MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

GOOD DEEDS

52 Faces honors Christmas in Action's Bobby Trimble

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EGG-CELLENT EASTER

The Easter holiday has come and gone, but you can re-live all of the activities and Easter egg hunts from the past week in our online slideshow.

mrt.com

Production in the Permian up; other basins wane

By Rye Druzin
rdruzin@mrt.com

The Permian Basin is the only major shale play in the U.S. with growing oil production, according to figures from the U.S. Energy Information Agency.

The Permian added 21,000 barrels of production a day (bbl/d) between March and April, bringing the Permian's overall oil production up to 1.982 million bbl/d, according the EIA.

Other major oil-producing regions have seen production drop. The Bakken shale in North Dakota saw production fall by 8,000 bbl/d to 1.32 million bbl/d, while the Eagle Ford in south Texas dropped 10,000 bbl/d to 1.723 million bbl/d. The Niobrara region, which stretches across Colorado and Wyoming, fell by 5,000 bbl/d to 413,000 bbl/d, according to the EIA.

Oil production increases in the Permian is down from a peak of 46,000 new bbl/d in December, and despite a sharp drop in the number of drilling rigs the region has responded with continued growth. The EIA figures show that the Permian has more than doubled oil production since 2010, and a similar increase has happened in the Niobrara region. The Bakken shale has increased production five-fold — almost 1 million barrels a day since 2010, while the Eagle Ford rose from tens of thousands of barrels to 1.7 million bbl/d in the same period.

This tremendous growth is being tempered by a significant drop in oil prices since late November. Rig counts have plummeted as a glut of oil on the international market has made exploration and production companies slash budgets, according to previous Reporter-Telegram articles.

The EIA data also shows that production in the Permian from so-called "legacy" — or existing — oil wells has steadily dropped: from 10,000 bbl/d fewer in 2007 to 70,000 bbl/d fewer in 2015. Similar trends can be seen in the Bakken and the Eagle Ford. This falling production from legacy wells is cutting deep into production from new wells. While between March and April an additional 90,000 bbl/d were produced from new wells in the Permian, legacy wells lost 69,000 bbl/d.

The drop in production for legacy wells has been explained by industry experts, such as former Permian Basin Petroleum Association president Morris Burns, as a result of the drying up of the "first flush," which is the initial wave of production from hydraulically fractured wells that wanes after the first year or two.

Follow Rye on Twitter at @druzin_journo.

Inside

U.S. crude oil production surged last year by the largest volume in more than 100 years.

American producers pumped an additional 1.2 million bbl/d of crude oil and condensate in 2014 compared with the year before, reaching 8.7 million bbl/d, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

It was the largest increase in production since record-keeping started in 1900.

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FIRE IN THE NIGHT



A man performs with fire recently in downtown Midland. *James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram*

MISD to host free health fair at Chap Center

■ Event to include demonstrations, taste testings, vendor booths

"It's an opportunity for people to see what's available in town. We're going to have some testing, demonstrations, free water — it will cover everything from sleep apnea to blood pressure to weight loss to mental wellness. We're trying to hit every avenue."

Mary Thompson, MISD physical education, health and wellness director

By Steve Kuhlmann
skuhlmann@mrt.com

Midland Independent School District is giving its employees — and the community at large — an opportunity to learn more about healthy living at MISD Health Fair planned for Thursday at Chaparral Center.

MISD's physical education, health and wellness director, Mary Thompson, said she hopes the event will provide good resources for those interested in pursuing a healthier lifestyle.

"Just getting people the information and the tools to be able to live a healthy lifestyle is huge for me," Thompson said. "I want them to be successful in their lives, physically, mentally and emotionally."

Thompson said it is important to her that people know that the fair is more than "just all about weight loss." While Weight Watchers is one of the organizations participating in the event, Thompson said there will be "all kinds of opportunity" at the fair.

Among the participating vendors are the Permian Basin Bicycle Association, Midland YMCA, Run this Way, Disaster Preparedness, Phase 4 Wellness and The Life Center. Additionally, the event will feature demonstrations, including cooking, Brazilian jiu-jitsu and tennis.

"It's an opportunity for people to see what's available in town," Thompson said. "We're going to have some testing, demonstrations, free water — it will cover everything from sleep apnea to blood pressure to weight loss to mental wellness. We're trying to hit every avenue."

Thompson said that promoting healthy living in the community is important to her both personally and professionally.

"I'm very passionate about people having healthy lifestyles and having the opportunity to make that happen," Thompson said. "I'm excited that people are thinking about (wellness), that they have a desire to live healthy lifestyles (and) I'm also excited to help people reach their goals."

While fair organizers are hoping to attract as many MISD employees as they can, Thompson is encouraging members of the community to attend.

"It's for everybody," Thompson said. "We're trying to get our employees out, but we definitely want the community to come and get the information."

The fair sprang from a 2014 MISD in-service, in which employees were asked "what they wanted to see out of a wellness program."

"I compiled a list from the employees of what they were looking for," Thompson said. "Anything that they asked me for, I researched companies around the community and reached out to them to see if they would be interested in coming to the health fair."

The event runs from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Chap Center. Admission is free.

Gun store employee shot in chest at shop

From staff reports

A gun store employee was in critical condition at Midland Memorial Hospital on Sunday after he was shot in the chest on Saturday evening, according to city spokeswoman Sara Bustilloz.

Midland police and fire responded to a call at about 10:08 p.m. When they arrived at S&K Arms Co. in a northwest Midland shopping center, they found one man who had been shot in the chest, according to Bustilloz. The injured store employee was taken to MMH in critical condition. Bustilloz said there was another employee, also a male, at the store when officials arrived. The store, located in the 4400 block of North Midland Drive, was not open at the time officials responded to the call.

Bustilloz said the investigation is still active, and no names have been released at this time. She also said the other employee was interviewed and that no arrests have been made.

Coal-to-gas plant to break ground this year

By Ryan Holeywell
Houston Chronicle

A new power plant in West Texas that could transform coal into cleaner-burning natural gas is poised to break ground later this year, an executive in charge of the project said at a conference in Houston on Wednesday.

The project, located on a 600-acre site in Odessa, uses coal as a feedstock for a 400 megawatt power plant. But instead of burning it, the plant uses a chemical process to first strip it of carbon, sulfur and mercury.

The result, project leaders say, is a hydrocarbon that can fuel the power plan but burns even cleaner than natural gas — even though it was derived from coal. The extra carbon dioxide that gets stripped away is sold to production company Whiting Petroleum, which can pump in underground through a process known as enhanced oil recovery that helps coax more hydrocarbons from the earth.

"We're not actually burning coal; we're

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Did you know? The film 'Furious 7' brought in $143.8 million in its first weekend. Read more on 4A.

The big number In the 1800s, about 1,000 dance halls sprung up in Texas. Find out how many are left today. 3A

Our View Council gets more bang for its incentive dollar. 6A

Coming Tuesday Midlander gives tips on traveling abroad with kids.

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Shrine to Confederacy awaits flags for fruition

By Manuella Libardi
The Beaumont Enterprise

ORANGE — Despite community concerns about the city of Orange's image, motorists entering Texas from Louisiana on Interstate 10 will be greeted by 32 waving flags representing Texas regiments of the Confederate army as soon as the flagpoles are erected.

The Confederate memorial near Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Orange is nearing completion, despite earlier attempts to prevent construction. The free speech rights of Sons of Confederate Veterans trumps the disgust of many citizens.

"I don't like it. I think it's a bad idea," Orange City Attorney John Cash "Jack" Smith said last week. "But they own the property, and the First Amendment warrants them that right."

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, the group behind the $50,000-memorial, just ordered the custom-made flag poles, said Marshal Davis, Texas Division spokesman.

The group has been raising money for the project for two years and construction has moved along as fund have allowed.

The thirteen columns that represent the states that fought on the side of the Confederacy during the Civil War already stand north of the interstate off Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

The group will add eight flags as soon as the poles come in — though Davis can't estimate when that will be — and the remaining flags will be added in increments of eight as funds allow until all 32 stand around the circular monument, Davis said.

Each flag with have a nameplate and history of the flag.

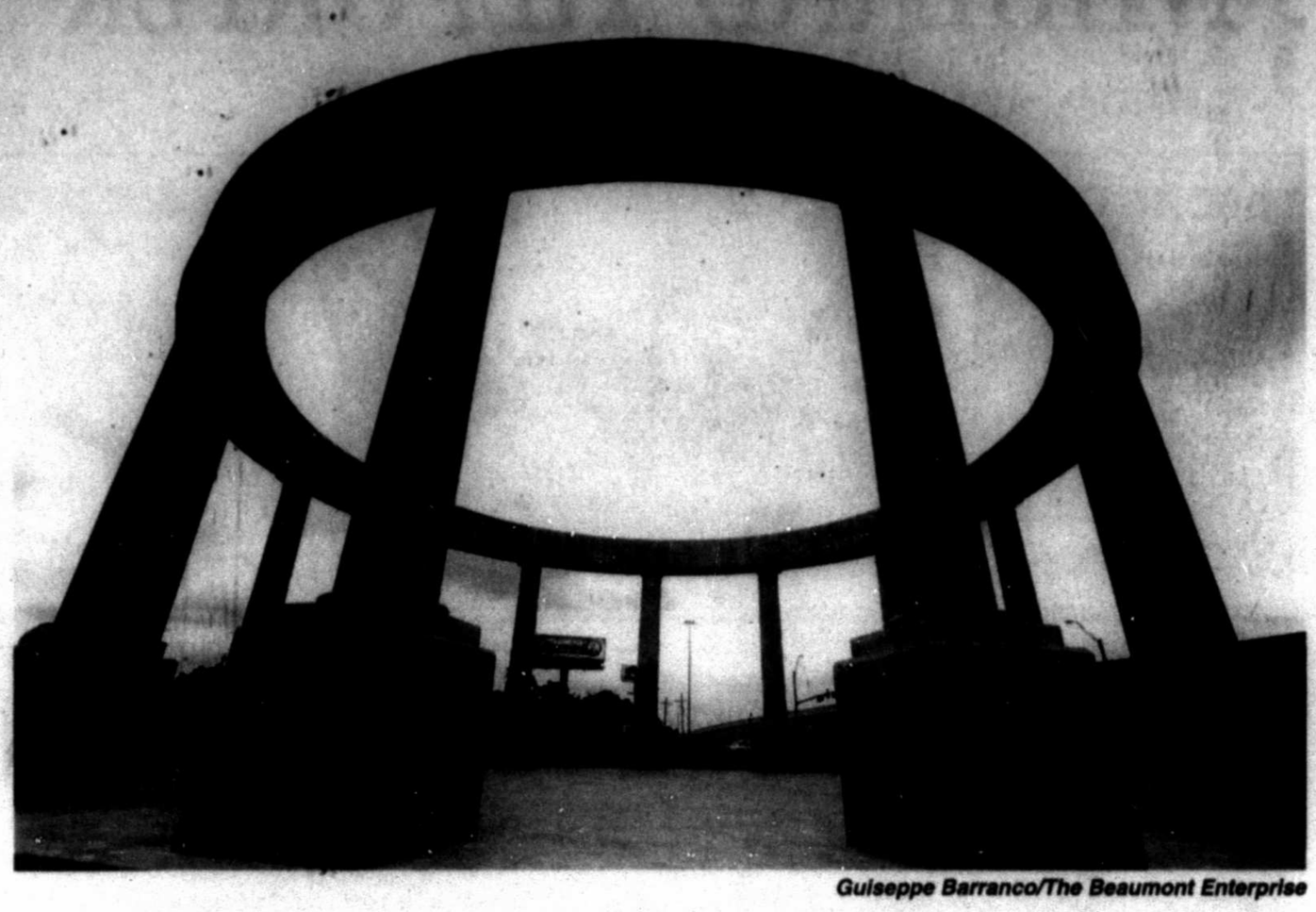
Locals whose ancestors fought in the Confederate Army or Navy also contributed to the memorial by purchasing bricks at $50, $300 and $500 and benches at $800, according to the group's website.

Residents criticized the council for allowing the project to move forward. But Smith said the city could have been sued if its officials had tried to block it.

"Sometimes we don't like somebody's free speech," Smith said. "But we can't stop it."

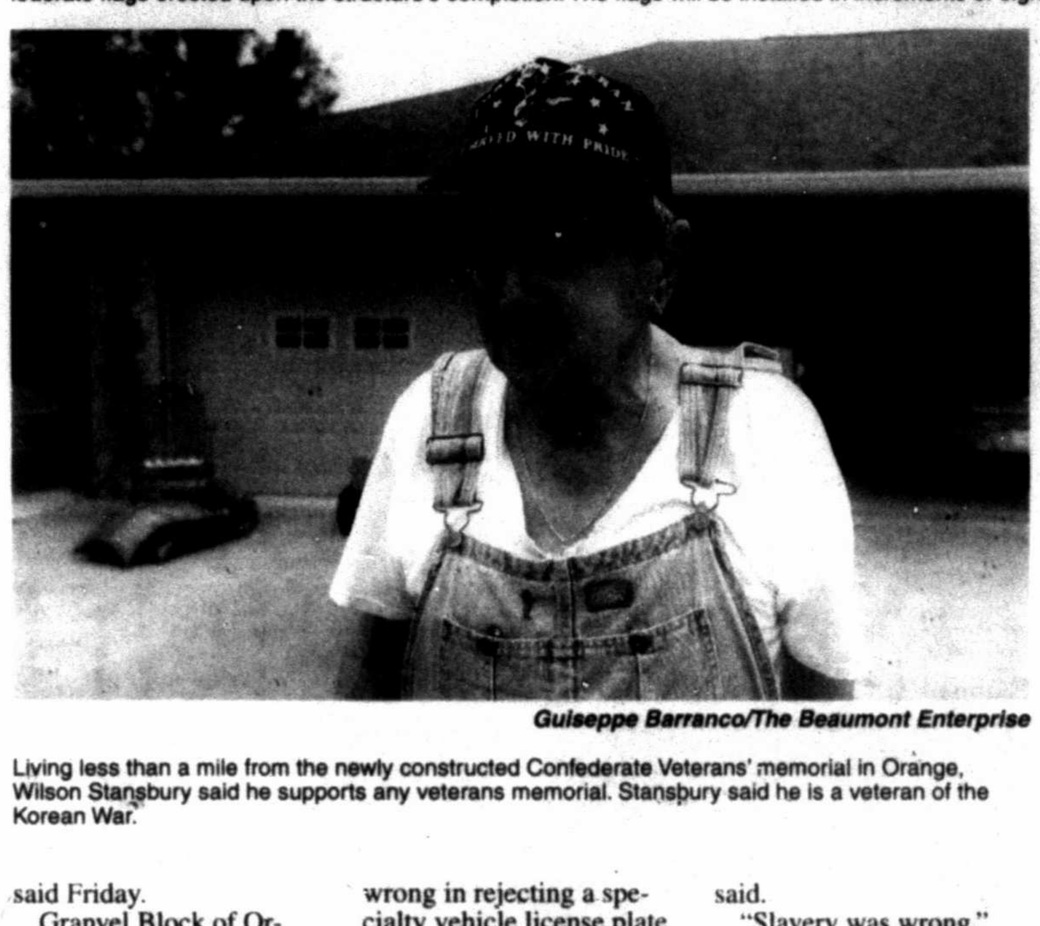
Paul Jones, president of the Beaumont chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, questioned whether erecting a memorial that honors those who promoted and fought for the enslavement of fellow human beings is even a matter of freedom of speech and expression.

"When you try to express your opinion to dehumanize a group of people, it's no longer a matter of freedom of speech," Jones said Friday.



Guiseppe Barranco/The Beaumont Enterprise

The Confederate memorial, seen here April 3 at Orange's Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Interstate 10 is scheduled to have 32 Confederate flags erected upon the structure's completion. The flags will be installed in increments of eight.



Guiseppe Barranco/The Beaumont Enterprise

Living less than a mile from the newly constructed Confederate Veterans' memorial in Orange, Wilson Stansbury said he supports any veterans memorial. Stansbury said he is a veteran of the Korean War.

Granvel Block of Orange, commander of the statewide SVC group and the Orange camp and main force behind the project, rebuffs arguments that slavery was the cause of the Civil War.

He said slave owners were scattered across the map, not just the south. He said the Confederate states fought for their sovereignty when "our states were invaded by northern troops."

Granvel said the memorial, besides honoring Confederate veterans, will serve an educational purpose, setting the record straight on many aspects of the Confederacy's history.

"So many things (about the Confederacy) have been taught wrong or with a poor skew," according to written material that Davis provided.

Granvel, who also is a plaintiff in a recent free-speech case brought before the U.S. Supreme Court that argued that Texas was wrong in rejecting a specialty vehicle license plate displaying the Confederate flag, has since asked Davis to handle all questions about the Orange memorial.

When the Sons of Confederate Veterans proposed the memorial in February 2013, Orange citizens flocked to a city council meeting to speak against the project.

No one spoke for it, but when The Enterprise posed the question in an unscientific survey in February 2013, 77 percent of respondents said they supported the memorial because the Confederate Army and Civil War are part of our history.

Wilson Stansbury, a Korean-war veteran who lives across the interstate from the memorial, said he doesn't oppose the memorial because it helps preserve history. Although horrible, slavery happened and younger generations should know about it, he said.

"Slavery was wrong," Stansbury said. "But everybody should know that it happened. You can't deny history."

Meredith Morgan, an Orange native who strongly opposes the monument, believes there's a difference between passing on history and honoring it. She also said extremists group, like the Ku Klux Klan, have altered the original meaning behind the Confederate flag and that Orange citizens need to take that into account today.

"This is the same flag that was adopted by white extremist groups and has been a symbol of hate," said Morgan, who signed a petition at the time that sought to stop the construction of the monument. "How do we explain to our children that this monument only represents the divide of the United States in the directional sense? In its best form, the flag is still a symbol of division and rebellion."

Concerns about the impression the 32 flags will stamp on the town continue to worry public officials and residents alike. Orange County Judge Stephen Brint Carlton believes that the location Block chose for the memorial could be divisive.

"I am aware of the Confederate Memorial constructed on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, a road honoring one of America's greatest civil rights leaders," he said Friday. "As an American and lawyer, I recognize the group's right to freedom of speech and this memorial.

"However, I am deeply concerned about the impression this structure will leave on those living in and traveling through Orange County. I worry it will do more to divide our community than unite it, especially considering its location," Carlton said.

The location didn't intend to "stir the pot," Block said at the time. When looking for a place to build the memorial, he found an inexpensive lot on Interstate 10 for $9,000.

Most similar tracts in Orange, he said, run $40,000 to $50,000.

Jones questioned whether the community would be accepting of a memorial that honored those who fought on Nazi Germany's side in World War II.

He suggested there would be an outcry if anyone erected a monument displaying the swastika.

Jones called the memorial a "slap in the face" of African Americans who are still trying to recover from the wounds inflicted on their culture.

"Why would you want to glorify that part of history?" Jones said. "That's a big question mark in my mind."

STATE&REGIONBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WICHITA FALLS

'The Rock' — of geology — brings joy to Texas campus

Geology students at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls have something new on campus to study: a salmon-colored, nearly 3-ton, 535-million-year old rock discovered on a trash site.

They're calling it "The Rock."

While the name might need work, the stone itself was welcomed last week by a small group of geology students, professors and administrators.

The Wichita Falls Times Record News reported that The Rock was discovered along with concrete debris after a recent rain.

One professor thinks the rock is made of Quanah granite and stems from an era when southern Oklahoma had active volcanoes.

HOSUTON

At 50, Astrodome remains in limbo

Happy 50th birthday to the Houston Astrodome.

This Thursday will mark 50 years since the opening of the "Eighth Wonder of the World," which closed its doors several years ago and faces an uncertain future. City officials haven't decided whether to tear it down after voters rejected a referendum to approve $217 million in bonds for a refurbishment.

Mickey Mantle homered in the April 9, 1965, exhibition between the New York Yankees and Houston Astros that opened the building, but the home team won that day. The Astros played in the stadium until 1999 and the NFL's Houston Oilers left for Tennessee after the 1996 season.

What once was a flashy, ahead-of-its-time sign of Houston's burgeoning ambitions now stands unused and without a plan. Harris County Judge Ed Emmett previously told the Houston Chronicle that annual maintenance on the building still costs $166,000 and that "just leaving the Dome in place to deteriorate has never been an option."

It took a $63,000 power wash in November to clear black streaks that had formed on the outside of the building.

James Glassman, founder of the preservation group Houstorian, said he wanted to keep the Dome as a monument to the city.

"We certainly have plenty to celebrate," he said. "Let's feel tiny underneath the massive structure and contemplate our own place in the universe."

Emmett has suggested creating an indoor park or recreation area, or possibly demolishing it.

"I'm no great architect," said Fred Hofheinz, a former Houston mayor whose father, famous ex-Harris County Judge Roy Hofheinz, helped bring the Astrodome to fruition. "But I think over the years it's had a greater shelf life than a lot of more complex places because the Dome was very simple. You take a fish and turn it upside down, and there it is. I think the simplicity is part of what has helped it endure."

NEW MEXICO

college's name change stirs dispute

ESPANOLA — A name change is at the center of a dispute involving a northern New Mexico college already entangled in accusations of budget mismanagement and poor leadership, a school official said Saturday.

The Board of Regents at Northern New Mexico College voted last January to rename the institution Northern New Mexico University, a move that irked several lawmakers and even some school officials.

Newly confirmed regent Damian Martinez said the school should cease referring to itself as a university because the Legislature never approved the change. "My position is that it needs to be changed by statute," Martinez said.

Martinez was not yet in office when the board voted 4-0 on the name change. Two of the regents who did are no longer serving on the board.

Legislation proposing the name change died in session last month. Sen. Carlos Cisneros, a Democrat from Quest who sponsored the bill, told the Santa Fe New Mexican that he decided the proposal warranted further review.

Ricky Serna, the college's vice president of advancement, said he shared Cisneros' concerns. But he also disputed claims that the regents acted out of turn by changing the school's name outside of the Legislature. "Tell us where the process was defined and how we didn't follow it," Serna said in an emailed statement.

Sen. Mimi Stewart, D-Albuquerque, said the school doesn't deserve university status. "Frankly, I don't think they rise to the level of a university. They have no graduate programs," Stewart said.

Stewart said she also believes regents did not have the authority to vote on the change, and school administrators should have consulted with the state Higher Education Department. "I think they did it in such a sloppy way," she said.

The Espanola school has been saddled in the past year with budget constraints and other issues. Critics demanded last year that the state Higher Education Department investigate the school for mismanagement of federal funds, increased tuition and cuts to programs.



Associated Press

On Dec. 6, 2014, girls dance to fiddle music at Twin Sisters Dance Hall in Blanco. A preservation group says old Texas dance halls that for years served as important social centers in rural areas of the state are decaying and closing, with comparatively few still operating

Old dance halls decaying, but some won't let them fade

By David Warren
Associated Press

KENDALIA — About 40 miles north of San Antonio, along a lonely two-lane road, stands a bedraggled, tin-sided building that hints at Texas' past.

Kendalia Halle's multi-tiered wooden truss was decked out in white lights as Bruce and Louetta Schwab joined about 200 others for a monthly dance. The Schwabs live east of Dallas and during their recent visit to central Texas Hill Country decided to visit the old hall, where patrons paid about $20 to hear Bobby Jordan and the Ridgecreek Band.

"It's a combination of her love to dance and my interest in German history," said Bruce Schwab.

Kendalia Halle was built more than 100 years ago by German immigrants, who through the latter half of the 19th century comprised more than 5 percent of the state's population, according to the Texas State Historical Commission. It's one of an estimated 1,000 dance halls that sprung up around Texas in the 1800s, knitting together German, Czech, Polish and other immigrant communities.

About 400 such halls still stand — many unused and decaying — but only two traditional Texas dance halls continue to operate on nearly a daily basis: Luckenbach hall in Fredericksburg and Gruene Hall in New Braunfels.

"The culture has shifted away from rural areas where most of the halls are, but what we see is that these cultures are foundational to what Texans are and what Texas is," said Patrick Sparks, board president of Texas Dance Hall Preservation.

Sparks' group and others are working to preserve the state's remaining dance halls, in part by creating an inventory so that the most distinctive ones become candidates for the National Register of Historic Places. Such designation would enable the halls to apply for grant assistance and protections against encroaching development.

More practically, it would raise their profile among tourists and other travelers.

"You can still go out on a Saturday night and experience an authentic dance hall like you could 100 years ago, and that's something that really defines our culture here in Texas," Sparks said.

Some dance halls also are architecturally unique, according to Sparks. The Cat Spring Agricultural Society Pavilion west of Houston is a 12-sided hall built in 1902 by German immigrants that features an elaborate wooden truss rising up to a cupola. At one time there were about 40 such "round halls" in the state, Sparks said, but now just half that number exist.

Carolyn Vogel is president of a nonprofit association that operates the Twin Sisters Dance Hall. It's believed Twin Sisters, not far from Kendalia Halle, has hosted at least a monthly dance since the 1880s.

It costs about $16,000 a year for volunteers to maintain the building. "On a good year we break even," Vogel said.

The association is seeking an IRS designation as a charitable organization that would allow it to apply for state grants and other money, which would prove valuable in addressing expensive repairs like the nearly $20,000 needed to replace the roof, she said.

Twin Sisters, founded by German immigrants, for years served as a vital community center, Vogel said, and it's important "to reacquaint and refamiliarize people with this heritage."

"We're really working to bring people back," she said. "I think it's a unique type of entertainment, also."

From about 1870 into the 1920s, European immigrants in Texas built hundreds of these halls. They largely served as meeting places for agricultural groups, rifle clubs and mutual benefit societies. Over time, Sparks said, they also became important social centers that on many evenings hosted popular dances.

The popularity of the halls waned as Texas' population shifted to the cities. In 1900, 83 percent of the Texas population lived in rural areas; 50 years later that percentage had fallen to 37 percent, and continues to decline.

Nowadays, a couple hundred remaining halls may host an event or two each year, but only a few dozen are used at least on a monthly basis, Sparks said.

When Lee Temple bought Kendalia Halle with his wife Judi in 1995, business didn't look so promising. One weekend he laid out $700 for a band only to have one couple show. While still not a money-maker, Kendalia's monthly dances, along with wedding receptions and birthday parties, help the Temples break even.

"Texas dance halls are becoming a very good investment because there are fewer and fewer of them," Lee Temple said.



Associated Press

On Dec. 6, 2014, visitors dance to live music by Al Dressen's Super Swing Review at Twin Sisters Dance Hall in Blanco.

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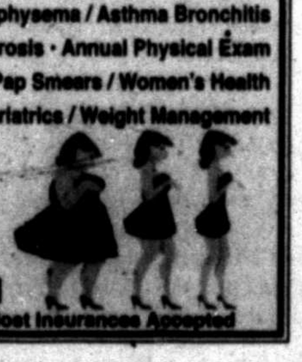
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Thing to do

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Child Abuse Prevention Month remembrance ceremony and hot dog dinner, 6:30 p.m., Centennial Plaza. casawtx.org.

Support groups and club meetings today

■ Midland Parkinson Support Group, 6:30 p.m., HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital, 699-8640.

■ For miscarriage grief recovery, call 570-5935.

■ For post-abortion healing, call 570-5935.

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

Community calendar

■ Midland County Republican Women will meet Wednesday at Midland Country Club. Author Jimmy Patterson will speak about his recently published book, "A History of Character: The Story of Midland, Texas."

Lunch will be served beginning at 11:15 a.m. Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door. To RSVP, call 520-3500 or email: mcrwomen@aol.com. For more information, visit www.mcrw.us.

■ Midland ISD is planning a free health fair 6-8 p.m. Thursday at Midland College's Chaparral Center. More than 25 vendors will be participating in the event.

The first 100 people to arrive will receive a free T-shirt. For more information, call 240-1580.

■ Experience Works hosts a job fair for workers 55 and older 9 a.m.-noon Mondays at Midland Workforce Solutions, 3600 N. Garfield St., Technology Center Room138. The agency focuses on people who desire to learn new skills.

For more information, call toll free 855-307-1171, or email liz_cox@experienceworks.org.

What's on the radio

News talk

KCRS (AM 550)

6-9 a.m. The Morning Drive with Robert Hallmark and Kurt Verlei

9-11 a.m. Lynn Woolley

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Rush Limbaugh

2-5 p.m. Dave Ramsey

5-6 p.m. Local news reports

6-9 p.m. Roger Hedgecock

9-midnight Hugh Hewitt

Midnight-6 a.m. Coast to Coast with George Noory

Web: http://www.newstalkkcrs.com

KWEL (AM 1070, FM 107.1)

6-10 a.m. Morning Show with Craig Anderson

10 a.m.-noon, Herman Cain

Noon-2 p.m. Glenn Beck

2-5 p.m. Sean Hannity

Web: http://www.kwel.com

Sport talk

KMND (AM 1510)

6-9 a.m. Mike and Mike in the Morning

9 a.m.-noon The Herd with Colin Cowherd

Noon-3 p.m. The Dan Patrick Show

Other options

Contemporary Christian: KFRI (FM 88.7); KLWW (FM 90.5)

NPR: KOCV (FM 91.3)

How to submit info

■ Engagement, wedding anniversary or quinceanera announcements: Email write-up and photo to weddings@mrt.com. For more information, call 682-6222.

■ Religion news: Email information and photo to Assistant Managing Editor Megan Buck at mbuck@mrt.com. For more information, call 687-8871.

■ Business and oil industry news: Contact Oil Editor Melia McEwen at 687-8860 or mmcewen@mrt.com.

■ Items of local interest: Contact Editor Stewart Doreen at 687-8856 or sdoreen@mrt.com.

■ Letters to the editor: Email to letters@mrt.com. For more information call 687-8852.

How sick are you?

Midland Memorial Hospital is offering a nurse triage program "68-NURSE."

The program is designed to help people determine whether their health situation warrants a trip to the emergency room. Midland residents can call the line by dialing 686-8773.

The program is free and available 24 hours a day-365 days a year. Local nurses are available to help you determine the best place to receive care for your situation. 68-NURSE can help you save time and money by directing you to the most appropriate healthcare option, whether it's a neighborhood clin

Today in history

In 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized by Joseph Smith in Fayette, New York.

In 1865, in the closing days of the Civil War, Union forces led by Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant defeated Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in the Battle of Sailor's Creek.

In 1896, the first modern Olympic games formally opened in Athens, Greece.

In 1909, American explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson and four Inuits became the first men to reach the North Pole.

In 1917, Congress approved a declaration of war against Germany.

In 1945, during World War II, the Japanese warship Yamato and nine other vessels sailed on a suicide mission to attack the U.S. fleet off Okinawa; the fleet was intercepted the next day.

In 1963, the United States signed an agreement to sell the Polaris missile system to Britain.

In 1965, the United States launched Intelsat I, also known as the "Early Bird" communications satellite, into geosynchronous orbit.

American crude hits a 114-year high, led by shale

By Jennifer Hiller
San Antonio Express-News

U.S. crude oil production surged last year by the largest volume in more than 100 years.

American producers pumped an additional 1.2 million barrels per day (bbl/d) of crude oil and condensate in 2014 compared with the year before, reaching 8.7 million bbl/d, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

It was the largest increase in production since record-keeping started in 1900, according to the agency.

The Bakken Shale in North Dakota, the Permian Basin in West Texas and eastern New Mexico, and the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas have been driving crude oil production increases for each of the past six years.

Though oil and condensate production is expected to rise again this year, the growth isn't expected to be as robust. Crude oil prices have been slashed in half since last summer.

Texas already is showing a slowdown in drilling permits, according to the Texas Railroad Commission.

In February, the state issued 924 drilling permits, down from 1,682 in February 2014. Total well completions for the year are at 3,976, down from 6,749 during the same period in 2014.

Karnes County continued to be the state's top producer of crude oil in January, though.

Polyflow: The oil price crunch hasn't caused all companies to contract in South Texas. Pennsylvania-based Polyflow LLC recently opened a third yard in the Eagle Ford Shale region for selling its Thermoflex pipe, which can transport oil, gas, water and other fluids.



AP file photo

Students participating in rush pass by the Phi Kappa Psi house at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va., on Jan. 15. The fraternity was subject to a Rolling Stone article alleging a gang rape happened on the Virginia campus. Rolling Stone has retracted the article.

Report concludes Rolling Stone rape article a 'journalistic failure'

By Larry O'Dell
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Rolling Stone magazine retracted a widely discredited article about an alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia after a top journalism school issued a scathing report Sunday concluding it had failed to meet proper journalistic standards.

The review, undertaken at Rolling Stone's request, presented a broad indictment of the magazine's handling of a story that had horrified readers, unleashed widespread protests at the university's Charlottesville campus and sparked a national discussion about sexual assaults on college campuses.

The way the magazine reported, edited and vetted the article is a "story of journalistic failure that was avoidable," the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism said in the report. The criticism came two weeks after the Charlottesville police department said it had found no evidence to back the claims of the victim identified in the story only as "Jackie," who said she was raped by seven men at a fraternity house.

Rolling Stone's "failure encompassed reporting, editing, editorial supervision and fact-checking," said the journalism school's report, which was posted on the school's and magazine's websites.

Rolling Stone Managing Editor Will Dana posted an apology on the publication's website and said the magazine was officially retracting the story.

The article's author, Sabrina Rubin Erdely, also apologized in a statement, saying she would not repeat the mistakes she made when writing the November 2014 article "A Rape on Campus."

"Reading the Columbia account of the mistakes and misjudgments in my reporting was a brutal and humbling experience," she said.

The magazine's publisher, Jann S. Wenner, however, told The New York Times that Erdely would continue to write for the magazine and that neither her editor nor Dana would be fired.

The university's president accused Rolling Stone of "irresponsible journalism."

Rolling Stone had asked for the independent review after numerous news media outlets found flaws with the story about Jackie, who said the attack happened during a social event at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity house more than two years earlier. The article quoted Jackie as saying that the attack was orchestrated by a fraternity member who worked with her at the school's aquatic center.

She also said she immediately told three friends about the attack, but she said they were generally unsupportive, and that at least two encouraged her to keep quiet to protect their social standing.

The report found three major flaws in the magazine's reporting methodology: that Erdely did not try to contact the three friends, instead taking Jackie's word for it that one of them refused to talk; that she failed to give enough details of the alleged assault when she contacted the fraternity for comment, which made it difficult for the organization to investigate; and that Rolling Stone did not try hard enough to find the person Jackie accused of orchestrating the assault.

If the fraternity had had more information, it might have been able to explain earlier that it did not hold a social function the night of the attack and that none of its members worked at the aquatic center, the report noted.

Soon after the article was published, several news media organizations began finding flaws with it, forcing Rolling Stone to acknowledge on Dec. 5 that there were some discrepancies with the story.

Dana and Erdely said they had been too accommodating of requests from Jackie that limited their ability to report the story because she said she was a rape victim and asked them not to contact others to corroborate, the report said.

However, Columbia's report said, Rolling Stone also failed to investigate reporting leads even when Jackie had not specifically asked them not to.

"The editors made judgments about attribution, fact-checking and verification that greatly increased their risks of error but had little or nothing to do with protecting Jackie's position," it said.

The report said Rolling Stone's article may cast doubt on future accusations of rape. It also damaged the reputation of the Phi Kappa Psi chapter at U.Va. and depicted the university administration as neglectful.

Prior to the issuance of the journalism school's report, the fraternity called the Rolling Stone article defamatory and said it was exploring its legal options.

"These false accusations have been extremely damaging to our entire organization, but we can only begin to imagine the setback this must have dealt to survivors of sexual assault," said Stephen Scipione, president of the Virginia Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi, after the Charlottesville police suspended their investigation.

In her statement, U.Va. President Teresa A. Sullivan said the magazine article hurt efforts to fight sexual violence, tarred the reputation of the school, and falsely accused some students "of heinous, criminal acts and falsely depicted others as indifferent to the suffering of their classmate." The story falsely depicted the university as callous toward sexual assault victims, reinforcing their reluctance to come forward, she said.

Indiana faces long road to restore image

By Lauryn Schroeder
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana tourism agencies are rolling out campaigns emphasizing that everyone is welcome, but it might not be enough to quickly restore the state's battered image after a backlash over its religious objections law.

An uproar sparked by fears that the law would allow discrimination against gays and lesbians led a few convention organizers and performers to cancel events and some state and local governments to ban travel to the state last week. Revisions to the law's language have eased some of the criticism, but experts say the state could be dealing with a damaged reputation for years to come.

In a sign that Indiana is still under close scrutiny, hundreds of gay rights supporters marched to the site of the NCAA Final Four in Indianapolis on Saturday as college basketball fans were arriving for the games. The marches called for the state to go further and enshrine in its civil rights law protection for gays and lesbians.

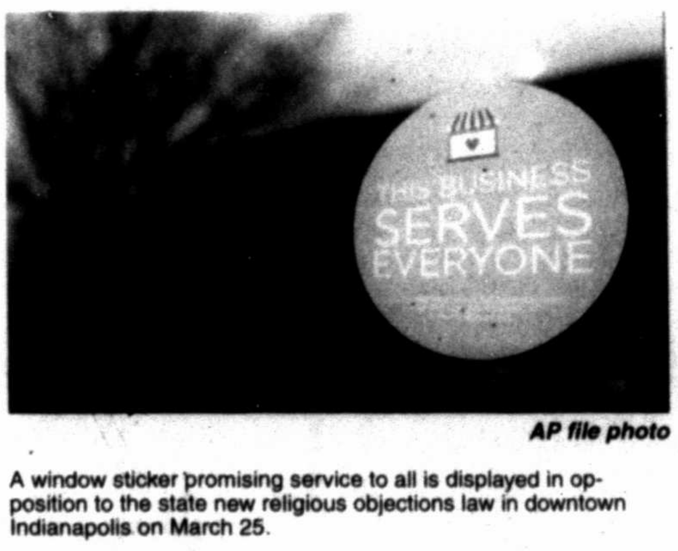
Chris Gahl, vice president of Visit Indy, the lead promoter for Indianapolis, said he has been in "full crisis mode" since the furor erupted after Gov. Mike Pence signed the law late last month.

Gahl said Visit Indy received more than 800 emails from people saying they were canceling trips for events such as the Indianapolis 500 or choosing a different vacation destination. The agency has been scrambling to prevent groups and businesses from either pulling out of negotiations for future conventions or canceling upcoming events altogether.

Two groups, including the public employee union AFSCME, have canceled conventions, and Gahl said two others were on the fence. He put the economic impact of those events at a "healthy eight figures."

"What keeps us up at night is the fact that 75,000 people depend on tourism for a paycheck," Gahl said. "And if we don't fill the city with conventions and visitors, they don't work."

The crisis isn't confined to Indianapolis. Fort Wayne, the state's second-largest city, has had six national conventions express concerns about continuing business in Indiana. If all six pulled out, it would represent about $1.2 million in revenue, said Dan O'Connell, president and CEO of Visit Fort Wayne.



AP file photo

A window sticker promising service to all is displayed in opposition to the state new religious objections law in downtown Indianapolis on March 25.

PLANT

From 1A

unlocking hydrocarbons," said Jason Crew, CEO of Summit Power, the Seattle-based company behind the undertaking dubbed the Texas Clean Energy Project.

The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded the project $450 million in federal grants. Even though the U.S. is moving to phase-out coal in favor of natural gas-fired plants and alternative energy sources, coal is still poised to be a vital source of energy for the U.S. and other countries for years to come, said Jason Lewis, federal project manager at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory.

But Lewis said development of the method, known as carbon capture and storage, faces headwinds. Questions remain about the economics of carbon capture projects, among other factors.

But the feds hope that by investing in the Odessa project, they'll be able to learn more about both the technology and finances of the operation and eventually have a model that can be used elsewhere, allowing coal to be used more cleanly as other fuel sources are developed.

"Carbon dioxide emissions will go up unless we do something now," Lewis said.

The Odessa project is one of three carbon-capture projects in Texas.

The Petra Nova project, a joint venture involving NRG Energy Inc., is under construction in Fort Bend County. Technology added to an existing power plant is designed to capture carbon before it's emitted into the atmosphere.

Air Products and Chemicals is capturing carbon from a hydrogen production facility in Port Arthur. All three projects have received federal support.

The technology has garnered mixed reaction from the environmental community.

While the Natural Resources Defense Council says that carbon capture is one of several solutions that could help reduce carbon pollution from power plants, Sierra Club officials say they prefer focusing resources on the development of wind and solar power generation.

'Furious 7' races past expectations with $143.6M

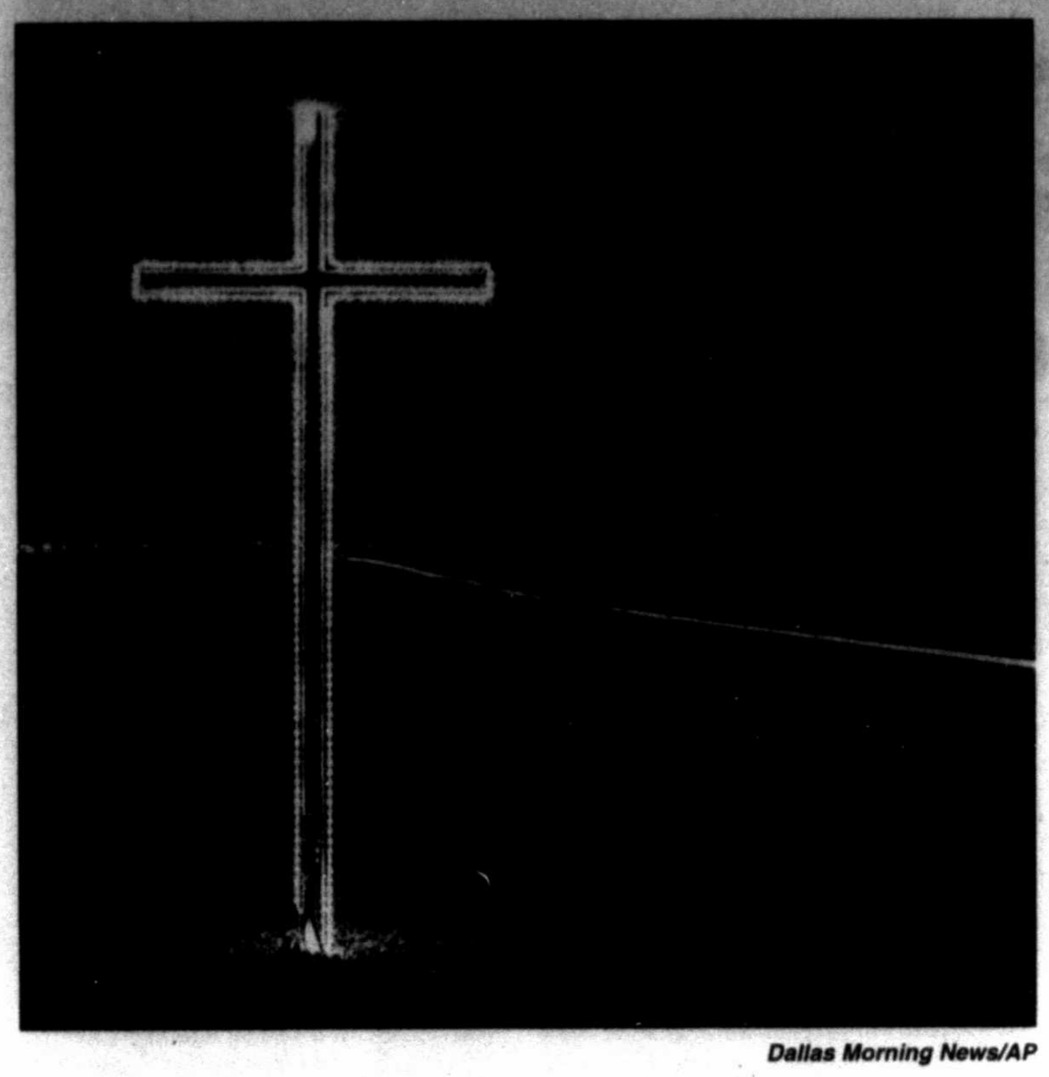
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The high-octane "Furious 7" peeled out of the gates in its opening weekend, picking up a stunning $143.6 million from 4,004 locations to easily top the domestic box office, according to Rentrak estimates Sunday.

The sum is a studio and franchise best for the homegrown car-obsessed series, which has continued to grow over the past few films.

"Furious 7," now the ninth-biggest opening of all time, also unseats previous April record-holder "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," which opened to $95 million on the same weekend last year.

While the "Fast and Furious" films have grown in popularity over the past three films, the mega-opening for "Furious 7" was also at least partially tied to audience interest in star Paul Walker, who died in a car crash in November 2013 before the film was completed.



Dallas Morning News/AP

On April 2, vehicle lights on Interstate 45 can be seen from an illuminated cross that stands at the north end of the Old Brickyard Golf Course in Ferris. The cross, which was erected in 1930 was recently refurbished.

Cross beside Interstate 45 illuminated once again

Associated Press

FERRIS — A cross that has stood on a hill near a Texas interstate for decades is once again illuminated, just in time for Easter.

The Dallas Morning News reported the lights on the landmark in Ferris, located just south of Dallas, had been out for the last 15 years before a group of citizens decided last fall to undertake resurrecting it.

In one way or another, the 15-foot tall cross has stood near Interstate 45 for more than 80 years. Local historian Grace McKnight said in a summary of the cross' history that a group of church ladies came up with the idea for the cross around 1930. It was first illuminated in 1954.

"You could see it for miles," said Donna Birdwell Shaw, an elementary school secretary in Ferris. "People coming from Houston or Dallas, they always looked for the cross."

But with the construction of a golf course on the land where it stands, the neon-lit cross was removed and then reinstalled when the course opened in 2000. The land's reconfiguration made it less visible and placed it in harm's way.

"It kept getting hit with golf balls," said Mayor Micheal Driggars. "It was in a bad spot."

That resulted in the beaten lights being left off for good.

With locals calling for the cross to be lighted again, ranching contractor Derek Johnson last fall approached his grandfather, who co-owns the golf course land. Johnson volunteered to head the project and vowed to get it up and running in time for Easter.

With the help Driggars and others, the cross was patched up and repainted, then reset in concrete at a new site 75 yards north of its former home. It's once again visible from the highway and safe from most golf balls. It's also been refit with more durable LED lighting.

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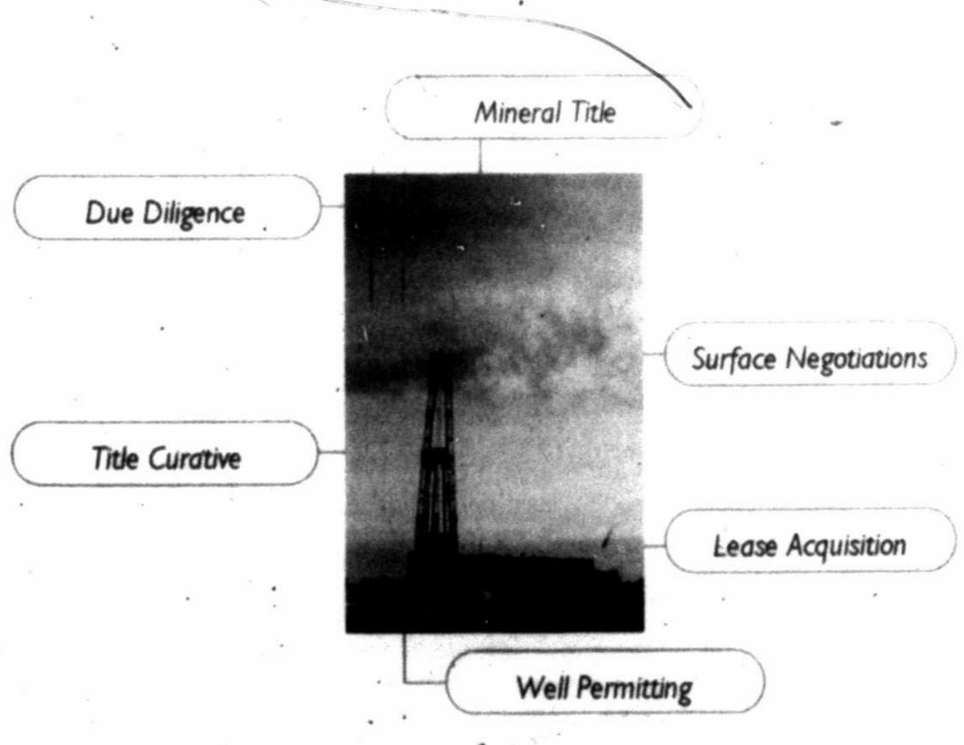

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†Studies conducted at the University of Northern Colorado (2014) and Oldenburg Horzentrum (2013) showed that Speech Reception Thresholds (SRT) in cocktail-party situations improved up to 2.9 dB for wearers with mild to moderate hearing loss using GENIUS with Directional Focus, compared to people with normal hearing. This corresponds to over 25% improvement in speech understanding. **Auditone Pro not included.

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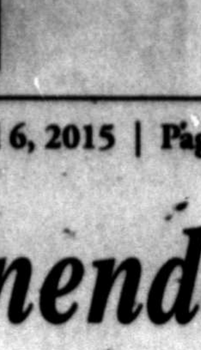
Guilty or not, Menendez really should resign

■ The appearance of sleaze means the senator from New Jersey should be on his way out



DANA MILBANK
Washington Post Writers Group

Bob Menendez doesn't belong in the U.S. Senate.

It's not just the New Jersey Democrat's 14-count indictment Wednesday on corruption charges, though that's plenty damning. As bad is the appalling way in which he responded: with a political rally to kick off a campaign against the Justice Department in which Menendez plays the persecuted minority.

Menendez called his event Wednesday night in Newark a "press conference," but it was no such thing. He took no questions, instead reading a combative statement claiming the Justice Department — a Democratic administration's Justice Department — was doing the bidding of "those who have a political motive to silence me."

Menendez, at the Hilton at Newark Penn Station, entered to 35 seconds of applause, whistles and cheers, and his brief speech was interrupted many more times by supporters in the room. At one point he smiled and said, "This is a press conference, so I would appreciate it if you would just withhold." The crowd responded with more applause.

Then he did the whole thing again in Spanish, saying he would be vindicated and his accusers exposed. *!Al final del dia sere vindicado y estas personas seran expuestas!*

"Si se puede!" somebody shouted during the applause that followed.

"Viva Menendez!" somebody else cried.

"I'm not going anywhere!" Menendez vowed. *!No voy a irme a ninguna parte!*

"Viva Bob!" a supporter shouted as others cheered.

If that effort to inject Menendez's ethnicity into his legal troubles was too subtle, a website run by Menendez for Senate called "I Stand with Bob" emailed an article titled "Immigration advocates defend 'the senior senator for Latinos.'"

But Menendez is not being prosecuted because he's Latino or because DOJ is endorsing the "smears" of his political enemies. He's in trouble because he's been sleazy.

This is not to say Menendez will be proved guilty. In political corruption cases, quid pro quo is notoriously difficult to demonstrate, and since the botched prosecution of the late Sen. Ted Stevens, prosecutors have been reluctant to try.

But what Menendez himself has admitted to — taking and failing to report gifts from a friend who had much to gain from the friendship — is enough to draw the conclusion that he is unfit to serve. It doesn't matter if it's illegal. It's shameful.

It wasn't until investigators began to probe Menendez's relationship with Salomon Melgen, a Florida eye doctor, that the senator wrote a personal check for $58,000 to pay for two private-jet flights to Melgen's villa in the Dominican Republic. "This was sloppy," his chief of staff said at the time. "I'm chalking it up to an oversight." And how will Menendez chalk up the other 17 private flights Melgen provided for Menendez that investigators found?

Menendez is accused of receiving from Melgen trips to Florida, Paris and the Dominican Republic, first-class airfare, meals, golf outings and upward of $750,000 in campaign contributions and legal-defense funds.

In turn, prosecutors say, Menendez intervened to help Melgen in matters involving Medicare charges and a port-security contract, and he helped three of Melgen's foreign-born girlfriends obtain U.S. visas.

Much of this is either a matter of public record (Menendez held a Foreign Relations Committee hearing at which he pressured State Department officials to take action that would have helped Melgen) or easy to document, and Menendez, at least so far, hasn't seriously disputed that he took gifts from Melgen or did things to help him. He says it was just a matter of camaraderie.

"Prosecutors at the Justice Department don't know the difference between friendship and corruption," Menendez said Wednesday with a pious point of the index finger.

But Menendez is the one who is confused. Friendship is about brotherly love; Melgen was Menendez's patron.

Whether a jury, months or years from now, agrees with Menendez and his lawyer's allegation of DOJ "misconduct," is beside the point. Anthony Weiner wasn't in serious legal trouble, but he resigned because he had disgraced himself. What Menendez did was worse: exposing not his genitals but his public office to the appearance that it could be bought.

Menendez's home-state Star-Ledger editorialized that the unreported gifts Menendez has acknowledged are "at least as bad" as those that led Rep. Rob Andrews, another New Jersey Democrat, to resign after reportedly using campaign funds to pay for trips. The newspaper, which endorsed Menendez in 2012, called for his resignation, arguing that, whatever happens in court, there's no dispute that "it was sleazy to accept these secret gifts in the first place."

Resign merely because of sleaze? Yes, he can — and he should.

OUR VIEW

Council's investments may mean incentives won't be needed later

"The city's hope is that (Santa Rita Hotel deal) spurs more downtown development without incentives."
— Councilman Jeff Sparks

No longer having a need for development incentives is a worthy goal. It doesn't matter if a Midlander is talking about downtown or the airport. At some point, this community will have done enough, and there will be a time when people/companies/developers will want to be in one of those areas of Midland without the incentive.

What we learned with the Santa Rita Hotel incentive is the Midland City Council getting more bang for your bucks. When this new council formed, they talked about lowering the percentage of a total project supported by the community.

The community's contribution to the $17.4 million Wall Streets Lofts project was more than $6 million — 34 percent of the total cost. The city was ready to offer a $60 million to $77 million package — 20 to 26 percent of the total cost — to make a $300 million Energy Towers at City Center a reality.

The proposed $9.65 million public contribution for the $80 million to $100 million Santa Rita Hotel is between 12 percent and 9.6 percent of the total cost.

Maybe the Santa Rita Hotel incentive package is the process playing itself out. Maybe, incentives paid out early will mean other developers will want to be part of what's happening downtown and the community's buy-in continues to drop. After all, if Santa Rita Hotel happens, Centennial Plaza is redeveloped and Midland Center goes through its remodel — which has been reported at $15 million or more — downtown could have a catalyst project.

It's no different than at Midland International Air & Space Port, where millions have been dedicated to bring XCOR Aerospace and Orbital Outfitters to Midland. Development officials have said the greater investment now could mean greater rewards later as other companies want to join the bigger fishes.

That is true economic development. Money spent to carry water and sewer lines to Rankin Highway and Interstate 20 paid off years later when Wal-Mart decided to open its second store in Midland. The southside boom that followed and continues was remarkable.

The millions spent to carry water and sewer to the sports complex meant so much more as hotels, restaurants, office space and residences now surround the dual-stadium facility.

Will what we see at either downtown or the airport compare? It's tough to say, but recent investments make us optimistic.

The City Council doesn't need our endorsement to feel good about the incentive deal with Santa Rita Hotel developers. It's going to happen. And for those interested, it appears to be a very good one.

The next two Santa Rita Hotel public meetings will be held at the City Hall basement conference room on the following days:
Monday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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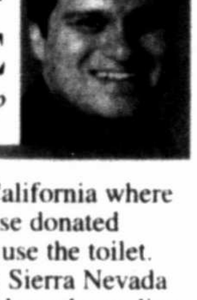
California's water crisis is real

■ For anyone in the state to think it's someone else's problem is at the detriment of the state



RUBEN NAVARRETTE
Washington Post Writers Group

In the Bible, Jesus turns water into wine. But in California, there are those who would take that miracle in the other direction.

The Golden State needs water, and lots of it. The place has been parched for the past four years as it suffers through a record drought — the worst one since California started keeping records 120 years ago.

Neighbors will ask to borrow something, a cup of flour or sugar. Think of California — which boasts the world's eighth largest economy, and whose name conjures up images of a coastal paradise of lush golf courses, picture-perfect landscapes and abundant waterfalls — having to ask Arizona to borrow a glass of water.

Actually, neighbor, could we make that 1.5 million acre-feet of water? (One acre foot of water equals about 325,000 gallons. And 1.5 million acre-feet would cover the 25 percent reduction in water usage over the next nine months that Californians have been ordered to achieve.)

Gov. Jerry Brown has announced the Golden State's first ever mandatory statewide water restrictions. Brown is instructing the State Water Resources Control Board to compel cities and towns to cut back drastically.

Other restrictions include cuts in water use on college campuses, golf courses, cemeteries and other sprawling green spaces. Large farms are exempted, but farmers will have to document more carefully how much water they use.

State officials claim that they will impose fines if necessary to force compliance from individuals, but they also say that they hope many Californians will comply voluntarily. People can expect the usual lectures from public officials about taking quicker showers, washing cars less often, and watering lawns more sporadically.

Brown hit those notes as he announced the water restrictions in a news conference southwest of Lake Tahoe.

"We're in a new era," the governor said. "The idea of your nice little green grass getting lots of water every day, that's going to be a thing of the past."

The California water crisis — the one we've heard about, but most of us haven't experienced up to now — just got real.

Too many folks believe that, as long as something comes out when they turn on the faucet, there's no problem. In fact, according to media reports, there are towns in Central California where people lack running water. They use donated bottled water to cook, bathe, even use the toilet.

It matters that Brown was in the Sierra Nevada mountains, a picturesque setting where the reality was unavoidable. Reporters stood on dry brown grass that would normally, this time of year, be covered in snow.

That's one of the keys to this story. Those who know about water policy will tell you that, while it's refreshing to have scattered rain, what really matters is snowpack. For farmers, that's the storage fund for a not-so-rainy day.

Dear water advocates: You have my attention. Organizations such as the California Water Alliance, which was founded by farming interests in 2009, have been like a town crier that was ignored. These groups warned us this sort of crisis was coming. Some people listened. Many didn't.

Most of the water in the state goes to farming, which supplies more than half the produce in the United States, while California's overall agricultural industry brings in more than $45 billion a year. But even farmers are divided — depending on how water-intensive their crops are. The folks growing lettuce, broccoli, peaches or avocados have been up in arms because they need lots of water. Sadly, those with crops that get by with less water have largely been on the sidelines.

In my case, I'm sorry it took so long for the message to get through. I may have been born and raised in the once fertile farmland of Central California, but — since moving back to the state 10 years ago — I've been living in a city. And for the last few years, along with other city dwellers, I've been deluding myself into thinking that this water crisis I kept hearing so much about was someone else's problem.

I was so wrong. It's my problem, too. I'm ashamed to admit that, for a while, I lost sight of this reality. Still, in California, on this issue, there's plenty of shame to go around.

This can be a great state. But the first step is for us to put aside our differences and start thinking like one state.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Power to the people: Pay them to cut electricity use

By Chris Tomlinson
Houston Chronicle

■ COMMENTARY

How would you like to earn cash for reducing your electricity use? I don't mean saving money by turning down the thermostat. I'm talking about the power company paying you to use less electricity when the state faces high periods of demand.

Known as demand response, such a program already exists for industrial consumers of electricity, and some retail electricity providers have pilot programs. But regulatory obstacles make it difficult for all electricity consumers to offer demand response to the wholesale electricity market where there is potential for big money.

A bill in the Texas Legislature would allow, but not require, everyday consumers to participate in the buying and selling of electricity. Doing so would reduce the need for new power plants and transmission lines and encourage innovation in the wholesale electricity market.

Before we get too far, though, it's important to explain how the wholesale market works for most Texans. The market and grid are operated by the nonprofit Electric Reliability Council of Texas. ERCOT updates the price every five minutes depending on demand, and generators sell electricity to the grid. Retailers and municipal utilities buy the power and sell it to consumers like you and me.

ERCOT's highest priority is to make sure there is always enough electricity, so higher demand triggers higher prices to encourage generators. Prices typically average below $25 a megawatt-hour but can reach $9,000 a megawatt-hour. On a hot August afternoon or a cold January morning, prices for a megawatt-hour regularly cost hundreds of dollars, and that's when generators make the most money.

Sometimes, though, demand exceeds supply, and ERCOT must take emergency action. That's when a demand response program kicks in.

Danny Moore, owner of Megasand Enterprises in Crosby, enrolled his sand processing company in a program that pays $6,000 a year to be ready to shut down with 30 minutes notice. The program is only activated when blackouts are imminent, maybe two or three times a year.

"We shut down for 30-40 minutes until the critical part passes, and then we go back to work," Moore said. "I have four plants on this property, and when we shut down, we shut down big, big amounts of electricity."

Megasand, though, is not paid the full value of the power it takes off the grid, which could be worth thousands of dollars. Nor can Moore make a standing offer to shut down whenever the price hits a certain level. The current system doesn't even pay enough to make up for lost production, he told me.

According to an ERCOT study, over 750,000 customers participate in such basic demand response systems, typically by letting retailers remotely turn up smart thermostats on hot days. But more advanced demand response systems, which are widely used in other parts of the U.S., allow companies to get paid the same price for adjusting usage as generators earn for adding more electricity.

Many kinds of companies want to deliver this capability to consumers, ranging from retail electric providers who offer free nights and weekends to technology companies like Boston-based Ener-NOC, which works with Megasand on emergency response, sells energy management software and can aggregate thousands of users to have a big effect on the wholesale market.

State Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston has introduced a bill to encourage the Public Utility Commission to give demand response a larger role in Texas. The House State Affairs Committee is revising the bill in hopes of winning more support from the industry, but it could be watered down too much or die in the Senate.

The biggest opposition comes from generators who see demand response as a new, unwanted competitor. Generators make the most profit when prices are highest, and demand response would push them lower.

History, however, is littered with companies that failed to adapt, and nothing will stand in the way of demand response technology. John Fainter, president of the Association of Electric Companies of Texas, told me that the generators he represents recognize the potential and simply don't want demand response companies given preferential treatment.

"I think the public wants those options for how they use and pay for their electricity," he said. "We want a level playing field, making sure that everyone meets the same financial requirements and have the business acumen to maintain reliability... and so that no particular vendor has an advantage."

That seems fair, but it's also fair to allow Megasand to offset its $60,000-a-month electricity bill by getting paid to shut down when the price is right, not only when there is an emergency.

Electricity generators make millions selling power onto the grid. Consumers have spent millions on smart meters and smart thermostats to conserve energy. The time has come to let consumers see some return on that investment.

Senator: Congress needs to scour final Iran nuke deal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional scrutiny and approval of any nuclear agreement with Iran are essential and will help ensure the deal isn't a bad one, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said Sunday.

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said Congress has a responsibility to scour the details of a final plan — including any classified annexes — ask the Obama administration hard questions and then vote on it. Negotiators announced on Thursday a framework deal, which would be finalized by June 30.

"It's very important that Congress is in the middle of this, understanding, teasing out, asking those important questions," Corker said.

President Barack Obama told The New York Times in a weekend interview that he insists on preserving the president's right to enter into binding agreements with foreign powers without congressional approval. But he praised Corker as "somebody who is sincerely concerned about this issue and is a good and decent man."

Speaking on "Fox News Sunday," Corker sought to counter Obama's assertion that partisan politics in Washington could derail the landmark agreement to curb Iran's bomb-capable nuclear technology.

Congressional oversight "doesn't mean there won't be a deal," Corker said. "We just set in place a process to insure that if there's a deal, it's a deal that will stand the test of time, that will keep Iran from getting a nuclear weapon."

Religious freedom flap incoming for Texas?

By Will Weissert
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Could the uproar over religious freedom laws that engulfed Indiana and Arkansas be coming to Texas? The next couple weeks in the Legislature should provide the answer.

Lawmakers in Indiana scrambled to clarify that state's law amid complaints it could be used to promote discrimination against gay people. The Arkansas Legislature approved a similar measure, but backlash from top employers prompted Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson to hold off signing it.

In Texas, a proposed state constitutional amendment by tea party-backed state Sen. Donna Campbell of New Braunfels would have essentially the same effect. But Campbell and many Republicans in the Legislature argue it's necessary to keep government from infringing on religion.

Campbell's bill is awaiting a hearing before the Senate State Affairs Committee. If that doesn't happen soon, it will be difficult for the proposal to clear committee and the full Senate in time to pass the Legislature before session ends June 1.

A similar measure in the House by Fort Worth Rep. Matt Krause faces even longer odds. That's because its original sponsor, Dallas Republican Rep. Jason Villalba, pulled his bill amid objections from Texas' business lobby.

Krause, another tea party favorite, resurrected Villalba's proposal. But it has yet to have a hearing before the House State Affairs Committee and will run out of time if there's not movement soon.

Here are other top upcoming issues at the Texas Capitol:

In-state tuition repeal: After last week's hearing was delayed, a Senate subcommittee meeting today should be a doozy. Members will discuss a GOP-led effort to repeal a bipartisan law that sailed through the Legislature in 2001 and offers in-state tuition at public universities to the children of some people in the U.S. illegally.

Democrats and Hispanic advocacy groups have vowed to defend the law.

But many conservatives counter it encourages people from Mexico and Central America to sneak across the Texas border.

Campus carry: A bill that would allow license holders to carry concealed weapons into university buildings and classrooms cleared a House committee last week, meaning it could hit the floor of the full chamber soon.

The measure easily passed the Senate last month, despite opposition from top university leaders statewide.

It appears poised for approval in the House, though debate should be livelier than in the Senate. Obtaining a concealed carry license requires being 21, however, meaning many college students won't qualify.

Public integrity move?: A proposal shifting a unit of prosecutors who investigate wrongdoing by public officials out of left-leaning Austin and into the GOP-controlled state attorney general's office has stalled in the Senate, with not quite enough votes to reach the floor.

But a separate proposal moving the unit has passed a House committee and could soon be debated on the lower chamber's floor.

Both plans would direct the Texas Rangers and state attorneys to investigate corruption complaints, then forward cases to a district attorney where the accused official lives.

Then-Gov. Rick Perry in 2013 vetoed the unit's funding after its Democratic chief refused his calls to resign following her drunken-driving conviction. That resulted in Perry being indicted on abuse-of-power charges that remain pending.

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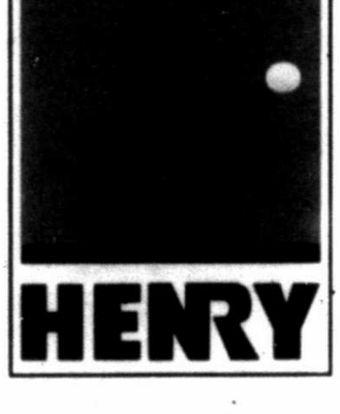

1 Peter 4:10

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

The Bottom Line

As household income, education levels and job responsibility increases, so does readership.

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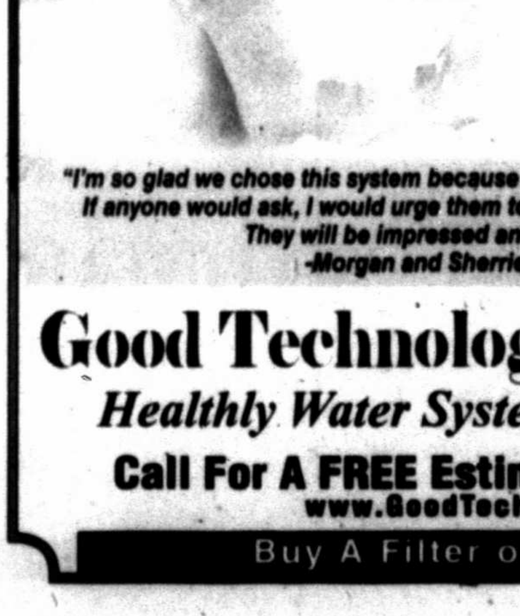

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Exporting Philly: Cheesesteaks, ices and pretzels go global

By Michael R. Sisak
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The man intent on taking the Philly cheesesteak global saw a familiar sight from home on a recent trip to Florida: a Wawa.

The hoagie-making, coffee-brewing convenience and gas chain from the Philadelphia area is pushing hard into the Sunshine State, opening more than 60 stores since 2012 with another 25 planned by the end of the year.

Albie Misci, sales director at cheesesteak chain Tony Luke's, knows the idea.

He's helping take Philly's most famous culinary treat to Florida, California and even the Middle Eastern nation of Bahrain.

"The cheesesteak has grown from a Philadelphia sandwich, a local food, to a national sandwich. Everyone's familiar with it," Misci said in a recent interview. "When we're in Las Vegas or in L.A., they'll come up to us and say, 'Hey, Tony Luke's, you're from Philly!'"

Other staples from the City of Brotherly Love, including its beloved soft pretzels and water ice, are also going global, as their Philadelphia-based purveyors aggressively expand into national — and international — chains.

Tony Luke's has 22 stores, seven more in development and plans to grow to 360 locations within a decade.

Philly Pretzel Factory, started in 1998 as a single stand by friends who hawked pretzels as kids on the side of a busy Philadelphia boulevard, has 150 stores and plans to open 350 more and break into the international market by 2020.

Rita's Italian Ice, already up to 600 stores in the U.S., is expanding into six Middle Eastern countries and is looking to Canada and Mexico for further growth.

Rita's chief development officer, Eric Taylor, said its Philadelphia-bred franchisees — and customers who've relocated from the city or vacationers hitting the beach, the theme parks or Phillies spring training — have an emotional connection to the product.

"They want to bring water ice out to Arizona or Utah or wherever they are now," Taylor said of the sugary frozen treat, which is more sorbet than snow cone. "They take pride in bringing a Philly staple back to their home market."

Wawa skipped straight from its footprint in five mid-Atlantic states to Florida, where census data shows 3 percent of residents are natives of Pennsylvania and 8 percent are from other northeast states.

The company has stores in the Orlando and Tampa areas popular with retirees and tourists — including the one Misci saw near the Phillies' complex in Clearwater. It's opening three stores at once next week in Fort Myers.

Wawa spokeswoman Lori Bruce said the reception has been so strong in Fiorida, the company will continue to open 25 new stores there and 25 in the mid-Atlantic — further into northern New Jersey and south into Virginia — each year.

Across the company and employee-owned chain, its made-to-order Philadelphia-style hoagies remain a top seller.

"It speaks to the unique connection Philly foods have with people," Bruce said.

Philadelphia's boom in gastronomic exports comes at a heady time for the city.

It'll host Pope Francis in September and the Democratic National Convention next July and a major soccer championship this summer.

It's also been featured prominently on the television shows "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" and "The Goldbergs," which recreated Veterans Stadium — the former home of the Phillies and Eagles — for a recent episode.

The brands built around the city's iconic foods are following a trail blazed by every major chain before it — growing from a single store into a regional player before leaping into less familiar territory, said Penn marketing professor David Reibstein.

Think Starbucks, which started as a single-store operation at Seattle's Pike Place Market, or one of its main rivals, Dunkin' Donuts, which evolved into a global coffee and pastry giant from a small chain of shops in the Boston area.

"Part of what it takes is, is that city or that region known for those particular products," said Reibstein. "We can think about Italian shoes. That's really well-known and if you say it's Italian, that must be really good. But, if we saw Slovakian shoes, no one's going to be really enamored with that."

Gov. Brown defends drought order that doesn't limit farmers

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gov. Jerry Brown on Sunday defended his order requiring Californians statewide to cut back on their water use in a historic mandate that spares those who consume the most — farmers.

As California endures a fourth year of drought, Brown's order this week requires towns and cities statewide to draw down water use by 25 percent compared with 2013 levels. While past reductions were voluntary, Brown said he is using his emergency powers to make the cuts mandatory.

Martha Raddatz, host of ABC's "This Week" public affairs program, asked Brown why the order doesn't extend to California farmers, who consume 80 percent of the state's water supply but make up less than 2 percent of the state's economy. Brown said farmers aren't using water frivolously on their lawns or taking long showers.

"They're providing most of the fruits and vegetables of America to a significant part of the world," he said.

Brown said that before the cutbacks, some California farmers had already been denied irrigation water from federal surface supplies, forcing them to leave hundreds of thousands of acres unplanted. Many vulnerable farm laborers are without work, he said. Farmers who don't have access to surface water have increased the amount of water pumped from limited groundwater supplies.

Brown announced the mandate on April 1 standing in the Sierra Nevada, where the snowpack measures at 5 percent of historical average, the lowest in 65 years of record-keeping.

Addressing agriculture, Brown said on the broadcast that farmers asserting century-old water rights deeply rooted in state law that allows them access to more water than others "are probably going to be examined."

After declaring a drought emergency in January 2014, Brown urged Californians to voluntarily cut their water use by 20 percent from the previous year. That resulted in great variations among communities and an overall reduction of about 10 percent statewide.

GUIDE

Tips for Selecting a Quality Hearing Aid



If you're suffering from a hearing loss or impairment, a hearing aid may be just the thing for you. Hearing loss affects more than 40 million Americans. People of all ages and backgrounds experience hearing impairment or loss.

Many people seek out hearing aids to help relieve the serious consequences of this condition. As a result, they lead richer, fuller lives.

These devices are highly technical, customized to meet each individual's needs. Types of hearing loss vary widely, and are sometimes quite different from person to person.

Innovations in hearing aids include using digital processors to isolate and amplify the frequencies a patient needs most. Many of the latest hearing aids are so small they are practically invisible.

Styles

The good news is that you no longer need to purchase bulky, obvious hearing aids of yesteryear.

The most popular hearing aids on the market fit completely within the ear canal. While they are attractive and barely noticeable, their small size means they are typically more expensive.

Other styles include half-shell, full-shell, behind-the-ear and open-fit hearing aids. Because these hearing aids come in a range of sizes and prices, consult with a specialist to help you choose the right style to fit your needs.

Internal Electronics

The design of a hearing aid will make a large difference in cost and performance. Two devices may look similar but produce dramatically different results.

The difference is in the internal electronics. Nearly all hearing aids available today are digital. They will filter out background noise, enabling the wearer to hear a conversation clearly. This technology is particularly effective in crowded settings. This technology can be tailored to help with your particular kind of hearing loss. If you have an outdated hearing aid, consider upgrading to a more modern device. It will help your hearing be as close to natural as possible.

Options

When you are searching for a hearing aid, look for special features that will enhance your hearing and your life. Some examples include:

BLUETOOTH CONNECTIONS: You could connect wirelessly to Bluetooth electronic devices, such as smart phones. It allows you to hear phone conversations directly through your hearing aid.

TELEPHONE ADAPTERS: This feature senses when you are talking on the phone and adjusts the setting to make it more clear during your conversation.

DIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE: You can adjust your device to pick up sound that is directly in front of you. For example, when you are having one-on-one conversations with a person, it is useful to turn the microphone to improve your hearing. You may also change the setting to a more general setting that would be useful at public performances or concerts.

REMOTE CONTROL: Some devices allow you to adjust the settings without touching it. A remote control can change the directional microphone or amplification.

There are a lot of beautiful sounds in the world. Don't let your hearing loss cause you to miss any more of them. A hearing aid can help you.

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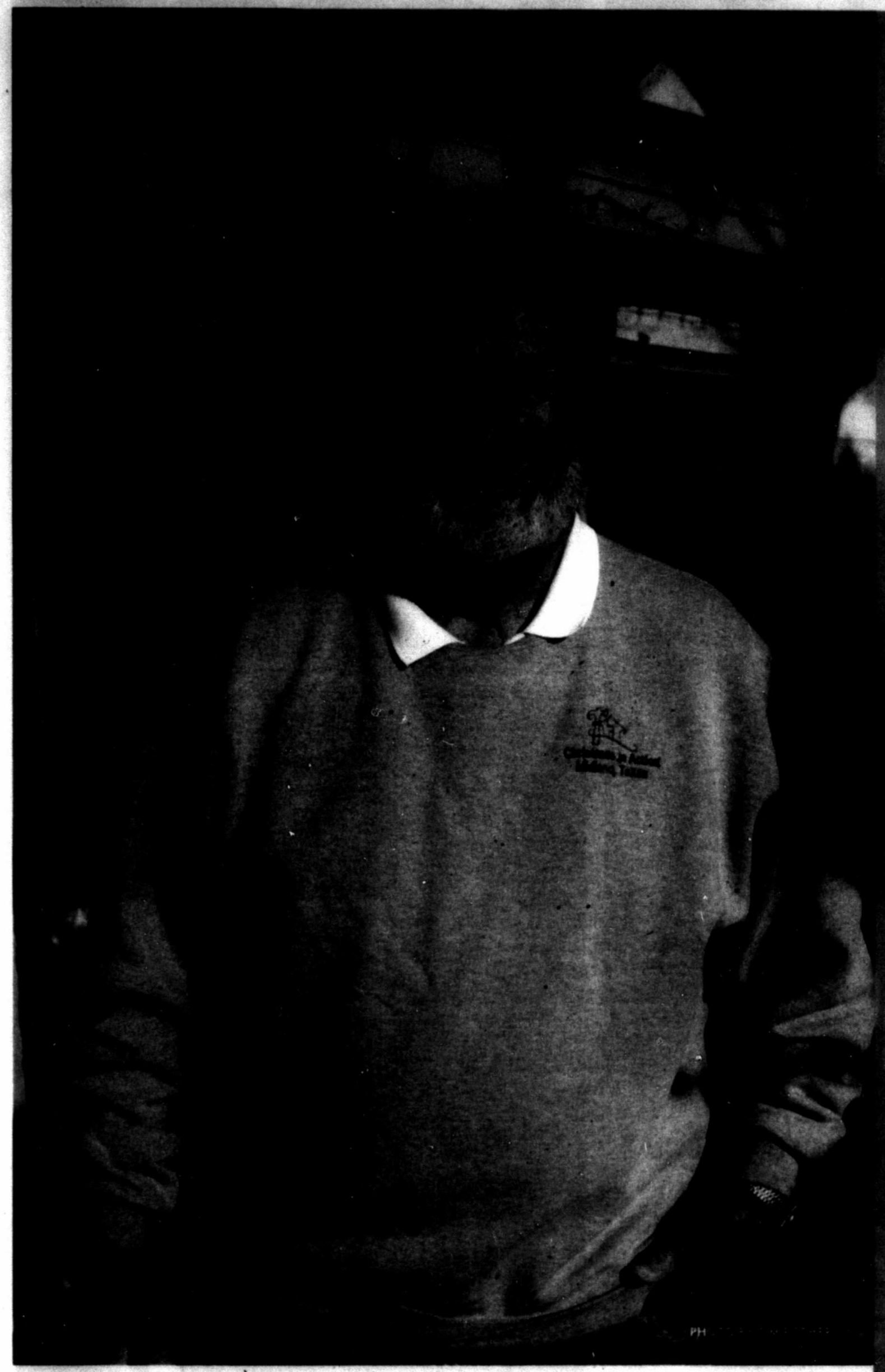

BOBBY J. TRIMBLE

CHRISTMAS IN ACTION
FOUNDER

What inspired you to start Christmas in Action?
Teaching a class of young men from the book of James in the Bible, Chapter 2:14-17.
"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he have faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food and one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled, notwithstanding, ye give them not those things which are needed to the body, what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works is dead being alone."
I told the men there is more to being a Christian than just going to church. The lesson encouraged the class to step outside the church walls and work on homes of women without husbands in the community. At first the repairs were small, such as repairing gates, furnaces, evaporative coolers, etc. This developed into larger projects and continued through the summer of 1973, the seeds began to sprout. At this point, I realized my background played a major part. Having been born during the Depression, one of 17 children, my father was a farmer who bought his own farm and lost it, the house, everything and sought out farmers to hire to work in the fields for $1 per day. I was 8 years old and worked alongside my father and older brothers and sisters in order to survive in our community. We were always the "poor," but Daddy never asked for help and my first volunteer act was to help him dig graves. He went to the church and asked to do it to help out.

What is Christmas in Action's purpose?
To repair the homes of the elderly and disabled, to keep them warm and dry. Often roofs leak, plumbing is stopped up and they have no way to pay for repairs. We do new roofs, windows, siding, paint and all kinds of heating and plumbing.

For someone looking to make a difference, what would you recommend?
Everyone has a talent and something they are interested in and I think that person who does want to make a difference only has to look at all of the different nonprofit organizations in this fine city of Midland and they will find it.

What is your favorite Christmas in Action moment?
In the spring of 1976 I surveyed the home of Mrs. Lillian Friday. She was living in an 8-X-10-foot storage building behind her sister's house. Unfortunately, her home was not selected as an April project, so I shared Mrs. Friday's plight with my Sunday School class and we decided to build her a new home next door to her sister, Mrs. Feltie Houston. The home was built with volunteer labor and donations from Alamo Heights Baptist Church.

***Christmas in Action**, formerly Christmas in April, has provided hope and action to the low-income elderly and disabled in communities all across the country since its 1972 founding in Midland. Christmas in Action completed its 10,000th project in 2013. For more information, visit christmasinaction.org.*

TO NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING MIDLANDER, VISIT

"HE INSTILLS THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING A HEART FOR SERVING OTHERS"

Rarely can the name Bobby Trimble be mentioned without reference to Christmas in Action, for the two are inseparable. While scores of volunteers through Christmas in Action have brought home repair to thousands of Midland's elderly and disabled homeowners for 43 years, Bobby remains at the heart of our mission to take care of our neighbors. At the age of 84, his willingness to teach is only surpassed by his hands-on example of working daily on housing projects and in the warehouse. Bobby works diligently with volunteers from churches, schools, businesses and other organizations educating them on making a wide range of home repairs while instilling in them the importance of developing a heart for serving others. He provides hope to a homeowner and a vision to volunteers who see their time and commitment making a difference in the lives of many. Midland is a better place because of Bobby Trimble and Christmas in Action, and all who serve alongside him have been richly blessed.

Gregg Groves, *Christmas in Action board member*

"YOU ARE A SWEET PERSON AND HAVE A BIG HEART"

Thank God for you and Christmas in Action because there are so many people who need help. And, thanks to God that He put it in your heart to open a program so you can help people like me and others in our community.

May God keep on blessing this program and may He keep on giving you the strength so you can keep Christmas in Action open. You are a sweet person and you have a big heart. I can always call you and you never turn me down when I need help. That means a whole lot. So thank you again.

Arrella Tillis, *Christmas in Action recipient*

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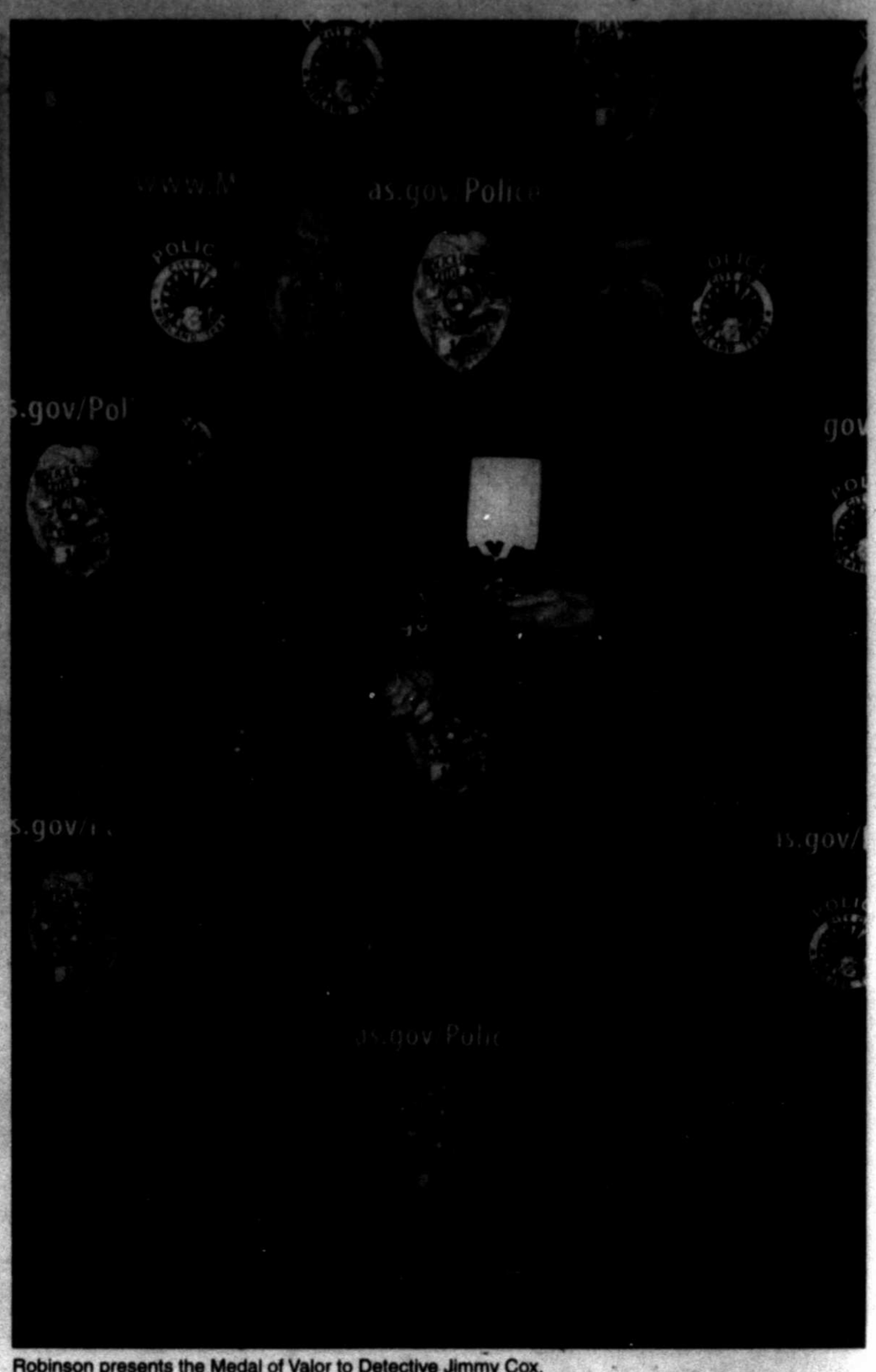
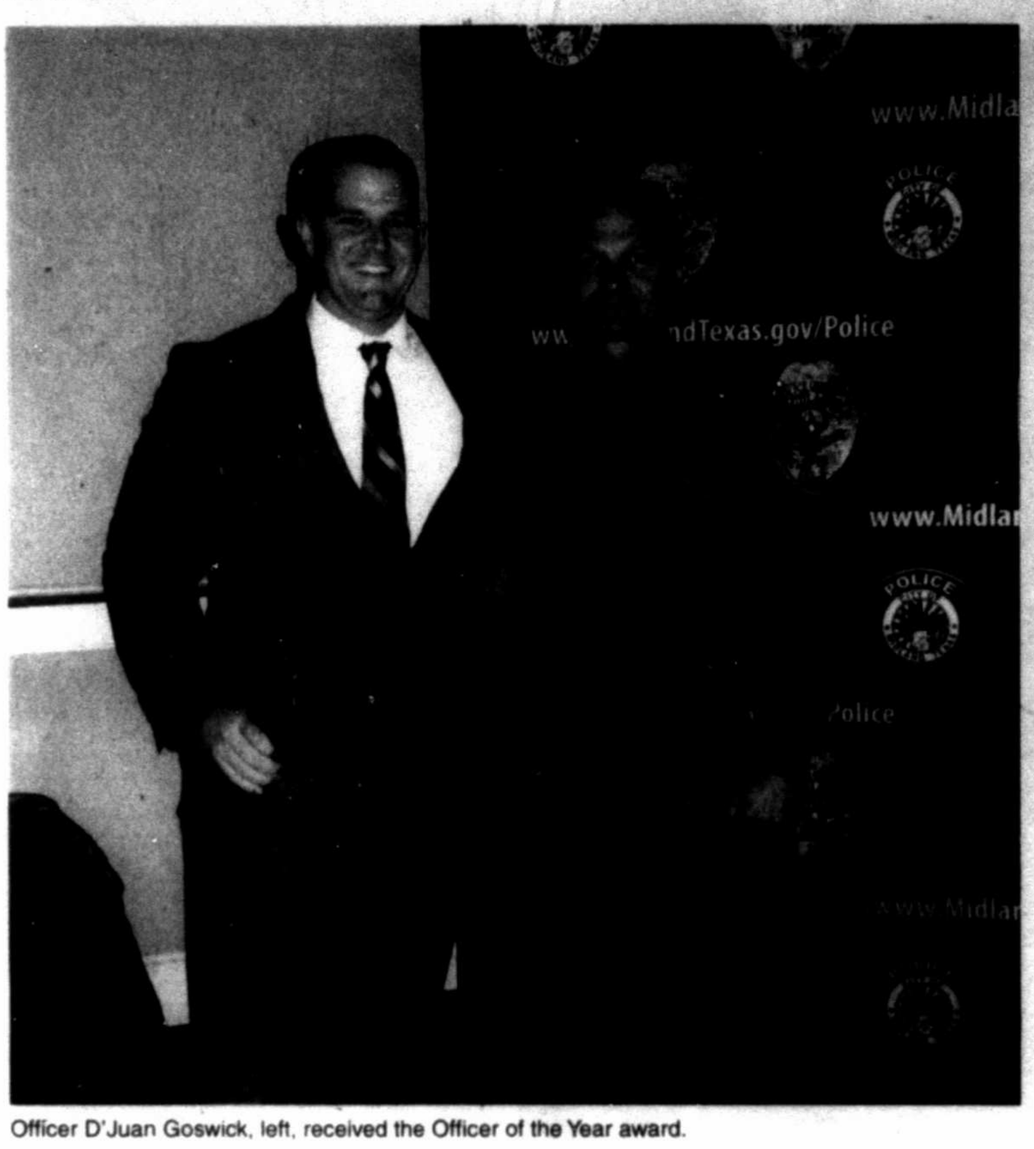
Courtesy photos

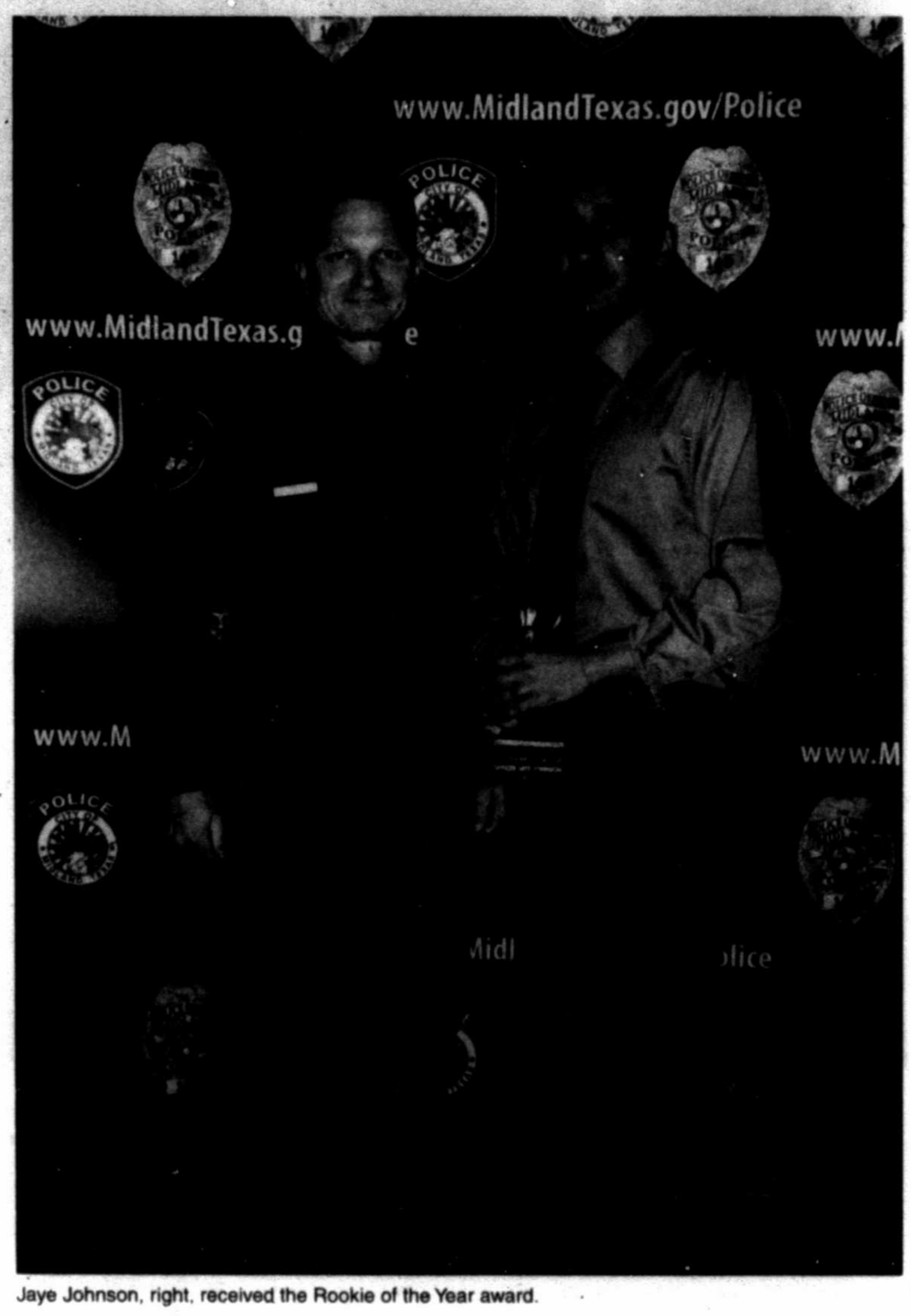
Midland Police Department Chief Price Robinson presents the Distinguished Service Medal to Sgt. Mitch Russell



Robinson presents the Medal of Valor to Detective Jimmy Cox.



Officer D'Juan Goswick, left, received the Officer of the Year award.



Jaye Johnson, right, received the Rookie of the Year award.

MPD holds annual awards banquet

Numerous officers and civilians were recognized at Midland Police Department's awards banquet. The 23rd annual awards banquet was March 26 at Midland Country Club. Among those honored were Sgt. Mitch Russell, Det. Jimmy Cox, Officer D'Juan Goswick amd Jaye Johnson. Chief Price Robinson presented the award to Russell and Cox; Deputy Chief Seth Herman presented the award to Goswick and Johnson.

Award winners were:

Field Operations Bureau:

- Supervisor of the Year: Sgt. Doug Crisp
- Civilian of the Year: Liz Thornton
- Officer of the Year: Officer D'Juan Goswick
- Rookie of the Year: Jaye Johnson

Support Services Bureau:

- Supervisor of the Year: Sgt. Pete Dehlinger
- Civilian of the Year: Raul Urias
- Top Gun: Lt. Layton Fincher
- Fitness Award: Officer David Edwards
- Fittest Squad: Sgt. Brad Alexander, Joseph Beltran, Douglas Sauls and Hannah Yoxsimer

Chief's Awards:

- Medal of Valor: Detective Jimmy Cox
- Distinguished Service Medal: Sgt. Mitch Russell
- Medal of Service: Officer Ciro Chairez
- Medal of Service: Officer Chane Blandford
- Retirees Medal of Service: Manuel Beltran, Beverly Holder, Chuck Sims, John R Smith, Darin Clements, Arthur Villarreal, Tony Dickie, Elias Hernandez, Richard Lewis, Robbie Mobley, Jesse Robledo and Sherri Fox
- Citizens Appreciation Award: Bobbie Kerrigan, Mark Timmons, Modesta Sanchez and Chris Stokes
- Volunteers with the Citizen Police Academy, Citizens On Patrol and Volunteer Parking Enforcement will were recognized.

Investigative Services Bureau:

- Civilian of the Year: Rhiannon Fry
- Detective of the Year: Detective Lorenzo Dominguez
- Explorer of the Year: Tony Harris

Source: City of Midland

BRIDGERESULTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

PERMIAN BRIDGE CLUB

March 23

Richard Stein-Peter Berzanskis, Flo Curry-Marlene Blumentritt, Belle Harris-Ann Brooks, Marty Massie-Kay Sewell

March 24

John Marlow-Blumentritt, Charlie Grimes-Ann Servatius, Marilyn Higgins-Brenda Brauner, Helen South-Martha Poss, Bitsy Loewenstein-Betty Marlow

March 25

South-Servatius-Ann Parish-Harris, Grimes-Blumentritt, Massie-Higgins, Don Troy-Sewell

March 26

Trudie Thomason-Stein, Georgia Temple-Higgins-Sarana Savage-Parish, Sewell-Troy, Dorothy Blair-Linda Farrar

March 27

Tommie Strack-Blumentritt, Brauner-Poss-Janet Stoltz-Bonnie Hubbard

March 29

Gloria Jackson-Nancy Ward, K.C. Evans-Ricki Perry, Gregory Bartha-Frances Levin

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MONDAY PRIME TIME — APRIL 6, 2015

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

						6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID	ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Dancing With the Stars (N)					Castle "Once Upon a Time in the West"		KMID News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) News Nightline
KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7 News	Ent. Tonight	Mike & Molly	Champi-onship (L)	NCAA Basketball Division I Tournament Final Four Championship Site: Lucas Oil Stadium (L)						(:35) CBS 7 News	(:05) David Letterman
KWWT	CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Hogan's Heroes	Twilight Zone	B.New-hart	B.New-hart	Carol Burnett	P. Mason of the Missing Button	"The Case	McCloud
KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Gotham "Everyone Has a Cobblepot"		The Following "The Hunt" (N)		Modern Family	Modern Family	Hot in Cleveland	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother
KMLM	IND	11	11	12	11	11	Dr. William	Dr. R.Booker	Update News	Day of Discovery	Light of the Southwest				House Call	Mani Erfan	Rocks/Manuscripts	Y.Salamanca
KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 at 6 p.m.		The Voice "The Live Playoffs, Night 1" (N)				The Night Shift "Best Laid Plans" (N)		NewsWest 9 at 9 at 10	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT	PBS	13	13	*	13	8	PBS NewsHour		Antique "Birmingham (Hour Two)" (N)		Antique "Billings, MT (Hour Three)"		Independent Lens "Little Hope Was Arson/ City in Flames" (N)			Emery Blagdon	Tavis Smiley (N)	Tavis Smiley
KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	La sombra del pasado		Amores con trampa		Hasta el fin del mundo		Que te perdone Dios... Yo no		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto	Deportivo
KOSA	MNT	16	16		16		Fam.Feud	Million..	SVU "Baggage"		SVU "Selfish"		My News	Million..	Anger M.	M&M	Office	Access H.
FLIX		340	65		165		(5:25)	Ruthless Pe...	★★ Blaze ('89, Dra) Paul Newman.				★★★ The Muse			(:05)	★★ The Sex Monster	
HBO		300	68	14	14		(3:00)	Edge of To...	Sinatra 2/2 from April 5 (N)				(:15) 2 Days		★★ The Other Woman Cameron Diaz.		(:25) Sports	
HBO2		302	69	15	101	23	Movie	Last Week	Non-Stop ('14, Thril) Liam Neeson.				Thrones "Baelor"		Game of Thrones		★★ The Heat	
HBOS		304	70	16	102		(:20)	★★ Rumor Has It Kevin Costner.					★★ The Break Up Vince Vaughn.				★★ Divergent Shailene Woodley.	
MAX		380	71	17	120	24	(3:45)	★★ Norbit Eddie Murphy.	★★ Idiocracy Luke Wilson.				★ The Counselor ('13, Dra) Cameron Diaz.				Chemist.	Chemist.
MAX2		382	72	18	122			★★ The Upside of Anger Joan Allen.					★★ Ender's Game Asa Butterfield.		(:55) Skin	(:25) Skin	(:55)	★ Bedazzled
PLEX				96			(5:10)	Eye of the H...	★★★★ The Dead				★★★ Cross Creek Mary Steenburgen.			(:35)	★ A Gathering of Old Men	
SHOW		320	66	19	140	25	(5:15)	★ Alex Cross	Shameless			D.L. Hughley: Clear	Shameless				★★★ Django Unchained Jamie Foxx.	
TMC		336	67	22	155	26	(5:15)	★★★ Shrink	★★★★ The Station Agent				★★ Waiting Ryan Reynolds.		(:05)	★★★ The Dead Girl		Movie
A&E		27	32	28	35	47	Bates Motel "Persuasion"		Bates Motel "Unbreak-Able"		Bates Motel "The Deal" (N)		The Returned "Tony and Adam" (N)		Bates Motel "The Deal"		Bates Motel "Unbreak-Able"	
AMC		40	21	23	42	51	CallSaul	(:50) Call Saul "RICO"	(:55) Better Call Saul "Pimento"				Call Saul "Marco" (N)		(:05) CallSaul "Marco"		(:15) CallSaul "Marco"	
BET		58	26		40		(4:30)	To Be Ann...	To Be Announced				Being Mary Jane		Being Mary Jane		Wendy Williams	
BRAVO		65	63		41		Shahs of Sunset		Housewives Atlanta		Shahs of Sunset (N)		Southern Charm (N)		Watch (N)	Shahs of Sunset		S. Charm
CNBC		46	45		39	72	Jay Leno's Garage		Shark Tank		The Profit		Queen of Versailles				Queen of Versailles	
CNN		43	24	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		CNN International	
DISC		50	20	31	24	42	Fast N' Loud		Fast n' Loud (N)		Fast N' Loud (N)		Misfit Garage (N)		Fast N' Loud		Misfit Garage	
DISNEY		56	27	36	25	36	KC Under	Cloud 9	Dove Cameron.				(:10) Austin Liv/Mad		DogBlog	I Didn't	Jessie A.N.T.	GoodLuck GoodLuck
ESPN		32	29	48	31	30	MLB Baseball Cleveland Indians at Houston Astros (L)								E:60 Profile		SportsCenter at the Final Four (L)	
ESPN2		34	28	49	32	31	College Gameday (L)						Grantland B-ball		MLB Baseball San Francisco Giants at Arizona Diamondbacks (L)			
FAMILY		53	54	34	42	33		★★★★ Matilda ('96, Fam) Mara Wilson.					★★ Ella Enchanted Anne Hathaway.			The 700 Club	Boy MW	Boy MW
FNC		45	58	53	23	55	On the Record		The Kelly File				The Kelly File			The O'Reilly Factor	The Kelly File	
FOOD		64	59	27	68	54	Diners...	Diners, Dr.	Diners...	Diners...			Diners...	Diners...	Food Fortunes (N)	Diners...	Diners...	Diners... Diners...
FSSW		37	43	50	45	29	O'Brie-nAward	SportsDay OnAir (N)	TMSPrev. (N)	Rangers Insider	Rangers Live Pre-game (L)		MLB Baseball Texas Rangers at Oakland Athletics Site: O.co Coliseum Oakland, Calif. (L)					
FX		31	31	59	64	69	(5:00)	★★ Battleship	Taylor Kitsch.				M&M	M&M	M&M	M&M	M&M	M&M
HALLMARK		54	49	58		34	The Waltons		The Waltons				Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls G. Girls G. Girls
HGTV		63	50	26	48	44	Love It or List It		Love It or List It				Love It or List It (N)		H.Hunter	House (N)	Love It or List It	Love It or List It
HISTORY		71	62	29	50	43	Swamp "Badlands"		Swamp People				Swamp People (N)		(:05) Outlaws (N)		(:05) Swamp People	Swamp People
LIFETIME		28	25	25	28	48	(5:00)	★★ While You Were Sleeping	★ If There Be Thorns (2015, Drama) Jason Lewis, Mason Cook, Heather Graham.				Lizzie Borden Chron. "Acts of Borden"		Lizzie Borden Chron. "Acts of Borden"		★ If There Be Thorns	
MSNBC		47	51		49	73	Hardball		All In With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN		38	39	*			Curling World Championship				Match of the Day		Blazers	Barclays Review (N)		Premier L	Blazers	Soccer
NICK		55	34	39	34	37	MakePop	Sam & Cat	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	Friends	(:10) Lopez	(:50) Lopez
SPIKE		30	22	55	53	58	(5:30)	★★★ 2 Fast 2 Furious Paul Walker.			★★★ 2 Fast 2 Furious ('03, Act) Paul Walker.						★★★ Death Race	
SYFY		66	64	41	57	67	★★ Zathura: A Space Adventure						★★★ Jumanji ('95, Fant) Robin Williams.				★★★ The Golden Compass	
TBS		25	11	44	66	41	Sein. "The Betrayal"	Seinf. "The Apology"	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad	American Dad	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan Billy Gardell, Zach Woods, Tinashe		The Office	Conan
TCM		41	61	24	63	66	(5:30)	★★ Keep 'Em R...	★ Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (:45) ★★★ The Outlaw ('43, West) Jane Russell.								★ The Paleface	
TELE		20	8	10	20		Caso cerrado		Avenida Brasil		Tierra de reyes		Dueños del paraiso		Al rojo	(:25) Titular.	Tierra de reyes	
TLC		51	33	32	38	52	Hoarding "I Was Gonna Gag"		Hoarding: Buried Al "Randy" (N)		600 Lb. Life: Supersized "Charity's Story" (N)		The Man With the 132-lb Scrotum		600 Lb. Life: Supersized "Charity's Story"		The Man With the 132-lb Scrotum	
TNT		24	23	40	26	50	Castle "In the Belly of the Beast"		Castle "The Way of the Ninja"		Castle "The Greater Good"		Bones			Bones "Fire in the Ice"	Law & Order "Blaze"	
TVLAND		49	48	35	54	35	Home Videos		Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Younger	Younger	Queens	Queens	Friends	Friends
USA		26	30	42	27	49	NCIS "Iced"		WWE Monday Night Raw						(:05) DIG "Emma Wilson's Father"		(:05) CSI: Crime Scene "Ghost Town"	
WGN		19	18				America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		Salem "Cry Havoc"		★★ John Q (2002, Drama) Gabriela Oltean, Kimberly Elise, Denzel Washington.			

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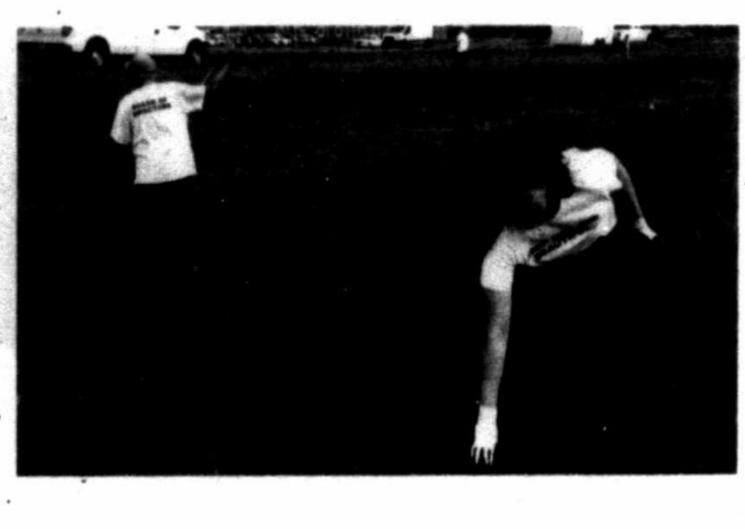
Midland, Texas 79701
432-687-0195

Sue Servantez, executive director's assistant of Keep Midland Beautiful, and other board members, clean up trash along Loop 250 on Tuesday on the south side service road.



Amanda Byrom, executive director of Keep Midland Beautiful, and other board members, clean up trash.

BANANAGRAMS!

Add a U to each of the five-letter words below, and then rearrange the letters in each word to form a new six-letter word.

LEVEL

DUNES

TAMER

BLEND

SHRED

Yesterday's Answer: TURNIP, UNITER, RETAIN, EATING, GAINED, AGENDA, DAMAGE

4.6

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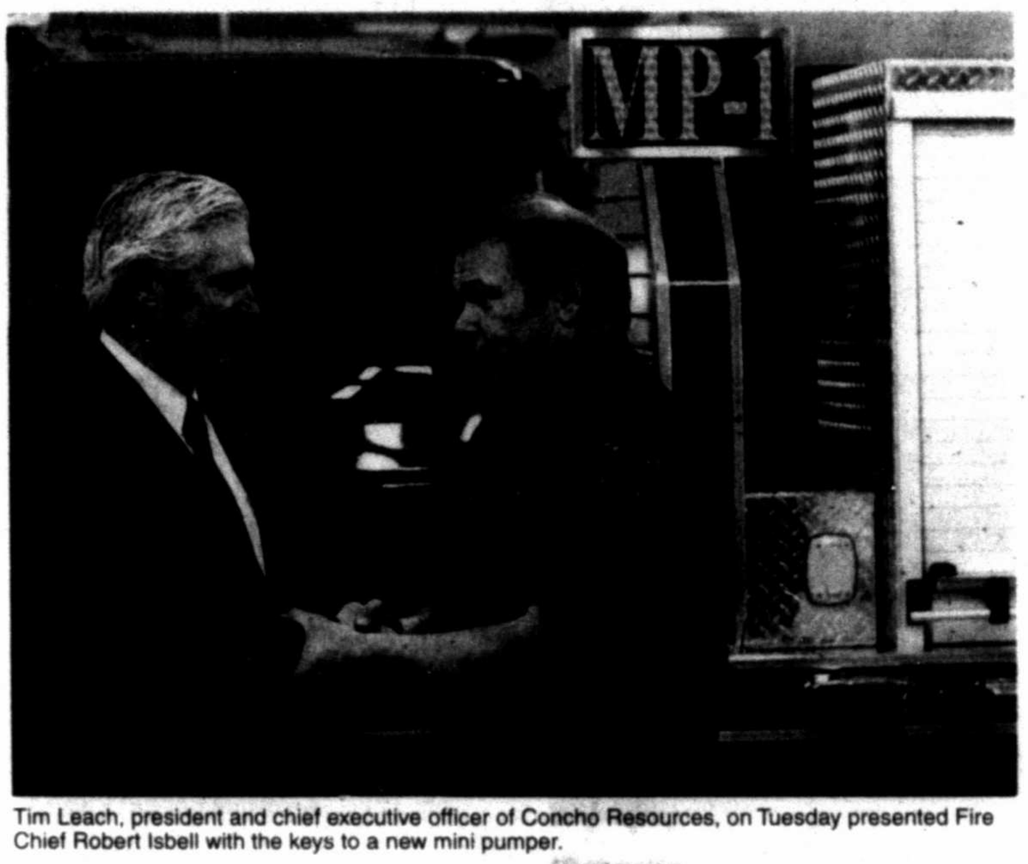
Courtney Sharp, from left, Fritz Niggeler, David Hickman, Chip Balzer, Tim Leach, Robert Isbell, Scott Kidwell, Carol Leach, Kristin Ditto, Elizabeth Stout, Jerry Morales and J.Ross Lacy stand in front of MFD's new mini pumper. The fire truck, which is representative of Concho's commitment to support the community, cost about $180,000, Isbell said.



Tim Leach, president and chief executive officer of Concho Resources, on Tuesday presented Fire Chief Robert Isbell with the keys to a new mini pumper.

CONCHO'S BIG RED TRUCK DONATION

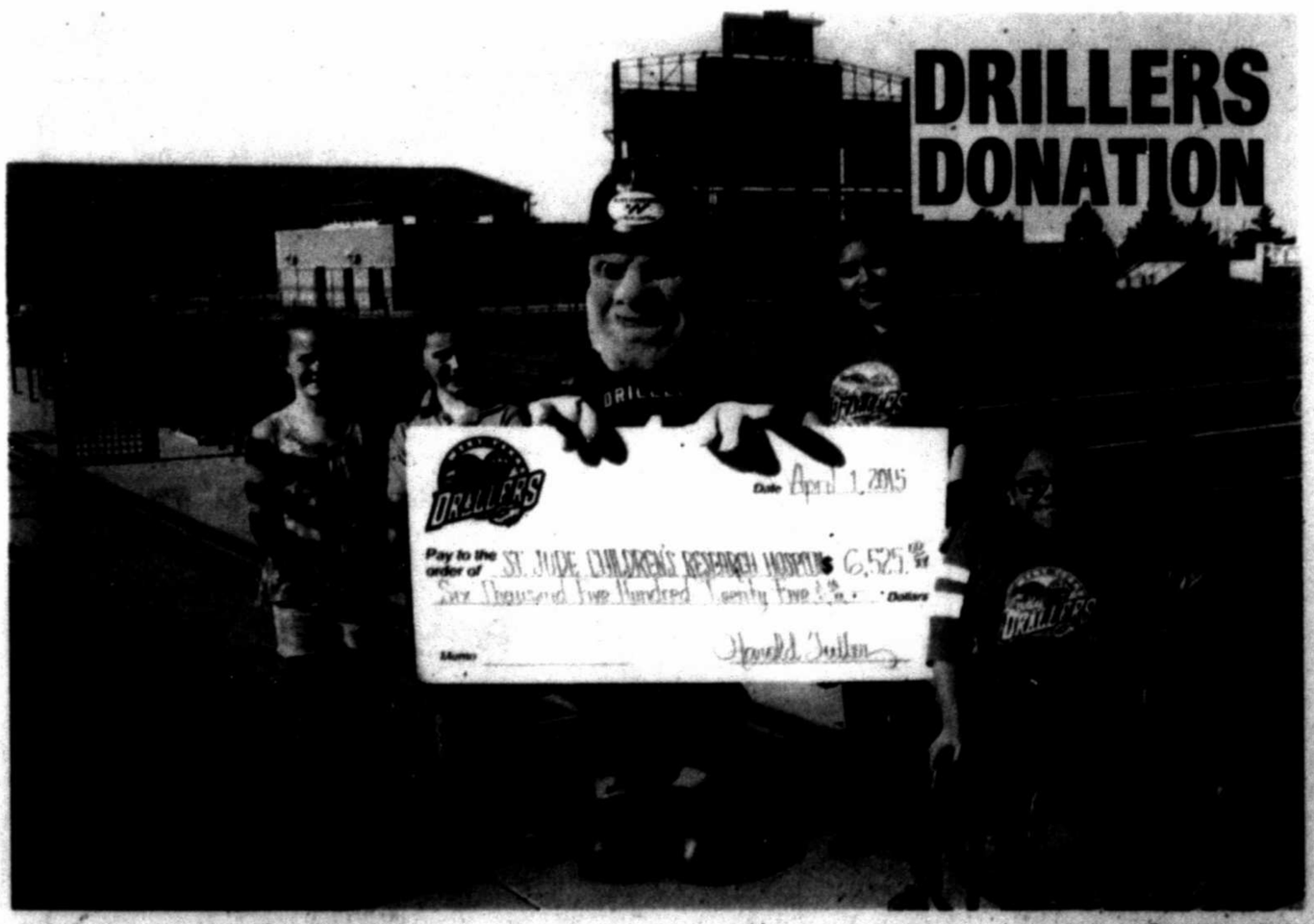
PHOTOS BY JAMES DURBIN | REPORTER-TELEGRAM



Scott Kidwell, from left, Carol Leach, Tim Leach, Derek Fitzpatrick-Truelove, Michael Tully, Anthony Harrison and Drew Peters look over the mini pumper that Concho Resources donated to the Midland Fire Department.



Mayor Jerry Morales, left, and Leach listen during the event at Central Fire Station.



Courtesy photo

West Texas Drillers recently played a game to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. A "check" for $6,525 was presented on Wednesday in honor of Trevor Tredaway, second from left. Trevor, who has a brain tumor, receives treatment at the hospital. Also on hand for the presentation were Trevor's sister, Morgan, from left, mascot Drillbit and Lady Drillers Natalie Almance and Hope Santiago.

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Kershaw, Trout, Bumgarner all set for opening day

By Ben Walker
Associated Press

No team lost more games in spring training than the champion San Francisco Giants, hardly any pitcher struggled more than World Series MVP Madison Bumgarner.

So what? Throw out those stats — it's time to play ball for real.

Come today, Clayton Kershaw and Masahiro Tanaka will be on the mound, Mike Trout and David Ortiz will be at the plate, Max Scherzer and Pablo Sandoval will be on new teams.

In all, 28 teams in action, all hoping to make the Final Ten come October.

"If you can play every day like opening day and get yourself up like you do for opening day, you're probably going to have a good year," said Giants manager Bruce Bochy, whose club visits Arizona.

"That's how we like to play every game, that it's the most important game of the year. Opening day is that day. It's an important game. It probably helps set the tone a little bit," he said.

The 2015 big league started Sunday night. Jon Lester, Joe Maddon and the fresh-look Chicago Cubs hosted Adam Wainwright and the St. Louis Cardinals at renovated Wrigley Field..

Yet even before Paul Molitor becomes the latest Hall of Famer to try managing or Ortiz tries to stick in the batter's box under Major League Baseball's new pace of play rules, some stars have already emerged this year.

David Mellor, Jason Griffeth, Derek Gauger and Jedi Saverse, among them.

Never heard of 'em? They're the full-time groundskeepers at Fenway Park and have gotten the diamond ready despite the snowiest winter in Boston since the city began keeping such records.

"I was never worried about getting ready for opening day," said Mellor, director of grounds for the Red Sox. "The field is in great shape. It is looking better with each passing day."

Across the Northeast and Midwest, ballparks were battered by a harsh winter. Blizzards, below-zero

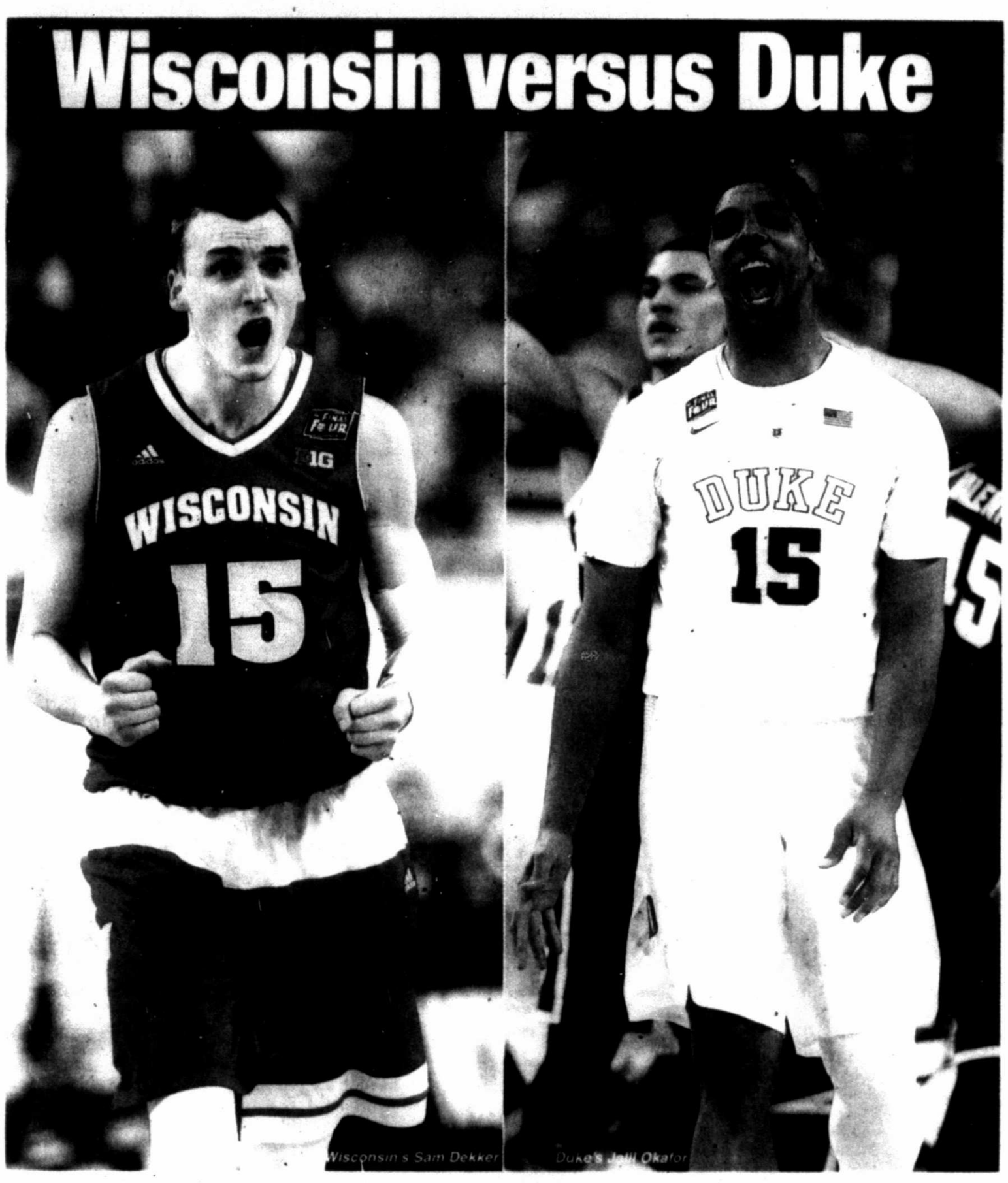
Please see **OPENING**/4C



Ben Margot/AP

San Francisco's Madison Bumgarner throws a pitch during a spring training game March in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Wisconsin versus Duke



Wisconsin's Sam Dekker — Duke's Jahlil Okafor

Badgers, Blue Devils step into spotlight tonight

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Duke languished in the shadows of Kentucky all season, the big blue juggernaut that nobody seemed to be talking about. It was a rarity for a program with such a championship pedigree, not to mention a record-setting coach and superstar freshmen.

They can thank Wisconsin for finally returning to the limelight.

The fun-loving Badgers ended the Wildcats' pursuit of perfection in the national semifinals and set up an intriguing showdown in tonight's title game: Duke trying to give Mike Krzyzewski his fifth national championship, Wisconsin trying to capture its first in 74 years.

"I don't think basketball fans that I know would ever say that Duke didn't have a good team," countered Badgers coach Bo Ryan, who won four Division III titles at Wisconsin-Platteville.

"A lot of people thought they had a pretty good team because they spanked our team at our place in December," he said. "I can't say that they were ignored, that's for sure."

Yet the buzz at the Final Four this week was focused on Kentucky. The only folks giving the Badgers much of a chance were wearing red and white and scarfing down cheese.

Along with the coach in the other locker room.

"Coming into the year, I thought they'd be the best team in the country, and they have been," Krzyzewski said. "It's just that Kentucky's undefeated performance has overshadowed just how good Wisconsin has been, until (Saturday) night. There aren't any shadows anymore."

Only spotlights.

The Blue Devils (34-4) have run roughshod through the NCAA Tournament, relying on suffocating defense and game-changing freshman Jahlil Okafor to shut down opponents. They're allowing just 55 points per game, one of the finest defensive performances in tournament history.

Meanwhile, Okafor and his merry band of freshmen — Justise Winslow, Tyus Jones and Grayson Allen — have risen to the challenge of the game's biggest stage. The four led the way in a semifinal blowout of Michigan State, a game never in question after the first 5 minutes.

"We want to be one of those teams that coach is bragging about five, seven years later," senior guard Quinn Cook said. "So

Please see **SPOTLIGHT**/3C

National title game provides intriguing matchup



WILL KORN
wkorn@mrt.com

The Wisconsin Badgers made it into the history books on Saturday night.

Years from now, when people look back upon this year's Kentucky team as among the greatest in college basketball history, they'll remember who hung up that "1" in their 38-1 record.

The Badgers can bask in that glory for a few hours, but they'll also remember that tonight, they'll be playing in the National Championship game for the first time since World War II.

Meanwhile, Duke didn't seem to have much trouble with Michigan State in Saturday night's first game. The Blue Devils simply flexed their scoring muscles and showed why they're the fourth best offense in the country this season.

Duke, which has sometimes been knocked for not being a stout defensive squad, held a very solid Spartans team to just 61 points. A good-shooting team, Sparty was limited to just 40 percent for the game.

All in all, I want to say that Monday's Duke-Wisconsin matchup might even be better than a Duke-Kentucky matchup might have been.

I went 1-1 on my national semi-final predictions, which I wasn't particularly pleased with. But I did predict Wisconsin would score 71 points. Check. I also predicted Sparty would score 59, and I just missed that mark, for the sake of personal consolation.

So there's that. Anyway, here are my thoughts on what should be a truly memorable Monday night in the college basketball world.

DUKE VS. WISCONSIN, 8:18 P.M. CBS

On Saturday night, Wisconsin exposed maybe Kentucky's only weakness: a lack of outside shooting. The fact of the matter is, when the Wildcats went with a lineup of the Harrison twins at the guard positions and Willie Cauley-Stein, Karl-Anthony Towns and Trey Lyles at the forward spots, they really had little to no outside shooting threat.

Therefore, the Badgers had no concern with leaving open Kentucky shooters on the perimeter when they wanted to body up Stein or Towns. While Andrew Harrison is a solid shooter, he isn't an elite one and isn't a guy you hold your breath on when the ball is in the air.

The Badgers can't do that against Duke, one of the best shooting teams

Please see **KORN**/3C

Notre Dame edges South Carolina to advance

By Fred Goodall
Associated Press

Fighting Irish	66
Gamecocks	65

TAMPA, Fla. — Notre Dame keeps finding ways to win. One more victory and the Irish will be national champions again.

A young team that lost three starters from last year's squad is back in the NCAA title game after fighting off a gallant comeback by Final Four newcomer South Carolina 66-65 on Sunday night.

All-American Jewell Loyd scored 22 points as the Irish (36-2) advanced to the championship game for the fourth time in five years, but it took a basket from an unlikely source to survive a scoring drought that lasted more than seven minutes down the stretch.

Madison Cable's putback for her only points of the night put the Irish in front for good.

"I was just crashing any way to try to get a rebound, and it kind of just bounced right where I was," Cable said. "I turned around and had an open shot and took it. Luckily, it went in."

Loyd said no one boxed out Cable on her game-winning basket, adding: "She's done it all year. She's the MVP."

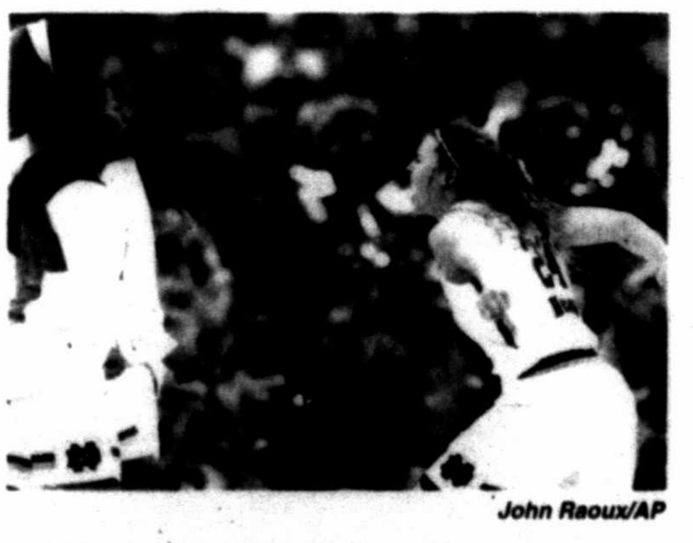
Now, Notre Dame will face two-time defending champion Connecticut (37-1) Tuesday night in a rematch of last year's title game.

The Irish ran out to double-digit leads against South Carolina, but the Gamecocks wouldn't go away.

"We didn't rebound, missed a bunch of shots," said Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw. "Just a great basketball game. We went to Jewell. She had to do everything. Everyone contributed."

Notre Dame is looking to win it

Please see **ADVANCE**/3C



John Raoux/AP

Notre Dame's Hannah Huffman, right, celebrates with her teammates after the Fighting Irish defeated South Carolina, 66-65, Sunday in the Final Four in Tampa, Fla.

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

TODAY

WHAT'S ON TV

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Louisville at Virginia, 6 p.m., ESPNU

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Arizona State at New Mexico State, 5 p.m., FSSW+/FCSP

Mississippi State at Arkansas, 6 p.m., SEC

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Toronto at NY Yankees, Noon, ESPN/ESPNDEP

NY Mets at Washington, 3 p.m., ESPN/ESPNDEP

Cleveland at Houston, 6 p.m., ESPN/ESPNDEP/ROOT

San Francisco at Arizona, 9 p.m., ESPN2/ESPNDEP

Texas at Oakland, 9 p.m., FSSW

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NCAA Championship: Duke vs. Wisconsin, 8 p.m., CBS

MEN'S SOCCER

English Championship: Brentford vs. Nottingham Forest, 8:45 a.m., beIN

La Liga: Espanyol vs. Elche, 12:45 p.m., beIN2

Superliga Portuguesa: Porto vs. GD Estoril Praia, 1:45 p.m., UDN

English Premier: Crystal Palace vs. Manchester City, 2 p.m., NBCSN

NHL

Los Angeles at Vancouver, 9 p.m., NHL

Dallas at San Jose, 9:30 p.m., FSSW+

RUGBY

Super League: Warrington vs. Castleford, 8:30 a.m, FOXSOCP

WHAT'S ON RADIO

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Texas at Oakland, 9 p.m., KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

WHAT'S ON DECK

TODAY

HIGH SCHOOL GOLF

Boys, District 4-4A Tournament, Fort Stockton

Girls, District 4-4A Tournament, Andrews

Boys, District 5-3A Tournament, Big Spring

Girls, District 5-3A Tournament, Big Spring

JUNIOR COLLEGE BASEBALL

Howard College at Midland College, 6:30 p.m

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Montreal	80	48	22	10	106	213	183
x-Tampa Bay	80	48	27	5	104	255	206
Boston	79	41	25	13	95	209	201
Detroit	79	41	25	13	95	227	215
Ottawa	79	40	26	13	93	228	211
Florida	80	36	29	15	87	199	219
Toronto	80	30	43	7	67	208	253
Buffalo	79	22	49	8	52	155	266

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
y-N.Y Rangers	78	50	21	7	107	240	182
Washington	80	44	25	11	99	237	199
N.Y Islanders	79	46	27	6	98	241	219
Pittsburgh	79	42	26	11	95	215	203
Columbus	78	39	35	4	82	219	240
Philadelphia	79	32	29	18	82	208	224
New Jersey	79	32	34	13	77	174	205
Carolina	78	29	38	11	69	180	216

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-St. Louis	79	49	23	7	105	242	197
x-Nashville	79	47	22	10	104	227	197
x-Chicago	79	48	25	6	102	225	182
Minnesota	78	44	26	8	96	223	192
Winnipeg	78	40	26	12	92	222	208
Dallas	79	38	31	10	86	248	258
Colorado	79	36	31	12	84	212	223

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
y-Anaheim	80	50	23	7	107	234	221
Vancouver	79	45	29	5	95	229	216
Calgary	79	43	29	7	93	234	208
Los Angeles	78	39	25	14	92	212	195
San Jose	79	39	31	9	87	223	222
Edmonton	79	23	43	13	59	188	272
Arizona	79	24	47	8	56	167	262

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

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

Sunday's Scores

Toronto 3, Ottawa 2, SO

Philadelphia 4, Pittsburgh 1

Washington 2, Detroit 1

Montreal 4, Florida 1

St. Louis 2, Chicago 1

Today's Games

Carolina at Buffalo, 6 p.m.

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

Winnipeg at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

Los Angeles at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

Dallas at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Placed INFs J.J. Hardy and Jimmy Paredes, OF David Lough and C Matt Wieters on the 15-day DL. Recalled Lough and Wieters to March 27 and Paredes to April 1. Optioned LHP T.J. McFarland to Norfolk (IL). Reassigned C Ryan Lavarnway and OF Nolan Reimold to minor league camp.

BOSTON RED SOX — Placed RHP Koji Uehara and LHP Edwin Escobar on the 15-day DL. Uehara retroactive to March 27 and Escobar to March 29. Reassigned LHP Brian Johnson, Cs Luke Montz and Humberto Quintero, INFs Jeff Bianchi and Jemile Weeks and OF Quintin Berry to minor league camp.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with OF Matt Tuiasosopo on a minor league contract. Placed RHP Jake Petricka and LHPs Chris Sale and Eric Surkamp on the 15-day DL retroactive to March 27. Selected the contracts of RHP Matt Albers, INF Micah Johnson and C Geovany Soto from Charlotte (IL).

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with RHP Corey Kluber on a five-year contract. Placed RHP Josh Tomlin, OF Nick Swisher and INF Zach Walters on the 15-day DL. Walters retroactive to March 27, Tomlin to March 29 and Swisher to April 2. Placed RHP Gavin Floyd on the 60-day DL. Reassigned LHP Bruce Chen, C Brett Hayes, 1B/OF Jerry Sands, RHPs Jeff Manship and Shaun Marcum and INFs Michael Martinez and Ryan Rohlinger to Columbus (IL). Selected the contract of RHP Anthony Swarzak from Columbus.

DETROIT TIGERS — Placed RHP Bruce Rondon on the 15-day DL retroactive to April 1.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Placed LHP Tim Collins and RHP Luke Hochevar on the 15-day DL. Optioned LHP Brian Flynn to Omaha (PCL). Assigned RHP Joe Blanton, C J.C. Boscan, OF Moises Sierra and INFs Ryan Jackson, Whit Merrifield and Gabriel Noriega to Omaha. Selected the contracts of RHP Ryan Madsen and LHP Franklin Morales from Omaha.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Optioned C Carlos Perez, OF Daniel Robertson, LHP Andrew Heaney and INFs Grant Green, Josh Rutledge and Kyle Kubitza to Salt Lake (PCL). Placed OF Josh Hamilton, LHP Tyler Skaggs and RHPs Cory Rasmus and Garrett Richards on the 15-day DL retroactive to March 27. Reassigned RHP Ryan Matthews to minor league camp.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Placed RHPs Alex Cobb and Alex Colome, INF Nick Franklin and LHP Drew Smyly on the 15-day DL retroactive to March 27. Sent LHP Jake Odorizzi on the 15-day DL and LHP Matt Moore on the 60-day DL. Optioned C Curt Casali and LHP C.J. Riefenhauser to Durham (IL). Selected the contract of C Bobby Wilson from Durham.

TEXAS RANGERS — Designated LHP Sam Freeman for assignment. Placed LHP Matt Harrison and RHPs Tanner Scheppers, Lisalverto Bonilla and Kyuji Fujikawa on the 15-day DL. Harrison retroactive to March 27, Scheppers to March 29, Bonilla to March 31 and Fujikawa to April 1. Placed RHP Yu Darvish on the 60-day DL. Selected the contracts of RHPs Anthony Bass and Keone Kela from Round Rock (PCL).

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Placed OF Michael Saunders and INF Maicer Izturis on the 15-day DL retroactive to March 27, and RHP Marcus Stroman on the 60-day DL. Designated LHP Juan Dramas for assignment. Selected the contracts of RHPs Miguel Castro and Roberto Osuna and 2B Devon Travis from Buffalo (IL). Optioned INF Ryan Goins to Buffalo.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Placed C Oscar Hernandez, LHP Patrick Corbin and RHPs Matt Stites and David Hernandez on the 15-day DL retroactive to March 27, and RHP Bronson Arroyo on the 60-day DL. Released OF Cody Ross. Optioned OF Yasmany Tomas to Reno (PCL). Selected the contracts of C Gerald Laird and INF Jordan Pacheco from Reno and RHP Archie Bradley from Mobile (SL).

ATLANTA BRAVES — Acquired OFs Cameron Maybin, Carlos Quentin and Jordan Parraubeck and RHP Matt Wisler and the 41st overall selection in the 2015 first-year player draft from San Diego for OF Melvin Upton, Jr. and RHP Craig Kimbrel. Placed LHP Mike Minor and OFs Melvin Upton Jr. and Joey Terdoslavich on the 15-day DL. Terdoslavich retroactive to April 2. Placed RHPs Shae Simmons and Dan Winkler on the 60-day DL. Placed RHP Arodys Vizcaino and OF Dan Traicarte on the restricted list. Selected the contracts of RHP Cody Martin, LHP Eric Stults and OFs Kelly Johnson and Eric Young Jr. from Gwinnett (IL).

CHICAGO CUBS — Selected the contract of INF Jonathan Herrera from Iowa (PCL). Designated OF Ryan Sweeney for assignment. Placed RHPs Carlos Marmol and Jacob Turner, LHP Tsuyoshi Wada and OF Chris Denorfia on the 15-day DL, retroactive to March 27.

CINCINNATI REDS — Traded RHP Mike Bowden to Baltimore for cash. Placed RHP Homer Bailey on the 15-day DL, retroactive to March 27 and OF Jason Bourgeois and LHP Sean Marshall on the 60-day DL. Selected the contracts of RHPs Kevin Gregg and Jason Marquis, INF Chris Dominguez and OF Brennan Boesch from Louisville (IL).

COLORADO ROCKIES — Placed LHP Jorge De La Rosa and RHP David Hale on the 15-day DL, retroactive to March 27 and INF Charlie Culberson on the 15-day DL retroactive to March 31.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Optioned OF Chris Heisey, INF/OF Kike Hernandez and LHP Adam Liberatore to Oklahoma City (PCL). Reassigned RHPs David Aardsma and Sergio Santos and LHP David Huff to minor league camp. Placed RHPs Kenley Jansen and Brandon League and LHP Hyun-Jin Ryu on the 15-day DL, retroactive to March 27.

MIAMI MARLINS — Reassigned C Jhonatan Solano and INF Jordany Valdespin to minor league camp. Placed RHPs Jose Fernandez and Aaron Crow on the 15-day DL. Selected the contract of INF/OF Don Kelly from New Orleans (PCL).

NEW YORK METS — Placed LHP Josh Edgin and RHPs Bobby Parnell, Zack Wheeler and Vic Black on the 15-day DL, retroactive to March 27.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Optioned OF Jordan Danks to Lehigh Valley (IL). Placed RHPs Chad Billingsley and Jonathan Pettibone on the 15-day DL and LHP Mario Hollands on the 60-day DL. Selected the contracts of RHP Jeanmar Gomez, LHP Cesar Jimenez, INF Andres Blanco and OF Jeff Francoeur from Lehigh Valley.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Placed RHP Charlie Morton, OF Jaff Decker, RHP Brandon Cumpton, C Chris Stewart and INF Justin Sellers on the 15-day DL. Cumpton, Stewart and Sellers retroactive to March 27 and Decker to March 30. Recalled RHP Bob Kipper from Indianapolis (IL). Designated RHP Stolmy Pimentel and INF Pedro Florimon for assignment.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Placed LHP Jaime Garcia and OF Tommy Pham on the 15-day DL, retroactive to March 27.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Optioned RHPs Brandon Maurer and Kevin Quackenbush to El Paso (PCL). Placed LHP Cory Luebke and RHP Josh Johnson on the 15-day DL. Selected the contract of C Rene Neveo from El Paso.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Placed RHP Erik Cordier, INF Travis Ishikawa and OF Hunter Pence on the 15-day DL. Cordier and Pence retroactive to March 27, Ishikawa to March 30. Designated INF Ehire Adrianza for assignment.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Placed RHPs Erik Davis and Casey Janssen, INF Anthony Rendon and OFs Nate McLouth, Denard Span and Jayson Werth on the 15-day DL retroactive to March 27. Selected the contracts of 1B Clint Robinson, 2B Dan Uggla and OF Reed Johnson from Syracuse (IL).

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

NBA — Suspended Golden State G Shaun Livingston one game for hitting Dallas F Dirk Nowitzki in the groin.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ARIZONA COYOTES — Assigned D Brandon Gormley to Portland (AHL).

WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Recalled C Andre Burakovsky from Hershey (AHL).

ECHL

ECHL — Suspended Elmira F Ryan Rashid one game.

ALASKA ACES — Released F Tanner Sorensen.

RAPID CITY RUSH — Released D Sean Erickson.

TULSA OILERS — Added G Iaik Keserich as emergency backup.

FIGHT SCHEDULE

Friday

At Moscow: Denis Lebedev vs. Youri Kalenga, 12, for Lebedev's WBA cruiserweight title; Eduard Troyanovsky vs. Ali Shakhnazaryan, 12, for the vacant IBO super lightweight title; Dmitry Kudryashov vs. Francisco Palacios, 12, for Kudryashov's WBA International cruiserweight title; Rashim Chakhkiev vs. Valery Brudov, 10, cruiserweights; Manuel Charr vs. Johann Duhaupas, 10, heavyweights.

At Buenos Aires, Argentina: Ola Afolabi vs. Victor Emilio Ramirez, 12, for vacant IBF interim cruiserweight title.

Saturday

At San Juan (PPV): Orlando Salido vs. Rocky Martinez, 12, for Salido's WBO junior lightweight title; Jose Gonzalez vs. Sharif Bogere, 10, lightweights; McWilliams Arroyo vs. Ismael Garnica, 10, flyweights.

At Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y. (NBC), Danny Garcia vs. Lamont Peterson, 12, welterweights; Andy Lee vs. Peter Quillin, 12, for Lee's WBO middleweight title; Felix Diaz vs. Gabriel Bracero, 10, welterweights; Viktor Postol vs. Jake Gutierrez, 10, super lightweights; Errol Spence, Jr. vs. Samuelo Vargas, 10, welterweights.

At Sinaloa, Mexico, Pedro Guevara vs. Richard Claveres, 12, for Guevara's WBC light flyweight title.

April 16

At Osaka, Japan, Shinsuke Yamanaka vs. Diego Santillan, 12, for Yamanaka's WBC bantamweight title.

April 17

At Mohegan Sun Casino, Uncasville, Conn. (ESPN2), Tony Harrison vs. Pablo Munguia, 10, junior middleweights.

At Foxwoods, Mashantucket, Conn. (FS1), Murat Gassiev vs. Felix Cora Jr., 12, for Gassiev's IBF Inter-Continental cruiserweight title.

At Grand Casino, Hinkley, Minn. (CBSSN), Dennis Hogan vs. Tyrone Brunson, 10, junior middleweights; Tony Luis vs. Ira Terry, 10, lightweights.

April 18

At Echo Arena, Liverpool, England, Richar Abril vs. Derry Mathews, 12, for Abril's WBA lightweight title; Liam Smith vs. David Ezequiel Romero, 12, vacant WBO Inter-Continental super welterweight title; Iain Butcher vs. Luke Wilton, 12, for the vacant British flyweight title.

At Turning Stone Resort Casino, Verona, N.Y. (HBO), Lucas Matthysse, vs. Ruslan Provodnikov, 12, junior welterweights.

At Arlington (HBO), Terence Crawford vs. Thomas Dulorme, 12, for vacant WBO junior welterweight title; Diego Magdaleno vs. Luis Solis, 10, lightweights.

At StubHub Center, Carson, Calif. (SHO), Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. vs. Andres Forbiss, 12, light heavyweights; Amir Imam vs. Walter Castillo, 10, super lightweights; Oscar Escandon vs. Moises Flores, 12, for the interim WBA super bantamweight title.

April 22

At Osaka, Japan, Juan Carlos Reveco vs. Kazuto Ioka, 12, for Reveco's WBA junior flyweight title; Katsunari Takayama vs. Fahlan Sakkreerin Jr., 12, for Takayama's IBF minimumweight title.

April 24

At Beijing, China, Randy Petalcorin vs. Ma Yi Ming, 12, for Petalcorin's WBA interim junior flyweight title.

At UIC Pavilion, Chicago (Spike), Anthony Dirrell vs. Badou Jack, 12, for Dirrell's WBC super middleweight title; Daniel Jacobs vs. Caleb Truax, 12, for Jacobs' WBA middleweight title.

J.B. Holmes takes Houston Open

Associated Press

HOUSTON — J.B. Holmes used a strong start Sunday for a Houston Open victory in a three-way playoff against Jordan Spieth and Johnson Wagner.

The 32-year-old Holmes birdied the first five holes and nine of the first 12 after starting the day six shots back of Jordan Spieth.

He had a 64, the day's low round, and won on the second playoff hole for his fourth PGA Tour victory and the $1,188,000 check. Although Holmes' missed birdie putt had given Wagner another chance, his short putt for par lipped out.

"I knew I had to play a really low round and I started out great," Holmes said. "It worked out for me."

Spieth, the hottest player on the Tour heading into the Masters, was trying to win his second playoff in three weeks, sandwiched around a runner-up finish in the Texas Open last Sunday. But he bowed out on the first playoff hole after his approach shot landed in a bunker and, lying two, he couldn't get anywhere close to the cup on his chip.

Wagner, who got into the field only through a sponsor's exemption, admitted being "pretty bummed" by falling short but said he was hopeful his career is pointed in the right direction again. He was trying to become only the second player to get into the Masters on the weekend before, having done it previously by winning Houston in 2008.

Holmes' final-day rally was the biggest on the Tour since Matt Jones also came from six down to beat Matt Kuchar in a playoff last April. The Houston Open has featured more playoffs than any tournament on the circuit.

Wagner and Holmes hit perfect drives on the first playoff hole — both were on No. 18 — while Spieth almost landed in the water, then wound up buried in the sand.

"I'm not sure what happened," he said. "I heard something or maybe it was just me. It's not an excuse. I got down in the sand and caught it fat and didn't give myself a chance to continue in the playoff. But it was a great Easter Sunday."

Earlier, Spieth had seemingly shot himself out of contention with a poor approach on No. 18, the hardest hole on the course. He wound up with a steep downhill lie and a bunker to clear. However, he chipped within 11 1/2 feet, then calmly made the putt.

Spieth was trying to become the second-youngest player after Tiger Woods to win a third PGA Tour event before his 22nd birthday. He also could have passed Jimmy Walker, who pulled out of the tournament before it began citing illness, for the current season's points-standing lead.

Still, Spieth thinks he's well positioned to contend this week in the Masters. He finished second to Bubba Watson last year.

"I felt very comfortable with more and more pressure going into Augusta, which has the most pressure anywhere," he said.

Spieth earned his first PGA victory before he turned 20, but he's still pursuing a breakthrough in one of the majors.



George Bridges/AP

J.B. Holmes posses with the trophy after winning the Houston Open in a playoff Sunday in Humble.

GOLF SCORES

PGA

Houston Open Scores
Sunday
At Golf Club of Houston, The Tournament
Humble
Purse: $5.9 million
Yardage: 7,441; Par: 72
Final
(x-won on 2nd playoff hole)

x-J.B Holmes (500), $1,188,000 65-70-73-64—272
Jordan Spieth (245), $580,800 69-66-67-70—272
Johnson Wagner (245), $580,800 69-68-66-69—272
Russell Henley (135), $316,800 69-68-68-69—274
Keegan Bradley (96), $231,825 70-66-70-69—275
Brendon de Jonge (96), $231,825 73-67-68-67—275
Charles Howell III (96), $231,825 66-70-69-70—275
Cameron Tringale (96), $231,825 68-70-69-68—275
Paul Casey (80), $191,400 68-69-68-71—276
Scott Piercy (75), $178,200 63-74-66-74—277
Alex Cejka (61), $135,300 65-72-70-71—278
Chad Collins (61), $135,300 69-69-70-70—278
Austin Cook, $135,300 66-65-70-75—276
Charley Hoffman (61), $135,300 69-68-74-67—278
Pat Perez (61), $136,300 71-68-72-67—278
Kyle Reifers (L), $135,300 71-69-70-68—278
Charlie Beljan (51), $83,490 71-69-70-69—279
John Huh (51), $83,490 71-67-72-69—279
Victor Dubuisson (51), $83,490 67-68-78-66—279
Luke Guthrie (51), $83,490 66-68-73-72—279
John Huh (51), $83,490 68-70-73-68—279
Phil Mickelson (51), $83,490 66-67-75-71—279
Patrick Reed (51), $83,490 68-71-67-73—279
Chris Stroud (51), $83,490 68-68-74-69—279
Daniel Berger (41), $44,330 70-70-68-72—280
Jonas Blixt (41), $44,330 68-68-74-70—280
Adam Hadwin (41), $44,330 70-70-71-69—280
David Hearn (41), $44,330 69-70-73-68—280
Whee Kim (41), $44,330 70-70-70-70—280
Hunter Mahan (41), $44,330 67-68-72-73—280
Andrew Putnam (41), $44,330 67-63-76-72—280
Michael Putnam (41), $44,330 68-68-71-73—280
Brendan Steele (41), $44,330 71-67-73-69—280
Shawn Stefani (41), $44,330 68-69-69-76—280
Nick Watney (41), $44,330 68-68-73-70—280
Mark Wilson (41), $44,330 69-66-76-69—280
Scott Brown (32), $29,700 68-72-70-71—281
Ben Crane (32), $29,700 69-71-72-69—281
Sergio Garcia (32), $29,700 67-71-69-74—281
Chez Reavie (32), $29,700 68-72-72-69—281
Justin Rose (32), $29,700 69-68-72-72—281
Kelvin Day, $21,236 68-69-68-77—282
Graham DeLaet (26), $21,236 67-67-75-73—282
G. Fdez-Castano (26), $21,236 70-68-71-73—282
Tony Finau (26), $21,236 69-68-71-68—282
Cody Gribble, $21,236 69-69-71-73—282
Alex Prugh (26), $21,236 67-69-75-71—282
Chart Schwartzel (26), $21,236 70-68-72-72—282
Kevin Streelman (26), $21,236 70-69-69-74—282
K.J. Choi (19), $15,919 71-69-68-75—283
Stewart Cink (19), $15,919 72-68-72-71—283
Chesson Hadley (19), $15,919 72-68-75-70—283
S.J. Park (19), $15,919 68-72-72-71—283
Justin Thomas (19), $15,919 71-68-73-71—283
Erik Compton (16), $15,114 73-66-72-73—284
Jhonattan Vegas (16), $15,114 69-69-71-75—284
Blayne Barber (11), $14,454 71-69-75-70—285
Ernie Els (11), $14,454 70-70-72-73—285
Derek Ernst (11), $14,454 71-69-74-71—285
J.J. Henry (11), $14,454 70-70-69-76—285
Jim Herman (11), $14,454 71-68-70-76—285
Francisco Molinari (11), $14,454 70-70-74-71—285
Ryan Moore (11), $14,454 69-69-76-71—285
Bo Van Pelt (11), $14,454 74-66-70-75—285
Tom Hoge (6), $13,794 69-70-76-71—286
Sam Saunders (6), $13,794 69-71-73-73—286
Oscar Fraustro (3), $13,464 71-69-75-72—287
Padraig Harrington (3), $13,464 71-68-74-74—287
Michael Thompson (3), $13,464 68-71-76-72—287
Matt Kuchar (1), $13,200 67-72-71-78—288
Rickie Fowler (1), $13,068 69-69-77-76—291

LPGA

ANA Inspiration Par Scores
Sunday
At Mission Hills Country Club, Dinah Shore Tournament Course
Rancho Mirage, Calif.
Purse: $2.3 million
Yardage: 6,769; Par: 72
Final
a-denotes amateur
(x-won on 3rd playoff hole)

x-Brittany Lincicome, $375,000 72-68-70-69—279
Stacy Lewis, $231,449 72-69-68-70—279
Morgan Pressel, $167,900 67-72-71-70—280
Carlota Ciganda, $106,653 74-71-68-68—281
Anna Nordqvist, $106,653 71-72-69-69—281
Sei Young Kim, $106,653 72-65-69-75—281
Lee Thompson, $71,595 72-69-71-70—282
Suzann Pettersen, $56,812 76-68-72-67—283
Mi Hyang Lee, $56,812 74-68-70-71—283
Shanshan Feng, $56,812 71-70-70-72—283
Angela Stanford, $37,606 72-69-76-67—284
Karine Icher, $37,606 74-72-70-68—284
Christina Kim, $37,606 73-70-72-69—284
Hyo Joo Kim, $37,606 71-74-70-69—284
Catriona Matthew, $37,606 71-69-74-70—284
Mirim Lee, $37,606 71-70-72-71—284
Inbee Park, $37,606 74-69-70-71—284
Monyka Jutanugarn, $37,606 71-70-70-73—284
Jenny Shin, $37,606 71-69-71-73—284
Gerina Piller, $26,632 75-72-73-65—285
Austin Ernst, $26,632 70-75-74-66—285
Pernilla Lindberg, $26,632 71-71-75-68—285
Stephanie L. Meadow, $26,632 76-68-70-71—285
So Yeon Ryu, $26,632 69-72-71-73—285
Anya Jutanugarn, $26,632 71-73-66-75—285
Danielle Kang, $22,429 75-67-77-67—286
Paula Reto, $22,429 74-73-73-66—286
Charley Hull, $22,429 70-72-73-71—286
Mika Miyazato, $18,754 74-73-73-67—287
Eun-Hee Ji, $18,754 73-70-74-70—287
Na Yeon Choi, $18,754 70-72-74-71—287
Amy Yang, $18,754 71-72-73-71—287
Jinee Lee, $18,754 76-68-70-73—287
Karrie Webb, $18,754 74-72-67-74—287
Paula Creamer, $14,657 76-69-73-70—288
Ayako Uehara, $14,657 72-72-77-67—288
Q Baek, $14,657 76-70-70-72—288
Brittany Lang, $14,657 73-72-70-73—288
Alison Lee, $14,657 71-71-73-73—288
Teresa Lu, $14,657 76-69-69-74—288
Cristie Kerr, $11,683 75-70-75-69—289
Ai Miyazato, $11,683 68-74-78-69—289
Sakura Yokomine, $11,683 73-72-74-70—289
In Gee Chun, $11,683 71-74-72-72—289
Ha Na Jang, $11,683 72-72-71-74—289
Jennifer Song, $9,630 73-74-75-68—290
Caroline Hedwall, $9,630 75-67-76-72—290
Sandra Gal, $9,630 75-68-74-73—290
Katherine Kirk, $9,630 76-70-71-73—290
Pat Hurst, $9,630 71-71-70-78—290
Mina Harigae, $7,983 76-71-75-69—291
Mo Martin, $7,983 74-72-73-72—291
Lydia Ko, $7,983 71-73-74-73—291
Haley Kang, $7,993 71-74-72-74—291
I.K. Kim, $7,983 75-70-71-75—291
Marina Alex, $7,983 73-71-69-78—291
Jodi Ewart Shadoff, $6,445 74-73-73-72—292
Michelle Wie, $6,445 73-73-74-72—292
Meena Lee, $6,445 71-73-74-74—292
Katie Burnett, $6,445 72-71-74-75—292
Maria Hernandez, $6,445 74-70-73-75—292
Wei Ling Hsu, $6,445 73-70-74-75—292
Caroline Masson, $6,445 72-73-71-76—292
Juli Inkster, $5,702 69-75-77-72—293
Manajo Uribe, $5,702 74-73-73-73—293
Pornanong Phatlum, $5,702 72-72-75-74—293
Amy Anderson, $5,450 74-70-77-73—294
a-Hailey Moore 73-74-73-74—294
Lee-Anne Pace, $5,195 77-69-76-73—295
Candie Kung, $5,195 72-76-73-75—296
Kris Tamulis, $5,195 74-72-72-77—295

Drive, chip and some big putts by the kids at Augusta

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Toby Wilson had a Sunday to remember. The 15-year-old from Tennessee bumped into former Masters champion Fred Couples for a quick chat, hit two tee shots that went out of bounds and rallied to leave Augusta National with a trophy.

Wilson was among eight winners of the second annual "Drive, Chip and Putt Championship" on the final day before practice for the Masters begins.

He was among two players with rallies that would have made Jack Nicklaus proud.

And the chat with Couples ended with Mr. Cool telling the teenager to "Go get 'em," Wilson tied for last in the driving competition by not getting a tee shot in play.

Not to worry. He won the chipping and putting competition and wound up a winner in the 14-15 boys division.

It was not much different from the start of 9-year-old Jay Leng Jr. of San Diego County.

Leng already is a prolific winner, including the U.S. Kids World Championship at Mid-Pines. He has experience competing. But he had one slice and another duck-hook and finished ninth among the 10 players in the 9-10 division. He figured his chances were over until he won the chipping and putting to get into a playoff, and then won with a putt on the 18th hole to win the trophy.

The only problem? Nick Faldo presented the trophy and accidentally broke it.

"He said, 'Does the Masters have super glue?'" Leng said.

Morgan Goldstein was at Augusta National for the second straight year, this time as a player. The 13-year-old from Las Vegas watched her younger brother, Aidan, finish fourth last year. She narrowly missed out in regional qualifying last year, and this time earned a spot from the Rocky Mountain region.

And then she dominated.

Goldstein won the driving contest. She won the chipping contest. And then she won the putting contest to capture the girls 12-13 division.

"It was amazing to be out there, and my chipping was really good," she said. "I just needed to concentrate. And it was me, the hole and the ball."

Faldo was among eight former champions, all dressed in their green jackets, who presented the trophies to the individual and overall champions from each age group.

The other winners:

■ Effie Perakis from Glenview, Illinois (girls 7-9)

■ Lydia Swan of North East, Pennsylvania (girls 10-11)

■ Jake Peacock of Alpharetta, Georgia (boys 10-11)

■ George Duangmanee of Fairfax, Virginia (boys 12-13)

■ Alexandra Swayne of Mainesville, Ohio (girls 14-15).

Kelly Xu of Santa Monica, California, went up an age division to girls 10-11, and then she discovered what 75 of the some of the world's best players have learned over the years — it's not easy to win back-to-back at Augusta National.

Xu was the first player to win a trophy a year ago. She was in New York last year with Bubba Watson to promote the event. She finished eighth.

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UConn back in title game

By Doug Feinberg
Associated Press

Huskies	81
Terrapins	58

TAMPA, Fla. — Breanna Stewart and Morgan Tuck have UConn back in the championship game for the third straight year. Now the Huskies are one victory away from a third straight title.

Stewart scored 25 points and Tuck added 24 to lead UConn to an 81-58 win over Maryland on Sunday in the Final Four.

UConn will face Notre Dame for the title on Tuesday night in a rematch of last season's championship game.

The Huskies have won nine titles overall and a victory over the Irish would tie Geno Auriemma with vaunted UCLA men's coach John Wooden for the most all-time with 10. It would also be the second three-peat for UConn, which won three straight championships from 2002-04.

Making the Final Four seems like a rite of spring for the Huskies (37-1) lately as the team has appeared in the last eight national semifinals.

UConn had cruised through the NCAA Tournament, but Maryland coach Brenda Frese said her team wouldn't be intimidated by the Huskies.

The Terrapins took it right at them from the start, hanging with UConn for the first 10 minutes. Maryland only trailed 22-19 before UConn scored seven straight points capped by Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis' 3-pointer that made it a 10-point game. Maryland (34-3) didn't back down getting back and pulled within 39-33 on Lexie Brown's 3-pointer with 1:52 left in the half.

Then Tuck took over.

She scored the final five points of the half to give the Huskies a double-digit advantage going into the break.

Tuck missed last season's championship run while she was recovering from microfracture surgery on her right knee that allowed her to only play in eight games. The redshirt sophomore made her presence felt on the game's biggest stage, finishing just two points short of her career high.

She started the second half with another 3 as UConn scored the first nine points to break the game open. Her layup capped the burst and gave UConn a 53-33 advantage. The Terrapins could only get within 14 the rest of the way as Stewart and Tuck answered every Maryland run.

Stewart, who was The Associated Press Player of the Year for the second straight season, added eight rebounds.

The loss ended a school-record 28-game winning streak for Maryland, which hasn't won in its four meetings with the Huskies.

Korn

From 1C

in America. And Jahlil Okafor is the type of inside presence who will command the double team which would open up the perimeter.

For Wisconsin to win this game, somebody will have to man up Okafor and the only two guys with the size to do it, are Frank Kaminsky and Sam Dekker. That could be problematic for Badgers coach Bo Ryan.

One of the best advantages for Wisconsin in this game? Experience. Take a look at Duke's top four players in Okafor, Justice Winslow, Tyus Jones and Quinn Cook. Three of those four are freshmen and are playing in easily the biggest game of their lives.

How will inexperience in such an environment affect their games mentally? Winning in the national semifinal was one thing. Playing for the natty is quite another.

Conversely, while Wisconsin doesn't boast a collection of sages by any means, its star players are more experienced. Kaminsky and Dekker are a senior and junior, respectively. Guard Josh Gasser has been on this team for four years now.

Wisconsin's defense is upper echelon. On Thursday, I wrote that it is nearly on par with that of Kentucky's, and the Badgers backed up that claim on Saturday. They played tough, limited mistakes and picked up enough stops to pull out that win.

But in a way, and as crazy as this might sound, Kentucky is no Duke. The Blue Devils are a noticeably more potent offensive team and have more guys that can take over a game with the ball in their hands.

Can Wisconsin's stay-at-home defensive approach and admirable discipline stand tall against an elite offense?

I don't think so. Let's put it this way. Nobody will stop Okafor. Nobody will stop Kaminsky. Statistically, those two are a wash, so it'll come down to the rest of the two respective rosters. Duke has the noticeable edge in guard play with Quinn Cook and Tyus Jones, over Gasser and Bronson Koenig of Wisconsin.

Winslow can stack up with Dekker as each of them will make the other work on defense. But the final, deciding factor, is that the Blue Devils have an outlet to easy offense in the more efficient way with Okafor, whereas the Badgers will have to rely on Dekker's drive-and-kick game to facilitate.

I've got Duke as the 2015 National Champions in a close one. I think we'll remember this game for a long time.

Duke 72, Wisconsin 69

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT

Advance

From 1C

all for the first time since McGraw led them to their only national title in 2001.

South Carolina (34-3) overcame a 12-point, first-half deficit and did it again in the closing minutes. The feisty Gamecocks used a 13-0 run to take their only lead on Aleighsa Welch's offensive stickback with 1:12 remaining.

"It came down to them making a play when they needed to make a play and we didn't," South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said.

Brianna Turner scored 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds before fouling out for Notre Dame. Taya Reimer had 16 points for Notre Dame.

Freshman A'ja Wilson came off the bench to lead South Carolina with 20 points. She scored 10 straight for the Gamecocks at one point in the second half to keep her resilient team within striking distance.

Women's Final Four

At Tampa, Fla.
National Semifinals
Sunday
Notre Dame 66, South Carolina 65
UConn 81, Maryland 58
National Championship
Tuesday
Notre Dame (36-2) vs. UConn, 7:30 p.m.

Notre Dame led 64-52 with 7:51 to go. The Irish missed eight straight shots before Cable wiped out South Carolina's short-lived lead. South Carolina All-American Tiffany Mitchell's off-balance 3-point attempt bounced high off the backboard as time ran out on the best season in school history.

Mitchell fell to the court in dejection and was helped up by teammates.

"They were making it hard for me to try and find a shot. And when I tried to pass it, they deflected it," said Mitchell, who finished with 11 points on 5-of-11 shooting.

The Gamecocks hurt themselves, going 7 for 16 from the foul line, and missing six of seven in the closing minutes while they were trying to catch up.

"That's key. We left a lot of points at the free throw line," Staley said. "But you know, still we overcame that to put ourselves in a position to take the lead."

Notre Dame lost to Connecticut in a matchup of unbeaten teams in last year's title game. The Irish came up short against Texas A&M in 2011 and Baylor in 2012.

"It's surreal right now, can't believe that we're here," Loyd said of advancing to Tuesday night's title game. "Glad we played the early game and can get some rest."

South Carolina looked like a Final Four newcomer early, falling behind 15-3 in the first five minutes of the game. The Gamecocks settling and getting a pair of layups from Alaina Coates during a 12-4 surge that helped them get back

Spotlight

From 1C

that's the motivation for us, to be special."

As if they needed any more motivation, Krzyzewski has been waving his 2010 title ring in their faces all tournament. He earned it in Indianapolis, in the same building as this year's Final Four, and steps away from where he won his first championship at the Hoosier Dome in 1991.

"That's what we want to get," Okafor said, glancing at the glittering ring on Coach K's hand. "We've always talked about us having an opportunity to have a national championship ring."

The loveable goofballs from Wisconsin (36-3) are standing in their way, and nobody can argue they haven't earned the right. Only three other teams have faced the highest possible seed in every game on the way to the championship since the field expanded to 64 in 1985.

Two of those lost in the title game. None had to face another No. 1 seed.

Men's Final Four

At Lucas Oil Stadium
Indianapolis
National Semifinals
Saturday
Duke 81, Michigan State 61
Wisconsin 71, Kentucky 64
National Championship
Today
Duke (34-4) vs. Wisconsin (36-3), 8 p.m.

"They know they have a chance to make a mark in history. They understand that," Ryan said Sunday. "But they're enjoying it while they do it, and that's important, too."

Indeed, the Badgers have become the clown princes of the NCAA Tournament. From messing with stenographers to podium hijinks, to their penchant for playing Super Smash Bros., the free-spirited Big Ten champs have taken an entire fan base — and plenty of casual fans — on quite ride.

"That's just how we are," explained the Badgers' Sam Dekker. "Some people tell us on Twitter, 'Focus, guys!' But that's just us. We know when to focus."

Or, as teammate Nigel Hayes put it, "We don't try to be ourselves. We just ARE ourselves."

What they are is an offensive powerhouse led by AP player of the year Frank Kaminsky that is averaging nearly 80 points in the tournament. They're a veteran group that's been through the grind. They're the counter argument to all those critics that argue the college game has fallen off, that scoring is down, execution is sloppy and the product has never been worse.

They're also the team that has already avenged a heartbreaking loss to Kentucky in last year's national semifinals, and is now one step away from its first championship since 1941.

"Whatever this team accomplishes Monday night, one way or the other, it's still who they are," Ryan said. "I've never been concerned if there are people that perceive us a different way, because we are who we are. We play the way we play. We're sure happy with it. So we can live with that."

Leonard has 26, Spurs snap Warriors 12-game streak

By Raul Dominguez
Associated Press

Spurs	107
Warriors	92

SAN ANTONIO — The Golden State Warriors have steamrolled teams for the past month, but they ran into a huge roadblock named Kawhi Leonard.

Leonard matched his career-high with 26 points and set a career-high with seven steals and San Antonio rolled past Golden State 107-92 on Sunday, snapping the Warriors' 12-game winning streak while extending its own to seven straight.

"Kawhi was magnificent at both ends of the court," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "He is really playing confidently, but he hasn't forgotten to predicate his game on defense and on the boards. It kind of fuels him offensively."

The surging Spurs won for the 17th time in 20 games and also extended their home winning streak over the Warriors to 32 straight.

Tim Duncan had 19 points and Danny Green added 18 points for San Antonio (51-26), which led by as many as 28 points against the Western Conference's top seed.

Stephen Curry had 24 points, but was harassed into 9-for-17 shooting by Leonard. Klay Thompson was held to six points on 3-for-11 shooting for Golden State (51-27).

"Kawhi was phenomenal, he was the best player on the floor," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said.

NBA ROUNDUP AND STANDINGS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

STANDINGS
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Toronto	45	32	584	
Brooklyn	35	41	461	9 1/2
Boston	35	42	455	10
Philadelphia	18	60	231	27 1/2
New York	15	62	195	30

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Atlanta	57	19	750	—
x-Washington	44	33	571	13 1/2
Miami	34	43	442	23 1/2
Charlotte	33	43	434	24
Orlando	24	53	312	33 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Cleveland	50	27	649	—
x-Chicago	46	31	597	4
Milwaukee	38	39	494	12
Indiana	34	43	442	16
Detroit	30	47	390	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Houston	53	24	688	—
x-Memphis	52	25	675	1
x-San Antonio	51	26	662	2
Dallas	46	31	597	7
New Orleans	41	35	539	11 1/2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Portland	50	26	658	—
Oklahoma City	42	35	545	8 1/2
Utah	35	42	455	15 1/2
Denver	28	49	364	22 1/2
Minnesota	16	60	211	34

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Golden State	63	14	818	—
x-L.A. Clippers	52	26	667	11 1/2
Phoenix	39	38	506	24
Sacramento	26	50	342	36 1/2
L.A. Lakers	20	56	263	42 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

Sunday's Scores

Houston 115, Oklahoma City 112
Cleveland 99, Chicago 94
Indiana 112, Miami 89
San Antonio 107, Golden State 92
New York 101, Philadelphia 91
Utah 101, Sacramento 95
L.A. Clippers 106, L.A. Lakers 78

Today's Games

Portland at Brooklyn, 6 p.m.

SUNDAY'S BOXES

SPURS 107, WARRIORS 92

GOLDEN STATE (92): Barnes 2-7 0-0 4, Dr.Green 2-11 2-4 6, Bogut 5-7 0-0 10, Curry 9-17 1-2 24, Thompson 3-11 0-0 6, Iguodala 4-9 0-0 10, Ezeli 2-4 1-2 5, Barbosa 6-9 0-0 12, Lee 2-5 1-2 5, Holiday 3-6 0-0 8, Speights 0-3 0-0 0, McAdoo 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 39-91 5-10 92.

SAN ANTONIO (107): Leonard 11-17 3-4 26, Duncan 6-7 7-8 19, Bonner 1-3 0-0 2, Parker 4-9 0-0 8, Da.Green 7-10 0-0 18, Mills 1-3 0-0 2, Ginobili 2-6 1-1 6, Diaw 1-7 0-0 2, Baynes 4-6 0-0 8, Joseph 4-6 1-2 9, Belinelli 2-6 0-0 5, Ayres 0-0 0-0 0, Williams 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 44-83 12-15 107.

Golden State	17	21	29	25	—	92
San Antonio	31	26	32	18	—	107

3-Point Goals—Golden State 9-28 (Curry 5-10, Iguodala 2-4, Holiday 2-4, Barbosa 0-1, Barnes 0-3, Thompson 0-3, Dr.Green 0-3), San Antonio 7-21 (Da.Green 4-6, Leonard 1-2, Ginobili 1-3, Belinelli 1-4, Diaw 0-1, Parker 0-1, Williams 0-1, Mills 0-1, Bonner 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Golden State 46 (Dr.Green, Bogut 7), San Antonio 53 (Duncan 7). Assists—Golden State 25 (Dr.Green, Curry 6), San Antonio 27 (Parker, Ginobili 5). Total Fouls—Golden State 13, San Antonio 13. A—18,581 (18,797).

ROCKETS 115, THUNDER 112

HOUSTON (115): Ariza 2-7 7-10 12, T.Jones 2-5 2-4 6, Howard 10-15 2-7 22, Terry 2-5 4-4 9, Harden 12-22 11-13 41, Smith 7-17 0-0 14, Prigioni 0-3 1-2 1, Dorsey 1-1 3-8 5, Brewer 2-6 1-2 5. Totals 38-81 31-50 115.

OKLAHOMA CITY (112): Singler 2-8 0-0 6, Kanter 9-19 3-5 21, Adams 2-4 2-4 6, Westbrook 12-29 12-15 40, Waiters 6-13 1-2 14, Morrow 8-15 0-0 22, Augustin 1-4 0-0 3, McGary 0-0 0-0 0, Novak 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-92 18-26 112.

Houston	27	28	28	32	—	115
Oklahoma City	17	30	30	35	—	112

3-Point Goals—Houston 8-28 (Harden 6-9, Terry 1-4, Ariza 1-6, Brewer 0-1, T.Jones 0-2, Smith 0-3, Prigioni 0-3), Oklahoma City 14-30 (Morrow 6-8, Westbrook 4-11, Singler 2-5, Waiters 1-2, Augustin 1-4). Fouled Out—Harden, Adams. Rebounds—Houston 59 (Ariza 9), Oklahoma City 63 (Kanter 17). Assists—Houston 18 (Harden 6), Oklahoma City 21 (Westbrook 13). Total Fouls—Houston 25, Oklahoma City 32. Technicals—Dorsey, Houston defensive three second, Waiters, Westbrook. A—18,203 (18,203).

CAVALIERS 99, BULLS 94

CHICAGO (94): Dunleavy 8-12 4-4 24, Gasol 6-13 0-0 12, Noah 3-3 0-0 6, Brooks 6-13 3-4 17, Butler 6-14 2-3 16, Gibson 1-4 3-4 5, Snell 1-3 0-0 2, Mirotic 3-12 3-6 12, Moore 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 34-76 15-21 94.

CLEVELAND (99): James 8-17 3-6 20, Love 4-12 0-0 11, Mozgov 5-7 1-2 11, Irving 8-19 7-8 27, Smith 8-17 0-0 24, Shumpert 0-6 0-0 0, Thompson 1-3 2-6 4, Dellavedova 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 35-83 13-22 99.

Chicago	23	22	26	23	—	94
Cleveland	27	27	25	20	—	99

3-Point Goals—Chicago 11-27 (Dunleavy 4-6, Mirotic 3-9, Butler 2-3, Brooks 2-6, Moore 0-1, Snell 0-2), Cleveland 16-37 (Smith 8-17, Irving 4-5, Love 3-8, James 1-3, Shumpert 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 55 (Mirotic 10), Cleveland 50 (James 10). Assists—Chicago 28 (Noah 7), Cleveland 24 (James 12). Total Fouls—Chicago 22, Cleveland 17. Flagrant Fouls—James. A—20,562 (20,562).

PACERS 112, HEAT 89

MIAMI (89): Walker 1-8 0-0 2, Deng 1-8 1-1 3, Haslem 5-10 0-0 10, G.Dragic 6-10 2-4 15, Wade 11-21 5-7 27, Beasley 4-5 0-1 8, Chalmers 1-8 0-0 2, Ennis 6-11 4-4 17, Johnson 2-5 1-2 5, Z.Dragic 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 37-82 13-19 89.

INDIANA (112): S.Hill 6-10 4-4 19, West 1-5 10-12 12, Hibbert 2-11 3-4 7, G.Hill 0-5 3-4 3, Miles 6-13 0-0 17, George 5-12 0-0 13, Stuckey 2-5 0-1 4, Mahinmi 1-2 1-8 3, Sloan 2-4 0-0 5, Scola 10-15 3-3 23, Allen 0-0 0-0 0, Rudez 1-2 0-0 3, Copeland 1-1 0-0 3. Totals 37-85 24-36 112.

Miami	19	28	19	23	—	89
Indiana	22	29	26	35	—	112

3-Point Goals—Miami 2-20 (G.Dragic 1-2, Ennis 1-4, Haslem 0-1, Z.Dragic 0-1, Wade 0-2, Walker 0-2, Johnson 0-2, Deng 0-3, Chalmers 0-3), Indiana 14-30 (Miles 5-10, S.Hill 3-5, George 3-6, Copeland 1-1, Rudez 1-1, Sloan 1-2, West 0-1, G.Hill 0-2, Stuckey 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Miami 47 (Haslem 10), Indiana 64 (Scola 12). Assists—Miami 15 (G.Dragic 5), Indiana 23 (Stuckey 7). Total Fouls—Miami 25, Indiana 22. Flagrant Fouls—G.Dragic. A—18,165 (18,165).

KNICKS 101, 76ERS 91

PHILADELPHIA (91): Grant 2-7 0-0 4, Noel 7-14 0-1 14, Aldemir 2-7 0-0 4, I.Smith 8-18 0-1 17, Covington 4-13 3-4 14, Richardson 3-11 0-0 7, Sims 5-10 2-2 12, Thompson 6-11 0-0 17, Sampson 1-6 0-0 2, Robinson III 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 38-99 5-8 91.

NEW YORK (101): Amundson 2-2 4-6 8, Thomas 6-8 2-2 14, Bargnani 8-15 7-8 25, Larkin 4-8 7-8 15, Galloway 4-12 0-0 8, Acy 3-4 1-2 7, Hardaway Jr. 5-11 1-1 12, Ledo 3-6 0-0 6, J.Smith 2-6 2-2 6. Totals 37-72 24-29 101.

Philadelphia	20	31	21	19	—	91
New York	26	28	25	22	—	101

3-Point Goals—Philadelphia 10-32 (Thompson 5-6, Covington 3-10, I.Smith 1-4, Richardson 1-6, Grant 0-2, Sampson 0-2, Aldemir 0-2), New York 3-13 (Bargnani 2-3, Hardaway Jr. 1-5, Thomas 0-1, Ledo 0-1, Galloway 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 46 (Noel, Aldemir 9), New York 58 (Larkin 11). Assists—Philadelphia 22 (I.Smith 7), New York 24 (Larkin 7). Total Fouls—Philadelphia 23, New York 18. A—19,812 (19,763).

JAZZ 101, KINGS 95

UTAH (101): Hayward 2-11 0-0 5, Favors 5-11 1-1 11, Gobert 5-7 0-0 10, Exum 3-7 0-1 8, Hood 9-17 6-7 25, Ingles 3-5 0-0 8, Booker 4-9 0-0 8, Cooley 0-1 0-2 0, Cotton 2-4 3-4 8, Johnson 1-4 0-0 3, Millsap 2-5 1-1 5, J.Evans 4-6 2-2 10. Totals 40-87 13-18 101.

SACRAMENTO (95): Casspi 5-10 3-4 14, Landry 3-6 0-0 6, Cousins 11-22 4-9 26, McCallum 3-13 1-2 8, McLemore 8-12 2-2 20, Stauskas 1-3 2-2 4, Thompson 2-4 2-2 6, Williams 4-7 0-1 9, Miller 1-2 0-2 2. Totals 38-79 14-24 95.

Utah	31	18	27	25	—	101
Sacramento	27	22	24	22	—	95

3-Point Goals—Utah 8-24 (Ingles 2-4, Exum 2-5, Cotton 1-2, Johnson 1-2, Hayward 1-3, Hood 1-6, Booker 0-1, Millsap 0-1), Sacramento 5-15 (McLemore 2-3, Casspi 1-3, Williams 1-3, McCallum 1-3, Miller 0-1, Stauskas 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Utah 52 (Booker, Gobert 9), Sacramento 51 (Cousins 12). Assists—Utah 18 (Exum 6), Sacramento 20 (McCallum 7). Total Fouls—Utah 24, Sacramento 20. Technicals—Cousins, Williams. A—16,716 (17,317).

CLIPPERS 106, LAKERS 78

L.A. CLIPPERS (106): Barnes 4-8 2-2 14, Griffin 8-14 2-2 18, Jordan 7-9 2-8 16, Paul 3-7 0-0 7, Redick 4-6 2-2 12, Rivers 3-6 2-2 10, G.Davis 1-2 0-0 2, Turkoglu 4-8 0-0 12, Hudson 1-3 1-2 3, Hawes 2-6 0-0 5, Udoh 2-3 0-0 4, Jones 0-0 0-0 0, Hamilton 1-3 0-0 3. Totals 40-75 11-18 106.

L.A. LAKERS (78): Johnson 6-16 2-2 16, Kelly 2-5 3-3 9, Black 4-5 2-4 10, Clarkson 1-6 0-0 2, Lin 2-8 2-2 6, Brown 4-9 1-2 10, Hill 1-6 0-0 2, Boozer 4-10 1-2 9, Buycks 3-6 1-1 9, E.Davis 1-2 0-4 2, Sacre 1-2 1-2 3. Totals 29-75 13-22 78.

L.A. Clippers	23	26	34	23	—	106
L.A. Lakers	16	20	18	24	—	78

3-Point Goals—L.A. Clippers 15-27 (Barnes 4-7, Turkoglu 4-7, Redick 2-2, Rivers 2-3, Hamilton 1-1, Hawes 1-3, Paul 1-3, Hudson 0-1), L.A. Lakers 7-17 (Buycks 2-2, Kelly 2-3, Johnson 2-3, Brown 1-4, Lin 0-2, Clarkson 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—L.A. Clippers 47 (Jordan 11), L.A. Lakers 50 (Black 9). Assists—L.A. Clippers 27 (Paul 15), L.A. Lakers 17 (Kelly 6). Total Fouls—L.A. Clippers 20, L.A. Lakers 18. A—18,997 (18,997).

ROCKETS 115
THUNDER 112

OKLAHOMA CITY — James Harden scored 41 points, and the Houston Rockets overcame Russell Westbrook's triple-double to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 115-112 on Sunday.

Harden and Westbrook, the league's top two scorers, both entered the game averaging 27.5 points. Harden made 12 of 22 shots and 6 of 9 3-pointers before fouling out with 33 seconds left. The Rockets hung on to win for the seventh time in eight games.

Westbrook finished with 40 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds. It was his 11th triple-double of the season and the 18th of his career. Enes Kanter added 21 points and 17 rebounds for the Thunder, who lost their third straight. Their lead over New Orleans for the No. 8 spot in the Western Conference was cut to a half game.

CAVALIERS 99
BULLS 94

CLEVELAND — LeBron James recorded his first triple-double since coming home, and the Cleveland Cavaliers made 16 3-pointers while winning their 18th straight home game, 99-94 over the Chicago Bulls on Sunday.

J.R. Smith made eight 3s, Kyrie Irving casually dropped one from 52 feet and scored 27 as the Cavs moved closer to a Central Division title and securing the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Mike Dunleavy scored 24 and Aaron Brooks 17 for the Bulls, who could have star guard Derrick Rose back in the next few days.

James finished with 20 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds, his first triple-double in a Cleveland uniform since May 13, 2010, two months before he left as a free agent for Miami.

The Cavs notched win No. 50 and improved to a league-best 31-7 since Jan. 15.

PACERS 112
HEAT 89

INDIANAPOLIS — Paul George's season debut provided a needed boost Sunday as the Pacers put themselves back in the playoff contention with a 112-89 rout over Miami.

George finished with 13 points in 15 minutes — his first action since breaking his right leg Aug. 1.

Luis Scola scored a season-high 23 points to lead Indiana (34-43) to its second straight win. The Pacers moved into a tie with Miami (34-43) for the No. 9 spot in the East. Both teams trail Boston by one game for the conference's eighth and final playoff spot.

Miami was led by Dwyane Wade with 27 points but lost its fourth in a row.

The Heat took a 58-57 lead midway through the third, but the Pacers finished the quarter on a 20-8 run to make it 77-66. Back-to-back 3-pointers from George early in the fourth sealed it.

KNICKS 101
76ERS 91

NEW YORK — Andrea Bargnani scored 25 points and Shane Larking added 15 and 11 rebounds, and the New York Knicks snapped a nine-game losing streak with a 101-91 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Sunday night.

Lance Thomas chipped in 14 points for the Knicks, whose last victory was on March 17 over the defending champion San Antonio Spurs at Madison Square Garden.

Ish Smith and reserve forward Hollis Thompson each had 17 points for the visiting 76ers, who've lost six straight.

JAZZ 101
KINGS 95

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Rodney Hood scored 13 of his season-high 25 points in the fourth quarter and the Utah Jazz pulled away to beat the Sacramento Kings 101-95 on Sunday night.

The Jazz were clinging to an 83-82 lead with 6:10 remaining when Hood scored the first nine points of a 14-2 run. He had a pair of three-point plays and a 3-pointer during the streak, then later made a 17-foot jumper to give Utah a 99-88 lead.

Rudy Gobert added 10 points and nine rebounds. Derrick Favors scored 11 and Jeremy Evans had 10 points off the bench for the Jazz.

Utah (35-42) bounced back from a disappointing two-point loss in Phoenix 24 hours earlier and withstood another stellar effort from Sacramento center DeMarcus Cousins to beat the Kings for the second time this season.

CLIPPERS 106
LAKERS 78

LOS ANGELES — Blake Griffin scored 18 points, DeAndre Jordan added 16 points and 11 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Clippers sent the Lakers to their franchise-record 56th defeat of the season, 106-78 Sunday night.

Matt Barnes scored 14 points and Chris Paul had 15 assists for the Clippers, who handed that historic loss to their Staples Center roommates while beating the Lakers for a record sixth straight time overall.

With six games still to play, the Lakers have surpassed last season's team as the losingest in the 16-time champion franchise's illustrious history.

The playoff-bound Clippers have won 10 of 11 down the stretch, staying in the tight five-team race behind Golden State for homecourt advantage in the first two rounds of the Western Conference playoffs.

Test your baseball knowledge



GEORGE WILL
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — Visiting a struggling pitcher on the mound, Baltimore Orioles manager Earl Weaver advised, "If you know how to cheat, start now." Be advised that Googling is cheating as you try to identify:

(1) The player who compiled at least 400 total bases in five different seasons (no one else did it in four).

(2) Which three players hit 500 home runs but never struck out 85 times in a season.

(3) The last player to steal 100 bases in one season.

(4) The four players to steal a base in four decades.

(5) Before Madison Bumgarner last year, the only pitcher to win three world championships before age 26.

(6) The only World Series between teams with fewer than 90 regular season wins.

(7) The MVP who played the most games (65) as DH.

(8) Which two of the five players with the highest career batting averages are not in the Hall of Fame.

(9) The pitcher who started a World Series game one for three teams.

(10) Which team today has gone the longest without appearing in the postseason.

(11) The only pitcher to lead the majors in ERA four consecutive years.

(12) The two post-World War II pitchers to win 20 games in fewer than 30 starts.

(13) The only pitcher to give up seven or more earned runs in consecutive postseason starts.

(14) The manager with 20 consecutive winning seasons.

(15) The manager with the highest winning percentage.

(16) The player who pitched five shutouts in his first seven starts.

(17) The only rookie to win a Cy Young award.

(18) The player who won consecutive batting titles for the 1951 and 1952 Philadelphia A's.

(19) The first pitcher to win at least 30 games in three consecutive seasons.

(20) The two pitchers with 373 wins.

(21) Which pitcher won the most games in a three-year period.

(22) Who has received the most Hall of Fame votes without being admitted.

(23) Who over 12 seasons led first basemen in home runs, RBI, total bases, extra-base hits and OPS.

(24) In the 500 home run club, whose strikeouts per home run ratio of 1.74 is second to Ted Williams' record of 1.36.

(25) The only player to hit at least .300, with at least 30 doubles, 30 homers and 100 RBI in 10 consecutive seasons.

(26) Which three pitchers won their league's triple crown (wins, strikeouts, ERA) three times.

(27) The only current major league city never to host a World Series.

(28) Who played the most games at shortstop and has the highest fielding percentage (minimum 1,000 games).

(29) The only team to make the playoffs while finishing last in the major leagues in home runs and walks.

30) The pitcher with the most consecutive wins.

(31) Who is fifth, behind Mark McGwire, Babe Ruth, Barry Bonds and Jim Thome, in the best ratio of at bats per home run.

(32) Who won three of the first four American League batting titles.

(33) The two hitters with two 20 home run seasons before their 21st birthdays.

(34) The leader in career games pitched.

(35) The pitcher with the most strikeouts in a season in the 1980s.

(36) The three players who hold their franchises' records for singles, doubles, triples and home runs.

(37) How many times Greg Maddux led the league in strikeouts.

(38) The pitcher who had 999 walks with three games remaining in his career, and walked no one in those three.

(39) The highest career batting average for a career that began after WWII.

(40) The first National Leaguer to hit 500 home runs.

Bonus question: Who, explaining how cold weather can shorten by 25 feet the distance a fly ball travels, said: "If the fence is 338 feet [away] and you hit the ball 338 feet, you'll be 25 feet short."

ANSWERS:

(1) Lou Gehrig
(2) Mel Ott, Gary Sheffield, Ted Williams
(3) Vince Coleman (1987)
(4) Rickey Henderson, Tim Raines, Omar Vizquel, Ted Williams
(5) Vida Blue
(6) 2014
(7) Don Baylor (1979)
(8) Joe Jackson and Lefty O'Doul
(9) Jack Morris (Detroit Tigers, 1984; Minnesota Twins, 1991; Toronto Blue Jays, 1992)
(10) Toronto Blue Jays
(11) Clayton Kershaw
(12) Clayton Kershaw, Pedro Martinez
(13) Clayton Kershaw
(14) Joe McCarthy
(15) Joe McCarthy (61.5)
(16) Fernando Valenzuela
(17) Fernando Valenzuela
(18) Ferris Fain
(19) Christy Mathewson (1903-05)
(20) Grover Cleveland Alexander, Christy Mathewson
(21) Walter Johnson (97, 1912-14)
(22) Gil Hodges
(23) Gil Hodges
(24) Albert Pujols
(25) Albert Pujols
(26) Grover Cleveland Alexander, Walter Johnson, Sandy Koufax
(27) Seattle
(28) Omar Vizquel
(29) 2014 Royals
(30) Carl Hubbell (24 in 1936-37)
(31) Ralph Kiner (one home run every 14.1 at bats)
(32) Nap Lajoie
(33) Tony Conigliaro, Bryce Harper
(34) Jesse Orosco
(35) Mike Scott (306 in 1986)
(36) George Brett, Stan Musial, Robin Yount
(37) Zero
(38) Greg Maddux
(39) Tony Gwynn (.338)
(40) Mel Ott
Bonus answer: Ralph Kiner, of course.

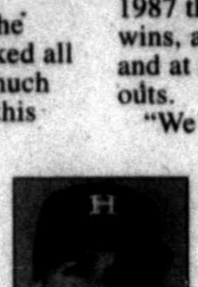
Astros and Indians open season today

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Astros talked all winter about how much better they will be this season.

Today against Cleveland they'll get their first chance to prove it.

Left-hander Dallas Keuchel is set to make his first career opening-day start when he opposes 2014 American League Cy Young winner Corey Kluber, who signed a five-year, $38.5 million deal on Sunday.



Keuchel

"I think we can do some pretty good stuff," Keuchel said. "We haven't started the season right now so it's just words ... but from what we did at spring training, I think we're capable of making a playoff push and that's ultimately what we want to do."

Keuchel got the nod for opening day after going 12-9 with a 2.93 ERA and winning his first Gold Glove last season. The 27-year-old is trying to treat today like any other game, but admitted he might feel some jitters.

"I'm sure there will be some nerves," he said. "I remember last year (Scott) Feldman was pitching, and I was nervous for him. So that's to be expected a little bit."

First-year manager A.J. Hinch loves Keuchel's presence on the mound and is confident he can build on his work last season.

"His stuff plays in any level against any team," Hinch said. "And handing him the ball on opening day was an easy decision for me because of the way he goes about his business and the way he attacks hitters."

The Astros made a 19-game improvement last season to snap a streak of three straight 100-loss seasons. They beefed up their bullpen and added more power to a lineup that features 2014 AL batting champion Jose Altuve in an attempt to make another big jump in 2015.

They'll get a good test early when they meet a Cleveland team that went 85-77 last season and fell just short of reaching the postseason. Kluber leads the rotation after going 18-9 with a 2.44 ERA and 269 strikeouts in 2014. That performance marked just the fourth time since 1987 that a player had 18 wins, an ERA below 2.50 and at least 260 strikeouts.

"We're excited about the group we have," the right-hander said. "Again, potential is one thing, and going out there and doing it is another. We've got to hold ourselves accountable to our own expectations, not just others."

The Indians are also looking for Jason Kipnis to rebound from an injury-plagued season in which he hit just .240 with six homers and 41 RBI a year after an All-Star season where he hit .284 with 17 homers and 84 RBI.

"I feel good, I'm healthy again," said Kipnis, who couldn't shake an oblique injury that hindered his swing last season. "My body's strong again, and my swing I'm starting to be able to extend on balls, which I wasn't able to do last year."

The Astros are excited about an offense that has plenty of power with Chris Carter, who tied for second in the majors with 37 homers last year, George Springer and first-year Astros Evan Gattis and Colby Rasmus. It's a unit that has Altuve as the leadoff hitter. He's coming off a sensational season where he hit .341 to become the first Houston player to win a batting title and set a team record with 225 hits.

Hinch is confident that his team will hit is out of the park plenty this season, but is curious to see how the rest of the offense will shake out.

"I think our offense is more than one-dimensional," Hinch said. "I like the fact that we are dangerous and the other dugout's going to know that we can leave the ballpark at any time. I'm more interested in if we can continue to hit with runners in scoring position? Can we hit with a guy on third and less than two outs? Can we find multiple ways to score, because I feel like the home runs will be there ... we may be known as a team with a ton of power, but a well-rounded offense is something that I'm going to pay attention to."

Athletics open the season against familiar Rangers

By Janie McCauley
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Ike Davis wandered from the clubhouse tunnel to the freshly manicured grass and took in the scene on a sunny Bay Area morning.

"Oh yeah, we are doing it now, boys," the first baseman said to anyone nearby. "We are doing it."

One of numerous Oakland newcomers, Davis and many of his teammates will spend the first week of the season getting comfortable in the new confines of the old Coliseum.

Just nine players remain on the 25-man roster who were with the A's on opening day 2014.

After an offseason featuring nine trades involving 27 players, new-look Oakland opens the season tonight against the familiar AL West rival Texas Rangers. Right-hander Sonny Gray starts his second straight opening day for the A's against Yovani Gallardo in his Texas debut after a trade from Milwaukee and five straight opening day outings for the Brewers.

Now, it's with the team he grew up cheering for as a boy in Fort Worth.

"It's going to be something special," Gallardo said. "I've had that opportunity to open games up in Milwaukee, but having the opportunity to do it for the team that you grew up watching as a young kid, I think it's going to be something special, and something that I would always remember and have throughout my career."

The Bay Area received rare rain Sunday, but it was expected to clear up by opening night.

OPENING

From 1C

temperatures, sheets of ice and wicked winds made preparations even tougher.

Chalk this up to baseball's good fortune: In Detroit, Philadelphia, New York, Kansas City and other places that endured a long winter, it's forecast to be clear enough and in the 60s and 70s on opening day.

Quite a contrast from a couple of months ago.

At Fenway, up to 40 inches of snow blanketed the field at one point. Mellor and his crew used a half-ton of black sand — like ground-up tires, it absorbs heat and helps the melting process — to clear the crush. Boston was hit with more than 9 feet overall.

"When we had all the snow, I thought I'm glad we aren't opening at home," Mellor said. "But because of all the hard work of my co-workers, we are actually ready to play now."

Red Sox newcomers Hanley Ramirez and Sandoval play today at Philadelphia. The Fenway home opener is April 13 against Washington.

Washington outfielder Bryce Harper was pleasantly surprised when he took his position at Nationals Park on Saturday for an exhibition vs. the New York Yankees.

The NHL held the Winter Classic at the ballpark on Jan. 1, and Washington was enveloped by frosty conditions.

"It feels fine. I thought it was great," Harper said. "Someone was telling me that when the NHL does it, they actually have to re-do the whole field or something like that. So that was brand-new grass out there. It was beautiful. It played great."

Harper, Scherzer and the Nationals host the New York Mets today.

Tanaka, Alex Rodriguez and the Yankees will be home to play Toronto. Pitcher Adam Warren was eager to see how well the grounds crew had done at Yankee Stadium, especially since the city's new Major League Soccer team recently played on the grass.

"I know they've been working hard. The kind of weather that I've been hearing that New York has been having, for them to get it in great shape is pretty remarkable," Warren said Sunday after a Yankees minor league intrasquad game in Tampa, Florida.

"I'll definitely have to give someone a pat on the back for getting the stadium ready, the big league field ready to go after all that snow," he said.

Wainwright, Cardinals beat Cubs on opening night

By Jay Cohen
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Same ol' Cubbies. Same old Cardinals, too.

At least for one game.

Adam Wainwright threw six sharp innings to outpitch Jon Lester, and St. Louis handed new Chicago manager Joe Maddon a 3-0 loss Sunday night in the major league opener.

Jason Heyward had three hits in his St. Louis debut and Matt Holliday drove in two runs for the NL Central champions. Throw in Matt Carpenter's two hits at new-look Wrigley Field, and the top third of the Cardinals' lineup went 7 for 14 with three RBI.

Playing their most anticipated opener in years, the Cubs went 0 for 13 with runners in scoring position.

Lester was pulled with one out in the fifth inning on a chilly evening. The ace left-hander, who got a $155 million, six-year contract from Chicago during free agency, allowed three runs and eight hits in his fifth straight opening day start.

The addition of Lester and Maddon ramped up the expectations for Chicago after five straight losing seasons. But it was more of the same in their first game.

The biggest difference for the home team was a giant videoboard in left field, part of a major renovation for the iconic neighborhood ballpark. The closed bleachers were covered by pictures of Hall of Fame slugger Ernie Banks, who played for Chicago for 19 seasons and died in January at age 83.

Cardinals	3
Cubs	0

MLB STANDINGS AND LINESCORE

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	0	0	.000	—
Boston	0	0	.000	—
New York	0	0	.000	—
Tampa Bay	0	0	.000	—
Toronto	0	0	.000	—

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	0	0	.000	—
Cleveland	0	0	.000	—
Detroit	0	0	.000	—
Kansas City	0	0	.000	—
Minnesota	0	0	.000	—

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	0	0	.000	—
Los Angeles	0	0	.000	—
Oakland	0	0	.000	—
Seattle	0	0	.000	—
Texas	0	0	.000	—

Sunday's Scores

No games scheduled

Today's Games

Toronto (Hutchison 0-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 0-0), 12:05 p.m.
Minnesota (Hughes 0-0) at Detroit (Price 0-0), 12:08 p.m.
Boston (Buchholz 0-0) at Philadelphia (Hamels 0-0), 2:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Tillman 0-0) at Tampa Bay (Archer 0-0), 2:10 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Samardzija 0-0) at Kansas City (Ventura 0-0), 3:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Weaver 0-0) at Seattle (Hernandez 0-0), 3:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Kluber 0-0) at Houston (Keuchel 0-0), 6:10 p.m.
Texas (Gallardo 0-0) at Oakland (Gray 0-0), 9:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	0	0	.000	—
Miami	0	0	.000	—
New York	0	0	.000	—
Philadelphia	0	0	.000	—
Washington	0	0	.000	—

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	1	0	1.000	—
Cincinnati	0	0	.000	1/2
Milwaukee	0	0	.000	1/2
Pittsburgh	0	0	.000	1/2
*Chicago	0	1	.000	1

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	0	0	.000	—
Colorado	0	0	.000	—
Los Angeles	0	0	.000	—
San Diego	0	0	.000	—
San Francisco	0	0	.000	—

Sunday's Score

St. Louis 3, Chicago Cubs 0

Today's Games

Colorado (Kendrick 0-0) at Milwaukee (Lohse 0-0), 1:10 p.m.
Boston (Buchholz 0-0) at Philadelphia (Hamels 0-0), 2:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Colon 0-0) at Washington (Scherzer 0-0), 3:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Teheran 0-0) at Miami (Alvarez 0-0), 3:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Liriano 0-0) at Cincinnati (Cueto 0-0), 3:10 p.m.
San Diego (Shields 0-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 0-0), 3:10 p.m.
San Francisco (Bumgarner 0-0) at Arizona (Collmenter 0-0), 9:10 p.m.

SUNDAY'S LINESCORE

NATIONAL LEAGUE

St. Louis	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Wainwright, C.Martinez (7), J.Walden (8), Rosenthal (9) and Molina; Lester, Coke (5), Motte (6), N.Ramirez (7), Strop (8), H.Rondon (9) and D.Ross, M.Montero. W—Wainwright 1-0. L—Lester 0-1. Sv—Rosenthal (1).



Djokovic wins 5th Key Biscayne title by beating Murray

By Steve Wine
Associated Press

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Hot but happy, Novak Djokovic had just begun celebrating his latest championship when he tossed his towel and sweatbands into the crowd. They were soggy souvenirs for sure.

Djokovic earned his fifth Key Biscayne title Sunday, beating Andy Murray for the seventh consecutive time by showing superior stamina in the subtropical heat to win the Miami Open final 7-6 (3), 4-6, 6-0.

Murray broke in the final game of the second set to even the match, but fatigue then became a factor on a sunny, humid, 80-degree afternoon.

Djokovic was the fitter player down the stretch.

"It was brutal — it's very warm," he said. "I was prepared for a physical battle. But it's one thing to prepare and another thing to experience it on the court. I was expecting very long rallies and just managed to play the third set the way I was supposed to, and I'm thrilled with this win."

The top-ranked Djokovic became the first man to complete the Indian Wells-Key Biscayne spring sweep three times, and he has done it twice in a row. He beat Murray in the Indian Wells semifinals and in the Australian Open final for his eighth Grand Slam title two months ago.

Murray fell to 8-18 against Djokovic.

"I'm not quite there with Novak yet, but I feel like I'm getting a little closer," Murray said with a chuckle. "I'm sorry I couldn't make more of a fight of it in the third set. I was trying. My legs were tired and I couldn't quite finish hard enough."

Murray will climb from fourth to third in the new rankings, but he has lost 12 consecutive matches to his biggest rivals — Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer — since winning Wimbledon in 2013 by beating Djokovic in the final.

Djokovic was inconsistent early in the tournament and let his frustration show, receiving two code violations and a point penalty during one win. He drew another code violation in the final for swearing after he lost the second set, but he quickly regained his poise.

In the last set, Murray hit two weary backhands into the net to lose serve and fall behind 1-0. Two games later he saved five break points before dumping another backhand into the net to go down 3-0, and Djokovic easily closed out the win.

Murray acknowledged his third-set shutout by tweeting, "This egg today wasn't appreciated on Easter."

Djokovic's fresher legs at the end of the 2-hour, 47-minute match were especially impressive because Murray lives in Miami and is more accustomed to the South Florida heat.

"I wasn't feeling great at all on the court," Djokovic said. "He was making me work. But he felt the same."

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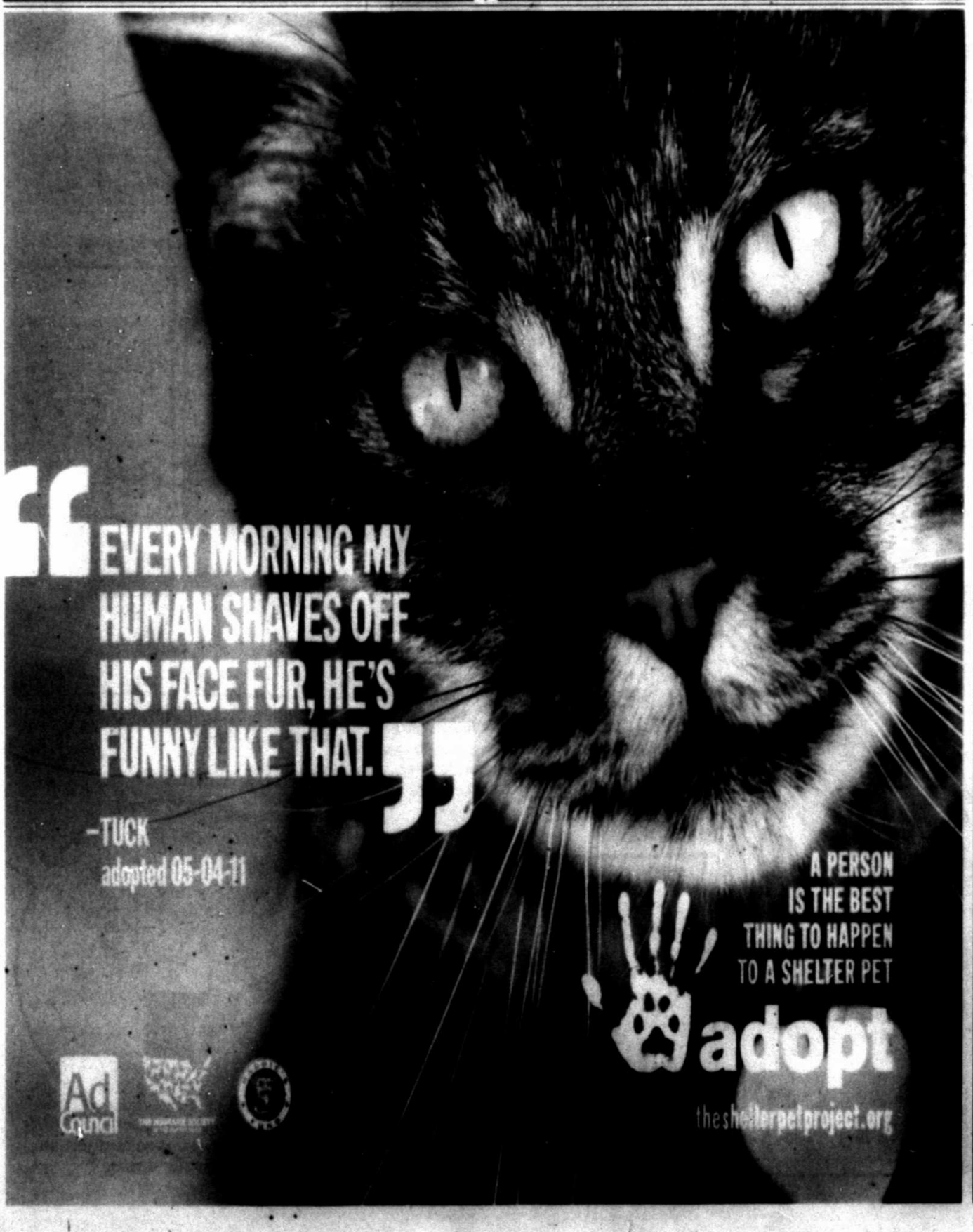

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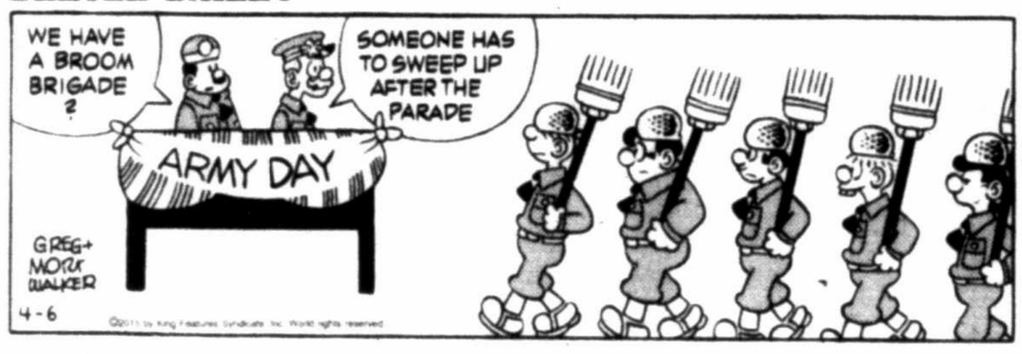


CLASSIC PEANUTS



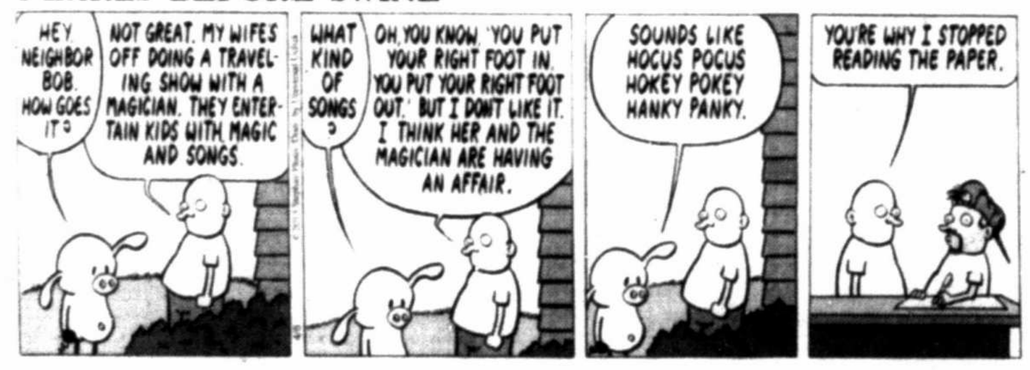
SHOE



GARFIELD



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



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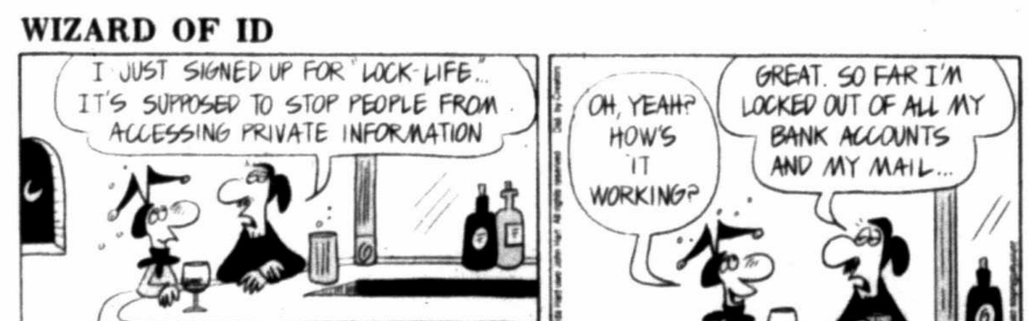
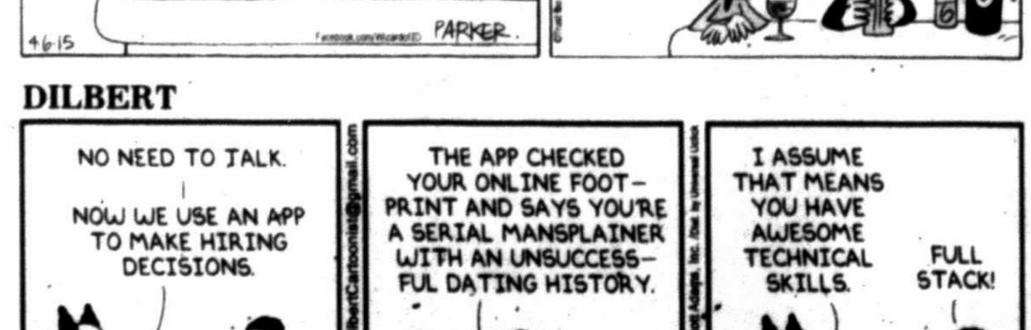


DILBERT



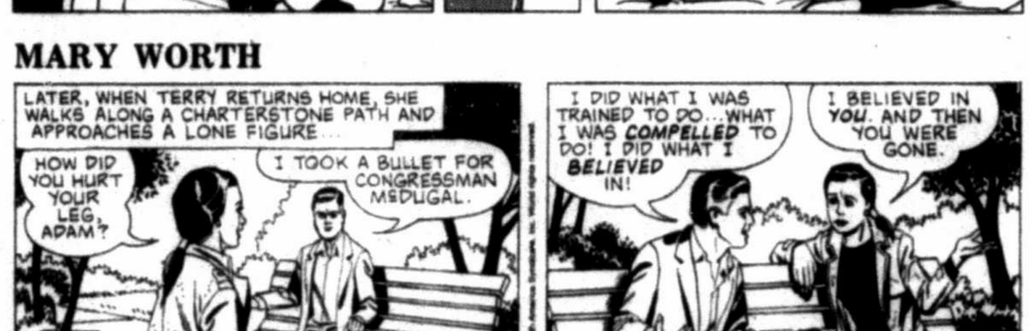
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



LUANN



MARY WORTH



ZITS



BABY BLUES



MUTTS

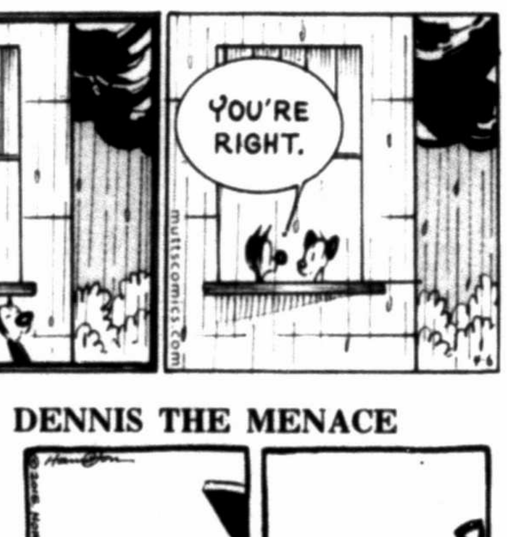


CLOSE TO HOME



With the theft of lunches from the office fridge at an all-time high, Marcie slathered some decoy sandwiches with chili powder.

DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



"Why did I get a new toothbrush in my Easter basket?"

LOCKHORNS



"IF I'VE LOST ANY WEIGHT AFTER ABOUT A WEEK, I'LL INVEST IN AN EXERCISE BIKE."

TODAY: Mostly sunny	TUESDAY: Mostly sunny	WEDNESDAY: Mostly sunny	THURSDAY: Sunny	FRIDAY: Mostly sunny	SATURDAY: Mostly sunny
High: 88 Low: 62	High: 89 Low: 63	High: 88 Low: 67	High: 79 Low: 49	High: 77 Low: 55	High: 81 Low: 57

Local forecast

The chance for showers this week is small, but the National Weather Service is calling for that chance twice this week. In it's seven-day forecast, the NWS is calling for a 20 percent chance of showers on Wednesday night and a slight chance Saturday night and Sunday.

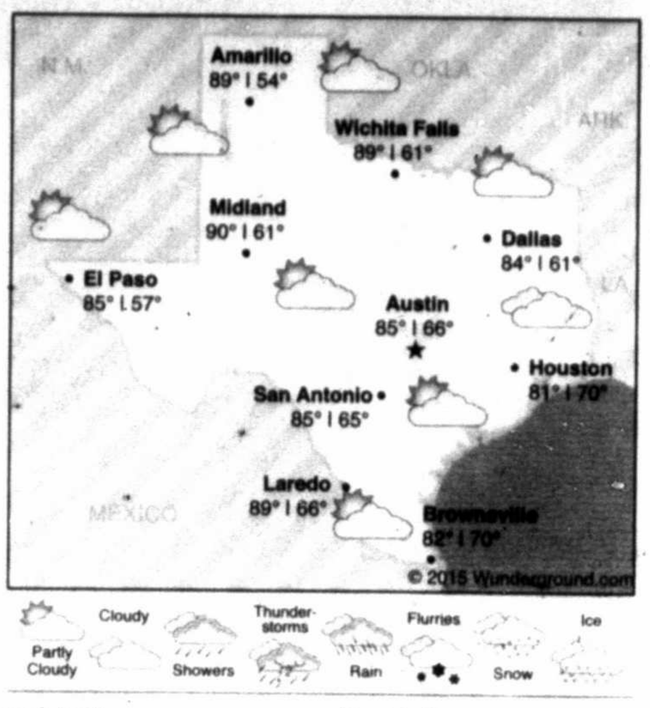
Otherwise expect high temperatures to climb into the upper 80s (a little more than 10 degrees above normal for this time of year) through Wednesday.

The high on Sunday reached 83, while the low dropped to 50. The record high for April 5 is 92 set in 1959. The record low is 28 set in 1970.

Easter in Midland

Warmest: 98 degrees (April 25, 1943)
Coolest: 26 degrees (March 28, 1937)
Easters in the 90s: 10
Easters with a low of 32 degrees or less: Six
Number of Easters with measurable rain: Eight
Most rain: 0.35 of an inch (March 23, 2008)
Snow: No snow ever reported on Easter.

Source: National Weather Service

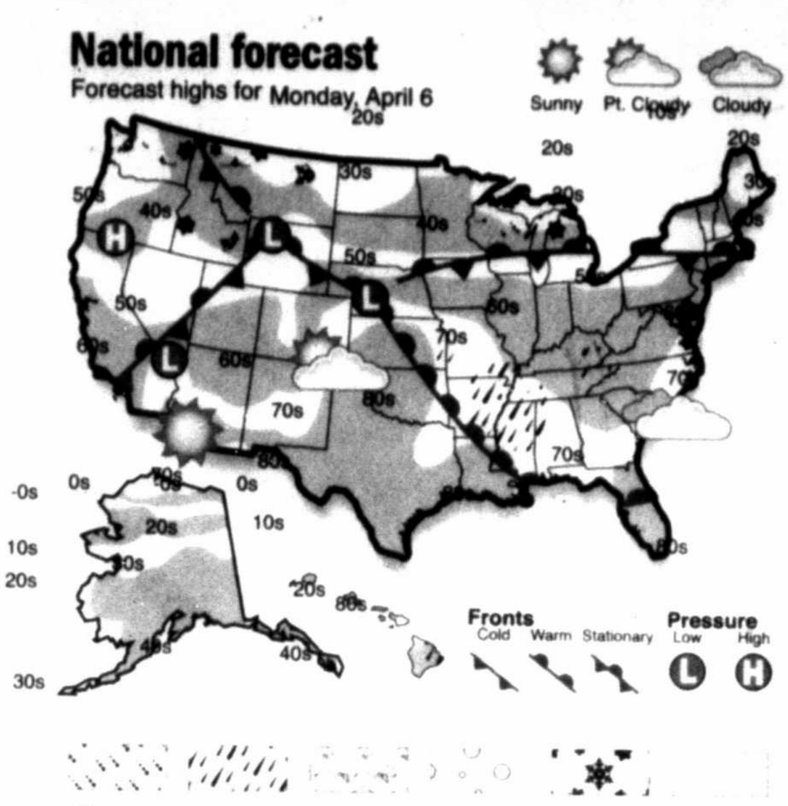


Precipitation

Saturday	0.00 in.
Sunday	0.00 in.
Month total	0.00 in.
Year total	4.34 in.
Normal total (year to date)	1.98 in.

Sunday's temperatures

High	83
Low	50
Normal high	76
Normal low	46
Sunrise	7:31 a.m.
Sunset	8:12 p.m.



Wife's friendship leaves hubby feeling like odd man out

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: My wife, "Connie," and I have been together for 30 years and have a wonderful marriage. She's a schoolteacher, and I travel on business often. I think the time away from each other is good; it gives us a chance to enjoy some "me" time.

Connie is a genuinely nice person and makes friends easily, which I admire. However, over the past five years, she has become very close with a divorced woman who teaches at her school. They text each other seemingly nonstop, and when I travel, they always get together for a movie or dinner.

I like Connie's friend, and I used to be included — or at least invited — to anything they did. Now, if I suggest we all go out, Connie says her friend has other plans or she's sick.

I'm not really concerned that there's any kind of physical relationship between them, but I feel their friendship has become like an "emotional affair." When I brought this up with my wife, she said, "You don't want me to have any friends?"

What bothers me is that I used to be Connie's best friend, but I feel I have been replaced. She tries to reassure me I'm still No. 1, then goes off into her bathroom to text with her friend. I think it's obvious she gets something from this relationship that she doesn't get from me. Do you think friendships between women can evolve into emotional affairs? — SHUT OUT IN TEXAS

DEAR SHUT OUT: Women communicate with other women on a different level than they do with men. You and your wife and her woman friend may have felt like the Three Musketeers years ago when the three of you would all get together — but it's possible that after a while her friend began to feel like a third wheel.

Who can say why she doesn't want to socialize with you. Perhaps you don't have enough in common, or perhaps she has sensed that you are jealous of her friendship with your wife. But I wouldn't call close friendships among women "emotional affairs" because I don't think it's true.

Since this bothers you enough to write to me, and Connie seems to be communicating in secret, please discuss this in depth with her.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Luke," and I go to the gym together four to five times a week. Yesterday, there was a man on a treadmill who was sweating profusely. I kid you not, it was coating the treadmill. Luke tends to speak loudly, and he occasionally forgets to turn on his filter. When he saw what was happening, he exclaimed loudly, "That's disgusting." I nudged him and told him he was being rude, but unfortunately, we think the man heard him.

Luke is actually a kind and sensitive person, so he instantly felt awful. This man is a frequent gym-goer and is often there when we are. Luke wants to apologize, but he's worried that if the man didn't hear him, he will have to explain what he said. What are your thoughts? — FILTERLESS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR FILTERLESS: Luke was out of line, but at this point, he should let it go or he may further embarrass the man. Sweating during aerobic exercise is normal and healthy, and not something that a person can control. If, when the man was finished with the machine, he wiped it down, he was acting appropriately. (Unfortunately, not all gym members do.)

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 Monday, April 6, 2015:

This year you are driven to find a new outlet for self-expression. You will experience great fulfillment as a result. You also discover a new ability to understand and resolve problems quickly. You'll work best with a partner on a one-on-one level, no matter what the project or issue is. If you are single, someone you interact with closely easily could become a more romantic bond. This person will be quite important to your life's history. If you are attached, the two of you experience a period where you are more closely connected. SCORPIO has as much energy as you do, but he or she is more subtle.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ You might be unusually tuned in to a loved one. Your creative energy blooms, which allows you to move through your day more successfully. A partner could be difficult no matter how hard you attempt to appease him or her. Let it go. Tonight: An animated conversation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Define your objectives and pursue them before someone trips you up or distracts you. You'll gain insight when you can relax and see what has been accomplished. A personal matter could put a smile on your face. Share an insight with a loved one. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ You might feel overwhelmed by the constant barrage of people who need you, or at least think that they do. You need to reach out to a close associate or loved one, as this person will support you in carrying out what must be done. Tonight: Express your easygoing personality.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ You might want to reconsider a judgment you have made about a loved one. You also could need to review a matter that requires your ingenuity. A conversation with a trusted pal could cause an enormous backfire. Tonight: Be playful, and your stress levels will go down.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ You could be content, yet there is someone close to you who is often combative and difficult. You might be wondering whether you need less time with this person. A discussion will help you understand why he or she acts like such a curmudgeon. Tonight: Head home early.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ You have a tendency to choose your words with care. This trait easily could help you win over a difficult person. You might feel very optimistic at this moment, but it would be wise to proceed with care; others seem to be on the warpath. Tonight: Make an effort toward a love one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ Be aware of the costs of a situation with which you are about to be involved. A partner could have a totally different perspective from you, and will let you know. You will discover that you have some strong opinions as well. Tonight: Run errands first.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ The Moon in your sign tends to give you that extra magnetism and energy you might want or need. You could be challenged by a family member and might be disappointed with what happens. Investigate potential options involving your health. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Step back a bit before making a decision — the more information you get, the wiser your choice will be. Keep reaching out to someone at a distance whom you care about. You'll gain a sense of well-being through a conversation. Tonight: Embrace your impulsive side.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ Don't lose your focus with regard to a special issue. Honor a change, and be more open to new possibilities at a later point. You'll need to complete a project as it stands. Do not sell yourself short. Tonight: Do what you want to do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ You'll be coming from a place of confidence despite a difficult authority figure. Communication could be erratic, but you can deal with the unpredictability. A partner will support you in a venture, and he or she will make a difference. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ You might feel as if you can handle nearly everything, and you can — if you detach. Recognize the importance of taking an overview and understanding why certain people act in the way they do. Tonight: Surf the Web or watch a good movie.

BORN TODAY

Composer Andre Previn (1929), actor Paul Rudd (1969), actor Walter Huston (1884)

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Q 1 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ K 10 9 3 2 ♡ Q 10 ♢ 2 ♣ A 9 5 3 2
The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♡	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♡	Pass	?	

What call would you make?

A — Don't worry about your fifth spade. You have an eight-card heart fit and plenty of values to go on. Bid four hearts.

Q 2 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ 4 3 2 ♡ A K Q J 8 4 ♢ 4 3 ♣ K 3
The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♢	Pass	1♡	Pass
3♢	Pass	3♡	Pass
3NT	Pass	?	

What call would you make?

A — This hand has not had a chance as yet to show its strength, and it is too good to meekly settle for game. What to do? We like four diamonds, temporarily setting the trump suit and inviting a four-spade cue bid. We plan to insist on hearts later.

Q 3 — East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ 10 9 8 6 4 3 ♡ 9 8 ♢ A J 7 6 2
♣ Void
Partner opens one no-trump and right-hand opponent passes. What call would you make?

A — Two hearts, transferring to spades, followed by a raise to game is fine. Also OK is a Texas Transfer bid of four hearts. There are also other acceptable auctions. The important thing is to insist on game with this exciting distribution.

Q 4 — Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ A Q 7 5 2 ♡ Q 5 2 ♢ 7 ♣ A 4 3 2
With the opponents silent, you open one spade and partner jumps to three spades, showing 10-11 points with four-card support. What call would you make?

A — When partner makes an invitational raise that promises four-card support, opener should accept the invitation with any hand that includes a singleton — even a minimum. Bid four spades.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Halloween costume part
5 640 acres: Abbr
9 Longtime employee
14 Death Valley's is the lowest in North Amer.
15 Mammoth feature
16 China's Zhou
17 "Dirty Jobs" host Mike
18 County Kerry's isle
19 Deep chasm
20 *Manhattan site of Strawberry Fields
23 "So long"
24 Young horse
25 One from Nairobi
27 Ultimate conclusion
30 Made of oak, e.g.
32 Small swallow
33 Pumps or clogs
35 Thin piece of change
38 __ out a living
39 *Prepare for printing
42 Guy's partner
43 Bank (on)
45 Glue in a hobbyist's kit
46 "Let me think ..."
47 Utter madness
50 Michelangelo masterpieces
52 Tallied, with "up"
54 Group after boomers
55 "How relaxing!"
56 Process for selecting theatrical performers, and a hint to the first word of the answers to starred clues
62 Bit of luck
64 Place for koi
65 Prefix with distant
66 Italian ball game
67 Woodworking tool
68 Put on a pouty face
69 Filled (in), as a comic strip
70 Frog's kiddie-lit friend
71 Yard event

DOWN

1 Bygone Ford division, for short
2 Sunburn soother
3 Stitched up
4 Complain
5 Furtive
6 Comforter to get comfy in
7 Car sticker abbr
8 Swedish furniture chain
9 Didn't hold water
10 Having five sharps, musically
11 *Untrustworthy, as a business
12 Course that's good for one's GPA
13 Ascended
21 Barnyard perch
22 MGM rival
26 Homer's nice neighbor
27 Password creator
28 High-speed highway
29 *Word processor error finder
30 Teary-eyed
31 Bone, in Italian
34 Oil gp. with 12 member nations
36 Papa's partner
37 Stately shade trees
40 Paid out
41 Making, as a knot
44 Big laugh
48 Did some smooching
49 Aquafresh tube letters
51 Overabundance
52 Talmud expert
53 Brother of Moses
54 Tokyo shopping district
57 Petty quarrel
58 Chore list heading
59 Greenish-blue
60 Temporary calm
61 Similar to
63 Unreturnable serve

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	T	A	R	T	R	E	K		A	T	C	A	M	P
P	A	L	E	H	O	S	E		B	O	S	N	I	A
A	N	I	M	A	L	S	I	D	E	K	I	C	K	S
D	E	V	O	T	E		T	O	T	E		H	E	T
E	Y	E	R	S		H	E	Y	S		L	O	T	T
			A	A	C	E	L	L		T	E	R	R	E
F	A	C		M	O	W		E	C	H	E	L	O	N
U	N	O	D	O	S			N	E	R	E	U	S	
N	I	G	E	R	I	A		B	E	G		G	T	E
S	M	I	L	E		S	A	L	T	E	D			
P	A	T	E		F	A	S	T		N	E	I	N	S
O	T	A		N	I	M	H		L	E	N	N	O	N
N	O	T	M	Y	F	I	R	S	T	R	O	D	E	O
G	R	E	E	N	E		A	E	R	A	T	I	N	G
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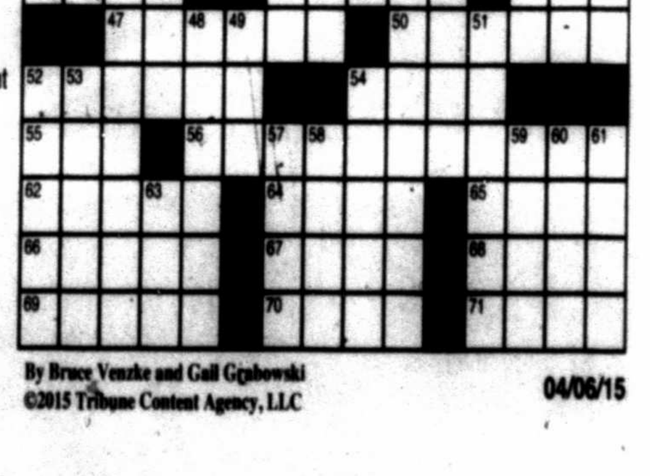
xwordeditor@aol.com 04/06/15



By Bruce Venzke and Gail Grabowski
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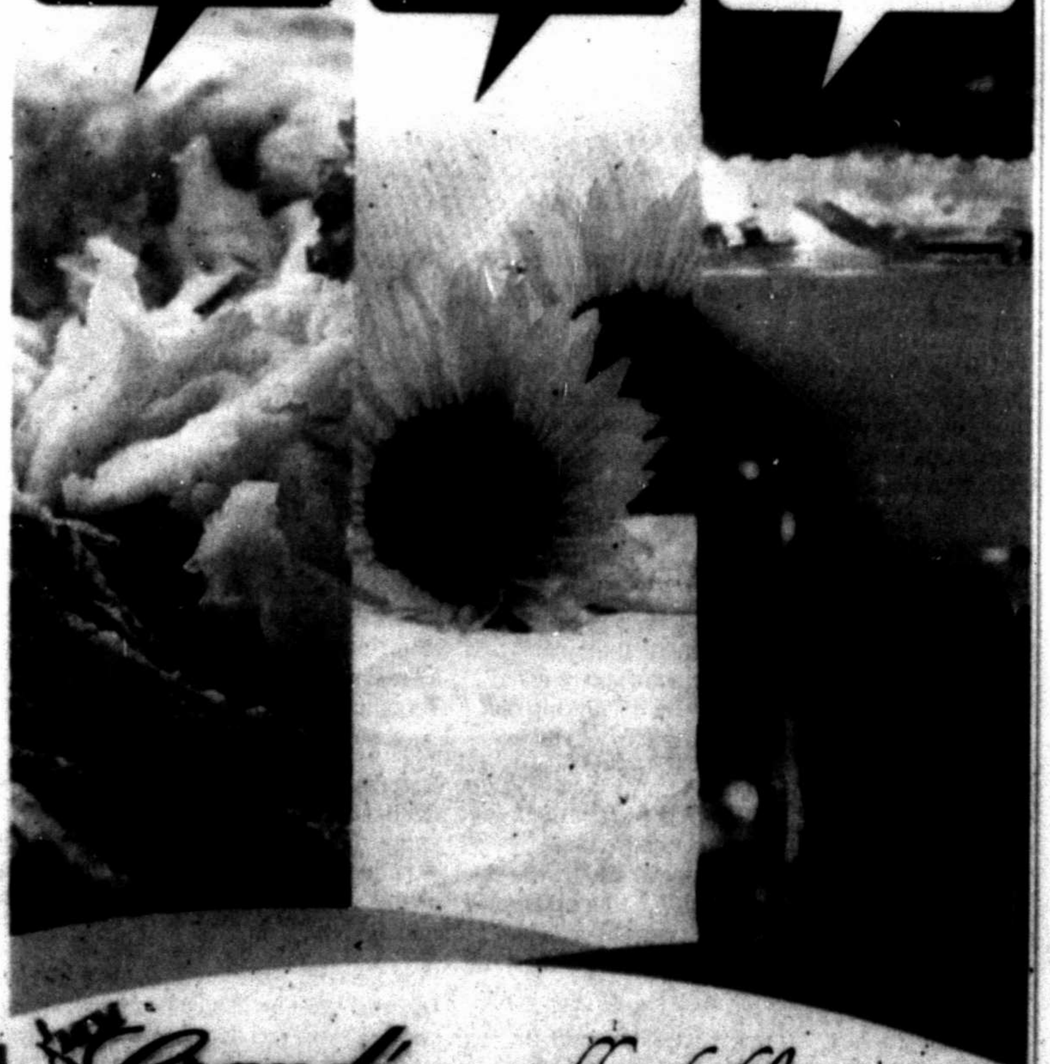

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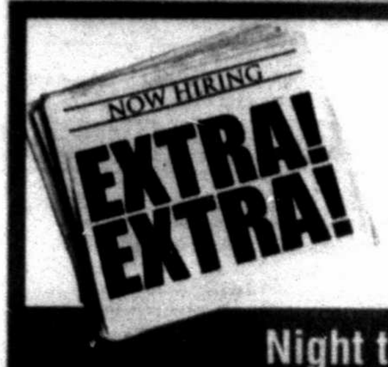
OTHER JOBS



Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN IT'S DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm -4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person

Starting pay $10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be $11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifiting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois. Lobby Information Desk • Monday-Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

OTHER JOBS

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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

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These positions require some physical lifiting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

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The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an immediate opening in its Production Department for the position of PRESSMAN/ PRESSMAN TRAINEE for our Harris N 1650 Printing presses.

This 5-6 day per week, fast paced, deadline oriented position, requires night shift/weekend work with a strong emphasis on safety. The Midland Reporter-Telegram offers a full package of company benefits including 401K program. Salary DOE.

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Send resume and salary requirements to:
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ENERGY & UTILITIES

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MIDLAND, TEXAS - Downtown office location

GEOLOGIST/GEO TECH - Entry Level Geologist position with Geotech experience a plus. Geotech experience working with Petra, ArcMap, Drilling Info, etc. mapping, log analysis, OOIP calcs, competitive analysis are all key tasks. Delaware Basin experience both Texas and New Mexico required. Full or part time (flexible hours) considered. Competitive salary and benefits. Equity shares available for the right combination of skills and experience.

DRILLING ENGINEER: 2-3 years experience horizontal drilling in the Delaware Basin. 5-8+ years experience in drilling a plus. Must be able to design casing, horizontal wells, manage interaction with the drilling rig foreman, manage the permitting process, and be able to monitor AFE vs. actual costs. Some onsite work required for casing points and other technical aspects. Competitive salary, benefits, vehicle allowance, 40% cash bonus and equity shares in company. Must be able to do drilling engineering in house, not through service companies. Experience with Landmark Drilling software a plus. Experience with extended laterals (7500 ft+ in the Bone Spring, Wolfcamp, Delaware a plus). Best Drilling Engineer job in the Basin.

DRILLING SUPERINTENDENT /MANAGER: 5+ years experience horizontal drilling in the Delaware Basin. 10-15 years experience in drilling a plus. Must be able to manage interaction with the drilling contractors, Service companies, drilling rig foreman, the permitting process, and be responsible for AFE vs. actual costs. Some onsite work required for rig inspections, casing points and other technical aspects. Competitive salary, benefits, vehicle allowance, 40% cash bonus and equity shares in company. Experience with extended laterals (7500 ft+ in the Bone Spring, Wolfcamp, Delaware required). Capable of scaling operation from a 2 rig to a 5 rig continuous drilling program. Work closely with Completion Superintendent and VP of Operations. Reports to VP of Operations.

ENGINEERING TECH - Experienced engineering tech to assist with economics and Federal Permitting with PHDwin and Drilling software (Landmark) experience a plus. Log analysis, OOIP calcs and competitive analysis are all key tasks. Delaware Basin experience in both Texas and New Mexico required. Full or part time (flexible hours) considered.

SENIOR LANDMAN -5+ years of Texas and New Mexico experience. Interpret and negotiate various contracts, including Joint Operating Agreements, Oil and Gas Leases, Surface Use Agreements, Right of Way Agreements, etc. Clear title for drilling locations. Conduct due diligence in connection with acquisitions of producing and non-producing properties. Setup/maintenance of JIB/Revenue decks. CPL is a plus. Competitive salary, benefits, vehicle allowance, 40% cash bonus and equity shares in company for right level of skills and experience.

FACILITIES SUPERINTENDENT: 5-10 years Texas and New Mexico experience managing field operations, design and construction of tank batteries, SWD stations, and managing construction of drilling location, lease roads, and frac ponds. Experience working with BLM on right of ways a big plus. Competitive salary, benefits, vehicle allowance, 30% cash bonus and equity shares in company for right level of skills and experience. SE Lea Cty, NM work area. Location is flexible.

COMPANY PUMPERS: 5-10 years overall experience, 2-3 years experience with horizontal wells, flow back, tank battery operations, working with higher pressure wells. Competitive hourly wage, benefits, company vehicle, vacation time. Operations are between Kermit, Andrews and Jal, New Mexico. Location is flexible. Schedule is flexible.

HUMAN RESOURCES GENERALIST/MANAGER -PHR or SPHR preferred, oil and gas industry experience a plus. Position can be located in Midland or Dallas.

Send resume to leslie@enduranceresourceslic.com

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Atlantic Resources Company, LLC, a Midland based independent oil and gas operator, has an immediate opening for a detail-oriented person to manage its monthly oil and gas accounting functions.

Requirements:

- Accounting Degree
- JIB, Revenue Distribution, and basic oil and gas accounting experience
- Working knowledge of Excel and Word
- Wolfepak software is not required but a plus

Qualified individuals must submit a resume, references, and salary history to:
Atlantic Resources Company, LLC
Attn: Accounting P.O. Box 3759
Midland TX. 79702
or email careers@arcoperating.com.

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:
• Nurses • Med Aide • CNA's
Full benefits
$1,000 SIGN ON BONUS
Apply in person.

CAREER FAIR - 4/7/15 - 10am - 3pm

Midland Center
105 N. Main
Midland, TX
The Midland Reporter-Telegram is hosting its 10th semi-annual Career Fair.If you are looking for a higher paying job or just a better career opportunity, don't miss the chance to come out and talk to some of Midland's best employers!

Dental Front Desk Receptionist

Thomas Campagna, DMD
We are looking for an exceptional, experienced, reliable, **Dental Front Desk Receptionist**, experience with Eaglesoft required, Spanish a plus, to join our team, at Midland's premier dental practice. Please email: **info@smilemidland.com**, fax: **(432) 520-0720** or bring resume to: **3702 W. Loop 250 North, Midland, TX.**

HEALTHCARE

Optometric Tech

Now Hiring Optometric Tech. Experience preferred, excellent benefits. Send resumes to texascountryeyecare@gmail.com

Physician

Physician needed for Addiction Medicine Clinic, Odessa or Midland positions available. 2-3 days per week 6:30am-8:30am. Paid by hourly contract rate. Physical exams, medication adjustments, assist counseling staff with treatment planning. Any medical specialty acceptable, will train. No hospital association, no insurance billing. Texas licensure must be in good standing. Fax cover letter and CV to Dr. Garcia, 214-732-1622

Registered Dental Hygienist

Thomas Campagna, DMD **PT**
We are looking for an exceptional, experienced, **Registered Dental Hygienist,** full/ part time to join our team, at Midland's premier dental practice. Recent graduates encouraged to apply. Please email: **info@smilemidland.com**, fax: **(432) 520-0720** or bring resume to: **3722 W. Loop 250 North, Midland, TX.**

RN for Su Casa Home Health

In need of full time **RN.** Bilingual a plus. Full benefits package. Serious inquiries Only! **$5,000 SIGN ON BONUS.** Call **432-520-2556** or apply online at **www.sucasahomehealth.com.**

MANAGEMENT & EXECUTIVE

CAREER FAIR - 4/7/15 - 10am - 3pm

Midland Center
105 N. Main
Midland, TX
The Midland Reporter-Telegram is hosting its 10th semi-annual Career Fair.If you are looking for a higher paying job or just a better career opportunity, don't miss the chance to come out and talk to some of Midland's best employers!

OTHER JOBS

CAREER FAIR - 4/7/15 - 10am - 3pm

Midland Center
105 N. Main
Midland, TX
The Midland Reporter-Telegram is hosting its 10th semi-annual Career Fair.If you are looking for a higher paying job or just a better career opportunity, don't miss the chance to come out and talk to some of Midland's best employers!

Consultant Dietitians

Midland Market Street is looking for Consultant Dietitians to do Dietitian Store Tours in the Midland Market Street location. Must be Registered Dietitian to apply. 6-10 hours per month. Please, send resumes to Rhawkins@unitedtexas.com.

Field Hands & Supervisors

Field hands and supervisors needed at oil field water transfer company. Previous experience required. Please contact tingram@bcoperating.com for more details. Thank you.

Housekeeper

Looking for a housekeeper to work 15 hours per week. Hours are 8am to 1pm on Monday, Weds, and Friday. Must be reliable with own transportation and attention to detail is a must. Pays $16.00 per hour. Call 432-631-2468 for info

Livestock Worker, Horse Breeding

Attend to all aspects of horse breeding operation. Care for & examine horses (mares, stallions, foals, babies); administer simple medical treatments, assist with breeding process, genting of foals, imprinting, doctor babies. Work in extreme temp, lift 75 lbs, extensive walking, frequent stooping, post hire criminal background check & drug screening (employer paid). $10.35/hr, no cost housing to workers who cannot reasonably return to permanent residence at end of each work day. Employer guarantees at least ¾ of work days in work period. Transportation & subsistence expenses to the worksite will be paid by employer upon completion of 50% of work contract or earlier if appropriate. 1 mth exp. req'd. Temporary employment: 5/10/15 - 12/30/15. 1 temp. job opening. Evans Thoroughbreds, LLC, Midland, TX. Apply for this job at the nearest State Workforce Agency using job listing # TX6360788.Call 512-475-2571 for nearest location.

Representatives

Now Hiring - Full Time and Part Time Representatives. Year round positions available with Frontline Promotions in the Midland area.

$10 per hour guaranteed, plus commissions. Frontline Reps earn up to $30 per hour. Paid weekly. Previous sales experience is good, but not necessary. Flexible schedule! Good people! GREAT pay! Must have reliable transportation to work.

Call Andy at (432) 242-7151 for an immediate opportunity.

Sales & Events Manager

Insignia Hospitality Group is now hiring full time Sales & Events Manager. Send resumes to rachel@insigniamgmt.com

Stable Hand

Need part-time help cleaning horse stables. Flexible hours, preferrably 10am-12noon. $12/hour. Call 432-413-4682

WAREHOUSE WORKER

Griffin Oil Company, 3910 S. FM 1788, Midland, TX. 79706. Duties include pulling orders, stocking, taking inventory, and making local deliveries. Must have forklift experience and Class C license with good driving record. Excellent Pay & Full Benefits package. Applications can be completed on site. For additional information or directions, call 432-563-9991 or 866-350-4897.

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

CAREER FAIR - 4/7/15 - 10am - 3pm

Midland Center
105 N. Main
Midland, TX
The Midland Reporter-Telegram is hosting its 10th semi-annual Career Fair.If you are looking for a higher paying job or just a better career opportunity, don't miss the chance to come out and talk to some of Midland's best employers!

Lead Cook

Lead Cook - Corporate Dining Aramark (Midland) Compensation: Circa $15.00 $17.00 based on experience. Great culinary skills, organized, Monday - Thursday daytime hours, 40 hours per week, new kitchen, lunch only, great customers, first class equipment, EEO, background checked. Please apply in person: Aramark @ Pioneer Natural Resources, 3617 N. Big Spring St. Midland, TX. 79705

RETAIL JOBS

CAREER FAIR - 4/7/15 - 10am - 3pm

Midland Center
105 N. Main
Midland, TX
The Midland Reporter-Telegram is hosting its 10th semi-annual Career Fair.If you are looking for a higher paying job or just a better career opportunity, don't miss the chance to come out and talk to some of Midland's best employers!

RDA Beauty Supply

RDA Beauty Supply needs F/T & P/T help. Cosmetology background a plus but not required. If you like hair products, this is your place. Must be available some Saturdays 9-2. Please apply in person, 3303 N Midkiff #185 Midland

SALES JOBS

Salesperson

Basin Engine and Pump
Experienced pump salesperson needed. Excellent compensation and benefit plans provided. Email resume to Todd@basinengine.com.

SKILLED LABOR

2- Journeyman Plumbers

2-Journeyman Plumbers needed for new commercial. Join our growing company. Please call Superior Plumbing 432-687-5905 License # M39721

Electric Meter Technician

(Celeste, Midland, Stanton, Big Spring, Colorado City and Brady, Texas)
Texas Meter & Device seeks several project positions for full time Field Auditors (Phase I) and Electric Meter Technicians (Phase II). Field Auditors are needed immediately and will be trained on job specifications, no experience required. The field audits will run through June or July and are set for incentive based pay averaging $200 per day with a Monday through Saturday schedule. Interviews and training to start immediately.

The Electric Meter Technician work will begin in September and last into the first quarter of 2016. Previous electrical experience preferred but not required. Field Auditors with acceptable work performance and willingness to learn will have priority consideration for Phase II.

Training, tools, and service vehicle will be provided to qualified hires for both positions. Respond with complete resume. All applicants must be over 21 years of age and have a valid driver's license, no criminal history and pass a drug screening prior to receiving training. If you CANNOT pass these requirements, please do not apply. No calls will be accepted. Texas Meter & Device will contact prospective applicants with directions to interview location. Reply to info@texasmeter.com. EOE

Finish Blade Operator

Heavy highway & TXDOT experience preferred, valid driver's license required. Comprehensive benefit package. Competitive salary EOE. Allen Butler Construction, Lubbock, TX. 806-745-7498

Licensed Plumber

Need licensed Plumber for new construction work. Please call Charles @ 432-425-7256

Mechanic

Reliant Transportation Ltd. currently seeking qualified light and heavy truck mechanic for immediate openings. Own tools required and CDL preferred but not required. Overtime pay and weekend work. We offer full-time positions, great 401k plan, medical, dental, and vision benefits. Call Bobby Arvello @ 432-617-3689 for more information.

Mechanic/Shop Manager

Wanted: Experienced Mechanic Shop Manager and Deisel Mechanic for Oilfield Service Company. Must have Experience with Caterpillar & Cumins Diesel Engines-John Deere Diesel Experience is a plus. Competitive salary and benefits. Contact #432-400-2250

Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc.

Now hiring commercial construction project superintendents. Competitive pay plus excellent benefits. Experience in commercial construction a must. Please send resumes to 5206 W. Wadley, Midland, TX 79707 or email them to Billy Mays at billy@midtexofmidland.com. You may also fax your resume to 432-694-9627

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Local Fuel Delivery Drivers & LP Gas Drivers

WTG Fuels Inc., 11501 County Rd 125 W, Odessa, TX 79765. This position will be making local deliveries to business and individuals. Class B CDL is required. Must pass pre-employment drug screen and have a clean driving record. We offer excellent pay and benefits. Applications can be completed on site or resume emailed to **jking@gascard.net**.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

General

NEWSPAPER STREET CORNER SALES



Selling Newspapers On The Street Corners
(avg. income $50.00 - $100.00/day)

MUST BE AT LEAST 14 YEARS OLD
SUNDAYS ONLY
IF INTERESTED CALL
TOMMY 967-2267

The internet is the best thing to happen to newspapers since the paperboy.



DURING A TYPICAL WEEK, NEWSPAPER MEDIA REACH 77% OF ALL ADULTS.

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432.682.6999 432.682.6222 mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF FRED DEE THOMPSON, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Administration for the Estate of JACK EVANS, issued on March 17th in Cause No. P18225, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to:

JENNIFER MILTON

Claims may be presented in care of the attorneys for the estate, addressed as follows:

BILLINGSLEY LAW FIRM, PC
Attention: Sara Kate Billingsley
3800 E. 42nd Street, Suite 601
Odessa, Texas 79762

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED the 20th day of March, 2015.

BILLINGSLEY LAW FIRM, P.C.
3800 East 42nd Street, Suite 601
Odessa, Texas 79762-5982
432-366-8840
432-366-8879 (Fax)

By: SARA KATE BILLINGSLEY
SBN: 24059457
JERRY D. CADDEL
SBN: 03576500

ATTORNEYS FOR THE ESTATE

General Announcements

BETTER READ
Mark Berryhill.com
Ministering for Christ.

Lost & Found

FOUND BLACK with white paws, lab mix? Sunday off of Golf Course, near Midkiff. Call 210-259-1862

FOUND SMALL, Tan, part chihuahua female dog w/collar, no tags in vacinity of A Street & Neely. Call 432-685-1227 or 432-631-1173

Business Opportunity

BILL SEARS, former Athletic Coach at MHS, is active as a Petroleum Land Man in the Mountain Area. Contact him by mail Bill Sears, PO Box 6331, Longmont, CO 80501, email sears37@msn.com or 720-494-7626 fax

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

BUICK 2007 LaCrosse CXL, black, V6 leather, good condition. 65K miles. $8,000. 432-694-2770

CHEVROLET 2001 Impala 4 door. $3,500. 432-631-0983 or 432-577-9942

FORD 2003 Taurus light gray, low mileage, rebuilt transmission installed. Must see! Asking $5,000 Comes with warranty 432-349-0041

FORD 2010 Mustang Coupe. V6. 43K miles, leather & power seats, super clean. $14,500 OBO. Call Kevin @ 432-631-2510

LINCOLN 2004 Towncar Signature Silver, one owner, extremely clean, very well maintained, used mainly in town, excellent car. Asking below bluebook value at $7000 92K miles 432-238-8598.

MERCEDES CLASSIC 1975 Benz 450SL Best Offer 303-818-0923

SENIOR FEMALE Owned 2005 Buick LaCrosse 45K leather, new Michelins, new brakes. Garage kept, records and bill sheets. Champagne gold. $8800 OBO Call 432-559-4536

WANTED!
Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. FREE pick-up 432-685-4078

Antique & Vintage

FORD 1965 Mustang. Newly Restored, 351 Windsor motor with less that 200 miles, automatic transmission, disc brakes, new tires, new interior, fresh paint. Lots of extras. $17,500 Call 432-213-3284

Fax Your Classified Ad In Today! 682-6999

Pickup Trucks

CHEVY 1995 Silverado, shortbed, new motor & tires. $3,000. 432-413-1076.

GMC 2008 Sierra SLT, 4 dr. Z71, red w/black leather, 81k miles. Garage kept. Reduced price. No owner finance. 432-557-7386

4WD & SUV

LINCOLN 2008 Navigator. highway miles. Great condition. $17,000 OBO 432-528-7332

NEW TODAY!
TOYOTA 2002 Sequoia, good condition V8, 127K miles, leather interior, sunroof. Well maintained. Asking $9,000 OBO 432-853-5305

Motorcycles

HARLEY DAVIDSON 2013 Street Bob. 9500 miles. $9,000. Call 432-352-7470

RVs

2014 34' Wilderness Fiberglass, superslide out 2 Bedroom, electric awning, AC, microwave, fully self-contained 4 Season More Options Like New, View local $23,700 OBO 406-231-5683

2014 40' travel trailer 2 slides, 2 bedrooms, 2 air conditions, washer & dryer, fully self contained, many extras, too many to list. Must sell $26,000 OBO Please call 254-383-1469

$21,500 OBO 36' Bumper pull Travel Trailer 2 ACs W/D super slide, rear bed queen. Park model, house-size fridge 2 doors. Includes delivery. 682-465-6584

NEW TODAY!
42ft 5th wheel, 2bed, 3 slide outs, sleeps 8, 2 A/Cs, washer, dryer, many extras, like new. $30,700. Locally located 806-429-2399

RV SPACES for rent Northeast Midland, quiet & clean area. $500 monthly. Utilities furnished. 50 amp hookup. 432-894-8234

Fax Your Classified Ad In Today! 682-6999

Recreational Vehicles

2012 KEYSTONE Cougar bumper pull RV like brand new. Pop out hardly ever used. Asking $22,000 price negotiable. Call 432-301-5827 or 432-301-5337

KAWASAKI 2006 Vulcan 1600 Classic. Warm weather is almost here! This bike is a must see! Beautiful red/ black, 1 female owner, very low mileage at 10,092. Genuine Kawasaki OEM tall windshield w/lower, hard leather saddle bags, Utopia backrest, new engine guards no yet installed. Perfect condition, meticulously maintained, garage kept. Runs perfect. Call Midland 432-250-4524. $5,825

KEYSTONE, 2008, Cougar RLS. Great condition 302X8, 2 slides, asking $11,000. One owner, nonsmoker, no pets, low milage. Numerous features. For pics or more info, call or message 325-513-6998.

NITRO 2004 fish/ski boat, 115HP motor, $6000 OBO Call Phil 432-349-7372

REDUCED!
HONDA 2011 Big Red ATV. $6,500 Call Mike 432-638-3378

Garage-Estate & Yard Sales

Yard & Garage Sales

79701

MUST MOVE SALE
Stuff being sold by the lot. Everyday until gone 805 S Big Spring St. 9am-dark Huge Inventory

Sporting Goods

2011 BASS TRACKER 175WT FOR SALE. 115 hp Mercury, trolling motor, depth finder, stereo, 5 folding swivel seats, fishing gear for ten, life jackets, large tackle box full and 10 individual clear boxes full of lures. Can be seen at 1502 Seaboard

Animals & Pets

Pets

CHIHUAHUA Pups for sale, reasonably priced. One Male. 2 Females. Just Weaned. 432-694-8834

LAB PUPPIES AKC & started dogs. Hips/ eyes guaranteed. Training available. Pooles Labs www.pooleslabs.com Call (806) 633-4364

Real Estate Rentals & Sales

Residential Rentals

Apartments for Rent Unfurnished

3 BEDROOM 1 bath apartment. $1200 month. $1,200 deposit, negotiable. Please call 432-816-1488 if interested

GREAT DEALS on one and two bedroom and some efficiency apartments in a clean and quite community. Near downtown with unique floor plans and two tone paint and abundant closet space. Some are all bills paid. Please call 432-218-8728

LETS MAKE A DEAL
rent starting at $850
Call for daily specials
432-520-0998 or
432-352-2248

NEW MANAGEMENT Spacious 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments. Call 432-687-4514

SPACIOUS 1600+ sq ft, Patio apartment 2 bedroom 2 bath, garage. $1695 monthly. No pets. 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

Townhouse/ Condo for Rent Unfurnished

AWESOME CORPORATE Condominium. Great location. 432-520-0998 or 432-352-2248

In A Hurry? E-Mail Your Ad Today! It's Quick & Easy mrtclassified mrt.com

Residential Rentals

Houses for Rent Furnished

NICE NEW totally furnished apartment washer, dryer, cable, ice, RO water. $1250/mo. $1,000 deposit. 432-631-8100

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH house in Greenwood. $1000.00/month. $1000.00 deposit. 697-3778, 528-9918

3515 STANOLIND, nice 3 BD/2BA, 2car garage, credit check required, nonsmoker and no pets. $2200 dep. $2200 rent 432-631-6914

4320 COUNTRY Club Dr. in Midland, TX House for rent! 3 BR 2B, aprrox 1800 sq ft. One car garage $2000 deposit / $2000 rent. Call 432-894-3073

BIG COUNTRY house 3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath fenced yard, carport $1400 rent, $500 deposit 432-770-7054 or 432-634-0978

Rooms for Rent

FURNISHED ROOM for Rent, with TV. Lots of amenities, no kids, no pets. 432-683-2614

Residential Sales

Condos/ Townhouses

BY OWNER Wallace Townhouse 1000 Neely. 3BR 2.5BA 2379sf. $265K Call 432-528-6466 or 432-967-4049
Open house every Sat 1-3pm until sold

Homes for Sale

1407 W Golf Course Road. 3BD/2BA Townhome with pool complete remodel, move-in ready. $365,000 no realtors 432-687-5952

4105 ST. ANDREWS 4/3/2/2, $259,500 REDUCED! In-law suite Open Sat 1p-3p **UP GROUP 889-2934**

4904 LOS Alamitos Drive FSBO. IMMACULATE. 4/3/2 in Saddle Club south updated!! Wood/tile/ carpet flooring, Plantation shutters. 3083 sq ft. $397,000 Call 432-686-8896 or 432-553-9786

BEAUTIFUL 3 bedroom 2 bath completely remodeled. 2 car shop, large deck, new A/C, n/out roof, double pane windows, blown installation. Same owner last 19 years. $208,000. 432-269-1903

Lake Coleman waterfront, brick home 5 bedroom, 3 bath with dock. $239,000. 325-382-4453

Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

FSBO. IMMACULATE 4/2/2. Built in 2009. Open floor plan. Sequestered master suite. Garden tub. Dual vanity. Large backyard. Auto sprinklers. Great school zone. $239,000 1326 E. Dormard, Midland Call 432-556-8830

IN NW Midland, Brick 3BR/2B/2CG, ceramic & carpet, water sofenter, RO system, yard sprinkler system, corner lot, large storage building, security system $179,000 Call 432-557-9378

WE BUY HOMES, LAND & BLDGS! Fair prices, quick cash! Call 432-266-1212 432-631-8100

Vacation & Resort Property

BEAUTIFUL 4 bedroom/ 2.5 bath home on Lake Nasworthy in San Angelo, TX. 1926 sq ft. sold fully furnished landscaped and boat dock. $479,000!! Contact Leslie Lasater Van Winkle & Womack Real Estate 325-656-5409

Lots & Land

Acreage

4516 CARDINAL LN.
2 acres, horses
Greathouse, Abell
$200,000
UP GROUP 889-2934

LAND FOR SALE northeast Midland. 11 acres, residential, good water, electricity, septic, well. Live in the country close to town. $110,000 email arcil247@yahoo.com 620-482-2530 or 620-309-1999

ONE ACRE on 3310 SCR 1212. $30,000.
ONE ACRE on 407 E Montgomery, no mobile home allowed. $30,000. Call 432-683-2243

Hunting Leases

PREMIER TURNKEY Hunting Ranch for Sale. 6000sft lodge, 200 inch B&C Deer, Quail, Equipment, Blinds, Feeders, Furniture, Minerals and very strong underground water. 2 hours from Midland Area. Call Anthony Simpson LREB 210-854-6365

Lots & Land

Ranches

RANCH FOR SALE
4,212 Acres
near Snyder, Tx.
Water, 3 houses,
great hunting.
Owner Financing
$795/ Acre
(432) 664-7764

Commercial

Commercial Building For Lease
13,500sq/ft
Fenced/Paved Yard
Midland, Texas
$12,500/month
432-664-7764

COMMERCIAL YARD FOR LEASE
5 ACRES, FENCED
2 AC CALICHED
ELECTRIC GATE
$2200/MONTH
JUST EAST OF MIDLAND
432-664-7764

FOR LEASE /Build to Suit
Commercial shop
with 5 acre yard
East of Midland
432-664-7764
432-934-7777

"MAN CAVE"
New storage on 1788 1500-4500 square ft starting at $650 RV's/cars/industrial ask for Don 352-2067.

NOW LEASING
Office/Warehouses
Small Office Suites
Fenced Yards
Various locations
Call 432-661-4057

SUITE AVAILABLE in the Zircon Building 3001 N. Big Spring 1433 sq. ft. includes common ares which is a conference room & breakroom plus 6 offices. Janitoral & utilities paid. 432-683-8030

NEW CONSTRUCTION
5/10/20/50 acres +/- yard with 5,000 or 10,000 sq. ft building with Bridge Cranes/ wash bays. Ask for Don 563-1610 or 352-2067

Mobile Homes for Rent

SEVERAL RVs and RV Spaces for rent. Cable, Wi-Fi on most. Sleeps 2. Call 770-7054, 634-0978 or 432-634-6857

In A Hurry? E-Mail Your Ad Today! It's Quick & Easy mrtclassified mrt.com

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Smart Stop Self Storage located at 1904 West Loop 250 Midland, TX 79705, phone number (432)570-6612 intends to enforce its self-service storage landlord's lien pursuant to the Texas Self-Service Storage Facility Lien Law for non-payment of Rent for the following Units. If a description of property is not listed, the contents are household goods and furnishings

N706: Robert Buck: Sofa, chairs, boxes, tables

The items will be sold on Tuesday April 21st at 2:00 o'clock p.m. at www.storagetreasures.com. The winner of the sale is subject to the terms and conditions of the website, preregistration to bid is required

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

SMART STOP Self Storage located at 5005 Andrews Highway Midland, TX 79703, phone number (432)694-5959 intends to enforce its self-service storage landlord's lien pursuant to the Texas Self-Service Storage Facility Lien Law for non-payment of Rent for the following Units. If a description of property is not listed, the contents are household goods and furnishings

201: Terry Harpole: Pool table, boxes
202: Diana Harpole: Pool table, boxes
953: Rosanna Lopez: Totes, ladder, grill
1101: Karla Delatorre: Boxes, washer, dryer, oven, chair

The items will be sold on Tuesday, April 21st at 2:00 o'clock p.m. at www.storagetreasures.com. The winner of the sale is subject to the terms and conditions of the website, preregistration to bid is required.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF AGATHA SUE TABOR CULPEPPER, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of AGATHA SUE TABOR CULPEPPER, issued on February 24, 2015 in Cause No. P18187, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to:

SANDRA GAY CULPEPPER

The physical address of the Executrix is in Dallas County, Texas, the mailing address is:

c/o Todd, Barron, Thomason, Hudman & Baxter, P.C.
3800 East 42nd Street, Suite 409
Odessa, Texas 79762-5982

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 24th day of February, 2015.

TODD, BARRON, THOMASON, HUDMAN & BAXTER, P.C.
3800 East 42nd Street, Suite 409
Odessa, Texas 79762-5982
432-363-2102
432-363-2152 (Fax)

By: STEVEN BARRON
State Bar No. 01821200
ATTORNEYS FOR THE ESTATE

Appliances

We buy broken appliances w/ free removal. Also we repair appliances. 432-570-8278

Miscellaneous for Sale

KEN'S RV SALES
Sales · Mobile Service
LARGEST SELECTION OF USED TRAILERS IN THE BASIN
TRY US ONCE YOU'LL BE BACK
TOY HAULERS · GO RVing · BUMPER PULLS
FIFTH WHEEL · MOTORHOMES
Propane · 8:30-5:30 Mon.-Fri. • 9-3 Sat. · Parts

Merchandise

Free Stuff

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!
Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

Furniture

2 MATCHING recliners like new. $150 each. 1 antique Oak dresser with curved drawers on front. $175. 432-664-1243

Miscellaneous for Sale

NEW TODAY!
25" TV for $25. Stove vent $25. Call 432-813-9211

AVID COLLECTOR of Louis Vuitton, selling part of my collection at very reasonable prices. Call 432-813-4590

FAST TREES grow 8ft-10ft yearly, $17-$22 delivered. View brochure online at www.fasttrees.com or call 509-447-4181.

TRUCK BED tool box, extra heavy duty $50.00. 55 gallon metal barrels open top $7.00. 30 gallon poly plastic barrels sealed top $7.00. 432-352-8419.

Sporting Goods

☆☆ GUN SHOW ☆☆
Midland Horseshoe Pavilion
April 18 (9-6)
April 19 (10-4)
Kim-806-252-6933
midlandgunshow.com

Homes for Sale

We buy homes in any area in any condition.
Call the Scott Williams Team of Realtors 432-689-7770.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL real estate advertising herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to indicate any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, age, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations of discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate, which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on equal opportunity basis.

To file a complaint, contact www.hud.gov or 1800-669-9777

Lots & Land

Acreage

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY
Reduced for Quick Sale
Private Wooded Homesite $19,900
Only $180/mo!
18-hole golf course, lake, resort style pool, new clubhouse. EZ Terms
(888) 963-2008
NMLS #1228042

Ranches

[illegible] Meek Ranch Sales listings
Meek Ranch Sales
830-257-8881 • www.meekranchsales.com

Commercial

FOR LEASE! Super location for Co. field office, service company, etc. Large fenced yard, all new offices, warehouse space, lots of parking. Simple lease terms. Excellent lease rate. 432-967-0047 or 432-559-5005

READY-RANCH
WWW.READY-RANCH.COM
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.READY-RANCH.COM
• Kent County
*11,155 ac. n. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. mtn., creek, lakes, Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail $795/ac
*4,212 ac. Maverick Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $825/ac
*1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great w-tail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850/ac
• Nolan County
*[illegible] ac. over 1 mile SOLD creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oaks $3,550/ac
*545 ac. Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $3,550/ac
• Howard County
*842 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oilfield traffic $750/ac
*150 ac. big canyon SOLD tanks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, javelina $395/ac
• Martin County
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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

		4	7			1		
7	1					9		
	5						4	
3			5	1				9
			8	4	2			
6				7	3			2
	7						9	
		9					3	8
		6			1	7		

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 SATURDAY'S PUZZLE

3	8	1	7	6	9	5	2	4
4	6	2	5	3	1	8	9	7
9	7	5	2	4	8	6	1	3
7	9	4	6	8	5	2	3	1
8	2	3	9	1	4	7	6	5
5	1	6	3	7	2	9	4	8
2	4	7	1	5	6	3	8	9
1	5	9	8	2	3	4	7	6
6	3	8	4	9	7	1	5	2

4/6/15

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