the only place Dudko stayed overnight in Texas before heading out to Roswell, N.M., Monday morning.

"I like this kind of exploration," said Dudko, who is from Ukraine's capital city, Kiev. "I wanted to see country life."

Dudko's primary tool in hitchhiking is couchsurfing.org, a website where users can either find or offer hospitality for free. Both hosts and travelers use references to build their credibility. The website claims to have 3.5 million CouchSurfers from 250 unique countries or territories. Dudko used the site to contact people in areas he'd be passing through in hopes that he could find places to sleep along the way. Through his experience, he hopes to promote "free travel" — not so much in a monetary sense, he said, but in allowing the freedom to interact with random people along the way.

"You need to explore, even in the 21st century," he said. "It has value. I will come home and I will have something unique to tell my friends."

The hitchhiker is a sort of eternal optimist. Standing in frost-covered grass, he gives thanks it's not raining. As drivers speed past him, honking their horns or flashing their lights, he smiles; it means he's being noticed.

"It's somewhat like fishing," he said. "I like to fish with my brother. You get up early, go and wait until something happens."

Winter's lower temperatures not only pose a challenge to the hitchhiker, but also shorter days. Though he covered 10 hours worth of driving in one day on his way to Midland, he'll split up his traveling to only three to four hours per day so he has plenty of time to get a ride during daylight hours. If he is unsure about the character of the person offering him a ride, he said he politely turns down the invitation.

"A lot of people told me before I went, 'It's dangerous — you need to watch out,'" he said. "I know who to trust; I think I have good judgment. I'd rather trust someone a little more than make no friends."

His parents were like many others at first, Dudko said, and were nervous to see their son depend on strangers for travel. They've started warming up to the idea though, he said, after he gained experience hitchhiking around Ukraine, Belarus and Germany.

Dudko scoured Internet forums reading about hitchhiking laws across the U.S., and decided the West Coast was the most hitchhiker-friendly. Hitchhiking isn't illegal in many states, he said, but many have laws about where people can stand on the roads and how they can solicit a ride. He keeps a list of phone numbers and addresses in case of an emergency, and carries a card and spare cash for food, warmer clothes and postcards to send to his girlfriend in Belarus along the way.

Because of the public transportation in his hometown, Dudko doesn't know how to drive a car. He's a minimalist at heart; a small hiking backpack serves as his luggage on the trip. His basic necessities include a waterproof jacket, hiking boots, multiple pairs of gloves, pieces of cardboard and black markers for his signs, and an old Nokia cellphone he brought from Ukraine. He left Monroe on Saturday with two green apples for the trip. He pulled a large road atlas out of the small backpack to outline the route he would take back to Louisiana.

"I just love maps," he said excitedly under his breath as he flipped through the pages. In those colorful, squiggly lines, he saw endless possibilities. "It's just an irrational affection."

As he expects to stay busy with traveling and meeting new friends, Dudko keeps only the music on his phone and a tattered copy of Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" in his backpack for entertainment. He hasn't started the book yet.

"It's good that I came to the U.S. and I can study in the university and have this college community around me, but that's not everything about America," he said. "It's just getting to know a new country — it's about talking with people."

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

Online:
Follow Anton's travels by visiting his website at missionhitchhikable.net, following@hitchhikable on Twitter or liking Mission Hitchhikable on Facebook.

Courtesy photo

Anton Dudko, an exchange student from Ukraine studying physics at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, is spending his winter break hitchhiking in the Southwest and along the West Coast.

FELONY ARRESTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Ricardo A Barrientos Jr., 20, of Midland, was arrested Saturday by Midland police on a charge of possession of a controlled substance between 4 and 200 grams.

Joshua Lopez, 19, of Midland, was arrested Friday by Midland police on charges of tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair and possession of a controlled substance between 1 and 4 grams.

Jaime L. Ramirez, 23, of Midland, was arrested Saturday by Department of Public Safety troopers on charges of tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair and possession of a controlled substance between 200 and 400 grams.

John P. Roberts, 40, of Garden City, was arrested Saturday by Midland County deputies on a third or more charge of driving while intoxicated.

Andrew K. Sommers, 28, of Midland, was arrested Saturday by Midland police on a charge of credit or debit card abuse.

Jeffery Garza, 42, of Midland, was arrested Sunday by Midland police on a charge of deadly conduct discharge of a firearm.

Gerardo Alonso Hernandez, 22, of Midland, was arrested Sunday by Midland County deputies on a charge of evading arrest and/or detention with a vehicle.

Source: Midland County Sheriff's Office

Supreme Court upholds death for triple murderer

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the death sentence of a convicted triple murderer who won a new punishment trial after coming within a day of execution eight years ago.

Mark Robertson now has been on death row for more than 20 years for the 1989 slaying of 81-year-old Edna Brau at her Dallas home. He also has two life terms for killing Brau's grandson and a convenience store clerk.

In 2003, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals halted his scheduled execution after lawyers argued jurors should have been allowed to consider his troubled childhood when they decided in 1991 on the death penalty.

Another jury in 2009 again voted to condemn him. The Monday ruling caps the 43-year-old Robertson's direct appeal from that trial, but other appeals are likely.

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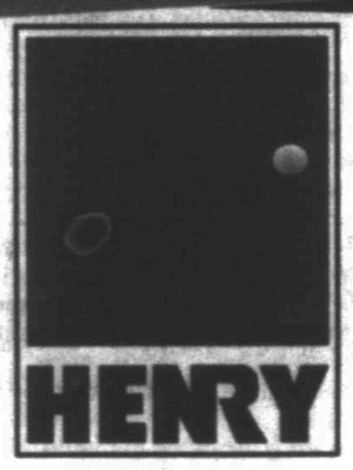

HENRY

Jude 1:21

Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Coal plant cuts deal with environmentalists

Associated Press

HOUSTON — A coal-fired power plant set to open next year in Texas has agreed to cut mercury and smog-causing emissions and invest in clean energy projects as part of a legal settlement with environmental groups.

Sierra Club, Public Citizen and the Sandy Creek Energy Station in Riesel filed a consent decree Monday in federal court. The environmental groups say the deal ends any outstanding legal matters between the parties.

According to the agreement, Sandy Creek will slash its emissions and invest $400,000 in clean energy projects, including the installation of solar panels on a local school.

The Sandy Creek facility near Waco is one of nine in various stages of development. Texas already has 19 coal-fired plants, more than any state. Texas leads the nation in greenhouse gas pollution.

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BRASELTON

From 6B

contributes toward his/her own education provides a surprising statistic. In 1994, during a Finance of Higher Education course, I learned that the actual money a student contributed toward his college education was 16 percent. Today, some 17 years later, most Texas students contribute 29 percent toward the total cost of their higher education. Hold on though — because of the generosity of so many folks in this town and outside sources, MC students pay approximately 20 percent of the cost of their education. Hard to believe, but true. MC is not running with the pack.

Now I understand that there is some mythological (OK, not entirely) view out there that a degree from an Ivy League school is superior to a local education (the term is value-added to account for the boost one may get from having a prestigious degree) but think about it. One can go to a community college for a fraction of the cost of a big university, then transfer to a big school and graduate with most folks being none the wiser. Students also can CLEP out of all those subjects aced in high school and get college credit for a fraction of the cost of tuition.

Oddly, the television remote may indicate that a community college education is equal to an eastern education. Recently, a Ph.D. engineer from MIT who was interviewed on CNBC said he wasn't smart enough to read the engineering language necessary to program his remote for his television. So there you have it — the great educational equalizer: the television remote.

Finally, the truth is that college is a culture all its own. It always has been, and it takes time for most youngsters to adjust to the new freedom and its corollary: responsibility. Additionally, it takes time to adjust to college advising, to figure out the college catalog, to master time and money management and to write something more than a five-paragraph essay. Some students do not succeed at first. As a former associate director for Admissions at West Texas A&M University and as a professor for 20 years, I see (and have seen) many transcripts of students who have wasted several semesters of time and money just learning the college culture of responsibility. Those students invariably were and are embarrassed by their non-achievement, but my response to those failures is encouragement to get it right in the do-over. Meanwhile, college debt is piling up.

The serious part of this article is really about getting a reality check about debt and education. It is true that college costs have gone up, so maybe it is time to rethink educational goals that are in line with the economic reality of education in 2011. Homework is involved. So the message is simply this: plan for college by comparing costs (apples to apples) of housing, of tuition and fees. Seriously consider CLEPping hours and start thinking positively about the benefits of transferring from a student-friendly college to a bigger institution.

Over the Thanksgiving holiday I heard this funny bit of wisdom. "A man was calmly holding his cat in his lap and stroking it from the tail forward toward its head. A visitor noted that the cat would be happier if the man stroked the cat from its head to its tail — the way the fur naturally grows. The man continued stroking the cat back to front and said, 'If the cat doesn't like it, he can turn around,'"

If you don't want the debt, be smart; join the 13 million students already in community colleges nationwide. Occupy a desk at Midland College, your college.

At the regional robotics competition Saturday in Andrews, four Midland ISD teams advanced to state. Among them are Goddard Junior High School's Team Brace Face, which won third place Division 2 Inventions. Members are Holt Wood, from left, Paxton Helting, Turner Phillips and Colton Sandell. The sponsor is David Sites.

Robotics teams going to state

San Jacinto Junior High team FFA-Fabulous Farming Automotons won second Place Division 2 Inventions. Members are Isaiah Jones, from left, Megan Jolley, Alec Almuina and Anna Higgins, not pictured. Sponsor is Curt Cowdrey.

Clayton Lawrence, from left, Alyson Whitsell and Daycee Bushman, are members of the Abell Junior High School team, Epic Einstein, that won second place Division 2 Arena. Barbara Terrazas is the sponsor.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Today

Midland Christian School all-bands Christmas concert, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

■ Greenwood ISD open house, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Distance Learning Center, for staff and community.

■ Holiday Evening at Midland College, activities include chili supper ($4 a bowl), 5:15 p.m., Allison Fine Arts Building; holiday music performed by harpist Rick Rasura, Dollye Neal Chapel; lighting of the Hodge Carillon Tower and caroling; and "Sounds of Christmas" concert, Allison Fine Arts Building.

Christmas holiday

Midland ISD, Greenwood ISD, Trinity School, Midland Christian School, Midland Academy Charter School: Dec. 19-Jan. 2

Midland Classical Academy: Dec.12-Jan. 2 (upper school); Dec. 9-Jan. 3 (grammar school)

Jan. 16

MLK Day: Midland ISD, Midland Christian School, Trinity School

March 12-19, 2012

Spring break

March 22

Cowan Performing Arts Series presents The 3 Browns —"classical music's First Family of Piano Virtuosos" — 7 p.m., Chaparral Center

April 24

Davidson Distinguished Lecture Series presents Fareed Zakaria, foreign policy adviser, columnist and television host, 7 p.m., Chaparral Center

Graduations

Midland High School and Lee High School, June 2

Greenwood High School, May 25

Trinity School, May 25

Midland Christian School, May 25

Midland Classical Academy, May 5

Midland College, May 11

University of Texas of the Permian Basin, May 12

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Education

Meredith Moriak/Reporter-Telegram

Attorney Darian Butler questions detective Jane Vega about an arrest warrant during mock trial proceedings Saturday at the YMCA Youth and Government Region 1 competition. Saturday's conference prepared students from Lee and Early College high schools to attend a state tournament in Austin this spring.

YMCA program teaches students about legal, legislative processes

■ Youth and Government includes mock trials, legislative committee work.

By Meredith Moriak
Staff Writer

Court was in session Saturday as members of the Midland YMCA Youth and Government presented their case on whether refusing medical care for a child based on religious beliefs is negligence.

Through the mock trial, students from Lee and Early College high schools were able to practice their roles as defense and prosecution and prepare for this spring's statewide Youth and Government conference where they'll be among 1,000 high school students.

The YMCA-based program aims to teach high school students about the legislative system in Austin and allows students to practice democracy through legislative committees, mock trial court, state affairs forums and media groups.

ECHS junior Darian Butler said she's enjoyed participating in Youth and Government, specifically mock trial, which has allowed her to tap into her passion for acting and teach her about the court system.

Unaware of whether they'll have to assume the role as prosecution or defense, Butler said mock trial is a high-pressure event that keeps her on her toes.

By having practicing attorneys help with the preparation and critique their cases, Butler said she's learned about the differences between the mock system and true legal system.

As a student participating in the legislative committee, Lee senior Marissa Kent wrote and proposed bills that were questioned and argued on the floor.

While it can get intense during the question-and-debate process, Kent said that's exactly what she loves about YG, especially hearing the different viewpoints of those who participate.

By working on the legislative committee, Lee sophomore Karishma Jhakor said she's gained a better understanding of state politics.

"It's given me an outlook on how things are decided for our state," she said.

YG teaches students to speak on their feet, be self-confident and aware of what's going on in the world, said Jan Van Eman, the district coordinator.

"I've seen students who start as freshmen and can't talk in front of people at all," said Van Eman, a retired school teacher. "By the time they're seniors, they can't shut up and are wonderful at public speaking."

The district conference prepares students to debate on the floors of the Senate chamber and House of Representatives during the state conference, something all students said they really enjoy.

"This is our learning session so they all know how to act and dress," Van Eman said. "One wrong thing can get them disqualified at state."

YG is an extracurricular program that typically meets once or twice a month during lunch or after school, said LHS sponsor Janet Reed.

Van Eman said she'd like to have organizations at the freshman high schools and Midland High, but hasn't found a teacher willing to sponsor it.

Allie Stahlman, ECHS junior, said she's not that interested in government and initially joined because of her friends. However, she said she's learned a lot about how the state works that will help her in any career field.

The organization wants to help students increase their political awareness and understanding, experience civic engagement, learn the meaning of social interaction through actual experience in government and practice democracy, according to its website.

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

EDUCATIONINBRIEF

FROM STAFFREPORTS

Long choir to present Christmas show

Long Elementary School choir is to present "Christmas … A Time For Joy," at several Midland locations today.

Choir teacher Kathy Dowell said students have worked diligently to prepare for the event. They audition in order to be members of the choir, and attend after-school rehearsals each Monday.

The performances are:

■ 11 a.m., Helen Greathouse Building of Manor Park, 2208 N. Loop 250 West

■ 11:45 a.m., Hospice of Midland, 911 West Texas Ave.

■ 1:30 p.m., Polo Park Estates, 2100 Castleford Road

■ 2:15 p.m., DCP Midstream LLC (Long Elementary Partner In Education), 10 Desta Drive.

MISD schools receive AVID honors

All of Midland ISD secondary schools were named AVID National Certified Schools for the 2010-2011 school year.

The honor is conveyed as a result of successful implementation of the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program, which offers students the tools and strategies to succeed in school and in higher education and beyond. Students interested in AVID must complete an application and participate in an interview process.

Selected students may enroll in AVID from eighth grade through their senior years. The program was first implemented in MISD in the 2007-2008 school year.

Susan Zachary, MISD director of Advanced Academics, said AVID has worked well for MISD students at every school implementation site.

"AVID builds strong study skills as well as note-taking and organizational skills," she said. "The program incorporates the most advantageous strategies to help students do well in school and to prepare them be college ready."

Library to host gaming sessions

Library youth services department is to host holiday gaming 2-4 p.m. Monday through Wednesday at the upstairs meeting room.

Kids may bring their lunches while they play games.

For more information, call 688-4323.

MC to extend hours for some services

Midland College will extend its Tuesday hours to 8 p.m., effective Jan. 3.

Services that will be available include the testing center, admissions, registrar, student advising and financial aid. These services are located in the Scharbauer Student Center.

Correction

The answer to the Algebra I question in Mark LaCroix's column was C.

The wrong answer was provided in the column that appeared on the Dec. 6 Education page.

The Reporter-Telegram regrets the error.

MAKINGTHEGRADE

FROM STAFFREPORTS

Courtesy photo

A team from San Jacinto Junior High School won first place Division 2 Invention at Saturday's regional robotics competition in Andrews. Team members are Bryson Keith, from left, Kalee Geron, Miriam Osterlund and Keaton Fricker. The sponsor was Curt Cowdrey, back. This team, as well as three others from Midland ISD, advanced to the state contest, which is in April. Seventeen teams, involving 112 students from San Jacinto, Goddard and Abell junior high schools, Washington Math and Science Institute and Pease Communication and Technology Academy participated at Saturday's event. Photos of the other state-bound teams/5B

Locklar

Midland High School senior **Caitlyn Locklar** has been honored by the Midland Rotary Club. She is the daughter of Leanne and Burleigh Locklar.

She is a member of band, National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society, is a National Merit Commended Scholar and won the Rensselaer Award for Math and Science.

She is a member of Cotton Flat Baptist Church youth group.

Locklar plans to attend Texas A&M University.

* * *

Shah

Lee High School senior **Ashlesha Shah** has been honored by the Midland Downtown Lions Club. She is the daughter of Bhavna Shah and Jagat Shah.

She is a member of the band, orchestra, National Honor Society and yearbook staff and is secretary/treasurer of the debate team. She is a Texas Music Scholar.

She is a Midland Teen Court attorney and also volunteers at Medical Center Hospital and SPCA.

Shah plans to major in psychology.

* * *

Lee High School senior **Caleb Nathaniel West** has been honored by the Midland Downtown Lions Club. He is the son of Denzil and Kathy West.

He is a member of National Society, Spanish Honor Society, D-FY-IT and baseball team. He is an academic letterman and a Texas Scholar.

He is a member of First United Methodist Church youth group and volunteers with Meals on Wheels and March of Dimes.

West plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in mechanical engineering.

* * *

Ochsner

Midland Christian School senior **Kristen Ochsner** has been honored by the Midland Downtown Lions Club. She is the daughter of Robert and Lyn Ochsner.

She is a member of Student Council, Spanish Club, National Honor Society, D-FY-IT and volleyball team and is a Texas Scholar.

She attends Stonegate Fellowship, volunteers with Meals on Wheels and is a Symphony Belle.

Ochsner plans to attend University of Oklahoma or Texas A&M University and major in psychology and minor in business.

* * *

Parkison

Midland High School senior **Cade Parkison** has been honored by the Midland Downtown Lions Club. He is the son of Scott and Monica Parkison.

He is a member of the golf team, National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. He is an academic letterman and a Texas Scholar.

He is a member of First United Methodist Church youth group and praise band and Young Life and volunteers with Habitat for Humanity.

Parkison plans to attend University of Texas and major in petroleum engineering.

* * *

Priebe

Midland High School senior **Daniel Priebe** has been honored by the Midland Downtown Lions Club. He is the son of Billy Priebe and Deborah Markley.

He is a member of National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society.

He is a member of First United Methodist Church youth group, volunteers with Christmas in Action and is an Eagle Scout with Boy Scout Troop 152.

Priebe plans to attend the Texas Maritime Academy at Texas A&M University-Galveston and major in marine transportation.

Students who don't want debt should occupy a seat at MC

The Occupy Wall Street movement has been troubling me for a while now. In the beginning of the demonstrations, I heard that a few demonstrators were angry because they had such exorbitant school loans to repay at the end of their university educations and didn't have jobs. Then the media gave some exorbitant dollar amounts of college costs of unnamed institutions located mostly in the eastern states. Since it seems no one can do anything about unemployment, this article is about college debt.

At the onset of the occupy movement, it occurred to me that if those students don't like enormous debt why don't they attend Midland College? Not only does MC provide a quality education at minimal cost, students who do depend on loans can graduate with minimal loan repayment obligations.

The proof of those statements is in concrete data found on the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) website (accessed Dec. 1). Midland College costs are compared to state averages, and they are on par. At MC, tuition and fees for a full-time, in-district student are approximately $864 a semester. Most students complete an associate degree in four semesters, for a total cost of just under $3,500.

Harvard University in comparison, lists the cost for attending their school for one year at $56,000 to $60,200, plus the cost of required health insurance — which is $1,834 unless the student's family policy is in effect.

That comparative example demonstrates the need for families to inform themselves about the enormous differences in college costs by comparing apples to apples. The breakdown of scholastic credit hour at Harvard comes to approximately $1,000 more per credit hour than MC. While credit hours are the same whether at a community college or a university, parents must decide whether the quality of an Ivy League education translates into that much more graduation collateral. Those occupying Wall Street seem to think so, except they do not have jobs.

Back to incurring college debt. When a family discusses the cost of a college education, apples must be compared to apples. Go to the source to get understanding of what any college's fees represent; do not believe everything you read on the Internet, and do not be afraid to ask questions. Many websites provide charts with inaccurate costs; for example, one chart I researched shows higher dorm fees at MC, while Howard College fees for room and board are quite low. Not apples. MC's dorms are new and still have bonds out while the 50-year-old dorms at Howard are paid for.

Today's dorms reflect the relative affluence today's students have grown up with. A few years ago, universities created recruitment plans to upgrade dorms to residences to satisfy students who do not want to share bathrooms or rooms with other students. Residences connote a homey living environment, which translates into high cost. Now, colleges build apartments (Odessa College; Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi) to accommodate the desires of the current student - - meeting the market demand. Upgrades cost money, which students' parents will pay or which students will undertake loans to pay for. Let me hasten to add that I would not wish a few of my dorm rooms on anyone — namely the 1932 Doak Hall at Texas Tech University.

The actual amount of money a student

Please see BRASELTON/5B

Sumlin confident about leading Aggies into SEC

By Brent Zwerneman
San Antonio Express-News

COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M sophomore linebacker Damontre Moore, fierce on the field but a gentle giant in dress shoes, strolled into Monday's introductory press conference for Kevin Sumlin as curious as anyone in a packed Hagner Auditorium. By the end of what amounted to more of a spirited welcome back from well-wishers than a media Q&A, count Moore among the believers in the Aggies' dynamic new leader.

"I'm willing to go with whatever he says," a smiling Moore said.

One down, about a half-million Aggies to go. Sumlin, officially hired Saturday from the University of Houston, knows A&M football has hovered at about .500 over the past decade under three different coaches — and that was in the Big 12. The Aggies are set to enter the rugged Southeastern Conference starting next season, and even the most ardent supporters realize there are plenty of questions to answer in the coming seasons for the SEC's Lone Star addition.

"He's a very, very good hire," said A&M's lone Heisman Trophy winner, John David Crow, who attended the Sumlin introduction. "We'll have to find out if he's the right guy or not going into the SEC. It's a big step for us, and it's a big step for him."

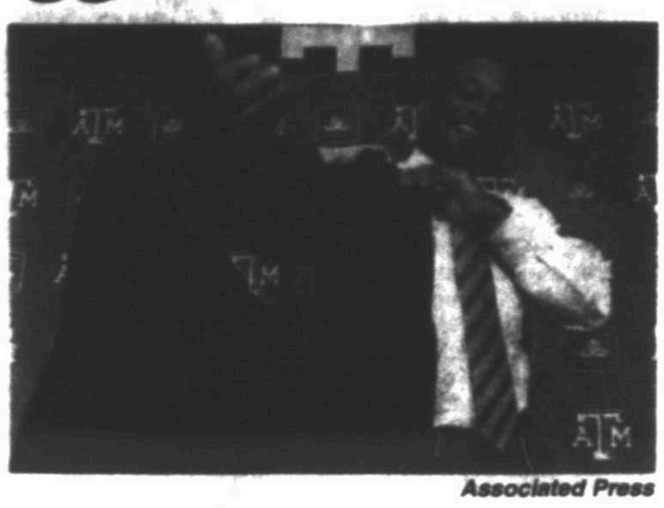
Neither A&M nor Sumlin has any experience in the SEC. But it's a step Sumlin, whose Cougars are 12-1, is eager to take.

"This is a transitional time, no doubt about it," he said. "We're excited about going into the SEC and playing football, and we're recruiting to that. ... I'm not coming here to lose, I'll put it that way."

Athletic director Bill Byrne said Sumlin will earn $2 million annually over five years. His predecessor, Mike Sherman, was hired four years ago for $1.8 million annually over seven years. A&M president R. Bowen Loftin fired Sherman on Dec. 1 following a 25-25 record over four seasons (including a 6-6 regular season this year).

Sumlin, 47, had served as R.C. Slocum's offensive coordinator over the last three-fourths of the 2002 season, before Slocum was fired following a 6-6 finish. Slocum's successor,

Please see SUMLIN/4C



Associated Press

Newly appointed Texas A&M head coach Kevin Sumlin, right, receives the traditional maroon blazer from Texas A&M athletic director Bill Byrne during a news conference officially introducing Sumlin as the football team's new coach Monday in College Station.

Different situations

Tony Romo

T.J. Yates

Latest late collapse could crater Cowboys' season

By Jaime Aron
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — DeMarco Murray left the Dallas Cowboys locker room on crutches, his face shrouded by a gray hoodie and his right leg immobilized by a protective boot.

The running back knew his record-setting rookie season is over. His teammates left wondering whether their season is falling apart, too.

The Cowboys lost a second straight game on Sunday night, but what really stings is the way they did it. The defense gave up two touchdowns in the final 3:14.

Miles Austin failed to haul in a potential winning touchdown; coach Jason Garrett again struggled with his clock management; and rookie kicker Dan Bailey had a last-second kick blocked.

All in a home game against the New York Giants, a team that had lost four straight games, and in a game that would decide first place in the NFC East.

"You always think about would've, should've, could've when you don't win," linebacker Bradie James said. "I'm going to be thinking about this one."

Then again, the Cowboys should be getting used to these kinds of finishes.

Dallas has led in the fourth quarter of five of its six losses this season, and in eight of its nine losses under Garrett.

Even big leads aren't safe with this club. This was the third time this season the Cowboys have blown a fourth-quarter lead of at least 12 points; to put in perspective how unusual that is, it happened only twice over the franchise's previous 51 seasons.

"The nature of our team is we've played a lot of close games," Garrett said. "We've won maybe half of them and we've lost some other ones. You have to look at situations, see what happens, some way, somehow process it, learn from it and hopefully go forward. Just because you've figured out how to do it once doesn't mean you're going to do it all the time. I think that's the nature of the National Football League, we just need to find ways to do it much more

Please see COWBOYS/4C

Texans primed for playoff run after winning division

By Chris Duncan
Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans arrived home on Sunday night to thousands of cheering fans who've waited 18 years for this.

Houston's NFL team is back in the playoffs after winning the AFC South. Rookie quarterback T.J. Yates rallied the Texans to a 20-19 win over Cincinnati, and the team earned the franchise's first postseason berth when New Orleans beat Tennessee.

The city is celebrating its first NFL division title since the Oilers won the AFC Central in 1993. The Texans (10-3), born as an expansion team in 2002, have won a franchise-record seven straight heading into Sunday's game against Carolina (4-9).

The families of the players and coaches joined the crowd at Reliant Stadium. Outside linebacker Mario Williams, out for the season with a torn chest muscle, was one of the first familiar faces coach Gary Kubiak spotted when he got off the team bus.

"That's what you work for," Kubiak said Monday. "That's why we've been doing what we've been doing, to get to that point where everybody could experience that."

Kubiak took some extra personal satisfaction in the turnout, because he grew up only a few miles from the Texans' home base.

"It's special to see that excitement," he said. "I know the hard work that's been put in, and the job that the coaches and players in this organization have done, to walk around our building (Monday) and see how proud everybody that works here is, it was a great day."

But Kubiak also stressed to his team that there's still work to be done. The Texans are one of four 10-3 teams in the AFC, and Kubiak talked to some of the veterans on the plane ride back from Cincinnati about maintaining the team's focus.

"We don't have many guys on our team that have been in playoff games," Kubiak said. "You probably could count on

Please see TEXANS/4C

Mavs still waiting to get Odom, Carter on the court

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks are still waiting for their new players to get on the court.

Free agent Vince Carter was a spectator at the Mavericks' practice for the second day in a row Monday before the eight-time NBA All-Star finally signed his expected contract. Lamar Odom, the 6-foot-10 forward acquired from the Los Angeles Lakers, wasn't there yet.

Less than two weeks before the NBA champion Mavericks play their season opener with a Christmas Day rematch against the Miami Heat, coach Rick Carlisle still hasn't had a full team for practice.

Rich Carlisle: Mavericks head coach says Lamar Odom will have no problem getting acclimated to Dallas' style of play. "He's just got that good of a feel for the game," he said.

"It's important, but logistics are logistics. We've got to submit ourselves to what the rules are. If you trade for a guy, you can't just Star Trek beam him here for practice," Carlisle said. "We will engage these guys as quickly and as effectively as we can. Before you know it, we'll be another week into this, and they'll be right in the middle of it."

Carlisle expects Carter and Odom to both take part in the team's media day activities today.

The 34-year-old Carter had to clear waivers after playing for Phoenix last season. The Mavericks announced Monday night that Carter had signed a contract that reunites him with Jason Kidd, his teammate for three seasons in New Jersey.

Dallas didn't provide details of Carter's deal, but it is expected to be a mid-level exception of $3 million for this season.

Carter has 20,250 career points, eighth among active players and 35th on the NBA career loss. He was originally the fifth overall selection in the 1998 draft by Toronto, and has played 925 career games for the Raptors, New Jersey, Orlando and Phoenix.

Carter also attended practice in Dallas on Sunday, when the team confirmed they had acquired Odom, last season's Sixth Man of the Year, without losing a player in return.

"We love the deal. ... It's a very positive deal for us because we're talking about a player as diversified skill-wise as anybody in the league right now, particularly given his size," Carlisle said. "He's always been a really difficult matchup

Please see MAVERICKS/4C

Ohio prosecutor considers charges for in-game fight

By Dan Sewell
Associated Press

CINCINNATI — An Ohio prosecutor said Monday he will consider criminal charges in the aftermath of a players brawl at the end of the Cincinnati-Xavier basketball game, as stunned fans and school officials pondered the tarnishing blow delivered to one of the city's most eagerly anticipated annual events.

Hamilton County prosecutor Joe Deters said in a statement that his office would determine whether any criminal charges were appropriate. He declined further comment.

Deters, a University of Cincinnati alumnus, didn't specify what charges would be considered, but possible charges could include assault and battery or disorderly conduct. A spokeswoman said he hadn't set a timetable for a decision

"Anything we're asked to do, we will comply with," UC coach Mick Cronin said Monday. "Whatever they feel they need to do, we understand."

A Xavier spokeswoman said it would be premature to comment on Deters' investigation.

Cincinnati's Yancy Gates received the longest suspension, six games. Gates punched Xavier's Kenny Frease, causing a gash that left him bleeding below his left eye, and hit at least one other Xavier player during the fracas.

Frease also was kicked as the two teams converged on each other. X-rays of Frease after the game were normal.

Xavier guard Tu Holloway, who acknowledged making comments directed at UC's team right before the brawl, caused a stir by later describing his team's toughness as "a whole bunch of gangsters." Holloway, suspended for one game, said Sunday he regretted using the term "gangsters."

Criminal prosecutions from player confrontations during sports events are rare. A handful of National Hockey League players have been charged with assault over the years. Detroit Red Wings forward Todd Bertuzzi pleaded guilty to assault after he, while playing for Vancouver in 2004, sucker-punched Colorado center Steve Moore on the ice. No one was charged after a 2010 baseball brawl in Cincinnati in which St. Louis Cardinals catcher Jason LaRue suffered a concussion after being kicked in the head by Reds pitcher Johnny Cueto.

GIRLS BASKETBALL TODAY

FROM STAFF REPORTS

DISTRICT 3-5A
SAN ANGELO CENTRAL AT MIDLAND HIGH

When/where: 6 p.m. today, Chaparral Center

Records: Central 6-6, 1-0 in District 3-5A; Midland High 7-10, 1-0.

Last game: Central 54, San Angelo Lake View 41; Lubbock Cooper 53, Midland High 38

Notes & Quotes: This is the only matchup of two teams with a 1-0 record in District 3-5A play Tuesday. San Angelo Central opened district play with a 59-45 victory against Abilene High last week, while Midland High rallied to knock off Odessa Permian 53-42. ... Central is currently on a five-game winning streak, including a 54-41 victory against in-town rival San Angelo Lake View on Friday. ... Midland High went 2-2 in the Tall City Oilman's Tournament over the weekend with both losses coming against Lubbock Cooper — the No. 2 team in Class 3A. The Lady Bulldogs did earn victories against District 3-5A foes Odessa High and Lee. ... MHS senior post Sabrina Banks was the lone Lady Dawg named to the Tall City Oilman's All-Tournament team after leading the entire field in rebounding. ... Midland High has won 19 straight district games, dating back to the 2009-10 season. ... San Angelo Central is respected as one of the top contenders to overtake Midland High in district play this season. The Lady Bobcats have a good combination of height, athleticism and outside shooting, according to MHS coach Ron Berry, making them a challenging matchup.

Next: Lubbock Monterey at San Angelo Central, 6 p.m. Friday; Lee vs. Midland High, 6 p.m. Friday, Chaparral Center

ABILENE HIGH AT ODESSA HIGH

When/where: 6 p.m. today, Odessa High School gym

Records: Abilene High 3-10, 0-1 in District 3-5A; Odessa High 9-6, 1-0

Last game: Hallsville 47, Abilene High 36; Odessa High 48, New Way Christian 24

Notes & Quotes: Abilene High lost all three of its games at the Van Griffith Kia Tournament in Granbury this weekend, dropping its record to 3-10. ... Odessa High was 1-2 at the Tall City Oilman's Tournament, winning its final game of the tournament against New Way Christian. The Lady Bronchos also registered losses to Lubbock Cooper and Midland High. ... Odessa High came into this season hoping to use a fast-paced scheme on both ends of the court, but wasn't able to sustain that and has since cut back its roster significantly. ... With just one senior on the roster, Odessa High is very reliant on its youth with sophomore Alex Carpio and junior LaTanya McMaryion providing much of the scoring punch.

Next: Abilene High vs. Abilene Cooper, 6 p.m. Friday; Odessa High at Odessa Permian, 6 p.m. Friday

ODESSA PERMIAN AT ABILENE COOPER

When/where: 6 p.m. today, Cooper High School, Abilene

Records: Permian 9-5, 0-1 in District 3-5A; Cooper 7-8, 0-0

Last game: Lubbock Monterey 66, Permian 43; Cooper 59, Coleman 30

Notes & Quotes: Permian was the only District 3-5A team not to play in a tournament over the weekend, instead opting for a game against Lubbock Monterey on Friday. Monterey, which sports a lot of size, cruised to a 66-43 victory against the Lady Panthers. ... Abilene Cooper went 2-2 in the Clyde Tournament over the weekend, rounding out round robin play with wins against Class 2A schools Ballinger and Coleman. ... Cooper is led by senior guard Angela Snow, who is averaging nearly nine points per game.

Next: Odessa High at Odessa Permian, 6 p.m. Friday; Abilene High vs. Abilene Cooper, 6 p.m. Friday.

2011 District 3-5A Standings

Team	District W	District L	Overall W	Overall L
Odessa High	1	0	9	6
San Angelo Central	1	0	9	6
Midland High	1	0	7	10
Abilene Cooper	0	0	7	9
Odessa Permian	0	1	9	5
Lee	0	1	5	10
Abilene High	0	1	3	10

Tuesday, Dec. 6
Midland High 53, Odessa Permian 42; Odessa High 52, Lee 28; San Angelo Central 59, Abilene High 45; Abilene Cooper 43, San Angelo Lake View 39

Monday's Score
Lee 53, Lubbock High 21

Today's Games
Abilene High at Odessa High; Permian at Abilene Cooper; San Angelo Central at Midland High, Chaparral Center. All games at 6 p.m.

Compiled by Jonathan Hull

Williams Lively Sullivan Rose Navarez Garcia Armitage Murphy Dolgener

8 Greenwood players on 4-3A All-District Team

From staff reports

The Greenwood football team placed eight players on the first team and Andrews' sophomore quarterback Shane Dolgener was named Newcomer of the year on the District 4-3A All-District Football Team just released.

Dolgener garnered one of the five superlative awards from the district. Seminole senior wide receiver Jarod Adams was named Most Valuable Player. Offensive MVP went to Seminole junior quarterback Jacob Burtch, Monahans' junior linebacker Jackson Scharf was named Defensive MVP.

Seminole's coaching staff was named Staff of the Year.

Garnering first-team honors from Greenwood on offense were junior quarterback and punter Kam Williams, junior offensive lineman Jody Lively, junior wide receiver Colin Sullivan and senior wide receiver Hunter Rose. On the first team defense were junior defensive lineman Julian Garcia, senior linebacker Jacob Armitage and junior defensive back Timmy Murphy. Senior Tony Navarez, was named on the Utility/Special Team unit for his work at both running back and linebacker.

In addition to Dolgener, Andrews had six players named to the first team: junior running back Joey Prieto, junior offensive linemen Javier Torres and Guillermo Esparza, junior wide receiver Tadarius Ridge, senior kicker and punter Jake Higgs and junior linebacker Garrett Bawcom.

Seminole led the list with 11 first-team selections, while Monahans had 10 first-team selection.

Fort Stockton had four first-team selections.

2011 District 4-3A All-District Football Team

MVP — Jarod Adams, 5-10, 161, Sr, Seminole
Offensive MVP — Jacob Burtch, 6-2, 188, Jr, Seminole
Defensive MVP — Jackson Scharf, 5-8, 175, Jr., Monahans
Newcomer of the Year — Shane Dolgener, 6-3, 185, Soph., Andrews
Staff of the Year — Seminole

First Team Offense

Quarterback — Kam Williams, 6-3, 190, Jr, Greenwood
Running Backs — Ryan Scharf, 5-1, 185, Sr, Monahans; Pedro Cano, 5-8, 170, Sr., Monahans; Juan Espino, 5-9, 169, Sr., Seminole; Joey Prieto, 5-6, 150, Jr.; Joe Ray Barboza, 5-10, 170, Sr., Fort Stockton
Offensive Linemen — Gonzo Reyna, 6-1, 251, Sr., Seminole; Brandon Jones, 6-2, 215, Sr., Monahans; Kevin Frosina, 6-2, 289, Sr., Seminole; Dayne Browne, 5-11, 307, Jr., Seminole; Javier Torres, 6-2, 285, Jr., Andrews; Rance Lupton, 6-2, 283, Jr., Seminole; Guillermo Esparza, 5-11, 225, Jr., Andrews; Guillermo Esparza, 5-11, 225, Jr., Andrews; Dakota Gonzales, 6-1, 300, Sr.; Jody Lively, 6-4, 255, Jr., Greenwood
Receivers — Caleb Koechyer, 6-1, 174, Sr.; Tadrius Ridge, 6-1, 165, Jr., Andrews; Marcus Chavez, 5-10, 150, Sr., Fort Stockton; Cole Bullock, 5-10, 160, Jr., Greenwood; Hunter Rose, 5-10, 175, Sr., Greenwood
Tight End — Tanner Moore, 6-4, 201, Sr., Seminole
Punter — Kam Williams, 6-3, 190, Jr., Greenwood; Jake Higgs, 6-0, 165, Sr., Andrews
Kicker — Alejandro Mendoza, 5-7, 155, Jr., Monahans; Jake Higgs, 6-0, 165, Sr., Andrews

First Team Defense

Defensive Linemen — Theo Armendariz, 6-0, 205, Jr., Monahans; Taylor Gibson, 6-0, 201, Jr., Seminole; Rance Layton, 6-5, 263, Sr., Seminole; Aaron Carlos, 6-0, 190, Sr., Monahans; Julian Garcia, 5-11, 200, Jr., Greenwood
Linebackers — Raylee Suarez, 5-10, 180, Sr., Seminole; Miles Cashman, 5-10, 182, Sr., Seminole; Garrett Bawcom, 5-9, 185, Jr., Andrews; Lance Luera, 5-8, 155, Sr., Fort Stockton; Jacob Armitage, 6-4, 195, Sr., Greenwood; Blake Hollin, 6-0, 180, Sr., Monahans
Secondary — Timmy Murphy, 6-0, 180, Jr., Greenwood; Logan Mitchell, 5-10, 160, Sr., Monahans; Payton Marcum, 6-1, 165, Sr., Monahans; Andre Vasel, 5-9, 177, Sr., Seminole; Caleb Koechyer, 6-1, 174, Sr., Seminole

Utility/Special Teams

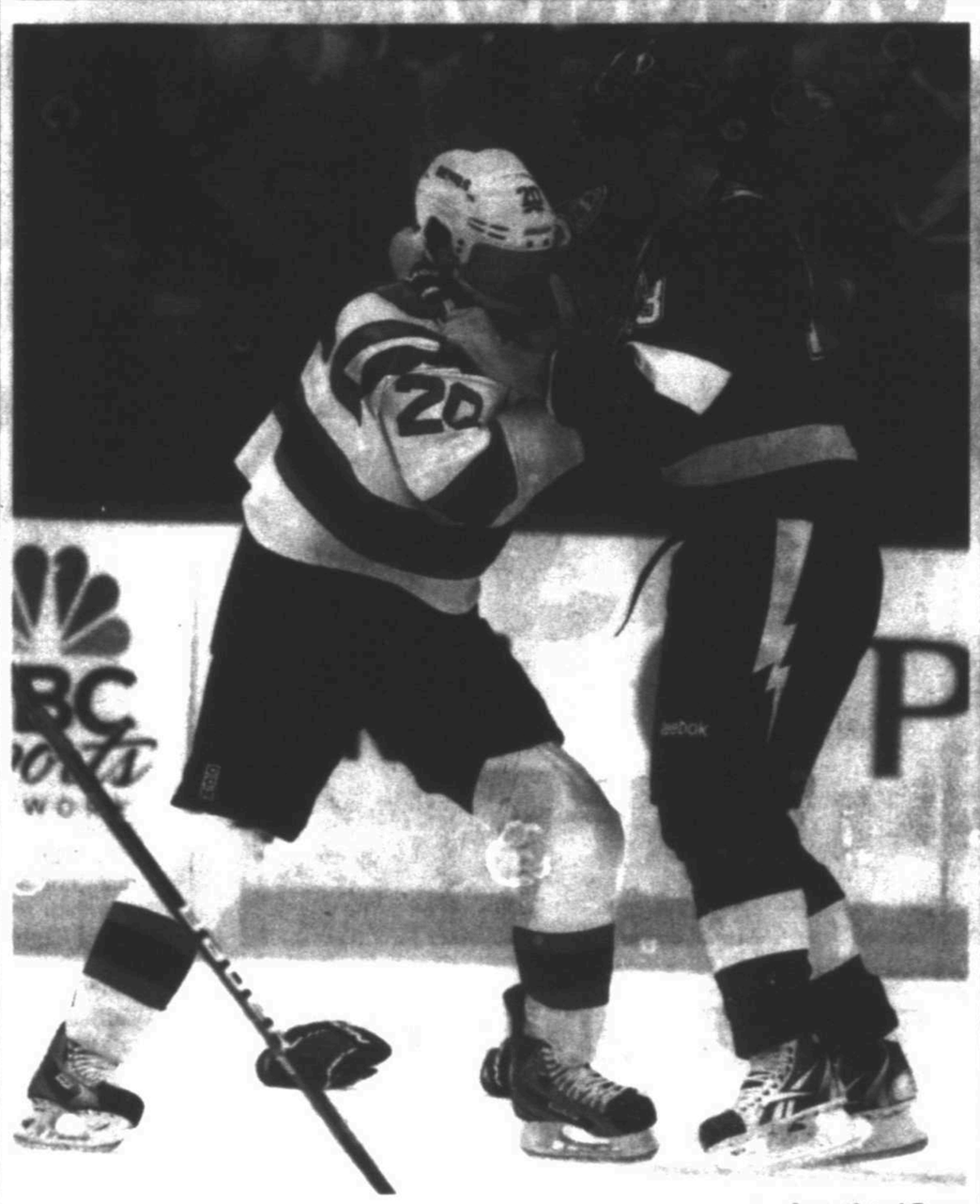
WR/LB Ryan Johnson, 6-0, 212, Sr., Seminole; RB/DB Freddy Garcia, 5-7, 145, Jr., Monahans; RB/LB Tony Navarez, 5-11, 180, Sr., Greenwood; WR/LB Rodney Rose, 5-7, 150, Sr., Fort Stockton; WR/OS Austin Luna, 5-8, 130, Jr., Andrews

Second Team Offense

Quarterback — Adrian Martinez, 5-11, 170, Sr., Fort Stockton
Running Backs — Freddy Garcia, 5-7, 145, Jr., Monahans; Raylee Suarez, 5-10, 180, Sr., Seminole; Lance Luera, 5-8, 155, Sr., Fort Stockton; Trey Cano, 5-8, 165, Sr., Greenwood
Offensive Line — Blaine Latham, 5-8, 210, Jr., Greenwood; Justin Moore, 6-1, 220, Sr., Greenwood; Mason Daggett, 6-0, 190, Sr., Fort Stockton; Andy Luna, 6-2, 235, Jr., Seminole; Paul Bagley, 6-1, 215, Jr., Andrews; Keith Kalka, 5-10, 245, Sr., Fort Stockton; Isaac Martinez, 5-11, 205, Sr., Monahans
Receivers — David Moncayo, 5-10, 151, Sr., Seminole; Trey Keesee, 5-9, 140, Sr., Andrews; Dillon Chambliss, 5-9, 175, Sr., Fort Stockton; Payton Marcum, 6-1, 165, Sr., Monahans
Tight End — Eddie Villa, 5-11, 170, Sr., Fort Stockton
Punter — Junior Morales, 6-5, 175, Soph., Monahans
Kicker — Matt Flowers, 5-10, 142, Sr., Seminole

Second Team Defense

Defensive Linemen — Ricky Harcrow, 6-1, 180, Jr., Greenwood; Ramon Barajas, 5-8, 240, Sr., Fort Stockton; Andrew Pearing, 6-2, 280, Sr., Monahans; Dexter Longley, 5-11, 184, Jr., Seminole; Brandon Lujan, 5-11, 239, Sr., Seminole; Evan Card, 6-2, 215, Jr., Fort Stockton
Linebackers — Christian Torres, 5-11, 183, Sr., Seminole; Justin Bills, 5-11, 200, Jr., Andrews; Kevin Benavente, 5-11, 190, Sr., Fort Stockton; Hunter Rose, 5-10, 175, Sr.
Secondary — Coy Lopez, 5-10, 165, Soph., Andrews; Adan Martinez, 5-9, 150, Sr., Fort Stockton; Byron Scharf, 6-1, 185, Sr., Monahans; Bennie Ewing, 6-0, 152, Sr., Addison Parish, 5-8, 154 Soph., Seminole



Associated Press

Tampa Bay Lightning defenseman Pavel Kubina, right, fights with New Jersey Devils center Ryan Carter (20) during a hockey game Monday in Tampa, Fla. New Jersey won 5-4.

Parise, Henrique key Devils' win over Lightning

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Zach Parise and Adam Henrique both had a goal and two assists to lead the New Jersey Devils past the Tampa Bay Lightning 5-4 on Monday night.

Parise, Henrique and Ilya Kovalchuk each scored in the second period as the Devils broke open a tie game after both teams scored twice in the first.

Petr Sykora and Dainius Zubrus had the other goals for New Jersey, which had lost five of seven.

Steve Stamkos had two goals for the Lightning, losers of seven of eight. Steve Downie and Blair Jones also scored. Tampa Bay goalie Dwayne Roloson was replaced by Mathieu Garon early in the second after allowing three goals on 12 shots.

Devils	**5**
Lightning	4

Parise scored 56 seconds into the second on an odd-man rush to make it 3-2. Kovalchuk had a breakaway goal at 5:42, Henrique gave the Devils the three-goal lead during a short-handed 2-on-none with 6:37 left in the period.

Henrique had a seven-game points streak (2 goals, 7 assists) end in Saturday's 2-1 loss to Montreal. Parise assisted on two of the second-period goals.

4 area players get all-state honorable mention nods

From staff reports

Both Crane and Coahoma placed two players on the Associated Press Sports Editor's Class 2A All-State team released Monday.

Echavarria

Rodriguez

Crane sophomores Gunner Tatum and Trevor Davis were given honorable mention. Tatum made the team as a linebacker, while Davis made it as an offensive linemen.

A pair of Coahoma offensive linemen — junior Peyton Rodriguez and senior Jacob Echavarria — were also given honorable mention.

First-Team Offense

Linemen

— BEAU JENKINS, Coahoma Mitchell, Sr. — Graded 92 pct., no sacks allowed in 194 passes
— RIAN JOHNSON, Muleshoe, Jr. — Graded 94 pct., 91 pass blocks, 16 drives, no sacks allowed in 255 passes
— MAC LONG, Edna, Sr. — Graded 98 pct., 41 pass blocks, no sacks allowed, offense averaged 433 yds per game
— JOHN WESLEY SHIPP, Refugio, Jr. — Graded 98 pct., no sacks allowed, 47 pass blocks
— CASE WILBANKS, Idalou, Sr. — Led offense that averaged 392 yds per game

Receivers/ends

— LYNX HAWTHORNE, Refugio, Sr. — 46 catches, 1,200 yds, 20 TDs
— CALEB HULLUM, Eastland, Sr. — 53 catches, 1,388 yds, 22 TDs; 122 rush yds, 2 TDs

Quarterback (tie)

— TRENT BRITTAIN, Eastland, Sr. — 139-214 passing, 2,714 yds, 36 TDs, 6 INTs; 622 rush yds, 10 TDs
— TRAVIS QUINTANILLA, Refugio, Soph. — 121-174 passing, 2,788 yds, 41 TDs, 3 INTs

Running backs

— TRESTON COLEMAN, Frankston, Sr. — 2,086 rush yds, 26 TDs; 262 receiving yds, 3 TDs
— SHAQEEM JEFFERSON, New Boston, Sr. — 2,097 rush yds, 28 TDs
— CODY WEIR, Rogers, Sr. — 1,864 rush yds, 27 TDs

Kicker

— MATT SHADE, Mineola, Sr. — 6 FGs, long of 52, 49-51 PATs; 21 touchbacks

Offensive Player of the Year: Travis Quintanilla, Refugio

First-Team Defense

Linemen

— MATHEW SALES, Idalou, Sr. — 113 tackles, 6 sacks, 12 TFL
— LEO SANCHEZ, Mineola, Jr. — 88 tackles, 17 TFL, 4 sacks, 20 QB hurries, 2 forced fumbles
— DONALD TREVINO, Refugio, Sr. — 118 tackles, 75 solo, 13 TFL, 2 sacks, 7 forced fumbles
— BRUCE WOODS, Bryan Fields, Jr. — 110 tackles, 27 TFL, 18 sacks

Linebackers

— DARIUS GARCIA, Mineola, Sr. — 109 tackles, 4 INTs (1 TD return), 4 TFL
— JAKE HINOJOSA, Refugio, Sr. — 137 tackles, 67 solo, 9 TFL
— TY TOLLESON, Lone Oak, Jr. — 133 tackles, 17 TFL, 3 sacks, 3 forced fumbles

Defensive backs

— BRADLEY ADKINS, Idalou, Sr. — 29 tackles, 7 INTs
— MICHAEL ELLIS, Idalou, Sr. — 43 tackles, 8 INTs, 4 pass breakups, 4 forced fumbles, 2 TFL
— CHANCE GREEN, Gunter, Sr. — 88 tackles, 8 INTs, 1 punt return TD
— MICHAEL ROBERSON, Arp, Jr. — 79 tackles, 6 INTs (1 TD return), 10 pass breakups

Punter

— CLAY O'DELL, Tatum Jim Ned, Sr. — 41.7-yd avg on 37 punts; 17 inside 20

Defensive Player of the Year: Donald Trevino, Refugio

Second-Team Offense

Linemen

— Dustin House, Hamilton, Jr.; Noah Pennell, Coahoma Mitchell, Jr.; Reed Scroggins, Cisco, Sr.; Josh Smitherman, Cameron Yoe, Jr.; Ryan Todd, Holliday, Sr.

Receivers/ends

— TO Echols, Whitney, Jr.; Saul Elizalde, Muleshoe, Sr.

Quarterback

— Kyle Bludau, Schulenburg, Sr.

Running backs

— RaShondrick Linwood, Linden-Kildare, Sr.; Glenn Roberts, East Chambers, Jr.; Shiloh Whitsel, Refugio, Sr.

Kicker

— Hernan Sanchez, Hempstead, Sr.

Second-Team Defense

Linemen

— Trey Boyd, Mineola, Sr.; Damon Evans, Sonora, Jr.; Jesse Hinson, Daingerfield, Sr.; Donald Hopkins, Lago Vista, Sr.

Linebackers

— Dejon Mims, Daingerfield, Sr.; Dreegan Pattison, Bushland, Sr.; Logan Shelton, Coahoma Mitchell, Sr.

Defensive backs

— Drayton Sterling, Coahoma Mitchell, Soph.; Austin Terrington, Holliday, Sr.; Jackson Webb, Melissa, Soph.; Clay Williams, De Kalb, Sr.

Punter

— Baylor Mullins, Martel, Jr.

Honorable Mention Offense

LINEMEN: Duncan Addy, Eastland; Shawn Atwood, Muleshoe; Trevor Davis, Crane; Spencer Deal, Ponder; Jacob Echavarria, Coahoma; Tyrn Evans, Omaha Pewitt; Findley Harris, Gunter; Jared Kaiser, Altair Rice; John Lawless, Rogers; Tom Lawless, Rogers; Joe Leaves, Omaha Pewitt; Logan Lewis, Cisco; Bryan McKnight, Arp; Kyle Patton, Sonora; Ty Rojas, Littlefield; Peyton Rodriguez, Coahoma; Joseph Rosemond, Hempstead; Yer Waterman, Tatum Jim Ned.

RECEIVERS/ENDS: Bradley Adkins, Idalou; Gerran Ballard, Whitewright; Mason Hart, Melissa; Word Hudson, Sonora; Jamarcus Johnson, Hearne; Trent Morrison, Hempstead; Dreegan Pattison, Bushland; Darrin Tarty, Daingerfield; Oscar Trevino, Alpine.

QUARTERBACKS: Alex Allen, Daingerfield; Beau Avila, Muleshoe; Jared Cate, Boyd; Clayton Parks, Sonora; Nic Simmons, Coahoma Mitchell; Tyrone Swoopes, Whitewright; Justin Tate, Hemphill.

RUNNING BACKS: Isaac Baca, Muleshoe; Franklin Hines, Eastland; Troy Hodge, Tom Bean; Jason Hodges, Brady; Matt Hooks, Big Sandy Harmony; Hayden Lewis, Cisco; Austin Malachek, Wall; Devin Parks, Edna; Bryce Schiffler, Idalou; Archie Taylor, Hempstead; Colton Valle, Sanford-Fritch; Shaquille Wherry, De Kalb.

KICKERS: Julio Delgado, Eastland; Saul Elizalde, Muleshoe; Cristian Samaniego, Altair Rice.

Honorable Mention Defense

LINEMEN: Jacob Avery, Cisco; Jacob Beckwith, Bangs; Tyler Daul, Santa Rosa; Spencer Deal, Ponder; Damon Evans, Omaha Pewitt; Thomas Fringmon, Coahoma Mitchell; Justin Lawler, Pottsboro; Edgar Luna, Cameron Yoe; Montel McKinley, Clyde; Marc Ortiz, Spearman; JD Scott, Eastland; Dakota Sparks, Idalou; Ryan Todd, Holliday.

LINEBACKERS: Beau Avila, Muleshoe; Isaac Baca, Muleshoe; Ty Chandler, Booming Grove; Jake Delaticara, Whitewright Industrial; Christian Fisher, Spearman; Taylor Fox, McGregor; Brandon Garza, Sunnyside; Justin Gotcsh, Omaha Pewitt; Phillip Gowell, Eastland; Jason Hart, Lone Oak; Daniel Hinson, Hempstead; Matt Johnson, Littlefield; Ronnie Jones, Hempstead; Braden Lyons, Polk; Blake Milburn, Wall; Riley Payne, Idalou; Dan Shaw, Mineola; Gunner Tatum, Crane.

DEFENSIVE BACKS: Jake Blandon, Crawford; Jared Cate, Boyd; Jacob Dillard, Coahoma Mitchell; Saul Elizalde, Muleshoe; Phillip Garza, Polk; DeKendrick Jeffery, Hearne; Jamarcus Johnson, Hearne; Billy Medford, Luling; Trent Morrison, Hempstead; Baylor Mullins, Martel; Taylor O'Donell, Clyde; Dallas Payne, Sweeny; Justin Rinehbacher, Spearman; Jace Swan, Bremond; Zane Webster, Tatum Jim Ned.

PUNTERS: Kyle Bludau, Schulenburg; Saul Elizalde, Muleshoe; Matt Shade, Mineola.

HSBASKETBALLROUNDUP

FROM STAFF REPORTS

GIRLS
LEE 53, LUBBOCK HIGH 21

The Lee girls basketball team had no trouble in a 53-21 blowout victory over Lubbock High Monday night at Lee High School.

The Lady Rebels (5-10) held the Lady Westerners (2-11) to single digits in each quarter and had a 32-7 lead at the half.

Cindy Benavides led Lee with a game-high 13 points and Kortni Edwards added 10.

Lee returns to District 3-5A action at 6 p.m. Friday when it faces Midland High at Chaparral Center.

LEE 53, LUBBOCK HIGH 21

Lubbock High (2-11) — Amanda Mesker 6, Jerae Stokes 4, Krystal Applegate 5, Brianna Dunn 2, Jamela Modi 1, Jessi Newman 1
Lee (5-10) — Cindy Benavides 13, Kortni Edwards 10, Shawnee Ray 5, Dale Stanford 5, Landy Johnson 4, Lexi Hopkins 4, Breana Standard 4, Jackie Rivas 3, Kristen Galindo 3, Jaylean Lee 2.

Lubbock High	3	4	8	6—21
Lee	17	15	8	13—53

Free Throws — Lubbock 2-6, Lee 11-18. 3-point goals - Lubbock 1 (Applegate), Lee 4 (Edwards 2, Stanford 1, Benavides 1). Total Fouls - Lubbock 16, Lee 12. Fouled Out - None
Next game: Lee at Midland High, 6 p.m. Friday Chaparral Center

WALL 35, GREENWOOD 27

WALL — Wall used a strong third quarter to defeat Greenwood in a non-district game.

The Rangerettes (5-11) had a 15-12 lead at the half before the Lady Hawks went on a 14-6 run in the third to take over the lead and the momentum.

Peyton Pyle led Greenwood with seven points.

WALL 35, GREENWOOD 27

Greenwood (5-11) — Alyssa Anthony 2, Kali Zimmerman 2, Peyton Pyle 7, Ariunda Bell 2, Courtney Waters 4, Becca Campbell 4, Emily Dyer 4.
Wall — Alison Beard 3, Savannah Daniel 2, Bobby Chiley 2, Brittney Briley 2, Tana Hollick 16, Jensine Dayle 10.

Greenwood	9	6	6	6—27
Wall	4	8	14	9—35

Free throws — GHS 3-12, WHS 10-12. 3-point goals — WHS 2 (Beard, Hollick). Total fouls — GHS 13, WHS 12. Fouled out — None.
Next game: Shallowater at Greenwood, 6:30 p.m. Friday

BOYS
GREENWOOD 77, BROWNFIELD 66

BROWNFIELD — Greenwood had six players in double figures as the Rangers defeated Brownfield in a non-district game.

Greenwood (7-6) took a 37-24 halftime lead thanks to a 23-11 run in the second quarter.

Edgar Urias led the Rangers with 14 points, Taylor Hollingsworth had 11, while Hugo Arenas, Jody Lively, Grant Franklin and Jacob Armitage each had 10.

GREENWOOD 77, BROWNFIELD 66

Greenwood (7-6) — Jody Lively 10, Edgar Urias 14, Grant Franklin 10, Hugo Arenas 10, Taylor Hollingsworth 11, Timmy Murphy 4, Kam Williams 8, Jacob Armitage 10.

Brownfield — Rivaus 7, Holan 6, Ciabattoni 11, Hill 15, Powell 2, Huston 4, Rouden 6, Gomez 4, Pavia 11.

Greenwood	14	23	15	25—77
Brownfield	13	11	14	28—66

Free throws — GHS 19-28, BHS 10-21. 3-point goals — GHS 4 (Urias 2, Franklin 2), BHS 4 (Ciabattoni 3, Rivaus). Total fouls — GHS 18, BHS 23. Fouled out — Pavia.
Next game: Shallowater at Greenwood, 8 p.m. Friday

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NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
New England	10	3	0	.769	380	274
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	.615	327	270
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	286	341
Miami	4	9	0	.308	255	245
South						
y-Houston	10	3	0	.769	330	269
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	302	302
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308	183	252
Indianapolis	0	13	0	.000	194	356
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	302	202
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	282	198
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	285	270
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	178	254
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	5	0	.615	269	302
Oakland	7	6	0	.538	290	304
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	324	299
Kansas City	5	8	0	.385	273	305

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
N.Y. Giants	7	6	0	.538	324	349
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	317	281
Philadelphia	5	8	0	.385	297	292
Washington	4	9	0	.308	229	290
South						
x-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	415	298
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	300	267
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	313	355
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	.308	232	370
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	0	0	1.000	466	276
Detroit	8	5	0	.615	327	305
Chicago	7	6	0	.538	301	255
Minnesota	2	11	0	.154	274	364
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	10	3	0	.769	307	162
St. Louis	7	6	0	.462	246	259
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	253	288
St. Louis	2	11	0	.154	153	326

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Monday's Game
Seattle 30, St. Louis 13

Thursday's Game
Jacksonville at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Dallas at Tampa Bay, 7:20 p.m.

Sunday's Games
New Orleans at Minnesota, Noon
Seattle at Chicago, Noon
Cincinnati at St. Louis, Noon
Carolina at Houston, Noon
Green Bay at Kansas City, Noon
Tennessee at Indianapolis, Noon
Miami at Buffalo, Noon
Washington at N.Y. Giants, Noon
Detroit at Oakland, 3:05 p.m.
New England at Denver, 3:15 p.m.
Cleveland at Arizona, 3:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia, 3:15 p.m.
Baltimore at San Diego, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 19
Pittsburgh at San Francisco, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY'S BOX
SEAHAWKS 30, RAMS 13

St. Louis	0	3	3	7	— 13
Seattle	10	0	10	10	— 30

First Quarter
Sea—Robinson 17 blocked punt return (Hauschka kick), 9:57
Sea—FG Hauschka 42, 1:35

Second Quarter
StL—FG Jo.Brown 48, 11:04

Third Quarter
Sea—FG Hauschka 23, 12:03
StL—FG Jo.Brown 29, 1:49
Sea—Baldwin 29 pass from Jackson (Hauschka kick), :06

Fourth Quarter
Sea—FG Hauschka 48, 8:27
Sea—S.Jackson 1 run (Jo.Brown kick), 4:39
Sea—Lynch 16 run (Hauschka kick), 2:57
A—66,577.

	StL	Sea
First downs	19	21
Total Net Yards	281	359
Rushes-yards	31-114	32-145
Passing	167	214
Comp-Att-Int	12-29-1	21-34-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-26	2-10
Punts	5-38.2	3-37.7
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	5-30	9-61
Time of Possession	28:31	31:29

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—St. Louis, S.Jackson 20-63, Williams 8-49, Norwood 1-5, Bradford 2-(minus 11). Seattle, Lynch 23-115, Tate 1-14, Forsett 1-8, Jackson 5-4, Washington 1-3, Moeaki 1-1.
PASSING—St. Louis, Bradford 12-29-1-193. Seattle, Jackson 21-32-0-224, Lynch 0-2-0-0.
RECEIVING—St. Louis, Lloyd 5-82, S.Jackson 3-60, Kendricks 1-28, Albert/Pettis 1-12, Pettis 1-7, B.Gibson 1-6, Baldwin 7-60, Tate 3-39, Forsett 2-14, Miller 3-13, Williams 2-13, Lynch 2-8, A.McCoy 1-23, Obomanu 1-13, Butler 1-8.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Seattle, Hauschka 38 (WR).

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Atlantic Division							
Philadelphia	26	18	7	3	39	101	81
N.Y. Rangers	27	16	7	4	36	77	64
Pittsburgh	30	17	9	4	38	94	75
New Jersey	29	15	13	1	31	76	84
N.Y. Islanders	29	9	12	8	26	62	88
Northeast Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	28	18	9	1	37	94	59
Toronto	28	15	11	3	33	91	84
Buffalo	29	15	12	2	32	79	79
Montreal	30	12	11	7	31	74	77
Ottawa	30	13	13	4	30	91	108
Southeast Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	31	16	9	6	38	87	77
Washington	28	15	12	1	31	88	89
Winnipeg	29	13	12	4	30	82	82
Tampa Bay	32	14	12	6	28	79	101
Carolina	31	9	18	4	22	79	108

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Central Division							
Chicago	30	18	8	4	40	98	82
Detroit	28	16	9	3	37	88	62
St. Louis	29	14	9	6	34	71	68
Nashville	29	14	11	4	32	77	79
Columbus	29	8	17	4	20	71	99
Northwest Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	30	20	7	3	43	79	64
Vancouver	28	19	6	3	41	87	57
Calgary	30	14	13	3	31	93	90
Edmonton	30	14	13	3	31	93	90
Colorado	29	14	13	2	30	73	80
	30	13	16	1	27	78	91
Pacific Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	28	16	11	1	33	73	76
Phoenix	28	15	11	2	32	73	76
San Jose	27	15	10	2	32	75	64
Los Angeles	29	13	12	4	30	65	67
Anaheim	29	8	16	5	21	61	90

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

Monday's Scores
New Jersey 3, Tampa Bay 4
Today's Games
Los Angeles at Boston, 6 p.m.
Ottawa at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Carolina at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Dallas at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m.
Detroit at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Washington, 6 p.m.
Vancouver at Columbus, 6 p.m.
New Jersey at Florida, 6:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Minnesota, 6:30 p.m.
Calgary at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Winnipeg, 7:30 p.m.
San Jose at Colorado, 8 p.m.

MONDAY'S SUMMARY
DEVILS 5, LIGHTNING 4

New Jersey	1	2	2	0	— 5
Tampa Bay	2	2	0	0	— 4

First Period—1, New Jersey, Gorbatenko (Bryzgalov, Elias), 2:06. 2, Tampa Bay, Johnson (Stamkos, Hedman), 5:39 (pp). 3, Tampa Bay, Downie 4 (Gilroy, Stamkos), 12:34. 4, Tampa Bay, Pahlsson 1 (Flynn), 16:55.
Second Period—5, New Jersey, Parise 8 (Henrique, Salvador), :38. 6, New Jersey, Ryz 1 (Henrique, Parise), 3:08. 7, New Jersey, Henrique 7 (Parise, Ryan), 12:23 (pp).
Third Period—8, Tampa Bay, Stamkos 17 (Malone, Johnson), 2:09 (pp). 9, Tampa Bay, Downie 18 (Kubina, Lecompte), 10:26.
Shots on Goal—New Jersey 11-8-5—24. Tampa Bay 10-17-6—33

MAVERICKS

From 1C

for us, was a key part of their team and we really feel like he'll fit in well here."

The Lakers get an $8.9 million trade exception for the 32-year-old Odom, who is going into the third year of a four-year deal. He has averaged 14.6 points and 8.9 rebounds in 829 games over 12 NBA seasons, four with the Clippers, one in Miami and the last seven with the Lakers.

Kobe Bryant certainly wasn't happy, especially Odom being sent so cheaply to the Mavericks, who swept the Lakers in last season's playoffs.

Mavericks center Brendan Haywood shrugged off Bryant's reaction.

"My reaction is we're very happy to get Lamar," Carlisle said.

Veteran forward Brian Cardinal joined the team for practice Monday after re-signing with Dallas. He will get the veteran minimum of just over $1.3 million. Cardinal joined the Mavericks last year as a free agent, when the 6-foot-8 forward averaged 2.6 points, 1.1 rebounds and 10.8 minutes in 56 games.

He has played 412 games over 11 seasons with Detroit, Washington, Golden State, Memphis, Minnesota and Dallas.

"I'm excited to be back, I'm exciting to be with these guys and this group," Cardinal said. "I missed a few days, but it's excited to be back with these guys and be out there on the court."

Odom helps Dallas recover from the departure of center Tyson Chandler, who went to the New York Knicks in a sign-and-trade deal that opened an exception to get Odom.

But the Mavericks expect him to be more than just a replacement for Chandler.

"He's a guy that's 6-10 that can do everything on the floor, extremely athletic and skilled," Haywood said. "He can play the 3, 4, 5, 2, he can even play the point and initiate the offense. So I think Lamar definitely helps this team out a lot."

Odom joins what could be one of the NBA's best frontcourts when he's paired with NBA Finals MVP Dirk Nowitzki and Shawn Marion.

"He can play every position on the floor, in my opinion, so, look, he's going to have a lot of things to learn our perimeter positions and our big positions," Carlisle said. "But he'll do it and he won't have a problem with it, because he's just got that good a feel for the game.

"We believe that there are a lot of possibilities with Lamar," he said. "He can score, pass, make plays, defend, rebound, all those things are really healthy for diversity of your team. Without him being here and having a chance to do things on the floor, I can't give you exact answers, but I'm excited about the possibilities."

SUMLIN

From 1C

Dennis Franchione, was 32-29 over five seasons before he was fired following the 2007 regular season.

Sumlin had done wonders in a short time with Slocum's offense in 2002 behind freshman quarterback Reggie McNeal, and nearly saved Slocum's job. Sumlin then moved on to Oklahoma, where he worked his way up to co-offensive coordinator under Bob Stoops. Sumlin, pushed by some Aggies for the A&M gig four years ago prior to the hiring of Sherman, turned in a 35-17 mark at UH in his first tenure as a head coach.

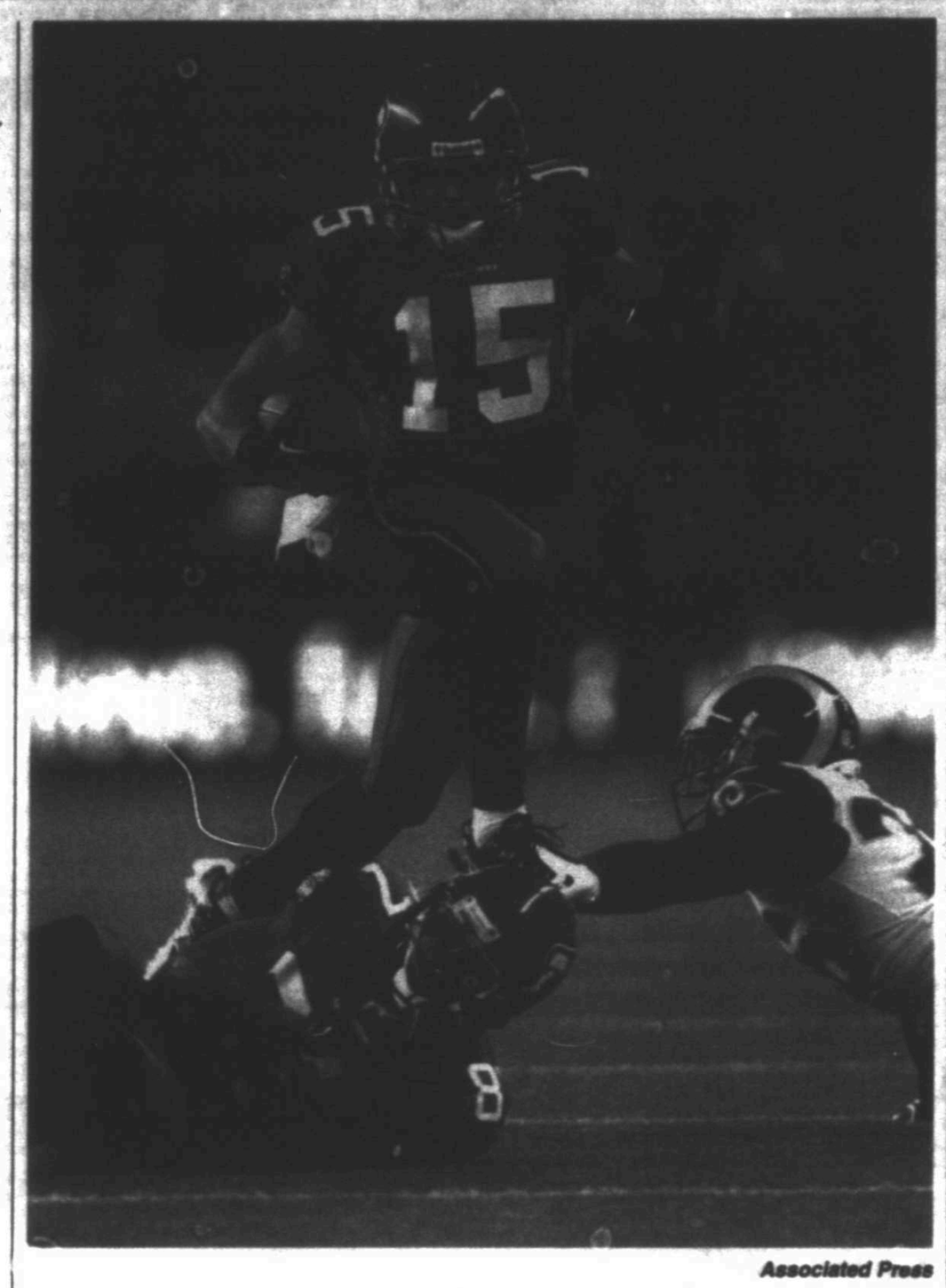
"One of the things I always look for when meeting coaches is 'fit,'" Byrne said. "I'm concerned about whether they fit the university and its values and culture. We talked for about two and a half hours, and time just flew by. I knew we had someone who not only understood the values of A&M, but embraced them. He's been here before."

The Aggies will play Northwestern on New Year's Eve in the Meineke Car Care Bowl in Houston under defensive coordinator and interim coach Tim DeRuyter. Sumlin said Monday it's too early to determine who might be retained from A&M's current staff and that it's important for the players to have "continuity" going into the bowl.

Sumlin added that he intends to "hit the ground running" on the recruiting front, and keep Sherman's touted 2012 class, ranked sixth nationally by Rivals.com, intact. Like Moore, linebacker Jonathan Stewart earned a favorable first impression of his new coach — and said Sumlin's confidence about heading into the SEC stood out.

"Just from the press conference you can tell he knows what he wants to do with this program," Stewart said. "He wants to take us to the next level, and make us a premier program in the SEC West."

Make that two down, about half a million Aggies to go.



Associated Press

Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Doug Baldwin jumps over Ben Obomanu and St. Louis Rams cornerback Roderick Hood, right, in the second half of a game Monday Seattle. The Seahawks beat the Rams 30-13.

Seahawks run over Rams

Asssociated Press

Seahawks	**30**
Rams	13

Undrafted rookie Doug Baldwin blocked a first-quarter punt that was returned by Michael Robinson 17 yards for a touchdown, then caught a 29-yard TD pass from Tarvaris Jackson in the third quarter as the Seattle Seahawks pulled away for a 30-13 win over the staggering St. Louis Rams on Monday night.

Seattle (6-7) won for the fourth time in five games and kept alive its slim hopes for reaching the postseason.

Marshawn Lynch topped 100 yards rushing for the fifth time in the last six games, finishing with 115. He scored a touchdown in his ninth straight game on a 16-yard run with 2:57 left. Seahawks fans threw bags of Skittles into the end zone as Lynch celebrated the TD.

Sam Bradford started for St. Louis (2-11) despite a high left ankle sprain that's bothered him for nearly two months and forced him to miss last week's game at San Francisco.

COWBOYS

From 1C

often than we have."

Now here's the really crazy part. Dallas still has a clear path to the division title. If the Cowboys win their final three games — at Tampa Bay on Saturday night, at home against Philadelphia the following Saturday, then on the road against New York on New Year's Day — then they will win the East and host a playoff game.

Of course, that's easier said than done, especially with a running game that will be missing Murray.

"We know what we have in front of us," cornerback Terence Newman said. "After losing two straight, there isn't much we can do as far pointing fingers. You have to try to correct the mistakes you make."

There are some specific things that need cleaning up, such as the way Newman and the rest of the secondary were routinely burned. A unit that allowed a 52-yard touchdown pass in overtime to lose the previous game gave up catches of 64 and 47 yards.

They also were flagged for pass interference in the end zone on what would've been a third-down incompletion, thus forcing a field goal, and they gave the Giants a first down on the winning drive when nickel cornerback Frank Walker was flagged for holding in the secondary.

Walker's penalty was the second of that drive. DeMarcus Ware was caught being offside. Not even counting penalty yards, the Giants gained 510 yards on Sunday night.

"We have to find a way to be on the same page," James said. "When those pressure situations come, people crack or they make plays. We didn't make enough plays in the end."

The offense put up enough points to win, but still had enough costly mistakes to cost guys some sleep. It started early, with Doug Free's missed block that led to quarterback Tony Romo getting twisted around and toppling into the end zone for a safety.

And it lasted late, with Austin watching that pass flutter past him, perhaps not able to find that extra gear because of the hamstring injuries that have limited him all season.

But the part that causes the most gnashing of teeth among Cowboys fans is Garrett's continued problems managing the clock.

NBC cameras showed Sunday night that team owner Jerry Jones and everyone in his booth knew when to call a timeout, but it took the coach about 15 seconds to do it.

Jones was so frustrated after the game that he only issued a brief statement. He didn't answer any questions.

The Cowboys have essentially turned into the anti-Tebows. Just like the Denver quarterback has a knack for turning seemingly lost games into victories in the final minutes, Dallas turns likely victories into losses right at the end.

Again, there's a pattern to it. Romo is 19-2 in November, just 9-14 in regular season games in December and January. That includes 4-0 this November and 0-2 this December.

After the game, Garrett and Romo offered little insight into anything, instead deferring to "the process."

They also kept talking about looking ahead to Tampa Bay, as if it was unbeaten Green Bay and not a 4-9 team that just got spanked 41-14 by another 4-9 team that has a rookie quarterback and an interim coach.

"You have to put your head down and keep playing games." Romo said.

TEXANS

From 1C

10 fingers. I don't know how many we have, but the few that we do have need to keep our guys focused on what it's all about."

Houston has 14 players with postseason experience, including recently signed backup quarterbacks Jake Delhomme and Jeff Garcia.

Kubiak is hoping star receiver Andre Johnson returns after missing Sunday's game in Cincinnati with a "mild" left hamstring strain. Johnson was just coming back after sitting out six games with an injury to his right hamstring that required surgery.

Kubiak says he'll stay cautious with his star receiver, though he wants to get Johnson back in action as soon as possible.

"If I could, I'd have Andre back this next week," Kubiak said. "He needs to play, he needs to get back in the flow of things before we do get to January. But we've got to be smart here. He did nothing last week, a little running in the pool. We'll increase that this week. Where we'll be, I don't know."

Houston cut veteran Derrick Mason on Monday, and Kubiak says Jeff Maehl or Trindon Holliday will move up on the depth chart. The 37-year-old Mason signed after Johnson's initial hamstring injury, and caught only six passes in seven games.

The Texans also continued their remarkably bad run of serious injuries in Cincinnati. Right guard Mike Brisiel had surgery on Monday to repair his broken right leg, and Kubiak says he'll miss three to four weeks.

Williams and quarterbacks Matt Schaub and Matt Leinart were among the long list of players already lost to season-ending injuries. So far, as long as Yates stays healthy, the Texans seem to be OK.

The fifth-round pick completed 26 of 44 for 300 yards, and engineered the winning 80-yard drive at the end. He threw an interception and was sacked five times.

"Probably had a few balls he could have got rid of that he hung on to too long," Kubiak said, "but I did like the way he responded throughout the course of the game, the way he handled us on the road.

"We didn't have huddle problems, all those things you worry about with a young quarterback," Kubiak said. "How quick he grows up and how he progresses will have a lot to do with how far we go, so I think he took another step this week, though."

Yates was back at work Monday, studying a replay of the game with Schaub, Delhomme and Garcia.

"It's just going to continue to come back to decision-making, keeping the team in the right spot," Kubiak said. "He was in there first thing this morning, him and Matt (Schaub) and my two vets watching the film and trying to get better, so that's the most important thing."

Tech hires 2 defensive coaches

■ Moore, Mounds fired; McElroy moved.

Associated Press

LUBBOCK — Texas Tech coach Tommy Tuberville has fired two assistants and moved a third to another position following the program's first losing season in 19 years.

Offensive line coach Matt Moore and defensive backs coach Otis Mounds were fired Monday. Defensive line coach Sam McElroy will be reassigned to another job.

The Red Raiders finished the season with five straight losses and a defense ranked 115th nationally.

Texas Tech has hired Terry Price and John Lovett to help with the defense. Price spent the last three seasons as the defensive line coach at Ole Miss and Lovett is a former defensive coordinator at Miami.

NFL ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

MIAMI

Dolphins fire Tony Sparano as coach

Tony Sparano has been fired as coach of the Miami Dolphins, the third dismissal of an NFL coach in the past two weeks.

The move came Monday, one day after the Dolphins lost to the Philadelphia Eagles to fall to 4-9. The defeat ended a recent surge by the Dolphins after they lost their first seven games.

With two other teams already in the market for a new coach, owner Stephen Ross didn't want to wait any longer to start shopping. Sparano's dismissal came hours after the Kansas City Chiefs fired coach Todd Haley. Jacksonville fired coach Jack Del Rio on Nov. 29.

Todd Bowles, who had been Miami's assistant head coach and secondary coach, will be the interim head coach for the final three games, starting Sunday at Buffalo.

Jeff Ireland will remain as general manager and play a role in the coaching search.

The Dolphins are assured of their third consecutive losing season, the longest such streak since the 1960s.

"The results speak for themselves," Ross said at a hastily called news conference. "We're looking to becoming a winning organization, and I thought this was the best time to make the change and let us go in a direction that will allow us to become that."

MISSOURI

Chiefs fire coach Todd Haley

KANSAS CITY — The Kansas City Chiefs fired coach Todd Haley on Monday, less than a year after he led the team to the AFC West title.

The injury-ravaged Chiefs dropped to 5-8 after Sunday's 37-10 loss the New York Jets in which they committed 11 penalties for 128 yards, including a 15-yarder on Haley for unsportsmanlike conduct.

"This was a difficult decision but one that we feel is best for the future of the Chiefs," Chairman and CEO Clark Hunt said in a statement.

"Although there have been bright spots at different points this season, we have not made meaningful progress and we felt that it was necessary to make a change. We appreciate Todd's contributions during his time with the club, and we wish him well in the future," he said.

Kansas City lost three starters to torn knee ligaments — safety Eric Berry, running back Jamaal Charles and tight end Tony Moeaki — in three straight September games, including Moeaki in the preseason. Quarterback Matt Cassel was lost on Nov. 13 with a broken right hand.

Haley leaves with a 19-27 record in nearly three years at his first NFL head coaching job. The Chiefs won the AFC West last season with a 10-6 record.

Texas A&M-Kingsville pitcher dead in stairwell

Associated Press

KINGSVILLE — Police say a Texas A&M-Kingsville baseball player has been found dead in the stairwell of an off-campus apartment building.

An autopsy has been ordered on 18-year-old pitcher Travis Madden of Inez. Kingsville police say they found him Sunday morning and are investigating reports Madden had attended a party and was last seen walking back to his dormitory.

Madden was a chemical engineering major who had just completed his first season of fall baseball.

Coach Jason Gonzales on Sunday afternoon held a team meeting to let fellow players know of the death.

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TODAY Mostly cloudy high 63 low 50

WEDNESDAY Partly sunny high 62 low 32

THURSDAY Mostly sunny high 59 low 33

LOCAL FORECAST

Expect a 20 percent chance of showers and mostly cloudy skies today with a high around 63 and south winds between 15 and 20 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph. Tonight's forecast calls for mostly cloudy conditions with a low around 50 and south winds between 10 and 20 mph with gusts as high as 25 mph.

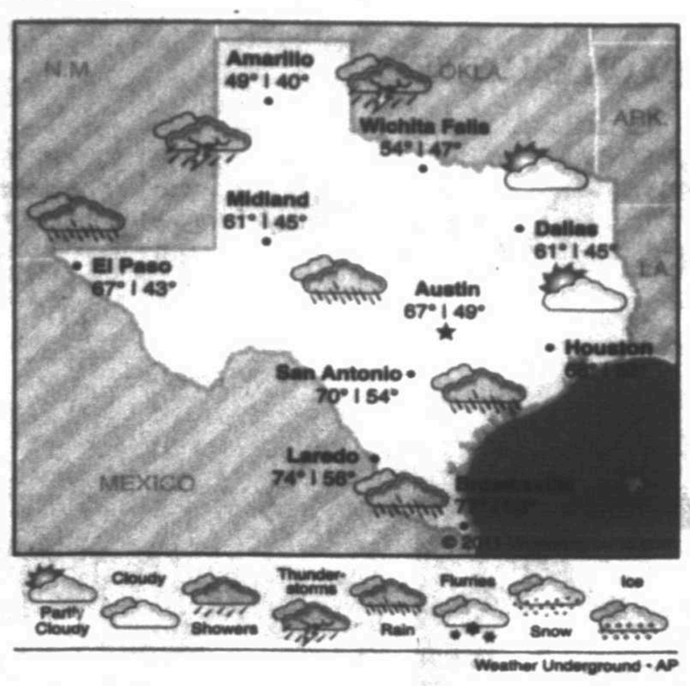
Wednesday, look for partly sunny skies with a high around 62, a low around 32 and west winds between 10 and 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Thursday, look for mostly sunny skies with a high around 59 and a low around 33.

The high on Monday reached 48 while the low dropped to 41. The record high for Dec. 12 is 80 set in 1995. The record low is 10 set in 1989.

***

High pressure will provide sunny, rather mild weather for mid-December over much of the eastern third of the nation Tuesday. But east-to-northeast winds from the Atlantic will continue to drive waves and rain toward Florida's eastern coast. The clockwise flow around the same high is responsible for the strong onshore flow of moisture into Florida.



Precipitation	
Sunday	0.09 in.
Monday	0.00 in.
Total for month	0.71 in.
Total for year	4.57 in.
Normal total (year to date)	14.24 in.

Monday's temperatures	
High	48
Low	41
Normal high	58
Normal low	31
Sunrise	7:40 a.m.
Sunset	5:45 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Tuesday, Dec. 13

Seriously overweight husband presents big issues for wife

DEAR ABBY

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

DEAR ABBY: I am 35 and my husband is 45. When we met, he weighed 375 pounds. He has now hit the 600-pound mark. I have five kids, a full-time job and go to school two nights a week. He talks about losing weight, but it's easier to talk about than actually do. He was in a car accident that left him with back problems, and on top of that he has bad knees from sports.

The future doesn't look promising. I know that one day he'll be confined to bed — I predict in the very near future — and I will have to drop everything to take care of him. He already is dependent on me and the older kids to take care of him because he's in pain all the time and can't physically do anything. He doesn't have insurance.

If I didn't have a family to take care of, it might not be as big of an issue. This is very depressing. I am thinking of seeing a counselor. He already has told me that he won't go. Your input would be greatly appreciated. — WIFE OF A BIG MAN

DEAR WIFE: Talk to a counselor right away. Unless you do something now, you will be unemployed and homebound with a sick husband and five dependent children. Who enabled your helpless husband to gain all the weight?

His life depends upon him being on a strict, sensible nutrition regimen. Because he has no insurance, a self-help group could be a lifesaver. Overeaters Anonymous may be able to give you some guidance and offer him emotional support. There are chapters nationwide, as near as your phone book, or contact them online at www.oa.org.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Frank," and I have been together for four months. I'm 21 and he's 31. He was married before. This is my first serious relationship.

Sometimes we get into heated arguments because he's ready to "plan for the future" while I just want to go with the flow. He thinks I don't take our relationship seriously because I'm not ready to move in with him, get married or start a family yet. When I explain that I would love for all of that to happen — eventually — Frank says it seems more like a friendship than a relationship. That really hurts me, because I'm trying.

These arguments over my lack of "seriousness" are killing me. They started two months into the relationship. I feel pressured. If the pressure continues, I'm feeling like we may not be able to be together. I need your advice, please. — DOING THE BEST I CAN IN BOSTON

DEAR DOING THE BEST YOU CAN: You are a smart young woman with excellent instincts. Trust them. You feel pressured because you ARE being pressured. In fact, you're being given the full-court press.

Pushing for a quick involvement/commitment is one of the warning signs of an abuser. Ask yourself, What's the rush? Find out the reasons why his marriage failed. Stand your ground and don't allow yourself to be pushed into anything you are not completely comfortable with. And if it persists, end the relationship.

DEAR ABBY: I'm seeing a counselor for my anxiety, and it bothers me that he yawns throughout each consultation. He sometimes apologizes for it, though. Is this inappropriate behavior for a therapist? — MIFFED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR MIFFED: Unless your counselor is starved for oxygen or burning the candle at both ends, yes, it is. And because it is distracting to you during your sessions, tell him if it doesn't stop, you will have to find another counselor.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Coming up spades

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A 10 8 6 4
♡ A 10
◇ A J 9 8 3
♣ 5

WEST
♠ K 7 3 2
♡ 7
◇ Q 10 7 5 4
♣ K 6 2

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

SOUTH
♠ Q 5
♡ K Q 8 6 4 3 2
◇ 2
♣ J 7 4

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♠	2♣	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♡	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♣

This deal from an international pairs event produced an unusual situation — both defenders were squeezed in the same suit.

South landed in the good spot of four hearts. West led a low club, East won with the ace and returned a trump to cut down dummy's ruffing power, won with the table's 10. The ace of diamonds was cashed and a diamond was ruffed, followed by a club ruff with the ace of hearts and another diamond ruff in hand. Declarer now ran his trumps and, in the end position, the spade suit was "frozen" — both defenders had to hold two spades to prevent declarer from picking up the suit — if West bares the king declarer leads a low spade from hand and can pick up the spade suit. If West discards the king of clubs, you exit with a club and endplay East, who holds the master club and is endplayed into breaking the spade suit. Indeed, if East bares the jack of spades, declarer can come to12 tricks by leading the queen from hand, pinning the jack and picking up the suit for no loser.

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011:

You could be torn between adventure and the status quo this year. If you are attached, a relationship could consume a lot of your energy. Invite your sweetie to join you on some adventures. Both of you will smile more. If you are single, the people you attract could vary a great deal. Find out with whom you are more comfortable. You'll gain financially through others. You could hit the lottery or win at the right bingo game. Communication could be challenging at times. Confirm as much as you can. LEO paves the way to adventure.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ A personal matter could weigh on you. During the afternoon, you feel as if a veil has been lifted and your creativity flourishes once more. Kick back and enjoy yourself, even if you are at work. That touch of fun is always a plus. Tonight: You express your creativity in a new way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You could be tired in the morning and dragging in the afternoon. If you can, take a catnap. Your energy will soar. Insights or a dream could give you greater clarity about a situation. Use care with finances. Tonight: Head home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ Handle finances in the morning, which also might include going shopping. If you are fortunate enough to use the a.m. for holiday purchases, you could be most effective. A problem quickly eliminates itself. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ Let your creativity flourish. Accept what is no longer workable, and let go. Someone could be negative without the ability or the intention of lightening up. Schedule some time for errands and other key activities in the afternoon. Tonight: Treat yourself well, too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ You might feel a little sluggish when you start the day, but by the afternoon, your tune changes. Your ability to move forward and get to the bottom of a problem is enhanced. Think twice about what is going on around you. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ You have a tendency to read between the lines with others. Sometimes your assumptions could be off. Listen more and judge less. Understand that what a person says might be 100 percent real for him or her, and he or she doesn't see beyond it. Tonight: Do something nurturing just for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ You see past the obvious and want more from the people you work or hang with. However, they might not have the same vision and cannot identify with what you see. Walk in their shoes and help them walk in yours. Tonight: Follow the fun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ Remain in touch with your feelings. Sometimes it is difficult to not trigger or detach. In the morning, do whatever you need to do in order to get the appropriate distance. In the afternoon, others seem far more responsive. Tonight: Touch base with an older friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Your energy is high. You're able to accomplish a lot on a one-on-one level. Check out a new idea, and you'll get past a problem with ease. You could be taken aback by the dynamics of another way of thinking. Suddenly new paths open up. Tonight: Put on a great piece of music.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ Don't fight the current trend. Others seem to dominate and cannot back off. Your ability to understand where another person is coming from could help. Discussions on a deeper level naturally evolve in the afternoon. Be bold and open. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ Stick with your to-do list until you can't anymore, or you choose not to. Open up to an associate or friend who has much to offer. You don't need to be in sync with every idea. You simply need to listen and weigh the pros and cons. Tonight: Lots of choices.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ You have many ways of looking at a situation. You might not be comfortable with the status quo. Stop — you have the imagination and savoir-faire to end a problem and expand from that point. If you are single, a small flirtation starts up out of nowhere. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

***

BORN TODAY

Actor Jamie Foxx (1967), musician Ted Nugent (1948), first lady Mary Todd Lincoln (1818)

DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

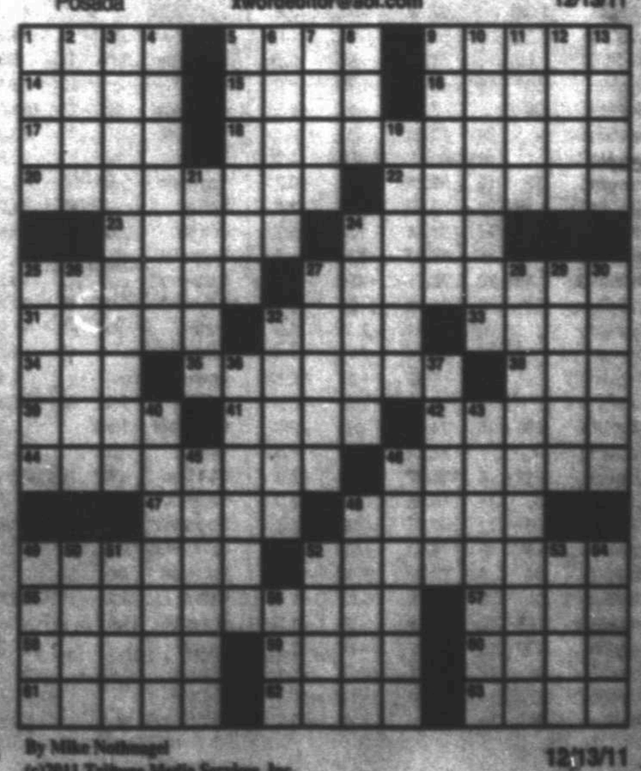
ACROSS
1 Baroque composer of the "Goldberg Variations"
5 Civil rights activist Parks
9 Online money
14 Hairdo that's picked
15 Barely manages, with "out"
16 "I'm not kidding!"
17 Corner Monopoly space
18 "Strikers' formation
20 Soldiers' shelter
22 Most restricted, filmwise
23 TV oil family name
24 Thoroughfare
25 Volcanic rock
27 Futuristic personal transport devices
31 "Filthy" money
32 Pastrami seller
33 Former Mideast leader
34 Were in the present?
35 "Severe reprimand, in metaphor
38 Simpson judge
39 Indian breads
41 Prehistoric threat, for short
42 Katie's TV roommate
44 Pollution legislation goal
46 13-piece suit?
47 Tenn. athletes
48 Train schedule listings
49 "I, Claudius" star Derek
52 Not draw any cards
55 1963 hit for the Drifters ... or where you can see the ends of the starred answers
57 Mixed bag
58 Demander's words
59 "Othello" conspirator
60 Fund-raising dinner, often
61 Like pocket protector wearers
62 Cyclops and Wolverine, e.g.
63 Part of CBS: Abbr.

DOWN
1 Tijuana's region
2 Requiring binoculars to see
3 "Where evidence is gathered
4 Faith-based battle
5 Show contrition
6 Giving the go-ahead
7 Splinter group
8 Pose, as a question
9 Trick into wrongdoing
10 Piña ___: rum drinks
11 Got down
12 Trig class ratio
13 Be mindful of
19 Mysteriously unusual
21 Flooring craftsman
24 "Chill out!"
25 Mel who voiced Bugs
26 Like an otological test
27 Teammate of Rivera and Posada
28 "Extremely easy task
29 Actress Holmes
30 Pumps and clogs
32 Day at the movies
36 Milano's land
37 Strike lightly
40 Enjoyed every bite of
43 Teacup poodles, e.g.
45 Unimportant person
46 Remain a little longer
48 Setting for this puzzle's theme
49 Become a member
50 Author Tyler
51 "Good buddy"
52 Emulated Michael Phelps
53 Is out sick
54 With perfection
56 New Jersey fort

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com 12/13/11



By Mike Nothnagel
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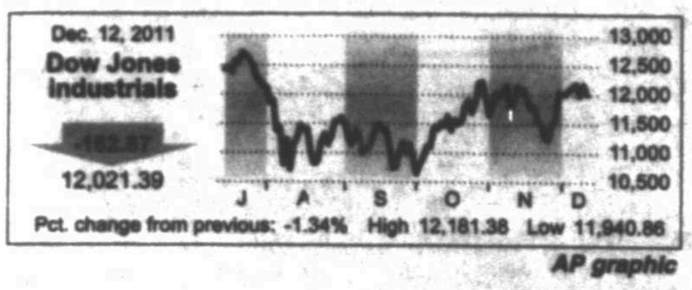
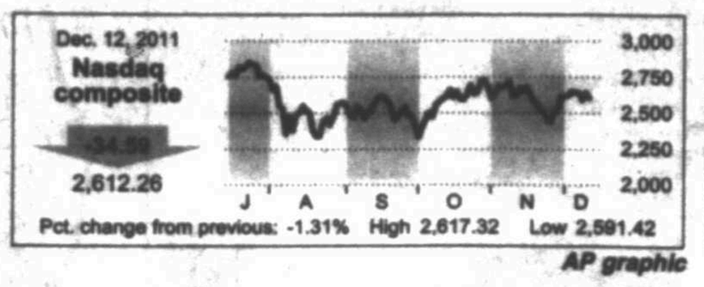
Business & Oil

A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP graphic



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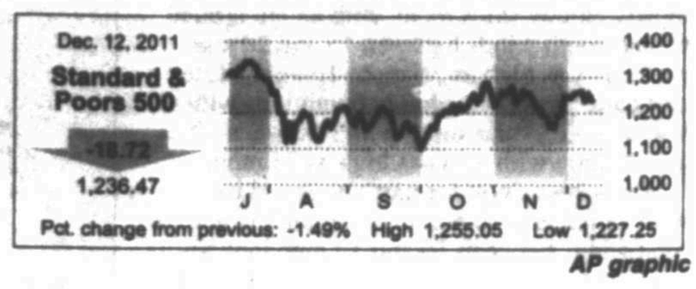

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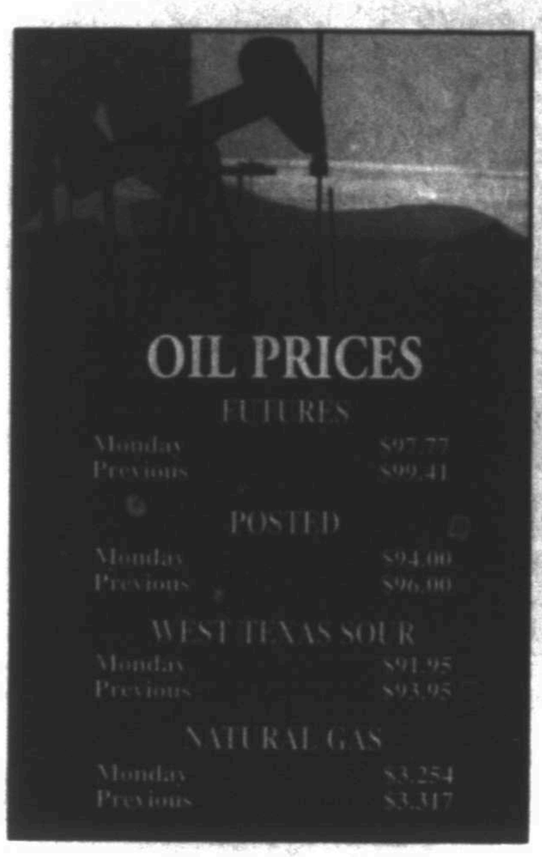

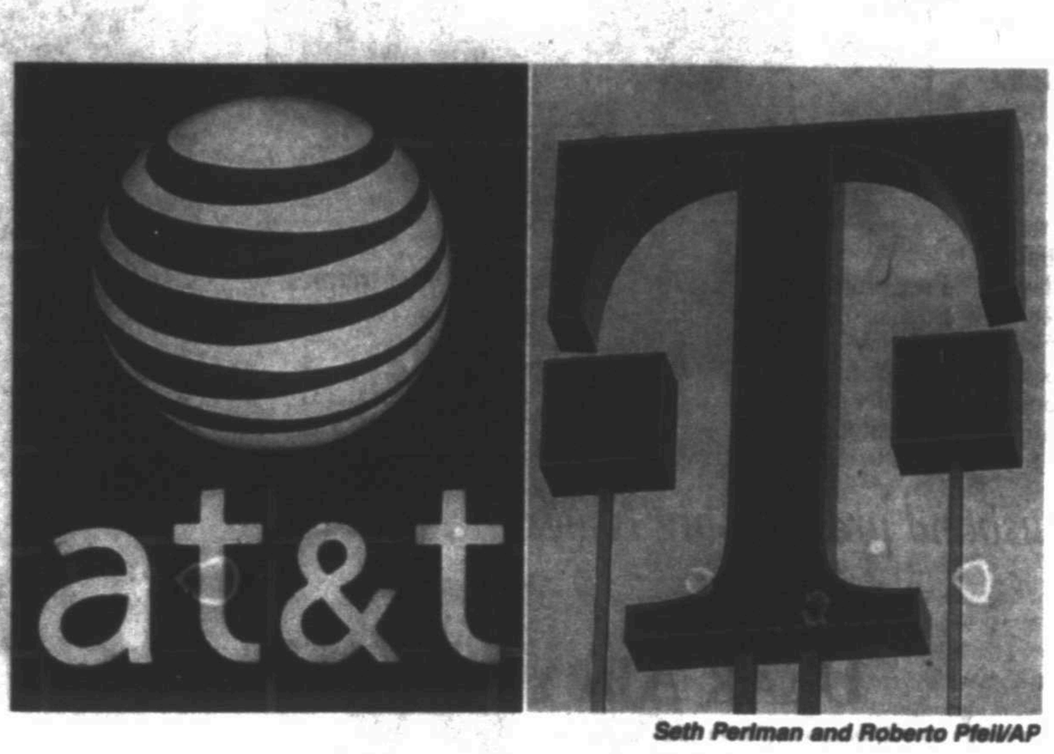

Seth Perlman and Roberto Pfeil/AP

This March 20 file photo combo shows the logos of the communications company AT&T and Deutsche Telekom. AT&T Inc. and the Justice Department agreed Monday to put off their upcoming antitrust trial over the phone company's proposed acquisition of smaller rival T-Mobile USA while the wireless carriers determine the fate of the deal.

NYSE

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
S&P500ETP	2086976	124.21	-1.84
BkofAm	1672103	5.45	-.27
GenElec	1790644	16.46	-.36
SPDR Fncl	974021	12.79	-.31
iShEMkts	809989	37.89	-1.48

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
DxindiaBr	42.87	+5.76	+15.5
VulcanM	38.70	+5.15	+15.4
DxRussBear	44.58	+5.73	+14.8
DxEmBear	20.80	+2.07	+11.1
MStwart	4.86	+.46	+11.0

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
CastleAM	8.57	-3.82	-30.8
ChiZenix n	2.81	-.85	-23.2
NBGrce rs	2.02	-.38	-15.8
DxindiaBl	17.57	-3.04	-14.7
DxRussBull rs	28.38	-4.86	-14.6

Diary

Advanced	642
Declined	2,409
Unchanged	75
Total issues	3,126
New Highs	64
New Lows	49
Volume	3,596,988,279

Amex

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
CherianEn	75373	10.04	+.52
NovGold g	30691	10.46	-.35
NovaGld g	23041	10.50	-.35
GoldStr g	21434	1.95	-.11
GrtBasG g	20576	1.01	-.10

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
ElephTalk	3.30	+.25	+8.2
Orbital	4.25	+.27	+6.8
UnvSecInst	5.63	+.36	+6.8
MastercH	3.90	+.23	+6.2
Lannett	4.03	+.22	+5.8

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
SL Ind	17.21	-1.75	-9.2
MinesMgt	2.27	-.20	-8.1
DocuSec	2.60	-.21	-7.5
Augusta g	3.25	-.26	-7.4
NDynMn g	6.70	-.53	-7.3

Diary

Advanced	147
Declined	279
Unchanged	50
Total issues	476
New Highs	16
New Lows	9
Volume	77,554,696

Nasdaq

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Intel	890823	24.00	-1.01
PwShs QQQ	498327	56.38	-.64
Cisco	430381	18.53	-.35
SiriusXM	429641	1.77	+.02
Microsoft	377895	25.51	-.19

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Lantronix	2.08	+.33	+18.9
SunHlth	3.69	+.55	+17.5
RadioElec	2.00	+.28	+16.3
Radvisn	8.42	+1.17	+16.1
BroadVsn	9.23	+1.03	+12.6

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
DiamndF I	31.30	-9.26	-22.8
Sevcon	4.65	-1.35	-22.5
HmFnB LA	13.75	-3.37	-19.7
WSB Hldgs	2.54	-.46	-15.3
PlumasBc	2.50	-.42	-14.3

Diary

Advanced	632
Declined	1,913
Unchanged	109
Total issues	2,654
New Highs	16
New Lows	71
Volume	1,516,731,039

Justice Department, AT&T agree to put off antitrust trial

By Nedra Pickler
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — AT&T Inc. and the Justice Department agreed Monday to put off their upcoming antitrust trial over the phone company's proposed acquisition of smaller rival T-Mobile USA while the wireless carriers determine the fate of the deal.

U.S. District Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle quickly approved their motion to cancel their February trial and set a Jan. 18 hearing about the future of the deal.

The development comes as the $39 billion deal is under increasing government opposition, with analysts now giving it a slim chance of going through.

In a statement, AT&T said it and T-Mobile's parent company, Deutsche Telekom AG of Germany, want the delay "to allow the two companies time to evaluate all options."

"AT&T is committed to working with Deutsche Telekom to find a solution that is in the best interests of our respective customers, shareholders and employees," the statement said. "We are actively considering whether and how to revise our current transaction to achieve the necessary regulatory approvals so that we can deliver the capacity enhancements and improved customer service that can only be derived from combining our two companies' wireless assets."

The Justice Department sued to block the merger on Aug. 31. The government said the combination of the No. 2 and No. 4 cellphone companies in the country would reduce competition and lead to higher consumer prices.

The two companies withdrew their application for the Federal Communications Commission to approve the deal three weeks ago after the commission's chairman came out against the deal. The companies said they would seek approval from Huvelle in the scheduled trial of the Justice Department's case and would file another FCC application later.

But they are now reconsidering that plan. At a hearing Friday, the Justice Department said there was no valid transaction to challenge since the FCC application was pulled and wanted the case dismissed or delayed. Huvelle expressed concern that AT&T was "using" the court and wasting taxpayer resources and had scheduled a hearing for Thursday on the fate of the case.

That hearing and all others including the six-week trial scheduled to start Feb. 13 are now off. Huvelle ordered that by Jan. 12, the companies must file a report "describing the status of their proposed transaction, including discussion of whether they intend to proceed with the transaction" or another transaction and the status of any related FCC proceedings and timetable.

Summary box

HOLD OFF: AT&T Inc. and the Justice Department agreed to put off their upcoming antitrust trial over the phone company's proposed acquisition of T-Mobile USA while the wireless carriers determine the fate of the deal.

THE MECHANICS: A federal judge quickly approved their request to cancel their February trial. There's now a Jan. 18 hearing on the deal's future.

THE BIGGER PICTURE: The $39 billion deal is under increasing government opposition, with analysts now giving it a slim chance of going through.

Oil prices fall below $98

Oil prices slid alongside global stock indexes Monday with Europe's economic stability again under intense scrutiny.

Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude lost $1.64, about 1.7 percent, to end the day at $97.77 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, which is used to price foreign oil varieties imported by U.S. refineries, gave up $1.39, or 1.3 percent, to finish at $107.08 per barrel in London.

Major U.S. stock indexes fell around 2 percent in midday trading, but losses were more severe in Europe.

The European Central Bank cut support for heavily indebted euro-zone governments. The ECB has worked to keep borrowing costs low for member countries by purchasing government bonds. However, the bank now says that countries should take a bigger part in getting their finances under control. Already, cash-strapped countries like Greece have installed severe government spending cuts that are expected to curtail energy demand. Further cuts will reduce demand even more.

In the U.S., retail gasoline prices fell less than a penny to $3.274 per gallon, according to auto club AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. A gallon of regular unleaded is 71.1 cents cheaper than the 2011 peak price near $4 per gallon, but it's still 30 cents higher than the same time last year.

Euro falls to 10-week low

The euro fell to a 10-week low against the dollar Monday on worries that Europe's new financial pact won't be enough to stop the region's growing debt crisis.

The euro fell to $1.3186 in late trading Monday from $1.3370 late Friday. It fell to $1.3161 earlier, its lowest point since Oct. 4.

Gold for February delivery fell $48.60 to finish at $1,668.20 an ounce after falling as low as $1,660.30 an ounce.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Basic Energy Services (BAS)
Closing Price $18.48 Down 0.54

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $82.76 Down 1.95

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $98.27 Down 2.31

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $35.86 Up 1.03

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $26.98 Down 0.06

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $7.55 Down 0.36

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $13.85 Down 0.18

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AGL Res	1.80	15	39.76	+.28	+10.9
vjAMR	...	...	.56	-.09	-62.8
AT&T Inc	1.72	15	29.01	-.02	-1.3
Abraxas	...	13	3.40	-.12	-24.3
AdvancedEx	.65e	...	9.59	-.15	-18.7
AMD	...	4	5.30	-.24	-35.2
Alcoa	.12	10	9.35	-.29	-39.2
AlonUSA	.16	19	8.22	-.57	+37.5
AlphaNRs	...	50	21.39	-2.06	-61.4
Altria	1.64f	17	28.57	+.09	+17.3
Amgen	1.12	14	57.16	-1.43	+6.1
AmistarKo	.36	...	77.81	-2.35	+8.2
Apache	.60	9	93.94	-3.54	-21.2
ApldMatl	.32	7	10.82	-.69	-25.1
ATMOS	1.36f	14	32.32	-.95	+3.6
AutoDesk	1.58f	20	31.77	-.71	+11.9
BP PLC	1.68	19	41.82	-.98	-8.3
BakrHu	.60	13	48.60	-1.79	-15.0
BkofAm	.04	...	5.45	-.27	-59.1
BasicEnrSv	...	34	18.48	-.54	+12.1
BerkHts A	...	16114625	85.00	-1810.00	-4.8
BerryPet	.32	15	39.24	-1.54	-10.2
BMCSftCp	1.48	22	32.40	-.35	+8.0
BrdlySq	1.36f	17	33.18	-.36	+25.3
BrownFA	1.40f	20	77.29	-1.79	+11.3
BrownFB	1.40f	20	78.71	-1.92	+13.1
CVS Care	.50	15	38.15	-.22	+0.7
Cameron	...	20	50.07	-2.95	-1.3
CaterPlr	1.84	14	93.24	-2.73	-.4
Celestica	...	7	7.52	-.27	-22.5
Cemex	...	...	4.75	-.32	-53.9
ChfryLink	2.90	16	35.69	-.03	-22.7
ChesEng	.35	7	23.72	-.94	-8.5
Chevron	3.12	8	103.07	-1.15	+13.0
Chicos	.20	14	10.95	+.06	-9.0
Citrix	.40	11	66.55	-1.88	-24.8
Cisco	.24	16	18.53	-.35	-8.4
Citigrp rs	.04	7	27.22	-1.55	-42.5
ClayEng	...	19	82.76	-1.95	-1.4
CocaCola	1.68	12	68.89	-.88	+1.7
ColgPal	2.32	19	90.21	-.35	+12.2
Comcast	.45	16	23.27	+.59	+6.4
CompPrdS	...	14	33.04	-1.16	+11.9
ConAgra	.88f	18	26.46	-.35	+12.7
ConchoRes	...	...	98.27	-2.31	+12.1
ConocPhil	2.84	9	70.48	-1.47	+3.5
Corning	.30f	6	13.48	-.31	-30.2
CrackerB	1.00f	14	49.89	+.16	-8.9
CrossTim	2.99e	16	48.49	-.01	+21.8
DCP Mid	2.58f	35	44.76	-.10	+19.7
DTE	2.35	12	51.93	-.25	+14.6
Dataram h	...	...	1.02	+.06	-35.0
Dawson	...	...	35.86	+1.03	+12.4
Dell Inc	...	8	15.42	-.37	+13.8
DevonE	.60	9	64.23	-2.33	-18.2
DxFnBull rs	...	...	61.04	-4.08	-56.2
DrSCBr rs	...	...	27.97	+1.12	-40.3
DxFnBr rs	...	...	40.96	+2.48	-13.3
DrxSCBull	...	...	43.99	-2.09	-39.3
Disney	.60f	15	38.85	+.09	-2.3
DowChem	1.00	11	26.34	-.76	-22.8
EMC Cp	...	23	23.10	-.45	+.9
EOG Res	.64	25	101.26	-2.70	+10.5
EmpDist	...	16	20.26	-.39	-6.3
Energen	.54	12	48.89	-1.96	+1.3
EngyTsfr	3.58	33	44.36	-.01	-14.4
EnPro	...	16	34.24	-.83	+17.6
EntPrPt	2.45f	36	45.61	+.11	+9.6
EnCanTer	.07e	...	9.71	-.29	-15.8
ExtremNt	...	...	10.23	-.49	-57.4
ExxonMbl	1.88	10	80.86	-1.29	+0.5
FordM	.20	5	10.85	-.18	-35.4
ForestOil s	...	15	16.09	-.83	-41.1
FrcstwFd	...	...	1.42	-.06	-67.6
GATX	1.16	22	41.62	-.41	+18.5
GabelliGlb	1.06f	...	8.38	-.08	-22.7
GAMry	.80e	...	24.75	-.89	-7.7
GenElec	.68f	13	16.46	-.36	-10.0
Goldcrp g	...	...	3.74	-.04	+54.5
Goodrich	1.16	20	122.67	-.20	+28.3
GPStnEn	.80f	16	20.97	-.12	+8.1
Halliburt	.36	12	32.88	-1.32	-30.3
Hexcel	1.92	17	22.83	-.47	+6.2
HewlettP	.48	6	27.34	-.44	-35.1
Hitachi	...	...	54.24	-1.14	+1.7
iShBraz	1.42e	...	58.48	-1.62	-24.4
iShSilver	...	...	30.49	-.84	+1.0
iShChina25	.85e	...	34.94	-1.36	-18.9
iShEMkts	.84e	...	37.89	-1.48	-20.5
iS Euro	1.68e	...	49.55	-1.49	-14.9
iShR2K	1.02e	...	73.47	-1.07	-6.1
integrysE	2.72	15	50.59	-.65	+4.3
Intel	.84	10	24.00	-1.01	+14.1
InterDig	.40	19	41.16	-1.26	-1.2
JPMorgCh	1.00	7	32.04	-1.14	-24.5
JohnJn	2.20	15	63.61	-1.02	+3.7
KimbClk	2.80	17	69.91	-.33	+10.9
KindME	4.64f	...	79.17	+.02	+12.7
KindMM	4.64f	...	72.38	+.48	+8.2
LegacyRes	2.18f	11	26.98	-.06	-6.1
Lowes	.56	18	24.69	-.26	-1.6
Lubys	...	46	4.57	+.02	-27.1
MassMCp s	1.20	...	18.60	-.10	+21.1
McDnld	2.80f	19	99.48	+.45	+28.3
Merck	1.68f	13	35.41	-.27	-1.7
MerMfdl s	...	22	13.39	-.07	+5.7
MexcoEn	...	63	7.55	-.36	-1.3
MicroT	...	39	5.82	-.07	-27.4
Microsft	.80f	9	25.51	-.19	-4.5
MorgStan	.20	9	15.38	-1.00	-43.5
Nabors	...	13	17.34	-.64	-26.1
NatGrid	3.00e	...	47.38	-.25	+6.7
NOVarco	.48f	16	70.75	-2.65	+5.2
NewsCpA	.19f	16	17.45	-.11	+19.8
NokiaCp	.56e	...	4.96	-.20	-51.9
NvMAd	.99e	...	14.63	+.13	+11.9
NvPIII	.94	...	14.64	+.13	+12.2
NuvPI	.92	...	14.21	+.02	+10.8
NSTPR	.68e	...	14.23	+.06	+6.6
NTXGI	.86	...	16.11	+.13	+8.0
Nvidia	...	14	14.59	-.37	-5.6
OcciPet	1.84	12	91.78	-2.62	-8.4
Oracle	.24	18	31.32	-.37	+.1
ParTech	...	14	3.66	-.05	-35.9
ParkDri	...	31	6.79	-.27	+48.4
PetroUTI	.20	11	19.61	-1.17	-8.1
PetroRE	.60	...	9.62	-.18	-31.7
Pmtan	1.36e	15	19.97	-.17	-11.9
Petrobras	1.26e	...	26.20	-1.18	-30.8
Pfizer	.80f	13	20.39	-.17	+16.4
PlnNtr	.08	10	58.21	-2.95	+1.6
PlainsAA	3.89f	19	67.86	-.12	+8.2
PwShs QQQ	.41e	...	56.38	-.64	+3.5
Praxair	2.60	23	102.34	-1.19	+7.2
PrmEgy	...	...	20.26	...	+4.8
PrUSh S&P	...	...	20.07	+.54	-15.5
PrUltSP	.31e	...	44.90	-1.36	-6.6
PrUSSP500	...	...	13.97	+.55	-28.1
PrctlSam	2.10	16	64.31	-.86	...
RAM En h	...	14	1.11	...	-39.7
RangeRs	.16	...	84.92	-3.21	+44.3
RegionsFn	.04	24	4.00	-.12	+62.9
Rowan	...	23	31.52	-1.09	-8.7
RoyDSHRA	3.36	14	70.63	-1.28	+5.8
SpdrDJIA	3.16e	...	120.24	-1.54	+4.0
SpdrGold	...	...	161.99	-4.41	+16.8
S&P500ETP	2.46e	...	124.21	-1.84	-1.2
SpdrLeHi	...	...	45.83	...	...
SabrR	3.07e	16	65.44	-.37	+8.9
SandvRn	.68	...	51.99	-.31	+32.8
SandRidge	...	11	7.34	-.31	+.3
Saplent	.36e	27	12.00	-.39	-.3
S'shinbog	1.00	21	71.92	-2.23	-13.9
SigmaAld	.72	18	63.85	-2.00	-3.9
SiriusXM	...	44	1.77	+.02	+8.6
Smucker	1.92	19	76.49	-.94	+16.5
SprintNex	...	...	2.37	-.10	-44.0
SP Matls	.82e	...	33.29	-.81	-13.3
SP Consum	.61e	...	39.23	-.12	+4.9
SP Engy	1.08e	...	68.55	-1.64	+.4
SPDR Fncl	.20e	...	12.79	-.31	-19.8
SP Inds	.69e	...	33.55	-.62	-4.4
SP Tech	.39e	...	25.71	-.33	+2.1
SunocoL s	1.65f	14	34.78	-.19	+24.8
TelefEsp s	2.14e	...	17.53	-.54	-21.4
Tesoro	...	5	21.92	+.13	+18.2
3M Co	2.20	14	80.59	-1.61	-6.6
Trdmark s	.68	9	63.09	-.16	+8.9
TRCrotl	.39e	...	14.04	-.13	+8.8
TylerTech	...	40	31.12	-.80	+48.9
UBWV	1.24f	17	28.01	+.04	-4.1
US Bancrp	.50	12	26.04	-.25	-3.4
Vale SA	1.76e	...	22.00	-.80	-36.4
ValeroE	.60f	7	20.70	-.45	-10.5
VangEmg	.82e	...	38.76	-1.42	-19.5
VulcanM	.04m	...	38.70	+5.15	-12.8
Walgrn	.90	12	33.89	-.39	-19.9
WellsFargo	.48	10	26.29	-.82	-15.2
WstnRefin	...	7	12.40	-.51	+17.2
WhitingPt s	...	10	46.54	-1.50	-20.6
WstnDig	1.00f	20	31.34	-.31	+26.8
XcelEngy	1.04	15	25.91	-.07	+10.9
Xerox	.17	14	7.99	-.17	-30.8
Yahoo	...	19	15.47	-.47	-7.0

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

INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD %Chg	52-wk % Chg
12,876.00	10,404.49	Dow Jones Industrials	12,021.39	-162.87	-1.34	+3.85	+5.19
5,627.85	3,950.88	Dow Jones Transportation	4,908.82	-50.10	-1.01	-3.81	-2.62
459.94	381.99	Dow Jones Utilities	442.71	-4.22	-.94	+6.31	+10.80
8,718.25	6,414.89	NYSE Composite	7,363.40	-139.39	-1.86	-7.54	-6.20
2,480.51	1,941.99	Amex Index	2,257.88	-34.02	-1.48	+2.24	+6.33
2,887.75	2,298.89	Nasdaq Composite	2,612.26	-34.59	-1.31	-1.53	-.48
1,370.58	1,074.77	S&P 500	1,236.47	-18.72	-1.49	-1.88	.32
14,562.01	11,206.42	Wilshire 5000	12,990.39	-190.00	-1.49	-2.77	-1.33
888.57	691.71	Russell 2000	733.15	-10.23	-1.64	-6.44	-5.04

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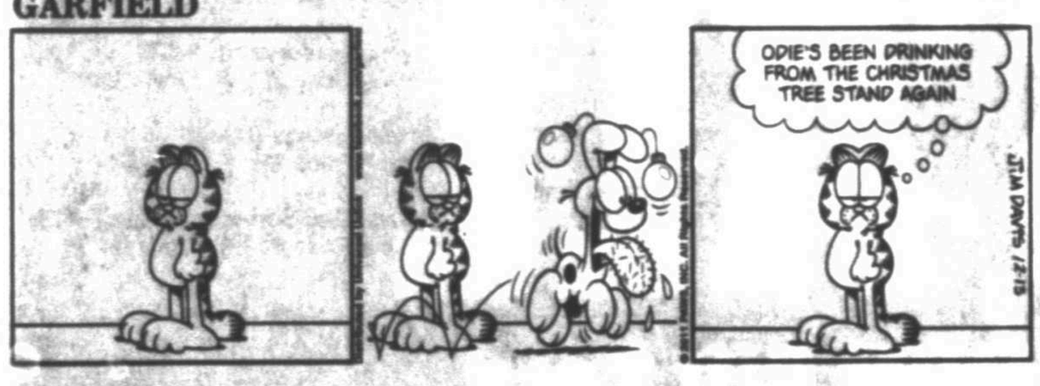
SHOE

MUTTS

GARFIELD



CLOSE TO HOME

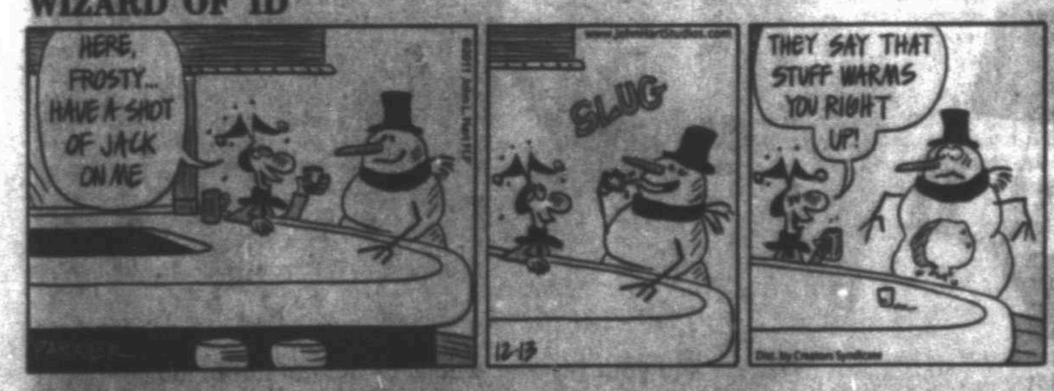
"Imperial Command has considered settling there but their economy is in the pits."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"DENNIS MITCHELL IS IN THE STORE!! CLEAN-UP IN ALL AISLES!"

DUSTIN

WIZARD OF ID



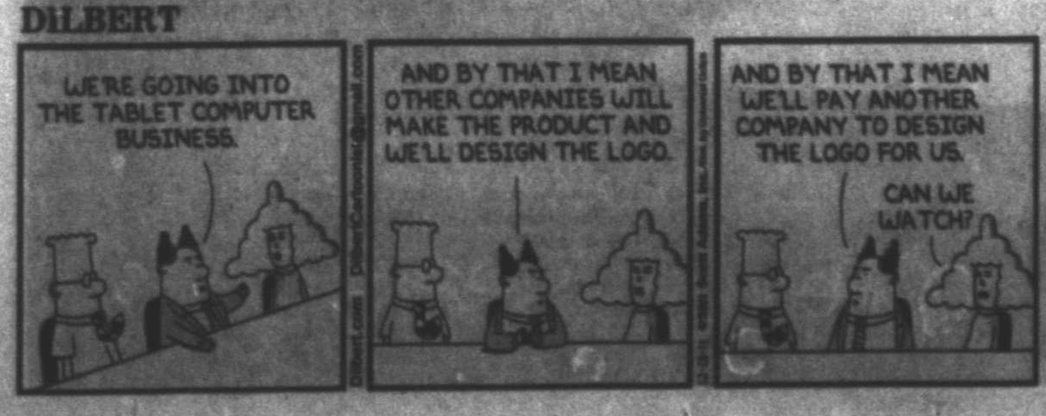
LOCKHORNS

"I ANNOY LORETTA. SHE NAGS ME... IT'S THE CIRCLE OF STRIFE."

FAMILY CIRCUS

"All I'm gonna ask Santa for this year is a pony or a baby sister."

DILBERT



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Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

COLONIAL SELF STORAGE, hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Landlord's lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the time and place indicated below on the following terms. All Property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash or credit cards, NO CHECKS, with payment to be made at the time of the sale. All items must be removed from the property within 24 hours after sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items for sale. The property will be sold on December 21, 2011 on or about the time indicated at each self-storage identified below:

10:00AM Colonial Self Storage, 1904 W. Loop 250, Midland, Tx 79705
F175 Augustin Salerio-New Kitchen appliances, bedroom furniture, misc household items.
I 212 Debra Buthke-Washer, dryer, dining room furniture, misc household items.
O638 Elva Rincon-Washer, dryer, baby crib, bikes, misc household items.

11:00AM Colonial Self Storage 5005 Andrews Hwy, Midland, Tx 79703
951 Guillermo Galinda-TV, chairs, tables, and misc household items.
1016 Megan Olsen-Bike, TV, and misc household items.
439 Dennis Fulcher-Bikes, TV, weight bench, motor bike, misc boxes.
1082C Teresita Tavarez-Tread Mill
1115 Tinnye Haynes-TV, toys, and shelves.
955 Bill Pearman-ShopVac, keyboard, computer, misc household items.
1014 Anna Martinez-Baby items, misc boxes and crates and tubs.

Entertainment

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

Lost & Found

FOUND black/tan dog, male, no collar. Winfield/Humble. 432-683-3694.

Legal & Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 — Rule 38 Case No. 08-0273743
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 9, 2011 — Status/Permit No. 729214
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 20, 2012
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.STATE.TX.US

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., [RRC Operator No. 665748] has made application for a density exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 38 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the DENSITY requirement of the field rules for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 46, Blk. 39 T2S, T&P RR CO / WOLCOTT, A J Survey, A-762, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, MIDLAND County, being 8.5 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512) 463-6848.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 20, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name :	TEXAS TEN 'X'	
Lease/Unit Well No. :	7	
Lease/Unit Acres :	324.7	
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	486.0	
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	1333.0	
Lease Lines :	486.0 F NORTH L,	1980.0 F WEST L
Survey Lines :	2173.0 F SOUTH L,	1980.0 F WEST L

As part of this application, applicant also seeks permit authority in 1 additional field: (1) BRADFORD RANCH (STRAWN). No rule exception is necessary pursuant to the field rules for this field.

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 467/660, 80.0 acres.

BRADFORD RANCH (STRAWN) : OIL Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 11300 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, DEBBIE BAKER, at (972) 969-3966.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 — Rule 38 Case No. 08-0273765
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 9, 2011 — Status/Permit No. 726738
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 20, 2012
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.STATE.TX.US

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., [RRC Operator No. 665748] has made application for a density exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 38 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the DENSITY requirement of the field rules for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 45, Blk. 38, SHACKELFORD, MRS S E Survey, A-1049, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, MIDLAND County, being 13.1 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512) 463-6848.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 20, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name :	DONALD L HUTT 'FEE'	
Lease/Unit Well No. :	108	
Lease/Unit Acres :	1228.9	
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	466.0	
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	1328.0	
Lease Lines :	2302.0 F SOUTH L,	466.0 F EAST L
Survey Lines :	660.0 F SOUTH L,	1630.0 F EAST L

As part of this application, applicant also seeks permit authority in 1 additional field: (1) AZALEA (STRAWN). No rule exception is necessary pursuant to the field rules for this field.

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 467/660, 80.0 acres.

AZALEA (STRAWN) : GAS Special Rules 552/660, 320.0 acres. OIL Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 11050 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, MANDY HEDGEPETH, at (972) 969-3873.

Notice Of Application For Fluid Injection Well Permit

XTO Energy, Inc., Opr. No. 945936, 200 N. Loraine Street, Suite 800, Midland, Texas 79701 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas to convert an existing producing well to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to dispose of these fluids into the San Andres Formation in the Goldsmith San Andres Unit Lease, well number: 226W. The proposed injection well is located 440' FNL & 2225' FEL, Blk 44, Section 27, which is approximately 4 miles south from the city of Goldsmith in the Goldsmith Field, in Ector County. Fluids will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3854' – 5111' feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Request for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792)

Lost & Found

FOUND Keys near Golf Course and K Street. Call 432-686-0446.

FOUND MALE Boxer South of Midkiff Rd. No tags, Call to identify. 432-664-9828.

FOUND MALE German Shorthair on CR 120, on Dec. 7. Has orange collar. 432-413-0022.

FOUND SMALL black female young dog, between Idlewilde and Ric. 432-640-9665.

FOUND WHITE male Boxer around Stanolind & D. Call to identify 432-212-4779

KEYS FOUND in snow at Grafa Park. Call 432-559-8530

RANDY M. You know him? Found your pad lock etc. Call 432-349-9040 & describe

WHITE AND black Blue Heeler FOUND near Wadley and Ward Dec. 9th Call 432-553-8221

LOST BLUE Pitbull. E. Midland on Parker St. Reward! Call 432-238-1975

LOST FEMALE Dixie 3 yrs old Dalmatian Pointer Mix. Last seen in vicinity of Whitney and Frontier. Reward of $50. Call 432-694-7832 or 432-528-1051

LOST MALE Lab mix tan and white. Lost in 2800 block of Cimmaron Ave. Call 553-3896 with any info

LOST-SEAL Point Siamese Cat, dark brown, light blue eyes, neutered male named Chai. REWARD. call 432-556-9133

Business Services

P. Douglas Cochran, M.D.
As of Dec. 2, our office has moved to a new location at:
4212 Andrews Hwy.
(MMH West Campus),
3rd floor, Suite 306.

Our office phone number is still the same 432-699-6000.

Legal & Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 7C — Rule 38 Case No. 7C-0273771
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 12, 2011 — Status/Permit No. 729340
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 23, 2012
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.STATE.TX.US

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., [RRC Operator No. 665748] has made application for a density exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 38 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the DENSITY requirement of the field rules for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 139, Blk. 2, T&P RR CO Survey, A-579, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, REAGAN County, being 23.7 miles NE direction from BIG LAKE, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512) 463-6848.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 23, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name :	PELZEL	
Lease/Unit Well No. :	5	
Lease/Unit Acres :	323.4	
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	480.0	
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	1366.0	
Lease Lines :	480.0 F SOUTH L,	1980.0 F EAST L
Survey Lines :	2173.0 F NORTH L,	1980.0 F EAST L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 467/660, 80.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 9500 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, MECHELLE TESTA, at (972) 969-4066.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 — Rule 38 Case No. 08-0273720
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 9, 2011 — Status/Permit No. 729197
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 20, 2012
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.STATE.TX.US

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., [RRC Operator No. 665748] has made application for a density exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 38 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the DENSITY requirement of the field rules for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 48, Blk. 39 T2S, T&P RR CO / PEMBERTON, I M Survey, A-747, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, MIDLAND County, being 8.5 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512) 463-6848.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 20, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name :	TEXAS TEN 'Y'	
Lease/Unit Well No. :	8	
Lease/Unit Acres :	653.3	
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	660.0	
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	939.0	
Lease Lines :	660.0 F NORTH L,	2006.0 F WEST L
Survey Lines :	660.0 F NORTH L,	660.0 F EAST L

As part of this application, applicant also seeks permit authority in 1 additional field: (1) BRADFORD RANCH (STRAWN). No rule exception is necessary pursuant to the field rules for this field.

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 467/660, 80.0 acres.

BRADFORD RANCH (STRAWN) : OIL Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 11400 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, DEBBIE BAKER, at (972) 969-3966.

Meetings

Acacia Masonic Lodge #1414
1600 W. Wall
Stated Communication
2nd & 4th Tues
@ 7:30pm.
432-557-6041
Mike Patton, W.M.
Ed Wilson Sec
Did you know Christopher 'Kit' Carson was a Master Mason?

Personals

BABYSITTER NEEDED Mon.-Fri. 4p.m. to 8p.m. Must have references, driver license and no felonies. Call 432-978-5106

Business Center

Business Opportunity

BOOTH RENTALS available for new salon. Call 432-689-3432

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

NEW TODAY!

2010 FORD Fusion SE. Charcoal, 4 d. pwr. 44k. Great car! $14,000. 282-2024

BMW 1987 535is. white wind leather interior. All service records. $3,950. 432-694-7504, 352-4054.

BMW 2003 330ci 104500 miles, 2 door, 5-Speed transmission good condition, Silver Gray Metallic exterior, Black interior, WBABN53403JU25218 2WD All options. Loaded. $11,000 call 432-689-5279

NEW TODAY!

BMW 2007 328i convertible. Premium package, extended Warranty, 41k mi., $27,500 OBO. Call 432-425-6201.

BMW 2007 750li, black, tan interior, 70K miles, excellent condition, loaded. Call 432-413-5040.

BUICK 1999 Park Avenue Ultra. 107k miles, very nice, car. $3500. Call 432-664-4690.

CADILLAC 2007 DTS, V-8, leather. We finance. W.A.C. 24 mo warranty. 683-6222.

Passenger Cars

CHEVROLET 1972 Chevelle drag race car. Complete body and drive train. $9,000. 556-9945

CHEVROLET 2002 Z28 convertible. 24K looks and drives new, garaged, non smoker $12,900. 685-4013

FORD 2002 Mustang. V-6. Auto. low miles. We finance. W.A.C. B&B Auto 683-6222

FORD 2007 Fusion SE. V6, dark blue, 104K. Good condition. $8,500. 432-556-1901

FORD 2007 Taurus. 76K miles, 24 mo warranty. B&B Auto Sales 683-6222

FORD 2008 Focus SE 4 Door, 4 Cylinder. We finance. W.A.C. B&B Auto 683-6222

HONDA 2003 Accord 4 door, heat/air, 127k mi, black, $3000 down & $4000 in payment. Call David at 432-238-3185

LINCOLN 1998 Continental. V8, leather loaded, 127k miles $1900. 432-664-4690

MERCEDES 2004 E Class, looks brand new, black w/leather interior, new tires, 33K miles. $21,500. Call 631-8045 / 683-5625 At Carter's Furniture

NISSAN 2004 350Z Touring Roadster Nice/Clean. $12,800 432-266-2962

NISSAN 2010 Altima Silver, 4 dr, auto, 2.5L, 47k. Excellent car! $15,000. 218-9941

BMW of the Permian Basin
5701 Andrews Hwy • Midland
432-522-3800

2008 BMW 335i
Silver/Gray
Prem pkg., sport pkg., Logic 7 sound system, heated seats
22k miles

2006 Pontiac GTO
mybbk
HP & Torque boost
Arm, Racing rims
48k miles

2008 MERCEDES BENZ C300
Sport Sedan Cashmere, Prem. Pkg. II, Multi-Media Pkg., Fold Down Rear Seats Heated Seats - 23k miles
$29,995

2008 CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE LS3
Blk/Blk, auto trans.
9k miles

2011 BMW 328i
Prem. value pkg
Heated seats
13k miles

2008 PONTIAC SOLSTICE GXP
SILVER/EBONY RED STITCHING
HIGH PERFORMANCE AUDIO,
AUX PORT, 50 MILES

mywesttexas jobs

http://www.mywesttexas.com/jobs

Midland Reporter-Telegram in partnership with monster

AUTOMOTIVE

Alderson European Motors
Now hiring a Service Advisor. Must be detail-oriented, computer literate and customer friendly. We are only looking for the best. ADP experience a plus. No Saturdays. Apply in person at 5801 Andrews Hwy.

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Position
Company FT
Small, local, non-profit organization is seeking candidate for a full-time office manager. Must be organized and possess great people skills. Experience in accounting preferred. Experience with Word and Excel a must. Please send resume to:

cwi

TAX ACCOUNTANT

Clayton Williams Energy Inc. is looking for a tax accountant for federal and state income tax compliance and planning. Degreed candidate should have experience in oil and gas taxation as well as corporate and partnership taxation.

Email resume to: kjones@claytonwilliams.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES
Customer Service Reps needed in Midland! Mon-Fri; $11-12/hr; need some clerical or call center experience. Call 713-874-3082 to apply or visit www.chasesource.com.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Field Manager
Confidential FT
Oil and gas service company seeking a local candidate for an open Field Management position. Recent college graduate with a background in agriculture, Customer Service and Mechanics preferred. Salary pay, health and dental benefits available. Other benefits to be discussed. Training will require traveling, but the permanent position will be local Midland/Odessa. Email resume to: oilfieldmanagement@gmail.com

Fluid Level Technician
Sheridan Production Company FT
Opening for experienced E&P Fluid Level and Well Optimization Technicianfor the Lorenzo, TX field office. Requires a minimum of 2 years general fluid level tech. Experience. Must have operational knowledge of echometer and dynamometer usage a plus interpretation of information. Basic computer skills required including total well management software, microsoft office, and web-based production reporting systems. Excellent compensation and company employee medical, dental, life insurance and 401k match. Please email resume to employment@sheridanproduction.com. EEO

Plant Supervisor
Reliant Holdings, LTD. FT
Plant Supervisor needed to ensure that product quality, safety and availability (ice or liquid) meets the required demand and specifications to be sold to our customers with safety in the workplace as the top priority on all functions. Problem solving skills a must. Chemical and/or gas processing experience required. Current opening in Midland/Odessa area. Send resume to: jobs@floco2.com

Mud Engineers
Confidential FT
WANTED: Experienced Mud Engineers. Minimum 3 years West Texas. **Generous sign-on bonus.** Excellent pay and benefits, including, Medical, Dental, Vision and matching 401K. Equal Opportunity Employer. Submit resume to M- 47 c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram. 201 E. Illinois Midland, TX 79701.

HEALTHCARE

Aid
Confidential
Need someone to assist 16 year old mentally and physically handicapped male. Call for more info, 432-218-6381.

Dental Assistant
Keith Poe DDS FT
3200 Sunburst Dr.
Midland, TX 79707
Dental Assistant needed. Experience required. Bring resume by

RN Case Manager
Martin County Hospital District FT
Martin County Home Health, in Stanton, Texas is seeking dedicated, energetic, compassionate employee. Benefits included. Martin County Home Health has an immediate opening for the following position: RN Case Manager If interested please contact Allison Roy, RN at 432-756-3259 or apply in person at 116 N St. Peter Street, Stanton, TX 79782.

RNs and LVNs
Encompass Home Health FTor PRN
Encompass Home Health is hiring nurses for our adult and pediatric divisions. Please contact Chad at 866-953-3444 or apply online at www.ehhi.com

Sitters/CNA'S
Nurses Unlimited, INC FT
Nurses Unlimited, INC seeking Sitters/CNA'S to work for private duty clients. Hourly rate. Call 432-522-5080. All shifts available. E.O.E.

HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

Front Desk/Housekeeping
Baymont Inn & Suites FT/PT
10600 Airport Rd.- 432-561-8000 **Midland, TX**
Looking for dependable and reliable people to work flexible schedule. Front Desk applicant must have valid DL. Must be able to work weekdays or weekends. Call 432-561-8000 or Fax 432-561-5243.

Housekeepers/Laundry
Immediate opening for Housekeepers and Laundry. Apply at: 2500 Commerce Dr, Midland, Tx.

Maintenance
Holiday Inn Express FT
3309 N. Loop 250 W. **Apply in person**
Midland, TX 79707 **No phone calls**
Now hiring full time & part time Maintenance. Professional appearance required. Will train the right person. Serious inquiries only. Previous applicants need not apply. Apply in person only. No phone calls. Competitive pay.

OTHER JOBS

Delivery Person
Reynold's Brothers FT
Delivery Person needed at furniture warehouse. Must have neat appearance, excellent driving record required. Full time, Monday-Friday 8-5. Please apply in person, 315 N. Colorado or fax resume to 432-687-3403.

Detailers
UNISEAL FT
Detailers needed for Local new car dealership. Used experience is helpful. Good pay. Please call 832-499-8574

Kelly Services Now Hiring:
• General Laborers - $10.00 hr. • Shophands - must have forklift experience, $14.00 hr. • Admin., Reception, Clerical - various assignments • Direct Hire Opportunities - clerks and store managers. • Front Desk Clerks - 2 positions, 32 hrs and 40 hrs., $9.00 hr. Apply in person at 5 Desta Drive Ste. 1260 or call 432-689-8801. Never an applicant fee. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Kennel Tech
Lonestar Sanctuary for Animals FT
Kennel tech/care giver needed immediately at Lonestar Sanctuary for Animals. Duties include animal care and general cleaning. Some office/computer skills would be a plus. Full time position. Please apply at 4300 N Fairgrounds Rd. No phone calls please.

Maintenance Supervisor
SH Management is now hiring a Maintenance Supervisor for Desoto Apts. Must have HVAC. Apply online at www.sh-management.com/careers.html and select Desoto. EOE.

OTHER JOBS

General

WANTED NEWSPAPER CARRIER CONTRACTORS
Midland Reporter-Telegram

Selling Newspapers On The Street Corners
(avg. income $50.00 - $100.00/day)
MUST BE AT LEAST 14 YEARS OLD SUNDAYS ONLY
IF INTERESTED CALL TOMMY 967-2267

NEED EXTRA CASH???

FT /PT

Set Your Own Hours!!

Manager Training Program

Call

505-850-5398

Midland Reporter-Telegram has immediate openings in it's Distribution Department (Mailroom)
Part-Time Shift Work Available
Schedule consists of a combination of day and night shifts. Night Shifts - 12 (midnight) until 3-5 a.m. **Starting pay is $9.00 per hour.**

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk
Monday-Friday 8-5 or email: ellisworth@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

The Midland Reporter Telegram has an opening in its Production Department for the position of:

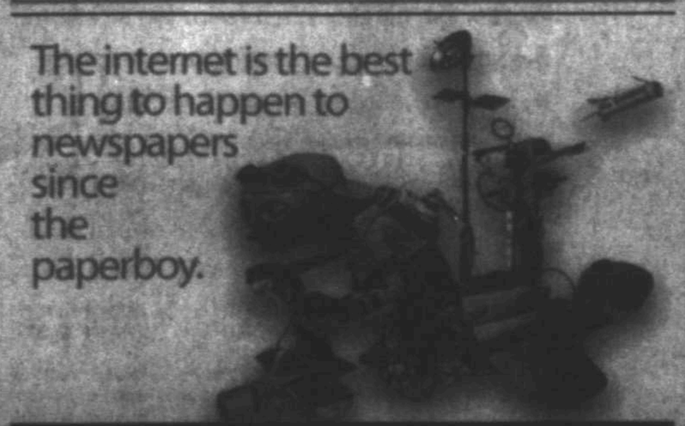
Pressman/Pressman Trainee

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.

Send resume and salary requirements to:
John Maddox, Production Director
c/o Midland Reporter Telegram
201 E. Illinois St., Midland, TX 79701
E-mail: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
or
come by 201 E. Illinois Street and fill out an application.

HEARST corporation
Midland Reporter-Telegram is a part of Hearst Corp.
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Warehouse
Wayne Workware FT
Uniform Co. in Midland needs Warehouse workers for shipping, receiving and stocking. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Salary based on experience. Excellent benefits. Send resume via fax 832-300-4545.



DURING A TYPICAL WEEK, NEWSPAPER MEDIA REACH 77% OF ALL ADULTS.
newspaperdata.com

mywesttexas.com

Do You:
Need help paying monthly bills and enjoy early Morning hours

Call Tony Gonzalez (432) 687-9002

*Must have vehicle, insurance, & valid driver's license
Midland and Big Spring Areas Available

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

All PT/FT Positions
Domino's Pizza, Join the busiest and best Pizza Delivery Co. Now hiring for all PT/FT positions. CSR's, drivers, and shift management. Competitive pay and fun work environment. Drivers earn great tips and full hourly wage. No split wages! Apply at any Midland Domino's Pizza locations. 3300 W. Illinois Ave., 604 N. Big Spring St., 4519 N. Garfield St., 2410 Rankin Hwy.

Cooks, Dishwasher & Waitstaff
Murray's Deli FT
Now hiring Cooks, Dishwashers and Waitstaff. Day shift and night shift Apply in person 9am-11am or 2pm-4pm Monday thru Friday. Murray's Deli, 3211 W. Wadley.

DISHWASHERS
***We hire attitude and personality over experience.* Midland's Premier Country Club Currently Has Openings! All positions available for full and part time. In addition to competitive wages we offer paid medical and 401k. Please apply in person at: Midland Country Club, 6101 N. Hwy 349, Midland, TX 79705.**

Host
Popular restaurant seeking Host. Also hiring contract Cooks and Servers for catering. Please call 570-1701.

Kitchen/Cashiers
Walters Family Restaurant
Serving Odessa for 30+years. Now open. Great family restaurant, closed Sunday's. Come join our team. Now hiring Kitchen & Cashiers. Salary DOE. Apply in person at: 4416 Briarwood #100, Midland, TX.

SALES JOBS

MCU MARKETING

Account Sales Manager

Set up and Maintain Accounts

Manage a small sales team

2 Years in sales and management

Average Annual Income FT 40-50k

Send resume to:

mkelley@mcumarketing.com

Outside Sale Representative
Hilliard Office Solutions FT
Is looking for an Outside Sales Rep. Training is provided. Must have ability to make cold calls, have customer service & closing skills, and a drivers license with a clean record. For questions, please call 432-683-9100. To apply, send resume to: sterlingh@mmbo.com

Sales Assistant
Help Wanted: Sales Assistant. Seeking dependable detail oriented person to join our team. Must have computer skills, work well in a fast paced environment, able to meet deadlines. Hours M-F, 8-5. Send resumes to melissa@centurygs.com.

Sales
Fender Truck Access. FT
Midland, TX 79701
Position open for person knowledgeable in truck accessories or automotive industry. Salary plus commission, Monday-Friday 7:30 am-5:30 pm, vacation, insurance option. Bilingual a plus. Salary DOE. Send resume to: kerry@tendergroup.com

SKILLED LABOR

Experienced Shop Foreman/Mechanic
Top Pay!!! Health, 401K, paid Vacation, 5 day work week. Apply in person Midredge Gardens, 3300 North Fairgrounds Road, Midland, TX. Or send resume, Attn. Justin Smith 432-687-6876.

Field Service Technician
Selman & Associates FT
Field Service Technician- Clean driving record, able to pull 30' trailer. Oilfield instrumentation delivery and setup. Midland/Odessa area. Fax resume to 800-642-4769.

Full Time Maintenance
Villa Chateau Apartments FT
Full time maintenance person needed, must have own tools, Drug Screen/ Background Check done. Apply in person at Villa Chateau Apts. 1803 N. Midkiff Rd. No phone calls please.

Landscape Maintenance Foreman
Arbor-Tech Horticulture
Competitive benefit package.
Weekly pay with benefits. Experienced individuals only. Please call 432-699-8202.

Licensed Experienced Journeyman Electrician
Now hiring! Email resume with references & salary requirements to: journeymanelectrician-resume@yahoo.com

mywesttexas jobs

http://www.mywesttexas.com/jobs

Midland Reporter-Telegram in partnership with monster

SKILLED LABOR

Lead Maintenance
Summerhill Apartments FT
Now hiring Lead Maintenance. Must be HVAC certified. Apply in person only at: 3001 North Midland Dr. Midland, TX 79707.

Needed
Oilfield Solutions FT
2014 S. County Rd. 1257
Midland, TX 79706
Needed: Someone with experience in forklift operating, chemical blending, inventory control and warehouse knowledge. Must pass pre-employment drug screen. Please apply in person 8-12pm or call 432-561-5071.

PRODUCTION FOREMAN
Long-time Midland independent oil operator looking for a **Production Foreman** with 15-20 yrs experience. Drilling experience would be a plus. Age not a problem. Duties include overseeing contract pumpers, daily operations, maintenance of oil/gas wells and equipment, and supervision of pulling units, workovers and completions. Good communication and reporting skills required. Send resume of education, work experience and any specialty training to **Purvis Operating.Co., PO Box 61980, Midland, TX 79710** or **betty@purvisop.com**

Propane Delivery Truck Driver
WTG Fuels Inc. FT
WTG Fuels Inc is hiring for the following positions in Midland/Odessa; Propane Delivery Truck Driver and Propane Service Technician. WTG Fuels Inc offers competitive pay, benefits and quality equipment. Apply in person at: 11501 West Count Rd. 125, Odessa, TX or call 432-563-0848.

Sand Blasters, Painters & Helpers
Accurate, Inc. FT
Hiring sand blasters, painters, helpers. Please call Accurate, Inc. at 432-563-1224 or 512-352-5278 or apply at 9504W CR 127, Midland.

Service Technician
1st Alarm FT
1st Alarm Security seeking Service Technician. Experience required. Fire Licenses a plus. Qualified applicants call 432-530-3535.

Service Technicians Needed
Weidner Apartment Homes FT
Weidner Apartment Homes is seeking Service Technicians to care for a couple of our apartment communities. Responsibilities: Assist in the preparation of apartments for occupancy, respond to service requests, performs maintenance and repairs on electrical, plumbing, HVAC systems, as well as small and large appliances. Qualifications: Experience in apartment maintenance or related field preferred, strong verbal communication skills, have a valid driver's license and reliable transportation. We offer competitive salaries, excellent benefits and generous apartment discounts. Please apply online at: www.weidnercareers.com or fax resume to 1-877-399-9012.

TIRE TECHNICIANS
Discount Tire is now hiring! We offer flexible schedules, benefits, and great starting pay. No experience needed; we will train. If you have a great attitude and you are a hard, reliable worker, please apply in person at one of our three Discount Tire Stores: **3100 N. Loop 250 (Midland), 2201 Rankin Highway (Midland),** or **4211 Grandview Ave. (Odessa)** No phone calls please.

Welders
Structural and Pipe Welders needed. Must be able to pass weld test and provide references. Top pay for experienced capable welders. No contract welders need apply. Call for appointment at 432-697-7400. Please leave name, telephone number, and time you can reached.

TECHNOLOGY

IT Manager
Teraco, Inc. FT
Teraco, Inc. is an industry leading plastic card manufacturer located in Midland. We currently have a job opening in our IT Department. The IT Manager will direct a team focused on the information technology requirements of our clients including business development, Systems Support, project/change management, and Network and vender management. Ensure the execution of client support is consistent and per defined documented company policies. Support the expansion of our business based on current goals and strategies. At least an undergraduate degree in Computer Science, Information Systems, or equivalent is required. Benefits include: paid vacation and holiday, tuition reimbursement, 401K, and medical inaurance. Email your inquiries and salary requirements to: resume@teraco.com

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

CDL Driver - Day/Night Shifts
Mid-West Transport FT
Mid-West Truck Center Odessa, TX has immediate openings for: *CDL Drivers.* Comprehensive Benefits include company paid Health and Life insurance, plus Vision/Dental/401k! 432-368-6780 / 432-209-9484

Class A CDL Truck Drivers
Silverline Transportation 432-563-1894
Prefer drivers with Pneumatic Tanker experience. Benefits include: driver sign-on bonus, medical, life & dental insurance, paid vacation, & 401k. Applicants having experience hauling sand and/or dry cement helpful. Good driving record, DOT, drug & alcohol testing required. Apply in person, call for interview or online @ **www.silverlinetx.com**

Drivers Wanted
Reagent Chemical & Research. Inc FT
Find out why our average length of driver employment is 9 years. Reagent Chemical, a family owned company dedicated to providing great service to our customers and taking care of our employees, is currently hiring professional drivers in Stanton, Tx. Requirements include Class A CDL, with tank and Hazmat Endorsement. Minimum of 2 years driving or 1 year tanker experience. Paid weekly by check or direct deposit. Benefits include family health & dental insurance with no premium contribution by the employee. 401K with company match plus profit sharing. Company paid life insurance, short and long term disability, additional life and disability is available thru group coverage. Up to 10 days vacation starting first year plus 10 paid holidays. Uniforms provided. Call 432-458-3446 or 432-661-4079

Truck Driver
Gary Carlisle. Inc. FT
Midland, TX **2 Years Exp.**
Owner operator seeking over the road driver Class A CDL driver pulling flat bed. Run Texas and adjoining states. 432-694-0778

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Appliances

1 Hour Free Pickup AAA Appliances. Call 238-9735 / 528-3046.

1HR. FREE Appliance Removal, 978-5211.

Electronics

73" MITSUBISHI T.V. with stand, 3D ready, $1,200. Call 432-260-4801

Food, Fruit & Produce

FUFFY'S PEANUT Brittle and Divinity available. 432-413-1303.

Free Stuff

3 MONTH OLD kittens, free to good home, male/female, 432-555-4861.

6 1/2 mo. kitten, nds good home, family travels for work, shots, spayed 432-599-4271

FEMALE CHIHUAHUA & Male Chihwaenie Together free to a good home. 432-853-2215

FOR FREE, 2 male Anatolian shepherds, approx 1 yr. BIG dogs, 1 or both, 553-4330

FREE MALE cat. 2 years old, Lovable, friendly Good homes only. 432-362-7954.

FREE MALE cat to good home, approx. 3 years old, & neutered. Call 432-528-5832

FREE TO good home, male & female mixed puppies, 6weeks old. Great Christmas Puppies! 432-599-3620

Free to good home. 1 female mixed breed puppy. Call 432-528-5983.

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!
Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

MASON JARS for free. Call 432-699-1338.

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Miscellaneous For Sale

KEN'S RV SALES
3804 W. Hwy 80 Midland, TX
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KENSRV.COM
SAVE $1000's ON A LARGE INVENTORY OF QUALITY USED RVs!!
• A FULL SERVICE DEALER • INSURANCE ESTIMATES • ALL TYPES OF REPAIR • PROPANE

Furniture

GREY COUCH and chair, seats 4 $180. Full headboard w/ rails $75. Little Tykes playset $75, call 689-8147

ZEBRA & hot pink desk & chair, 4 drawers. $50. 559-0250.

Miscellaneous for Sale

1 EA. 46X69x1/4 unframed, single pane of mirror, good condition $45, 432-553-9949

LADIES NICE winter pants, sweaters and vests. Size 10 & 12. $5 each, call 432-570-4106.

LEE HIGH School Annuals: 1966, 1967, 1979, and 1981, $30ea. 432-262-1192.

LOTS OF very nice children's toys & Christmas items. All for $25, 553-2173.

PIANO $500, curio cabinet $200, mirror with matching bench $100, ant. center $75, TV $75, Beauty salon equipment, rug. Call 432-413-9066

SNOW VILLAGE, sixteen pieces, in original boxes. $400 for all. Not sold separately. Cash Only. 559-1313.

WOOD PEDESTAL dining table with wood grain laminate top, 6 wood chairs $150.00. Upholstered chair $75.00, lift chair, motor doesn't work, $75.00. Bath/shower door, never installed, $75.00. Call after 4pm to see 520-5814.

Wanted to Buy

WINCHESTER 1894 "Trapper" saddle ring carbine. In original box, never fired, never cocked. Brand new 1980, 30-30, 16" barrel, all paperwork including original Winchester jacket patch. $900 OBO, 286-0039

Need some cash? Call CLASSIFIED 682-6222

Miscellaneous Wanted

GENERATOR, PACIFIC Equipment 8500M, $3,460 new, 1 hour on meter. $2,500 OBO. 432-349-1563.

Industrial Products & Supplies

Oil & Gas

MINERALS FOR lease. Stephens & Palopinto County Texas, 254-559-2626.

Animals & Pets

Livestock & Feed

Coyote problems? Buy a Burros. Young Burros for sale now. Ready to train. Call 432-349-1947

Pets

CKC YORKIE puppies. Will be ready Christmas Day. Female $400 & male $300. Call 432-213-7585.

POM-SHIZ PUPPIES 2 males $200 each. Call 432-557-5044

KING CHARLES Cavalier, new puppies, born just in time for the perfect Christmas gift. 1 female $2000, 3 males $1500. Serious inquiries only. Call Wes, 432-889-3472.

PETS AT Peace now providing cremations and burials. Pre-need, 12 months, 0% interest. 620-8677.

ATTN: READERS Re: Advertising
It is against City ordinance to attach any utility pole. Please call City of Midland Code Enforcement Office, 685-7237 for additional information.

Transportation

Passenger Cars

OLDSMOBILE 2001 Aurora. V8, leather, moon roof, ex cond 54k miles, price reduced $4,575 cash/ch's check only. Call Bruce 806-872-3266 La Mesa, TX.

PONTIAC 2001 Grand AM GT. V6, very sporty, $1900. Call 432-664-4690.

TOYOTA 1986 Celica GT, nds motor. Make offer, 432-689-8513

TOYOTA 2006 Prius Hybrid, 35k miles, loaded, leather, rear back up camera, garaged, new tires, 1 owner, $15,000. 432-978-9335.

TOYOTA 2010 Camry Hybrid 23,000 miles, like new condition, $21,500 432-230-7994 reinhwb@hotmail.com

VW 2000 Beetle, 82k miles, automatic, sunroof, leather, $5250. Call 694-1100.

WANTED!
Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars & pickups. 432-685-4078

Hybrid

FORD 2008 ESCAPE HYBRID, 30MPG City, We finance W.A.C, B&B Auto 683-6222.

TOYOTA 2008 Prius white, loaded, plus navigation $14,975, 82k mi. 684-6666

Exotic Cars

230" R.E.D. Dragster. Rare ready, $25,000 obo. 28' tag along enclosed pace trailer, $22,500. 559-0600.

LOTUS 2006 Elise, 43K miles, hard and convertible tops, original and custom wheels, XM radio, good tires. $27,500. Call 432-699-7629.

Antique & Vintage

FORD 1966 Thunderbird, perfect condition, reduced price, $11000 obo, 432-694-1429.

FORD 1977 RANCHERO-RARE Squire Trim. 351M-V8, runs good, interior good, needs exterior restoration, $2,000 OBO, 432-694-9663.

Fax Your Classified Ad In Today! 682-6999

Pickup Trucks

FORD 2008 F-250, super duty, crew cab, power stroke V-8 diesel, tow package, power seats, power tow mirrors, power windows, audiophile AM-FM, CD, Sirius, premium stereo package, Pueblo gold metalic with tan interior, 53K miles, some warranty remaining, Yokohama new tires & factory alloy wheels, still smells & looks new! NADA $31,200 will take $29,500. Call 432-258-6250

Antique & Vintage

CHEVY 2004 Colorado, extended cab, auto, 72K miles, B&B Auto 683-6222.

CHEVY 2006 Extended Cab LS, 24mo warranty, B&B Auto Sales 432-683-6222.

CHEVY 2006 COLORADO Crew Cab, 4 cylinder, $15,900 OBO, 556-6947.

DODGE 2008 Cummins 4x4, 65K miles, 100K mile warranty, 10" aluminum wheel. $26500. 325-227-2455

FORD 1991 F250. SUPER CAB, 7.3L Diesel. Needs work. Tool box and carpenters headache rack, $500 obo. 432-425-2352.

Ford 2001 F150, single cab, long bed, V8 automatic, 61k miles. $5,600. 432-934-2316.

FORD 2003 F350 Super Crew Lariat. 130k miles, will financing, $12,800. 661-0173

FORD 2006 F150 SuperCrew XLT. Black with gray interior. Nice truck, 87K mi., 3-year transferrable warranty available. $15,500. Pictures @ www.chipmccarver.com 432-553-9972.

GMC 2007 2500, HD, crew cab, 4x4, LS, $17,999, 24 mo. warranty, 683-6222.

MITSUBISHI 2008 Raider, crew cab, 34k miles, w/ warranty, B&B Auto 683-6222.

TOYOTA 2008 Tundra TRD, 4.7 L V-8, 2WD, Towing Package, 71k, $15,000, 770-6643

Vans & Minivans

PONTIAC 2004 Montana minivan, 7-passenger seating. Nice van, $2800, 432-664-4690.

4WD & SUV

2003 CHEVROLET Suburban, LS, extra clean, only 87,000 miles, 3 seats, good tires, Bose Sound, new detail, 2nd owner, $9,900 432-853-5229

Pickup Trucks

FORD 2006 ESCAPE HYBRID, 30MPG City, We finance W.A.C, B&B Auto 683-6222.

TOYOTA 2008 Prius white, loaded, plus navigation $14,975, 82k mi. 684-6666

Exotic Cars

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FORD 1977 RANCHERO-RARE Squire Trim. 351M-V8, runs good, interior good, needs exterior restoration, $2,000 OBO, 432-694-9663.

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General Announcements

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed on Thursday, December 15th, from 1:00pm until 3:00 pm in order for our employees to enjoy our annual

Christmas Party.

Happy Holidays!
FROM THE
Midland Reporter-Telegram

Pickup Trucks

FORD 2008 F-250, super duty, crew cab, power stroke V-8 diesel, tow package, power seats, power tow mirrors, power windows, audiophile AM-FM, CD, Sirius, premium stereo package, Pueblo gold metalic with tan interior, 53K miles, some warranty remaining, Yokohama new tires & factory alloy wheels, still smells & looks new! NADA $31,200 will take $29,500. Call 432-258-6250

Antique & Vintage

FORD 1978 150 Pickup XLT interior and race track trim. Call for info, 432-889-4413.

Pickup Trucks

CHEVROLET 2004 Silverado Super Cab LS. V6, 84k miles, bedliner, new tires, $9500. Call 432-889-9374.

CHEVY 2003 Silverado 2500HD. Clean and in very good condition, white, power doors & locks, cd, tow pkg, break master, nearly new tires. 81k mi, $12,000. MUST SEE...Nice xmas present for someone! Call 432-349-5111

CHEVY 2004 2500 HD great cond/clean, extras, 103k, $12,000 firm, 432-238-4825.

4WD & SUV

BAD BOY Buggy 2006. All electric 4WD, with winch. $4850 obo. 432-352-7051.

CADILLAC 2007 SRX, leather, 3rd row seat, we finance W.A.C. B&B Auto 683-6222

CHEVROLET 1997 Suburban, 4WD, runs good, like new tires, $2000. 432-686-9214.

CHEVROLET 2007 Trailblazer SS with a D-1SC Intercooled ProCharger, Kooks headers, Magnaflow muffler, packed with power, loaded, black with black leather, 20 inch chrome wheels with oversized tires, clean, non-smoker. $28,200. Call Chip 638-8372.

CHEVY 2005 2500HD 75000 miles 4 door, burgundy exterior, tan interior, 4WD, 8.1 Big Block V8, Allison 5 speed Automatic Transmission, Entertainment DVD System, loaded, priced $5000 below KBB $17000, 432-425-4553

► NEW TODAY! ◄

CHEVY 2005 Tahoe Z71 4X4, black/tan leather, 126k mi., non-smoker, DVD, very good cond., $15,750, Tiffany 432-940-3631

DODGE 2008 Nitro, 48,000 miles, 4 door, automatic transmission, like new condition, black exterior, 2WD, A/C, power windows, highway miles, 20" black rims. $17,527 O.B.O. 432-664-0722. bobbyburkh older@yahoo.com

FORD 1994 Explorer XLT. New tires, 147k miles, $1800. Call 432-664-4690.

FORD 1995 Explorer XLT. 4WD, loaded, all power, $2250 OBO. 432-561-5874.

HONDA 2006 CR-V good condition, new tires, $10,500. Call 432-697-6149.

JEEP 2003 Wrangler Sport, black on black, 6cyl., 61k mi., Mickey Thompson wide mud tires and wheels. Great Christmas gift for that hunter. Slightly wrecked, lists for 12-14k, $6500 OBO. Serious, call 631-8268.

LEXUS 2004 GX470 4WD, 4 or 6 seats, All options, 39k mi, 1 owner, always garaged, KBB $26,600 OBO. 432-685-1886 or 432-287-1000.

LEXUS 2010 RX350 Black on tan/28k. All the bells & whistles plus NAVIGATION & heated and cooled seats. $39k. Call 432-580-2357

LINCOLN 2006 Navigator, black, fully loaded, 60k mi., $17,000. Call 432-661-0315

NISSAN 2008 Pathfinder SE, 36K miles. Warranty to 100K miles. Third row seat. Very nice, $19,000. Call 432-664-9191

► NEW TODAY! ◄

NISSAN 2011 MURANO SL, 2,800k mi, nav, $34,000, 432-528-9497.

VOLVO 2005 XC90TG, 3rd row seat, premier sound, leather, roof, rack, loaded, 105K miles. $12,500. Call 432-889-1622.

Commercial Vehicles

Heavy Equipment

CHEVY 2007 C5500, diesel, single cab, flat bed, 97k mi, $25,500, 432-686-7949.

WINCH TRUCK For Sale 1995 Western Star 4964F, Caterpillar 3406C Rebuilt Lase then 10K,Tandem rear axles, 60 Tulsa winch, Price $30,000 Call 432-631-7612

Specialty Vehicles

23T ALTERED 1996 454 with 2speed power glide. New paint, comes with 35 ft Sidhan trailer., overhead air, winch, generator & new tags. Ready for use. $15000 obo. 634-3034.

23T ALTERED 1996 454 with 2speed power glide. New paint, comes with 35 ft Sidhan trailer., overhead air, winch, generator & new tags. Ready for use. $22,000 obo. 634-3034.

Recreational Vehicles

Motorcycles

2003 Harley Davidson V-Rod 100th Anniversary. Custom paint. Tons of Chrome $7500. 432-230-9417.

HONDA 2000 Valkyrie Interstate 1500 19k/mi black and red very nice bike $7200. 432-413-5107

2011 POLARIS SPORTSMAN 800. Only 7 hours on 4 wheeler, 424 with about 3000.00 worth of addons. Hunting ready with lots of storage. Paid $8800.00 Plus addons, will take $7000 bought 9/23/2011. 432-556-3992.

RVs

2009 ROCKWOOD Hi-Wall pop up trailer with slideout. Bryan 432-349-3547.

2010 5TH WHEEL, 37' 3 slides, WD, many extras, $26,000, 817-875-0374.

ROCKWOOD 2002 1540 LTD Pop-up Camper, great condition, heated bed covers, hubs, heater, sleeps six. $3000. 432-352-1126, leave message before 5:00p.

YAMAHA 2009 R6, Black/Gold!! Only 650 miles! $5,800. (432) 521-1214.

Classified CALL 682-6222

Auto Services and Parts

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HEADLIGHTS, Tail Lights, Body Parts, Door/Tailgate Handles, Fuel Pumps, Mirrors, Radiators & Window Motors / Regulators. Stop by Savage Auto Parts at 3402 Thomason Dr. or call 432-262-2276

Real Estate Rentals & Sales

Residential Rentals

Apartments for Rent Furnished

@GARDEN SUITE @
Private 1 Bdrm/1Ba Fully furnished, includes microwave and small fridge. Decorated like 4 star hotel room. Cozy cottage located in Old Midland. $1500 per month
All bills paid. Available Dec. 1st
432-685-9914

Apartments for Rent Unfurnished

FOR SENIORS 55 and up, very nice 2 bedroom, covered parking W/D connections, $775 monthly, no pets. Call 432-694-9653.

★ GARDEN ★ COURT APARTMENTS
"A Jewel, tucked away in Old Midland"
Spacious 1 & 2 Bdrms w/ patios
★ Ceramic Tile
★ W/D Connections
★ In Select Units
2301 N. Pecos
★
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NEW MANAGEMENT Spacious 1, 2, and 3 Bedroom Apartments. Call 432-687-4514.

Townhouse/ Condo for Rent Unfurnished

TOWNHOME 2/2 at 1102 Humble St. Quiet neighborhood, Pool and clubhouse, no pets, $1500/mth + $1200 deposit. References req. 770-2341.

Houses for Rent Furnished

CORPORATE & LEASE
MAKE A NEST IN GREENTREE!
Country Club Home Ready for you! Fully furnished & Beautiful Decor $3,800 per month. No pets. 432-685-0914.

CORPORATE TOWNHOME, 1900SF, newly remodeled, all new everything, 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 2 car garage, fully furnished including amenities. All bills paid including cable and wi-fi. Non-smoking. $3,200 a month, $3,000 deposit. Call 432-425-5940 or 432-558-8807. Broker's relocation.

Classified CALL 682-6222

Lots & Land

Oil & Gas

Terrell/Brewster County
Indian Wells Ranch #14 -Mule Deer- 394 ac @ $265/ac 4x4 required
Meyers Canyon Ranch #35 -Whitetail- 255 ac @ $350/ac
Owner Financed, 5% down
210-734-4009 or www.westernlandand.com

Residential Rentals

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

$107 B Illinois, 3bd/1.5 ba, 1 car garage, water paid, $1300/ mo. + $1300 dep, 432-570-1211, 214-280-5949.

Residential Sales

Condos/ Townhouses

FOR SALE by owner. 2bd 2ba, 1240 sq ft, move in ready. 2100 Wadley. $110,000. Call 432-694-0803.

Residential Sales

200, 2BA, 1400sq.ft. and complete hook up for mobile home with 24X36', covered carport, & 8'X40' storage work shop, $130,000. May finance with 20% down. Greenwood schools, 528-1609

4 BEDROOM 2 bath $118,000. 5207 Thomason. Open house every Saturday and Sunday 2pm-4pm. Call 432-683-2243.

5305 SAN Antonio, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. New roof, new fence, new AC and furnace, new water heater, new garage door. Very well maintained. Spotless and move-in ready. $149,900. Call 432-349-3190.

AUSTINS PALMHARBOR.COM — Visit website for updates, clearance homes, specials and liquidations — Built in Austin, Buy in Austin, Save in Austin.

BRIARWOOD SUB., 4/3/3, appx. 2,894sf per MCAD, excellent condition, $359,900. 4812 Woodhollow Dr. Call 432-770-1471.

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BY OWNER 3606 Meadowridge LN. In prestigious Trinity with pool, 4 bed, 4 bath, 2 living, 2 fireplaces, 3 car garage, pool w/slide and new landscaping, hardwood floors, updated and over 3500 sq ft on a quiet street. MUST SEE! $389,900. Call for appointment 432-978-9340.

Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

BY OWNER - 4904 Timber Ct. Midland. 2490sqft, 4bd, 2.5bth, 3 living, 2 car. New: A/C, water heater, roof, flooring, & granite. Cul-de-sac, lots of tile, big kitchen, sprinkler, irg patio, Hs/ker mstr variities & closets. Santa Rita, Abell, Lee. $240,000. Call April 432-697-2580.

FOR SALE: 4 Bedroom, 2 bath house. 10 acres with pipe fence, barns, stalls, and 2 tanks. Heated pool with electric cover and jacuzzi and bath house. 2 large insulted shops, one with refrigerated air and heat. Separate guest house with 2 bedroom, full kitchen and bath. East Big Spring $525,000. Please call 432-264-6373.

FOR SALE BY OWNER, Wallace Patio Townhouse: Brick floors in living, dining, eat-in kitchen, laundry, hallway & patio. 2011 Updates: double pane insulated windows, A/C with gas heating, faux wood floors in bed rms, new paint, 50 gal. hot water heater. 683-1989 / 553-1207

Gorgeous Spacious Home In Vista Del Norte between Midland & Odessa, 16 La Promesa Circle, Price $595,000 with 5 Bedrooms Plus Study, 4 Baths, 2 Living, 2 Dining, 3 Car Garage. Trade-In Considered. Contact Realty Unlimited Phone 432.552.3688 or 432.682.7777.

HOUSE FOR sale by owner, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Master bedroom has his & her closets & vanities, 24x32 shop, granite counter tops in kitchen & bath. 3600 Willingham. $189,000. Call 432-557-8910.

Houses For Sale

GREEN TREE: 4806 Tashwood Trace, On golf course, 4 bedrooms, 4-1/2 bath, 2 studies, large patio, tile flooring, 3 car garage. 432-352-6367.

Houses Not For Sale

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Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

► NEW TODAY! ◄

HOUSE FOR sale completely remodeled, cuts, 3/1, Eastside, 817-938-5634.

HOUSE FOR SALE IN CRANE 207 W 13th, 2 story, 4BR, 2BTH, LR, Den, 20x20 shop, 2 car carport, nice, shady yard. Corner lot, CH/A, tile, carpet, and wood floors.1948 sq ft. Tyr home warranty included. 4 blocks from schools, nice neighborhood. $92,000 FMI 325-226-3090

I BUY houses any condition. Call 363-0000.

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1/2 ACRE, ready for home. Septic water & electric, 432-687-2384

130+/- Acres east of Bronte, Texas on Hwy 158. A hunting paradise with thousands of pecan trees and spring fed oak creek. For More Listings & Pictures: www.texasranchland.com 325-655-6986

14.57 ACRES WITH 2 water wells & electric, 1.5 miles North of Greenwood school on Rd. 90, $56,900, 455-3568.

1,668 ACRES Runnels/Concho Co. Hunting ranch, $799 per acre. Price reduced to sell. 800-262-1630, www.touchdwn.com

2326 ac. – 3miles N. of Christoval on Hwy. 277. Scenic views of Angelo from livecak covered hills. Excellent Hunting!! LL&P 325.656.1225 or 325.655.6989.

2 LOTS for sale 3606- 10 Cedar Spring, $16,000 each. 432-694-1162.

839 +/- ac. – San Angelo a minute from town. Ranching, Hunting, & Invest. 325.655.6989 LLP

BALVERDE COUNTY large ranch corporate lease for deer hunting, 2012 season, excellent accomodation with Peters and Stands furnished. Call 325-226-2347.

Cemetery Lots

"MAN CAVE" New storm on 3788 1000-4000 square ft Hunting at Best RV's in Backwater area for Dec 2012-2017

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

8	7	1					3	
			8	4			5	
			2		3			
			3					5
2								
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			6		7			
	1			2	5	7		
	4	5				9	6	2

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

8	3	7	2	6	5	1	4	9
4	2	5	7	1	9	6	8	3
6	9	1	3	8	4	2	5	7
9	8	2	1	5	6	7	3	4
3	7	6	4	9	2	5	1	8
1	5	4	8	3	7	9	2	6
7	4	3	6	2	1	8	9	5
5	1	8	9	7	3	4	6	2
2	6	9	5	4	8	3	7	1

12/13/11

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Weekly, biweekly or monthly. Charge by the job not the hour. Call 432-664-2605.

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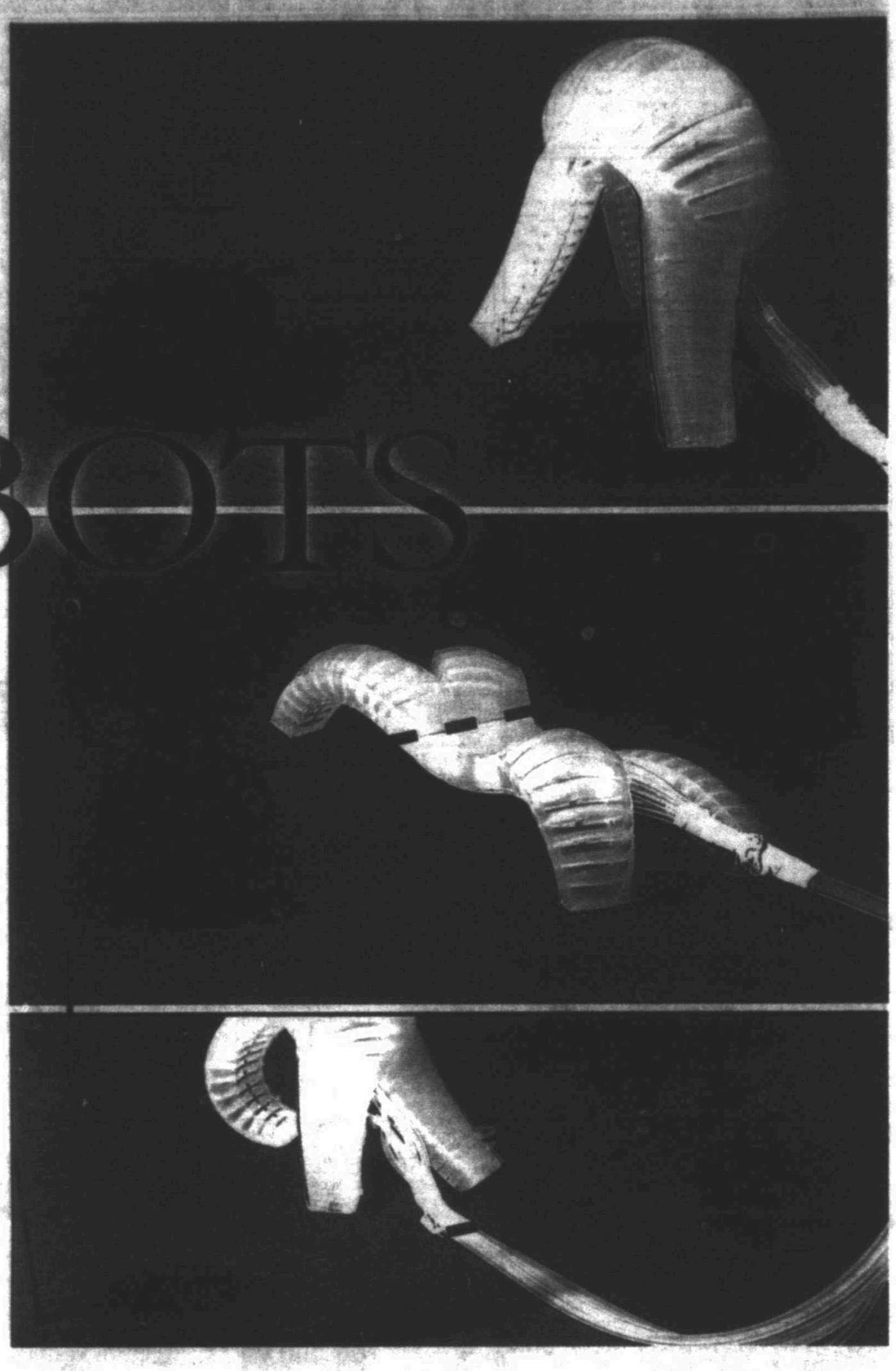

This undated photo provided by Harvard University/Robert Shepherd shows a soft-bodied robot navigating, top to bottom, an obstacle course. Harvard researchers have built this flexible prototype robot that can crawl and move in a wavelike motion. Unlike rigid robots, soft robots can be used to squeeze into tight spaces.

Robert Shepherd/AP

Gumby-like flexible robot crawls in tight spaces

By Alicia Chang
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Harvard scientists have built a new type of flexible robot that is limber enough to wiggle and worm through tight spaces.

It's the latest prototype in the growing field of soft-bodied robots. Researchers are increasingly drawing inspiration from nature to create machines that are more bendable and versatile than those made of metal.

The Harvard team, led by chemist George M. Whitesides, borrowed from squids, starfish and other animals without hard skeletons to fashion a small, four-legged rubber robot that calls to mind the clay animation character Gumby.

In recent years, scientists have been tinkering with squishy — sometimes odd-looking — robots designed to squeeze through hard-to-reach cracks after a disaster like an earthquake or navigate rough terrain in the battlefield.

"The unique ability for soft robots to deform allows them to go places that traditional rigid-body robots cannot," Matthew Walter, a roboticist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said in an email.

A team from Tufts University earlier this year showed off a 4-inch caterpillar-shaped robot made of silicone rubber that can curl into a ball and propel itself forward.

The Harvard project, funded by the Pentagon's research arm, was described online Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The new robot, which took two months to construct, is 5 inches long. Its four legs can be separately controlled by pumping air into the limbs, either manually or via computer. This gives the robot a range of motions including crawling and slithering.

The researchers tested the robot's flexibility by having it squirm underneath a pane of glass just three-quarters of an inch from the surface.

Scientists maneuvered the robot through the tiny gap 15 times using a combination of movements. In most cases, it took less than a minute to get from side to side.

Researchers eventually want to improve the robot's speed, but were pleased that it did not break from constant inflation and deflation.

"It was tough enough to survive," said Harvard postdoctoral fellow Robert Shepherd, adding that the robot can traverse on a variety of surfaces including felt cloth, gravel, mud and even Jell-O.

There were drawbacks. The robot is tethered to an external power source and scientists need to find a way to integrate the source before it can be deployed in the real world.

"There are many challenges to actively moving soft robots and no easy solutions," Tufts neurobiologist Barry Trimmer, who worked on the caterpillar robot, said in an email.

Robotics researcher Carmel Majidi, who heads the Soft Machines Lab at Carnegie Mellon University, said the latest robot is innovative even as it builds on previous work.

"It's a simple concept, but they're getting lifelike biological motions," he said.

Online:
Journal: http://www.pnas.org
Whitesides lab: http://gmwgroup.harvard.edu

Avoid hostile responses by following netiquette

Q. Every time I post questions to on-line forums, I get rude replies. WHY ARE PEOPLE ON THE WEB SO MEAN?!?!?!

A: Wow. Where to start. First, stop yelling at me. And did you look for answers in our previous columns before writing? At least you wrote to us and not to Miss Manners. Who am I talkin' 'bout Willis? Keep reading...

As you've discovered, the Internet is not a jerk-free zone. Worse, the anonymity of the Web can turn off-line Dr. Jekylls into on-line Mr. Hydes. You can minimize hostile responses by following some well-established Internet rules collectively called eDecorum. Ha! I'm kidding — that would be stupid. They're really called netiquette.

For example, ALL CAPS IS CONSIDERED YELLING. Don't yell. It's rude, and on top of that it's hard to read. Also, multiple exclamation points are annoying — unless you're on the My Little Pony forum, don't write like a 13-year old girl!!!

Ditto question marks. It's either a question or it's not, unless you've invented some new grammatical construct called a SuperQuestion that I'm not aware of. These rules apply to e-mails and instant messages too.

Here's another one: Pretend you're the authority on fixing the copier at your office. Everyone comes to you for help, so you print up a list of common questions and answers. You call it — I don't know — Frequently Asked Questions, and post it next to the copier. But some co-workers ignore it and keep asking you questions THAT ARE ON THE LIST!!! Over time, your patience morphs into a desire to jam a fork into someone's forehead.

People who answer questions on forums enjoy helping others, but they've also answered the same questions over and over, and they, too, have posted a list of Frequently Asked Questions (called the FAQ) on the forum. Read that list. If you ask a question that's already been answered, you're likely to get a blunt reply. Just be glad you're not within forking distance.

If any messages are marked "sticky," read those too. They're usually responses to common questions and are "stuck" to the top of every page so you can't miss 'em. If the forum has a search feature, use it to see if someone's already answered your question.

Lastly, avoid off-topic posts. Asking a question in the wrong place is like interrupting someone else's conversation. Don't be an eHole — find the right forum or start a new thread of discussion instead.

Incidentally, some people (called trolls or flamers) post nasty comments to forums just to stir things up. These are called flames or flamebait, and are intended to start flame-wars. Look for these on the forums you visit — they're mighty funny if you're not the victim. And if you are the victim, just ignore them to avoid "fanning the flames."

See www.albion.com/netiquette and wikipedia.org/wiki/Netiquette for extra tips, or www.ditc.edu/cs/rfc1855.html for a more formal treatment with an extensive bibliog-raphy. Search the Web for "netiquette" or "forum netiquette" if you need more resources. SERIOUSLY, DO IT NOW!!!

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