MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2015 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

OUR VIEW

Latest TEA ratings don't mean much in Midland.

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COMING THIS WEEK

University of Texas President Greg Fenves talks about how the number of applicants into the university's engineering school closely rises and falls according to oil prices (thanks to social media).

mrt.com

MISD proposes 2.5 percent salary increase for staff

District still looking to fill more than 80 teaching positions before school year starts

By Cassie Burton
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The MISD board of trustees agreed on a proposed budget Monday night that includes a 2.5 percent salary increase for all MISD staff, including more than 80 teachers that have yet to be hired with two weeks left before the start of school.

Executive Director of Human Resources Ed Zachary reported to the board that the district is still trying to fill between 84 and 86 teaching positions. The first day of school is Aug. 26.

The teacher openings comes even after MISD chose not to fill 32 teaching positions left open because of voluntary attrition, according to Chief Academic Officer Patrick Jones.

Of the 84-86 positions to be filled, more than 50 are at the elementary level because of the three new schools that will open later this month.

Even as the district searches for new teachers, the board approved the $231.6 million budget proposal for the upcoming year on Monday that includes the salary increase for all current teachers, administration and support staff (like custodial and cafeteria employees). As recently as May, district officials had said salary increases could be frozen too, but Superintendent Ryder Warren said the salary increases were necessary to keep MISD's salaries competitive with comparable school districts.

A teacher with no experience and a bachelor's degree is set to make $49,050 under the proposed salary structure.

The board passed the measure under the assumption that the 84-86 teaching positions will be filled.

The increase in projected expenditures comes as the district anticipates an enrollment drop of 695 students, which equates to a financial loss of $3.5 million for the district. The budget also accounts for the $54 million that MISD may owe to the state because of its Chapter 41 (property-wealthy) status.

For the seventh consecutive year, the board voted to keep the property tax rate at 1.14005 cents per $100 valuation.

The decision to keep the rate the same comes at a critical time, according to Warren, because the board wants to see if the Texas Supreme Court will rule the state's recapture payment unconstitutional. Oral arguments begin in September.

A public meeting for the proposed budget is scheduled for Aug. 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Follow Cassie on Twitter at @Cassie_Burton51 or on Facebook at /CassieBurton15

Emergency landing

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland County Sheriff Gary Painter was a passenger on a gyrocopter that crash landed in a field at Windlands Park near Wadley Avenue and "A" Street, but he walked away from the crash with no injuries, Monday. The pilot received minor injuries in the crash.

Painter involved in gyrocopter crash

By Rye Druzin
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Midland County Sheriff Gary Painter was not injured when the gyrocopter in which he was a passenger crashed Monday afternoon in Windlands Park, according to city spokeswoman Sara Bustilloz.

The pilot, whose identity hasn't been released, was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital with minor injuries, she said.

"We made a right hand turn after take-off (from Midland Airpark) and started losing altitude," Painter said in a phone interview. "We just went to the ground really quick. "The pilot did everything he could, and when he saw he couldn't power out of it he pulled back and we landed on the landing gear. When it went forward it knocked the nose wheel off and bounded off to the right, turned the rotor into the ground and that was it."

Bustilloz confirmed that a call was received a little after 1 p.m. about a small aircraft crash in Windlands Park involving two occupants. The Department of Public Safety is investigating the crash.

A gyrocopter, or gyroplane, is "a heavier-than-air aircraft supported in flight by the reactions of the air on one or more rotors which rotate freely on substantially vertical axes," according to the Federal Aviation Administration's website. Gyrocopters use a powered propeller in the back to create forward force, while an unpowered rotor on top uses autorotation to create lift. They can accommodate one or two people.

Painter said that he had met the pilot last month at the 137th annual Sheriff's Training Conference & Expo in San Antonio. While the sheriff did not identify the man nor the company he worked for, he said the pilot had been in the area and

Please see CRASH/4A

Midland Wal-Mart stores to reduce hours

By Rye Druzin
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Midland's southside Wal-Mart will reduce its hours from 24 hours a day to 6 a.m. to midnight as of Sunday, allowing the store to ready itself for the next day, according to a company spokesman.

The store is part of a pilot program involving approximately 200 out of the company's 4,500 stores nationwide where hours will be reduced "to make sure the store is in great shape for customers during peak shopping hours when we serve them the most," according to Brian Nick, Wal-Mart director of national media relations.

"We analyzed their shopping patterns and made the decision that we would prefer to utilize those resources during those few hours overnight so that we're getting stores ready for the next day when customer shopping patterns are highest," Nick said in a phone interview.

The change will also affect the northside Wal-Mart, which was closed suddenly in April along with four other Wal-Mart stores nationwide.

He also said that the change in hours will not necessarily mean that Wal-Mart employees will face layoffs at the southside store.

"You'll have a store reopening soon, and if there's other area stores where people would prefer to transfer to that's an option as well," he said. "The overall count during the overnight hours is already smaller than during peak hours — for starters; there's only a couple of positions that are affected."

When asked if the hour reduction has to do with the slowdown in the local economy and possible falling revenue, Nick said there wasn't a connection because the change is happening to hundreds of Wal-Mart stores nationally.

Nick said the company still hopes to reopen the northside Wal-Mart by the

Please see HOURS/4A

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Texas woman texted plea for help before 8-member family shot

By Juan A. Lozano
Associated Press

HOUSTON — A Houston woman who was held captive by a man she had once been in a relationship with sent a text to her mother saying she was being held at gunpoint and pleading for help before the man fatally shot her, six children and her husband.

"My heart goes out to the mother who received the text from her daughter that she was in trouble, and the mother was many states away but of course did what any mother would do and called 911," Harris District Attorney Devon Anderson said Monday.

Valerie Jackson's mother placed that call to the Harris County Sheriff's Office in Houston. Deputies eventually forced their way into the home where a man with a violent criminal history, David Conley, had held the family captive on Saturday but retreated when Conley fired on them. Hours later, Conley gave himself up, allowing deputies to enter the home and make the gruesome discovery of the bodies. All had been shot in the head and most had been handcuffed.

"Anytime you hear about something that's this heinous, anytime you hear about the death of this many children in a single event, it is hard. It's hard," said Alycia Harvey, the lead prosecutor in the case.

Conley, 48, who has been charged with capital murder, stood handcuffed, shackled and wearing a yellow jumpsuit during his first court appearance on Monday. His court appointed attorney, Joseph Scardino, did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

Associated Press

A house is shown Sunday where eight people were killed Saturday in Houston. A family of six children and two parents were handcuffed and fatally shot in the head at the home by a man with a violent criminal history who had previously been in a relationship with the mother and had a dispute with her, authorities said Sunday. David Conley, 48, was charged with capital murder in the deaths.

While the sheriff's office has said problems between Conley and Jackson might have led to the shooting, Harvey declined to offer more details on the motive.

Neighbors on Monday said they were aware of the family's troubled history of domestic violence, with prior police visits and contact with Child Protective Services.

Along with Jackson, 40, those killed were identified as her husband Dewayne Jackson, 50; and their children Dewayne, 10; Honesty, 11; Caleb, 9; Trinity, 7; and Jonah, 6. Also killed was 13-year-old, Nathaniel, who was believed to be Conley's son from the relationship with Valerie Jackson.

Authorities and neighbors said Valerie Jackson and Conley had recently ended their relationship and that she had reunited with Dewayne Jackson Sr. Last month, Conley was charged with assault after allegedly pushing Valerie Jackson's head against their home's refrigerator. In 2013, Conley was charged with aggravated assault for threatening Jackson with a knife. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to nine months in the county jail.

Vilma Flores, 61, who lives next door to Jackson and Conley, said the home was troubled.

"They didn't take care of (their children.) The two would go to the store or somewhere else and they would leave them alone," she said.

Carlos Sanchez, who lived across the street from the family, said he would sometimes see the youngest child, Jonah, playing in the street with his siblings and no adults around.

Sanchez said that last year he found the couple's 13-year-old son Nathaniel in their neighborhood after the boy tried to run away from home because Conley had tried to shave his head.

"I told the kid, 'If (Conley) does something to you, just tell somebody. Tell somebody.' He said, 'I will,'" Sanchez said.

Estella Olguin, a spokeswoman for Child Protective Services, said her agency had been involved with the family, but she declined to offer more details.

Sanchez and other neighbors questioned why authorities didn't go into the home sooner on Saturday, knowing the family's troubled history and Conley's violent criminal record. Neighbors said they saw deputies come to the home at least twice earlier Saturday, knock on the door and then leave when no one answered.

"Police knew about it. And I'm just shocked that they didn't actually do anything to prevent it," Sanchez said.

Sgt. Craig Clopton, the lead investigator, said Sunday he can't "reveal the exact parameters of those decisions."

"There are certain circumstances when we can make entry and certain circumstances where we can't. Even though we want to, sometimes the law prohibits that. ... It wasn't until officers looked in the window and actually saw somebody injured that the decision was made that now we have enough to go in."

Investigators have declined to say when on Saturday the victims were shot or if any victims were alive when deputies first tried to enter the home.

Anderson said it would be three to four months before her office decides whether to seek the death penalty against Conley.

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

GEORGETOWN

Inmate found dead in Williamson County jail

Texas Rangers are investigating the death of an inmate in the Williamson County Jail.

The sheriff's department in the county north of Austin said authorities believe the prisoner, Francisco Vasquez, committed suicide Saturday hours after he was brought in following his arrest by Cedar Park police for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Sheriff's spokesman Fred Thomas told the Austin American-Statesman the 54-year-old Vasquez had not been on suicide watch and there was nothing to indicate he should have been. Thomas said Vasquez was found unconscious Saturday afternoon. He had been alone in a holding cell in the jail's booking area and preliminary investigation indicates death by asphyxiation.

An autopsy has been ordered.

HOUSTON

Officer, 95, dies 2 weeks after headquarters named for him

One of the first African-Americans on the police force in Houston has died two weeks after police headquarters was named in his honor.

The department said Edward Thomas died of natural causes Monday.

He was 95.

Thomas, known through the department as Mr. Thomas, attended the ceremonies July 27 to mark his name being placed on the police headquarters building in downtown Houston.

He graduated in 1948 form the first police cadet class, then worked 63 years for the department, earning numerous awards, commendations and letters of appreciation. During the early years of his career, the department was a place of systemic racial discrimination.

Chief Charles McClelland said he's saddened by Thomas' death but that Houston is "a better place for having had him as an officer."

KILLEEN

3 shot in what police call double murder-suicide

Police in Killeen in Central Texas said the shooting deaths of three people appear to be a double murder and suicide and the result of a domestic disturbance.

The victims initially have been identified only as two women, 24- and 38-year-old sisters, and a man also 38.

Authorities said the man and older woman, described as husband and wife, were found dead inside the home. Detectives said the younger woman was trying to flee the home late Sunday afternoon when she was shot. Officers responding to a 911 call found her wounded on a driveway. She was taken to a hospital at nearby Fort Hood and died there.

Police said Monday other people were inside the house but were not injured.

No names have been released.

ARLINGTON

Footage shows Texas football player at lot before his death

Security footage taken before a Texas college football player was fatally shot by a police officer shows the 19-year-old breaking into a car and later crashing his own vehicle into the glass showroom.

Arlington police said officers arriving to a burglary call found Christian Taylor roaming inside the dealership's showroom early Friday morning. Police have said he refused to surrender and then tried to escape.

The car dealership, which released the footage Monday to The Associated Press, said it had no footage of the showroom.

The footage from the lot showed Taylor parking outside a gate and walking onto the lot. After breaking out the windshield of a vehicle on the lot, he returns to his own vehicle, driving it through the gate and then into the glass showroom.

MCALLEN

Rio Grande Valley charity gets tent for immigrant surge

A Catholic charity that operates an immigrant relief center in McAllen said they've had city workers put up a tent because number of people using the center for overnight stays has risen so sharply in the last month.

Sister Norma Pimentel, executive director of the Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, told The Monitor of McAllen 762 migrants at the center in July topped last year's peak by 29 percent.

She said the recent surge began in late June. She requested the 25-by-35-foot tent last month to hold an additional 35 people and help keep men separate from women and children.

Border Patrol spokesman Omar Zamor said the agency is apprehending monthly an average of 250 to 300 more people illegally entering the country than in recent months.

DALLAS

Man charged in 2-year-old son's death in Dallas

A father has been charged after Dallas police said his 2-year-old son died after he was left alone in their apartment.

According to police, Ayden Strange died Sunday and his 24-year-old father was charged with reckless injury to a child.

Dallas police said Antonio Strange told police he had stepped outside his apartment "for a moment" and left the boy alone Sunday morning. Strange told police that when he returned, he found the boy unresponsive and called 911.

The toddler was transported to Charlton Methodist Medical Center around 11:40 a.m., where he was pronounced dead. According to the Dallas County medical examiner's office, the child's cause of death had not been determined as of Sunday night.

AUSTIN

ERCOT peak electricity demand tops 69,000 MW for 1st time

Managers of the state's biggest electrical grid said peak electricity demand has topped 69,000 megawatts for the first time.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which operates that grid that covers most of the state, said demand peaked at 69,408 megawatts between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Monday, then 69,783 megawatts between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Those marks shattered a record of 68,912 megawatts set between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. Thursday. An ERCOT statement says the system set a weekend record of 66,587 megawatts between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday.

One megawatt is about enough electricity to power about 200 homes during hot weather running air conditioners.

ERCOT officials expect demand to fall somewhat later this week as temperatures moderate somewhat.

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Texas officials amend death certificate to reflect gay union

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton says a federal judge should not hold him in contempt over the state initially refusing, but ultimately agreeing, to reflect the marriage of a gay couple on a death certificate.

It is the latest conflict surrounding Paxton since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized gay marriage earlier this summer. Critics have accused the Republican, a vocal opponent of same-sex marriage, of resisting the landmark ruling by advising county clerks in Texas that they could refuse marriage licenses to gay couples on religious grounds.

State health officials said late Thursday they complied with a court order to amend the death certificate of a Houston gay man's late husband. But that was not before U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia ordered Paxton to appear in court and explain why he shouldn't be held in contempt for enforcing state laws that impede gay marriage rights.

Paxton argued there is "no authority" for a constitutional officer to be held in contempt for providing legal advice to the Texas Department of State Health Services. He told the San Antonio court that he did not personally refuse to amend the death certificate, and only gave legal advice to state health officials.

"The request for an order holding the attorney general in contempt is particularly striking," Paxton's office told the court in a filing late Thursday.

John Stone-Hoskins of Conroe, whose husband died in January, said the death certificate initially listed him as a "significant other." The couple married last year in New Mexico. Stone-Hoskins argued that the Supreme Court decision means state records such as death certificates should recognize such unions.

But Paxton's office counters that Stone-Hoskins is pressing a separate issue of whether the state must retroactively amend death certificates that predate the Supreme Court decisions.

Department of State Health Services spokeswoman Carrie Williams said Friday she could not speculate how this case may affect similar requests in the future.

AP file photo

On June 12, 2014, Indiana Senate President Pro Tempore David Long welcomes delegates meeting to set up the framework for states to amend the U.S. Constitution, at the Statehouse in Indianapolis. As Republicans win control of more legislatures across the country, some want to use their growing state power to limit federal spending, and are considering a national constitutional convention, an idea that hasn't been used since George Washington's.

Constitutional convention sparking some buzz, but odds are still long

By Will Weissert
Associated Press

AUSTIN — With Republicans controlling more than half the state legislatures across the country, some want to use that power to push for a federal spending limit through a mechanism unused since George Washington's day.

Their plan: Persuade enough states to call a national constitutional convention so that a federal balanced budget amendment can be added to the Constitution.

It would be a historic move. The United States has not held a constitutional convention since Washington himself led the original proceedings in Philadelphia in 1787.

"Everywhere I'd go at town hall meetings, people would say, 'What are we going to do? There's no hope. How do we fix our country?' And the fact is, this gives great hope," said former U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, an outspoken budget hawk and longtime supporter of a federal balanced budget amendment.

There also are risks if the movement succeeds. A convention could expand to take on myriad issues beyond the federal budget, including campaign finance reform and other changes sought by Democrats.

Calling such an assembly would require approval from 34 states. The GOP now controls both legislative chambers in 30.

Convention proposals were introduced or discussed in about three dozen legislatures this year and approved by three of them. Over the past four decades, 27 states have endorsed the idea at one time or another.

"There's definitely people who are very serious about it," said Michael Leachman, director of state fiscal research at the Washington-based nonprofit Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. "We're seeing these resolutions get debated in state legislatures around a decent portion of the country."

Still, successfully calling a constitutional convention is a longshot.

Unlike other parts of the conservative agenda that have sailed through GOP statehouses, the convention debate is complicated because it involves three separate proposals that have overlapping — but not identical — goals. And even some leading Republicans consider a possible convention too unpredictable to support.

Backers of the idea hope the presidential race will stir more interest. Five of the Republican candidates have spoken favorably about it.

GOP hopefuls Bobby Jindal, Mike Huckabee and John Kasich all have recently endorsed convening a constitutional convention. Rand Paul has said he "wouldn't have a problem" with the states calling one under Article V. Ted Cruz said via Twitter in 2013 that "the possibility grows more and more" for a constitutional convention.

"It's becoming a presidential issue," said Mark Meckler, co-founder of Tea Party Patriots. "Candidates are being asked about it."

Every state except Vermont has a legal requirement for a balanced budget, but Congress does not.

Under Article V of the Constitution, adding an amendment can be done via a two-thirds vote of Congress and then ratification by three-fourths of states, or 38. That's the way all the current constitutional amendments came about, but few could imagine Congress passing a balanced budget amendment.

That leaves a second option: calling a constitutional convention. Two-thirds of the states, or 34, would have to request a national assembly to draft amendments. Any amendments would subsequently have to be ratified by at least 38 states to go into effect.

Three different proposals seeking a constitutional convention have been circulating in statehouses.

The one discussed most often this year was the "Convention of States" plan supported by Coburn and Meckler. It seeks an assembly with an agenda that would include the balanced budget amendment, term limits for offices that include the U.S. Supreme Court and broad caps on congressional taxation authority.

Alabama this year became the fourth state to approve it, and it was discussed in at least 35 legislatures. But the risk that Democratic priorities also could be considered during a constitutional convention was too scary for some, including in Texas, where the proposal died in the state Senate this session after passing the House.

"I was surprised at how strong the fear of a runaway convention was," said state Sen. Paul Bettencourt, a Houston Republican who sponsored the proposal.

A more limited effort, named the Compact for America, is backed by the American Legislative Exchange Council, which provides model legislation for conservative lawmakers. It includes only the balanced budget amendment, which, at least theoretically, could discourage amendments on other topics. So far, it has been passed in Alaska, Georgia, North Dakota and Mississippi.

The third initiative is the oldest and closest to its 34-state goal, but also is the most unpredictable. In May, North Dakota became the 27th approving state. But that group also includes Democratic-leaning states that would like to overturn the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision from 2010, which allows corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts during political campaigns.

Also, some states approved the initiative decades ago, when their political composition was much different. That means some of them could rescind their approval if the initiative draws closer to the 34-state threshold.

"There's too many unknowns," said Pat Carlson of the conservative Texas Eagle Forum. "There are people who are far to the left and they are waiting for this. Once the convention is convened, there will be no control over it."

REGION&STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

CORPUS CHRISTI

Husband shot when wife wakes up, mistakes him for stalker

A South Texas man is nursing a gunshot wound to the leg after he told police his sleeping wife awakened, took him for a stalker and opened fire.

The woman is in Nueces County Jail on suspicion of aggravated assault Monday after the Saturday incident.

A Corpus Christi police spokesman said officers arrived at the couple's home about 10 p.m. Saturday to find the man lying in the street bleeding from his left leg.

Senior Officer Travis Pace told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times the man said he was in bed with his wife when she awakened and thought he was a stalker. Pace said the man told her repeatedly who he was, but the woman pursued him with a gun, firing repeatedly, hitting him once in the leg.

HELOTES

Horse rider dies in fall into Bexar County creek

Authorities have found the body of a man who was riding a horse that fell into a creek on a private ranch.

The Bexar County Sheriff's office said 37-year-old Jose Cosio and a 15-year-old girl were on the horse Sunday evening on the ranch near Helotes northwest of San Antonio when it lost its footing and tumbled down an embankment into San Geronimo Creek.

The girl's brother, who was on a second horse, rescued his sister but was unable to find Cosio. Volunteers and deputies had searched overnight into Monday. Water in the creek can reach 20 feet deep.

Authorities said Cosio worked at the ranch and was familiar with the area.

The horse died in the fall and its body also was recovered Monday.

NEW MEXICO

Man convicted in a fake driver's license ring in New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE — A man has been convicted in a fake driver's license ring in New Mexico and could face up to 124 ½ years in prison when he's sentenced in November.

Prosecutors said Tin Cheung was found guilty on 77 counts Monday.

Cheung was accused of helping dozens of people in the country illegally get New Mexico driver's licenses.

He was among six defendants charged with forgery, conspiracy and other charges.

They were accused of running advertisements in New York newspapers in 2009 and 2010, promising New Mexico driver's licenses for $1,500.

The defendants also allegedly leased multiple Albuquerque apartments and used those addresses for the false documents.

The New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division ultimately cancelled each fraudulently obtained driver's license.

NEW MEXICO

Man accused of threatening pastor with a knife

LAS CRUCES — A Las Cruces man is in custody for allegedly threatening a church's assistant pastor with a knife.

Las Cruces police said 48-year-old James Bernard Wright is being held without bond on suspicion of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and unlawfully carrying a deadly weapon.

Police were dispatched to the Greater St. John Church of God about 9 a.m. Sunday.

The assistant pastor told officers that Wright allegedly had made a previously threat to cause damage to the church or harm worshippers.

UT task force: Move, or better explain, campus statue of Jefferson Davis

Associated Press

AUSTIN — A task force recommended Monday that the University of Texas should move a Jefferson Davis statue elsewhere on campus, or at least add an explanatory plaque with historical context on why the president of the Confederacy was being honored with a bronze likeness.

The 12-member panel of students, staff and alumni formally released five recommendations to new university President Greg Fenves.

Four involved moving the statue of Davis from the Austin campus' south mall, while also relocating other statues of Confederate Civil War figures. If the statues stay put, the panel suggested adding "explanatory plaques that would enhance the educational value of the statues and provide historical context."

Fenves said he will "thoroughly review the report" before making a decision.

At issue are the Davis statue and statues of Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Albert Sidney Johnston, as well as Confederate Postmaster General John H. Reagan. There's also an inscription saluting "the Confederacy and Southern patriotism, which swept the South during the early 1900s."

The question of what to do with the statues has gained new focus as state governments and businesses around the country have removed Confederate symbols following the recent mass shooting of black church members in Charleston, South Carolina.

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HENRY
Psalm 147:11
The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

■ "Permian Monsters: Life Before the Dinosaurs" through Aug. 21 at Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum and the Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. museumsw.org.

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

Meeting

City Council
10 a.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall
300 N. Loraine Ave.

Pools today

■ Doug Russell Aquatic Center, 900 N. Midland Drive, closed

■ Washington Aquatic Center, 1601 E. Indiana Ave., noon to 9 p.m.; Family night is from 7-9 p.m.

Support groups, club meetings today

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

■ Midland Memorial Hospital's Better Breathing Club meets 11:30 a.m., Midland Memorial Hospital Scharbauer Tower meeting room. Don at 221-4864 or Joanna at 682-4229.

■ Midland Optimist Club, noon, Abuelo's; 685-7486.

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

■ ACT IX, 6:30 p.m., Cole Theater; Carolyn Schoolcraft, 685-7416.

■ American Legion Post No. 19, 6:30 p.m., 501 Veterans Airpark Lane; 682-5511.

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

■ Permian Basin Coin and Stamp Club, 7 p.m., Michael's Charcoal Grill; Dave Taylor;559-9890 or www.midlandcoins.com.

■ Midland Quilters Guild meets 7 p.m., Alamo Heights Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. For more information call 694-0561.

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

■ Permian Basin Dance Club, 7:30 p.m., St. Stephen's Catholic Church; 520-4343.

MC Welcome Center

Midland College is inviting the community to the official launch of its Welcome Center with a complementary light lunch.

The "Lunch & Launch" will take place at noon today at the Welcome Center, which is located in the Scharbauer Student Center near the MC Bookstore.

MCRW meeting

Midland County Republican Women will meet 11:15 a.m. Wednesday at Midland Country Club. Speakers are to be Heidi Cruz, wife of U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, and state Rep. Tom Craddick.

Luncheon tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door. To RSVP call 520-3500 or email mcrwomwn@mcrw.us. For more information, visit www.mcrw.us.

Watering schedule

The current outdoor watering schedule allows residents and businesses in the city of Midland to water twice per week.

Even numbered addresses may water outdoors on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

Odd numbered addresses may water outdoors on Fridays and Tuesdays.

Any violation may result in a fine up to $500.

The washing outdoor surfaces ban is still in effect.

Know a member of the military coming home?

Military families can call 352-0785 or email Vickie Gomez (zemogv@cable-one.net) when they know their member of the military is flying into Midland International Airport so the Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee can be there to greet them.

Honor those who served

There are many organizations in operation right here in the Permian Basin that are at the task of serving all kinds of needs for present and former members of our military. Some of them are:

■ Show of Support (687-2167)
■ Honor Our Troops (889-0177), Reel Thanx (526-6633)
■ Centers for Children and Families (570-1084)
■ Midland College Veterans Affairs Office (685-4511)
■ Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee (366-3458)
■ Soldiers of Today and Yesterday (631-3429)

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 1-3-2
Pick 3 day: 6-0-5
Pick 3 evening: 8-6-5
Pick 3 night: 3-1-6
Daily 4 morning: 5-8-3-0
Daily 4 day: 0-7-3-7
Daily 4 evening: 4-8-8-6
Daily 4 night: 7-6-3-6
Cash Five: 5-18-21-24-27
Texas Two Step: 3-5-8-20 BB: 34
All or Nothing morning: 1-3-4-5-6-7-12-13-18-19-20-22
All or Nothing day: 1-2-3-4-6-10-12-15-16-21-23-24
All or Nothing evening: 3-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-16-17-19-22
All or Nothing night: 1-3-4-5-6-7-8-12-14-15-18-23

Tech Tips: Are you better off keeping Verizon contract plan?

By Anick Jesdanun
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Verizon is doing the unthinkable: Starting Thursday, the nation's largest wireless company will eliminate two-year service contracts, along with the practice of offering discounted phones for $100 or $200.

Although this has already been an option with major phone carriers, Verizon joins T-Mobile in dropping contracts and discounted phones entirely for new customers. Under the new system, people will buy phones outright, with the option of paying the full retail price in monthly, interest-free installments.

This will be better in the long run. Although it's nice to get a $650 phone for $200 with a contract, you pay for it in higher monthly fees for voice, text and data services. Here's the rub: You keep paying those higher fees even after your contract is over.

The contract system largely benefits those who upgrade right at the two-year mark, even though many people wait longer if the old phone's still working fine. The contract system also rewards buyers of the most expensive phones. With the change, you keep the savings when you opt for a cheaper phone with all the features and performance you need.

But contracts might still benefit you in the short run. With Thursday's changes looming, should you rush to get a discounted phone, or wait for the new plans? Here are four things to consider:

Upgrade now if you don't need the latest model

If you're already with Verizon, you can keep your current plan. What's not clear is whether you'll still be able to get a discounted phone after Wednesday. Verizon Communications Inc. hasn't responded to requests since Friday for clarification.

If you're ready and eligible for a new phone, it's safer to do so by Wednesday, before the new plans kick in.

That said, there's been speculation that Apple and Samsung will come out with new models soon. The older models tend to go down in price then. An iPhone 6 now goes for $200 with a contract and will likely drop to $100 when its successor comes out. But saving $100 might not be worth the risk of having to pay full price — about $650 now, but likely to drop to $550 when the new model is out — if Verizon doesn't offer discounted phones to existing customers.

New plans might give you more than you need

Even after paying full price for the phone, you might still break even or save money under the new plans. In general, service prices for voice, text and data are going down by about $20 a month, offsetting the value of the subsidy you're losing on the phone under contract.

There are variations, though. For a single line, you're paying $60 a month under the current plan for 1 gigabyte of data, but $19 of that is the value of the subsidy for the phone. You're really paying just $41 for the service part. Under the new plan, the monthly price for service goes up to $50, not counting the monthly installment you could be paying for the phone. For 3 gigabytes, you're now paying $71 after subtracting the subsidy. The price goes down to $65 under the new plan.

The 1 gigabyte plan might be cutting it close, especially if you use cellular data to snack on video. An hour or two will eat up your allotment. Because the price goes down at 3 gigabyte, the new plans might seem better. However, many individuals now have just 2 gigabytes. It's $56 a month after subtracting the subsidy. The 2-gigabyte option won't be available under the new plan, so you'll be paying $9 more to get 3 gigabytes — when you need less.

Couples and families sharing larger buckets of data might also see price cuts under the new plans, but choices will be limited to 1, 3, 6 and 12 gigabytes. If you have something in between, think twice before switching. Verizon will let you keep your current plan indefinitely, but once you leave it, you likely won't be able to switch back.

Some employers reimburse for service, but not the phone

If your company pays for all or part of your phone service, but not the phone itself, the new plans will hurt. All these years, the service fees had been inflated because phone companies had to recoup the costs of the phone subsidies. Prices under the new plans will better reflect actual costs, but that also means less service fees to reimburse.

You might want to game the system for another two years by getting a discounted phone now.

No contract doesn't mean leave anytime

Unless you want to pay for the full price of the phone up front, you can typically spread your payments over two years, interest free. In that case, your two-year service contract gets replaced by a two-year phone installment plan. So you're still stuck with Verizon.

County leaders propose increased property tax rate

By Cassie Burton
cburton@mrt.com

County commissioners agreed Monday to a proposed property tax rate increase for the upcoming year.

The increase to 14.0811 cents per $100 valuation is more than the effective rate (12.8010 cents), or the rate needed to generate the same amount of funds as last year. The proposed rate is higher than last year's rate of 12.6523 cents per $100 valuation, according to numbers provided by the county.

The proposed tax rate means the county's tax bill for a $200,000 home would be $281.62. Last year, the county's tax bill for a $200,000 home was $253.04.

The proposed tax rate, combined with a $17 million draw from reserves for the county's three-year paving project, is projected to balance the $81.1 million proposed general fund budget and fill next year's anticipated shortfall of $5 million. The tax rate increase is needed, according to county officials, because of a 20 percent drop in petroleum revenue and a 26 percent drop in taxable value for mineral assessments. Officials did report sales tax and real estate both went up by at least 12 percent in taxable value.

While the proposed rate is higher than last year, it is still less than the tax rate in 2013 (15.478 cents per $100 valuation).

County Auditor Veronica Morales and Jerry Bundick, chief appraiser with the Midland Central Appraisal District, said during the meeting that taxable revenue could continue to decline, including in petroleum, real estate and sales. Hotel occupancy rates and airport rates also decreased.

Since the forecast of next year's finances was largely unpredictable, County Judge Mike Bradford said he was open "to any number except the effective rate."

The board initially considered the "rollback" rate of 15.3010 cents, which would allow the county to add to its reserves and have a balanced budget. However, Commissioner Jimmy Smith of Precinct 1 suggested the slightly cheaper — and eventually approved rate of 14.0811 cents — because of the projections that taxable revenue could continue to decline next year.

Commissioners Randy Prude, Precinct 4, and Luis Sanchez, Precinct 3, both agreed with Smith that the rollback rate would be too great of an increase on taxpayers.

"It's not all doom and gloom, because we will still probably have the lowest (property) tax rate in the state," Prude said. "We could actually balance our budget this year if we do a two-penny increase without dipping into reserves. But I don't think (our economy) will recover."

The increase passed 4-1, with Sanchez opposing. Sanchez said he supported a middle rate of 13.5691 cents per $100 valuation because it would cover about $4.6 million of the anticipated $5 million shortfall and not be as much of a strain on taxpayers.

Public hearings will be held at 9 a.m. Aug. 20 and Aug. 31. The board will vote at its Sept. 3 meeting.

Also at Monday's meeting, the Commissioners' Court voted to close the Midland County Public Library downtown branch on Saturdays beginning Labor Day weekend for a three-month trial basis. The newly purchased bookmobile will travel on yet-to-be-finalized routes on Saturdays to provide some library services.

Follow Cassie on Twitter at @Cassie_Burton51 or on Facebook at /CassieBurton15

Twitter huddles with NFL to tackle audience challenge

By Michael Liedtke
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Twitter is huddling with the National Football League as it tackles the challenge of attracting a broader audience to its short messaging service.

A two-year content and advertising deal announced Monday expands upon similar partnerships that Twitter forged with the NFL in 2013 and 2014.

The NFL plans to funnel nearly three times more content into Twitter than last year, a commitment that will include more video highlights and pictures from games in progress. Twitter, in turn, will use an automated formula to prominently display NFL tweets and related ads in the streams of accountholders likely to enjoy the information.

The NFL's Twitter blitz will begin with Thursday's preseason games. Financial terms of the deal weren't disclosed. Twitter and other Internet companies typically pay their partners by giving them a percentage of ad sales made from their content.

After signing single-season contracts in 2013 and 2014, the NFL gave Twitter a vote of confidence by locking into a longer term this time around. It's the first time any of Twitter's roughly 200 partners have signed a multi-year contract, according to Glenn Brown, Twitter's director of content partnerships.

The NFL, by far the most-watched sports league in the U.S., also is relying solely on Twitter to sell all the advertising tied to the tweets from its accounts. In the previous two seasons, the ads were jointly sold by the NFL and Twitter.

The show of faith comes at a critical time for Twitter.

Although its brand is widely known and its service boasts more than 300 million users, Twitter has been struggling to widen its appeal. With user growth slowing dramatically, even Twitter's own management recently acknowledged that the service has become too confusing to navigate. What's more, the San Francisco company still hasn't posted a profit.

Investors have sacked Twitter for its execution problems. The company's stock finished last week at $27.04, less than half its value 10 months ago and just $1.04 above its initial public offering price in November 2013.

The NFL's immense popularity could help Twitter find ways to get people to check into its service more frequently and lure visitors who might not necessarily sign into the service, but could still see ads.

Twitter plans to highlight NFL material even if users haven't chosen to follow the league. The company does this by tracking people's activity on the service to determine their interests. Ads featuring NFL content will be targeted using similar analytical tools.

"We know if we put content in front of the hundreds of millions of Twitter users, they will engage with the content," predicted Vishal Shah, the NFL's vice president of media strategy and business development.

HOURS

From 1A

end of October or beginning of November. He said that the store was one of two that closed in April that had their roof replaced. The other one is in Brandon, Florida.

Wal-Mart gave only a couple of hours' notice on April 13 that the company decided to close five stores across the country because of plumbing problems, according to a previous Reporter-Telegram article. One Wal-Mart official said that Midland's northside store had more than 100 plumbing issues in the previous two years, necessitating the sudden closure and remodeling. The closure spawned conspiracy theories linking the Midland Wal-Mart with the other closed Wal-Mart stores and the military exercise known as Jade Helm 15.

Follow Rye on Twitter at @druzin_journo

Store hours

■ Albertsons, 1002 Andrews Highway and 3317 N. Midland Drive: 6 a.m.-midnight daily
■ Fiesta Foods, 703 E. Front St.: 7 a.m.- 9 p.m. daily
■ H-E-B, 3325 W. Wadley Ave., 6 a.m.-1 a.m. daily
■ Market Street (used to be the Midkiff Drive Albertsons) - 24 hours
■ Super Mercado, 2208 N. Big Spring St.: 7 a.m.-10 p.m. daily
■ Wal-Mart, 200 W. Interstate 20, 24 hours until Saturday; effective Sunday, 6 a.m.-midnight daily

From staff reports

CRASH

From 1A

was showing Painter what the gyrocopter could do.

Painter said that he believes that his safety harness prevented him from being hurt in the crash.

"As we took off, I had tightened up my shoulder straps and my seatbelt, and I think that's what helped," he said. "I had no movement in my body when we hit, and the suspension on that thing took a wallop."

While Painter said that he'll be ready to go back up in a gyrocopter, he thinks that he'll wait for cooler weather.

Follow Rye on Twitter at @druzin_journo

CITY COUNCIL BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Animal Services renovation project continues

The Midland City Council today will decide on a $420,000 bid from Barbed Cross Construction of Midland for the Animal Services Renovations Phase II project.

The work, according to city documents, will include new flooring, new kennel doors and divider panels, new roof and skylights, new acoustical ceiling tiles and fenced-in exercise yards. The existing shelter was built in 1991.

Barbed Cross was the lowest of five bidders.

Dollar General developer seeks zone change

A developer wants a zone change in southeast Midland to open a Dollar General store.

Jason Horowitz, according to city documents, is seeking a zone change to LR-3, local retail district, on land generally located northwest of the intersection of East Dakota Avenue and South Atlanta Street.

Bynum School owner asks for land annexation

The "owner" of the Bynum School is asking the city of Midland to start the annexation process on 29.22 acres in northwest Midland County.

The owner, according to city documents, would like city services on property located southwest of the intersection at Mockingbird Lane and Holiday Hill Road.

Bynum School is currently located at 8404 W. County Road 60. According to the school's website, the school obtained 60 acres donated by Linn Energy for a new school facility.

Police shooting, protests put Ferguson back on edge

By Jim Salter
and Alan Scher Zagier
Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. — Ferguson was a community on edge again Monday, a day after a protest marking the anniversary of Michael Brown's death was punctuated with gunshots and police critically wounded a black 18-year-old accused of opening fire on officers.

Police, protesters and people who live and work in the St. Louis suburb were bracing for what another night of demonstrations along West Florissant Avenue might bring. The thoroughfare was the site of massive protests and rioting after Brown was fatally shot last year in a confrontation with a white Ferguson officer.

"Of course I'm worried," said Sandy Sansevere, a retired health care worker who volunteers at the retail store operated by the nonprofit group I Love Ferguson, which was formed after Brown's death to promote the community. "What scares me are the guns."

Hundreds of people had gathered by 9 p.m. Monday, chanting and holding signs. Officers made several arrests after demonstrators blocked a lane of traffic. Some threw water bottles and other debris at police.

Earlier in the day, the father of the suspect who was shot called the police version of events "a bunch of lies." He said two girls who were with his son told him he was unarmed and had been drawn into a dispute involving two groups of young people.

St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger declared a state of emergency, which authorizes county Police Chief Jon Belmar to take control of police emergency management in and around Ferguson.

Protests spilled outside of Ferguson. Almost 60 protesters were arrested around midday Monday for blocking the entrance to the federal courthouse in downtown St. Louis. Authorities planned to release them on a promise to appear later in court.

Protesters later briefly blocked Interstate 70 during the late afternoon rush hour, with an additional undetermined number of arrests made.

Among those arrested at the courthouse was scholar and civil rights activist Cornel West.

That protest, like other commemoration events over the past few days, was largely peaceful and somber. But on Sunday, several hundred people gathered in the street on West Florissant, ignoring an officer on a bullhorn repeatedly warning them to get to the sidewalk or face arrest. Eventually, a few lobbed glass bottles and rocks at officers. One officer was hospitalized with cuts to the face after being hit with a rock. Two others had minor injuries after protesters sprayed them with pepper spray.

As tensions escalated, several gunshots suddenly rang out from the area near a strip of stores, including some that had been looted moments earlier. Belmar believes the shots came from about six different shooters. What prompted the shooting was not clear, but Belmar said two groups had been feuding. The shots sent protesters and reporters running for cover.

The shooters included the suspect, Tyrone Harris Jr., whom police had been watching out of concern that he was armed, Belmar said.

During the gunfire, the suspect crossed the street and apparently spotted plainclothes officers arriving in an unmarked van with distinctive red and blue police lights, Belmar said. The suspect allegedly shot into the windshield of the van.

The four officers in the van fired back, then pursued the suspect on foot. The suspect again fired on the officers when he became trapped in a fenced-in area, the chief said, and all four opened fire.

Harris was in critical condition after surgery. Prosecutors announced 10 charges against him — five counts of armed criminal action, four counts of first-degree assault on a law enforcement officer and a firearms charge. All 10 are felonies.

All four officers in the van, each wearing protective vests, escaped injury. They were not wearing body cameras, Belmar said.

Tyrone Harris Sr. told The Associated Press his son was a close friend of Michael Brown and was in Ferguson on Sunday night to pay respects.

The elder Harris said his son got caught up in a dispute among two groups of young people and was "running for his life" after gunfire broke out.

"My son was running to the police to ask for help, and he was shot," he said. "It's all a bunch of lies ... They're making my son look like a criminal."

Online court records show that Tyrone Harris Jr. was charged in November with stealing a motor vehicle and a gun, as well as resisting arrest by fleeing. A court hearing in that case is scheduled for Aug. 31.

Belmar said the suspect who fired on officers had a semi-automatic 9 mm gun that was stolen last year from Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

"They were criminals," he said of those involved in gunfire. "They weren't protesters."

Gov. Jay Nixon agreed, saying in a statement that such "reprehensible acts must not be allowed to silence the voices of peace and progress."

PAID CONTENT

for your information

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

Business owners and managers—What happens when summer interns leave?

Challenging times require some out-of-the-box thinking, and that's what you'll find at Staffing Resources.

Debbie, Fran and Patricia invite you to see how Staffing Resources can help you meet the challenges of cutting staffing costs while still getting the work done. Call 684-0527.

Lots of Permian Basin companies are finding ways to stay afloat these days by cutting overhead. One of the main costs is in the workforce.

Summer internships have been a great way to get work done inexpensively while giving students a taste of the business world. But the program has "summer" in its name for a reason. What do you do for the other nine months?

Staffing Resources' Patricia Gomez has the answer. "Temporary help, either fulltime or part time, can fill those gaps at reasonable costs." For more than 40 years, Staffing Resources has been helping area companies do just that.

In this economy, more people are looking for work and they're realizing that pay scales have come down. And at this time of year, school is starting back and many parents with previous workplace experience are looking to work part time while the kids are in school.

This creates a perfect storm for frantic managers faced still with growing piles of work but shrinking staffs. "Owners and managers can hire experienced people who really want to work part-time" at this time of year, says Gomez. "When replacing interns, these experienced professionals can turn out much more work in a few hours than others can in a full day. So it's a win-win situation."

Plus, the same supply-demand principle that causes oil to cost less when there's an oversupply is bringing down labor costs. People are willing to work for less as opposed to not working at all.

So they get a job, you get a worker and work gets done at reduced cost, allowing you to keep the employee on longer. It's almost an endless domino effect for the good.

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I saw what you did and I know who you are

By Paul Wiseman

Do you like scary movies? Did you see the one mentioned in the headline? Does it remind you of your business?

In the movie, two teenage girls make random crank phone calls in which they use that phrase, among others, to scare people. In one of their calls they happen to get someone who actually did something, and who tracks them down thinking he must silence them before they report him to the police.

I know you wonder what in the world this has to do with your business, and here's the plot: Does anyone in town know who you are? Do they know what you do? In this case, if people don't know those things about your business, that's when you have a real horror story.

Your road to a happy ending starts with FYI, Healthy Living or Around the Oil Patch in the Midland Reporter-Telegram. This is how you get repeat exposure and to explain your product or service in more detail than with just a display ad.

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- Placement of the article and photo online at www.MRT.com

All this happens in the only daily newspaper in Midland, where thousands of readers can see it, cut it out and save it if they want.

Been around awhile and feel like they all know you? Remember, new people move in all the time, and long-timers have short memories. Everyone needs regular reminders, and if you add a product or service, they can find out about it here.

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for your information healthy living

OPINION

Trump does not exemplify great leadership

■ GOP candidate lives up to world's idea of American businesspeople

CHRIS TOMLINSON
Houston Chronicle

Fuhgeddaboudt presidential aspirant Donald Trump embarrassing the Republican Party. He's giving American business executives a bad name.

His public displays of bluster, ostentation, greed and ignorance reinforce the worst stereotypes of American capitalism. Trump's straight talk and pseudo-authenticity may appeal to the nativist vote, but don't mistake his behavior as an example of great business leadership.

Whether it is questioning President Barack Obama's competence, claiming illegal immigrants are rapists or calling the nation's political leadership "stupid," the only thing Trump consistently praises is himself. That plays well with some white Republican primary voters, but is such rhetoric really the secret to successful business leadership — or leadership of any kind?

"It depends on whether you think people respond to fear," said Jennifer Mercieca, an associate professor of communications at Texas A&M University who specializes in presidential rhetoric. "Trump's style is much more about belittling, berating and talking over people. It's not about celebrating the innate qualities or ideas of the people he's working with. It's about goading them to do what he thinks is right."

Anyone who has held a leadership role knows that fear does not bring out the best in people. The U.S. Army taught me that 30 years ago when it promoted me to sergeant and sent me to leadership school.

Most of the businesspeople I meet are the exact opposite of Trump: thoughtful, kind, courteous and generous. In contrast, Trump can act with impunity because he's the founder, chairman, CEO, president and majority owner of the privately held Trump Organization. He gets to choose his board of directors, management team and subordinates based on willingness to comply rather than readiness to lead.

"It's understandable that this kind of CEO is more likely to have an authoritarian leadership style, because they have all the sources of power," said Anthea Zhang, a professor of strategic management at Rice University's Jones School of Business.

CEOs and managers of publicly traded companies with independent boards don't have the same authority. Public corporations are rarely tied to an individual and try to attract strong, talented and innovative management teams, and that means dropping the tough-guy shtick.

"If you are the CEO of a privately held company, the authoritarian leadership style might work," she said. "But if you are hired by a publicly held company, your original leadership style might not work."

Such as becoming president of the United States — where there is something called the separation of powers.

Trump also mistakes notoriety for popularity and has offended many with his quoting of Gordon Gecko, the villain in the film "Wall Street."

"The point is that you can never be too greedy," he once said. "I'm really rich. And by the way, I'm not saying that in a bragging way, that's the kind of mindset you need for this country."

In an era when social responsibility is important, the Associated Press last week checked on Trump's claim that he has given $102 million to charity over the last five years. The AP couldn't find evidence of the donations, and Trump's campaign staff declined to provide documentation to support the claim.

With both political parties talking about income inequality, Trump is a modern-day Marie Antoinette.

He's also surrounded himself with people who reinforce the perception that racism and misogyny are rampant behind conference room doors. The man who tried to patent the phrase "You're fired" had to fire an adviser recently for posting racist comments online. Before that, Trump's attorney appeared to consider spousal rape perfectly acceptable before issuing a retraction.

I must confess to an idealistic view that American capitalism can be noble. Business is about identifying society's desires and investing in solutions that are profitable for the business and affordable to the customer, while not requiring government intervention. Commerce can float all boats.

The vast majority of businesspeople I meet at least aspire to that ideal. They balance their obligations to shareholders and customers and strive to leave their businesses and communities better than they found them. Sure, there are bad actors everywhere, and business has its share. But they are the minority.

Too many people around the world, however, think American businesspeople are self-serving and greedy. They believe capitalists exploit ignorance, weakness and loopholes to take advantage of others with little regard for social, economic and environmental consequences.

Trump lives up to that reputation. And he thinks his style is the best way to govern, too.

Politicians aren't the only ones who should repudiate Trump. So should business leaders.

OUR VIEW

Latest Texas Education Agency ratings don't mean much in Midland

For some, the Texas Education Agency's recent release of district and campus ratings showed some good news. Midland Independent School District "met standard," and four campuses also moved from "improvement required" to "met standard": Midland High School, Goddard Junior High, San Jacinto Junior High and Houston Elementary.

Also for some, the ratings release offered a significant chunk of disappointing news. Specifically, 11 campuses received the "improvement required" label. They were Alamo Junior High and the following elementary schools: Bonham, Burnet, Crockett, DeZavala, Lamar, Long, Milam, Rusk, South and Travis.

For us, the ratings might as well represent no news.

While the state ratings weren't the best and probably will impact Midland residents — including those parents looking to transfer their children out of lower-performing schools — this community has moved forward, and frankly, we don't need a one-size-fits-all system from Austin to tell us we can do better and have to do better.

We are proud that Midland business and foundation leaders have stepped forward with data that goes beyond the results from any one test. Their work didn't start last week, and frankly their actions probably will be changed very little by the latest round of scores.

We are totally on board with what we have heard about the changes and how those changes will impact the district in the long term. We expect to provide the community with more information before the start of the school year about what this group has accomplished and its vision.

Those changes, in our opinion, will affect, for the better, student achievement, student progress, closing achievement gaps and post-secondary readiness. Most importantly, they will help create a school district that is consistent with what Midlanders expect.

We will stand behind a school district that — first and foremost — centers the education experience around what makes sense for our community. And as we have written here before, if our school district can have success doing exactly that, things like test scores and campus ratings will work themselves out.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

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Superintendent Ryder Warren 689-1001
Trustees — District 1: James Fuller. District 2: Angel Hernandez. District 3: Tommy Bishop. District 4: Jeff Robnett. District 5: Karen Nicholson. District 6: Rick Davis. District 7: Jay Isaacs

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MIDLAND COUNTY
Website: www.co.midland.tx.us
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GOP must help marginalize Trump

■ He will eventually flame out, but the sooner it happens, the better

MICHAEL GERSON
Washington Post Writers Group

In the first Republican debate, the klieg light that Donald Trump always carries around with him revealed four or five presidential candidates who, under the right circumstances, could beat Hillary Clinton. (Trump was not among them.) But there was also a moment that could predict the defeat of the GOP in 2016.

No, I'm not talking about Sen. Ted Cruz heaping praise on Egyptian President Abdel Fatah al-Sissi — a military-backed ruler who jails journalists and has sentenced hundreds of opponents to death or life in prison — as a model in dealing with Islamism. And no, I am not talking about Sen. Rand Paul's smirk when New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie raised the memory of 9/11 victims and their families.

The single most important event of the campaign so far was Trump raising his hand and refusing to commit to the eventual GOP nominee. At that moment, Republicans saw a likely dystopia. Trump has gotten a hint of what it might be like to stand on the only stage sufficient to his self-image. He thinks that a Trump-branded White House might actually be possible. It is not a view held by any serious political observer. That doesn't matter. Some public figures — Harold Stassen, Eugene McCarthy — never recovered from the beatific vision, and spent the rest of their lives trying to recover it.

Trump will flame out. And since he is constitutionally incapable of accepting fault, he will blame the GOP for arson. As someone prone to conspiracy theories — on presidential birth records, vaccines and the scheming Mexican government — Trump is probably gathering string to prove a plot against him involving Megyn Kelly, the GOP establishment and the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Association. So he is keeping his third-party options open.

Trump's actual performance in the debate demonstrated the real reason he will flame out. He called the other candidates "stupid" while failing to show mastery of a single policy issue. If you actually listen to him and try to follow his reasoning, the result is the intellectual version of a hangover.

Trump says that the campaign finance system is broken, which he knows because he took full advantage of it to buy politicians. So we are being told: You should elect me to protect you from people like me. The taking of graft, it seems, is deeply corrupt, while the giving of graft is just part of the game. The Trump syllogism: Every politician is bought by billionaires. Only billionaires can fund their own campaigns to avoid being bought. Therefore only billionaires can save us from billionaires.

Listen again: During the debate, he boasted of taking his investors — who are not "babies" but "killers" — for a ride, utilizing bankruptcy laws to his advantage, then divesting from Atlantic City before its economy crashed. This fits the image of the coldhearted, capitalist fat cat better than anything Mitt Romney managed. Trump plays monopoly with other people's money, then mocks them as suckers for trusting him.

I realize there is little upside in analyzing Trump's words. Those who support him are not looking for fancy language, or political correctness, or logical coherence, or human decency — all those establishment poses. They would rather have a candidate who accuses a woman of being hormonal, then repeats the charge that she is a "bimbo," then tries to cover up the whole mess with a clumsy deception.

In a parliamentary system, Trump might found his own party and win a few seats in the legislature (the Italians, after all, once elected a professionally active porn star to parliament). In America, the options are all or nothing. As a third-party candidate, Trump could easily tip a close election to Clinton. How do Republicans persuade him to choose nothing?

The best, maybe only, option is to ensure that his poll numbers deflate quickly, making it obvious that a lavish campaign for the Republican nomination and, later, the difficult task of getting on 50 ballots will end in humiliation. This will require establishment Republicans to stop playing political bank shots off his rise and make clear he has moved beyond the boundaries of serious and civil discourse. And it will require conservative populists to recognize that an alliance with Trump is effectively tying their movement to an anvil (the Red State summit disinvitation is a good start).

It is better to risk a short-term backlash than a predictable, long-term political disaster. So Trump's inevitable self-marginalization must be given a push.

From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore

POLITICS BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON

Clinton thought Trump wedding would be "entertaining"

Hillary Rodham Clinton says she didn't know Donald Trump very well when she attended his 2005 wedding but thought the event would be "fun" and "entertaining." She adds: "Now that he's running for president, it's a little more troubling."

Clinton said there is little difference between Trump and his Republican rivals on women's issues.

She describes the Republican opposition to abortion and push to slash funding for Planned Parenthood as "deeply troubling." Women, she says, "may lose the right to exercise a personal choice" if certain Republican candidates win the White House.

Trump said in the Republican debate on Thursday night that Clinton only attended his wedding because he donated to her campaign.

Clinton is in the midst of a two-day campaign swing through New Hampshire.

WASHINGTON

Kids sing song from John Oliver show on DC statehood

A group of children and their parents have brought their message supporting statehood for the District of Columbia to the lawn of the U.S. Capitol.

The children sang a song on Sunday from a recent episode of HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver." The song lampoons those who oppose representation in Congress for residents of the nation's capital.

Statehood supporter Tim Krepp tells WTOP-FM that the song was a way for people who aren't normally part of the movement to get involved.

Last year, Congress held its first hearing on statehood for the District in 21 years, but a bill introduced by Democratic Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware is not expected to go anywhere. Republicans have long opposed turning the District into a state.

NEVADA

GOP candidate Sen. Ted Cruz to hold meet-and-greet

RENO — Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz is adding a Reno stop on his visit to Nevada later this month.

The Texas senator is scheduled to attend a public meet-and-greet the evening of Aug. 15 at the ArrowCreek country club in Reno. The event will be held after Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt's Inaugural Basque Fry political event in Gardnerville.

New step in Trump's feud with Fox News; Clinton weighs in

By Jill Colvin and Steve Peoples
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's turbulent relationship with Fox News showed signs of improvement Monday even as Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton seized on the billionaire businessman's clash with the network to cast his Republican rivals as being bad for women.

Trump and Fox News, one of the most powerful voices in Republican and conservative circles, have been in a bitter feud since last week's presidential debate. While he leads recent polls, the former reality television star has drawn heated criticism from many in his own party for saying Fox moderator Megyn Kelly had "blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of her wherever."

The network's chairman, Roger Ailes, reached out to Trump directly Monday, assuring him he'll be "treated fairly" by the station, Trump tweeted Monday.

"Roger Ailes just called. He is a great guy & assures me that 'Trump' will be treated fairly on @FoxNews. His word is always good!" wrote Trump, whose unorthodox campaign is dominating the race and summertime polls.

Speaking publicly for the first time since the debate, Clinton on Monday said Trump's comments about Kelly should not overshadow the rest of the GOP field's policies dealing with women.

"They brag about slashing women's health care funding," Clinton told reporters while campaigning in New Hampshire. "They say they would force women who have been raped to carry their rapist's child, and we don't hear any of them supporting raising the minimum wage, paid leave for new parents, access to quality child care, equal pay for women or anything else that will help to give women a chance to get ahead."

Fox News representatives did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but one of the network's personalities, Steve Doocy, tweeted that Trump would be appearing on "Fox and Friends" Tuesday morning to talk about his relationship with the network.

Trump maintains he was treated unfairly in a series of tough questions, including one from Kelly about Trump's history of negative statements about women. Trump later told CNN that Kelly, angry over his response, had "blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of her wherever."

He maintained Monday that he never intended to say anything inappropriate about Kelly and said the uproar over his criticism was "all fueled by the press."

"This wasn't meant to be much of an insult," he told NBC's "Today" show.

Republican presidential candidate Rand Paul, a Kentucky senator, lashed out at Trump in a Monday conference call with reporters, describing him as "an empty suit here full of bravado, but not really full of anything meaningful for the country."

"Unless someone points out the emperor has no clothes, he'll continue to strut about and what we'll end up with is a reality TV star as the nominee if we're not careful," Paul said.

Trump spent the weekend criticizing both Kelly and Fox News in interviews and online.

"It amazes me that other networks seem to treat me so much better than @FoxNews. I brought them the biggest ratings in history, & I get zip!" he tweeted.

Group backing Clinton gets $1M from untraceable donors

By Julie Byokowicz
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton told a cheering crowd at her largest rally so far that "the endless flow of secret, unaccountable money" must be stopped. Two weeks later, the main super PAC backing her bid for the Democratic presidential nomination accepted a $1 million contribution that cannot be traced.

The seven-figure donation, made June 29 to the pro-Clinton Priorities USA Action, came from another super political action committee, called Fair Share Action. Its two lone contributors are Fair Share Inc. and Environment America Inc., according to records filed with Federal Election Commission.

Those two groups are nonprofits that are not legally required to reveal information about their donors. Such contributions are sometimes called "dark money" by advocates for stricter campaign finance rules.

"This appears to be an out-and-out laundering operation designed to keep secret from the public the original source of the funds given to the super PAC, which is required to disclose its contributors," said Fred Wertheimer, director of one such group, the Washington-based Democracy 21.

Wertheimer urged Priorities to return the money and said that Clinton should demand that the super PAC "publicly disclose all of the original sources of money" of any contribution it receives.

It's a suggestion rejected by Priorities USA, whose spokesman, Peter Kauffmann, said the group is "playing by the rules."

"In the face of a billion dollar onslaught by right wing groups, there is too much at stake for everyday Americans for Democratic groups to unilaterally disarm," he said. Priorities USA raised about $15.6 million in the first six months of the year.

While another Democratic competitor, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, has rejected the support of super PACs altogether, Clinton has been plain that she needs big-money help.

"We're going to have to do what we can in this election to make sure that we're not swamped by money on the other side," she said last month.

Several of the Republican candidates for president also have nonprofits dedicated to helping their candidacies.

Conservative Solutions Project, a group paying for ads that boost Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, says it raised about $16 million through June. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush also has such a group, called Right to Rise Policy Solutions.

The law does not require these nonprofits to disclose their donors, but they are limited in how much they can directly advocate for a candidate.

Super PACs have much more latitude in their political activities. As a trade-off, they must report their donors to the FEC.

But as is the case with June's $1 million donation to Priorities USA Action, sometimes the named donors are nonprofits that collect money from anonymous sources. Other times, donors to super PACs are limited liability corporations or trusts that are difficult if not impossible to trace.

A prime example is Stand for Principle, a super PAC helping Republican Sen. Ted Cruz. Almost all of the $250,500 the super PAC raised in the first six months of the year came from "V3 231 LLC," a corporation made up of three other LLCs, according to federal court records reviewed by The Associated Press.

Sanders picks up first major endorsement

By Ken Thomas
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bernie Sanders picked up his first major labor endorsement from the nation's largest organization of nurses, reflecting the Vermont senator's appeal among unions in his challenge to Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The 185,000-member National Nurses United endorsed Sanders during an event with the independent senator in Oakland, California.

Clinton received the backing of the 1.6 million-member American Federation of Teachers last month, a union that includes about 120,000 health care workers. But Sanders' endorsement is noteworthy because about 90 percent of the NNU's members are women, and it comes as the Democratic presidential field has been actively courting labor unions.

"We assumed because we are a woman's organization a lot of the nurses would find Hillary Clinton far more resonant because she would break the glass ceiling," said RoseAnn DeMoro, the union's executive director, in a phone interview. "They were far more concerned about breaking Wall Street's stranglehold on our economy than the glass ceiling."

Clinton, who is seeking to become the nation's first female president, met privately with the executive board of the AFL-CIO in late July, as did Sanders, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb. The AFL-CIO, labor's umbrella organization, has not indicated whether it would endorse a candidate during the primaries.

Announcing the endorsement, members of the nurses' union pointed to Sanders' record of seeking a single-payer health care system through the expansion of Medicare, his work to challenge Wall Street's role in the economy and his opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

Sanders and O'Malley have joined with labor unions and liberals to oppose the trade deal backed by President Barack Obama but Clinton has declined to take a firm position on the TPP, pointing to her early work on the pact. The nurses' union opposes the deal because they say it would empower the pharmaceutical industry and increase drug costs for patients.

DeMoro, who attended the private sessions as an AFL-CIO vice president, said Clinton declined to take a position on TPP during the meeting. "She is so poll-driven, I felt sorry for her. I felt sorry for her sitting in that room," DeMoro said.

She said that while Clinton has deep support within the party, it may be difficult for the leaders of individual unions to justify endorsing Clinton to their members.

Ann Twomey, president of the Health Professionals and Allied Employees, an AFT affiliate headquartered in New Jersey, said in an interview that Clinton had focused on a number of issues crucial to nurses, including health care access, children's health and nurse-patient staffing levels.

"She provides a unique and accomplished set of credentials that the other candidates don't have," Twomey said.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The GREENWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT will hold a public meeting at 6:30 pm on August 26, 2015, in the Distance Learning Center, Building located at 2700 FM 1379 Midland, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	$1.17000/$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	$0.28695/$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	11.190% **(increase)** or	% **(decrease)**
Debt service	1.500% **(increase)** or	% **(decrease)**
Total expenditures	11.90% **(increase)** or	% **(decrease)**

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	$1,469,163,069	$1,597,563,050
Total appraised value* of new property**	$56,432,090	$94,323,820
Total taxable value*** of all property	$1,295,324,439	$1,409,661,816
Total taxable value*** of new property**	$56,425,969	$93,274,004

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness $60,670,000

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	$1.0634	$0.2981	$1.3615	$8,515	$1,255
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	$1.20239	$0.28695	$1.48934	$9,653	$432
Proposed Rate	$1.17000	$0.28695	$1.45695	$9,527	$432

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	$249,395	$268,440
Average Taxable Value of Residences	$220,394	$240,895
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per $100	$1.39145	$1.45695
Taxes Due on Average Residence	$3,108	$3,640
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		$532

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.49695. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.49695.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	$10,561,156
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	$390,333

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2015 MRT GOLD

Sneak Preview

MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Rosa's Cafe and Tortilla Factory

Gold Award — Fajitas
Gold Award — Queso
Gold Award — Nachos
Silver Award — Guacamole
Bronze Award — Sweet tea
Bronze Award — Salsa
Bronze Award — Burrito

Imagine this: a dedicated staff whips up a new batch of your favorite Mexican food a dozen times a day to ensure that every plate comes from the kitchen hot and fresh.

Imagine that wins seven Reader's Choice Awards.

That's reality.

Rosa's Cafe and Tortilla Factory took seven awards this year for the food and drink it has been serving up since 1983. Gold Awards are for fajitas, queso and nachos with a Silver Award for guacamole and Bronze Awards for sweet tea, burritos and salsa.

"I would like to say if it wasn't for Midland we wouldn't be where we are," said Carlos Hernandez, vice president of operations. "We appreciate them voting for us in all the categories they voted for us in."

With some 50 to 60 employees per restaurant plus another two dozen in a local processing plant, Rosa's Cafe employees work their hearts out, he said.

"People have been with us 10 to 25 years. It's because of their dedication and hard work we are able to produce the kind of quality that we do."

Rosa's Cafe and Tortilla Factory now has 41 locations and mostly recently opened a restaurant in Hobbs, N.M. The upscale, fast-casual concept debuted in San Angelo and is now owned by Bobby D. Cox.

For customers, Rosa's means service at its drive-through window with a speedy average wait time of less than three minutes, indoor and outdoor seated dining, and mesquite grilled meats and a generous salsa bar. Parking is store front and gift cards are available.

Carlos explained what it takes to win in the hard fought fajita category.

"You know what makes our beef fajitas so successful? It is because we use only choice products and grill them over mesquite wood in each location," he said.

Skirt beef is processed in Midland and distributed to each Rosa's location.

Chicken fajitas feature breast meat only and both meats are grilled fresh over mesquite though beef wins the customer popularity contest.

On a side note, Rosa's Cafes don't have freezers.

"We never freeze a product. It's processed fresh and delivered fresh. Everything is fresh every morning. Every pot of rice, beans, tortillas and chips are made fresh every day," he said.

Gold Award winning queso is descended from a family recipe. Cheese is mixed with fresh salsa and queso is melted fresh every hour on the hour, Carlos said.

Nachos, which feature the queso, are made using chips fried in house, again as needed, throughout the day. They may be topped with Silver Award winning guacamole, which is made in small batches three or four times a day from Haas avocados. Each recipe is measured and weighed precisely to guarantee consistency from batch to batch, Carlos said.

The cafe also features a salsa bar, liberally stocked with the Bronze Award winning salsa, which is cooked fresh every morning and afternoon.

The bar offers pico de gallo, lime and lemon slices, cilantro and a mild and blistering hot sauce.

"You can't go wrong there as long as it's fresh daily," Carlos said.

Burritos are a tough competition in this town. Rosa's Cafe makes a 6- to 7-inch burrito, which features a homemade tortilla stuffed with a choice of taco meat, beans, fajita meat and guacamole.

In the drink category, Rosa's Cafe earned the Bronze Award for every Texan's favorite beverage — sweet tea.

"In West Texas, everybody knows our city water isn't very good. We use (reverse osmosis) water and we have a RO system in each location we have. The tea is freshly brewed throughout the day," Carlos said. "We might go through 100 gallons of tea in just one location."

He pointed out one of Rosa's most fun and great value events — Taco Tuesday. Three tacos, beans and rice for $3.99 is a bargain on a busy night.

"We've been doing Taco Tuesday for 14 years. It is a lot of food for a little price. It's a great family time to get together and let us cook for you," Carlos said.

Rosa's Cafe and Tortilla Factory
903 Andrews Highway
Telephone: 432-520-2358
4301 N. Midland Drive
Telephone: 432-520-0489
2501 N. Big Spring Street
Telephone: 432-620-0634
Corporate Office: 432-563-5233
Email: khopkins@bobbycox.com
On the Web: www.rosascafe.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/rosascafe
Twitter: Rosa's Cafe
Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; 10:30 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday.

READERS' CHOICE

THE READERS HAVE SPOKEN!
Winners of the 2015 Readers' Choice edition revealed Sunday, August 16

Lee High band invited to nation's capital

Governor nominates Rebels to perform at the 2016 Independence Day Parade

By Erin Stone
estone@mrt.com

Lee High School's band, the Mighty Rebel Band, has been invited to march in the 2016 Independence Day parade in Washington, D.C.

The band is one of seven Texas bands nominated by Gov. Greg Abbott to perform at the parade. Each school is a top band from different parts of Texas. Lee High will represent the Permian Basin.

"It's a real honor for (the band) and for Lee High School to be asked to participate," said Lee High Principal Stan VanHoozer. "It's an honor that, when the governor was looking for schools, our name was one of the top seven that were submitted."

Though six other Texas schools were asked to participate, there is no guarantee all will attend, said Cait Meisenheimer, deputy press secretary for the governor's office. "Governors and senators from each state are allowed to nominate anyone they want to participate in the parade," Meisenheimer said in a phone interview. "The parade accepts anyone we nominate; the school just has to accept the nomination."

To choose which bands to nominate, Abbott's office contacted the state's University Interscholastic League to get a list of the best high school bands in Texas. Abbott also nominated Marcus High School in Flower Mound, Duncanville High School in Duncanville, Johnson High School in San Antonio, Bowie High School in Austin, Woodlands High School in The Woodlands and Harlingen High School in Harlingen.

To make the band's invitation to attend the parade next summer a reality, Lee High's booster club will be fundraising throughout the year. There are 263 students in the band, and it will cost slightly more than $2,000 per student to attend.

"We'll be looking to businesses and people throughout the community for the financial support to get us to our goal of getting as many kids there as possible," said Jason Brents, band director.

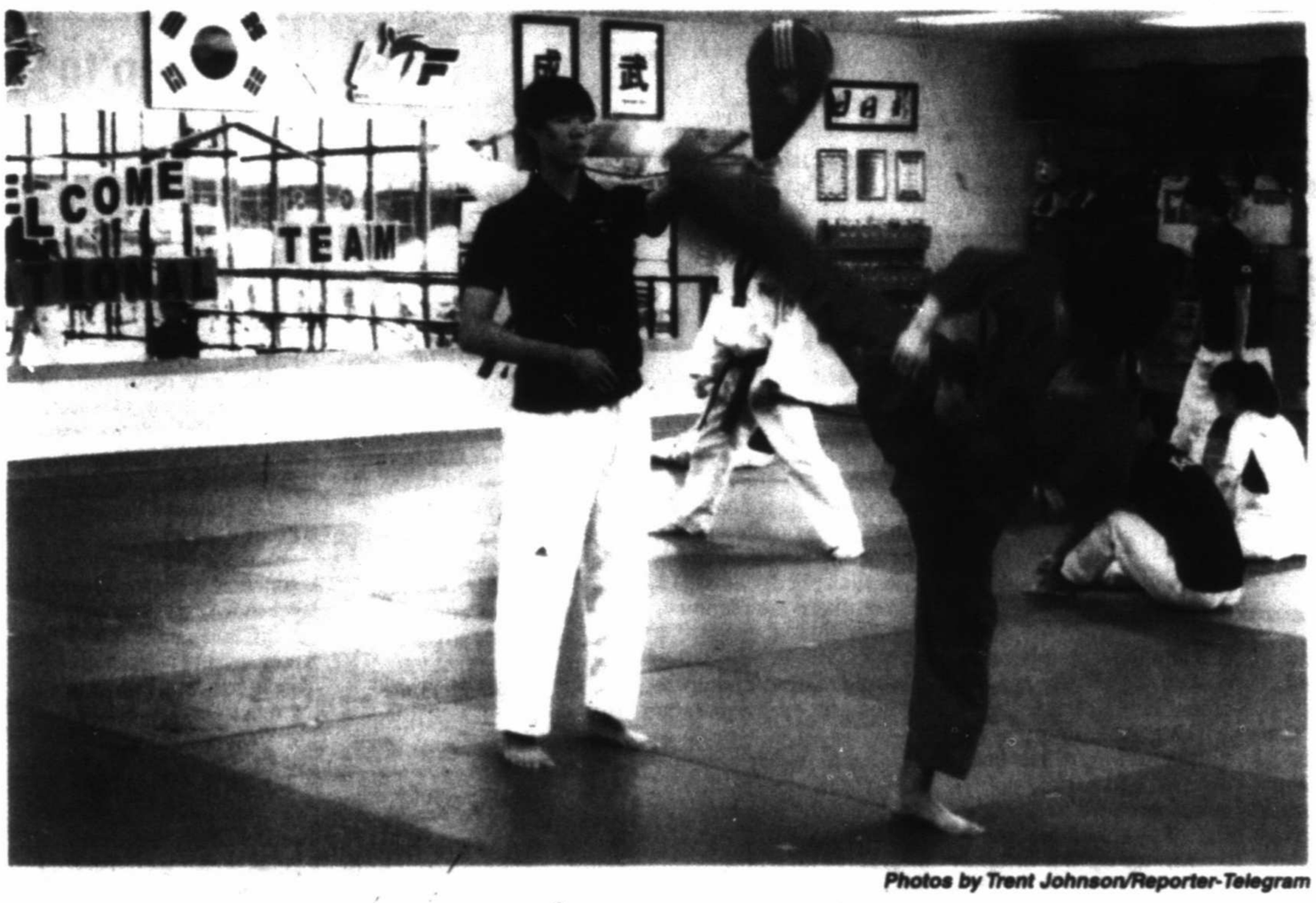
Lee High's marching band has a long history of success. They've marched in D.C. three previous times — in 1985 for Ronald Reagan's inauguration; in 1989 at George H.W. Bush's inauguration; and in 2001 for George W. Bush's inauguration. The band also marched in the Rose Bowl Parade twice and has received the Sudler Flag of Honor, a national award for high school marching bands.

"It's really exciting to be able to do something like this my first year (at Lee)," Brents said. "I'm really excited for the kids, and for me personally, the Fourth of July in D.C. is kind of a bucket-list deal, so to share that with these kids will be really special."

VanHoozer said that not only is this special for the kids and Lee High, but it's also an honor for Midland.

"Any time we can do something nationally to showcase Midland, that's good for the community," he said. "(The band is) excited to go. The booster club is excited to help coordinate this and give their kids this opportunity to participate in a national event."

FABULOUS FEATS OF FEET



Photos by Trent Johnson/Reporter-Telegram

Yong In University Korean National taekwondo team will perform a demonstration today at the Midland Christian School gymnasium. This will be the team's first performance in Midland.

Korean national taekwondo team to perform at MCS

By Trent Johnson
tjohnson@mrt.com

Yong In Lee's Martial Arts has a different feel today.

Instead of kicks offered up by unsure students or newcomers to the sport, all movement is backed by steely purpose. There's a sharp focus in the room emanating from the young Korean nationals donning red and white gis with "Yong In University" stitched on the back. These are not the everyday pupils who take lessons to get in shape or defend themselves; but rather they are members of a team whose lives are dedicated to martial arts, and specifically taekwondo.

These combatants are visiting Midland this week from South Korea, as the Yong In University taekwondo team performs a demonstration at 6 p.m. at the Midland Christian School Gymnasium. The team was invited by Yong In Lee's owners, Cindy and Sung Goo.

"We've been in Midland three years and we just thought that not many people have had an opportunity to see what taekwondo is and what it's all about," Cindy Lee said. "This team is representing not just the sport, but the country, with their performance."

Taekwondo is a Korean martial arts practice with a heavy emphasis on kicks. Developed in the 1940s, it is a blend of various older fighting styles and is now recognized as an Olympic sport with a number of gyms and dojos offering its teachings in cities throughout the world.

"If you've never seen martial arts, then this will allow you to see taekwondo at the highest level," Lee said. "It will be a large blend of all the things you learn from the sport."

Lee's husband attended Yong In University and used his connections to bring the team to Midland. The demonstration will focus on light sparing, specific aerial movements and feature the breaking of multiple boards.

Tickets for the event are $10, but admission is free for children under the age of 3.

Yong In University's team is not new to traveling abroad to display the martial art they've grown up practicing. Midland will be the final stop on the team's latest tour; their most recent performance was in Atlanta.

"We have great pride in bringing these demonstrations to different countries," team captain Dong Oh Yoo said. "For me, I've been practicing this sport ever since I was a child, so this is a dream come true to perform in front of people."

Even though the Atlanta stop was his favorite so far, Yoo jokingly named Midland as the top place he's visited so far even though he only arrived last night. After the performance, the team plans to visit Midland Park Mall.

All proceeds from the event go toward travel expenses for the team, which consists of 21 members, ranging

Please see TAEKWONDO/2B

Students learn about county gov't in local pilot program

By Cassie Burton
cburton@mrt.com

Eight college students spent part of their summer serving as interns in a pilot program with Midland County.

Bailey Lively, the county's Human Resources director, and Jenny Hilton, county court administrator, developed the paid internship with the intent of it becoming a yearly program.

The program was the idea of Randy Prude, Precinct 4 commissioner, because the city of Midland has a paid internship program, the women said.

The first interns were Ashton Sherman, Texas A&M University; Kasey Chester, Texas Christian University; Andrea Bartley, Jacques Duet, Abby Rankin and Nicky Stewart, University of Texas of the Permian Basin; Helen Gunn, Rice University; and Shane Spencer, Wayland Baptist University. They rotated through County Clerk's Office, District Clerk's Office, Auditor's Office, Purchasing Department, Tax Office, Juvenile Detention, Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 and Midland County Public Library.

"One of the things we've noticed in the college-aged group is they tend to not know about what county government does," Hilton said. "By us creating this type of rotation, they were able to learn about county government but they were also able to help the different departments on various projects."

Hilton said one project that interns assisted with involved new financial software implemented at the end of June by the county auditor. Interns also assisted with putting budget numbers together.

The students were not required to be pursuing a career in county government.

"One of the things we set forth as criteria was that one of their goals had something to do with bettering their world," Lively said. "We think everybody should know what your local government does, county government more specifically, and how each department contributes to the county as a whole."

The interns and their overseeing department heads filled out evaluations throughout the summer. Those evaluations will be used to make improvements for next year.

"We had very good responses from everybody," Lively said. "We are going through all of the different forms and evaluations to measure how effective the way we did it this year was."

Interns worked 29 hours or less a week and were paid $17.50 an hour.

Please see COUNTY/2B

DON'T MISS
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READERS' CHOICE
COMING SUNDAY AUGUST 16
READERS' CHOICE

Courtesy photo

Last week marked the end of internships for eight college students who spent the summer learning about departments of county government: Kasey Chester, front row from left; Helen Gunn, Ashton Sherman, Andrea Bartley, Abby Rankin, back row from left; Nicky Stewart, Jacques Duet and Shane Spencer.

COUNTY

From 1B

The money for the internship program was approved as a budgeted item from the Commissioners' Court.

"We chose to pay our interns for several reasons but one of them is that it's hard for interns and for all college students in general to not get paid during the summer," Lively said. "The majority of internships are being paid now."

Follow Cassie on Twitter at @Cassie_Burton51 or on Facebook at / CassieBurton15

Teachers being revered like sports stars is a fantasy

■ It is the education system itself that prevents star educators

ESTHER J. CEPEDA
Washington Post Writers Group

Last week, a Comedy Central skit called "TeachingCenter," about the career moves of star educators in the fictional 2015 "Teacher Draft," went viral.

In it, two SportsCenter-like anchors lavished adoring attention on a system offering multimillion-dollar salaries for high-performing teachers, astronomical cash incentives for high test scores — in the case of "star teacher Ruby Ruhf," $40 million. Screen crawls compared competing school SAT scores on writing, reading and math.

The Internet put its collective hands on its indignant hips and said "Well? Why don't we treat teachers like pro athletes?" — imagining that if we treated teachers like sports starts, our education system would be just as awesome.

Aisha Harris at Slate gushed, like so many others: "The clip cleverly reimagines athletes as the educators we entrust our children to every day ... the best part of ('TeachingCenter') might just be the incredible ads dropped in throughout — being a teacher has never looked so sexy."

Yeah, right.

Having been a teacher myself, I can attest that it is the educational system itself that keeps this fantasy of star educators from ever coming true.

Pro athletes start preparing for their sport as children, often driven by admiration for successful sports heroes, and excel past high school and/or college if they have extremely high natural aptitude for their discipline, some of which is strictly genetic. For instance, professional baseball hitters have off-the-charts super vision for seeing the seams on a baseball traveling 90 miles per hour.

Additionally, athletes practice their sport under the gaze of experienced professionals and perform in front of crowds, their every move scrutinized by trainers, coaches and fans. Their performance is measured by hard statistics and those numbers are ranked objectively against others in their field.

The teacher preparation system is, as has been detailed and backed up by research for years, designed to attract low performers through substandard admission criteria for teacher training programs.

In 2014, The National Council on Teacher Quality found that "prospective teachers are almost half as likely as students in other majors to graduate with grade-based honors" and that "using evidence from more than 500 higher education institutions that turn out nearly half of the nation's new teachers each year, we find that in a majority of institutions (58 percent), grading standards for teacher candidates are much lower than for students in other majors on the same campus."

Once out of teacher training programs — which generally do not offer sustained direct instruction on classroom management, academic rigor or evidence-based testing and evaluation methods — teachers do not ply their trade under the watchful eye of accomplished educators.

Yes, there are mentors for student teachers — but they are rarely accountable for instruction or systematic deep evaluation of their students' performance. Most of the time, they aren't even in the room for the majority of an internship.

Almost all teachers work alone, without day-to-day support, guidance or evaluation. Teaching is considered a learn-as-you-go craft, not a profession to be adequately prepared for. This is probably why so many teachers quit within five years of getting a teaching job.

And just ask the teachers unions whether they would mind if teachers were videotaped for the purposes of monitoring, evaluation and improvement. They'd freak out at you enough that you wouldn't dare ask if teachers would perform in public via streaming video that administrators or parents could monitor. This happened at a high school near me.

Same goes for statistics and other objective assessments of student achievement. Grades and test scores already are hated measures that are criticized for not including intangibles such as student joy, teacher impact and emotional safety.

Lastly, pro athletes sign contracts, but are generally able to either renegotiate them or wait them out to take on more lucrative engagements. The teachers' tenure system, however, makes it nearly impossible for them to move to schools where they might be rewarded with higher salaries for stronger student achievement without giving up seniority and associated salary entitlements.

Plus, teacher unions don't really buy into the idea that some teachers are "better" than others — or that there could be any way of truly determining excellence in a standardized way. The premise of teachers being rewarded based on student performance is always an education reform show-stopper.

It is a wonderful instinct to want teachers to be valued as much as sports heroes. But let's consider why we don't already and advocate for fundamental change.

Makeup line, 'virtual Selena Quintanilla' to debut in honor of late singer

By Whip Villarreal
Los Angeles Times

Two decades after she was killed, Tejano music star Selena Quintanilla might be more popular than ever.

Jennifer Lopez performed a tribute to her at Billboard's Latin Music Awards, a San Diego company is creating a digital embodiment of her and Mac Cosmetics just announced plans for a Selena makeup line after an online campaign drummed up 37,000 signatures.

A search of her name on YouTube turns up hundreds of videos, many viewed millions of times. Among the most popular are makeup tutorials demonstrating how to look like the singer, whose music still gets airplay on radio stations across the country.

MAC Cosmetics began negotiating with the Quintanilla family over the makeup line, to launch next year, after fans started a petition drive in February on the Change.org website. The company did not release financial details of the deal.

"This is one of the things she used to talk about when we were in the (tour) bus chilling out in the bunk area," her sister, Suzette Quintanilla, said of the new makeup line. "I'm not going to lie, it brought me to tears because this is something that I know she would be really proud of."

Suzette Quintanilla played drums in Selena's band, Los Dinos, which performed with Lopez this year in a Latin Music Awards tribute to the Tejano singer 20 years after her death. Lopez portrayed Selena Quintanilla in a 1997 movie.

The film chronicled the fast rise of Quintanilla, who won a Grammy for Mexican American album in 1994. A fashion icon often compared to Madonna, she opened two boutiques in Texas, in Corpus Christi and San Antonio, that featured beauty salons and her own clothing line.

Quintanilla was 23 when she was gunned down by her fan club president, Yolanda Saldivar, who was accused of embezzling money from the boutiques and fan club. Saldivar is serving a life sentence for murder in Gatesville.

The singer died as she was crossing over from the Tejano music scene to a mainstream audience. The release of her English language album, "Dreaming of You," climbed to the top of the Billboard 200.

Twenty years after the killing, audiences might get a chance to see Quintanilla perform again in a digital reincarnation.

San Diego-based Acrovirt said it is developing a virtual-reality walking, talking, singing and dancing Selena. The company plans to unveil the digital Quintanilla next year singing her hits "Como Te Quiero Yo A Ti" and "No Llores Mas Corazon" and a newly released English-language song.

The company said the technology is more advanced than the computer-generated Tupac Shakur image that appeared at the Coachella music festival in 2012. They are working with University of California at San Diego researchers on the project, but the company and the scientists declined to give details.

The project has gotten the attention of HBO. The company confirmed that a documentary film is in the works, but gave no further details.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency.

TAEKWONDO

From 1B

in age from 22 to 26.

Byron Sender, a friend of the Lees who helped them attain the venue, doesn't know what to expect because he's never practiced martial arts before, but that won't stop him from attending.

"I hope to see something I've never seen before, I want to be surprised," Sender said.

While people can expect an assortment of acrobatic kicks and strikes, Lee hopes people take away more than memories of people smashing objects, because taekwondo prepares practitioners for more than combat.

"Through the action they will see the discipline of martial arts," Lee said. "It's not just about kicking and punching, but inside you can build skills for life. We want to spread this message."

Follow Trent Johnson on Twitter @trentsjohnson.

Obituaries

Louise Schuelke

The memorial celebration for Louise Schuelke, along with the graveside service for Louise and Cecil Schuelke (husband & wife), will be held at 3:00 P.M. on August 15, 2015 at Resthaven Cemetery in Midland.

Call for more info - Eloise Schuelke 432-634-7372.

Death Notices

Peggy June Riggs

Peggy Riggs, 87, passed away on August 7, 2015.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Ellis Funeral Home.

A graveside service will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 13, 2015 at Resthaven Memorial Park, followed by a Memorial Service at St. Paul United Methodist Church at 10:00 a.m.

UConn to host national puppetry fest

Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Puppeteers from around the world began desoending on the University of Connecticut on Monday to participate in a weeklong festival of all things puppet.

The National Puppetry Festival, a biennial event run by the Puppeteers of America, includes 20 puppet shows, six other visual exhibitions, more than 30 professional workshops and a puppet-filled parade through downtown Storrs.

The event is being held at UConn for the first time since 1970 to help mark the 50th anniversary of the school's Puppet Arts program, which was founded by the late puppeteer Frank Ballard. It is one of just three programs in the U.S. offering degrees in puppetry.

More than 500 puppeteers from 12 nations are expected to attend, including Carroll Spinney, the man behind characters such as Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch on TV's "Sesame Street."

Spinney, who lives in Woodstock, got his big break at a similar festival in the 1960s, said Bart Roccoberton, director of both UConn's Puppet Arts program and the festival.

"It's a place for connections," he said. "Jim Henson came to a national festival, saw Carroll do a show that failed miserably, went backstage and told him, 'I like what you were trying to do there, come talk to me.' The rest is history."

Another Sesame Street star, Sonia Manzano, who played Maria on the show for 44 years, will co-host a puppet variety show Friday night. There also are free daily puppet workshops for kids, who will create sea-creature puppets out of found objects such as soda bottles and milk jugs.

The festival will also have a more serious side, with panel discussions on issues such as how to use puppets in therapy or law enforcement when children have been through sexual assaults or other trauma.

"(Puppetry) gives anyone who has been through a traumatic situation and who cannot deal with the situation the ability to put their voice in something else that can speak for them," said Paul Robinson, executive director of the Puppeteers of America. "It transmits their voice into this object."

The festival will not be without controversy. It includes the show "White Like Me: a Honky Dory Puppet Show," which Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., singled out in May while blasting the use of a $30,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts to help fund a puppet festival in Vermont.

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52 FACES OF COMMUNITY

To nominate a Face of Community, please visit mrt.com/52Faces

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TUESDAY PRIME TIME — AUGUST 11, 2015

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

		6	6:30	7	7:30	8	8:30	9	9:30	10	10:30	11	11:30
KMID	ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Fresh Off the Boat	Black-ish "The Talk"	Extreme Weight Loss "John and Panda" One man loses unprecedented amount of weight. (N)	KMID News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Christina Applegate	(:35) News Nightline
KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Patience"		Zoo "Sleuths" (N)	NCIS: New Orleans "More Now"	CBS 7 News	(:35) NCIS: LA "Inelegant Heart" (:35) J.Corden
KWWT	CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H "Heroes"	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Happy Days	Happy Days	Happy Days	Happy Days	Carol Burnett	Perry Mason	McMillan and Wife
KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Smarter "Brent Part 2/ Caleb Part 1" (N)	Brooklyn 99	Last Man on Earth	Modern Family	Modern Family	Hot In Cleveland	Hot In Cleveland	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother
KMLM	IND	11	12	12	11	11	Joe McGee	HaYesod	Update News	Mission: M25	Light of the Southwest			Exploring With the Scholars		Ministerios Nueva Vida	
KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 at 6 p.m.		America's Got Talent "Live Round 1" Twelve acts are judged by the viewing audience. (N)		Hollywood Game Night (N)			NewsWest 9 at 10	The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT	PBS	13	13		13	8	Business (N)	Focus on Europe	The Bomb Explore the most baleful invention in human history.			Secrets of the Tower of London		Charlie Rose (N)		Newsline	Tavis Smiley
KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	La sombra del pasado		Amores con trampa		Lo imperdonable		Yo no creo en los hombres	Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA	MNT	16	16		16		Fam.Feud	Million..	Law & O: CI "Want"		Law & Order: C.I.		News	Million..	Anger M.	M&M	Office	Access H.
PREMIUM	FLIX	340	575		165		(5:15) Bridget Jon...		★★★ The Three Musketeers				★★ Mad Love			(:45) ★★ Ask the Dust		
	HBO	300	550	14	14		(5:45) ★★ Because I Said So		True Detective "Omega Station"			Hard Knocks (N)		Ballers	The Brink	★★★ Birdman		
	HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	Sports	(:45) ★★★ X-Men Hugh Jackman.			LastWeek	Bill Maher		Sex On//	★★ Tammy Melissa McCarthy.			
	HBOS	304	552	16	102		TheBrink	★ The Judge (14, Dra) Robert Duvall, Robert Downey Jr...				★ Let's Be Cops Jake Johnson.			(:45) ★ The Maze Runner			
	MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(5:00) ★ A Walk Am...		★ Riddick (13, Sci-Fi) Karl Urban, Vin Diesel.			★ Inherent Vice (14, Com/Dra) Joaquin Phoenix.					Life Top	
	MAX2	382	558	18	122		(:15) ★★ 16 Blocks ('06, Thri) Bruce Willis.			★ Grudge Match (13, Act) Sylvester Stallone.				(:55) Lingerie			Movie	
	PLEX			96			(5:10) ★ Desperately...		★★ The Bachelor			(:45) ★★ Midnight in Paris			(:20) ★ Masked and Anonymous			
	SHOW	320	565	19	140	25	(4:45) ★ Dead Poets...		Masters of Sex		Ray Donovan		The Affair		Masters of Sex		★★ Next Day Air	
	TMC	336	573	22	155	26	(5:05) ★ Into the Blue		★★★ The Hurricane ('99, Dra) Denzel Washington.					★ The Railway Man ('13, War) Colin Firth.			Movie	
CABLE	A&E	27	58	28	35	47	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars (N)	Big Smo (N)	Big Smo (N)	Storage Wars	Storage Wars
	AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(6:30) ★★ Armageddon Bruce Willis.				★★★ The Dark Knight ('08, Act) Heath Ledger, Aaron Eckhart, Christian Bale.						Movie	
	BET	58	-		40		Movie	★★★ Hustle and Flow ('05, Dra) Terrence Howard.				Nellyville (5P) (N)		TBA		Desean	Wendy "Aaron's"	
	BRAVO	65	76		41		The Real Housewives		New York Social (N)		The Real Housewives (N)			Real Housewives		Watch (N)	Real Housewives	
	CNBC	46	52		39	72	West Texas Investors		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		West Texas (N)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
	CNN	43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Weed 2: Cannabis		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360		Weed 2: Cannabis	
	DISC	50	60	31	24	42	D. Catch "Beastmode"		Deadliest Catch (N)		Deadliest Catch (N)		Treasure Quest		Deadliest Catch		Treasure Quest	
	DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	KC Under	Jessie	Austin	Friends	KC Under	Girl		Austin	I Didn't	KC Under	Friends	Bunk'd
	ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	(5:00) SprtC	Rookie	E-60		Baseball Little League World Series (L)				SportsCenter			
	ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	TBA	SportsC.	30 for 30 "The Best That Never Was"			Baseball Tonight (L)			E:60		Baseball Tonight (L)	
	FAMILY	53	63	34	42	33	(5:50) Pretty Liars		Pretty Little Liars (N)		Nxt Step: NYC (N)		Startup U (N)		The 700 Club		★ Journey 2: The...	
	FNC	45	48	53	23	55	On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
	FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped (N)		Chopped		Chopped	
	FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	Insider (N)	Pre-game (L)	MLB Baseball Texas Rangers at Minnesota Twins Site: Target Field -- Minneapolis, Minn. (L)					Rangers Live (L)		Texans Train (L)	WPT Poker L.A. Classic	
	FX	31	56	59	64	69	(6:00) ★ Jack Reacher		★★ Taken 2 ('12, Act) Liam Neeson.				Tyrant (N)				Tyrant	
	HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	Waltons	"The Outrage"	The Waltons		Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
	HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	H.Hunt	House (N)	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	Flip/ Flop	FlipFlop
	HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	Counting	CountCars	Counting	Counting	Counting	Count. (N)	(:05) Leepu (N)		(:05) The Woodsmen		Counting	Counting
	LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	Dance Moms "Baby Dance Mama Drama"		Dance Moms		Dance Moms "Chaos at Nationals" (N)		Dance Moms (N)		Dance Moms "Chaos at Nationals"		Dance Moms	
	MSNBC	47	53		49	73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow	
	NBCSN	38	43				Boxing Premier Champions				Boxing Premier Champions Card TBA					Blazers	Barclay's Show	
	NICK	55	-	39	34	37	Thunder	Talia	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
	SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	Ink Mstr "Tut for Tat"		Ink Master		Ink Master		Ink Master (N)		Tattoo (N)	Tattoo	Tattoo	Tattoo
	SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	★★ Underworld: Rise of the Lycans				Face Off (N)		Face Off "Siren Song"		Face Off		Geeks/	Geeks/
	TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Clipped (N)	Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)		Clipped	Conan
	TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(5:00) ★ Adventures...		★★★ Green Pastures Rex Ingram.				★★ Cabin in the Sky Ethel Waters.				★★★★ Sahara	
	TELE	20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado		Avenida Brasil		Bajo el mismo cielo		El señor de los cielos		Al rojo	(:35) Titular	Bajo el mismo cielo	
	TLC	51	61	32	38	52	My Giant Life "We All Have Our Uniqueness"		L.P. "Finding Our Way Back Home" (N)		Little People, Big World		My Giant Life (N)		Little People, Big World (N)		My Giant Life	
	TNT	24	34	40	26	50	Castle "Little Girl Lost"		Rizzoli & Isles "Nice to Meet You, Dr. Isles"		Rizzoli & Isles "Love Taps" (N)		Proof "Tsunami: Part One" 1/2 (N)		Rizzoli & Isles "Love Taps"		Proof "Tsunami: Part One" 1/2	
	TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	Gilligan	(:35) TheExes	(:10) Ray	(:50) Ray	(:25) Ray "The Will"		Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
	USA	26	55	42	27	49	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Modern Family	Modern Family	Playing House (N)	Modern Family	★★★ The Ugly Truth (2009, Comedy) Gerard Butler, Bree Turner, Katherine Heigl.					
	WGN	19	85				America's Funniest Home Videos		★★★ A Time to Kill Matthew McConaughey. A lawyer defends a factory worker accused of killing the men who assaulted his daughter.					Rules of Engage.	Rules of Engage.	Rules of Engage.	Rules "Cupcake"	

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Hypnotism is 'true calling' for Permian High School graduate

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Big Spring storyteller

When I first heard about the Cowboy Hypnotist, I really didn't know what to think. Was it a joke? Was he a real cowboy? A professional psychologist? All the questions were answered when I interviewed him after one of his performances. His name is Don Warren. I saw two of his performances and they are amazing. He is very good at what he does.

His shows are two hours long. Once, he was on stage four hours at a high school after a graduation party where the graduates spent the night in the school gymnasium chaperoned by school officials and parents. At that event, he hypnotized about 200 students. "Some are real easy. I just look at them and they go under," Don said.

His fascination with the unusual form of entertainment came when he saw a hypnotist in Las Vegas.

"It was the funniest thing I had ever seen. I couldn't believe that this guy just with his voice could make people do crazy things."

He went home and started studying hypnosis from books, the Internet and YouTube. He attended a five-day seminar on how to become a stage show hypnotist. When it was over, he called his wife.

"I told her this is me. This is my true calling. This is what I want to do."

Don graduated from Permian High School in 1977, went to work for Phillips Petroleum in 1980 and is within a few years of retiring. He used to have a band and played in honky tonks and beer joints in West Texas, so he's not new to show business. But he had this epiphany about hypnosis. He gathered up friends and family and rented the community center in Gardendale and put on a hypnosis show. He called about 75 people on stage and hypnotized three of them.

Courtesy photo

Don Warren is a 1977 Permian High School graduate who performs as the Cowboy Hypnotist.

"I was scared to death because I wasn't sure I could do it, but the show was hilarious," Don said.

With his first show under his belt, he decided to rent the banquet room at the Barn Door Restaurant in Odessa, invite the public and charge for tickets. That was on Valentine's Day of 2013. That show was a success, too, and Don knew he was on to something.

He has done nearly 40 shows since then and now hypnotizes about 60 percent of his volunteers.

"I love doing it," he said. "I have more fun than anybody."

He is looking forward to retirement so he can be a full-time hypnotist, perhaps on cruise ships.

Don bills himself as the Cowboy Hypnotist. He looks more like a cowboy than a hypnotist. He wears blue jeans, a white shirt, boots and a western hat on stage and moves his 300-pound frame with ease. When he performs outdoors, his booming voice can get rid of a barking dog or coax a timid cowboy to wave his hands in the air like everybody else in the audience is doing. On stage, the people under his spell laugh, cry, get scared on a roller coaster and do dozens of things Don commands them to do. I saw a young man think he had given birth to a baby. Yes, a man. He even nursed the little one.

Don is a real cowboy. He and his wife have five horses on their property in Weatherford and they help neighbors do cow work.

Don said he has always lived the western life. His website is thecowboyhypnotist.com.

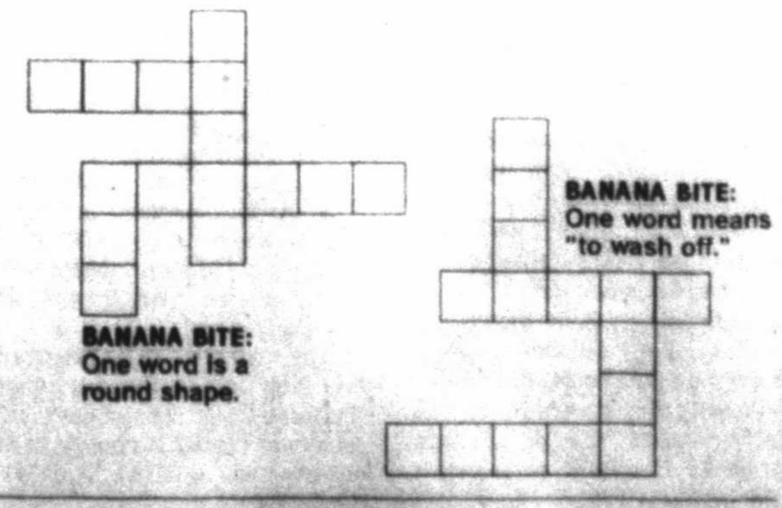
When Tumbleweed Smith is not on the road looking for characters, he lives in Big Spring with his wife Susan. Contact him at tsw@tumbleweedsmith.com

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. The BANANA BITES provide hints. Reuse the tiles for each grid.

A E C I E A H
I C R N L R S T



Yesterday's Answer: CLASS, GRADE, LECTURE, SPORTS, LIBRARY, DORM, ADVISOR, RALLIES

8.11

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Richard Drew/AP

Owner Morgan Avila, left, sits with Leonbergers Magneto, left, Mr. America, center, and Hollywood, on Aug. 5 as they are evaluated by Sarah Fraser, back right, during a demonstration of an urban canine good citizen test for city dogs, in the elevator lobby of the American Kennel Club in New York.

New test gauges dogs' city savvy, from streets to elevators

By Jennifer Peltz
Associated Press

NEW YORK — They're skills any city dweller needs: Taking strangers and noisy streets in stride. Riding calmly in elevators. Hopping a cab or subway. And ignoring tempting food all around you.

Magneto, a 170-pound Leonberger dog, was out to show he could do all that as he sauntered along a crowded Manhattan street this past week. He waited patiently with owner Morgan Avila for a light to change, clambered in and out of a curbside car, and proved unfazed by a fallen McDonald's bag and a hug from a passer-by.

Soon, Magneto was officially declared an "urban canine good citizen," the American Kennel Club's new title recognizing proper city-dog deportment.

"This ultimately will help the cause of dogs everywhere," AKC training director Mary Burch said.

The test is debuting at a time when Americans are showing increasing interest in bringing dogs along in public settings. States including California, Florida and Maryland have, in the last decade, started allowing dogs on restaurant patios, and similar legislation is waiting to be sent to New York's governor.

Many dogs readily go with the flow of city life. But even dog fans agree there's room for some improvement.

"It's more that the owners could step up their game," Manhattanite Barbara Jaffe said as her shih tzu, Daisy, spontaneously demonstrated pet etiquette, lying down calmly while awaiting a train at Penn Station.

The AKC has offered a basic "canine good citizen" test for a quarter-century — more than 700,000 dogs have passed — and added a more advanced "community canine" title last year. Those tests can be done at a dog show or training center, but the new urban exam unfolds in "a more practical real-world setting," Burch said.

Open to both purebred and mixed-breed dogs, it's no simple sit-and-stay challenge. The animals need to lie down and stay put for at least three minutes while their owner browses in a dog-friendly business or snacks at an outdoor eatery, for instance.

About 500 of the estimated 70 million or more dogs nationwide have passed the test since its April launch.

Trainers estimate preparing takes at least a few months. But "it's fun. ... You're no longer just practicing 'sit' in the backyard," said trainer and examiner Marti Hohmann of Wellington, Florida.

Sophie, a dachshund, competes in obedience. But the urban canine test posed other challenges, such as dealing with lots of people seeking to pet her, said owner Catherine Anne Cassidy of Tequesta, Florida.

"Dogs have to know you and trust you really well" to pass, as Sophie did, Cassidy said. But "it will make everything, walking around the city with your dog, so much easier."

It may also pay dividends at home. Some homeowners' insurers have been more open to covering certain breeds with the basic canine good citizen title, Burch said. New York real estate agent and dog rescuer Barbara Fox said the city-canine title could help get a pet accepted at co-ops and condominiums, adding that buildings shouldn't demand that animals pass tests.

Magneto and two of Avila's other Leonbergers, Hollywood and Mr. America, sailed through. They're show and theater dogs with plenty of training, but enthusiasts said any dog can and should try for the urban canine title.

"Your dog will be better, you'll be better and you'll be able to spend quality time with your dog doing things," Avila said.

Wyoming Tribune Eagle via AP file photo

Meteors streak above the Wyoming countryside Aug. 13, 2013, north of Cheyenne in this time-lapse photo. The Perseid meteor shower runs from mid-July through mid-August. The shower, which gets its name from the constellation Perseus is the remants from the comet Swift-Tuttle, which last past through in 1992 and won't pass by again until 2126.

Perseid meteor shower will be visible in Basin skies

By Brandon Mulder
bmulder@mrt.com

August is a prime month for stargazers, and to kick off the celestial activity is the Perseid meteor shower. Between tonight and Thursday night, meteors will streak through the sky, and West Texas provides a prime vantage.

The Swift-Tuttle comet, which is in an elongated 134-year orbit around the sun, leaves a vestige of dust and small rocks suspended in its wake. In late July and early August, Earth's orbit leads the planet to collide with the comet's trail.

"It's generally quite a good show. I can remember many, many decades ago, as a kid, lying out on the ground in Connecticut watching this shower go through; it's wonderful," Anita Cochran, assistant director of the McDonald Observatory, said in a phone interview.

She observed the comet when it last neared the sun in 1992. The comet is not expected to revisit until 2126, she said.

About a dozen meteors will enter the atmosphere per hour, Cochran said, creating bright, sustaining and abundant streaks in the night with trails that persist for seconds.

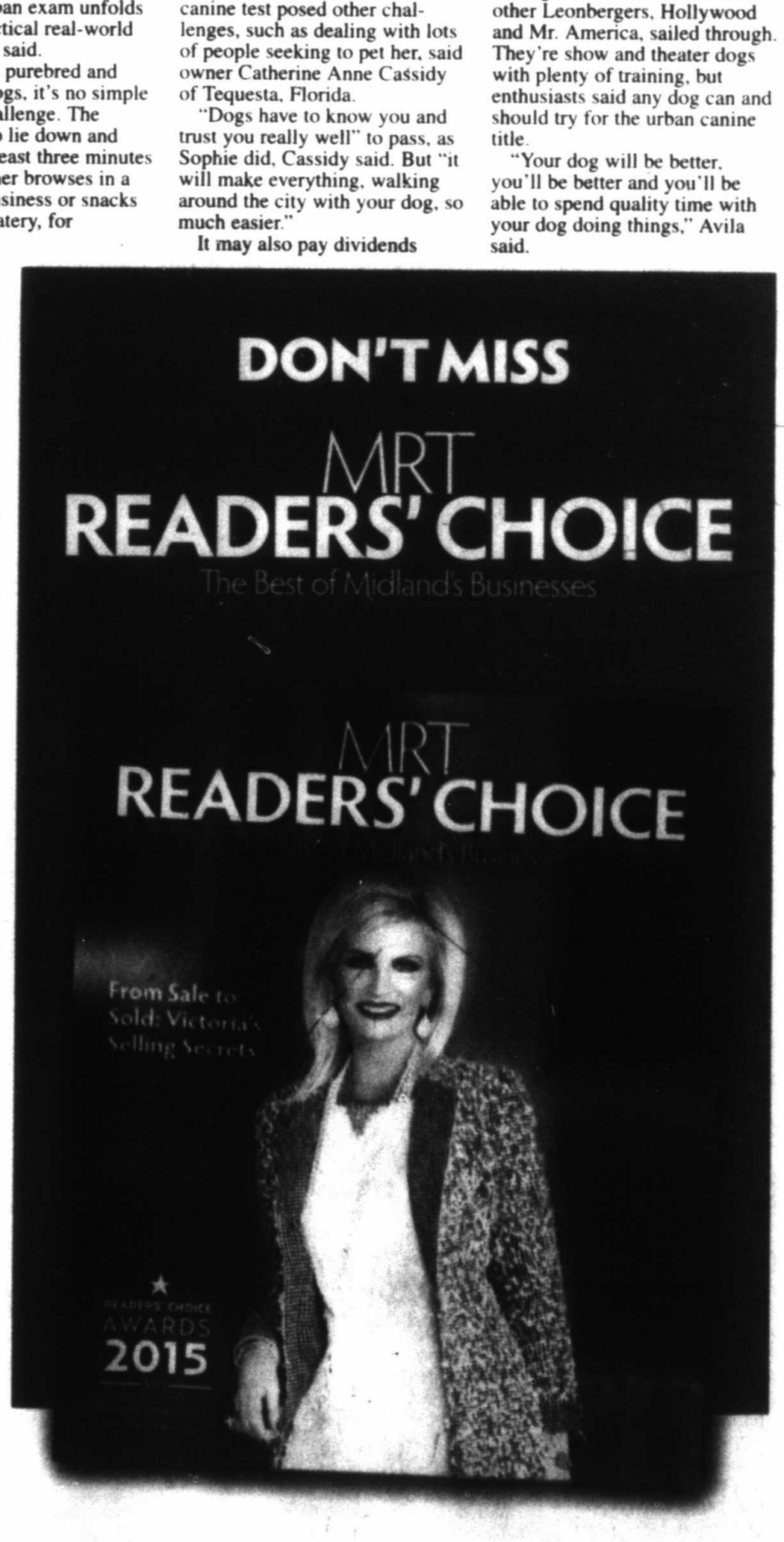
"So someone can say 'oooh,' and everyone else can look up and say 'ahhh,'" she said.

The Earth travels through several meteor fields a year, but the Perseid meteor shower — named after the Perseus constellation, the perspective point from which the meteors appear to come from — is unique for its consistent brightness.

To put the spectacle in their field of vision, observers can look about halfway up the sky facing northeast in a dark, secluded area. Avoid city glow and car headlights.

The meteors will be bright enough to see even through the dull light pollution of Permian Basin oil and gas activity, which in recent years has created problems for astronomers at the McDonald Observatory.

"You should have no problems in the Permian Basin with the darkness, and it's a very good year because of the phase of the moon, so the moon is down most of the night," Cochran said.



TODAY: Sunny High: 102 Low: 76

WEDNESDAY: Mostly sunny High: 100 Low: 76

THURSDAY: Mostly sunny High: 100 Low: 77

FRIDAY: Mostly sunny High: 99 Low: 76

SATURDAY: Mostly sunny High: 99 Low: 75

SUNDAY: Sunny High: 99 Low: 74

Local forecast

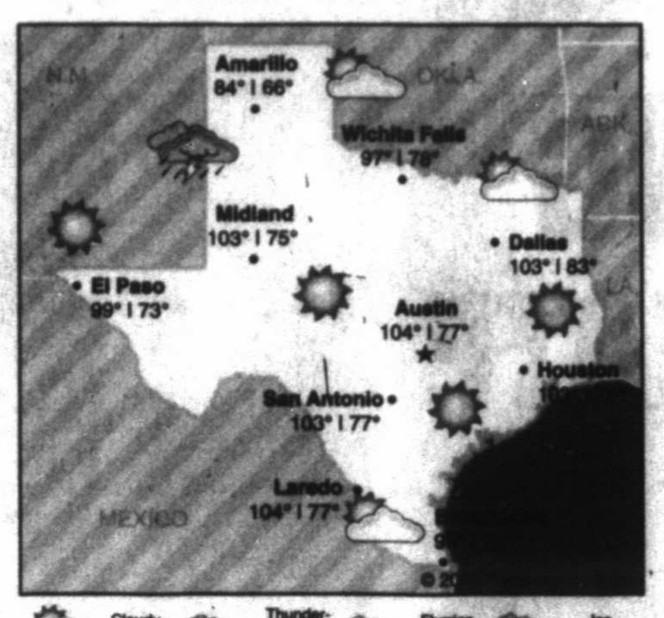
The National Weather Service is forecasting more of the same: highs near or over 100 and dry. Lows are expected to be in the mid- to high 70s.

The high on Monday reached 102, while the low was 76. The record high for Aug. 10 is 105 set in 2011. The record low is 60 set in 1989. On Aug. 10 of last year, the high was 96 and the low was 74.

Weather why

Q: Which U.S. city has the warmest year-round temperature?

A: The top four are in the state of Florida, not surprisingly, said Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "Because of its southern location and large coastline with warm waters that surround the state, Florida is the warmest state in the country," McRoberts said. "The city of Marathon in the Florida Keys has an average year-round temperature of 78.5 degrees while Key West comes in second at 77.8 degrees. Interestingly, the Florida Keys and Miami Beach are the only locations in the continental United States that have never had a frost or freeze. The all-time lowest temperature at Key West is 41 degrees."



Partly Cloudy · Cloudy · Showers · Thunderstorms · Rain · Flurries · Snow · Ice

Precipitation

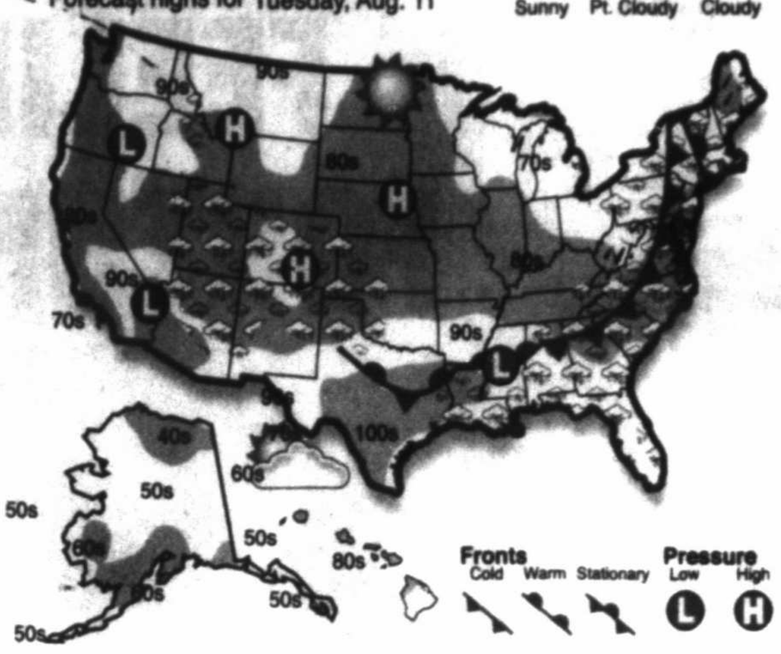
Sunday	0.00 in.
Monday	0.00 in.
Month total	0.05 in.
Year total	13.05 in.
Normal total (year to date)	8.46 in.

Monday's temperatures

High	102
Low	76
Normal high	94
Normal low	70
Sunrise	7:11 a.m.
Sunset	8:37 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Tuesday, Aug. 11



Woman goes to the mat to defend yoga photos

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: A family member has recently lost more than 100 pounds running and doing yoga. She looks fantastic. Yoga is the focus of her life now, and she posts daily photos of herself on social media. In many of them, she is scantily clad and in poses some might consider risque.

Whenever she attends family gatherings or outings to public places, she wants to take pictures of herself in various poses. This makes some of the people she's with uncomfortable. She says she doesn't care what others think, but there have been quite a few negative comments about this, and people have "unfollowed" her on social media. Others think it's OK for her to do her thing. What is your opinion on this? — GAGGING IN GEORGIA

DEAR GAGGING: Your relative deserves praise for having adopted a healthier lifestyle. However, because she doesn't care what others think, any family member who finds her pictures too risque for their comfort should quit following her on social media.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Kelly," and I are arguing over whether she should take her trophies with her when she moves out on her own. I feel that when kids move out, they should take all their belongings. Kelly thinks I should keep the 10 to 15 trophies she won in beauty pageants when she was younger.

I'd like to turn her bedroom into a guest room where visiting relatives can stay, but I'm having difficulty getting my daughter to take all her stuff. Although she has grown out of her childhood trophies, she expects me to hold onto them. I suggested she pack them up and store them in her attic so she can show her children her accomplishments one day. What do you think? — BEAUTY QUEEN'S MOM IN INDIANA

DEAR MOM: I think that if you want a guest room instead of a shrine to your daughter's beauty contest achievements, you should set a deadline and insist that her trophies be removed.

DEAR ABBY: A friend of mine and I have exchanged birthday cards for many years. Several years ago, she started sending me two cards each year — one on my birthday and another five or six months later. After a couple more years passed, the "second date" became the only card she sent.

I know I should have said something, but I didn't want to embarrass her. This year on my "birthday" she even called to wish me a happy one.

Is there anything I can do now? My REAL birthday is coming up soon, and I feel bad that I didn't nip this in the bud in the beginning. — ONE AT A TIME IN WASHINGTON

DEAR ONE: Oh, for Pete's sake! Friends should be able to level with each other without ruining the friendship. If you want to save her from embarrassment, tell her YOU are embarrassed because you didn't say something earlier. Then enjoy a good laugh together.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Leaky ship

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 6 5
♡ 3
◇ A K 10
♣ A 9 7 5 3

WEST
♠ 9 2
♡ Q J 10 9 8 4 2
◇ Q J 8
♣ 2

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

SOUTH
♠ A J 10 8 4
♡ A K 6
◇ 6
♣ 10 8 6 4

The bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
3	Dbl	Pass	4
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♣	All pass	

Opening lead: Two of ♣

North-South had to guess a little bit during the auction, as often happens after a pre-empt. South's sequence showed a hand too good to bid four spades at his first turn, so North raised to slam hoping for the best. The final contract was not great, but leakier ships sail home safely all the time.

The best chance for 12 tricks was a 2-2 split of the missing clubs, but that became impossible after the opening lead — the two of clubs was an obvious singleton. Can you spot an alternative line that might be successful?

South won with dummy's ace of clubs at trick one and drew trumps in two rounds. He then cashed the ace and king of hearts, shedding a club from dummy, and ruffed his last heart. This was followed by the ace and king of diamonds, discarding a club from his hand.

The fall of the jack of diamonds from West under the king offered a glimmer of hope. Declarer led dummy's 10 of diamonds, but instead of ruffing, he discarded another club. West was forced to win this trick with the queen of diamonds and, with nothing left but hearts, gave declarer a ruff-sluff. South ruffed in dummy while discarding his last club from hand. Contract made! The ship sailed home.

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, Aug. 11, 2015:

This year you could see a substantial financial change, but for the better. You seem to know what is needed, and you will make it so. You have a way about you that helps you relax and come to a clear conclusion. Your ability to understand what is happening within your immediate circle keeps you on top of your game. If you are single, you are likely to attract quite a few admirers. Enjoy this process. If you are attached, the two of you benefit the most when you are relaxed. Alone time could be very important for both of you. CANCER reads you clearly.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ You seem to wake up with a desire to handle a situation differently. How you manage a changeable situation could vary as a result. Your need for details emerges, leaving less room for imagination. The unexpected is likely to occur. Tonight: Go to the gym.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ Listen carefully to what someone has to say. You might find a more creative solution when handling this issue. Move forward and handle a personal issue with greater clarity. A child or loved one will appreciate your efforts. Tonight: Make the most of the moment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ You could be far more creative and dynamic than you have in the recent past, especially when dealing with a domestic matter. A disruptive element seems to mark the day. Be careful with spending. Tonight: Make sure your budget can handle a major purchase.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ You have the energy and desire to clear out a lot quickly. No matter where you start, the results will be excellent. A boss could be somewhat touchy or difficult. Detach and look at the big picture. You might not see the end results as someone else does. Tonight: Fly high.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★ You might be too tired to follow through on what needs to happen or what you feel you need to do. Detach. Understand what is expected of you when relating to others. You could decide that you would prefer to put a certain issue on hold for now. Tonight: Make it your treat.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You might notice a difference in how you feel. Your ability to get past a situation is enhanced. You'll feel as if you can handle what was not manageable before. Understand what role you need to play in order to have a situation evolve. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ You will see how you can make a difference if you move forward with an important matter. You could be feeling off-kilter if you are not in tune with your feelings. Try to take a step back and withdraw some. You will feel better given some time. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Make a point of touching base with a key person, either professionally or personally. You will gain a lot of important information that could force you to go in a new direction. You have had a premonition as to what to do here. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ Suddenly, others seem to view you in a more favorable light. They see you as a leader and a star performer. If you stay on your current path, you could get a pay raise or promotion within the next year. Emphasize greater financial security. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ Others seem to seek you out. Your ability to walk in someone else's shoes emerges as your strong suit. Expect this pattern to continue for a sustained period of time. Know what is needed, and do what it takes to carry you through to the end. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ If you have your heart set on certain results, you must push hard to achieve them. You could be in a position where you need to focus more on your schedule and on what you want to accomplish. Stay on top of a project. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ Tap into your creativity when dealing with a partner. This person might be changing his or her ideas and goals, whether you realize it or not. Don't push someone away unnecessarily. Understand what this individual wants from you. Tonight: Act as if there were no tomorrow.

BORN TODAY

Professional wrestler Hulk Hogan (1953), basketball player Patty Mills (1988), actor Chris Hemsworth (1983)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Lute-like Indian instrument
6 Genesis brother
10 Golfers' goals
14 Technique-sharpening Chopin piece
15 __ fide
16 From scratch
17 Argument
19 Response to "Marco!" in a pool game
20 Spreading tree
21 Chicago's Michigan, e.g.: Abbr.
22 Hibachi spot
23 __ de Janeiro
24 1960 hit for Dion and the Belmonts
27 H.G. Wells genre
29 Have regrets about
30 Genesis mother
31 Bias
33 Skin blemish
34 Raised, as horses
35 Extremely impressive quality, informally ... or, when read differently, what the four longest puzzle answers all have
38 Cooking oil source
41 Many a mountain whose name ends in "horn"
42 Tickle
45 Bauxite, e.g.
46 Michelle of the LPGA
47 Scarfed down
49 Do the seemingly impossible, à la Jesus
54 Uni- + bi-
55 Smelled a lot
56 Bikini top
57 Skin art, for short
58 Pueblo-dwelling people
59 1937 Laurel and Hardy film involving a prospector's daughter and a gold mine
63 Old-style "once"
64 Sunup direction
65 Eagle's home
66 Tinting agents
67 Jazz group instrument
68 Actor Romero

DOWN

1 Underground waste conduits
2 Slanted letters
3 Confused state
4 "Much __ About Nothing"
5 NFL official
6 Higher in rank than
7 Destructive beetle
8 Conclude
9 __ Vegas
10 Large edible fruit
11 One more
12 Ease, as pain
13 Fainted
18 Stroller cry
22 Lead-in for heat or cook
24 Derelict overdoing the grape
25 Idle of Monty Python
26 "I'm __ here!": "Bye!"
28 Baby deer
32 Creator of Finn and Sawyer
33 Microwave
34 Very dry, as Champagne
36 Aviated
37 Poet Khayyam
38 Bovine shelter
39 Cicero's skill
40 Health setback
43 Hunting dogs
44 Landmass divided by the Urals
46 Stir-fry pan
48 Half of a rain rhythm
50 Gentle washer setting
51 Vast chasm
52 Runs easily
53 __ de Cologne
59 Spider's creation
60 Little battery size
61 Tic-toe filler
62 Very little, to a Scot

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

F	R	E	E		B	O	A	T			W	H	I	M
R	O	S	A		O	S	L	O		M	O	I	R	A
E	M	P	T	Y	S	U	I	T		I	O	T	A	S
S	C	R	E	E	N		T	A	I	L	F	I	N	S
C	O	I	N	S				L	D	L		T	I	A
A	M	T		Y	O	R	E		A	I	R	B	A	G
			M	O	R	O	N	S			E	I	N	E
		S	C	U	B	A	D	I	V	I	N	G		
T	H	E	A			R	O	T	A	T	E			
S	E	A	N	C	E		F	U	T	Z		M	E	R
H	A	W		O	V	A				H	E	A	V	E
I	R	O	N	M	A	S	K		C	A	S	H	E	D
R	O	R	E	M		T	H	I	N	K	T	A	N	K
T	U	L	S	A		R	A	R	E		E	L	S	E
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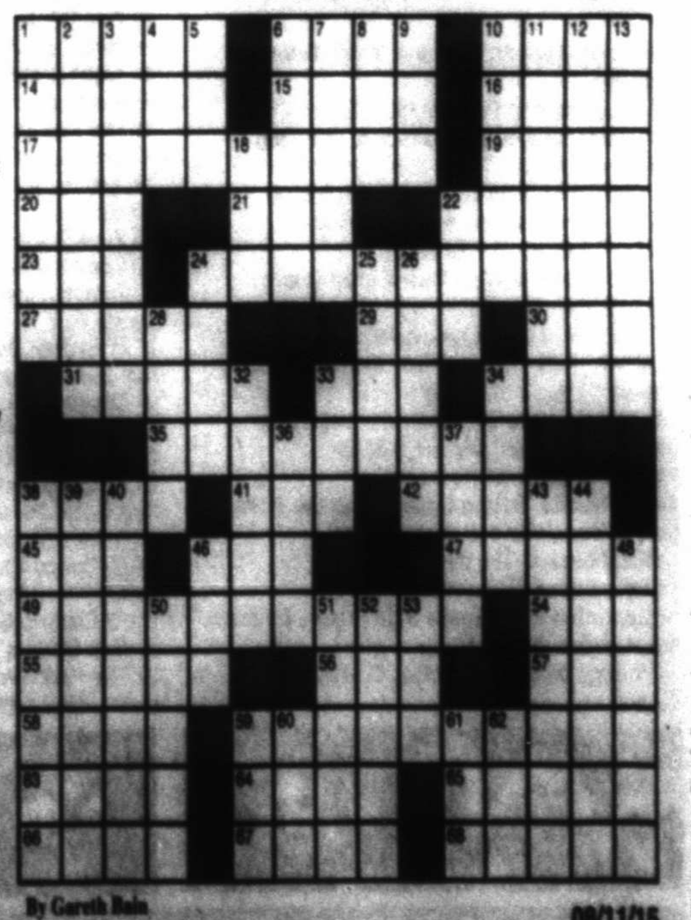
xwordeditor@aol.com 08/11/15



By Gareth Bain
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SOUNDBITE

Reviews of recent release

DR. DRE
"Compton"

Dr. Dre's new album "Compton" doesn't just unfold, it charges forward — a barreling mass of relentless beats and lyrical strong-arming that amounts to much more than anyone could have expected from a hip-hop legend whose last solo album hit shelves in 1999.

He might be millions of dollars richer and several decades removed from the life that inspired the upcoming N.W.A. biopic, "Straight Outta Compton," but Dre has not lost his edge, nor has he lost his touch.

"Murder this, murder listen, hit a suburban whippin'," Dre spits on "Genocide." "Tinted windows, (gun sound) right at your wifey, and I bet you miss her."

The man can still rap. Fellow veterans Ice Cube and Snoop Dogg deliver perhaps their hardest verses in recent memory on "Issues" and "One Shot, One Kill," respectively. But Dre's outstanding production — with help from Dem Jointz, DJ Dahi, Focus. and more — is what makes "Compton" enthralling. Verses from Kendrick Lamar and newcomer King Mez also shake things up.

"Once upon a time, I shot a (person) on accident. I tried to kill him but I guess I needed more practicing. That's when I realized banging wasn't for everybody," Lamar rhymes on "Deep Water," which begins with the gut-wrenching sounds of a man splashing, and gasping for air.

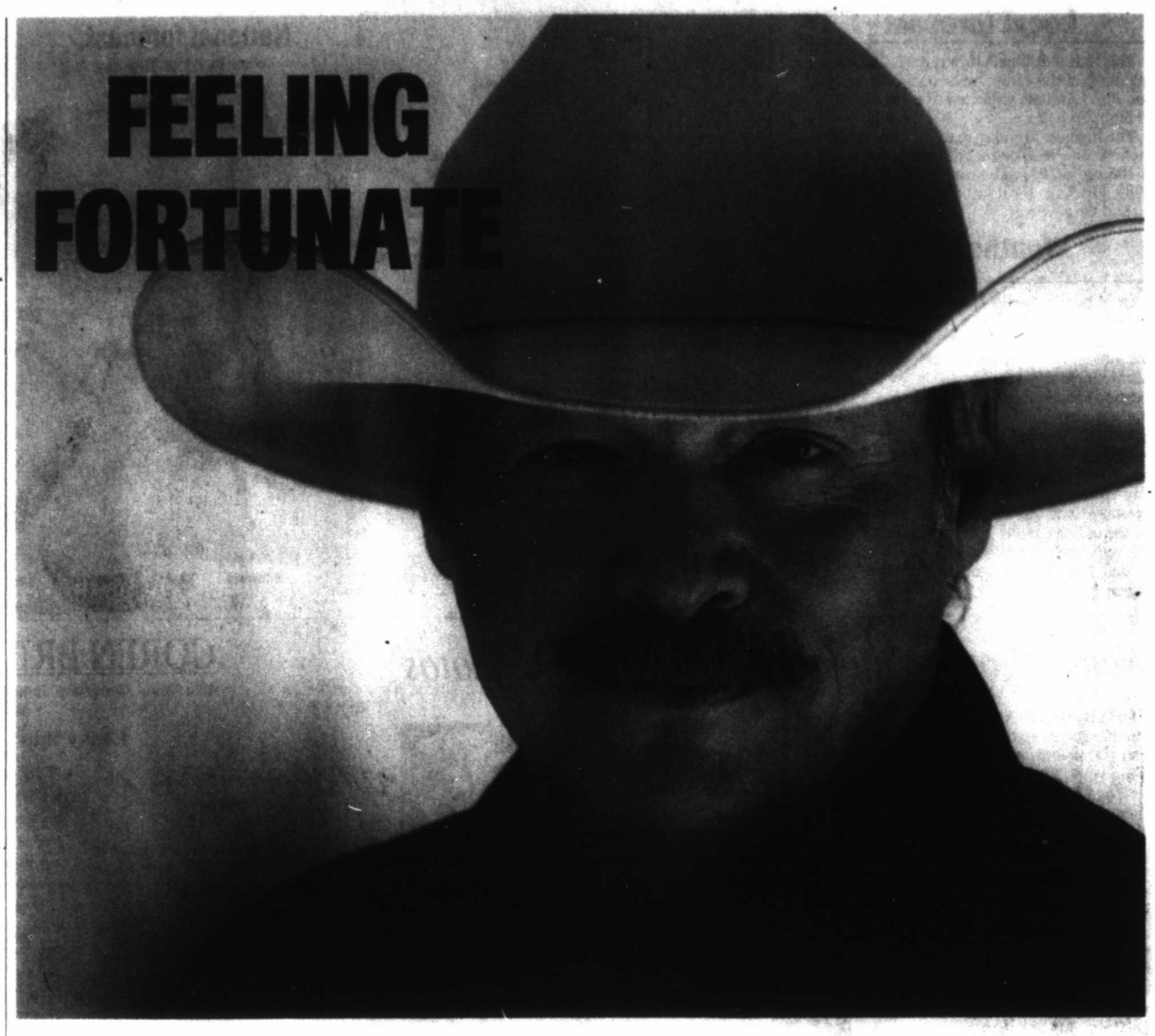
"Loose Cannons" is sonically bananas, with its shifting sound beds, which transition seamlessly between rolling drums, heavy metal-inspired strings and more, while Xzibit, Cold 187um and Sly Pyper take turns on vocals. The song concludes with a chilling skit that ends with a woman being shot then buried.

Perhaps the album's most shocking line comes by way of Eminem on the otherwise clever "Medicine Man." In a rapid fire verse about dismissing consequences and murdering rappers on every Dre-provided beat, Em spouts off about raping b-words who enjoy it — a poor way, perhaps, of describing how even his critics and competition relish his bars.

Anger is ever-present on "Compton," but there's reflection, too. "Animals," which counts DJ Premier among its producers, captures that emotion and puts things into perspective. "Still tryna figure out, why the (expletive) I'm full of rage," Dre raps, later adding, "Just a young black man from Compton wondering who could save us."

It is a question that needed answering at the start of Dre's career, and it is a question that could use an answer now.

Melanie J. Sims/AP



Alan Jackson: No pressure to compete with my history

By Mesfin Fekadu
Associated Press

NEW YORK — After 25 years in the music industry, pressure is no longer a factor for Alan Jackson.

"You always want to make a good album, you're concerned about doing that, but I don't feel pressure to compete with any of my history or trying to worry about getting on the radio or selling many albums," said Jackson, sporting his signature cowboy hat in a recent interview.

Jackson, 56, released his debut album in 1990, and marks an anniversary this year with his 15th studio album, "Angels and Alcohol." It debuted at No. 1 on the country albums chart last month.

"(I) try to just focus on the music and what songs work better together and the sound, and make an album," he said. "I tried to always concentrate on that and not worry so much about, 'Well is this one going to be nominated for a Grammy?'"

Turns out he didn't need to worry about it. Jackson, who is from rural Newnan, Georgia, has earned two Grammy Awards, among other accolades. He recently wrapped the spring leg of his 25th Anniversary Keepin' In Country Tour, and he talked about his new album, the streaming business and more with The Associated Press.

AP: What comes to mind when you think about being in the industry for 25 years?

Jackson: Old (laughs). I'm very proud of it. ... I feel relaxed. I feel like, 'Gosh, I've just done so much and accomplished so much and been so fortunate.' I couldn't hardly ask for anything else, so the rest is just like fun.

AP: How do you think you've grown?

Jackson: I try not to look at all the charts all the time. In the beginning, you're looking at your song, 'Oh it went from 8 to 9 and somebody jumped me and went to 7.' And every week, you're looking at it and how many (radio) spins you got — it just drives you crazy. ... Try to concentrate on the music and not get caught up in being a celebrity in the spotlight because then the music ends up going to the bottom.

AP: Streaming is how so many people listen to music — are you into that?

Jackson: I don't know that it's a bad thing. I think from a business side, you know, being a songwriter and being a part of the Nashville community so long and record labels, I think all that has hurt the financial part of the business and it hurts the business because it's hard for songwriters to make a living ... For the fans, I think, it's nice; they can get what they want. ... I feel disappointed sometimes ... they can buy what they want and not buy the album. I want them to buy the album, not 'cause I want the sales or the money, it's 'cause that's your music.

AP: What was it like writing 'You Can Always Come Home' for your daughter?

Jackson: I wrote that when my middle daughter moved to California and it was the same thing my daddy said to me when I moved to Nashville. I was young and he said, 'If it doesn't work out you can always come home.' That meant a lot and that's why that song spilled out.

AP: Did you play the track for her before it was released?

Jackson: I think I played her a rough track before we cut it, just like a guitar vocal. Made everybody tear up (laughs).

AP: Are you a big fan of any contemporary country acts?

Jackson: Jon Pardi ... Kacey Musgraves ... Zac Brown. ... Miranda Lambert, she's in the spotlight a lot now, but I've known her for years. She was opening for me when she was still wearing her long, wrangled up blue jeans out there. She has really worked hard and I always liked the fact that she appreciates real country (music) and writes some stuff like that. Even some of her more aggressive stuff still has an edgy, roots-y sound I like. There's still some good music out there.

AP: There's a lack of women on country radio right now. Have you noticed that?

Jackson: It's just kind of in cycles. I remember when Shania Twain was kind of leading the pack a few years ago and it seemed like during that time, it was just more woman than there were guys winning all the awards. It was just back and forth, back and forth. I'm sure it will turn around.

LIVEWIRE

MIDLAND/ODESSA/LAMESA/ BIG SPRING/ANDREWS

AUGUST

11 **Saving Abel, 89 Reasons. Kilter, SeVIIn** @ Blue Max
11 **Showdown** @ Permian Basin Dance Club
11 **Whitesnake, Bridge to Grace, The Dead Daisies** @ Wagner Noel
12 **Callahan Divide** @ Shack in the Back
13 **Bri Bagwell** @ Basin Burger House
13 **Dan Tedasco** @ Blue Max
13 **Showdown** @ West Texas Dance Club
13 **Matt Kimvrow** @ Rockin Rodeo
14 **The Unsweet Ts** @ Ranchland Hills
14 **Blues Plate Review, River Atwood, Adean Fusion** @ Music City Mall
14 **Stoney LaRue** @ Graham Central Station
14 **Mark McKinney** @ Lone Star Bar
14 **Ronnie Eaton** @ Redneck's
14 **BJ Thomas, Dalton Domino and the Front Porch Family Band** @ Wagner Noel
14 **Flashback** @ The Detour
14 **Reid Speed** @ Studio 20/20
14 **Spoonfed Tribe, Snake Skin Prison, Embrace the Machine** @ Blue Max
14 **Tommy, Jean, Jerry & Co.** @ Midland Senior Center
14-15 **Twisted Texas** @ Your Place
14-15 **Funky Munky** @ The Bar
15 **Richard Acuna, Michael Leonard, Adean Fusion** @ Music City Mall
15 **Fletcher, Bell, & Ward** @ Odessa Country Club
16 **Matt Stell** @ Basin Burger House
15 **Aloha O Hawaii Polynesian Dance Group, Adean Fusion** @ Music City Mall
16 **The Shades** @ Museum of the Southwest
17 **Showdown** @ Andrews Senior Center
18 **Tommy, Jean, Jerry & Co.** @ Permian Basin Dance Club
19 **Eyes Set to Kill, Archer** @ Blue Max
20 **Cody Bryan Band** @ Basin Burger House
20 **Tommy, Jean, Jerry & Co.** @ West Texas Dance Club
21 **Forgotten Road, On The Level, Justin Langston, Silvertone** @ Midland County Fair
21 **Casee Allen, Clare Dunn, Jon Pardi, Joe Nichols, Brad Paisley** @ Texas Thunder
21 **Honky** @ Blue Max
21 **La Maquinaria Nortena, Lafe Norteno, Saul el Jaguar, La Fiera de Ojinaga** @ Hacienda
21 **River Atwood** @ Music City Mall
21-22 **Bobby Champion and The New Revolution Band** @ Your Place
21-22 **Electric Gypsies** @ The Bar
22 **Max Stalling** @ Lone Star Bar
22 **The Pistoleros, Williams & Rae, Tracy Lawrence, The Cadillac Three, Big and Rich** @ Texas Thunder
22 **Jacob Garcia Band, Robert Cobos Band, Un-Sweet T's, Los Blue Cats, Abby Cone** @ Midland County Fair
22 **Sphynx** @ Basin Burger House
22 **Aloha O Hawaii Polynesian Dance Group, All Stars, Samuel Zachary, River Atwood** @ Music City Mall
23 **Tommy, Jean, Jerry & Co.** @ Music City Mall
23 **Rick Molina Y Estilo Suave** @ Midland County Fair
23 **Dallas Smith, Frankie Ballard, Thomas Rhett, Florida Georgia Line** @ Texas Thunder
25 **Johnny & Susie** @ Permian Basin Dance Cl
27 **Kansas** @ Chaparral Center
27 **Roxy Roca** @ Basin Burger House
27 **Goodtimers** @ West Texas Dance Club
28 **Hogg Mauliee** @ Lone Star Bar
28 **Frantic Flinstones, Hooten Hallers, Neglected Few** @ Blue Max
28 **Randy Rogers Band, Judson Cole** @ Graham Central Station
28 **Espinoza Paz, La Adictiva Band, Los Bravos De Ojinaga** @ Hacienda
28 **Glovebox** @ The Detour
28 **The Frantic Flinstones, The Hooten Hallers, Neglected Few, Los Tejanos Muertos** @ Blue Max
28 **Blues Plate Review** @ Music City Mall
28-29 **Cory Dutton** @ The Bar
28-29 **Who'z Drivin'** @ Your Place

LUBBOCK

AUGUST

12 **Trapt, Sons Of Texas, Poynte** @ Jake's Sports Cafe & Backroom

SEPTEMBER

24 **Jason Aldean, Cole Swindell, Tyler Farr** @ United Supermarkets Arena

DALLAS-FORT WORTH AREA

AUGUST

12 **Damien Rice** @ South Side Ballroom
12 **"American Idol Live" with Clark Beckham, Nick Fradiani, Tyanna Jones, Rayvon Owen, Jax** @ Verizon Theatre At Grand Prairie
14 **Jill Scott** @ Verizon Theatre At Grand Prairie
14 **Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin** @ Three Links Event Center
17 **Sam Smith** @ Verizon Theatre
18 **Alabama Shakes, Drive-By Truckers** @ Verizon Theatre
20 **Incubus, Deftones , Death From Above 1979, The Bots** @ Gexa Energy Pavilion
21 **"Weird Al" Yankovic** @ Verizon Theatre

WANT YOUR GIG OR YOUR VENUE'S EVENT LISTED IN LIVE WIRE? EMAIL NADAMSON@MRT.COM WITH THE DETAILS. ALL LISTINGS ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Cowboys' Lee is finally full-go, but is playing it low key

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

OXNARD, Calif. — Sean Lee waited 15 months to be cleared for every segment of practice after the oft-injured Dallas linebacker tore a ligament in his left knee in the first offseason workout of 2014.

When the moment finally came a little more than a week into training camp, Lee played it low-key.

The sixth-year player is a little weary of injury talk after missing 23 of the past 24 games for the Cowboys — playoffs included — with knee, neck and hamstring injuries. And that's not counting the 10 games he sat in 2012 with a badly damaged toe.

"They have been progressing me a certain way," Lee said after his first 11-on-11 work Sunday. "I felt great the whole time. I haven't played football in a long time. This was a nice first step."

Lee tore his right anterior cruciate ligament at Penn State and was available to Dallas late in the second round of the 2010 draft in part because of his history with injuries. He was told at the time of the first surgery that his left knee was basically a tear waiting to happen, which it did last year when he engaged rookie lineman Zack Martin in a non-contact drill.

A year later, Lee was moving around normally during the offseason, but not getting any closer to the action than walkthroughs and some individual work. The gradual plan continued in California with Lee working into some seven-on-seven drills.

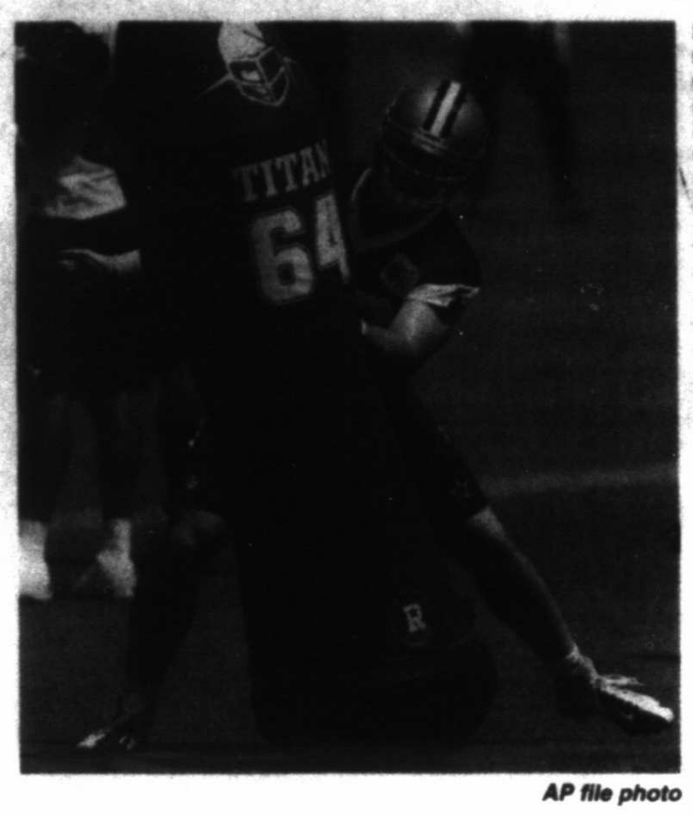
While he acknowledges that age and the accumulation of injuries makes it a little easier for him to accept the methodical approach to rehab, he still found himself trying to talk his way into some goal-line work the day before trainers and coaches finally approved it.

"You'd rather have the guy who wants to get in there and you have to pull him back than the other guy, who you're trying to push out there," coach Jason Garrett said.

"Sean has certainly been the former of those, and he still is that way. There's a level of trust and communication with him, and I think he understands the plan really well."

Although unlikely to play in the preseason opener at San Diego on Thursday night, the 29-year-old Lee should be on track to play in

Please see LEE/3C



Dallas Cowboys middle linebacker Sean Lee runs a drill June 3 during an NFL organized team activity in Irving. Lee is working 11-on-11 drills for the first time since tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee 15 months ago in the first offseason workout of 2014.

AP file photo

PUTTING IN TIME

As the old saying goes: Practice makes perfect. Midland High and Lee football players got the chance to do just that for the first time Monday. Gridders hit the field and hit the gym to build strength and build bonds. With the season's start just a few weeks away, players and coaches hope their time and effort prepare them for what lies ahead. But will it be enough? Will it all come together? Will victory be achieved? Only the game can tell that story, and only practice can push the narrative in your favor.

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Lee's Kaleb Nunez maxes out during the first team practice of the season Monday. Midland High head football coach Craig Yenzer works with quarterbacks at the first team practice of the year Monday at Memorial Stadium. Bulldogs quarterback Brady Bolger rolls out of the pocket during a passing drill at practice.

PHOTOS BY JAMES DURBIN | REPORTER-TELEGRAM

SEC aims to reclaim supremacy after title drought

By John Zenor
Associated Press

The Southeastern Conference is the unquestioned king of college football leagues.

Maybe in some circles.

That mindset has become practically a mantra for SEC coaches, fans and media over the last decade, but other leagues have won the national crown the last two seasons.

As usual, this season the SEC has no shortage of solid candidates to crack the four-team College Football Playoffs, including Alabama despite an unsettled quarterback situation. That's a familiar refrain for other would-be contenders like Georgia, Mississippi, LSU and perhaps even Auburn, which doesn't expect to miss a beat with Jeremy Johnson replacing Nick Marshall.

It's still hard to argue against the top-to-bottom strength of a league where Mississippi State is picked to finish last in the SEC West a year after spending five weeks ranked No. 1 in the land. And the Bulldogs' Dak Prescott is the league's only established star quarterback.

"I feel like we weren't satisfied with the No. 1 ranking because we wanted to be No. 1 at the end of the year," Mississippi State defensive back Taveze Calhoun said.

That basically sums up the ambitions of the league's top powers since Ohio State pounded away at Alabama's defense in the Sugar Bowl, a semifinal game.

But the SEC has its work cut out.

The league didn't even lead the way into the NFL draft either with the ACC and Pac-12 having more first-rounders if fewer overall picks.

If the case for No. 1 league isn't quite so open and shut these days, there's little question the SEC West stacks up as the most compelling, cannibalistic division. All seven programs are led by coaches making at least $4 million a year.

The league media picked Auburn to win the SEC, but Alabama got more points in the West voting, illustrating the lack of a consensus favorite even within

Please see SEC/3C

It's a sand trap! Watch out for Whistling's bunkers at PGA

By Genaro C. Armas
Associated Press

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. — Perhaps the shiftiest sand trap in recent major history is now covered up by a hospitality area.

The "Dustin Johnson bunker" will be a memory when the PGA Championship returns this week to Whistling Straits in Wisconsin for the first time in five years.

But countless other sandy areas at the links-style course overlooking Lake Michigan remain hazards — or are they?

"I think the players are much more aware of what they can and cannot do in sandy areas," Rory McIlroy said during a visit to the course in June.

Not knowing the rule proved damaging for Johnson in 2010.

He was assessed a two-shot penalty on the final hole after grounding his 4-iron in the sand to the way right of the fairway, not aware he was in a bunker. He had a one-shot lead when he teed off from the 18th hole.

Johnson missed a 7-foot par putt to slip into a playoff — until he learned he had let his club touch the sand during his pre-shot routine. The two added shots dropped him to fifth.

"I won't be grounding my club anywhere if I miss the fairway, that's for sure. I just missed the memo where all sand is deemed a bunker," Johnson said last week.

Johnson has said he didn't look at the rules sheet that had been posted all week in the locker room and on the first tee. Every bunker, the rules stated, was a hazard, even if outside the ropes where the gallery had been standing.

The confusion is understandable. Johnson has recounted how — in addition to fans standing there — he saw a Gatorade bottle and a beer can in the bunker.

As with both the 2004 and 2010 PGA championships at Whistling, all sand will be considered bunkers.

"All areas of the course that were designed and built as bunkers, filled with sand, will be played as bunkers (hazards) whether or not they have been raked," the PGA said in a notice to competitors ahead of this week's championship.

"This will mean that many bunkers positioned outside of the ropes, as well as some areas of bunkers inside the ropes, close to the rope line, will likely include numerous footprints,

Please see BUNKERS/4C

AP file photo

Dustin Johnson, seen here Thursday during the Bridgestone Invitational in Akron, Ohio, will not be able to ground his club in the same bunker at Whistling Straits that cost him in the 2010 PGA Championship because it has been covered up by a viewing area. The PGA Championship returns to the Wisconsin course along Lake Michigan this week.

'HOUNDSWATCH

MONDAY'S SCORE
The RockHounds were off

TODAY'S GAME
Springfield at Midland, 7:05 p.m.

INTERNET
www.milb.com

SECOND HALF RECORDS
Midland 29-15
Springfield 24-20

Saturday	Sunday	Today	Wednesday	Thursday
Midland 5 Corpus Christi 4	Midland 8 Corpus Christi 3	Springfield at Midland	Springfield at Midland	Springfield at Midland

Texas League Second-Half Standings

North Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	South Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Springfield	24	20	.545	—	Midland	29	15	.659	—
Arkansas	23	21	.523	1	x-Corpus Christi	24	20	.545	5
Tulsa	21	23	.477	3	Frisco	20	23	.465	8½
x-Northwest Arkansas	16	27	.372	7½	San Antonio	18	26	.409	11

x-clinched first half

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

ON TV

Little League Baseball

Southeast Regional, semifinal, at Warner Robins, Ga., 2 p.m., ESPN

Southwest Regional, semifinal, at Waco, 8 p.m., ESPN

Major League Baseball

Regional coverage, Pittsburgh at St. Louis or Detroit at Kansas City, 7 p.m., MLB

Texas at Minnesota, 7:10 p.m., FSSW

Soccer

UEFA Super Cup, Sevilla vs. Barcelona at Tbilisi, Georgia, 1:30 p.m., FS1

WHAT'S ON DECK

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

MHS at Monahans, 2 p.m.
Lee JV at Trinity, 3:30 p.m.
Coahoma at Greenwood, 5 p.m.
Midland Christian at Trinity, 6:30 p.m.
Kermit at MCA, 6:30 p.m.

CORRECTION

In Monday's edition of the Reporter-Telegram, Midland High left tackle Paxton Heiting was mentioned with an incorrect first name.

The Midland Reporter-Telegram regrets the error.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

DETROIT TIGERS — Optioned LHP Ian Krol to Toledo (IL). Recalled LHP Kyle Ryan from Toledo.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Optioned RHP Cam Bedrosian to Salt Lake (PCL). Reinstated RHP Jered Weaver from the 15-day DL.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Optioned OF Byron Buxton to Rochester (IL).

TEXAS RANGERS — Traded INF Tyler Pastornicky to Philadelphia for cash.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Sent 3B Phil Gosselin to the AZL Diamondbacks for a rehab assignment.

NEW YORK METS — Optioned 3B Eric Campbell to Las Vegas (PCL). Reinstated OF Michael Cuddyer from the 15-day DL. Sent 3B David Wright to St. Lucie (FSL) for a rehab assignment.

Atlantic League

LONG ISLAND DUCKS — Traded OF Bryan Sabatella to Bridgeport for INF Sean Burroughs. Announced LHP Rich Hill has been signed by the Boston Red Sox.

Frontier League

EVANSVILLE OTTERS — Released LHP Christian Cox and RHP Jason Phillips.

ROCKFORD AVIATORS — Released RHP Nick Grim and C Tyler Smith.

SCHAUMBURG BOOMERS — Traded INF Craig Massey to Southern Illinois for a player to be named. Released RHP A.J. Quintero.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MINERS — Released INF Hunter King.

WASHINGTON WILD THINGS — Released RHPs Jon Costa and Matt Soren.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

BOSTON CELTICS — Waived G/F Zoran Dragic.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Announced WR Steve Smith will retire at the end of the 2015 season.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Activated LB Rey Maualuga from the PUP list.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Waived WR Rodney Smith. Signed LB Moise Fokou.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Released P Cody Mandell.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Waived-injured LB Matt Robinson. Signed DL Cameron Beard.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Released QB Matt Flynn, TE Mason Brodine and LB Chris White. Signed QB Ryan Lindley, RB Tony Creecy and TE Logan Stokes.

NEW YORK JETS — Placed S Antonio Allen on injured reserve. Activated DL Kevin Vickerson from the PUP list.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Waived-injured CB Curtis Riley. Signed CB Will Brown. Activated NT Sammie Hill from the PUP list.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

NEW YORK RANGERS — Signed C Jarret Stoll.

American Hockey League

SPRINGFIELD FALCONS — Signed D Steven Delisle to a one-year contract. Promoted Chris Thompson senior vice president. Cortney Hersom to vice president. Andy Zilch to manager of communications/broadcasting. Marsa Ward to manager of ticket operations and Luke Pawlak to manager of game operations/creative services.

COLLEGE

CCSU — Named Kyle Gallo men's golf coach.

EAST CAROLINA — Named William Nowadly assistant director of Pirate Club communications.

OKLAHOMA — Suspended OT Kenyon Frison indefinitely.

PURCHASE — Named Ryan Doty softball coach.

ST. JOHN'S — Named Taylor Wilson women's assistant soccer coach.

TCU — Named Christopher Williams women's volunteer assistant tennis coach.

THIEL — Named Danielle Massengill assistant director of compliance, assistant softball coach and coordinator of leadership and life skills development.

TROY — Named Jasmine Green director of women's basketball operations.

WAGNER — Named Leah Gallagher women's assistant lacrosse coach. Rachel Vallarelli women's volunteer assistant coach and Katrina Martinelli women's lacrosse recruiting coordinator in addition to her duties as assistant coach.

YALE — Named Alyssa Murray women's assistant lacrosse coach.

YESHIVA — Named Shelley Whitaker associate director of athletics.

PRO RODEO

Through Aug. 2

All-Around

1. Trevor Brazile, Decatur, Texas $166,011
2. Caleb Smidt, Bellville, Texas $85,899
3. Tuf Cooper, Decatur, Texas $81,875
4. **JoJo Lelliond, Andrews, Texas $77,383**
5. Rhen Richard, Roosevelt, Utah $71,538

Bareback Riding

1. Evan Jayne, Marseille, France $81,362
2. Clint Cannon, Waller, Texas $66,672
3. Seth Hardwick, Laramie, Wyo. $65,335
4. Bobby Mote, Stephenville, Texas $64,807
5. Jake Brown, Hillsboro, Texas $64,154

Steer Wrestling

1. Hunter Cure, Holliday, Texas $62,507
2. Ty Erickson, Helena, Mont. $60,043
3. Luke Branquinho, Los Alamos, Calif. $57,542
4. Tanner Milan, Cochrane, Alberta $57,056
5. Seth Brockman, Wheatland, Wyo. $55,867

Team Roping (header)

1. Clay Tryan, Billings, Mont. $81,316
2. Trevor Brazile, Decatur, Texas $69,588
3. Derrick Begay, Sells Dakia, Ariz. $63,277
4. Jake Barnes, Scottsdale, Ariz. $61,835
5. Aaron Tsinigine, Tuba City, Ariz. $60,727

Team Roping (heeler)

1. Jade Corkill, Fallon, Nev. $81,316
2. Patrick Smith, Lipan, Texas $69,588
3. Clay O'Brien Cooper, Gardnerville, Nev. $68,717
4. Junior Nogueira, Scottsdale, Ariz. $61,258
5. Travis Graves, Jay, Okla. $55,603

Also: 14. JoJo Lelliond, Andrews, Texas $47,732

Saddle Bronc Riding

1. Cody DeMoss, Heflin, La. $101,317
2. Rusty Wright, Millford, Utah $80,545
3. Tade Muncy, Corona, N.M. $77,851
4. Jacobs Crawley, Stephenville, Texas $74,090
5. Cort Scheer, Elsmere, Neb. $71,960

Tie-down Roping

1. Marty Yates, Stephenville, Texas $71,521
2. Caleb Smidt, Bellville, Texas $71,168
3. Tuf Cooper, Decatur, Texas $70,968
4. Jacobs Crawley, Stephenville, Texas $74,090
5. Cort Scheer, Elsmere, Neb. $71,960

Steer Roping

1. Mike Chase, McAlester, Okla. $54,629
2. Trevor Brazile, Decatur, Texas $49,397
3. Win Fisher Jr., **Andrews, Texas $48,324**
4. Scott Snedecor, Fredericksburg, Texas $47,416
5. Jess Tierney, Hermosa, S.D. $45,802

Also: 9. Shay Good, Midland, Texas $34,346; 11. JoJo Lelliond, Andrews, Texas $30,086

Bull Riding

1. Sage Kimzey, Strong City, Okla. $85,013
2. Brennon Eldred, Sulphur, Okla. $60,362
3. Wesley Silcox, Santaquin, Utah $59,976
4. Shane Proctor, Grand Coulee, Wash. $63,782
5. Parker Breding, Edgar, Mont. $61,091

Barrel Racing

1. Lisa Lockhart, Oelrichs, S.D. $150,227
2. Callie Duperier, Boerne, Texas $128,749
3. Sarah Rose McDonald, Brunswick, Ga. $108,905
4. Sherry Cervi, Marana, Ariz. $90,438
5. Fallon Taylor, Collinsville, Texas $86,828

HSVOLLEYBALLROUNDUP

FROM STAFF REPORTS

MHS GOES 1-1 IN EL PASO

EL PASO — The Midland High volleyball team opened the season by splitting its two matches against El Paso schools on Monday.

Midland High lost 25-18, 25-22, 25-22 to Franklin and then defeated Chapin 25-18, 26-24, 25-16.

Clare Lancaster had 21 kills, Konner Wood had 54 digs and Emily Wickman had 41 assists to lead the Lady Bulldogs.

MHS next goes to Monahans at 2 p.m. today.

EL PASO FRANKLIN DEF. MIDLAND HIGH 25-18, 25-22, 25-22
MIDLAND HIGH DEF. EL PASO CHAPIN 25-18, 26-24, 25-16

Cumulative statistics for Midland High

Kills — Claire Lancaster 21, Krista Epley 17, Feirell Harper 14, Christian Beckham 11, Gentry Foreman 6, Sarah Nelson 3

Digs — Konner Wood 54, Elizabeth Loh 24, Harper 12, Lancaster 11, Madison Ford 8, Emily Wickman 8, Beckham 3, Epley 2, Emily Kay 2, Foreman 1

Assists — Wickman 41, Kay 16, Wood 2, Beckham 2, Low 1, Foreman 1.

Blocks — Epley 5, Lancaster 3, Foreman 3, Beckham 1, Harper 1, Nelson 1

Aces — Kay 3, Harper 2, Lancaster 2, Low 1, Wood 1, Wickman 1, Foreman 1

Record: Midland High 1-1

Next: Midland High at Monahans, 2 p.m. today

LEE DROPS TWO MATCHES IN EL PASO

EL PASO — The Lee volleyball team lost both of its season-opening matches on Monday to El Paso teams.

Lee lost to Chapin in five sets 23-25, 26-24, 20-25, 25-20, 15-10 and lost in three straight sets to Franklin 25-8, 25-11, 25-15.

Alissa Erdwurm had 18 kills, Emily Hillman had 16 kills, Alicin Lathram had 33 assists and Darby O'Grady had seven blocks to lead the Lady Rebels (0-2).

EL PASO CHAPIN DEF. LEE 23-25, 26-24, 25-20, 25-20, 15-10
EL PASO FRANKLIN DEF. LEE 25-8, 25-11, 25-15

Cumulative statistics for Lee

Kills — Alissa Erdwurm 18, Darby O'Grady 13, Quincy Robinson 10, Emily Hillman 9, Sadie VanSchelleveld 8, Madison Pettrich 8, Alicin Lathram 1, Shelby Olivas 1, Taylor Hopkins 1

Digs — Hillman 16, Olson 11, Olivas 11, Hopkins 11, Lathram 3, VanSchelleveld 2

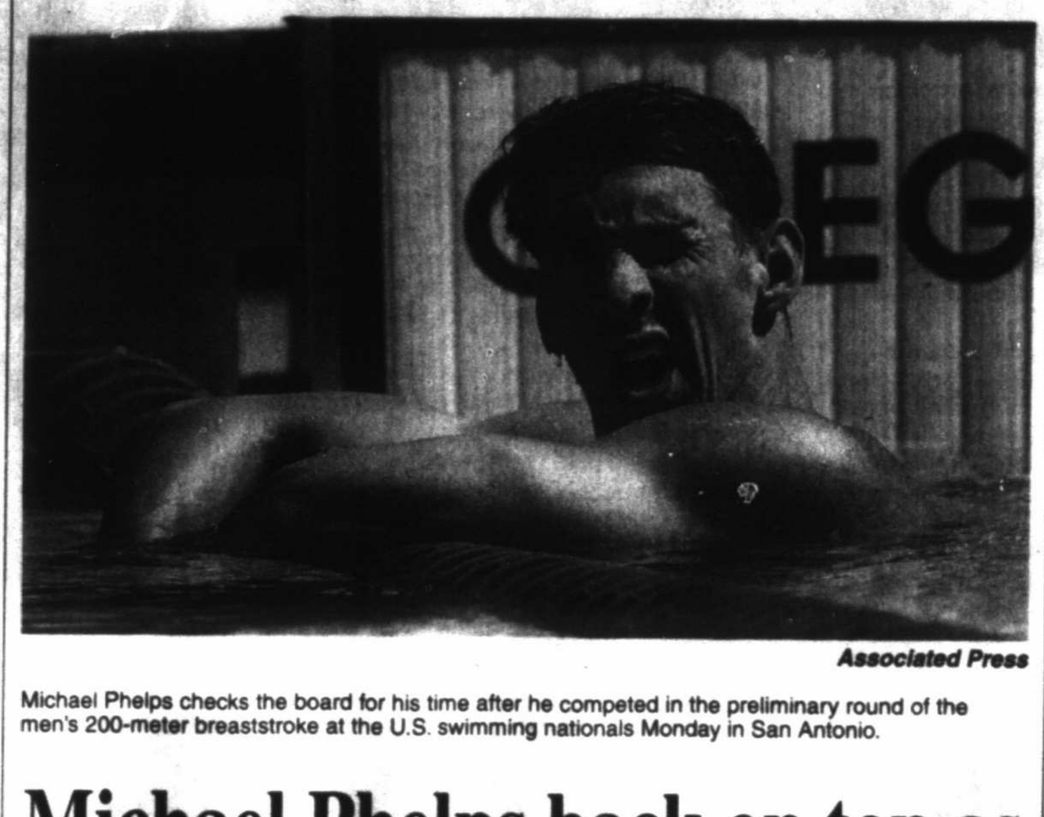
Assists — Lathram 33, Hopkins 22, Erdwurm 4, Caddie McCollum 1

Blocks — O'Grady 7, Robinson 4, Erdwurm 3

Aces — Olivas 3, Lathram 2, O'Grady 2, Hillman 1, Hopkins 1

Record: Lee 0-2

Next: Lee at Monahans Tournament, Friday



Associated Press

Michael Phelps checks the board for his time after he competed in the preliminary round of the men's 200-meter breaststroke at the U.S. swimming nationals Monday in San Antonio.

Michael Phelps back on top as focus turns to Rio Olympics

By Paul Newberry
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Michael Phelps already has far more medals than any Olympic athlete.

There is no longer any reason to doubt he'll have another massive haul in Rio.

Not after an astounding weekend in sweltering San Antonio, where Phelps turned in a performance at the U.S. national championships that re-established his place as the world's dominant swimmer.

He churned through the water, his body as ripped and fit as ever, producing times that haven't been seen since the days of the high-tech bodysuits. When rival swimmer Chad le Clos trash-talked from afar, it only made Phelps go faster.

"I did what I came here to do," he said Monday.

Phelps was barred from the world championships after his second drunken-driving arrest, so he turned the national championships into his biggest meet of the year.

Never mind that this was essentially a junior-varsity event, largely made up of promising youngsters, a few late bloomers and a smattering of big-name swimmers who failed to qualify for worlds.

Hardly the sort of competition that Phelps is used to facing, but he wasn't concerned about the guy in the next lane. His attention was focused on Kazan, Russia — specifically, the winning times at worlds in the 100-meter butterfly, the 200 fly, and the 200 individual medley.

Phelps was determined to beat them all, to prove to everyone he was the real champion.

Mission accomplished.

Phelps' times in the fly harkened back to 2009, when rubberized suits made a mockery of the clock. His performance in the 200 IM was faster than anyone has gone since he won gold at the 2012 Olympics.

"I prepared myself for the best and the worst," he said. "I thought that was something that really made an impact on me being so relaxed. I was ready for anything. That's something I got back to, something I haven't done in a while."

After winning eight gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, knocking off Mark Spitz's iconic Olympic record, Phelps had largely accomplished what he wanted to do in the sport by age 23. His training fell off.

There was that notorious tabloid picture of him inhaling from a marijuana pipe. And when he failed to even win a medal in his first event at London, it looked as though his time had passed.

Being Michael Phelps, he bounced back to capture four golds and two silvers at the 2012 Games, making him the most decorated athlete in Olympic history. He retired after his last event in London, with 18 golds, 22 medals overall, and supposedly no desire to keep swimming into his 30s.

Well, here he is, about six weeks removed from his 30th birthday, on top of the game again.

His retirement barely lasted a year. His comeback has hardly been smooth, though. When he was arrested again for DUI last September, Phelps decided to take a long, hard look at himself. He went through six weeks of inpatient therapy, which helped him deal with everything from family dynamics (his parents divorced when he was a child, resulting in a strained relationship with his father) to issues with alcohol.

Phelps vowed not to drink at least through the Rio Games and made a commitment to get in the best shape of his life. That work has clearly paid off. He's more muscular, more defined. His body didn't hurt nearly as much as he thought it would after back-to-back-to-back races, though he requires more sleep than he did in his younger days.

"My body doesn't feel tired; I'm just sleepy," he said. "That's the biggest thing, just staying on top of my sleep."

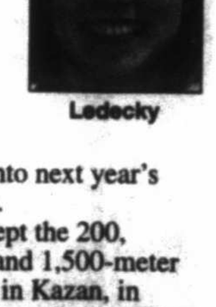
By the end of the month, he'll move from his beloved Baltimore to the Phoenix area to remain with longtime coach Bob Bowman, who is taking over at Arizona State. They have one of the longest, most successful partnerships in sports, and Phelps' trust in his coach never wavers.

From all indications, Phelps will swim the same three individual events in Rio that he dominated in San Antonio (he also posted the sixth-fastest time in the preliminaries of the 200 breaststroke on Monday, the final day of nationals, but he described that as "just a fun, joke-around event").

Katie Ledecky crowns herself czarina at Russian swim worlds

By Beth Harris
Associated Press

KAZAN, Russia — Katie Ledecky is ready to enjoy a week off. She's certainly earned it.



Ledecky

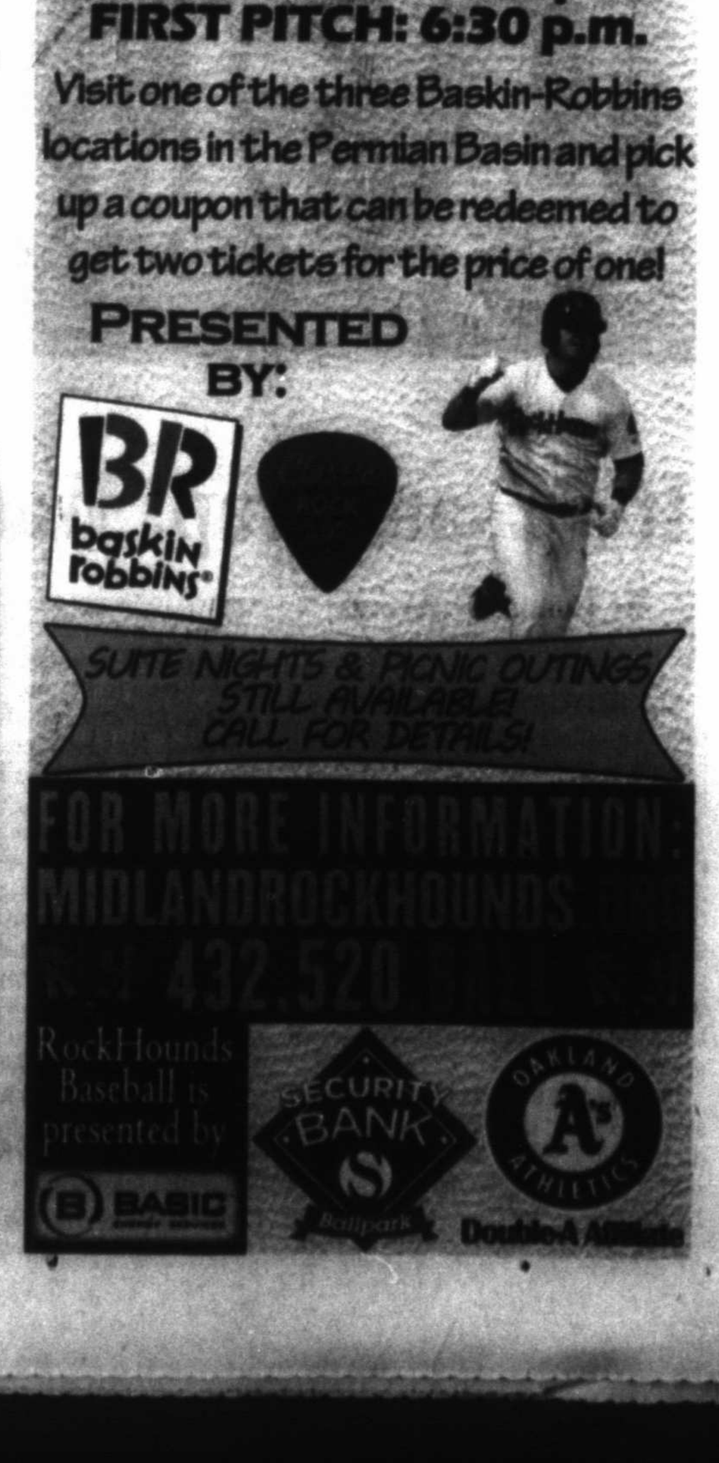
With five gold medals and three records at the world swimming championships, Ledecky stamped herself as a huge favorite heading into next year's Olympics.

She swept the 200, 400, 800 and 1,500-meter freestyles in Kazan, in addition to anchoring the victorious 4x200 free relay. The 18-year-old American is 9-0 in finals at world meets, having won four golds and set two world records in 2013 at Barcelona.

"After Barcelona, I set my goals for these last couple years, and I have a little ways to go still," she said. "I'm chipping away at those goals, and this is a really great steppingstone toward Olympic trials."

That meet next July will decide the U.S. team for the Rio de Janeiro Games. The 1,500 is not an Olympic event, so Ledecky may look to add the 100 free to her busy schedule in Brazil, plus the relays.

She basically swam against herself in Kazan. Ledecky won the 400 by 3.89 seconds, the 800 by 10.26 seconds and the 1,500 by 14.66 seconds. Her closest race was the 200, when she rallied from fourth to win by 0.16 seconds. She was named female swimmer of the meet.



Blue Jays surge, have 'special feeling' since deadline deals

Associated Press

TORONTO — When Minnesota Twins manager Paul Molitor felt the energy inside Rogers Centre during David Price's debut for the Toronto Blue Jays, it reminded him of SkyDome a long time ago.

"I've seen that atmosphere here before," said Molitor, the Blue Jays' designated hitter when they last won the World Series in 1993. "It was nice to see. The Toronto fans have had to wait for a long time."

The Blue Jays haven't made the playoffs since then, but their recent run amid a flurry of trades at the deadline has the city and the clubhouse buzzing. Winners of eight in a row, Toronto has only lost once since acquiring star shortstop Troy Tulowitzki.

Fresh off getting Tulowitzki, Price, outfielder Ben Revere and relievers LaTroy Hawkins and Mark Lowe, the Blue Jays swept the New York Yankees over the weekend to move within 1 1/2 games of the AL East leaders.

Even before that pitching-led domination at Yankee Stadium, players started to sense a different feeling than ever before.

Starter Mark Buehrle said this is reminiscent of 2005, when he won the World Series with the Chicago White Sox. Boosted by a bruising lineup and a strong staff, the Blue Jays have an aura of invincibility about them.

"There were times when we'd be down two runs in the seventh inning and it was like, 'We don't care, we're going to win this game, somehow we're going to find a way to win this game,' and we do," Buehrle said recently.

"I don't know if it's the guys we brought in here, or the way we're playing right now, it's just that feeling that if we get down two runs in the first or second inning, just try to hold the other team down because we know we're going to score runs, especially with this offense, we can put up a bunch of runs," he said.

Led by MVP candidate Josh Donaldson and sluggers Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion, the Blue Jays lead the majors with 5.28 runs a game. After adding Tulowitzki, Donaldson called it "the best lineup in baseball," and it's hard to argue that right now.

Toronto's pitching has drastically improved, too. The staff allowed just one run in three games against the Yankees after the rotation was stellar in a four-game sweep of the Twins.

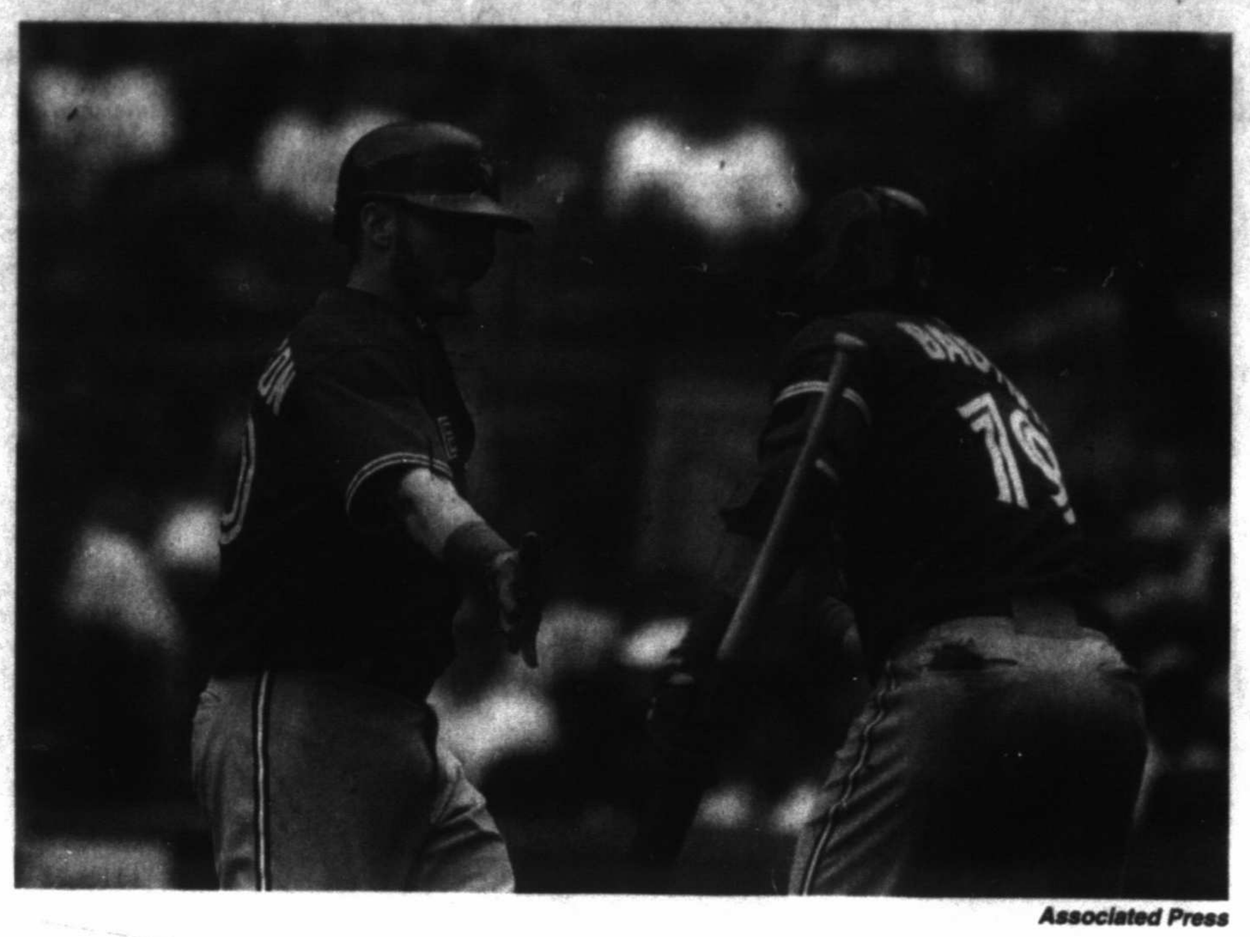
The combination of power that Kansas City Royals manager Ned Yost called "ridiculous" and timely pitching has been a winning recipe.

"I feel like synergy's a good word for this team," knuckleballer R.A. Dickey said. "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. I'm just a puzzle piece and so is Josh, and as big of a name as Tulo is he's just a piece, and we all know it. It's neat to play on a team like that."

As good as the hitters were, the Blue Jays were out of a playoff spot and hanging around .500 when general manager Alex Anthopoulos traded a pile of pitching prospects to improve this team for this run.

Since the additions, Rogers Centre has been the site of multiple sellouts, with the Blue Jays anticipating many more in the coming weeks. On the field and in the clubhouse, the "special feeling" that Buehrle said was hard to describe is having a real impact.

"We are very confident, no doubt about that," manager John Gibbons said. "It's really picked up since Alex made those trades. It's a better team, no question about that, but we're feeling really good right now."



Associated Press

The Toronto Blue Jays' Jose Bautista, right, greets former Midland RockHound Josh Donaldson after Donaldson hit a home run during the first inning of the baseball game against the New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium on Sunday in New York.

MLBROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

American Leauge

WHITE SOX 8
ANGELS 2

CHICAGO — Chris Sale was back in All-Star form, and Avisail Garcia homered twice to drive in four runs as the Chicago White Sox beat the Los Angeles Angels 8-2 Monday night.

Tyler Flowers added a solo shot to back Sale (10-7), who rebounded with a gem after allowing 14 earned runs and 18 hits in 10 1-3 innings while losing his previous two outings. The lanky left-hander didn't allow a run — or more than one baserunner in an inning — until Johnny Giavotella drove in two with a double in the seventh.

Sale returned for the eighth but was replaced by Nate Jones with one out after hitting Kole Calhoun with a pitch. Sale was charged with two runs and five hits. He struck out seven.

ROYALS 4
TIGERS 0

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Johnny Cueto threw a four-hitter in his Kansas City home debut as the Royals beat the Detroit Tigers 4-0 on Monday night.

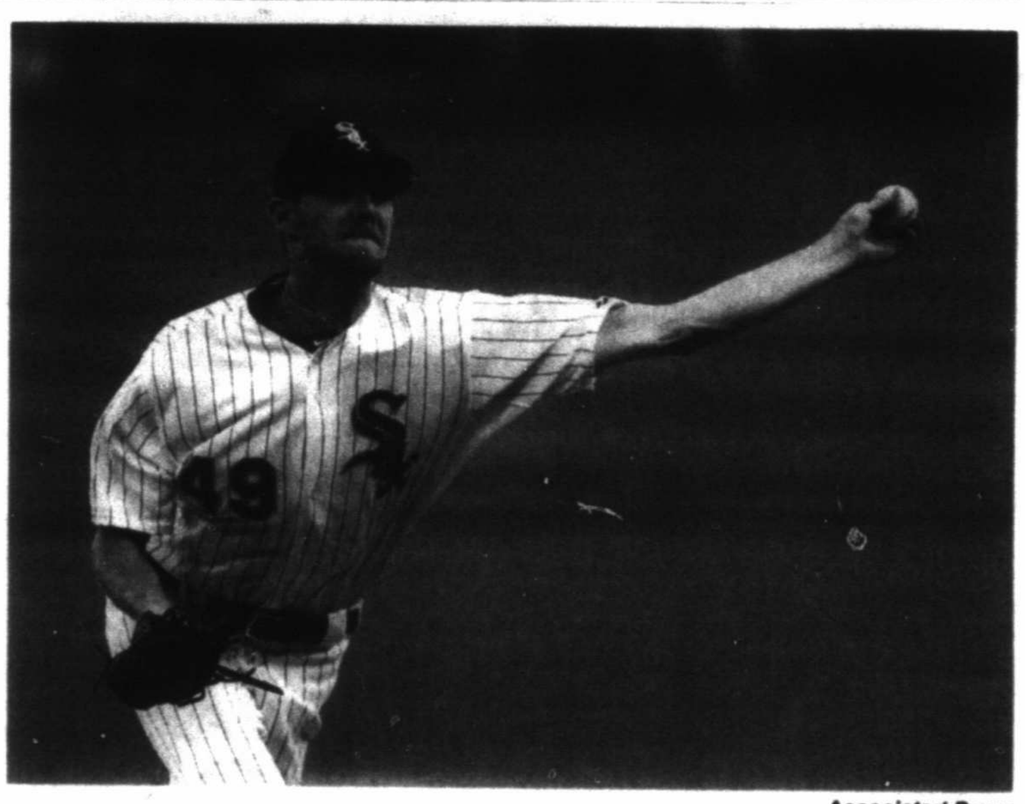
Cueto (1-1) did not allow a runner past second base, struck out eight and walked none. It was his sixth career shutout and second this season.

Cueto, who was acquired from Cincinnati on July 26 for three pitching prospects, received a loud cheer as he went out for his warmup pitches and the standing ovations grew after every scoreless inning as he walked to the dugout.

Cueto struck out Anthony Gose on three pitches to begin the game as the festive Kauffman Stadium crowd roared with approval.

Sluggerr, the Royals' mascot, appeared wearing a Cueto-esque mane of dreadlocks.

Tigers left-hander Matt Boyd, who was acquired from Toronto on July 30 in the David Price trade, gave up three runs in the first inning.



Associated Press

Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Chris Sale delivers during the first inning against the Los Angeles Angels on Monday in Chicago. The White Sox won the game 8-2.

National League

METS 4
ROCKIES 2

NEW YORK — Daniel Murphy drove in two runs with a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning, and the New York Mets rallied for a 4-2 victory over Colorado on Monday night after top Rockies pitching prospect Jon Gray was lifted after six innings.

The Mets wasted three-run leads in two straight losses to Tampa Bay last weekend, then went ahead against Colorado on Travis d'Arnaud's first homer since June 20. It was the only hit for the NL East leaders off Gray, the hard-throwing right-hander making his second major league start.

But Carlos Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in the fourth off Jonathon Niese (7-9), reaching to the outside corner of home plate and sending a drive the opposite way to left-center with DJ LeMahieu.

MLB GLANCE

Standings

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	61	49	.555	—
Toronto	61	52	.540	1½
Baltimore	58	54	.509	5
Tampa Bay	56	56	.500	6
Boston	50	62	.446	12

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	67	44	.604	—
Minnesota	56	56	.490	12
Detroit	54	58	.482	13½
Chicago	52	58	.473	14½
Cleveland	51	59	.464	15½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	61	52	.540	—
Los Angeles	59	52	.532	1
Texas	55	55	.500	4½
Seattle	52	60	.464	8½
Oakland	51	62	.451	10

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	60	52	.536	—
Washington	57	53	.518	2
Atlanta	51	61	.455	9
Philadelphia	45	67	.402	15
Miami	44	68	.393	16

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	71	40	.640	—
Pittsburgh	65	44	.596	5
Chicago	62	48	.564	8½
Cincinnati	49	60	.450	21
Milwaukee	48	65	.425	24

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	62	49	.559	—
San Francisco	59	52	.532	3
Arizona	54	56	.491	7½
San Diego	52	60	.464	10½
Colorado	47	63	.427	14½

Monday's scores

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Kansas City 4, Detroit 0
Chicago White Sox 8, L.A. Angels 2
Baltimore at Seattle, late

NATIONAL LEAGUE

N.Y. Mets 4, Colorado 2
Philadelphia at Arizona, late
Cincinnati at San Diego, late
Washington at L.A. Dodgers, late

Today's games

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Oakland (Graveman 6-7) at Toronto (Hutchison 10-2), 6:07 p.m.
Atlanta (W.Perez 4-2) at Tampa Bay (E.Ramirez 8-4), 6:10 p.m.
N.Y.Yankees (Severino 0-1) at Cleveland (Carrasco 11-8), 6:10 p.m.
Detroit (Ani.Sanchez 10-9) at Kansas City (Ventura 8-7), 7:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Santiago 7-5) at Chicago White Sox (Rodon 4-4), 7:10 p.m.
Texas (Gallardo 8-9) at Minnesota (Gibson 8-9), 7:10 p.m.
Baltimore (Tillman 8-7) at Seattle (T.Walker 8-7), 9:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Atlanta (W.Perez 4-2) at Tampa Bay (E.Ramirez 8-4), 6:10 p.m.
Colorado (Rusin 3-4) at N.Y. Mets (Harvey 10-7), 6:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Jungmann 6-3) at Chicago Cubs (Hamel 7-7), 7:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Locke 6-6) at St. Louis (C.Martinez 11-4), 7:15 p.m.
Philadelphia (D.Buchanan 2-6) at Arizona (Hellickson 7-8), 8:40 p.m.
Cincinnati (Lorenzen 3-7) at San Diego (Rea 0-0), 9:10 p.m.
Washington (J.Ross 3-3) at L.A. Dodgers (Greinke 11-2), 9:10 p.m.

INTERLEAGUE

Boston (S.Wright 5-4) at Miami (Nicolino 1-1), 6:10 p.m.
Houston (Kazmir 6-6) at San Francisco (Bumgarner 12-6), 9:15 p.m.

Linescores

AMERICAN LEAGUE
WHITE SOX 8, ANGELS 2

Los Angeles	000	000	200	—	2	6	0
Chicago	101	104	10x	—	8	13	0

Shoemaker, C.Ramos (6), J.Alvarez (8) and Iannetta; Sale, N.Jones (8) and Flowers. W—Sale 10-7. L—Shoemaker 5-8. HRs—Chicago, Flowers (8), Av.Garcia 2 (11).

ROYALS 4, TIGERS 0

Detroit	000	000	000	—	0	4	0
Kansas City	300	000	10x	—	4	12	0

Boyd, Farmer (6), K.Ryan (7) and Avila; Cueto and S.Perez. W—Cueto 1-1. L—Boyd 1-3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
METS 4, ROCKIES 2

Colorado	000	200	000	—	2	6	1
New York	010	000	30x	—	4	4	0

J.Gray, J.Miller (7), Logan (7), Oberg (8) and Hundley; Niese, Clippard (8), Familia (9) and d'Arnaud. W—Niese 7-9. L—J.Miller 1-1. Sv—Familia (31). HRs—Colorado, Ca.Gonzalez (26).

New York, d'Arnaud (5).

SEC

From 1C

that state.

Some things to watch in the SEC this season:

UNPROVEN QUARTERBACKS: More than half of the teams still had open competition going into training camps, with two more graduate transfers joining the mix. Former Virginia starter Greyson Lambert is competing at Georgia and ex-Clemson quarterback Chad Kelly is battling for the starting job at Mississippi. South Carolina receiver Pharoh Cooper completed more passes (five) last season than any QB on the Gamecocks' roster. Auburn's Jeremy Johnson and Tennessee's Josh Dobbs could be rising stars, while Prescott and Arkansas' Brandon Allen have the most experience.

RUNNERS GALORE: The league's backfields still pack plenty of star-power despite the loss of Georgia's Todd Gurley, Alabama's T.J. Yeldon and Auburn's Cameron Artis-Payne. The Bulldogs return Nick Chubb, who had a huge freshman season. The Tide bring back 240-pound back Derrick Henry. Arkansas has 1,000-yard rushers Jonathan Williams and Alex Collins, and Leonard Fournette returns at LSU after starring as a freshman.

NEW COORDINATORS: There are 14 of them around the league, counting Vanderbilt coach Derrick Mason, who's added running the defense to his duties. Auburn hired Will Muschamp as defensive coordinator and Texas A&M lured John Chavis from LSU trying to get those defenses up to speed with the offenses. Both are raking in at least $5 million over three years.

ROAD TESTS: There are no easy roads to Atlanta or the College Football Playoffs in the SEC, especially in the loaded Western Division. Some paths are harder than others. 'Bama not only opens in a neutral-site game with Wisconsin but visits East Division favorite Georgia, Texas A&M, Mississippi State and Auburn. Maybe Arkansas is poised for a breakthrough season but the Razorbacks have only three SEC home games and face Texas A&M in Arlington, Texas. The Razorbacks also visit Alabama, Ole Miss, LSU and Tennessee.

AGING ICONS: You never know when a coach will decide to call it quits, and that includes South Carolina's 70-year-old Steve Spurrier and Alabama's Nick Saban, who turns 64 on Oct. 31. That time might be years away since both appear to still be going strong. Spurrier draws plenty of attention for his workout regimen and Saban still rounds up his assistants for hoops games. Missouri's Gary Pinkel, who has won two straight SEC East titles, is 63. LSU's Les Miles turns 62 in November.

LEE

From 1C

the exhibition season. The regular-season opener is Sept. 13 at home against the New York Giants. It would be Lee's first game since Dec. 9, 2013, at Chicago.

"When he is out there on the field, things change," executive vice president of personnel Stephen Jones said. "I think we are doing it the right way. We are doing things in a way that he gets better every week."

When healthy, Lee is one of the most dangerous linebackers in the league with 11 interceptions in 46 games. Problem is, the pace doesn't mean much for a player who has missed three-fourths of the games going back 2½ years.

"You can't buy into the frustration of injuries. If you do, you come back worse," said Lee, who had a career-high 131 tackles in 2011, the closest thing he had to a full season when he started 15 games. "The less you focus on the frustration, the more you can focus on the unbelievable opportunity you have in front of you like I do."

The Cowboys traded for Rolando McClain in an emergency move before training camp last year, trying to replace Lee. McClain restarted a dormant career with a solid season and re-signed.

But the plan to have McClain stay at middle linebacker with Lee on the weak side, his natural spot, could change for two reasons. McClain still hasn't practiced at camp and doesn't have a timetable for a return from offseason knee surgery. And he has to sit the first four games for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy.

"Sean's one of those players we can play him at any linebacker spot in any defensive scheme and he'd play great," Garrett said. "You could say the same thing about Rolando and some of the other guys we have. But with a guy like Sean in our scheme you like to give him a chance to move and run and make a lot of hits on the ball."

NOTES: QB Tony Romo skipped Monday's practice, the third time for him to sit out at training camp after finally getting a regular offseason with his surgically repaired back. ... CB Brandon Carr had surgery on a broken right hand Monday in the Dallas area and was expected to rejoin the team today.

Chargers slam San Diego's latest stadium proposal

By Bernie Wilson
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The city and county's updated plans for a new $1.1 billion stadium were immediately trashed by the Chargers, making it look increasingly doubtful the long-running, contentious issue can be solved by City Hall's Sept. 11 deadline to have a deal in place to qualify for a January vote.

The city and county unveiled the updated plans Monday, a few hours after a local contingent made a presentation to the NFL's Committee on Los Angeles Opportunities in Chicago.

The Chargers, who appear eager to move to Los Angeles, will update all owners on Tuesday on their joint plan with the archrival Oakland Raiders to build a stadium in Carson.

St. Louis owner Stan Kroenke will give an update on his competing bid to build a stadium in Inglewood.

At a sun-drenched news conference overlooking aging Qualcomm Stadium, Mayor Kevin Faulconer unveiled a financing plan, architectural renderings for a new stadium and a 6,000-page draft of an environmental impact report.

The proposal includes contributions of $362.5 million from the Chargers, a $200 million loan from the NFL, $187.5 million in personal seat licenses, $200 million from the city and $150 million from the county. The public contribution will be capped at 32 percent of the total project, and the team would be responsible for overruns, Faulconer said.

Chargers point man Mark Fabiani was quick to criticize City Hall, as he has since the stadium push was revived in January.

"Never before in California history has a controversial, billion dollar project relied on environmental review documents hastily prepared in three weeks," Fabiani, a former deputy mayor of Los Angeles, said in a statement. "The Chargers have been clear from the start that the franchise will not be the City's guinea pig for this inevitably ill-fated legal experiment. Remember, these are the same politicians who told us, with disastrous results in court, that the convention center expansion could be financed by a vote of the hoteliers rather than a vote of the people."

The Chargers walked away from negotiations in June, saying they doubted the city could produce an EIR that will hold up in court.

Gordon's farewell tour hits snag at Watkins Glen after dismal day

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Perhaps Jeff Gordon should have known what was to come this season, his final as a NASCAR driver, when he crashed on the last lap of the Daytona 500. Then he crashed the next week at Atlanta and this farewell tour of sorts had officially stalled out of the gate.

It's hardly been the season anyone hoped for the four-time champion and ambassador for the sport.

He was supposed to go out on top, racing for wins and that elusive fifth title. That's what he appeared capable of last season, when he put together one of his strongest seasons in at least a decade.

Gordon came oh-so-close to racing for the championship in a year that reminded many of his early days. But he was denied a spot in the finale, and had he made it and won the title, he might have driven directly into retirement.

Instead, he waited until January to announce 2015 will be his 23rd and final year as a driver. He said he didn't want a season full of celebrations, and he's not getting any on the race track.

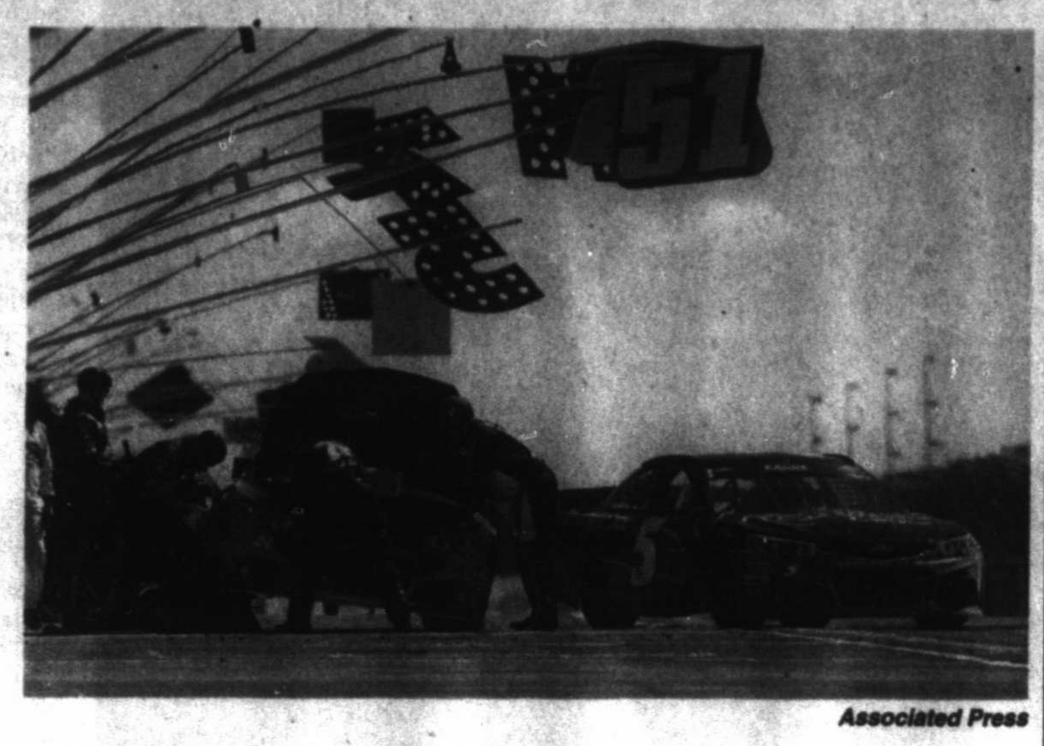
He closed out his road racing career Sunday at Watkins Glen in New York with a 41st-place finish, his worst showing at a track where he once won three consecutive times.

His problem Sunday was a faulty brake line in his No. 24 Chevrolet, and his day was ruined early.

"Well, it's disappointing, but I mean right now I just feel like we can't afford to have these kinds of finishes," he said.

And he's right. Gordon, who was 42nd two weeks ago at Indianapolis, has just one top-five finish since May. He's winless this year and is 12th in the Sprint Cup standings with only four races remaining to set the 16-driver championship field.

"I have no idea where we are right now in points, or how all that worked out, but just when you think you get something that is going to go your way, something like this happens," he said. "We just keep fighting and digging and try to get the finishes that we need to get ourselves solidly in (the Chase.)"



Associated Press

Jeff Gordon makes a prolonged pit stop during a NASCAR Sprint Cup series auto race at Watkins Glen International on Sunday in Watkins Glen, N.Y.

Buddy Baker dies at 74

Buddy Baker, who won the 1980 Daytona 500 and at 6-foot-6 was NASCAR's "Gentle Giant," died Monday. He was 74.

Baker died after a brief battle with lung cancer, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio said. Baker left his job as co-host of "The Late Shift" for the station last month when he announced he had a "huge" inoperable lung tumor.

Baker rode for more than 30 years and was honored as one of NASCAR's 50 greatest drivers in 1998. He was the first driver to exceed 200 mph on a closed course. The milestone came in 1970 at Talladega Superspeedway, where he won four times.

Associated Press

BUNKERS

From 1C

heel prints, trash and tire tracks during the play of the Championship."

Such irregularities were "part of the game," the PGA said, "and no free relief will be available from these conditions."

The rules will again be posted in the locker room and other pieces of literature for players, said Dirk Willis, Director of Golf Operations at Whistling Straits.

Every group will be accompanied by a rules official, and players can consult that official should a question arise about the estimated 1,000 bunkers.

There will be no question this time around about the bunker that doomed Johnson on 18.

It was so far right off the target line that the spot is now covered over by a viewing area. There was no intent to hide the spot, organizers said, but it was simply part of a broader plan to bring corporate hospitality on to the course.

If the last two championships at the course are any indication, spectators should be in for a treat.

Martin Kaymer won in 2010, beating Bubba Watson in the playoff. Vijay Singh won in 2004, beating Chris DiMarco and Justin Leonard in another playoff.

Wisconsin native Steve Stricker called the Pete Dye course "visually intimidating."

"You just have to pay attention to your lines," Stricker said. "At times, (Dye) makes it seem like there's not any room to hit it ... Once you get it, it's very playable."

The shifting winds add to the challenge, Stricker said: "It doesn't feel like you're in Wisconsin ... It feels like you're in Europe at a British Open."

That might be because Herbert Kohler, the CEO of the Kohler Co., which owns Whistling Straits, wanted a course that resembled the links courses of coastal Ireland and Scotland. The dunes and some architecture on the course were built to resemble Ballybunion in Ireland.

While the dunes were man-made when the course opened in 1998, more grass has grown in some areas since the intent is to keep an unmanicured, natural look.

"They move over time," Willis said. "They're man-made but they're natural sand structures now. If the wind blows them, it moves around."

McIlroy said being cautious is key.

"So I'll always hover my club regardless if it's a waste area or a bunker, McIlroy said, "just to be on the safe side."

GOLF GLANCE

PGA Championship Tee Times
At Whistling Straits
Sheboygan, Wis.
Purse: $10 million
Yardage: 7,501; Par: 72
Thursday-Friday
First hole-10th hole

6:45 a.m.-noon — Ryan Helminen, United States; Rory Sabbatini, South Africa; Chesson Hadley, United States.

6:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m. — David Howell, England; Grant Sturgeon, United States; Boo Weekley, United States.

7:05 a.m.-12:20 p .m. — Charles Howell III, United States; Austin Peters, United States; Thomas Bjorn, Denmark.

7:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Byeong Hun An, South Korea; Russell Henley, United States; Robert Streb, United States.

7:25 a.m.-12:40 p.m. — James Morrison, England; Ryan Palmer, United States; Charley Hoffman, United States.

7:35 a.m.-12:50 p.m. — Stephen Gallacher, Scotland; Ryan Moore, United States; Thongchai Jaidee, Thailand.

7:45 a.m.-1 p.m. — Vijay Singh, Fiji; David Toms, United States; Mark Brooks, United States.

7:55 a.m.-1:10 p.m. — James Hahn, United States; Jamie Donaldson, Wales; Harris English, United States.

8:05 a.m.-1:20 p.m. — Ross Fisher, England; J.B. Holmes, United States; Mikko Ilonen, Finland.

8:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. — Tony Finau, United States; Brandon Grace, South Africa; Danny Lee, New Zealand.

8:25 a.m.-1:40 p.m. — Steve Young, United States; Morgan Hoffmann, United States; Anirban Lahiri, India.

8:35 a.m.-1:50 p.m. — Brian Cairns, United States; Matt Every, United States; Matt Jones, Australia.

8:45 a.m.-2 p.m. — Adam Hadwin, United States; Brian Harman, United States; J.J. Henry, United States.

9 a.m.-3 p.m. — Michael Putnam, United States; Marcus Fraser, Australia; Steve Marino, United States.

Noon-6:45 a.m. — Bob Sowards, United States; Koumei Oda, Japan; Alex Cejka, Germany.

12:10 p.m.-6:55 a.m. — Ryan Kennedy, United States; Kevin Chappell, United States; Brendon de Jonge, Zimbabwe.

12:20 p.m.-7:05 a.m. — Davis Love III, United States; Daniel Clarke, Northern Ireland; Steve Stricker, United States.

12:30 p.m.-7:15 a.m. — Jimmy Walker, United States; Tommy Fleetwood, England; Justin Thomas, United States.

12:40 p.m.-7:25 a.m. — Webb Simpson, United States; Bernd Wiesberger, Austria; Shane Lowry, Ireland.

12:50 p.m.-7:35 a.m. — Nick Watney, United States; Ian Poulter, England; Joost Luiten, The Netherlands.

1 p.m.-7:45 a.m. — Luke Donald, England; Graeme McDowell, Northern Ireland; Patrick Reed, United States.

1:10 p.m.-7:55 a.m. — Adam Scott, Australia; Henrik Stenson, Sweden; Brooks Koepka, United States.

1:20 p.m.-8:05 a.m. — Rory McIlroy, Northern Ireland; Jordan Spieth, United States; Zach Johnson, United States.

1:30 p.m.-8:15 a.m. — Jason Dufner, United States; Phil Mickelson, United States; Padraig Harrington, Ireland.

1:40 p.m.-8:25 a.m. — Cameron Tringale, United States; Danny Willett, England; John Senden, Australia.

1:50 p.m.-8:35 a.m. — Jason Bohn, United States; Marcel Siem, Germany; Omar Uresti, United States.

2 p.m.-8:45 a.m. — Richie Ramsay, Scotland; Dan Venezia, United States; Nick Taylor, Canada.

Thursday-Friday
10th hole-First hole

6:45 a.m.-noon — Pat Perez, United States; Brian Gaffney, United States; David Hearn, Canada.

6:55 a.m.-12:10 p.m. — Hideki Matsuyama, Japan; Johan Kok, United States; Brendan Steele, United States.

7:05 a.m.-12:20 p .m. — Matt Dobyns, United States; Colin Montgomerie, Scotland; John Daly, United States.

7:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Victor Dubuisson, France; Matt Kuchar, United States; Charl Schwartzel, South Africa.

7:25 a.m.-12:40 p.m. — Sergio Garcia, Spain; Bill Haas, United States; Louis Oosthuizen, South Africa.

7:35 a.m.-12:50 p.m. — Justin Rose, England; Brandt Snedeker, United States; Geoff Ogilvy, Australia.

7:45 a.m.-1 p.m. — Bubba Watson, United States; Paul Casey, England; Jim Furyk, United States.

7:55 a.m.-1:10 p.m. — Hunter Mahan, United States; Lee Westwood, England; Ernie Els, South Africa.

8:05 a.m.-1:20 p.m. — Jason Day, Australia; Dustin Johnson, United States; Rickie Fowler, United States.

8:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. — Tiger Woods, United States; Martin Kaymer, Germany; Keegan Bradley, United States.

8:25 a.m.-1:40 p.m. — Gary Woodland, United States; Francesco Molinari, Italy; Marc Warren, Scotland.

8:35 a.m.-1:50 p.m. — Brant Snyder, United States; Tyrrell Hatton, England; Brendon Todd, United States.

8:45 a.m.-2 p.m. — Jeff Olson, United States; Fabian Gomez, Argentina; Martin Laird, Scotland.

Noon-6:45 a.m. — George McNeill, United States; Charles Frost, United States; Emiliano Grillo, Argentina.

12:10 p.m.-6:55 a.m. — Chris Wood, England; Brett Jones, United States; Sean O'Hair, United States.

12:20 p.m.-7:05 a.m. — George Coetzee, South Africa; Ben Martin, United States; Soren Kjeldsen, Denmark.

12:30 p.m.-7:15 a.m.— Rich Beem, United States; Shaun Michael, United States; Y.E. Yang, South Korea;

12:40 p.m.-7:25 a.m. — Pablo Cabrera-Bello, Spain; Brad Scheidich, Australia; Daniel Berger, United States.

12:50 p.m.-7:35 a.m. — Camilo Villegas, Colombia; Kiradech Aphibarnrat, Thailand; Pablo Larrazabal, Spain.

1 p.m.-7:45 a.m. — Cameron Smith, Australia; Shawn Stefani, United States; Hiroshi Iwata, Japan.

1:10 p.m.-7:55 a.m. — Kevin Streelman, United States; Sang-Moon Bae, South Korea; David Lingmerth, Sweden.

1:20 p.m.-8:05 a.m. — Troy Merritt, United States; Alexander Levy, France; Russell Knox, Scotland.

1:30 p.m.-8:15 a.m. — Tim Clark, South Africa; Billy Horschel, United States; Miguel Angel Jimenez, Spain.

1:40 p.m.-8:25 a.m. — Eddie Pepperell, England; Sean Dougherty, United States; Kevin Na, United States.

1:50 p.m.-8:35 a.m. — Marc Leishman, Australia; Ben Polland, United States; Kevin Kisner, United States.

2 p.m.-8:45 a.m. — Scott Piercy, United States; Alan Morin, United States; Andy Sullivan, England.

AUTO RACING GLANCE

Sprint Cup

Points Leaders
Through Aug. 9

1. Kevin Harvick, 625
2. Joey Logano, 781
3. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 750
4. Jimmie Johnson, 747
5. Brad Keselowski, 719
6. Martin Truex Jr., 714
7. Matt Kenseth, 703
8. Kurt Busch, 659
9. Jamie McMurray, 635
10. Denny Hamlin, 631
11. Paul Menard, 622
12. Jeff Gordon, 620
13. Ryan Newman, 613
14. Clint Bowyer, 612
15. Carl Edwards, 589
16. Aric Almirola, 562
17. Kasey Kahne, 561
18. Greg Biffle, 532
19. Kyle Larson, 517
20. Casey Mears, 493
21. Austin Dillon, 492
22. Danica Patrick, 489
23. AJ Allmendinger, 481
24. David Ragan, 461
25. Sam Hornish Jr., 425
26. Tony Stewart, 418
27. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 393
28. Trevor Bayne, 392
29. Justin Allgaier, 382
30. Kyle Busch, 381
31. Cole Whitt, 355
32. David Gilliland, 342
33. Brett Moffitt, 279
34. Alex Bowman, 279
35. Michael Annett, 261
36. Matt DiBenedetto, 238
37. Josh Wise, 186
38. Michael McDowell, 148
39. Jeb Burton, 125
40. Alex Kennedy, 93
41. Reed Sorenson, 41
42. Bobby Labonte, 39
43. Brian Vickers, 32
44. Michael Waltrip, 26
45. Mike Wallace, 8
46. Eddie MacDonald, 7
47. Will Kimmel, 6
48. Ron Hornaday Jr., 2

Xfinity Series

Points Leaders
Through Aug. 8

1. Chris Buescher, 724
2. Chase Elliott, 700
3. Ty Dillon, 700
4. Regan Smith, 667
5. Elliott Sadler, 666
6. Darrell Wallace Jr., 629
7. Daniel Suarez, 625
8. Brendan Gaughan, 610
9. Brian Scott, 606
10. Ryan Reed, 565
11. Jeremy Clements, 510
12. Dakoda Armstrong, 486
13. J.J. Yeley, 483
14. Ross Chastain, 462
15. Ryan Sieg, 451
16. David Starr, 450
17. Blake Koch, 386
18. Cale Conley, 371
19. Landon Cassill, 362
20. Eric McClure, 353
21. Brennan Poole, 334
22. Joey Gase, 323
23. Harrison Rhodes, 282
24. Ryan Blaney, 261
25. Peyton Sellers, 238
26. Mike Harmon, 187
27. Dermis Cope, 174
28. Mike Bliss, 141
29. Jeffrey Earnhardt, 128
30. Mario Gosselin, 117
31. Ben Rhodes, 115
32. Dylan Lupton, 99
33. Derek White, 91
34. Boris Said, 87
35. Jimmy Weller, 80
36. Josh Reaume, 76
37. Martin Roy, 73
38. Jamie Dick, 68
39. Morgan Shepherd, 67
40. Todd Bodine, 65
41. Jeff Green, 64
42. Brandon Gdovic, 63
43. Carl Long, 61
44. Kenny Wallace, 56
45. Benny Gordon, 39
46. Ross Kenseth, 36
47. Chris Cockrum, 38
48. Stanton Barrett, 35
49. Bobby Gerhart, 30
50. Matt Wallace, 30

Camping World Truck Series

Points Leaders
Through Aug. 1

1. Tyler Reddick, 479
2. Matt Crafton, 468
3. Erik Jones, 463
4. Johnny Sauter, 420
5. Cameron Hayley, 391
6. John Wes Townley, 387
7. Daniel Hemric, 362
8. Timothy Peters, 380
9. Spencer Gallagher, 366
10. Ben Kennedy, 362
11. Ray Black Jr., 338
12. **Tyler Young, 320**
13. Korbin Forrister, 267
14. Austin Boston, 255
15. Jennifer Jo Cobb, 254
16. Brandon Jones, 241
17. Mason Mingus, 239
18. Norm Benning, 225
19. Travis Kvapil, 216
20. John Hunter Nemechek, 201
21. Matt Tifft, 189
22. Jordan Anderson, 177
23. Austin Theriault, 166
24. Cole Custer, 159
25. Ryan Ellis, 148
26. Timmy Hill, 131
27. Joe Nemechek, 129
28. Tyler Tanner, 121
29. Caleb Holman, 117
30. Christopher Bell, 114
31. Justin Jennings, 114
32. Wendell Chavous, 104
33. James Buescher, 100
34. B.J. McLeod, 76
35. Bryan Silas, 73
36. Brandon Brown, 64
37. Tommy Regan, 55
38. Garrett Smithley, 54
39. Bobby Pierce, 43
40. Todd Peck, 40
41. Jake Griffin, 35
42. Ken Schrader, 33
43. Cody Ware, 31
44. Donnie Neuenberger, 29
45. Chris Fontaine, 26
46. Austin Hill, 26
47. Gray Gaulding, 27
48. Jody Knowles, 26
49. Kyle Martel, 25
50. Cody Coughlin, 24

IndyCar

Points Leaders
Through Aug. 2

1. Juan Pablo Montoya, 465
2. Graham Rahal, 456
3. Scott Dixon, 431
4. Helio Castroneves, 407
5. Will Power, 406
6. Sebastien Bourdais, 379
7. Marco Andretti, 378
8. Josef Newgarden, 370
9. Tony Kanaan, 364
10. Simon Pagenaud, 329
11. Ryan Hunter-Reay, 304
12. Carlos Munoz, 303
13. Charlie Kimball, 282
14. Takuma Sato, 246
15. Gabby Chaves, 229
16. James Jakes, 227
17. Jack Hawksworth, 226
18. Sage Karam, 180
19. Stefano Coletti, 171
20. Luca Filippi, 170
21. Tristan Vautier, 152
22. James Hinchcliffe, 129
23. Ryan Briscoe, 120
24. Justin Wilson, 92
25. Conor Daly, 81
26. Ed Carpenter, 75
27. Simona de Silvestro, 66
28. Sebastian Saavedra, 61
29. Pippa Mann, 59
30. J.R. Hildebrand, 57
31. Rodolfo Gonzalez, 50
32. Francesco Dracone, 38
33. Townsend Bell, 32
34. Carlos Huertas, 31
35. Alex Tagliani, 27
36. James Davison, 10
37. Oriol Servia, 10
38. Bryan Clauson, 10

Formula One

Points Leaders
Through July 26

1. Lewis Hamilton, 202
2. Nico Rosberg, 181
3. Sebastian Vettel, 160
4. Valtteri Bottas, 77
5. Kimi Raikkonen, 76
6. Felipe Massa, 74
7. Daniel Ricciardo, 51
8. Daniil Kvyat, 45
9. Nico Hulkenberg, 24
10. Romain Grosjean, 23
11. Max Verstappen, 22
12. Felipe Nasr, 16
13. Sergio Perez, 15
14. Pastor Maldonado, 12
15. Fernando Alonso, 11
16. Carlos Sainz Jr., 9
17. Jenson Button, 6
18. Marcus Ericsson, 6

NHRA

Points Leaders
Through Aug. 9
Top Fuel

1. x-Tony Schumacher, 1,289. 2. x-Antron Brown, 1,202. 3. Larry Dixon, 1,034. 4. Richie Crampton, 969. 5. Doug Kalitta, 944. 6. J.R. Todd, 896. 7. Shawn Langdon, 872. 8. Spencer Massey, 855. 9. Brittany Force, 851. 10. Steve Torrence, 835.

Funny Car

1. x-Matt Hagan, 1,177. 2. x-Jack Beckman, 1,172. 3. Tommy Johnson Jr., 1,063. 4. John Force, 1,025. 5. Del Worsham, 1,004. 6. Ron Capps, 988. 7. Cruz Pedregon, 872. 8. Tim Wilkerson, 870. 9 (tie). Alexis DeJoria, 819. Robert Hight, 819.

Pro Stock

1. x-Greg Anderson, 1,322. 2. x-Erica Enders, 1,271. 3. Chris McGaha, x-1,175. 4. x-Jason Line, 1,102. 5. Allen Johnson, 951. 6. Larry Morgan, 906. 7. Shane Gray, 834. 8. Jonathan Gray, 823. 9. Vincent Nobile, 787. 10. Drew Skillman, 779.

Pro Stock Motorcycle

1. Eddie Krawiec, 702. 2. Hector Arena Jr., 596. 3. Andrew Hines, 546. 4. Karen Stoffer, 468. 5. Jim Underdahl, 459. 6. Jerry Savoie, 429. 7. Hector Arana, 417. 8. Matt Smith, 389. 9. Scotty Pollacheck, 378. 10. Angelle Sampey, 338.

x-clinched berth in Countdown to the Championship.

SPORTSBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NEW YORK

Source: Kane investigation involves woman in her 20s

BUFFALO — A person familiar with the police investigation of Chicago Blackhawks star Patrick Kane tells The Associated Press that it involves something that happened between the player and a woman in her 20s.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Monday because authorities have not revealed any details of the investigation being conducted by Hamburg police.

Hamburg Police Chief Gregory Wickett confirmed the investigation last week, saying it involved something that may have happened at Kane's home outside of Buffalo on Aug. 2. Wickett said police were gathering information and awaiting results of forensic tests.

Kane is from Buffalo, and was selected first overall by Chicago in the 2007 draft. He has helped the Blackhawks win three Stanley Cup championships in the past six seasons.

LAS VEGAS

Arena Football League folds Las Vegas, New Orleans teams

The Arena Football League has folded franchises in Las Vegas and New Orleans.

A league announcement Sunday says the Las Vegas Outlaws and New Orleans VooDoo organizations had ceased operations immediately.

The decision leaves the league with 10 teams.

The league board removed the Las Vegas team from postseason play after a 5-12-1 season, and moved the 5-13-0 Portland Thunder into the playoffs against the 17-1-0 San Jose Sabercats on Friday. New Orleans went 3-14-1.

The league says Las Vegas and New Orleans players under continuing contracts with either team would be reassigned during the offseason.

A message left Monday with the league office in Des Plaines, Illinois, wasn't immediately returned.

NEW YORK

Rangers sign recently arrested center Stoll

The New York Rangers have signed recently arrested Los Angeles Kings center Jarret Stoll.

The Rangers announced the signing Monday without mentioning Stoll's legal matter.

Stoll gives the Rangers a top faceoff man and penalty killer. He has played in 792 NHL games over parts of 12 seasons with Edmonton and Los Angeles, with 140 goals and 239 assists.

Contract terms were not immediately available.

The 33-year-old pleaded guilty in June to two reduced misdemeanor charges to resolve a felony cocaine case stemming from his April arrest at a Las Vegas Strip swimming pool. A felony charge of cocaine possession was dismissed.

Stoll was sentenced to 32 hours of community service. He's also starting a program to help others understand the dangers of using alcohol and controlled substances.

NEW YORK

Symmonds left off US roster for worlds in Beijing

Middle distance runner Nick Symmonds will be watching the world championships in Beijing from the sideline after being left off the U.S. squad over a uniform squabble.

The defending world runner-up at 800 meters refused to sign a contract that USA Track and Field requires all athletes to sign to be named to the team. When the official list came out Monday, Symmonds wasn't on it despite his win at U.S. championships in June.

For Symmonds, the issue is Nike's standing as USATF's official uniform sponsor. Anyone going to China later this month on the U.S. team is required to wear Nike gear at team functions. S

ymmonds is sponsored by a rival shoe company, Brooks, and wanted it clearly spelled out what constitutes a team function.

GERMANY

German athletes criticize IAAF in video message

FRANKFURT — A group of athletes led by Olympic discus champion Robin Harting has released a video message criticizing track and field's world governing body over recent doping allegations.

In an English-language video, Harting says, "Dear IAAF, we cannot trust you anymore," and adds that "we have to act now."

Harting has been a vocal critic of the International Association of Athletics Federations.

He declined to be considered for the IAAF's "Athlete of the Year" award in 2014 because he did not want to appear alongside candidates who have served doping bans, including U.S. sprinter Justin Gatlin.

The video comes after reports by German broadcaster ARD and The Sunday Times newspaper in Britain that blood doping was rampant in the sport, citing leaked test results from an IAAF database.

KENTUCKY

Louisville begins 9-game tour vs. Puerto Rico national teams

LOUISVILLE — Rick Pitino's loyalty and attention will be divided this week.

The Louisville coach will guide Puerto Rico's junior and national teams in a six-day, nine-game exhibition tour starting today against his Cardinals, who will be led by assistant coaches.

Pitino is preparing the national squad for the FIBA Americas Championship in Mexico City later this month in a quest to qualify for the 2016 Olympics, but he also wants to develop a young Louisville roster that lost four regulars from last season.

Inovaphoto/AP

IU.S. rowers, from left, Kaitlyn Kynast, Dana Moffat, Marlee Blue and Katy Gillingham celebrate winning the Junior Women's Four final competition at the World Rowing Junior Championships at Rodrigo de Freitas lake in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday. American rowing officials are investigating why some rowers on their team came down with gastrointestinal illness at the contest, an event that concluded over the weekend and is being used as a trial run for next year's Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

Some US rowers fall ill at 2016 Olympics test event

By Stephen Wade
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Thirteen rowers on the 40-member U.S. team came down with stomach illness at the World Junior Rowing Championships — a trial run for next summer's Olympics — and the team doctor said she suspected it was due to pollution in the lake where the competition took place.

The event took place amid rising concerns about the water quality at venues for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, now less than a year away.

The Americans were by far the hardest hit at the regatta that concluded over the weekend, with reports of vomiting and diarrhea. Other teams in the competition reported some illnesses, according to World Rowing, the sport's governing body, but those were about as expected at an event that featured more than 500 young rowers.

On July 30, The Associated Press published an independent analysis of water quality that showed high levels of viruses and, in some cases, bacteria from human sewage in all of Rio's Olympic and Paralympic water venues, including the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon, where the rowing competition took place.

U.S. coach Susan Francia, a two-time Olympic gold-medal rower, said in an interview with the AP that 13 athletes and four staff members — including herself — suffered various gastrointestinal symptoms during the team's two weeks of training in Rio.

Dr. Kathryn Ackerman, the U.S. team physician, said athletes from several other countries stayed in the same hotel as the Americans, but did not seem to get as sick as her rowers.

"I don't know if it was the water bottles in the boats, or hygiene precautions that some athletes are really good about and others weren't," she said.

Officials did not rule out that the Americans could have gotten ill from food or drinking water.

"We're not really sure. My personal feeling is, I think it's from the lake," Ackerman said.

Francia said she lacked the data and information to directly blame the illness on the venue, but added: "It just doesn't seem normal."

She warned athletes coming for the Olympics that "you should know when you're coming next year that you have to be smart about how you are preparing."

Francia said the U.S. team had taken precautions about competing in the polluted lake beneath Rio's picturesque Christ the Redeemer statue, "but maybe we were not as strict in enforcing them as we should have been from the beginning."

"As soon as kids started going down, we were bleaching oar handles, we were immediately washing hands after coming off the water," she said. "Other countries didn't allow water bottles at all. Other countries had water bottles in zip-locked bags."

US Rowing, which oversees the sport in the United States, said it is investigating what sickened the athletes, who range in age from 16-19. None are likely to be Olympians next year.

Rowing officials will debrief the athletes when they return to the U.S., likely through the rest of the week. They will talk to the athletes, review protocols for cleanliness.

Ackerman said she became worried when one U.S. boat tipped over in the lake, although the athlete who got thrown into the water was not among those who became ill.

"Obviously we were all concerned because we know the water's polluted," she added.

A spokesman for the Rio organizing committee on Monday attributed American team illnesses to "class travel symptoms" and said an event doctor treated eight Americans, three Britons and three Australians for symptoms including diarrhea.

The Americans' experience is almost certain to raise more concerns for the Olympics. About 10,500 athletes will attend the Summer Games, and 1,400 will participate in rowing, sailing, triathlon, canoeing and distance swimming in the waters around Rio.

"You don't want to see athletes in the boat-park vomiting," Francia said, recounting that the competitor she saw get sick was not an American. One of the U.S. rowers did faint in a dining area, she added.

Government details why it wants Lance Armstrong's medical records

By Jim Vertuno
Associated Press

AP file photo

Cycling legend and cancer survivor Lance Armstrong attends a rally May 11, 2012, at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles. The federal government wants to see Armstrong's medical records from his treatments for cancer. Court records show that government lawyers on July 30 subpoenaed the Indiana University School of Medicine to provide records of Armstrong's treatments and donations he later made to the school.

AUSTIN — The federal government says it wants Lance Armstrong's medical records from his 1996 cancer treatments because they could prove just how far he was willing to go to conceal performance-enhancing drug use from the public and his sponsors.

The former cyclist is vigorously fighting release of his medical records from the Indiana University School of Medicine as part of a whistleblower lawsuit in which the government wants to recover more than $30 million in sponsorship the U.S. Postal Service paid Armstrong and his teams. Penalties could reach as high as $100 million.

Despite his admissions publicly and under oath to using steroids and other drugs as far back as 1993, the government is still pursuing a key allegations that had dogged Armstrong for years: whether he told doctors in 1996 he was using a host of performance-enhancing drugs and later sought to bury any evidence of the conversation through lawsuits, threats and charitable donations.

Armstrong's efforts to "blunt this allegation ... were critical to hiding the truth of his doping from, among others, the United States Postal Service," the government said in documents filed last week in a Washington, D.C., court.

Armstrong's lawyers have asked Judge Christopher Cooper to dismiss a subpoena for records, calling it "harassment" and an invasion of privacy because Armstrong admits to doping to win the Tour de France seven times. Cooper could rule on the records this week.

In its arguments to get the hospital records, the government questions whether they could contradict a 2005 sworn statement from Dr. Craig Nichols, one of Armstrong's physicians, who said there was no record of performance-enhancing drug use.

The government notes the doctor's affidavit contradicts sworn statements from Armstrong's former teammate, Frankie Andreu, and his wife, Betsy Andreu, who said they were in Armstrong's hospital room and heard him admit drug use.

The doctor's statement said he monitored Armstrong's blood levels from 1997 to 2001 and found "nothing irregular," specifically no use of the blood booster EPO. As an expert in using EPO to treat cancer patients, Nichols said he would likely have noticed it in his system.

But Armstrong admitted under oath last month that he used EPO during that time.

Armstrong for years denied the hospital room conversation took place. He now says he doesn't recall because it was two days after surgery to remove tumors from his brain.

The government has also subpoenaed records of donations to the medical school from the Livestrong charity. Government lawyers note Livestrong gave $1.5 million to the school two days after witnesses first testified of the alleged hospital room conversation. Nichols is a former Livestrong board member.

Armstrong says the donation was made to honor Dr. Larry Einhorn, another doctor who devised the treatments that saved Armstrong's life.

In a separate but related case, Armstrong's lawyers will be in a Dallas court later this week asking a judge to dismiss a $10 million sanction against Armstrong related to a 2005 lawsuit that first raised the issue of the hospital room conversation.

Prince Ali: FIFA cannot be credible while Blatter leads

By Graham Dunbar
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — FIFA cannot make credible changes in the last months of Sepp Blatter's leadership of the scandal-hit body, former presidential candidate Prince Ali bin al-Hussein said Monday.

The Jordanian prince also doubted the worth of FIFA's in-house reforms task force which is supported by Michel Platini, his former ally and now front-runner to succeed Blatter in the Feb. 26 election.

"I don't think anybody will take any decisions that are credible in the current situation," Prince Ali told the Associated Press in a telephone interview Monday.

"I think that the important thing is that you need an overall change in leadership," said the prince, who described Platini as "not good for FIFA" when the UEFA president launched his campaign two weeks ago. "The entire football world would like to see a change."

Still, Prince Ali has not committed to making a second bid to be president and enact that change.

"Right now I'm talking to our national associations, listening to their opinions," said the prince, who got votes from 73 of FIFA's 209 member federations when Blatter won re-election in May.

Within four days, Blatter announced he would leave office under pressure from dual American and Swiss federal investigations of corruption that finally drove World Cup sponsors to demand a change of culture at FIFA.

Prince Ali could outline campaign plans on Sept. 7 as a keynote speaker at the Soccerex conference in Manchester, England.

"It's a place where I will obviously want to present my ideas for what I think is best for the organization," said the prince, who served as Asia's FIFA vice president for four years until May.

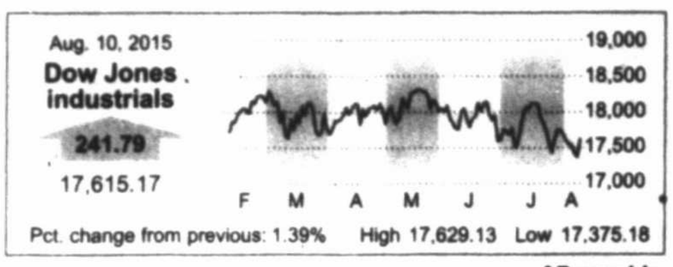
September shapes as busy for FIFA politics though the deadline for presidential contenders to file nomination papers is not until Oct. 26.

On Sept. 15-16, UEFA members who mostly supported Prince Ali against Blatter will meet in Malta and can expect to hear details of their president Platini's manifesto for FIFA.

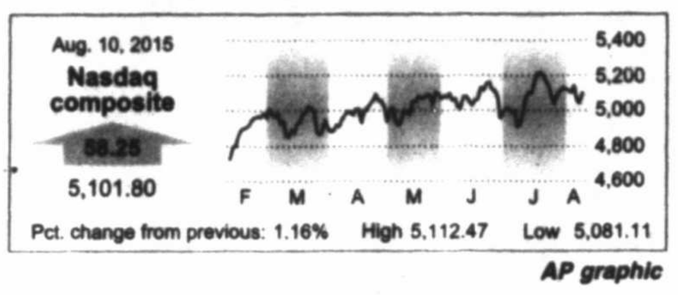
Prince Ali declined to comment on possibly stepping on Platini's turf during that two-day session. It is one of few scheduled meetings where large numbers of FIFA voters will gather before the election congress in Zurich.

"I do hope that this time around it will be a good election," Prince Ali said.

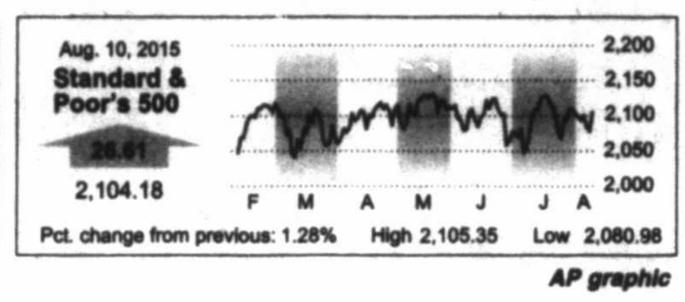
A DAY ON WALL STREET



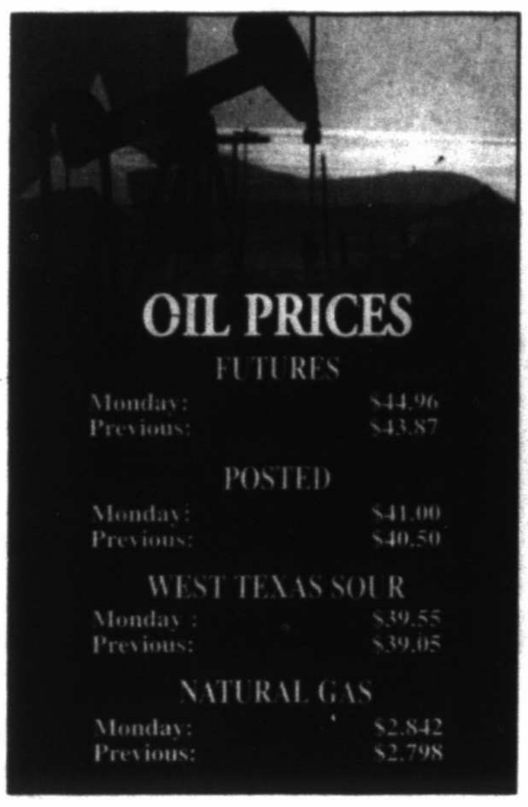
AP graphic



AP graphic



AP graphic



NYSE

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
CSVLgCrude	881324	1.30	+.08
S&P500ETF	714540	210.57	+2.62
MktVGold	699480	14.29	+.89
DrxGldBull	593408	3.75	+.60
BkofAm	561696	18.04	+.29

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
MidstPet rs	3.72	+1.39	+59.7
TetraTech	6.87	+1.68	+32.4
RentechN	13.25	+2.95	+28.6
NeoPhoton	7.39	+1.63	+28.3
Mesabi	12.15	+2.38	+24.4

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
NwSEn pfA	6.10	-3.33	-35.3
RCS Cap	2.60	-1.40	-35.0
DxSPOGBear	64.85	-16.82	-20.6
DrOilGdBr	29.64	-6.85	-18.8
KronosWw	8.00	-1.82	-18.5

Diary

Advanced	2,369
Declined	770
Unchanged	91
Total issues	3,230
New Highs	86
New Lows	86
Volume	3,421,944,615

AMEX

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
ActinumP	56236	2.15	+.17
SyntheBiol	46622	2.75	+.45
CherwinEn	36531	70.65	+2.20
BarcGSOil	35071	8.67	+.21
NwGold g	33360	2.16	+.13

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
MexcoEn	2.23	+.42	+23.2
CoreMold	26.71	+3.01	+17.0
Organovo	3.40	+.49	+16.8
NthnO&G	5.51	+.76	+16.0
MagHR pfD	26.30	+3.30	+14.3

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
AltisrcAst	113.98	-18.88	-14.2
SyntheBiol	2.75	-.45	-14.1
GigOptics	2.08	-.34	-14.0
Oragenics	2.97	-.37	-11.0
IDI rs	7.95	-.78	-8.9

Diary

Advanced	254
Declined	144
Unchanged	15
Total issues	413
New Highs	21
New Lows	21
Volume	81,781,531

NASDAQ

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Apple Inc	532940	119.72	+4.20
21stCFoxA	258222	30.66	.03
Groupon	254392	4.29	-.14
MicroNT	246875	18.82	-.38
FrontierCm	238813	5.33	-.16

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
AquinoxPh	18.88	+8.46	+81.2
Zynerba n	35.14	+10.60	+43.2
Abeona wt	2.75	+.68	+32.9
InovioPhm	8.19	+1.70	+26.2
CentAl	6.31	+1.13	+21.8

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Karyopharm	13.44	-8.61	-39.0
SFX Ent	2.36	-.69	-22.6
BioScrip	2.08	-.60	-22.4
Nil Hldg n	10.83	-2.46	-18.5
Gordmans	4.24	-.73	-14.7

Diary

Advanced	1,927
Declined	854
Unchanged	154
Total issues	2,935
New Highs	57
New Lows	88
Volume	1,721,525,946

Google to be part of new holding company Alphabet

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Google, which has been expanding far beyond its original business of Internet search advertising, is changing its operating structure by creating a new holding company called Alphabet.

The company says its new structure will give more independence to many of its wide-ranging and ambitious projects.

Under the plan announced Monday, Alphabet will be comprised of the core Google business — including Internet search, mapping and YouTube — along with newer businesses that will be managed separately, such as Google Fiber, Nest and the investment arm Google Ventures.

Google CEO Larry Page will become CEO of the new entity, with his co-founder Sergey Brin serving as president. Longtime Google executive Sundar Pichai, who has taken on increasingly important roles at the company in recent years, will be CEO of the core Google business.

The change may give investors a clearer picture of how much Google is spending on some of its newer ventures, like its effort to build a self-driving car, develop a glucose-sensing contact lens or install high-speed Internet fiber networks in a number of U.S. cities, said Colin Gillis, an investment analyst at BGC Partners.

But it may not signal much change in the current management structure, since Pichai has already been overseeing many of Google's core operations, Gillis said.

Google Inc. said its new chief financial officer, Ruth Porat, will hold the same title for both Google and Alphabet. Once the reorganization is complete, the company says its two existing classes of publicly traded stock will continue to trade on the Nasdaq exchange under the ticker symbols "GOOG" and "GOOGL."

The Mountain View, California, company's stock was up about 5 percent in after-hours trading following the announcement Monday afternoon.

Berkshire Hathaway will buy Precision Castparts for about $32B

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Warren Buffett's biggest acquisition yet — a $32.36 billion buyout of Precision Castparts — will further change the complexion of Berkshire Hathaway and increase the conglomerate's reliance on industrial companies.

The deal announced Monday to acquire the aerospace and industrial company adds to a string of manufacturing acquisitions Berkshire completed in recent years outside of the insurance industry that fueled its growth. The Omaha-based conglomerate already owned an eclectic mix of more than 80 subsidiaries.

With a company that size, Buffett needs to strike big deals to meaningfully improve profits at Berkshire. As of June 30, the company had $66.6 billion in cash on hand. The universe of big companies that fit Buffett's criteria tend to be manufacturing or industrial firms.

And the 84-year-old Buffett wants to give Berkshire the strongest foundation possible for his investors and whoever eventually succeeds him.

"I think he's setting things up for the future and he doesn't want anything terribly risky," said Andy Kilpatrick, the investor who wrote "Of Permanent Value: The Story of Warren Buffett."

Precision Castparts, based in Portland, Oregon, makes components for aircraft, power plants and other industrial uses. It has been hit hard by tumbling crude and natural gas prices, but it appears to have strong long-term prospects. Buffet told CNBC that he would have bought the company even if he knew that commodities were in the midst of a multiyear slump.

"We're going to be in this business for 100 years, so it doesn't really make any difference what oil and gas does in the next year," said Buffett, whose company already held 4.2 million shares, or about 3 percent, of Precision Castparts' stock.

George Morgan, a finance professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a former investment adviser, said Buffett's field of possible investments is limited because of the size he is looking for today.

"His selection field is extremely limited," Morgan said.

Berkshire's core insurance companies include Geico and General Reinsurance. It also owns BNSF railroad, several major utilities, clothing, furniture, brick, carpet, jewelry and pilot training firms. It also has major investments in such companies as Coca-Cola, IBM and Wells Fargo & Co.

In Berkshire's second quarter, the company generated roughly three-quarters of its $4 billion net income from non-insurance companies. It was an especially weak quarter for Berkshire's insurance units but it illustrates the conglomerate's increasing reliance on manufacturing, utilities and the railroad.

Berkshire agreed to pay $235 per share in cash for Precision Castparts' outstanding stock. Including debt, the deal is valued at about $37.2 billion.

Stocks rebound on energy bounce

A resurgent energy sector and another big acquisition by Warren Buffett propelled the stock market to its best day in three months on Monday.

Energy stocks jumped, following the price of oil higher. Crude rebounded after dropping to its lowest level of the year in early trading. Energy stocks were also among the biggest gainers as oil rose, rebounding from heavy losses last week. The sector jumped 3 percent as companies including Exxon Mobil and Chevron climbed.

The price of oil posted a strong gain after briefly dipping below its lowest close for the year. U.S. crude climbed $1.09 to close at $44.96 a barrel in New York. Early Monday oil dipped a penny below its $43.46 March 17 close, its lowest in six years.

Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, rose $1.80 to close at $50.41 in London.

Despite Monday's rebound, oil is still down almost 60 percent from its peak last year.

Gold gains

The price of gold rose $10 to $1,104.10 an ounce, silver gained 47 cents to $15.29 an ounce and copper increased seven cents to $2.40 a pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $36.71 Up 3.02

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $111.76 Up 4.44

Dawson Operating (DWSN)
Closing Price $4.70 Up 0.52

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $70.19 Up 1.35

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $7.73 Down 0.17

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $2.23 Up 0.42

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $21.51 Up 1.17

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $23.80 Up 0.56

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $8.72 Up 0.29

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $14.00 Down 0.25

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.88	35	34.78	+.57	+3.5
Abraxas	...	4	1.89	+.14	-35.7
AdeDvsEq	1.17e	...	14.01	+.13	+2.4
AMD			1.93	-.16	-27.7
Alcoa	.12	14	10.08	+.67	-36.2
AlonUSA	.60	14	21.92	+1.02	+73.0
Ambev	.24e		5.66	+.14	-8.3
AmExp	1.16f	14	81.26	+1.54	-12.7
Amgen	**3.16**	**23**	**170.60**	**-1.71**	**+7.1**
Anadarko	**1.08**	**...**	**75.70**	**+2.85**	**-8.2**
Annaly	1.20		10.07	-.01	-6.8
Apache	**1.00**	**...**	**48.45**	**+2.34**	**-22.7**
Apple Inc	2.08	14	119.72	+4.20	+8.5
ApldMatl	**.40**	**17**	**17.60**	**+.82**	**-29.4**
AquinoxPh			18.88	+8.46	+151.7
ATMOS	**1.56**	**18**	**55.26**	**-.37**	**-.9**
AutoData	1.96	27	81.60	+1.31	-2.1
Avon	.24		6.64	+.51	-29.3
BP PLC	**2.40**	**...**	**36.28**	**+.60**	**-4.8**
BabsCClnv	1.20		16.06	-.09	+1.1
BakrHu	.68	60	57.83	+2.11	+3.1
BkofAm	.20	19	18.04	+.29	+.8
B iPVixST			15.57	.56	-50.6
BarrickG	.08m	48	7.61	+.57	-29.2
BasicEnSv	...		6.92	+.68	-1.3
BerkHa A	**...**	**172153000.00**	**-162.77**	**-4.7**	
BlkHillsCp	**1.82**	**25**	**41.67**	**-.13**	**-21.4**
BrMySq	**1.48**	**60**	**63.89**	**+.48**	**+8.2**
BrownFA	**1.26**	**38**	**120.81**	**+1.02**	**+37.7**
BrownFB	**1.26**	**35**	**110.53**	**+.72**	**+25.0**
CVS Health	1.40	26	106.62	+.88	+12.8
Cameron	...	13	51.43	+1.95	+3.0
Caterpillar	**3.08f**	**13**	**80.16**	**+2.67**	**-12.4**
Celestic g	...	16	13.38	+.28	+14.0
CntryLink	2.16	23	28.76	+1.11	-27.3
ChesEng	...	...	8.63	+.31	-55.9
Chevron	**4.28**	**13**	**95.89**	**+2.14**	**-23.4**
Chicos	**.31**	**35**	**15.23**	**+.35**	**-6.0**
Cimarex	**.64**	**...**	**114.88**	**+3.97**	**+8.4**
Cisco	**.84**	**17**	**28.59**	**+.44**	**+3.5**
ClayEng	**...**	**...**	**36.71**	**+3.02**	**-62.5**
CocaCola	**1.32**	**24**	**41.69**	**-.09**	**-1.3**
ColgPalm	**1.52**	**28**	**68.74**	**+.25**	**-.7**
ConAgra	**1.00**	**30**	**44.99**	**-.16**	**+24.0**

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
ConchoRes	**...**	**39**	**111.76**	**+4.44**	**+12.0**
ConocoPhil	**2.96f**	**23**	**50.20**	**+1.36**	**-27.3**
CrackerB	4.40f	23	151.01	-1.63	+7.3
CSVLgNGs			2.10	+.09	-47.2
CSVLgCrde			1.30	+.08	-73.4
CrosTim	**2.02e**	**7**	**13.68**	**+.32**	**-21.0**
DCP Mid	3.12	13	29.49	+2.09	-35.1
DTE	2.92f	17	80.64	-.58	-6.6
Dataram	...	...	1.52	+.10	-10.6
DeanFoods	.28	...	17.21	-.52	-11.2
DenburyR	.25	3	4.28	+.76	-47.4
DevonE	**.96**	**...**	**47.88**	**+1.47**	**-21.8**
DrGldBull		...	3.75	+.60	-66.4
Disney	**1.32f**	**23**	**111.00**	**+1.65**	**+17.8**
DowChm	**1.68**	**14**	**46.64**	**+1.14**	**+2.3**
EOG Resc	**.67**	**14**	**76.27**	**+2.51**	**-17.2**
EmpDist	**1.04**	**18**	**23.04**	**-.21**	**-22.5**
EnCana g	.28	31	7.48	+.56	-46.1
Energen	.08	40	53.58	+2.77	-16.0
EngyTsfr	4.14f	60	46.99	+.12	-27.7
EnPro	**.80**	**...**	**51.82**	**+1.21**	**-17.9**
EntPrdPt s	1.52f	21	27.65	+1.22	-23.4
Ericsson	.39e	...	10.55	+.31	-12.8
ExterranH	.60	18	25.23	+1.51	-22.6
ExxonMbl	**2.92**	**14**	**78.75**	**+1.92**	**-14.8**
Facebook	...	96	94.15	-.15	+20.7
FordM	.60	16	14.99	+.19	-3.3
FrptMcM	.20a	...	11.65	+1.12	-50.1
FrontierCm	.42	...	5.33	+.16	-20.1
GATX	**1.52**	**10**	**50.19**	**+.44**	**-12.8**
GabBluRT	**1.05e**	**...**	**8.86**	**+.13**	**-11.5**
GAInv	**3.50e**	**...**	**34.70**	**+.53**	**-.9**
GenElec	**.92**	**...**	**26.34**	**+.46**	**+3.8**
Genworth	...	...	5.47	+.05	-35.6
GSPlatin	**.96**	**17**	**28.23**	**-.19**	**-7.7**
Groupon	...	36	4.29	-.14	-48.1
HalconRes	...	...	1.00	+.05	-43.8
Halliblrtn	**.72**	**18**	**41.62**	**+1.86**	**+8.8**
iShBrazil	1.03e	...	27.74	+.96	-24.1
iShJapan	.13e	...	13.13	+.19	+16.8
iShChinaLC	.76e	...	41.44	+.91	-.4
iShEMMkts	.84e	...	36.91	+.61	-6.1
iS Eafe	1.70e	...	65.40	+.79	+7.5
iShR2K	1.05e	...	121.26	+1.38	+1.4

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
InovioPhm			8.19	+1.70	-10.8
Intel	**.96**	**13**	**29.64**	**+.76**	**-18.3**
InterDig	.80	21	50.81	-.33	-4.0
ItauUnibH	.41e	...	8.26	+.30	-30.1
JD.com			30.06	-2.01	+29.9
JPMorgCh	1.76f	12	66.89	+.84	+10.8
JohnJn	**3.00**	**18**	**99.79**	**+.94**	**-4.6**
KimbClk	**3.52**	**63**	**116.90**	**+.19**	**+1.2**
KindMorg	1.96f	42	32.50	+.36	-23.2
Kinross g			2.06	+.20	-27.0
LegacyRes	1.40		7.73	-.17	-32.4
Lubys	**...**	**...**	**4.90**	**-.08**	**+7.7**
MagHRes			1.33	+.55	-57.6
MVJrGold			19.95	+1.08	-16.6
MktVGold	.12e	...	14.29	+.89	-22.3
McDnlds	3.40	22	99.39	+.47	+6.1
Merck	1.80	17	58.41	+.44	+2.9
MerMMed	**...**	**38**	**25.64**	**+.50**	**+48.0**
MexcoEn		...	2.23	+.42	-58.9
MicronT		6	18.82	+.36	-46.2
Microsoft	1.24	32	47.33	+.59	+1.9
Nabors	.24	8	12.28	+.78	-5.4
NBGreece		...	.84	+.08	-53.1
NatGrid	**3.35e**	**...**	**67.11**	**+.11**	**-5.0**
NOilVarco	1.84	9	40.90	+1.17	-37.6
Netflix s	...	...	123.03	-.49	+152.1
NobleCorp	1.50	...	13.35	+1.22	-19.4
NvMAd	**.79e**	**...**	**13.29**	**-.02**	**-2.7**
NvPMI	**.82e**	**...**	**13.23**	**+.09**	**-5.3**
NuvPI	**.82e**	**...**	**13.34**	**+.05**	**-3.8**
NSTPI3	**.56e**	**...**	**13.69**	**+.07**	**-3.9**
NTXQI	**.65e**	**...**	**13.60**	**-.09**	**-5.9**
Nvidia	**.39**	**21**	**23.76**	**+.80**	**+18.6**
OcciPet	**3.00**	**19**	**71.25**	**+3.50**	**-11.6**
OfficeDpt	...	...	7.65	+.20	-10.8
ParTech	**...**	**...**	**4.87**	**-.07**	**-19.2**
ParkDrl	**...**	**33**	**2.68**	**+.20**	**-14.3**
PetSUTI	**.40**	**42**	**18.10**	**+1.20**	**+6.1**
PennaRE	**.84**	**...**	**21.17**	**-.43**	**-8.8**
Pmrlam	.50e	8	6.78	+.29	-29.0
PetbrasA	...	...	5.80	+.29	-23.5
Petrobras		...	6.45	+.40	-11.6
Pfizer	**1.12**	**25**	**35.36**	**+.17**	**+13.5**
PlsNtl	.08	36	127.17	+2.69	-14.6
PlainsAAP	**2.70f**	**19**	**36.71**	**+1.34**	**-28.5**

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
PwShs QQQ	1.50e	...	111.57	+1.26	+8.1
Praxair	**2.86**	**21**	**115.47**	**+2.32**	**-10.9**
PrecCastpt	.12	19	230.92	+37.04	-4.1
PrmEgy	**...**	**10**	**56.95**	**...**	**-21.7**
ProctGam	**2.65**	**30**	**76.38**	**+.90**	**-18.1**
Qualcom	1.92	17	63.15	+.13	-15.0
RangeRs	.16	54	37.60	+1.88	-29.7
Rowan	.40	...	18.10	+.82	-22.4
RoyDShllA	3.76	13	58.89	+.73	-12.0
SpdrDJIA	3.67e	...	176.19	+2.35	-1.0
S&P500ETF	4.03e	...	210.57	+2.62	+2.4
SabinR	3.63e	8	33.70	+1.54	-5.8
SanderFn	**.88e**	**6**	**73.63**	**+2.33**	**-12.4**
SandRidge	**...**	**...**	**.59**	**+.10**	**-67.4**
Schlmbrg	2.00	23	84.44	+2.19	-1.1
SeadrillLtd	...	3	8.80	+.53	-26.3
SigmaAld	**.92**	**35**	**139.82**	**...**	**+1.7**
SiriusXM	...	44	3.95	+.01	+12.9
Smucker	2.68f	30	110.51	+.47	+9.4
Sprint	...	...	3.84	+.47	-7.5
SP Engy	1.99e	...	69.17	+2.14	-12.6
SPDR Fncl	.43e	...	25.44	+.24	+2.9
SunEdison	...	...	15.59	+.63	-20.1
SunocoLog	1.75f	53	34.78	+1.40	-16.8
Sysco	1.20	25	37.59	+.66	-5.3
TaiwSemi	.73e	...	21.61	+.58	-3.4

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
TeleEsp	**1.09e**	**...**	**15.48**	**+.22**	**+8.9**
Tesoro	2.00f	11	107.36	+5.33	+44.4
3M Co	4.10	20	151.24	+2.35	-8.0
Torchmark	**.54**	**15**	**63.12**	**+1.15**	**+16.5**
Transocn	.60m	...	14.46	+.89	-21.1
TrContl	**.90e**	**...**	**21.23**	**+.17**	**-.8**
21stCFoxA	.30	7	30.66	-.03	-20.2
Twitter	...	...	29.50	+2.46	-17.8
TylerTech	**...**	**70**	**140.86**	**+1.81**	**+28.7**
UBWV	**1.28**	**21**	**40.47**	**+.41**	**+8.1**
US OilFd	...	...	14.69	+.33	-26.9
Vale SA	.50e	...	5.64	+.36	-31.1
ValeroE	1.80	8	69.00	+3.58	+39.4
VerizonCm	2.20	20	47.23	+.87	+1.0
Vipshop s	...	74	21.00	-.07	+7.5
Vollari	...	...	8.94	+1.53	+1254.5
VulcanM	**.40**	**...**	**95.98**	**+1.47**	**+46.0**
WEC Engy	1.89	19	49.74	-.30	-5.7
WalgBoots	1.44f	32	93.95	+.67	+23.3
WstnRefin	1.36	9	49.26	+1.83	+30.4
WhitingPet	...	50	20.11	+2.19	-39.1
WmsCos	2.36f	91	49.89	+1.09	+11.0
XcelEngy	**1.28**	**19**	**34.94**	**-.31**	**-2.7**
Xerox	**.26**	**20**	**11.27**	**+.39**	**+18.7**
Yamana g	.06	...	2.08	+.21	-48.5

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
18,351.36	15,855.12	Dow Jones Industrials	17,615.17	+241.79	+1.39	-1.17	+6.31
9,310.22	7,700.57	Dow Jones Transportation	8,572.03	+121.18	+1.47	-8.40	+0.64
657.17	524.82	Dow Jones Utilities	587.59	-2.68	-.46	-4.93	+8.69
11,254.87	9,866.08	NYSE Composite	10,908.05	+142.90	+1.33	+.62	+1.71
5,231.94	4,116.60	Nasdaq Composite	5,101.80	+58.26	+1.16	+7.72	+15.91
2,134.72	1,820.66	S&P 500	2,104.18	+26.61	+1.28	+2.20	+8.84
1,551.29	1,209.45	S&P Midcap	1,510.30	+22.14	+1.49	+3.86	+8.59
22,537.15	19,160.13	Wilshire 5000	22,132.24	+279.85	+1.28	+2.13	+7.52
1,206.00	1,040.47	Russell 2000	1,222.67	+15.77	+1.31	+1.49	+7.07

TODAY'S COMICS SPONSORED BY

HARTMAN ROOFING INC.
432-522-1117
QUALITY, INTEGRITY, EXPERIENCE
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!!!

The wiseman built his house on a rock
Then he hired Hartman to roof it!!!
All Types of Roof and Roof repair • Free Estimates
Commercial • Residential
www.HartmanRoofing.com

HARTMAN ROOFING INC.
Mention this ad. and receive $300.00 off a full roofing job or $50.00 off any repair of $200.00 or more

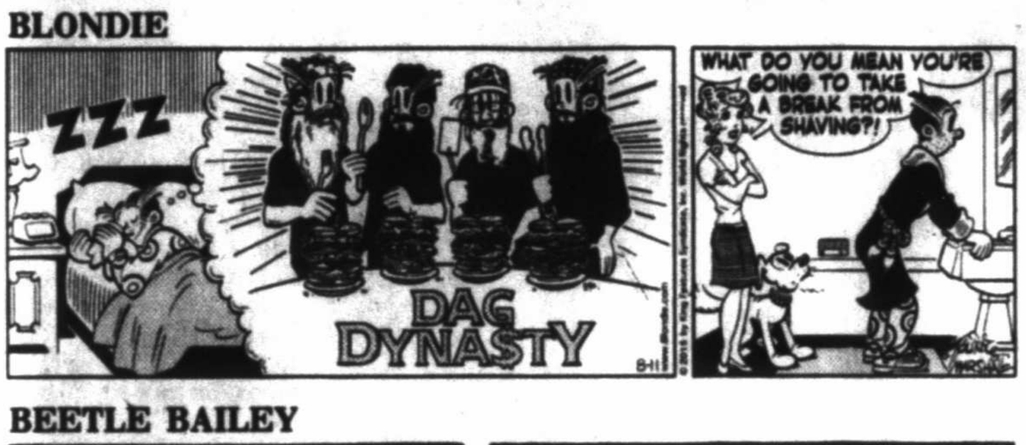
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

FUNKY WINKERBEAN

LUANN

BLONDIE



MARY WORTH

BEETLE BAILEY

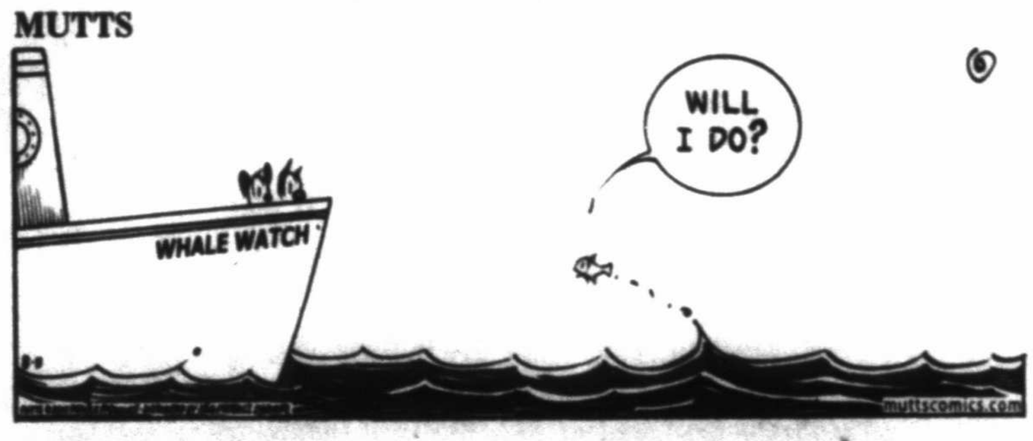
ZITS

CLASSIC PEANUTS

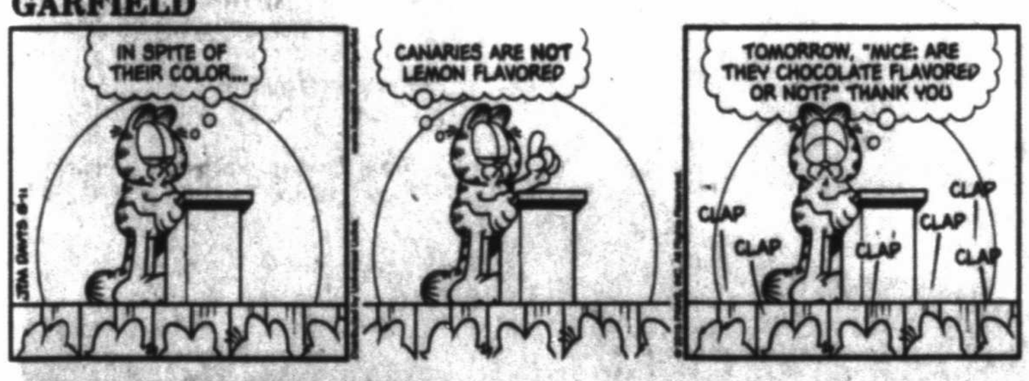
BABY BLUES

SHOE

MUTTS



GARFIELD



CLOSE TO HOME

"He's going through hazing at his online college fraternity."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"IF THESE ARE THE TOP 40 SONGS...I WONDER HOW BAD THE *BOTTOM* 40 MUST BE!"

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

WIZARD OF ID

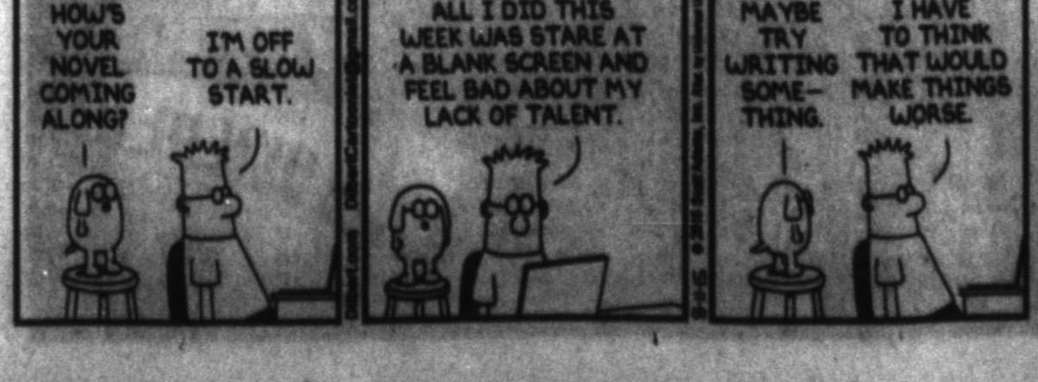
FAMILY CIRCUS

"Daddy, if you and Mommy are a little scared, I could get in bed with you too."

LOCKHORNS

"GREAT NEWS, LORETTA... I JUST MADE THE FINAL PAYMENT ON THE CAR."

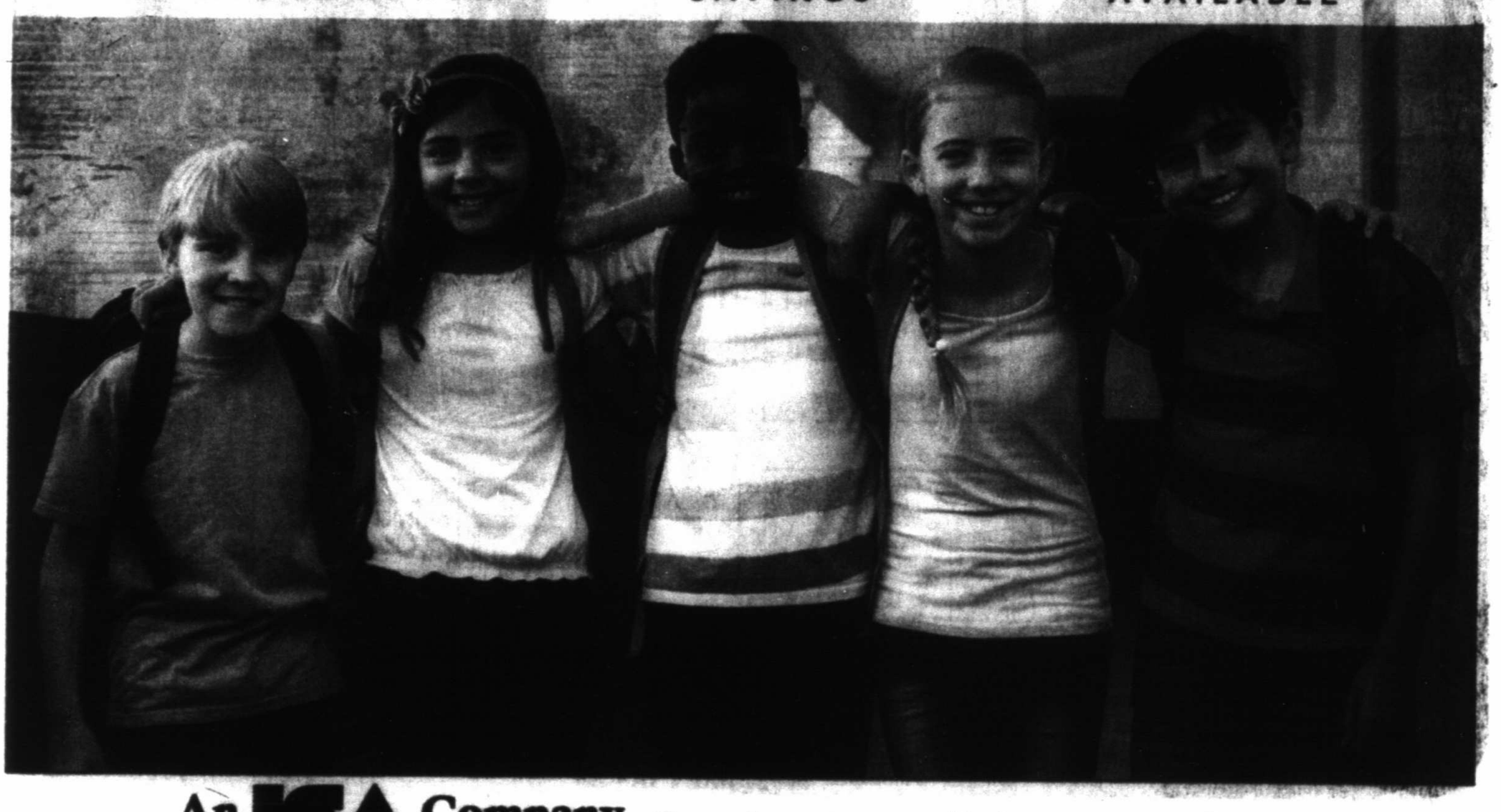
DILBERT



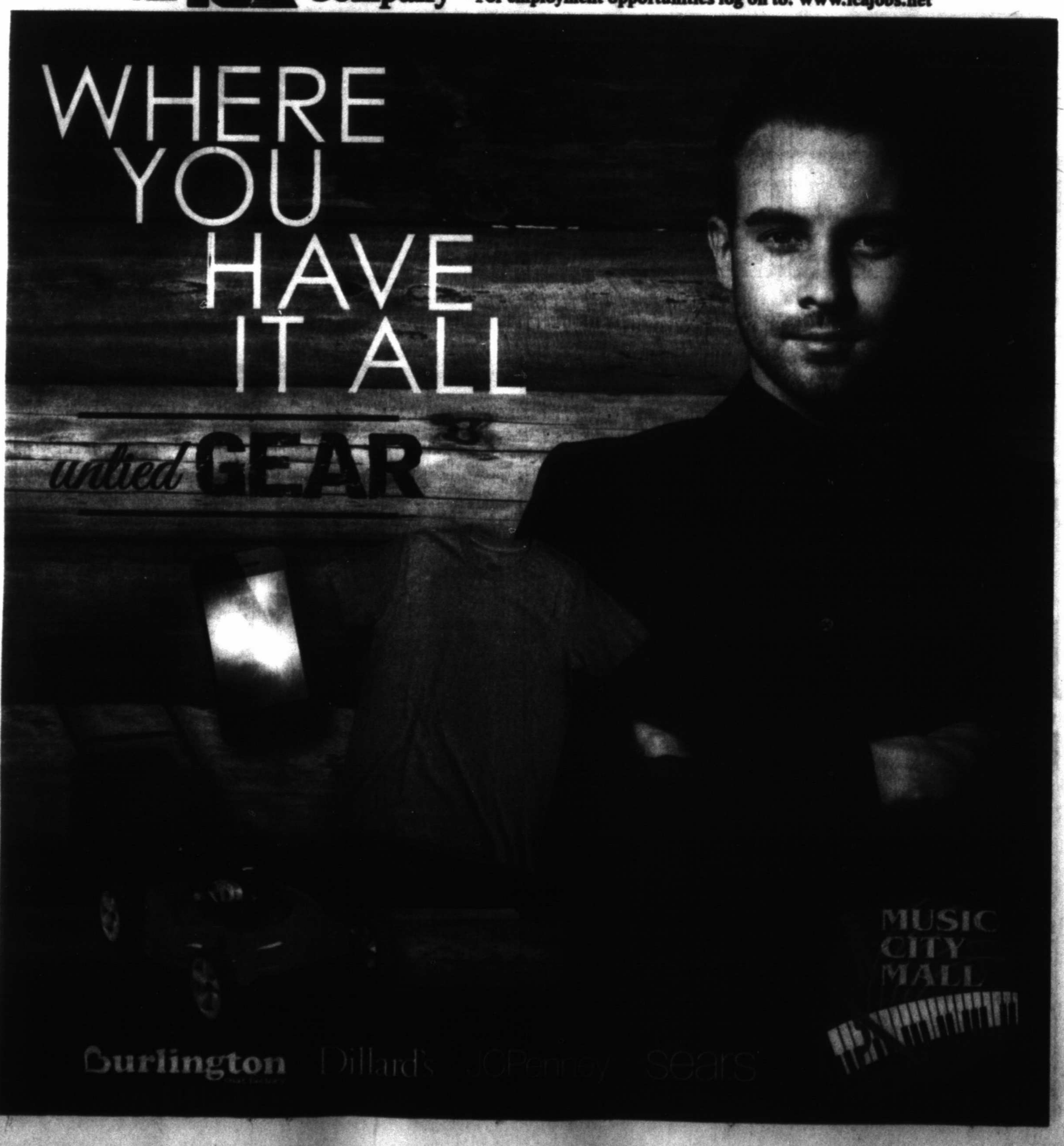
OVER 100 MERCHANTS TO CHOOSE FROM

MALL-WIDE SAVINGS

SCHOOL UNIFORMS AVAILABLE



An ICA Company • For employment opportunities log on to: www.icajobs.net



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OTHER JOBS

Advertising Operations Support

Are you detail oriented? Do you have a positive attitude? Are you a self-starter?
If so, come join our TEAM!

The MRT Media Group, a Hearst Corporation company, is looking for full-time creative, energetic person to join our Advertising Operations Team. Duties include providing support to the Advertising team, expediting print and online ad creation, page planning/pagination of daily newspaper and special publications.

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS:

- Proficient with Adobe software suites - particularly Indesign, Photoshop and Illustrator.
- Experience with MAC OS 10, Explorer and Windows software.
- Knowledge of advertising design, layout and typography preferred but not required.
- Ability to interpret a variety of instructions furnished in written, oral, diagram, or schedule form.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, deadline oriented environment.
- Excellent organization skills and ability to work independently with minimal supervision required.

The Hearst Corporation is one of the largest, diversified media communications companies, with major interests in magazine, newspaper and business publishing, cable networks, television and radio broadcasting, internet business and more.

Please send resume to:
Adrianne Ramirez, Advertising Operations Manager
MRT Media Group - 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701
aramirez@mrt.com

Equal Opportunity Employer

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com

OTHER JOBS

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm -4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person

$10.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at [illegible]

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person

$10.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at [illegible]

mrt★com/jobs

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

IMPACT! Chemical Technologies is seeking an Accounting Assistant to provide support with the daily accounting functions. The Accounting Assistant will be responsible for assisting in accounts payables. Candidates should display strong attention to detail and Excel skills are required. Excellent benefits. Please send resumes to **tbohannon@impactchemtech.com** or PO Box 10887, Midland, TX 79702.

Accounting Assistant

Standard Sales Company, L.P., the Anheuser-Busch distributor located in Odessa, TX is looking for an experienced Accounting Assistant for its corporate offices. Duties include assisting accounting dept with daily and monthly processes, sales tax returns, bank reconciliations, verifying daily deposits, cross-training with Accounts Payable position, occasional phone duty, and other duties as determined. Requirements: 2+ years accounting/bookkeeping experience, high school diploma, proficiency with Microsoft Excel. Preferred but not required: Sage 500 software experience, Associates degree or higher in accounting. Benefits: 401k plan with employer match, paid vacation and sick leave, health, vision, and dental insurance. Must pass drug screen and submit to background check. Please apply on-line using the following link: http://ess.standardsales.com/careers/careers.aspx?req=2015-40-001 or visit the website at www.standardsalescompanylp.com and click on the Careers tab. No phone calls please.

Bookkeeping

Citizens Federal Credit Union is seeking the following full time position: Bookkeeping. Position is well paying, with excellent benefits. Please send a resume to: Citizens Federal Credit Union, ATTN: HR, P.O. Box 51070, Midland, TX. 79705

AUTOMOTIVE

FT Body Man

Body shop looking for experienced full time body man. Come in and apply. 3221 W Industrial Midland, TX 79701

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Office Technician

"HELP WANTED -NEED IMMEDIATELY - OFFICE TECHNICIAN: WTG-JLD Benedum Plant is hiring an Office Clerk for our site out of Midkiff, TX. M-F 8-5, some overtime could be possible. Duties include but are not limited to handling correspondence, answering phone, creating and maintaining spreadsheets/databases, end of the month reports and general office duties. Individual must be proficient in Word, PowerPoint, Excel and phone systems. The ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment is needed. Fax your resume to 432-683-2132.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Teachers

Part-time, enthusiastic Preschool and Children's Day Out teachers are needed (ages 6mo-4yr old preschool).
Tuesday and Thursdays, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Please apply in person at:
First United Methodist Church
300 N Main Street

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Frac Operator

Looking for a frac operator for chemical treating in the field. Requires operator to be away from home for 1-2 weeks at a time. No training required but must have experience with operating a computer. Hourly wages based on experience level. Interested applicant to apply in person. 11900 E. Hwy. 158, Gardendale, TX. 79758.

Journeyman or Tradesman

Wanted: Journeyman or Apprentice Lic. Plumber with AC tech knowledge to install equipment. Wage based on experience. Retirement benefits. Send resume to: A-Tony's Plumbing, PO Box 9114, Midland TX, 79708.

Place Your Ad 682-6222

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AUTOMOTIVE

TEXAS FORD DEALERS

Rogers Ford Career Opportunities

Available positions: Porters, Drivers, Service Writer, Service Cashier, and a Suspension Technician.

Porter Requirements: Include sweeping, mopping, cleaning technician stalls, cleaning main service drive, parking vehicles, and bringing around vehicles for customers. Help with other misc. task around shop. Clean driving record and valid drivers license.

Driver Requirements: Include delivery, pickup and handling of vehicle parts to/from surrounding areas. Requires ability to secure parts in a timely manner, work efficiently and maintain a friendly attitude at all times. Must have a valid drivers license and clean driving record. Previous parts or delivery experience preferred. Dealership experience preferred. And Excellent customer service skills and multitasking ability.

Service Writer Requirements: Including customer-focused, well organized person, service reception, providing repair estimates, obtaining approvals, keeping your clients updated on service status, invoicing, and service delivery. Must be professional in appearance, have excellent written and verbal communications skills, and have a positive, customer service, team-oriented attitude. Prior dealership, automotive, or other retail experience would be helpful.

Service Cashier Requirements: Includes to greet customer on main service drive, cash customers out, answer phone calls, cover fast lube cashier, and help with other misc. work task.

Suspension Technician Requirements: Must be able to follow work directions, pay attention to detail and diagnose problems and make the necessary repair. Duties include, but are not limited to the following: Verify complaints, follow diagnostic procedures, perform checks and make the necessary repair to vehicles. Identify potential problems, and perform preventative maintenance. Obtain information and keep accurate records. Obtain authorization and perform repair. Must have own tools. Must be able to be on your feet for long periods of time. Call for more details.

****Must pass drug test for all job positions.**

Come fill out a job application at Rogers Ford.

HEALTHCARE

Available Positions
Desert Gardens Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
3203 Sage Street
Midland, TX 79705
Desert Gardens located in Midland, Texas is currently seeking staff to fill the following Positions:
- GN & RN $2,000 sign on bonus
- GVN & LVN $1,500 sign on bonus
- CNA $1,000 sign on bonus

Full benefits

Now Hiring - Home Health Agency
Come join a fast growing HHA in Midland and surrounding areas as a full/part time nurse. Positions Available: Staff Nurses (RN/LVN)
*****Sign-on bonus of $1,000!!!!!!!!
For details call: 432-686-7449 or 432-686-7535

HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

Corp Sales Manager
Wyndham Garden Midland looking for the following position: Corp Sales Manager. Hotel experience preferred. Will train the right candidate. Must be Microsoft office proficient. Salary based on experience. Send all resumes to gpoemantur@jylhotels.com

Maintenance & Housekeeping
Holiday Inn Express, I-20 now hiring Maintenance & Housekeeping. Apply in person 900 Crump Street, Midland. 432-685-9020.

OTHER JOBS

CHEMIST
CHEMIST Environmental Laboratory, BS or better.
Email: lab@traceanalysis.com

Concrete Workers & Heavy Equipment Operators
CONCRETE WORKERS & EXPERIENCED HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS NEEDED in local area. Concrete Finisher, Form Setter and Labor positions available. Call Brent @ 830-221-6606 or 830-537-0902 M-F, 8 to 5 ONLY. Acme Bridge Co. is EOE

Full & Part Time Positions
Great Western Dining at Midland College now hiring: Full & Part Time positions. Apply at 3600 N. Garfield Dining Hall, apply inside. Great Western Dining at Odessa College Full & Part time positions. 432-335-5435.

MERRY MAIDS
Now Hiring! PT/PT
Apply in Person.
Weekly Pay. No Nights! No Weekend! No Holidays!
2706 W Cuthbert Bldg. B 205, Midland, TX 79701.

Receptionist, Veterinary Technician, Kennel Technician
A busy and expanding veterinary practice looking for these positions. Send Resumes to: P-119 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79701

OTHER JOBS

Sales & Events Manager
Insignia Hospitality Group is now hiring full-time Sales & Events Manager. Send resumes to rachel@insigniamgmt.com

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Exploration Geologist
Independent exploration and production company seeks an exploration geologist to identify and generate oil and gas drilling opportunities in the Permian Basin. Please send resume c/o P-118 to Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79705

Land Administration Consultant
Land Administration Consultant needed for part-time project work for an independent exploration & production company. Responsibilities include preparation of land agreements, exhibits, lease/lease schedules, assignments and coordination with outside landmen in acquisition of oil and gas interests. Good land administration and word processing experience necessary. Non-smoker. Send resume to P-130 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79701

REAL ESTATE

Property Manager
Fill vacancies, schedule maintenance requests, coordinate move-outs, make-ready, and move-ins. Fast paced environment. Real Estate license/experience a plus. Salary DOE. Send resume, salary requirements, and references to propmgtappl@gmail.com

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

All Positions
Newly remodeled Schlotzsky's Deli hiring for all positions. Full and part time, day and evening shifts. Fun, grease free environment and opportunity for advancement. Apply at 1109 Andrews Hwy, Midland Texas.

SALES JOBS

Sales
Full time sales position. Salary DOE, full health benefits. Please send resumes to 2205 Garden City Hwy, Midland, TX 79701

Salesperson
Basin Engine and Pump
Experienced pump salesperson needed. Excellent compensation and benefit plans provided. Email resume to Todd@basinengine.com.

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

LABORATORY TECHNICIAN
IMPACT! Chemical Technologies is looking a Laboratory Technician. Experience a Plus. Excellent pay and benefits. Please send resumes to tbohannon@impactchemtech.com or PO Box 10697, Midland, TX 79702.

SKILLED LABOR

Cathodic Protection Technicians
Cathodic Protection Technicians needed. Some experience is preferred. Salary DOE. Locations near Big Lake TX. & Midland TX. Fax resume to 325-473-7661 or mail to West Texas Gas P.O. Drawer 8. 209 N.E. Railroad, Bronte Tx. 76933.

Diesel Mechanics
Experienced Diesel Mechanics, must have own tools. Benefits provided. Apply at 3000 Garden City Hwy, Midland TX. Fax resume to: 432-686-0920, or email: mastertrucktrailer@sbcglobal.net. Pay depends on Experience.

Field Mechanic
Basin Engine and Pump
Field Mechanic needed for Industrial Oilfield Shop. Uniforms provided. Experience is required. Benefits package includes vacation, health insurance and retirement match savings.
Salary depends on experience.
Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115
or email to Todd@basinengine.com.
Applications may be filled out at 1914 South County Rd 1083-Midland.

Project Manager
Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc.
Now hiring a commercial construction project expeditor/project manager. Competitive pay plus excellent benefits. Experience in commercial construction a must. Please send resumes to 5206 W. Wadley Ave.; Midland, Texas 79707, or you may email your resume to Alan White at alan@midtexofmidland.com

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

CDL and non-CDL Drivers
Total Logistics/Lone Star Delivery is hiring drivers. CDL and non-CDL positions available. Weekly pay, home every night, paid health insurance, competitive wages. Please call 432-561-8850 for more info and address to apply.

Class A CDL Driver
Buckley Powder Co.
Looking for a career and not just a job?
Midland, Texas location is seeking a Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat and Tanker endorsement. Pay starts at $18.00 and includes health insurance & 401K. Dependable work and home every night - no weekends. Must be willing to work outdoors, be able to lift 50 lbs., pass physical and background check, and have good driving record. If interested call David Alexander (432)294-4802 or Jason Medlin (512)618-3745.

Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement
Service Seal LLC is accepting applications for a Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement. We are a stable company that offers competitive hourly pay and excellent benefits including a $5,000.00 sign-on bonus for this position. More information regarding our benefits and the sign-on bonus will be given during the interview process. This position requires at least 3 years of verifiable professional driving experience along with passing the pre-employment background screening. Our Drivers have most weekends off and will not have many overnight deliveries. Please submit your resume to tammy@elicenter.com for review and consideration or contact Rodolfo Sanchez at 432-570-9414 to complete an application.

Class A CDL Truck Drivers
Prefer drivers with Pneumatic Tanker experience. Benefits include: medical, life and dental insurance, and paid vacation. Applicants having experience hauling sand and/or dry cement helpful. Good driving record, DOT, drug & alcohol testing required. Apply in person, call 432-563-1535 for interview or online @ www.rockwaterenergy.com

DRIVERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY
Regional Ice Manufacturer Seeking FULL-TIME Route Delivery Drivers for the Midland, TX. area. Home Every Night. Class A or B CDL Required. Pre-Employment Drug Screen and Clean Driving Record a Must. Able to lift minimum of 50 lbs. Pays $20.00 an hour plus commission. Full Benefits Package Available.
Apply online at arctictexler.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone??

Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

Contact: Linda 687-8807

Numbers don't lie.

mrt classifieds

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Events and Notices

General Announcements

BETTER READ Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ.

Legal & Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a legal sale of alcoholic beverages including mixed beverages by Francisco & Veronica Mora dba Las Moras Kitchen to be located at 3701 E. County Rd. 160, Midland, Midland County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Francisco & Veronica Alvarado.

FREE ROOM and board, plus $100 weekly to sit with a stroke victim 7am-4pm. Give no meds, give no bath. Two meals a day. Perfect job for someone taking online courses. 432-661-0352.

Real Wheel Deals! only $35 w/Photo Call for Information 432-682-6222

Schools & Instruction

PIANO, VOICE & Keyboard lessons. See musicleasonsmidland texas.com. Ronald Thomas 432-567-3289

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

2000 HONDA Civic EX Sedan. Ultra clean, custom wheels, Bluetooth stereo, moonroof, auto. trans. 24 city/32 hwy. 180,611 miles. $2900 OBO. 432-638-0277.

2004 Honda Odyssey Family Van $5,995 Call Joe 432-381-4987

2008 Mazda 3 Hatch Back $8,995 Call Ron 214-232-6337

2006 Nissan Murano SUV $9,995 Call Kevan 432-599-1868

2006 Pontiac G6 GT Convertible, Cold A/C $2,894 Call Gene 432-634-8132

2006 VW Jetta Great School Car! $8,000 Call Justin 432-210-1093

2007 Mazda 3 Hatch Back $8,995 Call Ila 915-329-5580

2009 FORD Mustang 80k Miles, Automatic $9,894 Call Sarah 214-709-5280

2009 Lincoln MKS Leather, Cold A/C, V6 $9,994 Call Vince 432-296-8041

2009 Porsche Cayenne White $33,681 Call Mitch 432-352-1311

2010 VW Jetta Great Commuter Car! $10,000 Call Cindy 432-212-6955

2011 Audi A6 Super Charger $25,000 Call Justin 432-210-1093

2011 Toyota Highlander Fully LOADED $29,500 Call Angel 580-450-0160

2011 Volvo S70 Leather Seat $11,500 Call Cindy 432-212-6955

2014 VW Jetta Low Miles $14,000 Call Angel 580-450-0160

BMW 2007 328i, sport package, 2 door, black exterior, beige leather interior. 90K miles. $14,000 OBO. 432-289-5338.

NEW TODAY!

BUICK 1987 LeSabre T-type Limited Edition. Excellent condition, loaded, sliding sunroof. $4800. 432-528-6217

CADILLAC 1997 SLS, Good parts car, has been wrecked, lots of new parts on it. $1800 OBO. 432-238-7726

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Legal & Public Notices

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit, Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit with FB and PE by Midland Sheraton Concessionaire LLC dba Four Points by Sheraton Midland, located at 5515 Starboard Drive, Midland /Midland County Texas. Manager/Member of said LLC is Sandeep Patel.

Legal & Public Notices

AUCTION
1023 N. Midkiff - Midland Texas
Saturday, August 15th - 9 AM
Preview Friday, August 14th - 11am-1pm
Estate Liquidation of Charles H. Moore DBA Audio Pro

Everything must sell from brand new inventory to store fixtures. Audio Equipment - Video Equipment - Tools -Pickup Truck Loads of Repaired Items, Test Equipment - Wiring

This Auction is Huge, Short list

New Metal Rolling Carts-Miller M220 Welder- Cutting Touch- Commercial Grade Delta Drill Press-Craftsman Drill Press-65 Gal SHP. Air Compressor. New Speakers- Sound Systems-Microphone's - Projection TVs- Display Cases - Large selection of Video Equipment The list Goes on and on!

Due to The Nature of This Auction Children will not be Allowed (For their safety)

For more information go to karen'sauction. com.

or call 432-272-2266. Auctioneer Jack Parnell, Texas Lic. # 16100.

Passenger Cars

CHRYSLER 2005 300 C, sunroof, navigation, aluminum wheels, Boston acoustical sound, leather, vanilla color. 52,500 miles, new tires, clean trade in NADA. $10,275. 432-296-0435

DODGE 2015 Challenger SXT Plus, 5000 miles. White ext/black int, nav, premium stereo, 20" wheels, garaged, like new $28,900 OBO 432-685-7744

FORD, 2009, Mustang Pony Pkg, 62,000 miles. $13,500. Black exterior, gray interior. Very, good condition call or text 432-638-9410.

Pickup Trucks

CHEVROLET, 2010 Silverado WT. Only 2,000 miles. Like new. White. Bedliner. Auto, V6, air, power steering and brakes. $18,750. 432-553-4729.

GMC, 2010 Sierra SLT Quad Cab 4X4 For Sale. Low Mileage!! Excellent Condition!! Red with Grey Interior. New Tires. Asking $25,500. 296-8028.

Reduced. Chevrolet, 2003, 4X4, white, 130,000 highway miles, leather seats, crew cab. $13,000. Will consider a trade. Contact Bill Jackson, 1501 W. Illinois. 432-557-3366.

TOYOTA, 2005 X-Runner for sale. Electric blue. 75,000 miles. Manual transmission. Drives great , cold a/c. Must come to Fort Stockton to look at it. Call 432/290-9305.

Fax It! 432-682-6999

4WD & SUV

FORD, 2008 EXPEDITION EL 118,000 MILES. One owner, Well maintained, Non smoker. Leather interior, 4 captain chairs, front seats are heated and cooled DVD player for the kids with headphones. Dual power seats in the front. Power 3rd row seats, will lay flat for more cargo space. Power running boards. $14,500.00 Call 432 686 8915

JEEP 2006 Grand Cherokee. Hemi engine, new tires and brakes. Leather interior, navigation system, Video Entertainment System, 6 disk CD player, heated seats. Excellent condition with 95,000 miles, $ 12,000. Mike - 694-7111 or 580-4140.

MAZDA 2011 CX7, 47K miles, great condition. Asking $15,000. 432-488-7780

TOYOTA 2006 Ranch Rover 72Kmiles. Fully loaded with moon roof. Call 432-528-0099 or 432-682-9513

Watercraft

1983 AlumaWeld Boat, 48" x 16' long w/ aluminum covered bow, 1987 Evinrude 40HP motor (replaced parts, new gas tank, runs great!), tiller steering, 1984 Skipper B trailer (new tires). Minn Kota 585 trolling motor. Excellent condition! 432-634-4067.

1994 RANGER 393V boat 19' w/ Johnson 175hp, dual amp charger, trolling motor, 2 new batteries, tandem axle trailer, $6750.00. Call Roger 432.210.4435

2008 TAHOE 215 Deckboat combination ski & fish. Mercury 4.3 TKS V-6, like new. Adds: Depth finder, 5 Prop stainless, XM Alpine stereo, Bimini top. $18000. Call Darwid 432-664-8083 or 432-682-5017.

Fax Your Classified Ad Today! 682-6999

Recreational Vehicles

2011 Heartland Greystone Bunkhouse FW w/Rear Bunkhouse w/Dbl. Sofa Slide outs, 1/2 Bath w/Toilet, Sink & Linen Cabinet, Slide out Free Standing Dinette, Chair & Sleeper Sofa in Living Area, Ent. Center, Dbl. Kitchen Sink, 3 Burner Range, Refrigerator, Step Up to Shower, Private Toilet Area, Front Queen Bed Slide, Dresser, Front Wall Wardrobe w/Sliding Doors and camping extras! 432-638-1350. NADA value $42,400- Sell for payoff $27,970.

Miscellaneous for Sale

KEN'S RV SALES

LARGEST SELECTION OF USED TRAILERS IN THE BASIN

TRY US ONCE YOU'LL BE BACK

TOY HAULERS FIFTH WHEEL GO RVing BUMPER PULLS MOTORHOMES

8:30-5:30 Mon - Fri • 9-3 Sat

Watercraft

TAHOE 2010 G7 20' 6" Ski-Fish. Black Cherry & Almond with CD/stereo, fish finder & depth finder. Removable trolling motor, V8 engine. Less than 75 hours. Has been garaged and is in good condition. $26,500. 432-466-3611

Recreational Vehicles

2009, 40 foot, 5th wheel. 3 slide outs, 2 bedroom, washer/ dryer, 2 - A/C's, garden tub, queen bed, one owner, excellent condition. Can be seen in TX. $25,000 OBO. 317-937-1482.

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Level: 1 2 3 4

3	8		9		5			
	2				8			
		7			3	4		
	7						2	
	4	6				5	1	
	3							
9			7			1		
			2				3	
			4		1		7	2

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

3	2	8	5	9	1	4	6	7
7	4	6	2	3	8	9	5	1
1	5	9	7	4	6	2	8	3
8	7	4	6	2	3	1	9	5
6	3	5	1	7	9	8	2	4
9	1	2	4	8	5	7	3	6
5	8	7	9	6	4	3	1	2
2	6	3	8	1	7	5	4	9
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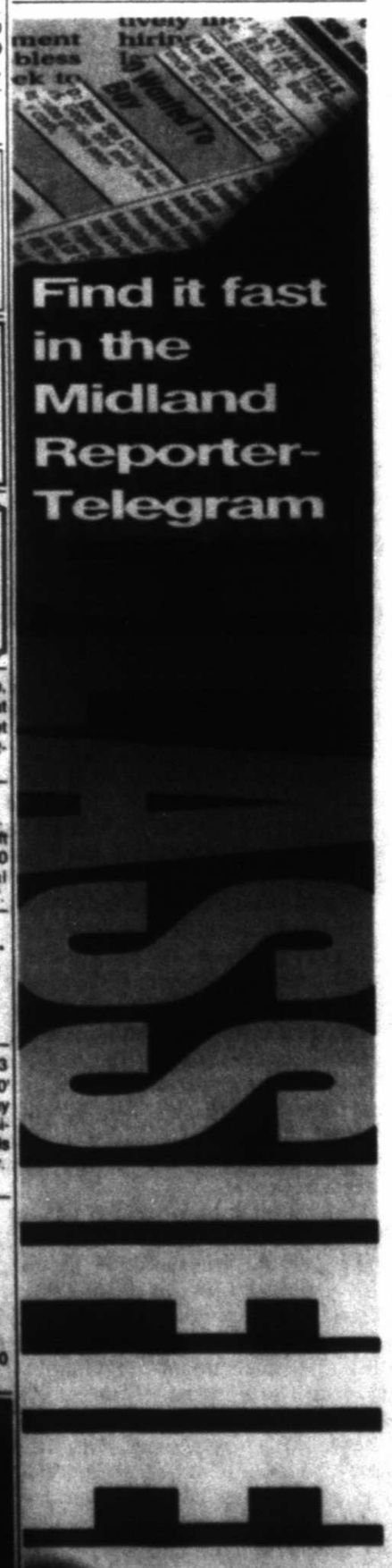

DROPPING LEVELS

AP file photo

On June 3, 2014, the Paradise Fossil Plant stands in Drakesboro, Ky. The Energy Department said America's carbon dioxide pollution from power plants hit a 27-year low in April. The electric power sector, responsible for about one-third of the country's heat-trapping emissions, spewed 141 million tons of carbon dioxide in April, the lowest for any month since April 1988.

US carbon pollution from power plants hits 27-year low

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Heat-trapping pollution from U.S. power plants hit a 27-year low in April, the Department of Energy announced Wednesday.

A big factor was the long-term shift from coal to cleaner and cheaper natural gas, said Energy Department economist Allen McFarland. Outside experts also credit more renewable fuel use and energy efficiency.

Carbon dioxide — from the burning of coal, oil and gas — is the chief greenhouse gas responsible for man-made global warming.

"While good news for the environment, we certainly would not want to assume that this trend will continue and that we can simply relax," said John Reilly, co-director of MIT's Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change.

Electric power plants spewed 141 million tons of carbon dioxide in April, the lowest for any month since April 1988, according to Energy Department figures. The power plants are responsible for about one-third of the country's heat-trapping emissions.

April emissions peaked at 192 million tons in 2008 and dropped by 26 percent in seven years.

Carbon pollution from power plants hit their peak in August 2007 with 273 million tons; summer emissions are higher because air conditioning requires more power.

In past years, experts said the U.S. reduction in carbon dioxide pollution was more a function of a sluggish economy, but McFarland said that's no longer the case.

"You don't have a 27-year low because of an economic blip," McFarland said. "There are more things happening than that."

The price of natural gas has dropped 39 percent in the past year, he said. Federal analysts predict that this year the amount of electricity from natural gas will increase 3 percent compared to last year while the power from coal will go down 10 percent.

Those reductions were calculated before this week's announcements of new power plant rules. The new rules aim to cut carbon pollution from electricity generators another 20 percent from current levels by 2030.

The pollution cuts in April are because efficiency has cut electricity demand and energy from non-hydropower renewable sources has more than doubled, said Princeton University professor Michael Oppenheimer.

"A factor behind all these trends is that the writing is on the wall about the future of coal and thus the future of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions," Oppenheimer said in an email. "The regulatory noose is tightening and companies are anticipating a future with lower and lower dependence on fossil fuels and lower and lower carbon dioxide emissions."

Coca-Cola takes heat for funding 'energy balance' group

By Leon Stafford
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

ATLANTA — Coca-Cola found itself on the defensive Monday after a report said the beverage giant had been secretly funding a "scientific" group that says Americans are getting fatter because of a lack of physical fitness — not sugary drinks.

The group, Global Energy Balance Network, bills itself as a not-for-profit "dedicated to identifying and implementing innovative solutions — based on the science of energy balance — to prevent and reduce diseases associated with inactivity, poor nutrition and obesity."

But a New York Times report said the group did not reveal that its operations are financially backed by Atlanta-based Coke.

Coke did not directly respond Monday but said it supports efforts to cut Americans' calorie consumption.

Health officials and those who link consumption of sugary drinks to obesity and diabetes said the lack of transparency is part of a growing trend among some companies attempting to influence public opinion through scientific expertise.

Other examples include the American Council on Science and Health, the International Food Information Council and the Center for Consumer Freedom, author and blogger Vani Hari, also known as the Food Babe, wrote in a July blog on "hired" experts.

"They are trying to hijack the narrative, to cause confusion," said Dr. Mark Hyman, a physician with the UltraWellness Center in Lenox, Mass., and author of several books on diet and controlling blood sugar.

Coke has struggled to stop a domestic decline in consumption of its carbonated brands — such as Coke, Diet Coke and Sprite — which peaked in the late 1990s but have suffered as consumers switch to waters, teas and energy drinks because of obesity and health concerns.

The brands have seen an uptick in interest in smaller, 7.5-ounce and aluminum-bottle versions, which helped Coke report second-quarter profits of $3.11 billion, up from $2.6 billion a year earlier.

In a statement, Coca-Cola did not address the Times report that it funded the GEBN, but said it has joined with the American Beverage Association, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and others to help every person reduce calorie consumption by 20 percent by 2025.

"Coca-Cola supports finding solutions to obesity, including funding scientific research. We recognize that moderation and diet play a pivotal role in managing health and weight in combination with exercise. In fact, we continue to take steps to help people manage their calories — whether it's through the introduction of smaller-sized packs, front-of-pack calorie labeling or innovation through new products such as Coca-Cola Life," the company said.

In a video on the Global Energy Balance Network's site, exercise scientist Steven Blair, of the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina, said there is a need to find out what is actually causing the obesity epidemic and that more data is necessary.

"Most of the focus in the popular media and in the scientific press is 'Oh, they are eating too much' … blaming fast food, blaming sugary drinks and so on. And there's really virtually no compelling evidence that that, in fact, is the cause."

The Times story said Coke donated $1.5 million to start the GEBN last year and that its website, gebn.org, is registered to Coke headquarters in Atlanta.

Coke registered the website because network members did not know how, James Hill, a University of Colorado School of Medicine professor who is president of the group, told the Times.

"They're not running the show," he told the Times. "We're running the show."

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So many podcasts with so little time is a nice problem to have

Dear PropellerHeads: I feel like I am late to the podcast dance. Any tips for getting me up to speed so I don't look lame when my friends ask me what I am listening to?

Sometimes it's ok to be fashionably late to the party. You now have an in-depth library of great podcasts to choose from as well as established series so you can seem current. It's like that moment your parents finally figure out what Netflix is and Mom gets hooked on Orange is the New Black. It's all new and amazing and who cares that she is three seasons late? Norma Toast is worth the wait.

So here are a couple of things to wet your whistle.

If you want to be hip and grown-up, or grown-up and still hip (it's like a chicken-and-egg thing), you should be listening to This American Life (bit.ly/1oF78kf). Ira Glass hosts the popular radio show and accompanying podcast (basically being the king of educational entertainment) in this award-winning and most-recognized podcast out there.

Once you get acquainted with Ira, start your love affair with Serial (serialpodcast.org), a spin-off of TAL. It delves deep into a real-life murder case unfurling the story one episode at a time. Its smart structure, twists, and turns make it a must-follow after episode one. It quickly became a phenomenon, being downloaded over 60 million times, and its much-anticipated second season is due out this fall.

Welcome to Night Vale (commonplacebooks.com) gives you glimpses into the creepy, fictional desert town of Night Vale in the style of old-time radio programming, including weather updates, news stories and community happenings. Be forewarned these are not your Grammy's stories.

Perhaps you want to be entertained but you also just want to know things. Check out Stuff You Should Know (bit.ly/1lEWKEv). Hosted by the creators of How Stuff Works, this podcast covers a topic on everyone's interest list.

If you want to understand more complex ideas but need them simplified, check out Freakonomics Radio (bit.ly/1qT1vK4). From the authors of the book by the same name, the topics are dense and topical but explained in a highly relatable way. In other words, it will totally make you sound smart when you repeat it word-for-word to your friends later.

You got the giggles or need some more of them? Mark Maron's WTF (wtfpod.com) is kind of a trailblazer in this category. Whether it's your bag or not, you should check it out because you won't be able to talk comedy podcasts with your buds without having this one under your belt. We like to keep it nerdy here, so you might want to check out The Indoor Kids (bit.ly/1IdTAmG) — comedy and gaming, just our speed.

Did someone say keep it nerdy? Star Talk Radio (bit.ly/1cuyiC1) with Neil deGrasse Tyson is the best of this now randomly awesome, purveyor of sciences. If your wormhole theory is not on point, NdGT is sure to lay the smackdown.

You could also take a listen to Talking Machines (thetalkingmachines.com). This fairly new podcast has already landed some big dogs in machine learning from Facebook and Google as guests. I am pretty sure you become a robot after two episodes but that could have its upsides.

If you want something light-hearted but still dorktastic, the Nerdist Podcast (bit.ly/1SyB5RO) could do the trick. One interview features Booger from Revenge of the Nerds ... need I say more?

Music, anyone? Check out Popcast (nyti.ms/1iYfRtS). New York Times music critics keep you up-to-date on what is relevant in music right now and provide some insight on trends as well as behind-the-scenes scoop. If you want a more touchy-feely approach, check out Soul Music (bbc.in/1KKP56T). This series breaks down songs through interviews and how they were significant to those individuals through storytelling. I don't know about you, but I am feeling all the feels right now.

Need a snack? Try out The Sporkful (sporkful.com) and Spilled Milk (spilledmilkpodcast.com). Foodies, cooks, and just plain eaters can find something to chew on here.

Have a knitting itch you need to scratch? Yeah, I was going to mention a podcast about knitting but I didn't want the three subscribers to suddenly jump to seven and completely shock the system.

My point is there is something for everyone, all of which could be easily addicting, mildly pretentious, and provide hours of listening pleasure. You now have a crib sheet. You're welcome.

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