MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

JUDGE'S ORDERS

Take a look at the issues behind the immigration lawsuit.

Page 7A



NEW WAY TO PLAY

Andy McKee is known worldwide for his unique guitar-playing style. On Friday, he'll share his stringed-music explorations with Midlanders, this time on harp guitar.

Weekender/Inside

SHEFFIELD SPEAKS

Pioneer CEO: Exporting oil could spur job growth

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

A flood of oil from the nation's emerging shale plays, among them the Permian Basin, has overwhelmed the global marketplace. That, in turn, has helped send crude prices tumbling 60 percent from a little more than $100 in June to a little more than $50 a barrel today.

"We were too good at our jobs," said Scott Sheffield, chairman and chief executive officer of Pioneer Natural Resources while discussing the nation's "shale oil revolution" with members of the Permian Basin Association of Division Order Analysts.

With oil prices low, now is the time to lift the 40-year ban on exporting domestic crude, he said.

Sheffield told the audience that gasoline prices are based on Brent crude, which brings $8 to $10 more than West Texas Intermediate. So not only are producers and royalty owners not getting a fair price, but consumers are paying more for gasoline, he said.

Lifting the ban now would be less painful for consumers because if gasoline prices were to rise, the increase wouldn't be as much, he said.

The company also wants to be able to ship its production to refineries that can process light sweet crude, whether they're located on the Gulf Coast or in Europe, Asia or elsewhere.

Sheffield is among those working to educate lawmakers and President Obama's advisors on how lifting the ban would benefit the nation.

He told the audience that there is support for ending the ban, but there is concern voters would blame the political parties if gasoline prices rise as a result.

Hearings are expected to begin this spring on the issue, and he gives 50-50 odds on the ban being lifted this year. He said he doesn't think there is any chance of the ban ending next year ahead of presidential elections. "But I'm 80 to 90 percent confident it will be done by 2017," he said.

"My main point is that the differential is widening," he said, referring to the price difference between WTI and Brent, currently about $8 and likely to grow, or even between WTI Midland and Cushing.

Allowing exports to narrow that differential could equate to an additional $8 to $10 per barrel for the nation's producers, Sheffield said.

"That extra $10 would have a tremendous impact on production, on jobs, on investment," he said.



Scott Sheffield, CEO of Pioneer Natural Resources, addresses the Permian Basin Chapter of Division Order Analysts during a luncheon Wednesday at the Petroleum Club. *James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram*

TALKING POINTS

During Wednesday's presentation, Sheffield also said this about low oil prices' impact on the industry:

Rig count

THE SITUATION: The U.S. rig count has fallen from a high of about 1,950 to about 1,350.
THE IMPACT: Permian Basin rig count might fall to 300 before rebounding this summer.

Storage

THE SITUATION: Storage levels at Cushing, Oklahoma, already have exceeded 40 million barrels and could reach capacity in the next couple of months.
THE IMPACT: This could possibly lower West Texas Intermediate prices.

Oil prices

THE SITUATION: The price of oil has fallen sharply in recent months. However, $62 oil is forecast by the end of 2016.
THE IMPACT: If oil remains at $40 or even $60, domestic production will begin to decline and "we'll be importing Middle East oil again."

Inside

■ Our View: When local industry leaders address the downturn, it matters. **Page 6A**
■ Chris Tomlinson: They really mean it when they say oil's drop is an opportunity. **Page 4A**

Coming Sunday

■ Pioneer Resources CEO Scott Sheffield addresses what lies ahead for the Permian Basin.
■ We take a look at the politics impacting the oil industry.

Dissemination of counterfeit bills on the rise in Midland

By Brandon Mulder
bmulder@mrt.com

For some Midlanders, making money means just that — making money. Fake money, that is.

A recent increase in counterfeit bills circulating throughout the city has gained the attention of the Midland Police Department.

The increased prevalence of counterfeit bills usually affects small businesses and convenience stores first because counterfeiters try to exchange their fakes for cash in the registers, according to Sgt. Chris Lummus, with the White Collar Crimes unit.

"If you have someone buying a Coke with a hundred dollar bill, that's kind of suspicious," he said. "Or, if someone is paying for a large purchase with a lot of $5s and $10s."

Find a bogus bill?

To report a suspected counterfeit bill, call the Midland Police Department at 685-7108.

Lummus warns business owners to "look at those bills a little closer to make sure they're real."

Currently, $5s and $10s are the denominations most frequently passed around because most cashiers check only $100s, $50s and $20s, Lummus said. The $20 bill is the most common counterfeit denomination passed in the U.S, he said.

But the most recent iteration of U.S.-minted bills has multiple security features, some of which can make distinguishing fakes easier. Bills now have a vertical strip that will spell out what denomination the bill is. If a $50 dollar bill reads "five" on this strip, the bill is likely a $5 bill that's been bleached and reprinted as a higher value bill, according to the website of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

MPD has not identified a single source for printing the counterfeit bills.

"We've seen many different people involved recently. A lot of times, there is a central person printing these off," Lummus said.

These counterfeiters would then disseminate the fake bills, usually through drug dealing or passing them to fellow criminals. But according to Lummus, many of the local cases are unrelated and don't indicate any central player.

"If you've accidentally received it, you're going to be at a loss unless the suspect can be caught," Lummus said. "Then some form of restitution can be required through the justice system."

Last week, a Midland man attempted to use a counterfeit $50 bill at a local laundromat. When police caught him, he was found to be in possession of two more counterfeit $50s, according to a previous Reporter-Telegram report. He was charged with forgery, a third-degree felony.

"It's usually kind of obvious who's passing them intentionally," Lummus said. "Through interview techniques and different investigative tools, we can kind of eliminate whether (a suspect) was knowing or not."

After police confiscate counterfeit bills, they are passed to the Secret Service, which then analyzes the bills to determine counterfeiters' latest methods, leading to new security features in future bills.

Weather
Mostly sunny
60/45
Get your complete forecast on 7C

Energy prices

WTI Futures	$52.14	▼ $1.39
WTI Posted	$48.79	▼ $1.25
WTI Posted	$49.25	▼ $1.25
Natural Gas	$2.831	▲ $0.072
Gasoline	$2.552	– $0.000

The big number
Snowpack in Colorado is at
90 percent
of its long-term average. Read about it on Page 6A.

Today in Sports
The Chaps prepare for their big game vs. OC. Page 1C

Coming Friday in F&P
Where will Dr. Bertha go after leaving Hospice Midland?

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Scientist who shaped Cold War spying at sea dies

New York Times News Service

John P. Craven, a former Navy scientist whose innovations in ocean technology and exploration led to some of the nation's most celebrated feats of espionage, died Feb. 12 in Hawaii. He was 90.

The cause was complications of Parkinson's disease, his family said.

From 1959 to 1969, as chief scientist of the Special Projects Office, Craven led the Navy's drive to expand its presence into the crushing depths of the sea. Among other things, he turned submarines into spy machines that could reach down miles to inspect and retrieve lost enemy materiel, including nuclear arms.

Craven liked to regale friends and journalists with as much of his personal history in the Navy as the nation's secrecy laws would allow, resulting in books and articles that sought to illuminate his Cold War exploits.

"There's a hell of a lot of stuff that went on," he said in an interview in 1993 on the front porch of his home overlooking Honolulu. After all, he added philosophically, "the whole object of life is to adapt."

John Piña Craven was born on Oct. 30, 1924, in Brooklyn, New York, coming from a long line of naval officers on his father's side and a family that reached back to Moorish pirates on his mother's. He graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School and joined the Navy during World War II, serving in Hawaii and earning two battle stars before he was sent to Cornell University for officer training.

After the war, under the GI Bill, he studied at the California Institute of Technology and the University of Iowa, where he met his future wife, Dorothy Drakesmith, and received a doctorate in mechanics and hydraulics. Years later he received a law degree from George Washington University and became an expert on seabed legalities.

Craven's naval career began in 1951, when, as a civilian, he investigated how to improve ships and submarines. He was promoted quickly after correctly predicting and helping to fix a structural problem with the Navy's first nuclear-powered submarine, the Nautilus.

Craven was project manager for developing the Polaris, the world's first intercontinental ballistic missile that could be fired from a submerged submarine. It underwent test firing in 1960 and was in service for decades.

The Navy was eager to restore the nation's confidence in its deep-sea abilities after the new attack submarine Thresher sank in 1963 during a test dive east of Boston because of a mechanical failure, taking 129 lives. Officials gave Craven and his special-projects team leeway to devise a wide range of undersea gear for search, rescue, salvage and gathering intelligence from the sunless depths.

In 1965, he selected the nuclear submarine Halibut for conversion into an innovative spy sub, filling the vessel with electronic, sonic, photographic and video gadgets. Hovering beneath the waves, invisible to adversaries, the sub could lower a long cable heavy with lights, cameras and other gear for deep reconnaissance, recovery and manipulation. It was a technological first that begot a new kind of espionage.

Among the targets were ships, planes and spacecraft lost at sea, as well as functioning equipment, like undersea cables and listening devices. To build support for his top-secret endeavors, Craven met with senior Pentagon officials, showing them classified photographs of Soviet warheads buried in muck on the seabed.

In March 1968, a rich new target materialized when a Soviet missile submarine bearing code books, encryption gear and nuclear arms sank in the central Pacific. By all accounts, Craven and the spy sub located the wreckage more than 3 miles beneath the sea's surface.

That May, the nuclear-powered attack submarine Scorpion vanished in the Atlantic with 99 men on board. Craven scrutinized recordings from undersea microphones, found evidence of explosions, and drew on his knowledge of math and statistics to pinpoint the spot where the submarine was most likely to have sunk. Search teams discovered the Scorpion's wreckage at a depth of nearly 2 miles.

The undersea fleet that Craven helped devise included the Navy's NR-1, a nuclear submarine with crablike claws; the Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle, a cylindrical craft designed to evacuate up to 24 people at a time from a crippled submarine; and the bathyscaph Trieste, a vessel his team improved, which investigated the sunken Scorpion.

Craven twice received the Distinguished Civilian Service Award, once from the Navy and once from the Department of Defense.

After Richard M. Nixon won the presidential election in 1968, Craven, convinced that the new administration would have no room for an outspoken Democrat, left the Navy and took a teaching post at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1970, lured to Hawaii by its governor, he was named dean of marine programs at the University of Hawaii and the state's marine affairs coordinator.

The spy sub he devised made one of its greatest coups shortly after he left the Navy. In 1971, the Halibut stole into the Sea of Okhotsk north of Japan, found a telecommunications cable used by Soviet nuclear forces and succeeded in tapping its secrets. The mission, codenamed Ivy Bells, was so secret that a vast majority of the submarine's sailors had no idea what they had accomplished. The success led to a concealed world of cable-tapping.

In 1974, Craven founded the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii, a state research center that investigated how to make electricity by exploiting the temperature difference between the Earth's warm surface and cold water from the ocean's depths.

Craven's naval career has been profiled in several books. He recounted his own story in 2001 in "The Silent War: The Cold War Battle Beneath the Sea." In its prologue, he says he wrote the book to honor men whose sacrifices might otherwise go unacknowledged

Former world cycling champion Claude Criquielion dies at 58

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Claude Criquielion, a former world cycling champion from Belgium, died Wednesday following a massive stroke over the weekend, Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said. He was 58.

Criquielion won the 1984 world title but is perhaps best remembered for a crash when he was poised to win a second title four years later. In the three-way sprint finish, a rival suddenly blocked a way through for the surging Criquielion and the Belgian was forced into the side railings.

Criquielion had five top-10 finishes in the Tour de France.

Obituaries



Audrey Anderson

Dedicated wife, loving mother, grandmother, great and great-great grandmother, Audrey Elizabeth McKnight Anderson, 97, went to be with our Lord on Tuesday morning, February 17, 2015, in Midland, Texas.

She was born on January 24, 1918 in Craig County, Oklahoma to William L. McKnight and Florence E. George. She was the youngest of four children. Audrey lost both parents by the age of 7 and lived her childhood with her grandmother and other family members in Oklahoma.

Audrey married the love of her life, Mid T. Anderson on July 8, 1933. They made their home on a farm in Mannford, Oklahoma and had two children, Anna Marie and Gary. There are many fond memories of going to the farm for wonderful family meals, to work in the garden, fish at the pond, and ride on the tractor.

Audrey was very active in the community as a church member, president of the Home Extension Club, volunteering for the Red Cross at blood drives, counting ballots for elections, and cooking and sewing for the elderly. Audrey and Mid were pillars of their community helping so many that called in need.

Audrey dearly loved arts and crafts, sewing, quilting and cooking. She won many state awards and blue ribbons for her cooking and sewing. She also enjoyed camping and fishing with Mid and friends at their favorite fishing spots. They enjoyed nearly 65 years of marriage and love before Mid passed away in April of 1998. In 2005, Audrey moved to Midland, Texas. She stayed active at Manor Park teaching a sewing class and making friends with her cooking.

Audrey leaves a legacy of overcoming hardship, treasuring the gift of family, faith in God, and delight in the beauty of His creation.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Florence; her loving husband, Mid; her brother, Jim McKnight; her sisters, Vada Trundle, Billie Gaines; and grandson, Jeffrey Anderson.

She is survived by her daughter, Anna Marie Anderson of Sapulpa, Oklahoma; her son, Gary Anderson and his wife Susie Anderson of Granbury, Texas; four grandchildren, Cathy (Ward) Cheney, Steve (Lisa) Fillmore, Julie Lind, and Janice Anderson; great grandchildren, Cory (Stephanie) Cheney, Candice (Mark) Bloyd, Brett (Catherine) Fillmore, Derek Fillmore, Preston Fillmore, Kendall Anderson, Katie Lind, Carson Lind, Megan Raden, Jared Bromstead; one great, great granddaughter Kaia Cheney; and numerous extended family members.

She also leaves behind many friends and caretakers at The Village at Manor Park, whose loving kindness allowed her to remain in good health and spirit until her death.

Viewing will be 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Friday, February 20, 2015 at Ellis Funeral Home in Midland, Texas. A funeral service will be held in Mannford, Oklahoma in the chapel of Oakhill Cemetery at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 21, 2015.

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

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-3535



Caleb Joseph Frerich

Devoted husband, father, son, and brother, Caleb Joseph Frerich, 32, of Midland, died Friday, February 13, 2015, following a brief illness.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife and soul mate, Katie Gentry Frerich; daughter, Zoe-bella, 9, and son, William Joseph, 3 months, all of Midland; parents, Greg and Debbie Frerich, of Midland; sister, Colby Hall and her husband, Cameron Hall, and nephew, Griffin Hall, all of Houston; grandparents, Hubert and Annette Frerich of Garden City, and Charles and Martha Beasley of Ozona; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Steve and Susan Gentry of Midland; and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Gene and Stephanie McQuitty, and nieces Averi and Mollie McQuitty, all of Midland; as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Caleb also leaves many from his St. Ann's Church and Midland Community Theater families.

Caleb had no greater love than his family, and his devotion was unending. Until his passing, he sang lullabies to Zoe every night after their nightly prayers. He and Zoe swam together often, and they both enjoyed the YMCA Indian Princesses program. One of his last great joys in life was the birth of his and Katie's son, William, on November 12, 2014.

Caleb prayed the rosary on his drive to work every morning. He was active in the St. Ann's ACTS ministry, which returned him to the church and breathed new life into his faith. Always brimming with joy, Caleb never failed to bring a smile to Katie, his children, family, friends, and even strangers. His wife marveled at the man he had become, and how he only spoke good of everyone during his all-too-brief time on earth.

A reader and writer of poetry, Caleb had many talents, including singing and playing the guitar in the St. Ann's Choir, leading the music ministry on his ACTS team, chairing the St. Ann's Run to the Fair, and acting in many local stage productions at Midland Community Theater. Caleb was the lead in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," and also had roles in "The Wizard of Oz," "Shrek," and "Mary Poppins." His volunteer work also included active involvement in the Knights of Columbus Council 3071; all of his brother Knights will miss Caleb, his spirit and giving heart.

A lover of mathematics, computers, electronics, and the number 4, Katie lovingly recalled that her "math-nerd husband" would only eat his Reese's Pieces in multiples of four. Caleb was a lover of "Star Wars," "Batman," and "Spiderman" and as a youth, he participated in baseball, football, and martial arts.

Caleb graduated from Midland High School in 2000 and later received an Associate's Degree from Midland College. He worked many years for his father, following in his dad's footsteps in the oil field pumping service industry. At the time of his death, Caleb was an Artificial Lift Technician for Pioneer Natural Resources.

A Rosary for Caleb will be prayed at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at St. Ann's Church, 1906 W. Texas Ave, Midland. A public viewing will be 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home, 3800 N. Big Spring, in Midland.

Caleb's funeral Mass will be at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 20, 2015 at St. Ann's. Graveside services will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland. A reception will be held at St. Ann's following the conclusion of the graveside services.

Pallbearers are Bobby Hart, Andy Iverson, Bob Klemme, Aaron Hale, Cameron Hall, and Darren Hillger.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to St. Ann's School, 2000 W. Texas, Midland, Texas, 79701.

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

John Joseph Casella

John Joseph Casella passed away September 13, 2014 in California. He was cremated. John was born December 2, 1950. Burial will be February 20, 2015 at 2:00 pm at Fairview Cemetery. No services.

John leaves behind many loving relatives and friends in both Texas, California, Pennsylvania and his loving dog Bonnie.



Leona Beatrice Strawn Hutchins

Leona Beatrice Strawn Hutchins, 94, of Midland, passed away on February 15, 2015. A visitation will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

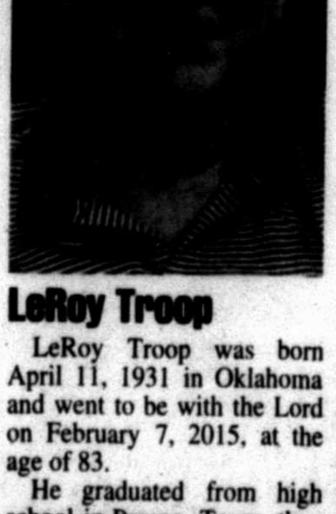
Leona was born on May 13, 1920 in Caddo, Texas to Ira Dee and Meda Beatrice Strawn. Leona loved spending time with her family and in her garden. She was very kind and will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her son, Gary Ray Hutchins and his wife, Kim, of Midland; daughter, Linda Gail Roundtree of Midland; daughter, Pamela Kay Early and her husband, Robert, of Abilene; daughter-in-law, Joann Hutchins of Loraine; brother, Frank Strawn and wife, Shirley, of Abilene; sister-in law, Michelle Strawn of Round Rock; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends

She is preceded in death by her loving husband, J.B. Hutchins; parents, Ira and Meda Strawn; son, Max D. Hutchins; and three brothers.

The family would like to express their gratitude toward the staff of Rockwood Manor. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Ave., 7th fl., New York, NY 10001); St. Jude's Children Hospital (1-800-805-5856); or to a charity of choice.

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



LeRoy Troop

LeRoy Troop was born April 11, 1931 in Oklahoma and went to be with the Lord on February 7, 2015, at the age of 83.

He graduated from high school in Pampa, Texas, then went to Sul Ross University on a football scholarship. He served in the United States Navy, 1951-1954, during the Korean War, then returned to college and graduated from Texas A & I with a degree in petroleum engineering.

LeRoy married Dorothy Jean Lee February 1954, and they were married 43 years before she went to be with the Lord in 1997. He worked for ARCO Oil & Gas in Alice and Denver City, Texas, Roswell and Hobbs, New Mexico, and was Superintendent over Safety & Training when he retired in 1989, after 31 years.

LeRoy met Fiona McCasland at First Baptist Church in Midland, Texas. They were married in 2001 and, in 2008, moved to Frisco, Texas to be near family.

He is survived by his wife, Fiona Troop; son, Dr. Randal Troop and his wife Pam; daughter, LeAnn Troop Strong and her husband Steve; grandchildren, Tim and Ashlee Troop, Drew Troop, Will Troop, Tori Troop, Mark and Laura Strong, Lindsey Strong; and one great grandson, Colton Troop.

Services will be Sunday, February 22 at 2:00 p.m. at Lebanon Baptist Church, Frisco, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Lebanon Baptist Church or Hospice Plus.



Margarita D. Olgin

Margarita Diaz Olgin, 76 of Midland, passed away on Thursday, February 12, 2015.

Margarita was preceded in death by her husband, Cipriano Olgin.

She is survived by two sons, Raymond Espinoza and Felis Diaz, Jr.; one daughter, Eva Olgin ; two brothers, A.C. Diaz and M.C. Diaz; one sister, Angela Olgin, all of Midland; five grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A rosary will be Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home Chapel. Memorial mass is set for Friday, February 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. A burial service will follow at Fairview Memorial Park.

Funeral service is under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home and Chapel. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to *pipkin@nts-online.net* or you can visit our website at *www.lewallengarciapipkinfh.com.*

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home
2500 N. Big Spring - Midland, TX - (432) 682-3706

Death Notices

Annie Lee "Ann" Hughes

Annie Lee "Ann" Hughes, 81, of Odessa, passed away Saturday, February 14, 2015. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, February 19, 2015 at Belmont Baptist Church in Odessa, Texas.

She is survived by her sons, Ronald Lee Hughes and Gary Ray Hughes; and by one sister.

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AP file photo

On Feb. 12, JPS Health Network patient navigator Delaila Hernandez, center, helps Fred Cardenas with documents during a Affordable Care Act enrollment event at the Fort Worth Public Library in Fort Wort. With more than 1 million Texans enrolled for health insurance through the federal marketplace, Affordable Care Act assisters are turning their focus to educating Latinos and young childless adults ahead of the next enrollment period and getting out the message that hundreds of thousands of Texas children are eligible for Medicaid.

About 1.2M Texans signed up through health exchange

By Emily Schmall
Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Nearly 1.2 million Texas residents purchased health insurance under the U.S. Affordable Care Act in time for the 2015 enrollment deadline, marking the second highest enrollment among states relying on a federal online marketplace, according to data released Wednesday.

Sunday was the nationwide deadline for the second enrollment period, which began last November, under President Barack Obama's health care law. The law requires that all Americans have insurance or face a tax penalty, with plans offered through either a federal or state-run websites, also known as marketplaces.

More than 80 percent of Texas consumers who signed up qualify for a federal subsidy that on average covers about $240 of their monthly premiums, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The numbers could increase because the deadline has been extended to Sunday for people who faced computer glitches and long waits while trying to enroll over the phone last week. The agency said it wasn't immediately clear how many people were on that list.

"We've been making lots and lots of phone calls to people who tried to enroll but weren't able to," said Elizabeth Colvin, director of Austin-based Insure Central Texas, a nonprofit that focused during the second enrollment period on enrolling Latinos and refugees.

Colvin said her organization will remain open after Sunday to help people use their new insurance.

Nationwide, about 11.4 million Americans selected plans or were automatically re-enrolled by the deadline. That includes about 2.8 million people who enrolled through state-based exchanges.

Texas is among more than three dozen states that chose not to establish their own, state-specific websites to offer insurance plans. Of those states, Texas had the second-most residents enroll for health insurance after Florida, said Kevin Counihan, the exchange's chief executive officer.

Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured residents when compared to the nation's most populous states.

The Kaiser Family Foundation, a nonprofit that focuses on national health issues, said more than 3 million Texas residents are eligible for enrollment in the federal exchange. That means the state's health agency and health care advocates will continue to reach out to nearly 2 million people as the five-year implementation of the law continues.

About a million Texans — mainly minimum-wage earners — fall into a coverage gap, meaning they are ineligible for both federal tax credits and Medicaid.

Texas was among nearly two dozen conservative states that chose not to expand Medicaid under the federal health care law. That means individuals must earn less than 19 percent of the federal poverty level — or about $320 per month — to qualify for the federally subsidized health care program. The state has a separate program for children from low-income families called the Texas Children's Health Plan.

In an effort to increase awareness of coverage options for the state's poorest residents and the disabled, a coalition of advocacy groups called Cover Texas Now is working with school districts to inform parents that Medicaid and the Texas Children's Health Plan are open for enrollment year-round.

The number of children on Medicaid in Texas is growing, partly because of increased awareness of the importance of health insurance, said Laura Guerra-Cardus, an associate director of the Children's Defense Fund. That increased awareness is often called the "welcome-mat effect."

"We could have a much bigger welcome-mat effect if their parents also had a coverage option," she said.

CRIMEBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Man allegedly uses BB gun to rob $5

A man allegedly scored $5 after pointing a black "Black Ops" BB gun at a man selling peppers in south Midland, according to court documents.

Daryl Glosson, 18, of Midland, who reportedly is homeless, was arrested Sunday evening for aggravated robbery, a first-degree felony. He remained in jail Wednesday on a $75,000 bond.

Midland police officers were dispatched to the 2100 block of Rankin Highway on Sunday afternoon for a reported robbery, according to the arrest affidavit.

The alleged victim told police he was at an empty lot near the Family Dollar on Rankin Highway selling chili peppers when a man — later identified as Glosson — approached him and asked for work.

He said Glosson then exposed the BB gun tucked into the waistband of his pants and asked for $50, according to the affidavit.

An officer found Glosson at the Stripes store south of the site of the alleged robbery, according to the affidavit. At first, Glosson denied knowing about the robbery but then showed officers his BB gun that was stashed under a Red Box kiosk at the Stripes, according to the affidavit. The BB gun was black and had the words "Black Ops" engraved on the barrel.

He told police he was asking for work and then allegedly exposed his BB gun but asked for only $5 and said "thank you" to the alleged victim before leaving, according to the affidavit.

If found guilty of aggravated robbery, Glosson could face up to 99 years in prison and a fine up to $10,000.

Man allegedly punches police officer

A 38-year old Midland man was arrested last week after allegedly assaulting a police officer.

Ernest Tate III was held Wednesday on a $20,000 bond for a third-degree felony charge of assault of a public servant.

A police officer responded about 11:20 p.m. Saturday on North Lee Street to a report of an intoxicated male who had fallen out of his vehicle and had a large swelling on his forehead. The man identified himself as Earnest Tate, and after smelling alcohol, the officer called an ambulance to transport Tate to Midland Memorial Hospital, according to court documents.

Upon arrival, Tate became volatile and verbally abusive toward EMS personnel and nursing staff. Tate then punched the officer in the stomach before he could be restrained and secured to a hospital bed, according to the arrest affidavit.

After nursing staff completed necessary medical procedures and Tate was medically cleared, the officer transported him to the Midland County Detention Center.

If convicted, Tate faces up to 10 years in prison

Two men arrested on drug charges

Two Midland men were arrested late Friday night after they allegedly tossed 3.2 grams of cocaine out of a vehicle during a traffic stop. A child was a passenger in the vehicle, according to court documents.

Marcos Moreno, 33, and Vicente Hernandez, 36, were each charged with possession of a controlled substance and tampering or fabricating physical evidence, third-degree felonies.

Moreno was driving a silver 1993 Mercury without a front license plate near the South Carver Street and East Indiana Avenue intersection and had a child in his arms, according to the arrest affidavit. Hernandez was in the front passenger seat.

Officers began the traffic stop at about 11 p.m. Friday as the vehicle turned northbound from East Indiana Avenue onto South Tilden Street. Before coming to a complete stop, the officers observed a clear plastic bag being thrown out from the front passenger side, according to the affidavit.

Officers tested the substance using a cocaine identification swab and confirmed it was the white narcotic, according to the affidavit. Inside the bag were six smaller bags also containing cocaine, according to the affidavit.

Neither man admitted to owning the cocaine, so both were arrested and charged, according to the affidavit. Moreno was not arrested until the child's mother arrived.

Moreno was held Wednesday on two $25,000 bonds and Hernandez was being held on two $20,000 bonds.

If found guilty of their offenses, they could each face up to 10 years in prison and a fine up to $10,000.

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WACO

Veterans site to be renamed for WWII hero Doris Miller

The Waco Veterans Affairs Medical Center will be renamed to honor World War II hero Doris Miller in a ceremony today.

The U.S. House and Senate approved the change to the Doris Miller Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center last year and President Barack Obama signed the measure in December.

Miller, a Waco native, was the first black American to receive the Navy Cross.

Petty Officer "Dorie" Miller was a mess attendant and boxing champion aboard the USS West Virginia in 1941 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Miller took over an unattended machine gun and helped rescue wounded shipmates.

He died in action in 1943.

"The community at large will have, I think, more of a sense of the VA belonging to the community and the community belonging to the VA when we have a local hero with their name on the front," according to Waco Mayor Malcolm Duncan Jr.

The hospital already has a red granite monument to Miller that has been moved to a prominent position near flags at the entrance to the complex, the Waco Tribune-Herald reported Wednesday.

Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. portrayed Miller in the 2001 movie "Pearl Harbor."

BEAUMONT

2 Texas brothers admit killing bottlenose dolphin

Two Southeast Texas brothers have pleaded guilty to federal wildlife violations for fatally shooting a bottlenose dolphin in an Orange County bayou.

The pleas Tuesday in Beaumont by 23-year-old Cory James Moseley and 18-year-old Cade Ryan Moseley could fetch the Bridge City residents up to one year in prison and a fine of up to $20,000. No sentencing date has been set.

Evidence presented at court showed the brothers were fishing on Cow Bayou near Orangefield on July 26 when they saw two bottlenose dolphins stranded in the stream. They shot at the marine mammals with a compound bow and hit one of the animals, which swam away mortally wounded.

PORT MANSFIELD

Coast Guard in Texas rescues family of 4 from grounded boat

The Coast Guard has rescued a couple and two children after their pleasure boat ran aground during chilly, gusty conditions in South Texas.

Lt. Margaret Kratz said Wednesday that the family members were examined by medical workers in Port Mansfield and did not require hospitalization.

The boaters used a cellphone to seek help late Monday afternoon. Strong winds had pushed their boat aground.

A Coast Guard helicopter lowered a rescue swimmer. Kratz said the swimmer waded with the boaters to an island, where the helicopter landed.

FELONYARRESTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Edgar G. Borunda, 26, of Midland was charged Wednesday with a third count of driving while intoxicated.

Luis M. Cuevas Jr., 30, of Midland was charged Wednesday with assault of a family or house-member.

Valorie L. Huston, 50, of Midland was charged Wednesday with engaging in organized criminal activity.

Clinton M. Joshlin, 33, of Brinkley, Alaska, was charged Wednesday with forgery of a financial instrument against an elderly person.

Marcos A. Moreno, 33, of Midland was charged Wednesday with possession of a prohibited substance or item within a correctional facility.

Dwight Morrison, 32, of Midland was charged Wednesday with assault of a public servant.

Whitley D. Smith, 25, of Midland was charged Wednesday with engaging in organized criminal activity.

Ramon F. Terrazas, 29, of Midland was charged Wednesday with engaging in organized criminal activity.

Source: Midland County Sheriff's Office

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Hours before his assassination, Martin Luther King Jr. had a pillow fight in the hotel he was staying at.

New York City is further south than Rome, Italy.

I PROMISE TO PRAY FOR YOU BY
HENRY

Psalm 62:5-6

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

TODAY IN MIDLAND

Lunar New Year

The Chinese year 4713 begins today.

Chinese months are reckoned by the lunar calendar, with each month beginning on the darkest day. New Year festivities traditionally start on the first day of the month and continue until the 15th, when the moon is brightest. In China, people may take weeks of holiday from work to prepare for and celebrate the New Year.

This is the Lunar New Year of the Goat.

Sources: http://www.infoplease.com, Associated Press

Things to do

■ West Texas Kennel Club Dog Show at the Horseshoe. midland-horseshoe.com.

■ West Texas Guitar Festival: Pepe Romero, 7:30 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagner-noel.com.

For more information about events taking place this weekend, check out the Weekender section in today's Reporter-Telegram.

Support groups, club meetings today

■ Diabetes support group meets 6:30-7:30 p.m., Midland County Public Library Centennial branch; sponsored by Midland Memorial Hospital; 221-3286.

■ Diabetes Support Group for Spanish Speakers meets 2-3 p.m., Casa de Amigos; sponsored by Midland Memorial Hospital; 221-3286

■ Permian Basin Chess Club, 6 p.m., University of Texas of the Permian Basin student union; Steve Dudley, 556-1920; Brian Farrell, 288-7141; pbcc.50gigs.net; odessachess@cableone.net.

■ Oops Alley Clowns of West Texas; 520-3512.

■ TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:30-7:30 p.m., Christian Church of Midland, 2609 Neely Ave. 694-8643.

Meeting about the draws

The city of Midland will host a public meeting 8 p.m. today at Greathouse Elementary School, 5107 Greathouse Ave., to discuss recommendations resulting from the study of the Jal and Midland draws.

The portion of Jal Draw included in the study extends from Highway 349 North to Loop 250 North, and the portion of Midland Draw included in the study extends from Highway 349 to the intersection of Mockingbird Lane and "A" Street.

Maps and drawings describing the study and the recommendations for future channel alignments will be displayed at the meeting. Residents in attendance will be informed about the project and will have a chance to speak directly with the engineers. The proposed alternatives were selected to guide future development and to protect adjacent properties against flooding resulting from heavy rainfall.

Exhibits also will be available in Suite 510 at City Hall, 300 N. Loraine St., until Feb. 27.

Community calendar

■ The George W. Bush Childhood Home monthly reading event is planned for 4:30-5:30 p.m. today. This month's featured book is "The King of Spring."

Each child will receive a copy of the book. Refreshments will be served. To make a reservation, call 685-1112.

■ Kool Smiles, 1000 N. Midkiff Road, will be offering free dental care to uninsured children noon-4 p.m. Sunday in conjunction with Children's Dental Health Month.

The free services include dental exams, limited emergency care, extractions, fillings, and baby tooth root canals and crowns. Patients will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, call 897-0910.

MRT on radio

Editor Stewart Doreen discusses local news at 9:35 a.m. Thursdays on KWEL (AM 1070, FM 107.1).

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 0-4-1
Pick 3 day: 9-0-5
Pick 3 evening: 4-4-6
Pick 3 night: 5-7-5
Daily 4 morning: 7-7-8-4
Daily 4 day: 3-5-9-4
Daily 4 evening: 3-8-8-9
Daily 4 night: 4-3-1-7
Cash Five: 8-9-11-12-29
Lotto Texas: 9-17-21-38-39-41
Powerball: 1-9-29-32-49 PB: 22 Power Play: 2
All or Nothing morning: 2-5-7-8-9-15-16-17-20-21-22-23
All or Nothing day: 4-5-6-7-10-11-12-13-14-20-21-24
All or Nothing evening: 5-6-7-8-10-12-13-14-15-16-18-19
All or Nothing night: 1-3-4-6-7-9-13-14-18-19-20-23

Today in history

In 1881, Kansas prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, clearing the way for the U.S. military to relocate and intern Japanese-Americans during World War II.

In 1963, "The Feminine Mystique" by Betty Friedan was first published by W.W. Norton & Co.

In 1976, calling the issuing of Executive Order 9066 "a sad day in American history," President Gerald R. Ford issued a proclamation confirming that the order had been terminated with the formal cessation of hostilities of World War II.

Today's birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson is 75. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell is 56.



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

They really mean it when they say oil's drop is an opportunity

By Chris Tomlinson
Houston Chronicle

■ COMMENTARY

One should never let a crisis go to waste. That wise axiom is attributed to Winston Churchill, who if around today would probably tell us he first heard it from a businessperson who knew how to seize an opportunity.

Leveraging the oil price drop to improve the oil and gas industry was certainly the takeaway from a session Monday at the University of Texas Energy Week in Austin. While there weren't any speakers who were happy that oil prices have dropped more than 50 percent from June to January, no one was wallowing in self-pity.

Some executives and politicians grumbled about the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries talking down prices to protect market share, but mostly I heard a smart and pragmatic discussion about how to keep the U.S. oil and natural gas industry strong and globally competitive.

"We think this is an opportunity to upgrade," said Mark Berg, executive vice president at Pioneer Natural Resources Co., an independent exploration and production company based in Irving.

Pioneer said last week it would cut its drilling and infrastructure budget about 45 percent this year, and Berg said he was hoping to achieve 10 percent to 15 percent savings from greater efficiencies and discounts from contractors.

He explained that Pioneer's engineers have learned a lot about the company's Permian Basin acreage and how to efficiently drill and complete wells. As a result, when the company does decide to drill, it can get the most oil from the best wells. He said there's also less competition for oil field services, which means lower prices.

"We believe we can improve service quality in this environment because we are going to be migrating to the best partners we have on the service side. It's the opposite case" with high prices, he said, "when you are growing and it's hard to get labor and it's hard to get materials. In those situations, we worry more about degradation in quality and safety."

The current price environment is perhaps most challenging for oil field service companies that couldn't keep up with demand a few months ago and now face a drop-off in business. Halliburton has announced 6,500 layoffs, and Baker Hughes is sending 7,000 people home. That doesn't count the hundreds of subcontractors not big enough to make headlines.

Mike Tweedy, procurement manager at the integrated oil firm Eni U.S. Operating Co., said the drilling slowdown means oil companies and services companies will see more compressed profit margins, which in turn forces companies to focus on best practices.

'A very rough year'

"OK, it's going to be a very rough year, but it's an opportunity ... to capture that standardization," said Tweedy, who manages $3 billion in contracts from 600 suppliers for the Italian company's U.S. subsidiary. He added that getting 10 percent discounts "is pretty easy to get."

But Tweedy said he's not dictating terms when he talks to suppliers about cutting costs further. "We've challenged a lot of our oil field service suppliers to come to us with creative commercial options. We don't want to drive any supplier out of business. That's not good for the business in general," he said.

Those creative options range from pegging contracts to the price of oil, making an oil price a trigger for raising or lowering fees to tying the contract to the revenues of both companies. But while Eni's headquarters in Milan insists on Tweedy extracting savings from contractors, he said he's also aware that applying too much pressure can have the unintended consequence of forcing companies to cut quality or skimp on safety.

Spending on people

These negotiations reflect the difference in the budgets between oil companies and contractors. Oil companies only spend about a third of their budgets on employees and need to cut other line items. Services companies spend about two-thirds on people, and that's where they must cut to save.

Some services providers, though, say there is only so far they can go. Owen Kratz, CEO of Houston-based offshore operator Helix Energy Services Group, agreed that 10 percent is easy, but after that it gets difficult.

"We're a pretty lean operator," Kratz told investors during a quarterly conference call.

In the end, though, oil and natural gas companies have to respond to market prices, and executives need to make sure they really are as lean as possible before putting away the budget scalpel.

Thomas Gardner, managing director of global corporate investment banking at Bank of American Merrill Lynch, told the conference in Austin he's encouraged by what he's seen in cost cuts. So much so, Gardner said oil that once cost $90 to produce now only costs $70.

A 23 percent reduction in per-barrel cost is exactly what the industry, the consumer and the economy need. If that's what comes out of the current oil price crisis, it will not have gone to waste.

Blast devastates Calif. refinery

Associated Press

TORRANCE, Calif. — An explosion devastated a section of a refinery on Wednesday morning, shaking nearby homes, raining down ash and injuring four people. Experts said the disruption to production would likely drive up gas prices in California.

The blast at the Exxon Mobil Corp. facility occurred in a recently installed processing facility, Fire Department spokesman Steve Deuel said. The four-story structure was shattered, and four contractors suffered minor injuries.

Electrical contractor Cory Milsap-Harris, 21, was in a switch house next door to the blast site keeping an eye on three colleagues working 8 feet underground in a manhole. "Everything was going smooth. Next thing I hear sounded like heavy metal next door. There was a loud bang," he said. "You could feel the building shake a little."

The blast reverberated in his ears despite the several layers of hearing protection he routinely wears, Milsap-Harris said. He rushed his co-workers outside, where people were running away from flames and black smoke.

Residents within a mile or two reported feeling a sharp jolt that they initially thought was an earthquake.

"The whole building shook. We couldn't figure out what it was, but we stepped outside the door and the flames were shooting up from the refinery," said Brittney Davis, whose office is about a block away. "I could feel the heat from the flame."

Students at 13 nearby schools were kept indoors, said Tammy Khan of the Torrance Unified School District. The South Coast Air Quality Management District issued a smoke advisory for areas surrounding the refinery, and it dispatched inspectors to the facility with air sampling equipment.

Exxon Mobil said no harmful emissions were detected by its air-quality monitors on the refinery fence line.

CAPITOLALMANAC

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Immigration

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott predicted Wednesday that Texas and 25 other states would keep prevailing against President Barack Obama's executive actions on immigration but refused to put a deadline on when National Guard troops will leave the border with Mexico.

Flanked by U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and other top Texas conservatives to celebrate an early court victory against Obama's deportation-relief program, Abbott shifted to defending his decision this week to indefinitely extend the Texas National Guard mission that began last summer.

About 200 guard members had been scheduled to leave the Rio Grande Valley next month, but Abbott now says an unspecified number will remain until Texas hires and trains hundreds of new state troopers to replace the guard.

He would not put a timeframe on the earliest that could happen, but Texas Department of Public Safety leaders have said that getting started would take a year. Unlike state troopers or Border Patrol agents, guard members do not have arrest authority and are limited to being lookouts.

"It is our goal to ensure that only those who are authorized to cross the border, are the ones who are crossing the border," Abbott said.

A federal judge in Brownsville late Monday temporarily blocked Obama's plan to shield more than 4 million immigrants living in the country illegally from deportation. One program to help immigrants brought to the country as children was scheduled to kick in Wednesday.

Campus carry

Despite being outwardly supportive of Texas making openly carried handguns legal, Abbott would not weigh in Wednesday over the other major gun-rights bill this session: campus carry.

New University of Texas System Chancellor Bill McRaven, the former Navy SEAL who coordinated the raid on Osama bin Laden, has made it clear in his short time on the job that he does not want students on his campuses carrying concealed firearms. Proposals to legalize campus carry have heavy Republican support, but some lawmakers want to give universities the chance to opt out.

Asked whether he supports giving universities that option, Abbott wouldn't take a stance. He would only say that he would sign "whichever law reaches my desk that expands Second Amendment rights."

Veterans

Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan Hecht in his first State of the Judiciary address Wednesday asked lawmakers to approve legal funding for military veterans and also said that laws making it a criminal offense to skip school are not working and need to be reformed.

During a joint session of the Senate and House, Hecht said that funding for the judiciary is roughly one-third of 1 percent of the state budget. At the top of Hecht's wish list is $4 million for a new legal assistance program for veterans, which would be supplemented with $1.5 million from the Texas Veterans Commission.

Hecht later praised a bill by Democratic Rep. Senfronia Thompson and Republican Rep. Sarah Davis that would expand funding for civil aid, including aid that benefits veterans. Also present at the conference was Mick Engnehl, a former U.S. Army mechanic who was honorably discharged in 2011.

Same-sex marriage

Attorney General Ken Paxton has asked the Supreme Court of Texas to reaffirm the state's ban on same-sex marriage after a Travis County probate judge ruled that the ban was unconstitutional.

Paxton said Probate Judge Guy Herman's "misguided ruling does not change Texas law or allow the issuance of a marriage license to anyone other than one man and one woman."

Paxton late Tuesday filed emergency motions with the state Supreme Court seeking to overturn Herman's ruling and uphold the statewide ban. He said that Herman "committed a clear abuse of discretion" by declaring the ban unconstitutional, adding that Herman's ruling may compel same-sex couples to seek marriage licenses in Texas — and district clerks to mistakenly grant them.

Herman could not be reached for comment.

Confirmation

Abbott's first major appointment as governor was confirmed by the Senate on Wednesday when Carlos Cascos formally became the new secretary of state. The Republican becomes the state's chief elections officer after a long stint as Cameron County judge.

On deck

The House gavels in at 10 a.m. today. The Senate is off through Monday.

Quote of the day

"I'm hoping that longevity goes with the job." — Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan Hecht, remarking how former Chief Justice Jack Pope will turn 102 in April.

Snowbound Bostonians jump out windows, scale snow mountains

By Philip Marcelo
Associated Press

BOSTON — Thrill-seekers jumping out windows into snowbanks and posting videos of their feats online. Snowmobilers racing through normally busy Boston streets with snowboarders in tow. And college students skiing and sledding down a colossal snow pile dubbed "Mount MIT."

New England's winter blast is serious business, but there's been no shortage of horseplay.

"I've been in the house an awful lot, and I've been getting stir-crazy, so I don't blame people for doing stupid stuff," said John Goodman, a Cambridge resident marveling at "Mount MIT" on Wednesday. "Everything has become an obstacle. So rather than let it continue to be an obstacle, let it become something entertaining."

Police in Boston — a city with a heavy concentration of college students — said they have not had to deal with any reports of snow-related mischief, but department spokesman Michael McCarthy urged people not to do foolish things.

"Common sense would hopefully dictate a lot of what people are doing out there," he said. "Obviously, if you are sledding down mountains of snow into a lane of traffic, that's not the best thing to be doing."

A look at some of the ways Boston-area residents are making the most of the surreal winter landscape created by an unprecedented 8 feet of snow over the past three weeks:

Snow jumpers

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh has been appealing to residents to stop jumping out windows into the snow, which is piled 10 feet high or more in places.

"It's a foolish thing to do, and you could kill yourself," Walsh said this week.

Snowboards and snowmobiles

Snowmobilers were spotted near the Boston University campus during last weekend's storm, which dumped more than a foot of new powder. At least one snowmobiler in a video posted online had a snowboarder in tow.

Boston police reminded the public that snowmobiles and other off-road vehicles are prohibited on city streets.



Associated Press

Three students from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology take a selfie after jokingly using mountaineering gear to make their way up a massive snow pile on the MIT campus in Cambridge, Mass., Wednesday. The mountain of excess snow has been dubbed the "Alps of MIT" and is being used for climbing, sledding and posing.

The Alps of MIT

Tucked between dormitory buildings near the Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus is a towering pile of snow, perhaps three stories high, dubbed "The Alps of MIT" or "Mount Cambridge."

Located in a parking lot used as a dumping ground for snow, the mountain has quickly become a popular spot for skiing, sledding and other winter pastimes. The university has put up a chain-link fence and posted "No Trespassing" signs, but that hasn't discouraged some visitors.

On Wednesday, gawkers took selfies at the base of the mountain, while three MIT students in mountaineering gear scaled the snowy peaks, giggling all the way up.

Ice bar

Boston residents Christopher Haynes and Kristy Nardone carved a cozy little bar out of the 9-foot mound of snow in front of their house.

The Texas natives, who posted pictures of the bar on Facebook, say they held a gathering with neighbors over the weekend, serving up Moscow Mules of vodka, ginger beer and lime juice. With the snow not melting anytime soon, Haynes hopes to add seating.

"We've been shoveling and shoveling, so it was nice to at least have some fun with it," he said. "To make something creative, instead of just dealing with ice dams and huge icicles and the other annoying stuff that comes with all this snow."

For rent: igloo

On the website AirBnb, a few enterprising Boston-area residents have been offering up cool lodgings for rent: backyard igloos.

Conrad Williams, of Stoneham, says he originally built the 7-by-4-foot snow cave for his three young children to play in. Now he's advertising a $10-a-night stay in the "snow fort/igloo," which comes with a ventilation chimney, candlelight and wireless Internet access.

"I'm thinking about putting a bed pad in there, like an inflatable type for camping," Williams said. Sleeping bags are not included.

Yeti sightings

The proliferation of Yeti sightings is one of more harmless antics the winter storms have brought to the Boston-area.

Furry-costumed Abominable Snowmen have been spotted casually walking through snowbound streets, trying to hail cabs and working the beer taps at bars. One of the Yetis has become a Twitter sensation: @BostonYeti2015 has more than 8,000 followers.

"Reading that I've brought smiles to people's faces and that it brought them some levity in this storm has really made my day," the elusive creature said in a message exchange with The Associated Press. "Goal achieved."

We're sorry, applicants; we accepted you in error

By Richard Pérez-Peña
New York Times News Service

Acceptance to a world-class graduate school in a highly competitive field offers a path to credentials that open doors throughout a career, a stamp of validation to last a lifetime. Or maybe a few hours.

Carnegie Mellon University this week emailed about 800 applicants to a graduate computer science program that they were accepted, only to email them again later the same day to say, in effect: "Oops, not really." It became the latest in a string of big-name colleges to make similar mistakes. But this one had a particularly cringe-worthy twist: A university renowned for its computer science offerings had fulfilled and then dashed applicants' hopes with a computer foul-up.

That Carnegie Mellon, in Pittsburgh, had ample, exalted company in an admissions gaffe worthy of Emily Litella (the "Saturday Night Live" character who always ended her sketches with the words, "Never mind") — including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Johns Hopkins University in the past year — did nothing to cushion the blow.

"It was heart-shattering," said a 26-year-old applicant from Saudi Arabia. "The hardest part for me was telling my family and friends that congratulated me on my acceptance that I was not."

Like some others who were contacted after posting on social media or discussion boards about what had happened, he asked to remain anonymous, in part out of embarrassment. He said the Carnegie Mellon master's program was his first choice, but that he was still waiting to hear from other universities.

A man from Connecticut whose acceptance was rescinded, Ben Leibowitz, told The Associated Press that he had called relatives and gone out to dinner with his parents to celebrate, only to have to call family members back and tell them it was all a mistake.

"It was brutal," he said. "I didn't get much sleep last night."

A young woman in India wrote on Facebook that, in the hours between her Carnegie Mellon acceptance and rejection, she quit her job and her boyfriend proposed marriage, ending her post, "What do I do now?"

Carnegie Mellon declined to comment beyond a prepared statement that acknowledged and apologized for the error.

"When you're a high-tech school like Carnegie Mellon or MIT, the egg on your face is that much worse," said Anna Ivey, a college and graduate school admissions consultant, and former dean of admissions at the University of Chicago law school.

She said she advised her clients not to believe any electronic acceptance notice until it is confirmed by the old-fashioned, ink-on-paper version, arriving in the mailbox.

Barmak Nassirian, a former executive of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, said electronic notifications should be made by applicants logging into a secure website with a user name and password, a system many universities use already.

"Email is inherently insecure," said Nassirian, now the director of federal relations and policy analysis at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Email, he said, makes it too easy to make a mistake multiplied by hundreds or thousands, and too hard to retract it.

"It's the admissions office, using a vendor's computer system, so it says nothing about the caliber of a university's academic programs," he said. "But it really doesn't look good."

The anguish expressed on social media was more scattered than when the same thing happened with undergraduate applications — a reflection of the smaller number of people involved and perhaps a sign that people in their 20s are more guarded online than teenagers.

But there were thousands of comments by people not directly affected. Many wondered if the episode said something about the university's computer skills, while others said they could not understand how the mistake took six to seven hours to correct.

Ferris wheel, zip line, inlet eateries OK'd in Atlantic City

By Wyane Parry
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — The city, making good on its vow to seek new non-gambling attractions, has approved redevelopment plans including a giant Ferris wheel and a zip line on the beachfront next to the Steel Pier and restaurants, a rebuilt Boardwalk and an elevated walkway in its Inlet neighborhood.

The plans come as Atlantic City has lost four of its 12 casinos and is trying to make its tourism-centered economy less dependent on gambling.

The City Council on Wednesday approved an expansion of the iconic Steel Pier to make way for an already-approved 205-foot-tall observation wheel with enclosed, climate-controlled cars and a zip line ride. It also approved a redevelopment plan for the Northeast Inlet neighborhood including new eateries, entertainment and recreational facilities, a rebuilt Boardwalk and an elevated walkway to bring new business to the area.

"It's a reinforcement of the importance of adding these other amenities," said John Palmieri, executive director of the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority.

The agency has already approved the Ferris wheel project and will be contributing about $8.1 million of its estimated $14 million price tag through a loan to be repaid from a portion of ride ticket revenue.

"It's a good step forward in the ongoing effort to reinforce those non-gambling sectors," Palmieri said.

It's also something Atlantic City has been talking about since 2007, the first year its casino gambling revenues posted a yearly decline due to the opening of casinos in neighboring Pennsylvania that ate into its customer base. Those revenues have plunged from $5.2 billion in 2006 to $2.74 billion last year as casinos continued to open in Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland. Of the eight Atlantic City casinos that survived 2014's slew of closings, three are in bankruptcy.

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OPINION

Washington leaders must solve riddle of war

■ Timetables aren't going to win this battle with ISIS; wisdom will



KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

There's a very 2001 feel to President Obama's request for authorization to use military force and the nauseating sense that we'll be at war indefinitely.

Although we haven't suffered a catastrophic hit as we did on 9/11, we've been witness to atrocities — vicious promissory notes on debts to be collected — that are tailor-made to evoke an emotional response from our allies and us. It doesn't much matter at this point who started it or what previous actions may have contributed to present circumstances. We are faced with fresh horrors that demand present actions. Or, do they?

As proposed, the new authorization would allow the commander in chief to use military force against the Islamic State, without geographical restrictions, but only for three years and not for "enduring offensive ground combat operations." Translation: We're coming to get you, Islamic State, but we'll be in and gone before you know it.

Both Democrats and Republicans have found aspects of the authorization with which they disagree, but at least they're talking to each other. Even so, Americans are justified in wondering whether this crowd (or any) is up to the task and whether we've learned anything from previous wars. As Afghanistan taught us, it doesn't make much sense to tell the enemy our schedule. What's three years in the context of a centuries-old grudge?

To this point, a Libyan terrorist group has announced its goal of destroying Rome. That's so Middle Ages, but the men in black apparently didn't get the memo about time marching on and are still seething at Pope Urban II. Here we are reveling in 40 years of "Saturday Night Live," and they're chopping off people's heads.

At least their declaration liberates us finally to admit if only to ourselves that we are, indeed, engaged in a religious war at the behest of zealots whose bloodlust boils down to didactic theater. Herein lies a crucial point in our deliberations: To defeat an enemy clinging to the first millennium B.C., it may be necessary to huddle around a single candle and try to think as a Middle Ager.

We wonder, for instance, at the ritualized executions of innocents and marvel at the technological sophistication of the Islamic State's distribution of its videotaped savagery. Yet a quick glimpse at history confirms that these spectacles are merely modernized versions of vintage rites. Medieval punishments, including beheadings, burnings and crucifixions, were popular both for their power to terrorize and for the religious connotation of penance.

These radical Islamists sure know their audience. They don't necessarily hate those they kill; they're not even necessarily punishing them. Rather they are using these human sacrifices as bait — for us. When President George W. Bush invaded Afghanistan and Iraq, he said he was taking the war to the terrorists. In this case, it may be the Islamic State that is luring us to their battlefields.

Their faith in our axiomatic response is not unfounded.

With each of their actions, the world has provided a predictable reaction. Six months ago, we began military action in response to the Islamic State's beheading of journalist James Foley. After Jordan's pilot was immolated, Jordan launched strikes against Islamic State targets in Syria. And, in response to the murders of 21 of its citizens, Egypt bombed Islamic State targets in Libya.

These responses have a knee-jerk quality to them that speaks to concerns about a lack of strategy on our part, while enhancing the Islamic State's recruitment and propaganda powers.

Obama mentioned these concerns in his State of the Union address last month: "We must fight the battles that need to be fought, not those that terrorists prefer from us — large-scale deployments that drain our strength and may ultimately feed extremism."

He also promised that he wouldn't send our troops into harm's way "unless it's truly necessary" or commit them to an open-ended war. But again, war inevitably creates fresh necessities that render timetables irrelevant.

Meanwhile, bless our hearts for debating the parameters of war — whether three years is enough, too little or, most likely, inapplicable. We may as well be playing chess with polar bears. Obama himself has said that this war will extend well beyond his tenure, thus signaling that hell awaits his successor.

Guardedly, we await the next atrocity and the deliberations of a Congress in which we have little confidence. Our legislators and president will need more than noble intentions or good ol' American values. They'll need the wisdom of the ages — and a coalition of the civilized world.

OUR VIEW

When local industry leaders address the downturn, it matters

On Wednesday, Pioneer Chairman and CEO Scott Sheffield gave a thorough report of the industry, its challenges and his expectations for prices, rig counts and oil export chances.

All Midlanders would have benefited from being in the room. Today and Sunday we will report on Sheffield's unofficial "State of the Industry" comments to the Permian Basin Association of Division Order Analysts. His commentary was eye-opening and, in our view, much-needed. Up to this point, our community has been forced to deal with analysis and reporting from people who don't know the Permian Basin, certainly not as well as Sheffield.

While the Reporter-Telegram has an obligation to offer you articles and commentary wherever we can find it, our readers truly benefit when it comes from one of our own.

We want to take this opportunity to give local industry leaders the chance to let their voices be heard when it comes to oil and what we should expect here in the most successful oil-producing region in the United States. When the leaders and major employers speak, we will listen and then pass on that information to the residents of Midland.

Why is this important? We need as much certainty as we can get, especially when dealing with a commodity. Our community leaders need that information to make better decisions about our future and whether it's the right time to invest in education, infrastructure, etc.

We think industry leaders have credibility that comes with having not only institutional knowledge but also knowledge of the area. We believe they are here not just to make a buck but to make the community better. In the case of Pioneer and Concho, to name a couple of leaders, their impact transcends the oilfield; it's felt in education and municipal government as well.

Remember, it was Sheffield who in 2012 was the first to talk about the population spike Midland was about to experience. When he said the population could reach between 150,000 to 200,000 by 2022, there were Midlanders, including some community leaders, who rolled their eyes. There's no one rolling their eyes anymore. Even today when we think of 200,000 population, we think of it as a matter of when and not if.

We hope more industry leaders follow Sheffield's lead. Even if it's just a meeting at the Reporter-Telegram with the Editorial Board, we want to make sure the proper message is being communicated. Midland's future would benefit from our experts passing on their best information.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

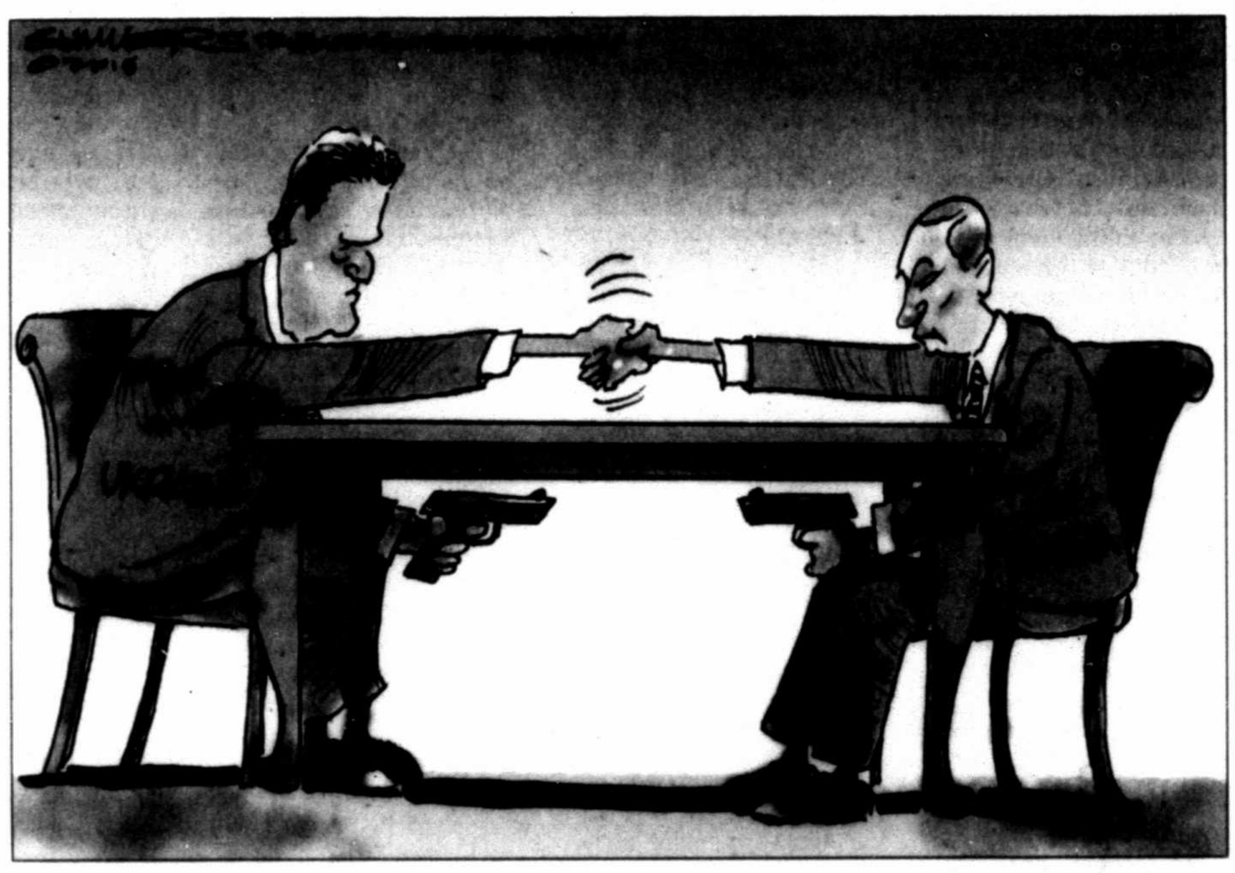
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In Patrick's Senate, the chill is gone

■ New lieutenant governor is making changes that the members can feel



PEGGY FIKAC
San Antonio Express-News

No one predicted a kinder, gentler Texas Senate under Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, but it's definitely warmer and more punctual.

Senators and staffers who huddled in sweaters or wrapped themselves in blankets under David Dewhurst's regime are delighted to find the chamber's thermostat set to a balmy 70 degrees these days. Those who enjoyed temperatures that hovered in the 60s while they raced around in suits aren't as happy.

Both the cold- and warm-natured, however, are lauding another change: the end of Dewhurst Time, under which a Senate session posted to convene at 11 a.m. was virtually assured of not having started by 11:30 a.m. or later.

What daylight saving time is to late risers, Dewhurst Time was to senators with appointments to keep.

Under Patrick, you'd best be on time or you might miss the Senate entirely in these early days of the session, when lawmakers convene for only a short time since they don't yet have bills to debate.

State Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, likes both changes. She toted a fluffy brown blanket to her Senate desk in the 2013 session, when the chamber was marked by what she called "an uncomfortable coolness."

Patrick was "very gracious and said, 'You guys can set the temperature,' " she said. Campbell also said starting on time is respectful of senators.

"He is just very sensitive to providing comfort for the senators, and I'm really very happy about that," she said, adding that there's a bonus to the new thermostat setting: "I think we're saving money by having it not so cold."

State Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr., D-Brownsville, said the new promptness is better for the public because lawmakers may set up meetings with constituents or hearings after session.

"I think the public should be taken into consideration in everything we do. We should obviously start on time. We should be at our posts. We should be attentive and be prepared to discuss, to debate the issues on their behalf," Lucio said.

Dewhurst "was notoriously known, unfortunately for starting late. I don't want to be negative. I think the reason he did was because he was preparing himself," Lucio said.

"Members at the time were late themselves, knowing we were going to be starting late," Lucio added. "It's different in this session. Different style. Different attitudes."

Patrick said he has heard "many positive reactions to these minor changes. … I'm amazed how many people have thanked me for starting on time."

"It's a matter of respect for both the Senate members, the visiting public in our gallery and Texas taxpayers. My colleagues and I were elected to do a job, and the very least I can do is make sure we start on time and conduct our business as efficiently as possible," Patrick said.

Patrick said some in the Senate asked before he was sworn into office that the temperature be raised, and the State Preservation Board was asked to turn up the temperature from 68 to 70 degrees. (Some said the temperature could be as low as 64 under Dewhurst.)

"It may not seem like much, but some of the differences between members are already melting away," Patrick quipped.

Differences, alas, remain over the temperature.

"I am wildly enthusiastic about us starting on time, and I give the new lieutenant governor kudos for that," said state Sen. Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls. "And I am wildly unenthusiastic about breaking into a sweat every time I'm in the chamber.

"We're running around in wool suits all day long," Estes said. "We have to strike a happy balance between the male and female members of the Senate. So we'll figure it out."

So it's a gender thing?

"It's hard for me to judge," Estes said, "but I see 'em huddling in blankets."

He also gave a kinder, gentler description of Dewhurst Time than some.

"I don't think you could fairly classify it as everything always started late," Estes said. "Just mostly late."

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



US withholding details of Iran nuke talks from Israel

By Matthew Lee
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration said Wednesday it is withholding from Israel some sensitive details of its nuclear negotiations with Iran because it is worried that Israeli government officials have leaked information to try to scuttle the talks — and will continue to do so.

In extraordinary admissions that reflect increasingly strained ties between the U.S. and Israel, the White House and State Department said they were not sharing everything from the negotiations with the Israelis and complained that Israeli officials had misrepresented what they had been told in the past. Meanwhile, senior U.S. officials privately blamed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu himself for "changing the dynamic" of previously robust information-sharing by politicizing it.

The comments came as a late March deadline to forge the outline of an Iran nuclear deal looms and U.S. and Iranian negotiators prepare for a new round of talks later this week in Geneva, Switzerland.

Netanyahu has angered the White House with his open opposition to a deal he believes threatens Israel's existence and by accepting a Republican invitation to address Congress about Iran in early March without consulting the White House, a breach of diplomatic protocol.

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest told reporters that sharing all details of the negotiations with governments that are not at the table would complicate efforts to get a deal that would prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon in exchange for sanctions relief. The talks are being held among the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — along with Germany and Iran.



Associated Press

White House press secretary Josh Earnest gestures during the daily press briefing Wednesday at the White House in Washington. Earnest announced that President Barack Obama has picked Secret Service acting director Joseph Clancy to lead the agency.

"The United States is not going to be in a position of negotiating this agreement in public, particularly when we see that there is a continued practice of cherry-picking specific pieces of information and using them out of context to distort the negotiating position of the United States," Earnest said when asked whether the U.S. was limiting the amount of information it shared with Israel about the talks.

"So, there is an obligation when you're participating in these kinds of negotiations to ensure that those consultations and that those negotiations are carried out in good faith. And that means giving negotiators the room and the space to negotiate," he said.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki went further, confirming that one of the steps the administration takes to ensure that "classified negotiating details stay behind closed doors" is to withhold them from Israel. She also directly blamed Israel for mischaracterizing the talks.

"I think it's safe to say that not everything you're hearing from the Israeli government is an accurate reflection of the details of the talks," she said. "There's a selective sharing of information."

But while Earnest and Psaki said the limitations on information sharing were longstanding, U.S. officials more directly involved in the talks said the decision to withhold the most sensitive details of the negotiations dated back only several weeks.

Those officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly, said the administration believes Netanyahu, who is facing a March 17 election at home, has made a political decision to try to destroy the negotiations rather than merely insist on a good deal. This, they said, had led to politically motivated leaks from Israeli officials and made it impossible to continue to share all details of the talks, particularly as Netanyahu has not backed down on his vow to argue against a nuclear deal when he speaks to Congress.

Neither Earnest nor Psaki would discuss the details of the leaks, but senior U.S. officials have expressed consternation with reports in the Israeli media as well as by The Associated Press about the number of centrifuges Iran might be able to keep under a potential agreement. Centrifuges are used to enrich uranium and diplomats familiar with the talks have said Iran may be allowed to keep more of them in exchange for other concessions under current proposals that are on the table.

Netanyahu has insisted that Iran, whose top officials have sworn to obliterate Israel, should not be allowed to enrich any uranium. The U.S. and its partners say that stance is untenable because Iran would never accept it.

As the talks have progressed, Netanyahu's opposition to an agreement has increased over what he believes to be extreme concessions made to Iran that would leave it as a threshold nuclear weapons power and a direct threat to Israel's existence.

The White House and State Department maintained that the U.S. will not leave Israel threatened. They also insisted that Israel has not been completely cut out of the loop and that overall security cooperation with the Jewish state remains strong.

Administration officials and some lawmakers have said they will not attend Netanyahu's speech.

US has screened 1,200 moderate Syrian rebels for training

By Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. has screened about 1,200 moderate Syrian rebels who could participate in a new training program so they eventually can return to the fight against Islamic State insurgents who have taken control of large portions of Syria, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

Press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby said the fighters will continue to be screened as they move through the process, and they could go to any of the three training facilities in Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar — once those sites are set up.

The rebel fighters, who come from several moderate groups in Syria, will get training on basic military equipment and skills, including firearms, communications and command and control abilities.

"We're working our way through the screening process now. Again, that we've initially identified this 1,200, that screening process for those 1,200 is still ongoing," said Kirby. "We're going to be very deliberate about this. And it's going to be individual by individual. And, so, that's going to take some time."

Maj. Gen. Michael Nagata, the military officer in charge of the Syria train and equip program, has been heading the screening operation. An advance team of about 100 U.S. troops in the region setting up the training sites, and eventually there will be about 1,000 troops involved in the program, including several hundred trainers. The remained will do security, logistics and other support duties.

Congress passed legislation authorizing the military to arm and train moderate Syrian rebels, providing $500 million for the U.S. to train about 5,000 rebels over the next year. Officials have said they expect the training could begin in March or April.

Key issues in the states' lawsuit over immigration

By Alicia A. Caldwell
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's plan to shield more than 4 million immigrants living in the country illegally from deportation is on hold after a judge temporarily blocked the effort.

One program to help immigrants brought to the country as children was scheduled to kick in Wednesday, but instead Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services wouldn't accept applications. And preparations for a second program aimed at protecting millions of parents of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents have been idled until further notice.

U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen wrote in a lengthy ruling that without a temporary injunction "the genie would be impossible to put back in the bottle."

Twenty-six states sued the Obama administration last year to block the programs. A trial date has not been set.

On Tuesday, Obama said he disagreed with the ruling.

"The law is on our side, and history is on our side," he said. "This is not the first time where a lower court judge has blocked something or attempted to block something that ultimately is going to be lawful, and I'm confident that it is well within my authority."

Here's a look at the case and the programs targeted:

The lawsuit

In November, Obama announced two programs to protect immigrants in the country illegally from deportation. In the first, Obama expanded eligibility for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program first launched in 2012 by eliminating age caps and allowing immigrants who arrived as recently as 2010 to apply. The second program extended protections to parents of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents. Both groups would be protected from deportation for three years and get work permits.

Twenty-six states, led by Texas, filed suit in December arguing that the president does not have the authority to allow the groups of immigrants to legally stay and work in the United States.

Hanen said in his ruling that the federal government violated the Administrative Procedure Act by not allowing for public review or input in the new policies.

The White House said it will appeal the judge's ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans.

States suing

Texas is leading the coalition of states suing the administration over the immigrant programs. The other states are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

The judge

Hanen routinely handles border cases in his court in Brownsville but wasn't known for being outspoken on immigration until he wrote a scathing order at the conclusion of an immigrant smuggling case in 2013. In that case, he accused the Obama administration of participating in criminal conspiracies to smuggle immigrant children into the United States by reuniting them with parents living in the country illegally.

Unaccompanied immigrant children caught trying to sneak across the border from Mexico are routinely reunited with parents or other relatives living in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

Hanen is one of only two district judges in Brownsville and hears half the civil cases filed there. Cases are assigned by an automated system.

What's at stake

Hanen's order blocks Wednesday's scheduled launch of the expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA program. The parental program known as Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents, or DAPA, was scheduled to start accepting applications in May and would be on hold if Hanen's ruling stands.

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Associated Press

Brian Domonkos, left, the Colorado Snow Survey supervisor, takes notes while Mike Ardison, a hydrologic technician, takes a measurement of the snow at the Berthoud Summit Snotel area near Winter Park, Colo., on Jan. 30. Scientists from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service conducted the annual first snow survey for the year on the top of Berthoud Pass to determine upcoming water supplies for the state. Snowpack in the mountain valleys where the Colorado River originates was only a little below normal on Wednesday, marking one of the few bright spots in an increasingly grim drought gripping much of the West.

Colorado mountain snow is bright spot during drought in West

By Dan Elliott
Associated Press

DENVER — Snowpack in the mountain valleys where the Colorado River originates was only a little below normal Wednesday, marking one of the few bright spots in an increasingly grim drought gripping much of the West.

Measurement stations in western Colorado showed the snowpack at 90 percent of the long-term average.

By contrast, reporting stations in the Sierra Nevada range in drought-stricken California showed snowpack at 50 percent or less in early February, the most recent figures available. Some detected no snow at all.

Mountain snow in Colorado is closely monitored because a half-dozen Western waterways, including the 1,400-mile Colorado River, start in the area. The river and its tributaries supply water to millions of people in seven states and Mexico.

Much of the river comes from mountain snow that accumulates during winter and melts in the spring.

"It's looking pretty dismal over much of the West, but there are some areas where we're OK," said Mike Strobel, manager of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Snow Survey, which uses about 2,000 reporting stations in the western U.S. and some in Canada to measure snow.

Mountain snow depth usually peaks in early April across the West. However, it's unlikely many of the hardest-hit mountains will get enough precipitation by then to recover, Strobel said.

In the Pacific Northwest, warm temperatures have brought rain instead of snow, so the mountains aren't accumulating snowpack for the spring runoff, when farmers and water managers need water to irrigate crops and refill reservoirs.

Snow accumulation in the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, Wyoming and Montana has been relatively good. Snowpack in the Colorado valleys that feed the east-flowing South Platte River were at 102 percent of average.

"Not spectacular, but not miserable, either," Strobel said.

Even in Colorado, the picture is mixed. Statewide, including the Colorado River, the South Platte and six other basins, the snowpack stands at 78 percent of normal, with the parched southwest corner at 56 percent.

It would take half again the normal amount of snowfall between now and April to bring the statewide snowpack up to average, said Brian Domonkos, who supervises the snow survey in Colorado.

The Colorado River Basin isn't accumulating snow as quickly as it was earlier in the season, Domonkos said Wednesday at a meeting of the state Water Availability Task Force, which monitors drought conditions.

"It's been pretty dry since about the beginning of February," he said.

The Colorado update came after calls for increased multi-state cooperation in the Colorado River basin due to the prolonged drought. The basin is home to 40 million people and 4 million acres of farmland.

Lake Mead in Nevada is the key measuring point of water in the Colorado River system, which also includes the Green, San Juan and Gila rivers and some 55 dams and diversions. The lake dropped to historic levels last year after almost 15 years of regional drought.

Las Vegas, with 2 million residents and 40 million visitors a year, gets 90 percent of its drinking water from Lake Mead. The U.S. Agriculture Department has declared most of Nevada a natural disaster area due to the drought.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has called California "ground zero for the drought."

AGRICULTUREBRIEF

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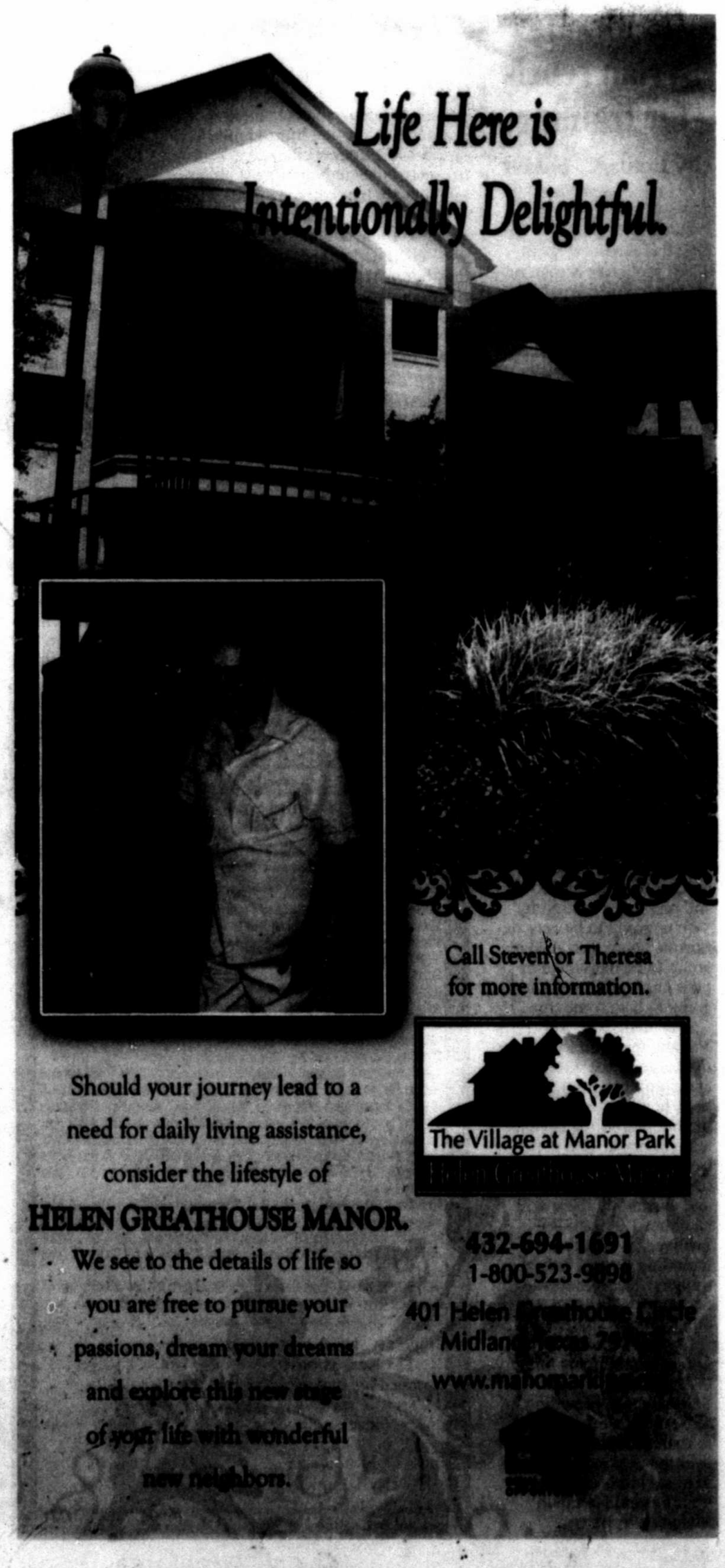
Slaughterhouse owner pleads guilty in tainted beef case

A co-owner of a Northern California slaughterhouse at the center of a massive recall has pleaded guilty to processing cattle with cancer for consumption.

Federal prosecutors said Wednesday that Jesse Amaral Jr., owner of the defunct Rancho Feeding Corp., acknowledged distributing adulterated, misbranded and uninspected meat.

He's the third person to plead guilty in the conspiracy that sparked a series of recalls, including one for 8.7 million pounds of beef.





WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

WEEKEND TO-DO LIST

FRIDAY



DOG DAYS
West Texas Kennel Club teams up with other regional clubs for a full weekend of canine competition.

SATURDAY



AT THE GARDENS
Alldredge Gardens is hosting a market with live music, baked goods and arts and crafts.

SUNDAY



GOSPEL OF LAUGHTER
Comedian Mark Lowry performs with The Martins and Mark Whitmire at First United Methodist Church.

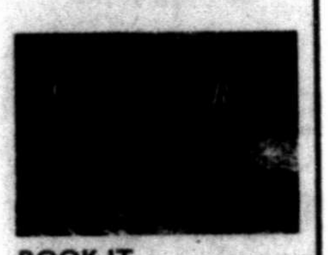
See complete schedule of weekend events on Page 2.

INSIDE



MEET THE PRODUCERS
The men behind the show promise Oscar night filled with magic. **Page 3**

ONLINE



BOOK IT
The MRT Book Club is now reading John Graves' 'Goodbye to a River.' mrt.com

MOVIES



Films opening and closing this week at Midland theaters:

TALL CITY 14
Opening: "McFarland, USA," "Hot Tub Time Machine 2," "The Duff"
Closing: "Paddington," "The Boy Next Door," "The Wedding Ringer"

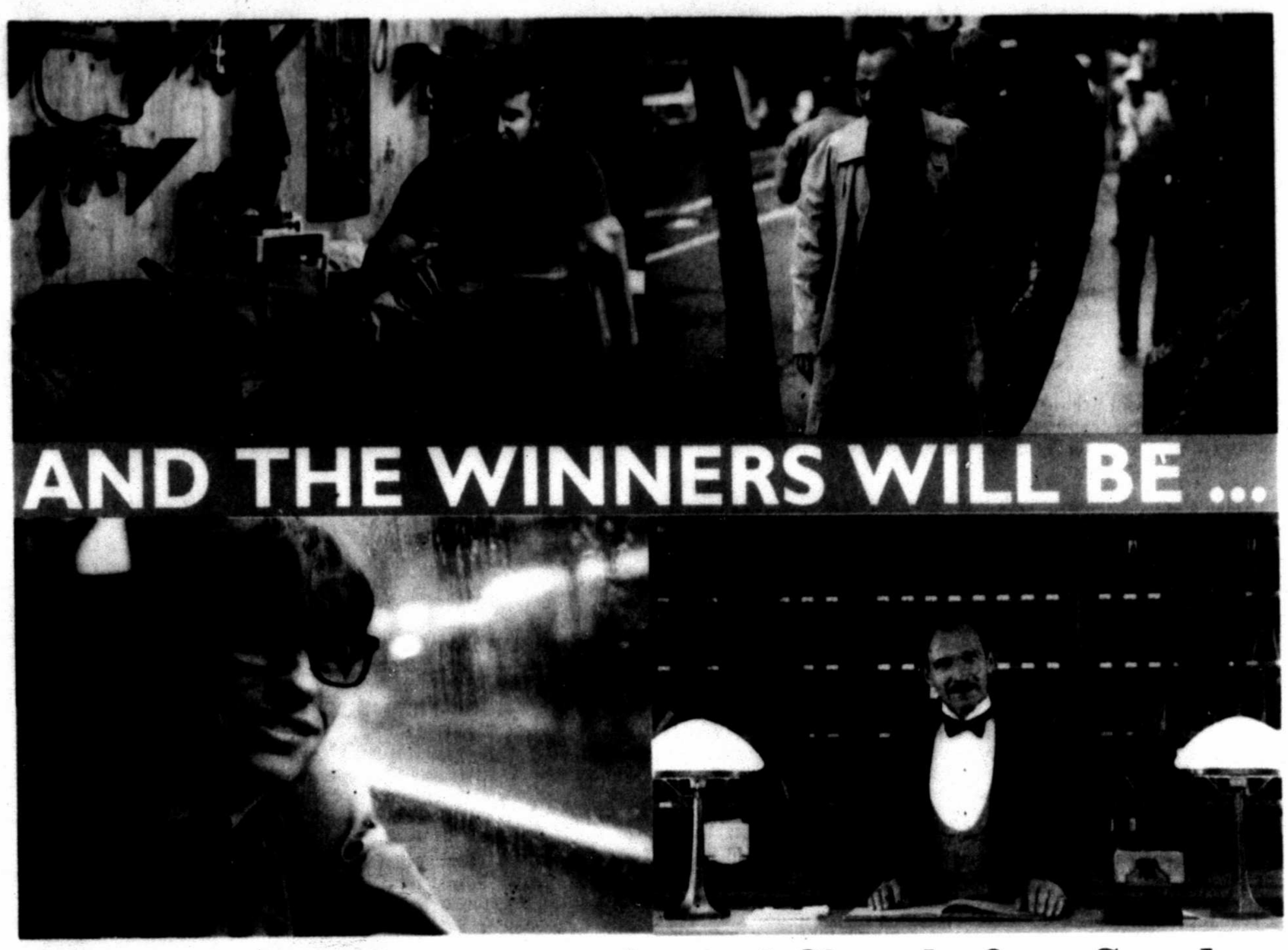
CINERGY CINEMAS
Opening: "McFarland, USA," "Hot Tub Time Machine 2," "The Duff"

BIG SKY DRIVE-IN
Opening: "McFarland, USA"
Closing: "Paddington"

COMING SOON



MOTOWN LEGEND
Diana Ross will perform next week at Wagner Noel.



AND THE WINNERS WILL BE ...

Binge-watch Oscar-nominated films before Sunday

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

In this year's crop of Oscar nominees, many smaller movies made the cut for some big nominations. With eight films up for best picture — and, of course, all the rest — here's how you can do some binge watching over the next couple of days before the Academy Awards air Sunday on ABC.

STREAM

On iTunes, you can immediately watch best picture nominees "The Grand Budapest Hotel," "Birdman," "Boyhood" and "The Theory of Everything." This also covers many of the acting and directing categories, too. For the more meticulous Oscar fan, the 2015 Oscar-Nominated Short Films Live Action is also available.

On Amazon Instant video, watch adapted screenplay and costume nominee "Inherent Vice," best actress nominee "Gone Girl," original screenplay nominee "Nightcrawler" and supporting actor nominee "The Judge."

RENT

If you prefer an actual disc in your player, head to a Redbox for a handful of movies. You can knock out most of the visual effects category by renting "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes," "Guardians of the Galaxy" and "X-Men: Days of Future Past."

CHECK OUT

You can even head to the library for some of this year's nominees. Patrons currently can find the animated feature film nominee "How To Train Your Dragon 2," best song nominee "The LEGO Movie," best picture and director nominee "The Grand Budapest Hotel," documentary feature nominee "Finding Vivian Maier" and visual effects nominee "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes."

IN THEATERS

A handful of the smaller nominees did come and go to area theaters. Best actress nominee "Wild," best picture nominees "Foxcatcher," "Birdman" and "Whiplash" screened in Odessa, but for limited runs. "Selma" and "Into the Woods" both had significant runs, as did "The Theory of Everything" and "The Imitation Game."

However, one film is still showing locally. Best picture, director, actor and four other categories contender "American Sniper" is currently showing at Cinergy, Regal Tall City Stadium 14 and Century 12 in Odessa.

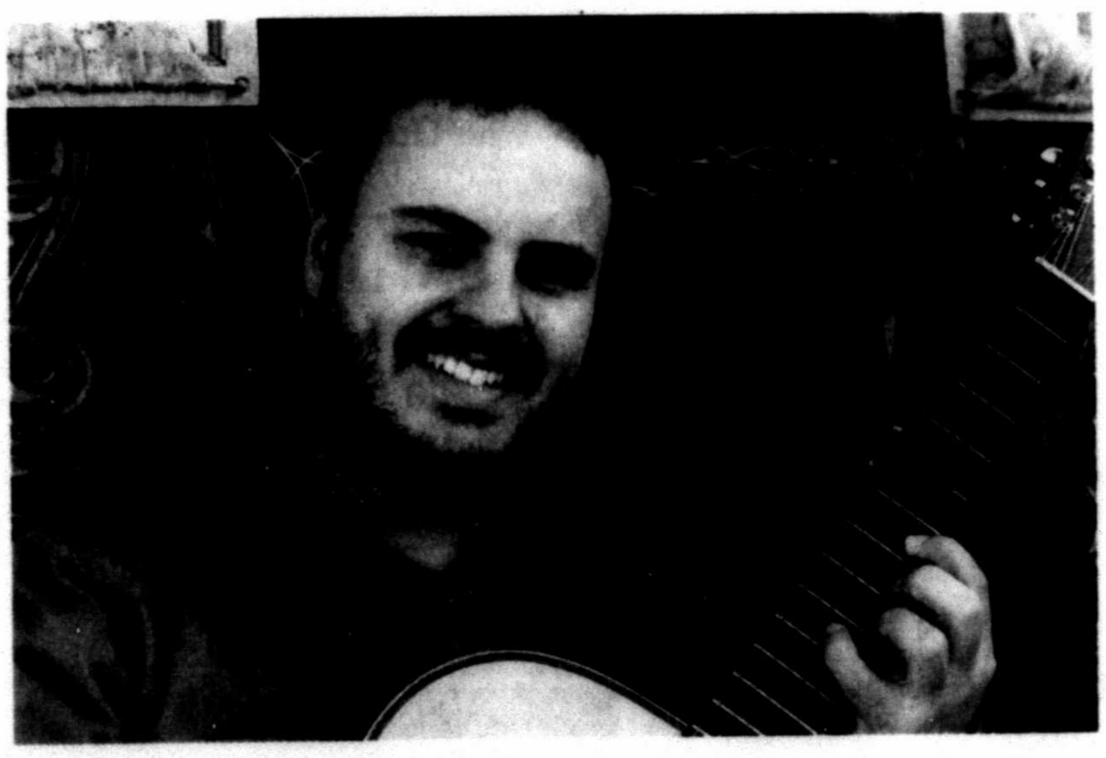
PREDICTIONS

This year seems to still be up in the air for best picture as no film has overly dominated the awards season. The closest to that has been "Birdman" winning both Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild Awards, but right there next to it has been Richard Linklater's "Boyhood." So the race might be between those two with "Birdman" likely edging out Linklater's film.

All of the acting categories were locked in early, so don't be surprised if that continues with Eddie Redmayne as best actor for "The Theory of Everything," Julianne Moore as best actress for "Still Alice," Patricia Arquette for supporting actress for "Boyhood" and J.K. Simmons for supporting actor in "Whiplash."

If there are going to be any major non-winners, they might include "American Sniper," which might suffer from the backlash the film received for its screenplay (and plastic baby props); "Selma" for its lack of major nominations; "The Imitation Game," which recently launched a questionable ad campaign by its studio Miramax; and "The Grand Budapest Hotel," which had buzz early on but has since faded out.

Photos: Clockwise from top, "American Sniper" "Birdman," "The Grand Budapest Hotel" and "The Theory of Everything."



Andy McKee returns to pluck at the West Texas Guitar Festival

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Much to this writer's dismay, guitarist Andy McKee said short fingers aren't a reason for not learning the guitar.

"Yeah, you just have to get your hands used to it, so sorry, that's not a legitimate excuse," he said. "But don't worry. You can do it."

McKee returns for the Sixth Annual West Texas Guitar Festival as one of the headliners on an impressive bill of talents that includes Pepe Romero tonight and the Texas Guitar Quartet, which performed Tuesday.

The Kansas-based musician two years ago played his first guitar festival and area show. This year, he comes armed with two things: new music and a new-ish instrument.

"I'm so happy they invited me back again. It's a beautiful venue, and everyone was really nice," he said. "I'll be bringing my harp guitar this time, and I'll play some of my new compositions."

In 2014, McKee released his EP "Mythmaker," which found him exploring other instruments — including the piano in "June," and a number of instruments in "Lumine" — as well as solo modern guitar numbers.

For McKee, "Mythmaker" displays a sense of growth, which can be difficult for instrumentalists who may simply get lumped into their forte.

"For me, it's a matter of being inspired by different types of music and then interpret that inspiration into my guitar," he said. "And sometimes that pushes me to approach things differently. It's funny, because in some ways it's like stepping back because I'll focus on the more simple melodies because they can

Please see MCKEE/Page 3

WANT TO GO?

Andy McKee at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. 7:30 p.m. Friday. $15. westtexasguitarfestival.com.

Freedom finally comes for singer Joe Diffie

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Joe Diffie admitted that, despite his love for bluegrass music, he won't be performing any this time around.

"Not unless I can get a drummer who can keep up that pace," he said, laughing.

Instead, when Diffie comes to Midland on Saturday at Hacienda Event Center, he'll revisit his legacy of country music that has stemmed from the late 1980s to the early '90s.

His bluegrass interests, which resulted in the 2010 album "Homecoming," are a career move Diffie may have never touched in his heyday.

"I grew up listening to bluegrass, but when I got my record deal (with Epic Records Nasvhille), that's not the most commercial deal," he said. "It was great fun to make that record, but it's also very eclectic."

However, his country music legacy is hardly lacking. With five No. 1 hits and an impressive discography, Diffie's live show now is for his fans.

And these days, without the pressure of a major label, Diffie finds he can call his own shots.

"There's a certain freedom now," he said. "Yeah, there isn't much chance to get a lot of radio airplay, but I'm afforded the freedom to record what I want, like a gospel album or children's album. And maybe some of it just to satisfy myself and let my fans know I'm still alive."

Besides, Diffie wasn't always sure how those major label powers-that-be made their decisions.

With his hefty catalog, Diffie muses

Please see DIFFIE/Page 3

CALENDAR

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING

MUSIC

West Texas Guitar Festival: Pepe Romero, 7:30 p.m. today at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

West Texas Guitar Festival: Andy McKee, 7:30 p.m. Friday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

West Texas Guitar Festival: Locals' Night Concert, 7 p.m. Saturday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Joe Diffie, 8 p.m. Saturday at Hacienda Event Center. haciendamidland.com.

Permian Basin String Quartet "Cross-Cultural Inspirations," 3 p.m. Sunday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Mark Lowry with The Martins and Mark Whitmire, 7 p.m. Sunday at First United Methodist Church. firstmethodist-midland.com.

THEATER, COMEDY & FILM

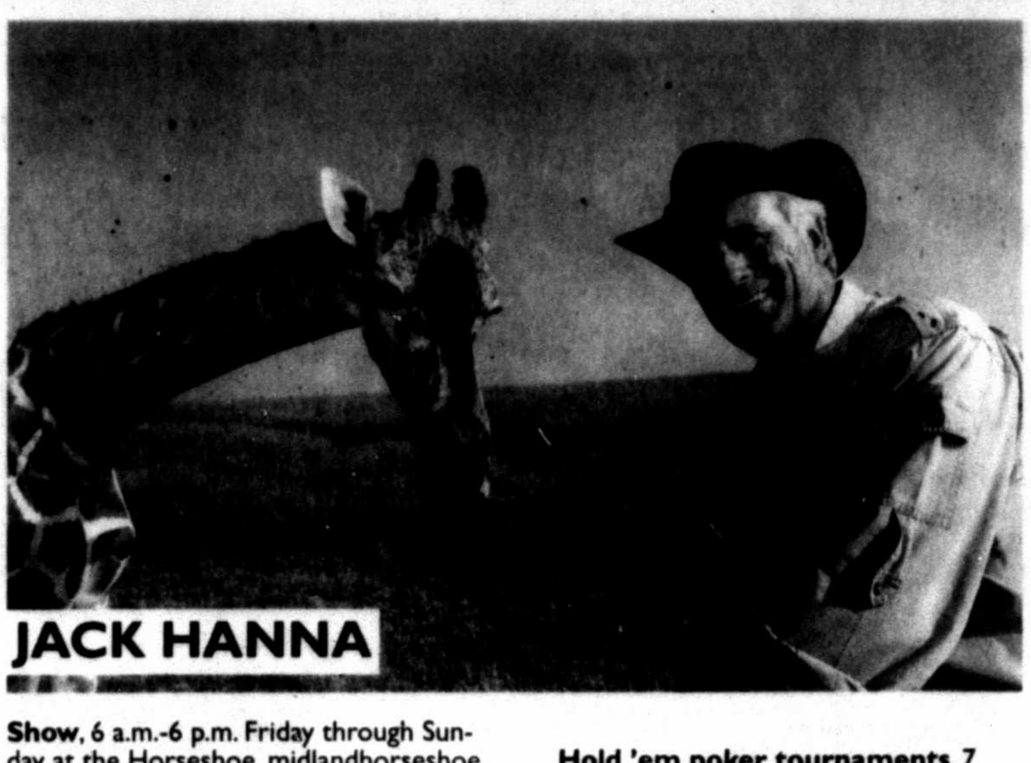
"Cinderella," 7:30 p.m. today through Saturday at Trinity School. trinitymidland.org.

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," through Sunday at Permian Playhouse in Odessa. permianplayhouse.com.

"The Addams Family," through Feb. 28 at Midland Community Theatre. mctmidland.org.

EVENTS

West Texas Kennel Club Dog Show, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday through Sunday at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.



Continental Antique Shows, Friday through Sunday at Ector County Coliseum. ectorcountycoliseum.org.

Market at the Gardens, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday at Alldredge Gardens. 682-4500.

Jack Hanna's Into the Wild Live!, 3 p.m. Sunday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

GAMES & SPORTS

Play bridge at Allison Bridge Center, 682-8595.

Hold 'em poker tournaments, 7 p.m. Friday at The Detour.

Senior bingo, 10 a.m. Fridays at Cimarron House.

KID-FRIENDLY

Laura Bush Literacy Program free reading event, 4:30 p.m. today at George W. Bush Childhood Home. bushchildhoodhome.org.

Storytime with "Click, Clack, Peep," 11 a.m. Saturday at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

Curious George storytime, 2 p.m. Saturday at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

Storytime for birth-2 years, 9:30 a.m. today at Midland County Public Library downtown location. www.co.midland.tx.us.

Storytime for ages 2-6, 10:30 a.m. today at Midland County Public Library downtown location. www.co.midland.tx.us.

Storytime for ages 2-6, 11 a.m. Saturdays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. www.co.midland.tx.us.

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

Storytime for birth-2 years, 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. www.co.midland.tx.us.

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

Storytime for preschool, 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

Dome shows, throughout the week at Marian Blakemore Planetarium. museumsw.org 683-2882.

COMING SOON

FEBRUARY

Ellen Noel Art Museum's Shrimpfest, Feb. 23 at Ector County Coliseum. ectorcountycoliseum.org.

Loretta Lynn, 8 p.m. Feb. 24 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Richard Dowling, 7 p.m. Feb. 25 at St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church. kxwt.org.

Diana Ross, 8 p.m. Feb. 25 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Circus Gatti, Feb. 25-28 at Ector County Coliseum. ectorcountycoliseum.org.

Vienna Boys Choir, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com

Permian Basin Home & Garden Show, Feb. 26-28 at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

Just Between Friends consignment sale, Feb. 26-28 at Ector County Coliseum. ectorcountycoliseum.org.

Odessa Art Association's 57th Annual Permian Basin Juried Art Exhibition, Feb. 26-March 29 at Ellen Noel Art Museum. noelartmuseum.org.

2 Cellos, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Texas Mass Choir featuring The Voices of Praise and The Texas Mass Youth/Young Adult Choir, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at Golf Course Road Church of Christ. 685-3876.

SciFriday: "Creature from the Black Lagoon," 8:15 p.m. Feb. 27 at Museum of the Southwest. museumsw.org.

West Texas Salseros Latin Night free basic Latin dance lesson, 9 p.m. Feb. 27 at The Reserve Lounge - DoubleTree by Hilton. 683-6131.

Winger, 8 p.m. Feb. 27 at Hacienda Event Center. haciendamidland.com.

"Greater Tuna," Feb. 27-March 21 at Midland Community Theatre. mctmidland.org.

Black History Month storytime with "I Am Rosa Parks," 11 a.m. Feb. 28 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

Joseph Willis' "Teaching Lessons" book signing, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Feb. 28 at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. joewillis.net.

Midland County Public Library Foundation's third annual luncheon featuring Bob Philips of "Texas Country Reporter," noon Feb. 28 at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. www.co.midland.tx.us/lib.

Dr. Suess' 111th birthday party, 1-3 p.m. Feb. 28 at Midland County Public Library downtown location. www.co.midland.tx.us/lib.

American Girl craft event, 5 p.m. Jan. 28 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

Leslie Slaughter fused glass workshop, Feb. 28 at Midland Palette Club. paletteclubmidland.com.

Callahan Divide, Feb. 28 at Lone Star Bar. callahandivide.com.

MARCH

The Australian Bee Gees, 8 p.m. March 3 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Pool and Spa Show, March 4-8 at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

First Friday art show with Thomas Burns, 6 p.m. March 6 at Kamiposi. facebook.com/kamiposi.

S'Wonderful, S'Marvelous, S'Gershwin, 7:30 p.m. March 7 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Jerry Seinfeld, 7 p.m. March 11 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Permian Basin Celtic Festival, March 13-15 at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

Ernesto Calderon, 6:30-9:30 p.m. March 14 at The Wine Rack. winerackmidland.com.

Live on Stage: Live From Nashville, March 16 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Douglas Walton workshop, March 16-20 at Heritage Museum Big Spring. 213-0860.

Aaron Lewis, March 19 at La Hacienda. haciendamidland.com.

Shotguns & Stilettos Girls Night Out and Preview Party, March 19 at the Horseshoe Pavilion. jlmidland.org.

Shotguns & Stilettos Ladies Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. March 20 at the Horseshoe Pavilion. jlmidland.org.

Shotguns & Stilettos Spring Fling Market, March 20-22 at the Horseshoe Pavilion. jlmidland.org.

Mike Epps The Real Deal Tour, 8 p.m. March 20 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Shotguns & Stilettos Bunny Brunch Children's Event, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. March 21 at Horseshoe Pavilion. jlmidland.org.

Joseph Willis' "Teaching Lessons" book signing, 1:30-3:30 p.m. March 21 at Polo Park. joewillis.net.

Marisela, March 21 at La Hacienda. haciendamidland.com.

Permian Basin Gun Show, March 21-22 at Ector County Coliseum. ectorcountycoliseum.org.

Lone Star Brass "Under the Big Top," 3 p.m. March 22 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

THE BIG Spring SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
PRESENTS
THE MUSIC OF THE EAGLES!
Dr. Keith Graumann,
Music Director and Conductor
with Guest Artists from Jeans 'n Classics
Perform
SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015
7:30PM
Big Spring High School Auditorium
Big Spring Symphony Association, Inc.
Keith Graumann, Music Director and Conductor
JEANS 'n Classics

WALKING THE WALK :
How to Live the Love Jesus Taught.
This free, one-hour talk by international speaker, Chet Manchester, explores the power of love to heal relationships and communities.
Thursday, Feb. 19th 2015 • 7:00pm
First Church of Christ Scientist
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432-682-8476


"The Talley Trio"
In Concert
Bellview Baptist Church
Midland, TX
Friday, March 13th • 7:00pm
The Talleys have become one of the most beloved and respected groups in Christian music. The est Tennessee family's unmistakable style of progressive southern gospel has kept them at the forefront of gospel music for many years. The hallmarks of the "Talley" sound are their lush arrangements, close-knit harmonies and powerful vocals. They have enjoyed 11 number one singles, with 2 streaks of consecutive chart-toppers. Their most awarded, recognizable and requested songs include the hits:
Their songs and recordings have received awards and nominations from the Dove Awards, Singing News Fan Awards, the Southern Gospel Music Guild Harmony Honors, the BMI and SGN Music Awards. The Talleys perform over 100 concerts per year and their travels have taken them all over the world. They have performed on numerous Gaither Homecoming videos and were fixtures on the Gaither Homecoming Concert Tour from 1999-2005. They have graced the most legendary stages in America including Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, the Ryman Auditorium and the Grand Ole Opry.
Tickets can be purchased at the Bellview Baptist Church office, Monday-Friday through March 13th. Artist Circle tickets are $25 each, and reserved seating tickets are $20 each. Bellview Baptist Church is located at 1710 N Big Spring St. here in Midland and you may also call the church office at 432-682-8474 and purchase tickets with a credit card.

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FREE - Laura Bush Literacy Program reading event, Thurs., February 19th, from 4:30-5:30 PM in our Visitor Center for kids of all ages. We will read a selection of books including "The King of Spring" and each child receives a free copy of the book along with refreshments.
Call 685-1112 to reserve a space!
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Explore the joy of reading!
Reading events on the 3rd Thursday each month

MUSIC & MOVIES

DIFFIE

From Page 1

on choices his label would make when it came to releasing singles.

"I know there's been a few songs that I would suggest be a single like 'My Give a Damn's Busted,' but they didn't want to release that. I just knew they were missing out on a No. 1," he said.

In one instance, Diffie recalls an album he lived with and worked on for months only to have it judged in minutes.

"I took it in to my label, and they listened to it for 10 minutes and determined all the singles, which were none of the ones I thought," he said.

But Diffie doesn't linger on this. The Grammy winner seems to bask in the opportunity to push forward in his career under his own direction.

"Touring is still fun and not as tedious as it used to be," he said. "I'm out singing and meeting fans and that part is still great. Besides, it beats working. I didn't like that too much."

WANT TO GO?

Joe Diffie at Hacienda Event Center, 12610 State Highway 191 Frontage Road. 8 p.m. Saturday. $20. haciendamidland.com.

McKEE

From Page 1

be more effective."

He's also been focusing on his harp guitar that he will perform with at the festival.

A hybrid of a guitar body with an arm strung with harp strings that extends from the upper bout, the instrument allows McKee to venture into new sounds.

"It's such a cool instrument with these extra bass notes and expanded range," he said. "It really lets me explore new possibilities, but getting used to reaching up higher was a bit tough."

McKee will headline Friday night. The festival then continues Saturday with open exhibits, general and workshop classes and is capped off by the Locals' Night Concert at 7 p.m.

For McKee, coming back to the festival should be quite the experience.

"I remember it very well, and it was such a beautiful thing," he recalled. "So I'm looking to bringing my new tunes and the harpguitar for this time around."

HAVE AN EVENT TO SUBMIT?

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Producers promise Oscar night filled with magic

By Sandy Cohen
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Lady Gaga. Jennifer Hudson. Common and John Legend. Adam Levine. Rita Ora. Tegan & Sara. Tim McGraw.

This isn't the lineup for an upcoming pop concert, but rather for Sunday's Academy Awards.

"We want to entertain," said Neil Meron, producing his third consecutive Oscar ceremony with Craig Zadan. "And there's no better entertainment than to do it with music."

Host Neil Patrick Harris will perform an original song by the Oscar-winning writers behind "Let It Go," the producers said. Called "Moving Pictures," the musical number will set a "subliminal theme" for the evening, Meron said.

"It really is celebratory about movies and yet it's kind of cheeky in a way," he said. "But yet it has a beautiful musical motif which ... we integrate throughout the show as kind of a call-back theme."

Added Zadan: "We didn't want to do a musical number that could have been on the Tonys, or anywhere else for that matter."

"It's a multimedia musical number," he said, "something that we've not done before."

Music is part of the production pair's professional DNA, though. The two produced the "The Sound of Music" and "Peter Pan" live TV specials, as well as the movie musicals "Hairspray" and "Chicago," which won the best picture Oscar in 2003.



AP file photo

This Nov. 16, 2013, photo provided by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences shows producers Craig Zadan, left, and Neil Meron attending the 2013 Governors Awards at The Ray Dolby Ballroom at Hollywood & Highland Center in Hollywood, Calif. The producers, Zadan and Meron, tell us what and what not to expect on this year's Oscar show and how they're keeping it fresh after three years on the job. The 87th annual Academy Awards are presented on Sunday in Los Angeles.

The producers said they started booking musical acts even before they learned the year's nominees. But they were delighted with the nominated original songs.

"We were smiled upon in that respect," Meron said.

A spate of stars will bring those songs to life on the Oscar stage.

Common and Legend are set to perform their song, "Glory," from "Selma." Levine will sing "Lost Stars" from "Begin Again." Ora will take on Diane Warren's song from "Beyond the Lights," "Grateful." Tegan & Sara will join with The Lonely Island for "The Lego Movie" song, "Everything is Awesome." McGraw will perform Glen Campbell's song "I'm Not Gonna Miss You," from the documentary about his struggle with Alzheimer's, "Glen Campbell ... I'll Be Me."

The producers wouldn't say what Hudson, Gaga and other entertainers, including Jack Black and Anna Kendrick, will sing.

Suspense about their performances will have to stand in for the lack of suspense for most of the acting categories. Patricia Arquette of "Boyhood" and J.K. Simmons of "Whiplash" have locked up supporting-actor awards all season, and Julianne Moore is shoo-in for the best-actress Oscar for "Still Alice."

The lead actor competition has some excitement, with Michael Keaton of "Birdman" and Eddie Redmayne of "The Theory of Everything" splitting many of the early honors.

"Birdman" and "The Grand Budapest Hotel" lead all nominees with nine bids apiece, including best picture, director, cinematography and original screenplay. Also up for best picture are "American Sniper," "Boyhood," "The Imitation Game," "The Theory of Everything," "Selma" and "Whiplash."

Among the highlights of last year's top-rated ceremony was host Ellen DeGeneres' surprise pizza delivery and superstar-selfie moment. Meron and Zadan wouldn't say what antics are planned this year — if they're planned at all.

"Everyone thinks that we pre-planned the selfie and pizza thing exactly the way they happened last year, but we didn't!" Zadan insisted, detailing the various ways the bits could have gone wrong. "Nobody takes a piece of pizza, and then it's weird. Ellen is standing there with pizza."

But they do promise real magic on Oscar night. After all, host Harris is a magician.

Is it just 'Boyhood' against 'Birdman' for best picture?

By Cara Buckley
New York Times News Service

Up until the fourth week of January, it seemed as if the race for the best picture Oscar was pretty much over except for the balloting. More than a dozen national and international critics organizations had anointed "Boyhood" the year's best film and, with few exceptions, longtime awards season prognosticators forecast that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences would do the same.

The film had underdog indie cred, tenacious and loyal cast members who charmed their way through the campaign, subtle emotional heft and an outsiderlike director, Richard Linklater, whose playing-with-time films had received Oscar nominations before.

But there were murmurings of dissent. Several people with ears near the ground, namely those whose job it is to talk to lots of Academy members and divine their inclinations, had a different take. Linklater's deceptively simple, 12-years-in-the-making valentine to growing up may have charmed critics, but it left an array of Academy members cold. A few Oscar voters were saying they didn't get why "Boyhood" was generating such a fuss.

Among some industry filmmakers, the sense was "give me 12 years, and I'd show you what I could do with a feature film" (never mind that Linklater was the one who actually did it) — or, take away those 12 years, and Linklater's story line felt a little thin. There was also talk of grumblings among the "below-the-line" folks, the under-the-radar toilers whose names clog the credit reel if not the red carpet: directors of photography, gaffers, best boys and the like, people who tend to appreciate technically complicated films and craft.

One Academy voter said that all the critical accolades bestowed on "Boyhood," along with its early front-runner status — a perilous place to be in an Oscar race — left expectations too high. "It makes you unfairly expect a transcendent experience, which is so rare," said the voter, who requested anonymity because the Academy forbids members to endorse or speak about a film publicly. "But it's an extraordinary achievement nonetheless."

Then, beginning Jan. 24, the above-the-line industry people began to weigh in: the Producers Guild of America (6,500 members), the Screen Actors Guild (150,000), and then the Directors Guild of America (15,000) chose Alejandro G. Iñárritu's "Birdman" — a technically wizardly film if ever there were one — as the top pick. For prognosticators, this was a surprise, until viewed through the lens of hindsight.

The film's minutes-long shots, the nimble blocking of the actors, the swooping, sure-footed camerawork and the story line itself — an actor's ego-driven quest for professional redemption — all play perfectly into the industry's vanities.

Annette Insdorf, a film professor at Columbia University, said the sweep of the guilds made sense. "'Birdman' won the top SAG Award because it's a perfect example of ensemble acting: With uninterrupted long takes, all the performers must work harder to support each other," Insdorf wrote in an email. "And it won the DGA Award because Iñárritu created a wildly original, sustained riff on performance, celebrity, illusion and allusion."

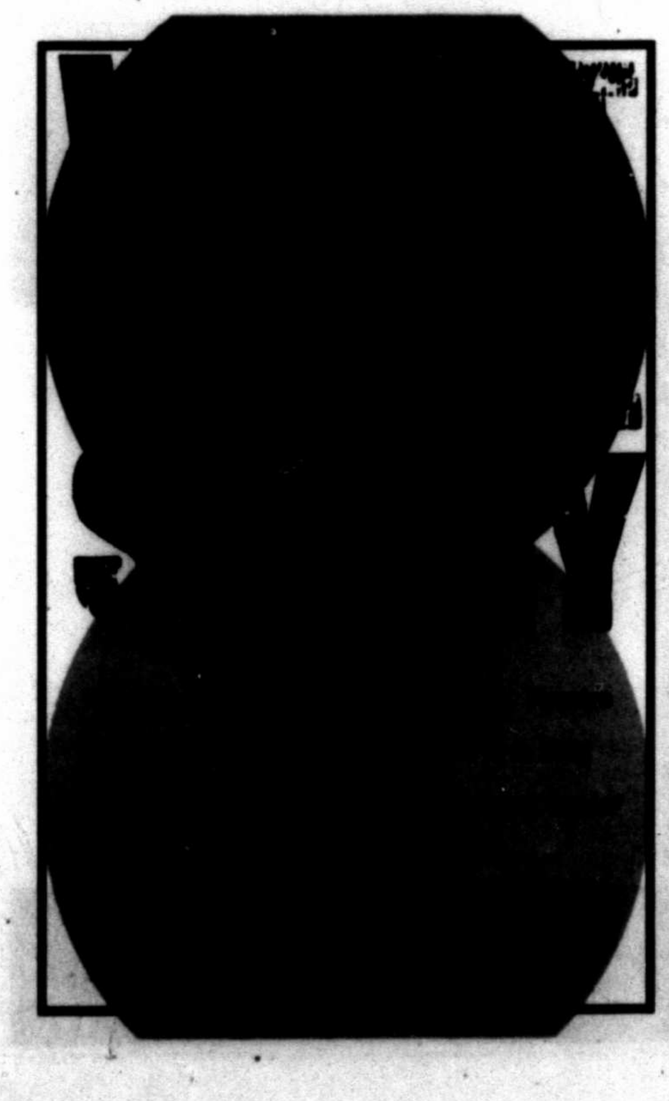
As the guild awards came in, Oscarologists began tabulating odds for "Birdman" for best picture, concluding, after the directors gave the film their top award on Feb. 7, that it was looking pretty darn good.

The only film to ever sweep the three guilds and not go on to land the Oscar for best picture was "Apollo 13," nearly 20 years ago.

Ranked top 500 RE/MAX agents in Texas



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Pancake Jamboree
(Sausage, Drink, Plus All The Pancakes You Can Eat)
Saturday, February 28th
7am to 7pm
200 Plaza
(behind Walgreens & Hero's Fitness off Illinois)
Tickets are $7 each & can be purchased from any Club Member or at the door.
Bring your used eyeglasses and hearing aids to be recycled
Proceeds to benefit:
• The Texas Lions Camp for Physically Handicapped, Diabetic and Downs Syndrome Children
• The Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (located at 2550 Flynt in Midland)
• College Scholarships
• Lions Dist. 2A-1 Eye Bank & Dist. 2A-1 Acuña, Mex. Eye Clinic
• And Many More!
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BLOOD MOBILE WILL BE PRESENT TO TAKE DONATIONS.

MOVIES

FILM CAPSULES

AMERICAN SNIPER (R) Director Clint Eastwood and star Bradley Cooper combine to tell the story of the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history and focus on the destructive inner price that must be paid for inflicting violence.

BLACK OR WHITE (PG-13) A widower raising his biracial granddaughter becomes embroiled in a bitter custody battle when the girl's paternal grandmother turns up seeking custody. With Kevin Costner, Octavia Spencer and Gillian Jacobs. Written and directed by Mike Binder.

THE BOY NEXT DOOR (R) A high school teacher coping with a failed marriage and raising a teenage son has an affair with her much younger neighbor, who becomes increasingly obsessed with her. With Jennifer Lopez, Ryan Guzman and John Corbett. Written by Barbara Curry. Directed by Rob Cohen.

THE DUFF (PG-13) A high school senior sets out to reinvent herself after learning that she's known as the "designated ugly fat friend" to her two pretty, popular pals. With Mae Whitman, Robbie Amell and Bella Thorne. Written by Josh Cagan. Directed by Ari Sandel.

FIFTY SHADES OF GREY (R) A mousy college student begins a steamy relationship with a kinky billionaire. With Jamie Dornan, Dakota Johnson and Jennifer Ehle. Written by Kelly Marcel. Directed by Sam Taylor-Johnson.

HOT TUB TIME MACHINE 2 (R) When one of them gets shot, three friends fire up their time machine to try to prevent the attack but accidentally end up in the future. With Rob Corddry, Craig Robinson, Clark Duke and Adam Scott. Written by Josh Heald. Directed by Steve Pink.

JUPITER ASCENDING (PG-13) A house cleaner has her life turned upside own when she is saved from bounty hunters by a genetically engineered ex-military warrior and learns she is intergalactic royalty. With Channing Tatum, Mila Kunis, Sean Bean and Eddie Redmayne. Written and directed by Lana Wachowski and Andy Wachowski. In 3-D and Imax.

KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE (R) A street kid is recruited into a super-secret spy organization just as a global threat emerges from an evil tech genius. With Colin Firth, Taron Egerton and Michael Caine. Written by Jane Goldman and Matthew Vaughn. Directed by Vaughn.

MCFARLAND, USA (PG) Under the direction of a new coach, a predominantly Latino high school in an economically challenged California farm town forges a championship cross-country team. With Kevin Costner, Maria Bello and Morgan Saylor. Written by Christopher Cleveland, Bettina Gilois and Grant Thompson. Directed by Niki Caro.

OLD FASHIONED (PG-13) A former frat boy who has given up his partying ways to run an antique shop in a Midwestern college town falls for a free-spirited young woman. With Elizabeth Ann Roberts, Rik Swartzwelder and Lejon Woods. Written and directed by Swartzwelder.

PADDINGTON (PG) A young Peruvian bear travels to the city in search of a home in this film based on Michael Bond's children's books. With Ben Whishaw, Hugh Bonneville and Sally Hawkins. Written and directed by Paul King.

PROJECT ALMANAC (PG-13) A brilliant high school student and his friends uncover blueprints for a time machine and build one, with potentially dire consequences. With Jonny Weston, Sofia Black-D'Elia and Sam Lerner. Written by Jason Harry Pagan and Andrew Deutschman. Directed by Dean Israelite.

SEVENTH SON (PG-13) The sole remaining warrior of a mystical order searches for a prophesied hero to help him vanquish a dark queen. With Jeff Bridges, Ben Barnes and Julianne Moore. Written by Charles Leavitt and Steve Knight. Directed by Sergei Bodrov. In 3-D.

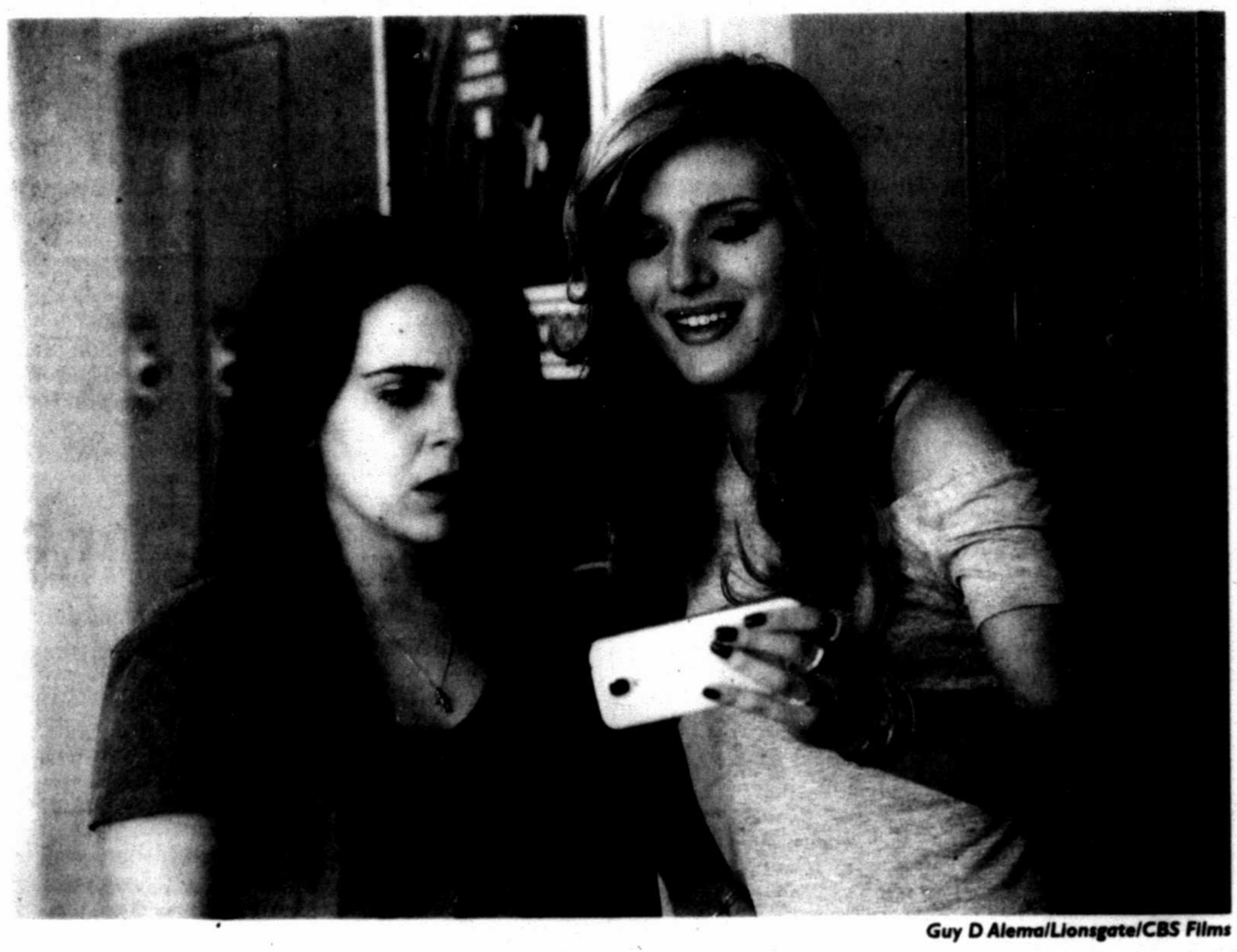
SPONGEBOB: SPONGE OUT OF WATER (PG) A goofy sea sponge and his friends venture to the surface world to foil an evil pirate. With Tom Kenny, Bill Fagerbakke and Antonio Banderas. Written by Jonathan Aibel and Glenn Berger. Directed by Paul Tibbitt and Mike Mitchell. In 3-D.

THE WEDDING RINGER (R) A successful but socially awkward groom-to-be enlists a best-man-for-hire to fill out his half of the bridal party. With Kevin Hart, Josh Gad and Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting. Written by Jeremy Garelick and Jay Lavender. Directed by Garelick.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

MOVIE REVIEW

THE DUFF



Guy D Alema/Lionsgate/CBS Films

Mae Whitman as Bianca and Bella Thorne as Madison in "The DUFF."

All teen comedies owe some debt to John Hughes and Amy Heckerling.

The milieu of suburban teenage life that they explored decades ago has defined the genre since. The social divisions, the boredom, the dances, the irrepressible awkwardness and the irrational dreaminess of high school students never before seemed so accessible, and so neatly packaged with a perfect soundtrack — even if their scope was rather limited to a particular set of middle class students.

It's no surprise that we continue to tell slightly different variations of the same story. There are still outcasts and bullies and war stories to be told from the halls of suburban high schools, and every generation deserves its own silly teenage misfit story. While it's neither as biting as "Mean Girls" nor as sweetly referential as "Easy A," the earnest and sometimes amusing "The DUFF" is a fine addition to the canon.

In the film, Mae Whitman stars as Bianca, an overall-wearing overachiever who's just trying to navigate her senior year alongside her two best friends Jess (Skyler Samuels) and Casey (Bianca A. Santos).

But their dynamic is not equal, the handsome, popular and sweetly dim-witted football player Wesley (Robbie Amell) bluntly informs Bianca at a party. Bianca, he explains, is the Designated Ugly Fat Friend (aka "The DUFF") of the group. She's the one who goes unnoticed till someone wants to gain access to her comparably more beautiful friends.

This revelation causes Bianca to take off on her own, unfriending her longtime pals (in the only way that contemporary kids might know how — on every last social media site) and convincing Wesley to help her break out of DUFF prison.

On its face, with the popular guy teaching the misfit girl how to fit in, it's like "Can't Buy Me Love" in reverse. Or "Some Kind of Wonderful" in reverse. Or even "She's All That," but without the bet.

But then director Ari Sandel takes a modern turn. In "Mean Girls," chaos ensues when the queen bee makes hard copies of the secret-filled and reputation destroying "burn book." Here, Wesley's vindictive on-again, off-again girlfriend Madison (Bella Thorne, taking her "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" brat to the next level) just has to press send on an embarrassing video.

The act of digital aggression spreads rapidly throughout a school hungry for someone else to laugh at, and Bianca becomes even more of a social pariah.

In some ways, "The DUFF" is an up-to-the-minute and empowering version of the stories we know all too well. Bianca doesn't want or need to be popular in the classic sense. She just wants to be treated as her own person. And while Wesley might help her find more flattering clothes and bras, his main goal isn't to assimilate, it's to make Bianca more comfortable in her own skin.

Whitman, who cut her teeth on "Arrested Development" as the "homely" Ann Veal, stole scenes in "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World," and gained more mainstream recognition on the television show "Parenthood," is a star comedienne. Pint-sized and porcelain-skinned, she uses her unabashed physicality and expressive, Elizabeth Taylor-like eyebrows to ultimate effect, even if it takes a stretch of the imagination to accept the fact that this girl might be overlooked or deemed ugly in a social setting.

Amell, meanwhile, uses his symmetrical CW good looks ("The Flash" and "The Tomorrow People") well in a difficult role. His easy chemistry with Whitman carries the movie.

With a supporting cast that includes Allison Janney (a bit wasted here), it's Ken Jeong who stands out. Jeong, who has made a sort of cottage industry for himself playing twisted characters in already deviant comedies, tones it down a notch here as an affable, goofy editor at the school paper.

While "The DUFF" whiffs on the comedy front more often than it succeeds and is likely not destined to become the "Sixteen Candles" for a new generation, it is eminently watchable and even a bit touching. It takes a special kind of movie to nail a revelatory dance scene. On that front, "The DUFF" and its leads pass with flying colors.

"The Duff," a CBS Films release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "crude and sexual material throughout, some language and teen partying." Running time: 104 minutes. Two stars out of four.

Lindsey Bahr, Associated Press

CROSS-CULTURAL INSPIRATIONS

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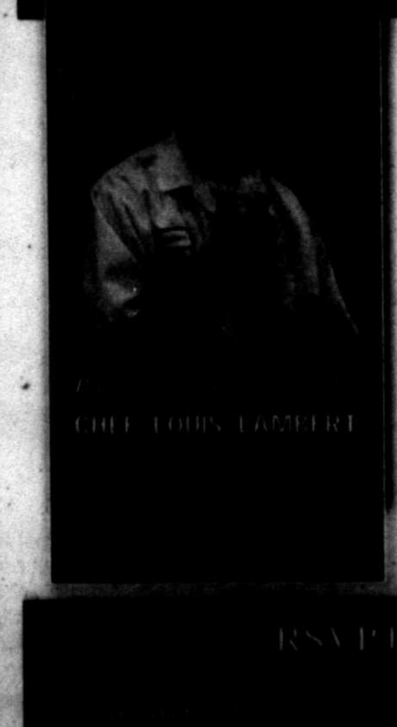
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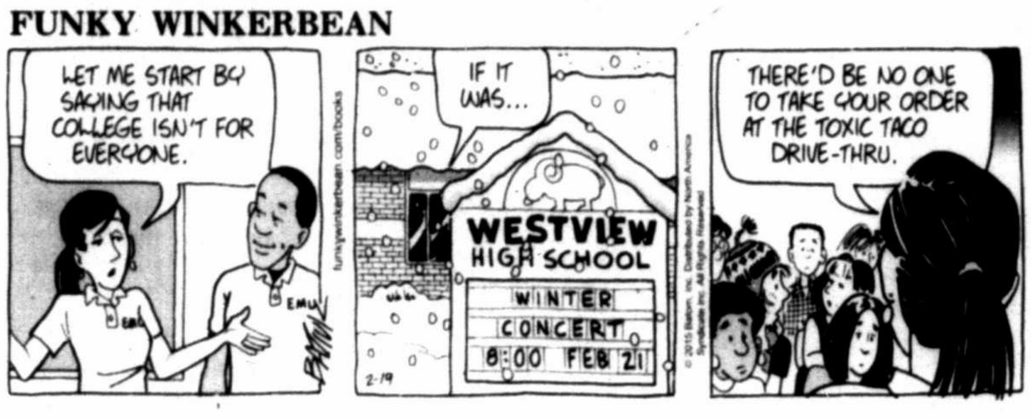
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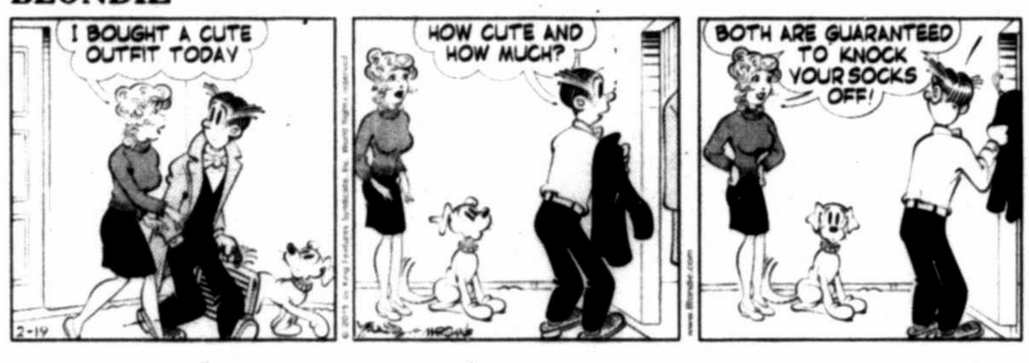
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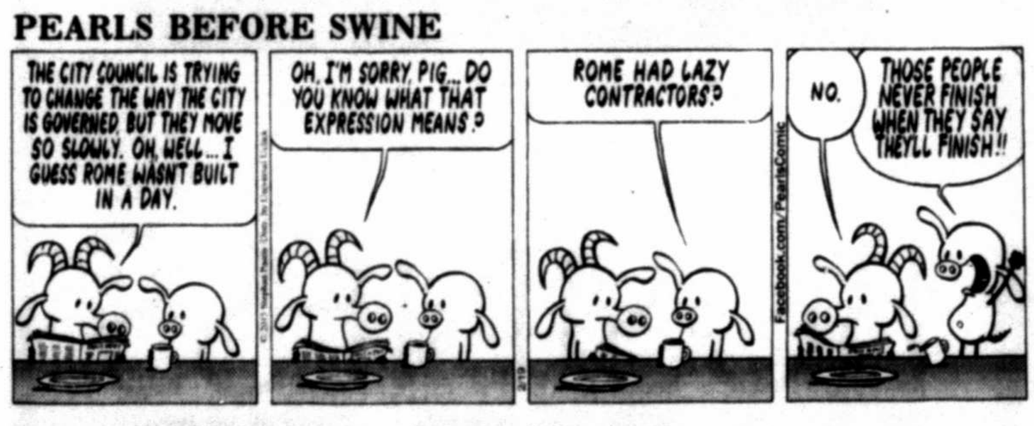
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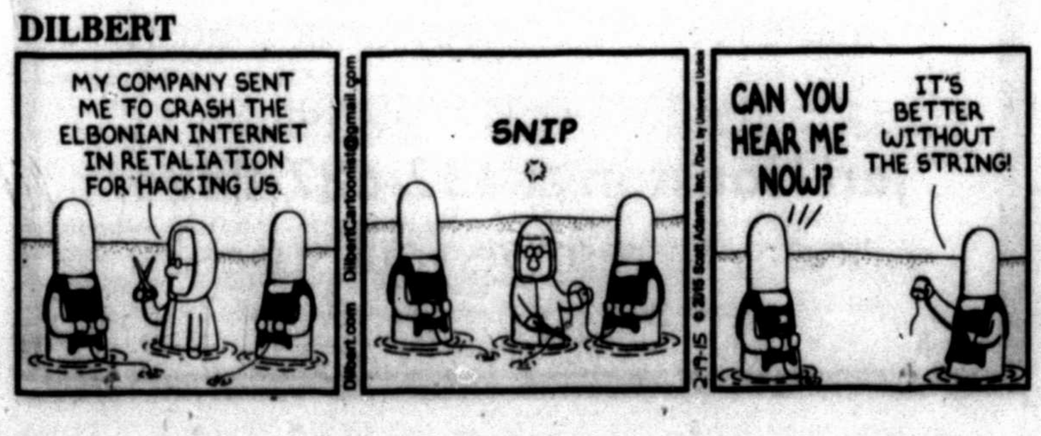
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"I'M JUST A DOCTOR, JOEY. THERE'S STILL A LOT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT 'ICE CREAM HEADACHES.'"

LOCKHORNS



"MOST EMBARRASSING IS THAT THE ONLY PICTURES OF LEROY WITH HAIR ARE WHEN HE HAD A MULLET."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"I like my oatmeal better when it comes in a cookie."

DINING

WHERE TO GRAB SOME MEXICAN FOOD

ABUELOS Mix of traditional Tex-Mex with unique menu items featuring steak and seafood. Tired of rice and beans on the side? Try papas con chile and espinaca casserole. 2908 W. Loop 250 N. 685-3335 www.abuelos.com | $$ | 4 spoons

AJUUA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT Tex-Mex favorites such as enchiladas, tacos, burritos and combination plates. Daily specials and menudo served on weekends. 3205 W. Cuthbert Ave. 694-4116 | $ | 2 spoons

CANCUN GRILL Stylish downtown Mexican restaurant inside Wall Towers. Start with the corn queso and then move on to the seafood enchiladas or one of the steaks. 223 W. Wall St. 618-0390 | $$ | 4 spoons

CARAMBA'S SPANISH INN Bustling Mexican restaurant with a variety of foods and combination plates. Tex-Mex favorites and burgers, steaks and seafood. 3116 W. Front St. 520-9724 or 520-9525 | $ | 4 spoons

CASA DEL SOL RESTAURANTE Y CANTINA Reminiscent of a Mexican cantina. Mexican stir-fry is a popular choice or try one of the West Texas specialties like country-fried steak, shrimp or catfish. 523 East Illinois Ave. 686-1118 | $ | 3 spoons

CASA LOPEZ CAFE Sports bar, restaurant and catering service with entrees like enchiladas and fajitas and appetizers such as bacon wrapped shrimp and stuffed jalapenos. 4411 W. Illinois Ave. 699-7373 | $ | 4 spoons

CASA MADRID Established Midland restaurant serves fajitas, Mexican combination plates, tacos, tamales, flautas and enchiladas. 911 S. Big Spring St. 685-1350 | $ | 3 spoons

CHARLAS RESTAURANTE & BAR With a casual atmosphere and full service bar, Charla's serves enchiladas, shrimp nachos, tortilla soup and tropical salad. Delicious chips and salsa. 3330 W. Illinois Ave. 699-2440 | $ | 3 spoons

CHITO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT & SPORTS Traditional Mexican fare with sports bar atmosphere. Breakfast served on weekends. 4400 N. Midland Drive 689-8646 | $ | 4 spoons

DONA ANITA'S Some of the best chile rellenos in town. Or try the tacos or enchiladas. Heuvos con chorizo, menudo, huevos rancheros and migas on Sundays. 305 W. Florida Ave. 683-6727 | $ | 3 spoons

DOS COMPADRES We recommend the carne guisada or any of the enchiladas with a tangy and mild green sauce. 2200 W. Wadley Ave, #1 Oak Ridge Square 684-7239 www.Doscompadres.net | $ | 3 spoons

DOS MARGARITAS Extensive menu includes fajitas, combination plates, lunch specials and breakfast plates such as huevos rancheros and omelettes. 1501 North Big Spring St. 618-9536 www.dosmargaritasusa.com | $ | 3 spoons

EL BANQUETE Traditional Mexican cuisine such as soft beef and pork tacos. Breakfast burritos, fajitas and enchiladas. 1802 Rankin Highway 620-0123 | $ | 2 spoons

EL BURRITO RESTAURANT Serving burritos for more than 30 years. Breakfast and lunch burritos on homemade tortillas and other Tex-Mex favorites. Also known for their burgers. 1106 N. Big Spring St. 683-9701 | $ | 4 spoons

FAJITAS BRAVO Delicious and tender beef and chicken fajita burritos. Or try nachos, burgers, quesadillas or barbecue. 409 E. Scharbauer Drive 682-6848 | $ | 3 spoons

FREEBIRDS Create your own burrito, tacos, nacho, salad or bowl with fillings that range from cilantro lime rice, black beans and tomatillo sauce to carnitas, queso and pico de gallo. 3322 N. Loop 250 West www.freebirds.com 689-9100 | $ | 4 spoons

GARCIA'S BURRITOS Pick up a breakfast burrito for $2 starting at 7:30 a.m. on weekdays. Or try a fajita plate with beans, rice, guacamole and sour cream. 1306 N. Lamesa Road 684-4383 | $ | 2 spoons

GERARDO'S CASITA Try the tortilla soup or the fajitas. Don't forget a margarita from the full-service bar. 2407 N. Big Spring St. 570-8012 www.gerardoscasita.net | $ | 4 spoons

JAVI'S MEXICANO RESTAURANTE Mexican restaurant, bakery, tortilla and tamale factory serves wide variety of burritos and great burgers. 1511 Rankin Highway 684-4898 | $ | 4 spoons

JORGE'S CAFÉ Two locations in Midland serving Tex-Mex fare. Jorge's does a simple queso without chunks of peppers or tomatoes — you'll either love it or hate it. 3323 N. Midland Drive 689-0032 4400 N. Big Spring St. 683-6303 www.jorges.com | $ | 4 spoons

JUMBURRITO Drive-through or eat-in for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Try the stew-meat with cheese and avocado and smother it with queso and/or Jumburritos' hot sauce. Expect a line for weekend breakfast. 1301 Lamesa Road, 682-5060 | 2101 W. Wadley Ave., 683-7017 | 908 S. Midkiff Road, 689-0350 | 4509 N. Midkiff Road, 689-3894 | www.jumburrito.com | 4 spoons

LA BODEGA MEXICAN RESTAURANT AND BAR Try the chile rellenos — stuffed with beef, chicken, cheese or shrimp, deep-fried and topped with red sauce, sour cream, pecans and raisins — or the rueda, described on the menu as a Mexican pizza. The upstairs bar allows smoking and keeps later hours than the restaurant. 2700 N. Big Spring St. 684-5594 www.mylabodega.com | $ | 4 spoons

LA HERRADURA MEXICAN CUISINE Go for breakfast and try the huevos rancheros with beans, potatoes and tortillas. Menudo, caldo de res and cabrito en salsa verde on the weekends. 1422 Rankin Highway 687-3000 | $ | 2 spoons

LA MISION Festive, colorful restaurant with great Tex-Mex favorites. In a hurry? Go for the lunch buffet. 1008 S. Big Spring St. 682-0320 | $ | 4 spoons

MANUEL'S AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD Home of the "Son of a Gun" plate — a 90 percent lean hamburger steak with onions, jalapeno gravy, beans, potatoes and tortillas — Manuel's also is known for its hot sauce. After you try it you can buy some to take home with you. 3905 Texas 349 www.manuelsdeli.com 682-2258 | $ | 4 spoons

PENO'S CAFÉ & CATERING COMPANY Try the tacos or the variety of breakfast burritos. Some menu items can be bought by the pound. Order tamales by the dozen. 4305 W. Illinois Ave. 262-5720 Facebook: Café J-Peno | $ | 3 spoons

REYNA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT An order of fajitas is too much for one person to eat, but they're so good you'll try anyway. 3601 W. Wall St. 699-2109 | $ | 4 spoons

ROMIE'S MEXICAN RESTAURANTE Don't underestimate this hole-in-the-wall restaurant serving traditional Tex-Mex fare. Quick service, daily specials and delicious food. 701 S. Marienfeld St. 432-683-5344 | $ | 3 spoons

OSCAR'S SUPER BURRITO Serving Lee High School students, and other loyal customers, for years, Oscar's offers almost endless choices of burritos and other Tex-Mex favorites for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Try the brisket and cheese burrito and don't skimp on the salsa. 4306 Neely Ave. | 699-0242 | 4 spoons

ROSA'S CAFÉ & TORTILLA FACTORY If you're a native Midlander, you get it. If you're not, try the queso and tortillas or the chicken fajitas with queso or the combo burritos. It's worth the long drive-through lines. 903 Andrews Highway 520-2358 2501 N. Big Spring St. 620-0634 | 4301 N. Midland Drive 520-0489 | $ | 4 spoons s

SEDONA MEXICAN GRILL & CANTINA Sit on the patio and enjoy drinks and chile con carne queso before your meal. Live entertainment on Fridays and Saturdays. 2101 W. Wadley Ave., #45 www.sedona-mexicancantina.com 570-9600 | $ | 4 spoons

TAMPICO SPANISH INN Go early to get a table. Start with an appetizer like queso, quesadillas or avocado salad. 2411 W. Wall St. 682-5074 | $ | 4 spoons





No. 3 Baylor women hang on to beat Texas Tech

By Betsy Blaney
Associated Press

LUBBOCK — Niya Johnson scored 17 points and Nina Davis added 12 to help No. 3 Baylor beat Texas Tech 67-60 on Wednesday night.

The win, the Lady Bears' 24th straight, assured Baylor a share of the Big 12 title with Oklahoma. A win over TCU in Waco on Saturday would give the Lady Bears sole possession of the regular-season title, their fifth straight and sixth overall.

Davis also had 10 rebounds

It was only the sixth time that Baylor (25-1, 14-0 Big 12) has won by single digits this season.

The Lady Raiders pulled to 61-59 on Amber Battle's field goal with 1:28 remaining, but Baylor's

No. 3 Baylor	67
Texas Tech	60

Sune Agbuke made a quick layup. Battle then hit a free throw, but Johnson sank two free throws to seal the win.

Ivonne CookTaylor scored 17 points and Battle had 16 for Texas Tech (15-11, 5-9).

Texas Tech tied a season high with 11 3-pointers off of 20 attempts.

Baylor played sloppily at times, turning the ball over 22 times, 14 of those steals, giving the Lady Raiders 21 points off all of them.

But the Lady Bears dominated in the paint, outscoring Texas Tech 40-14. Baylor also outrebounded Texas Tech 47-25, which translated into 20 second-chance points for the Lady Bears.

Baylor went up by 12 points on Niya Johnson's layup by with less than 5 minutes left in the first half. But the Lady Raiders put together a 10-4 run, capped by Ryann Bowser's 3-pointer, to pull to 34-28.

The Lady Bears led 36-30 at halftime.

TIP-INS

Baylor: The win brought Baylor its 18th overall 25-win season and the 13th, including 12 straight, in coach Kim Mulkey's 15-year tenure.

Texas Tech: Battle had her 17th double-digit scoring performance in 19 games this season. It was her 42nd game overall during her career.

UP NEXT

Baylor plays host to TCU on Saturday.

Texas Tech plays host to Texas on Saturday.



Associated Press

Baylor's Nina Davis drives against Texas Tech's Ionna McKenzie during the game in Lubbock on Wednesday.

Getting to the end point

MC's O'Field determined to finish strong

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com

Just a few seconds into the game against New Mexico Junior College on Monday night, Maurice O'Field is flying through the air to put down an emphatic two-handed slam dunk.

Usually, 6-foot-8 Torren Jones wins the opening tip, gets the ball to point guard. Dontay Caruthers, who then finds O'Field for the alley-oop. Whenever the 6-6 freshman small forward for Midland College has delivered on that dunk, it has gotten the crowd and his team energized, which is what he was aiming to do.

"Maybe six or seven games ago, I think we were 3-6 (in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference) and I said to myself, we need something, we need a spark," O'Field said, "so I just said why not get the game started off with a dunk to get me started, to get the crowd started, to get me pumped, to get the team pumped, just have high energy and play hard from the jump. I think if we play hard we can contend with anyone."

The Chaparrals (17-11, 7-7 in WJCAC) need that kind of spark as they face must-win situations heading into the final two games of the regular season as they hope to make the regional tournament. A big one is tonight when they face rival Odessa College (19-9, 7-7) at the OC Sports Center.

Getting to the posteason is what the Chaps are aiming for, especially O'Field, who is coming off a 31-point performance in a 74-71 overtime loss to New Mexico Junior College on Monday night.



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Maurice O'Field drives to the hoop against Howard College on Jan. 29 at Chaparral Center.

"The last game we played with a lot of determination," said O'Field, who is from Cleveland. "We made a couple of plays and a couple of calls didn't go our way. Just the more hunger to play in the playoffs and play in March is greater than anything anyone wants right now, so I think everybody will put it on the line these next two games."

O'Field came into the season hungry to get on the basketball court again after sitting out last year at East Tennessee State University because he didn't meet the minimum high school grades and standardized test scores to participate. He said it was a tough thing to have to sit out but it probably made him focus on what he needed to do.

"I realized that it was the best thing for me," he said. "I realized what I had to do academically and I realized what I had to do as a basketball player to be good and play at the Division I level. Around the beginning of the second semester (at ETSU), I realized that I'm smarter than what I give myself credit for and I can do it. I felt I could go to junior college, graduate and then play at a higher level."

His relationship with MC assistant coach Bryan Hodgson brought him to Midland College, where he originally signed out of high school before ETSU offered a spot. The relationship between player and coach goes back

Please see **O'FIELD**/2C

Lady Chaps hope to use Garate's energy against OC

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com

Just about every time Marielka Garate steps on the court for the Midland College women's basketball team, she brings so much passion and energy to the game that head coach Ron Jones can't help but admire.

"She always plays hard," Jones said. "I think that's the best thing about her. No matter what happens, she's competing and is real consistent with her effort."

That kind of energy is what Jones likes to see out of his team, and he has used the 6-foot-2 sophomore post from Caracas, Venezuela, as an example for the rest of the team to follow.

The Lady Chaparrals (18-9, 9-3 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference) hope to use Garate's energy as a spark tonight when they head to the OC Sports Center to take on rival Odessa College (22-6, 8-4).

"This is a big game, so I just want it for my team," she said. "We need to have the same energy that we had against New Mexico (a 58-54 win on Monday). We need the same energy and the same emotion because this game is very important in the standings."

A reason that Garate plays with so much energy is because she is getting to live the dream of playing college basketball in the United States.

She said she was about 12 years old and started playing in the bigger youth leagues in her home country when she thought that playing in the U.S. would be possible.

At age 13 she said she had a chance to travel and play in the United States but didn't have the proper documents needing to make the trip. She was heart broken.

Please see **GARATE**/2C



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Marielka Garate is double-teamed by Clarendon College's Jaylee Mays and Ja'lee Carver on Dec. 6, 2014, at Chaparral Center.

Tall City Invitational tennis tourney slated for this weekend

From staff reports

About 400 high school kids with tennis racquets will invade Midland tennis courts this weekend for the Tall City Invitational.

The tournament begins with the small school bracket today and then continues Friday and Saturday with the big schools. The tournament will be using the Bush Tennis Center, the Midland College tennis courts and the Midland High tennis courts.

Year after year, this tournament is one of the crown jewels for high school tennis in the state of Texas, and this year is no exception.

"This is a big deal," said Midland High tennis coach and tournament organizer Alan Biel. "I think it's considered the

Please see **TOURNEY**/2C

Lee and MHS teams set playoff matchups

From staff reports

The Midland High and Lee girls basketball teams are among the area squads who have set up their area round playoff matchups.

Midland High (28-5), which defeated Arlington Lamar 49-44, will face El Paso Franklin (18-11) at 6 p.m. Friday at the Pete Gallego Center on the campus of Sul Ross State University in Alpine in Class 6A area round game. Franklin knock off Wolfforth Frenship 63-52.

In another Class 6A area round game, Lee (18-10) will face Amarillo High (32-2) at 6 p.m. Friday at Lubbock Cooper High School. Lee defeated North Crowley 39-37, and Amarillo steamrolled El Paso Socorro 69-18 in the bi-district round.

The Midland High boys basketball team (17-10) has also set up its bi-district round game against Arlington Lamar at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24 at McMurry University. The Bulldogs go into the playoffs as the No. 2 seed out of District 3-6A.

In Class 4A girls, Greenwood (23-12) faces Dalhart (22-8) in the area round at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Levelland's Texan Dome. Greenwood beat Clint Mountain View 76-40, while Dalhart knocked off Lamesa 79-61 in the bi-district round.

In TAPPS 3A, the Midland Classical Academy girls will begin defense of their state championship at 7 p.m. Saturday, when they host Arlington Burton Adventist in the bi-district round at the MCA gym.

- Other girls playoff games from around the area include.
- Class 4A area: Andrews vs. Levelland, 6 p.m. Friday, Denver City
- Class 1A Region II area: Garden City (25-4) vs. Eula, 6:30 p.m. Friday, Angelo State University
- Class 1A Region II area: Grady (20-9) vs, Rankin, 8 p.m. Friday, Junell Center, San Angelo
- TAPPS 4A: Midland Christian vs. Tyler Grace Community, 6 p.m. (subject to change), Feb. 27 at Brewer HS, Fort Worth

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

WHAT'S ON TV

COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Oregon at Baylor, 6:30 p.m., FSSWP/FCSC

GOLF
European PGA: Hero Indian Open, First Round, 8 a.m., GOLF
PGA: Northern Trust Open, 4 p.m., GOLF
LPGA: ISPS Hanada Australian Open, Second Round, 10:30 p.m., GOLF
European PGA: Hero Indian Open, Second Round, 4 a.m., GOLF

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
St. Joseph's at Dayton, 5 p.m.,ESPNU
Purdue at Indiana, 6 p.m., ESPN
Temple at SMU, 6 p.m., ESPN2
UCF at Tulane, 6 p.m., ESPNews
Louisiana Tech at Charlotte, 6 p.m., CBSSN
Nebraska at Maryland, 6 p.m., BTN
Niagara at Fairfield, 6 p.m., SNY
Rutgers at Iowa, 7 p.m., ESPNU
Western Kentucky at UAB, 7 p.m., FCSA
Connecticut at Memphis, 8 p.m., ESPN
Ole Miss at Mississippi State, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Saint Francis (PA) at Central Connecticut State, 8 p.m., CBSSN
USC at Arizona, 8 p.m., P12
San Diego at BYU, 9 p.m., ESPNU
Hawaii at UC Irvine, 9:30 p.m., FCSA
Utah at Oregon State, 10 p.m., P12

MEN'S SOCCER
UEFA Europa: AS Roma vs. Feyenoord, Noon, FOXSOCP
UEFA Europa: BSC Young Boys vs. Everton, Noon, FS2
UEFA Europa: PSV vs. Zenit St. Petersburg, Noon, ESPNDEP
UEFA Europa: Tottenham Hotspur vs. ACF Fiorentina, 2 p.m., FOXSOCP
UEFA Europa: Liverpool vs. Besiktas, 2 p.m., FS2
UEFA Europa: Villarreal vs. Red Bull Salzburg, 2 p.m., ESPNDEP
Copa Libertadores: Libertad vs. Atletico Nacional, 4:30 p.m., FOXDEP
Copa Libertadores: CD San Jose vs. CA River Plate, 7 p.m., FOXDEP

MOTORSPORTS
Sprint Cup: Daytona 500, Practice, 11 a.m., FS1
Camping World Truck Series: Daytona, Practice, 12:30 p.m., FS1
Camping World Truck Series: Daytona, Final Practice, 2:30 p.m., FS1
Sprint Cup: Duel at Daytona, 6 p.m., FS1

NBA
Dallas at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m., TNT
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m., TNT

NFL
NFL Scouting Combine Pressers, 1 p.m., NFL

NHL
Columbus at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m., NBCSN
San Jose at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., FSSW

TENNIS
WTA: Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship, Quarterfinal 2, 6 a.m., TENNIS
ATP & WTA: Rio, WTA: Dubai, ATP: Delray, & ATP: Marseille, 9 a.m., TENNIS
ATP: Delray Open, 7 p.m., TENNIS

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Vanderbilt a Florida, 6 p.m., SEC
Portland State at North Dakota, 7 p.m., FCSP
Maryland at Wisconsin, 8 p.m., BTN
Utah Valley at New Mexico State, 8:30 p.m., FCSC

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Monterey Tech at Texas, 7 p.m., LHN

WHAT'S ON DECK

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL
Midland Christian at Lubbock Titans, 6 p.m.

JUNIOR COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL
Midland College at Odessa College, 7:45 p.m.

JUNIOR COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Midland College at Odessa College, 5:45 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Men, UTPB at Oklahoma Panhandle State, 7:30 p.m.
Women, UTPB at Oklahoma Panhandle State, 5:30 p.m.

JUNIOR COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Trinidad State at MC, 1 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL
Midland Christian at Texas Private School Classic

HIGH SCHOOL GOLF
Lee Boys and Girls at Andrews Classic

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL
MHS at Bryan Tournament
Lee at Lubbock Tournament
Midland Christian at Brock Tournament

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL
Midland Christian at Plano Prestonwood Tournament

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE — Suspended Cleveland RHP Tyler Sturdevant 50 games for a violation of the Minor League Drug Prevention and Treatment Program.

American League
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with LHP Bruce Chen on a minor league contract
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with 1B Eric Hosmer on a two-year contract
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Agreed to terms with RHP Matt Lindstrom on a minor league contract

National League
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Assigned RHP Aaron Northcraft outright to El Paso (PCL)

American Association
AMARILLO THUNDERHEADS — Signed OF Jason Martin. Traded LHP Kristhiam Linares to Lancaster for a player to be named.
FARGO-MOORHEAD REDHAWKS — Signed RHP Chase Boruff
GARY SOUTHSHORE RAILCATS — Signed RHP Jesse Snodgrass
ST. PAUL SAINTS — Signed RHPs Drew Gay and Dustin Crenshaw. Released RHP Andy Johnson
WINNIPEG GOLDEYES — Signed RHP Coby Cowgill

Can-Am League
TROIS-RIVIERES AIGLES — Signed INF Pedro Lopez

Frontier League
JOLIET SLAMMERS — Signed OF Nate Roberts
NORMAL CORNBELTERS — Signed SS Daniel Bick

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
DALLAS MAVERICKS — Signed F Amare Stoudemire. Waived G Ricky Ledo.
TORONTO RAPTORS — Assigned F Bruno Caboclo to Fort Wayne (NBADL)

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with WR Larry Fitzgerald on a two-year contract
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed DB Varmah Sonie
DALLAS COWBOYS — Released LB Mister Alexander
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Released LB Shaun Phillips
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Claimed TE Brandon Bostick off waivers from Green Bay
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Named Brian Smith assistant linebackers coach
WASHINGTON REDSKINS — S Ryan Clark announced his retirement

Canadian Football League
MONTREAL ALOUETTES — Signed DT Khalif Mitchell to a three-year contract and DE Kris Redding to a two-year contract
WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Signed WR Kurt Goodrich

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
DALLAS STARS — Recalled F Brendan Ranford from Texas (AHL).
EDMONTON OILERS — Placed G Viktor Fasth on injured reserve. Activated G Ben Scrivens from injured reserve.
MINNESOTA WILD — Called up F Michael Keranen from Iowa (AHL).
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Reassigned F Viktor Stalberg to Milwaukee (AHL).
PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Signed D Nick Schultz to a multi-year contract.

American Hockey League
ADIRONDACK CAPITALS — Reassigned D Steven Oleksy to Hershey (AHL).
WINNIPEG JETS — Placed F Mathieu Perreault on injured reserve. Recalled F Carl Klingberg from St. John's (AHL).

American Hockey League
BINGHAMTON SENATORS — Assigned F Danny Hobbs to Evansville (ECHL).
CHICAGO WOLVES — Assigned D Jake Chelios to Kalamazoo (ECHL).
ECHL
EVANSVILLE ICEMEN — Claimed G Branden Komm off waivers from Cincinnati.
FORT WAYNE KOMETS — Signed F Andrew Harrison
KALAMAZOO WINGS — Released D Nathan Sherriff from his amateur tryout agreement. Signed D Travis Armstrong to an amateur tryout agreement.
ONTARIO REIGN — Signed G Adam Brown.
UTAH GRIZZLIES — Released G Justin Masterman as emergency backup. Added G Trey Johnson as emergency backup.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
D.C. UNITED — Signed M Miguel Aguilar.
SPORTING KANSAS CITY — Signed D Amadou Dia.

National Women's Soccer League
SKY BLUE FC — Signed F Nadia Nadim.

FOOTBALL
COLLEGE
NCAA — Placed West Virginia's athletic department on two years probation.
AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION — Announced the resignation of executive director Grant Teaff.
CHARLOTTE — Named Karen Weatherington volleyball coach.
CHOWAN — Named Melanie Chaussee assistant volleyball coach and Joshua Cue assistant football coach/strength and conditioning coordinator.
NOTRE DAME — Announced S Avery Sebastian is transferring from California.
THIEL — Named Matt Ansheraft assistant football coach.

SKI REPORT

New Mexico
Angel Fire — Wed 6:56 am powder machine groomed 44-44 base 73 of 78 trails/94% open. 500 acres, 6 of 7 lifts, Mon-Thu: 9a-4p Fri: 9a-8p Sat: 9a-8p Sun: 9a-4p
Pajarito — Mon Reopen 2/20 variable machine groomed 27-27 base Mon/Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p Open Fri-Mon
Red River — Wed 8:26 am MG machine groomed 25-34 base 57 of 57 trails 100% open. 257 acres, 7 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun 9a-4p
Sandia Peak — Mon Reopen 2/19 variable 18-23 base 33 of 39 trails 85% open, 4 of 5 lifts, Thu/Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p Open Thu-Sun
Sipapu — Wed 5:48 am packed powder machine groomed 28-36 base 39 of 41 trails, 96% open 5 of 5 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Ski Apache — Tue 8:15 pm MG machine groomed 14-44 base 52 of 55 trails 95% open, 22 miles, 550 acres, 8 of 10 lifts, pm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Ski Santa Fe — Wed 12:05 pm variable machine groomed 38-40 base 77 of 77 trails 100% open, 6 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Taos — Wed 6:01 am MG machine groomed 41-42 base 83 of 113 trails, 74% open 15 of 15 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

Colorado
Arapahoe Basin — Wed 5:50 am 1 new powder machine groomed 44-44 base 99 of 109 trails, 91% open, 952 acres, 7 of 8 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Aspen Highlands — Wed 7:31 am packed powder machine groomed 37-54 base 121 of 122 trails 100% open, 1040 acres, 5 of 5 lifts, Mge-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p
Aspen Mountain — Wed 7:29 am packed powder machine groomed 32-34 base 76 of 76 trails 100% open, 675 acres, 6 of 6 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p
Beaver Creek — Wed 5:51 am packed powder machine groomed 43-43 base 140 of 150 trails 94% open, 1755 acres, 24 of 25 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p

Midland Softball Association
Adult Slowpitch Softball
Register NOW
Spring League Games begin April 6
Entry Fee - $325, Deadline March 6
Register on-line at
www.midlandsoftball.com
Or at the Bill Williams Softball Complex on Feb. 14, 15, 21
Late Entry: March 7-11
Team Entry Fee: $350
Player Fees: $15 due at 1st game

Hill College sweeps MC in doubleheader

From staff reports

ABILENE — The No. 15 Midland College baseball team was swept by Hill College in a doubleheader played Wednesday at Hardin-Simmons University.

Hill defeated MC 10-4 and 7-2 as the Chaparrals dropped to 3-5 on the season.

In the first game, the Chaparrals gave up 13 hits to the Rebels, who did all their scoring in just three big innings.

Yahir Gurrola led MC by going 3-for-3 with an RBI.

MC out-hit Hill 11-8 in the second game, but three errors led to three unearned runs. Hill'also had a four-run sixth inning to take the lead for good.

For the Chaps, Cody Bower was 3-for-4 with a home run, Justin Clarkson was 3-for-4, and Gurrola added two hits and a double.

MC returns to Christensen Stadium on Saturday to host Seward County Community College in a doubleheader beginning at 1 p.m.

First game

HILL COLLEGE 10, MIDLAND COLLEGE 4								
Hill	040	300	0	—	10	13	2	
Midland	000	012	1	—	4	8	0	

Linck, Vasquez (6), Fowler (8) and Foster. Aaron Rumfield. Jacob Deanda (4), Coleman Watts (6) and Bryndan Arredondo. W — Linck. L — Rumfield. 2B — MC: Cade Davis. 3B — HC: Greene, Brooks

Second game

HILL COLLEGE 7, MIDLAND COLLEGE 2								
Midland	001	000	10	—	2	11	3	
Hill	000	204	10x	—	7	8	0	

Ryan Minnix, Jesse Borden (4), Dave (6), Gilbert Sanchez (7), Dustin Angel (8) and Tony Beam. Harris, Bambrook (7), Barrera (8), Grimes (9) and Nawa. W — Harris. L — Minnix. 2B — MC: Yahir Gurrola; HC: Warner, Lemons, Hokas. 3B — HC: Brooks. HR — MC: Cody Bower; HC: Warner. Record: Midland College 3-5 Next: Seward County CC at Midland College (DH), 1 p.m. Saturday

O'FIELD

From 1C

to when O'Field was entering his freshman year in high school.

"Ever since then, Coach B has been a big brother to me and one I never had," O'Field said. "He's done a lot for me and he's made sure I've kept my head on straight at times."

While he's had his ups and downs in his first and only year with the Chaps, O'Field has been one of the team's best offensive players, averaging 15.8 points per game, and one of the team's best defenders, usually assigned to guard the opponent's best player.

"He's been phenomenal the last five, six weeks," MC coach Jordan Dreiling said. "He's gotten better every game. He's focused, he wants to do what it takes to win, and wants to do his part. And he knows that his part is a huge one. He's got a lot of responsibility. Since the middle of January he's been locked in. He had a great game the other night and can have an even better game if we can eliminate some of those turnovers. But the way he can slash and work the baseline has opened everything up. You've got to guard him back there since he's so athletic."

There's a reason O'Field has gotten quite a few looks by Division I schools this season. Because he's set to get his Associate's degree in May, O'Field can transfer to a four-year school and have three years of eligibility remaining.

O'Field said he'll probably take visits to Marquette, Louisiana Tech, Gonzaga and Buffalo, but only after the season is over. And he hopes his team's season will continue for quite a while.

"It's a shame that the season is so short but just meshing together, I wish we had more time," he said. "Hopefully the playoffs will give us the extra time we need."

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

WJCAC Men

Team	District W	District L	Overall W	Overall L
x-Howard College	11	2	20	6
x-South Plains	10	3	20	6
x-New Mexico JC	10	4	21	7
New Mexico Military	7	6	13	10
Odessa College	7	7	19	8
Midland College	7	7	17	11
Frank Phillips	4	9	15	12
Western Texas	3	11	11	14
Clarendon College	2	11	5	19

x-clinched regional tournament berth

Monday's Scores
New Mexico JC 74, Midland College 71 (OT); Howard College 84, Odessa College 73; Clarendon College 84, Frank Phillips College 59; New Mexico Military Institute 74, South Plains College 71; Western Texas College is open

Today's Games
Midland College at Odessa College; Clarendon College at Western Texas College; South Plains College at Frank Phillips College; New Mexico Military Institute at Howard College; New Mexico JC is open

Midland College at Odessa College

When/where: 7:45 p.m. today, OC Sports Center
Records: Midland College 17-11, 7-7 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; Odessa College 19-8, 7-7
Last WJCAC game: New Mexico JC 74, Midland College 71 (OT); Howard College 84, Odessa College 73
Notes & quotes: MC is looking to bounce back from a tough home loss to New Mexico JC. MC coach Jordan Dreiling expects tonight's game against the rival Wranglers to be a dogfight and his team need's to show more discipline on both ends of the floor. "Our effort has been really good. We just have to be more disciplined and more focused," he said. ...MC defeated the Wranglers 72-64 on Jan. 19 and Dreiling said the Chaps will need the same kind of effort. "Our entire team was on board with the plan for that game," he said. "It was one of the best collective efforts, and that's what (today) needs to be."
Next: Midland College at South Plains College, 7:45 p.m. Monday; South Plains at Odessa College, 7:45 p.m. Feb. 26

GARATE

From 1C

"That day I cried because I thought that was my last opportunity," she said.

But then prior to the 2013-14 season, through one of Jones' contacts, she got in touch with the Lady Chaps coach and she was offered an opportunity to come to West Texas and play at MC.

"It was like I had received a new body through God's hands," said the spiritual Garate. "I had always dreamed to come here and I am so grateful for the opportunity. That's what I tell the young players, to take advantage of the opportunities they have to play basketball, no matter what team they play for."

It was, however, a rough transition for Garate in her first year in a Lady Chap uniform as the language barrier proved tough to overcome. While there is usually a transition that international players have to make when they come to the U.S., Jones said Garate's transition took longer than usual because her English was limited at best.

"It has been an adjustment but she's improved because of her attitude," he said. "She's a great teammate, she smiles a lot, and she enjoys playing here and playing basketball."

She admits she had a tough time during her freshman year.

"Coach would help me a lot at the beginning," Garate said. "He would explain to me as many as three, maybe four times but he would help me as much as he could. The girls would also always try to explain things to me as well or they would demonstrate what needed to be done."

This season, Garate has transformed from a player who rarely saw a court into a regular starter, averaging 5.4 points and 7.4 rebounds per game.

She also takes pride in being a leader to the young players.

"Coach always tells us that us sophomores have to be better, we have to bring that experience and know how to lead the rest of the team," Garate said.

And of course, she will also bring that energy to the court.

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

WJCAC Women

Team	District W	District L	Overall W	Overall L
xy-New Mexico JC	11	1	24	2
x-Midland College	9	3	18	9
x-Odessa College	8	4	22	6
South Plains	6	6	9	16
Frank Phillips	5	7	17	8
Clarendon College	4	8	14	14
Western Texas	3	8	11	13
Howard College	2	10	8	19

x-clinched regional tournament berth
y-clinched share of WJCAC title

Monday's Scores
Midland College 58, New Mexico JC 54; Howard College 49, Odessa College 48; Clarendon College 78, Frank Phillips College 72; South Plains College, Western Texas College are open

Today's Games
Midland College at Odessa College; Clarendon College at Western Texas College; South Plains College at Frank Phillips College; Southwest Texas JC at Howard College (non-conference); New Mexico JC is open

Midland College at Odessa College

When/where: 5:45 p.m. today, OC Sports Center
Records: Midland College 18-9, 9-3 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; Odessa College 22-6, 8-4
Last game: Midland College 58, New Mexico JC 54; Howard College 49, Odessa College 48
Notes & quotes: Midland College is coming off an emotional win against New Mexico JC on Monday night as the Lady Chaparrals overcame 26.5 percent shooting for the game. MC got a game-high 18 points from Tajanay Veiga and 14 from Sierra Dixon in the win. "We feel like we can play with anybody," MC coach Ron Jones said. "But day in and day out, New Mexico has been the most consistent (in the WJCAC). It was a good home win and now it's time to move on to the next one." ...OC, which got upset by Howard, brings a deep team with plenty of athleticism. Jones said it's going to be important that his team plays with energy and with the consistency needed to win on the Lady Wranglers' home court. "I keep seeing small improvements," Jones said. "It's just trying to reduce mistakes. We have a different game plan for every opponent and we'll have things we're trying to get accomplished and they will too. It's just about having the right frame of mind to go there and get it done." ... MC defeated OC 69-57 on Jan. 19.
Next game: Midland College at South Plains College, 5:45 p.m. Monday; South Plains College at Odessa College, 5:45 p.m. Feb. 26

TOURNEY

From 1C

second toughest tournament in the state with so many ranked team in Texas. "

Some of the top teams coming into town are from El Paso Coronado, Coppell and Southlake Carroll.

They will be joined by host MHS, Lee, Odessa High, Odessa Permian, San Angelo Central, Duncanville, Lubbock Coronado, Lubbock High, Lubbock Monterey, Amarillo Tascosa, Amarillo High, El Paso High and El Paso Franklin in the big school bracket.

"We've got six or seven of the top teams in the state. It's the best competition available," Biel said. "The reason all the coaches are excited and there is a waiting list to get in this tournament is that there are so many postseason implications for Region I. It's sort of a preliminary for the regional tournament. I would say about 80 to 90 percent of the top teams in the region are here."

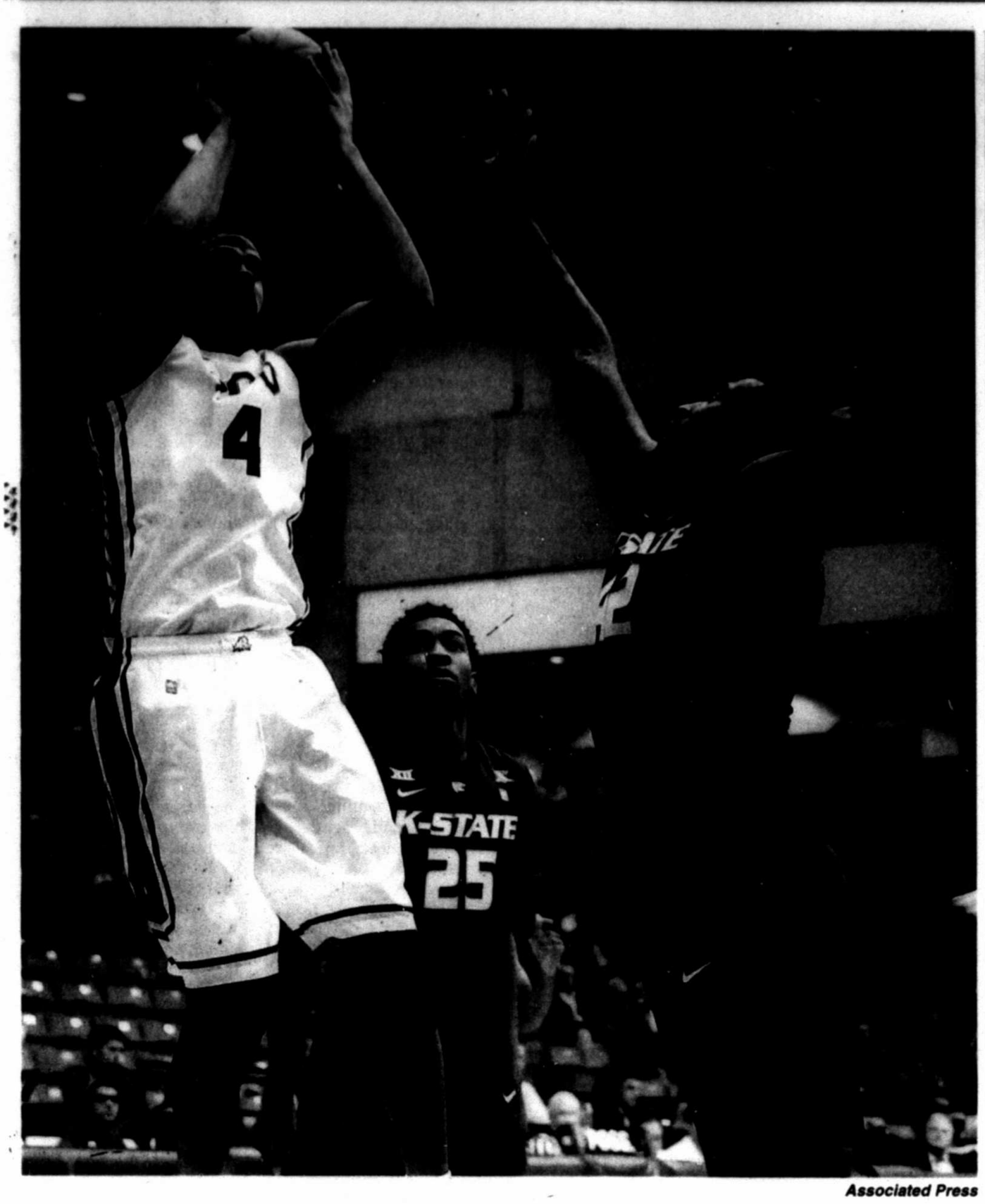
Probably the highest ranked player nationally in this tournament is El Paso Coronado's Nathan Brown, who was the boys singles champion in last year's tournament. Brown also went to the finals in Class 6A boys single competition in 2014 but ended up as the runner-up. From early indications, he is a favorite to contend for the state crown this year.

More info
What: Tall City Invitational
When: Today through Saturday
Where: Bush Tennis Center, Midland College Tennis Center, Midland High Tennis Center

2014 Tall City Invitational champions
Boys Singles: Nathan Brown, El Paso Coronado
Girls Singles: Kelley Anderson, Southlake Carroll
Boys Doubles: Lambeth-Hobbs, El Paso Coronado
Girls Doubles: Collins-Deleon, Lubbock Coronado
Mixed Doubles: Funk-O'Connell, Abilene High

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Associated Press

TCU forward Amric Fields attempts a shot over Kansas State forward Thomas Gipson during the first half on Wednesday in Fort Worth.

TCU beats Kansas State 69-55 for its 1st Big 12 win streak

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Chris Washburn scored 17 points and TCU beat Kansas State 69-55 on Wednesday night, giving the Horned Frogs consecutive Big 12 victories for the first time since joining the league.

TCU (16-10, 3-10 Big 12) never trailed in the game, but had to hold on after building a 35-15 halftime lead that was bolstered by a 19-0 run over the final 7 1/2 minutes before the break.

This is the third Big 12 season for the Horned Frogs, who went 0-18 in league play a season ago after a 2-16 debut in 2013. They were coming off a 70-55 home win over No. 22 Oklahoma State four days earlier.

TCU	69
Kansas State	55

Kansas State (13-14, 6-8) scored 11 consecutive points in less than two minutes early in the second half. The Wildcats got as close as 41-35 when Nino Williams made a free throw after a technical foul against TCU with 11:52 left.

Karviar Shepherd added 12 points for TCU, while Kenrich Williams had 11 and Amric Fields 10.

Nino Williams had 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Wildcats, who were coming off a win over No. 17 Oklahoma after a five-game losing streak. Tre Harris had 14 points and Thomas Gipson 12.

A near turnover by Kansas State turned into a layup by Gipson, then came the extra free throw that made it 41-35 when Trey Zeigler was called for a technical foul after he pushed the dead ball away and it hit a Wildcats player.

But K-State then went scoreless for nearly 4 1/2 minutes, and was still down 14 when Harris hit a 3-pointer with 7:29 left to end the drought.

TCU had a 10-0 run in that stretch, started when Brandon Parrish drove for a layup high off the glass. Washburn had a thunderous dunk while being fouled, plus a free throw, to make it 50-35 with just over 8 minutes left.

Gipson made two free throws to get the Wildcats within 16-15 with 7:48 left in the first half, nearly two minutes after their last field goal of the half.

Six different TCU players scored in the big run that ended the first half, with Shepherd the only one with multiple field goals in that stretch.

TIP-INS

Kansas St.: The Wildcats are 1-8 in road games. ... The 15 points in the first half weren't even the lowest this season by Kansas State, which had 12 at halftime in a 50-46 loss to Georgia on Dec. 31.

TCU: Shepherd and Washburn each had eight rebounds. ... The Frogs play three of their next four games on the road.

UP NEXT

Kansas State plays at No. 20 Baylor on Saturday.

TCU is at No. 8 Kansas on Saturday.

As NBA soars on and off floor, trouble could be looming

By Tom Withers and Antonio Gonzalez
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NBA is soaring higher than ever.

With a growing global reach and international players dotting most rosters, a group of marketable rising young superstars led by Stephen Curry, more competitive balance, financial stability, and an upcoming infusion of $24 billion from a television deal, the league is bouncing beautifully.

The state of the game couldn't be much better. However, everyone knows good times can fade fast.

There's a pivotal play developing over the next few years that could threaten the thriving league again. As the movers and shakers in the pro basketball industry gathered this past weekend for All-Star festivities celebrating the league's past and present, there were watchful eyes on an uncertain future.

With players and owners able to opt out of the current collective bargaining agreement after the 2016-17 season, a labor battle looms — and players plan to be prepared.

The NBA Players Association unanimously elected LeBron James as vice president last week at its annual meeting. James' presence on the executive committee — and perhaps at the bargaining table — is a sign the union means business.

"We had a lockout before when I was in the league and our game was really good at that time, too," James, the four-time MVP and face of the sport told The Associated Press during the NBA's mid-season showcase. "Hopefully, we don't have to reach that point because both sides love where we're at and what we're doing."

On the surface, it's hard to find many flaws with the league's current status.

Ratings are high, the value of franchises has exploded and Commissioner Adam Silver has taken the ball from David Stern and powered forward. Silver, who recently celebrated one year on the job, has skillfully navigated around some sticky issues, including the racial remarks made by former Clippers owner Donald Sterling that could've divided players and ended up uniting them.

Silver acted quickly in removing Sterling, and his swift punishment strengthened a relationship with players that will undoubtedly be tested in the years ahead. Those potentially crippling issues are out of sight now, and a widening international audience is tuning in to see NBA action.

"The game is bigger than ever," said James, Cleveland's star now in his 12th season. "The money that's generated is bigger than ever and our athletes and our guys are doing what they need to do on the floor and off it to represent the game at a high level. So hopefully we don't have to come to the point that we were in 2011-12, when we had the lockout. The process is going to get started and we don't have to come to that."

Following the 2010-11 season, owners were able to negotiate a CBA that was more in their favor, cutting the players' share of basketball-related income from 57 percent to roughly 50, costing them millions in annual salaries. That contract runs through 2021, but with the economic boost — $2.6 billion per year — coming from the TV contract, players will fight harder for a larger portion of the pie.

"We want to negotiate a little better than we did last time," said Hawks sharpshooter Kyle Korver. "We're going to be well-equipped to stand toe-to-toe with the NBA and negotiate a fair deal. That's what we want — just a fair deal."

It's not like Silver isn't paying attention.

The commissioner has listened to the players on several fronts already, and he promised last weekend to take a harder look at scheduling and reducing the number of back-to-back games and the grueling, four-games-in-five-nights stretches to help keep players — "our partners," he calls them — fresh and the product crisp. Silver, too, will consider a makeover of the playoff format so that the best teams qualify.

Silver is concerned with keeping the game relevant amid stiff competition from other sports. It's vital to stay affordable and attractive to an aging population as well as the next generation of hoop fans. It's entertainment, after all, and Silver wants to keep the NBA in the center of the spotlight.

"I realize we have to earn the fans' support every day," he told The AP. "Over the course of my business career I've seen a lot of great businesses seemingly disappear. We don't take anything for granted and we realize that especially when it comes to the changing world of television that we have to focus on what's happening on tablets and smartphones and how young people are consuming media."

Silver sees other ways the NBA can increase profit margins.

He's the first commissioner of a major professional sports league in the U.S. to publicly support legalizing sports betting outside of Nevada. He wants Congress to change the federal ban on sports gambling and craft a structure that allows states to legalize and regulate betting.

That could bring billions more in revenue to the league, though it also could create challenges to protect the game's integrity, last tested by the scandal involving former referee Tim Donaghy in 2007.

On the court, the game has been pure basketball bliss.

There has been a return to team play with the Golden State Warriors and Atlanta Hawks — the conference leaders at the break — picking up where the San Antonio Spurs left off in last year's Finals when their selfless style dismantled the Miami Heat.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES AND SCHEDULES

Men

WEDNESDAY'S SCORES
SOUTHWEST
TCU 69, Kansas St. 55
Tulsa 69, East Carolina 58
SOUTH
Brescia at Asbury, ppd.
Bryan at Union (Ky.), ppd.
Charleston Southern 75, Presbyterian 49
Coll. of Charleston 77, Elon 63
Emory & Henry at Randolph, ppd.
Florida 50, Vanderbilt 47
Fordham 80, George Mason 68
High Point 83, Gardner-Webb 62
James Madison 82, Drexel 78
King (Tenn.) at Limestone, ppd.
Livingstone 87, St. Augustine's 71
Miami 76, Virginia Tech 52
Piedmont 73, Maryville (Tenn.) 67
Winston-Salem 96, Johnson C. Smith 93
Winthrop 91, UNC Asheville 70
FAR WEST
Idaho at N. Arizona, 7:30 p.m.
Southern Cal at Arizona, 8 p.m.
IPFW at Denver, 8 p.m.
Texas-Pan American at Grand Canyon, 8 p.m.
Idaho St. at Montana, 8 p.m.
Santa Clara at Pepperdine, 8 p.m.
E. Washington at S. Utah, 8 p.m.
Weber St. at Montana St., 8:05 p.m.
New Mexico St. at Utah Valley, 8:05 p.m.
San Diego at BYU, 9 p.m.
Chicago St. at CS Bakersfield, 9 p.m.
Cal Poly at Cal St.-Fullerton, 9 p.m.
UC Davis at Long Beach St., 9 p.m.
UC Santa Barbara at UC Riverside, 9 p.m.
North Dakota at Portland St., 9:05 p.m.
N. Colorado at Sacramento St., 9:05 p.m.
Hawaii at UC Irvine, 9:30 p.m.
San Francisco at Loyola Marymount, 10 p.m.
Utah at Oregon St., 10 p.m.
Gonzaga at Pacific, 10 p.m.
Portland at Saint Mary's (Cal), 10 p.m.
MIDWEST
Saint Joseph's at Dayton, 5 p.m.
Purdue at Indiana, 6 p.m.
UT-Martin at E. Illinois, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Ill.-Chicago, 7 p.m.
Rutgers at Iowa, 7 p.m.
IUPUI at N. Dakota St., 7 p.m.
Oral Roberts at Nebraska-Omaha, 7 p.m.
SE Missouri at SIU-Edwardsville, 7 p.m.
EAST
UNC Wilmington at Delaware, 6 p.m.
Niagara at Fairfield, 6 p.m.
LIU Brooklyn at Mount St. Mary's, 6 p.m.
Quinnipiac at Rider, 6 p.m.
Robert Morris at Sacred Heart, 6 p.m.
Canisius at Siena, 6 p.m.
Fairleigh Dickinson at St. Francis (NY), 6 p.m.
Monmouth (NJ) at St. Peter's, 6 p.m.
Bryant at Wagner, 6 p.m.
St. Francis (Pa.) at CCSU, 8 p.m.

TODAY'S GAMES
SOUTHWEST
Temple at SMU, 6 p.m.
Appalachian St. at Texas-Arlington, 7:15 p.m.
Arkansas St. at UALR, 7:30 p.m.
SOUTH
Southern Miss. at Old Dominion, 4:30 p.m.
Louisiana Tech at Charlotte, 6 p.m.
Mercer at Chattanooga, 6 p.m.
Campbell at Coastal Carolina, 6 p.m.
North Texas at FAU, 6 p.m.
Kennesaw St. at Florida Gulf Coast, 6 p.m.
The Citadel at Furman, 6 p.m.
South Alabama at Georgia St., 6 p.m.
N. Kentucky at Jacksonville, 6 p.m.
Nebraska at Maryland, 6 p.m.
Lipscomb at North Florida, 6 p.m.
SC-Upstate at Stetson, 6 p.m.
UCF at Tulane, 6 p.m.
UNC Greensboro at Wofford, 6 p.m.
Troy at Georgia Southern, 6:30 p.m.
E. Kentucky at Belmont, 7 p.m.
Rice at FIU, 7 p.m.
Marshall at Middle Tennessee, 7 p.m.
Morehead St. at Tennessee St., 7 p.m.
W. Kentucky at UAB, 7 p.m.
Texas St. at Louisiana-Lafayette, 7:15 p.m.
UConn at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Mississippi at Mississippi St., 8 p.m.
FAR WEST
Idaho at N. Arizona, 7:30 p.m.
Southern Cal at Arizona, 8 p.m.
IPFW at Denver, 8 p.m.
Texas-Pan American at Grand Canyon, 8 p.m.
Idaho St. at Montana, 8 p.m.
Santa Clara at Pepperdine, 8 p.m.
E. Washington at S. Utah, 8 p.m.
Weber St. at Montana St., 8:05 p.m.
New Mexico St. at Utah Valley, 8:05 p.m.
San Diego at BYU, 9 p.m.
Chicago St. at CS Bakersfield, 9 p.m.
Cal Poly at Cal St.-Fullerton, 9 p.m.
UC Davis at Long Beach St., 9 p.m.
UC Santa Barbara at UC Riverside, 9 p.m.
North Dakota at Portland St., 9:05 p.m.
N. Colorado at Sacramento St., 9:05 p.m.
Hawaii at UC Irvine, 9:30 p.m.
San Francisco at Loyola Marymount, 10 p.m.
Utah at Oregon St., 10 p.m.
Gonzaga at Pacific, 10 p.m.
Portland at Saint Mary's (Cal), 10 p.m.
MIDWEST
Saint Joseph's at Dayton, 5 p.m.
Purdue at Indiana, 6 p.m.
UT-Martin at E. Illinois, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Ill.-Chicago, 7 p.m.
Rutgers at Iowa, 7 p.m.
IUPUI at N. Dakota St., 7 p.m.
Oral Roberts at Nebraska-Omaha, 7 p.m.
SE Missouri at SIU-Edwardsville, 7 p.m.
EAST
UNC Wilmington at Delaware, 6 p.m.
Niagara at Fairfield, 6 p.m.
LIU Brooklyn at Mount St. Mary's, 6 p.m.
Quinnipiac at Rider, 6 p.m.
Robert Morris at Sacred Heart, 6 p.m.
Canisius at Siena, 6 p.m.
Fairleigh Dickinson at St. Francis (NY), 6 p.m.
Monmouth (NJ) at St. Peter's, 6 p.m.
Bryant at Wagner, 6 p.m.
St. Francis (Pa.) at CCSU, 8 p.m.

Women

WEDNESDAY'S SCORES
SOUTHWEST
Abilene Christian 76, Texas A&M-CC 41
Baylor 67, Texas Tech 60
McNeese St. 65, Cent. Arkansas 63
Texas 76, Kansas St. 58
West Texas A&M 76, Tarleton St. 63
SOUTH
E. Illinois 81, Murray St. 67
East Carolina 67, SMU 53
Emory & Henry at Guilford, ppd.
Erskine 73, Barton 69
GRU Augusta 52, Francis Marion 40
George Washington 65, VCU 57
King (Tenn.) at Limestone, ppd.
Lees-McRae 68, Converse 58
Livingstone 78, St. Augustine's 66
Maryville (Tenn.) 78, Piedmont 65
Memphis 65, UCF 49
Nicholls St. 59, Northwestern St. 40
Randolph-Macon 79, Shenandoah 44
Shaw 67, Fayetteville St. 47
South Florida 79, Tulsa 46
St. Andrews 82, Montreat 75
Swarthmore 54, Washington (Md.) 54
Thomas More 80, Chatham 39

WOMEN'S TOP 25 FARED WEDNESDAY
1. UConn (25-1) did not play. Next: at Tulsa, Saturday.
2. South Carolina (24-1) did not play. Next: at Arkansas, Thursday.
3. Baylor (25-1) beat Texas Tech 67-60. Next: vs. TCU, Saturday.
4. Notre Dame (24-2) did not play. Next: at Georgia Tech, Thursday.
5. Maryland (23-2) did not play. Next: at Wisconsin, Thursday.
6. Tennessee (22-3) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama, Thursday.
7. Oregon State (23-2) did not play. Next: at Colorado, Friday.
8. Louisville (22-3) did not play. Next: at Virginia Tech, Thursday.
9. Florida State (23-3) did not play. Next: vs. Clemson, Thursday.
10. Duke (19-7) did not play. Next: at N.C. State, Sunday.
11. Kentucky (19-6) did not play. Next: vs. No. 15 Texas A&M, Thursday.
12. Arizona State (22-4) did not play. Next: at UCLA, Friday.
13. Iowa (21-5) did not play. Next: at Ohio State, Saturday.
14. Mississippi State (24-4) did not play. Next: at Alabama, Sunday.
15. Texas A&M (20-6) did not play. Next: at No. 11 Kentucky, Thursday.
16. Princeton (23-0) did not play. Next: vs. Dartmouth, Friday.
17. North Carolina (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Thursday.
18. Stanford (19-7) at California. Next: vs. California, Sunday.
19. Rutgers (20-6) did not play. Next: at Michigan State, Sunday.
20. Chattanooga (23-3) did not play. Next: at Samford, Saturday.
21. Nebraska (18-8) lost to Northwestern 59-51. Next: at Indiana, Saturday.
22. Florida Gulf Coast (23-4) did not play. Next: at Kennesaw State, Thursday.
23. James Madison (22-2) did not play. Next at UNC Wilmington, Thursday.
24. George Washington (23-3) beat VCU 65-57. Next: vs. Fordham, Saturday.
25. Syracuse (18-6) did not play. Next: vs. Boston College, Thursday.

TODAY'S GAMES
SOUTHWEST
Appalachian St. at UT Arlington, 5 p.m.
Arkansas St. at UALR, 5:30 p.m.
FIU at Rice, 6 p.m.
incarnate Word at Houston Baptist, 7 p.m.
FAU at North Texas, 7 p.m.
Lamar at Stephen F. Austin, 7 p.m.
Grand Canyon at Texas-Pan American, 7 p.m.
South Carolina at Arkansas, 8 p.m.
SOUTH
Middle Tennessee at Marshall, 10 a.m.
Troy at Georgia Southern, 4 p.m.
South Alabama at Georgia St., 4 p.m.
Texas St. at Louisiana-Lafayette, 5 p.m.
Drexel at Coll. of Charleston, 6 p.m.
Vanderbilt at Florida, 6 p.m.
Clemson at Florida St., 6 p.m.
Notre Dame at Georgia Tech, 6 p.m.
Florida Gulf Coast at Kennesaw St., 6 p.m.
Texas A&M at Kentucky, 6 p.m.
Wake Forest at North Carolina, 6 p.m.
Miami at N.C. State, 6 p.m.
Jacksonville at N. Kentucky, 6 p.m.
Stetson at S.C.-Upstate, 6 p.m.
Old Dominion at Southern Miss., 6 p.m.
Alabama at Tennessee, 6 p.m.
James Madison at UNC Wilmington, 6 p.m.
Louisville at Virginia Tech, 6 p.m.
North Florida at Lipscomb, 6:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Louisiana Tech, 6:30 p.m.
Georgia at LSU, 7 p.m.
New Orleans at SE Louisiana, 7 p.m.
UAB at W. Kentucky, 7 p.m.
Mississippi at Auburn, 8 p.m.
FAR WEST
S. Utah at E. Washington, 8 p.m.
Saint Mary's at Gonzaga, 8 p.m.
N. Arizona at Idaho, 8 p.m.
Montana at Idaho St., 8 p.m.
Utah Valley at New Mexico St., 8 p.m.
Sacramento St. at N. Colorado, 8 p.m.
Montana St. at Weber St., 8 p.m.
Cal St. Fullerton at Cal Poly, 9 p.m.
Pacific at Portland, 9 p.m.
Loyola Marymount at San Francisco, 9 p.m.
Pepperdine at Santa Clara, 9 p.m.
Long Beach St. at UC Davis, 9 p.m.
UC Riverside at UC Santa Barbara, 9 p.m.
UC Irvine at Hawaii, 11 p.m.
MIDWEST
N. Dakota St. at IUPUI, 6 p.m.
Valparaiso at Green Bay, 7 p.m.
Youngstown St. at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Portland St. at North Dakota, 7 p.m.
Seattle at UMKC, 7 p.m.
Oral Roberts at W. Illinois, 7 p.m.
CS Bakersfield at Chicago St., 7:05 p.m.
Maryland at Wisconsin, 8 p.m.
EAST
Towson at Hofstra, 6 p.m.
Rhode Island at La Salle, 6 p.m.
Siena at Manhattan, 6 p.m.
Elon at Northeastern, 6 p.m.
Virginia at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.
Saint Peter's at Quinnipiac, 6 p.m.
Boston College at Syracuse, 6 p.m.

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Toronto	36	17	.679	—
Brooklyn	21	31	.404	14 1/2
Boston	20	31	.392	15
Philadelphia	12	41	.226	24
New York	10	43	.189	26
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	43	11	.796	—
Washington	33	21	.611	10
Charlotte	22	30	.423	20
Miami	22	30	.423	20
Orlando	17	39	.304	27
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	34	20	.630	—
Cleveland	33	22	.600	1 1/2
Milwaukee	30	23	.566	3 1/2
Detroit	21	33	.389	13
Indiana	21	33	.389	13
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	39	14	.736	—
Houston	36	17	.679	3
Dallas	36	19	.655	4
San Antonio	34	19	.642	5
New Orleans	27	26	.509	12
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	36	17	.679	—
Oklahoma City	28	25	.528	8
Denver	20	33	.377	16
Utah	19	34	.358	17
Minnesota	11	42	.208	25
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	42	9	.824	—
L.A. Clippers	35	19	.648	8 1/2
Phoenix	29	25	.537	14 1/2
Sacramento	18	34	.346	24 1/2
L.A. Lakers	13	40	.245	30

Today's Games
Dallas at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.
Friday's Games
Indiana at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
New Orleans at Orlando, 6 p.m.
Toronto at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Miami at New York, 6:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Washington, 7 p.m.
Houston at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Utah, 8 p.m.
Boston at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

NFL Combine Day 1: 'The doctor will see you now.'

By Jim Litke
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Prospective NFL draftees don't flinch at benching 225 pounds until exhaustion or trying to beat their personal best at the 40-yard dash. They do dread one sentence: "The doctor will see you now."

The NFL combine began Wednesday with orthopedic and medical exams for 320 draft prospects, all of whom gave blood and were subjected to X-rays and impact testing — to establish a baseline for subsequent concussion tests — the night before. Players were asked to bring medical records and information on any conditions or family history — i.e., a heart condition — that might affect their ability to play.

During the exams, some will be reminded of injuries long ago forgotten, others about fractures they didn't know they had. One or two will learn their path to a pro career ends in an examination room, because of ailments ranging from undetected heart conditions to joint injuries beyond repair.

Small wonder young men who don't fear collisions with hard-hitting linebackers or fullbacks get nervous thinking about several hours being gently poked, probed and questioned by a battery of experts, all trying to predict how well the players will last in this brutal sport.

A rundown on the day's medical sessions:

The doctor is in ... and in ... and in

A group of 15-20 players enters the first of six orthopedic exam rooms in the basement of Lucas Oil Stadium at 8:30 a.m. Inside each are orthopedic doctors and head athletic trainers representing five or six teams. Nearby is a portable MRI machine provided by Methodist Hospital.

Each player's medical history, with detailed reports on previous surgeries, is presented to the panel during open discussion. All information is shared and there are follow-up questions if necessary — directed by specialists on shoulder, knee and foot injuries, etc. — and more X-rays if requested.

"The only thing proprietary about the process is the grade each team gives every player," said Dr. Matt Matava, who runs the medical operation for the St. Louis Rams and is president of NFL Physicians' Society.

Each team uses its own grading scale, generally from A-F or 1-5. Doctors consider previous injury history and current medical condition, and attempt to make a judgment of each player's longevity. An overwhelming majority fall into the "C" range, since most have been injured and operated on at least once.

"We might see up to two dozen 'A's' every year, but that's mostly kickers" laughed Matava, who's working his 15th combine. "Otherwise, they've got to have remarkable genes and be really, really lucky."

Open your mouth and say ahhh

Think of your latest physical exam, only more thorough, then multiply by three. Each of the three rooms for primary care sessions will be staffed by close to a dozen NFL team physicians.

"No stone unturned, that's how I'd describe it," said UNLV lineman Greg Boyko. "But I get it. They're making a big investment."

Dr. Robert Heyer, a pulmonary specialist who works for the Carolina Panthers and will succeed Matava as head of the NFL physicians group, said the only people tested as extensively as the players "might be astronauts."

"This is my 21st combine and the toughest part is always the same," Heyer said. "There's usually one or two guys who, for various reasons, can't safely play in the NFL, and we have to break the bad news."

New Astros manager Hinch eager for spring training

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — A.J. Hinch isn't promising a playoff run or predicting a lofty win total in 2015.

But the first-year manager of the Houston Astros is excited about his new team and can't wait to finally see it in action as spring training approaches.

"There's a general optimism and a general excitement to get down there and get the players on the field and get to the baseball," he said. "It's a long process building a team and building a coaching staff ... for me it's: 'Can we finally get to the baseball?'"

Houston's pitchers and catchers report to camp on Friday and the full squad will join them on Tuesday.

Hinch was hired in October to take over for Bo Porter, who was fired late last season in his second year in Houston. He inherited a team that made a 19-game improvement last year to win 70 games and snap a streak of three straight 100-loss seasons.

The Astros are confident they'll be better this season, but Hinch isn't in the business of making predictions about wins and losses.

"We feel like we're heading in the right direction," he said.

For the first time in a while there are plenty of positives on this young team led by second baseman Jose Altuve, who hit .341 last season to become the first Astro to win a batting title.

They also return slugger Chris Carter, who tied for second in the majors with 37 homers and added another power hitter in Evan Gattis, who has 43 home runs combined in two major league seasons. Another power threat in the lineup is George Springer, who hit 20 home runs in just 78 games as a rookie in 2014.

It's that combination of pop that has Hinch most excited about his team.

"We've got a chance to be a dangerous lineup," Hinch said. "We've got to find multiple ways to score. You can't just score via the home run. But when you start jotting down lineups — and yes I've been jotting down lineups for a little while — it starts to look like a long lineup when you feel comfortable with the guys hitting seventh, eighth, ninth as opposed to just the guys hitting in the middle of the order."

Their rotation should be improved, too, with Dallas Keuchel and Collin McHugh returning after breakout seasons and veteran Scott Feldman leading the group. They also addressed their biggest deficiency from a year ago by signing relievers Pat Neshek and Luke Gregerson to bolster a bullpen that blew 25 saves in 2014.

Porter was let go after reports surfaced that he and general manager Jeff Luhnow weren't getting along, leading to questions about whether Luhnow is open to varying viewpoints from his staff. Luhnow insists that he encourages healthy debate.

"It's important that we're all shooting for the same goal and working together, but we don't want everybody to be likeminded either," Luhnow said. "It's all about having the same goal, but having various ways to potentially reach that goal and really discussing them and debating them and picking the one that's best for the organization."

Houston's roster is much deeper than it has been in years and that depth will force Luhnow and Hinch to make some difficult decisions this spring. The Astros have catchers Jason Castro and Hank Conger, so they'll have to find another spot for Gattis, who has primarily played catcher in his career, but can also play left field and first base.

But they've got a glut of outfielders and will likely move new addition Colby Rasmus from center to one of the corners because they'd prefer to have Jake Marisnick in center field.

"One of the key things we tried to address this offseason was to give A.J. and his staff major league alternatives at every position," Luhnow said. "There's just a lot of options for A.J. and his staff to sort through and it may mean that there's a guy on the bench that should be starting. And if that's the worst thing that happens to us this year, that's probably OK."

WR Larry Fitzgerald stays with Arizona under 2-year deal

By Bob Baum
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Larry Fitzgerald is staying with the Arizona Cardinals, the only home he's known in his 11-year NFL career.


Fitzgerald

The eight-time Pro Bowl wide receiver has agreed to a restructured, two-year contract, Cardinals general manager Steve Keim announced at the NFL combine in Indianapolis on Wednesday.

The deal guarantees Fitzgerald $11 million in each of the two years, a person with knowledge of the details said, and will save the Cardinals nearly $13 million off their salary cap figure. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the salary figures had not officially been made public.

Fitzgerald, the widely popular longtime face of the franchise, had four years remaining on his previous contract, which would have paid him $16.5 million next season with a whopping $23.6 million cap hit.

"There were two things we wanted out of this deal," Keim said. "No. 1, we wanted to compensate Larry for the type of players he is and, No. 2, we wanted to set up a deal that would give us enough cap room to improve the team."

Keim and Cardinals President Michael Bidwill had said that resolving the contract issue with Fitzgerald was the team's top offseason priority. They had long maintained they wanted Fitzgerald to end his career with the Cardinals.

"Once we decided to put our foot on the gas pedal we got it done pretty quickly," Keim said.

If an agreement had not been reached, the Cardinals faced the prospect of releasing arguably the most successful player in franchise history. Certainly no player has made more money off the team in its history.

The restructuring needed to be worked out before Fitzgerald was due an $8 million roster bonus on March 14.

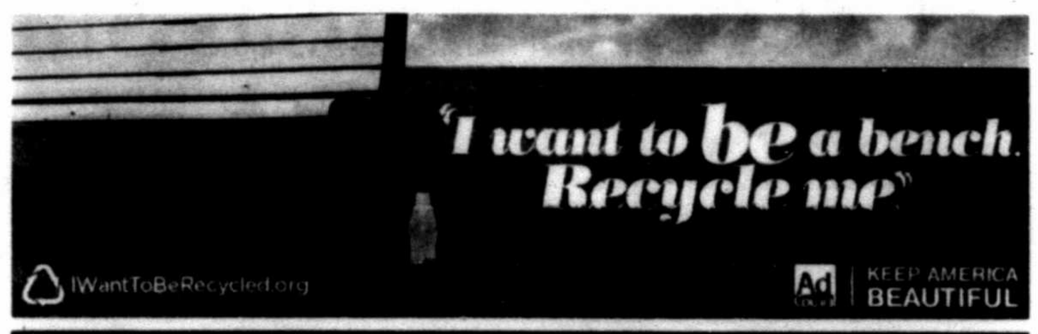
The 31-year-old Fitzgerald has broken virtually every Cardinals receiving records since he was selected by Arizona as the No. 3 overall pick in the 2004 draft. The marks include career receptions, yards receiving and touchdowns. He has 38 100-yard receiving games.

Teaming with Kurt Warner in Arizona's run to the Super Bowl in the 2008 season, Fitzgerald broke single postseason records for yards receiving (546), receptions (30) and touchdowns (seven). He is the only player to have four 100-yard receiving games in a single playoff run.

In 170 regular-season games, Fitzgerald has 909 catches for 12,515 yards and 89 touchdowns. He has caught a pass in 165 consecutive games. His streak of 110 consecutive games played was broken when he missed two due to a knee injury last season.

His role changed with the arrival of coach Bruce Arians in 2013. Fitzgerald was moved from his accustomed spot as a wideout to slot receiver. That meant he was the target of shorter passes, not the long, downfield, acrobatic grabs that had been his trademark. It was a change that Fitzgerald may have not liked privately, but he maintained a positive public face about it.

Last season was his least productive since his rookie year. He caught 63 passes for 784 yards and a career-low two touchdowns.





MIDLAND JUNIOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
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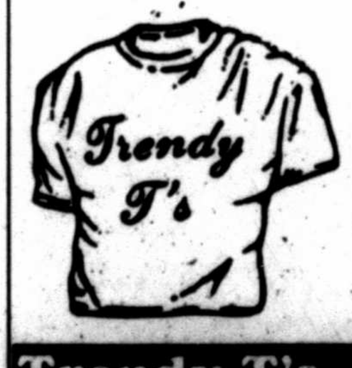
Age of child is based on Dec 31, 2015 for those born Jan. 1, 2006 or later

Age of child is based on April 30, 2015 for those born Dec. 31, 2005 or earlier

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THURSDAY PRIME TIME — FEBRUARY 19, 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	Grey's Anatomy "The Great Pretender" (N)		Scandal "The Lawn Chair" (N)		Murder "Mama's Here Now" (N)		KMID News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) News Nightline
KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7 News	Ent. Tonight	The Big Bang (N)	Couple "Pilot" (N)	Two and Half (N)	2½Men (F) (N)	Elementary "When Your Number's Up" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) David Letterman	(:35) Late Show
KWWT	CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Hogan's Heroes	Twilight Zone	Welcome Kotter	Welcome Kotter	Carol Burnett	P. Mason "The Case of the Potted Planter"	Perry Mason: ...
KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	American Idol "Showcase #2" (N)		Backstrom "Bogeyman" (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. Rik Wadge	Rocks/fossils/ anuscripts	Update News	Fruits of Zion	Light of the Southwest				Joe McGee	Matt Staver	Called Out	Biblical israel
KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 at 6 p.m.		The Slap "Harry" (N)		The Blacklist "The Kenyon Family" (N)		Allegiance (N)		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) Jimmy Fallon	(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT	PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Daytripper	Art & Create	African Amer "Into the Fire (1861-1896)"		Crown "Daughters of the Regiment		Charlie Rose (N)		Tavis Smiley (N)	Tavis Smiley
KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	Noche de Estrellas Premio lo Nuestro		Premio Lo Nuestro						Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	La Que No Amar	Podia
KOSA	MNT	16	16		16		Fam.Feud	Million..	The Mentalist		The Mentalist		My News	Million..	Anger M.	M&M	Office	Access H.
FLIX		340	65		165		(6:45) ★ A Map of L...		★★★ Double Jeopardy				★★★ The Boys			★★ Lionheart		
HBO		300	68	14	14		(6:45) ★ Man of Steel		(:15) The Jinx		The Jinx		Together	Looking	Real Sex		Girls	Movie
HBO2		302	69	15	101	23	(5:10) ★ Veronica ...		Girls	Together	★★ The Talented Mr. Ripley				(:20) ★★ 300: Rise of an Empire			
HBO5		304	70	16	102		Movie	Looking	★★★★ Dallas Buyers Club				LastWeek	Bill Maher		★★ Disconnect Jason Bateman.		
MAX		380	71	17	120	24	(5:45) ★ Bad Words		(:15) ★★★ Poseidon Kurt Russell.				★ Ride Along Ice Cube.			(:45) Confidential "Back 2 School"		
MAX2		382	72	18	122		Movie (:25) ★ ★ Getaway Ethan Hawke.				★★★ Lone Survivor Mark Wahlberg.				(:05) Zane	(:45) ★ Bullet to the Head		
PLEX				96			(5:20) ★ The Odd C...		★★ Delivering Milo				(:40) ★★ Joe Dirt David Spade.		(:15) ★ The Art of Flight		Movie	
SHOW		320	66	19	140	25	(5:15) Cocaine Cowboys: Reloaded				These Ain't Jokes (N)		Shame. "Crazy Love"		Penn &..	Lies	Episodes	Movie
TMC		336	67	22	155	26	(5:10) ★ Cleanskin		★★★ Akeelah and the Bee				★★★★ Silver Linings Playbook			(:05) ★ Fish Tank		
A&E		27	32	28	35	47	The First 48		The First 48 "Uncommon Valor"		After the First 48 "Cold Justice" (N)		Nightwatch "Their Worst Day" (N)		Nightwatch		The First 48 "Uncommon Valor"	
AMC		40	21	23	42	51	(3:30) ★ Gladiator		★★★ Jurassic Park ('93, Sci-Fi) Laura Dern, Sam Neill.						★★ Jurassic Park III Sam Neill.			
BET		58	26		40		Being Mary "Freedom"		Being Mary Jane		★★★ What's Love Got to Do With It? ('93, Bio) Angela Bassett.				Wendy Williams			
BRAVO		65	63		41		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Millionaire (N)		Watch (N)	Millionaire		Atlanta
CNBC		46	45		39	72	Greed "Shipwrecked"		Shark Tank		American Greed		American Greed (N)		American Greed		American Greed	
CNN		43	24	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Inside Man (N)		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360		M. Spurlock Inside	
DISC		50	20	31	24	42	Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Amish Mafia		Amish Mafia	
DISNEY		56	27	36	25	36	Liv/Mad	Austin	★★★ Mulan Ming-Na Wen.		DogBlog		Jessie	A.N.T.	I Didn't	Liv/Mad	GoodLuck	GoodLuck
ESPN		32	29	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball (L)				NCAA Basketball (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2		34	28	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball (L)				NCAA Basketball (L)				Basketb.	The Fab Five		
FAMILY		53	54	34	42	33	(5:30) ★★★★ Matilda				★★★ Jumanji ('95, Fant) Bonnie Hunt, Robin Williams.				The 700 Club		Gilmore Girls	
FNC		45	58	53	23	55	On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
FOOD		64	59	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped.Canada (N)		Beat Flay	DuffDawn	Cutthroat Kitchen		Chopped Canada	
FSSW		37	43	50	45	29	Spotlight	SportsDay OnAir (N)	Stars Pre-game (L)	NHL Hockey Airlines Center -- Dallas, Texas (L)	San Jose Sharks at Dallas Stars Site: American				Stars Live (L)	Bear Bryant Award Show		SportsDay OnAir
FX		31	31	59	64	69	★★★ The Avengers ('12, Act) Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr...						Archer (N)	Archer	Archer	★★ Jack and Jill		
HALLMARK		54	49	58		34	Waltons "The Hot Rod"		The Waltons		Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV		63	50	26	48	44	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	Rehab	Rehab	Rehab (N)	Rehab	H.Hunt	House (N)	H.Hunt	House	Rehab	Rehab
HISTORY		71	62	29	50	43	Pawn S.	Pawn Star	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn (N)	Pawn (N)	Vikings (N)		(:05) Vikings		Pawn S.	Pawn S.
LIFETIME		28	25	25	28	48	Project Runway "Some Like It Hot Dog"		Runway "Four Seasons in One Finale"		Runway "Season 4 Reunion" (N)		Little Women: LA "Pain in the Butt"		Little Women: LA "Into the Woods"		Runway "Four Seasons in One Finale"	
MSNBC		47	51		49	73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN		38	39				NHL Hockey Columbus vs Pittsburgh (L)					Overtime	NHLTop10	NASCAR (N)		NASCAR Challenge		NASCAR
NICK		55	34	39	34	37	Movie	Sponge	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	Friends	(:10) Ray	(:50) Ray
SPIKE		30	22	55	53	58	(4:00) ★ G.I. Joe: T...		★★★ Shooter ('07, Act) Michael Peña, Mark Wahlberg.						★★ G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra			
SYFY		66	64	41	57	67	(4:00) ★ Independen...		WWE Smackdown! (N)				Wizard Wars (N)		Close Up "Miami" (N)	Wizard Wars		
TBS		25	11	44	66	41	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan Ronda Rousey, Jackie Kashian (N)		The Office	Conan
TCM		41	61	24	63	66	(3:45) ★ Judgment ...		★ Dr. Strangelove (Or How I...				(:45) ★★★★ The Sand Pebbles ('66, War) Steve McQueen.					
TELE		20	8	10	20		Caso cerrado		Los miserables		Tierra de reyes		Dueños del paraiso		Al rojo	(:35) Titular.	Tierra de reyes	
TLC		51	33	32	38	52	48 Hours: Evidence "Honor and Dishonor"		48 Hours: Evidence "Ambushed"		48 Hours.. "Death at Cottonwood Creek"		48 Hours: Evidence "Death at Soho"		48 Hours: Evidence "Death at Cottonwood Creek"		48 Hours: Evidence "Death at Soho"	
TNT		24	23	40	26	50	Castle "The Mistress Always Spanks Twice"		NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Oklahoma City Thunder Site: Chesapeake Energy Arena (L)						NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs at Los Angeles Clippers Site: Staples Center -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)			
TVLAND		49	48	35	54	35	Walker, Texas Ranger		Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens	Friends	Friends
USA		26	30	42	27	49	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Solitary"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Poisoned Motive"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Brief Interlude"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Rapists Anonymous"		Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern "Fears"
WGN		19	18				America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		Mother "Noretta"	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Rules of Engage.	Rules of Engage.

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Danica Patrick to a backup car after wreck in practice

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Here are some things to know about what's going on at Daytona International Speedway, where drivers are preparing for Sunday's season-opening Daytona 500:

EARLY WRECK: Danica Patrick and Denny Hamlin wrecked during Daytona 500 practice Wednesday.

Patrick's No. 10 Chevrolet sustained enough damage that she was forced to switch to a backup car and will have to start at the back of the field in the second of two qualifying races Thursday. Hamlin's No. 11 Toyota was repairable.

Patrick and Hamlin started the pileup by making contact coming out of the second turn. Casey Mears, Michael Annett and Jeb Burton also were involved.

Patrick called it "the nature of pack racing" while Hamlin said "you always have to give a little bit extra room in practice." But neither driver took full blame, with Hamlin calling it a "miscalculation one way or another on one of our parts."

Patrick, who started on the pole for the Daytona 500 two years ago, said she's disappointed to go to a backup car.

"I know that it was a good car and it's never a good thing to crash," she said. "Sometimes there's not much you can do about it. I could have collected more people and it wouldn't have been anything that they were a part of. But that's just group racing at Daytona. That's the gamble that we all face."

POWERBALL PLAYER: Dale Earnhardt Jr. could hit the jackpot twice this week.

The two-time and defending Daytona 500 champion acknowledged Wednesday that he plays the lottery even though longtime girlfriend Amy Reimann disapproves.

Earnhardt bought a Powerball ticket while he was in New York early last week, hoping to win the $500 million jackpot.

"Amy got mad at me," Earnhardt said. "She's like, 'What the hell are you buying a Powerball ticket for? You don't need to be winning it.' And,I promised her right then I would split half with a charity. So she made me feel pretty bad."

Why does a guy who can have just about anything he wants buy a lottery ticket?

"I don't know. Everybody else was buying them, and I want to play," he said. "I want to have fun. ... We've got a group text with all the guys that work on the farm. We text pictures back and forth of our Powerball tickets to each other. So we have a little fun with that."

Earnhardt doesn't pick his own numbers. He goes with the "quickpick."

"Just give me the ticket," he said. "We were talking out of the elevator and there was this little kiosk of all kinds of different stuff and somebody was buying one when we walked by and I said, 'Hey, I'm going to get me one. I don't even know what I'm doing. Just give me the ticket.'

"When the numbers came, they popped up on my phone and that was pretty convenient. But we didn't win. Actually, I won $12 bucks. I hit the Powerball number. So that gives you something like 12 bucks."

CHASE ELIGIBILITY: NASCAR has updated eligibility for drivers to qualify for the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship. Drivers must start all races to be eligible for the 10-race Chase. Under the previous rule, drivers needed just to attempt to qualify for every race.

A driver does not lose Chase eligibility for attempting to qualify for a race and failing to make the field.

NASCAR could offer waivers in certain circumstances like it did last season for Tony Stewart and this season for Brian Vickers. He will miss the Daytona 500 and next week's race in Atlanta following heart surgery.

HISTORIC STARTER: NASCAR named series official Kim Lopez as the chief starter for Sunday's Daytona 500.

Lopez will become the first woman and first Hispanic to flag the race. Lopez is in her 11th season with NASCAR and has flagged races for the past seven years in the Xfinity Series and Truck Series. She also flagged two NASCAR Sprint Cup Series races last season.

The chief starter displays the eight flags that tell the drivers to start, slow down, move over or stop. Lopez also will wave the checkered flag when the winner crosses the finish line.

Lopez says: "You have little girls who can now look up and say, 'I can do this someday, I can be this someday.'"

QUALIFYING CHANGES: Just days after Daytona 500 pole qualifying turned into a debacle, NASCAR has tweaked qualifying procedures for its lower series at Daytona International Speedway.

The Xfinity and Camping World Truck fields will be divided into four groups instead of two for the first round and it will last 2 1/2 minutes instead of five. That should force cars to leave pit road instead of playing cat-and-mouse games with competitors.

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

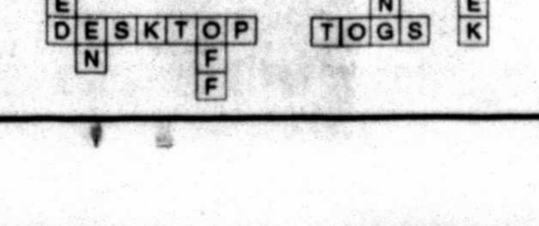
Each set of 12 tiles below contains two common six-letter words. The letters of the first six-letter word are adjacent, but not in order. Find them and rearrange them to spell a word. Rearrange the five remaining letters to spell the second word.

L A P L O A P P R O G L

N U A O O T T P M E I M

E A R R T M O N G E T A

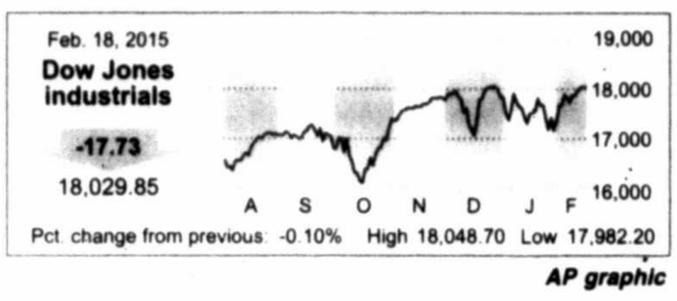
Yesterday's Answer: GRIPED DESKTOP



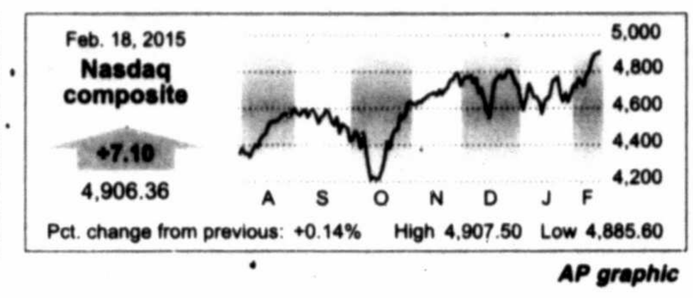
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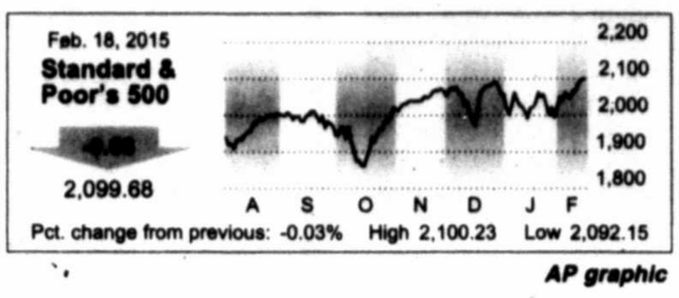
A DAY ON WALL STREET



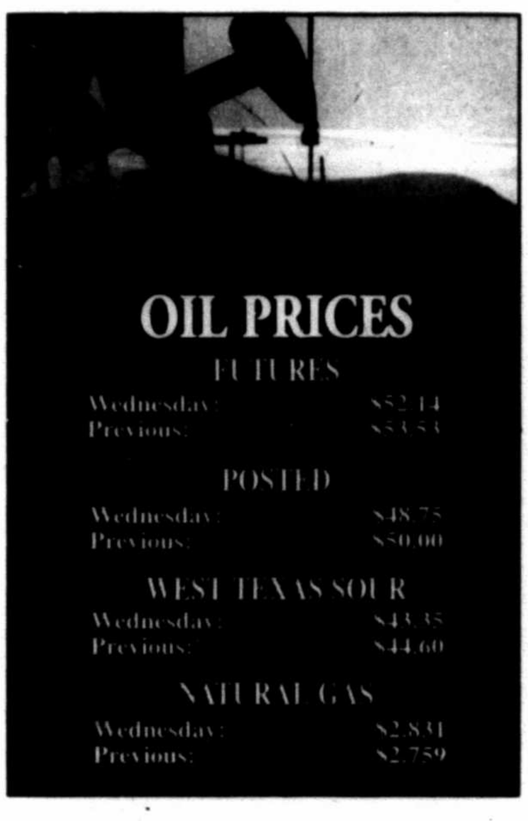
AP graphic



AP graphic



AP graphic



Fed officials currently in no hurry to raise rates

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve officials struggled last month to assess when economic data might prompt them to raise interest rates from record lows — and how to best convey their intentions to investors.

Minutes of the Fed's Jan. 27-28 meeting released Wednesday suggest that policymakers aren't ready to start raising rates anytime soon, with some expressing concerns about excessively low inflation, lingering weakness in the U.S. job market and economic threats overseas.

The Fed's benchmark interest rate has been near zero since December 2008.

Many officials "observed that a premature increase in rates might damp the apparent solid recovery in real activity and labor market conditions," said the minutes, released after a customary three-week delay.

"A fair number of policymakers still want reassurance that growth will remain strong and inflation will return to the 2 percent target before beginning the normalization process," said Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

He added that the minutes raised the odds that the first rate hike will be delayed until September or possibly even later.

Wall Street investors reacted favorably to the minutes. Losses in the stock market eased and bond prices rose, pulling the yield on the 10-year note down to 2.07 percent from 2.14 percent late Tuesday.

The minutes indicate that policymakers were worried about dropping the word "patient" to describe how long they were willing to wait, fearing that financial markets might overreact. They were also unable to determine what exactly they needed to see in economic data to begin normalizing monetary policy. What they did agree on was that "it would be difficult to specify in advance an exhaustive list of economic indicators and the values that these indicators would need to take."

On one hand, job growth has been encouraging. The government reported earlier this month that the economy created 257,000 jobs in January, wrapping up the strongest three months for hiring in 17 years. The unemployment rate rose to 5.7 percent, up from 5.6 percent in December, but the increase came for a good reason. People who had become discouraged and dropped out of the labor market resumed looking for work.

The 5.7 percent unemployment rate is close to the Fed's goal of maximum employment, which it pegs currently at 5.2 percent to 5.5 percent unemployment.

US stock market ends mostly lower

The U.S. stock market edged mostly lower on Wednesday, easing back from its latest all-time highs.

The markets barely budged following the midafternoon release of minutes from the Federal Reserve's January meeting. The transcript showed that policymakers were less likely to raise interest rates in June than investors previously thought.

The decline follows two straight days of record closing highs for the Standard & Poor's 500 index.

"The market had really gathered steam around a June tightening date, the minutes seem to have walked that back a bit," said David Lafferty, chief market strategist at Natixis Global Asset Management.

The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 17.73 points, or 0.1 percent, to 18,029.85. The S&P 500 eased 0.7 point, or 0.03 percent, to 2,099.68. The index closed at an all-time high of 2,100.34 on Tuesday.

The Nasdaq composite rose 7.10 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,906.36.

Major stock indexes opened lower early Wednesday. Energy stocks declined as the price of oil fell amid speculation that a recent rally in crude was excessive.

The price of benchmark U.S. crude, which had been rising last week, fell $1.39 to $52.14 a barrel Wednesday. The price of oil has jumped 16 percent since bottoming out at the end of January after a seven-month slump.

Samsung buying mobile-pay co. in bid to challenge Apple Pay

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Samsung is buying mobile-payment startup LoopPay as the Korean phone maker steps up to challenge Apple and its payment system on iPhones.

The deal strengthens speculation that Samsung Electronics Co. plans to include mobile-payment technology in its next major phone, which is expected to be announced March 1 at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.

Launched a year ago, LoopPay works by reproducing the signals from a credit card's magnetic swipe as users tap a LoopPay device next to a retailer's card reader. That means LoopPay should work with most retailers' existing payment terminals.

Most other mobile-payment systems, including Apple Inc.'s Apple Pay, require newer terminals with wireless chips called near-field communication, or NFC. That limits the number of retailers that can accept such payments.

But LoopPay has had trouble with some older readers; restaurants and bars often couldn't process LoopPay transactions due to a variety of hardware and software issues. It also doesn't work with transit fares, parking meters and other machines that require the customer to fully insert a card, like a bank ATM.

Plus, it's not clear what will happen when merchants hit an October deadline for accepting cards with stronger security known as EMV, as LoopPay offers only the basic magnetic signals. NFC and Apple Pay equipment are newer and enabled for EMV. LoopPay is more of a retrofit — for a system being phased out.

Nonetheless, Samsung sees enough potential to buy the company. LoopPay estimates that its system works with 90 percent of merchants. Although there are more than 200,000 payment terminals in the U.S. that can accept NFC, that's out of several million.

"Our goal has always been to build the smartest, most secure, user-friendly mobile wallet experience, and we are delighted to welcome LoopPay to take us closer to this goal," said JK Shin, head of Samsung's mobile division.

NYSE

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
BkofAm	826685	16.63	+.02
S&P500ETF	648544	210.11	+.33
CSVLgCrde	447599	3.82	+.11
FordM	435931	16.11	-.19
iShJapan	417154	11.92	-.01

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
NiskaGsSt	2.00	+.32	+19.0
Vipshop s	25.11	+3.31	+15.2
Walterlnv	23.20	+2.91	+14.3
GoodrPet	4.09	+.51	+14.2
SandRidge	2.35	+.26	+12.4

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
EKodak wt	4.21	-.74	-14.9
HelixEn	16.62	-2.46	-12.9
Voxeljet	9.26	-1.14	-11.0
M&TBk pfA	999.00	-111.00	-10.0
DxGldBull	14.30	-1.48	-9.4

Diary

Advanced	1,370
Declined	1,797
Unchanged	87
Total issues	3,254
New Highs	157
New Lows	13
Volume	3,276,929,595

Amex

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
iBio	197123	1.06	+.16
BarcGSOil	48118	12.13	+.12
NwGold g	34303	3.65	-.08
Globalstar	30051	2.55	+.15
CherwenEn	28515	76.09	+1.61

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
CT Ptrs	7.41	+.88	+13.5
CKX Lands	16.55	+1.25	+8.2
AltisrcAst	187.25	+13.72	+7.9
Daxor	6.68	+.43	+6.9
ContMatls	17.78	+1.07	+6.4

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
UnvSeclnst	5.34	-1.06	-16.5
RetractTc	4.65	-.49	-9.5
ChiRivet	31.40	-2.45	-7.2
Medgen wt	2.20	-.15	-6.4
Flanign	31.95	-2.08	-6.1

Diary

Advanced	179
Declined	224
Unchanged	30
Total issues	433
New Highs	10
New Lows	2
Volume	125,282,302

Nasdaq

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Apple Inc s	602061	127.83	+.75
Cisco	336125	29.31	-.12
Microsoft	310461	43.58	+.02
SiriusXM	266753	3.89	+.06
Zynga	259582	2.32	+.08

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Caprius n	2.43	+.66	+37.3
RosettaGn	4.80	+1.15	+31.5
VisnChina	16.70	+3.80	+29.5
SemierSc n	5.80	+1.26	+27.8
EaglePhm	26.10	+5.12	+24.4

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
VascuBio n	4.87	-9.24	-65.5
SignalGn n	2.62	-1.29	-33.0
ChiAdvCns	4.24	-1.26	-22.9
SupercndT	2.20	-.53	-19.4
Hollysys	19.06	-4.39	-18.7

Diary

Advanced	1,524
Declined	1,196
Unchanged	145
Total issues	2,865
New Highs	135
New Lows	25
Volume	1,710,591,891

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $67.22 Down 3.35

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $118.26 Up 0.10

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $6.21 Down 0.29

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $73.80 Up 0.23

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $13.25 Down 0.44

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $5.53 Down 0.15

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $19.94 Down 0.33

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $27.99 Down 1.17

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $9.61 Down 0.32

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $17.84 Down 1.11

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.88f	29	34.71	+.05	+3.3
Abraxas	...	12	3.45	-.01	+17.3
AdamsEx	1.18e	...	14.08	...	+2.9
Alcoa	12	83	15.75	-.06	-.3
Alibaba n			86.85	-2.20	-16.4
AlonUSA	40a	56	13.39	+.33	+5.7
AmExp	1.04	14	79.08	+1.00	-15.0
AmIntlGrp	.50	9	54.99	+1.03	-1.8
ARltCapP lf			9.39	-.01	+3.8
Amgen	3.16f	23	154.24	+.76	-3.2
Anadarko	1.08	...	88.67	-.77	+7.5
Apache	1.00	...	66.79	-.26	+6.6
Apple Inc s	1.88	17	127.83	+.75	+15.8
ApldMatl	.40	25	24.13	+.01	-3.2
ATMOS	1.56	17	52.54	+.02	-5.7
AutoData	1.96	29	87.11	-1.64	+4.5
BP PLC	2.40f	7	41.78	-.15	+9.6
BabsCCInv	1.20	...	15.75	-.19	-.9
BakrHu	.68	16	65.04	+.73	+16.0
BkofAm	.20	48	16.63	+.02	-7.0
B iPVixST	...	...	31.05	+.08	-1.5
BarrickG	.20	29	12.03	-.11	+11.9
BasicEnSv	...	...	7.38	+.10	+5.3
BerkHa A	...	1822	3300.00	+744.99	-1.2
BlkHillsCp	1.82f	17	58.53	-.48	-8.5
BrMySq	1.48f	50	60.10	+.06	+1.8
BrownFA	1.20f	29	91.20	+.55	+3.9
BrownFB	1.20f	29	91.24	+.52	+3.9
CVS Health	1.40f	26	103.55	+.92	+7.5
Cameron	...	12	48.61	+1.16	-2.7
Caterpillar	2.80	15	85.38	+.25	-6.7
Celestic g	...	13	12.02	+.04	+2.4
CntryLink	2.16	29	39.23	-.23	-.9
ChesEng	.35	23	21.26	+.16	+8.6
Chevron	4.28	11	112.40	-.38	+.2
Chicos	.30	29	18.07	-.31	+11.5
Cimarex	.64	18	112.54	+.53	+6.2
Cisco	.84f	18	29.31	-.12	+6.1
Citigroup	.04	23	51.69	+.49	-4.5
ClayEng	...	16	76.57	-.16	+10.6
CocaCola	1.22	26	41.61	-.18	-1.0
ColgPalm	1.44	30	70.19	+.11	+1.4
Comcast	.90	19	58.80	-.67	+1.4
ConAgra	1.00	...	33.76	-1.07	-6.9
ConchoRes	...	25	118.16	+1.05	+18.5
ConocoPhil	2.92	13	69.47	-.41	+.6
CrackerB	4.00	23	131.77	+.98	-6.4
CSVLgNGs	...	...	2.96	-.01	-25.6
CSVLgCrde	...	...	3.82	+.11	-21.9
CSVixSht	...	...	2.58	+.01	-6.5
CroeTim	2.60e	8	20.95	-.20	+21.0
DCP Mid	3.12f	31	39.97	+1.27	-12.0
DTE	2.76	16	81.91	+.35	-5.2
Dataram h	...	...	2.35	-.04	+38.2
DenburyR	.25	10	9.07	+.41	+11.6
DevonE	.96	12	66.56	+.18	+8.9
DxGldBull	...	...	14.30	-1.48	+26.1
Disney	1.15f	23	104.12	-.05	+10.5
DowChm	1.68	17	49.57	+.13	+8.7
EMC Cp	.48	22	28.30	+.31	-4.8
EOG Res s	.57	17	96.49	-.43	+4.8
EmpDist	1.04	16	25.07	+.25	-15.7
Energen	.08	27	70.54	+.64	+10.6
EngyTsfr	3.98f	...	60.39	+.22	-7.1
EnPro	.80	55	63.81	+.44	+1.7
EntPrdPt s	1.48f	23	34.39	-.05	-4.8
Ericsson	.45e	...	12.68	+.11	+6.4
ExtermanH	.80	22	32.18	-.06	-1.2
ExxonMbl	2.76	12	93.05	-.32	+.8
Facebook	...	69	75.60	-.14	-3.1
FireEye	...	...	43.84	+1.58	+38.8
FordM	.60f	20	16.11	-.19	+3.9
FrptMcM	1.25	...	20.95	+.66	-10.3
GATX	1.52f	13	59.91	-.17	+4.1
GablAutT	1.05e	...	9.89	+.04	-1.2
GAInv	3.50e	...	35.40	+.01	+1.1
GenElec	.92	17	25.17	+.02	-.4
GenMotors	1.20	23	37.24	-.38	+6.7
GeneticT rs	...	...	9.44	+1.40	+390.4
Gevo h	...	...	.28	+.05	-12.5
GoPro n	...	...	50.92	+5.65	-19.5
GtPlainEn	.96	17	26.49	-.28	-6.8
Groupon	...	...	8.06	+.09	-2.4
HalconRes	...	...	2.23	+.05	+25.3
Halliburtn	.72	11	44.67	+.88	+14.1
iShEMkts	.88e	...	40.58	-.09	+3.3
iSh20 yrT	3.32e	...	126.26	-1.93	+.3
iS Eafe	2.26e	...	63.97	+.15	+5.1
iShH2K	1.51e	...	121.91	+.38	+1.9
iShREst	2.81e	...	80.08	-.23	+4.2
iBio	...	...	1.06	+.16	+54.7
IntegrysE	2.72	19	75.83	+.27	-2.6
Intel	.96	15	34.74	+.38	-4.3
InterDig	.80	...	50.89	+.63	-3.8
JPMorgCh	1.60	11	60.10	+.43	-3.3
JohnJn	2.80	18	100.44	+.82	-8.9
KimbClk	3.36	28	111.27	+.27	-3.7
LegacyRes	2.44	...	13.69	+.34	+19.8
Lubys	...	...	5.11	+.06	+12.3
MGM Rsts	...	73	21.87	+.41	+2.3
MVJrGold	...	...	26.15	-.85	+9.3
MktVGold	.12e	...	20.57	-.69	+11.9
McDnlds	3.40	20	94.35	-1.30	+.7
Medtronic	1.22	27	78.07	+2.81	+8.1
Merck	1.80f	14	58.79	-.02	+3.5
MerrMisd	...	36	17.41	+.14	+.8
MescoEn	...	63	5.66	+.17	+4.6
MicronT	...	10	32.33	+.48	-7.7
Microsoft	1.24	18	43.58	+.02	-6.2
Nabors	.24	11	13.30	+.57	+2.5
NBGreece	...	...	1.63	+.02	-8.9
NatGrid	3.46e	...	67.83	-.96	-4.3
NOilVarco	1.84	9	55.13	+1.77	-15.9
NvMAd	.80e	...	13.86	-.19	-.7
NvPlIII	.80e	...	13.60	-.28	-2.6
NuvPI	.82e	...	13.76	-.16	-.7
NSTFI3	.80e	...	14.37	-.21	+.8
NTXGl	.86e	...	14.17	-.18	-2.0
OcciPet	2.60	14	82.53	-.80	+2.4
Orbitz	...	78	11.64	-.04	+41.4
PerTech	...	...	5.44	-.07	-11.5
PerkDrl	...	10	3.86	+.06	+16.0
PetIUTI	.40	17	18.80	+.36	+11.5
PennaRE	.84f	...	24.81	-.02	+4.5
Prmian	1.02e	9	10.41	+.22	+9.0
Petrobras	.46e	...	7.10	+.12	-2.7
Pfizer	1.12f	24	34.88	-.00	+11.6
PloNrl	.08	25	157.66	-.19	+5.9
PlatneAAP	2.70f	23	81.77	+.29	+.9
PwShs QQQ	1.45e	...	107.01	+.10	+3.5
Praxair	2.80f	23	127.45	+.56	-1.6
PrmEgy	...	9	54.00	...	-25.8
PUltVixST	...	...	22.68	+.11	-9.8
PrUltCrude	...	...	9.34	+.15	-9.9
ProctGam	2.57	26	86.49	-.41	-6.1
RangeRs	.16	23	52.44	+1.60	-1.9
RegionsFn	.20	12	9.68	+.16	-8.3
RiteAid	...	25	8.20	-.14	+9.0
RosettaGn	...	...	4.80	+1.15	+112.4
Rowan	.40	14	24.71	+.76	+6.0
RoyDShlA	3.76	13	66.40	+.08	-.8
SpdrDJIA	3.47e	...	180.57	+.23	+1.5
SP500ETF	3.83e	...	210.11	+.33	+2.2
SabnR	4.02e	10	42.40	+.39	+18.5
SanderFm	.88e	7	79.88	+1.02	-5.3
SandRidge	...	47	2.35	+.26	+29.1
Schlmbrg	2.00f	21	88.89	+.51	+4.1
SeadrillLtd	...	2	12.65	+.33	+5.9
SigmaAld	.92	33	136.30	+.10	+.8
SiriusXM	...	43	3.89	+.06	+11.1
Smucker	2.56	20	113.21	-.68	+12.1
Sprint	...	...	5.18	-.05	+24.8
SP Engy	1.85e	...	82.29	+.25	+4.0
SPDR Fncl	.40e	...	24.51	+.06	-.9
SP Util	1.50e	...	45.13	-.04	-4.4
SuncorL s	1.80f	27	44.65	-.07	+6.9
TeleFEsp	.97e	...	14.98	-.03	+6.4
Tesoro	1.70f	13	83.26	+1.34	+12.0
3M Co	4.10f	22	166.92	+.98	+1.6
Torchmrk s	.51	13	53.98	-.07	-.4
Transocn	3.00	...	19.05	...	+3.9
TriContl	.75e	...	21.89	-.01	+1.8
21stCFoxA	.30	8	35.06	+.35	-8.7
Twitter	...	...	46.03	-.47	+33.9
TylerTech	...	65	116.34	-.94	+6.4
UBWV	1.28	19	37.00	+.25	-1.0
US OilFd	...	...	19.79	+.17	-2.8
Vale SA	.55e	...	7.99	-.06	-2.3
ValenE	1.60f	9	58.73	+.13	+18.6
VascoDta	...	38	27.97	+.11	-.9
VerizonCm	2.20	20	49.18	-.13	+5.1
Vipshop s	...	...	25.11	+3.31	+28.5
VulcanM	.40f	50	50.76	+.89	+22.9
WsigBoots	1.35	37	78.00	-.73	+2.4
WstnRefin	1.20	11	41.45	+.64	+9.7
WhitngPet	...	9	39.29	+.76	+19.1
WmsCos	2.32f	69	49.65	+.24	+10.5
XcelEngy	1.20	17	36.19	+.19	-2.0
Xerox	.29f	16	13.09	-.06	-1.2
Yahoo	...	6	43.53	-.89	-13.8
Zynga	...	...	2.32	+.08	-12.8

Can't find your favorite stocks or mutual funds listed?
Send your favorite to sdoreen@mrt.com or mmcewen@mrt.com.
We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
18,103.45	15,733.99	Dow Jones Industrials	18,047.58	+28.23	+.16	+1.26	+11.89
9,310.22	7,133.72	Dow Jones Transportation	9,045.08	+11.00	+.12	-1.04	+25.07
657.17	500.14	Dow Jones Utilities	583.37	-.46	-.08	-4.00	+14.07
11,108.30	9,886.08	NYSE Composite	11,054.46	+11.78	+.11	+1.99	+7.13
4,693.84	3,946.03	Nasdaq Composite	4,899.27	+5.43	+.11	+3.45	+14.88
2,097.03	1,791.83	S&P 500	2,100.34	+3.35	+.16	+2.01	+14.10
1,503.00	1,209.45	S&P Midcap	1,502.89	-.09	-.01	+3.48	+10.89
22,120.82	19,144.05	Wilshire 5000	22,182.31	+31.50	+.14	+2.23	+12.34
1,223.74	1,040.47	Russell 2000	1,225.01	+1.88	+.15	+1.89	+5.47

TODAY: Mostly sunny — High: 69 Low: 45
FRIDAY: Partly sunny — High: 78 Low: 52
SATURDAY: Sunny — High: 73 Low: 38
SUNDAY: Mostly sunny — High: 54 Low: 31
MONDAY: Partly sunny — High: 54 Low: 31
TUESDAY: Mostly sunny — High: 57 Low: 36

Local forecast

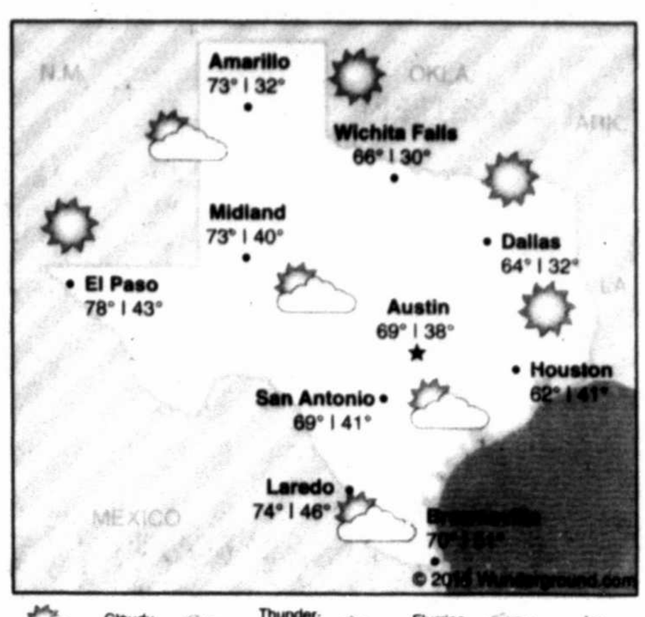
Expect mostly sunny skies today with a high around 69 and south winds 5-10 mph. Tonight's forecast calls for partly clear skies with a low around 45 and south winds 5-10 mph.

On Friday, look for partly sunny skies with a high near 78 and west winds 5-15 mph. Friday night look for partly cloudy skies with a low around 52 and southwest winds 10-15 mph.

The high on Wednesday reached 69, while the low dropped to 31. The record high for Feb. 18 is 87 set in 1996. The record low is 12 set in 1942 and 1936.

National forecast

A snowstorm will intensify over parts of northern New England today as the fast-moving system that brought snow squalls to the area strengthens over the Atlantic Ocean. Arctic air will extend from the Midwest to the Atlantic and the northeastern Gulf coasts. Gusty winds will add to the magnitude of the cold air. Additional flurries and snow squalls will extend from the Great Lakes to the central Appalachians. The air mass will challenge daily record lows in parts of the Midwest, the Mid-Atlantic and the South into the weekend.

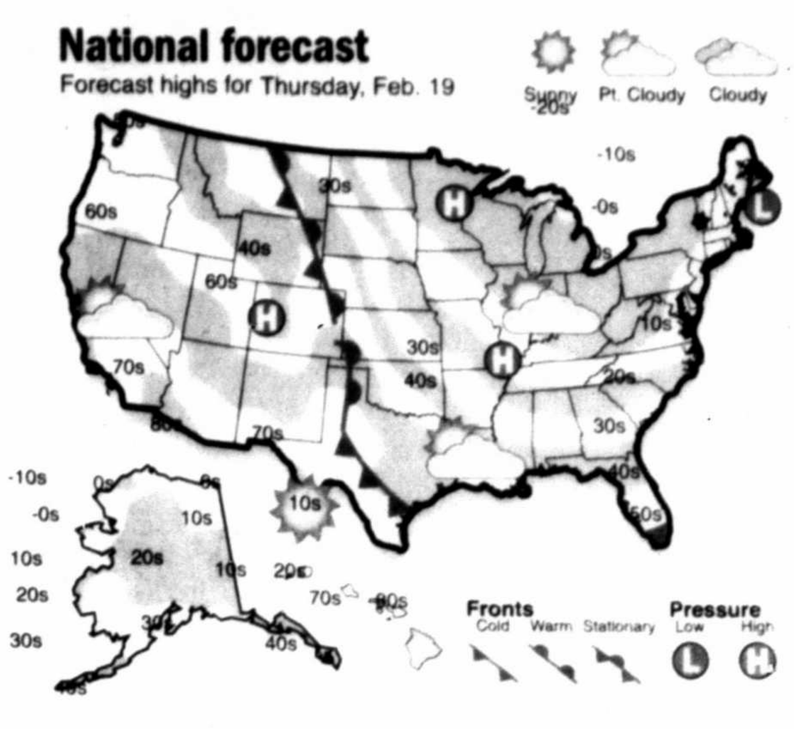


Precipitation

Tuesday	0.10 in.
Wednesday	0.00 in.
Month total	0.10 in.
Year total	2.53 in.
Normal total (year to date)	1.03 in.

Wednesday's temperatures

High	69
Low	31
Normal high	63
Normal low	35
Sunrise	7:27 a.m.
Sunset	6:38 p.m.



Compulsive shoplifter knows it's wrong, but just can't stop

DEAR ABBY



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

DEAR ABBY: I need help! I have shoplifted several times. I was caught and have a police record. I am a grandparent. I know it's wrong, and I don't do it all the time. Is this a mental disorder, or am I just being stupid? If I know this is wrong, why do I keep doing it? And where do I start to look for help? — STICKY FINGERS

DEAR STICKY FINGERS: Some people shoplift because they are criminals, some do it for "thrills," and others do it to make up for something else that is missing in their lives. Because you know what you are doing is wrong, would like to understand your compulsion and want to stop, the person to discuss this with is a psychologist. Your physician can refer you to one, or contact your state psychological association to find someone in your area.

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend and I have called it quits after three years. Distance was the main reason. It wasn't a bad breakup, but it's still a difficult transition for both of us. She would rather we not see or speak to each other for a while to let things heal.

Her birthday is coming up soon, and I don't feel right not acknowledging it. Her special day means a lot to her, and I still love and respect her for who she is. Is sending a card and gift appropriate, or should I just leave her be? — DISTANCE WAS THE REASON

DEAR DISTANCE: Send a birthday card and tell her that because the day is special, you couldn't let it pass unacknowledged. It shouldn't be necessary to send a gift in light of the fact that you are no longer a couple.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is getting married in September. In June, she's planning to have a bachelorette party in Mexico.

My husband and I have never been to Mexico and thought, "Why not kill two birds with one stone?" Because I'm afraid of flying, I want my husband and son to also go to Mexico, but stay at a different resort. The party is only for three days, so when everyone else goes home, my husband and I will extend our stay.

I have gone on girl vacations to Las Vegas before, where my husband has traveled with me and then gone and done his own thing. We would meet up after the girl vacation. I don't see a problem with his traveling to Mexico, but my daughter absolutely objects. What do you think? — NO PROBLEM IN COLORADO

DEAR NO: Could this be a telltale warning sign of a budding bridezilla? Your daughter appears to be making a problem where none exists. If your husband and son will stay at a different resort, they might as well be back in the states. That they are in Mexico shouldn't inconvenience or inhibit your daughter at all.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO MY ASIAN READERS: The Lunar New Year begins today. This year is the year of the goat. People born in the year of the goat are gentle, serene, calm and mild-mannered. They are creative, persevering, resilient and possess excellent defensive skills. They prefer to be in groups and work in teams and, I am told, they can be flirtatious. A happy, healthy and prosperous new year to all who celebrate it. — Love, ABBY

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Bridge cruelty

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q
A 10 6 3
J 2
♣ K Q J 8 3

WEST
♠ 8 7 5 2
K J 8 7 5
Q 10
♣ 7 2

EAST
♠ 9 6 3
9
A K 9 7 4
♣ 10 9 6 5

SOUTH
♠ A J 10 4
Q 4 2
8 6 5 3
♣ A 4

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♣	1	1♠	Pass
2	Pass	3	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦

Some things that happen in bridge might best be described as "magic." Today's auction is an example. The only artificial bid was the three-diamond cue-bid, creating a game force. South was hoping North could bid three no-trump with a diamond stopper or show three-card spade support. North could do neither of those things and chose to support spades with his strong doubleton.

Magic! They reached the only game contract that had a chance. Three no-trump is off the first five diamond tricks and five clubs will lose two diamonds and one heart. The four-spade contract is so good that it can withstand a defense that starts with three rounds of diamonds. Dummy ruffs with the queen, cashes the trump king and declarer crosses back to his hand with the club ace to draw the remaining trumps. All that is required is a 4-3 trump split — the percentage split.

So what happened? When this deal occurred at a recent tournament, East found a diabolical defense. East overtook the queen of diamonds opening lead with the king and shifted to the 10 of clubs! South, convinced that this shift was from a singleton, rose with his ace and drew four rounds of trumps. He then led a club and inserted dummy's eight when West played low. East won his nine and cashed two more diamond tricks to defeat the contract. In the end, the four-spade contract suffered the same fate as three no-trump and five clubs.

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 Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015:

This year you understand a lot more about the people around you and what drives them. You could form a new friendship with someone who is older. You also might experience an old friendship becoming less reliable and more difficult. Be aware of a tendency to alleviate anger by going shopping. If you are single, you will weed out those who are not sensitive to your needs. As a result, you will create a more authentic relationship with the right kind of person. If you are attached, you often can be found daydreaming, especially when you are with your significant other. Try to be more present. A fellow PISCES might not be easy to share with, as he or she is rarely available.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ You will have a difficult time being subtle, but this kind of reticent behavior might be appropriate at the moment. You could have an important conversation about a potential trip with a friend. Listen carefully to what he or she wants to share. Tonight: Let off some steam.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Zero in on what you desire. Verbalizing what you want is far more important than you realize, especially as you are starting to deal with someone who tends to be less communicative. A comment could force you back to the drawing board. Tonight: Don't swallow your anger!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★ Take charge if you want to have a project come out exactly as you would like. Run with the ball, yet still listen to others' suggestions. Rather than saying "no," keep their ideas in mind. You never know when one might work. Tonight: Work off some extra energy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance or to someone who seems to have a different view from you. A lack of energy will be a valid reason to hold off on making a decision. Be aware of the role that making a change has in energizing you. Tonight: A sudden burst of energy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Fortunately, you deal well with others; however, a spacey individual could stop you in your tracks. You might need to listen more closely to what this person is saying. Note what he or she doesn't say, as that could have unusual significance. Tonight: Try something different.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Others will seek you out, though you might not be up for a prolonged one-way conversation. You could try to add more fun to the exchanges. Ultimately, you will find that sharing your feelings is likely to add some fuel to your interactions. Tonight: Stay centered.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ Your focus will be on getting your work done. How you see a personal matter could change once you attempt to initiate a conversation. Clearly, the other party seems more vested in control than in expressing his or her feelings. Tonight: Back away from a volatile situation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Your creativity and curiosity can be powerful tools when mixed together. Your ability to move past a situation and find a much better path is likely to emerge. Others often seek you out for advice; they want some of this magic! Tonight: Go to the gym first.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ You might have a difficult time feeling energized right now. Don't push yourself so hard. You could hear some news that encourages a lively conversation. People could fly off the handle, but by then, you will be a big ball of energy. Tonight: Do what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ You might be hard-pressed to understand where a friend is really coming from. Just when you seem to be able to focus on the conversation, this person is likely to close down. Tonight: Work off steam.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ While others seem locked in conversation, you will want to take a closer look at your budget. Money could be a hot topic right now. You might want to reassess a personal situation, which is likely to involve extra funds. Tonight: Start pricing out your options.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ You will be able to read between the lines. Getting confirmation of what you see could be virtually impossible. A power play might affect a friendship. Be careful in handling this situation. Tonight: Do your best not to go overboard.

BORN TODAY

Singer/songwriter Smokey Robinson (1940), singer Seal (1963), astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus (1473)

DAILY CROSSWORD

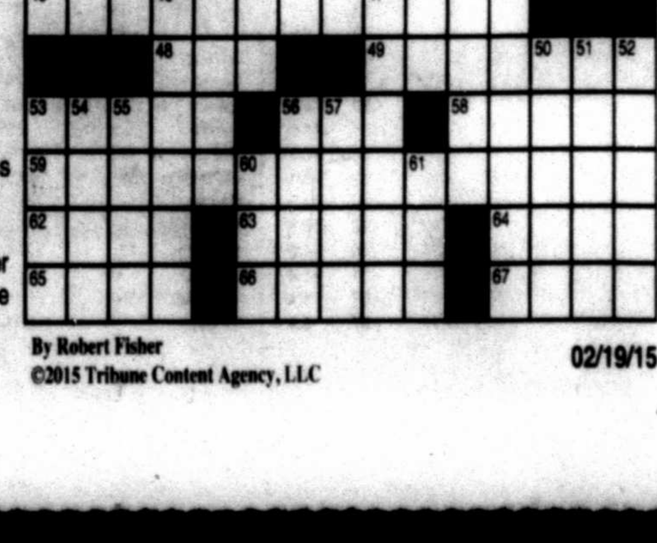
ACROSS
1 Explosive sound
5 Outer __
10 Not even ajar
14 "Born to Die" singer/songwriter Del Rey
15 Stadium divisions
16 Son of Leah
17 "You're living in the past," nowadays
20 Flower celebrated in an annual Ottawa festival
21 Move the boat, in a way
22 Painting option
23 Like a typical farmer's market
25 "Gotcha!"
26 "You can't go there," nowadays
32 Peace Nobelist Sakharov
35 Elijah Blue's mom
36 __ de coeur: impassioned plea
37 "Gone With the Wind" setting
38 "Whew!"
39 Sit a spell
40 The Pac-12's Beavers
41 Ego
43 Citrine or amethyst
45 "Nobody can go there," nowadays
48 A Bobbsey twin
49 Stops
53 Early New Zealand settler
56 "Something __, something ..."
58 Bug
59 "Never heard of you," nowadays
62 Cinch
63 Sci-fi staple
64 Golf shot
65 Breton, e.g.
66 Band tour stop, perhaps
67 Building additions

DOWN
1 Olive Oyl pursuer
2 Eagerly consume
3 One with degrees?
4 Sauce of southern Italy
5 Norm: Abbr.
6 Capital ENE of Custer
7 Prefix with 5-Across
8 Intercollegiate sport
9 Lawyer's letters
10 Moccasin, for one
11 Man around the Haus
12 Layer in the eye
13 Considerable
18 Posthaste
19 Escort
24 "Here," on Metro maps
25 "... to Billie Joe"
27 Act the cynic
28 Coming up short
29 Bakery specialist
30 Before, to a bard
31 Scatterbrain
32 On the highest point of
33 Apollo's creator
34 Pharmacopeia listing
38 Abbreviation on a lunch menu
39 Splendor
41 Gastropod for a gourmet
42 Geochronological span
43 "¿__ pasa?"
44 Three-time Indy winner Bobby
46 Transported
47 Favored to win
50 "60 Minutes" regular
51 Sri Lankan language
52 What a pedometer counts
53 Catchall file abbr.
54 Archer of "Fatal Attraction"
55 Common face shape
56 Redolence
57 Jiffy
60 "Science Friday" radio host Flatow
61 Greek "H"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

O	A	T	H	S		A	F	A	R		A	C	E	R
P	L	A	I	T		C	A	F	E		R	O	P	E
T	A	D	L	I	N	C	O	L	N		R	O	S	S
		P	L	E	B	E		E	T	A	L	I	A	
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A	G	I	N		T	A	K	E	S	A	H	I	N	T
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E	D	G	Y		P	A	N	T		T	W	I	X	T

xwordeditor@aol.com 02/19/15



By Robert Fisher
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ENERGY & UTILITIES

JOIN THE SUDDENLINK FAMILY AND EXPERIENCE THE SUDDENLINK DIFFERENCE!





NOW HIRING! BROADBAND TECHNICIANS

Exclusive to our Broadband Technicians, we will pay for an Associate Degree in Broadband Technology.
This program allows Broadband Technicians to take online courses and develop lifelong skills.
*Must meet minimum requirements

Suddenlink also provides a Broadband Technician self-progression program.
Broadband Technicians are able to self-progress once they have successfully passed the Broadband Premise Installer (BPI) certification.

Additional Perks!

- Comprehensive benefits including medical, dental & vision
- 401(k) plan with company match
- Generous discounts on Suddenlink services
- Paid vacation and holidays
- Fun and competitive work environment
- Career advancement opportunities
- Tuition discounts with national colleges and more!

i am suddenlink

OTHER JOBS

NOW HIRING EXTRA! EXTRA!

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN IT'S DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm -4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person

Starting pay $10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be $11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN IT'S DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

NOW HIRING EXTRA! EXTRA!

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to work Monday, thru Saturday, from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here late till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person

Starting pay $10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be $11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at

SKILLED LABOR

PRESSMAN/ PRESSMAN TRAINEE

The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an immediate opening in its Production Department for the position of: PRESSMAN/ PRESSMAN TRAINEE for our Harris N 1650 Printing presses.

This 5-6 day per week, fast paced, deadline oriented position, requires: night shift/weekend work, with a strong emphasis on safety. The Midland Reporter-Telegram offers a full package of company benefits including 401K program. Salary DOE

$1,000 Sign On Bonus
(payable after 90-day probation period)

Send resume and salary requirements to: John Maddox, Director of Production/Facilities c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram 201 E. Illinois St., Midland, TX 79701. E-mail:jmaddox@hearstnp.com
Midland Reporter-Telegram is part of Hearst Corporation.
NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Accounts Receivable

Natural Gas Services Group is seeking an Accounts Receivable Specialist for our Midland Office. Duties will include invoicing, customer service, sales reports and back-up receptionist. Experience with electronic billing required. The qualified candidate will exhibit dependability, professional demeanor, integrity, accuracy and strong problem-solving skills. 1+ years A/R experience with intermediate to advanced skills in Microsoft Excel required. High school diploma/GED with some college preferred. Competitive salary and benefit package offered. E-mail resumes to employment@ngsg.com

Financial Accountant

Oil & Gas energy firm in Midland, TX. is looking to fill a Financial Accounting position. This position will maintain and control all general ledger accounts and business transactions. Duties will also include the preparation of monthly financial statements and all year-end audit reconciliations. Candidate must have excellent computer and communication skills. College degree in Accounting or Finance required. Benefits include 401K and Cafeteria Plan. Mail resume to Financial Accountant, 211 N. Colorado, Midland, TX. 79701 or email to employment@westtexasgas.com

AUTOMOTIVE

GM Certified Tech

Multi-line Dealership in Ruidoso, NM is seeking GM Certified Technicians. Please visit www.needtechs.com for more detailed information regarding this opportunity.

Mechanic

Petroplex Pipe & Construction, Inc.
2802 WCR 111
Midland, TX 79706-3840
Shop and field mechanic wanted. Need to be able to use scanners and lap top to diagnose and repair vehicles. Need to have valid drivers license, good driving record and pass alcohol and drug test. Contact Keith Poertner: 432-557-5202

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

• Receptionist/Bilingual • Administrative Assistant
• Part Time Data Entry • HR/CFO Assistant
• Counter Sales/Customer Service/Floor Sales
• Executive Admin./HR/Payroll
• Temporary, Temp to Hire/Direct Hire
Email resumes to resume@igotthejobs.com

Staffing Resources
684-0527

Manager

America's Storage Center in Midland is Looking to hire a full time manager. Must work weekdays with flexible hours between 8am-6pm & some Saturdays. No phones calls, please stop by or mail resumes to 4011 N. Midland Drive, Midland, TX 79707 for more information.

Receptionist/Assistant

Immediate opening for front office receptionist/office assistant. Must be able to multi-task, dependable, self-starter, computer literate (Microsoft Office). Job duties include answer phones, file, data entry, errands. Full time position offers excellent benefits. Real estate experience preferred. Salary DOE. Email resumes to accounting@thismgmt.com

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Pre K Teacher with Leadership Qualities

Great hourly pay! Loving? Responsible? Honest? Take pride in self-work? No Nights & weekends. HS Diploma & background check. Will work with Graduating Seniors planning to attend local colleges. Call 432-684-8270 for interview. Cottage of Mama Bear

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Oilfield Mechanics & Machinist

Payton Machine & Supply in Borger, TX. seeking oilfield mechanics & machinists needing a steady job. We offer holiday pay, health insurance & vacation. Please call 806-274-5221 - ask for Payton Lumpkin.

Supervisor, Crew Members, Vacuum Truck Driver

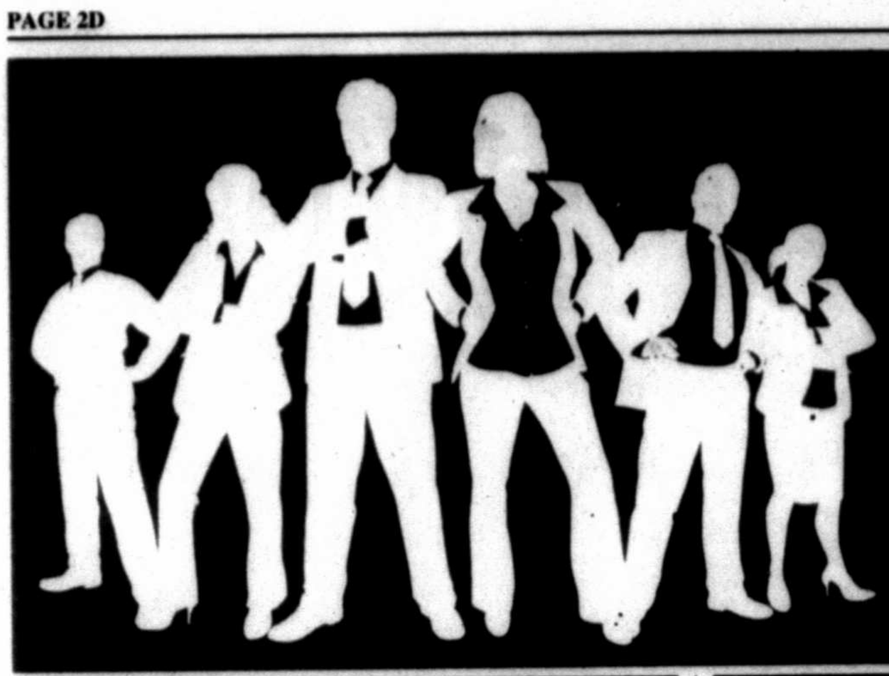
Local Oilfield company seeking Supervisors & Crew Members for Pit Cleaning/ Tally & Drift Casing. Vacuum Truck Drivers needed. Please call 337-504-5412

Mechanical Engineers - Abilene, Texas

Lauren Engineers & Constructors, "Designing and Building Success" Lauren is seeking Mechanical Engineers for our office in Abilene, Texas. • 5+ years of experience required. • Experience in power and refining preferred. • Professional license preferred. Send resumes to: adminjobs@laurenec.com. About Lauren: Lauren Engineers & Constructors provides comprehensive engineering, procurement and construction services to the heavy industrial sector through North America and select international markets. Through a network of strategic offices across the United States, Canada and India, Lauren serves the following markets: power generation, solar power, oil and gas, refining, metals and mining, chemicals and polymers. www.laurenec.com. 325-734-3936. Lauren is an Equal Opportunity Employer. EEO W/W/Veterans/Disabled.

LAUREN ENGINEERS & CONSTRUCTORS

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HEALTHCARE

Available Position

Desert Gardens Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
3203 Sage Street
Midland, TX 79705

Desert Gardens, located in Midland, Texas, is currently seeking staff to fill the following position:

- **Social Worker**

Full Benefits
$1,000 SIGN ON BONUS AFTER 6 MONTHS!!!
Apply in person.

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:

- **Nurse Weekend Doubles**
- **CNA 2pm-10pm**
- **CNA 10pm-6am**
- **Housekeeper**

Full benefits
$1,000 SIGN ON BONUS
Apply in person.

Front Office Reception

Looking for a Full Time or Part Time front office receptionist who has EMR and medical experience. Job duties include answering phones, check patients in etc. Mon-Thur 8am-5pm. Fri 8am-2pm. Fax resumes (432) 694-7414

MIDLAND PLASTIC SURGERY CENTER

Is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

- **RN/ LVN/ MEDICAL ASSISTANT**
- **RECEPTIONIST/ SCHEDULER**
- **BILLING AND COLLECTIONS**

All positions are full time Monday thru Friday 8:30 to 5:30

Benefits include Health, Life and AFLAC insurance coverages, PTO and 401-K

Please email kevin.cook@msa.bz
or fax resume to 432-697-7089

Opthalmic Technician

Tech needed with EMR experience to work 8am-5pm Mon-Thur & Fri 8am-2pm. Screening patients, vision and diagnostic testing and assist physician with minor surgical procedures. Fax resumes to (432) 694-7414

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

HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

Maintenance & Breakfast Attendant

Holiday Inn Express, I-20 now hiring Maintenance & Breakfast Attendant. Apply in person 900 Crump Street, Midland. 432-685-9020

Maintenance, Front Desk & Night Audit

Holiday Inn Express
5309 N. Loop 250 W.
Midland, TX 79707

Now hiring Full Time Maintenance, Front Desk & Night Audit. Professional appearance required. Will train the right person. Serious inquiries only. Apply in person only. No phone calls. Competitive pay.

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

Maintenance Engineer

Commercial Properties Only- Knowledge of building systems preferred. Rotating on call nights and weekends, mandatory. Salary DOE, paid vacation, 401K and Insurance. Call 432-976-9999

OTHER JOBS

All Positions

La Bodega Mexican Restaurant now hiring for all positions. Please apply in person at 2700 N. Big Spring Street Mon. - Fri. 2-4pm.

Employment Specialist, Resident Guard & Cooks

Looking for a second retirement? Company funded, 100% vested in as little as 6 years. Please apply online at www.dismas.com or in person at 24 W Industrial Loop, Midland, TX. Residential re-entry center wants Cooks, Guard 1, and Employment Specialist.

Purchasing Agent

Basin Engine and Pump

Purchasing Agent- Inventory management experience required, knowlege of pumps and related products preferred. Benefit package. Salary based on experience. Please send resume to Todd@basinengine.com

SUPERVISORS & MAIDS

Janitorial help needed Supervisors & Maids to work Monday through Friday. This is great supplemental income. Apply at 1307 N. Big Spring between 8:30am-5:30pm.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY DRIVER

Griffin Oil, Midland Position. Class A, CDL/Hazmat, 1 year experience, good MVR, full benefit package. Position includes warehouse duties and truck deliveries. Call 806-744-2067. Ask for the Transportation Dept. Fax 806-785-4182

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

CRACKER BARREL NOW HIRING!

Looking for more pay? Look no more. We provide you with an exceptional training program that rewards you with a raise at the completion of each level. That's up to 3 raises in your first year! We also offer great promotion opportunities, flexible scheduling, paid vacation, benefits and a 401K savings plan.

- **PM & Weekend SERVERS** - No tip outs/ tip share
- **GRILL COOKS** - Starting at $15.00
- **HOT PREP COOK** - Starting at $15.00
- **DISHWASHER** - Starting at $13.00

Stop by **3108 North Loop 250 West Midland, TX 79707** or call **432-689-3137 www.crackerbarrel.com Cracker Barrel EOE**

Host Staff, Cooks and Dishwashers

The Garlic Press is hiring Host Staff, Cooks and Dishwashers. Flexible hours. Great work environment and benefits. Apply in person at The Garlic Press in Oak Ridge Square at Wadley and Garfield. 11am-2pm only.

RETAIL JOBS

Cashier

Health Food Store is taking applications for energetic and friendly full-time cashiers. Morning shifts or afternoon shifts. Pleasant work environment, friendly customers, caring management, generous employee discount and paid vacations. Apply in person Monday through Friday only 9am to 5pm at Natural Foods Market, 2311 W. Wadley, Midland.

Evening Shifts

Smokers' Discount & Liquor
2101 Rankin Hwy, Call 432-570-5336 for an appointment

SALES JOBS

SALES ASSOCIATES - FULL AND PART TIME

Wood's Boots in Midland is adding to our team. We are looking for talented **full and part time Sales Associates.** Stop in today and pick up an application at 4803 Andrews Hwy, Midland.

SKILLED LABOR

Cabinet Maker

Experienced Cabinet Maker starting at $15.00 per hour with probation period of 60 days to determine hourly rate increase. 40 hours per week. Paid weekly. Experienced applicants only apply. Please send resumes to P-105 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79701

Electrician and Apprentices

TTG Electric Co., is hiring electricians and apprentices at high scale. Send resume to **ttg@hot.rr.com** or call our office at 254-526-7284.

Electrician Helper

18 years of age with good transportation. Must live in Midland area, must pass drug test. Call 432-967-5529 from 8am-5pm

First Class Lineman/Journeyman

Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. is seeking a First Class Lineman/Journeyman. The position requires 5-years experience as an electrical line worker or equivalent experience. Must possess a valid Texas Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with a good driving record. Anyone interested may pick up a Job application, along with a copy of the position description at CVEC's headquarters building located at 2530 Pullman Street, San Angelo, Texas. If out of town please call for application at 325-655-6957.

Heavy Equipment Mechanic

Permian Tractor Sales seeking **Experienced Heavy Equipment Mechanic**. Must furnish own tools. Vacation, Insurance, 401K, Uniforms. Competitive pay. Apply in person **210 E 67th Odessa, TX. 432-367-8628**

Instrumentation Technician

Qualifications:

- Oil Field Facilities
- Emerson
- ABB Total Flow
- Cameron Meters
- Hart Protocols
- MOD Bus Protocols

Send Resume To: Renzo.Navarrete@proctekweb.com

Pipefitter

Morrow Renewables needing Pipefitter with 5 to 10 years experience. Contact Yael at 432-934-5455 for more information or apply in person at 10818 WCR 72, Midland, Texas.

QUALIFIED HVAC TECHNICIANS WANTED

Established commercial HVAC Service Company seeks qualified HVAC technicians for its Midland/Odessa service operations. Five years experience with Texas commercial certification required. Full benefit package. Respond to service@berger-engr.com.

Small Engine Mechanic

Experience preferred, but will train the right person. Apply at Lawnmower Sales & Service, 901 N. Whitaker, Odessa or call 432-333-3126

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

CDL Class A Drivers

Phoenix Lease Services - Midland, Texas. Minimum Requirements for Drivers: N or X Endorsement. HAZMAT endorsement a PLUS! Good MVR and Work History. Winch and/or Vacuum Trucks. 2 yrs experience (preferred) **Driver Benefits:** Sign-On Bonus, Safety / Performance Bonus, FREE Health insurance (Employee ONLY), Employee Housing Available, Local runs ONLY. Paid holidays and vacations. Apply in person at **8310 West IH 20** OR contact **432-563-9800.**

CDL Drivers

Class A CDL Drivers Needed!!!! Great pay, benefits and work environment. Qualified Class A CDL drivers must have clean driving record and background, pass pre-employment drug test and good work history. Call **432-617-5000** for more information or apply at **7600 WCR 116** Midland, TX.

TNT

YOU WANT TO BE THE BEST,

COME WORK FOR THE BEST!

Our Midland, TX Branch is Looking for

Certified Crane Operators & Class A Drivers

Class A CDL Required
NCCCO Required
Email resume to:
jharrison@tntcrane.com
or
Fax Resume (432) 242-4980

Lead Diesel Mechanic

R&C Trucks - Thermopolis, WY. Immediate openings available for diesel Mechanic position. Will be diagnosing and repairing medium to heavy-duty trucks, various heavy equipment and trailers. Must be experienced in CAT & Cummins ISX engines. Salary DOE, Competitive wages, benefits & OT over 40 hrs. Must have drivers license, clean MVR & pass a drug test. Please call 307-864-3340 with any questions. Resumes can be sent to PO BOX 1249 Thermopolis, WY 82443

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

General

NEWSPAPER STREET CORNER SALES

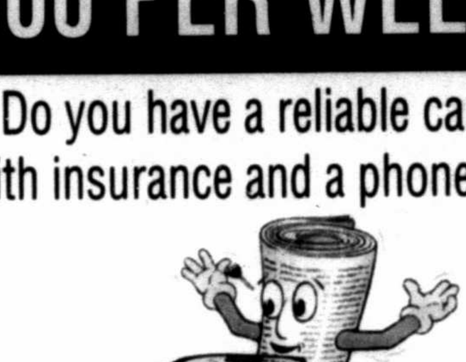


Selling Newspapers On The Street Corners
(avg. income $50.00 - $100.00/day)

MUST BE AT LEAST 14 YEARS OLD
SUNDAYS ONLY
IF INTERESTED CALL
TOMMY 967-2267

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone??



Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

Contact: Linda 687-8807

LEGAL

Paralegal

Fivecoat & Rogers, PLLC, is looking for a full time secretarial/paralegal position. Must be detail oriented and have great organizational skills. Experience is a must. Please no phone calls. Submit your resume to office@fivecoatlaw.com.



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Beats standing on the street corner!

The Bottom Line

76 percent of adults have read a daily newspaper in the past five days.

Source: Scarborough Research, 2005

Midland Reporter-Telegram

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Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale is Tuesday - March 3rd, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. at 709 West Wadley Avenue Midland, Texas. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash, immediate removal required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property includes contents of spaces of following delinquent tenants: Brenda Lopez, household goods; Eileen Heasley, household goods; Brittany Hall, household goods; Brandon Govan, household goods.
Property from the above listed delinquent tenants will be sold as individual units. For further information contact A-Plus Super Storage, 432-683-2500.

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR OIL & GAS
WASTE DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT

Endeavor Energy Resources, LP, 110 N. Marienfeld, Ste. 200 Midland, Texas 79701

is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation which is not productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the Bryant Ranch SWD 37 Well Number (s) 2.

The proposed disposal well is located 16 Miles in a South direction from Midland, Texas, in the Spraberry (Trend Area), field, in Section 37, Block 39, T-3-S, T & P RR Co. Survey, Midland County, Texas.

The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 5060' to 5650 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512- 463- 6792).

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR OIL & GAS
WASTE DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT

Endeavor Energy Resources, LP, 110 N. Marienfeld, Ste. 200 Midland, Texas 79701

is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation which is not productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the Bryant Ranch SWD 10 Well Number (s) 1.

The proposed disposal well is located 16 Miles in a South direction from Midland, Texas, in the Spraberry (Trend Area), field, in Section 10, Block 39, T-4-S, T & P RR Co. Survey, Midland County, Texas.

The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 5060' to 5650 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512- 463- 6792).

General Announcements

BETTER READ
Mark Berryhill.com
Ministering for Christ.

NEED SMALL economical truck or car. Prefer Honda or Toyota for around $2,500. 432-230-1859

Lost & Found

FOUND CHINCHILLA Midkiff and Illinois area. 432-413-3061

Lost & Found

FOUND ON Valentine's Day white dog with black & brown spots near Kiwanis Park. 432-853-1513

Business Opportunity

EXISTING concrete precasting business is looking for an investor with $160K for a project to start building precast concrete homes. 432-847-9610



Autos For Sale or Lease

HONDA 2012 Civic LX 4 door Sedan. Super clean, no problems, 38 mpg, 32K miles, $14,500. 432-967-3110

General Announcements

PERMIAN BASIN HOME & GARDEN SHOW
MIDLAND COUNTY HORSESHOW PAVILION
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH, 9AM-6PM
SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST, NOON-5PM

Featuring landscape expert, **AHMED HASSAN**, the original host of **DIY Network's Yard Crashers**. He will sign autographs at Noon on Saturday before his 1pm discussion on the main stage.

Purchase tickets at any **KENT KWIK CONVENIENCE STORE**!

ADMISSION - $10
CHILDREN UNDER 3 - FREE
A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Texas Permian Basin Honor Flight.

Legal & Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP

The State of Texas § **BRANDON PINSON**, Applicant's Attorney
County of Midland § **P.O. BOX 8530**
§ **MIDLAND, TX 79708**

To all persons interested in the estate of

WALTER CLYDE PETERSON, Deceased
Cause No. **P17911**
in COUNTY COURT, Midland County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship in this estate on 01/27/2015, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **WALTER CLYDE PETERSON**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

The Court may act on this application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00a.m. **03/02/2015**, which is the first Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of posting this citation, at the Midland County Courthouse, 500 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas 79701.

All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Honorable Court **by filing a written contest or answer** to this Application should they desire to do so. **To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention, or response in writing** with the County Clerk of Midland County, Texas **on or before the above-noted date and time.**

Given under my hand and seal of the COUNTY COURT of Midland County, Texas at the office of the Midland County Clerk in Midland, Texas on February 17th 2015.

(SEAL)
Cheryl Becker
County Clerk, Midland County, Texas
P.O. Box 1350, Midland, Texas 79702
By: Shon Brent, Deputy

Legal & Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP

The State of Texas § **BRANDON PINSON**, Applicant's Attorney
County of Midland § **P.O. BOX 8530**
§ **MIDLAND, TX 79708**

To all persons interested in the estate of

CATALINA RANGEL, Deceased
Cause No. **P18184**
in COUNTY COURT, Midland County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship in this estate on **01/27/2015**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **CATALINA RANGEL**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

The Court may act on this application at any call of the docket on or after **10:00a.m. 03/02/2015**, which is the first Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of posting this citation, at the Midland County Courthouse, 500 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas 79701.

All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Honorable Court **by filing a written contest or answer** to this Application should they desire to do so. **To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention, or response in writing** with the County Clerk of Midland County, Texas **on or before the above-noted date and time.**

Given under my hand and seal of the COUNTY COURT of Midland County, Texas at the office of the Midland County Clerk in Midland, Texas on February 18th 2015.

(SEAL)
Cheryl Becker
County Clerk, Midland County, Texas
P.O. Box 1350, Midland, Texas 79702
By: Shon Brent, Deputy

Passenger Cars

1997 4 Door Honda Accord. 4 cyl automatic. $2300 OBO
1999 4 Door Toyota Avalon 6 cyl automatic. $2700 OBO Call 432-238-3185

2012 FORD Mustang Boss 302 14K miles. $34,000 432-335-3026

BMW 2011 328i sedan, showroom nice, white with light tan leather, premium package, all service up to date by BMW, 58,000 easy miles 432-528-0471

BMW 2011 535i Xdrive M-Sport for sale. 56K miles. Call for more details. $32K OBO 432-553-0344

HONDA 2008 C-R-V EX. 77,300 miles sunroof, lots of extras, $14,200. Call 432-631-2281

WANTED!
Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. FREE pick-up. 432-685-4078

Pickup Trucks

DODGE 2000 Ram 2500HD Quad Cab Laramie SLT. 5.9L diesel, white, long bed, 2WD, automatic, power, running boards, grille guard, low mileage tires, great condition. 52k miles. $15,000. 432.210.4435

NEW TODAY!

FORD 2009 F150 XLT extended cab pickup. Very clean, new tires, auto, 5.4 V8, 2 wheel drive with locking differential, chrome headache & toolbox, with bug deflector & bed mat & cellular booster. 113k miles. Asking $16,000. Call 432-556-9629

GMC 2008 Sierra SLT 4 dr Z71, red w/black leather, 81k miles. Garage kept. $24K. No owner finance. 432-557-7386

Pickup Trucks

NEW TODAY!

TOYOTA 1986 4x4 pickup with camper shell. Single cab, 4 cylinder, with 2 sets of tires $4,000. 432-559-2280

TOYOTA 2006 Tundra SR5 double-cab 2WD, 80,000 miles, silver, original owner, well maintained. $13,600. Call 432-553-3017

4WD & SUV

CHEVY 2003 Suburban. Clean, garaged, full maintenance records. $7000 432-296-0771

FORD 2010 Flex 57,500 miles. Asking $18,600. 432-934-6198

GMC 2005 Yukon, excellent condition, one owner, fully loaded, DVD entertainment package, like new tires, white exterior, tan leather interior. $9750 OBO 432-694-3608

NEW TODAY!

TOYOTA 2002 Sequoia, good condition V8, 127K miles, leather interior, sunroof. Well maintained. Asking $10,000 OBO 432-853-5305

Commercial Vehicles

Heavy Equipment

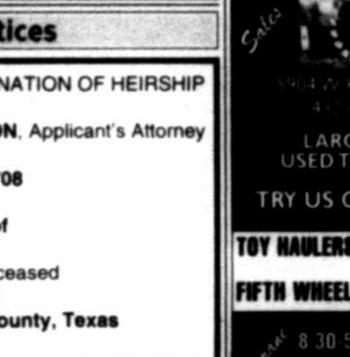
CHEVY 1973 3 ton, mobile home toter w/3000 lb wench & gin poles, sm. 5th wheel $1,000 or best offer. Call 685-3643, 638-0766, or 413-7266 (leave message)

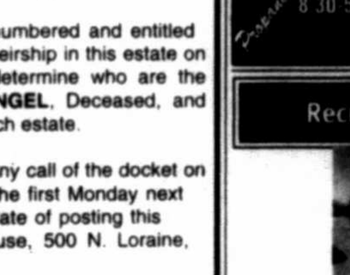
1/3 OWNERSHIP of 1980 PA32R Piper Saratoga for sale. Hanger @ Airpark. $35K for details email stevejones@cforesource.net

Appliances

We buy broken appliances w/ free removal. Also we repair appliances. 432-570-8278

Miscellaneous for Sale





TRAVEL LIKE A ROCKSTAR! For sale 1988 Prevost Le Mirage XL 40' Motorcoach. Tandem axels w/ 475hp 8v92 Detroit diesel engine. Coach has been completely remodeled with granite countertops and floors. New appliances including refrig, microwave and washer dryer combo. Kept in storage and paint has been recently refinished. This coach is a beauty and runs great. Price reduced to $110,000. Contact Bill with questions at 806-773-1278

Legal & Public Notices

MOTOR MPO POLICY BOARD MEETING

Date: February 23, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.
Place: Wright Office Complex, Suite 1
9601 Wright Drive
Midland, Texas 79706

The Policy Board of MOTOR MPO will meet to discuss the following: Begin public comment period for 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program amendment to add construction funds for SH 191 in Ector and Midland counties and to move JBS Parkway construction at FM 3503 from FY 2016 to FY 2017.
The Board may conduct an Executive Session as permitted under Chapter 551 of the Texas Administrative Code.

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale is Tuesday, 3/3/2015 at 11:30 A.M. at 3420 Thomason Drive, Midland, Texas, 79703. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash, immediate removal required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property includes contents of spaces of following delinquent tenants: Rosalinda Gutierrez, household good; Bryanna Lee Harris, household goods; Steven Collins, household goods; Cecilia Tinoco, household goods; Megan Fowler, household goods; Jocabed Salgado, household goods; Hashim Barnes, household goods; Victor Arroniz, household goods; Ginger Leigh Woods, household goods; Charles Biffle, household goods; Eboni Rhan, household goods. Property from the above listed delinquent tenants will be sold as individual units. For further information contact Affordable Self Storage, 432-694-4444.

Motorcycles

HONDA 2011 Big Red ATV, $7,000. Call Mike 432-638-3378

RVs

2015 HERITAGE Glenn by Forest River 43' 5th wheel 4 slides 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, fully loaded. Cost $55,000, must sell $39,500 personal reasons 3 months old. Call 432-288-8612

NEW TODAY!

MONTE CARLO 2013 5th wheel. 42ft. 2bed. 3 slide outs, sleeps 8, 2 A/Cs, washer, dryer, many extras, like new. $30,700. Locally located. 806-429-2399



Recreational Vehicles

2002 29.5' Montana 5th wheel. $18,000 OBO. 432-557-2257

2012 KEYSTONE Outback 27th bumper pull trailer. 2 slides, one person part-time use. Trailer located in South Midland. Contact Bill at 214-755-7904

2012 V-CROSS platinum M-32V TS by Forest River. 34' hitch pull with new 16' 10 ply tires including spare. Top of the line in excellent condition. Three slides, all electric jacks. Avg. List for $32.5K will sell for $28.5k firm. 559-7868

$2500 CASH
1989 Motor Home 35' Sprinter. Runs, moves in ready. 2 A/Cs, queen bed. Call 432-254-2317

HARLEY DAVIDSON 2012 Road Glide Ultra 1500 miles. $18,000 OBO Call or text 432-425-4764

HARLEY DAVIDSON 2013 Street Bob, 9000 miles, $9,000. Call 432-352-7470

SPORTSMAN 2007 5th wheel, 4 slide outs, kitchen includes island, lots of storage space. $20,000. 325-338-0954

WILDCAT 2007 5th wheel, M28RK, excellent condition. $19,000 OBO. 432-413-3307



Garage -Estate & Yard Sales

Estate Sales

ESTATE SALE 4012 Monty, Midland. Fri & Sat 8-5pm. Bedroom Suite, washer/dryer, kitchen table, dishes, new electricwheelchair, yard tools, lots of old books and Bibles. Everything must go by Saturday, house sold.

Yard & Garage Sales

79707

3913 NORTHFIELD Ct, Midland, must see alley. Friday 8am-12pm. GARAGE SALE. POWER TOOLS! 10 inch Radial Arm Saw, Shopsmith Mark V with jointer band saw, extended table and many accessories, disc/belt sander, small Craftsman 10 inch table saw shop made router table. Two Craftmatic adjustable beds with tempurpedic mattresses. Bathroom accessories, ceiling light fixtures.



Merchandise

Antiques

FOR SALE Beautiful 1800s Wood burning stove in excellent condition. Would be perfect for a lodge, ranch or cabin. $1600. 432-570-5206

Appliances

AAA Appliance 15 minute pickup. 432-556-0104 / 432-528-3046

Free Stuff

FREE DOG female border collie mix sweet with kids. Call 432-894-2733

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!
Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

Furniture

ETHAN ALLEN French Country 3 pc. entertainment unit. Open shelves and glass doors. Excellent condition. $600 Call 432-528-8098

FIVE PIECE beige leather sectional include hide-a-bed and three recliners, condition very good, asking $950 o/b/o. Call 432-553-4306 for details.

SOFA GREAT condition $150. Sun room wicker furniture w/custom cushions $350. twin white wrought iron trundle bed w/custom bedding $350. King bedroom suite $350 Call 432-553-5441

TWISTED BURL Table & 4 chairs. 2 large pieces of Texas furniture $200 each. Midland. 806-201-2460

Miscellaneous for Sale

2012 CRAFTSMAN RIDING lawnmower, comes with bagger & mulch blade. Asking $800. Runs good. 432-599-8180

SINGLE CEMETARY plot at Resthaven near the mausoleum. $1595. 432-413-1863

Miscellaneous for Sale

4 CEMETERY spaces Resthaven Memorial in the Garden of Love, lots 341 & 342, spaces 1 & 2, $2,000 each OBO. Call Jim 432-682-9315

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR, red only drove 1 time. 432-218-6960 or 432-212-2866. Midland

GEORGE BUSH Jr. Presidential signatures on 4 Christmas cards, and 2 portraits all for $75. 432-214-4143

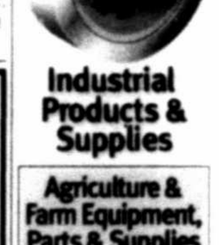
MIZ B's BOOK STORE
BLOWOUT SALE
ALL BOOKS $1.00
2505 W. OHIO
MIDLAND, TX 79701

NEW ELECTRIC Hospital bed. Paid $1,300 will sell for $900. Also catering cart, wood torte & gold $90. Wood porch swing $30. 432-682-8756

Sporting Goods

WANT TO Buy Nintendo, Play Station II & III, Dreamcast, Sega & Atari. Baseball gloves & bats. 432-682-8756

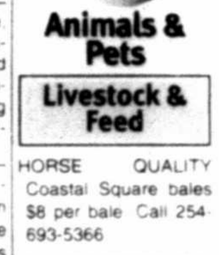
OAK PECAN mesquite pinon. 432-209-0416, 325-762-4262



Industrial Products & Supplies

Agriculture & Farm Equipment, Parts & Supplies

2&3/8 AND 2&7/8 FENCE grade material needed. 817-614-2358



Animals & Pets

Livestock & Feed

HORSE QUALITY Coastal Square bales $8 per bale. Call 254-693-5366

Pets

FOR SALE English Bulldog puppies ready to take home. 432-254-1762



LITTER ANNOUNCEMENT Champion Bloodline Labrador Retriever Puppies. Litter due 2/19. Blacks & Chocolates expected. Call for more information 432-210-9053. www.bladeretrievers.com

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Estate Sales

ESTATE SALE by Joseph and Team
3211 W. Wadley Ave. #13
(Imperial Shopping Center, Midland)
Thursday, Friday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Items include: Royal Doulton mugs/figurines, cup/saucer collection painted china, depression glass, McCoy, Roseville, Hull, Waterford (Sheila), carnival glass, vintage china, art work, lamps, sewing items, cookbooks, Christmas items, antique secretary w curio/short secretary, curio cabinet, Danish modern china cabinet/coffee table, 2 antique hall trees, game table, antique upholstered chairs/table w chairs/buffet, 2 lg. buffets, 2 king beds/night stands, end tables, retro sofa/ottomans, telephone table, executive office desk/credenza, chest of drawers/dressers w mirrors, china cabinet, much more. For pictures go to...
http://www.estatesales.net/estate-sales/TX/Midland/79705/818016

Estate Sales

Estate Sale
3704 Casady Ct
Thur & Fri 9-2 Sat 9-12

Gazo Clock with shelf, flat screen TV, TV armoires, sofa, upholstered chairs, drop leaf coffee table, end tables, TV credenza, wall art, Gone With Wind lamp, Hallmark Kiddie Cars, cameras, Texas ornaments, costume jewelry, florals, books, CD's, DVD's, cassettes, LP's, VHS tapes, mirrors, coke trays, area rugs, wash stand, painted fire place screen, wicker rocker, wicker coffee table, wicker side table, floor lamp, sewing notions, sewing machine in cabinet with chair, king size Sleep Number bed, nite stands, dresser with mirrors, folding chairs, entertainment center, glass shelf display, stereos, electronics, computers, air purifier, quilts, Dyson Root 6, twin bed, cow hide, TV trays, rocker, seasonal decor, decorative pillows, linens, desk/hutch with chair, hutch, brass trundle bed, trunks, chest of drawers, cookbooks, craft magazines, frames, toys, wooden cart, decorative plates, cow decor, rooster decor, pig collection, kitchen table & 4 chairs, microwave, Whirlpool washer, 2 gun cabinets, Nordick Trac, ladders, artificial grass, Craftsman workbench, library tables, file cabinets, freezer, smoker, lawn roller, lawn mower, yard art, patio table & 4 glider chairs, Kuul Aire, Tx rockers and bench, sundial, pig weather vane, garden cart, bird houses, fountain, birdcage, yard tools, planters, Giant Bicycle, Synapse Commodore Bicycle, sleigh crib, lots of household misc.

Service by Wall St. Antiques
View full details at EstateSales.NET:
http://www.EstateSales.NET/estate-sales/TX/Midland/79707/818247

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

	9			2				4
2		5	9	3				
6		3						8
	7	6						
	5		2		3		4	
					8	9		
5					4			1
			6	9	7			3
7			5			6		

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

3	6	2	5	9	4	7	1	8
9	7	5	8	1	6	2	3	4
4	8	1	2	7	3	9	5	6
6	9	7	4	2	5	1	8	3
5	2	4	3	8	1	6	7	9
8	1	3	9	6	7	4	2	5
7	5	8	6	4	2	3	9	1
1	3	6	7	5	9	8	4	2
2	4	9	1	3	8	5	6	7

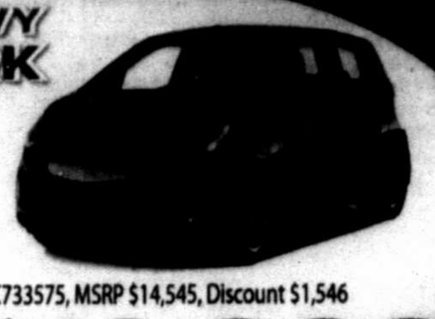
2/19/15

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ALL AMERICAN CHEVROLET OF MIDLAND
SUPERSTORE

CHECK OUT THESE GREAT NEW VEHICLES!

NEW 2015 CHEVY SPARK

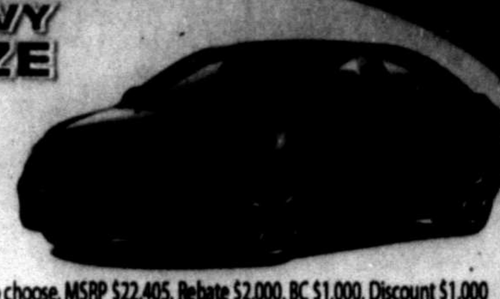


AVAILABLE NOW!

#FC733575, MSRP $14,545, Discount $1,546

SUPER Price $12,999

NEW 2015 CHEVY CRUZE



SAVE $4,000! OFF MSRP AVAILABLE NOW!

Several to choose, MSRP $22,405, Rebate $2,000, BC $1,000, Discount $1,000

SUPER Price $18,405

NEW 2015 CHEVY MALIBU



SAVE $3,000! OFF MSRP AVAILABLE NOW!

Several to choose, MSRP $23,565, Rebate $1,500, Discount $1,500

SUPER Price $20,565

NEW 2015 CHEVY EQUINOX



AVAILABLE NOW!

Several to choose, MSRP $25,395, Rebate $250, Discount $1,750

SUPER Price $23,395

NEW 2014 CHEVY IMPALA

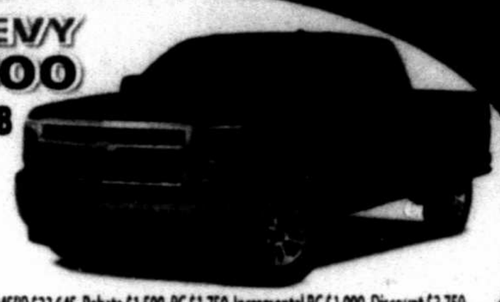


SAVE $3,000! OFF MSRP AVAILABLE NOW!

#EU119564, MSRP $27,670, Rebate $750, BC $1,000, Discount $1,250

SUPER Price $24,670

NEW 2014 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 DOUBLE CAB



SAVE $8,000! OFF MSRP AVAILABLE NOW!

#EZ282865, MSRP $33,645, Rebate $1,500, BC $1,750, Incremental BC $1,000, Discount $3,750

SUPER Price $25,645

NEW 2015 CHEVY TRAVERSE

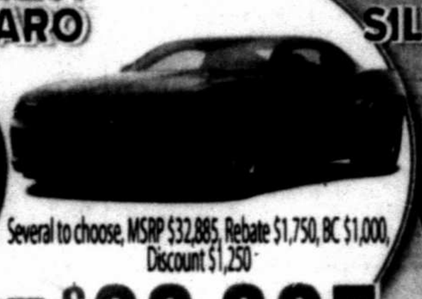


SAVE $3,000! OFF MSRP AVAILABLE NOW!

Several to choose, MSRP $31,695, Rebate $1,500, Discount $1,500

SUPER Price $28,695

NEW 2014 CHEVY CAMARO



SAVE $4,000! OFF MSRP AVAILABLE NOW!

Several to choose, MSRP $32,885, Rebate $1,750, BC $1,000, Discount $1,250

SUPER Price $28,885

NEW 2015 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500 CREW CAB

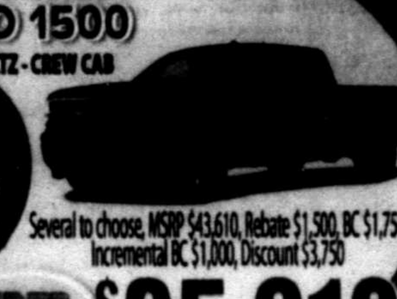


SAVE $6,000! OFF MSRP AVAILABLE NOW!

Several to choose, MSRP $40,455, Rebate $1,250, BC $1,000, Discount $3,750

SUPER Price $34,455

NEW 2014 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 LTZ - CREW CAB



SAVE $8,000! OFF MSRP AVAILABLE NOW!

Several to choose, MSRP $43,610, Rebate $1,500, BC $1,750, Incremental BC $1,000, Discount $3,750

SUPER Price $35,610

WE ALSO HAVE A TREMENDOUS LINE OF TOP QUALITY PRE-OWNED VEHICLES!



ALL AMERICAN CHEVROLET OF MIDLAND
SUPERSTORE

4100 West Wall Street
432-218-4114
MidlandChevy.com

FIND NEW ROADS

LITHIA AUTO STORES Serving Our Communities Since 1946

NOW HIRING APPLY ONLINE: LITHIAJOBS.COM

Prices + TT&L and fees. Financing with approved credit. Offers Expire 2/28/15.

Who's Who For Service

What a GREAT place to advertise your business!

Call 682-6222 for details.

Services & Professionals

Cleaning Services

Home Cleaning

CLEANING SVC. Residential, commercial, corporate housing, etc. Openings available! References available upon request 432-238-8671

Experienced, Honest, dependable housekeeper has openings for weekly or biweekly cleanings. References available. Call 432-638-8679

HOUSEKEEPING SERVICE. Free Estimates. Call Priscilla Pena 432-978-9644

WILL CLEAN your home from top to bottom, windows, ceiling fans, baseboards, & do some laundry. References. Call Christina 432-222-6471

Office Cleaning

RND Cleaning Services
Offices and Daycares. Strip and wax floors. 432-269-0437

Computer Services

Repair & Replacement

A+ COMPUTER Tutor! Overcome Your Fear of Computers! ✔Your PLACE at Your PACE. ★Call Karen 432-553-2468 (leave msg).

COMPUTER SUPPORT SERVICES
Repairs, upgrades, troubleshooting, and installs. Virus/spyware removal. Over 20 years experience. Reasonable rates. 432-236-9664 432-694-3915

Hauling

CLEARAWAY
FOR all your REMOVAL needs and light construction, trash, & tree limbs, residential & commercial clean-out. Tired of higher prices? Give us a call for affordable prices. 432-235-9999

Home Services & Home Improvement

Brick, Block & Stone

ADVANCED BRICK DOCTOR, brick & mortar repair. All types of new construction specializing in block and brick fence. Steve Rickey. 432-853-2859

Fax It.. 682-6999

Computer Services

Repair & Replacement

COMPUTER PROBLEMS? WE SOLVE THEM!
TechSmart will tell you in plain English how we can help you. Virus Removal, Repairs, Data Recovery, Security, Cloud Services & Networking. TechSmart does it all, at home or work. Our services are professional, affordable, and fast. For best results, call TechSmart first. (432) 631-7202

TJ'S COMPUTER REPAIR. Repair/Upgrades. New Computer Setup. Virus and Spyware Removal. Wireless Networking. Reasonable Rates. Work on site or pickup. 432-686-0831

Home Services & Home Improvement

Brick, Block & Stone

CABALLERO MASONRY Brick/block/stone, stucco, driveways, sidewalks, flowerbeds. Insurance. Bonded. Residential & Commercial. Free estimates. 432-631-8781

Carpet & Flooring

INSTALLS & Repairs Carpet, Tile, Wood, Paint, Electrical, Plumbing and Much More. 432-924-3260.

Concrete

AVID MASONRY AND CONCRETE WORK. FREE ESTIMATES. SMALL JOBS WELCOME 432-664-0155

CABALLERO MASONRY Brick/block/stone, stucco, driveways, sidewalks, flowerbeds. Insurance. Bonded. Residential & Commercial. Free estimates. 432-631-8781

CONCRETE SPECIALTIES
Design, drives, patios, staining, flagstone, brick planters, outdoor kitchens and fire places. 35 years experience! Book Early for Spring! 432-934-8102.

CONCRETE WORK
Doing concrete work in Midland for over 40 years. Call 683-5504

JS Concrete
Slabs,curbs,driveways, patios, Stamp concrete. Free Estimates. Bonded & Insured. Juan Sanchez, owner. 432-413-0924

QUALITY CONCRETE & METAL BUILDINGS
Work of all types. Driveways, patios, sidewalks, house, metal buildings, foundations. Call 432-816-6839 / 432-263-5272.

Home Services & Home Improvement

Fences

ARMSTONG FENCE & Welding. We do all types of fencing, new or repair. Call 432-978-8497

FRANK D'S FENCE BUILDING AND REMOVAL. CALL 432-238-2060

QUALITY WORK at best prices. Serving West Texas since 1973. Repairs or replacing, free estimates. Call Frank Wright 432-634-6888.

Concrete

QUIROZ COMPANY STAMP CONCRETE
All types of concrete work. Choose your pattern. All types of remodeling. References. Doing business in Midland for over 50 years. Felix @ 631-6734 or Matt @ 631-2475.

TOTAL CONCRETE by Manny Ribera. Native Midlander. Steel buildings, patios, sidewalks, concrete stamping, qtr-inch over lay, total crack repair, total resurfacing qtr-inch. www.mRiberaConstruction.com

Contractors & Builders

AVID General Construction, remodeling additions, metal and wood fencing, cabinets, stucco, roofing, painting, tile, showers and counter tops and masonry work, landscaping and hardscaping. Small jobs welcome. Call 432-813-8552

Electrical

ALL YOUR electrical needs met. Call G&S Electric. 32 Years experience. 432-685-0859. Tecl # 22541

Fences

A1 QUALITY
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Repair or replace.
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Residential Rentals

Apartments for Rent Unfurnished

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3 BEDROOM 2 bath Must have referenced, non smoking & no pets. Call 432-638-3512.

4707 B Harvard, 2BD/2BA/2 Car. Fenced yard, all appliances No pets, no smoking. $1550 monthly. 432-620-9222 or 432-425-2739

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Residential Rentals

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

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Rooms for Rent

ROOM FOR RENT Not a roommate situation. Private entrance. Run of the house in evenings. Large house, dogs on premises. Must have references. All utilities paid. Call 432-683-2614.

Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

3BD, 2ba, in Greenwood, 4.27 acres, large living and kitchen, water softener, pool w/ pool house, 40x50 shop, horse stalls, pond, metal fencing, large covered patio, $450,000 Call 325-262-1304

4105 ST. Andrews 4/3/2/2. $269,500. In law suite. Open Saturday 11am-1pm. UP Group 889-2934

4323 COUNTRY Club Dr. FSBO 3 bd-1 3/4 ba, 1car attached w/ large detached garage / wksp & office 1582 sq. ft. TONS OF STORAGE. Move-In Ready. $172,500 See on zillow.com. Call Zane (575) 390-9575

4502 ROOSEVELT beautiful 3 bedroom 2 bath plus sunroom. $145,000 Open house every Sunday until sold. Call 432-683-2243.

4511 MEADOWLARK
Horse property! 4/2/2/2 2 acres; more available. Stalls, pens, pastures. Barn,city & well water. Greathouse/ Abell. $315,000 UP Group 889-2934

4902 FM 1213 house on 1.25 acres with rental house needs repairs. $139,000. Possible financing. 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212.

4, bd/3 ba/ 3 car Custom Troy Hunt Resale. Spacious & open, Large master suite, Island kitchen w/ lots of cabinetry, granite tops throughout & plantation shutters! Call Daniel Hunt 432-889-7832 or dhunt1234@gmail.com

Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

4 BEDROOM, 3 bath, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, brick house, new roof, fireplace, cinder block fence with storage building , 2 car carport, 2568 sq. ft., large back yard Located at 1003 Mogford needs some TLC. As is priced to sell quick at $170,000. Great opportunity for investor. Have current survey & 1 year warranty. 432-559-6769

64 AC, 2 homes, 14 stalls, Coastal, Comanche,Tx Rita Freels, agent, 254-485-1118

NEW TODAY!
BEAUTIFUL 3BD/2BA, Granite countertops, Cathedral ceilings, Built in 2012. $172,000. 180A E Pecan Open house every Saturday & Sun day from 2pm-4pm. Call 432-683-2243

COUNTRY Property In the city. 4622 Princeton, fencing $385,000. UP Group 889-2934

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Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

FOR SALE by owner Polo Park. 4 bedroom 2 1/2 baths, gameroom. Santa Rita Elementary. Great condition all rooms have walk-in closets. Tons of storage $349,000. 432-312-8155 or 432-230-2318

SPECTACULAR HOME in desirable neighborhood for sale by owner. Complete remodel. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, very open concept. Spacious backyard with beautiful pool and waterfall, and covered patio. Children's play area and detached garage. Storage galore. Too many amenities to list, must see to believe. $299,900. For more information, call Amber 432-661-3077.

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Acreage

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DEER LEASE white tail & Mule deer. Near Big Lake at Best, Texas. Now leasing need up to 6 or 7 hunters. 940-284-1518

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4516 Cardinal Lane
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RESIDENTIAL CORNER lot for sale. Location 1418 E Pecan. New housing development area. Asking $50,000. Cell 432-967-3710

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Commercial

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Commercial

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SEVERAL RVs and RV Spaces for rent. Cable. Wi-Fi and utility included. Sleeps 2. Call 770-7054 634-0978 or 432-634-6857

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1995 PATRIOT Cambridge 2bd. 2ba. dining, living, and laundry rooms. 16x66. excellent condition. interior 100% completely redone-all new. $25,000 OBO Call 432-634-4618.

2013 Manufactured home. 4 bed 2 bath. Island in kitchen. laundry room. pantry. walk-in closet and garden tub. 10ft ceilings with fans throughout. Heating and a/c. Motivated seller. $95,000 619-517-7140

3 BEDROOM. 2 bath Greenwood school $25,000 may finance with $5,000 down. 10% discount for all cash 528-1609

MOBILE HOME 3 bedroom 2 bath. double carport. 2 decks. appliances included. No financing. Located at Airline Mobile Home Park. 432-699-1834

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Residential Sales

Open Houses

4410 N. Midkiff Suite C-8. Saturday 2/21/15. From 10AM - 5PM. NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO BUY IN MIDLAND AND ODESSA??? This is the question many of our local residents are asking today. Especially those new to our area, not familiar with our economy and how the oil industry will affect it. THE ANSWER IS YES!!! NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO BUY!!! Home prices have dropped in the last few months, making the price of homes more affordable. New programs went into effect in January of this year, reducing mortgage rates, and pmi (private mortgage insurance) to the lowest we've seen in years! We are here to help you make the smartest investment for yourself and your family. We will have some financial lending experts in house who can answer all of your financial questions and who will be doing same day pre-approvals!!

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- **Mitchell County** - 1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great w-tail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850/ac
- **Nolan County** - 640 ac. over 1 mile SOLD creek, blinds, feeders, deer/turkey, chance quail $3,550/ac
- **Nolan County** - 565 ac. Peace Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres planted for cattle, blinds, feeders, windmill $1,550/ac
- **Haskell County** - 642 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, turkey, hogs, rattlesnake, metal storage buildings $700/ac
- **Nolan County** - 150 ac. big canyons, great deer, turkey, javelina SOLD $995/ac
- **Nolan County** - 135 ac. Sulphur Springs SOLD deer and quail shoot, hogs, rattlesnake, metal storage buildings $1,150/ac

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Meet the Presidents

Use the Presidential Timeline to number the pictures of the presidents in order from our first President, George Washington, to our current President Obama. (Some have been done for you.)

PRESIDENTIAL TIMELINE

1789 George Washington
John Adams
1800 Thomas Jefferson
James Madison
James Monroe
John Quincy Adams
Andrew Jackson
Martin Van Buren
William Harrison
John Tyler
James K. Polk
1850 Zachary Taylor
Millard Fillmore
Franklin Pierce
James Buchanan
Abraham Lincoln
Andrew Johnson
Ulysses S. Grant
Rutherford B. Hayes
James A. Garfield
Chester A. Arthur
Grover Cleveland
Benjamin Harrison
Grover Cleveland
1900 William McKinley
Theodore Roosevelt
William H. Taft
Woodrow Wilson
Warren G. Harding
Calvin Coolidge
Herbert Hoover
Franklin D. Roosevelt
Harry S. Truman
1950 Dwight D. Eisenhower
John F. Kennedy
Lyndon B. Johnson
Richard M. Nixon
Gerald Ford
Jimmy Carter
Ronald Reagan
George H.W. Bush
Bill Clinton
2000 George W. Bush
Barack Obama



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Use the skills and strategies of the reading process to follow written directions.

The Story of Presidents Day

Presidents Day is an American holiday celebrated every February.

Established in 1885, it was the first federal holiday to honor an American citizen and was celebrated on President George Washington's birthday, February 22. In the 1880s, many states declared February 12, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, as a holiday.

In 1971, Presidents Day was declared a national holiday to honor all presidents. It was set for the third Monday in February.

Standards Link: History: Identify the people honored in commemorative holidays.

Extra! Extra!

Presidents Day Sales

Presidents Day and the weekend before it have become a popular time for stores to put things on sale. Look for a Presidents Day sale ad in today's newspaper. Answer these questions:

What is on sale?

How much lower is the price?

How much could a person save?

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspapers to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Make as many words as you can from the letters in the word PRESIDENT.

3-5 words: Good start!
6-9 words: Even better!
10-12 words: Awesome!
12+ words: You lead the way!

Double Double Word Search

EISENHOWER
LINCOLN
CLINTON
CARTER
HOOVER
ARTHUR
GRANT
HAYES
ADAMS
TYLER
NIXON
TAFT
BUSH
FORD
POLK

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

A D A M S T Y L E R
R H S U B T F A T K
T O C K L O P E O H
H O N L O C N I L A
U V G E I F T R X Y
R E W O H N E S I E
S R J C A R T E R S
I W L R T M F O R D
G R G D N O X I N M

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

From the Kid Scoop Lesson Library

Ad Space

Working with a partner, choose a newspaper page that has both advertising and news on it. Measure the amount of advertising space and the amount devoted to news. Which is larger?

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.



Weekly Writing Corner

You're the Candidate

If I was class president I would enhance learning in the classroom. I would add more technology and activities. I would ass more technology to the class. I would add more computers to the class. So we could play Math apps. I would also add more activities to my classroom. I would add more activities to the class so we could understand the lessons faster. As you could see, if I was class president these are the changes I would make.

John Andrew Gomez,
4th grade, St Ann's

If I was class president, I would enforce two things. I would enforce checking over your work for mistakes, and a system of study partners so you can study and test yourself.

Dalton Martel,
6th grade, Hillander

As a candidate for class president, I will do the following to make it easier to learn. I would increase the time for each subject and replace books with electronic books and tablets. Increasing the time, would give us more time to work. If the time did increase, we would learn and study more. I would increase the amount of electronic learning. Time spent going thru books and using electronics would be faster to learn. All in all, this would be the changes I would make.

Jackson Bayless,
4th grade, St Ann's

If I were chosen for class president, I would make a few rules. My first and most important rule would be to make it a better place to learn. To do this I would make the teacher teach in a shorter amount of time so we would have more time to do homework.

Rachel Howard,
6th grade, Hillander

People in my class got to vote for the new class president and they voted for me! I think they should add more technology. I think they should because it could help us study more. I also think they should have a theatre class. I think they should have this because acting is a lot of fun. All in all, I think I will make a good class president.

Drew Robertson,
4th grade, St Ann's

Today I was elected class president and I have decided to change things in my class for easier learning. I think we should have study cards for every lesson we do in every subject. I think they would help students learn and understand better.

Chase Flowers,
6th grade, Hillander

Write On!

Saving Money

Imagine you want to save up for something special. What would you save for and how would you save money?

Deadline: March 15
Published: Week of April 12
Send your story to:

Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
ljdiaz@mrt.com
Please include your school and grade.

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