MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2015 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

ONLINE TODAY

Don't miss our collection of the top crimes from December.

mrt.com

PLAYOFF TIME

The long-awaited College Football Playoff starts today, with Ohio State taking on Alabama and Florida State facing Oregon. Are you ready for the big games?

Page 1C

Audit criticizes Texas agency's $105M contract

Associated Press

AUSTIN — State auditors this week criticized a Texas agency's contract with AT&T that was initially listed as costing $1 million and then swelled to $105 million over the course of seven years.

A report released Tuesday by the State Auditor's Office also found the Health and Human Services Commission contract involved agency employees who previously worked for AT&T, representing a conflict of interest.

The initial four-year contract with AT&T for telephone services was signed in 2008 and cost nearly $48 million. Three years later it was amended to nearly $81 million, but then later increased to $105 million.

"The commission did not adequately monitor and enforce the terms of the contract or adequately review payments," auditors wrote in the 59-page report. "In addition, the commission did not adequately estimate the contract's cost during planning or ensure that employees adequately completed conflict of interest forms."

Because contract managers did not adequately track transactions, the state does not know how much it has paid AT&T, although auditors estimated payments of at least $72.5 million from August 2008 to June, the audit said.

Additionally, contract managers failed to verify performance claims, including how quickly AT&T responded to issues and completed repairs, the auditors said. The company claimed to have met its targets in each of the 12 months auditors examined, but the search found it didn't meet any.

HHS Executive Commissioner Kyle Janek said the $1 million figure was included in early paperwork as an estimate on the cost of the contract bidding process.

"We have new policies and procedures in place that take a very strict stance on disclosure of potential conflicts of interest and increase oversight and transparency," Janek said, noting the commission — which has a $33 billion annual budget — is "a big agency with a lot of high-dollar contracts."

The auditor's office launched its review in February after the commission reported potentially improper relationships between the company and two state employees, agency spokeswoman Linda Edwards Gockel said. An AT&T spokeswoman said the company will cooperate with the ongoing review.

The telecommunications giant was contracted to provide services not only for HHS but also the agencies it oversees, such as the Department of State Health Services and the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

In response to the findings, the commission said it will re-bid the contract and install new contract-monitoring protections.

The audit follows a recent controversy involving another state contract. Two high-level state employees quit under pressure

Please see **AUDIT**/3A

IT'S BEEN A BIT CHILLY

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Ice coats brush in a field off North Lamesa Road as construction continues on new apartments in the area. A winter storm left sheets of ice on Midland roads and caused at least 126 accidents since 2 p.m. Tuesday, according to city spokeswoman Sara Bustilloz. There were no reports of fatalities from the accidents, 118 of which occurred on Tuesday, she said. The National Weather Service had a winter storm warning in effect until 6 p.m. Wednesday, with temperatures not expected to get above the high 20s and freezing rain to continue. City and county offices were closed Wednesday because of the storm and some county offices closed early on Tuesday. All entrances to Loop 250 west of Fairgrounds Road remained closed as of press time on New Year's Eve, but service roads were open. The Lamesa Road and Cotton Flat Road overpasses at Interstate 20 were also closed, as was the Front Street overpass at Big Spring Street. Highway 191 between FM 1788 and Loop 250 was reopened Wednesday morning. Also impacted by the storm was the annual Byron Johnston Holiday Classic basketball tournament taking place at Chaparral Center. The tournament's committee and Midland ISD officials canceled remaining games, according to a previous Reporter-Telegram report.

Educators share common struggles in Midland

By Tessa Duvall

Midland Reporter-Telegram

Midland ISD's struggle to stay staffed with qualified personnel has been ongoing for years as the booming economy has driven up wages in the private sector as well as the cost of living.

Many people simply can't afford to live on a teacher or bus driver's pay, and because no matter how much the district has tried to raise salaries, the oil field always pay more.

From a consistently smaller-than-desired teacher applicant pool, to a chronic shortage of support staff, MISD has adapted to make do with a smaller staff than desired. Even after the district received more than $6 million for teacher bonuses in May, it still received only about 200 additional applications than in 2013.

As a reporter, it made me think. I knew so much about why the district was lacking personnel, but I didn't know much about the new folks it was able to successfully bring in. So I wondered: Who moves to Midland to work for MISD? And why? How did they hear about education jobs here in the first place? I decided to find out.

With the help of MISD's Human Resources department, I was able to identify three district employees who shared their experiences uprooting their lives elsewhere to move to Midland. Their reasons varied, but limited job prospects and a lower-than-desired quality of life served as push factors, while a sense of adventure and the promise of a good career pulled them in.

These are their stories:

DOUG WHITMAN

When soon-to-be college graduate Doug Whitman began job hunting in the spring, he wasn't sure where he would finally end up, though he knew it wouldn't be his home state of Michigan.

"The Michigan teaching area was very, very bad," Whitman said. "The teachers' fair we had, the line was maybe 20-to-30 teachers for the Kalamazoo — which is where the school was — school district, and they had four people doing interviews. The other booths had no one. I was like, 'I'm not going to be able to find a job here.' They had like two openings."

He considered districts in New Mexico, Indiana, North Carolina, South Carolina and even Alaska, but instead ended up in the Permian Basin.

"I honestly thought anywhere but the South," he said. "I hate the heat. Why would I move to Texas?"

Whitman, 26, is a first-year math and science teacher at the Barbara Culver Juvenile Justice Center. He first learned about Midland after meeting with MISD Executive Director of Human Resources Ed Zachary at a job fair at Western

Please see **STRUGGLES**/4A

County's 44th fatal occurs on icy road

From staff reports

Midland County's 44th road fatality for 2014 occurred late Tuesday afternoon on Farm-to-Market 1788, according to a press release from the Texas Department of Public Safety. This total eclipsed 2013's record of 43 people who died on roads in Midland County, according to Reporter-Telegram reports.

The death of Roberto Jauquez-Nevarez, 38, of Farmington, New Mexico, was the second in two days. A pedestrian died Tuesday after he was hit by a pickup while crossing Rankin Highway. A Nebraska man had not yielded the right of way while he crossed westbound, according to a press release from the city's spokeswoman.

Jauquez-Nevarez died in a one-vehicle crash at around 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, according to the press release from DPS spokeswoman Elena Viramontes. The crash occurred while the region was in the midst of an ice storm that caused more than 100 wrecks in Midland Coun-

Please see **FATAL**/2A

Here's what to look for in 2015

From staff reports

What will the new year bring to the Tall City? We can expect a civil lawsuit stemming from the Nov. 15, 2012, train crash and Rep. Tom Craddick to once again file a bill banning texting while driving.

Here's how 2015 is shaping up:

■ A civil lawsuit between veterans involved in the Nov. 15, 2012, Show of Support parade train crash and Union Pacific will finally go to a jury trial on Jan. 26. The veterans are claiming negligence in UP's operation of its Garfield Street railroad crossing, while UP maintains it followed regulations.

■ State Rep. Tom Craddick of Midland is making a third try at getting the state Legislature to pass a ban on texting while driving. The previous two attempts were either vetoed by Gov. Rick Perry or stuck in a committee.

■ Hotel Santa Rita No. 1 could break

Please see **2015**/3A

Weather

Mostly cloudy

37/29

Get your complete forecast on 7C

Energy prices

WTI Futures	$53.27	▼ $0.85
WTI Posted	$49.75	▼ $1.00
WTS Posted	$47.15	▼ $1.00
Natural Gas	$2.889	▼ $0.205
Gasoline	$2.266	▲ $0.004

The big number

In 1992, the U.S. had

124,270

tobacco farms. Find out how many there are now. Page 5A

Today in Weekender

Take a look back at the best in film and music. Inside

Coming Friday

Fundraiser features sneak peek of "Downton Abbey."

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Daily $1, Sunday $2

Index Classified 1D | Comics 5B | Dear Abby 7C | Mexico 7A | Obituaries 2A | Puzzles 7C | Science 8A | Sports 1C | TV 5C

2015

From 1A

ground by the end of 2015, if an incentive agreement is made with the city of Midland. The boutique hotel is to be built where the former Midland County Courthouse is located.

■ The historical Midland County Courthouse will be demolished this year, and Hotel Santa Rita No. 1 is a leading contender to be built on the property.

■ Midland County will open the newest addition to the Horseshoe complex this month. It is a $24 million convention facility.

■ Four seats on the Midland City Council will be on the ballot in November. Seats scheduled to come up are the two at-large seats, District 1 (north Midland) and District 2 (south and east Midland).

■ People start moving into the Lofts, the first significant development for downtown living, this year, maybe as early as the middle of this month.

■ XCOR Aerospace and Orbital Outfitters are aiming for operatations at the Midland International Air and Space Port, including launches, by late 2015.

Nonprofits

■ Probable expansion of Breaking Bread soup kitchen. Currently the nonprofit's dining room accommodates fewer than 100 people. Expansion could serve 200.

■ West Texas Food Bank to break ground on Midland facility in February. Food Bank also will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2015.

■ Look for Midland Habitat for Humanity to begin building homes in its neighborhood project located in south Midland.

■ As First Presbyterian Church continues the renovations to its campus, First United Methodist Church will begin campus renovations of its own as it also seeks to grow its Spanish-speaking ministry.

Entertainment and the arts

■ Jeff Foxworthy will perform at the grand opening celebration for the new Horseshoe Pavilion. Dooley Management Company announced the comedian will appear Feb. 7 at the recently completed facility.

Foxworthy is best known for his redneck jokes and Blue Collar Comedy Tour. He has been nominated for multiple Grammy Awards.

■ Jerry Seinfeld will return to the Basin next year. The comedian will again bring his stand-up routine to the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. The show is scheduled for March 11.

When Seinfeld appeared at the Wagner Noel in October 2013 he added another show after selling out within a week. The comedian starred in the NBC sitcom "Seinfeld" in which he played himself. The show, now in syndication, ran from 1989 to 1998.

■ Country super star Vince Gill will perform in April at MARC's annual Big Boys' Toys fundraiser.

Gill will provide entertainment for the nonprofit's 10th annual event. Big and Rich with Cowboy Troy performed at the 2014 event.

■ Midland Community Theatre will collaborate with Midland College music and drama departments for a special production of "West Side Story."

Except for Summer Mummers, live theater was pretty much nil at the classic downtown theater. With this production, hopefully we can see more goings on at the Yucca. The show will run April 17-25.

■ In addition to Seinfeld and Foxworthy, a number of other big celebrities will head to (or close to) Midland. Jay Leno will appear at Midland College in April. Diana Ross and Loretta Lynn will both play the Wagner Noel in February. Florida Georgia Line will headline Texas Thunder out in Gardendale in August.

■ In 2014, the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale brought in NFL-player-turned-artist Baron Batch for their annual Vintage Harmony fundraiser. During the event, he painted a portrait live during the event. This year, they will bring in Dallas' Tre Wilcox who was also a contestant on Bravo's "Top Chef." Details will be announced on how his culinary skills will add to the fundraiser event.

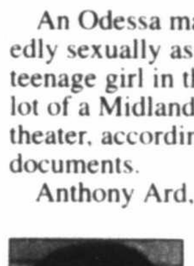
CRIMEBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Man accused of sexually assaulting underage girl

An Odessa man allegedly sexually assaulted a teenage girl in the parking lot of a Midland movie theater, according to court documents.

Anthony Ard, 19, was charged Dec. 22 with a first-degree felony of sexual assault of a child that allegedly occurred in November. Ard was released Dec. 24 on a $75,000 bond, according to the Midland County Sheriff's Office.



Ard

A Midland police detective was called to a home on Parkhurst Drive on Dec. 15 in reference to a sexual assault of a child. The complaintaint said that her 14-year-old daughter had been sexually assaulted a few weeks prior while at the movies. The woman said her daughter told her that she had sex against her will with a man she met at the theater, according to the arrest affidavit.

The detective spoke with the girl, who said that she had met Ard at the Regal Tall Stadium 14 and had gone with him to his truck. The girl said that while in the truck, Ard began aggressively touching her, according to the affidavit. She said she told him "no" and that he said he would not do anything.

The girl said that Ard became aggressive again, took off her clothes and sexually assaulted her, according to the affidavit. The girl said that Ard then told her to get out of his truck and she went back to her friends.

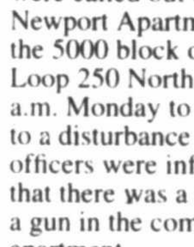
The girl was interviewed at the Children's Advocacy Center on Dec. 19, and her mother showed the detective texts between Ard and her daughter. The text messages indicate that Ard attempted to get the girl to come to his house and she told him she could not have sex with him, according to the affidavit. At one point, the girl's mother took over the texting conversation and told Ard to never contact her daughter again, according to the affidavit

If convicted of the first-degree felony, Ard faces up to 99 years in prison.

Man allegedly uses gun for intimidation over drug payment

An Odessa man was arrested Monday for allegedly using a gun to intimidate a man to pay a drug debt, according to court documents.

Shane Justice, 35, was charged with a first-degree felony of aggravated robbery. He was being held on a $75,000 bond as of Wednesday evening.



Justice

Midland police officers were called out to the Newport Apartments on the 5000 block of West Loop 250 North at 12:10 a.m. Monday to respond to a disturbance call. The officers were informed that there was a man with a gun in the complainant's apartment.

The officers knocked on the door of the apartment and announced their presence, and Justice answered the door. One of the officers immediately did a pat-down search of Justice and found in his sweatshirt a .40 caliber Smith & Wesson pistol with a round in the chamber, according to the arrest affidavit.

Justice told the officers he had a small baggie of marijuana in his front-left pant pocket; the officers retrieved the baggie, according to the affidavit.

The officers took Justice outside, and one of them went back into the apartment to talk to the victim, who told the officer that Justice was a marijuana dealer, according to the affidavit. The man said that a friend owed Justice money and that Justice had come to his apartment to make him pay, according to the affidavit. When the man saw Justice approaching his apartment, he called the police.

When Justice came to the front door of the apartment, the man's girlfriend let him in. The man said Justice pulled out the handgun and chambered a round, according to the affidavit.

The man's girlfriend then left the apartment.

The man said Justice sat on the couch and called in the man to talk to him. The man said he remained in the hallway where he could clearly see the handgun sitting in Justice's lap. Justice then placed the gun on the coffee table and told the man that "you need to pay what is owed" and suggested that the man should stop hustling, according to the affidavit. The man offered Justice all of the money he had, but he continued to yell until police arrived, according to the affidavit.

Justice told police he had the firearm for self-defense because of a recent shooting at a club in Odessa. He also told the officers that there was more marijuana in his vehicle, which officers found in a small baggie in the center console, according to the affidavit.

The two baggies amounted to approximately three grams of marijuana, according to the affidavit.

If convicted of the first-degree felony, Justice faces up to 99 years in prison.

Fort Hood victims file new Purple Heart petition

Associated Press

DALLAS — Survivors and relatives of those who died in the 2009 Fort Hood shooting filed a formal petition Wednesday to receive Purple Hearts and other benefits they have argued are long overdue.

More than five years after an Army psychiatrist opened fire on dozens of unarmed soldiers and killed 13 people, many survivors struggle to find jobs or support themselves. Congress approved new regulations in December aimed at forcing the U.S. Department of Defense to reconsider Fort Hood victims for the Purple Heart.

Wednesday's petition aims to start that process. Lawyers for a large group of victims and family members entered the petition in an ongoing federal lawsuit they filed against the Defense Department seeking damages due to the attack.

Military officials have denied the award to Fort Hood victims, calling the November 2009 attack an act of workplace violence, not terrorism. Advocates for the victims have pointed to gunman Nidal Hasan's attempts to contact a cleric that authorities have linked to al-Qaida, as well as statements Hasan made before and after the attack calling himself a "soldier of Allah" fighting America.

Obituaries

Edward Franklin Neagle

Edward Franklin Neagle, aged 86, passed away December 29, 2014, after a brief battle with cancer. He was born November 27, 1928, near Quanah, Texas, to Alrie Franklin Neagle and Martha Lemon "Bea" Neagle.

Eddie was graduated from Syracuse High School in Syracuse, Kansas, in 1948, and began to work in the oil fields of West Texas near Snyder. After being drafted into the United States Army he was Honorably Discharged, having attained the rank of Sergeant, with his dates of service being from 4 October 1950 to 2 October 1952.

Eddie was a lifelong horseman, having owned roping horses and roping first calves, then team-roping steers, as often as his job allowed. As a small child, while living with his family near Caddo, Oklahoma, Eddie would accompany his father to the baseball fields on the Choctaw Indian Reservation and while his father played baseball with an otherwise all Indian baseball team, Eddie would spend the day riding the horses and ponies the Indians had ridden to the ball field. He spoke of those days with fondness.

Eddie worked in the oil fields for over 60 years, beginning as a roughneck, then as a driller and tool pusher, for many years for Sharp Drilling Company. He went Independent as a Drilling Consultant in 1975, working for Gulf Oil Company. He also consulted for many years for Florida Oil and Gas and Maralo, Inc. He was respected by his peers for his oil field and drilling knowledge and integrity.

Eddie is survived by his wife, Joan E. Neagle. He is also survived by his two children, Dale E. Neagle and wife, Joan Y. Neagle, and Tanya S. Johnson and husband, Maynard D. Johnson, and their children and grandchildren, Drew E. Neagle and wife, Amanda, Michael D. Neagle and wife, Lindsey, and daughter, Jade, and Scott D. Neagle, and Greg D. Johnson and wife, Libby, and sons, Will and Jackson, and Kimberly S. Johnson and Brooks E. Johnson. He is also survived by his wife's children, Ed Guy Faught, JoCaye Anderson and Tina Colombus, and their families.

Eddie is also survived by one brother, Harold D. Neagle and wife, Anne, and sister-in-law, Katrena Neagle, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three siblings, Sybil Lindsay and Bobby Neagle and a sister who died in infancy.

Eddie was a member of the First Baptist Church of Midland.

The family would like to thank the staff at Senior Care for their compassionate care and kindness during Eddie's last days.

The family will accept guests from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, January 1, 2015 at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, January 2, 2015 at First Baptist Church in Midland. Interment will follow at Fairview Cemetery.

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

Jose Angel DeLeon

Jose Angel DeLeon passed away December 28, 2014 in San Angelo, TX at Shannon Medical Center Hospital. He was 78 and was August 2, 1936 in Del Rio, TX. He was married to Rosa Marie DeLeon, the love of his life, November 13, 1965. They shared a loving life of 51 years.

Jose was a Veteran and served seven years in the US Army.

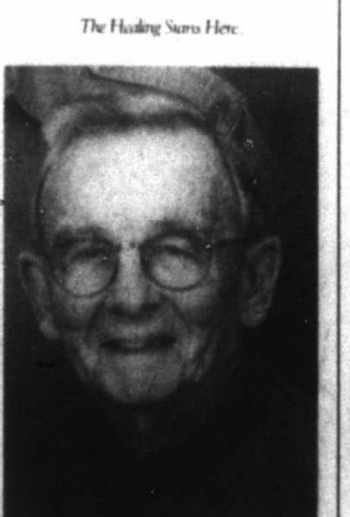
He moved to Midland with his family in 1969. After 20 years of employment with the City of Midland, he retired. He enjoyed playing his guitar and listening to his music. Jose was a very loving, kind person. His children and grandchildren were his passion and inspiration.

He is survived by his wife, Rosa Marie DeLeon; siblings, Pete Rubio, Lori DeLeon, Natie DeLeon, all of Del Rio, TX, and Margie DeLeon of San Antonio, TX. He also leaves to cherish his memory; kids, Joe L. DeLeon of Rowlett, TX, Carlos Javier DeLeon, Robert (Bob) DeLeon, and a very loving grandson, Eddie Pena whom he loved like a son. He had 13 grandkids and 5 great grandkids.

Viewing will be January 1, 2015 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at American Heritage Chapel with Rosary beginning at 7:00 p.m. Funeral service will be January 2, 2015, 12:00 p.m. at American Heritage Chapel with interment immediately following at American Heritage Cemetery.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.thehealingstartshere.com. All arrangements are entrusted to American Heritage Cemetery and Funeral Home.

American Heritage
CEMETERY & FUNERAL HOME
The Healing Starts Here



Robert Harold Angevine

Robert (Bob) Harold Angevine, 95, of Midland, TX went to his heavenly home on December 29, 2014 following a 2-year battle with multiple myeloma and congestive heart failure. He was 2 days shy of his 96th birthday.

Bob was born in Rixford, PA. on December 31, 1918 to Earl Lester and Mary Mahler Angevine. He graduated from Hampton (NJ.) High School and worked for Sohio Pipeline Company before joining the U.S. Armed Forces in 1941. He spent one year in the Field Artillery before being accepted as an aviation cadet. He received preflight training at Ellington Field, TX. and won his wings and commission in 1943. Upon graduation from advanced bombardier training school at Big Spring, TX., he flew numerous missions as Group Lead Navigator/Bombardier, receiving multiple Air Medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Bob met and married Isabel Thomas in Houston in 1945. Bob and Isabel lived in various cities such as Austin, Oklahoma City, Denver, Ada (OK.) and Dallas before settling in Midland in 1964. They enjoyed 61 years of marriage, family and travel until Isabel's death in 2006. In 2009, Bob married the former Emma Bea Cooper.

Bob received a degree in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1950. He worked as a petroleum engineer for several companies durng his career, retiring from Fasken Oil and Ranch, Ltd. in 1989. Following "formal" retirement, he continued consulting work as a petroleum engineer.

Bob had been an active member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church since 1964. He was also active in the community as a volunteer at the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum and Friends of the Library. He is remembered as a humble, generous father, friend and mentor.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents, his brother Leonard, his first wife Isabel and his second wife Bea.

Bob is survived by his sister Kathryn Kendrick of Hackettstown, NJ; his son Dr. Terry Angevine (Jacquelyn) of Double Oak, TX; his daughter Janan Hall (William) of Boerne, TX; and his daughter Nancy Gene Hernandez (Ernie) of Midland. He will also be missed by numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Bob's life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 3, 2015 at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Midland, TX with Rev. Kathryn Boren officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to St. Luke's United Methodist Church Foundation (3011 W. Kansas, Midland, TX. 79701), Cal Farley's Boys' Ranch (P.O. Box 1890, Amarillo, TX. 79105), National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force (P.O. Box 1992, Savannah, GA. 31402), of the charitable organization of choice.

The family wishes to thank the staff of Cowden Cottage for the loving care provided, as well as Hospice of Midland.

Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

Death Notices

Dorothy Haden

Dorothy Haden, 85, of Midland, passed away December 31, 2014. Services are pending under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Jeff M. McNamee

Jeff M. McNamee, age 28, passed away December 22, 2014 in Odessa.

He is survived by his parents, Paul and Barbara McNamee; brother, Nicholas P. McNamee.

Arrangements are pending with American Heritage Cemetery and Funeral Home.

Kevin J. Joyce

Kevin J. Joyce, age 50, passed away December 27, 2014 in Midland.

He is survived by sister, Kimberly Barbee; brother, Tracy L. Joyce.

Services are pending with American Heritage Cemetery and Funeral Home.

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NOTICE: The Thanksgiving Day edition is delivered with every subscription delivery frequency and will be charged at the prevailing Sunday-only home delivery rate. This will result in an adjustment to the subscription expiration date.

TODAYINMIDLAND

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Things to do

■ 82nd Annual Sandhills Stock Show & Rodeo at Ector County Coliseum in Odessa. sandhillsstockshowandrodeo.com.

■ Ultimate Calf Roping at the Horseshoe, midlandhorseshoe.com

Films opening in Midland

■ Tall City 14: "The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death"
Cinergy Cinemas: "The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death"

■ Big Sky Drive-In: Closed today because of the weather. Check bigskytheatre.com for movie listings.

Today in history

Today is Thursday, Jan. 1, the first day of 2015. There are 364 days left in the year.

Today's highlight

On Jan. 1, 1975, a jury in Washington found Nixon administration officials John N. Mitchell, H.R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and Robert C. Mardian guilty of charges related to the Watergate cover-up; a fifth defendant, Kenneth Parkinson, was acquitted, and Mardian's conviction for conspiracy was later overturned on appeal.

On this date:

In 1660, Englishman Samuel Pepys began keeping his famous diary.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states shall be "forever free."

In 1913, the U.S. Parcel Post system went into operation.

In 1935, The Associated Press inaugurated Wirephoto, the first successful service for transmitting photographs by wire to member newspapers.

In 1945, France was admitted to the United Nations.

In 1953, country singer Hank Williams Sr., 29, was discovered dead in the back seat of his car during a stop in Oak Hill, West Virginia, while he was being driven to a concert date in Canton, Ohio.

In 1959, Fidel Castro and his revolutionaries overthrew Cuban leader Fulgencio Batista, who fled to the Dominican Republic.

In 1979, the United States and China held celebrations in Washington and Beijing to mark the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In 1984, the breakup of AT&T took place as the telecommunications giant was divested of its 22 Bell System companies under terms of an antitrust agreement.

In 1985, the music cable channel VH-1 made its debut with a video of Marvin Gaye performing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Ten years ago: Desperate, homeless villagers on the tsunami-ravaged island of Sumatra mobbed American helicopters carrying aid as the U.S. military launched its largest operation in the region since the Vietnam War. Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to the U.S. Congress, died near Daytona Beach, Florida, at age 80. No. 6 Texas managed a wild 38-37 win over No. 13 Michigan in the Rose Bowl.

AUDIT

From 1A

in December after newspapers reported state officials skirted procurement laws to steer a $20 million Medicaid anti-fraud contract to Austin cybersecurity company 21CT.

The commission's former chief counsel, Jack Stick, who was instrumental in orchestrating the 21CT contract, resigned Dec. 12. That same day, the state canceled a pending $90 million contract extension with 21CT. One week later the commission's inspector general, Doug Wilson, whose office signed the deal, resigned.

FATAL

From 1A

ty, according to previous Reporter-Telegram reports.

Jauquez-Nevarez was driving a Ford F-350 northbound on FM 1788, about 20 miles southwest of Midland, when he tried to pass a tractor-trailer, according to Viramontes. He lost control of the pickup, which rolled into the westside ditch and came to rest on its side. Jauquez-Nevarez was not wearing his seat belt, according to the release.

There were three passengers in the pickup. The release didn't indicate whether any of them were injured.

The last fatal accident on FM 1788 occurred on Dec. 22 when a man drove a car underneath a semi's trailer, according to a previous Reporter-Telegram report.

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STRUGGLES

From 1A

Michigan University in April. Less than two weeks later, Whitman accepted his current job and agreed to make the move south.

Several factors drew Whitman to Midland, including a higher-than-average starting salary, the possibility of receiving a housing stipend from the MISD Education Foundation and the availability of Army Reserve units in Texas; he has since opted to receive the $10,000 new teacher signing bonus paid over three years and has learned that traveling more than 300 miles for his reserve weekends hasn't been easy to pull off.

The 1,300-mile move from Kalamazoo to Midland didn't sink in until Whitman packed up his car and set out for the Lone Star State.

"In my life I thought I'd never live in Texas because I grew up in a very liberal area," he said. "My family would always make fun of Rick Perry, and I always thought, 'Ha ha, I'll never be around Rick Perry.'

"And now he's my governor. It's a lot different."

Different for Whitman includes a browner and dustier landscape, fewer vegetarian options when dining out and an abundance of pickups. Whitman said there's not as much to do in Midland, but he's a bit of a homebody. He can be found at home playing video games with his pet bird when he's not working, so he doesn't mind that change of pace.

But, the rent prices.

"Oh my God. It hurts," he said. "It's so painful. Eleven-hundred for a one bedroom. In Kalamazoo, with a friend, I was renting a two-bedroom for $550 a month, total."

In addition to being a teacher and a soldier, Whitman started another job in October: selling televisions for about 20 hours per week at Sears. Managing three jobs has been "rough" but at $850 a month, student loan payments have to be covered somehow, he said.

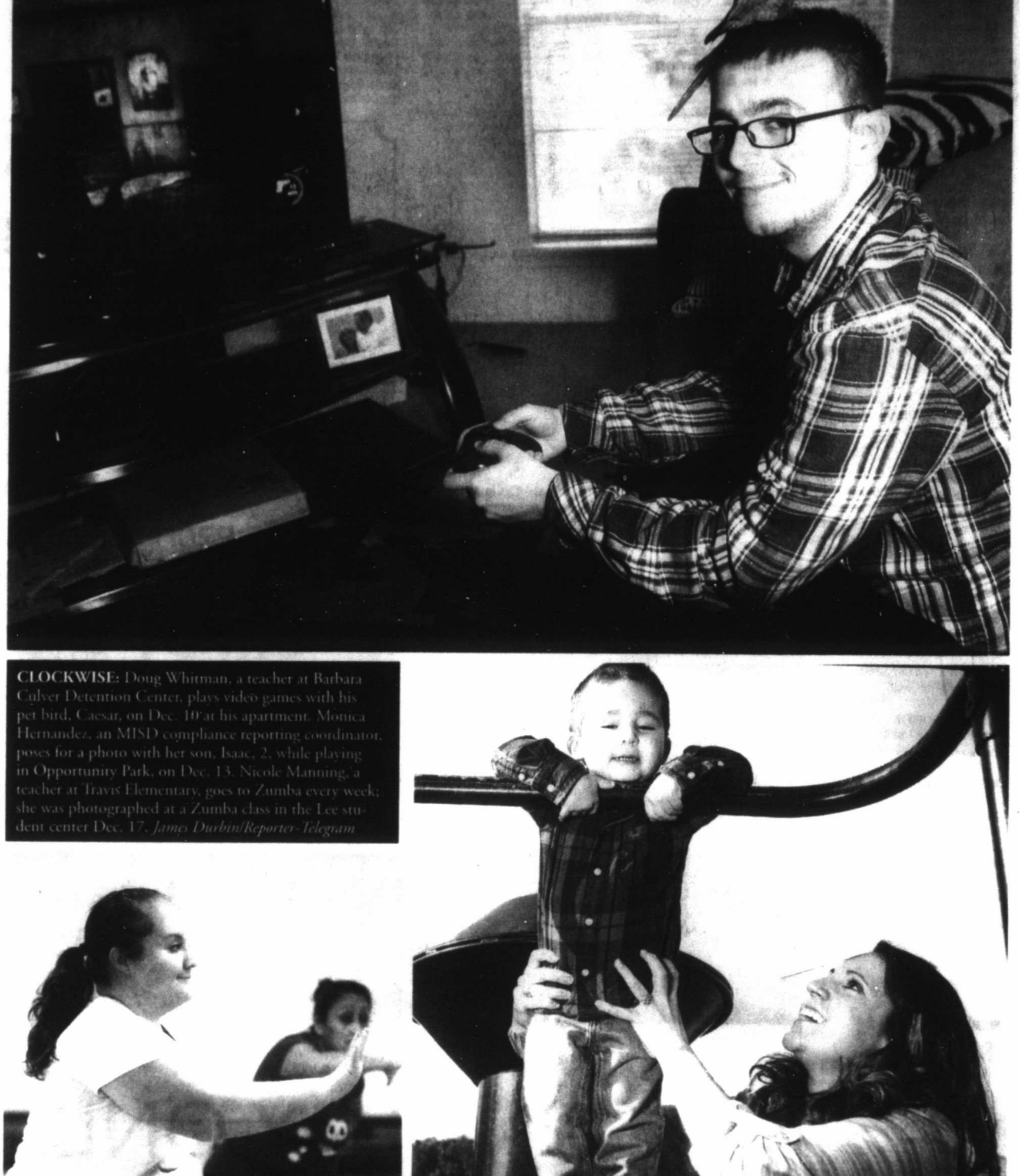
Whitman said he loves his teaching job, and still wakes up excited to work with the kids at Culver every day. His classes focus on one-day, practical lessons, such as creating a budget and balancing a checkbook. On any given day there are eight or nine students at the center ranging in age from 10 to 17.

"If you teach them things that connect to their real lives they may realize, 'Hey, math and science are not that boring,'" he said. "A lot of them put up walls and they just need the right teacher to get through to them."

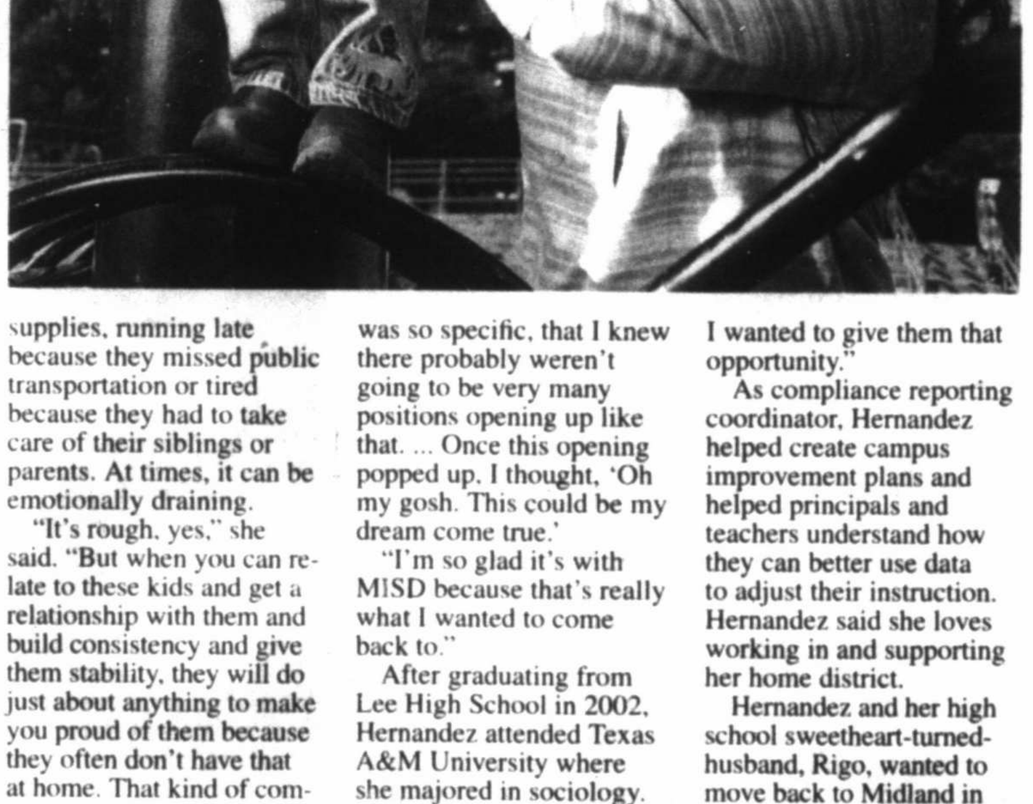
It never occurred to Whitman that he may want to teach in a juvenile detention center, but when it was offered, "I didn't hesitate."

In fact, Whitman said his students have been the best part of his relocation.

"Just having students react saying, 'Wow I didn't know that. That's crazy,'" he said. "If I teach them practical things — even if I only have them for a few days — having them walk away with a skill they didn't have before is great."



CLOCKWISE: Doug Whitman, a teacher at Barbara Culver Detention Center, plays video games with his pet bird, Caesar, on Dec. 10 at his apartment. Monica Hernandez, an MISD compliance reporting coordinator, poses for a photo with her son, Isaac, 2, while playing in Opportunity Park, on Dec. 13. Nicole Manning, a teacher at Travis Elementary, goes to Zumba every week; she was photographed at a Zumba class in the Lee student center Dec. 17. *James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram*



Nicole Manning

Nicole Manning's strong Christian faith played a role in bringing her to West Texas and getting her through the ensuing trials and tribulations that come with transitioning to the real world.

Manning, 23, is a second-year math teacher at Travis Elementary School. She also relocated to Midland from Michigan — Grand Rapids.

It all started in spring 2013 when she met Paul Hooper, MISD director of certified personnel, at a job fair in Michigan.

"I did not want to come to Texas at all. I was dead set against it," Manning said. "It was one of the states I didn't want to come to, but he just wouldn't let me go by his booth. 'No, ma'am, I really want to talk to you.'

"He was just very friendly about it, and being a person of faith, (I believed) there's a reason this man is trying to talk to me out of the hundreds of people here."

Manning subsequently interviewed and landed her current job. She also looked in other states, including Utah, New Mexico and Arizona, but the support and welcoming nature she felt from Midland affirmed her decision to join MISD. After a little online digging into Midland and after getting past the shock of a change of scenery, Manning said she was excited to see Midland had a lot of restaurants, parks and even gyms where she could keep doing the Zumba classes she loves.

"I just had this peace, this calmness inside me," she said. "Even though I was terrified (of moving somewhere I had never been), it was just this, 'Yes, this is the right decision.'"

Next began the "mission impossible" task of finding a place to live. Through a church connection, Manning met a family she could live with for a couple of months until she moved into her apartment in September. But, it wasn't easy.

"A series of phone numbers and dead ends," she said of finding an apartment. "'OK, God, you brought me here and I have no place to live.'

"I just felt like I didn't fit. I didn't have a place that was mine. I didn't even have a bed that was mine," Manning said. "And I have to have this positive mentality on the first day when I see this class full of students for the first time."

Soon after moving into her apartment, Manning realized she'd have no money left at the end of the month once her rent and bills were paid. Even with a housing grant from MISD's Education Foundation, she was still paying $1,100 for an apartment that was riddled with problems and where she felt unsafe.

In May 2014, Manning ended her lease early, purchased a manufactured home and found a lot to put it on, all for less than what she was paying to rent a 700-square-foot apartment. At first, Manning was delighted to have a place of her own, but has since grown frustrated with poor service from the company she purchased it from and issues have emerged with the home's quality. Eventually, she hopes to sell it and buy a "real" house when she can afford it.

Her housing struggles, especially early on, have helped her relate to her students.

"It was good for me, too, because especially working in a Title I school it made me understand a lot of stuff my students are going through," she said. "I was struggling to figure out food because I didn't have a paycheck yet; I had just graduated college and now I just spent $7,000 to move all of my things down here and now I'm on a wait list for all these holdings for all these different apartments and my money is just gone and I'm just trying to feed myself."

Manning said she always felt drawn to working in a Title I school. Growing up, Manning said her parents made a lot of sacrifices to make sure she could attend a good public school. The school was affluent and lacking diversity, and Manning said she struggled to relate to her peers. While attending Cornerstone University, Manning also received the federal TEACH Grant, which gave her $2,000 a year as long as she agreed to teach in a high-needs area at a low-income school for four years.

Working at a Title I school, she has seen her students come to school hungry, without school supplies, running late because they missed public transportation or tired because they had to take care of their siblings or parents. At times, it can be emotionally draining.

"It's rough, yes," she said. "But when you can relate to these kids and get a relationship with them and build consistency and give them stability, they will do just about anything to make you proud of them because they often don't have that at home. That kind of compassion and empathy they draw from you made me a better person.

"I learn from these kids — I promise you — every day, and I just pray I'm that effective that they learn something from me every day."

Monica Hernandez

When Monica Hernandez thinks of Midland, she thinks of family.

"I just remember Midland being a great place to grow up and so that's why I wanted to bring my little boy here," Hernandez said. "I wanted him to grow up in the same area I grew up and in the same things I loved and enjoyed.

"Any time that we want to be around family, we can just hop in the car and they're 10 minutes away."

MISD's new compliance reporting coordinator moved in July from her job in the accountability department at Alief ISD in Houston to return to her hometown of Midland. Hernandez said after eight years in Houston, it was time to come back to West Texas for an improved quality of life. When her current role at MISD became available, she jumped at the opportunity.

"I was just looking to come home," she said. "My role within Alief ISD was so specific, that I knew there probably weren't going to be very many positions opening up like that. ... Once this opening popped up, I thought, 'Oh my gosh. This could be my dream come true.'

"I'm so glad it's with MISD because that's really what I wanted to come back to."

After graduating from Lee High School in 2002, Hernandez attended Texas A&M University where she majored in sociology. Instead of going through with her initial plan to earn a doctorate in sociology and become a professor, Hernandez signed up for Teach for America, where she was placed in Alief ISD as a sixth-grade reading, language arts and social studies teacher.

"Everyone who was a part of Teach for America was really, really passionate about students and didn't see teaching just as a job," she said. "They saw it as an opportunity to really impact student lives. I had always been interested (in helping others), like whenever I would do community service, I would always do tutoring or Upward Bound. I even was an Upward Bound tutor here at Midland College."

When her two-year commitment was up, Hernandez opted to stay with Alief, where she remained a teacher for another two years before becoming an English as a Second Language and bilingual coach and later, an administrator.

"I really think that the kids showed me how to overcome different obstacles because they had so many obstacles going on in their lives, but they would come to school and they were ready to learn," Hernandez said. "That showed me that I want to really work hard for them. I wanted to give them that opportunity."

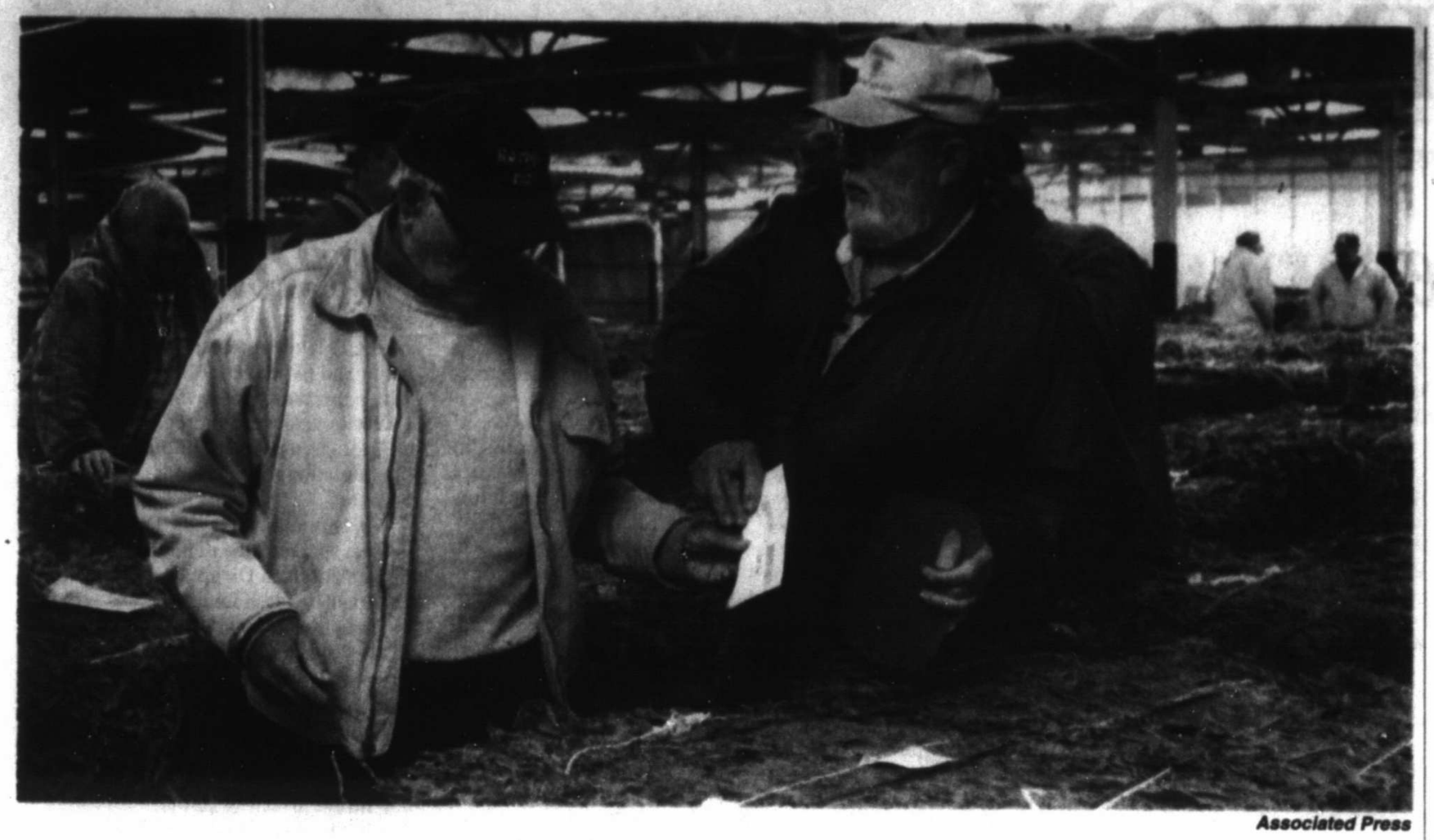
As compliance reporting coordinator, Hernandez helped create campus improvement plans and helped principals and teachers understand how they can better use data to adjust their instruction. Hernandez said she loves working in and supporting her home district.

Hernandez and her high school sweetheart-turned-husband, Rigo, wanted to move back to Midland in order to provide a better, more family-oriented life for their 2-year-old son, Isaac. The cost of living proved to be a challenge right away, with Hernandez and Isaac living with her parents at first, and Rigo staying in Houston while working and trying to sell their home. Rigo found a job in Midland and moved to the Permian Basin in October, and the family rents a house from Rigo's father. Their Houston home remains on the market.

When they're not at the park playing, the Hernandezes can be found at family dinners a few times a week.

"My son is now always wanting to go over to grandma's house," she said. "We leave one grandma's house and he wants to go to the other grandma's house. We never would have been able to do that in Houston. In Houston, he may not have even known who grandmas are.

"When we compare our lives (now) to what it was in Houston, there's really nothing to complain about at all in terms of Midland," she said. "I think Midland is a great place to raise a family and that's what we came back for. These six months that we've been here, we can only hope it will continue to provide that good family living we're seeing right now."



Associated Press

On Nov. 18, auctioneer Tripp Foy, right, hands a tobacco purchase ticket to a buyer at an auction in Danville, Ky. Foy has been doing live tobacco auctions in Kentucky for four decades, and he is one of the last tobacco auctioneers in the country.

Tobacco auction system is all but snuffed out

By Bruce Schreiner
Associated Press

DANVILLE, Ky. — Tripp Foy's sing-song chant rang out like a sentimental oldie for die-hard farmers clinging to the old way of selling tobacco, as a small procession of buyers shadowed him down long rows of reddish-brown leaf piled in bales.

Farmers who have spent their lives tending the aromatic crop in their fields find comfort in Foy's rat-a-tat style, part of an auction system that's been all but snuffed out by another way of selling tobacco after years of declining smoking rates.

"It's kind of in our blood," said tobacco farmer Walter Browning. "But I'm about bled out."

This tobacco-belt tradition, once as much a part of Kentucky's fabric as bourbon or horse racing, is fading away — and it's taking the maestros like Foy with it.

"The chant of an auctioneer can sound as good as a song," said Foy, 63, who has spent four decades auctioning tobacco in Kentucky — the nation's top burley producer. "You can walk down a row and you can almost dance to the tune of the sale."

Years ago, multiple auctioneers plied their trade in each of the state's biggest burley markets as sales seasons typically stretched from late autumn until March. The competition for top auctioneers was fierce as warehouse operators looked for any edge to pull in more business from farmers.

Now, most burley is sold under contracts between farmers and tobacco companies. Contracting sprung up a decade ago after the demise of a federal program of price supports and production quotas that guaranteed minimum prices for most of the 20th century.

The new system cut out warehouse operators as middle men.

Tobacco companies typically don't disclose how much contract leaf they purchase or for how much to avoid tipping their hand to competitors.

Excess world burley tobacco supplies and lower demand are driving down prices, said University of Kentucky agricultural economist Will Snell.

Last year's crop averaged $2.06 per pound. Quality leaf sold under contract is still fetching prices in the $1.90s to $2 a pound this season, he said. But selling non-contract burley, especially lower-quality leaf, is "going to be a struggle," he said.

Droves of farmers got out of tobacco as U.S. smoking rates declined. The number of U.S. tobacco farms dropped from 124,270 in 1992 to 16,234 during the last federal crop census in 2007. Burley, once a $1 billion crop in Kentucky, now generates about $300 million for the state's remaining growers.

Despite the setbacks, a handful of auction markets have stubbornly hung on.

Supporters say they provide a necessary alternative for tobacco farmers unable or unwilling to sign contracts or unhappy with prices offered by the companies at contract receiving stations.

About 400,000 pounds of tobacco were available last month on the opening sales day at the Danville warehouse, where Foy presided as auctioneer. Jerry Rankin, the warehouse operator, plans twice-weekly auctions for larger supplies of non-contract leaf. Rankin bought up some of the burley when bidding by leaf dealers was too low. Rankin bought it on speculation, hoping to sell it to tobacco companies or dealers. He expects all the leaf to wind up in cigarettes.

Total output in burley-production states is forecast at 211 million pounds this year, with Kentucky accounting for an expected 161 million pounds.

Some Kentucky farmers found out in the spring they had been dropped from production contracts, after buying tobacco plants and preparing ground, Rankin said. They went ahead with the crop, putting millions more pounds of leaf in the auction system at a time when demand and prices are depressed.

"These growers grew it in good faith and did a good job doing it, and they're spinning their wheels," Rankin said. "Some of them are going to go under."

Other than Foy's familiar chant, little else resembled opening days from the era when every bit of leaf went through the auction system.

Grim-faced growers watched their burley sell for paltry amounts — generally $1.25 or $1.30 a pound.

"It's a sad day," said farmer Leland Turner. "I never thought I'd see the time when tobacco would be so cheap."

Prices improved slightly in follow-up sales at the Danville warehouse, to an average of $1.35 to $1.44 per pound, Rankin said. But that's not nearly enough to cover expenses for the crop, unless farmers and their families did all the work themselves.

Years ago, the auctions signaled the promise of money filtering through small towns and big cities alike.

For farmers, it was the anticipation of a big pay day. If early prices were good enough, the payoff came right before Christmas. Bankers and merchants kept tabs on how high the bidding went.

There was no festive mood as this year's sales opened at the Danville warehouse. An ag credit lending agency supplied doughnuts for the few dozen people on hand. Rankin gave a short speech, thanking the farmers for their business.

For some of the growers looking on, the end of the line was coming into focus.

Browning said he already decided this year's crop would be his last. He has a factory job and used his tobacco income to pay property taxes, but he wasn't sure he would get enough to cover the bill this year.

"You spend a lot of time on it for what little I get," he said. "Instead of going on vacations with my wife, I'm hauling tobacco."

Foy's own schedule has slowed considerably. Years ago, he presided over tobacco sales for nine months out of the year across the eastern U.S. Now, he auctions tobacco at only a handful of warehouses in Kentucky. He estimates only a couple of auctioneers besides him remain.

"I don't know that I'm the last of the breed," he said. "But unless the industry changes, the ones that are tobacco auctioneers now, when we're all dead and gone, there won't be any more."

Last 4 on Md. death row to have sentences commuted

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Outgoing Democratic Gov. Martin O'Malley said Wednesday that he will commute the capital sentences of the state's last four inmates on death row to life in prison, saying executing them "does not serve the public good of the people of Maryland."

Two years ago, the General Assembly abolished the death penalty in the state, making the ultimate sentence in new cases life in prison without the possibility of parole.

That left five previously sentenced inmates on death row; one of them, John Booth-El, died in prison this year.

The governor noted in a statement that outgoing Democratic Attorney General Doug Gansler recently asserted that carrying out prior sentences would be illegal in the absence of an existing statute.

"The question at hand is whether any public good is served by allowing these essentially un-executable sentences to stand," O'Malley said. "In my judgment, leaving these death sentences in place does not serve the public good of the people of Maryland — present or future."

The governor said he had met or spoken with many of the relatives of the people killed by the inmates, and he thanked them for talking with him about the cases.

But he said that his failing to act at this point in the legal process would "needlessly and callously subject survivors, and the people of Maryland, to the ordeal of an endless appeals process, with unpredictable twists and turns, and without any hope of finality or closure."

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NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the St. Lawrence Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Glasscock, Reagan, Upton, and portions of Midland counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields beginning **January 16, 2015**. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.

NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS

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Not everyone dreams of being wealthy

■ American Dream may have seen hard times, but it still has the ability to be either a catalyst or a comfort

ESTHER CEPEDA

Washington Post Writers Group

There was a Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young song that came out in 1988 called "American Dream." It had a catchy tune but as a 14-year-old, I recoiled from it because it was so negative.

"You wake up in the middle of the night.
Your sheets are wet and your face is white.
You tried to make a good thing last,
How could something so good go bad so fast?"

A satire about political scandals, the song wasn't terribly surprising, coming as it did from the same guys who slandered an entire city with "Chicago," which protested the violence at the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

The point is, CSNY's "American Dream," though bouncy, was a real bummer — as are songs of the same title by Hank Williams Jr., Lucinda Williams and, most recently, the pop duo MKTO.

The American Dream has seen hard times and, some say, is on the ropes again.

This is what news headlines were declaring after the release of results from a recent New York Times poll. More than two-thirds of respondents said they felt things in this country have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track.

And according to the subsequent reporting, "just 64 percent of Americans believe in the American Dream."

But this is only true if you believe that the American Dream is to get rich.

Yes, the much-cited statistic stems from the answer to this question: "Do you think it is still possible to start out poor in this country, work hard, and become rich?"

Unless you're Augie March, a character in a Saul Bellow novel, you might have a different take on what the so-called American Dream is.

I did my own public, albeit completely unscientific, poll of the term on my social media networks and was unable to find anyone who defined the American Dream with a "get rich" answer.

One reader, Sue Harrison, said, "I believe the American Dream is based on the freedoms we are fortunate to have granted to us as American citizens."

Another, Teresa Rufer Davis, wrote, "World peace. The CURE for cancer. Citizens working together. Classless financial negotiations cousined with big return for big risk. That's all."

Don Sellers echoed both my sons' sentiments (which involved going to college, getting a house, getting married and having kids) with: "The freedom and opportunity to live and work and prosper."

Lynn Oscar Phillipps said "Peace," while Jose Martinez summed it up with "the American Dream it's a never-ending dream that can be fulfilled, is there any limit? Yes there is, we put the limit," which I'll paraphrase as the American Dream being whatever you want it to be.

Over on the Independent Women's Forum blog, Jennifer Marsico also pushed back at the simplification of such a deeply personal and diverse concept. She cited a September 2013 poll from The Washington Post and the Miller Center at the University of Virginia that "found that just 29 percent of Americans believe that becoming wealthy is at the heart of what the American Dream means — the lowest response from the list of options given."

Though I like the oft-cited definition by James Truslow Adams — "life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement, regardless of social class or circumstances of birth" — my interpretation relies far more on Benjamin Franklin.

With his autobiography, Franklin is said to have sparked "the definitive formation of the American Dream," according to historian J.A. Leo Lemay.

Though seen by most as a tome on hard work, virtue and wealth, the book always struck me as an object lesson on transformation. From hungry newcomer arriving in Philadelphia with only a few coins to becoming a printer, postmaster, scientist, university founder, statesman, diplomat and flirtatious chess master.

Just like this Founding Father, the American Dream's strength is its ability to transform in whatever way is needed to ascend from modesty to greatness.

Whether it represents a dollar sign to some or the comfort of globally envied personal freedom to others, its strength gives it the ability to be either a catalyst or a comfort.

Either way: The American Dream is not on the ropes — but if it was, you'd be right to believe it will quickly rebound.

OUR VIEW

Resolutions can ensure a better community

It's resolution time. Even at the Reporter-Telegram there are resolutions we can make to ensure a better community.

So while we leave exercising or eating better for individual members of the community, here are some items we are hoping our community can accomplish in 2015.

■ Living with oil at a lower price. This newspaper has been vocal about getting ahead of the population surge, and we believe the community shouldn't ignore that goal. We believe that in the long term, Midland still will be a destination for newcomers. This influx of people will require the city, county, school district and hospital district to continue to improve on their strategies and if necessary, develop infrastructure to get Midland where it needs to be.

We believe the industry's leaders would say it's a mistake for government leaders to slam on the brakes today or even six months from now. They have said Midland should be thinking about its future in the long term. They have committed resources, including corporate facilities, for the long term and Midland should continue to take its cues from them.

Being the center of activities inside the Permian Basin comes with its plusses and minuses. This year might not replicate 2014 as it pertains to some economic indicators, including a 2.3 percent unemployment rate in November. We will see. But we believe in Midland for the long term and we will speak out against actions we see as government standing in the way of needed action.

■ Decide about the future of the 4B tax. Piggy-backing on the last comment, the community needs to determine the future of the tax that was created to build the Scharbauer Sports Complex. The complex could be paid off and, therefore, the quarter-cent addition to the sales tax could go off the books in 2016.

There are options. One is do nothing and let Midlanders enjoy a sales tax of 8 percent. Another is let the residents of Midland vote on allowing a quarter-cent to be used for infrastructure and paying for maintenance, operations and improvements to the sports complex. A third one is finding other revenue sources for the complex and creating a 4B for infrastructure and some citywide park development.

We should never insist that a tax exists just because, and residents shouldn't be told that a tax has to continue to pay the bill at the sports complex. We should be fair to the taxpayers of Midland and our city's future.

■ Learning from what happened on Nov. 15, 2012. Our community deserves to hear what caused a train to hit a Show of Support parade float, killing four previously wounded veterans and injuring more than a dozen other people.

Some may say the lawsuit brought forward by the victims of those who suffered on that day could open new wounds. That is certainly a possibility. We believe there are city officials and Show of Support officials who need to explain their side of it and provide answers about why there was no city-approved parade permit, why no one called the train company about the parade and what planning went into the parade. That, in our view, will help bring closure.

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TO OUR READERS

Opinions, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the author's or artist's views and not necessarily the view of the Reporter-Telegram.

Americans aren't being asked to serve

■ Official in Bush White House sees decline of military service as the cause of Washington's problems

DANA MILBANK

Washington Post Writers Group

I wanted to do something for my country during the holidays, so I went to the movies.

I watched the Christmas Day opening of "The Interview" to show North Korea that I wasn't afraid of its threats to blow up theaters that screen the parody of Kim Jong Un. The $9.50 I paid in the name of patriotic pride bought me stadium seating, a preview of the coming feature "Hot Tub Time Machine 2" and a feature film full of jokes about rectums, sex organs, ricin and the supreme leader defecating in his pants. Except for the Asian stereotypes, it was just my speed. Still, I wondered if there isn't a better way to sacrifice for my country.

My patriotic gesture was a form of Slacktivism — a uniquely American form of engagement in which statements are made without any real sacrifice. The Slacktivist gets icy water over the head to fight Lou Gehrig's disease or tweets out hashtags to fight kidnapping in Nigeria (#BringBackOurGirls). The Slacktivist wears color-coded bracelets for causes, "likes" causes on Facebook -- and goes to see a Seth Rogen film to defy North Korea.

This can be traced back to September 2001, when President George W. Bush launched wars without calling for sacrifice from Americans — other than to spend money. "Fly and enjoy America's great destination spots," he said. "Get down to Disney World in Florida. Take your families and enjoy life, the way we want it to be enjoyed." He also asked Americans to "hug your children" and to pray for those in uniform.

But hugging children isn't a sacrifice. The problem is that the nation's wars have been detached from any notion of sacrifice for the country — except for the fewer than 1 percent of Americans who serve in the military.

In mid-December, the National Conference on Citizenship released its annual "civic health indicators" (volunteer work, contact with friends and family, confidence in institutions) and found a "broad decline" in 16 of 20 areas. The study was backed by the Census Bureau and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Similarly, Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that volunteering in 2013 was at the lowest percentage (25.4 percent) since the government started counting in 2002.

The cause of this is fairly clear: Americans are not being asked to serve their country. With the passing of the World War II generation, veterans are just 7 percent of the population, roughly half of what they were in 1970. Fewer than 20 percent of incoming members of Congress served in the military; in the '70s, more than 70 percent had served.

John Bridgeland, who worked on national-service initiatives in the Bush White House, sees the decline of military service as the cause of Washington's problems. "The World War II generation that served together had higher levels of charitable contributions, volunteering, voting, social trust, trust in one another," he told me. "Even the gap between rich and poor was at its lowest levels."

Bridgeland's solution, joined by retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal, is to expand national service — military and other forms — to 1 million 18- to 29-year-olds each year, up from the current 100,000. While far from mandatory national service, this would be enough to create a social expectation that each 18-year-old would either join the military or spend a "service year" after high school earning a stipend serving in AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps and the like. They figure it would cost about $10 billion in taxpayer money and another $10 billion in private funds.

"In the World War II generation, people felt like happiness wasn't some individual right but something we helped one another achieve," Bridgeland says. "We're trying to rescue that notion for a generation that's lost its way."

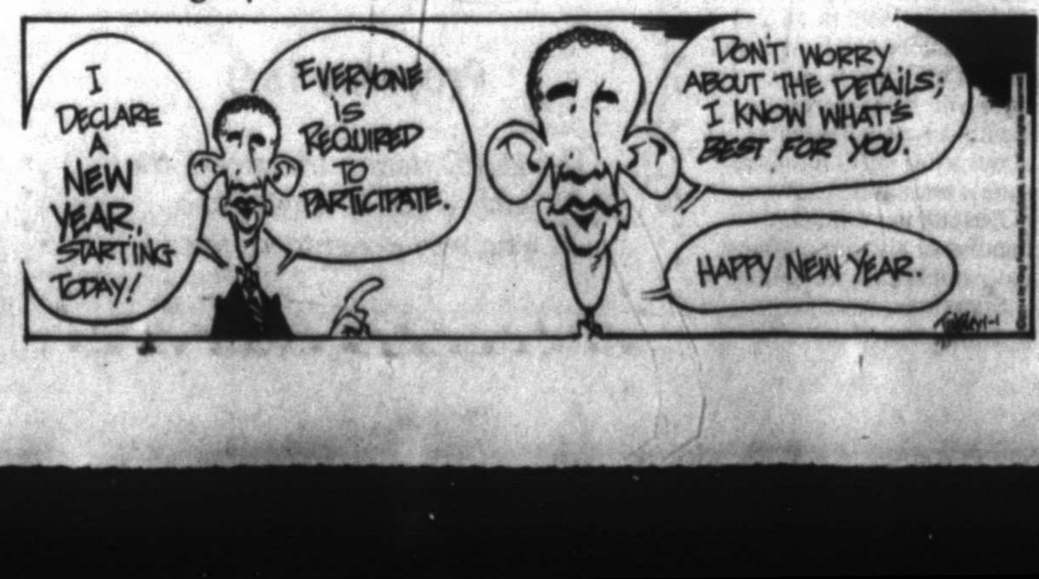
McChrystal and Bridgeland, who work on the Aspen Institute's Franklin Project, have a difficult sales job ahead of them. Bush expanded the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps after 9/11, but most service programs have been frozen or cut in recent years, as Congress refuses President Obama's requests for them.

But there's hope in the form of the would-be presidential and vice presidential candidates. Hillary Clinton, Jeb Bush, Mitt Romney, Marco Rubio and Rob Portman have all expressed interest in the issue.

This raises the hopeful possibility that national service could return to the agenda — and that a generation of Americans might be able to do something for their country other than pay $9.50 to hear crude jokes.

From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Witness confirms cover-up of Mexico army slayings

By Mark Stevenson
Associated Press

ARCELIA, Mexico — When the witness refused to sign a false statement that 22 suspected drug gang members had died in a shootout with the Mexican army, state investigators began to kick her in the ribs, she said. They put a bag over her head, plunged her face into a toilet bowl and beat her so hard that, six months later, she still has trouble with her hearing and eyesight.

"As they were hitting me ... they told me they could make even the mute talk," said the woman, one of three witnesses known to have survived a June 30 mass killing by the Mexican army.

In her first interview since being falsely imprisoned for five months on weapons possession charges, the woman said a cover-up of the crime went far beyond the seven soldiers facing trial in the case to include more soldiers, and state and federal prosecutors who pushed to make the deaths look like the result of a gunbattle rather than what they were — extra-judicial killings after surrender.

Criminal case files obtained by The Associated Press last week supported her assertion that state prosecutors knew from the start that soldiers had altered the crime scene, despite official and public declarations to the contrary. And the documents revealed that the battalion commander responsible for the troops arrived at the scene before state investigators.

The witness, a 20-year-old prostitute who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that two days after the beating in the state of Mexico she was taken to the capital, where she was pressed into signing the false statement by federal organized crime investigators working for the attorney general's office.

"I told them I wasn't going to sign anything ... and they began yelling at me," the witness said. Without a lawyer present, she finally relented. She and another witness were jailed until earlier this month.

The army slaying is one of two cases that have thrown Mexico into a human rights crisis in recent months. After the mass killing in Mexico state, 43 college students went missing at the hands of local police in neighboring Guerrero state. The crimes occurred within three months of each other under the administration of President Enrique Pena Nieto, who had promised more transparency and greater emphasis on human rights, and they have sparked international protests.

The army killings first came to light with a June 30 press release stating that soldiers on patrol near San Pedro Limon had come under fire and engaged in a fierce shootout that killed 22 gangsters, but left only one soldier wounded — an imbalance that raised questions. The AP visited the scene several days later and found little evidence of a firefight, discovering instead a series of blood-spattered bullet markings at chest height on the wall of the warehouse where the confrontation had occurred, an indication that at least some of the dead were shot at close range.

In September, the AP interviewed a survivor whose 15-year-old daughter was among the dead, and who was the first to state publicly that most of the victims had been killed after they surrendered. Like the witness released from prison, she declined to allow her name to be used. Both women fear retribution by officials and drug traffickers, given all they have disclosed.

According to criminal case files obtained by the AP, Mexico state officials learned early on that, in at least 10 cases, weapons placed next to the bodies did not match the ammunition carried by the dead men, and blood stains on clothing indicated the bodies had been moved. "Defensive wounds" suggested that at least nine of the dead had tried to ward off bullets, something they would not be able to do if they were firing weapons.

Associated Press

On July 3, state authorities use crime scene tape to seal off an unfinished warehouse that was the site of a shootout between Mexican soldiers and alleged criminals on the outskirts of the village of San Pedro Limon in Mexico state, Mexico. The army killings first came to light with a June 30 press release stating that soldiers on patrol near the town had come under fire and engaged in a fierce shootout that killed 22 gangsters, but left only one soldier wounded — an imbalance that raised questions.

Nonetheless, state investigators filed a report validating the army's version of events, stating that "observations at the crime scene showed that it has been preserved in its original state."

The documents show that the army did not interview the soldiers about a cover-up and the federal attorney general did little to investigate the June 30 slaying before the AP and Esquire magazine published interviews with the mother. In late September, federal prosecutors announced that eight of the 22 dead were killed after surrendering, although weeks later, the National Commission on Human Rights said it had found that 12 to 15 suspects were shot after surrendering.

In November three soldiers were charged with aggravated homicide in the eight deaths, and four others— including a lieutenant — were charged with "actions improper to the public service" for failing to report the killings.

The army and attorney general say that's as far as the case goes.

But the latest witness said a large number of army personnel arrived soon after the shooting, and before she saw changes to the crime scene.

Court documents revealed that Col. Raul Castro Aparicio, the commander of the 102 battalion, whose members were responsible for the killings, arrived on the scene before state investigators. The documents do not make clear what role Castro may have played there, and it is not known if he has been investigated in connection with the cover-up. The Defense Ministry did not respond to AP requests for comment or to interview Castro.

"Someone in the army decided to say 'this is the version we're going to go with,'" said Raul Plascencia, who headed the National Human Rights Commission when the agency concluded that the army had engaged in extrajudicial killings.

He told the AP that the cover-up continued when the Mexico state prosecutor's office validated the soldiers' version and went all the way to federal attorney general's office.

Federal authorities have sealed evidence in the case for 12 years, and state authorities for 15.

Attorney Gen. Jesus Murillo Karam did not respond to repeated AP requests for comment. The Mexico state prosecutor's office, responding to questions from the AP, said for the first time last week that there is an investigation by the state Inspector General for Public Security Institutions into allegations that prosecutors tried to cover up the crime and tortured two surviving witnesses to change their testimony to match the army's version. But the state prosecutors' office said no agents have been detained or suspended from their jobs

The released witness, the mother of a 2-year-old daughter who acknowledged that she worked as a prostitute, offered new details in the ordeal. She said she was waiting for a taxi outside a local water park on June 20 when a truck full of armed men drove up and forced her into the vehicle. She said she spent the next nine days bound and often blindfolded, moved among abandoned houses in the hills, and was repeatedly raped by the men.

"They drugged me, made drink," she said. "I didn't know any of them."

That's how she ended up in the warehouse on June 29. In the early morning of June 30, she remembers being awakened by an exchange of gunfire and hearing someone shout, "Mexican army! Surrender!" The soldiers initially told state prosecutors that the suspects had refused to give up, according to court documents. But the two witnesses interviewed by the AP said the gang surrendered in short order, and walked out of the warehouse with their hands behind their heads.

Five people, including the three women, were taken aside as kidnap victims. All three women testified that they saw a military man wearing a uniform different from the others arrive after the shootings. He took the two male kidnap victims aside, saying he wanted to photograph them. The witness said she heard gunfire and later saw the two men among the dead, whose bodies she saw first without weapons and later with weapons.

It is not known whether the man in a different uniform was an officer or a member of another branch of the armed services. No attempt has been made to find the man or have the women identify him, according to Plascencia, formerly of the Human Rights Commission.

More than two weeks after the shooting, Alejandro Gomez Sanchez, the state attorney general, said that there was "no evidence that would suggest possible executions."

Asked last week about the contradictions, Gomez Sanchez's office said he had been misinformed "by personnel who had charge of the investigation for only four days."

But the witness said that when she had tried to tell state authorities what really happened, they went to extremes to force her to confirm the army's version.

"One of them told me he was going to rape me," she said.

The agents threatened to charge her with weapons possession, which they eventually did, and said her 2-year-old would be an orphan.

A female state prosecutor's agent was present during her torture, she added. Only two women agents are listed in the case files.

When she was taken to the federal prosecutors' office in Mexico City, the witness said she was put into a room with several detectives, where she again was threatened with jail unless she signed the statement. She signed one page of the multi-page statement, she said, only to discover later that someone forged her signature on the rest of the pages.

After five months in jail, the witness says she faces mounting bills for medical treatment resulting from her beating and wants the government to recognize the abuse she suffered.

"I am asking for justice, because they never found any evidence against us," she said.

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Solar observatories face the prospect of being eclipsed

By Louis Sahagun
Los Angeles Times

"In solar astronomy, as well as other areas of science, the cost of doing business has gone way up. The only way to make that work is to shut down smaller operations or change their missions."

Dale Gary, solar physicist

BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif. — Motors whirred as a gleaming white dome slowly opened, allowing one of the premier solar telescopes in the world to track the magnetic fields and exploding flares of the sun. In a few hours, computers would translate that data into detailed video and pictures of the sun's turbulent surface.

Images captured weeks earlier were already shown on the monitors in a darkened control room at the Big Bear Solar Observatory. They revealed mysterious displays of dancing and flashing lights hovering between bubbles of solar plasma.

John Varsik, a research astronomer at the observatory perched high up in the San Bernardino Mountains, allowed a boyish grin to spread across his face. These lights "will be the focus of future research for years to come," he said.

But Varsik, 57, will probably not be leading that research. The $6 million telescope completed in 2009 is already being eclipsed by a much bigger solar telescope under construction in Hawaii. Over the next five years, it will gradually shift to a new primary mission: operating as a test bed for technology destined to be used elsewhere.

Around the country, many older solar telescopes are being shut down to pay for a new generation of space-based observatories and the $360-million facility under construction atop Maui's Haleakala Crater.

"In solar astronomy, as well as other areas of science, the cost of doing business has gone way up," said Dale Gary, a solar physicist and director of the Big Bear telescope. "The only way to make that work is to shut down smaller operations or change their missions."

With a 1.6-meter primary mirror, the Big Bear Solar Observatory is — for now — at the forefront of solar astronomy.

At the heart of its main telescope system is a computer-driven mirror that corrects the distortions caused by atmospheric turbulence due to moisture, wind or thin clouds. The surface of the 4-inch mirror is continually warped by 357 tiny computer-controlled pistons that create deformations about 1/50th the width of a human hair, said Nicolas Gorceix, an optical engineer at the observatory.

Adding to the instrument's precision is its location. The scope is built at the end of a jetty extending 800 feet into Big Bear Lake. Being surrounded by water reduces atmospheric convection.

Every day the sun shines, the telescope produces photos and video of solar activity that should help scientists make better predictions of the strength of solar storms associated with sunspot cycles.

The telescope was built with grants from NASA and the National Science Foundation, and the New Jersey Institute of Technology operates it on a $2 million annual budget largely funded by the federal government. Its staff of 15 — including about a dozen researchers and visiting scientists — have been investigating the complex dynamics of sunspots and seething plasma flows with unprecedented resolution.

Among the Big Bear scientists' recent discoveries are the first detailed observations of "umbral spikes," the clusters of long, cone-shaped filaments that appear in the darkest portion of sunspots, where magnetic fields are strongest. Spectral analysis of these filaments, which exist for only two to three minutes, suggests they are blasts of plasma along narrow magnetic tubes.

This is the type of work the Big Bear scientists most enjoy, but their priorities are already shifting. Their facility will increasingly be used to test instrumentation technologies that will be used at the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope in Hawaii, which is set to begin operations in 2019. That means some of the astronomical research positions now in Big Bear may be replaced by engineering jobs.

Until then, the astronomers plan to set aside as much time as possible for research on the sun's electromagnetic forces. Of particular concern are solar storms that can hurl blasts of radioactive particles, X-rays and magnetic energy toward Earth.

Such floods of charged plasma particles can disrupt the network of global positioning system satellites, knock out communications to transoceanic flights, fry sensitive satellite equipment in orbit and expose astronauts to dangerous doses of radiation.

They can also darken cities by overloading grids with electricity. A solar storm in 1989 knocked out power in Canada's Quebec province for more than nine hours and caused an estimated $2 billion in damage.

In 1859, a solar storm quieted the communications technology of the day: the telegraph.

The National Science Foundation's decision to shift its resources to space-based solar telescopes and the Hawaii observatory has led to more tension between the haves and have-nots in the solar astronomical community.

Giant solar facilities, including a 150-foot tower atop Mount Wilson in the San Gabriel Mountains above Pasadena, have deteriorated into "backwaters that have become hard to support," said UCLA astronomer Roger Ulrich, who is struggling to keep the facility in operation.

The Mount Wilson magnetograph — an instrument that makes detailed observations of the sun's magnetic fields — was shut down in 2013.

"Big science projects have fun times and not-so-fun times," said Ulrich, who used the magnetograph to study the solar interior. "Right now, I have no backup funding from the University of California and have had difficulty in maintaining a series of grants from NASA and the NSF."

Elsewhere, the National Solar Observatory is scaling down operations at its huge McMath-Pierce Solar Telescope on Kitt Peak, Ariz., and its Richard B. Dunn Solar Telescope on Sacramento Peak, N.M.

The ultimate fate of both telescopes remains uncertain, although there are efforts to hand off control to groups of community colleges, private donors and other agencies.

"Solar astronomy is a tightknit community," said Claude Plymate, chief observer at the Big Bear observatory. "We grieve the loss of all these telescopes."

Valentin M. Pillet, director of the National Solar Observatory in Boulder, Colo., said he feels the loss as well.

"We'd love to maintain these facilities if we could," Pillet said. "But the way technology evolves, things that were competitive years ago are no longer competitive."

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WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

WEEKEND TO-DO LIST

FRIDAY

BACK IN THE SADDLE Tex-Mex Barrel Racing is going on all weekend at the Horseshoe.

LAST CHANCE This is the final weekend to see Christmas at the Mansion at Museum of the Southwest.

SATURDAY

DOWNTON ABBEY Basin PBS' fundraiser 'An Evening Inspired by Downton Abbey' includes a sneak peak at Season 5.

SPOKEN WORD Stop by Tea2Go to watch local writers and performers compete in a poetry slam.

See complete schedule of weekend events on Page 2.

INSIDE

TOP STORIES See what made our list for the top 10 local entertainment stories of 2014 on **Page 3.**

ONLINE

WISH LIST Check out our 2015 wish list poll for entertainment in the Tall City. **mrt.com.**

MOVIES

Films opening and closing this week at Midland theaters:

TALL CITY 14
Opening: "The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death"
Closing: "Top Five"

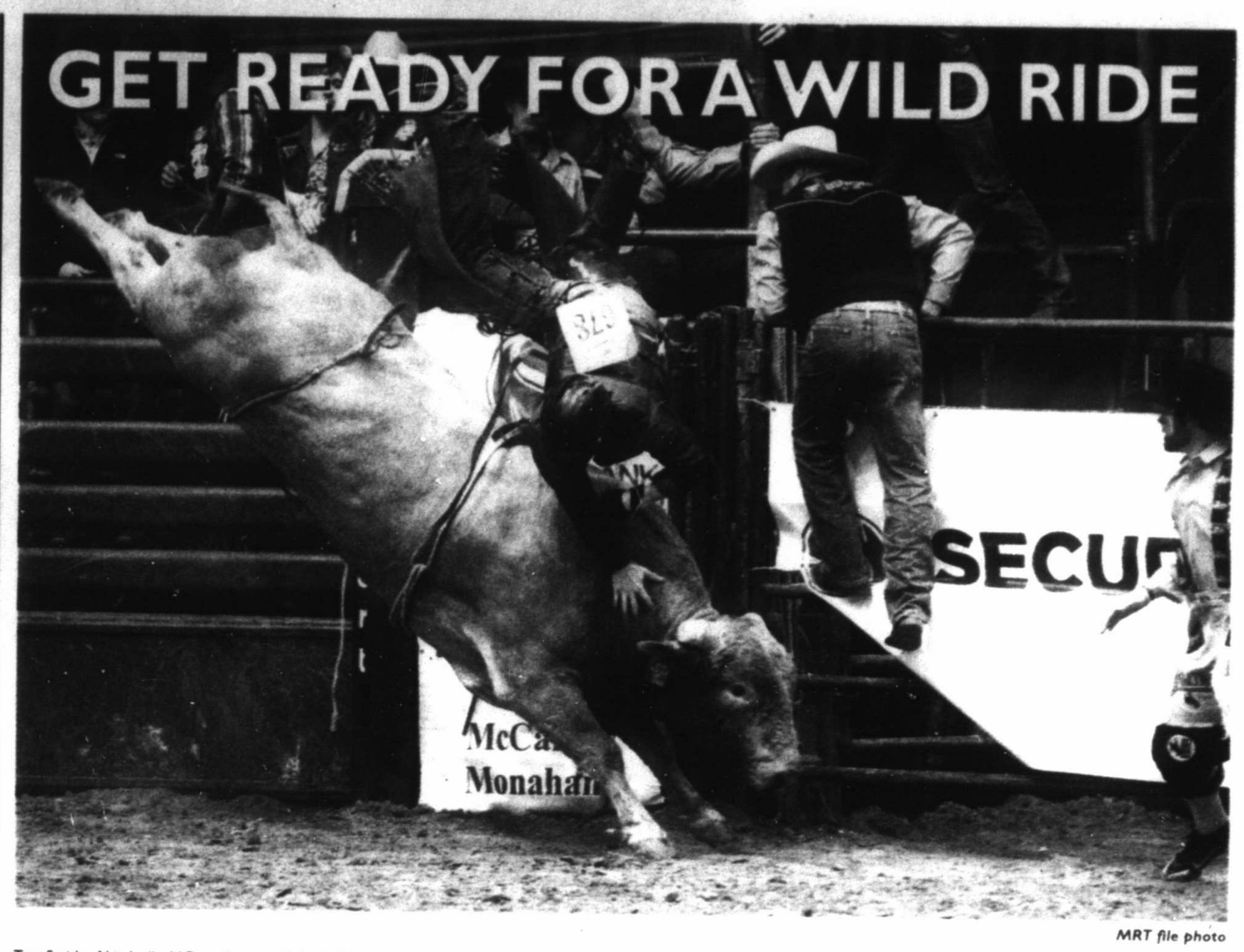
CINERGY CINEMAS
Opening: "The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death"
Closing: "Top Five"

BIG SKY DRIVE-IN
Closed today because of weather. There are no changes to this week's lineup. Call or check bigskytheatre.com to see if theater is open today. 617-3001

COMING SOON

DINO-MITE Dinosaurs take center stage at the Petroleum Museum's first Family Science Night of 2015.

GRITS AND GLAMOUR Catch Pam Tillis and Lorrie Morgan next weekend at the Wagner Noel.



MRT file photo

Tate Smith of Litchville, N.D., is thrown off the bull Hustle Up during the SandHills Rodeo on Jan. 3, 2013, at Ector County Coliseum. See the schedule of events for this year's rodeo on Page 2.

'Ida,' 'Boyhood' named year's best films by Associated Press

By Jake Coyle and Jocelyn Noveck
Associated Press

Associated Press

This image released by IFC Films shows Ellar Coltrane at age six in a scene from the film, "Boyhood."

The top 10 films of 2014, according to AP Film Writer Jake Coyle:

1. "Ida" — Where did this perfect little gem come from? Its director, Pawel Pawlikowski, wasn't previously a major name in international cinema. Yet at a time when most filmmakers can't keep their movies under two hours, Pawlikowksi plunges into Polish history and back again in less than 90 minutes. Yes, an austere, black-and-white Polish film doesn't sound like the most appetizing stuff. But it's a hauntingly beautiful film, and thanks to the tremendous Agata Kulesza, there's humor here, too.

2. "Boyhood" — One of the most memorable parts of film in 2014 was seeing the movies play with time, capturing it in elapse ("Boyhood"), bending its particles ("Interstellar") and wryly gazing at its courses across centuries (Jim Jarmusch's excellent "Only Lovers Left Alive"). Richard Linklater's 12-years-in-the-making "Boyhood" is a landmark, for sure. But for a much-lauded masterpiece, it's incredibly humble, warm and humanistic.

3. "The Grand Budapest Hotel" — Wes Anderson's heroes are, like him, devotees of brilliant escapes: the beachside oasis of "Moonrise Kingdom," the play land of Rushmore Academy, the pre-war elegance of this film's Eastern European resort. Dreams are inevitably punctured by outside forces, and a new, compromised life must be found — some melancholy combination of fantasy and reality. Usually, Bill Murray's there somewhere.

4. "Mr. Turner" and "Birdman" — In a year rich with colorful portraits of artists (the obsessive, rigorous drummer of "Whiplash," the arrogant, oblivious author of "Listen Up Philip") these two most stood out: "Birdman" for its blisteringly kinetic flow and the raging ego of Michael Keaton's actor; and the masterful "Mr. Turner" for its total lack of pretention and Timothy Spall's gruff, grunting painter.

5. "Interstellar" — Admittedly, I'm a sucker when it comes to stories about dads and daughters. Many critics poked holes in the imperfectly stitched cosmic fabric of Christopher Nolan's space epic, but I found the time-traveling epic — science fiction built on science fact — grandly moving. So I'm a sentimentalist who digs space. Sue me.

6. "Inherent Vice" — Obviously, I'm also an easy mark for a glorious mess. Paul Thomas Anderson's adaption of Thomas Pynchon is probably a noble failure in an impossible task. But there's no movie I'm keener to return to, to again feel its electric songs and its scruffy sadness.

7. "The Immigrant" — A number of films in 2014 weren't shy about their Big American Themes. Bennett Miller's "Foxcatcher" was the most mesmerizing; JC Chandor's "A Most Violent Year" the most atmospheric; and Clint Eastwood's "American Sniper" the tautest. But James Gray's period Ellis Island tale was the most majestic. The film's powerful last shot is an absolute knock out.

8. "Under the Skin" — Equal parts beautiful and terrifying in its alien mystery, Jonathan Glazer's extraterrestrial shocker (with Scarlett Johansson as the other-worldly being that touches down in, of all places, Glasgow) made for a searing cinematic experience of sound and imagery.

9. "Leviathan" — There's a stout Russian muscularity to Andrey Zvyagintsev's bleak, Job-like tale of corruption in a coastal Russian town. A framed portrait of Vladimir Putin above the police chief looms large.

10. "Starred Up" — Four walls, a father and a son, plus a whole lot of violent rage. The ingredients of this British prison drama are simple, but its force is ferocious. In one of the more remarkable father-son dramas you'll see (a young punk gets locked up in the same facility as his dad), Jack O'Connell (the star of Angelina Jolie's "Unbroken") dramatically arrives. But the movie's also a reminder that there's no more riveting actor in movies than Ben Mendelsohn, who plays the father.

Also just as good: "Two Days, One Night," "The Babadook," "Selma," "Ernest & Celestine," "Locke," "Citizenfour," "Stranger By the Lake," "Dear White People," "Timbuktu," "The Trip to Italy" and "Neighbors."

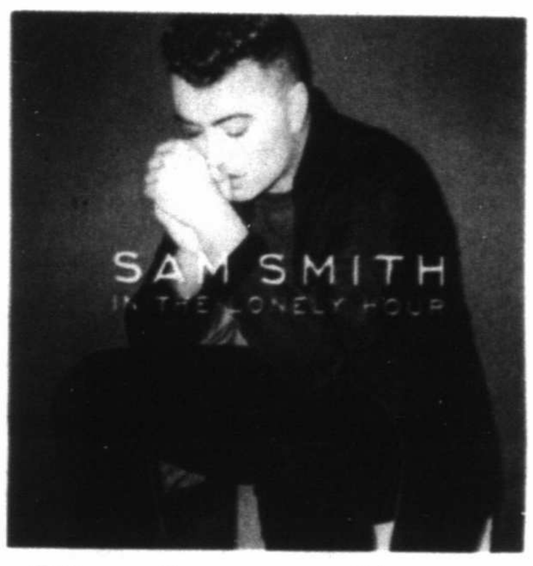
The top 10 films of 2014, according to AP National Writer Jocelyn Noveck:

1. "Boyhood" — This movie just pulsates with the feeling that it's something utterly unique — something rare and exciting. It's not just that director Richard Linklater managed to shoot it over 12 years, creating an astonishingly fluid view of a boy's life; It's how the film makes us feel. By the end, we know Mason (the sensitive Ellar Coltrane) so well, it feels wrong to leave him. Shouldn't he be coming home with us?

2. "Birdman" — Absolutely bracing in its verve and inventiveness, Alejandro G. Inarritu's meditation on fame, relevance and self-worth is a marvel. Michael Keaton is raw and vulnerable as an aging actor trying to exorcise his superhero past; Edward Norton is superb as a charismatic jerk. The cherry on top: Emmanuel Lubezki's stunningly seamless camera work.

3. "Selma" — Talk about a movie that comes just when the country needs it. A beautifully restrained performance by David Oyelowo as

Please see **FILMS/Page 4**



Year's top album is Sam Smith's 'In The Lonely Hour'

By Mesfin Fekadu
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Up for a good long listen? Check out the Associated Press' top albums of 2014 list:

1. "In the Lonely Hour," Sam Smith: Sam Smith's album was an emotional roller coaster — a ride you couldn't get off of even if you tried. The songs, anchored by his piercing voice, had the power to make you cry, smile, shiver and even dance. Tracks like radio hit "Stay With Me" and "Leave Your Lover" are intense and emotional, making for an honest, beautiful album that soothes the soul. There can only be only reply when he sings, "Oh, won't you stay with me?" That would be a resounding, "Yes."

2. "2014 Forest Hills Drive," J. Cole: J. Cole: Another honest man. J. Cole. The insanely talented rapper captures so much on his third album, tackling various topics from losing his virginity to growing up in Fayetteville, North Carolina to contemporary rappers who should take note. His rhymes are smart, and he is a powerful storyteller that, at times, echoes rap king Nas.

3. "LP1," FKA twigs: FKA twigs' ethereal and eerie album is heavenly. The English singer's soft vocals layered over weird beats make this 10-track set a must listen, thanks to addictive tracks like "Two Weeks," "Numbers" and "Lights On."

4. "Sucker," Charli XCX: Let's boom clap for Charli XCX and her top notch album, "Sucker." The mix of rock and pop songs are confident and catchy, and prove that although Charli XCX was the side chick on songs like Iggy Azalea's "Fancy" and Icona Pop's "I Love It," she's the real leading lady.

5. "Aquarius," Tinashe: Tinashe, who is also part of the alternative R&B movement, delivered an album that moved the needle this year. Though she had a huge hit with the addictive "2 On," the singer proves she's much more than a one-hit wonder on "Aquarius." Her whispery vocals glide over the songs' beats so nicely you'll constantly hit repeat. "Just Like Vegas" is only one of the many standouts.

6. "Evergreen," Broods: The parents of brother and sister duo Broods should be proud. The New Zealand group's album, "Evergreen," is a winner with instrumentalist Caleb Nott shining on the eclectic, alternative production, giving Georgia Nott a platform to showcase her calming vocals, especially on "Killing You" and "Mother & Father."

Please see **ALBUMS/Page 3**

CALENDARS

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

MUSIC

Darren Welch Group, Friday and Saturday at The Bar. thebarmidland.com.

The Heroine, Minus the Richards, Sunday at Blue Max. facebook.com/bluemaxrocks.

ARTS & EXHIBITS

Free admission to Christmas at the Mansion, Friday through Sunday at Museum of the Southwest. museumsw.org.

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.

EVENTS

82nd annual Sandhills Stock Show & Rodeo, today through Jan. 11 at Ector County Coliseum in Odessa. sandhillsstockshowandrodeo.com.

Tex-Mex Barrel Race, Friday through Sunday at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

William Doherty book signing, 2 p.m. Saturday at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. www.co.midland.tx.us.

Poetry slam, 7 p.m. Saturday at Tea2Go. facebook.com/texaspoets.

An Evening Inspired By Downton Abbey, hosted by Basin PBS, 7 p.m. Saturday at Midland Country Club. basinpbs.org.

KID-FRIENDLY

Spanish Storytime and Tesoro Playgroup, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. www.co.midland.tx.us.

Storytime, 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. www.co.midland.tx.us.

"Framed: Step Into Art" exhibit through Feb. 1 at Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum. museumsw.org.

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

SANDHILLS RODEO SCHEDULE

The 82nd annual Sandhills Stock Show & Rodeo kicks off this week at the Ector County Coliseum in Odessa. Friday is Family Night. Bullfighters and rodeo "royalty" will be signing autographs and meeting children and families. Also on Friday, admission tickets will include entry into prize giveaways. The giveaways will be done by seat numbers.

For more information, go to sandhillsstockshowandrodeo.com.

Schedule of events

Today
Noon: Heifer arrival deadline; Goats move in
1 p.m.: Heifers check in, Outback arena
4:30 p.m.: Goat arrival deadline

Friday
8 a.m.: Goat Show
9a.m.: Steer arrival deadline
10 a.m.: Weigh and classify steers, Outback Arena
1 p.m.: Lambs move in; Heifer Show, Outback Arena
5 p.m.: Lamb arrival deadline
6 p.m.: Lamb weight cards turned in
7:30 p.m.: First rodeo performance, Coliseum

Saturday
8 a.m.: Lamb show in Barn E; Steer show, Outback Arena
Noon: Kids Rodeo, South Entrance Coliseum
5 p.m.: Buyers Dinner
6 p.m.: Junior Livestock Sale, Barn G
7:30 p.m.: Second rodeo performance, Coliseum

Monday
8 a.m.: Slack, Coliseum

Tuesday
10:30 a.m.: Super Tuesday Roping, Coliseum
6:30 p.m.: Team & Match Roping, Coliseum

Wednesday
8:00 a.m.: Slack, Coliseum
7:30 p.m.: Third rodeo performance, Coliseum

Jan. 8
8 a.m.: Slack, Coliseum
5:30 p.m.: CYN program, Building G
7:30 p.m.: Fourth rodeo performance, Coliseum

Jan. 9
9 a.m.: Steer Roping Slack, Arena
7:30 p.m.: Fifth rodeo performance, Coliseum
8 p.m.: Rodeo dance with Jake Hooker, Building G

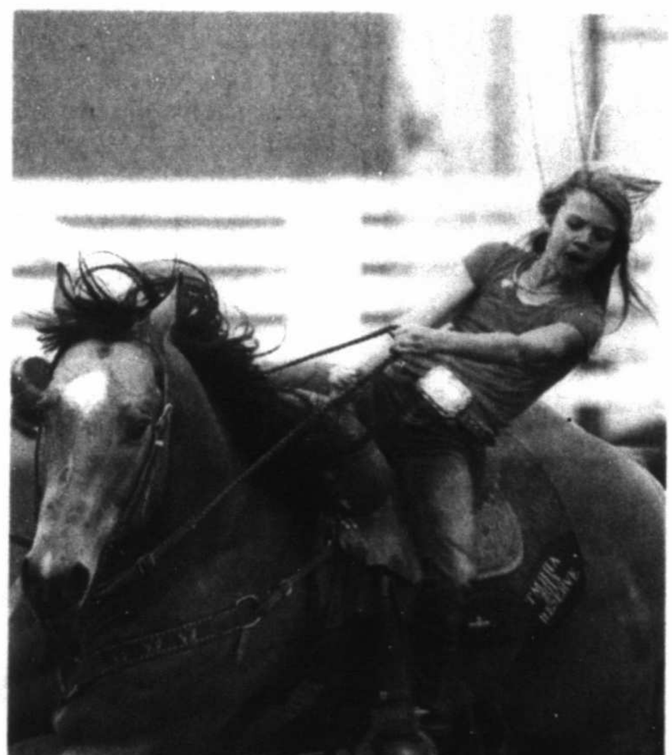
Jan. 10
7 a.m.: Horse Show, Horseshoe
9 a.m. Special Kids Rodeo, Coliseum; Steer Roping Slack, Arena
7:30 p.m.: Sixth rodeo performance, Coliseum

Jan. 11
8 a.m. Horse Show, Horseshoe

COMING SOON

DOG SHOW

LORETTA LYNN



TEX-MEX BARREL RACING

JANUARY

Family Science Night: "Dinosaurs," 6-8 p.m. Jan. 8 at Petroleum Museum. petroleummuseum.org.

Improv at the Yucca, Jan. 8 at Yucca Theatre. mctmidland.org.

Jake Hooker & The Outsiders at Sandhills Rodeo Dance, Jan. 9 at Ector County Coliseum. sandhillsstockshowandrodeo.com.

Sandhills Quarter Horse Show, Jan. 9-11 at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

Pam Tillis and Lorrie Morgan: The Grits and Glamour Tour, 8 p.m. Jan. 10 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

2015 Basin Bridal and Event Expo, 1 p.m. Jan. 11 at the CAF. basinbridal.org.

Adventures in Art: Mixed Media, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Jan. 11 at Ellen Noel Art Museum. noelartmuseum.org.

Trout Fishing in America, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 11 at the Yucca Theatre. Benefiting Camp Fire West Texas programs. campfirewtx.org.

Asante Children's Choir from East Africa, 6:30 p.m. Jan. 14 at The Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity. holytrinity.org.

Midland County Livestock Association Livestock Show, Jan. 14-17 the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

Engelbert Humperdinck, 8 p.m. Jan. 15 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Random Acts of Art - Travel Journals, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 17 at Ellen Noel Art Museum. noelartmuseum.org.

Midland on Tap, 1-4 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. Jan. 17 at CAF. americaontap.com/midland-on-tap.

"Girl Talk The Musical," 8 p.m. Jan. 17 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

"Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," 7:30 p.m. Jan. 18 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Crashmaster Monster Truck Show, Jan. 23-25 the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

MOSC Masterworks 3 "There's a Good Chance You'll Love Strauss," 7:30 p.m. Jan. 24 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Rodney Carrington, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. shows Jan. 25 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

The Oak Ridge Boys, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Harlem Globetrotters "Washington Generals' Revenge" tour, 7 p.m. Jan. 28 at Chaparral Center. harlemglobetrotters.com.

"The Addams Family," Jan. 30-Feb. 21 at Midland Community Theatre. mctmidland.org.

Silver Spur and Gun Show, Jan. 31-Feb. 1 the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

FEBRUARY

Brian Roman, 7 p.m. Feb. 6 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Jeff Foxworthy, Feb. 7 at Horseshoe Pavillion. midlandhorseshoe.com.

West Texas Winds "Symphony of Five," 3 p.m. Feb. 8 Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

"Guys and Dolls," 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Chocolate Decadence benefiting Aphasia Center of West Texas, Feb. 12 at Horseshoe Pavillion. midlandhorseshoe.com.

Chubby Checker, 8 p.m. Feb. 13 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

MAP Monster Trucks, Feb. 13-14 at Ector County Coliseum. ectorcountycoliseum.org.

West Texas Kennel Club Dog Show, Feb. 18-22 at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

Continental Antique Shows, Feb. 20-22 at Ector County Coliseum. ectorcountycoliseum.org.

Jack Hanna's Into the Wild Live!, Feb. 22 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Permian Basin String Quartet "Cross-Cultural Inspirations," Feb. 22 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

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.

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.

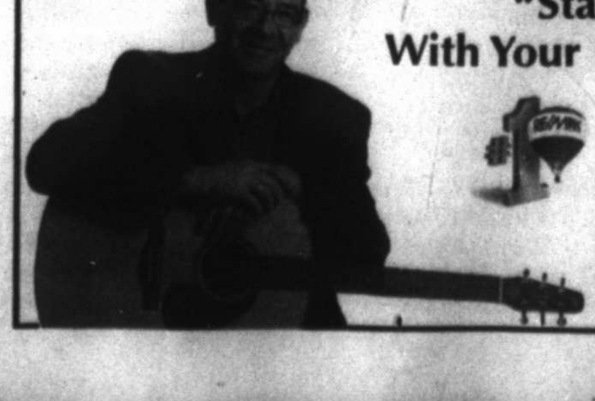
Permian Basin Home & Garden Show, Feb. 26-28 at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

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

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

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

Ranked One Of The Top 500 REMAX Agents In Texas!



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MUSIC & MORE

MRT file photo

Backstage view of opening night of Les Miserables on April 24 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center.

Top 10 arts, entertainment stories include women's series

From staff reports

The year 2014 was huge for Midland's arts and entertainment scene. We saw new venues open and new organizations form. Established arts groups took chances, collaborated and offered audiences quality performances and exhibits. Midlanders also had opportunities to see several big-name performers as the Tall City became a stop on more national tours and a destination for a variety of artists. Here are some of 2014's biggest stories in entertainment, mixed in with a few of our personal favorites. Stories are listed in chronological order.

WOMEN IN ARTS SERIES

To celebrate Women's History Month, we kicked off our Women in Arts series in March. Five stories highlighted a handful of Midland women who are making significant contributions to the local arts and entertainment scene. Women featured included Erika Berry of Blue Max, Erica Reeves of The Blue Door, Barbara Williams of The Detour Bar, Gerenda Lea Johnson of Garlic Press, Kathy Shannon of the Petroleum Museum, Kat Copeland of the Permian Basin Poetry Society and Rachel Kerr of Midland Festival Ballet.

LOCAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS GO EPIC WITH 'LES MISÉRABLES' PRODUCTION

Midland Community Theatre and the Midland-Odessa Symphony & Chorale teamed up in April to bring the epic musical "Les Misérables" to the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. The production proved successful as ticket sales prompted the addition of a third performance.

BOURBON ST. OFFERS A DOWNTOWN NIGHTLIFE DESTINATION

Invariably, on a Friday or Saturday night, Bourbon St. DC is bustling with a slew of customers, emanating music through its large open windows, and there's likely an aroma of cigar. For two years, the small bar has mixed chic style and homey service and created a place where everybody just might know your name. With a steady flow of customers, Bourbon St. sees a variety of patrons from hip young professionals on a date night to a bevy of drinking buds both male and female. The music either pipes in from overhead speakers or a live musician will sing covers while pounding away on his keyboard.

SUMMER MUMMERS: A NEWBIE'S PRIMER TO A MIDLAND TRADITION

Reporter-Telegram entertainment writer Rich Lopez anticipates his first Summer Mummers experience with pro-tips from Mummers veterans. He reminds those of us for whom Mummers is a tradition just how odd it really is, and how disarming some of our nuggets of advice can be.

"'Men, don't tuck your shirt in. It's a popcorn trap that will follow down into your pants.' This sounds like the epitome of no, thank you.

'Leave the high heels at home. The floor is slippery, even in tennis shoes.' This doesn't leave much in between. I would almost surmise that flip-flops don't sound like a good idea, either."

TEJANO BLOWOUT LOOKS TO KEEP THE GENRE ALIVE

The inaugural West Texas Tejano Blowout in June brought three days of live music, food and more to the Permian Basin. Music promoter Jesse Maldonado and his business partner, Edwin Jaquez, looked to Crudefest founder Cody Baker for guidance and organized the festival at the Star of Texas Ranch.

SUMMER MUMMERS 2014 PROFILE SERIES

We continued our coverage of Summer Mummers with a series of profiles featuring some of the show's directors and cast. The series included profiles of director Cody Tumlin, Movieola director Roger Barnes, Olio director A.J. Sanchez, hero Tim Rosborough and Mummers president Michael Fields.

LOCAL ARTIST BROTHERS BRING NEW VOICE TO ARTS SCENE WITH KAMIPOSI

Artist brothers Scott and Elliott Lunson opened a new art gallery, Kamiposi, in June. Housed in the former Pine Box Collective space on Big Spring Street, Kamiposi has hosted gallery shows, live music, a cabaret show and most recently a comedy show.

AVETT BROTHERS PERFORM AT MIDLAND COLLEGE

Midland College teamed up with TallTownes Entertainment to bring in a big name in roots rock for a free back-to-school concert. The Avett Brothers, a band that's consistently booked at larger profile fests such as Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza and Austin City Limits, played Chap Center as part of the Phyllis and Bob Cowan Performing Arts Series.

BOOKS IN THE BASIN: 'TRUE BLOOD' AUTHOR CHARLAINE HARRIS TALKS NEW SERIES

Midland and Ector county libraries brought in more than 44 authors and speakers for the Books in the Basin literary festival in October. Events were spread over two days at venues in Midland and Odessa. Charlaine Harris, whose Midnight series inspired the HBO show "True Blood," spoke at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center.

NEW ARTS COLLECTIVE OPENS WITH CABARET

Midlander Lauren Curry, dance teacher and production manager for Midland Festival Ballet, debuted her new initiative Art Push in October with a two-night cabaret performance at Kamiposi. Curry explained that the mission of ArtPush is to produce and present art in unconventional places — be it performing arts, visual arts or performance art.

Year's top song is Beyonce, Sia's 'Pretty Hurts'

By Mesfin Fekadu
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Need a new playlist? Check out the Associated Press' top songs of 2014 list. Heard them before? Then play them again.

1. "Pretty Hurts," Beyonce: Contemporary music's top singer and songwriter — Beyonce and Sia — join forces to create a song that is heavy, deeply felt, emotional — but most important, beautiful. "Pretty Hurts," with its winning accompanying music video, tackles the insecurities anyone and everyone feels, and Beyonce's rising vocals bring Sia's words to life, including lyrics like "it's the soul that needs surgery," I could cry.

2. "Chandelier," Sia: Being selfish is a good thing: Sia, who has written for Rihanna, Katy Perry and others, decided to keep "Chandelier" for herself, and thankfully so. The upbeat party anthem can get anyone in the right mood.

3. "I'm Not the Only One," Sam Smith: Yes, Sam Smith stole your heart with "Stay With Me," but "I'm Not the Only One" proves he will be around for a long time. His honest delivery, lyrically and vocally, makes him so irresistible it makes you wonder who was so foolish to have broken his heart.

4. "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor: The year's most viral and colorful song still sounds good months after its release. "All About That Bass" is addictive and empowering, and it showcases bright newcomer Meghan Trainor, who we think won't fall into the trap of one-hit wonder status.

5. "Bailando," Enrique Iglesias featuring Sean Paul, Gente de Zona and Descemer Bueno: It doesn't matter if it's the Spanish or English version, Enrique Iglesias' "Bailando" is the track with the year's most swag. I wanna be contigo, and live contigo, and dance contigo!

6. "Don't Tell 'Em," Jeremih featuring YG: The other song of the year full of swagger is Jeremih's "Don't Tell Em," thanks to DJ Mustard's grungy but digestible production. Call him producer of the year: He also helmed Tinashe's "2 On," Big Sean's "I Don't" and Fergie's "L.A. Love (La La)," among other favorites.

7. "Take Me to Church," Hozier: Hozier's humane and emotional lyrics, matched with his commanding voice, make for a bluesy, soulful, indie rock treasure with "Take Me to Church," likely to win the Grammy Award for song of the year.

8. "Day Drinking," Little Big Town: "Why don't we do a little day drinking?" Little Big Town asks — rather sings — on their latest hit. And why not? It would feel even better doing so while listening to this summer anthem, highlighted by the foursome's awesome harmonies and that guitar solo.

9. "Turn Down for What," DJ Snake and Lil Jon: Do I really need to explain why this is so good?

10. "Blank Space," Taylor Swift: Kudos to Tay Tay for writing a song about the media's portrayal of her love life — or the multitude of them. It's creative, smart, funny and cool.

Honorable Mention: "Cool Kids," Echosmith; "Rather Be," Clean Bandit featuring Jess Glynne; "i," Kendrick Lamar; "Boom Clap," Charli XCX; "Waves," Mr. Probz.

ALBUMS

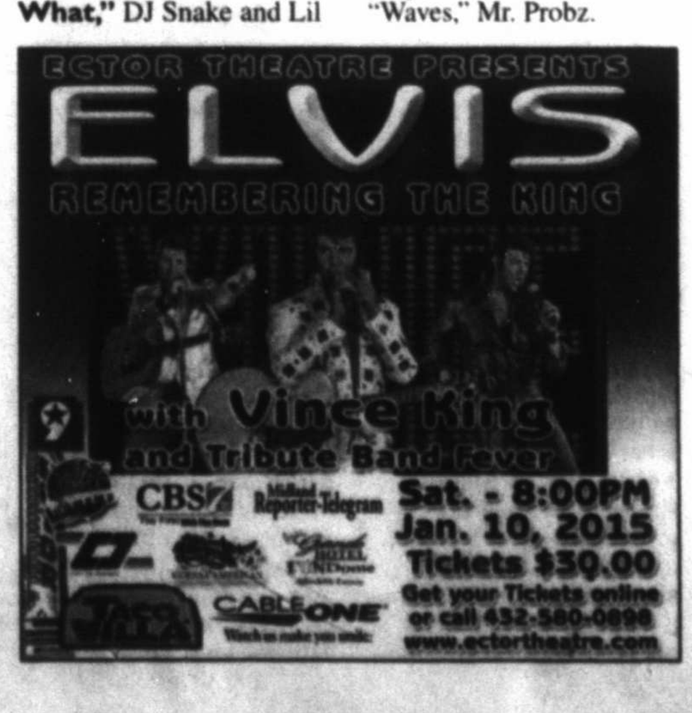
From Page 1

7. "My Everything," Ariana Grande: Ariana Grande has already launched four Top 10 hits from her second album, but there's so much more that bangs beyond "Bang Bang" on "My Everything." The powerful vocalist nails it with a cool blend of R&B and pop songs that's almost as good as her revering 2013 debut.

8. "Montevallo," Sam Hunt: Props to singer-songwriter Sam Hunt for blending country music with elements of R&B, electronica and hip-hop. It might sound wild, but it works on his debut album, mainly thanks to Hunt's swagger and sexy sing-talk vocal delivery. Sam Smith isn't the only Sam stealing hearts.

9. "Do It Again," Robyn and Royksopp: Swedish singer Robyn and Norwegian duo Royksopp 5-song dance EP is oh so good, and a tease. Full album please?

10. "1000 Forms of Fear," Sia: From "Chandelier" to "Elastic Heart" to "Eye of the Needle," Sia's latest album is just another laudable effort in her rich catalog, which is worth exploring if you've just discovered the gem this year.



MOVIES

FILM CAPSULE REVIEWS

ANNIE 2 1/2 stars. Ho-hum remake and update of the movie musical about a plucky orphan and the moneyed patriarch whose icy heart is toasted like campfire marshmallows once he lets the girl into his life. Beasts of the Southern Wild's Quvenzhané Wallis is a charmer in the title role, Jamie Foxx, as the Daddy Warbucks-ian Will Stacks, is a cell phone mogul who, sadly, appears to be phoning his performance in. 1 hr. 58 PG (adult themes) — Steven Rea

BIG EYES 3 1/2 stars. Director Tim Burton finds his dream subject: husband and wife Walter and Margaret Keane, whose paintings of saucer-eyed waifs and tearful clowns were the kitsch hit of the '60s. He claimed the images as his, but she really made them, locked away in a studio like some Grimm Brothers unfortunate. Christoph Waltz and a great Amy Adams bring the couple to life in this wondrously strange true story about art, heartbreak and intellectual property theft. 1 hr. 45 PG-13 (profanity, adult themes) — Steven Rea

BIG HERO 6 2 1/2 stars. Set in a wonderfully realized near future San Francisco, this animated feature follows an adolescent robotics inventor and his puffy, inflatable companion. Disconcertingly violent and mature for a Disney kids' film. 1 hr. 48 PG (violence) — David Hiltbrand

EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS 2 stars. Ridley Scott's big and curious cinematic retelling of the story of Moses, the parting of the Red Sea, the burning bush, the march of the Israelites out of Egypt. All the impressive CG effects in the world can't make up for clunky dialogue and one-note thespian-izing. With Christian Bale as the bearded, beleaguered Hebrew prophet, Joel Edgerton as his shiny-domed, eyelinered adoptive sibling, Ramses, and a cast of thousands — most of them virtual. 2 hrs. 30 PG-13 (violence, plagues, adult themes) — Steven Rea

FOXCATCHER 4 stars. Steve Carell, sporting an aquiline nose and a marionette's gait, morphs into Newtown Square multimillionaire John du Pont, a self-styled coach and sponsor of American wrestling. By inviting Olympic gold medalists Dave and Mark Schultz (Mark Ruffalo and Channing Tatum) to live and train on his estate, du Pont invited disaster, too. Bennett Miller directs this slow-burning, brilliant account of a real-life tragedy. 2 hrs. 14 R (violence, profanity, drugs, adult themes) — Steven Rea

THE GAMBLER 2 1/2 stars. A disappointing if passable remake of James Caan's 1974 gem, this existential thriller stars Mark Wahlberg as a fatalistic, self-destructive literature professor who dazzles students by day (especially a coed played by Brie Larson) while throwing his life away at shady gambling joints at night. Co-stars Jessica Lange, Michael K. Williams and John Goodman. 1 hr. 51 R (profanity, sexuality, some nudity) — Tirdad Derakhshani

THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES 2 stars. The third and final installment in Peter Jackson's bloated adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's wondrous 1937 children's book takes the climactic conflagration and turns it into a giant screen videogame of clashing CGI legions, of dialogue as hoary as it is hilarious. "We attack at dawn!" 2 hrs. 24 PG-13 (violence, adult themes) — Steven Rea

THE HOMESMAN 3 stars. Tommy Lee Jones stars with Hilary Swank, and directs, this strangely affecting western, about the wary partnership between a grizzled claim jumper and the farm woman, a spinster, who agrees to take three mentally disturbed women from Nebraska to Iowa — a rugged journey of many weeks across land occupied by Indians and thieves. 2 hrs. R (profanity, violence, sex, adult themes) — Steven Rea

THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY — PART 1 3 stars. Quieter and less flashy than its predecessors, the satisfying third installment in the four-parter based on Suzanne Collins' mega-selling trilogy finds Jennifer Lawrence's Katniss poised to lead the rebellion against the imperious fancypants in the Capitol. Philip Seymour Hoffman, Julianne Moore and Chris Hemsworth are ready to give her an assist. 2 hrs. 4 PG-13 (violence, adult themes) —Steven Rea

INTERSTELLAR 3 stars. Matthew McConaughey leads an intergalactic expedition, searching for a new home for humankind, having turned our planet into a Dust Bowl of doom. Anne Hathaway is along for the ride, and Michael Caine, Jessica Chastain and Casey Affleck figure into the equation back on Earth. A cinematic experience to be sure, but lofty queries about quantum physics and the human spirit are weighed down in sci-fi cliches, in default-mode dialogue and characters rendered in two-dimensions, never mind the fourth and fifth dimensions everyone is talking about. 2 hrs. 49 PG-13 (violence, intense space travel sequences, adult themes) — Steven Rea

THE INTERVIEW 3 stars. Beyond the North Korean sponsored cyber attack and terroristic threats against theaters who screened it, Seth Rogen's political satire is crazy funny. A supercharged, wonderfully superfreaky James Franco stars as the host of a celeb reporter who scores an interview with the supreme leader of North Korea, Kim Jong-un. Co-writer, co-director and co-star Rogen is terrific as Franco's best friend and producer, while Masters of Sex' Lizzy Caplan is scintillating and playful as the sexy CIA officer who preps them to assassinate Kim. Thoroughly crude, rude and profane, the film also is surprisingly well-written and clever. 1 hr. 52 R (profanity, sexuality, nudity, violence, drug use) — Tirdad Derakhshani

INTO THE WOODS 3 stars. A jolly mashup of symbol-laden, signature once-upon-a-time tales about lust, envy, greed, and misguided pursuits of happiness. Johnny Depp, Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, Anna Kendrick et al have fun with the rat-tat-tat rhymes and polygraphic melodies of the James Lapine/Stephen Sodheim musical from which this all sprung. 2 hrs. 04 PG (scary creatures, adult themes) — Steven Rea

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB 2 1/2 stars. The third and promised final chapter in the hit franchise about a bunch of museum figures come-to-life and the adventures that ensue. Ben Stiller leads the cast, making a trip to London so new characters and new scenarios can transpire. Robin Williams is back as Teddy Roosevelt, and newcomers include Dan Stevens as Lancelot and Rebel Wilson as a museum guard. 1 hr. 37 PG (monkey urination, adult themes) — Steven Rea

PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR 2 1/2 stars. Insistently antic and intermittently clever spinoff of the DreamWorks Animation Madagascar franchise, with feathered, flappered, flightless heroes Skipper, Kowalski, Rico, and Private caught up in global intrigue and groaningly bad punnery involving a gigantically obnoxious purple octopus (the voice of John Malkovich) bent on revenge. 1 hr. 32 PG (cartoon mayhem, adult themes) — Steven Rea

TOP FIVE 3 1/2 stars. Chris Rock proves he's as brilliant a film auteur as a stand-up comic with this sharp romantic dramedy which he also wrote and directed. He plays a disillusioned comic who's in NY to promote his first serious film, an earnest if terrible story about slavery. Rosario Dawson is terrific as a reporter who forces the self-indulgent star to face up to his demons. Gabrielle Union is wonderfully sleazy as Rock's narcissistic reality star fiancée. 1 hr. 41 R (strong sexual content, nudity, crude humor, profanity, drug use) — Tirdad Derakhshani

UNBROKEN 1 1/2 stars. Based on the life of Louis Zamperini, an airman who suffered greatly in WWII. You'll know how he felt after enduring this long, grim grinder directed by Angelina Jolie. 2 hrs. 17 PG-13 (violence, brutality, profanity) — David Hiltbrand

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

How do you play a master painter? First: Learn to paint

REVIEW

By Jocelyn Noveck
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Talk about suffering for your art.

Achieving his acclaimed performance as the masterful British landscape painter J.M.W. Turner in "Mr. Turner" took so much out of Timothy Spall, the veteran actor found himself kneeling down at the artist's tomb in St. Paul's Cathedral when it was all over — and crying.

"I just knelt down, had a bit of a weep, and wiped it off on my elbow," the 57-year-old actor said. "It was quite a journey, you know."

A journey indeed. Working with the famously exacting director Mike Leigh, as he has a number of times, Spall was tasked with what he calls detective work, delving deep into Turner's art to ferret out Turner the man. The artist died in 1851 — "pre-psychoanalysis," Spall noted. "And he never really explained himself. He didn't want anybody to really know what he was up to."

This meant that Spall, aside from reading everything he could get his hands on, had to learn to paint himself.

"Mike said, 'Are you up for it?' And I said, 'All right, if this is what it's gonna take,'" Spall recalled. "And we just went and looked at these paintings, and I kept saying, 'What IS that?' And I realized my job was to look at this massive explosion of genius and implode it all back in, right back to where it started."

So Spall studied — still life, real life; drawing in all its forms, even Greek and Roman architecture. "I even started reading about Goethe's theory of light," he said.

Often, films about famous artists have portrayed them as rarified geniuses. "Mr. Turner" is different — the movie, which has earned raves for both Leigh and Spall, depicts an unassuming son of a barber who simply worked and worked, all the time. Indeed, Turner produced a staggering 20,000 works on paper, and more than 300 oil paintings.

"How did he do that? Well, he just never stopped," Leigh said. "He was just at it all the time. I mean it's a phenomenal amount of stuff. This is a guy who just does it, and what he does is extraordinary. And HOW he does it remains a mystery."

The film was somewhat of a departure for Leigh, one of Britain's most admired directors, who is known mostly for gritty contemporary films about working-class characters. But he said that once he made the 1999 "Topsy-Turvy" about Gilbert and Sullivan, he realized he was "over the idea that I was only ever going to make contemporary films."

"I started to look into Turner having known the paintings, " the director says, "and once I started to investigate Turner the character, I thought, this world is absolutely meant to be dramatized." Turner was a man, for example, who had himself tied to the mast of a ship during a huge storm, in order to better understand the force of nature at sea — a scene recreated in "Mr. Turner."

Spall and Leigh formulated the character over two years of study, and six months of rehearsal. Oh, and three trips by Spall to Turner's grave.

"First, when Mike asked me (to do the film), I went down there and pretended to tie my shoes, knelt by his grave and just had a quick word. I said, 'Look, for what I'm about to do, please forgive me! And help me if you can.'"

A second trip came halfway through filming. "I went back and said, 'Look, I don't know if this is going the way you'd like!' Again pretending to tie my shoes."

The third trip came when he'd finished the film. This was when he wept. "This time I didn't even bother to pretend to tie my shoes," he said.

The film made a splash at the Cannes Film Festival last May, where Spall was named best actor. Then on Dec. 1, Spall was named best actor by the New York Film Critics Circle.

"I'm ... I'm just flabbergasted," he said, having gotten the news moments before this interview. "My gast is absolutely flabbered! I suppose what's lovely about it is that I've been around a bit, and you get plenty of kicks up the arse, you know? So it's nice to get flowers every now and again."

Spall is considered a contender — but perhaps an outside shot, in a very crowded field — for an Oscar nomination. But he's just happy that all the recognition means more people are seeing the film — and Turner's paintings, too, currently on display in an exhibit of the artist's late work at the Tate Gallery in London.

"It seems that Turner's working his magic at the moment," the actor said.

FILMS

From Page 1

Martin Luther King, Jr. anchors this stirring account of events surrounding the famous march from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery. Director Ava DuVernay is equally adept at depicting intimate moments — like a testy Oval Office exchange between LBJ and George Wallace — as she is conveying the sweep of a historic movement.

4. "Ida" — Pawel Pawlikowski's film is pure, austere, and powerful — exactly how one might describe its young star, Agata Trzebuchowska, who plays an orphaned novice about to take her vows when she learns she has an aunt, her only living relative. Ida's subsequent journey, in which she explores Poland's dark wartime past to discover both who she is and who she wants to be, is mesmerizing.

5. "Mr. Turner" — Timothy Spall studied painting, drawing, even Greek and Roman architecture — all to play the great landscape painter J.M.W. Turner. And it shows: The wonderfully gruff Spall doesn't seem to act in this movie as much as inhabit it, messily and fully. Mike Leigh's gorgeously detailed biopic doesn't fall into typical formula — and the visuals do Turner proud.

6. "The Grand Budapest Hotel" — Wes Anderson, we surrender — to your whimsy and singular imagination. This movie is a visual delight; it's also a madcap caper and, a layer deeper, a more serious look at a dying way of life in Europe. Mostly, it's a perfect vehicle for Ralph Fiennes, as a wonderfully pompous concierge, to display his lesser-known comic skills.

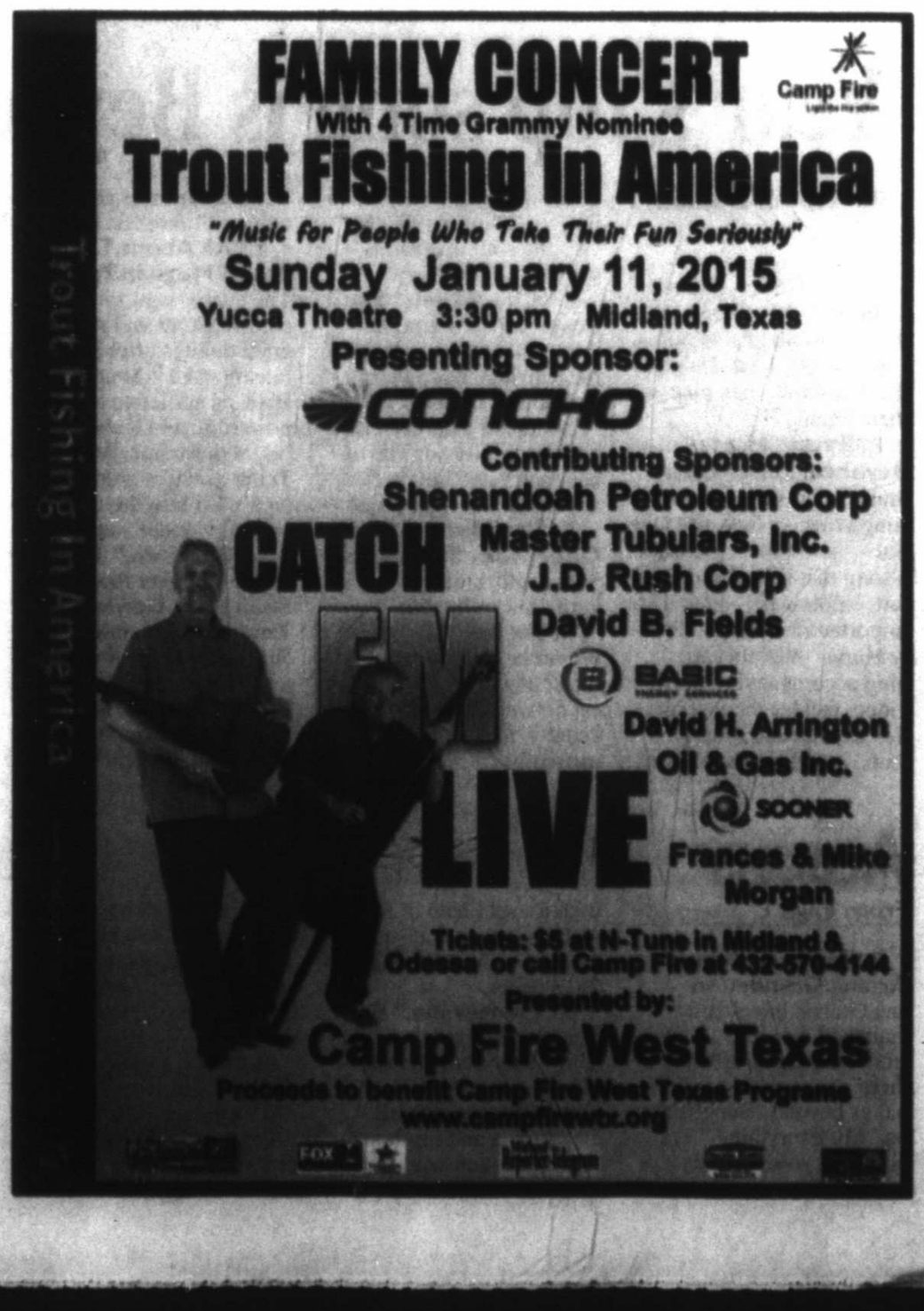
7. "Whiplash" — None of us would ever want to be in a classroom with the abusively demanding jazz instructor played by J.K. Simmons — it's hard enough to be in the movie theater. But boy, Simmons grabs the role by the throat, thrillingly. Miles Teller is excellent, too, as the driven student who accepts this abuse, all to be a jazz drummer.

8. "The Theory of Everything," "The Imitation Game" — Both are biopics that feel somewhat formulaic, but both feature lead performances that must be seen. Eddie Redmayne is remarkably effective as Stephen Hawking, eventually using only his eyes and a crooked smile to express what's inside a blazing mind. Benedict Cumberbatch's nervous energy is perfect for the role of Alan Turing, the mathematician who cracked the Germans' Enigma code.

9. "Foxcatcher" — Grim and unrelenting but expertly rendered, this real-life tale of the Olympic wrestling Schultz brothers and benefactor John DuPont is worth seeing both for the shocking story and the acting. Steve Carell makes a striking physical transformation, but it's his reedy voice that'll really creep you out. Mark Ruffalo, the more nurturing brother, and Channing Tatum, the more troubled, are just as compelling.

10. "Still Alice," "Get on Up" — Two more films to mention because of stellar central performances: As an early-onset Alzheimer's patient, Julianne Moore is sensitive, warm, heartbreaking — and deserves all the awards buzz she's getting. In "Get On Up," Chadwick Boseman is truly galvanizing as James Brown — and deserves way more buzz than he's getting.

Honorable mentions: "Only Lovers Left Alive," "Locke," "Interstellar," "American Sniper," "Into the Woods."



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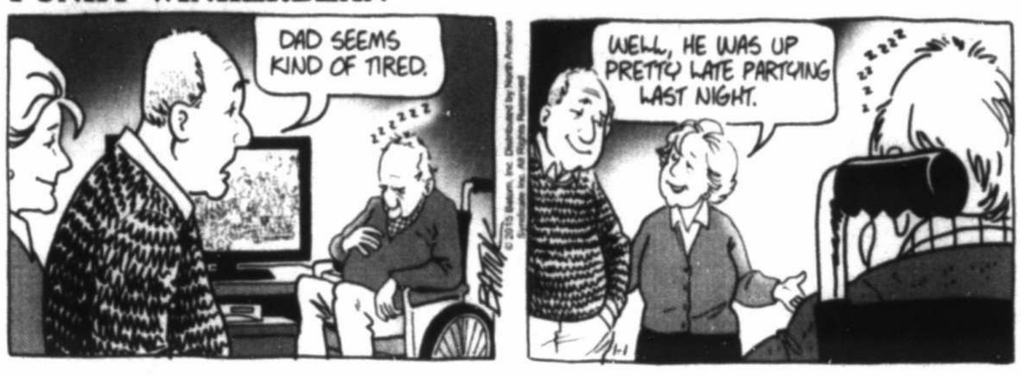

BLONDIE

BEETLE BAILEY

CLASSIC PEANUTS

SHOE

GARFIELD

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

WIZARD OF ID

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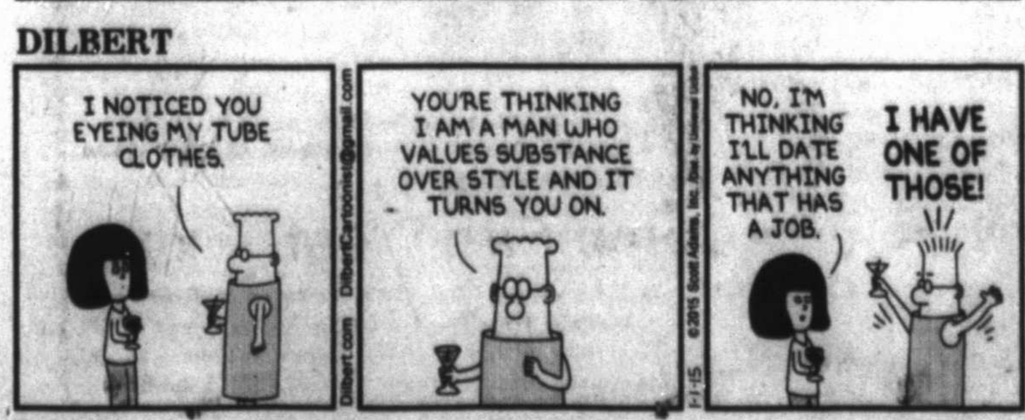

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

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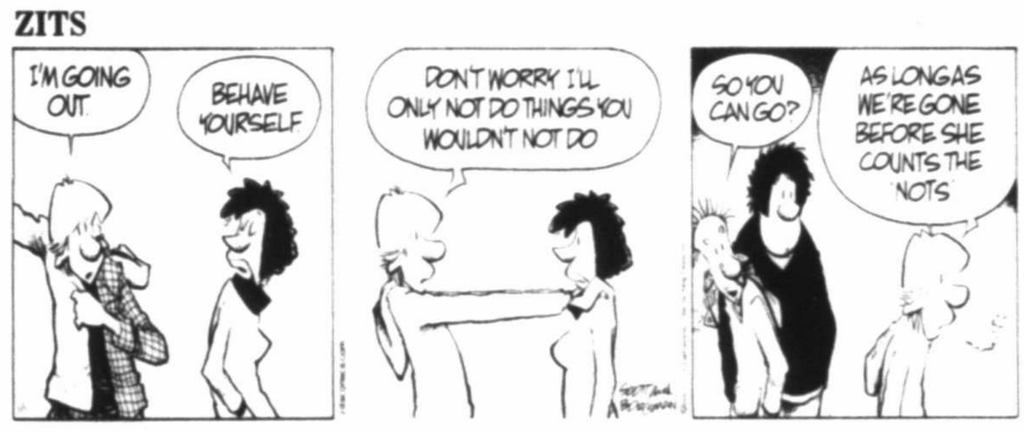
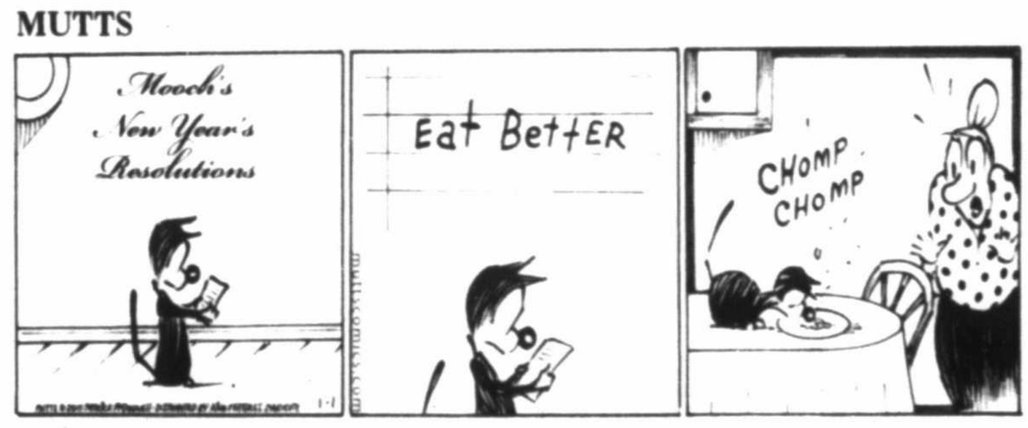
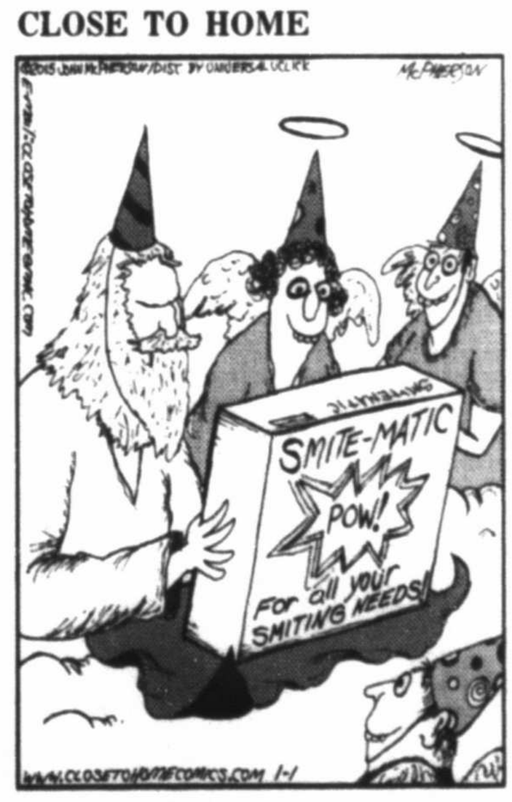


BABY BLUES

MUTTS



CLOSE TO HOME

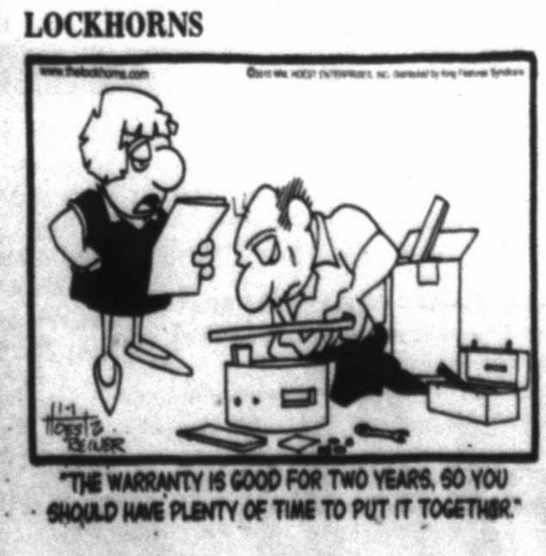


At God's birthday party.

DENNIS THE MENACE

"THE THING WRONG ABOUT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS IS MRS. WILSON ALWAYS REMEMBERS MINE."

LOCKHORNS



"THE WARRANTY IS GOOD FOR TWO YEARS, SO YOU SHOULD HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO PUT IT TOGETHER."

FAMILY CIRCUS

"Mommy, Billy and Jeffy aren't startin' the new year off right!"

DINING

Several new eateries appeared on Midland's menu in 2014

Midlanders saw their share of new restaurants open in 2014. From steakhouses to sub sandwiches, here's our list of 2014's new eats.

Riko's Grill: This locally owned restaurant opened in early 2014 in the former Mi Casa location at 200 E. Florida Ave. The menu includes steaks, hamburgers, pastas, salads and chicken sandwiches. 687-7025.

Chipolte: Midlanders welcomed the burrito chain to the Tall City in March by lining up hours before the grand opening. Menu includes burritos, tacos, bowls and salads with a variety of fillings. chipolte.com

Bill's Bistro: Locally owned restaurant connected to The Wine Rack opened in April with an upscale menu of hand-cut steaks, seafood, soups, salads and chef specialties. billsbistro.com.

Abuelo's: The longtime Midland restaurant moved in May to its new location inside The Commons at Northpark shopping center. abuelos.com.

Churrasca Brazilian Steak House: The Brazilian steakhouse moved into the former Abuelo's location at the Colonnade at Polo Park and opened its doors in July.

MRT file photo

Ericka Saucedo and Valerie Valdez dine on several of the 11 different types of meats during a small sampling at Churrasca Brazilian Steak House ahead of the grand opening in the Colonnade at Polo Park.

The menu includes meat — beef, chicken, lamb and pork — served at the table and a salad bar. 618-1110.

Wings N More Express: The College Station-based chicken wing restaurant opened its West Wadley Avenue location in June. The menu includes wings with a variety of sauces, sandwiches and salads. wingsnmore.com.

Grub Burger Bar: College Station-based Grub Burger Bar opened in July inside the Cornerstone Shopping Center on Midland Drive and Loop 250. The fast-casual restaurant offers gourmet burger selections, milkshakes and a full-bar. grubburgerbar.com.

Athenian Restaurant: Family-owned Greek eatery Athenian Restaurant opened in August. Menu items include chicken, pork, beef, lamb, vegetarian and seafood gyros and souvlaki, or skewered meats, pastas, soups and salads. theatheniarestaurant.com.

Jersey Mike's: The New Jersey-based sub shop opened in August in the Cornerstone Shopping Center, offering freshly sliced meats and special sauces on its made-to-order sandwiches. jerseymikes.com

J. Penos Café: The established restaurant opened a second location downtown, offering an updated menu and modern decor. The South Main Street location is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. 704-5017.

WEEKENDER PUBLISHES A PORTION OF THE RESTAURANT GUIDE EACH WEEK. ENTREE PRICE RANGE IS BASED ON THE AVERAGE ENTREE PRICE ON THE MENU: $ = $1-10, $$ = $10-20 AND $$$ = $20 OR MORE. RESTAURANTS ARE GIVEN A GENERAL RATING BASED ON QUALITY OF FOOD, SERVICE, CLEANLINESS, ATMOSPHERE AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE. 1 SPOON = POOR, 2 SPOONS = AVERAGE, 3 SPOONS = ABOVE AVERAGE, 4 SPOONS = GOOD AND 5 SPOONS = EXCELLENT.

MEXICAN

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 stewmeat 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.sedonamexicancantina.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

AMERICAN & GRILL

ADDIE'S DINER Great burgers and salads with a '50s diner vibe. Chicken fried steak or steak fingers, chicken fried chicken or chicken fingers, fried catfish and hamburger steak entrees. Breakfast until 10:30 a.m. 304 E. Florida Ave., 686-2044. | $ | 4 spoons

BUSH'S CHICKEN Save room for the red cinnamon apple pie for dessert. Three-lane drive through. 2210 N. Big Spring St. 687-7090 www.bushschicken.com | $ | 3 spoons

THE CAFÉ AT CRESTVIEW Quiet cafe inside Crestview Baptist Church is open to the public and serves fabulous desserts. Sandwiches, soups, burgers, Tex-Mex dishes. 301 N. Loop 250 West. 681-8200 www.crestviewmidland.org | $ | 3 spoons

CAFÉ AT THE GARDENS Want to feel like you've left West Texas? Enjoy a cup of soup next to a koi pond inside a green house. Open for dinner and drinks on Thursday and Friday nights. 3300 Fairgrounds Road. 687-1478 www.alldredgegardens.com | $ | 4 spoons

COTTON PATCH CAFE Casual dining chain restaurant off of Loop 250. Specials include chicken fried steak and fried catfish. 2320 W. Loop 250 N. 618-0070. www.cottonpatch.com | $ | 2 spoons.

CRACKER BARREL Breakfast all day. Chicken and dumplings, meatloaf, smoked ham, fried fish. Old Country Store sells candy, toys, rocking chairs, decorative items. 3108 N. Loop 250 West. 689-3137 www.crackerbarrel.com | $ | 3 spoons

CLEAR SPRINGS CAFE One of the few places in Midland specializing in seafood claims to have the best onion rings and catfish in "Texas, the World and the known Universe." Seafood, steaks, burgers, salads. 5707 Andrews Highway 522-1188 www.clearspringscafe.com | $$ | 3 spoons

DENNY'S Open 24 hours a day, Denny's is one of very few options for people looking to grab a bite to eat at 3 a.m. 3701 W. Wall St. 520-5306 www.dennys.com | $ | 2 spoons

EDDIE'S CATFISH COMPANY When you open a catfish restaurant, why mess around with anything else. Except maybe fried shrimp, french fries, hush puppies, coleslaw and onion rings. 301 N. Lee St. 684-4422. www.eddiescatfishco.com | $ | 3 spoons

GRAHAM PHARMACY Refreshingly simple menu makes this a hot spot for lunch. Try the pimento cheese sandwich and treat yourself to homemade fudge for dessert. 1601 W. Wall St. 684-5756 www.grahampharmacy.com | $ | 3 spoons

JOJO'S EATERY Possibly the best desserts in town. Buy pies and cakes by the slice or take one home. Oh, and the sandwiches, salads and burgers aren't bad either. Downtown inside the Petroleum Building. 214 W. Texas Ave. 682-3134 | $ | 3 spoons

LORI'S CAFÉ Homestyle, diner cooking with a few surprises like wild boar sausage served with two eggs and toast. Lori's uses locally-sourced food when available. 2201 W. Wall St. 570-1701 www.loriscafe.net | $ | 3 spoons

THE RANCH HOUSE Stop by for a sandwich or pick up a whole ham or turkey. Sandwich options include chicken or tuna salad, turkey, peppered beef, ham, smoked brisket and barbecue. 5103 W. Wadley Ave. 699-0695 www.goldenglazedhams.com | $ | 3 spoons

STANTON DRUG AND OLD-FASHIONED SODA FOUNTAIN Drive about an hour away from Midland for a hamburger or sandwich at Stanton Drug Store. Get there early. The owners close shop when they run out of meat for the day. 201 N. St. Peter, Stanton. 432-756-3731 | $ | 3 spoons

STRAWBERRY FIELDS CAFE Try the Santa Fe wrap. All organic menu with daily specials, sandwiches, wraps, smoothies. Soup and salad bar. 2311 W. Wadley Ave. 684-5869 www.naturalfoodsmkt.com | $ | 4 spoons

TATER WORLD If you're hungry, go for the huge baked potatoes stuffed with brisket or steak. The menu has more than just potatoes. Ask around town and you'll hear Tater World has some of the best catfish in Midland. 802 S Garfield St. 682-9111 | $ | 4 spoons

THE BAR Arguably the best burgers in town. Go during the fall or winter for the chili and cornbread. Live music and drink specials in the evenings. Try a bloody Mary with Saturday brunch. 606 W. Missouri Ave. 685-1757 www.thebarmidland.com | $$ | 4 spoons

TRIPLE THREAT SPORTS BAR & GRILL Philly cheesesteaks are the star of the menu but this sports bar also offers popcorn shrimp, chicken tenders, salads and appetizers. 12 Meta Drive 683-5300 | $ | 4 spoons

YANA 615 Downtown Odessa restaurant is perfect for lunch with friends or special occasions. Specialties like orange roughy, chicken tarragon or chicken crepes. Dessert is a must. 615 N. Sam Houston, Odessa 432-332-4305 | $$ | 5 spoons

STEAKS AND SEAFOOD

CATTLE BARON Western-themed steakhouse with prime rib, fresh catfish and Alaskan king crab. 418 Wadley Ave. 683-2334 www.cattlebaron.com | $$ | 3 spoons

GARLIC PRESS Fine dining with menu items including hand-cut steaks, seafood and pasta. Dessert menu changes weekly. 2200 W. Wadley Ave. # 6 Oak Ridge Square | 570-4020 | thegarlicpress.net | $$$ | 4 spoons

RANCHLAND HILLS GOLF CLUB Renovated club restaurant doesn't require a membership. Go for breakfast or try steak seafood at dinner. 1600 E. Wadley Ave. 682-3729 www.Ranchlandhills.com | $$ | 4 spoons

SALTGRASS STEAKHOUSE Midland's only restaurant from the Landry's chain specializes in steaks. 4511 W. Loop 250 699-0476 www.saltgrass.com | $$ | 4 spoons

STEAK EXPRESS Surprisingly good steaks and burgers for take-out or delivery. Burgers are a meal by themselves. Steaks come with traditional sides. 3316 W. Illinois Ave. 694-4040 | $$ | 4 spoons

TEXAS ROADHOUSE Chain restaurant on Loop 250 offers steaks, burgers, sandwiches and more. 4512 W. Loop 250 N. 689-7427 | $$ | 4 spoons

WALL STREET BAR & GRILL Arguably the best steak and seafood in Midland. 115 East Wall St. 684-868 | $$ | 5 spoons

Goodley key part of successful Baylor senior class

By John Henry
MRT Correspondent

ARLINGTON — Antwan Goodley's senior season didn't go exactly as planned.

An All-America receiver a season ago, the senior season for the Midland High School grad began with a quadricep injury that left him admittedly frustrated.

Yet, his goal and that of his senior peers on Baylor's football team remains intact: To leave the program in better shape than they found it.

They'll definitely do that.

"I was hoping to improve on my season from last year," said Goodley, referring to a breakout junior year in which he recorded 71 receptions, 1,339 yards and 13 touchdowns. "Things happen you can't control. We were winning, so I was just focusing on the team.

"It's not all about me."

The No. 5 Bears face No. 8 Michigan State in the Cotton Bowl at 11:30 a.m. today at AT&T Stadium.

It's a new year and a new era for Baylor, which finished just outside of the inaugural College Football Playoff.

But like the Bears have been doing for years now, today's game is all about the future. Baylor is playing to take that next, very significant, step: credibility on the national stage.

Baylor fell short of that mission a season ago, turning in a lax performance in a loss to Central Florida in the Fiesta Bowl.

"The game has huge significant value," Baylor coach Art Briles said. "I think from the national standpoint, the College Football Playoff deal could play into it. But that really hasn't been in our minds.

"It's a great chance to give our university and our football program a national stage to elevate its status to the perception nationally. You're in the proving business. Every week you step on the field, you got to prove yourself."

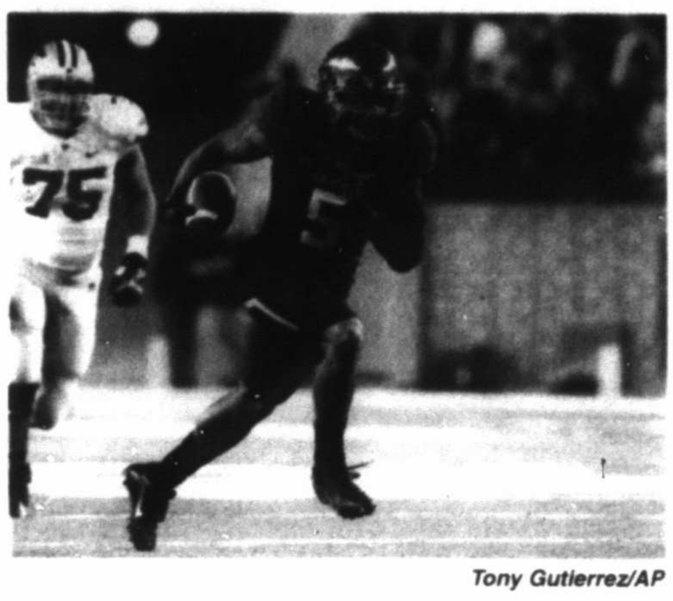
Baylor even being mentioned among the best teams in college football was unthinkable only a few short

Please see **GOODLEY**/3C

The game

COTTON BOWL
NO. 4 BAYLOR VS. NO. 7 MICHIGAN STATE

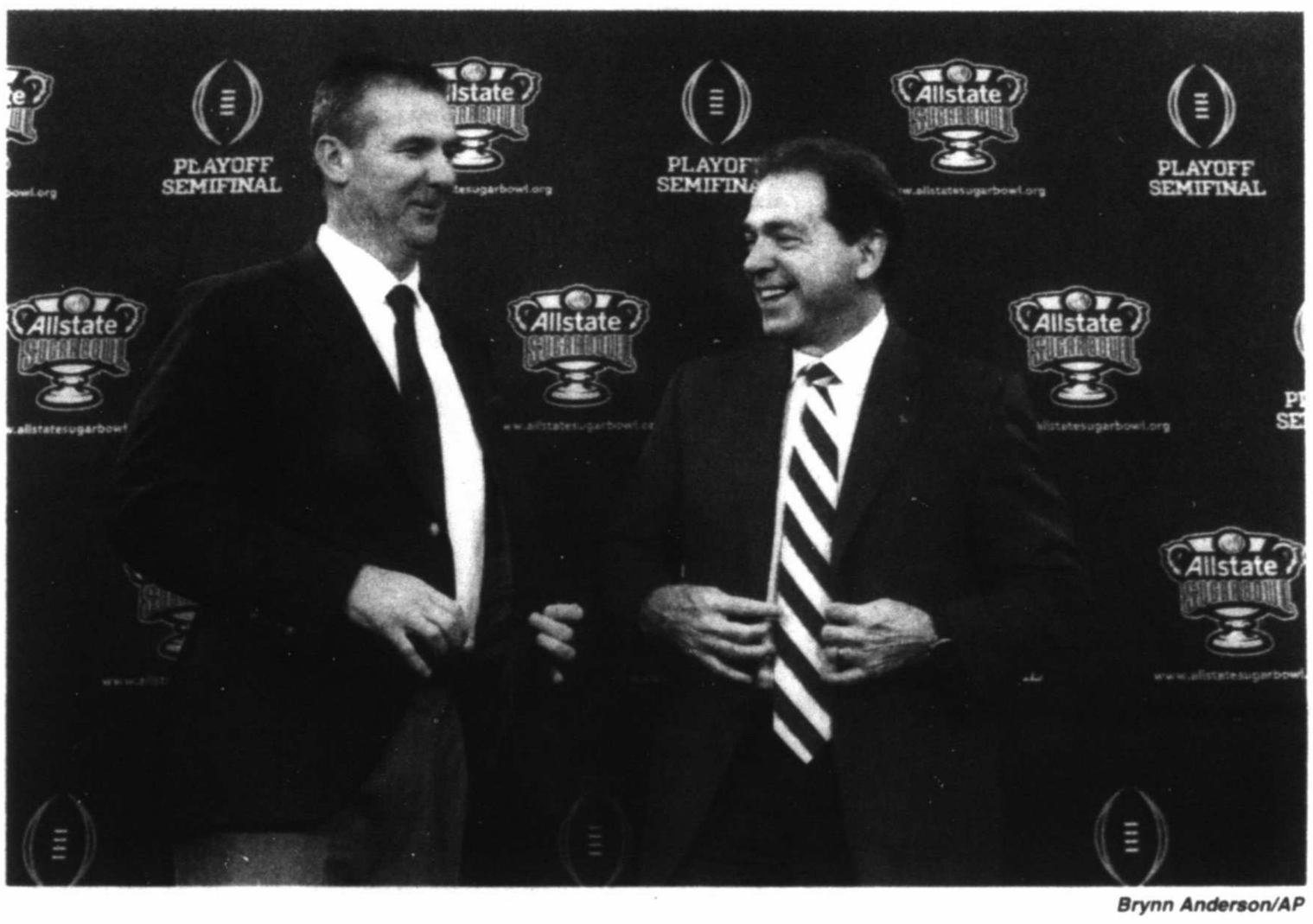
When: 11:30 a.m. today
Location: AT&T Stadium Stadium, Arlington
TV: ESPN



Tony Gutierrez/AP

Kansas State defensive end Jordan Willis (75) gives chase as Baylor wide receiver and Midland High grad Antwan Goodley (5) races down the field during a Dec. 6 game in Waco.

Let the playoffs begin



Brynn Anderson/AP

Ohio State coach Urban Meyer, left, and Alabama coach Nick Saban laugh during a press conference at the Marriott downtown convention center Wednesday in New Orleans. Ohio State is slated to square off against Alabama in the Sugar Bowl today.

For Saban and Meyer, no room for satisfaction

By Paul Newberry
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — They rose to the top of their profession from different sides of the line.

Nick Saban, the defensive mastermind.

Urban Meyer, the offensive genius.

The areas of expertise may be different, but their coaching principles are cut from the same cloth.

A demanding quest for perfection, even though they recognize it will always be just out of reach. An absolute rejection of anything that feels like contentment, no matter how many championships they might win. A neurotic obsession with every little detail, while recognizing that some delegation is required.

Make no mistake: When Saban's top-ranked Alabama Crimson Tide faces Meyer's No. 5 Ohio State Buckeyes in the Sugar Bowl tonight, two figures will tower over everyone else. It doesn't matter that neither will play a down in the semifinal playoff game.

This is like a paint-off between Picasso and Monet, a chance for the rest of us to savor two savants at the top of their games.

Not that they'll be relishing the moment.

"It's always about the next play. It's always about the next game," Saban said Tuesday, speaking from a podium on the floor of the Superdome. "I'm always looking toward the future."

Saban has already won four national titles, three of them coming in the last five years at Alabama. Meyer captured a pair of championships at Florida and is two wins away from adding to his haul with the Buckeyes.

If you're looking for some perspective on what it all means, better ask someone else.

"I don't really think much about the past," Saban said. "I always like to say, 'Be where your feet are.' What's happening right now? What do I need to do to affect that? That's where your energy is always focused."

Meyer takes essentially the same approach, though he does "try to force"

Please see **SUGAR**/3C

The game

SUGAR BOWL
NO. 1 ALABAMA VS. NO. 5 OHIO STATE

When: 7:30 p.m. today
Location: Mercedes-Benz Superdome, New Orleans
TV: ESPN

Online

Due to an early deadline, Wednesday's Peach Bowl game between TCU and Mississippi did not end in time for today's paper. Visit mrt.com for coverage of the game.

Rose Bowl defenses face dire tasks with confidence

Ryan Kang/AP

Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota (8) tries to get away from a Stanford defender during the second quarter a Nov. 1 game in Eugene, Ore.

Greg Beacham
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — With Marcus Mariota and Jameis Winston leading two top-notch offenses into the Rose Bowl today, almost everybody expects this College Football Playoff semifinal to feature plenty of points.

Oregon's Don Pellum and Florida State's Charles Kelly are in charge of preventing that seeming inevitability, but these two rookie defensive coordinators are used to doing difficult work.

"We're not going to be changing the game plan," Pellum said. "After 13 games, you're not going to change it. We just have to execute."

There's a certain similarity to the paths followed by Pellum and Kelly to Pasadena. When the Ducks and Seminoles needed new defensive coordinators early this year after the departures of two high-profile predecessors, both schools shunned mercenary hires and promoted veteran assistant coaches to the most prominent jobs of their careers.

Neither defense had a spectacular season under its new management, struggling with injuries and occasionally producing lamentable defensive results. Yet both clearly have been good enough to earn a national title shot, and Kelly and Pellum both

Please see **ROSE**/3C

The game

ROSE BOWL
NO. 2 OREGON VS. NO. 3 FLORIDA STATE

When: 4 p.m. today
Location: Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena, Calif.
TV: ESPN

Cowboys' Garrett floors it

Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

IRVING — Tony Romo took all but one snap for a regular-season finale that had little chance of meaning anything for the playoff-bound Dallas Cowboys.

DeMarco Murray got his 20th carry late in the fourth quarter with a 10-point lead, not long after Dez Bryant made his final catch of the day.

Sure enough, a 44-17 win over Washington didn't change Dallas' postseason position. Not that coach Jason Garrett cares.

"We have been playing well as a football team the last few weeks and that's certainly an important part of it," Garrett said. "But I think as much as anything else is to take advantage of an opportunity to get better as a football team. Guys embraced the opportunity to play. I think we saw that in the spirit and demeanor we played with."

The team that couldn't win big games in December went 4-0 this time, zooming past Philadelphia to win the NFC East and earning a first-round home game against Detroit (11-5) on Sunday.

Now the question is whether keeping to the routine over resting Romo's surgically repaired back will make a difference against the Lions, or if matters that Murray missed a chance to ease up at the end of by far the NFL rushing leader's busiest season as a pro.

Please see **COWBOYS**/4C

Big 12 can back up claim as top basketball conference

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

DALLAS — The Big 12 has plenty of positive statistics, and winning teams, to back up its claim as the nation's top basketball conference.

This is a league with its only undefeated team unranked, having fallen out of the Top 25 this week despite a 44-point win.

Still, no other league can claim six Top 25 teams. There was a league-record seven before TCU (13-0) was replaced in this week's poll by Georgetown.

After No. 13 Kansas and Oklahoma State won Tuesday night, the Big 12 has seven teams with at least 10 wins and an overall record of 101-20 (.835 winning percentage). That is the nation's best. No. 11 Texas, No. 17 West Virginia, No. 22 Baylor and Texas Tech also have won 10 games or more, with No. 9 Iowa State possibly joining that group Wednesday.

The Big 12 is on track to win at least 80 percent of its non-conference games for the first time in league history, and there was a two-week stretch earlier in December when its teams won 28 consecutive games.

There is a 24-14 record (.632) against the ACC, Big Ten, Pac-12 and SEC, helping push the Big 12 to No. 1 in RPI for conferences.

Here are a few other things to know about the Big 12, which opens league play Saturday:

RELOADED CYCLONES: Iowa

Please see **BIG 12**/2C

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

TODAY

WHAT'S ON TV

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Outback Bowl: Wisconsin vs. Auburn, 11 a.m., ESPN2

Cotton Bowl: Baylor vs. Michigan State, 11:30 a.m., ESPN/ESPNDEP

Citrus Bowl: Minnesota vs. Missouri, Noon, ABC

Rose Bowl/FBS Semifinal: Oregon vs. Florida State, 4 p.m., ESPN/ESPNDEP

Sugar Bowl/FBS Semifinal: Alabama vs. Ohio State, 7:30 p.m., ESPN/ESPNDEP

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

American Family Life Insurance Skills Challenge, 9 p.m., ESPN2

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

BYU at Santa Clara, 4 p.m., BYUtv

MEN'S SOCCER

Scottish Premier: Dundee at Dundee United, 6:15 a.m., FOXSOCP

English Premier: Manchester United at Stoke City, 6:45 a.m., NBCSN

English Premier: Crystal Palace at Aston Villa, 9 a.m., NBCET

English Premier: Everton at Hull City, 9 a.m., NBCET

English Premier: Leicester City at Liverpool, 9 a.m., NBCET

English Premier: Sunderland at Manchester City, 9 a.m., NBCET

English Premier: Burnley at Newcastle, 9 a.m., NBCET

English Premier: Swansea City at Queens Park Rangers, 9 a.m., NBCET

English Premier: Arsenal at Southampton, 9 a.m., NBCET

Scottish Premier: Celtic at Partick Thistle, 11:25 a.m., FOXSOCP

English Premier: Chelsea at Tottenham, 11:30 a.m., NBCSN

A-League: Perth Glory at Melbourne Victory, 2:45 a.m., FOXSOCP

NHL

Winter Classic: Chicago vs. Washington, Noon, NBC

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Santa Clara at BYU, 1:30 p.m., BYUtv

WHAT'S ON DECK

TODAY

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men, Rogers State at UTPB, 7:30 p.m.

Women, Rogers State at UTPB, 5:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

National League

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Traded OF Seth Smith to Seattle for RHP Brandon Maurer

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

UTAH JAZZ — Assigned G Toure' Murry to Idaho (NBADL).

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ATLANTA FALCONS — Signed OT Reid Fragel to a futures contract.

DENVER BRONCOS — Signed LB Chase Vaughn to a futures contract.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed WR Ifeanyi Momah to a futures contract.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed OT Derek Sherrod to a futures contract.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed DB Dey Olatoye, OT Curtis Feigt, LB JoJo Dickson, DTs Hebron Fangupo and Jerel Worthy, TEs Brandon Barden and Adam Schlitz, Gs Jarrod Pughsley and Ricky Henry and WRs Armon Binns, Kyle Williams, Fred Williams and Corbin Louks to futures contracts.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed TE Jake Stoneburner, CB Lowell Rose, LB Jake Knott, DE Emmanuel Dieke, QB McLeod Bethel-Thompson and G Mark Asper to futures contracts.

NEW YORK JETS — Signed RB Daryl Richardson, PK Andrew Furney and DTs Kona Schwenke and Tevita Finau to futures contracts.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Signed PK Carey Spear, S Ed Reynolds, DB Curtis Marsh, QB G.J. Kinne, NT Wade Keliikipi, OT Kevin Graf, RB Kenjon Barner, G Josh Andrews and WRs Quron Pratt and Will Murphy to futures contracts.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released DB Jordan Suiter from the practice squad. Signed WR Tim Benford to the practice squad.

ST. LOUIS RAMS — Signed DT Doug Worthington, LB Marshall McFadden, LS Jorgen Hus, S Christian Bryant, G Travis Bond, OT Steven Baker and WRs Devon Wylie and Emory Blake to futures contracts.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS — Signed G Craig Watts to a futures contract.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Signed RB Spencer Ware to a futures contract.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Signed P Jacob Schum to a futures contract.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed PK Travis Coons to a futures contract.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Announced defensive coordinator Jim Haslett will not return next season.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

MINNESOTA WILD — Reassigned G John Curry to Iowa (AHL). Activated G Niklas Backstrom from injured reserve.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Recalled D Nikita Nesterov from Syracuse (AHL).

ECHL

GWINNETT GLADIATORS — Named Mike Flanagan assistant coach.

SOCCER

National Women's Soccer League

WASHINGTON SPIRIT — Named Nadine Traughber director of operations and Christopher Colvin director of media relations.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	37	24	11	2	50	100	86
Tampa Bay	38	23	11	4	50	122	99
Detroit	37	19	9	9	47	105	94
Toronto	37	20	14	3	43	124	111
Florida	34	16	9	9	41	80	88
Boston	37	19	15	3	41	98	99
Ottawa	36	15	14	7	37	97	99
Buffalo	37	14	20	3	31	75	123

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	36	22	9	5	49	109	86
N.Y. Islanders	36	24	11	1	49	112	101
Washington	36	18	11	7	43	105	94
N.Y. Rangers	34	19	11	4	42	102	87
Philadelphia	36	14	16	6	34	100	109
Columbus	34	15	16	3	33	86	106
New Jersey	38	13	18	7	33	82	108
Carolina	36	10	22	4	24	72	98

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	37	25	10	2	52	117	78
Nashville	36	24	9	3	51	106	78
St. Louis	37	22	12	3	47	106	93
Winnipeg	37	19	11	7	45	94	87
Minnesota	34	17	13	4	38	99	95
Dallas	35	16	14	5	37	102	118
Colorado	36	13	15	8	34	92	109

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	38	24	8	6	54	107	101
Vancouver	35	21	11	3	45	103	94
Los Angeles	38	18	12	8	44	103	94
San Jose	37	19	13	5	43	101	96
Calgary	38	20	15	3	43	110	100
Arizona	36	14	18	4	32	86	115
Edmonton	37	8	22	7	23	79	127

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

Wednesday's Scores

N.Y. Islanders at Winnipeg, late

Tampa Bay at Buffalo, late

N.Y. Rangers at Florida, late

Toronto at Boston, late

Carolina at Pittsburgh, late

Minnesota at Columbus, late

New Jersey at Detroit, late

San Jose at Anaheim, late

Arizona at Dallas, late

Philadelphia at Colorado, late

Edmonton at Calgary, late

Today's Games

Chicago vs Washington at Washington (DC), Noon

Los Angeles at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

NBA STANDINGS & BOX

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	24	8	.750	—
Brooklyn	15	16	.484	8 1/2
Boston	11	18	.379	11 1/2
New York	5	28	.152	19 1/2
Philadelphia	4	26	.133	19

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	23	8	.742	—
Washington	22	9	.710	1
Miami	14	18	.438	9 1/2
Orlando	13	22	.371	12
Charlotte	10	22	.313	13 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	22	10	.688	—
Cleveland	22	13	.581	3 1/2
Milwaukee	16	16	.500	6
Indiana	11	21	.344	11
Detroit	8	23	.258	13 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	23	8	.742	—
Houston	21	9	.700	1 1/2
Dallas	23	10	.697	1
San Antonio	19	14	.576	5
New Orleans	16	15	.516	7

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	26	7	.788	—
Oklahoma City	15	17	.469	10 1/2
Denver	13	19	.406	12 1/2
Utah	11	21	.344	14 1/2
Minnesota	5	25	.167	19 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	25	5	.833	—
L.A. Clippers	21	11	.656	4
Phoenix	18	15	.545	8 1/2
Sacramento	13	19	.406	13
L.A. Lakers	10	22	.313	16

Wednesday's Scores

Boston 106, Sacramento 84

Miami at Indiana, late

New York at L.A. Clippers, late

Charlotte at Houston, late

New Orleans at San Antonio, late

Milwaukee at Cleveland, late

Phoenix at Oklahoma City, late

Today's Games

Denver at Chicago, 7 p.m.

Sacramento at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S BOX

CELTICS 106, KINGS 84

SACRAMENTO (84): Gay 4-19-1-2-9 Hollins 2-3-0-0-4 Cousins 5-17-1-2-11 Collison 4-10-6-6-14 McLemore 3-5-4-4-12 Landry 1-11-0-0-14 Stauskas 1-6-2-4-4 Evans 3-0-1-2-1 Williams 1-5-0-0-2 McCallum 4-8-3-6-11 Casspi 1-3-0-2-2 Totals 32-87-16-28-84

BOSTON (106): Green 2-6-2-3-6 Sullinger 9-18-2-2-20 Zeller 3-5-1-1-7 Turner 4-10-2-2-10 Bradley 4-8-1-2-9 Olynyk 1-4-0-0-2 Smart 4-8-0-0-11 Bass 3-7-2-3-8 Crowder 5-10-1-1-12 Nelson 1-8-0-0-2 Wright 3-4-0-0-6 Pressey 0-0-0-0 Totals 44-94-13-15-106

Sacramento	**19**	**20**	**22**	**23 — 84**
Boston	**23**	**26**	**28**	**29 — 106**

3-Point Goals—Sacramento 2-15 (McLemore 2-3, Stauskas 0-2, McCallum 0-2, Gay 0-2, Williams 0-2, Collison 0-4), Boston 5-21 (Smart 3-6, Olynyk 1-2, Crowder 1-4, Sullinger 0-1, Sullinger 0-3, Nelson 0-5). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Sacramento 62 (Cousins 11), Boston 55 (Sullinger 11). Assists—Sacramento 21 (McLemore 5), Boston 32 (Turner 11). Total Fouls—Sacramento 17, Boston 23. Technicals—Cousins 2, Smart. Flagrant Fouls—Zeller. Ejected—Cousins. A—18,624 (18,624).

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men

TODAY'S GAMES

SOUTH

SE Missouri at Belmont, 1 p.m.

Crowley's Ridge at UT-Martin, 6:30 p.m.

MIDWEST

Jacksonville St. at SIU-Edwardsville, 1 p.m.

Tennessee Tech at E. Illinois, 3:15 p.m.

N. Iowa at Evansville, 7 p.m.

FAR WEST

North Dakota at Montana St., 2:05 p.m.

Pacific at Loyola Marymount, 3 p.m.

BYU at Santa Clara, 4 p.m.

Weber St. at E. Washington, 4:05 p.m.

Saint Mary's (Cal) at Pepperdine, 7 p.m.

N. Colorado at Montana, 8 p.m.

Idaho St. at Idaho, 9 p.m.

San Diego at San Francisco, 9 p.m.

S. Utah at Portland St., 9:05 p.m.

N. Arizona at Sacramento St., 9:05 p.m.

Women

WEDNESDAY'S SCORES

SOUTHWEST

Cent. Arkansas 63, Austin Peay 54

Oklahoma 71, Yale 54

TCU 78, UC Irvine 56

Texas, 77, Rice 54

Texas Tech 60, Houston Baptist 59

MIDWEST

Creighton 76, Georgetown 61

E. Michigan 75, Detroit 71, OT

Ill.-Chicago 63, Loyola of Chicago 28

Kansas St. 60, Samford 41

Missouri St. 57, Missouri 52

N. Illinois 87, Bradley 54

Valparaiso 109, Purdue-Calumet 81

W. Illinois 79, Milwaukee 59

Xavier 74, Marquette 71

TODAY'S GAMES

SOUTHWEST

Louisiana-Monroe at UT Arlington, 5 p.m.

Georgia Southern at Arkansas St., 5:05 p.m.

ULM at Texas St., 5:30 p.m.

New Orleans at Incarnate Word, 6 p.m.

Stephen F. Austin at Cent. Arkansas, 7 p.m.

South Dakota at Oral Roberts, 7 p.m.

Lamar at Texas A&M-CC, 7 p.m.

SOUTH

Liberty at Coastal Carolina, 4 p.m.

Radford at Presbyterian, 4 p.m.

Middle Tennessee at FIU, 5 p.m.

Georgia St. at Louisiana-Lafayette, 5 p.m.

Appalachian St. at South Alabama, 5:05 p.m.

Syracuse at Duke, 5:30 p.m.

Austin Peay at Jacksonville St., 5:30 p.m.

Purdue at Maryland, 5:30 p.m.

Murray St. at Tennessee Tech, 5:30 p.m.

E. Kentucky at UT Martin, 5:30 p.m.

South Carolina at Alabama, 6 p.m.

High Point at Charleston Southern, 6 p.m.

W. Kentucky at Charlotte, 6 p.m.

Florida St. at Clemson, 6 p.m.

Mississippi at Florida, 6 p.m.

UAB at FAU, 6 p.m.

Missouri at Georgia, 6 p.m.

Auburn at Kentucky, 6 p.m.

Notre Dame at Miami, 6 p.m.

Houston Baptist at Nicholls St., 6 p.m.

Virginia Tech at N.C. State, 6 p.m.

Marshall at Old Dominion, 6 p.m.

UTSA at Southern Miss., 6 p.m.

Texas A&M at Tennessee, 6 p.m.

Wake Forest at Virginia, 6 p.m.

Rhode Island at VCU, 6 p.m.

UNC Asheville at Winthrop, 6 p.m.

UTEP at Louisiana Tech, 6:30 p.m.

Sam Houston St. at SE Louisiana, 7 p.m.

Vanderbilt at LSU, 8 p.m.

Arkansas at Mississippi St., 8 p.m.

MIDWEST

Valparaiso at Cleveland St., 4 p.m.

Morehead St. at SE Missouri, 5 p.m.

Ohio St. at Indiana, 6 p.m.

Loyola of Chicago at Evansville, 7 p.m.

Iowa at Illinois, 7 p.m.

Youngstown St. at Ill.-Chicago, 7 p.m.

IUPUI at N. Dakota St., 7 p.m.

Nebraska at Michigan St., 7:30 p.m.

FAR WEST

Arizona St. at Arizona, 7 p.m.

Omaha at Denver, 8 p.m.

Weber St. at Montana, 8 p.m.

Idaho St. at Montana St., 8 p.m.

Hawaii at Cal Poly, 9 p.m.

UC Riverside at Cal St. Fullerton, 9 p.m.

UC Davis at CS Northridge, 9 p.m.

UC Irvine at Long Beach St., 9 p.m.

BYU at Loyola Marymount, 9 p.m.

San Diego at Pepperdine, 9 p.m.

N. Colorado at Portland St., 9 p.m.

North Dakota at Sacramento St., 9 p.m.

Gonzaga at San Francisco, 9 p.m.

Portland at Santa Clara, 9 p.m.

EAST

UMBC at UMass-Lowell, 10 a.m.

Monmouth (N.J.) at Rider, 11 a.m.

Georgia Tech at Boston College, 6 p.m.

George Mason at Duquesne, 6 p.m.

Fordham at La Salle, 6 p.m.

North Carolina at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.

Bumgarner wins AP Male Athlete of the Year

By Janie McCauley
Associated Press

David J. Phillip/AP

San Francisco's Madison Bumgarner, right, and catcher Buster Posey celebrate Oct. 29 after Game 7 of the World Series against the Kansas City Royals in Kansas City, Mo.

SAN FRANCISCO — Madison Bumgarner sat in the outfield alongside Jake Peavy before Game 7 of the World Series and told his teammate exactly what needed to happen: Tim Hudson would work a few innings and get the ball to Bumgarner, who would hand it off to the bullpen to finish the championship.

Peavy quickly offered his own prediction that Bumgarner would end it himself.

That's exactly what MadBum did, following up a pair of World Series wins with a save at Kansas City to close out San Francisco's third title in five years and cap a brilliant postseason that made him a household name — or, at the very least, a household nickname. He is the 2014 Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year.

"I was sitting in the outfield with Madison and he was asking me how I thought this game was going to play out," Peavy recalled this month. "I said to him: 'Madison, when you get the ball, you're not coming out of the game. You're the best guy we've got.' ... He said, 'Man, that's exactly what I hoped you would say' and exactly what he wanted. He just needed some confirmation, somebody to believe in him as well. I said, 'Fight for that ball, man,' and what he did will go down in the ages as the best ever."

The shaggy-haired left-hander who takes as much pride in his pitching and durability as he does his deep North Carolina roots, Bumgarner became October's biggest star for a San Francisco club that really needed one during another improbable World Series run.

Bumgarner finished first in a vote by U.S. editors and news directors. He beat out Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw — who won the National League Cy Young and MVP. Retiring New York Yankees star Derek Jeter and golfer Rory McIlroy tied for third place. The award was announced Tuesday.

After months of the same questions about his well-tested left arm, Bumgarner made light of it all.

He had just thrown 270 innings, including 21 with two wins and a save in a World Series that went the distance against the fellow wild-card Royals.

"I got a splinter in my finger the other day. That was kind of painful," Bumgarner quipped, sounding perfectly serious. "Fortunately, it was on my right hand."

Bruce Bochy's 25-year-old workhorse has earned the manager's trust that he will speak up if anything ever feels off with his arm. Otherwise, he's going to keep getting the ball.

With that tricky crossbody, three-quarters delivery — resembling a sling shot — Bumgarner shows hitters the ball briefly with an outstretched arm before that rapid release and suddenly it's right there leaving batters baffled.

On two days' rest in Game 7, that day he sat with Peavy in Kansas City, he pitched five scoreless innings of relief in a 3-2 win.

Only after that would Bumgarner acknowledge he might need a mental and physical break at last after tossing a record 52 2-3 postseason innings.

"You know what? I can't lie to you anymore," he said. "I'm a little tired now."

Pitching coach Dave Righetti began fielding inquiries before the World Series began about whether Bumgarner had the chance to make three appearances. He knew it could happen, though it wasn't exactly planned.

"You don't realize when you're in the middle of the eye, 'Wow, what this guy's doing is so special,'" Righetti said. "That really hasn't been done in years. ... When you've got a healthy guy who's on a roll, those are the kind of guys who change big series and do special things."

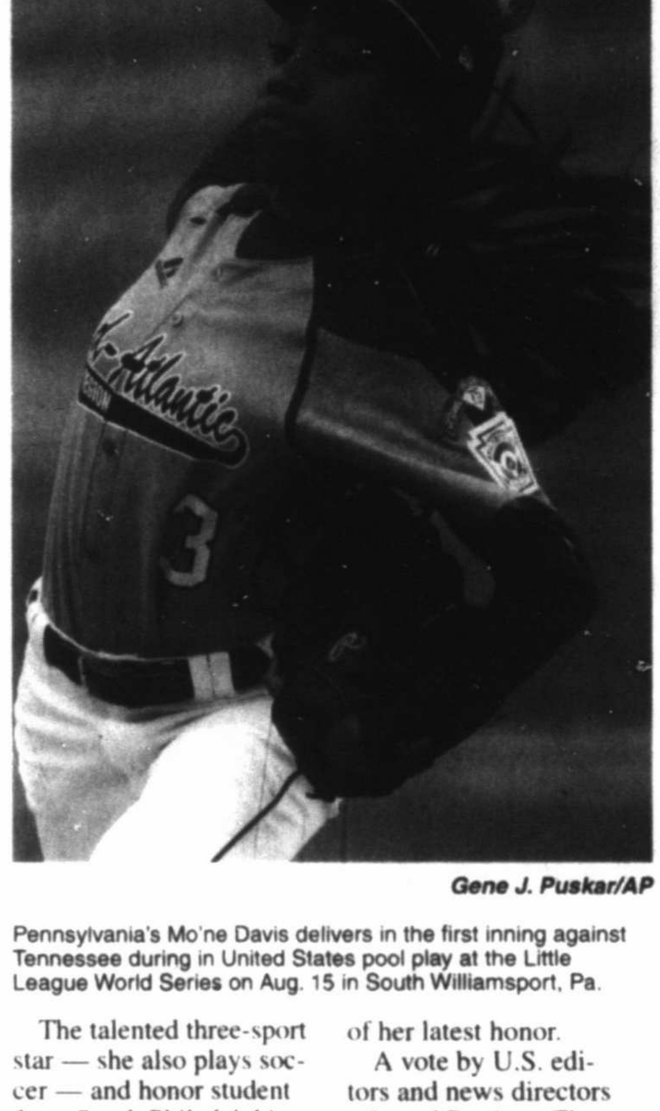
The Giants locked up Bumgarner long-term in April 2012 on a $35.56 million, six-year contract through 2017. It could keep him in orange and black even longer, given the $12 million options for the 2018 and 2019 seasons. That almost seems like a bargain now given Bumgarner's performance and star power on baseball's biggest stage.

Bumgarner was MVP of the World Series and NL Championship Series, going 4-1 during the postseason following an 18-10 regular season.

From his four-hit, 10-strikeout gem that got things started in an 8-0 wild-card win at Pittsburgh all the way through his brilliant relief outing in Game 7 of the World Series, Bumgarner dazzled like never before.

Davis wins AP Female Athlete of the Year honors

By Rob Maaddi
Associated Press



Gene J. Puskar/AP

Pennsylvania's Mo'ne Davis delivers in the first inning against Tennessee during in United States pool play at the Little League World Series on Aug. 15 in South Williamsport, Pa.

PHILADELPHIA — No one in the sports world had heard of the 2014 Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year until August.

That's when 13-year-old Mo'ne Davis became an instant celebrity as she took the mound in the Little League World Series and mowed down batter after batter, giving "throw like a girl" a whole new meaning.

She was the first girl to win a Little League World Series game, and her performance dazzled fans young and old. Her steely gaze and demeanor on the mound were intimidating, while off-the-field, she shined in interviews. She told admirers that if they thought she was good at baseball, they should see her play hoops. Only in eighth grade, Davis already plays for her school's high school varsity basketball team.

Davis appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated, has her jersey displayed in baseball's Hall of Fame and was named Sports Kid of the Year by Sports Illustrated Kids.

She met the Obamas at the White House, starred in a Spike Lee-directed car commercial (the NCAA said it wouldn't hurt her eligibility), marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade along with her Taney Dragons teammates and presented Pharrell Williams with Soul Train's "Song of the Year" award.

The talented three-sport star — she also plays soccer — and honor student from South Philadelphia handled all the attention with poise, modesty and maturity.

"A lot of adults around me help out, taught me to be respectful, to be calm during everything and not let anything get to you," Davis said after learning of her latest honor.

A vote by U.S. editors and news directors selected Davis as The Associated Press 2014 Female Athlete of the Year. The youngest winner in history, Davis beat out Mt. St. Joseph freshman Lauren Hill — who played her first college basketball game while battling terminal brain cancer — and three-time winner Serena Williams. The selection was announced Monday.

Davis tossed a two-hitter to help Philadelphia beat Nashville 4-0 in the Little League World Series opener for both teams. Davis, the first girl to appear for a U.S. team in South Williamsport since 2004, had eight strikeouts and didn't walk a batter. Her team was eventually eliminated after losing to teams from Las Vegas and Chicago. Davis gave up three runs in the Las Vegas game, and could not take the mound against Chicago because of pitch limits.

After the tournament, Davis was everywhere.

She threw whiffle balls to Jimmy Fallon on NBC's Tonight Show, threw out the first pitch at Game 4 of the World Series and signed a book deal.

"It's been really fun, got to do a lot of things, meet a lot of cool people," Davis said. "My favorite thing to do was playing in Williamsport or going to the White House. (The Obamas) just seemed like a regular couple, no different from anyone else."

While others are still talking about her Little League performance, Davis, a point guard, is concentrating on basketball.

"It's making me a lot better, helping me make decisions," Davis said of playing varsity. "In middle school, I can get away with small things. The girls now are a lot taller so I'm working on my jump shot and ball handling a

BIG 12

From 1C

State went into this season confident of replacing Big 12 player of the year Melvin Ejim and DeAndre Kane, an honorable on the All-America team. The Cyclones (9-1) are the Big 12's highest-ranked team and have five players averaging double-figure scoring. Junior forward Georges Niang leads the way with 16.9 points, 5.5 rebounds and 4.2 steals a game. Fred Hoiberg, the Ames native who played for the Cyclones before a 10-year NBA career, on Wednesday could become the fastest Iowa State coach to 100 wins.

FORWARD FROGS: After going winless in its 18 Big 12 games last season, TCU is off to the best start in school history after going 13-0 in its non-conference games. The Horned Frogs last week got into the Top 25 for the first time since January 1999, when Billy Tubbs was their coach and the season after their last NCAA tournament appearance. This is coach Trent Johnson's third season, coinciding with TCU's time in the Big 12. The Frogs have been bolstered by the addition of Division I transfers Trey Zeigler (from Pittsburgh) and Chris Washburn (from UTEP) and a mostly healthy roster. They open league play Saturday against West Virginia at home, which this season is a high school gym while their Fort Worth campus arena is being completely redone.

YOUNG JAYHAWKS: Kansas had a 32-point loss to No. 1 Kentucky a week into the season, then lost by 25 points at Temple in its last game before Christmas. The young Jayhawks have won their other 10 games. "That's one great thing about youth. They don't know. They can't remember," coach Bill Self said. The Jayhawks are led but junior Perry Ellis, but their next seven top scorers are sophomores or freshmen. The Jayhawks, still No. 2 in the latest RPI ratings, play UNLV at home Saturday before their Big 12 opener at Baylor on Jan. 7.

RANKED OPENER: Baylor lost more than half of its scoring and rebounding from another Sweet 16 team, and senior point guard Kenny Chery was bothered at times this season by a foot injury, but the Bears (11-1) have dropped only an eight-point game against Illinois. They will get an early test in Big 12 play, opening Saturday at Oklahoma before facing Kansas it its Big 12 home opener next week.

EXPERIENCED SCORERS: While there are plenty of talented young players in the Big 12, the upper classmen dominated the league's top scorers going into this week. Oklahoma State senior Le'Bryan Nash led the Big 12 with 17.6 points a game. Of the top 13 scorers, six are seniors, six are juniors and the only sophomore is Kansas State's Marcus Foster, whose 15 points a game ranked seventh in the league.

GOODLEY

From 1C

years ago.

Though Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Robert Griffin III made the college football world again take notice of Baylor football, it has been Goodley and a senior class that includes star quarterback Bryce Petty that has put the Bears in the national conversation.

"Those guys started it. We're just trying to finish what they started," Goodley said.

"I kind of thought I knew what the committee thought of us. We can't control that. All we can control is finishing strong."

Goodley missed two games early in the season with the injury, yet caught 51 passes for 737 yards and six touchdowns in 10 games for the nation's top-ranked offense.

Even with perhaps the deepest receiving corps, Goodley remained Petty's preferred target.

And why not? The two, both fifth-year seniors, have become close, sharing in the frustration of having to wait their turn. It was the same type of frustration Goodley felt this season waiting for the injury to heal.

"It's hard not to (be frustrated)," Petty said. "When you have expectations and goals … and the muscle deal can be so irritating. You can do all you can to rehabilitate and then one time, you're right back to where you started.

"He's my guy, my dude. We had similar stories being here. Being redshirted and waiting our turn."

The injury, though, served a purpose, too, Goodley said, making him more mentally strong, a prerequisite for his next stop.

Goodley will get his chance to show he belongs in the NFL.

Goodley said he'll get back to work after the bowl game and get ready for the Senior Bowl on Jan. 24 in Mobile, Alabama, where NFL auditions begin.

He'll have plenty of good recommendations, including from his quarterback.

Said Petty: "He's a guy who's going to give you all he's got and really be a leader."

ROSE

From 1C

express pride in their work — albeit tinged with the awareness that their jobs are about to get a whole lot tougher.

"We knew there would be some challenges, but at the same time, I think our guys have stepped up," Kelly said. "Are we the same team? No. But I'm very proud of what our guys have done and how they have hung in there together and fought through."

Kelly had moved from Georgia Tech to Florida State just one year before his promotion, taking over when Jeremy Pruitt left the Seminoles for Georgia after only one season in Tallahassee — and just eight days after Florida State beat Auburn in Pasadena for the national title. Kelly is Jimbo Fisher's third defensive coordinator in three years, starting with Mark Stoops' departure for Kentucky.

Florida State led the nation in scoring defense and interceptions last season during its national championship run. Kelly had the daunting challenge of replacing a flock of soon-to-be NFL players, including Jacksonville linebacker Telvin Smith, St. Louis safety Lamarcus Joyner, Chicago linebacker Christian Jones and Baltimore teammates Timmy Jernigan and Terrence Brooks.

"That's five guys right there that have started in the National Football League as rookies this year," Kelly said. "I think you can see the development of a lot of guys (as replacements)."

Several Seminoles took on larger responsibilities in their teammates' absence. Kelly's defense relies less on constant quarterback pressure than Pruitt's defense did, partly in concession to injuries, but remained among the nation's toughest units in red-zone defense. Like the offense, Florida State's defense has repeatedly struggled early and finished strong in games.

"It's been really fun to play for (Kelly)," Florida State linebacker Terrance Smith said. "I love what he's done this year. It's different than last year, but his halftime adjustments have helped us finish up games. Pruitt was a little more aggressive, blitzing more. I love to blitz, but I can't be mad."

Pellum worked his way up the hierarchy at Oregon for 23 years, patiently helping Mike Bellotti and longtime defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti, who retired after 17 seasons in charge.

Oregon was among the Pac-12's top defenses in each of the past two seasons under Aliotti, thriving in the high-scoring conference and earning national respect. The Ducks have improved down the stretch, holding four of their last five opponents under 20 points.

BOWL GLANCE

Saturday, Dec. 20
New Orleans Bowl
Louisiana-Lafayette 16, Nevada 3
New Mexico Bowl
At Albuquerque
Utah State 21, UTEP 6
Las Vegas Bowl
Utah 45, Colorado State 10
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
At Boise
Air Force 38, Western Michigan 24
Camellia Bowl
At Montgomery, Ala.
Bowling Green 33, South Alabama 28
Monday, Dec. 22
Miami Beach Bowl
Memphis 55, BYU 48, 2OT
Tuesday, Dec. 23
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
Marshall 52, Northern Illinois 23
Poinsettia Bowl
At San Diego
Navy 17, San Diego State 16
Wednesday, Dec. 24
Bahamas Bowl
At Nassau
Western Kentucky 49, Central Michigan 48
Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Rice 30, Fresno State 6
Friday, Dec. 26
Heart of Dallas Bowl
Louisiana Tech 35, Illinois 18
Quick Lane Bowl
At Detroit
Rutgers 40, North Carolina 21
St. Petersburg (Fla.) Bowl
N.C. State 34, UCF 27
Saturday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl
At Annapolis, Md.
Virginia Tech 53, Cincinnati 17
Sun Bowl
At El Paso
Arizona State 28, Duke 31
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
South Carolina 24, Miami 21
Pinstripe Bowl
At Bronx, N.Y.
Penn State 31, Boston College 30, OT
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Southern Cal 45, Nebraska 42
Monday, Dec. 29
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Texas A&M 45, West Virginia 37
Russell Athletic Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Clemson 40, Oklahoma 6
Texas Bowl
At Houston
Arkansas 31, Texas 7
Tuesday, Dec. 30
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Notre Dame 31, LSU 28
Belk Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Georgia 37, Louisville 14
Pinstripe Bowl
At Bronx, N.Y.
Penn State 24, Boston College 13
Foster Farms Bowl
At Santa Clara, Calif.
Stanford 45, Maryland 21
Wednesday
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
TCU 42, Mississippi 3
Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Boise State (11-2) vs. Arizona (10-3), late (ESPN)
Orange Bowl
At Miami Gardens, Fla.
Mississippi State (10-2) vs. Georgia Tech (10-3), late
Today
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Wisconsin (10-3) vs. Auburn (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)
Cotton Bowl Classic
At Arlington
Michigan State (10-2) vs. Baylor (11-1), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)
Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Minnesota (8-4) vs. Missouri (10-3), Noon (ABC)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Playoff semifinal: Oregon (12-1) vs. Florida State (13-0), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Playoff semifinal: Alabama (12-1) vs. Ohio State (12-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday
Armed Forces Bowl
At Fort Worth
Pittsburgh (6-6) vs. Houston (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
TaxSlayer Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Iowa (7-5) vs. Tennessee (6-6), 2:20 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
UCLA (9-3) vs. Kansas State (9-3), 5:45 p.m. (ESPN)
Cactus Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Oklahoma State (8-6) vs. Washington (8-5), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
Florida (8-5) vs. East Carolina (8-4), Noon (ESPN2)
Sunday
GoDaddy Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
Toledo (8-4) vs. Arkansas State (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday
Medal of Honor Bowl
At Charleston, S.C.
American vs. National, 1:30 p.m.
Monday
College Football Championship
At Arlington
Sugar Bowl winner vs. Rose Bowl winner, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Jan. 17
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West, 3 p.m. (NFLN)
NFLPA Collegiate Bowl
At Carson, Calif.
National vs. American, 3 p.m. (ESPN2)
Saturday, Jan. 24
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South, 3 p.m. (NFLN)

TODAY'S BOWL GAMES

FROM WIRE REPORTS

OUTBACK BOWL
NO. 17 WISCONSIN (10-3) VS. NO. 19 AUBURN (8-4)
11 A.M. (ESPN2)

Line: Auburn by 6 1/2.
Series Record: Tied 1-1-1.
WHAT'S AT STAKE

Both teams are coming off losses — Wisconsin 59-0 to Ohio State in the Big Ten championship game, Auburn 55-44 to No. 1 Alabama — and have undergone some change since those games. The Badgers lost coach Gary Andersen to Oregon State and the Tigers fired defensive coordinator Ellis Johnson. Wisconsin will be led by athletic director and former long-time coach Barry Alvarez, who's returning to the sideline for a bowl game for the second time in three seasons.

KEY MATCHUP

Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon leads the nation with 2,336 yards rushing and finished second in Heisman Trophy balloting. He poses quite a challenge for a defense that ranked ninth overall in the Southeastern Conference. The junior has already declared for the NFL draft was limited to 76 yards in the Big Ten title game and is 292 shy of the FBS single-season rushing record Barry Sanders set at Oklahoma State in 1988.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Wisconsin: Gordon keys a powerful ground attack, but Badgers do put the ball in the air, too. Joel Stave has started nine games at quarterback, throwing for 1,229 yards, eight touchdowns and seven interceptions. Tanner McEvoy has completed 58 percent of his passes for 709 yards, five TDs and six interceptions.

Auburn: RB Cameron Artis-Payne leads the SEC in rushing with 1,482 yards and 11 touchdowns. However, the player who makes the Tigers go is QB Nick Marshall, who's thrown for 2,315 yards and 18 TDs, while also rushing for 780 yards and 11 TDs. Leading receiver D'haquille Williams (40 receptions, 730 yards, five TDs) will miss the game after being suspended for a violation of team rules.

FACTS & FIGURES

Gordon has 26 TDs rushing, 29 overall. He needs one to join Sanders and Central Florida's Kevin Smith as the only players in FBS history with at 2,000 yards rushing and 30 TDs in a season... Auburn has 0-1 bowl record under coach Gus Malzahn, losing last season's BCS championship game to Florida State. ... Alvarez (118-74-4) is Wisconsin's all-time winningest coach. He's in his 11th year as AD. Two years ago, he coached the Badgers in the Rose Bowl after Brat Bielema left for Arkansas. ... Paul Chryst, lured away from Pittsburgh, was hired as Andersen's replacement.

COTTON BOWL
NO. 7 MICHIGAN STATE (10-2) VS. NO. 4 BAYLOR (11-1), AT ARLINGTON, 11:30 A.M. (ESPN)

Line: Baylor by 2 1/2.
Series Record: Michigan State leads 1-0.
WHAT'S AT STAKE

Baylor, the first team left out of the four-team playoff, is going for its school-record 12th win and trying to prove it was worthy of a being considered for the College Football Playoff. Michigan State, the Rose Bowl champion last season, is going for its fourth consecutive bowl victory after its only two losses during the regular season were to teams in the first playoff.

KEY MATCHUP

Baylor offense vs. Michigan State defense. The Bears again have the nation's most productive offense (581 total yards and 49 points a game). Michigan State is seventh nationally allowing 294 total yards per game, and is trying to join Florida as the only teams to finish in the top 10 in that category the past four years. This is also the last game at Michigan State for defensive coordinator Pat Narduzzi, who will be Pittsburgh's new coach.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Michigan State: All-Big Ten receiver Tony Lippett (60 catches, 1,124 yards) leads the league with 11 touchdown catches. He is only the fourth Spartans receiver with at least 50 catches, 1,000 yards and 10 TDs in a season.

Baylor: All-Big 12 DE Shawn Oakman, the 6-foot-9 junior who said this week he plans to return to Baylor for his senior season, has 10 quarterback sacks and 18 1/2 tackles for loss.

FACTS & FIGURES

Baylor has won 21 consecutive games in Texas. ... Michigan State is only the second Big Ten team to play in the Cotton Bowl. The other was Ohio State in 1987. ... The Spartans have already set single-season school records with 517 points and 5,958 total yards. ... Baylor quarterback Bryce Petty has thrown TDs in 24 consecutive games. ... Former Houston Astros owner Drayton McLane got his undergraduate degree from Baylor and a master's degree from Michigan State. His name is on Baylor's new football stadium and Michigan State's baseball stadium after his family made generous financial contributions to those projects.

CITRUS BOWL
NO. 16 MISSOURI (10-3, 7-1 SEC) VS. MINNESOTA (8-4, 5-3 BIG TEN), NOON (ABC)

Line: Missouri by 4 1/2
Series Record: Missouri leads 4-3-1
WHAT'S AT STAKE

The Tigers are in their second consecutive New Year's Day bowl for the first time since 1960-61, and are looking to post their third straight bowl win (2011 Independence, 2014 Cotton). It would be their first such three-game winning streak since the 1970s. Minnesota is back in a New Year's Day bowl for the first time since 1962, when it beat UCLA in the Rose Bowl. The Golden Gophers are looking for their first bowl victory since 2004, having lost in their last six bowl appearances.

KEY MATCHUP

In three losses this season, Missouri's biggest issue was neutralizing their opponent's ability to run the ball. The Tigers gave up 241 yards to Indiana in a 31-27 loss, 210 yards to Georgia (34-0 loss), and 242 yards to Alabama in a 42-13 loss in the SEC title game. In its 10 victories, Missouri allowed opponents to average of just 102.9 yards per game. Minnesota enters the game with the 25th-ranked rushing offense in the nation, averaging 224.6 yards per contest.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Missouri: If the Tigers are going to disrupt the Golden Gophers rushing attack, they will need defensive ends Shane Ray and Markus Golden to have big games. Their 22.5 combined sacks led the SEC. They have combined for 36.5 tackles for a loss this season, the most of any duo in the SEC.

Minnesota: RB David Cobb will be counted on to set the offensive tone for the Golden Gophers. He set a school single-season record with 1,545 yards. He posted a career-high 220 yards rushing against Middle Tennessee and is one of seven Gophers to have multiple 200-yard games.

FACTS & FIGURES

The Citrus Bowl will feature a pair of coach of the year honorees. Minnesota's Jerry Kill was named Big Ten Coach of the Year by both the league's head coaches and media. Missouri's Gary Pinkel was voted SEC Coach of the Year by his coaching peers. ...A win would make the 2014 Tigers fourth in school history to win at least 11 games. ...The Tigers are 14-16 all-time in bowl games, and 6-4 under Pinkel. ...Minnesota is 5-11 in bowl games all-time. Its last bowl win was a 20-16 victory against Alabama in the 2004 Music City Bowl. ...A ninth victory would mark only the eighth time in history that the Gophers hit that milestone.

ROSE BOWL
NO. 2 FLORIDA STATE (13-0) VS. NO. 3 OREGON (12-1), 4:10 P.M. (ESPN)

Line: Oregon by 9.
Series Record: First meeting.
WHAT'S AT STAKE

The first semifinal in the first College Football Playoff is also the 101st edition of the Rose Bowl, and there's a Heisman Trophy winner on each sideline at the Granddaddy of Them All. Marcus Mariota leads Pac-12 champion Oregon and its offense against Florida State and Jameis Winston, who won the national championship on this same field 360 days ago before extending their current winning streak to 29 games.

KEY MATCHUP

Florida State WR Rashad Greene vs. Oregon CB Troy Hill. Greene is arguably the most accomplished receiver in the Seminoles' rich history at the position, a precise route-runner with speed and senior smarts. The Ducks were eager to match him with All-American cornerback Ifo Ekpre-Olomu, but he injured his knee in practice. The job falls to the experienced Hill, who should be locked in on Greene all day.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Florida State: S Jalen Ramsey. The gifted sophomore could be the Seminoles' biggest difference-maker against Oregon's high-scoring offense. Along with his coverage and tackling skills, he has been effective lately on the blitz — which might be the only way to slow down Mariota.

Oregon: RB Royce Freeman. The Ducks' inexhaustible collection of talented tailbacks has another star in this freshman from Southern California who has been outstanding from his first game. He racked up 1,299 yards and 16 touchdowns for the Pac-12's top rushing offense, and the Rose Bowl could cement his place on the national stage.

FACTS & FIGURES

The Rose Bowl is the third meeting between two Heisman-winning quarterbacks in college football history. USC's Matt Leinart beat Oklahoma's Jason White in early 2004, and Florida's Tim Tebow beat Oklahoma's Sam Bradford in early 2009. ... Florida State's last loss was Nov. 24, 2012. The Seminoles also have won six straight bowl games, last losing in 2007. ... Mariota needs two TD passes to set the Pac-12 single-season record with 40, moving past USC's Matt Barkley and Cody Kessler. ... Mariota has thrown at least one TD pass in all 39 games of his career. ... Oregon's victory over Wisconsin in Pasadena three years ago was its first Rose Bowl win in 95 years. ... Florida State won its last four games by 14 total points, while Oregon won its last four games by 124 total points. ... Seminoles coach Jimbo Fisher says his team hasn't been this healthy since the first day of camp.

SUGAR BOWL
NO. 4 SEED OHIO STATE (12-1, 8-0 BIG TEN) VS. NO. 1 SEED ALABAMA (12-1, 7-1 SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE), 7:30 P.M. (ESPN)

Line: Alabama by 9.
Series Record: Alabama leads 3-0
WHAT'S AT STAKE

Under the new College Football Playoff system, the Sugar Bowl doubles this season as a national semifinal, with the winner advancing to the national championship game in Dallas against the winner of the other semifinal, the Rose Bowl matchup between No. 2 seed Oregon and No. 3 seed Florida State.

KEY MATCHUP

Ohio State quarterback Cardale Jones, who is making only his second start in place of injured J.T. Barrett, faces an Alabama secondary that has looked vulnerable at times this season. Jones passed for 257 and three TDs with no interceptions in Ohio State's 59-0 victory over Wisconsin in the Big Ten title game. The Crimson Tide gave up 456 yards passing just two games ago to Auburn in the Iron Bowl, but won the game.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Ohio State: Defensive end Joey Bosa has 20 tackles for losses, including 13 1/2 sacks. His honors this season include All-American, Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and a finalist for the Lombardi, Hendricks and Bednarik awards.

Alabama: Wide receiver Amari Cooper was a Heisman Trophy finalist this season. His 115 catches for a nation-leading 1,656 yards and 14 touchdowns set Alabama single-season records in each category.

FACTS & FIGURES

Ohio State, which won the Big Ten Conference for the 35th time, enters the game on an 11-game winning streak. ... Alabama, which lost its only game to Mississippi on Oct. 4, has won eight straight and is Southeastern Conference champion for the 24th time. ... Ezekiel Elliott has led the Buckeye's running game with 1,402 yards and 12 touchdowns. ... Alabama junior running back T.J. Yeldon has 3,275 yards rushing in his career. ... The Buckeyes are 36-3 since Urban Meyer took over as head coach in 2012. ... Under new offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin, the Crimson Tide offense has set a school record with 6,376 yards of total offense, or an average of 490.5 yards through 13 games.

SUGAR

From 1C

himself to appreciate the good times.

"Maybe when you're younger, you don't always do that," the 50-year-old said. "You're always swinging, swinging, swinging."

That's about as far as he'll go. Anyone who thinks Meyer softened up a bit after taking a year off from coaching, a sabbatical he said was necessary because of the toll it was taking on his health and family, just listen to Ohio State defensive coordinator Luke Fickell.

After serving as interim coach between the scandal that brought down Jim Tressel and Meyer's arrival, Fickell remained on the staff at his alma mater. But Meyer was none too pleased with breakdowns in the pass defense last season, so he brought in a new co-coordinator, Chris Ash. To say that caused some bitterness would be a massive understatement.

"Mad, uncomfortable," Fickell said, describing his feelings after some of the tougher meetings with his boss. "But the reality is: That's what makes you better, that's what makes you grow. You ask, 'Why did you stay?' Well, everybody wants to be challenged. Sometimes it's not the greatest way to live your life."

Freshman quarterback Stephen Collier felt the wrath of Meyer during Monday's practice. Getting some work with the first team, mainly to help rest the arm of starter Cardale Jones, there were a couple of plays Collier didn't run the right way. That's understandable, considering he started the year as a fourth-stringer and has only moved up because of injuries to Braxton Miller and J.T. Barrett.

But in Meyer's world, no excuses are allowed.

"It's very tough and uncomfortable in the beginning," Jones said. "But when you see the results and rewards of that, you buy into it, you understand it more, and you learn to like it."

Well, that's not entirely accurate.

Meyer never wants to create an environment that anyone likes.

"I can think of some bad words, but 'complacent' falls right up there with those bad words," he said. "That's the leader's job, to make sure there's no complacency. If you see it or feel it, you've got to poke the tiger. I don't want to say discomfort, but discomfort usually breeds production. I don't want guys to feel like they've arrived, because we have not arrived."

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Cowboys

From 1C

Two things have already broken the Cowboys' way.

They got a Sunday playoff slot — and extra day for Romo after even he admitted that the much shorter Thanksgiving week was a problem. And Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, who figured to be the most important player in trying to control Murray, will not play against the Cowboys after he was suspended for stepping on Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers' leg Sunday.

Needless to say, players were on board with Garrett's plan to play to win.

"I think everybody was serious and just to hear that come out of his mouth, it motivated us even more," Bryant said. "We know what we have to do and we did exactly what we wanted to do. We just have to keep fighting, have to keep playing together."

Here are some tangible things that Sunday's dominating win did for Dallas:

The Cowboys are one of five teams that tied for the best record in the NFL at 12-4. They averaged more than 40 points per game in their December victories and won four straight by double digits. Dallas last did that in the first four games of 2007, finishing the season as the top seed in the NFC.

"This game's about momentum and how you go into the playoffs," tight end Jason Witten said. "We didn't want to come in here and get beat and then try to go into the playoffs and turn it on."

Dallas' last two trips to the playoffs offer glimpses of each approach. Seven years ago, they pulled the starters in an uninspiring loss at Washington to finish the regular season, then had the bye before losing to the New York Giants in the divisional round.

Two years later, the Cowboys had to beat the Eagles in the finale to win the NFC East and secure a home game, then turned around and beat them again in the first round. That's the only playoff win for Dallas since 1997.

"I don't think '07 really was (a comparison), just because we had the bye and worked hard to get to that position," Witten said. "I know in '09 we played well, finished the season and then come back in the playoffs and kind of that momentum, you kind of ride that into the playoffs. I think that's good."

If nothing else, the Cowboys get ready for the Lions feeling like they're playing as well as any team in the NFL.

"I just think we're gelling," said Murray, who finished with 1,845 yards rushing, broke all-time NFL leader Emmitt Smith's franchise record from 19 years ago and tied for the league lead in touchdowns rushing with 13. "We're executing the pass game and running it well. I think we're playing good, situational football. Our defense is playing good, our specials teams is playing well."

Garrett simply didn't want any of that to change.

NOTES: Garrett essentially ruled out DT Henry Melton against Detroit because of a right knee injury sustained against Washington. Garrett said it was not a torn anterior cruciate ligament. Melton tore the ACL in his left knee last year in Chicago, ending his season after three games.

NFL playoffs

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday
Arizona at Carolina, 3:35 p.m. (ESPN)
Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 7:15 p.m. (NBC)
Sunday
Cincinnati at Indianapolis, 12:05 (CBS)
Detroit at Dallas, 3:40 p.m. (FOX)
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 10
Baltimore, Indianapolis or Cincinnati at New England, 3:35 p.m. (NBC)
Arizona, Detroit or Carolina at Seattle, 7:15 p.m. (FOX)
Sunday, Jan. 11
Arizona, Dallas or Carolina at Green Bay, 12:05 p.m. (FOX)
Indianapolis, Cincinnati or Pittsburgh at Denver, 3:40 p.m. (CBS)
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 18
NFC, 2:05 p.m. (FOX)
AFC, 5:40 p.m. (CBS)
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 25
At Glendale, Ariz.
Team Irvin vs. Team Carter, 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 1
At Glendale, Ariz.
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 4:30 p.m. (NBC)

Lions' Suh pleased with decision to let him play

By Noah Tristar
Associated Press

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh says he is "pleased" that the NFL has decided not to suspend him for Sunday's NFL playoff game at Dallas.

And that's about all.

Suh spoke Wednesday, one day after a hearing officer reduced a one-game league suspension to a $70,000 fine.

"I'm just pleased with the decision," Suh said, repeatedly saying "next question" when pressed about the move and why he was in trouble in the first place.

Suh was suspended for stepping on Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers' left leg twice last Sunday in a loss to Green Bay for the NFC North title. He stepped on Rodgers once with each foot, which violated unnecessary roughness rules, according to the league.

Hearing officer Ted Cottrell heard Suh's expedited appeal Tuesday and ruled that Suh can play at Dallas but must pay the fine.

Cottrell's decision means the Lions will have one of their key defensive cogs. Suh finished the season with a team-high 8 1/2 sacks and helped Detroit rank second overall and first in run defense.

Suh has a long list of fines and one previous suspension, for two games in 2011 for stepping on the right arm of Packers lineman Evan Dietrich-Smith. Suh has been fined eight times in his career, but this was the first in 2014.

Suh was fined $100,000 for an illegal block on Vikings center John Sullivan in Week 1 of 2013 during an interception return. That was the largest fine in NFL history for on-field conduct, not counting suspensions.

The suspension was imposed Monday by Merton Hanks, the NFL's vice president of football operations. Hanks ruled that Suh engaged in a non-football act that placed his opponent at unnecessary risk of injury.

Harbaugh's a hit, and now the work begins

By Noah Tristar
Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Jim Harbaugh may have already solved two significant problems at Michigan.

The fan base is unified again, and the apathy that led to a slip in attendance certainly seems like a thing of the past.

Now the question is whether the Wolverines will start winning more games — and how soon?

"Michigan's always been great. It's always been great. I always believe in it," Harbaugh said Tuesday at a news conference introducing him as the team's new coach. "In terms of selling something, you're selling something you believe in in your core."

Harbaugh is back. And none too soon for fans who desperately want him to save the football program where he starred as a quarterback 30 years ago — one that has fallen into the middle of the pack at best in the Big Ten and become an afterthought in the national landscape.

At least, that's the perception. Harbaugh defiantly insisted there would be no rebuilding.

"This is Michigan. There is no turnarounds at Michigan," he said. "This is greatness. Long tradition of it."

The day began with a packed news conference, and onlookers peeking through the windows from outside. Harbaugh strode to the podium for a smiling, lighthearted session as his family watched from a few feet away. Later, he was on the court at halftime of Michigan's basketball game against Illinois, addressing the crowd.

"I pledge to you that we will do our very best to carry on the great tradition of Michigan — excellence all across the board," Harbaugh said to the cheering crowd at Crisler Center during Tuesday's matinee win against Illinois — an overtime thriller, naturally.

"You know how to make a guy feel at home," Harbaugh yelled, his voice sounding hoarse from a whirlwind few days.

As a starting quarterback for three seasons under Bo Schembechler, he is remembered for delivering a victory he guaranteed over Ohio State in 1986, the same season he was Big Ten player of the year and finished third in Heisman Trophy voting.

The famously confident Harbaugh stopped short of any real bluster as he took the reins of the storied program Tuesday. After all, he inherits a team that has lost 10 of its last 11 games to archrival Ohio State and six of its last seven to Michigan State.

Harbaugh

"They're outstanding programs. No, I make no guarantees," he said. "I made a guarantee a long time ago, and I've learned from that, and I've grown. I understand that you don't make guarantees."

Harbaugh did play along at the end of his news conference, when someone from the audience yelled: "Who's got it better than us?"

The coach responded in familiar fashion: "Nooooooo-body."

Harbaugh's seven-year deal is worth about $40 million, not counting performance bonuses. His $5 million annual salary increases by 10 percent after years three and five, and he also received a $2 million signing bonus. He can receive bonuses based on Big Ten championships, bowl appearances, coaching awards and team academic performance. Following a review by the athletic director after next season, Michigan will also determine a deferred compensation arrangement.

Harbaugh's $5 million base salary next season is what he would have received in the final year of his deal with the San Francisco 49ers, but he left Sunday in what the team called a mutual decision.

This past season was the third time in seven years Michigan finished with a losing record. The program's most recent sub-.500 season before this dismal stretch came in 1967, two years before Schembechler began his run as coach.

Nothing Michigan has tried lately seemed to work for any extended period of time. Rich Rodriguez had tremendous success at West Virginia before taking over at Michigan after the 2007 season. But the transition was shaky and he was fired after three years. Brady Hoke took over and went 31-20, but his team looked worse each season and he was let go early this month.

The longer Michigan's coaching search went on, the more obvious it became that the school was focused on Harbaugh, who was finally available after his NFL season ended Sunday. The 51-year-old Harbaugh coached the 49ers to three straight NFC championship games, but they missed the playoffs this season at 8-8.

"I think it brings a lot of credibility back to the program," said Derrick Walker, a teammate of Harbaugh's at Michigan. "That's not discounting what Brady Hoke did because Brady was a heck of a guy. Rodriguez came in and tried to do his thing, and you've got to respect that also, but I think it brings it back to the Bo Schembechler-type days."

Babies of 2014

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will publish a special baby section dedicated to all the special people born in 2014. Our "Cover Baby" will be chosen at random. All babies appearing in the Babies of 2014 section will be eligible to be our "Cover baby".

Now is your chance to show everyone how cute your baby is! If a baby was born in your family in 2014, complete this form and return it with a photo and payment to our office by Sunday, January 11, 2015 to get your baby published in a 2.46" x 5" profile in our Babies of 2014 special section! *Please note that this special section will be printed in black & white with the exception of the cover and back page.

Printed Photo Requirements
- Color print*
- Minimum size: 2"x3"
- Vertical pose preferred
- One baby per photo
- Twins require double spot
- Include baby's name on back of photo

Please complete this form and return with photo and a $25.00 payment by Friday, January 9, 2015.
Pictures will not be returned.

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- Color Image*
- Minimum 3.5"x5" @ 200 dots per inch resolution
- .jpg format preferred

Please send your digital photo and the submission form to rellis@mrt.com.
You will be contacted for credit card payment.

Christopher Zay Buck

Birthdate: August 22
Parents: Megan Lea Buck and Christopher L. Buck
Grandparents: Luke and Kathy Lea, Natalie Rice, Mark and Mary Buck
Favorite Food: Milk
Likes: His big sister, Kaitlyn
Dislikes: His car seat

Actual Size

Babies of 2014

Baby's Information

Name _____
Birthdate _____, 2014
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Favorite Food _____
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Dislikes _____

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To Submit Your Form Online Go To: mrt.com/babies2014
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THURSDAY PRIME TIME — JANUARY 1, 2015

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

		C	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
BROADCAST	KMID	ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Taste "Happy New Year" The cooks make dishes bursting with decadent flavors. (N)				Murder "Freakin' Whack-a-Mole"		KMID News	(:35) J. Kimmel	Ethan Hawke, Timothy Spall	(:35) News	Nightline
	KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7 News	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory	Mom	Two and Half Men	McCarthys	Elementary "The Diabolical Kind"		CBS 7 News	(:35) David Letterman		(:35) Craig	Ferguson
	KWWT	CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Make Room	A. Griffith	Hogan's Heroes	Cheers	Welcome Kotter	Welcome Kotter	Carol Burnett	Perry Mason		McMillan	and Wife
	KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Bones "The Geek in the Guck"		Bones "The Puzzler in the Pit"		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/Manuscripts	Update News	Fruits of Zion	Light of the Southwest				Joe McGee	Matt Stover	Called Out	Biblical	Israel
	KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 at 6 p.m.		The Biggest Loser "Kauai Part 2" 2/2 (N)		Bad Judge (N)	A to Z (N)	Parenthood "Vegas"		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) Jimmy Fallon		(:35) Seth	Meyers
	KPBT	PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Performances "From Vienna: The New Year's Celebration 2015" (N)		Call the Midwife The Christmas concert causes chaos for everyone.				Charlie Rose (N)		Tavis Smiley (N)	Tavis	Smiley
	KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	La Gata		Mi corazón es Tuyo		Hasta el fin del mundo		La Malquerida		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	La Que No Podía Amar		
	KOSA	MNT	16	16		16		Fam.Feud	Million..	The Mentalist		Mental. "Red Scare"		My News	Million..	Anger M.	M&M	Office	Access H.	
PREMIUM	FLIX		340	65		165		(4:55) Beaches		★★ What About Bob?				(:45) ★★ Outrageous Fortune				★★ Blaze Paul Newman.		
	HBO		300	68	14	14		(4:45) ★★★ King Kong Adrien Brody.				★★ The Hangover Part III		1stLook		The Orgasm		(:05) ★ Vehicle 19		
	HBO2		302	69	15	101	23	(5:00) ★★ 47 Ronin		★★ 2 Guns ('13, Act) Denzel Washington.				The Comeback		★ Grudge Match ('13, Act) Sylvester Stallone.				
	HBO5		304	70	16	102		(5:35) ★★★ Walk the Line				★★ Beautiful Creatures				(:15) ★ Closed Circuit ('13, Dra) Eric Bana.				
	MAX		380	71	17	120	24	(5:00) ★ The Intern...		★★★★ The Godfather ('72, Dra) Al Pacino, Marlon Brando.						★★★ The Godfather II Al Pacino.				
	MAX2		382	72	18	122		★★★ Serenity ('05, Sci-Fi) Nathan Fillion.				★★★ We're the Millers Jason Sudeikis.				(:55) ★ Pleasure or Pain		Movie		
	PLEX				96			(5:10) ★ The Rat Race		★★★ Stepmom ('98, Dra) Julia Roberts.				(:10) ★★ Passionada Jason Isaacs.				★★ She Devil		
	SHOW		320	66	19	140	25	Shameless		Shameless		Shameless		Shame. "Daddyz Girl"		Shameless		★ The To Do List		
	TMC		336	67	22	155	26	(5:00) ★ Last Holiday		★★★ August: Osage County						★★★ Delivery Man Vince Vaughn.		★ National Lampo...		
CABLE	A&E		27	32	28	35	47	The First 48 "Family Ties/ A Good Neighbor"		The First 48 "Dark Waters"		The First 48 "Dead Wrong" (N)		The First 48 (N)		The First 48 "Broad Daylight"		The First 48 "Dark Waters"		
	AMC		40	21	23	42	51	Dead "Live Bait"		Dead "Dead Weight"		Dead "Too Far Gone"		Dead "After"		Dead "Inmates"		Dead "Claimed"		
	BET		58	26		40		Husbands	Husbands	Husbands	Husbands	Husbands	Husbands	Nellyville		Nellyville		Wendy Williams		
	BRAVO		65	63		41		Housewives Atlanta		Millionaire		Millionaire		Millionaire (N)		Millionaire		Beverly Hills		
	CNBC		46	45		39	72	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		
	CNN		43	24	51	30	56	A. Bourdain "Peru"		A. Bourdain "Brazil"		Anthony Bourdain		A. Bourdain "Spain"		Anthony "Paraguay"		Anthony "Colombia"		
	DISC		50	20	31	24	42	Bush "Blindsided"		Bush "Fight or Flight"		Bush "The Wild Life"		Alaskan Bush (N)		Alaskan Bush People		Alaskan Bush People		
	DISNEY		56	27	36	25	36	Jessie	Jessie	Jessie	Jessie	Austin	Liv/Mad	Austin	Dog Blog	Girl	Liv/Mad	GoodLuck	GoodLuck	
	ESPN		32	29	48	31	30	(4:10) NCAA Football	Rose Bowl (L)	(:40) Pre-game		(5:50) NCAA Football	Sugar Bowl	Alabama vs. Ohio State (L)				PostGame	SportsC.	
	ESPN2		34	28	49	32	31	SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		H.S. Football		SportsCenter		SportsC.	Profile (N)	
	FAMILY		53	54	34	42	33	(5:30) ★★★★ Matilda				★★★ Home Alone 2: Lost in New York				The 700 Club		★ The Cheetah 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		BeatFlay	Beat Flay	Diners...	Diners...	Chopped		
	FSSW		37	43	50	45	29	TexansHuddle (N)	SportsDayOnAir (N)	Lunch With the Rangers		Lunch With the Rangers		Lunch With the Rangers		WPT Poker Bay 101 Shooting Star		WPT Poker Seminole Hard Rock Showdown		
	FX		31	31	59	64	69	★★★ 21 Jump Street ('12, Act) Jonah Hill.						★★★ 21 Jump Street ('12, Act) Jonah Hill.				UFC Bad	Movie	
	HALLMARK		54	49	58		34	(5:00) ★ The Good ...		★ Hitched for the Holidays Joey Lawrence.				Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	
	HGTV		63	50	26	48	44	IslndLif	IslndLif (N)	Dream Home (N)		Rehab (N)	Rehab (N)	H.Hunt	House (N)	BuildHaw	BuildHaw	Rehab	Rehab	
	HISTORY		71	62	29	50	43	Pawn S.	Pawn Star	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	P. Stars	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	(:05) Pawn	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	
	LIFETIME		28	25	25	28	48	Little Women: LA "Here Comes the Bride"		Little Women: LA (N)		Little Women: LA "Baby on Board" (N)		Big Women: Big Love (N)		Big Women "Curly Fries and Creepy Guys"		Little Women: LA		
	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				Soccer	EPL Soccer					Premier League Match of the Day				EPL Soccer		
	NICK		55	34	39	34	37	(5:30) SpongeBob		F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	Friends	(:10) Ray	(:50) Ray	
	SPIKE		30	22	55	53	58	(4:30) ★ To Be Ann...		★ To Be Announced				★ To Be Announced					Movie	
	SYFY		66	64	41	57	67	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	
	TBS		25	11	44	66	41	(5:45) ★★★ The Hangover (2009, Comedy) Bradley Cooper, Zach Galifianakis, Ed Helms.				Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan Jake Gyllenhaal, Judy Greer		Cougar Town	Conan	
	TCM		41	61	24	63	66	(5:15) ★ The Nanny		★ Horse Feathers		(:15) ★★★ A Night at the Opera				★★★ A Day at the Races Groucho Marx.				
	TELE		20	8	10	20		★ Furry Vengeance				★ Las crónicas de Narnia: La travesía del viajero de...				Al rojo	(:35) Titular.	Decisiones		
	TLC		51	33	32	38	52	(5:00) To Be Announced										To Be Announced		
	TNT		24	23	40	26	50	Castle "Till Death Do Us Part"		Castle "Dial M for Mayor"		Castle		Castle "The Blue Butterfly"		Hawaii Five-0 "Ohuna"		Hawaii Five-0 "Wahine'inoloa"		
	TVLAND		49	48	35	54	35	(5:00) The Year: 2014		Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens	Friends	Friends	
	USA		26	30	42	27	49	NCIS "Rock and a Hard Place"		NCIS "Alleged"		NCIS "Shooter"		NCIS "The Admiral's Daughter"		NCIS "Honor Thy Father"		NCIS "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot"		
	WGN		19	18				America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Rules of Engage.	Rules of Engage.	Parks and Rec	Parks and Rec	

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A 2011 Winter Classic star hopes for encore

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When he was playing hockey on the pond of his family farm in Manitoba, Eric Fehr dreamed of winning a Stanley Cup.

What he didn't dream about was playing outdoors in the NHL, although that eventually began to have some appeal.

"When the games started coming out and you started watching them, you definitely thought, 'This is pretty cool, this is something I'd like to be a part of,'" Fehr said.

Fehr will play in his second Winter Classic today when he and the Washington Capitals face the Chicago Blackhawks. He already is part of NHL outdoor hockey lore because of the 2011 game in Pittsburgh. He scored two goals, including the winner, to send the Capitals past the Penguins.

"He had the performance we all wanted to have," forward Brooks Laich said. "He had the game we all wanted to have."

Fehr scored on a wrap-around after Marc-Andre Fleury gave the puck away. Then he had the winner on a breakaway.

"It's still a regular-season game," Fehr said. "Obviously it was a bit of a bigger stage, but at the end of the day it was just two goals."

Those two goals of his 80 in the NHL with the Capitals and Winnipeg Jets are the ones most people remember about Fehr. In the rain at Heinz Field, the 2003 first-round pick had something of a coming out party.

"It definitely put him on the map for some people that didn't necessarily know Fehrsie before," defenseman Karl Alzner said. "It's a tough act to follow, but if anyone can do it, I would put money on him to battle hard for it."

Fehr thanked the bad ice for that night.

"It was a different game," he said. "It wasn't a game like most."

Sun is forecast for today's game at Nationals Park, so the 29-year-old forward isn't promising an encore.

"We're going to let everybody else get in there and get some goals and I'm going to try to fly under the radar," he said.

Too much sun could delay start of Winter Classic

By Joseph White
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A beautiful, sunny New Year's Day in the nation's capital could cause a problem for the Winter Classic.

The starting time of the NHL's annual outdoor showcase could be postponed, perhaps up to 90 minutes, because of a forecast that calls for lots of sun and few clouds.

Faceoff is scheduled for Noon at Nationals Park for the game between the Chicago Blackhawks and Washington Capitals.

"It would be more of a player-safety issue," NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said Wednesday. "The glare, if you're having trouble picking up the puck, I think there'd be a concern."

The temperature should be seasonably cool — highs in low 40s — but the direct sunlight would also deteriorate the ice. Capitals players, meanwhile, spoke of trying to find the right type of eye black to wear, a seemingly appropriate dilemma for an event taking place on a baseball field.

This week, the shadows from the baseball stands have covered most of the rink by about 2:30 p.m., so that could be an alternative start time. Daly said a decision won't be made until "as close to the game" as possible on Thursday.

"Any delay — and hopefully there won't be one — would be a minimal delay," Daly said.

The NHL has more incentive than usual this year to get the game going on time. For the first time, the Classic is sharing New Year's Day with college football games that have national title implications. A long delay could put at least part of the Classic head-to-head against the College Football Playoff semifinal between Oregon and Florida State.

"Nobody wants to delay the game," Daly said. "So if there's any way we can avoid delaying the game, we're going to avoid delaying the game."

The Classic has had two weather delays since the inaugural game in 2008. The 2011 game in Pittsburgh, also involving the Capitals, was postponed until prime time because of rain, and the 2012 Classic in Philadelphia was delayed two hours because of sun.

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

There is one letter that, when added to all of the six-letter words below, can be used to form new seven-letter words. Find the letter that works for all four words, add it to each word, and then rearrange each set of letters to form a new word.

CANINE

TITLES

COMMON LETTER

LITANY

RATHER

Yesterday's Answer: 1. GAWK, WALK, LAWN, LOAN, ONLY; 2. OOZY, ZOOM, MOON, OMEN, MENU

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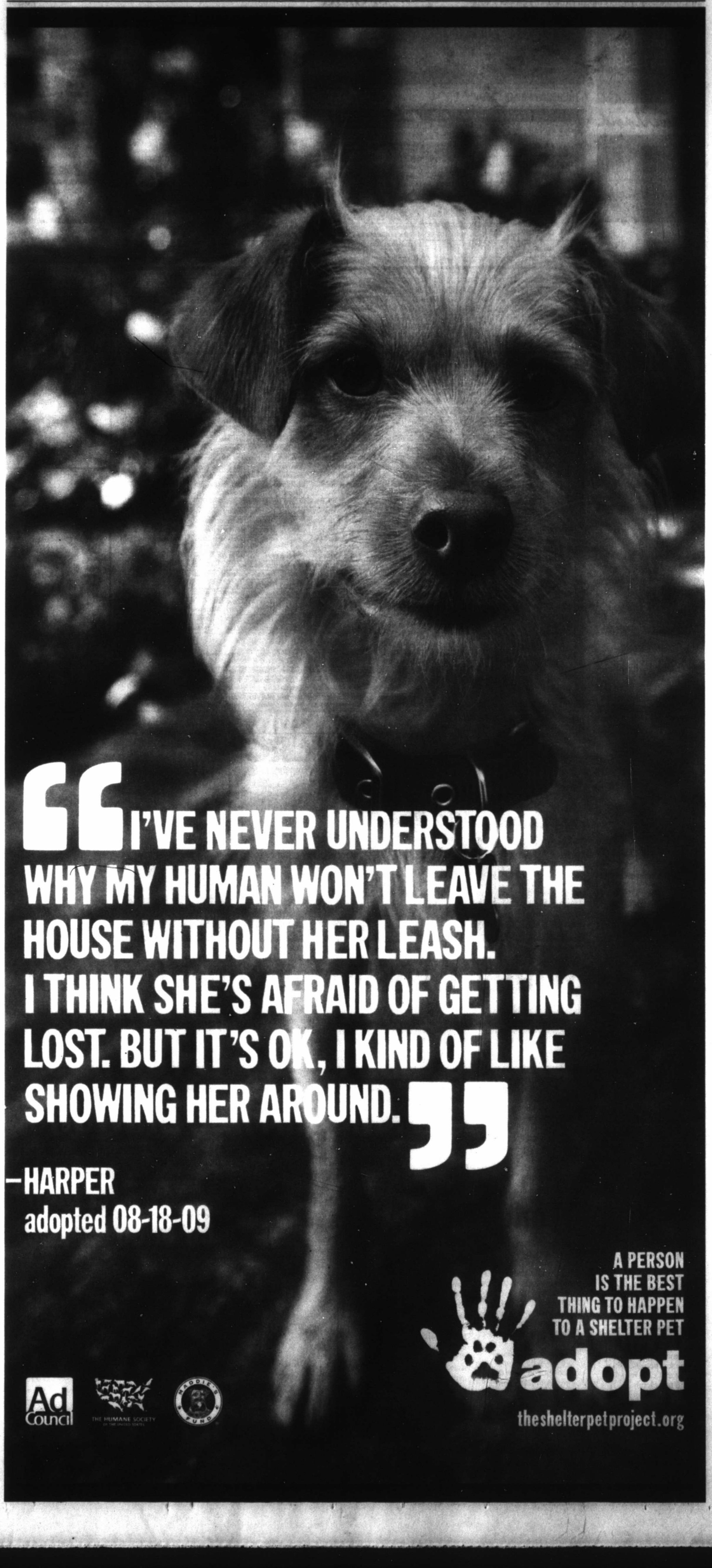
"I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY MY HUMAN WON'T LEAVE THE HOUSE WITHOUT HER LEASH. I THINK SHE'S AFRAID OF GETTING LOST. BUT IT'S OK, I KIND OF LIKE SHOWING HER AROUND."
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PETFINDER FOUNDATION

TODAY: Mostly cloudy
High: 37
Low: 29

FRIDAY: Mostly cloudy
High: 39
Low: 30

SATURDAY: Sunny
High: 51
Low: 27

SUNDAY: Sunny
High: 45
Low: 30

MONDAY: Sunny
High: 55
Low: 35

TUESDAY: Sunny
High: 57
Low: 27

National forecast

Rain will fall in South Texas, while areas of freezing rain and sleet are forecast farther west in the state. A major storm with heavy snow in the mountains will extend from Southern California to northern Arizona, southern Nevada, southern Utah and the western parts of Colorado and New Mexico.

Precipitation
Tuesday.....trace
Wednesday.....0.00 in
Month total.....0.00 in.
Year total.....0.00 in.

Wednesday's temperatures
Normal high.....57
Normal low.....30

Sunrise.....7:49 a.m.
Sunset.....5:55 p.m.

Local forecast

Expect occasional freezing drizzle and mostly cloudy skies today with a high around 37 and east winds between 5 and 10 mph. Tonight's forecast calls for a 30 percent chance of precipitation and mostly cloudy conditions with a low around 30 and an east wind around 5 mph.

Friday, look for a 40 percent chance of showers and mostly cloudy skies with a high around 39 and northeast winds between 5 and 10 mph. Expect a 30 percent chance of rain and snow and mostly cloudy conditions at night, with a low around 30.

Saturday, the forecast calls for sunny skies during the day, mostly clear skies at night, with a high around 51 and a low around 26.

The record high for Dec. 31 is 77 set in 2005. The record low is 14 set in 1976.

Storm brings snow to Southern California

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — A blustery winter storm dropped snow on very low elevations across inland Southern California early Wednesday after stranding dozens of motorists on mountain highways.

Snow fell on areas as low as 1,000 feet, with accumulations east and southeast of Los Angeles in communities such as Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar and Temescal Valley, the National Weather Service said.

Many residents of the suburbs north of San Diego have seen snow before but only on wintertime trips to the mountains to go skiing or sledding — not at their front door.

In Temecula, people snapped photos of the snow-covered lawn outside City Hall and kids threw snowballs.

City Manager Aaron Adams said his 12- and 14-year-old daughters were sledding down the hill outside his home on bodyboards usually reserved for the beach or pool. He said he's never seen as much snow — half a foot in some places — in the two decades he's lived there.

"You'd think you woke up in Tahoe or something," Adams said. "Our Old Town looks like a ski town, it looks like something out of Colorado."

The storm also packed strong gusts that toppled trees throughout California. A tree fell into a home early Wednesday in Redding, killing a woman and injuring a child and a man. It's the third death from falling trees since Tuesday.

Two people died when a tree toppled onto a car and another on a home in separate incidents as winds topped 60 mph in the Paradise ridge area of Butte County in the northern Sierra foothills, the Oroville Mercury-Register reported.

Farther south, the storm stranded vehicles on roads in the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains northeast of Los Angeles.

By early Wednesday, firefighters had rescued 136 people that got stuck in about a foot of snow along Highway 138 near Crestline, San Bernardino County fire spokeswoman Tracey Martinez said. Some vehicles could drive away after snowplows cleared the snow, while others left their cars and walked to shelter or their homes, Martinez said.

Near Mount Baldy, snow stranded 50 other people who needed rescue.

The powder closed Interstate 15 at Temecula and State Route 74 — a key link between Riverside and Orange counties, the California Highway Patrol said.

In the aftermath of the storm, temperatures were expected to remain near or below freezing early New Year's Day for the thousands of people who camp overnight or gather early to watch the Rose Parade in Pasadena.

The storm had dropped down through California on Tuesday, triggering widespread freeze watches and wind warnings.

Dawn of another year brings opportunities to begin anew

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 READERS: Welcome to 2015! If the last year was challenging for some of us, a new one has arrived, bringing with it our chance for a new beginning.

Today is the day we have an opportunity to discard destructive old habits for healthy new ones, and with that in mind, I will share Dear Abby's often-requested list of New Year's Resolutions, which were adapted by my late mother, Pauline Phillips, from the original credo of A!-Anon:

JUST FOR TODAY: I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all of my problems at once.

I know that I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things that I can correct and accept those I cannot.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I'll not speak ill of others. I will improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will refrain from improving anybody but myself.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I am overweight, I will eat healthfully — if only just for today. And not only that, I will get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

And now, Dear Readers, I would like to share an item that was sent to me by L.J. Bhatia, a reader from New Delhi, India:

DEAR ABBY: This year, no resolutions, only some guidelines. The Holy Vedas say, "Man has subjected himself to thousands of self-inflicted bondages. Wisdom comes to a man who lives according to the true eternal laws of nature."

The prayer of St. Francis (of which there are several versions) contains a powerful message:

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
"Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
"Where there is injury, pardon;
"Where there is doubt, faith;
"Where there is despair, hope;
"Where there is darkness, light;
"And where there is sadness, joy.
"O Divine Master,
"Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
"To be understood, as to understand;
"To be loved, as to love;
"For it is in giving that we receive,
"It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
"And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

And so, Dear Readers, may this new year bring with it good health, peace and joy to all of you. — LOVE, ABBY

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Esther's triumph

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 6 4
♥ A K 6 4
♦ 7 5 3
♣ K 10 7 5

WEST
♠ 7 2
♥ Q 8
♦ 9 6 4 2
♣ Q J 9 6 4

EAST
♠ K Q J 9 8 5
♥ 9 7 5 3
♦ Q 8
♣ 2

SOUTH
♠ A 10 3
♥ J 10 2
♦ A K J 10
♣ A 8 3

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	Pass	2♣	2♠
2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠

Fred had agreed to play with Esther once again in the local duplicate. "This is how to start off a new year," thought Esther, "with a good game of bridge." Sue Ellen Harvey was sitting East. Esther had asked Sue Ellen for a game last week, but Sue Ellen turned her down, saying that Esther's game was "limited." Esther still burned from the insult.

Esther ducked the first spade, but won the second, certain that Sue Ellen had a six-card suit for her overcall. She led the jack of hearts, covered with the queen and won in dummy with the king, then took the winning diamond finesse. "This is fun," thought Esther, "everything's working." She cashed her 10 of hearts and led a heart to dummy's ace, then led a diamond, capturing the queen.

She cashed two more diamonds and paused for thought. This was an unusual pause for Esther, but she wanted to do her best against Sue Ellen. Fred was always after her to "count" the hand, so she thought this was a good time to give it a try.

Esther was pretty sure that West showed out on the third heart, giving Sue Ellen four hearts to go with her six spades and two diamonds. That meant only one club. Should that club be an honor, she could finesse West for the other honor. She cashed her club ace, but no honor fell from East. She led another club and had a stroke of inspiration when West split his honors — she ducked in dummy! West was forced to play another club and Esther took the marked finesse, making five.

This was a top board for Esther, against Sue Ellen!

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, Jan. 1, 2015:

This year you add wisdom and wit to your communication style. You might not even be conscious of how much your style is transforming, but others' responses will indicate a difference. Your focus will be less on long-term goals and more on your daily life. If you are single, an unusual person walks into your life. You will need to decide what type of bond you want. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy developing a daily routine together. Passions often run high, and you'll perfect the art of kissing and making up. GEMINI can be scattered.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ You'll wake up feeling thankful. Those in your inner circle might express their feelings, though one person could be closing down. Don't worry — your optimism will draw this person out. Listen carefully to what he or she has to say. Tonight: Follow your imagination.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ Now that the pace is slowing down, you might want to consider everything that has happened over the past few weeks. You finally will be able to evaluate the cost of the holidays. Be practical as you look at your budget. Tonight: Reach out to a special person.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ You could be in a situation where you feel overwhelmed by everything that is happening around you. A partner could be less than happy about dealing with a personal matter. In fact, his or her response might be to leave the issue unresolved. Tonight: Ask questions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ You could be stressed out about what is going on around you. You tend to get so into the holidays that you have difficulty saying goodbye to that time of year. Curl up and take a much-needed nap. Tonight: Allow yourself the freedom of doing nothing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ You might have more fun today than you have had during most of the holiday season. You will want to have a long-overdue discussion with a loved one that the hectic pace of the past weeks has prevented. Don't be surprised to hear some anger. Tonight: In the here and now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ You suddenly might start thinking about everything you still haven't done, which could add to the pressure of the moment. Stay calm; otherwise, you easily could get into a tongue-lashing with an associate. Enjoy some downtime. Tonight: Pace yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You may want to open up to a change. A loved one could be extremely touchy and willful. You can't seem to avoid confrontation anymore. Revisit a goal you thought you had fulfilled but actually haven't. Relax at home. Tonight: Make a call to a friend at a distance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ You'll deal with a situation differently from how you have in the past. You are able to communicate your bottom line much more easily now. Know that you can't control someone who might decide to be angry and vocal. Go out for a while. Tonight: Be a duo.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ You might find that several people around you are pushing for more time with you, as you seem to have been somewhat of a recluse lately. You'll have had a lot to consider. Be careful —an animated conversation could turn into a fight. Tonight: Consider your options.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ You have so much to do that you can't seem to squeeze in enough time to suit your group of friends. You know your priorities; there is nothing wrong with honoring them. Trust your decisions, and don't feel as if you need to explain. Tonight: Get some exercise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ You might want to kick back and do some hard thinking about your choices, yet someone seeking a good time could walk in through your front door. You'll be able to make all the difference in this person's day. Go with spontaneity. Tonight: And the party continues.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ You might feel a sense of obligation to make certain decisions and take some time putting order back into your life. You could find yourself feeling angry for no reason. Be sensitive to what a friend offers or suggests as a solution. Tonight: Invite friends over.

BORN TODAY

American patriot Paul Revere (1735), actor Morris Chestnut (1969), first director of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation J. Edgar Hoover (1895)

DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
1 See 58-Across
7 See 58-Across
13 How many golf clubs are sold
14 Member of Buck Showalter's MLB team
15 See 58-Across
19 Put __ on: restrict
20 See 22-Across
21 __ profit: make money
22 With 20-Across, "American Beauty" rockers, familiarly
23 Gets harder to climb
27 Pester
28 Valleys
30 Can't stand
32 Prefix with -pod
33 Oils and such
34 See 58-Across
38 See 58-Across
42 Baseball's Piniella
43 Measure typically given in knots
46 "Discreet Music" composer
47 They can be lifesavers: Abbr.
49 See 58-Across
50 Focus, with "in"
51 Greek cheeses
53 Swear
54 Withstand
55 Nick working at night?
57 Crush competitor
58 Psalm 100 excerpt suggested by six puzzle answers and graphically represented by certain black squares in this puzzle
64 Pub order
65 Like "Gilligan's Island" characters
66 Do yard work
67 "Success!"
68 Bicuspid
69 Yakima-to-Spokane dir.

DOWN
1 Pampas cowboy
2 Beersheba's land
3 [I don't believe it!]
4 Prime meridian std.
5 Regulus is in it
6 Technique-building pieces
7 Incited
8 Second-smallest S.A. country
9 Pear-shaped fruit
10 Warm alpine wind, in Austria
11 Klingons, e.g.
12 Attacked
15 Spa area
16 Support on the links?
17 Running measure
18 Suppresses
23 Not entirely, informally
24 Like an early evening sky
25 Comparatively warm?
26 Valuable cello
29 USPS item
31 List-limiting letters
34 Score symbol
35 Really transaction
36 Amusing DVD feature
37 "The Grouchy Ladybug" writer Carle
38 Accent pair?
39 Tap your foot, say
40 Folly
41 Dirty __
44 Disco __ of "The Simpsons"
45 Gal's eight
48 Levelheaded
50 Philosopher known for a paradox
52 Prepare for mailing
54 Getaway goal, for short
56 Somewhat open
57 Boxer's woe
58 Might
59 Rock worth mining
60 __ Kippur
61 Rock's Fighters
62 Not in the bk.
63 Field grazer

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	U	R	F		F	E	S	S		T	R	A	M	P
E	N	E	R		L	S	A	T		H	O	L	E	S
A	L	G	A		E	A	V	E		A	L	I	S	T
L	O	U	I	S	X	I	V		S	N	O	B	S	
P	O	L	L	O	I		Y	O	L	K		A	K	A
U	S	A		P	B	S		R	O	Y	G	B	I	V
P	E	R	F		L	A	N	G		O	R	A	T	E
			I	V	Y	L	E	A	G	U	E			
S	N	A	F	U		I	O	N	A		G	E	M	S
T	E	L	A	V	I	V		A	D	M		M	A	T
A	W	L		U	N	A	S		Z	Y	G	O	T	E
	A	M	A	Z	E		P	R	O	A	C	T	I	V
A	G	I	L	E		O	R	E	O		L	I	N	E
V	E	N	A	L		R	E	E	K		E	V	E	N
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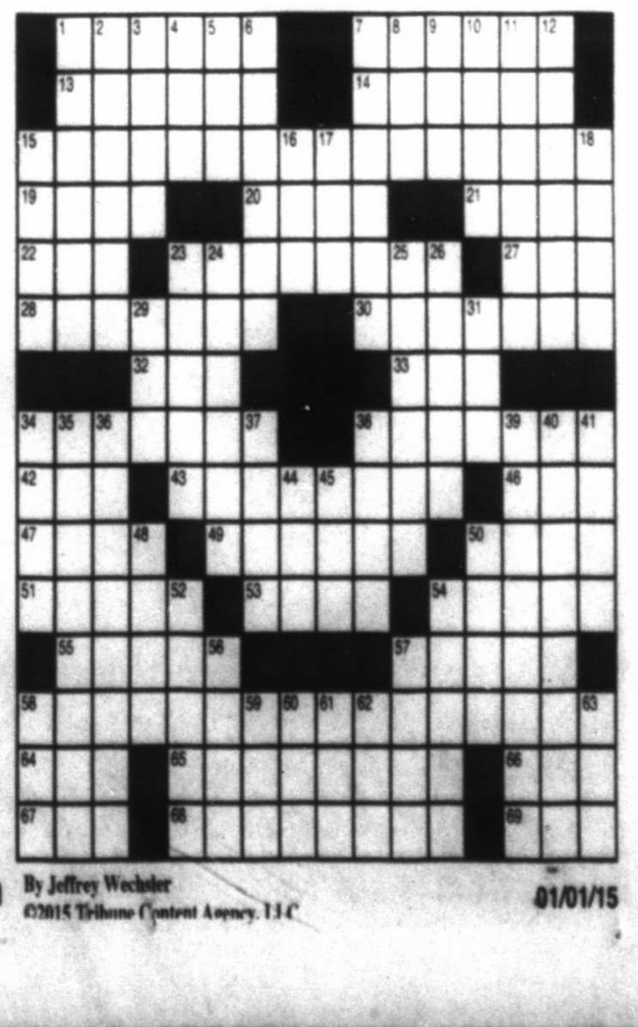
xwordeditor@aol.com 01/01/15



By Jeffrey Wechsler
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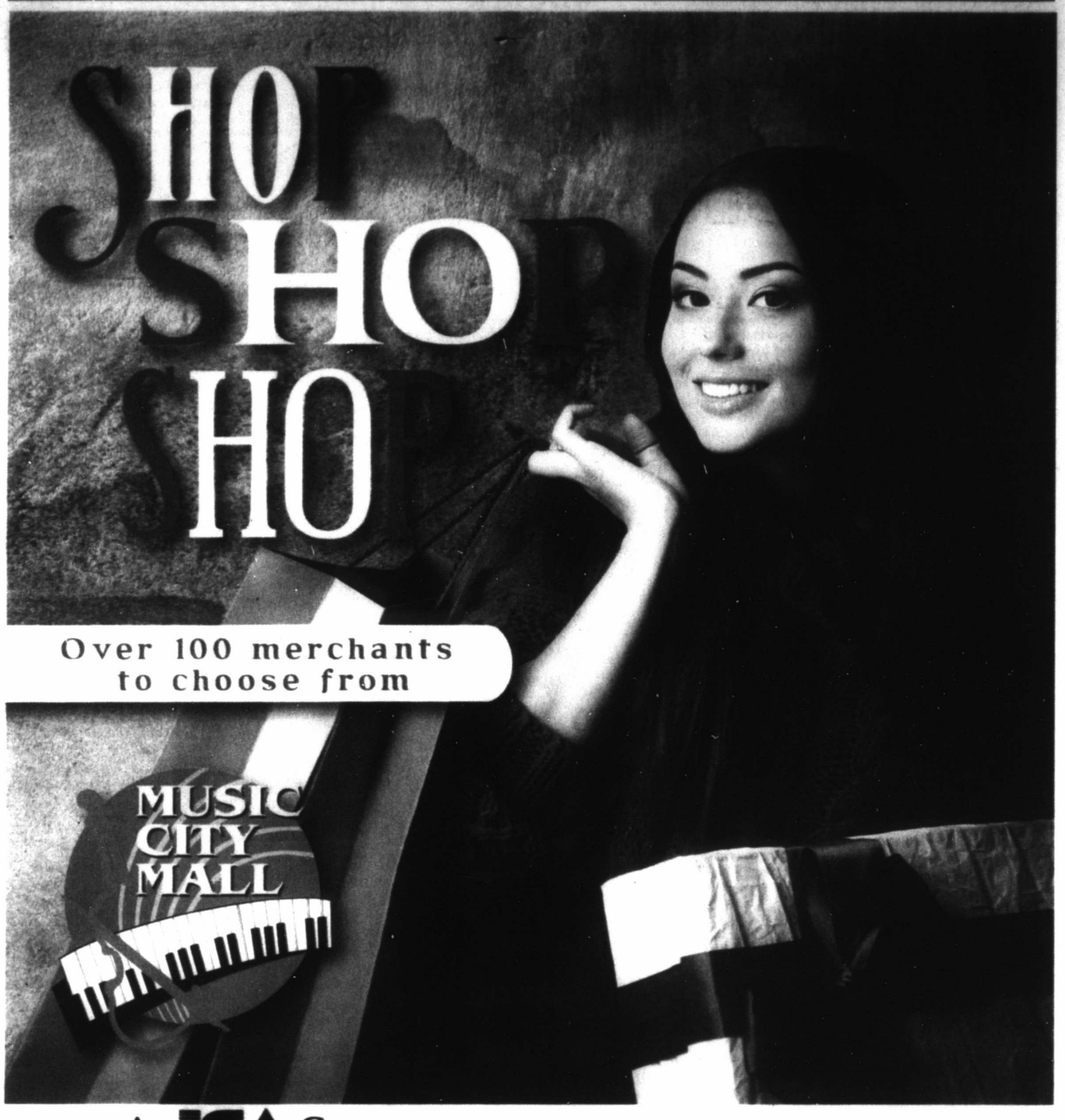

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- Check The Market Value
- Always Include The Price
- Keyword Your Ad

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GENERAL INFO

To ensure the integrity of our newspaper, for the benefit of our readers and advertisers, the Midland Reporter-Telegram reserves the right to revise, reclassify, edit or refuse any advertising. We also reserve the right to convert all advertising into digital and/or print formats within our other products and services.

Please check your ad the first day it appears, and, if you find a mistake, please call our office at 682-6222 so we can correct the error immediately. This will ensure that your ad is exactly what you want readers to see. If an error does occur, you can choose to rerun your ad once for free, or we'll gladly refund the cost of the portion of the ad affected by the error. If an ad is inadvertently omitted, we will assume liability up to the cost of the ad itself – consequently, we will publish your ad in our next available edition or refund the price you have paid.

Rate charges are determined at the time of placement. All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. Some classifications require payment in advance. Credit applications are required for business accounts.

We welcome suggestions or comments. Please call:
Jeri Houston,
Advertising Sales Manager,
687-8894.

DEADLINES:

WORD ADS:

PUBLISHES ON	DEADLINE IS
Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri	5p.m. Prior Day
Saturday	12p.m. Friday
Sunday	5p.m. Friday
Monday	5p.m. Friday

DISPLAY ADS:

PUBLISHES ON	DEADLINE IS
Wednesday	3p.m. Monday
Thursday	3p.m. Tuesday
Friday, Saturday	3p.m. Wednesday
Sunday, Monday	3p.m. Thursday
Tuesday	3p.m. Friday

VISA

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We'll help you design something unique and publish it in the Midland Reporter-Telegram Classifieds...whatever the occasion!

Publish a special memorial to mark the passing of a loved one with an "In Memory Of" ad. Include a poem, prayer, and/or the names of all who care. Also, express your appreciation to everyone who brought food, sent flowers, or was there for you when you needed them most with a "Card of Thanks." We'll help you design a respectful, thoughtful ad.

Ads containing art or photos need to be in our office 2 working days before the ad is to be published and we ask that you pay in advance.

Midland Reporter-Telegram • The People To People Marketplace • 201 E. Illinois

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
of property to satisfy landlord's lien.
Sale is Tuesday, 1/13/2015 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: Steven Collins, household goods; Gina Bishop, household goods; Joseph Gagliardi, household goods; Sandy J. Fitzpatrick, household goods; Augustin Frausto, household goods; Richard Carpenter, household goods; Dustin Durrett, household goods; William Tunal, household goods; Connor Hepner, household goods; Charles Biffle, household goods; Rosa Marquez, household goods; Cody Molina, household goods; Tiffany Gibson, 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.

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Harvey Orville Woods, Jr., Deceased, were issued on September 30, 2014, in Cause No. P-18,023, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to Barbara Dale Woods Hamilton and Gloria Jean Woods Sadler, Independent Co-Executors, whose residence address is P.O. Box 797, Artesia, New Mexico 88211.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law, in care of the Independent Co-Executor.

DATED the 29th day of December, 2014.

COTTON, BLEDSOE, TIGHE & DAWSON, P.C.

By: Brian A. Merkley

ATTORNEYS FOR
INDEPENDENT CO-EXECUTOR

General Announcements

BETTER READ
Mark Berryhill.com
Ministering for Christ

Lost & Found

FOUND DOG near Midkiff and Louisiana. Male, unaltered, red, brown and white, large breed, possible St. Bernard mix. 432-967-5517.

FOUND-GERMAN Short Hair Pointer, female, wearing shock collar. Found near Midkiff/Andrews Hwy. on 12/27. 432-638-8586.

FOUND IN Greenwood area, would love to reunite her with her family. White & black Terrier mix. Please call or text 432-813-9793.

Lost & Found

FOUND ON December 29th young female Blue Heeler near South Big Spring Street & I-20. Call to identify. 432-683-1869 or 432-553-7708.

LOST-TERRIER mix female, 2 yrs. old, 12lbs., microchipped. Last seen 12/26 near Midland Dr./St. Andrews. Blonde face & legs, black/gray on back, brown ears. Recently adopted from pound. 432-218-7137.

Classified CAN 682-6222

Passenger Cars

SATURN 2007 Sky Convertible. Low Mileage, Under 30K. Silver with Red & Black Custom leather interior. Impeccable condition! Grandma's Favorite Toy! $18,000 432-638-3819

Estate Sales

The Cats Meow Year End Sale
December 26 - January 3
408 Andrews Hwy.
Midland, TX,

Everything Store wide from 20% - 70% off
Check for our photos and ad on Craigslist

Happy New Year to All
Visa - MC - Amex Accepted

Business Center

Business Opportunity

Beauty Salon for sale. Very Reasonable, good location and parking. Call 697-0632, leave message.

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

NEW TODAY!

2012 FORD Mustang Boss 302, 14K miles, $36,000. 432-335-3026

PONITAC 2000 Trans Am WS6, black, black leather interior, good condition. 77K miles $9500. Call 432-528-6498

WANTED!
Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. FREE pick-up. 432-585-4078

Fax it.. 682-6999

Pickup Trucks

BEAUTIFUL FORD 2012 F150 extended cab. 36K miles, only $24,500. Senior Citizen. 915-525-6965

DODGE 2000 Ram 2500HD quad cab Laramie SLT, 5.9L cummins diesel, white, 2WD, automatic, air, all power, running boards, grille guard, towing pkg, trunk tool box, Michelin tires, great condition, 52k miles, $18,500. Call 432-210-4435.

DODGE 2003 Ram 4x4. Graphite gray with Bushwacker pocket style fender flares. Flowmaster dual exhaust. Nitto mud grappler tires, and custom wheels. $7,500 or OBO. 432-312-1643

FORD 1993 Ranger SuperCab with camper shell. V6 standard shift, power steering/brakes and cold air conditioner. 2 WD. Good tires. Runs great. 432-230-9093 7am-7pm. Cash only. $3,500 OBO. 432-230-9093

FORD 2011 F250, 4x4, diesel, 6.7 liter, 75,300 miles, $35,000. 432-235-9796 or 432-853-2753.

GMC 1976 Sprint Limited production. Cadillac of pickups. Vinyl Strato upholstery with swivel seats. New factory V8 engine, professionally installed. New HD 6-ply tires. Excellent condition, always garaged, no rust. Ready for years of dependable service. A beauty to admire. Gentleman owner downsizing. $15,000. Call 432-695-4467 Midland.

Vans & Minivans

CHRYSLER 1999 Town & Country LX, pw/pl, new tires, $2,300 OBO. 432-599-8306 no phone calls after 10pm.

4WD & SUV

2007 FORD EXPEDITION XLT...White exterior, tan cloth interior. GOOD Condition. Good tires, well taken care of, 133K miles. $9,750 432-528-4018

CHEVY 2004 Tahoe. 141,500 miles. One-owner. Dependable, everything works. $6,500 or best offer. 432-559-3664

FORD 2009 Expedition, Eddie Bauer edition, 4wd, leather, running boards, 3rd row seating, clean, 77,000 miles, $17,500. Call 432-631-5451 - leave message.

4WD & SUV

GMC 2007 YUKON SLT model. Excellent condition. White exterior, tan leather interior. 107K miles, $18,500 OBO. Call Stephen 432-559-9932.

LINCOLN 2009 Black Navigator. 4X4. All power including running boards, third row seats, sunroof, liftgate, Sirius and Bluetooth connectivity. 54K miles. New Michelin tires. Extended warranty. Excellent condition. $23,200. 684-4407 or 260-0010.

Motorcycles

HARLEY 2013 Dyna, 9000 miles. $9000. Call 432-352-7470

HARLEY DAVIDSON 2007 Softail Custom, low mileage. $10,000 Firm. Call 432-599-3259.

RVs

1999 JAYCO Eagle, 5th wheel travel trailer, 28' Excellent condition. $6500. Pictures upon request. Call 254-745-7574.

2013 5TH WHEEL, 40', 4 slide outs, front living room, 2 ACs, W/D, electric awning, shower, king bed. Too many options to list. A must-see! $31,700 OBO. 817-807-5991

2015 ROCKWOOD Roo Model 21SSL. $13K of upgrades. 8ft square deck w/ built in rails for 4wheelers or motorcycle. Slide out to 15ft wide. Sleeps 8 and is 31.1ft long. Value $35K in camper $29,000 firm, no trades. 817-266-4454.

HOLIDAY RAMBLER 2006 Alumascape 31ft, 5th wheel, triple slide out, queen bed, built-in satellite, loaded, suggested resail $28,900, asking $25,000. Call 432-556-2475.

Utility Trailers

2011 WELL Cargo Road Force model RF7122-V, tandem chrome wheels, axle 5100 lbs. Electric brakes, clean, $3,800. 432-664-1243.

Recreational Vehicles

2002 29.5' Montana 5th wheel. $18,000 OBO. 432-557-2257

YOU DON'T WANT THEM RESPONDING TO YOUR TEXT.

STOP TEXTS STOP WRECKS.ORG
Ad Council NHTSA

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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

		7	2			1		
	9						8	
		8		1		4	9	
	8	4			3			
	7			8			6	
			9			2	7	
	1	9		6		8		
	4						2	
		6			1	7		

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

2	3	9	4	6	7	8	5	1
1	7	6	5	9	8	4	2	3
4	8	5	1	2	3	7	9	6
8	4	1	6	3	9	5	7	2
9	2	3	7	5	1	6	8	4
6	5	7	2	8	4	1	3	9
7	9	8	3	1	6	2	4	5
5	6	4	9	7	2	3	1	8
3	1	2	8	4	5	9	6	7

1/1/15

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Marty's Marketplace

Merchandise

Appliances

AAA Appliance 15 minute pickup. 432-556-0104 / 432-520-3046

Free Stuff

FREE TO good homes. 6 puppies and their dad, a beautiful black lab. 432-238-2950.

FREE TO good homes - Kittens, litter box trained. Call Brian- 432-661-1817

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!
Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)
Fax Your Classified Ad In Today! 682-6999

Miscellaneous for Sale

MEADE 10" telescope and mount, never assembled, $3000 OBO. Call 432-638-3819.

Furniture

Like new sofa and love seat, brown corduroy cover $150. Rocker /recliner $75 Susan @ 432-689-1865

Miscellaneous for Sale

SEA CONTAINER solid metal, 40' long, 8' tall, 8' wide, great for portable building / office, and more, $3000. Call 432-599-3473.

Tools & Hardware

Tools for sale. Makita: MAC700 compressor $140, cordless drill 2 batteries & case $100, jigsaw $40, DeWalt 10" compound miter saw & stand $200, Porter Cable 340 sander / case $20, Craftsman circular saw $15, 3 Handheld Garmins & more. Call 413-8638

FIREWOOD FOR sale $85 half cord MIXED. Call 432-296-9040

Animals & Pets

Pets

LAB PUPPIES AKC & started dogs. Hips/eyes guaranteed. Training available. Pooles Labs. www.pooleslabs.com. Call (806) 633-4364.

FAX YOUR AD 24/7 682-6999

Lots & Land

Acreage

LAND FOR Sale North of Cristoval. 20, 40, 80 and 150 acre tracks. One 300 acre track. Only 21 tracks available. Private, gated entrance, beautiful scenic home sites. 12 minutes from San Angelo. 20ac track - $170K, 40ac track - $260K. 325-650-9960

Oil & Gas Leases

ROCK PIT available for caliche. Two miles north of Stiles, TX. off 137. Looking to sell caliche or royalty lease. Call Anthony at 432-268-3534.

Ranches

RANCH FOR SALE
4,212 Acres
near Snyder, Tx.
Water, 3 houses,
great hunting.
Owner Financing
$795/ Acre
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Commercial

Commercial Building For Lease
13,500sq/ft
Fenced/Paved Yard
Midland, Texas
$14,750/month
432-664-7764

COMMERCIAL YARD FOR LEASE
5 ACRES. FENCED
2 AC CALICHED
ELECTRIC GATE
$2200/MONTH
JUST EAST OF MIDLAND
432-664-7764

FOR LEASE /Build to Suit
Commercial shop with 5 acre yard East of Midland.
432-664-7764
432-934-7777

"MAN CAVE"
New storage on 1788. 1500-4500 square ft starting at $650 RV's/cars/industrial ask for Don 352-2067.

NOW LEASING
Office/Warehouses
Small Office Suites
Various locations.
Call 432-661-4057

OFFICE BUILDING For Lease. Approximately 2,976 sq. ft. with 4 offices, 2 bathrooms, reception area and large file/conference room. Conveniently located just west of downtown Midland at 1304 W. Texas. Call Bill Scott or Brandee Noll at Real Estate One. 682-1111

NEW CONSTRUCTION
5/10/20/50 acres +/- yard with 5,000 or 10,000 sq. ft. building with Bridge Cranes/ wash bays. Ask for Don. 563-1610 or 352-2067.

Mobile Homes for Sale

FOR SALE: 2008 Fleetwood mobile home; 4br / 2bath / 2LR, 2300sf, Excellent condition. 2 large decks included. Must be moved. $90k Call: 432.238.7895

MANUFACTURED HOME 3 bedroom, 2 bath remodeled, new carpet, repainted, releveled, central heat, new skirting, new water well, septic tank on corner 1 acre, 6 foot chain link fence, large Pecan trees and several Pine trees. Located at 3404 S. CR. 1206, Midland, TX. $135,000. Call Roger at 432-352-2933

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Email: mrtclassified@mrt.com

Garage -Estate & Yard Sales

Yard & Garage Sales

79707

3333 FANNIN Ave. Saturday & Sunday. 7am-3pm both days. Backyard sale. 10x16 Morgan storage building $1,200. All contents $1-$5

Real Estate Rentals & Sales

Residential Rentals

Apartments for Rent Unfurnished

LARGE 2 Bedroom mobile home, all utilities furnished except electricity. $900 per month. $300 deposit. Call Barbara Maxey at 432-296-2023

Townhouse/ Condo for Rent Unfurnished

2 BED 1 bathroom. $1,100 /mo. $500 deposit. No smoking, no pets. 3120A W Kansas. Call 432-522-2659

2 BED 1 bathroom. $1,200 /mo. $500 deposit. No smoking, no pets. 3112 A W Kansas. Call 432-522-2659

SAGEWOOD CONDO- 1 bedroom 1 1/2 bath, washer/dryer connections. Available now. $1,200 per mo. $350 deposit 432-425-4871

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

4BD 2BA 2 living areas, south side. Close to Wal-Mart $2275/mo. $1500/dep. 432-413-3489

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Residential Rentals

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

GREENWOOD SCHOOLS. 3bd 2ba, nicely remodeled bathrooms and kitchen, total electric. Credit application fee $35. $2000/mo. $2000dep. 1 year lease. Smoke free environment. Call 432-638-3819 Owner/Agent

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

1407 W. Golf Course Road. 3BD/2BA Townhome with pool, complete remodel, move-in ready. $375,000 no realtors. 432-687-5952

3BD 2BA with large den, open living area, 2 fireplaces, car port with large storage / office area and a cinder block shop. 1403 Boeing. $225,000. Call 432-559-5818

4816 SHADYLANE 4/2 remodeled. $139,500. *803 Cuthbert $165,000. *4902 FM 1213 home on 1.25 acres $159,500 former studio. Call 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

4BD 3BA 2 dining, 3 car garage, built in 2005, large walk in closet in master, jacuzzi tub, granite in kitchen, home security, rio system, 2421 sqft, 6002 Yorkshire Dr. Please call for additional information 325-374-3685

NEW TODAY!
4 BEDROOM, 2 bath, in-ground swimming pool. $120k. Serious inquiries only. Call 432-599-1185.

BEAUTIFUL 3BD/2BA, Granite countertops, Cathedral ceilings. Built in 2012. $172,000. 1804 E Pecan. OPEN HOUSE every Saturday & Sunday from 2pm-4pm. Call 432-683-2243

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Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

BEAUTIFUL 3 bedroom 2 bath, completely remodeled. 2 car shop, large deck, new A/C, n/out roof, double pane windows, blown installation. Same owner last 19 years. $229,000. 432-269-1903

BEAUTIFULLY-UPDATED, Open, 4-3, custom home in Grassland on popular cul-de-sac. Remodeled kitchen with granite. Remodeled master bath with granite and beautiful tiled shower with dual heads. Wood floors in study and dining. Rounded corners. Plantation shutters throughout. Outdoor living area. 5807 Sundance Place. $449,900. 432-301-4167

Country home on 5 acs. 3 bd. 4 ba. Lots of custom Oak cabinets & wood work. Anderson wood windows. Exterior Cedar trim never needs painting. 3000 sq. ft. with 1600 sq. ft. of wrap around porch. $345k. 432-264-8577

WE BUY HOMES, LAND & BLDGS! Fair prices, quick cash! Call 432-266-1212. 432-631-8100.

Lots & Land

Acreage

+/- 5 acres for sale between Midland and Stanton. Approx 1.7 miles from 829 and 2.3 miles from 1208 on the north svc rd of I-20. Call 432-271-9153

6.02 ACRES for sale in Midland County by owner. $155,000. Close to town, no restrictions. 2 water wells, septic, electric, cable, phone, barn, fenced. Home or business ready. Corner property, paved on two sides. 432-425-5979 or 432-557-9328.

6 acres on river deep, wide, clear water. Oaks, fenced, electric & well. $148,500K. 830-928-8713

MOBILE HOME LOT. 1217 W Montgomery. $20000. 407 E Montgomery, 1 acre. $30000. 810 S Madison $12000. Call 432-683-2243

Modular & Mobile Homes

Mobile Homes for Rent

2 RV spaces for rent, adults only, all bills paid, no pets. Call 432-695-4734

32' RV for rent $400 per week. Call 432-257-7666

RV FOR rent $750 month + deposit, bills paid in Midland. 806-292-2695 Hablo Espanol

SEVERAL RV FOR rent Cable, Wi-Fi and utility included. Sleeps 2. Call 432-770-7054 or 432-634-0978.

Fax Your Classified Ad In Today! 682-6999

Lots & Land

Acreage

FARM & Ranch FSBO-241 ac Erath & Eastland Co. Frontage property. 6 water wells, Hm, 2 tanks, barn. Coastal, oaks, mesquite. Abundant wildlife. NO owner finance! VERY RARE - DO NOT MISS! 325-998-3090

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We buy homes in any area in any condition.
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Commercial

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- Kent County
  - *11,155 ac. ft. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 900 ft. elev., creek, lakes, Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail.....$795/ac
  - *4,212 ac. Maverick Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail.....$625/ac
  - *1,777 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great whitetail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail.....$800/ac
- Nolan County
  - *648 ac. over 1 mile SOLD creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, cedar trees.....$3,550/ac
  - *565 ac. Pecan Creek, Nine Living Shop, 200 acres covered, fair game, blinds, feeders, windmill.....$3,500/ac
- Howard County
  - *642 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oilfield traffic.....$750/ac
  - *750 ac. big canyons, SOLD tanks, cedar/mesquite, great deer, turkey, javelina.....$895/ac
- Martin County
  - *635 ac. Sulphur Springs SOLD deer and whitetail, dogs, varmints, metal storage building.....$1,150/ac

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Owner Financing Available

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Clay Jarvis Homes .com
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Lots & Land

Ranches

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30 – 70 AC. SOUTHERN VAL VERDE COUNTY. HUNTING, RECREATIONAL, RETIREMENT PROPERTY. GOOD COVER, DEER, TURKEY, JAVELINA, QUAIL. NEAR LAKE AMISTAD. STARTING AT $1,592 DOWN, $290/MO. 800-876-9720 ranchenterprisesltd.com

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2,800 sq. ft., 3 bedroom/ 3 full baths on Lake Brownwood

Google 610 Oak Point Road, May, Texas for pictures.

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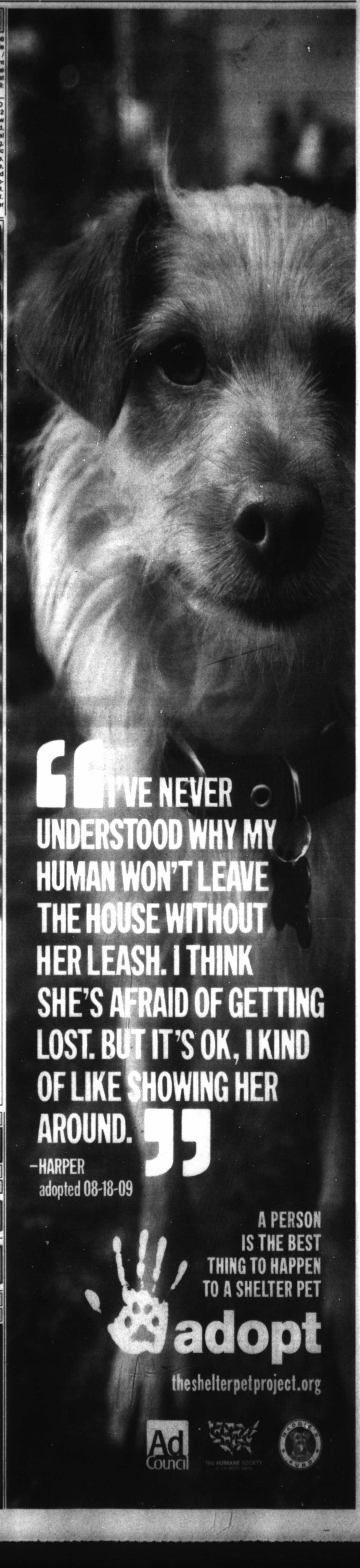

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT & PUBLISHING

Editorial

The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for help with coverage of events happening in Midland. If you are interested in coming in on a daily or regular basis, taking care of local reports and learning the business, please contact **Editor Stewart Dorreen at 687-8856 or sdorreen@mrt.com.** Writing samples are required. Interested candidates should have their own transportation and could work as many as 25 hours a week.

AUTOMOTIVE

HELP WANTED
Diesel Tech

$35.00, Per Flat Rate Hour
Plus Health, Life, Dental & Vision Insurance, Paid Uniforms, Paid Vacations.
Two computers per Tech
5 Stalls w/3 Lifts, Awesome tool room,
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Come see our family owned Facility.

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EOE

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSITANT

The Colorado River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for following position: Administrative Assistant - Responsible for the day-to-day administration of the District's general administrative functions. Successful candidate must be a self starter, a team player, and possess the ability to multi-task. For additional information visit www.crmwd.org.

Cashier Needed

Cashier needed - full time. Excellent benefits pkg! Answer a multi-line phone and perform other clerical and cashiering duties. Office, typing & computer background a plus. Apply online resumes@toyotaofmidland.com or in person at Toyota of Midland.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Reservoir Engineer

Samsung Oil & Gas USA Corp. at Midland, Texas seeks a reservoir engineer, MS in Natural resources/environment or petroleum engineering and BS in Geo-environment engineering required. Competitive salary. Interested. Call 713-554-7950 (Mr. Kyung Tae JUNG, Operation manager).

HEALTHCARE

Dental Receptionist

Immediate Hiring for a DENTAL RECEPTIONIST: We are looking for enthusiastic, energetic, motivated, ORGANIZED, detail oriented, multitasking, analytical problem-solvers. You must have solid computer skills. Experience preferred, but would be willing to train the right team players. E-mail resume: office@midlandendo.com or call (432) 214-3501

Optical Department

Seeking friendly, dependable, hard-working person for busy eye clinic and optical shop. Experience preferred but not required. Bring resume in person to **Phillips Eye Clinic 4311 W Wadley, Midland.**

Physical Therapist Assistant

Interim HealthCare has an opening for a part-time Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) to cover Lea County, New Mexico. Very Competitive pay. Must be licensed to practice in New Mexico. Apply online or call our Hobbs office for more information. 575-391-0121, 726 E. Michigan St. Suite 130, Hobbs, N.M. 88240.

MANAGEMENT & EXECUTIVE

Store Manager

ClearTalk Wireless is hiring a Store Manager for our Midland location. Position is responsible for the successful management, sales performance, and revenue attainment of retail store and kiosk operations. Candidates must have a minimum of 1-2 years proven retail management experience, ideally in the wireless industry. Excellent interpersonal, communication, and organizational skills are required. Salary depends on experience; competitive performance incentives and great benefits. Send your resume to: kburrus@flatwireless.com

CLEARTALK wireless

OTHER JOBS

CARETAKER

Caretaker for small ranch and animals/dogs, horses. Salary and housing provided. Non-smokers and no drinking. References required. Call **432-413-2861**

Immediate Openings

Available in Midland & Odessa area grocery and retail stores.

Now hiring qualified applicants for newspaper subscription sales in our growing company. We offer flexible schedule, paid training, excellent work environment, and stable work all year round to our Sales Representatives. Applicants must be friendly, professional, organized and reliable. Must be 18 years old with valid driver's license and cell phone. Previous sales or marketing experience is preferred, but not required. Position starts at $10/hr. with bonuses and commissions that can surpass $50/hr. for above average Sales Rep working part time. Paid training provided to new new reps. Professionally sell promotional subscriptions at one of our several kiosk locations in the Midland area. www.FrontlinePromotion.com

For an immediate opportunity, email your resume to: Dustin@FrontlinePromotion.com or call 810-875-6301 to join our team.

SKILLED LABOR

Forklift Operator

The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an opening in its Production Department for the Position of "Fork Lift Operator" and other duties as assigned.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- Ability to read and write
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs.
- Ability to bend and reach overhead
- Ability to count accurately and do simple math
- Able to operate a forklift and willing to be certified
- Be reliable, responsible and able to follow instructions
- Capable of standing and walking for extended period of time
- Able to work in various environments that include winter and summer conditions.
- Must be able to work weekends when necessary

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Accurate loading and unloading of printed materials in a safe and efficient manner
- Ensure material are efficiently/properly stacked and stored in appropriate and designated areas
- Perform other non-forklift duties when assigned

The Hearst Corporation is one of the largest diversified communications companies. Its major interests include magazines, newspapers and business publishing, cable networks, television and radio broadcasting, Internet businesses and more. As an associate of the Midland Reporter-Telegram, you join more than 20,000 in the Hearst family.

Send resume and salary requirements to: **John Maddox, Director of Production/Facilities**
c/o Midland Reporter Telegram - 201 E. Illinois St - Midland, TX 79701
Email to: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

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HEARST *media services*

OTHER JOBS

Safety Coordinator

Position available for a full time Safety Coordinator. Must be OSHA Certified. Email resume to: jaservicetx@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Crude Oil Lease Representative

National Crude Oil is seeking a professional crude oil lease rep to facilitate the acquisition of lease crude oil in the Permian Basin and the Eagle Ford Shale area of Texas.

This will be a salaried position, with the opportunity for outstanding annual performance bonuses. Health and dental insurance is included.

Qualifications:

- 1+ years in commercial negotiations
- 3+ years' experience in the crude oil industry
- Effective written, oral and interpersonal communications required to effectively communicate with customers, co-workers, and business contacts in a courteous and professional manner; and the ability to present and sell ideas to groups/individuals inside and outside of the work group environment.
- Knowledge and skill in using computer software programs, such as MS Word and Excel
- Willingness and ability to travel a minimum of 50% domestically as required
- Have a full understanding of crude oil pricing options at the lease level
- Self-motivated, ability to initiate action, be persistent without being obtrusive
- Able to negotiate fair agreements with favorable terms for employer.
- Highly developed interpersonal skills, with the ability to obtain and retain industry related information at meetings

Job duties will include at minimum:

- Develop and maintain relationships with crude oil producers and facility operators.
- Understand and apply costs for moving crude oil from the lease level (trucking costs, pipeline tariffs, pumpover fees, pipeline loss allowance, etc.)
- Negotiate, bid, and execute the purchase, sale and/or trade of crude oil at the lease level, which includes the ability to calculate the profitability of each transaction entered into.
- Provides monthly volumes for nominations to the scheduler and manage volumes and quantities into each location

Email resume to erlcm@industriallogistics.com

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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.

- **SERVERS** - No tip outs/ tip share
- **GRILL COOKS** - Starting at $15.00
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- **DISHWASHER** - Starting at $13.OO

Stop by **3108 North Loop 250 West Midland, TX 79707** or call **432-689-3137 www.crackerbarrel.com Cracker Barrel** EOE

Multiple Positions Available!

Basin Burger House **FT/PT**

Now hiring Multiple Positions; **cooks, wait-staff and bussers.** Join our team! Apply in person after 2 pm at 607 N Colorado, Downtown Midland.

SKILLED LABOR

Electrician and Apprentices

TTG Electric Co., is hiring electricians and apprentices at high scale. Housing can be provided in Midland. Please call Felix Montoya at 254-535-3143, Joe Anderson at 254-535-0510 or our office at 254-526-7284.

PRESSMAN

The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an immediate opening in its Production Department for the position of: PRESSMAN 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.

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

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Class A CDL Drivers

Energy Pumping Specialties Inc. is seeking experienced Class A CDL drivers. Must be 25 years of age with at least 3 years driving experience in tractor trailer combinations. Tanker and Haz-Mat endorsement a plus.
Contact Bobby Linares at (956) 285-6160 for more information or come by 2809 South County Road 1257 Midland Texas 79706
EPS is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Drivers

Purity Oilfield Services, LLC. is now hiring Class A CDL drivers with Winch and Vac Truck experience. Competitive salary and excellent benefits offered. Request an application at mkiker@purityoilfieldservices.com or call 432-210-7580.

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Class A CDL Driver w/ Tractor Trailer Experience

JOIN SOUTHERN MAIL SERVICE
TRANSPORT US MAIL BETWEEN MIDLAND AND EL PASO

*$1000 Sign-On Bonus ($200 paid at hire, $400 paid at 90 days and $400 paid at 180 days)
*Paid $19.27 hourly (Bi-Weekly Direct Deposit or Check)
*Work 6.5 hours and be paid for 8!
*Accrue Vacation Hours (1 week after 1 year, 2 weeks after 2 years and 3 weeks after 10 years)
*401K Plan Available
*10 Paid Holidays Per Year
*Health Insurance Will Be Available February 1, 2015, driver's premium paid at 100%

QUALIFICATIONS
*Age 23 years or older
*Provide Previous 10 Year Employment History in Detail
*Valid Class A Commercial Driver's License
*Minimum 2 Year Verifiable Tractor Trailer Driving Experience (NOT Straight Truck) Within Last 3 Years
*Clean Motor Vehicle Record for Past 5 Years
*Pass Federal Background Check
*Pass a Pre-Employment DOT Physical and Drug Test (Performed at Company Expense)
*Pass a Company Administered Driving Test

This contractor and subcontractor shall abide by the requirements of 41 CFR §§ 60-1.4(a), 60-300.5(a), and 60-741.5(a). These regulations prohibit discrimination against qualified individuals based on their status as protected veterans or individuals with disabilities, and prohibit discrimination against all individuals based on their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Moreover, these regulations require that covered prime contractors and subcontractors take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, protected veteran status or disability.

APPLY ONLINE AT: www.southernmail.com

For More Information, CALL: 800-325-6456, ask for David, Jo or Earnest

Class A CDL Truck Drivers

Prefer drivers with Pneumatic Tanker experience. Benefits include: medical, life and dental insurance, and paid vacation. Applicants having experience hauling sand and/or dry cement helpful. Good driving record, DOT, drug & alcohol testing required. Apply in person, call 432-563-1894 for interview or online @ www.rockwaterenergy.com

Drivers Needed

Must have CDL. Experience in Vacuum Trucks, and/or Hot Oilers. Apply in person at Dependable Well Service, 1600 Garden City Highway, Midland, Texas 79701. Phone calls accepted at 432-685-9222

Tank Truck Driver

Tank Truck Driver hauling crude oil. Needed immediately. HAZMAT endorsement and TWIC card required. Local/Regional. $1500 sign on bonus. Benefits available, paid vacation. Call 409-296-2120

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

General

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Supplement your income by delivering newspapers for a few hours in the early mornings between 12:00am - 6:00am. The Midland Reporter-Telegram is currently seeking individuals who are interested in delivering newspapers to retail locations in and around the City of Midland. If interested, MUST have a reliable vehicle, proof of automobile insurance in your name, a valid driver's license, must understand that this is a 7 day a week delivery commitment as an Independent Contractor.

THE PROFIT FOR THESE ROUTES IS ABOUT $500-$750 a month, depending on the size of the route. This is a perfect way to generate the extra money you need.

Please CALL JOANNA at 432-687-9002 or stop by The Midland Reporter-Telegram 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701

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SALES JOBS

MRT MEDIA GROUP mrt.com
Midland Reporter-Telegram

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Are you a self-starter?
Do you excel in time management and organization?
If so, then we will train you to SUCCEED!

The MRT Media Group, a Hearst Corporation company, is looking for full-time Inside and Outside Sales Multi-Media Account Executive. Duties will include selling print and digital advertising into the Midland Reporter-Telegram, mrt.com, MRT Weekly, and a variety of custom publications.

The Hearst Corporation is one of the largest, diversified communications companies, with major interests in magazine, newspaper and business publishing, cable networks, television and radio broadcasting, internet businesses and more. As an associate of the MRT Media Group, you will join more than 20,000 in the Hearst family.

$1,000 SIGN ON BONUS!

We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months, mileage and cell phone allowances, and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you are ready to SUCCEED, please send a resume to:
Jeri Houston, Advertising Sales Manager
MRT Media Group
201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701
jhouston@mrt.com

Equal Opportunity Employer

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
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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

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Contact: Linda 687-8807

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NATIVE MIDLANDER, cleaning services since 1950's. Weekly rates for residential and offices. 432-967-3710

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MASONRY WORKS

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JS Concrete

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Fax It... 682-6999

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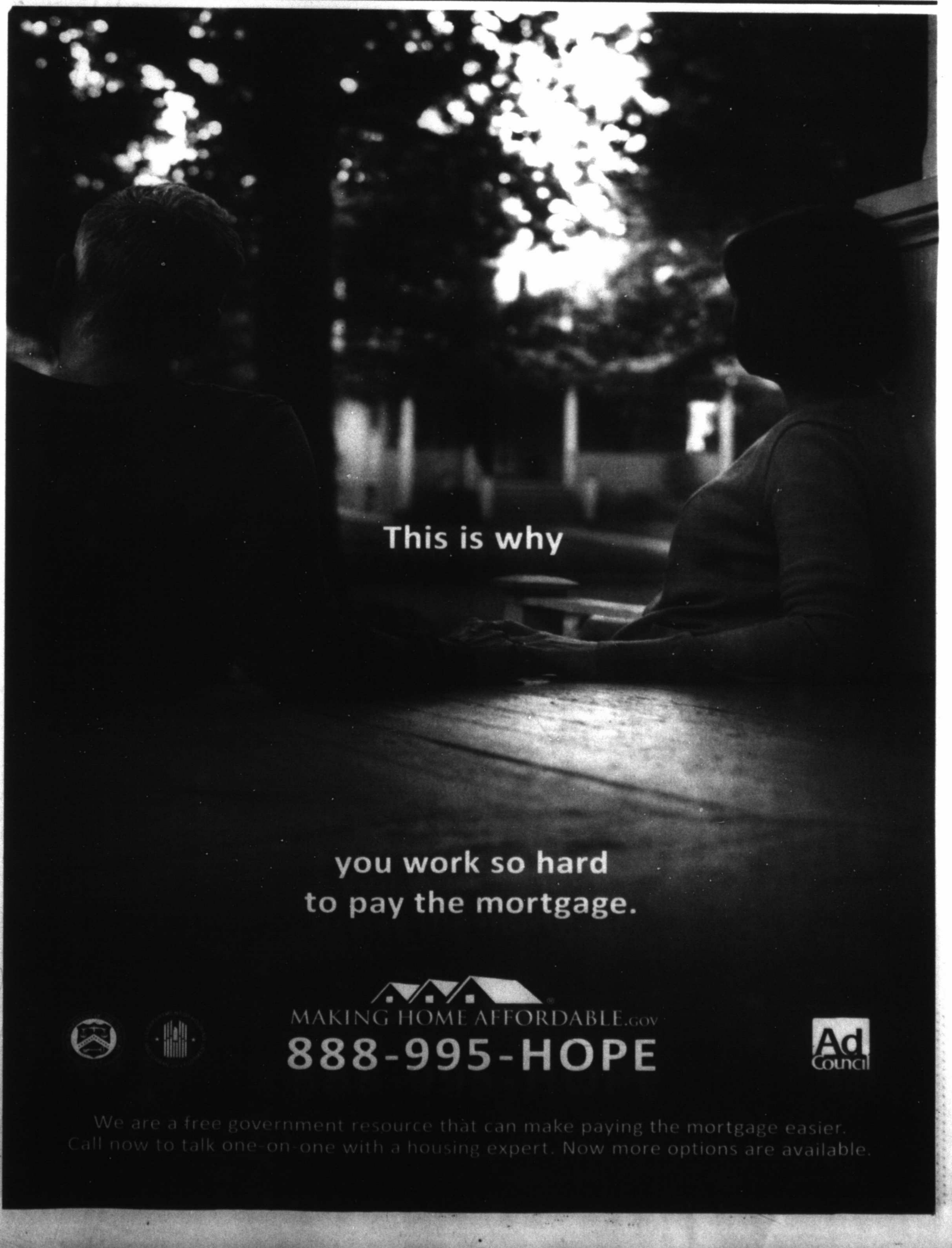

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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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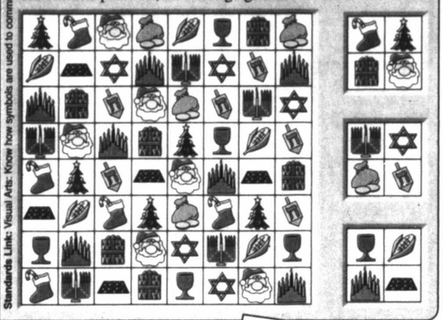
KID SCOOP EXCLUSIVE:

ELF ENTERTAINMENT

The elves up at Santa's Workshop work hard all year making toys for children all around the world. When the work is done, they play! We visited the North Pole to get what for years has been a top-secret selection of Elf puzzles and games!

Symbol Search

The grid below is filled with pictures of symbols of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Match each group of symbols on the right with the same four symbols, in the exact same position, on the large grid below.



Standards Link: Visual Arts: Know how symbols are used to communicate meaning.

Find the differences between these ice-skating elves.

Now find the differences between each elf and his own reflection!

Standards Link: Investigation: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Festive Flower

A flower from Mexico has become a traditional holiday decoration in the United States. In Mexico it is called, the "Flower of the Holy Night." Write the letter that comes BEFORE each of the letters below to find out what it is called north of the Mexican border.

Q	P	J	O	U	T	F	U	U	J	B

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Oh, Deer!

Can you find the reindeer drawing Ellen Elf created? Her drawing has all of these features:

- round nose
- 7 bells
- full moon
- curvy horns
- big smile
- short tail

How many snowflakes can you find on this page in 60 seconds? Have a friend try. Who found the most?

ITEM	QTY.
Teddy Bears:	2,329
Candy Canes:	7,498
Toy Trains:	486
Skateboards:	1,325
Fashion Dolls:	6,327

Maximum Baggage

Santa wants the elves to fill his bag as full as possible. But one silly elf has tinkered with the order sheets, scrambling the digits in the numbers. Help the elves by rearranging the digits in each number to make it as large as possible.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Know place value to the 1,000th place.

Extra! Extra!

Front Page Dot-to-Dot

Look at the front page of today's newspaper. Find and circle each letter of the alphabet. Can you find all 26? Connect the letters with lines and color your design.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Which ornament would you get by putting the broken pieces together?

Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Use a variety of strategies to solve problems.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

FESTIVE
BAGGAGE
FULL
ELF
MEXICO
DIGITS
NOSE
SANTA
NIGHT
SYMBOL
CURVY
KWANZAA
GRID
MOON
MANY

J	S	A	A	Z	N	A	W	K	T
M	A	N	Y	N	O	O	M	Y	N
E	V	I	T	S	E	F	E	L	F
Z	N	G	D	I	R	G	X	D	L
A	O	H	K	Z	A	A	I	C	O
L	S	T	O	G	J	G	C	U	B
L	E	V	G	K	I	S	O	R	M
U	A	A	L	T	R	I	B	V	Y
F	B	W	S	A	N	T	A	Y	S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Naughty and Nice

Look through the newspaper to find a news story about someone being naughty and another news story about someone being nice. Write a letter to each of them.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write informal letters using correct format.

Weekly Writing Corner

Holiday Laughs

Q: Why does everyone like frosty the snowman?
A: Because he is cool.
Serena Leascher, 4th grade, St Ann's

Q: If athletes get athlete's foot, what do astronauts get?
A: Mistletoe
Ella Herrmann, 4th grade, St Ann's

Q: Why did Santa cross the road?
A: To find the Clause.
Aidan Jones, 4th grade, St Ann's

Q: What do you call a cat sitting on the beach on Christmas Eve?
A: Sandy Clause
Areli Tavarez, 4th grade, St Ann's

Q: Why did the skeleton cross the road?
A: Because he didn't have the guts
Mandi Martin, 4th grade, St Ann's

Q: How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?
A: Nothing, it was on the house
Gabby Kiefer, 4th grade, St Ann's

Q: Why did the turkey cross the road?
A: To find the stuffing
Omar Ornelas, 4th grade, St Ann's

Q: What do you get when you cross and vampire and a snowman?
A: A frost bite
Zoe Freirich, 4th grade, St Ann's

Q: Knock, knock who's there? Christmas Christmas who?
A: Christmas Eve
Connor Parker, 4th grade, St Ann's

Q: What's Santa's favorite saying?
A: Ho! HO! Ho! Merry Christmas
Emilio Moreno, 4th grade, St Ann's

Write On!

Goods and Services

How would you explain the differences between goods and services?

Deadline: January 25
Published: Week of Feb. 22
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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