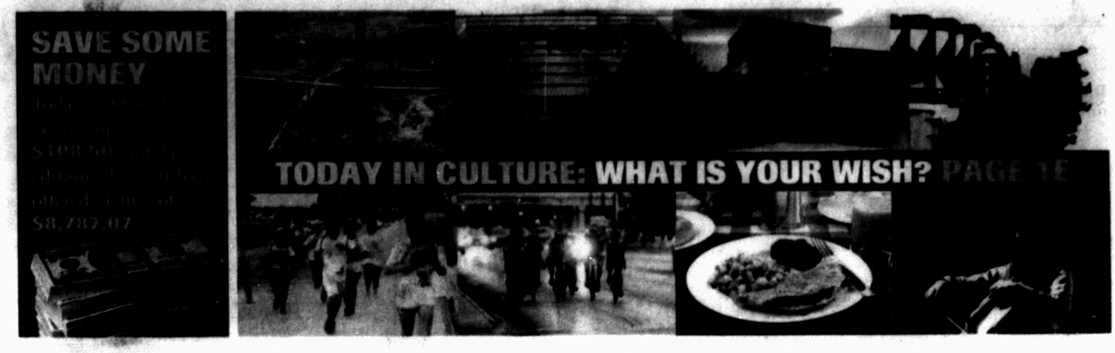

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2014 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

From left, Clarence Scharbauer III of Scharbauer Foundation and Tim Leach of Concho Resources. Midland business and community leaders meet to discuss a plan to strengthen and develop Midland's school system for the future Dec. 18 at the Concho Resources building in downtown Midland.

Businesses, foundations step up with millions of dollars for MISD

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

Just imagine Midland Independent School District being short 100 teachers. Was it a possibility? One will never know, but there were eight concerned businesses and foundations in Midland that were not going to leave it to chance.

In an unprecedented show of support for Midland's school district, Abell-Hanger Foundation, Apache Corp., Chevron, Concho Resources, Henry Foundation, Pioneer Natural Resources, Scharbauer Foundation and Warren Equipment Co. collectively dedicated $6.25 million to the Midland ISD Education Foundation. District leaders made $3.25 million available for new teacher signing bonuses. The remaining $3 million was used for employees at the end of the 2013-14 school year to re-sign with the district.

The $6.25 million donation, announced in May, also completed a trio of dedications in 2013-14 totaling more than $10 million to MISD. In July 2013, The Scharbauer Foundation announced a grant of $3.3 million to be used solely for MISD teacher rental assistance. In October 2013, The Henry Foundation announced a grant of $1 million for MISD support staff — custodians, bus drivers, food service workers, etc. That adds up to $10.25 million dedicated in 10 months.

With bonuses in place, the district received 2,190 applications for certified positions between May 6 and June 11. That represented an increase of 191 compared to the same period in 2013. One result of filling positions was that the board of trustees again reduced the number of class-size waivers submitted to the Texas Education Agency. State law mandates a 22-student-to-1-teacher ratio in kindergarten through fourth grade. The number of waivers MISD requested in 2013-14 was 19. The number requested in 2012-13 was 109.

Previous Newsmakers

The following are the past four Newsmakers of the Year:

2011: Dunes sagebrush lizard
2012: Behind-the-scenes advocates
2013: Energy Tower at City Center
2014: MISD donors: Businesses, foundations

More year in review

- Top business stories of 2014
- Investors expect higher stocks in 2015

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- Roll call of some who died in 2014

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Ector County ISD, on the other hand, requested 172 waivers, up from 160 in 2013-14, according to the Odessa American.

The Reporter-Telegram Editorial Board didn't select these combined eight companies and foundations as its Newsmaker for 2014 because of what the donation did — filling close to 300 vacancies is what has been reported — but what we believe it means.

The school district is not being left out on an island to deal with deficits related to employee recruitment and retention and student achievement. These foundations and companies, in fact, were leading an effort to say they were all-in to create a school district that represents what Midland should be.

"That was a huge amount of money, and the thing that I was most amazed at when we got the message that we would get this kind of support, they made me understand and made the school board understand that this is only the first step," MISD Superintendent Ryder Warren said.

Midland ISD Board President Rick Davis has called the recent surge of business and foundation resources and leadership "another extraordinary example of why Midland is such a special place."

"On behalf of the board of trustees, we welcome this collaboration with the businesses and philanthropic community," Davis said. "I am certain that there is not another community in Texas and in the nation that enjoys this kind of collaboration."

In talking with representatives of the businesses and foundations about their contributions, one point became crystal clear: Midland's dominant players in the community were "getting serious" about working with the school district, as Clarence Scharbauer III recently told the Reporter-Telegram.

"We knew when we were stepping up and doing all that, this is just the beginning," Scharbauer said.

There were some signs of this collaboration in the past. In 2012, Pioneer committed $1 million over four years to the district's highly successful Early College High School at Midland College.

That same year, oil leaders such as Pioneer's Scott Sheffield and Chevron's Mitch Mamoulides offered public endorsements of the $163 million elementary school bond initiative. Industry support helped pave the way for a 20-point victory.

There is more to this story, about which the Reporter-Telegram will offer more details in the coming weeks. Industry and foundation leaders were among a group that recently sat down with the Reporter-Telegram to talk about plans for education in the future. These leaders believe it ultimately will be a comprehensive plan. As it stands right now, too many details are yet to be determined.

Still, if successful, years or decades from now, you can expect some will look back at 2014 as the year when Midland's turbo-charged economy and high cost of living forced activism that our community needed.

Realtor sees continued demand for real estate in long haul

Rye Druzin
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Local real estate may be leveling off into 2015, but the president of a local real estate group says that's a good thing.

"What I see in our very local economy is a continued demand for housing over the long haul" said Brian Sales, 2014 president of the Permian Basin Board of Realtors.

Sales was responding to a recent report by Fitch Ratings that indicated Texas' real estate market is overvalued.

The report said that Texas' real estate market "(skirted) the excesses and downsides of the last housing boom." It also said rapid growth in recent years has left the Lone Star State's real estate 11 percent overvalued.

Fitch director Stefan Hilts cited the recent drop in oil prices, one of the main factors driving Texas' status as an economic powerhouse, as one of the main concerns. Sales, though, said he wasn't concerned and that downturn might create an opportunity.

The past few years have seen population growth related to the oil boom far outpace housing. Companies have put up employees in hotels, so-called "man

Please see DEMAND/4A

History repeating: Another decade, another oil bust

By Collin Eaton
Houston Chronicle

Thirty years ago, a steep slide in crude prices forced Larry Oldham to gut the payroll at his Midland oil company down to just himself and one other who worked as secretary, accountant and oil lease specialist.

His wife worked there, too, but the company didn't have the money to pay her. In that West Texas city, atop the ancient bed of petroleum called the Permian Basin, it seemed to Oldham that everybody owed somebody else a little money.

Survival instincts kicked in hard. But the oil bust of the mid-1980s still swallowed up oil companies, banks, real estate markets and thousands of jobs in Texas, sending the state's roaring economy into a slump for years.

Oldham's company survived, but the mechanical beasts that drew millions of barrels of crude from subterranean Texas went still, and some repossessed drilling rigs were torn apart and sold for scrap, at pennies on the dollar. Worth only as much as their metallic hides, they became lifeless steel symbols of just how far the oil economy had fallen.

Now, after four years of leading the nation's job growth on a tidal wave of shale oil, Texas is beginning to hear echoes of the past. U.S. benchmark crude brought $54.11 a barrel on Dec. 18 — a low for the year and barely half its 2014 high of $107.26 on June 20.

Oil's fall in early 1986 was farther and faster — from a high for the year

Please see HISTORY/4A

Weather Sunny 58/30 Get your complete forecast on 12A

Terry Williamson Have a plan for sharing kids, anecdote with the in-laws. Page 1B

The big number Saudi Arabia faces a $39 billion deficit because of sliding oil prices. Read more on Page 2A.

Today in Sports Learn about local desert racing teams. Page 1C

Today in the Oil Report TIPA extends tax benefits for oil companies. Page 1G

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AP file photo

In this July 26, 2011, photo, a worker walks by an oil derrick outside of Williston, N.D. Relief could be on the horizon for strapped public services in the Northern Plains' booming oil patch, as elected leaders in Montana and North Dakota move to steer more money into the region during the states' upcoming legislative sessions.

Lawmakers vow to help strapped oil-patch towns

By Matthew Bown and James MacPherson
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — Relief could be on the horizon for strapped public services in the Northern Plains' booming oil patch, as elected leaders in Montana and North Dakota move to steer more money into the region during the states' upcoming legislative sessions.

Tens of thousands of workers have been drawn to the region's shale oil boom in recent years. Their arrival has brought increased demands for services ranging from roads and sewage treatment to affordable housing.

Prior efforts to put more money toward those needs came up short or got delayed by political disagreement.

Political leaders on both sides of the Montana-North Dakota border said they are optimistic more can be done in 2015. Lawmakers from the states convene in early January.

"We're very hopeful we'll be able to find a path where we can do it this session," Montana Gov. Steve Bullock said.

Most drilling for oil and gas is in North Dakota. Yet the population growth from the boom has spilled over the border, and both states face rising pressures on infrastructure that are taxing the ability of local governments to keep pace.

In North Dakota, Gov. Jack Dalrymple is proposing to change the formula for oil and gas tax distributions so local governments get 60 percent, up from the current 25 percent.

Senate Republican Majority Leader Rich Wardner said that revamped funding formula favoring western North Dakota communities likely will be the biggest topic facing lawmakers when the Legislature convenes Jan. 6.

Democrats in the North Dakota Legislature tried unsuccessfully to get a special session called in February to address tax distributions.

"There's going to be debate, but I think it will pass," said Wardner, whose district is located within the oil patch. "Counties and cities in the Bakken — they are the ones that really need the help."

Wardner said lawmakers from other parts of the state are largely sympathetic to the problems in western North Dakota. The state's oil-producing region needs everything from water and sewer plants to roads and affordable housing, he said.

In Montana, Bullock is pushing $45 million in grants and other spending in eastern Montana cities and towns where basic services are strapped.

In 2013, the Democratic governor vetoed a broader measure that would have set aside money from mineral revenues to pay for water, sewer and road projects in the Bakken oil-producing region.

Despite overwhelming bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, Bullock said the veto was necessary to maintain the state's budget reserve and keep it from sliding into deficit.

His latest proposal for the oil patch is tucked into a $300 million statewide infrastructure plan.

Montana Senate President Debby Barrett, a Republican, said she wants the eastern Montana money separated from the larger package so it can be addressed on its own merits.

Bullock expressed reluctance to break up the plan into smaller pieces.

The proposal also has given rise to tensions over Bullock's intention to use bonds instead of cash to pay for much of his plan.

Regardless of what approach prevails, Barrett said, lawmakers agree more money is needed for the oil patch.

"I don't know how legislators can go there and look at the huge problems they're facing over there with infrastructure and not fund them, not see them as a priority issue of the session," she said.

Saudi Arabia to dig into reserves for 2015 budget

By Abdullah al-Shihri and Aya Batrawy
Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia's Cabinet on Thursday endorsed a 2015 budget that projects a slight increase in spending and a significant drop in revenues because of sliding oil prices, resulting in a nearly $39 billion deficit.

In a sign of mounting financial pressure, the Finance Ministry said the government would try to cut back on salaries, wages and allowances, which "contribute to about 50 percent of total budgeted expenditures." That could stir resentment among the kingdom's youth, who make up a majority of the population and are increasingly struggling to find affordable housing and salaries that cover their cost of living.

The price of oil— the backbone of Saudi Arabia's economy — has fallen by about half since the summer. Saudi Arabia is extremely wealthy, but there are deep wealth disparities and youth unemployment is expected to mushroom absent a dramatic rise in private sector job creation. The International Monetary Fund said almost two-thirds of employed Saudis work for the government.

A the height of Arab Spring protests sweeping the region in 2011, King Abdullah pledged $120 billion to fund a number of projects, including job creation and hikes in public sector wages. The move was largely seen as an effort to appease the public and blunt any challenges to monarchical rule.

Associate Fellow and energy researcher at Chatham House, Valerie Marcel, said massive government spending across the Gulf on public sector salaries is "really the thing that keeps the lid on the bottle." She said that, for now, the Arab monarchies of the Gulf can afford to run deficits due to surpluses accumulated over the years from high oil prices.

Saudi-based investment firm Jadwa Investment said the deficit will be financed comfortably using the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency's huge stock of net foreign assets, which totaled $736 billion at the end of November. The 2015 budget even includes a slight increase in overall spending, which will be up 0.6 percent from the previous year.

The IMF said in a report this week that the decline in oil prices highlights the need for energy-rich Arab Gulf countries to diversify their economies away from oil. It said Gulf governments need to change the incentive structure of the economy to encourage individuals to work in the private sector.

In neighboring United Arab Emirates, some members of the Federal National Council, which mainly performs an advisory role, lamented this week that the country's $13 billion 2015 budget is a "a salary budget," according to the Abu Dhabi-based newspaper The National. More than 80 percent of most federal agencies' budgets were allocated to salaries, the newspaper reported.

Saudi Arabia, the Arab world's largest economy, said it would dig into its reserves to cover the difference between $229.3 billion in projected expenditures and $190.7 billion in revenues for the coming fiscal year. A quarter of expenditures will be spent on the education sector.

The budget is expected to allay investor concerns that the drop in oil prices could lead to less government spending and reduced economic growth.

The Finance Ministry said the "budget was adopted under international economic and financial conditions that are challenging." The 2015 budget reflects an expected cut in revenues of around $88 billion from 2014, mostly due to the slump in global oil prices.

The kingdom's figures for the current fiscal year show a deficit — for the first time since 2009 — of $14.4 billion. Total expenditure had been projected at $228 billion, but ran 29 percent higher, at $293 billion, because of expansion work at Islam's two holiest mosques, among other projects, according to the Finance Ministry.

The published version of the 2015 budget did not include a projected oil price. Jadwa Investment estimates that Saudi Arabia is projecting a price of $56 per barrel for Saudi export crude, or around $60 per barrel for Brent crude, and production unchanged at 9.6 million barrels per day.

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Luke 2:15-16
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."
So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

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NATIONBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

ST. LOUIS

Sam: Coming out was right thing to do

Michael Sam says in a TV documentary that aired Saturday night that coming out as gay was the right thing to do.

The Oprah Winfrey Network said in a release that the 90-minute program followed by a one-on-one with Winfrey and Sam was the player's first TV appearance since being cut by the Dallas Cowboys in mid-October. After one day of filming last spring, the Rams pulled the plug on the network's plans for a Sam documentary during training camp.

In a transcript released by the network, Sam called the NFL draft "the longest three days of my life." The St. Louis Rams drafted Sam late in the seventh round.

Sam said the reassuring hand of his boyfriend, Vito, on his shoulder during the wait to get picked affirmed the decision last February to reveal his sexual orientation. Sam, a defensive end who was the SEC co-defensive player of the year.

"In that moment, I was like 'I don't care what happens. I made the right choice to come out,'" Sam said.

In a voiceover promo for the show, Winfrey questions whether Sam got a fair shot. Sam kissed his boyfriend as a national television audience looked on.

"Some say the kiss, the cake, it was all just too much," Winfrey said. "Some say he wasn't good enough. Others say he should have never come out."

The Rams made Sam, the co-defensive player of the year at Missouri, the 249th overall pick out of 256 in the draft. He was among 21 players waived by the team to reach the 53-player limit before the season opener.

Echoing his remarks after drafting Sam with the 249th overall pick out of 256, coach Jeff Fisher said several times it was purely a football decision. The Rams were well-stocked with pass rushers, and undrafted Ethan Westbrooks grabbed the final defensive end spot.

"I will tell you this: I was pulling for Mike," Fisher said then. "I really was, and I don't say that very often. Mike came in here and did everything we asked him to do."

On Twitter, roughly an hour after he was cut, Sam thanked the Rams and the city of St. Louis. He also wrote "The most worthwhile things in life rarely come easy, this is a lesson I've always known. The journey continues."

Sam spent seven weeks on the Cowboys' practice squad before being released and is a free agent.

LAS VEGAS

Guitarist doesn't miss day of Cirque work

It's easy to miss Bruce Rickerd during the "Mystere" show at Treasure Island especially when there's a man balancing upside-down on the foot of another, or a giant inflatable snail emerging from the massive moving stage or the gasp-inducing drops from acrobats above.

But he's there — up high on the right or rather, stage left — playing guitar in just about the same place he's been for every one of the 10,000 shows come Saturday in the 21-year history of "Mystere" as he and the rest of the band tie the music and sound effects to action on stage.

That's right. He's never missed a day of work.

It never occurred to the 62½-year-old musician to do otherwise.

"This is not work for me," he said days before he would be feted Saturday with confetti canons and an onstage finale bow where a Guinness Book of World Records judge is expected to say Rickerd has broken the record for most theatrical performances by a male musician. Granted, it'll be for having performed in 9,958 shows, still the most, as the record-keeping body continues to pour through timesheets and employee records that might backup Rickerd's involvement in the remaining 42 shows. Copious stage manager notes from each performance over the years helped to confirm quite a bit, with Rickerd's name never listed on the "out" list.

The musician is down to earth about his accolade. A member of the show joked that he's got Cal Ripken Jr., who played 2,632 consecutive baseball games for the Baltimore Orioles, beat.

Rickerd said he knows being an athlete or an acrobat on stage each night carries a higher risk of injury.

Anyone looking for a secret to Rickerd's longevity, including his ability to avoid catching a bug requiring a sick day, or a routine that was a motivational key, won't get one.

There's no secret, no routine. Unless you count his regularity to arrive at work and attend the sound check, eat and get his costume on before the show. And he didn't plan to do anything differently in the days leading up to his record-breaking appearance.

How does he do it then?

"It's very simple. You show up," he said.

When he discovered he had a herniated disc a couple weeks before the production went dark in January one year, he showed up.

There was that one time, though, that his usual 20-minute commute turned into two-and-a-half hours, and he got to the theater with 10 minutes to spare, throwing on his costume without buttoning the buttons.

Rickerd's work ethic might be traced to his time spent as a band leader in Canada. If he didn't show, the whole band wouldn't work, he said.

The husband and father of two grown children got his start playing guitar at the age of 13. Born in the Ottawa area, Rickerd said he spent most of his Canadian life in Montreal, Quebec. While a band leader there, he hired a keyboardist, Benoit Jutrus, who would go on to compose the music for some of Cirque's shows including "Mystere." Jutrus called one day, several years after leaving the band, to tell Rickerd that Cirque was doing a permanent show in Las Vegas — its first — and asked if he wanted to play. It would be a five-year gig, he said Jutras told him.

As of Saturday, "Mystere" and Rickerd remain, 21 years later, to celebrate 10,600 shows for both.

"And then lights out, we're out of there," he said, but just until he returns for the next show.

1990s TV star 'Screech' charged in bar stabbing

Dustin Diamond, who played Screech on the 1990s TV show "Saved by the Bell," was charged Friday with stabbing a man during a bar fight on Christmas.

Diamond, 37, faces charges of felony second-degree recklessly endangering safety charge, disorderly conduct and carrying a concealed weapon.

According to the criminal complaint, Diamond told police that he and his fiancee went out to several bars Thursday night in Port Washington, about 30 miles north of Milwaukee. The couple, who lives in Port Washington, got into a tussle with two men and another woman at the Grand Avenue Saloon, the complaint said.

Port Washington police said they responded at 11:15 p.m. Thursday to a report of a stabbing at a bar. When police caught up with their SUV down the road from the bar, Diamond told police he had a "pen" in his hand when he grabbed one of the men, according to the complaint.

Port Washington police found in the car a switchblade, the point of which was covered in what appeared to be blood. Diamond later told police he accidentally stabbed the man while trying to defend his fiancee, according to the complaint.

The man had been stabbed under the armpit.

Yes-We-Can president faces twilight of maybes

By Julie Pace and Nancy Benac
Associated Press

AP file photo

This Nov. 14 photo shows President Barack Obama boarding Air Force One at Yangon International Airport, in Yangon, Myanmar. It was supposed to be a joke: "Are you still president?" comedian Stephen Colbert asked Barack Obama earlier this month. But the question seemed to speak to growing weariness with the president and skepticism that anything will change in Washington during his final two years in office. Democrats already are checking out Obama's potential successors. Emboldened Republicans are trying to push aside his agenda in favor of their own.

WASHINGTON — It was supposed to be a joke. "Are you still president?" comedian Stephen Colbert asked Barack Obama earlier this month.

But the question seemed to speak to growing weariness with the president and skepticism that anything will change in Washington during his final two years in office. Democrats are already checking out Obama's potential successors. Emboldened Republicans are trying to push aside his agenda in favor of their own.

At times this year, Obama seemed ready to move on, as well. He rebelled against the White House security "bubble," telling his Secret Service detail to give him more space. He chafed at being sidelined by his party during midterm elections and having to adjust his agenda to fit the political interests of vulnerable Democrats who lost anyway.

Yet the election that was a disaster for the president's party may have had a rejuvenating effect on Obama. The morning after the midterms, Obama told senior aides, "If I see you moping, you will answer to me."

People close to Obama said he is energized at not having to worry about helping — or hurting — Democrats in another congressional election on his watch. He has become more comfortable with his executive powers, moving unilaterally on immigration, Internet neutrality and climate change in the last two months. And he sees legacy-building opportunities on the international stage, from an elusive nuclear deal with Iran to normalizing relations with Cuba after a half-century freeze.

"He gained some clarity for the next two years that is liberating," said Jay Carney, who served as Obama's press secretary until this spring. "He doesn't have as much responsibility for others."

Still, pillars of Obama's second-term agenda — gun control, raising the federal minimum wage, universal pre-school— seem destined to stand unfulfilled. Wrapping up the Iraq and Afghanistan wars isn't turning out to be nearly the tidy success story Obama once envisioned. Even supporters said one of the president's top remaining priorities may have to be simply preventing Republicans from dismantling his earlier accomplishments, including the health care law.

The Yes-We-Can man is entering a twilight of maybes, his presidency still driven by high ambitions but his power to achieve them running out.

Before the midterm election results arrived, Obama's advisers said, the president realized he would finish his presidency with Republicans running Capitol Hill.

Whatever message the Democrats' defeat sent about the president's own standing, Obama concluded the status quo meant more gridlock.

Indeed, 2014 had been another year of fits and starts for a White House that has struggled to find its footing in Obama's second term.

The feeble HealthCare.gov website stabilized, but scandal enveloped the Department of Veterans Affairs. Syria got rid of its chemical weapons, but a violent extremist group pulled the U.S. back into military conflict in the Middle East. The unemployment rate fell, but so did Obama's approval ratings — to the lowest levels of his presidency, worse than the second-term averages for most recent presidents.

"I don't care who you are, after eight years or six years of the presidency, your influence has eroded," said Robert Dallek, a historian who has met periodically with Obama. "Even someone like Eisenhower or Reagan, you just can't sustain it."

While White House officials acknowledge the presidency has challenges in its waning years, they said recent economic gains and executive actions on immigration and climate change show Obama still can exert considerable influence.

"This year the president's policy successes vastly outstripped his political successes," said Dan Pfeiffer, a senior White House adviser.

Nearly two dozen White House officials, former Obama aides, presidential historians and political analysts discussed Obama's standing as he closes his sixth year in office, some on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss their conversations with the president or his top advisers.

For much of the year, Obama appeared to struggle with the realization that his political standing had slipped.

He publicly complained about criticism of his foreign policy by pundits in Washington and New York (his private gripes were more colorful and profane).

Despite Democratic pleas to stay out of November's elections, he said his policies were indeed on the ballot. He desperately sought to break free of the confines of the White House.

One afternoon in June, he joined his chief of staff in making an impromptu Starbucks run on foot, leaving aides and reporters sprinting to catch up.

"Bear on the loose," the president's advisers jokingly said. They said it was good for his mood to break free from the bubble.

But there were also real concerns in the West Wing about his behavior. Not only was he trying to escape the ever-present press, but Obama was ordering his Secret Service detail to keep its distance.

In 2014, Obama also went back to war in the Middle East. Less than three years after the last American troops left Iraq, Obama sent U.S. forces back to train and assist the country's security forces in fighting Islamic State extremists. By fall, the U.S. was launching airstrikes against the militants in Iraq and Syria.

As he announced the strikes, Obama promised Americans this time would be different from the long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. No U.S. combat troops would on the ground, he said.

But he seemed to be trying to reassure himself as much as anyone else.

In public and in private, Obama appears to understand his presidency may end on a war footing. He's been reading "Redeployment," a collection of short stories about the Iraq war by former Marine Phil Klay. Shortly before Christmas, he made an unusual visit to a military base in New Jersey to thank troops and their families — and pledge to preserve hard-fought military gains abroad.

Obama is realistically optimistic about what he can get done over the next two years, advisers said. He wants to try tax reform and sees opportunities to accelerate growth and job creation with the economy on firmer footing. Aides have reached out to historians and political scientists to solicit ideas for Obama's next State of the Union address, including fresh ways to address income inequality.

"They have reasonable expectations," said Harvard political scientist Robert Putnam, who spoke with White House aides about income inequality before the election. "It is the sixth year, after all."

A big question hanging over the White House is how much Obama, whose charisma once charmed the world, can still shape the national debate.

"There's almost always a point of diminishing returns on a president's words," said Jeff Shesol, a former presidential speechwriter for Bill Clinton.

Indeed, the president is forging ahead as something of an isolated figure.

December's debate over keeping money flowing to the government showed Democrats in Congress won't hesitate to go their own way. In recent weeks, Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York has questioned the timing of Obama's 2010 health care law. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi pronounced herself "enormously disappointed" that Obama embraced a spending bill she saw as a GOP attempt at blackmail. And Sen. Bob Menendez, the outgoing Senate Foreign Affairs Committee chairman, began work with Republicans on new penalties against Iran — against Obama's wishes.

Inside the White House, Obama's tight inner circle of loyal advisers keeps shrinking.

The trio of political gurus who helped run his presidential campaigns — David Axelrod, Robert Gibbs and David Plouffe — have long since moved on. As has onetime chief of staff Rahm Emanuel, now the mayor of Chicago. Other long-time aides, including Pfeiffer and deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes, are said to be eyeing exits. Bringing in fresh talent is becoming a greater challenge. Obama may have to navigate this challenging phase of his presidency without a full stable of trusted advisers with whom he's comfortable.

Many Democratic operatives are also more interested in spots on Hillary Rodham Clinton's potential presidential campaign than joining an administration entering its twilight. In some instances, it has been hard for the White House to get prominent Democrats to publicly back Obama's policy decisions, particularly on foreign affairs, until they know Clinton's position.

Clinton is widely expected to announce a bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Obama is trying to branch out. He started keeping his version of a bucket list: the names of authors, business leaders, innovators and others he wants to bring to the White House for a private lunch or dinner. Some who have visited: inventor and business tycoon Elon Musk, historian Doris Kearns Goodwin and AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson, a major Republican donor.

Obama has opened up his social circle beyond a core group of friends from Chicago and his childhood in Hawaii.

He's become close to former NBA basketball player Alonzo Mourning, who has hosted fundraisers for Obama's presidential campaign. Former football player Ahmad Rashad, who dated senior presidential adviser Valerie Jarrett earlier this year, worked his way into the president's golf outings and joined the first family on vacation in the Florida Keys and Martha's Vineyard.

ESPN host Michael Wilbon, an occasional golf partner, said Obama displayed an astounding "ability to compartmentalize" amid the past year's frustrations.

"A lot of successful people have to have that, but not like the president," Wilbon said.

Obama admits to being distracted at times. Asked how much sports he watches on TV, the president told ESPN this month, "There are times I will admit at night, when I've got a really fat briefing book, where I might have the game on with the sound off."

Less than halfway through his presidency, Obama reflected on how being in office had left him "all dinged up."

The vaunted "hope" posters from his 2008 campaign are "all dog-eared and faded," he said at a fundraiser three years later.

He was searching for ways to re-create the energy of 2008. Heading into his final two years in the White House, that challenge is greater.

While Obama and his team talk a good game about opportunities ahead, they've been here before. Plunging into a new year full of energy and ideas, only to run smack into Washington gridlock.

Signs that Obama's presidency is closing are all around.

Within weeks, the race to replace him will begin in earnest. Democrats are lining up to endorse Clinton, though she's yet to declare her candidacy.

By spring, a committee of Obama friends and advisers will announce which city will host his presidential library. Honolulu, Chicago and New York are in contention.

People close to Obama said he is weighing what he will do when he leaves the White House at the relatively young age of 55. He is studying the paths his predecessors have taken and has expressed interest in working on both domestic and international issues. He is considering ways to expand mentoring programs he started for young black men in the U.S. and emerging leaders in Africa and Asia.

"He's going to have a very unique opportunity and ability to reach young people not only here but in other countries," said Jon Favreau, Obama's longtime speechwriter who left the White House last year.

It is less clear where Obama and his family will go after their time in the White House ends. They own a red-brick, Georgian-style home in Kenwood, a neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. Their oldest daughter, Malia, graduates from high school soon and has been looking at colleges in California. The president is said to be drawn to the idea that he could blend in more easily in bustling New York.

Obama is already imagining life with fewer restrictions.

Asked in a New Yorker interview earlier this year whether he would want to be a judge, Obama said that sounded a bit "too monastic."

"Particularly after having spent six years and what will be eight years in this bubble, I think I need to get outside a little bit more."

TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

Tuesday
Tall City Youth Calf Roping at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.
Moscow Ballet's "Great Russian Nutcracker," 7 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Wednesday
PDAP Annual Family New Year's Eve Celebration, 7 p.m.-midnight, Midland Center. pdapmidland.org.
New Year's Eve DJ Dance Party and Champagne Toast, 8 p.m.-midnight, El Cosmico in Marfa. elcosmico.com.

Wednesday and Thursday
Ultimate Calf Roping at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

Friday through Jan. 4
Tex-Mex Barrel Race at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

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

Support groups today

- Overeaters Anonymous, 4:30 p.m., B&J Plaza, 206 N. Midkiff Road, Suite 1-D; 553-1031.
- Alcoholics Anonymous — hotline 580-7868.
- Narcotics Anonymous — hotline 582-2926.

Hotel report for October

Hotel business (Taxable receipts) October 2014

Midland	$12,198,943
Odessa	$9,638,277
Abilene	$3,900,279
Lubbock	$9,354,993
San Angelo	$4,172,263
Midland in October 2013	$8,165,459
Midland in October 2012	$8,459,509
Midland in October 2011	$8,459,509

Top Midland hotels (total receipts)

DoubleTree by Hilton	$1,246,660
Hilton Garden Inn	$937,185
Grand Texan	$791,625
Residence Inn	$784,384
Midtown Hotel	$747,099
Homewood Suites	$602,858
Townplace Suites	$538,793
Sleep Inn	$549,889
Springhill Suites	$526,170
Candlewood Suites	$524,704
La Quinta (Wall)	$516,527
Holiday Inn Express (Loop)	$508,809
Holiday Inn Express (I-20)	$507,445
Courtyard by Marriott	$495,643
Best Western	$429,624
Hampton Inn and Suites	$396,363
La Quinta (Loop 250)	$388,546
Plaza Inn (Big Spring St.)	$372,600
Fairfield Inn	$314,817
Value Place	$304,636
Country Inn	$290,651
Comfort Inn-Midland	$283,715
Comfort Inn	$283,852
Baymont Inn and Suites	$262,621
Comfort Suites	$255,765
West Texas Inn and Suites	$234,480
Microtell Inn	$219,554
Studio 6	$172,810
Victorian Inn	$154,651
TravelOdge	$152,863
Best Value Inn	$144,212
America's Best Value Inn	$124,734
Super 8	$127,233
Days Inn	$118,680
Executive Inn	$117,032

Note: H B Rentals was listed with $152,985.

Have extra cardboard boxes?

Large 30-cubic yard open top containers:

- Midland Citizens Collection Station — 4100 Smith Road, 685-7275 — has recycling containers for cardboard, aluminum, paper and No. 1 and No. 2 plastics.
- Midland College (Chaparral Center) — 3200 N. Garfield Road — Cardboard, paper, aluminum and No. 1 and 2 plastics.
- Security Bank Ballpark west side — 5514 Champions Drive — Cardboard, No. 1 and 2 plastics.
- H-E-B — 3325 W. Wadley Ave. — No. 1 and 2 plastics and cardboard.
- Super Mercado — 2208 N. Big Spring St. — Cardboard.

There are also 3-cubic yard containers at most of the local elementary schools where you can recycle cardboard, paper and aluminum.

All recyclables can be taken to Butts Recycling Monday through Saturday. Butts Recycling is located at 26 West Industrial Loop.

For more information call Keep Midland Beautiful at 688-7745 or visit KMB's website at keepmidlandbeautiful.org.

Tree recycling

Cut Christmas trees may be dropped off at two recycling locations: Hogan Park behind the Texas National Guard Armory on Lamesa Road and the Citizens Collection Station, 4100 Smith Road.

Citizens Collection Station hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call Keep Midland Beautiful at 688-7745.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 1-7-9
Pick 3 day: 7-3-6
Pick 3 evening: 4-5-6
Pick 3 night: 0-1-7
Daily 4 morning: 0-5-5-2
Daily 4 day: 5-7-0-9
Daily 4 evening: 0-2-5-1
Daily 4 night: 0-3-4-9
Cash Five: 2-4-10-12-34
Lotto Texas: 31-32-39-42-44-51
Powerball: 7-10-11-14-36 PB: 15
Power Play: 2
All or Nothing morning: 4-5-6-7-10-11-12-13-19-21-22-23
All or Nothing day: 2-4-5-11-12-13-16-18-19-20-23-24
All or Nothing evening: 3-4-5-7-8-11-15-16-17-22-23-24
All or Nothing night: 2-3-4-6-7-10-11-13-18-19-20-22

Today in history

In 1945, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance.

Associated Press

On Dec. 16, Sam Rothberg, packing house supervisor for the Intervale Food Hub in Burlington, Vt., packs carrots into weekly deliveries of food produced by area farmers. Food hubs around the country are getting more fresh, locally produced food out to consumers and giving farmers another avenue for expanding their sales.

Food hubs link consumer, farms

By Lisa Rathke
Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Move over farmers' markets. More than 300 food hubs around the country are also providing small farms another outlet to sell locally raised food to consumers.

There's no one model for a food hub — it depends on the market, the location and what it is grown in that area. Some collect food from farms and dole it out to customers in weekly deliveries. Other hubs help consumers, restaurants, colleges and institutions to source food online. But producers, consumers and experts all say food hubs have an important thing in common: it's an efficient way to get locally raised food to those clamoring for it.

"We've seen in the last few years in particular as local and region food systems have grown and become not only larger but kind of more sophisticated that there has been a need for sort of the logistics of moving food from the field to the consumers. And food hubs kind of fill that space," said Doug O'Brien, deputy undersecretary for rural development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The agency spent about $25 million from 2009-2013 supporting food hubs.

The number of food hubs has doubled over the last six years, and many are in urban areas, with the Northeast leading the way. Some operate as nonprofits, others are for-profit or producer-consumer cooperatives. Some are modeled after CSAs, or community supported agriculture, where consumers pay up front for food throughout the season.

That's how the Intervale Food Hub in Burlington, Vermont, works, with 30 farms, 15 specialty producers and 1,100 members who pick up their weekly bundles at various sites around the city. The venture started in 2008 with just 192 members and 24 farms.

Legal secretary Betsy Bourbeau says the food hub's deliveries to her place of work are more convenient than shopping at farmers' markets and cuts down time at the store.

"I spend much less time looking at grocery sales, clipping coupons, driving around town and finding parking. I just bring home my food on Wednesday and figure out what to make," said Bourbeau, 50, who gets produce, bread, cheese, eggs and specialty items for about $38.50 a week — less than she would spend at a farmers' market.

For farmers, food hubs provide distribution, marketing and, in some cases, processing and storage.

Predicting what will sell at a farmers' market is a challenge, according to Ray Tyler of Rosecreek Farms in Selmer, Tennessee. By getting involved with the Bring It Food Hub in Memphis, Tyler can plan ahead for the next growing season, when the hub plans to double its membership to 400.

"Basically instead of us spending all this time on marketing, we can now spend more time doing what we love to do and that is growing great food," he said.

The emerging business model can be challenging, said Bring It Food Hub operations manager Alex Greene, because you have to cater to customers and be flexible with farmers, whose product is at the mercy of weather. Food hub leaders need "a sense of the end product" and have to learn the logistics, plus "managing the website, the online credit card system and other technical matters," Greene said.

To that end, the University of Vermont is starting in January what it says is the nation's first Food Hub Management Certificate Program.

"Many food hubs are up-and-coming businesses with staff who need further training or experience," Cynthia Belliveau, dean of Continuing and Distance Education, said in a news release. "High-quality staffing is one of the greatest challenges food hubs face, and it's also a key contributing factor to their success."

One of the two farmers' markets that Josephine and Randy Alexander of Tubby Creek Farm in Ashland, Mississippi, had planned on selling at fell through this year, but they were able to sell most of the extra produce to the food hub.

The Alexanders are currently planning ahead for their next season's food hub offerings — carrots, salad turnips and lettuce mix.

"It simplifies it a little bit for us and that way we can do more of those things that we do really well, in targeted way," she said.

DEMAND

From 1A

camps" have grown in size and scope, and housing developments are springing up in north and west Midland. Sales said that in conversations he's had with local Realtors and professionals the talk has been of a plateau and maybe a slight drawback but not a wholesale collapse.

"I think that (plateauing) is a good thing," Sale said. "I don't think that our local marketplace can survive continuing escalating prices over the next several years. So I think that it's really a good thing that maybe we flatten off for a while and catch up with buyer demand."

Through November median home prices in Midland have grown by more than 10 percent, while average prices have grown by nearly 13 percent. Over the last five years, median and average prices have grown by an average yearly rate of 8.2 percent and 9.1 percent respectively, according to figures compiled by the Reporter-Telegram from the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M.

Even during the global economic recession in 2008 and 2009, when housing markets in the US plummeted, 2009 was the only year that Midland's housing market retracted and even then it was only by 1 percent for median home prices and half a percent for average.

"Could our community take a breather for a little bit?" Sales said. "We have been running at a fast pace for the past couple of years and I think taking a little breather right now is healthy for our quality of life and sanity, frankly."

Sales does see some risk that the oil economics may hit Midland in the coming year, but he said that the strength of oil has given Midland's real estate stability in a time of uncertainty across the country. Rather than looking at the short-term losses, Sales said that he's in it for the long run.

"We're in the business to run a marathon, not a sprint. And over any marathon-sort of length of time, real estate here in Midland continues to appreciate in value and the marketplace continues to be strong," Sales said.

But as the economy begins to soften and those with property begin to feel the ripple effects, Sales said those who have been wise with their pocket books should weather any downturn fine.

"When times get a little bit tougher, we need to be wise," Sales said. "We need to be prudent and respectful with the gifts and the blessings that we've received."

HISTORY

From 1A

of $26.57 on Jan. 6 to a low of $10.42 on March 31, and only $12.78 by the end of June. Adjusted for inflation, the 52 percent January-June drop was about $27.

"I wish I could paint a rosy picture, but I'm a realist. This is my fourth downturn," said Oldham. "Everything's going to get pretty ugly. It'll take a couple of years for this to work itself out and get back on track."

In the first half of 1986, as in the second half of 2014, oil prices dropped by about half. But the 1980s bust lasted for years, and it wasn't until the early 1990s that prices began a halting recovery.

Texas, always the first to buff up when money pours out of oil fields, also has chronic bouts of pain from deep-diving oil prices, and now faces its third major slump since the one in the 1980s devastated the economy.

In the late 1990s, oil fell again because of financial turmoil in Asia.

And in 2008, crude prices cratered along with the global economy, down 75 percent from a record $145.29 a barrel on July 3, 2008 to $33.87 on Dec. 19, although a strong price recovery began early the next year.

This time around, economists, bankers, analysts and energy's financiers say the state is going to see thousands of job losses, billions less in capital investment, stunted economic growth and oil-company bankruptcies, depending on how long oil stays cheap.

At $55 a barrel, Texas could lose 128,000 jobs by the middle of 2015, even as other states that don't produce energy boost their payrolls by 1 million jobs next year, elevated by falling gasoline prices and greater purchasing power, according to Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas models of how oil prices affect U.S. job growth.

Rough road ahead

Across the planet, said Goldman Sachs, big oil companies may have to suspend up to $930 billion in oil projects. Analysts say 500 to 800 U.S. rigs may be sprung from the oil fields next year. And the highest-stakes credit markets, now heavily tied to the U.S. shale energy surge, are going through their biggest upheaval since the financial crisis six years ago.

In Texas, the economic factors that fueled the state's crash 30 years ago are eerily similar to the way things are now. About 11 percent of the gross state product is oil and gas, as it was in 1986, and 3.7 percent of Texas jobs were in oil and gas in 1985, as 2.7 percent are now, according to JPMorgan Chase & Co.

The state's $1.4 trillion economy pumped out 100 million barrels of oil a month this year, and the New York bank credits Texas with two-thirds of the growth in the U.S. shale-oil boom, which began in the previous decade when engineers figured out how to tap into long-trapped shale oil and gas reserves.

Texas' share of the nation's oil harvest has climbed from 25 percent to more than 40 percent over the past half-decade, giving it the most skin in the game as oil prices fall.

In 1986, the state's unemployment rate jumped to more than 9 percent, nearly 3 percentage points higher than the national rate at that time. Texas is in for another hard landing next year, JPMorgan said, and might even tumble into a statewide recession.

"There are some reasons to think that it may not be as bad this time around, but there are even better reasons not to be complacent about the risk of a regional recession in Texas," JPMorgan analyst Michael Feroli wrote in an economic research note last week.

Lower investments in the oil industry will slow and probably reverse growth in a sector of the economy that has been one of the biggest boosters of U.S. gross domestic product for four years. Spending on oil is expected to slow from $134 billion this year, after rising from about half that amount in 2009, to $122 billion in 2016, said Doug Handler, U.S. chief economist with research firm IHS Global Insight.

The state's housing market also sees big dips in home permits when U.S. crude prices fall sharply, and the current oil crush may hit the market as hard as it did in 1986 and in 2009, according to Barclays. In both years, housing permits trailed behind U.S. oil in sweeping downward arcs.

One of the things that will help Texas is that the expected fallout next year — the Dallas Fed's 128,000 projected job losses — accounts for just 1.1 percent of the state's total employment. That wouldn't be enough to slow Texas job growth to zero, as it is on track to add 390,000 jobs this year and added 295,000 in 2013, said Michael Plante, a senior research economist at the Dallas Fed.

'It won't sink the boat'

IHS Global Insight expects oil prices to remain low in 2015 but to begin cutting upward in 2016.

"This might take some wind out of the sails, but it won't sink the boat," said Karl Kuykendall, the firm's U.S. regional economist. "We're expecting it to have some downward pull on Texas, but we're not expecting it to be a repeat of the 1980s."

Since then, the elaborate financial system underpinning the state's oil industry has seen a seismic shift.

Only a few companies locked in prices for their oil production through financial hedging instruments, as many do now to protect against falling prices.

A change in the Texas constitution allowed big out-of-state banks to turn a patchwork of disconnected lenders into networks that trace their money to massive balance sheets in New York.

And Texas banks have shunned some of the loose lending practices of the 1980s. Now they don't tie loans to the wobbly value of drilling rigs. And they avoid what proved toxic for savings and loan banks and thrifts — making highly risky loans and participating in the same real estate developments they were lending to, a sort of double-dipping that had disastrous results.

"What was going on at that time was a wild and woolly, crazy thing," said James D'Agostino, former chief executive of Houston bank company Encore Bancshares. "The financial system was all in."

And it was the biggest domino to fall. But now, bigger banks are making more conservative loans, with more stringent rules.

But in this latest boom, oil companies have found a new source of eager money lenders.

Seven years ago, U.S. oil companies figured out how to tap into long-trapped oil and gas reserves in shale rocks, by combining horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, the process of blasting open deep-buried shale with payloads of water, chemicals and sand.

It's an expensive process that has prompted many oil companies to outspend their incomes so they can goose oil fast enough to overcome the steep production declines in shale basins. It's the only way for some companies to keep enough cash coming in to pay off the debt they're absorbing.

Time to 'buy low'

The Federal Reserve has kept interest rates low since the financial crisis, prompting investors to seek better returns by pumping more than $200 billion into higher-paying — but risky — low-grade corporate bonds for energy companies.

The oil price tumble has put those energy bonds on track for their worst year since the crisis, according to Barclays. Prices for the U.S. energy sector's high-yield debt instruments, known as junk bonds because they carry high risk for investors, have dropped nearly 20 percent since June.

"The whole credit spectrum has been experiencing a significant amount of shock," said Shaia Hosseinzadeh, a principal at investment firm WL Ross & Co.

Some see it as a time to buy. Even as oil companies begin to hunker down as Oldham's Parallel Petroleum did in 1986 — likely laying off contractors and staff members — Oldham is looking to get back into the game.

He and some friends are positioning themselves to "make some strategic acquisitions in this downturn," Oldham said.

"It's a perfect time to buy, because you've got to buy low."

ODDBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NEVADA

Goats help eat, recycle Christmas trees

RENO — Goats are known to eat just about anything, but it didn't dawn on Vince Thomas until recently that the menu might include Christmas trees.

"They'll eat the pine needles and leave the skeleton of the tree," said Thomas, a longtime volunteer firefighter who has come up with a new use for his family-owned goat herding business, "Goat Grazers."

"It basically looks like Charlie Brown's Christmas with a scrawny tree that has nothing but the branches," he told the Reno Gazette-Journal.

Thomas is launching a new program with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District on Friday to use his 40 goats to help recycle Christmas trees.

He said he got tired of watching people discard the trees in landfills or dump them on public property, where they became a fire danger.

"It was amazing to me to see how many Christmas trees people would just toss out there," he said.

Thomas said his goats have been used in the past to help graze in areas with fire-prone weeds along the Sierra's eastern front.

"We thought, 'What a great way to get rid of the weeds,'" he said. "We had the idea of doing just that with the recycling program and we thought about the trees.

"And the goats are great employees, they love their job and they don't complain."

Thomas said he noticed not long ago that no weeds were growing at his daughter's home in Spanish Springs northeast of Reno where she raises rabbits, pigs and goats.

"It was my daughter's goats. They ate every single weed in our yard," he said. He became curious and tossed a piece of pine tree to the goats, and they devoured it — pine needles and all.

"I did a lot of research on that, and it's OK for the goats," Thomas said. "With cattle and some of the other animals, it can cause miscarriages. But for goats, it's a natural dewormer, and pine is very high in vitamin C, so it's healthy for them."

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful is among a number of groups in the area that recycle trees and are glad to have the help from the goats.

"A lot of people dump it out on the desert and that's really a problem because people think it's a natural thing and it will decompose," said J Merriman, communications manager for the group that has been chopping recycled trees into mulch for 24 years. "But because we're out in the desert, they don't decompose, it will just get drier and drier and it really becomes a serious fire hazard."

CONNECTICUT

Police: Man was locking, not stealing from cars

NORWALK — It seemed an unlikely excuse from a man suspected of breaking into cars at an auto yard. But police say it appears a Norwalk man was being truthful when he insisted he was just checking the vehicles to make sure they were locked.

Employees at Coating's Auto Body caught 20-year-old Alexander Louis Friday and held him for police.

The Hour of Norwalk reported Louis told police he was simply making sure each car was locked and if he found one that wasn't, he would open the door and lock it.

Police reviewed security video and found his story seemed to check out. They could find no evidence of him going into any of the cars or stealing anything.

Louis isn't off the hook completely. He still faces a trespassing charge.

OREGON

Dog not gone: Rescue in the Columbia Gorge

PORTLAND — A yellow Labrador that got spooked on a Christmas Day hike in the Columbia Gorge, snapping her leash and plunging 150 feet down a cliff, was rescued in the dark by a climber who rappelled to a narrow ledge where the dog was trapped.

David Schelske of West Linn told the Oregon Humane Society that when 3-year-old Sandy bounded around a bend and disappeared he figured her for a goner.

He hiked to the bottom of the cliff and saw her stranded on a narrow ledge 70 feet above.

About 7 p.m., an eight-person crew helped Humane Society volunteer John Thoeni descend.

He fitted a rescue harness on the frightened dog, and the two were hoisted to safety. Sandy suffered minor injuries but walked out to the trailhead.

PENNSYLVANIA

3 special Christmas gifts for couple: Triplets

HERSHEY — A central Pennsylvania couple got three special gifts on Christmas: Triplets.

PennLive.com reported the babies arrived Thursday at a hospital in Hershey.

The newborns were two months early. They include a boy named Eoin and identical twin girls named Claire and Avaree.

Parents Courtney Stash and Justin Dwyer of Myerstown said twins run in both of their families. But Dwyer said he was overwhelmed when doctors told him about their trio.

Stash said the girls, who weigh more than 3 pounds each, had virtually no health problems at birth. The boy, who weighs more than 4 pounds, needed some oxygen assistance but is OK now.

NEW JERSEY

'Christmas Vacation' prank: Clark Griswold exit

CLARK — At least one "Christmas Vacation" fan was driving on New Jersey's Garden State Parkway Thursday.

Someone changed a sign for the highway's exit for Clark and Westfield to read "Clark Griswold."

Griswold is the father's character played by Chevy Chase in the Christmas cult classic.

State Police spokesman Sgt. Gregory Williams confirmed photos of the sign posted on social media are real.

Williams said the taped-on Griswold sign at the highway's exit 135 later was removed by the Turnpike Authority.

NEW JERSEY

Paws by Claus: Santa delivers for animal shelter

MADISON — Santa Claus went to work on Christmas Day for an animal shelter.

Santa delivered dogs and cats as presents for the St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center in Madison, NJ.com reported.

Shelter staffer Melissa Morgan donned the costume to deliver pets adopted this week by parents to doubly surprised children in the area. She took a box to the door of the Crescenzi family in Union, and 4-year-old Angelo ripped the wrapping paper off to reveal a black kitten inside.

"The only thing you have to do is love him forever," Morgan told him. "Can you do that?"

"Yeah!" yelled Angelo's 2-year-old brother, Giovanni.

The animal shelter said it permits adoptions only after one-on-one counseling with families to make sure they understand the responsibilities and can offer safe environments.

"This is a time of great warmth and family bonding," shelter CEO Heather Camissa said. "Why not add this extra bit of special?"

WASHINGTON

Man in a kayak helps nab suspected mail thief

SAMMAMISH — A fast-paddling good Samaritan in a kayak helped sheriff's deputies in Washington state nab a suspected Christmas mail thief.

Q13 reported deputies received multiple calls on Wednesday morning that a man and a woman were going through mailboxes around the town of Sammamish.

While deputies were on their way, residents spotted a car filled with mail and used their cars to block it in.

The suspected mail thieves ran off, and one was caught immediately. The other fled into a nearby pond with a kayak he grabbed out of a yard.

A resident grabbed his own kayak, caught up to the suspect and convinced him to return to shore, where he was arrested.

The sheriff's office said the suspect didn't get very far because he was using his hands to paddle.

LOUISIANA

Jack Daniels' son is Jim Beam

GRAY — A man named after whiskey has named his son for bourbon.

Thirty-one-year-old Jack Daniels Leathers of Gray said he and his 23-year-old wife, Lydia Leathers, chose the name well before their marriage.

He told The Courier they talked about baby names on their first date, and thought Jim Beam would be a good idea.

Jim Beam Leathers was born Nov. 14, turning grandparental pique into tradition. Jack Daniels Leathers said his parents named him to upset their parents.

He said that if they have another baby, a boy will be Evan Williams after the bourbon and a girl would be named Sherry.

The alcoholic names extended to the Terrebonne Parish judge who officiated at their wedding: Judge Johnny Walker.

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Death penalty states unmoved by botched execution

By Sean Murphy
Associated Press

McALESTER, Okla. — Oklahoma's last execution went so badly that the state tried to cancel it before it was over. With the inmate writhing while the lethal drugs seeped into his body, his executioners drew the viewing gallery curtains, concealing what the warden later described as "a bloody mess."

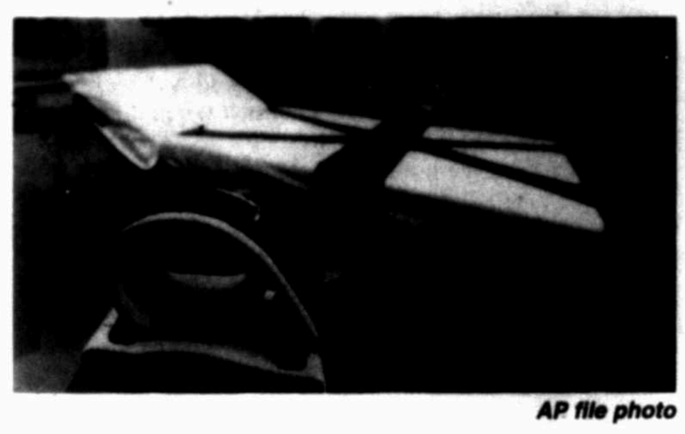
The botched execution of Clayton Lockett in April and other troubling ones this year in Ohio and Arizona gave capital punishment opponents a flicker of hope that areas of the country that most enthusiastically support the death penalty might have a change of heart.

They didn't.

Although Gov. Mary Fallin suspended further executions so that Lockett's death and Oklahoma's methods could be reviewed, the state held what amounted to a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its overhauled death chamber only months later and is scheduled to resume killing inmates in mid-January. And rather than causing states to question whether capital punishment is just or worth the risk of subjecting someone to a potentially agonizing death, the prolonged executions and problems states have had securing lethal injection drugs have led them to explore new, old and more efficient ways of killing, including gassing inmates.

"I think we had a little flash of hope that it would help our cause, but all it did was generate a lot of conversation about it," said Lydia Polley, a longtime member of the Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. "It just led to people thinking of better ways to kill them."

Lockett's execution did little or nothing to dampen support for the death penalty in deeply conservative Oklahoma, which has killed more inmates than any other state except Texas since the 1976 reinstatement of the death penalty. In October, officials gave media tours of the renovated execution unit at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary, which got a $104,000 overhaul after Lockett's death and now stands in sharp contrast to the rest of the shabby, 106-year-old facility.



AP file photo

This Oct. 9 file photo shows the gurney in the the execution chamber at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester, Okla. The botched execution of an Oklahoma inmate and others gave capital punishment opponents hope that pro-death penalty parts of the country might have a change of heart. They didn't.

Not content with just the upgrades to the prison and lethal injection equipment, though, Oklahoma's Republican-led House conducted a study on the use of nitrogen gas to execute inmates and is expected to consider legislation early next year that would make Oklahoma the first state to adopt hypoxia by gas — the forced deprivation of oxygen — as a legal execution method.

Other conservative states also are exploring alternatives to lethal injection because of the problems securing the drugs. U.S. states have had to buy made-to-order execution drugs from compounding pharmacies in recent years because the pharmaceutical companies they used to buy their drugs from refuse to sell them for use in lethal injections.

Tennessee passed a law this year to reinstate the electric chair if it can't get lethal injection drugs and Utah is considering bringing back the firing squad.

Oklahoma has executed 194 inmates since achieving statehood in 1907, including one by hanging, 82 by electrocution and 111 by lethal injection, according to state prison records. But the use of the death penalty was common in the territory long before that. U.S. District Judge Isaac Parker, who operated out of nearby Fort Smith, earned a reputation as the "Hanging Judge" of the old West and presided over certain crimes committed in Indian territory.

"To me it's a reflection of our frontier culture," said Oklahoma historian Bob Blackburn. "Violence is a part of frontier culture, and vigilante justice has always been a strong element of our history."

Ralph Shortey, a Republican state senator from Oklahoma City who is pushing for Oklahoma to adopt alternative execution methods to lethal injection, estimates that 90 percent of his constituents strongly support the death penalty, despite what happened to Lockett.

"The average Oklahoman is saying he got exactly what he deserves," Shortey said. "A lot of people think they should suffer even more than they do. They think the lethal injection is too easy for them."

Oklahoma prison officials say they've secured the drugs they need to execute the next four inmates — the first is scheduled for Jan. 15 — unless a federal appeals court stands in their way. The inmates are trying to stop their executions, arguing that the state would essentially be experimenting on them by injecting them with unproven and untested drugs and violating the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

"Just because you say you've renovated the execution chamber, doesn't mean a judge will be satisfied that you've identified the problems and have a strong guarantee they won't happen again," said Richard Dieter, the director of the Death Penalty Information Center, a Washington-based advocacy group that opposes capital punishment. "They may be optimistic about being able to go forward, but I think there are still a lot of questions out there."

AP-Times Square poll: Most Americans feeling good about 2015

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans are closing out 2014 on an optimistic note, according to a new Associated Press-Times Square Alliance poll. Nearly half predict that 2015 will be a better year for them than 2014 was, while only 1 in 10 think it will be worse. There's room for improvement: Americans give the year gone by a resounding "meh."

What Americans thought of 2014:

Gains at home, slips abroad

On a personal level, about a third (34 percent) think 2014 was better than 2013, while 15 percent say 2014 was worse and half see little difference. Slightly fewer feel their year was a step down from the previous one than said so in 2013, when an AP-Times Square poll found 20 percent thought 2013 was worse than 2012.

Americans are slightly more likely than they were a year ago to believe that the current year was better than the last for the United States— 30 percent say so this year, while 25 percent said so in 2013. On the other hand, Americans are more likely than in the 2013 poll to say this year was worse than last for the world as a whole, with 38 percent saying so now after 30 percent said so a year ago.

Three stories share top spot

Americans are divided on the most important news event of 2014, with the rise of the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, protests over the killings of black men including Michael Brown and Eric Garner by police officers, and the Ebola outbreak each named by about 1 in 10 Americans. In a separate Associated Press survey of news directors and editors, the killings of unarmed men by police stand out more clearly as the top story, with 22 of 85 respondents choosing it as the top news, about twice as many as the Islamic State or Ebola stories.

Among the public, Democrats are most likely to name the unrest over Brown and Garner's deaths as most important (14 percent), while Republicans are most likely to list the rise of the Islamic State (16 percent). Non-whites are more apt to cite the protests around Brown and Garner's deaths than whites (14 percent among non-whites, 8 percent among whites). The poll was conducted before the shooting deaths of two New York City police officers by a man who threatened retaliation for the police killings of unarmed black men.

Asked separately to rate the importance of 10 key stories, majorities call the expansion of the Islamic State militant group, the Ebola outbreak and the U.S. midterm elections extremely or very important stories. Nearly half rate immigration as that important, while 43 percent say so of the Michael Brown and Eric Garner stories. Only a third think the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, the situation between Russia and Ukraine, or the rising number of states with legal same-sex marriage were deeply important stories.

The year in pop culture

Few Americans rate this year's crop of pop culture events as memorable, with one big exception: The death of Robin Williams, and the ensuing discussion of mental health issues. About two-thirds call that a memorable event.

Slightly more say it was more memorable (39 percent) than forgettable (34 percent) that CVS stopped selling cigarettes, and they're divided equally on whether the ubiquitous ice bucket challenge was memorable (37 percent) or forgettable (37 percent). Thirty percent say the pitching performance of Mo'ne Davis, the first female pitcher to win a Little League World Series game, was memorable, while 41 percent say it was forgettable. Women are more likely than men to see Davis's performance as memorable, 33 percent of women say so versus 26 percent of men.

Another sports first: Michael Sam becoming the first openly gay player drafted into the NFL, is rated forgettable by about half.

Events rating as forgettable by a majority of Americans include the leak of hacked celebrity photos on Reddit, Ellen DeGeneres's selfie at the Oscars, Taylor Swift going pop, and the marriages of George and Amal Clooney and Kim Kardashian and Kanye West.

Ringing in the new year

About half of Americans plan to celebrate New Year's Eve at home this year, while 2 in 10 say they'll do so at a friend or family member's home. Fewer than 1 in 10 plan to celebrate at a bar, restaurant or organized event, while about a quarter don't plan to celebrate at all.

Six in 10 Americans plan to watch the televised New Year's Eve events in Times Square, including two-thirds of women and over half of men.

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Chattanooga touts transformation into Gig City

By Erik Schelzig
Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — A city once infamous for the smoke-belching foundries that blanketed its buildings and streets with a heavy layer of soot is turning to lightning-fast Internet speeds to try to transform itself into a vibrant tech hub.

Through a combination of political will and federal stimulus money, 175-year-old Chattanooga became the first U.S. city to broadly offer a gigabit per second internet speeds — nearly 50 times the national broadband average.

Whether that's enough to turn a modest southern city into a mini Silicon Valley remains to be seen, but local leaders are betting they've positioned themselves well for what lies ahead in the global economy.

"This is an old town with a new vision," said Aaron Welch, who became a hero of the emerging tech scene when he sold his app that reserves specific tables at restaurants to a rival for $11.5 million.

Other startups migrating to the "Gig City" to tap into the government-owned broadband network include 3D Ops, which converts MRI or CT scans into anatomical replicas to help doctors prepare for surgeries; shoemaker Peetz, which makes custom footwear using 3D printing technology; and moving service Bellhops, which coordinates the logistics of managing 8,000 college student contractors nationwide.

The nascent tech scene is the latest development in Chattanooga's decades-long effort to reinvent itself after a 1969 federal study called it the most polluted U.S. city.

A downtown revival over the last two decades was anchored by the Tennessee Aquarium and a $120 million redevelopment of the Tennessee River waterfront. German automaker Volkswagen in 2008 cited the city's turnaround in its decision to build a $1 billion assembly plant on the site of a former TNT plant.

The city inaugurated its fiber optic network — with a $111 million boost from the 2009 federal stimulus package — even as larger cities like Atlanta and Nashville wait for private providers like AT&T and Google to roll out comparable service.

AP file photo

In this Nov. 17 photo, tech entrepreneur Aaron Welch poses in front of a bank of television screens in the conference room of Luken Communications in Chattanooga, Tenn. Welch is one of the early success stories of Chattanooga's focus on fostering the digital economy. Welch's restaurant reservation app called Quickcue sold to Open Table for $11.5 million in 2013.

"We're at a pivotal time in the relationship between cities and communications networks," said Susan Crawford, a professor at Harvard Law School who has written extensively about the power of Internet providers. "And there are mayors all over the country who are watching Chattanooga with envy and wishing and planning for fiber optic networks of their own."

While commercial providers pick and choose which neighborhoods to serve, Chattanooga's network covers the city.

"The whole point is that you want everyone to have this capacity, and not to leave anyone behind," said Crawford.

Chattanooga's fiber network grew out of efforts to install a smart electric grid in a city where tornados and ice storms have caused serious power outages. During the upgrade, the Electric Power Board, or EPB, also issued $226 million in bonds to help fund a fiber optic network, hoping the super fast phone and Internet service would attract new business.

According to the Federal Communications Commission, the average broadband speed in 2013 was 21.2 megabits per second. A gigabit equals 1,000 megabits.

"Our competitors have said things like, 'Oh, nobody needs a gig,'" EPB's president and CEO Harold DePriest said at a recent tech forum in a converted downtown church. "That's absolutely true. But how many of us need color TV? We have color TV because we want color TVs.

"And in America we have this unique way of making wants into needs," he said.

The fiber network has upload speeds matching downloads, bringing near real-time transfer of information between high-bandwidth users. It let musicians T Bone Burnett in Los Angeles and Chuck Mead in Chattanooga play a live concert together while thousands of miles apart in December 2013.

Jonathan Taplin, director of the Annenberg Innovation Lab at the University of Southern California, which helped organize the concert, said entertainment executives might be intrigued.

James Cameron, director of the movies "Avatar" and "Titanic," wants to make films at double the current ultra-high definition 4K standard, Taplin said. The 500 megabits per second needed would be out of reach for most, but Chattanooga's fiber customers "could handle that today."

The municipal network has been criticized for unfairly crowding out private providers.

"EPB's entire network is propped up on the backs of ratepayers and taxpayers," said Justin Owen, head of the Beacon Center of Tennessee, a conservative think tank.

Mayor Andy Berke counters that the city had no other option.

"No one was begging to come to Chattanooga to put up a fiber optic network," he said.

EPB initially charged $350 a month for the gigabyte speed, but has slashed that to $70, driving subscriptions from fewer than 100 to more than 4,700. Another 55,000 residential customers get the cheaper 100-megabyte service.

Tech startup guru Sheldon Grizzle founded The Company Lab to hold tech competitions and mentorship programs that take advantage of the city's internet capacity — and to connect entrepreneurs with investors. They included Welch, who first hashed out his reservation app idea in one of the lab's 48-hour startup competitions.

Grizzle in 2011 persuaded Welch to quit his day job by helping land a $65,000 investment in his company, Quickcue, which was sold to reservation giant Open Table in 2013. Welch went on to found Iron Gaming, which hosts competitions for gamers, and is working on creating a television network for computer geeks.

But Welch said developers still struggle to lure financial backers in a city long associated with heavy industry, the Chattanooga Choo-Choo and the country's first Coca-Cola bottling plant — though there are signs that venture capitalists in cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles might finally be paying attention.

"Now, it's like 'Oh, yeah, they have that really forward-looking, advanced infrastructure,'" Grizzle said.

Other cities, including Austin; Santa Monica, California; and Kansas City, are coming online with their own fiber networks, while several others have plans to build them. Berke sees that as a good thing for his city.

"If nobody else has it, there's nothing for us to develop that will work elsewhere," he said. "So it's essential that more cities get this."

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Rallies for and against police held across nation

Associated Press

The killings of two unarmed blacks by white police officers in Missouri and New York this summer touched off protests and a national debate over police conduct that intensified after grand juries refused to indict the officers.

Tensions escalated further after two New York City police officers were killed a week ago by a man who suggested in online posts that their deaths were in retaliation for the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner in New York City. The gunman committed suicide.

Some key developments in the aftermath of the tragedies:

Slain officers funeral

Vice President Joe Biden and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio spoke Saturday at the funeral for Officer Rafael Ramos, who was shot to death a week ago along with his partner. Thousands of officers from across the nation packed a church and spilled onto streets to honor Ramos.

De Blasio has been criticized by the police union for his handling of protests in the wake of Garner's death and the subsequent grand jury decision. Mourners inside the church applauded politely as de Blasio spoke, but hundreds of officers outside turned their backs on giant screens showing the mayor.

Funeral plans for Ramos' partner, Officer Wenjian Liu, have yet to be announced.

Rallies supporting police

A "Sea of Blue" demonstration Saturday in downtown Cleveland drew several thousand people, a surprise to area police dispatcher Mary Jo Graves, who created the event and promoted it with a Facebook page. Many in the crowd wore blue as requested, walking silently from Public Square to a police memorial park to honor Ramos.

Cleveland has seen a number of anti-police protests recently, some prompted by the Nov. 21 fatal shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, who was holding a pellet gun when a police car responded to a report of a man with a gun.

Elsewhere, more than 200 people gathered in downtown Denver to support police officers Saturday. The day before, 50 people turned out for a "Blue Lives Matter Too" rally in Dubuque, Iowa, and another 200 gathered in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Rallies critical of police

About 200 people attended a rally Saturday in Chicago with the Rev. Jesse Jackson, including many who came from Milwaukee to protest the April death of a black man who was shot by a white officer.

Former Milwaukee officer Christopher Manney shot Dontre Hamilton 14 times in a downtown park. Manney was fired in October for ignoring department policy, but the county district attorney announced Monday that he would not file charges because he said Manney acted in self-defense.

Hamilton's family members, who attended the rally, have said the 31-year-old suffered from schizophrenia. Jackson told the crowd, "We cannot stand by and let this happen without saying something." Federal investigators have said they'll look into the shooting.

Protester charged with arson

A protester who advocated for peaceful demonstrations in Ferguson was charged Saturday with setting fire to a convenience store in a neighboring suburb.

A St. Louis County jail official said Joshua Williams, 19, of St. Louis, was being held on $30,000 bond. He is charged with arson, second-degree burglary and stealing less than $500.

Williams, who was frequently quoted and photographed protesting Michael Brown's death, is accused of using lighter fluid to set multiple fires inside and outside a QuikTrip in Berkeley. Court records said Williams confessed in a videotaped interview, and that his actions were captured by surveillance video and by news media.

The QuikTrip was looted after a white Berkeley police officer shot and killed Antonio Martin, a black 18-year-old, late Tuesday at a nearby gas station. Separate surveillance footage appeared to show that before the shooting, Martin pulled a gun on the unidentified 34-year-old officer.

NYC officer mourned at funeral as tensions linger

By Jonathan Lemke and Mike Balsamo
Associated Press

John Minchillo/AP

Police officers hold hands in prayer during the funeral service of New York City police officer Rafael Ramos in the Glendale section of Queens on Saturday in New York. Ramos and his partner, officer Wenjian Liu, were killed Dec. 20 as they sat in their patrol car on a Brooklyn street. The shooter, Ismaaiyl Brinsley, later killed himself.

NEW YORK — Thousands of police officers from across the nation packed a church and spilled onto streets Saturday to honor Officer Rafael Ramos as a devoted family man, aspiring chaplain and hero, though an air of unrest surrounding his ambush shooting was not completely pushed aside.

While mourners inside the church applauded politely as Mayor Bill de Blasio spoke, hundreds of officers outside turned their backs on him in a show of disrespect for what they see as his support for anti-police protesters.

The rush of officers far and wide to New York for Ramos' funeral reminded some of the bond after the Sept. 11 attacks and Superstorm Sandy. Vice President Joe Biden promised that the "incredibly diverse city can and will show the nation how to bridge any divide."

Still, tensions were evident when officers turned away from giant screens showing de Blasio, who has been harshly criticized by New York Police Department union officials as a contributor to a climate of mistrust that preceded the killings of Ramos and his partner, Wenjian Liu.

Sgt. Myron Joseph of the New Rochelle Police Department said he and fellow officers turned their backs spontaneously to "support our brothers in the NYPD."

In a statement, de Blasio's spokesman said: "The Ramos and Liu families, our police department and our city are dealing with an unconscionable tragedy. Our sole focus is unifying this city and honoring the lives of our two police officers."

The NYPD said through its public relations office that it had no comment.

In his eulogy, de Blasio said hearts citywide were broken after the Dec. 20 shootings.

"All of this city is grieving and grieving for so many reasons," de Blasio said. "But the most personal is that we've lost such a good man, and the family is in such pain."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo praised the sea of blue mourners for their professionalism at recent rallies over police conduct when protesters insulted them, and Biden spoke passionately about the effects of the officers' deaths.

"When an assassin's bullet targeted two officers, it targeted this city and it touched the soul of an entire nation," the vice president said.

Police union officials in contentious contract negotiations with the city have faulted de Blasio for showing sympathy to protesters angry over the police deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner on Staten Island.

At a hospital after the officers' slayings, the police union's president, Patrick Lynch, and others turned their backs on de Blasio. Lynch said the mayor had "blood on his hands."

After the funeral, Lynch and de Blasio exchanged nods as they exited the church. Lynch refused to answer reporters' questions about officers turning their backs.

Weeks before the shooting, Lynch had suggested officers sign a petition requesting that the mayor not attend their funerals were they to die in the line of duty.

Soon after taking office this year, de Blasio dropped the city's opposition to a judge's finding that the police department discriminated against minorities with its anti-crime stop-and-frisk tactics.

But since last week's shootings, de Blasio has stood firmly by police, calling on demonstrators to temporarily halt protests and praising the department after it arrested several men charged with threatening police.

The killings shook the city and put an end to large-scale local protests criticizing police over the high-profile, in-custody deaths.

When the Ramos family arrived at church Saturday, the elder son — wearing his father's NYPD jacket — was hugged by a police officer.

Ramos, a 40-year-old, married father of two, was studying to become a pastor and kept Bible study books in his locker, his commanding officer said.

Police Commissioner William Bratton said Ramos had been made honorary chaplain of the police precinct where he had worked.

Bratton said in his eulogy that Ramos and Liu would be "partners for all time." Speaking to Ramos' children, he said: "We are here because your dad was assassinated. It's a different word than 'murdered.' It makes the crime intentional and symbolic. Your dad was assassinated because he represented something."

Officer Dustin Lindaman of the Waterloo Police Department flew from Iowa to attend the funeral.

"He's one of our brothers, and when this happens, it affects everyone in law enforcement — it absolutely affects everyone," he said.

A block from the church, retired NYPD Officer John Mangan held a sign that read: "God Bless the NYPD. Dump de Blasio."

"If the mayor really wanted to do the right thing, he would have gotten into an NYPD car and rode around Bed Stuy and see the difficult jobs these cops do every day," Mangan said.

After the officers' deaths, the gunman, Ismaaiyl Brinsley killed himself. Police said he was troubled and had shot and wounded an ex-girlfriend in Baltimore earlier that day.

In online posts shortly before the attack, Brinsley referenced the killings of Brown and Garner, both of whom were black, by white police officers.

Ramos and Liu were the first officers to die in the line of duty in New York since 2011. Funeral plans for Liu haven't been announced.

They have both been posthumously promoted to first-grade detective.

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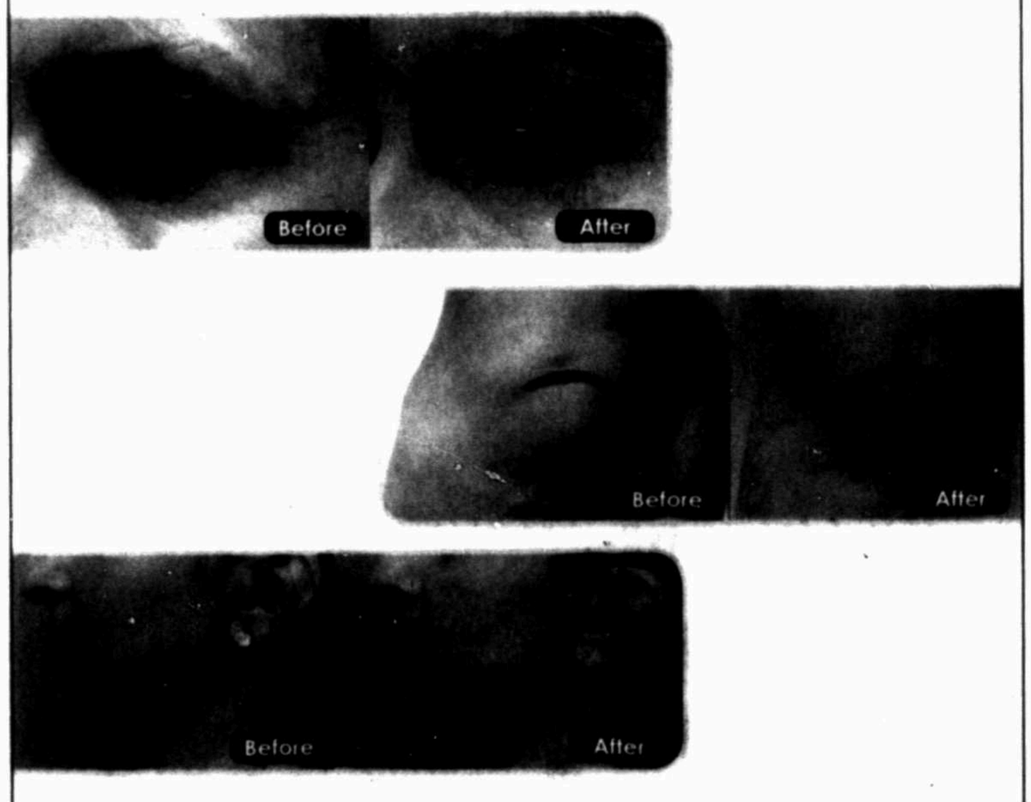

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Flying high: Airstream can't keep up with demand

By Mitch Stacy
Associated Press

JACKSON CENTER, Ohio — Bob Wheeler still gets the question sometimes when people find out he runs the company that builds those shiny aluminum campers: "Airstreams? They still make those?"

Not only are the retro-looking "silver bullet" travel-trailers still being built by hand at the same western Ohio site that has produced them for 60 years, but the company also can't roll them out of there fast enough to meet the demand these days.

The instantly recognizable silver bubble design — inspired by airplane fuselages — hasn't been tweaked much since the first Airstreams took to the open road in the 1930s on the way to becoming an American icon. The polished campers have cameoed in Hollywood movies and even quarantined the Apollo 11 astronauts when they got back from the moon. They have also inspired a legion of devotees who socialize with one another at Airstream caravans and rallies all over the world — including an annual Ohio jamboree known as "Alumapalooza."

"Any time we've seen an Airstream, it's like the clouds part and an angelic choir starts singing," said Cliff Garinn, a 49-year-old college career counselor from Dallas. He and his husband bought a new one in April and are already trading up to a larger model for frequent weekend camping trips and summer vacation.

Airstream builds 50 travel-trailers every week at the plant in Jackson Center, all gleaming and aerodynamic and riveted by hand. The backlog is about three months, and ground has already been broken on a major expansion at the factory north of Dayton that eventually will increase production capacity by 50 percent.

The RV industry was dealt a body blow by the Great Recession but has rebounded with gusto. Shipments in 2014 are expected to be up more than 8 percent, following the best October in the industry in nearly 40 years. Production next year is expected to return to levels seen before the economy tanked.

AP file photo

In this Oct. 22 photo, Airstream travel trailers line the factory floor as they are assembled at the Airstream factory in Jackson Center, Ohio. Not only are the Airstream trailers still being built by hand at the same western Ohio site that has produced them for the past 60 years, but the company also can't roll them out of there fast enough to meet the demand these days.

Airstream — owned by the larger Indiana-based RV maker Thor Industries — is riding the wave, surging with three record years in a row. Wheeler said shipments are now about twice what they were during the best days before the recession.

Besides a better economy, Airstream is benefiting from a big bubble of baby boomers, many now choosing not to wait until their 60s to buy one, and a new wave of desire for the classic designs of America's yesteryear — even if they command top dollar. New Airstreams run from $42,000 to $140,000.

"For us, the Airstream just represented this beautiful piece of machinery, this beautiful design that other trailers and RVs don't give you," said 46-year-old Kate Gilbert. She and her husband, Iain, sold their house in San Diego this year and now live full time in their 27-foot solar panel-equipped Airstream, traveling the country.

Tara Cox, a 40-year-old magazine editor who wrote a book called "Airstream: The Silver RV," notes the fandom bordering on fanaticism that the trailers inspire, besides the fact that they cost more than other RVs, usually have less storage space and require more maintenance to keep the outside looking nice. She compares Airstream owners with Harley-Davidson riders who baby their bikes.

"It's that labor of love," she says.

Baby boomers are still the heart of the demographic, but the company is actively reaching out to younger people, using social media to show them how an Airstream could fit their lifestyles. It's also testing less-expensive, lighter and easier-to-tow designs that Wheeler said might be "less intimidating" to younger buyers.

Airstream got an injection of hip recently when it collaborated with the Columbus College of Art and Design to plan and build a camper with a workspace and living area aimed at people in their 20s and 30s whose jobs allow them to work from anywhere. The company said the design elements — including a rear hatch that opens the convertible work area to the great outdoors — will be incorporated into future production models.

Meggin Hurlburt, a 34-year-old paralegal from San Diego, said the Airstream purchase was an investment in her family. She's married with a 6-year-old son. She said the vintage look and the reputation for durability drew them in, even with the $70,000-plus price tag.

"We didn't want to wait until we were retired because we wanted to enjoy it now," she said. "It's not like the white box trailer that's going to fall apart in 10 years. We bought this knowing we can give it to our son, and maybe he can give it to his children."

Things to know about the enduring Airstream

The western Ohio plant that builds Airstream travel-trailers is seeing such hot demand that there's a three-month backlog on orders, and ground has been broken on a major expansion that will increase production capacity. Some factoids about the Airstream:

Way back when

Wally Byam built the first Airstream trailer as a tent contraption on a Model T chassis, eventually replacing the tent with a teardrop-shaped permanent shelter. The riveted aluminum, aviation-inspired design emerged in the 1930s and hasn't been tweaked greatly since then. Since 1952, they've been built at a factory in Jackson Center, Ohio, north of Dayton. Byam would spend much of the rest of his life leading Airstream caravans around the world.

Lots of fans

Airstream owners are enthusiastic, loyal and love to hang out with one another. Organized chapters of the owners association — called the Wally Byam Caravan Club International — put together rallies around the world and stay in touch through active message boards and social media. An annual camping event at the Ohio factory sponsored by Airstream Life magazine draws 120 to 150 units. It's called "Alumapalooza."

NASA's favorite

The first stop for Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins when they got back from the moon in 1969 was a modified Airstream trailer. They were quarantined until doctors cleared them from any harmful germs they might have brought back from space. President Richard Nixon congratulated the astronauts from the window. A drivable Airstream RV shuttled astronauts to the launch pad for years.

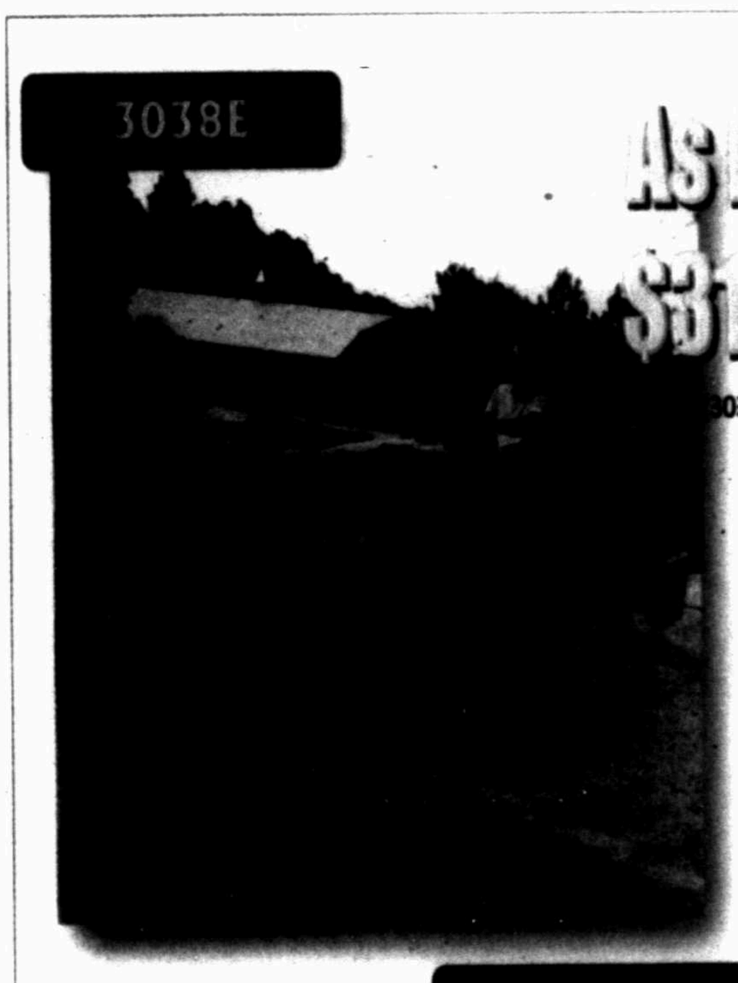
On the big screen

Airstream trailers have been a part of American culture for decades, so naturally they've rolled through dozens of Hollywood movies and TV shows, ranging from "Raising Arizona" and "Independence Day" to "What's Eating Gilbert Grape." Matthew McConaughey spent a month on the road in his Airstream promoting his 2005 movie "Sahara." He told Architectural Digest his home on wheels was "a beautiful piece of art."

Airstream ranch

An RV dealer named Frank Bates buried eight Airstream trailers halfway in the ground alongside Interstate 4 just outside of Tampa, Florida, in 2007. Known as Airstream Ranch, the "sculpture" has survived despite a legal battle over local government efforts to get rid of it. Some people call it art. Some people call it an eyesore. It's definitely become a tourist attraction.

Sources: Airstream: "Airstream: The Silver RV," by Tara Cox; Wanderlust: Airstream at 75," by Russ Banham.



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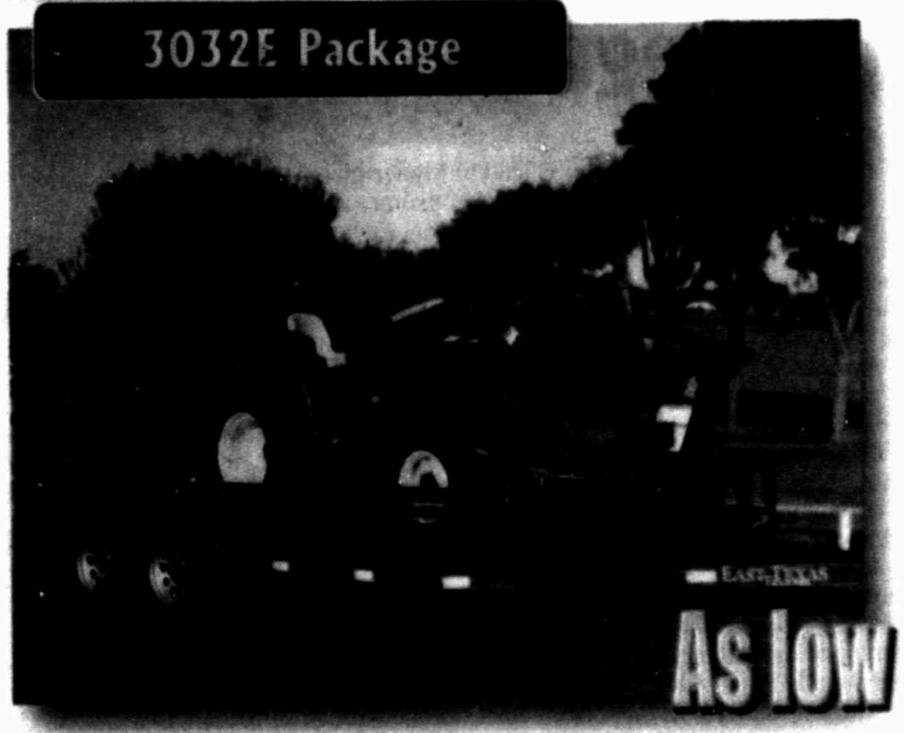

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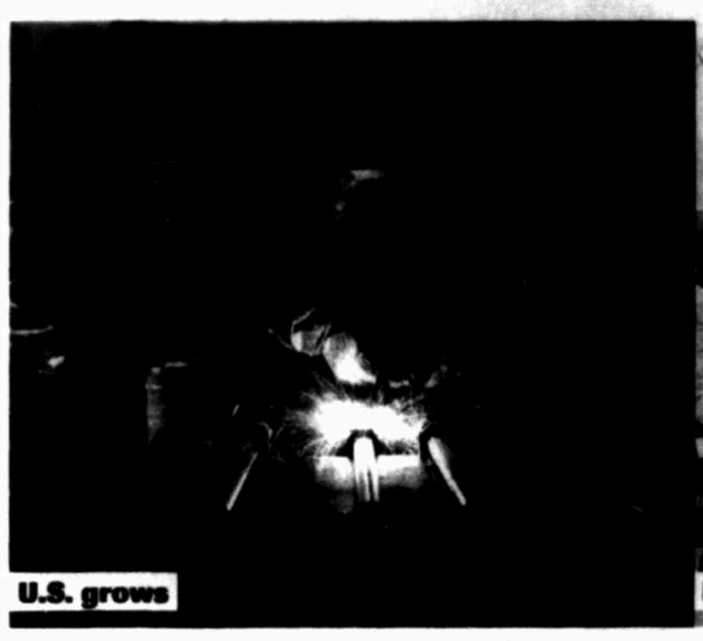
THE YEAR THAT WAS


U.S. grows

Mobile momentum

Stocks soar

Top business stories of 2014: US grows; world slows

By Tali Arbel
Associated Press

NEW YORK — This year showed how sheltered the U.S. economy is from geopolitical and health crises around the world. The global economy sputtered, but the U.S. powered ahead. Employers are finally hiring enough to lower unemployment. A plunge in gas prices and a rising stock market has Americans feeling richer and spending a bit more.

Those are some of the top business stories of 2014, as chosen by business editors at The Associated Press. Others include massive product disasters: A string of auto recalls after faulty ignition switches from General Motors Corp. and air bags in many car models caused injuries and deaths. Hackers stole personal information from millions of people in a wave of breaches at stores, banks, a movie studio and other organizations.

We're also becoming increasingly dependent on our phones and tablets, using them to communicate, play and pay.

Janet Yellen became the first woman to head the Federal Reserve and U.S. workers won higher pay as cities and states across the country raise the minimum hourly wage.

Corporate deal-making was also in the spotlight. Companies acquired each other at a level not seen since 2007, the year the Great Recession began, while a burst of businesses went public.

The top 10 business stories of 2014:

1. U.S. grows as world slows: After a freezing winter put a chill on buying and selling, the U.S. economy has posted its best six months since 2003. But the rest of the world hasn't been as lucky. Japan has fallen back into recession. The 18 countries that make up the eurozone are barely growing and fear a dangerous drop in prices. Major developing nations aren't faring much better. China's growth has dropped to a five-year low of 7.3 percent. Western sanctions and dropping oil prices have decimated Russia's currency. Brazil just edged out of recession. What's helped the U.S. is its relative insulation. American consumers, not exports, are the main drivers of the world's largest economy.

2. Jobs are back: Millions of Americans still struggle with low pay and fewer hours of work than they want, and millions have given up looking for a job entirely. But five years after the recession ended, the U.S. job market is looking healthy. The unemployment rate is below 6 percent. Employers added nearly 3 million jobs, the most since 1999, as shoppers and businesses spend more. As a result, the Federal Reserve ended its recession-era stimulus program in October and is edging closer to lifting interest rates. The Fed has kept rates near zero since 2008 to spur lending and investment.

3. Security breaches: The theft of 40 million credit and debit cards and 70 million personal records from Target last fall turned out to be just the beginning. Home Depot Inc. hackers nabbed 56 million cards and 53 million email addresses. There were breaches at Kmart, Dairy Queen, and Albertsons. JPMorgan Chase & Co. said hackers stole information covering 76 million households and 7 million small businesses. Sony employees' private information and emails were posted online. The consequences? Sony Pictures Entertainment canceled the mass release of "The Interview," a comedy about assassinating the North Korean leader, after hackers threatened to attack movie theaters. Target Corp. replaced top executives. Shops, card companies and banks sped up card security improvements.

4. Oil plunge: Global crude prices have fallen to around $56 per barrel from this year's high of $115 because of more production, especially in the U.S., while slowing economies in Europe and Asia crimp demand. A rapid decline in the second half of the year pushed gasoline to about $2.30 a gallon in the U.S., the lowest price in nearly five years. Americans are pocketing $15.4 billion more a month than when gas was at its 2014 high of $3.70. Cheaper crude is also pumping up auto sales and saving airlines money on jet fuel. But drilling could slow in North Dakota's new boomtowns and other regions, hurting businesses that have cropped up. And governments in energy producers Russia, Venezuela and Iran are being squeezed, increasing the likelihood of political upheaval.

5. Auto recalls: In the U.S. alone, automakers recalled more than 60 million cars and trucks. That far surpasses the previous record of 30.8 million in 2004. The bulk of those come from two problems that have led to nearly 50 deaths and dozens of injuries. Japanese air bag supplier Takata, whose air bags can inflate too fast and spew shrapnel, has fought regulators' demands to expand recalls. And GM was fined the maximum $35 million by U.S. safety regulators for dragging its feet — for a decade — over replacing faulty switches that can shut down car engines. The U.S. Justice Department is investigating both companies.

6. Mobile momentum: PC sales are slumping, but mobile phone subscriptions are expected to reach 7 billion this year — the same as the world's population. Phone makers are launching cheaper smartphones aimed at developing countries, which could get billions more people online. Already, more than a billion people check Facebook on their phones and tablets. The social media giant spent $22 billion on a phone messaging app, WhatsApp. Uber, a hail-a-cab app, is valued at $40 billion. Apple Inc., the iPhone and iPad maker, launched a payment system that sidesteps cash and plastic.

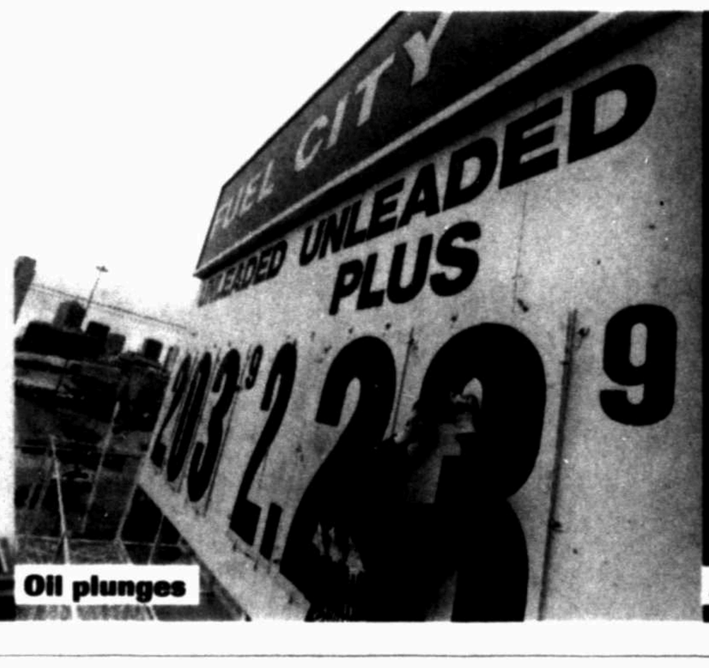
7. Stock markets soar: Another year, another record. The end of the Federal Reserve's bond-buying stimulus program stressed investors this fall, but U.S. stocks kept rising, extending the bull market run to nearly six years. More companies acquired each other and big companies bought up more than $400 billion of their own stock, helping to put the Standard & Poor's 500 index on pace for a 13 percent gain in 2014. And despite the end of the Fed's bond purchases, which was expected to weigh on markets, bond prices rallied and rates dropped.

8. Minimum wage growth: Inequality has been rising, and median household incomes have fallen since the recession began in late 2007. But the federal minimum hourly wage has remained at $7.25 since 2009. Labor organizers, fast-food workers and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. employees have campaigned for higher pay across the country. Congress hasn't acted, but cities and states — and President Barack Obama — have. Obama raised pay by executive order for government contractors, to $10.10 an hour. By Jan. 1, 29 states and Washington, D.C. will have a higher minimum wage than $7.25. Seattle approved an increase to $15 an hour, the highest rate in the country.

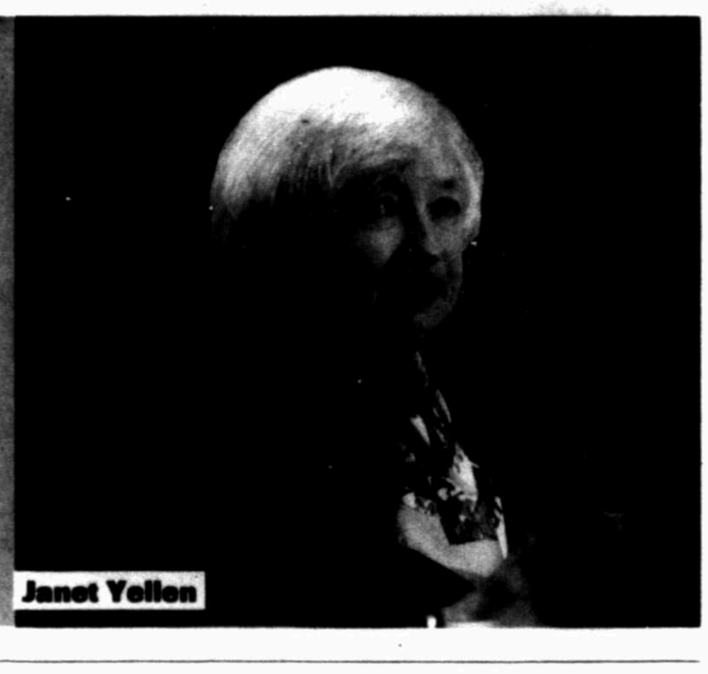
9. Janet Yellen: The Federal Reserve had been led exclusively by men for a century. Then Janet Yellen, a 68-year-old former economics professor and the No. 2 at the Fed, became the first woman to lead the central bank. Plainspoken, with a trace of her native Brooklyn in her speech, Yellen criticizes inequality, focuses on jobs growth and has tried to demystify the moves of the notoriously opaque Fed. She has also tied the failure of most economists to predict the damages wrought by the financial crisis to a lack of diversity in the field. She says that increasing diversity is a priority at the central bank.

10. Let's make a deal: Higher stocks and confidence lifted global mergers and acquisitions volume to highest level since 2007. With a few days to go, global deal volume has risen 20 percent to $3.41 trillion, including debt. Climbing markets make it easier to do stock deals, and borrowing is cheap. Meanwhile, initial public offerings had their biggest year since 2000. Health care companies made up 37 percent of all IPOs in the U.S., nearly double the level in 2013. And the biggest IPO ever, that of China's e-commerce behemoth Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., raised $25 billion in September.

Auto recalls



Oil plunges


Janet Yellen

In 2014, US economy began shaky, finished strong

By Josh Boak
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy flexed its old muscles in 2014.

More than five years removed from the Great Recession, worries had taken hold at the start of the year that perhaps the world's largest economy had slid into a semi-permanent funk.

But consumers, businesses and investors, after enduring a brutal winter, showed renewed vigor as the year wore on and set the United States apart from much of the world.

Stocks repeatedly set record highs — and did so again Friday, with the Dow Jones industrial average rising modestly to a new peak. Employers were on pace to add nearly 3 million jobs, the most in 15 years. Sinking oil prices cut gasoline costs to their lowest levels since May 2009. Auto sales accelerated. Inflation was a historically low sub-2 percent.

The U.S. economy proved it could thrive even as the Federal Reserve ended its bond buying program, which had been intended to aid growth by holding down long-term loan rates.

All told, the United States remained insulated from the financial struggles surfacing everywhere from Europe and Latin America to China, Japan and Russia.

So what explained the U.S. economy's resilience this year?

Economists say it largely reflected the delayed benefits of finally mending the damage from the worst downturn in nearly 80 years. Unlike past recoveries that enjoyed comparatively swift rebounds, this one proved agonizingly slow. It took 6 1/2 years to regain all the jobs lost to the recession — 8.7 million — far longer than during previous recoveries.

"It was a healing process from a severe recession and the financial crisis," said Richard Moody, chief economist at Regions Financial, a bank based in Alabama.

The healing isn't complete. Wage growth remains lackluster and has barely outpaced extremely low inflation. Home building has been tepid.

But worries earlier this year that the economy might be trapped indefinitely by sluggish growth have largely faded. Here are the economic highlights of 2014:

Hiring boom

Employers added 2.65 million jobs over the first 11 months of the year, and the unemployment rate sank to 5.8 percent from 6.7 percent. When the government announces the December job data next month, the 2014 job total is expected to be just shy of 3 million — the most since the dot-com era in 1999. Compared with recent years, those gains have been less concentrated in lower-paying industries such as retail, food service and temp agencies.

"We're finally entering that virtuous cycle phase of the expansion" when more jobs lead to higher incomes, which generates more consumer spending and growth, said Brett Ryan, an economist at Deutsche Bank.

Though average wage growth has been modest, the number of people with paychecks — and the ability to spend — has soared. If you exclude the economy's winter-induced 2.1 percent annual contraction in the first quarter of the year, annualized growth has averaged 4.4 percent in four of the past five quarters. That's far above the historic average of roughly 3.2 percent in the decades after World War II.

Stocks surge

Stocks extended their bullish stampede of nearly six years. The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed about 13 percent this year, hitting record highs more than 50 times. If you bought the index at a market bottom in March 2009, you've basically tripled your money. Corporate mergers helped drive this year's gains, along with major companies buying up $400 billion-plus of their own stock.

Oil prices plunge

In a gift for U.S. consumers, energy got significantly cheaper. Crude oil prices were essentially cut in half from this year's high. The slowing economies in Europe and Asia curbed demand, while production remained steady. The price decline trickled down to gasoline pumps. Average prices nationwide dropped to $2.32 a gallon, down roughly a dollar from a year ago, according to AAA. Some of that price slowdown has hurt U.S. oil producers, which must weigh layoffs. But overall, cheaper oil is a positive. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen noted that the falling prices resemble a tax cut, generating savings for consumers that can be spent elsewhere to drive economic growth.

Auto sales up

Far more Americans splurged on a new car after having held onto aging vehicles during the recession and slow early stages of the recovery. Sales were on track to increase 6 percent this year, with 16.5 million new vehicles on the road, according to Cars.com. That would be the best sales pace since 2006.

Interest rates drop

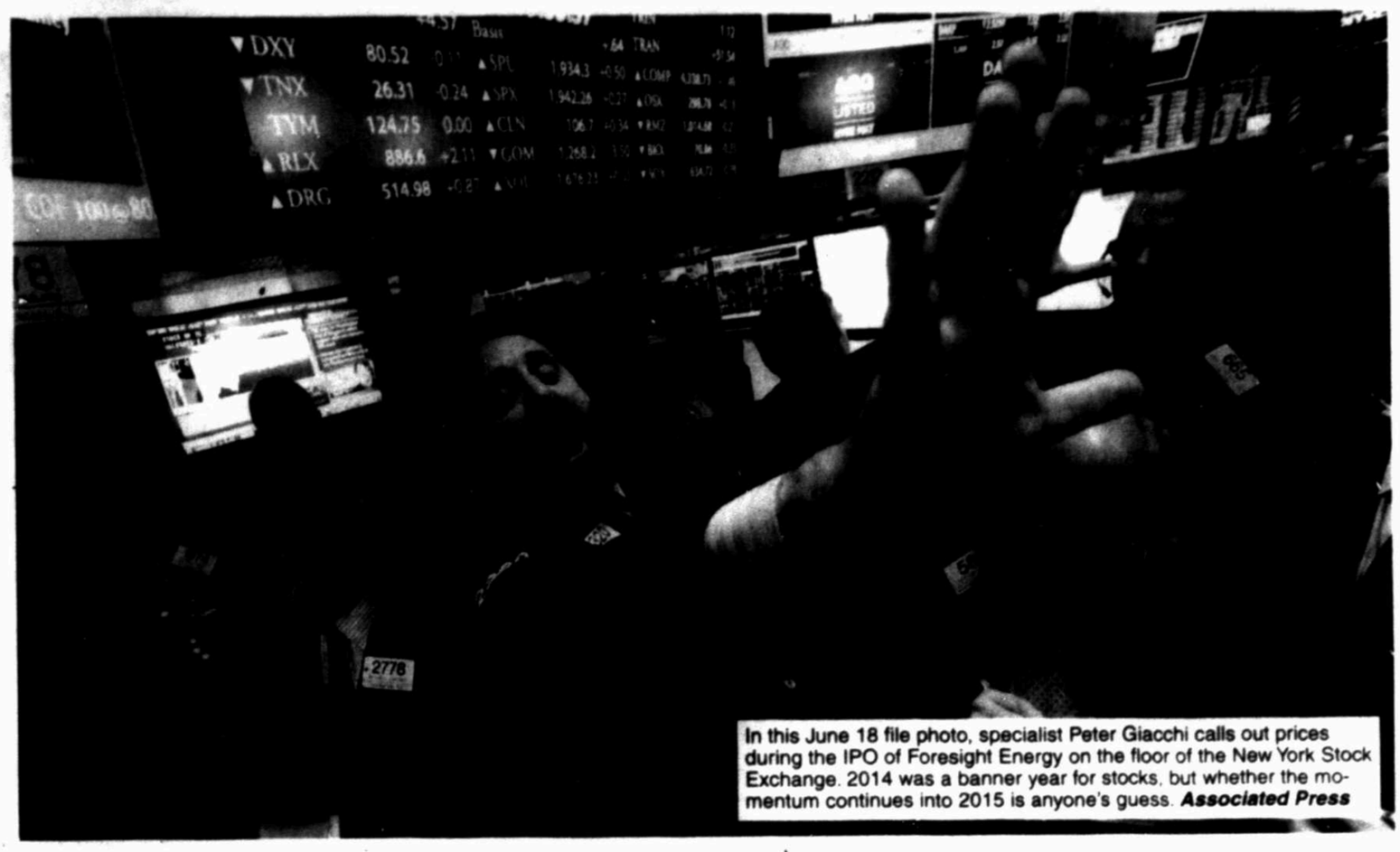
Even as the economy has strengthened — usually a sign that interest rates will rise — it's become easier to borrow. More loans mean more spending and faster growth. Rates have declined even though the Fed ended its program to stimulate growth by buying billions in Treasury and mortgage bonds each month.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note has slipped to about 2.27 percent from 3 percent when the year began. The average 30-year fixed mortgage is 3.83 percent, down from roughly 4.5 percent a year ago.

THE YEAR AHEAD

Investors expect higher stocks in 2015, but also turbulence

By Ken Sweet
Associated Press



In this June 18 file photo, specialist Peter Giacchi calls out prices during the IPO of Foresight Energy on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. 2014 was a banner year for stocks, but whether the momentum continues into 2015 is anyone's guess. *Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Can the U.S. hold everyone else above water? That is the question investors are asking as Wall Street heads into 2015.

A strong U.S. economy helped propel the stock market higher in 2014, continuing a bull market that is on pace to celebrate its sixth birthday in March. On more than one occasion, investors dumped stocks following geopolitical flare-ups and concerns about the global economy, only to jump back in when an economic report or results from a big company suggested the U.S. economy was still resilient.

This bull market may be slowing down, but it still has had a remarkable run. The Standard & Poor's 500 index has more than tripled from its March 2009 low.

Wall Street strategists, who typically are bullish on the U.S. stock market, expect the advance to continue into 2015.

Here are the major themes investors will need to watch:

Solid, not spectacular, again

2014 has been an above average year for stocks, but Wall Street forecasters expect more a more modest year for the market next year. The S&P 500 index is on track to return 14 percent in 2014 including dividends, a healthy gain but well below the 2013 return of 32 percent. Because the U.S. economy should continue to improve, stocks are likely to march higher in 2015, strategists say. On average, strategists forecast the S&P 500 will be up roughly 6 to 8 percent, with most of the gains coming from large multinational companies that would benefit greatly from an improving U.S. economy. Although there are risks that U.S.-based companies international sales could slow because of weakness in Europe and Asia, strategists believe U.S. growth will make up for that drag.

While U.S.-based companies do roughly half their sales outside the country, profits are still largely driven by the American economy.

The U.S. economy is expected to grow 3.1 percent in 2015, accelerating from the 2.2 percent growth it is expected to have this year.

This is a mature bull market, strategists say, so stock prices are relatively high and the possibility for volatility even higher. Investors are paying roughly $17.50 for every dollar of earnings companies in the S&P 500 generate, the most they've paid for stocks since 2010. On average, investors pay something around $15 dollars for every $1 of earnings

These high valuations could make investors more nervous about holding stocks if prices continue to climb. The stock market fell nearly 10 percent in October, its first major sell-off since 2011.

"Expect more pullbacks or corrections," says Liz Ann Sonders, chief market strategist for Charles Schwab.

Slow rate hikes

For several years, the Federal Reserve had been buying bonds to both keep interest rates low and boost stock prices. The program, known as quantitative easing, was designed to make bonds seem more expensive than stocks by suppressing the yield on bonds. It was also designed to make it less expensive for consumers and businesses to borrow.

That program ended in October, but it doesn't mean the nation's central bank hasn't stopped helping out investors. The Fed has kept its key interest rate near zero since December 2008. Strategists believe the time has come for the Fed to start raising interest rates because the U.S. economy has improved enough to withstand higher borrowing costs. This phenomenon is going to have a huge impact on where the stock market goes in 2015.

"I see the Fed starting to raise interest rates in June, and it's going to be a gradual increase," said Russ Koesterich, global chief market strategist at Blackrock. "Investors are ready."

Generally, strategists see the Federal Reserve raising its key interest, officially known as the Fed funds rate, from zero to 1 percent next year, in gradual increments of 0.25 percentage point each.

As interest rates rise, investments such as bonds will pay higher yields. If bonds are earning more, stocks will have more difficulty looking as attractive as they once did. That could make it more difficult for the market to go higher.

Much ado about oil

The collapse of oil prices this year has become a huge topic of worry as well as a comfort for investors.

American consumers love that falling oil prices have driven the price of gasoline below $2.50 a gallon. Wall Street's relationship with oil is far more complex, however. Oil revenues are critical for several large economies, including Russia. Banks loaned money and energy companies issued high-yield bonds to investors based on projected oil revenues. Energy companies are reliant on high crude prices to make money and to keep their stock prices high. Shares of energy companies in the S&P 500 are down 10 percent this year. Many junk bonds are trading at distressed levels.

There's worry that oil's drop could shake up the global financial system. Russia's currency, the ruble, has slumped in recent months because investors are concerned that the government could default or that the country could slip into a recession. In 1998, Russia defaulted on its debt, in part because of plunging oil prices.

The big question for next year is whether the world is simply producing too much oil, or whether the global economy is not strong enough to consume it fast enough. Also, if prices keep falling, will oil producers start cutting back production, which in turn could provide some support for oil prices.

"I still believe what's happening to oil is related to there being too much supply, but the sell-off is sending ripples through the market about global economic growth," said Sonders of Charles Schwab.

Opportunity overseas?

Europe's economy was in recovery mode the first half of 2014 before being derailed by the Russia-Ukraine crisis. The economic sanctions the European Union put on Russia for its invasion of Crimea impacted Germany's economy, Europe's largest, far more than originally anticipated. Since then, Europe has teetered on the brink of recession.

The Euro Stoxx 50 index, the European equivalent of the Dow Jones industrial average, is up only 1 percent in 2014 versus the 12 percent increase in the S&P 500.

The European Central Bank has stepped in to help stimulate the region's economy and is expected to ramp up its efforts early next year. If the moves work, Europe will come off investors' worry lists. Until then, watch out.

If you're willing to take a more risky view, some strategists say buying into Europe before it recovers could provide an excellent return.

"There are low expectations for Europe's recovery, which means prices are low," Koesterich said. In Europe, investors are paying roughly $14 for every dollar of European company earnings compared with the $17.50 investors are paying for every dollar of U.S. earnings.

China and Japan are also concerns. The Chinese government is still in a multi-year effort to slow down the country's rapidly growing economy, which has had mixed results. If the Chinese economy slows down too much, it could hurt markets everywhere.

Japan, meanwhile, is trying to stimulate its stagnant economy through massive amounts of economic stimulus. While the stimulus helped briefly, the Japanese government had to raise taxes to cover the cost of the program, effectively negating what the officials were trying to do.

Bonds will have a tough year — or won't

The biggest prediction of 2014 to fall flat on its face was that bonds would have a bad year in 2014. They didn't, in fact, they went in the opposite direction.

Instead of the 10-year U.S. Treasury note going from 2.97 percent at the beginning of the year up to 3.5 percent, as many predicted, the benchmark note was yielding 2.18 percent as of Dec. 22.

Many strategists readily admit they completely missed on their bond predictions. Nevertheless, many investors are doubling down on their bond yield forecasts for 2015, with some looking for the 10-year yield to reach 2.5 percent to 2.75 percent next year. They reason that the U.S. economy is improving and the Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates.

Risks for the 2015 economy? Oil prices and interest rates

By Sheryl Jean
Dallas Morning News

■ COMMENTARY

Will 2015 be a better year for you? Probably so — if you don't work in the energy industry.

Texas has diversified its economy significantly in the last 20 years, but oil is still king. So when oil prices plunge, it has a big effect on the state's economy. How big? Next year may answer that question.

The Texas economic engine is likely to move at a slower speed next year, even as the U.S. economy picks up steam.

Texans — and all Americans — face an unprecedented time of economic transition as interest rates are poised to rise in 2015. Consumers may see more change in their pockets, but some businesses could suffer as they face low energy prices and tax changes next year.

"Given the drop in oil prices, I would be surprised if Texas performed as well as it has this year," Wells Fargo economist Michael Wolf said.

This year, Texas outpaced U.S. economic growth and led the nation in job growth, setting a state record with 421,900 jobs added for the 12 months through October.

In 2015, economists expect Texas' economic and job growth to slow slightly because of lower oil prices, labor shortages in certain industries and weaker exports.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas expects the Texas economy to grow 3.5 percent in 2015, down from an estimated 4.5 percent this year. It expects the state's employment growth to be 2.5 percent to 3 percent in 2015 vs. 3.5 percent this year. More Texas companies expect to hire more people in 2015, according to various surveys.

Despite signs that many American families are struggling to make ends meet more than five years after the recession ended, the U.S. economy improved significantly in 2014. For example, the U.S. unemployment rate was 5.8 percent in November, compared with 7 percent a year ago and 9.9 percent five years ago.

Next year promises to be better for the U.S. economy, though it faces some headwinds such as more political friction amid weaker global economies.

"I have my own company, and I've had a good year," said Nancy Davis of Dallas, who runs a marketing and advertising firm. "I feel optimistic about next year."

Oil prices

Oil prices, which as of Sunday have plunged nearly 47 percent since June, are a big risk for the Texas economy next year.

Texas' oil production, which has more than doubled in the last three years, drives much of the state's economic growth — about 12 percent. And while energy accounts for less than 3 percent of Texas employment, energy employment jumped 1 percent for the 12 months through October, more than any other industry.

Lower oil prices can be a double-edged sword for the economy.

A price drop generally benefits the U.S. economy: Consumers save money on gas and home heating bills, consumer spending rises, and some businesses benefit from lower transportation and shipping costs. But capital investments could suffer, causing a trickle-down effect on other businesses.

In Texas, it's unlikely that low oil prices will cause a crisis as they did in the late 1980s, because the state's economy has diversified so much since then. Still, some fear that a prolonged downturn will hurt energy companies and could spread to other businesses such as real estate, restaurants and retail that have benefited from the increased energy hiring.

"I don't think it pushes Texas into recession, and I don't think it's a repeat of the '80s," Wells Fargo's Wolf said. "But I am somewhat concerned about just how large the ripple effect could be in Texas."

No one agrees on a break-even price for when oil production is no longer profitable. One economist noted that it's "more art than science."

Mine Yücel, director of research for the Dallas Fed, thinks drilling activity will taper off if oil prices drop below $60 per barrel for a long time.

There are signs the industry is already reacting. The Texas Railroad Commission issued fewer oil drilling permits in October. Some Texas companies told the Dallas Fed this fall that they're revising budgets and expect lower capital expenditures due to lower oil prices.

But consumers are benefiting from lower energy prices. Gas prices have fallen nearly 27 percent to an average of $2.30 a gallon in Dallas in the last year, according to GasBuddy.com.

Lisle Stilwell of Dallas saved about $6 the last time she filled her car's gas tank. She hasn't "been moved to spend" the savings yet, she said.

But Aichi Amemiya, a U.S. economist at Nomura, said recent data shows that consumers are spending their savings from lower gas prices on other goods and services.

Consumers could also see higher prices in 2015. The Fed wants an inflation rate closer to 2 percent rather than the 1.7 percent rate so far this year. Prices of certain items, such as beef and butter, have skyrocketed this year.

Interest rates

Interest rates, which have hovered near zero since 2008, are another risk to the economy. The Federal Reserve is widely expected to start raising rates in mid-2015.

Wells Fargo's Wolf thinks the Fed will raise rates by 0.25 percent each quarter starting in June. That means people will see higher rates on auto, home and business loans, but the pace of increases will be "so slow it won't have much impact," he said.

Mortgage rates, for example, will remain low. Wolf doesn't expect the 30-year mortgage rate to rise above 5 percent until mid-2016. It's around 4 percent now.

Still, JPMorgan Chase chief economist Anthony Chan expects consumers and businesses to react as rates rise next year. "I have very little doubt people will be jumping and be beside themselves to buy houses to beat the rush," he said.

On the other hand, higher rates will help consumers still struggling to rebuild wealth lost in the 2007-09 recession. Bank savings rates will go up.

It's tricky. If the Fed moves too aggressively to raise rates, the nation could slip back into recession. Treading timidly could cause inflation to surge.

In summer 2013, the stock market went crazy after the Fed indicated it would wind down its stimulus program. Some fear the same could happen this time around.

"There are risks the Fed's tightening could lead to financial turmoil, because it's impossible to predict how financial markets react to higher rates," said Amemiya, who thinks the Fed will start hiking rates in third quarter 2015.

Tax changes

Businesses will face more tax uncertainty in 2015.

Congress is working on tax reform to simplify the tax code and make the nation more competitive internationally.

Goldman Sachs analyst Alec Phillips thinks reforms would include changes to corporate investment incentives and a way to bring back some of the more than $2 trillion in U.S. corporate profits parked overseas at lower tax rates. He predicts a 30 percent chance of reforms becoming law in 2015.

Some health care taxes are set to change next year. For example, businesses with 50 or more employees will face health care regulations that were delayed a year. The Affordable Care Act requires such employers to offer full-time workers a health care plan or pay a penalty.

But the whole health care law could unravel if the U.S. Supreme Court strikes down federal tax subsidies for residents of states without their own health exchange.

"It's a big question," Wolf said. "Companies are confused about what they need to do long term. For consumers, what do you do? What people want is certainty."

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

TODAY: Sunny High: 50 Low: 30

MONDAY: Mostly sunny High: 57 Low: 23

TUESDAY: Partly sunny High: 37 Low: 24

WEDNESDAY: Mostly cloudy High: 33 Low: 28

THURSDAY: Cloudy High: 41 Low: 36

FRIDAY: Mostly sunny High: 52 Low: 32

Local forecast

Expect mostly cooler weather in the upcoming week with some chance of precipitation on Wednesday through Friday.

On Monday and Tuesday nights, the coldest weather of the week is expected when lows drop into the lower-to-mid 20s.

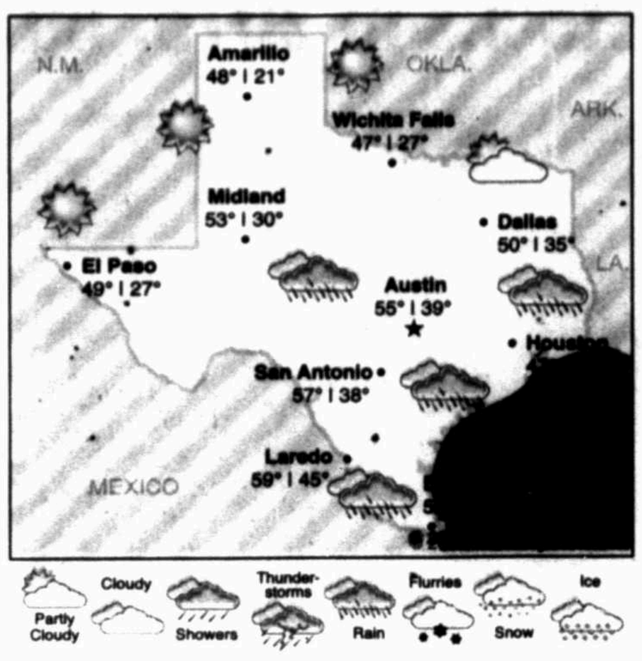
The National Weather Service is calling for a chance of freezing drizzle on Wednesday, a chance of rain and snow on Thursday and a chance of showers on Friday.

The high on Saturday reached 45, while the low dropped to 33. The record high for Dec. 27 is 75 set in 1964, 1970 and 1996. The record low is 9 set in 1939.

National forecast

A drastic change comes for the eastern half of the country for the second half of the weekend today. Instead of sunshine in the Northeast, it will be cloudy with periods of rain. With cold air moving in behind this rain, some snowflakes could mix in over upstate New York through Maine.

This swath of rain continues southward through the Tennessee Valley and to the Louisiana Gulf Coast.



Precipitation

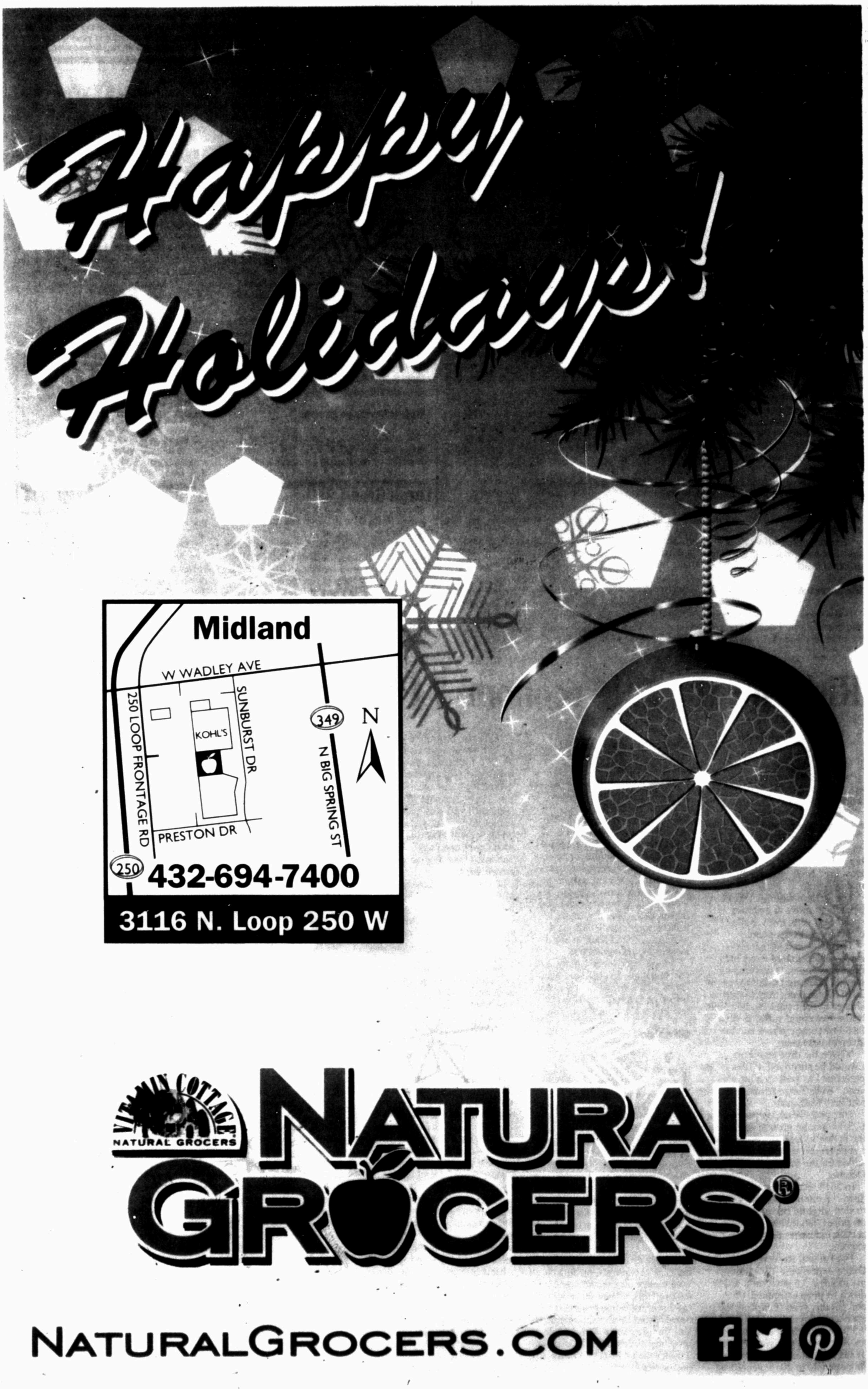
Friday	0.00 in.
Saturday	trace
Month total	0.20 in.
Year total	7.65 in.
Normal total (year to date)	14.55 in.

Saturday's temperatures

High	45
Low	33
Normal high	57
Normal low	30
Sunrise	7:48 a.m.
Sunset	5:53 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Sunday, Dec. 28



Policies of GOP governors could find national play

By Thomas Beaumont
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — One group of potential candidates for president probably won't be shuffling off to Iowa, New Hampshire or other early campaign spots in the new year. They'll be hunkered down in statehouses across the Midwest, pushing bills through their legislatures.

Few outside their home states will notice, but these governors and their policies could wind up in the national campaign picture.

Scott Walker of Wisconsin, Mike Pence of Indiana, Rick Snyder of Michigan and John Kasich of Ohio were all elected after Republicans began taking political control of the middle of the country back in 2010. Since then, they have offered a glimpse of what some conservative policies would look like if put into wider effect.

Should any of these governors join the race for the White House, their state records would become their chief qualification for higher office and might provide some distance from partisan battles in Washington. The governors could also benefit from being in a region rich with swing states.

"All those governors have stories of success to tell and stories about crisis management," said veteran Republican presidential strategist Charlie Black.

Here's a look at what the four Midwestern governors are planning in 2015, and how they would be positioned to seek the presidency.

Mike Pence, Alabama

Pence, a former congressman and a popular figure among social conservatives, is working to reshape the state's public education system. The goal is to allow virtually any child to attend any school, public or private, with public money.

Indiana's school-choice initiative — the nation's most extensive — was begun by Pence's Republican predecessor, Mitch Daniels. Pence is pushing to expand it this year by lifting income caps for families seeking state money to send their children to a private school.

Pence also wants to allow more parents in five pilot counties to choose their children's preschool. And he wants the Legislature to increase money for charter schools, which are publicly funded but operate outside the normal public education system.

Since Indiana's school choice system went into effect in 2011, almost 5 percent of Indiana students are using vouchers to attend private schools or charter schools.

Critics argued that the effort is siphoning off needed money from public schools. But conservatives insisted the competition is good for families and spurs education improvement overall.

If he runs, Pence's education record would be a popular talking point, especially in Iowa, site of the first presidential caucuses, which is a hotbed of home schooling.

And Pence, 58, has other credentials. He is highly regarded by the Christian right, having been an outspoken evangelical on a radio show he hosted during his time in the U.S. House.

Rick Snyder, Michigan

Snyder may already have the flashiest record of any Midwestern governor, but his achievements are also the trickiest to tout in a Republican presidential primary.

Snyder pushed his state's financially wrecked metropolis, Detroit, into federal bankruptcy court, a task that some people thought would take years, if it could be done at all. A year and a half later, the city emerged with a lighter debt burden, though still facing many difficulties.

That feat alone would give Snyder, a former computer company executive, unrivaled credibility as a turnaround artist. But to seal the Detroit deal, he had to commit $195 million in state money, making him a target for anti-spending conservatives in a national campaign.

Otherwise, he's been shaking up taxes, eliminating the state's corporate tax and proposing to raise others, like the fuel tax, to fix the state's crumbling roads. In the coming session, he'll try to expand technical education to help fill more than 70,000 openings for skilled jobs.

Snyder's willingness to stray from conservative orthodoxy — he expanded Medicaid despite his party's stand against President Barack Obama's health care overhaul — would make him suspect to the GOP's right wing. But bottom-line Republicans could be impressed by the 300,000 private-sector jobs created on Snyder's watch, an unemployment rate that dropped from 11.3 percent to 6.7 percent and a right-to-work law that made union membership optional.

Should he run, Snyder might join the "practical" candidates in the GOP field, such as New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

"He's got a phenomenal record in a very difficult state," said fellow Republican Gov. Terry Branstad of Iowa.

Scott Walker, Wisconsin

Already renowned by conservatives for his willingness to challenge organized labor, Walker is setting out to beef up his conservative record on both fiscal and social policy.

Walker is calling on his GOP-controlled Legislature to reduce income and property taxes. He's also condemned Wisconsin's adoption of Common Core school standards. Though once popular on the right, the standards are now shunned as government overreach.

Walker's legislative agenda for 2015 includes another conservative favorite: requiring recipients of food stamps and unemployment benefits to pass a drug test.

So far, he has resisted a more ambitious plan by leading Republican lawmakers to pass right-to-work legislation, which could trigger a fierce union backlash and possibly add weeks to the legislative session.

His coolness toward this pro-business priority is unlikely to cost him in a national campaign, though, because of his success in stripping his state's public-employee unions of most of their bargaining powers soon after taking office.

John Kasich, Ohio

Kasich made his mark in the U.S. House as a fiscal hawk while serving as chairman of the House Budget Committee. And while he has also confronted organized labor, he is known more as a social moderate and a spending-control crusader.

The former Ohio congressman has said he will keep trying to reduce the state's income tax toward its elimination and enact job training. He plans to test a national message advocating a federal balanced budget amendment before making a decision on whether to run in 2016.

Among conservatives, he'll also get credit for trying to strip public employee unions' bargaining rights to reduce pressure on the budget, but voters later repealed his legislation through a referendum.

Should he run, Kasich could join Bush in the center of the GOP field.

"I don't think you'll see him jetting off to Iowa or New Hampshire very soon," said Kasich confidant Doug Preisse. "But some will say the balanced budget amendment is a different way of seizing the national spotlight."

Sanders: I'll decide on presidential run by March

Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Vermont independent Sen. Bernie Sanders says he'll decide by March whether to launch a 2016 presidential campaign and, if so, whether he'll seek the Democratic nomination. Either way, Sanders says he wouldn't run just to nudge the debate to the left.

"I don't want to do it unless I can do it well," he told The Associated Press. "I don't want to do it unless we can win this thing."

Sanders, a socialist, said he grew up "solidly lower middle class" in a Jewish family in Brooklyn — his father, an immigrant from Poland, sold paint for a living —and his views about the distribution of wealth were formed early.

"A lack of money in my family was a very significant aspect of my growing up ... kids in my class would have new jackets, new coats, and I would get hand-me-downs," Sanders said.

After his graduation from the University of Chicago, Sanders came to Vermont in the 1960s as part of the counterculture, back-to-the-land movement that turned the state from solid Yankee Republican into one of the bluest in the country.

He won his first election — for Burlington mayor — by 10 votes, and since then has carried a consistent message thought eight terms in the House and now his second term in the Senate: The rich have too much, the poor and working class not enough.

Sanders said the issues about which he's been railing all these years are only becoming more dire. The wealth gap has grown, and the middle class, he said, is "collapsing."

"You have one family, the Walton family of Wal-Mart, owning more wealth than the bottom 40 percent of the American people," he said. "We have 95 percent of all new income going to the top 1 percent. You have millions of families unable to afford to send their kids to college. People are desperately worried about whether or not they are going to retire with dignity."

Sanders has a 12-step plan that he said will restore the economy and especially the middle class, most of it dependent on higher taxes on the rich and corporations. Among the proposals: A $1 trillion infrastructure building program that would "create 13 million decent-paying jobs," more worker-friendly international trade deals and legislation to strengthen unions, and transforming the U.S. energy system "away from fossil fuels and into energy efficiency and sustainable energy."

He said he'll make a "gut decision" about running for the presidency — and, perhaps, challenging Democratic favorite Hillary Rodham Clinton.

He would be 75 in 2016, but "my health is good," he said, knocking on a wooden conference room table. He said he couldn't remember the last time he'd called in sick to work.

Sanders said he is weighing whether to run as an independent, as he has done in Vermont, or as a Democrat. He has been critical of both major parties over the years, though he has aligned with liberal Democrats on many issues.

Tad Devine, a longtime consultant to Democratic presidential candidates, agreed that 2016 might present an opening to Sanders, a year in which his message could resonate. Fewer people feel they can afford the American dream of sending kids to college and looking forward to a secure retirement, Devine said.

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New Russian military doctrine says NATO top threat

By Vladimer Isachenkov
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia identified NATO as the nation's No. 1 military threat and raised the possibility of a broader use of precision conventional weapons to deter foreign aggression under a new military doctrine signed by President Vladimir Putin on Friday.

NATO flatly denied it is a threat to Russia, and accused Moscow of undermining European security.

The new doctrine, which comes amid tensions over Ukraine, reflected the Kremlin's readiness to take a stronger posture in response to what it sees as U.S.-led efforts to isolate and weaken Russia.

The paper maintains the provisions of the previous, 2010 edition of the military doctrine regarding the use of nuclear weapons.

It said Russia could employ nuclear weapons in retaliation for the use of nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction against the country or its allies, and also in the case of aggression involving conventional weapons that "threatens the very existence" of the Russian state.

But for the first time, the new doctrine said Russia could use precision weapons "as part of strategic deterrent measures." The document does not spell out when and how Moscow could resort to such weapons.

Examples of precision conventional weapons include ground-to-ground missiles, air- and submarine-launched cruise missiles, guided bombs and artillery shells.

Among other things, the paper mentions the need to protect Russia's interests in the Arctic, where the global competition for its vast oil and other resources has been heating up as the Arctic ice melts.

Russia has relied heavily on its nuclear deterrent and lagged far behind the U.S. and its NATO allies in the development of precision conventional weapons. However, it has recently sped up its military modernization, buying large numbers of new weapons and boosting military drills. It has also sharply increased air patrols over the Baltics.

Earlier this month, Russia flexed its muscle by airlifting state-of-the art Iskander missiles to its westernmost Kaliningrad exclave bordering NATO members Poland and Lithuania. The missiles were pulled back to their home base after the drills, but the deployment clearly served as a demonstration of the military's readiness to quickly raise the ante in a crisis.

Russia has threatened to permanently station the Iskander missiles, which can hit targets up to about 300 miles away with high precision, in retaliation for U.S.-led NATO's missile defense plans. The Iskander can be fitted with a nuclear or conventional warhead.

On Friday, Moscow successfully test-fired the RS-24 Yars intercontinental ballistic missile from the Plesetsk launchpad in northwestern Russia.

The 29-page doctrine outlined top threats to Russia's security and possible responses. It is the document's third edition since Putin was first elected in 2000.

The doctrine placed "a buildup of NATO military potential and its empowerment with global functions implemented in violation of international law, the expansion of NATO's military infrastructure to the Russian borders" atop the list of military threats to Russia.

It stressed that the deployment of foreign military forces on the territory of Russia's neighbors could be used for "political and military pressure."

NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu responded by saying in a statement that the alliance "poses no threat to Russia or to any nation."

"Any steps taken by NATO to ensure the security of its members are clearly defensive in nature, proportionate and in compliance with international law," she said. "In fact, it is Russia's actions, including currently in Ukraine, which are breaking international law and undermining European security."

Russia's relations with the West have plummeted to their lowest level since Cold War times, and NATO cut off ties to Moscow after it annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in March. Ukraine and the West have also accused Moscow of fueling the pro-Russia insurgency in eastern Ukraine with troops and weapons, accusations the Kremlin has denied.

In 2010, NATO adopted its current so-called Strategic Concept. Without specifying which countries might be on the receiving end, the document stated that "deterrence, based on an appropriate mix of nuclear and conventional capabilities, remains a core element" of NATO's overall strategy.

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who had been critical of Putin in the past but has strongly backed the Kremlin in its dispute with the West, said Friday that Russia's actions were a response to U.S. and NATO moves.

"I think the president is right to a large extent when he draws attention to a particular responsibility of the United States," he said in Moscow.

The U.S. and the European Union have slapped sanctions against Moscow, which have deepened Russia's economic woes and contributed to a sharp devaluation of the ruble, which lost about half its value this year.

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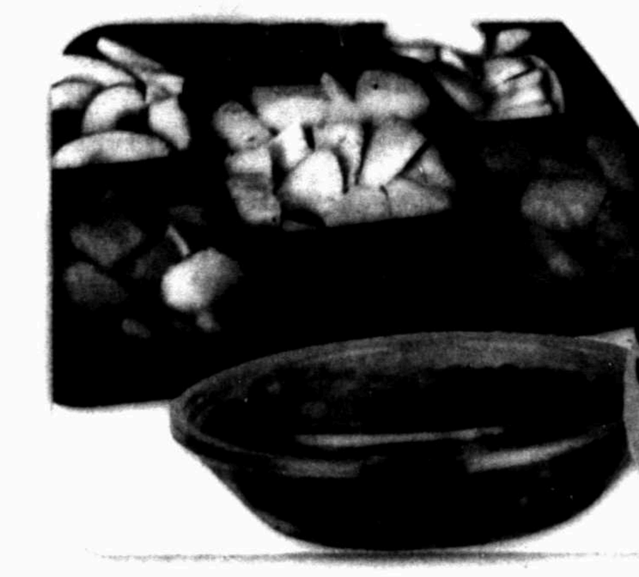

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Newspaper: Plum state jobs going to Perry aides

Associated Press

AUSTIN — About 200 people who have landed state government jobs that can pay well into six figures have avoided normal job posting requirements or scrutiny and share the common tie that they all once worked for outgoing Gov. Rick Perry, the Austin American-Statesman reported Saturday.

An analysis by the newspaper shows some of the hirings may have violated state law. Others took advantage of a provision that allows regular hiring rules be sidestepped. The posts include agency spokespeople, mid-level managers and even directors.

On Nov. 5, the day after the general election, the Texas Railroad Commission posted a new job opening for communications director, paying up to $115,000. Applicants had one day to respond, and 10 did.

Perry spokesman Rich Parsons got the job, hired by the agency's director, also a Perry appointee.

"It was an honor and privilege to serve Gov. Perry in his historic administration," Parsons told the newspaper. "I'm deeply grateful to the Railroad Commission for the opportunity to continue in public service for the people of Texas in an agency so vital to protecting the public, our natural resources and our economic success."

Directors at the Parks and Wildlife Department, the Health and Human Services Commission and the state water board, among other agencies, are former Perry people.

John Fainter, chief of staff for Gov. Ann Richards, said the jobs can be a reward for loyalty.

"The bigger problem is, are you taking positions that could be filled by people who have worked their way up," said Becky Motal, a former general manager for the Lower Colorado River Authority who now runs a consulting firm.

State law requires any agency that has an "opening for which persons from outside the agency will be considered shall list the opening with the Texas Workforce Commission." But the newspaper's review shows state agencies frequently don't comply or don't open the jobs for competition.

According to the newspaper, that's what happened with the Health and Human Services Commission's hiring of Casey Haney, Jessica Olson and Jay Kimbrough to jobs that pay more than $130,000 annually. Haney and Olson were Perry budget and policy aides; Kimbrough was Perry's chief of staff.

"We selected highly qualified individuals for new jobs where the person needed to hit the ground running," commission spokeswoman Stephanie Goodman said. "While our selections were good, our process was not."

Over the past two years, the Texas Water Development Board has hired at least seven former employees from Perry's office; six of the jobs weren't posted. Agency spokeswoman Merry Klonower said the people were hired during a legislative-ordered reorganization, meaning the board could bypass the usual process.

Larry Lynn, who teaches public administration at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, said the effect is an agency "penetrated by cronies of the powerful, and that can affect the quality with which laws are enforced and the allocations for enforcement."

WINTER CARDINAL

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

A cardinal rests on brances in the I-20 Wildlife Preserve on Saturday. The Tall City saw a trace amount of sleet and snowfall Saturday, with temperatures only climbing to 45 degrees. There is a chance of winter weather again in Midland this week.

Is Patrick set to take back power from governor?

By Ross Ramsey
Texas Tribune

■ ANALYSIS

It sounds a little crazy, but the governor is not usually the real power player in state government in Texas. Or wasn't, before Rick Perry.

The lieutenant governor usually gets that "most powerful" tag.

Texas is a weak-governor state, without a cabinet that gives the governor control over the executive branch. In fact, most of the people who would be in a cabinet are elected on their own. The governor and lieutenant governor do not run as a single ticket. Several of the big statewide offices — the attorney general, the comptroller and the land, agriculture and railroad commissioners — are filled by the voters and not the state's chief executive.

Other big executive agencies are run by boards and commissions appointed by the governor, but it takes six years to run through a full cycle of appointments, and a governor's term is only four years.

This setup is designed to drain the power of the occupant of the Governor's Mansion, which in turn empowers the leaders of the Legislature. If they wish to do so, a speaker of the House and a lieutenant governor can run rings around a governor.

The people who deal with state government used to take this as one of the laws of their peculiar universe, embodied by lieutenant governors like Bill Hobby and Bob Bullock and, for a couple of years, Perry and Bill Ratliff.

It has eroded considerably, mainly because Perry has now been governor for so long, and because he understood better than most how to consolidate the ordinarily anemic powers given to him.

Perry has vetoed 301 bills. Aside from pushing that legislative work into the trash bin, his vetoes had the effect of letting everyone know that he was willing to kill things he did not like. His first session as governor was, in this sense, the bloodiest: He ended that one with 83 vetoes.

Lawmakers squawked, but they responded. For Perry, a power that once flared momentarily at the end of each legislative session now colors the whole process, as lawmakers check in with the governor to make sure he does not threaten their darlings.

Perry has been through more than two cycles of appointments. His 14-year tenure was probably beyond the imaginations of the authors of the state Constitution. The odds were against any one governor filling all of the appointed positions even once. Governors still cannot fire appointees they do not like (they can ask the Senate to recall them, but that is a rare event), but Perry got the chance to replace every one of them at least once.

That increased his influence over the executive branch, as did the appointees' steady hiring of people beholden to the governor who appointed them. It will be years before that dye comes out of the fabric of state government.

It helped Perry that the Senate was on board. The governor's appointees have to be approved there, and most of Perry's have been. Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst has gone along with the governor on policy for the most part.

With a whole new slate of state officials in 2015, however, the system is being reset. Maybe nothing will change. Perhaps the stronger chief executive has become a habit. Legislative efforts to create a cabinet government over the past few decades have always fallen short; giving power away does not come naturally to elected officials.

Gov.-elect Greg Abbott has some advantages over his predecessor, but legislative experience is not one of them. Perry knows, from his time in the House and as lieutenant governor, how lawmakers think — and what he could get away with as governor.

Abbott has spent the past few days

Please see **PATRICK**/4B

DFW office vacancy rate falls to 16 percent; rents reach new highs

By Steve Brown
Dallas Morning News

Dallas-Fort Worth office building vacancies have fallen to the lowest level in more than a decade.

Just over 16 percent of the area's office space was empty at the end of 2014, according to a new report by Cushman & Wakefield Inc.

Average vacancy rates are less than 9 percent in North Dallas, the commercial real estate firm found.

Cushman & Wakefield said that expanding and relocating office tenants rented almost 5 million square feet office space this year — the highest net leasing in more than 15 years.

"The real estate fundamentals are the best we have seen in decades," said Steve Everbach, who heads Cushman & Wakefield's DFW office. "The supply of new office space has been very disciplined in this cycle."

More than 6 million square feet of office space is being built in North Texas, the largest volume since the 1990s.

Everbach said that more than a third of the office space under construction is already leased to tenants.

Almost half of the construction is in the CityLine development in Richardson where State Farm Insurance and Raytheon are building large corporate campuses.

Large blocks of new office space are also on the way in the Uptown/Turtle Creek area and in West Plano and Frisco.

"The additional developments we think we are coming in 2015 are pretty concentrated in areas where there is ample demand," Everbach said. "The lenders have been disciplined this time, which is very good for the long-term health of our real estate market."

Most of the office leasing this year has been in Richardson's Telecom Corridor, Las Colinas in Irving and in Far North Dallas along the Dallas North Tollway.

Overall office rents in the area have risen to more than $21 per square foot, a new high for North Texas.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

TERRY WILLIAMSON
Real life columnist

Have a plan for sharing kids, grandkids with the in-laws

The Bible clearly tells us in Genesis 2:24 that "a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh."

The wife and I totally got that part. That's why we let our two daughters leave home to start their own families. We brought into our family two new sons-in-law. They have now given us four grandchildren.

All in all, it's worked pretty much like Scripture projected, but there is one large omission we never thought of when we agreed to these two marriages.

Nowhere in the Bible does it say that you must share your kids and daughters on Christmas with the in-laws. That concept is not biblical, even though we do attempt to keep peace with our new extended families.

In our house, we worked out a plan. It's called the Christmas Plan, and it must be religiously followed by all concerned. Here's how it works:

We hold our family Christmas on every odd-numbered year. The in-laws get together for Christmas on every even-numbered year. The plan has worked so far, and no one has killed another family member. I'd say that's about as good as we can ask for.

If you institute the Christmas Plan as part of your Christmas tradition, just remember that you must first coordinate with all family members so no snafus crop up in a year or two. Everyone has to be on the same page.

Also, be prepared for the fact that you will spend every other Christmas alone, but that's OK because you can plan a Christmas getaway with the spouse, take a cruise or spend a couple of days together in a hotel. Life doesn't have to end because the kids have deserted you.

This was our year to be without the kids. So, this year's Christmas celebration will be on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. It'll be almost like Christmas. We'll do all the same things we do on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Of course, the grandkids will have already received their gifts from Santa Claus, and the wife and I will miss out on that, but it's not all that bad because we're hoping the grandkids will sleep in a little longer with this schedule.

Naturally, the grandkids love the Christmas Plan because it's like having Christmas twice. By the time the holidays are over, they know the Christmas story by heart, have two sets of gifts and have two mornings of opening presents under the tree.

So, we don't really miss out on Christmas; we just have to be flexible with our dates.

The major concern we have now is keeping the grandkids in line with the plan. They are getting a bit older now (the oldest is 10), and they are beginning to come up with their own ideas about how Christmas should go. Mostly, however, they want things to stay the same. They want every Christmas to be like the last Christmas.

Of course, that's how family traditions are born in the first place. We do everything we can to maintain family traditions, even if Christmas is celebrated on New Year's Day.

I still fear that one of the grandkids will come to me and say, "Let's have Christmas on New Year's Day again next year."

I'm just going to flat out tell them it's not biblical, so let's keep trying to keep peace in the family by sticking to the plan.

Thought for the Week: "It doesn't really matter when you observe Christmas as long as you bring peace, hope and joy to the family." — Terry Williamson

Obituaries

Billy Ray Galloway

Billy Ray Galloway, 58, of Midland passed away peacefully at his home Wednesday, December 24, 2014. Surrounded by his family after a courageous ten year battle with cancer. Born August 16, 1956 in Abilene, Tx, he was the the oldest of seven children born to Billy Ray Andrews, and the late Ella Mae Galloway. Billy confessed Christ in his life, and remained a faithful servant until death. He was an active member of Church of New Beginnings under Pastor Norman Lewis. Billy was a man of all trades, but his true passion was his love of Music.

Preceding him in death were his mother, grandmother, three sisters and a nephew.

Billy is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Norma Galloway, four sons, seven daughters, his father, Bill Andrews, three brothers a half brother, and two half sisters.

Viewing 6-8 pm Sunday Thomas Chapel.

A homegoing service will be Monday at 11 am at Goodwill Baptist Church. Pastor Norman Lewis officiating. Burial Tuesday at 1 pm Union Memorial Cemetery, in Sandy Community, Texas.

A special Thank you from the family to Allison Cancer Center, Dr Karen Karr, Jessica Robertson LVN, and Hospice of Midland.

Thomas
FUNERAL HOME
FUNERALS / CREMATIONS
Midland Texas

Christopher Francis McCormack

Christopher Francis McCormack, beloved husband, brother, in-law, and uncle, passed away on Christmas Eve in Midland, Texas. Christopher was born in Brooklyn, NY on November 16, 1950, to Francis T. McCormack, Jr. and Mary Sloan McCormack. He grew up traveling the world with his Air Force family, living in Texas, New Mexico, Germany, Maine, Arizona and Virginia. He graduated from the University of Virginia, and the University of Houston Law Center in 1979.

After law school Christopher moved to Midland, Texas to work for West Texas Legal Aid, and later established his private law practice there. He married Bonita Robin Byrd of Midland in 1992. He practiced family and criminal law, and was an expert Social Security/ Disability lawyer. Christopher was active in the community, serving on the boards of Legal Aid, Child Welfare, the Midland Battered Women's Center and Planned Parenthood. He represented the interests of many children for Child Protective Services. He was the longtime Midland County Democratic chairman and served two terms on the State Democratic Executive Committee. Chris was also a serious sports fan, always loyal to the Washington Redskins and the University of North Carolina basketball team, even living deep in the heart of Texas for so long!

Christopher is predeceased by his parents. Survivors include his beloved wife and true companion, Robin Byrd McCormack; sisters Maureen McCormack, Deirdre McCormack (Terry Hillman), Theresa Wolfe (Mark Wolfe) and brother Michael McCormack (Lori); aunt and uncle Lou and Larry Sloan; in-laws Darrel and Virginia Byrd, Susan and Tom Jenkins, Sherry and Carl Kizziar, Debbie Fisher; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Christopher was always a source of support and wisdom to his family and a generous and loving uncle. He shared his love of books with all of us. He had a very big heart and he wore it out helping everyone he could. He was our hero, and we will miss him terribly, but he left the world a better place.

A memorial service will be held in Midland after the first of the year.

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

Desiderio P. "Desi" Covarrubiaz

Desiderio P "Desi" Covarrubiaz, 50, of Midland, passed away after a lengthy illness, Thursday, December 25, 2014, at his home in Midland. Memorial service talk will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 30, 2014 at Heavenly Gate Funeral Home 405 N. Terrell, in Midland with Luis Leal, officiating.

Desi was born on August 8, 1964, in Midland, Texas to Ricardo B. and Josefina P. Covarrubiaz. He was preceded in death by his father Ricardo B. Covarrubiaz.

For many years he worked in construction as a skilled carpenter and carpet installer. Survivors include his mother Josefina P. Covarrubias; his wife Marta Alvarado of Austin Texas; a son Ricardo Covarrubiaz; seven sisters: Amparo "Amy" (Augustine) Garces, Jr., Sylvia (Frank) Gutierrez of Midland; Rose (Frank) Urias of Fort Stockton; Irene (Steve) Ornelas of Midland; Irma (Conrado) Molinar of Midland; Patsy (Abel) Ochoa of Midland; Lilia (Noel) Rodriguez of Midland; four brothers Carlos (Vickie) Covarrubiaz of Flagstaff, Arizona, Hector (Mirella) Covarrubiaz of Midland; Fred Covarrubiaz of Midland; Mario Covarrubiaz of Midland, aunts Emma Grado, Bentura Morrison and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

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

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home
2800 N. Big Spring Midland, TX (432) 682-3700

Emma G. Ramirez

Emma G. Ramirez, 92, of Midland, Texas was called to be with her Lord and savior on Wednesday, December 24, 2014. She passed away peacefully at Midland Memorial Hospital surrounded by loved ones.

She was born on April 21, 1922 in Imperial, Texas to the late Juan Gonzalez and Elisa Bernard. Emma met the love of her life, Federico S. Ramirez, and they were married on February 24, 1942 in Ft. Stockton, Texas. Together they loved and raised five children.

Emma worked as a housekeeper and food service worker in the elementary schools in Ft. Stockton and Wickett, Texas. Emma and Federico lived in Ft. Stockton, Wickett, Midland, and San Angelo, Texas. She loved our Lord Jesus Christ and was a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Midland and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in San Angelo. She was an excellent cook and loved celebrating with her family and visiting with her many friends. She indeed filled the time she had living life to the fullest and will be missed by all who knew her.

Emma is preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Fred Ramirez; her parents Juan and Elisa Gonzalez and her brothers; Pete Gonzalez, Isidoro Gonzalez, Frolio Gonzalez, Ismael Gonzalez and sister Guadalupe Urias.

She is survived by her sisters; Alicia Valenzuela, Francis Casas, and Jessie Mesa all of Ft. Stockton, Texas; Dorothy Stokes of Abilene, Texas and Maria Reyes Sanchez of San Angelo, Texas. Her children and their spouses; Virginia Quintela (Domingo) of San Angelo, Texas; Fred Ramirez Jr. (Vera) of Clyde, Texas; Frankie Ramirez (Elfida) of Monahans, Texas; Carrie Salazar(Abel) of Midland, Texas; and Gerri Jones (Joe) of Midland, Texas. Emma is also survived by thirteen grand-children, seventeen great, grand- children, eleven great, great, grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive visitors from 1-9 p.m. on Sunday, December 28th, at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home and Chapel with rosary starting at 7p.m.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, December 29th at 11a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church; burial to follow at Resthaven Memorial Park. A special thanks to all the caregivers at Senior Care Center of San Angelo for all the special care and kindness given to Emma during her brief stay.

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

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home
2800 N. Big Spring Midland, TX (432) 682-3700

James Edward McKinney Sr.

James Edward McKinney Sr. joined his wife, Frances and son, Harold in Heaven on Friday, December 5, 2014.

James was born on August 16, 1926, in Midland, Texas, to Carroll Arthur McKinney and Zoetta Lee Wright McKinney. James attended Midland schools. He joined the U. S. Navy on October 13, 1944 and proudly served until June, 1946. James met and married the love of his life, Frances Irene Streun in Midland on October 30, 1947. James had many jobs in his life including taxi driver, roofer, driver and deliveryman for Frost Baking Company and owner/truck driver for various companies. After retiring from the trucking industry he was a faithful crossing guard for MISD schools.

James' greatest passions were his children, grandchildren and the Dallas Cowboys.

James was preceded in death by his parents, Carroll Arthur McKinney and Zoetta Lee McKinney; his wife of 48 years, Frances Irene McKinney and son, Harold Eugene McKinney. Survivors include his son, James (Ed) McKinney, Jr., and wife, Barbara of Claremore, Oklahoma, son, Robert (Bob) McKinney and wife, Patsy of Midland, daughter, Mary Stotts, and husband, Cary of Midland, son, Steven (Steve) McKinney and wife, Lori of Leander, Texas. James is also survived by 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

The family would like to thank the staff of Terrace West Nursing and Rehabilitation for their love and care of Pawpaw (alias Grandpaw Mac) for the last 5 years of his life. Knowing the staff loved and cared for him as much as we did made our lives much easier. Also thank you to Hospice of Midland for their care of Pawpaw.

A celebration of life for James Edward McKinney, Sr., will be held on Monday, December 29, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Orchard Church located at 6112 N. State Highway 349, Midland, Texas. Please join the family at that time.

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God though our Lord Jesus Christ. We have also obtained access through Him by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

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

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home
2800 N. Big Spring Midland, TX (432) 682-3700

LaVerne Little

LaVerne Little passed away in her home in Carrollton, Texas on December 24, 2014. She was 90.

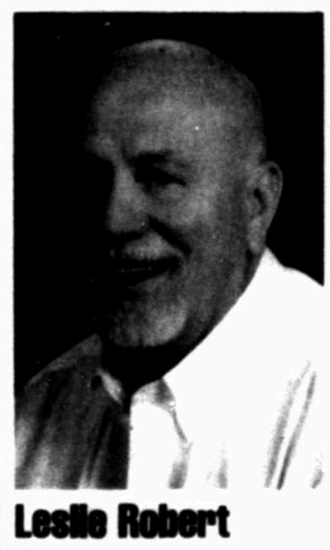
Ms. Little was born on May 1, 1024 in Ranger, Texas. She attended Ranger Jr. College before moving to Midland in 1950. She married Jack Little in 1953. She worked in the oil business always, lastly for Great Western Drilling until her retirement at age 68.

She was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church and kept in regular contact with her Sunday School class until her death.

She is survived by her daughter, Delaine Faris of Lewisville, Texas; her granddaughter, Melissa Faris and husband Carlos Burgos of Dallas, Texas; and her sister, Helen Jenkins of Bedford, Texas. She was preceded in death by her husband Jack, and her sister Nona Harris.

Ms. Little's funeral will be on December 29, 2014 at 3:00p.m. at the First Baptist Church. Visitation will be on December 28, 2014 at Ellis Funeral Home from 3:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. There will be a memorial service on January 5, 2015 at 7:00p.m. at Creekwood Christian Church in Flower Mound, Texas.

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



Leslie Robert Honeyman

Leslie Robert Honeyman, 68, of Midland passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2014. Memorial services will be held on Tuesday, December 30, 2014 at 2:00pm at Christ Church Midland.

Les was born on January 16, 1946 in Hettinger, North Dakota to Orville and Marian Honeyman. He received an undergraduate degree from the University of North Dakota in Geology in 1969. He married the love of his life, LaNell Oberlander on June 12, 1969. Les began a tour of duty in Vietnam where he received the Army Commendation Medal and the Bronze Star for his service. He returned from his tour on the couple's second wedding anniversary, and subsequently earned a Master's Degree in Geology from the University of North Dakota in 1973. He then began a 41-year career in the oil business starting with Exxon in New Orleans, Louisiana. New Orleans was where their first son, Jeb, was born on October 29, 1973. Les and LaNell also lost their only daughter, Melanie, in New Orleans in 1976. The young family transferred to Midland, Texas in 1977 where their son, Brent Jeremy (B.J.) was born on December 21st of that year.

Les loved his work, his friends, God, his church family, and his wife and sons above all else. He was a paragon of strength, a kind and compassionate friend, a respected co-worker, a dedicated churchman, and the very model of generosity. Those who became friends with Les gained a loyal and unwavering presence in their lives. Those who were lucky enough to be called his family were continuously enveloped in his loving presence that was always available. He loved his wife, his sons, his daughters-in-law and his grandchildren with a depth that will resound with them for the rest of their lives, and will echo throughout future generations who will recall with great fondness the man that was Les Honeyman.

Les was preceded in death by his mother, Marian; his father, Orville; and his daughter, Melanie. He is survived by his wife, LaNell; his siblings, Lynn, Sharon, Marlys, Randy, and Jim; his sons, Jeb and BJ; his daughters-in-law Kay and Rachel; and his grandchildren, Tyler, Drew, Jack, and Lily.

The family would like to express deep gratitude for the love and support of all of their friends, family, and particularly the church family at Christ Church Midland. You have made a powerful and lasting difference.

Les would be honored to know that you donated to your favorite charity in his name.

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

Margarita Velazquez Ramirez

Margarita Velazquez Ramirez better known to her friends and family as "Ita," 84 of Midland, Texas, passed away on December 22, 2014. Margarita was born in Ojinaga Chihuahua, Mexico on January 15, 1930. She married Eduardo L. Ramirez, the love of her life on October 13, 1951. They shared a beautiful and loving relationship for over 40 years.

Margarita started a thriving restaurant named "El Taquito" back in the 1980's along with three of her daughter's Martha Madrid, Bertha Ramirez and Blanca Ramos. A couple of years later she started a new restaurant called Casa Blanca. She had a successful business for over 20 years. It was evident that her true passion was cooking, serving and helping those in need. She was known throughout the community for her generous acts of kindness and love. Margarita always helped those who were less fortunate. She also would cook meals to raise money for those in the community who were struggling financially.

Margarita was a devout Catholic. Her faith was evident in the way she lived her life. She enjoyed playing bingo, going to the casinos and sewing clothes for her children. Her favorite television show was "The Price is Right." So much in fact, she made it a point not to be interrupted during that time slot. One of the greatest joys in her life was to cook for her entire family on Sunday afternoons. These times together created memories which will be cherished forever and will be missed by each family member.

Margarita is preceded in death by her husband Eduardo L. Ramirez, and parents Francisco and Guadalupe Velazquez. She is survived by five daughters and one son. Irma Arsiaga, and husband Luis; Martha Ramirez owner of "Casa Madrid", Bertha Ramirez and late husband Javier owners of "La Mision and Javi's Restaurant"; Eduardo "Lalo" Ramirez, Jr. and wife Rebecca; Blanca Ramos and husband Jesse; and Maria-Elena Galindo and husband Oved. She also leaves behind 26 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and her loyal and faithful companion "Luna."

Visitation will be held at her residence 1516 WCR 116 beginning Tuesday, December 23rd, 2014 thru Thursday, December 25th, 2014. A second viewing will be held at Ellis Funeral Home on Friday, December 26, 2014 through Sunday, December 28, 2014. A rosary will be held on Sunday, December 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel. The funeral services will be held on Monday, December 29 at 11:00 a.m. at San Miguel Catholic Church with Father Chavez and Father Bernard officiating. Interment to follow at Fairview Cemetery.

Pallbearers are Luis Arsiaga, Jr.; Javier Madrid; Richard Padilla; Eduardo Salgado; Jesse Ramos, Jr.; and Obed Galindo

The family wishes to express their gratitude to Hospice of Midland, Homecare Plus, and caregivers, McConnell Olivier, Brenda Orona, and Jesse Rico for their loving support and care

Sherman-James Lloyd Hall

Sherman-James Lloyd Hall, 91, passed away Wednesday December 24, 2014 in Denison, TX. Visitation will be held Monday 1-2 PM at Woods Street Church of Christ in Sherman, TX. Funeral services will follow at 2 PM. Welton Stoker and Jon Smith will officiate. Burial will take place at Akers Cemetery in Sherman.

James was born January 3, 1923 in New Boston, TX to Clarence and Essie (Johnson) Hall. James was raised on his family's farm and was the fourth of five siblings. He served in the U.S. Navy in WWII. He married Mary Lynn Campbell in 1946. He graduated from East Texas State Teachers College (ETSU) in 1949. James and Mary Lynn lived in Midland rearing their family of five children. They also lived in Arlington and East Texas before James retired as a law book salesman for Commerce Clearing House. Inc. After retirement they moved to Sherman. After the death of his first wife, James remarried Delores Davidson in 1991. James served 18 years as president of the SNAP Board. He was a member of the body of Christ and worshipped with the Woods Street congregation. He enjoyed fellowship with family, friends and church members. He enjoyed recreational sports, table games, and especially music. He spent many hours visiting local nursing homes playing piano for the residents. His biggest claim to fame, in retrospect, was playing baseball for the Shell Oil baseball team in Midland, where George Herbert Bush was a fellow team member. James had a great

Obituaries

sense of humor and loved entertaining with his silly antics and costumes. He will be fondly remembered as a fun loving family man.

James is survived his wife, Delores Hall of Sherman; daughter, Linda Pittman and husband Donald of Blossom, TX; son, Carroll Hall and wife Shirley, of Spring, TX; daughter, Cindy Medlin and husband Dennis of Denison; daughter, Molly Shaw and husband Les of Mansfield, TX; step-son, Kelly Davidson and wife Kimberly of Van Alstyne, TX; step-daughter, Cindy Hill and husband David of Pottsboro, TX; brother, Murl Hall of Houston, TX; brother in-law, Jerry Spradling and wife Bonnie; sister in-law, Jerry Lambert; twenty-five grandchildren and thirty-five great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Lynn Campbell-Hall whom he spent 43 years; and three siblings.

The register book can be signed online at www.waldofuneralhome.com

Arrangements are under the direction of Waldo Funeral Home in Sherman.

A Memorial Services will be held December 29, 2014 at 10:00 am at Cornerstone Christian Fellowship, 901 N. Midland, Dr. in Midland.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home. To send family condolences please sign the guest registry at *www.sunsetodessa.com.*

SUNSET MEMORIAL
GARDENS & FUNERAL HOME

John McBride

John Patrick McBride went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on December 16, 2014.

He was born near Findlay, Illinois on November 27, 1926 to John and Edna McBride. As a young man he loved swimming and fishing at the lake at Shelbyville, Illinois. He lettered in football and basketball at Shelbyville High School, graduating in 1945. Sports were always very important to him. He was a lifeguard at city pool each summer. John served in the Army Air Corp. in Italy and Germany from 1945 to 1946. While in Rome, Italy, he had an audience with the Pope and saw the Sistine Chapel, which was not open to the public at that time.

John married his high school sweetheart, Jacqueline (Jackie) on May 13, 1950. They had a happy marriage for 64 years. He graduated from Oklahoma University in 1951 with a geological degree. He worked for Gulf Oil for many years and retired from Atlantic Richfield. He and Jackie loved the country of Israel and visited there four times and hoped to go again. He was a great husband and father who loved his family with all his heart. He personally taught all of his children to swim and always attended all their school activities.

He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Edna McBride and brother, Thomas Murphy McBride.

John is survived by his wife, Jackie McBride; sons, Michael McBride and Terry McBride; daughters, Christine Coston, Sherri Hart and Julie and Donnie Bollinger; sisters, Sharon Wade and Donna Robinson of Shelbyville, Illinois.

He and Jackie lost son Patrick in 2009. They have 10 wonderful grandchildren and 12 great grandkids, which he adored.

Death Notices

Barbara Steinert

Barbara Steinert, 77, of Midland, died at her Residence on December 22, 2014. She is survived by a daughter, Debbie Brannon, of The Woodlands, Texas. A burial will be scheduled at Cathedral of the Pines Cemetery in Tyler, Texas at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Ellis Funeral Home.

David Meade

David Meade, 42, of Midland, passed away on Wednesday, December 24, 2014. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory in Midland.

Dora Alicia V. Maldonado

Dora Alicia Valenzuela Maldonado, 66 of Midland, passed away on December 23, 2014.

Visitation will be today from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Heavenly Gate Funeral Home Chapel. Rosary will be held Monday, December 29, 2014 at 7:00 pm also at Heavenly Gate Chapel.

She is survived by her mother, Amparo Alicia Valenzuela; her children: Raul "Rudy" Sanchez, Michael V. Sanchez, Danny V. Sanchez, Christina V. Padilla, Dora M. Viera, Cecilio Maldonado Jr. and Amparo Alicia Maldonado; one brother and one sister.

Glendon Farrington

Glendon Farrington, 87, of Midland passed away on Friday, December 26, 2014. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, December 31, 2014 at 1:00 PM at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

He is survived by his daughter, Lois M. Foster and son, Billy Joe Farrington.

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

Oleta "Maggie" Scott

Oleta " Maggie" Scott 97 passed away on Thursday, December 25, 2014. Funeral services will be held 2:30 P.M. Sunday, December 28, 2014 at Blackwell First Baptist Church with Rev. Mark Hewitt officiating under the direction of McCoy Funeral Home.

In Lieu of flowers family requests memorials be made to Blackwell First Baptist Church P.O. Box 416 Blackwell, TX 79506.

Online Condolences may be expressed at www.mccoyfh.com.

All Obituaries must be submited by 3:30 P.M. prior to next publication day.

Jeremy Lloyd, creator of British TV comedies, dies at 84

By Daniel E. Slotkin
New York Times News Service

Jeremy Lloyd, a creator of two long-running BBC comedy series — "'Allo 'Allo!" and "Are You Being Served?" — died Monday in a hospital near his home in London. He was 84.

His agent, Alexandra Cann, who confirmed the death, said he was being treated for pneumonia.

"Are You Being Served?" was a broad sendup of life in a British department store, based largely on Lloyd's experiences as a salesman at a Piccadilly shop. The show was a hit in Britain, where it ran from 1972 until 1985, and was also popular in the United States, Canada and Australia. It spawned multiple spinoffs and is still being shown on the BBC and on many PBS stations.

"'Allo 'Allo!" was a World War II farce, filled with sexual innuendo, slapstick gags and overwrought accents, in which factions of British, French and Germans clashed in a small French cafe. It ran from 1982 until 1992, although it did not air in the 1990 season.

Final goodbye: Roll call of some who died in 2014

By Bernard McGhee
Associated Press

They each turned a moment of violence into a call to action. For James Brady, that moment came when he was shot and wounded by a would-be presidential assassin. For Chung Eun-yong, it was the killings of his two children during the Korean War.

Brady took up a personal campaign for increased gun control after surviving a head wound when a man tried unsuccessfully to kill President Ronald Reagan, for whom Brady was press secretary. Chung began a years-long quest for justice, which eventually prompted the U.S. Army to acknowledge having killed civilian refugees at No Gun Ri.

Brady and Chung, who died within days of each other in August, are among the notables who left the world in 2014.

Others included political figures who catalyzed war and peace and scientists who changed our lives. And we lost beloved entertainers, some remembered for bringing audiences decades of smiles and tears and others who left the stage long before their time.

Among the political figures who died in 2014 was Ariel Sharon a hard-charging Israeli general and prime minister whose efforts to reshape the Middle East caused some to call him a war hero and others a war criminal. Another was Marion Barry, the former Washington, D.C., mayor whose accomplishments were often overshadowed by his arrest for drug use.

British politician Tony Benn, former Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski and former Georgia president Eduard Shevardnadze also died this year.

Among scientists and innovators was Rostislav Belyakov, the chief designer of the Russian MiG fighter jets, Nobel Prize winner Martin Perl, who discovered a subatomic particle, and S. Donald Stookey, the inventor of Corningware.

A feeling of untimeliness defined several of the deaths in the entertainment arena in 2014.

The suicide of actor and comedian Robin Williams touched off a national conversation about depression. The overdose deaths of actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, model Peaches Geldof and heavy metal frontman Dave Brockie were reminders of the scourge of drug use.

Other artists and entertainers included: actors Shirley Temple, Mickey Rooney, Suchitra Sen, Harold Ramis, Lauren Bacall, Ken Takakura and Eli Wallach; musicians Pete Seeger, Sabah, Tommy Ramone, Lorin Maazel, Gustavo Cerati and Big Bank Hank; filmmakers Mike Nichols and Run Run Shaw; radio host Casey Kasem; comedian Joan Rivers and writers Maya Angelou and Amiri Baraka.

Here is a roll call of some of the people who died in 2014, (Cause of death cited for younger people, if available.)

JANUARY

Saul Zaentz, 92. Music producer whose second career as a filmmaker brought him best-picture Academy Awards for "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Amadeus" and "The English Patient." Jan. 3.

Run Run Shaw, 107. Pioneering Hong Kong movie producer whose studio popularized the kung fu genre that influenced Quentin Tarantino and other Hollywood directors. Jan. 7.

Amiri Baraka, 79. Militant man of letters and tireless agitator whose blues-based, fist-shaking poems, plays and criticism made him a groundbreaking force in American culture. Jan. 9.

Ariel Sharon, 85. Israeli general and prime minister who was admired and hated for his battlefield exploits and ambitions to reshape the Middle East. Jan. 11.

Suchitra Sen, 82. Legendary Indian actress known for her memorable roles in both Bengali-language and Hindi Bollywood films. Jan. 17.

FEBRUARY

Philip Seymour Hoffman, 46. He won a best actor Oscar in 2006 for his portrayal of writer Truman Capote in "Capote" and created a gallery of other vivid characters, many of them slovenly and slightly dissipated comic figures. Feb. 2. Apparent heroin overdose.

Joan Mondale, 83. She burnished a reputation as "Joan of Art" for her passionate advocacy for the arts while her husband, Walter, was vice president and a U.S. ambassador. Feb. 3.

Ralph Kiner, 91. He slugged his way to the baseball Hall of Fame and then enjoyed a half-century career as a popular broadcaster. Feb. 6.

Shirley Temple, 85. Dimpled, curly-haired child star who sang, danced, sobbed and grinned her way into the hearts of Depression-era moviegoers. Feb. 10.

Harold Ramis, 69. Comedy actor, director and writer best known for his roles in movies such as "Ghostbusters" and "Stripes." Feb. 24.

MARCH

Sheila MacRae, 92. Veteran stage, film and TV performer best known for playing Alice Kramden in the 1960s re-creation of "The Honeymooners." March 6.

Tony Benn, 88. Committed British socialist who irritated and fascinated Britons through a political career spanning more than five decades and who renounced his aristocratic title rather than leave the House of Commons. March 14.

L'Wren Scott, believed to be 49. She left her small-town Utah home as a teenager to become a model in Paris, then a top Hollywood stylist and finally a high-end fashion designer best known as the longtime girlfriend of Mick Jagger. March 17. Apparent suicide.

Jeremiah Denton, 89. Former Alabama senator who survived 7? years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam and alerted the U.S. military to conditions there when he blinked the word "torture" in Morse code during a television interview. March 28.

APRIL

Mickey Rooney, 93. Pint-size actor and all-around talent whose more than 80-year career spanned silent comedies, Shakespeare, Judy Garland musicals, Andy Hardy stardom, television and the Broadway theater. April 6.

Peaches Geldof, 25. Model and media personality who was a daughter of Irish singer Bob Geldof and member of a talented, troubled family who grew up in the glare of Britain's tabloid press. April 7. Heroin overdose.

Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, 76. Boxer whose wrongful murder conviction became an international symbol of racial injustice. April 20.

Bob Hoskins, 71. British actor whose varied career ranged from noir drama "Mona Lisa" to animated fantasy "Who Framed Roger Rabbit." April 29.

Walter R. Walsh, 106. He captured gangsters as an FBI agent in the 1930s and went on to train Marine Corps snipers and become the longest-lived Olympian. April 29.

MAY

Jeb Stuart Magruder, 79. Watergate conspirator-turned-minister who claimed in later years to have heard President Richard Nixon order the infamous break-in. May 11.

Jerry Vale, 83. Beloved crooner known for his high-tenor voice and romantic songs in the 1950s and early '60s. May 18.

Jack Brabham, 88. Three-time Formula One champion who famously pushed his car to the finish line to claim his first season title. May 19.

Ruth Ziolkowski, 87. She carried on her late husband's dream of honoring Native Americans by carving the massive likeness of warrior Crazy Horse into the Black Hills in South Dakota. May 21.

Jaime Lusinchi, 89. Former Venezuelan president who struggled to tame an economic crisis sparked by plunging oil prices in the late 1980s and then saw his reputation tarnished by allegations of corruption after leaving office. May 21.

Wojciech Jaruzelski, 90. Communist leader who imposed harsh military rule on Poland in 1981 in an attempt to crush the pro-democracy Solidarity movement but later allowed reforms that ended up dismantling the regime. May 25.

Bunny Yeager, 85. Model turned pin-up photographer who helped jump-start the career of then-unknown Bettie Page. May 25.

Maya Angelou, 86. Author and poet who rose from poverty, segregation and violence to become a force on stage, screen and the printed page. May 28.

JUNE

Ann B. Davis, 88. Emmy-winning actress who became America's best-known housekeeper as the devoted Alice Nelson of TV's "Brady Bunch." June 1.

Alexander Shulgin, 88. Respected chemist famed for dusting off a decades-old recipe for the psychedelic drug ecstasy. June 2.

Chuck Noll, 82. Hall of Fame coach who won a record four Super Bowl titles with the Pittsburgh Steelers. June 13.

Casey Kasem, 82. Radio broadcaster with a cheerful manner and gentle voice who became the king of the top 40 countdown with a syndicated show that ran for decades. June 15.

Tony Gwynn, 54. Hall of Famer whose sweet left-handed swing made him one of San Diego's best-loved athletes and earned him the nickname "Mr. Padre." June 16. Cancer.

Eli Wallach, 98. Raspy-voiced character actor who starred in dozens of movies and Broadway plays and earned film immortality as a quick-on-the-draw bandit in the classic Western "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." June 24.

Howard H. Baker Jr., 88. Moderate Republican ex-senator who, during the 1973 Watergate hearings, sought to learn Richard Nixon's role by asking what the president knew and when he knew it. June 26.

JULY

David Greenglass, 92. He served 10 years in prison for his role in the most explosive atomic spying case of the Cold War and gave testimony that sent his brother-in-law and sister, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, to the electric chair. July 1.

Louis Zamperini, 97. Olympic distance runner who, during World War II, survived 47 days on a raft in the Pacific after his bomber crashed, then endured two years in Japanese prison camps; subject of the book and movie "Unbroken." July 2.

Metropolitan Volodymyr, 78. Head of Ukraine's Orthodox Church who was credited with stabilizing the church. July 5.

John Seigenthaler, 86. He edited The Tennessean newspaper, helped shape USA Today and worked for civil rights during the Kennedy administration. July 11.

Tommy Ramone, 65. Co-founder of the seminal punk band the Ramones and last surviving member of the original group. July 11.

Alice Coachman Davis, 90. First black woman to win an Olympic gold medal. July 14.

Dick Smith, 92. Oscar-winning "Godfather of Makeup" who amused, fascinated and terrified moviegoers by devising unforgettable transformations for Marlon Brando in "The Godfather" and Linda Blair in "The Exorcist," among many others. July 30.

AUGUST

Chung Eun-yong, 91. Ex-policeman whose half-century quest for justice for his two slain children led the U.S. Army in 2001 to acknowledge the Korean War refugee massacre at No Gun Ri. Aug. 1.

James Brady, 73. Affable, witty press secretary who survived a devastating head wound in the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan, then undertook a personal crusade for gun control. Aug. 4.

Robin Williams, 63. Academy Award winner and comic supernova whose explosions of pop culture riffs and impressions dazzled audiences for decades. Aug. 11. Apparent suicide.

Lauren Bacall, 89. Slinky, sultry-voiced actress who created on-screen magic with Humphrey Bogart in "To Have and Have Not" and "The Big Sleep" and off-screen magic in one of Hollywood's most storied marriages. Aug. 12.

Jay Adams, 53. Colorful rebel who helped transform skateboarding from a simple street pastime into one of the world's most spectacular sports. Aug. 14. Heart attack.

Richard Attenborough, 90. Actor and Oscar-winning director whose film career on both sides of the camera spanned 60 years. Aug. 24.

SEPTEMBER

Andrew Madoff, 48. Bernard Madoff's last surviving son, he turned his father in and insisted he had been duped into believing history's most notorious Ponzi king was an honest financier. Sept. 3. Cancer.

Joan Rivers, 81. Raucous, acid-tongued comedian who crashed the male-dominated realm of late-night talk shows and turned Hollywood red carpets into danger zones for badly dressed celebrities. Sept. 4. Fatal complication during a medical procedure.

S. Truett Cathy, 93. Billionaire founder of the privately held Chick-fil-A restaurant chain. Sept. 8.

Rev. Ian Paisley, 88. Protestant firebrand who devoted his life to thwarting compromise with Catholics in Northern Ireland only to become a peacemaker in his twilight years. Sept. 12.

Deborah Mitford, 94. Dowager duchess of Devonshire and the last of the witty, unconventional Mitford sisters. Sept. 24.

James Traficant, 73. Colorful Ohio politician whose conviction for taking bribes and kickbacks made him only the second person to be expelled from Congress since the Civil War. Sept. 27.

OCTOBER

Jean-Claude Duvalier, 63. He presided over what was widely acknowledged as a corrupt, brutal regime as the self-proclaimed "president for life" of Haiti until an uprising sent him into a 25-year exile. Oct. 4. Heart attack.

Oscar de la Renta, 82. Worldly gentleman designer who shaped the wardrobe of socialites, first ladies and Hollywood stars for more than four decades. Oct. 20.

Gough Whitlam, 98. Flamboyant Australian prime minister and controversial social reformer whose grip on power was cut short by a bitter constitutional crisis. Oct. 21.

Ben Bradlee, 93. Hard-charging editor who guided The Washington Post through its Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the Watergate scandal and invigorated its newsroom for more than two decades. Oct. 21.

Jack Bruce, 71. British musician best known as the bass player and vocalist of the power blues trio Cream. Oct. 25.

Thomas Menino, 71. Boston's longest-serving mayor whose mumbling and occasional bumbling belied his political ingenuity and endeared him to a city whose skyline he helped reshape. Oct. 30.

NOVEMBER

Tom Magliozzi, 77. He was one half of the brother duo who hosted National Public Radio's "Car Talk," where they bantered with callers and

Please see DEATHS/4B

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

SAN ANTONIO

Man killed while teaching son how to ride bike

A San Antonio man has been shot dead while teaching his 5-year-old son how to ride a bike.

Police are investigating the death Wednesday of 47-year-old Kenneth Anderson. Family members say he was outside his home with his son when a car pulled up and someone shot him twice in the chest.

He was quickly taken to an area hospital, but died on Christmas Day.

GALVESTON

Military shop closes after 42 years

After 42 years, a vintage military shop located in downtown Galveston has closed.

The Galveston County Daily News reported Col. Bubbie's Strand Surplus Senter closed Wednesday after owner Suzie Reiswerg decided to retire. The store was named for her husband, Meyer Reiswerg, who died five years ago. Suzie Reiswerg said the store was his passion.

She said, "He called everybody Bubbie if he couldn't remember their name and then everyone called him the colonel."

WILLIS

Southeast Texas boy, 5, seriously burned

A 5-year-old Montgomery County boy is in intensive care at a Galveston burn center after his clothing caught fire.

Relatives said Ayden Cormier's mother was lighting a bonfire Friday for her children outside their home near Willis and left briefly to go to the restroom. When she returned she found him on fire.

The child's grandfather said the boy apparently grabbed a gasoline can while his mother was away.

PATRICK

From 1B

traveling the state and sharing wish lists with lawmakers. He will be sworn in next month, a week after they take office. At the beginning of February, the six-year cycle of expiring appointees' terms will begin, and Abbott will begin the slow process of taking over the executive branch.

The Senate will get a new leader, too, and Lt. Gov.-elect Dan Patrick seems to be a much more political animal than Dewhurst.

Perry slowly leached away the potency of the most powerful office in Texas government. With him moving on, Patrick might leach it back.

Texans who beat Ebola virus recognized by newspaper

By Nomaan Merchant
Associated Press

DALLAS — The doctor and two nurses who survived the typically deadly Ebola virus and became the faces of how Texas responded to a global crisis have been named The Dallas Morning News' Texans of the Year.

In an editorial to be published Sunday, the newspaper recognized Texas-trained Dr. Kent Brantly, who contracted Ebola while treating patients in Liberia, and Dallas nurses Nina Pham and Amber Vinson, who became sick while treating a Liberian man who was the first Ebola patient diagnosed in the United States.

While Brantly, Pham and Vinson have all been declared Ebola-free, they still grapple with the changes in their lives.

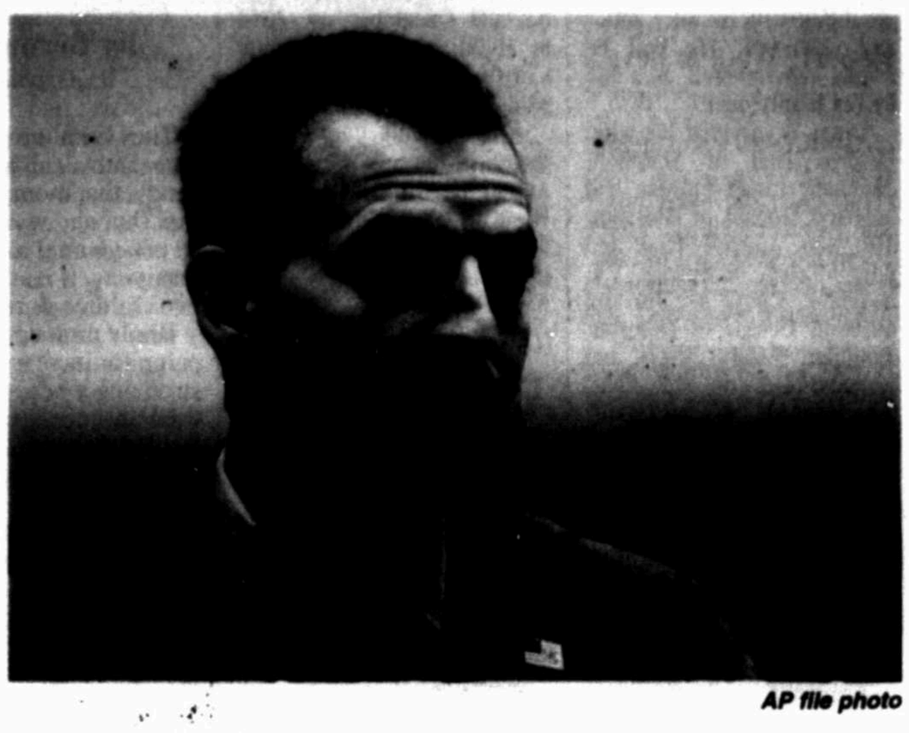
Pham and Vinson still have shortness of breath and other aches and pains. Pham doesn't know what she will do next, but told the newspaper she wanted to keep the public aware that Ebola continues to ravage West Africa, killing more than 7,000 people so far. Vinson recently had a jewelry store replace the engagement ring she lost when crews tore apart her apartment — something she watched on TV from her hospital bed.

Brantly, who was working in Liberia for the nonprofit group Samaritan's Purse, wants to return to Africa to treat more patients, but said he realizes he has a greater potential impact in the United States as a public speaker and fundraiser.

"I need to be a responsible steward of that platform, that opportunity," Brantly said.

Dallas was thrown into the international spotlight after Thomas Eric Duncan, a Liberian man who had come to the U.S. to get married, walked into a local emergency room complaining of a fever and other symptoms.

Hospitals in Georgia and Nebraska had already treated a handful of patients who had contracted Ebola in West Africa, including Brantly, but Duncan's diagnosis was different.



AP file photo

Ebola survivor Dr. Kent Brantly, former Medical Director of Samaritan's Purse Ebola Care Center in Monrovia, Liberia, testifies before the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations on Capitol Hill in Washington, on Sept. 17. Brantly, and Dallas nurses Nina Pham and Amber Vinson, have been named The Dallas Morning News' Texans of the Year.

Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas released him from its emergency room shortly after he registered a 103-degree fever. Two days later, he returned in an ambulance. Officials worried Duncan had passed the disease along to the dozens of people who had contact with him while he was contagious.

Ultimately, the two people he infected were closest to him during his dying days.

As he got worse, Pham would work long days drenched in sweat underneath her protective gear, then debrief night-shift nurses arriving to relieve her.

Duncan died Oct. 8. According to the newspaper, Pham was among the nurses at his bedside, sobbing.

A few days later, both Pham and Vinson noticed they had elevated temperatures and went to the hospital's emergency room. Public health officials moved them to specialized centers on the East Coast.

Their conditions worsened in the same ways as they had seen with Duncan. A doctor came to Pham's bedside to discuss end-of-life arrangements with her.

But they both would recover, receiving a transfusion of Brantly's blood plasma, which was thought to carry Ebola-fighting antibodies.

The newspaper called the three "Ebola blood brothers and sisters."

"They didn't choose Ebola," the editorial reads. "It chose them. Vinson, Pham and Brantly immersed themselves wholeheartedly in the fight to save lives, even when it meant risking their own."

The newspaper also recognized nine finalists, including Michael Sam, the Hitchcock native who became the first openly gay player drafted in the NFL; and Richard Linklater, the Austin resident who directed Texas-focused films "Boyhood" and "Bernie."

DEATHS

From 3B

commiserated over their car problems. Nov. 3.

S. Donald Stookey, 99. He was the scientist who forever changed cooking with the invention of CorningWare, a versatile glass found in millions of American kitchens. Nov. 4.

Mike Nichols, 83. Director of matchless versatility who brought fierce wit, caustic social commentary and wicked absurdity to such film, TV and stage hits as "The Graduate," "Angels in America" and "Monty Python's Spamalot." Nov. 19.

Marion Barry, 78. Former District of Columbia mayor whose four terms were overshadowed by his 1990 arrest after being caught on videotape smoking crack cocaine. Nov. 23.

Sabah, 87. Lebanese singer and actress who was an icon of Arab music. Nov. 26.

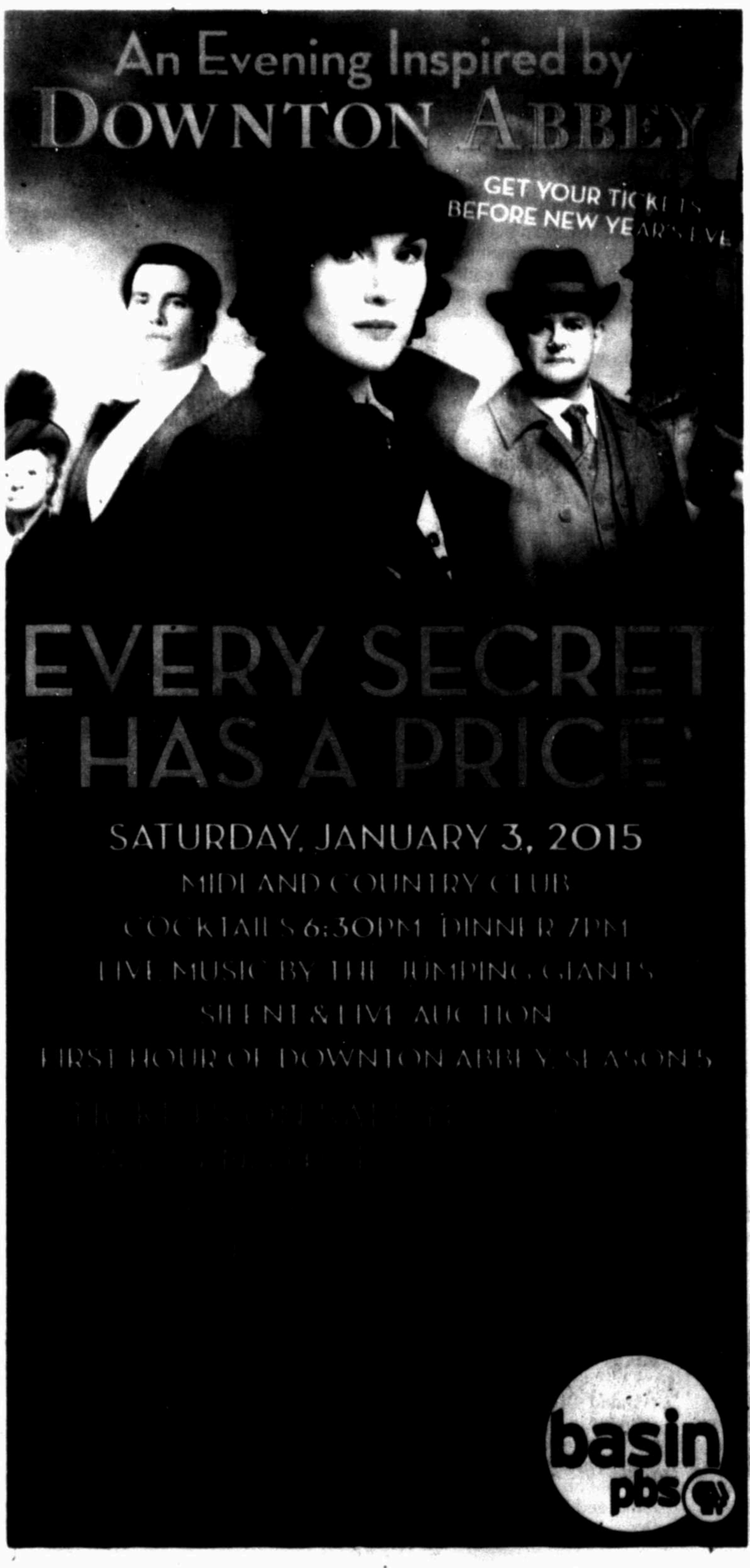
DECEMBER

Herman Badillo, 85. Bronx politician who became the first person born in Puerto Rico to become a U.S. congressman. Dec. 3.

Queen Fabiola, 86. She was inseparable from her husband, the late King Baudouin, and popular across much of Belgium. Dec. 5.

Ralph Baer, 92. Video game pioneer who created both the precursor to "Pong" and the electronic memory game Simon and led the team that developed the first home video game console. Dec. 6.

Joe Cocker, 70. Raspy-voiced British singer with a contorted performing style, known for his frenzied cover of "With a Little Help From My Friends" and the teary ballad "You Are So Beautiful." Dec. 22.



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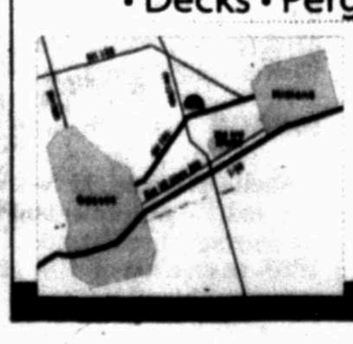

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CRIMEBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Report: Woman keys car, causes thousands of dollars in damages

A 22-year-old woman is facing a felony charge after keying a truck down to the primer on Dec. 19, according to court documents.

Gonzales

Marina Gonzales was booked on a state jail feony charge of criminal mischief between $1,500 and $20,000. She was released on a $5,000 bond on Dec. 20, according to the Midland County Sheriff's Office.

A Midland police officer, according to the arrest affidavit, was called out to the parking lot of the Midland Park Mall on Dec. 19 after 3 p.m. The officer made contact with the owner, who said that she had come to the mall around 1 p.m. to go shopping, and when she returned, she had found that her car had been keyed.

The officer, according to the affidavit, observed there was extensive damage to the pickup, with key marks through the paint and down into the primer. Key marks were on both sides of the bed, all four doors, both front fenders, and the word "hoe" was scratched on the drivers side door. The alleged victim estimated that the damage was worth $8,000.

A witness, according to the affidavit, told the officer that a Hispanic female with dyed-red hair had keyed the truck. The alleged victim confirmed that she knew that individual, later identified as Gonzales, and told the officer where she worked. The officer arrived at Gonzales' work and identified her. He detained her and took her outside for questioning. Gonzales admitted to keying the vehicle when asked by the officer. Gonzales told the officer that she considered assaulting the alleged victim in the mall's parking lot but decided to instead damage the truck.

If convicted of the second-degree felony, Gonzales faces up to two years in prison.

Report: Man arrested for crack possession

A Midland man was arrested Dec. 19 after evading police and being found in possession of crack cocaine, according to court documents.

Brian Arredondo, 32, was being held on a second-degree felony charge of possession of a controlled substance between 4 and 200 grams. He faces a $30,000 fine, according to the Midland County Sheriff's Department.

Arredondo

According to an arrest affidavit, a Midland police officer made a traffic stop on the 1100 block of East Cowden Avenue on a sedan around 8:13 p.m. due to the driver not wearing a seat belt. The officer noted that the driver appeared to be nervous. The officer had the driver exit the vehicle and conducted a pat-down search. He then had the driver sit in his patrol car and asked the left rear passenger, later identified as Arredondo, to exit the vehicle.

When the officer attempted a second pat-down, Arredondo allegedly began running south. The officer, according to the affidavit, said he had managed to get a hand on Arredondo's waist just as Arredondo took off, and the officer felt a large object adjacent to Arredondo's crotch area. The officer said that he was able to catch Arredondo after a brief foot chase and Arredondo was taken into custody.

The officer, according to the affidavit, said the object that he had felt on Arredondo had fallen during the foot chase and was a large purple Crown Royal bag. The officer alleged the bag contained several small baggies with a white rock-like substance that he believed was crack cocaine. A NIK test confirmed the presence of cocaine, and upon running Arredondo's records, he was found to have several warrants out for his arrest.

If convicted of the second-degree felony, Arredondo faces up to 20 years in prison.

Affidavit: Woman on narcotics assaults child

A Midland woman was arrested on Dec. 19 for allegedly assaulting a young girl by pulling her hair and attempting to strike her, according to court documents.

Gonzalez

Charlene Gonzalez, 25, was booked on a state jail charge for injury to a child from reckless behavior. She was being held Friday on a $15,000 bond, according to the Midland County Sheriff's Department.

An officer, according to the affidavit, was dispatched to East Jax Avenue on Dec. 19 around 6:35 p.m. in response to a disturbance. The officer was told at the scene that a woman, Gonzalez, had allegedly assaulted an 8-year-old girl. Gonzalez had allegedly thrown a juice box in an attempt to hit her mother, when the young girl began to yell at her to stop. Gonzalez allegedly charged the 8-year-old girl and was stopped a male relative. Gonzalez then allegedly grabbed the hair of the young girl and pulled her to the ground.

The affidavit cites a witness who said Gonzalez stated to those involved, "can't you see that my eyes are dilated?", indicating to officers that Gonzalez may have been on drugs. The witnesses said that Gonzalez had recently begun huffing paint cans.

If convicted of the state jail felony, Gonzalez faces up to two years in prison.

FELONYARRESTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Kindra J. Harris, 26, of Midland was charged Thursday with possession of a prohibited substance or item in a correctional facility.

Anibal F. Morales, 25, of Odessa was charged Thursday with sexual assault.

Patricia A. Patterson, 71, of Midland was charged Thursday with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Craig A. Tate, 30, of Odessa was charged Thursday with possession of a controlled substance of less than 1 gram.

Source: Midland County Sheriff's Office

REGIONBRIEF

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NEW MEXICO

Archbishop of Santa Fe set to retire

SANTA FE, N.M. — The longtime archbishop of Santa Fe presided over his final Christmas Mass this month.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reports that Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan celebrated Mass on Thursday in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis Assisi.

It was Sheehan's 21st Christmas Day Mass and likely his last.

Sheehan turned 75 last July and must retire under Canon Law.

Longtime churchgoers said they will miss Sheehan's sense of humor and storytelling.

Sheehan was installed as archbishop of Santa Fe in 1993.

He said he will be Archbishop Emeritus of Santa Fe after Pope Francis appoints a new archbishop.

Sheehan said he plans to retire in Albuquerque.

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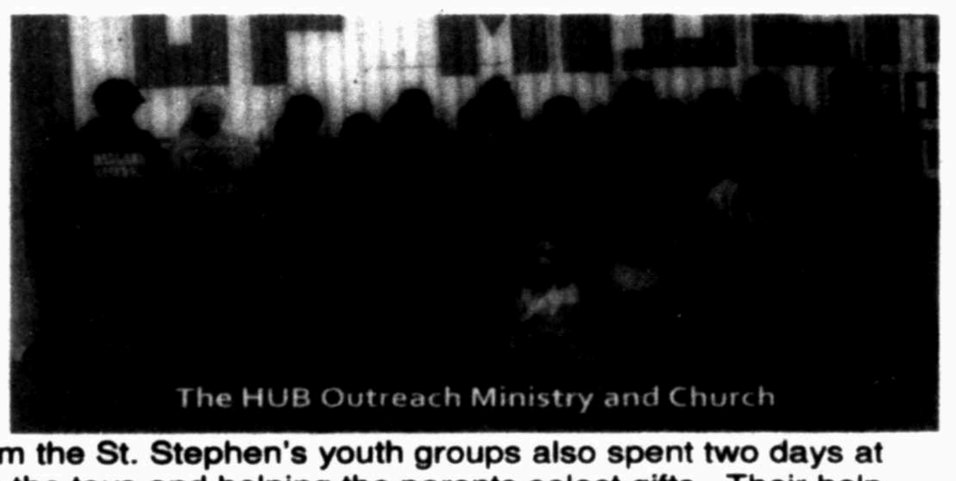
What A Blessed Christmas We Had!

On Sunday, December 14 toys, and clothing was distributed to the parents of almost 500 children, and boxes of food and gift certificates for meats were given out to 250 families. These families were selected by counselors from MISD's Project Head Start program, and are deemed to fall so far below poverty level that it is necessary for the schools to check on them periodically to be sure that they are not in danger of eviction, that there is food in the house, and utilities are on. The joy and tears of gratitude on the faces of the parents as they selected gifts for their children was a sight to which we never tire . Each child received 3 toys as well as a complete new outfit, including shoes.

But pulling this off was not without the efforts of many, many people, and we are truly grateful to them for their support.

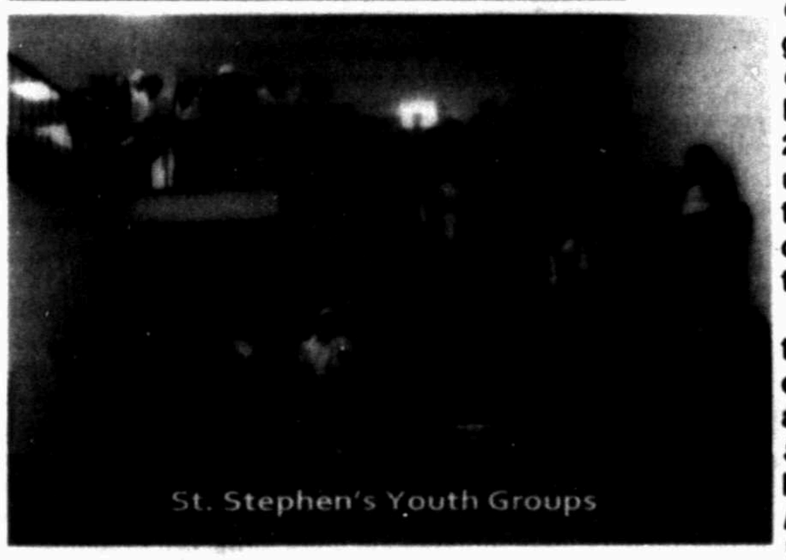
Carol Kiowski and helpers from St. Stephen's Women's Organization

We wish to thank the parishioners from ***St. Stephen's Catholic Church*** for participating in the food drive and providing clothing for the "Dress an Angel" project which was handled by the St. Stephen's Women's Organization.



The HUB Outreach Ministry and Church

Over 30 young people from the St. Stephen's youth groups also spent two days at Helping Hands, setting up the toys and helping the parents select gifts. Their help was phenomenal. Thanks to ***Carol Kiowski*** from the Women's Organization and ***Carlos Garcia***, youth director for making it all go so smoothly. We also thank ***The Hub Outreach Ministry and Church*** who came to Helping Hands on Saturday and assembled 250 food boxes. The project that used to take us 2 weeks to complete is now done in less than two hours thanks to the hard work and dedication of these fine people. Special thanks to ***Dan Nicholas*** for taking on that project.

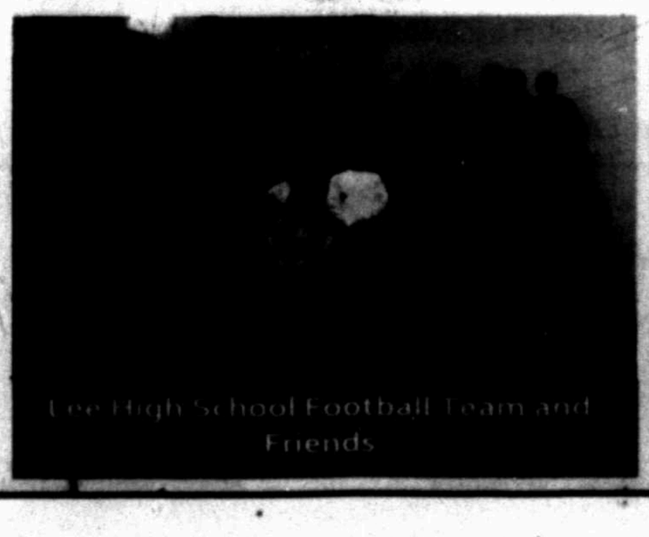


St. Stephen's Youth Groups

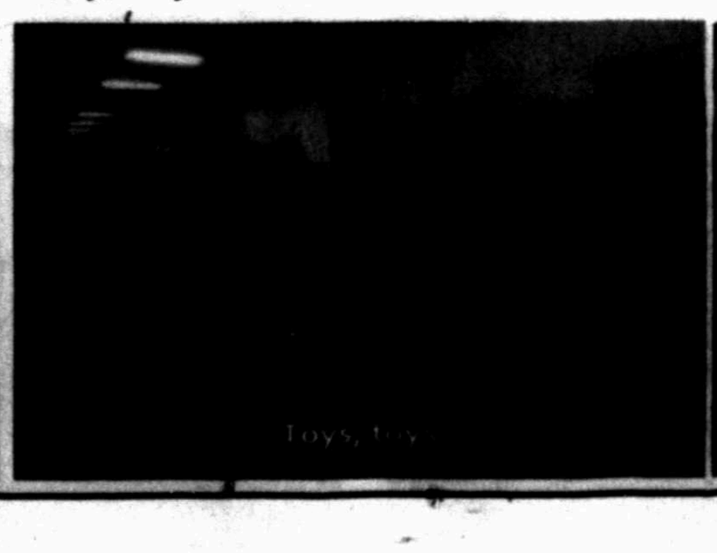
Several other organizations also lent their helping hands to make this event the best ever. ***Midland Memorial Hospital***, for adopting "angels" and holding a toy drive, ***St. Ann's Catholic Church*** for the absolute largest toy drive we have ever seen!, ***Chevron*** for the food drive, ***AT&T Pioneers*** for food and toys drives, ***T Twister Motorcycle Club, B & B Wrecker, Midland Power Sports*** and ***One Body Salon*** also held drives for us. Special thanks to the ***Lee High School Football Team*** for their efforts in helping us move so many packages from St. Stephen's to Helping Hands.

Ladies from Chevron

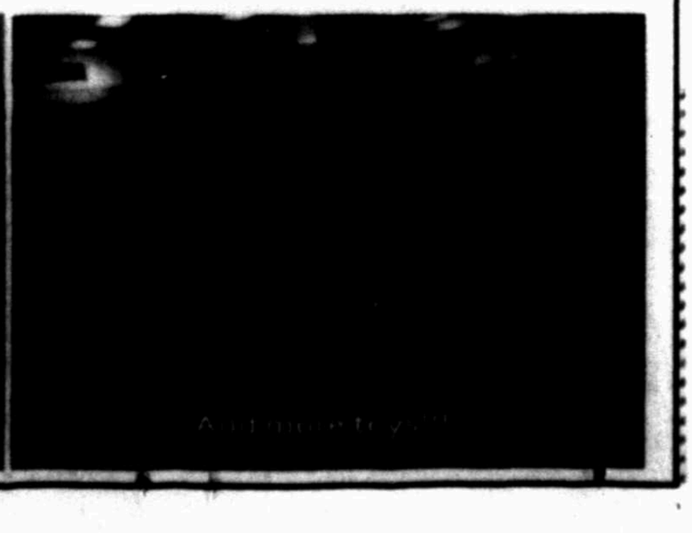
And to all of the people who sent us checks for food, who put food and unwrapped new toys in our truck, or who brought them down to our store, God bless you! God bless all of you for your compassion in reaching out to those less fortunate this holiday season. Thank you very, very much!



Lee High School Football Team and Friends



Toys, Toys



A Truck Full of Toys

OPINION

Jeb Bush faces significant hurdles to 2016

■ Education, immigration stand in the way of conservatives accepting the swing-state governor.

GEORGE WILL
Washington Post Writers Group

In 1968, a singularly traumatic year — assassinations, urban riots, 16,899 Americans killed in Vietnam — Vice President Hubert Humphrey, the ebullient Minnesotan, said his presidential campaign was about "the politics of joy." This was considered infelicitous.

He was, however, right to insist that, whatever America's vicissitudes, the nation's premises explain its trajectory and validate cheerfulness. Similarly, after a 40-year-old Arizonan decided to try politics as a candidate for the Phoenix city council in 1949, he said: "It ain't for life and it might be fun." Barry Goldwater was right: Politics is supposed to be fun, and done right it is.

So Jeb Bush was pitch perfect when he said he would only seek the 2016 Republican presidential nomination if he could do it "joyfully." At this moment of some national troubles and much national hypochondria, voters need reminding that their country, with its many advantages, can get better by choosing to do so — by choosing better policies.

Bush was, however, inscrutable when he recently mused about the possibility of a presidential campaign that would "lose the primary to win the general." This sounds like a baseball strategy that requires stealing first base. There is a reason this has not been tried: the rules of the game.

Still, it is bracing that Bush might bring to nomination politics the spirit of another son of a president, John Quincy Adams, who said America's leaders should not be "palsied by the will of our constituents." Bush, 61, is the tax-cutting, fiscally austere, school-choice promoting, gun-rights protecting, socially conservative, Spanish-speaking former two-term governor of the most important swing state. But for some Republicans, his virtues and achievements are vitiated by his positions on immigration and the Common Core education standards.

Regarding the former, Bush's critics should read "Immigration Wars," the book he co-authored with Clint Bolick of the intellectually impeccably Goldwater Institute, the gold standard of conservative think tanks. Bush and Bolick favor less immigration for family reunification (an idea opposed by many Hispanic activists), more for meeting workforce needs (high-skilled and entrepreneurial immigrants, as well as seasonal workers), and a path to legalization but not citizenship for those here illegally. If these ideas, put forward by persons with Bush's and Bolick's conservative pedigrees, are grounds for political excommunication, Republican presidential politics is going to be a sterile process of serial tantrums by veto groups.

Bush's support of Common Core is much less nuanced and persuasive, and there seems to be condescension in his impatience with the burden he bears of taking seriously the most important reason for rejecting Common Core. It is not about the content of the standards, which would be objectionable even if written by Aristotle and refined by Shakespeare. Rather, the point is that unless stopped now, the federal government will not stop short of finding in Common Core a pretext for becoming a national school board.

Bush says "standards are different than curriculum" and: "I would be concerned if we had a national-curriculum influenced by the federal government. My God, I'd break out in a rash." But standards will shape what is tested, and textbooks will be "aligned" with the tests. Furthermore, has he not noticed what the federal government is doing, using Title IX as a pretext?

It simply states that no person "shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." Based on those 31 words, the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights has stripped colleges and universities of a crucial component of self-government. Using ludicrous statistics based on flimsy social science to manufacture hysteria about a "rape epidemic" on campuses, the federal government is mandating the overthrow of due process in adjudicating accusations of sexual assault. Title IX's 31 words beget hundreds of pages of minute stipulations and mandates.

This crusade against a chimerical "epidemic" is rapidly collapsing under the weight of its absurdities and of the frauds (hello, Rolling Stone) that moralistic frenzy begets. But if Bush does not see the pertinence of this episode to Common Core, which is the thin end of a potentially enormous federal wedge, he should not be put in charge of the executive branch. And this talented man will not get the consideration he has earned unless he can credit the intelligence and goodwill of critics who might reciprocate, joyfully.

OUR VIEW

Thirty years later, No-pass, no-play really was a no-brainer

In a Reporter-Telegram feature about the best football of the last century, a member of the legendary Abilene High football teams of the 1950s talked about their coach, Chuck Moser, and the high standards he held for his program.

The player said Moser suspended two of his players as Abilene High was pursuing its fourth straight state championship. The two players ultimately missed the state semifinal, a game that eliminated the Eagles and ended arguably the greatest gridiron run in Texas high school football history.

The kicker to the story was that Moser allegedly suspended the kids for grades and the rule was his own, not something put in place by the state.

It wasn't for another three decades that the Texas Legislature called for the same type of accountability when it came to participation in extracurricular activities. "No-pass, no-play," as it is called, was part of House Bill 72, an education reform effort pushed by billionaire Ross Perot. The measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by then Gov. Mark White.

HB72 called for students who failed any class to sit out a period of time. While the details of no-pass, no-play changed, and for the better, the intent of the legislation was as right today as it was 30 years ago.

For those interested in learning more about no-pass, no-play, Sports Editor Len Hayward did a great job in Thursday's edition of explaining its creation and the reservations coaches had about the accountability measure. It is a must-read.

We have two takes from the no-pass, no-play story. One, it is ingrained in today's high school culture. Two, it has a positive outcome because it holds students accountable for their actions in the classroom.

Sometimes we wonder if no-pass, no-pay could have been put into effect in today's society. Holding anyone accountable for their actions, we believe, would take a back seat to what some believe are students' "rights." It certainly would have clashed with the entitlement culture seen in today's younger generation.

But what we know is that sometimes hard decisions must be made, and sometimes the right decisions will not be popular. Accountability measures, such as no-pass, no-play and Title IX, are like that. It goes back to what we want and what we need. Leaders understand that. The great leaders have no problems implementing what they understand.

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Cruz: GOP should learn from history

■ Senator's vision for a Republican victor in 2016 looks very familiar

TODD GILLMAN
Dallas Morning News

A centrist Republican simply cannot win the White House in 2016 — that's the argument Sen. Ted Cruz has been peddling for two years, since the defeat of Mitt Romney.

Romney? A good man. John McCain? Bob Dole? Decent men. Patriots. But each, in the Cruz analysis — which just happens to tilt the playing field his way — was doomed. And the next in this line of certain failures would be the candidate to draw the most attention lately, Jeb Bush, brother and son of presidents and darling of the party's establishment.

"We need to learn from history," Cruz said.

That was two months ago, throwing an elbow when Bush was merely eyeing a run. Last week, Bush became the first candidate to announce he'll explore a bid. And Cruz's warning got more overt.

"The only way we win in 2016 is if we follow Reagan's admonition — if we paint in bold colors and not pale pastels," the senator told Sean Hannity on Fox News. "If we continue to run to the mushy middle ... the same voters that stayed home in 2008 and 2012 will stay home again, and we will not win."

Centrists can win, actually. Jeb Bush's brother and father didn't run as dogmatic right-wingers. And there's that inconvenient data point from 1964: Barry Goldwater, the conservative senator from Arizona, crushed in a landslide.

"The public is clearly not looking for an ideological president. They are looking for a president who can get things done," said Democratic pollster Celinda Lake, a self-described "Goldwater girl" in her younger days.

Bush allies reject depictions of him as anything but a true-blue conservative. In any case, even with showers of cash from his family's robust donor network, there's no easy path to the GOP nomination for him or anyone else.

He'll need to get past New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, for one. And the eventual winner from that wing of the party will end up in a showdown with Cruz or whoever else emerges from the right — outgoing Texas Gov. Rick Perry, perhaps, or Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio or any of a half-dozen others.

"While people are nostalgic for the Clinton years, they are not nostalgic for the Bush years," Lake said.

Jockeying for 2016 was already well underway when Bush made known his intentions on Facebook, a first for the Bush dynasty. President Barack Obama's détente with Cuba exposed big differences in the GOP field, with Paul lauding the effort to set aside a Cold War remnant and Rubio, in particular, accusing Paul of being a dupe.

Cruz, like others, has been making preparations. A few weeks ago, his Princeton University roommate and debate partner, Atlanta investor David Panton, started a super PAC devoted to promoting Cruz for president. Panton seeded the effort with $100,000, and two other donors kicked in $35,000, campaign filings show.

It's not enough to go the distance, but it signals that Cruz has friends willing to pony up serious money.

But GOP pollster Ed Goeas sees obstacles for Cruz. One is the large and impressive class of Senate Republicans in the new majority.

"We did not nominate any crazies," Goeas said, adding, "The more the country sees the quality of that class, the more people like Ted Cruz are going to fade into the background."

The failings of the current president also hurt Cruz, he argued. They may have little in common politically. But the Texan is just as untested as the president was ahead of his 2008 campaign.

"One of the things we've always seen in polling is that people elect legislators based on are you smart enough to govern. They elect mayors, they elect governors, they elect presidents, on are you strong enough to lead," Goeas said. "There is a lot of feeling, even on the left, that maybe we elected a president with not enough experience to get the job done. ... That works against Ted Cruz."

Cruz prefers to frame the choice through litmus tests. The next president, he argues, should be standing up and proclaiming that the economy is a mess, Obamacare is a "train wreck," and the Constitution and American clout are under siege.

That, of course, would be a description of himself.

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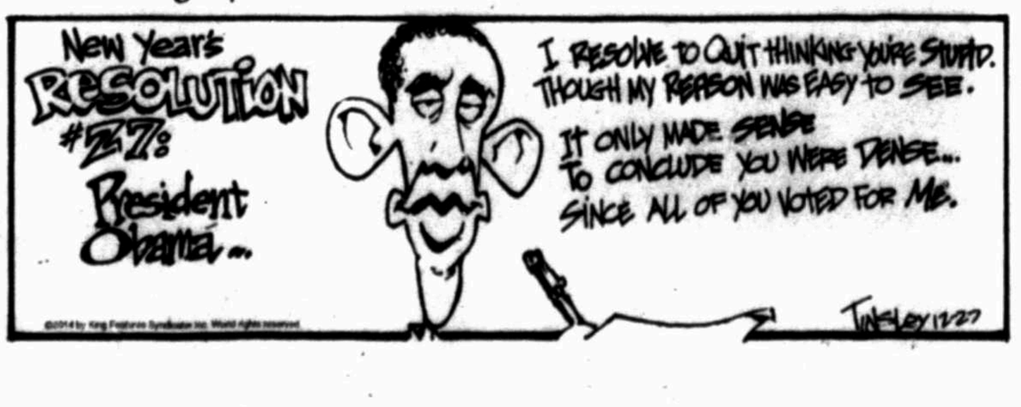
From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Low gas prices are good; low gas prices are bad

KEN HERMAN
Cox Newspapers

This is the holiday season of our consternation. Many of us are deeply consternated. (That sounds uncomfortable.)

The source of our consternation is gas. (This is getting worse.) Specifically, it's the price of gas.

I don't know about you, but I grow downright giddy while pumping $2.059-a-gallon gas. Maybe it's the fumes. But who doesn't like paying less for anything?

And then I read, in my very own newspaper and written by one of my very own colleagues, that low gas prices might be bad for us — us being Texans, all of whom have an oil well out back, right next to our cattle and the shack where we store our firearms.

Remember when high gas prices were bad for us?

Let's review: High gas prices, bad. Low gas prices, bad. This makes it kind of difficult to know what to root for, kind of like when OU plays A&M.

The benefits of low gas prices are obvious. If I remember my advanced economics, when gas prices are low it costs less. Less, of course, is relative. It's still too high. The lowest I ever paid for a gas was back in the early 1970s as a high school kid in North Miami. The benchmark price was 29.9 cents a gallon. One price war chopped the price to 19.9 cents.

Back to today, or, actually, Dec. 19 when Austin American-Statesman business writer Claudia "The Grinch" Grisales inflicted reality upon us in a story explaining that low gas prices are bad for us. Thanks a lot, Claudia, way to screw up the festive holiday season.

The headline: "Experts: Lower oil prices a threat to Texas economy." Experts. They think they're such experts. Who needs 'em?

The experts Grisales quoted reminded us Texas, despite recent diversification (largely the proliferation of Buc-ee's stores), remains linked to oil.

Local economist Brian Kelsey did some math. Economists are like that. Always showing off by doing math. His math says if oil and gas industry earnings fall 20 percent in Texas, the state could lose 212,000 jobs and $13.5 billion in earnings.

"Earnings in the oil and gas sector drive a significant portion of overall economic activity in Texas," Kelsey said in Grisales' story. "So consumers may enjoy seeing lower gas prices, but falling oil prices can hurt more in other ways."

I get it. I was around the Capitol in 1986 when plummeting oil prices caused significant fiscal heartburn for the state. Nevertheless, I'm still feeling that pleasant, light-headed feeling when I'm paying a dollar less per gallon than I did not that long ago. Does that make me a bad man?

So I called Michael Webber, deputy director of the Energy Institute at the University of Texas. Mr. Webber, am I a bad man for enjoying declining gas prices?

"If you are a person who consumes energy, which is everybody, then you should be happy about the lower energy prices," Webber said, making me feel better about myself.

"If you are a producer of energy — the guy who pulls oil out of the ground or an investor or employee of those companies — you should be unhappy," Webber said.

I produce no energy, and remain sufficiently immature to chuckle when a legislator lists his occupation as "gas producer."

But what of the indirect economic impact on me, the bad stuff predicted by the expert sayers of doom?

Yes, Webber said, if oil prices drop too far too quickly, "the economy could collapse."

I'm no expert, but I think that would not be good for me.

Webber talked about 1986 and falling oil prices and failed real estate investments and savings and loans scandals and bailouts and all manner of economic mayhem. (On the positive side, my New York Mets won the World Series in '86.)

Webber seems to think everything will be fine. In general, he made me feel OK about feeling great about paying $2.05.9 a gallon at Costco (where — and I hate to brag — I'm a Gold Star Member, and where the price dropped another penny this week).

Webber summed up thusly: "Even a dead cat will bounce if you drop it."

CARL P. LEUBSDORF
Dallas Morning News

Jeb Bush inches closer to a run

It took only hours for Jeb Bush's announcement he will "actively explore" a presidential bid to show the former Florida governor what running for the White House is like these days.

"Jeb's Romneyesque private equity issues make him an appetizing potential opponent for Democrats," said American Bridge 21st Century, a pro-Democratic group that monitors Republican candidates.

The conservative Heritage Foundation's Daily Signal warned Bush's support for the Common Core education standards, against which the GOP right has campaigned, "threatens to overshadow his likely campaign."

And Bush hasn't even decided to run. Still, last week's announcement and his disclosure that he'll release thousands of emails from his gubernatorial tenure, make his final decision pretty evident.

While it's soon to label anyone the Republican frontrunner, his prospective candidacy is the most significant move to date in the GOP presidential race.

At the least, Bush is likely to be a major player in that race. If he runs, 2012 nominee Mitt Romney probably won't. And more than most likely hopefuls, the latest heir to the Bush political dynasty has the potential to go all the way.

But he faces at least four potential roadblocks:

■ Would a third President Bush be one too many?

His older brother, George W. Bush, benefited from a good memories about his father, President George H. W. Bush, and some retroactive regrets he had been denied a second term.

Some of that remains, though brother George's legacy is decidedly more mixed: he got the United States enmeshed in Iraq and presided over the onset of the Great Recession. But public feeling toward him has improved, helped by his successor's unpopularity and his own classy post-presidential demeanor.

It's hard to tell if Bush 41's woes will prevent the Bushes from becoming the first American family with three presidents. But any potential dynasty problem may be lessened by the prospective candidacy of Hillary Clinton.

■ Can he survive an ever faster and more treacherous nominating process?

Bush last faced voters in 2002, a dozen years ago. The speed of everything political has increased substantially in the age of Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, and the Internet has enabled anyone to discover and publicize a candidate's flaws and missteps.

Candidates generally underestimate the big contrast between running statewide, even in a competitive one like Florida, and running nationally. That must be multiplied several times in Bush's case.

In last year's book tour, he looked rusty, prone to giving imprecise answers about his own views. He'll have to do better as a candidate.

■ How damaging is his support for Common Core, comprehensive immigration reform and possible tax increases to cut the deficit, all three outside the current GOP mainstream?

We'll learn pretty fast, from how his rivals raise these issues and Republican voters react. He won't be the favorite candidate of the Tea Party and its conservative GOP allies.

But every Republican race has room for a more moderate candidate, and they often win the nomination — John McCain 2008, Romney 2012. Though Bush was a solidly conservative governor, he may benefit from the contrast between his low-key demeanor and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's bluster or fellow Floridian Marco Rubio's rabid neo-conservatism.

Past races suggest Bush, like Romney in 2012, could do surprisingly well in the conservative-dominated Iowa caucuses, since the votes of the roughly two-thirds who traditionally back conservatives may split far more ways than those of the one-third who back moderates.

■ Will his complex financial holdings undercut his candidacy as happened to Romney?

Joshua Green's account in Bloomberg Businessweek of his financial activities raised that very question, especially his overseas investments.

But he's running as a Bush, not as a businessman, so it's possible only improprieties would hurt.

While those factors may hurt, other aspects might help. For example, his more moderate position on immigration and his past appeal to Hispanics may create problems for Democrats.

"I think he would be the toughest guy for us," former National Chairman Howard Dean told The Washington Post.

That view is widely held. But first, Bush will have to survive the landmines along the Republican nominating road.

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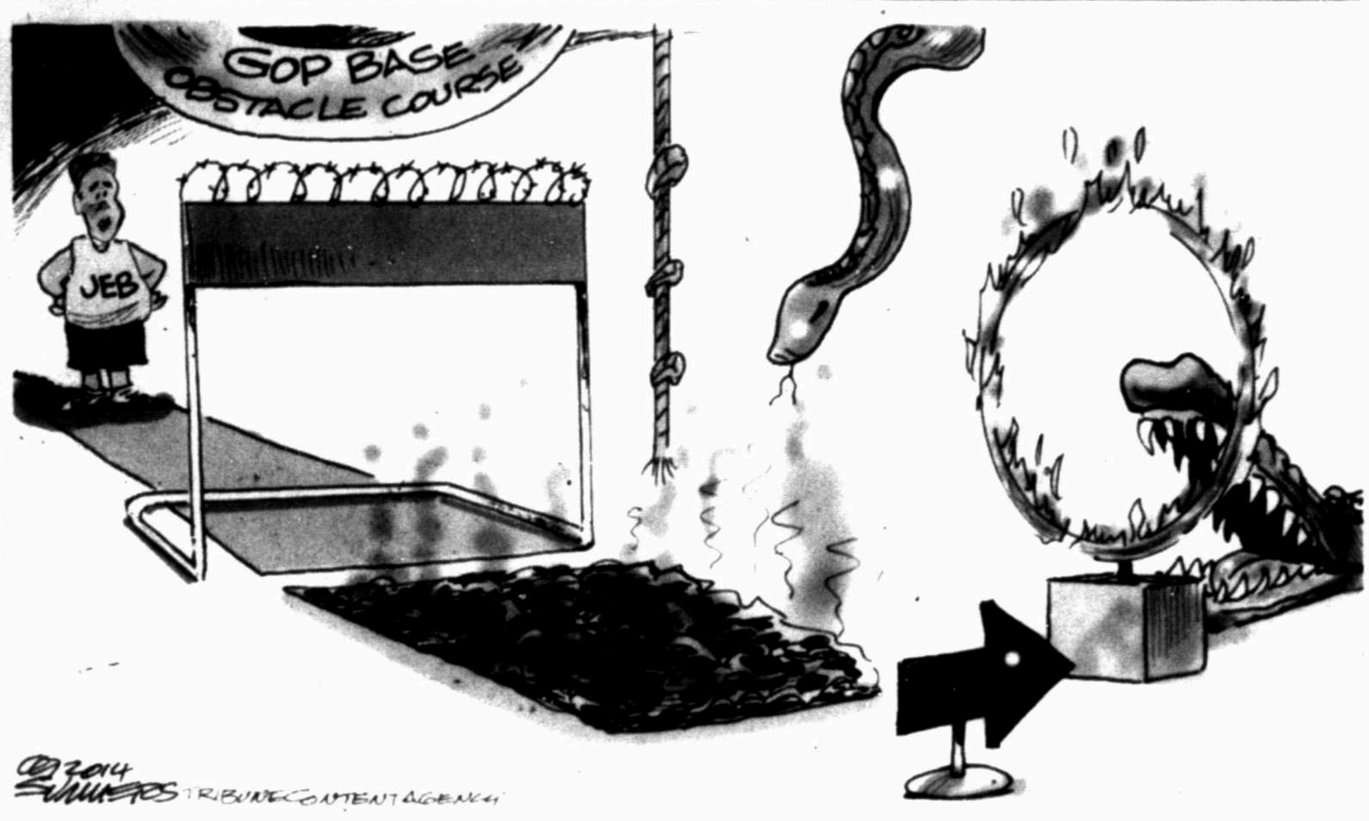

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Midland is overdue honoring fallen officers

In the twilight of my career as a public servant, I often wonder why certain communities choose to honor their fallen heroes on a continuing basis, and others do not. I am fully aware that this community actively participates in the annual Peace Officer Memorial Day. Donations graciously continue to be made for the benefit of the Naylor family. But I believe we should do more.

Please correct me if I am wrong, but I am not aware of any street, park, highway, loop, road, reliever route, bypass, library, elementary school, public building, senior center, stadium, convention center, arena or pavilion named after our fallen Midland peace officers: Lt. Gordon Smith, officers Bryan Scoggins and John Wyrick, and now Sgt. Mike Naylor.

Locally, more often than not, those venues, etc., that are named for individuals inevitably seem to be about philanthropy, money and/or politics. Do we have a Wyrick Elementary? A Scoggins Reliever Route? A Smith stadium? A Naylor arena?

Other West Texas communities do honor their fallen. Case in point: Troy M. Hogue Law Enforcement Center, Big Spring/Howard County.

The last Texas Legislature passed a law (HB 3831) to honor Texas peace officers killed in the line of duty along a portion of a state highway in Nueces County. The law sets up a program to allow for a roadside memorial sign to be installed on state highways to commemorate fallen officers. The project is funded by donations, not your tax dollars. (http://bit.ly/1H6qrqm).

Our community is long overdue for doing the same for our fallen peace officers, whether it is in Midland, Ector, Howard, Pecos, Reeves, Reagan and Upton counties.

So where do we start?

B. John McDaniel

America could learn from Israel's optimism

BEN CARSON
Creators Syndicate

Like many other Americans, I have always had a desire to travel to Israel and visit firsthand the many historical sites of spiritual significance. I was recently afforded the opportunity to fulfill that desire and was not disappointed.

In addition to being greatly inspired, I spoke with numerous Israeli citizens from a variety of backgrounds. One overwhelming theme in those conversations was the feeling of abandonment by the United States government. Some of the more diplomatic individuals said they felt sidelined by a U.S. government that had more important issues to deal with. Of course, they had not forgotten the times that our military and financial aid saved them from utter defeat at the hands of their numerous local enemies.

We must remember that Israel is a small country, about the size of New Jersey, with only 8 million people. It is surrounded by Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea, with several other hostile nations in proximity. Enemy forces are in control of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which consists primarily of Samaria and Judea. If not for the Iron Dome missile defense system, the multitudinous rockets launched at Israel this summer from Gaza would have wreaked unimaginable damage on the tiny country.

Some will say we have no more of an obligation to Israel than we do to any other country in the Middle East. Perhaps they have forgotten that Israel is one of our staunchest allies and has collaborated with us on many innovative and mutually beneficial products. Having a strong and dependable military ally in what is arguably the most problematic area of the world right now is certainly a tremendous benefit. As a nation, we have a strong Judeo-Christian heritage, which is important to our identity and the strong value system that once characterized our nation. Furthermore, other nations watch how we treat our longtime ally, since that might serve as a harbinger of how we would treat them.

In my many conversations in Israel, the level of optimism I found also impressed me. Despite the fact that Israelis must send their children to school in armored buses and take many other life-changing precautions on a daily basis, most of them did not seem to be bitter, and they were determined not to let terrorists take control of their lives. The opportunity to visit their thriving and innovative technology sector will never be forgotten. While birthrates are declining in America and Europe, the Israeli birthrate, slightly over three children per family, is increasing. Historically, pessimistic people do not tend to have increasing birthrates. If they can be optimistic while facing death, hatred and attempted destruction every single day, is there a lesson there for us?

We live in a country with significant personal freedom, a formidable military, significant levels of common decency and numerous economic opportunities. Additionally, we are on the verge of gaining energy independence, which will positively impact our portfolio of diplomatic options. With the courage and fortitude to take advantage of these and many other benefits, there is no reason that optimism should not reign supreme in America.

GUEST EDITORIAL

'Tis the season for boring bowl games

San Antonio Express-News

The college bowl game is, ostensibly, one last hurrah to celebrate success on the gridiron. But since when did mediocrity become a suitable measure of success, much less a vehicle for corporate sponsorship?

This year's bowl lineup includes the scintillating GoDaddy Bowl featuring the Toledo Rockets vs. the Arkansas State Red Wolves. Wait, you aren't planning to watch that game?

Not counting the championship game, there are 38 bowl games this season. No offense to anyone, but this lineup includes the not-so-must-see TV of the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl, Foster Farms Bowl, Famous Idaho Potato Bowl and, of course, the Pinstripe Bowl. Who could ever forget about the Pinstripe Bowl? It has a rich history, dating all the way back to 2010. This year's matchup features Boston College, with a 7-5 record, against Penn State University, with its 6-6 record.

Six wins, of course, is the bare minimum to be eligible for a bowl game in this day and age, but even this bar is lower than it appears, thanks to the healthy number of cupcake teams the big schools play to start their seasons.

The University of Texas at Austin, for example, is "celebrating" its very fine 6-6 season by playing Arkansas in the Advocare V100 Texas Bowl. But the Longhorns only reached six wins by playing little North Texas for the first game of the season.

Likewise, Texas A&M University will honor its 7-5 season in the Autozone Liberty Bowl against the West Virginia Mountaineers, who also finished 7-5. But the Aggies only reached seven wins by beating the Lamar Cardinals, SMU Mustangs and Rice Owls early in the season. In the powerhouse Southeastern Conference, the Aggies went 3-5 this year.

The world needs more bowl games like it needs more folk singers. Sorry Taxslayer Bowl, sorry Duck Commander Independence Bowl, but the postseason should be reserved for excellence.

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Local racing team finding success on off-road circuit

By Len Hayward
lhayward@mrt.com

There is one big thing that sticks out about the God is Awesome Racing Team — it's that family is a major part.

Nearly all of the drivers on the team, which features off-road "Trophy" Trucks, are members of the Beal family. Patriarch and the team's main financier Carty Beal leads a team that features his son, daughter, daughter-in-law and granddaughters, along with close friends from Midland and other cities across Texas.

Even the two guys that work on the machines are an uncle and nephew.

"It's absolutely heaven, for me," Carty said. "It's a true blessing to be able to do that. That's why we advertise on the truck, 'God is Awesome' because he gives me the finances to do the racing."

The team was successful this past season in the highly-competitive Best In The Desert racing series in Nevada and Arizona as two of the three teams finished in the top 10 in overall points. Plus, Carty's 48-year old son, Carl, earned the series' Rookie of the Year honor.

Competing and winning is a major draw for all involved, but it's that opportunity to spend extended periods with the family at the races that makes it special.

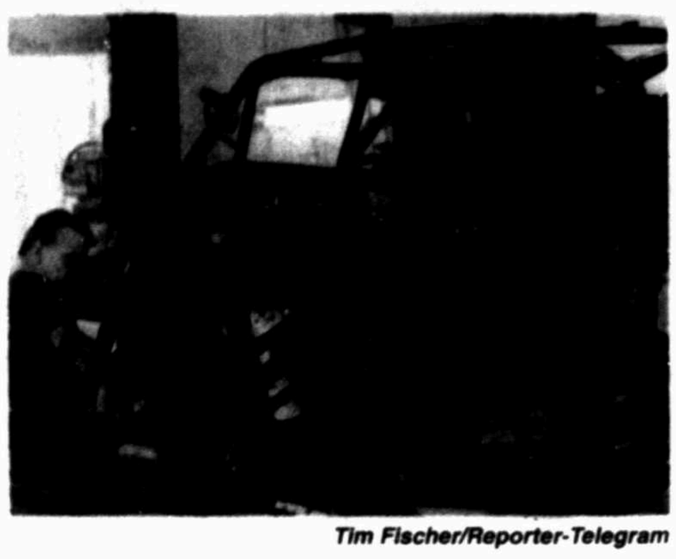
Carty and his son Carl are no strangers to off-road racing. Carty and his brothers competed in off-road racing nearly two decades ago and were successful, winning races such as the Baja 500. They then went drag racing for a few years, racing on the ultra-competitive National Hot Rod Association Pro Stock circuit.

But it was in 2008 that they had a trophy truck in California and brought it back to Midland to get it ready to race.

"I had never seen it until six years ago," said Randy Wells, the team's crew chief who has worked for the Beals since 1992. "A guy in California had it, and oil prices went to nothing and they told me to bring the truck here and to finish it. I then went back to Arizona and got schooled on trophy trucks."

Wells, who has been working for Carty for 22 years, said the first few

Please see **RACING**/6C



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Randy Wells works on one of the race trucks Dec. 18 at the God is Awesome race team garage.

Finding meaning

Cowboys motivated by scenarios

Joseph White
Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — Any given Sunday, one NFL team can tie another.

If you're the Dallas Cowboys, that's one of your top motivations for playing Tony Romo and DeMarco Murray, and otherwise giving your all in the season finale against the Washington Redskins.

For the Cowboys-Redskins outcome to have any significance in the playoff picture, at least one other game today has to end in a draw. The Cowboys have already clinched the NFC East and will earn a first-round bye with losses by Seattle and Arizona — regardless of what they do against their division rival.

But they can also get a bye through multiple other scenarios. For example, a Dallas win and a Detroit-Green Bay tie would do the trick. Add in a loss or tie by Arizona, and the Cowboys would become the No. 1 seed in the conference.

So, even though Romo could probably use a week off to rest his nagging back, and even though Murray broke his hand two weeks ago, look for both to be out there.

"There's a playoff scenario with us winning the game that will give us an opportunity to get a first-round bye," Dallas coach Jason Garrett said, "so we're going to take advantage of what we can take advantage of."

It's quite the contrast from seasons past, when the Cowboys didn't care what

Please see **COWBOYS**/4C

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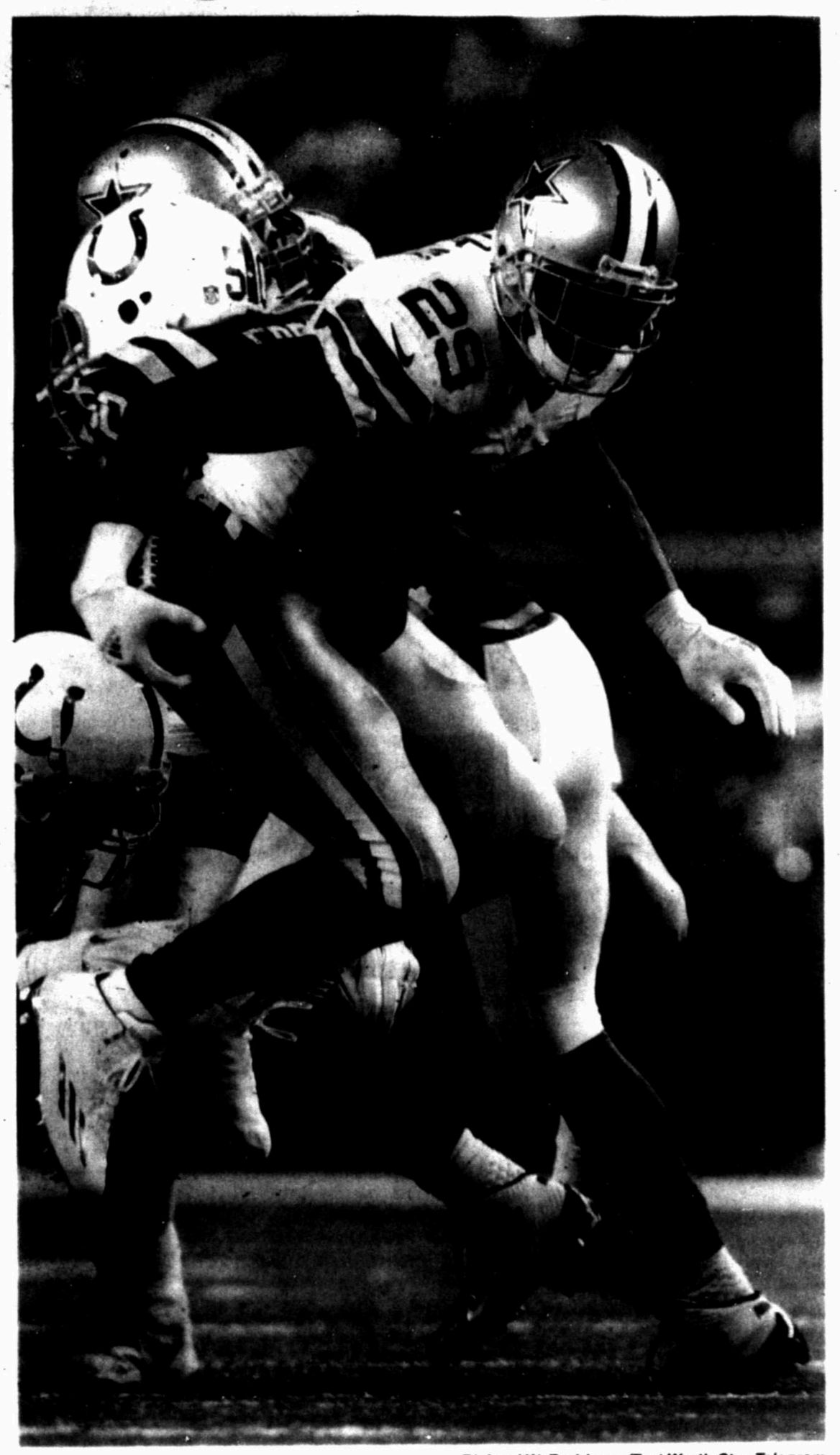


Richard W. Rodriguez/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Dallas running back DeMarco Murray (29) leaps past the Indianapolis Colts defense on a run Dec. 21 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington. The Cowboys still have something to play for today when they take on the Redskins as a mathematical shot at a No. 1 seed still exists.

Texans remain in playoff hunt but need help

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans need everything to go their way today to make the playoffs for the third time in franchise history.

They insist they're only focused on one thing.

"It would be on Jacksonville," safety D.J. Swearinger said. "We've got to take care of what we can control and ignore all the other noise. We've got to beat Jacksonville."

The Texans (8-7) have bounced back from last year's 2-14 season and need a victory over the Jaguars (3-12) and have both Baltimore and San Diego lose to secure an AFC wild card. In a dismal season, Jacksonville would enjoy playing spoiler.

"We'd love to knock them out," Jacksonville defensive tackle Sen'Derrick Marks said. "You know, same division, if we can't go, you don't get to go. That would be nice."

The game

JACKSONVILLE AT HOUSTON

When: Noon today
Location: NRG Stadium, Houston
Radio: KCRS (550 AM)

It will be the second start in a row for quarterback Case Keenum, who Houston signed off the St. Louis practice squad last week after both Ryan Fitzpatrick and rookie Tom Savage were injured and with Ryan Mallett already out for the season. Keenum was with the Texans in training camp before being released, and picked things up quickly in his return to earn his first NFL win last Sunday against the Ravens.

"He had good command of the huddle," quarterbacks coach George Godsey said. "We're asking him to do a lot of things with maybe some checks. Just coming back from being away for so long, it was really refreshing to see how quickly he grasped it. There were some things that we were able to expand with him. Another week to be a little bit better, and then we'll see how that goes."

The Jaguars are encouraged by the improvement of rookie quarterback Blake Bortles, the third overall pick in the draft. He has 11 touchdowns with 17 interceptions this season, but has just three interceptions in his last five games after being picked off 10 times in his first five.

"He's back on track now," Jacksonville coach Gus Bradley said. "I know he didn't throw an interception last week. He threw one against Baltimore.

Please see **TEXANS**/4C

No. 1 Kentucky holds off No. 4 Louisville

By Gary B. Graves
Associated Press

No. 1 Wildcats	58
No. 4 Cardinals	50

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Louisville turned in the defensive performance it needed to take down top-ranked Kentucky.

Problem was, the No. 4 Cardinals couldn't work together on the other end as they ran into a longer, deeper version of their defensive selves in a 58-50 loss Saturday to their in-state rival.

Louisville (11-1) managed just one assist, which STATS said is the first time the Cardinals have had fewer than four assists in a game in data going back to the 1996-97 season. The Cardinals forced 18 turnovers but shot 15 of 58 from the field (26 percent), including just one of their first 12 3-pointers.

"We knew that we would play good defense," Louisville coach Rick Pitino said. "We knew we'd force turnovers. It was a question of whether we could score, and the answer was we didn't."

Kentucky (13-0) scored its second-fewest points this season and both schools combined for the series' lowest combined total since 1922. But the Cardinals produced just 14 points off Kentucky's mistakes in losing for the seventh time in the series' last eight games.

Louisville's defense kept it close but the Cardinals didn't lead after going up 13-12 with 6:57 left in the first half.

They trailed 35-32 with 8:48 to play after Wayne Blackshear's steal and subsequent free throws, but never came closer. Louisville forced just two turnovers the rest of the way, the final one coming with 12 seconds left and the outcome decided.

Pitino said Kentucky's depth and length wore down his Cardinals late, a thought echoed by guard Terry Rozier. The Wildcats' reserves outscored Louisville's 27-3.

"They're the better team and they used their whole team," said Rozier, who led Louisville with 15 points and eight rebounds. "They did what they can do. We just weren't ready for it. Their size is definitely an advantage."

Pitino called Kentucky "one of the greatest defensive teams I've seen in my 40 years" but Louisville's shooting struggles were nothing new. They came into the game shooting 44 percent and 29 percent on 3-point attempts. Louisville hits its last two 3-pointers of the game to finish 3 of 14 (21 percent).

"We're up and down," Blackshear said. "Some days we'll look great

Please see **KENTUCKY**/3C

Timothy D. Easley/AP

Kentucky's Andrew Harrison, right, shoots as Louisville's Mangok Mathiang defends during the first half Saturday in Louisville, Ky.

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

TODAY

WHAT'S ON TV

HOCKEY

IIHF World Junior Championship: Russia vs. Switzerland, 4 p.m., NHL

IIHF World Junior Championship: Germany vs. USA, 7 p.m., NHL

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tulane vs. St. John's, 11 a.m., FS1

Central Connecticut State at Connecticut, Noon, SNY

Long Beach State at Syracuse, 1 p.m., ESPNU

Morgan State at Marquette, 1 p.m., FS1

Harvard at Arizona State, 1 p.m., P12

Texas Southern at Kansas State, 2 p.m., FSSWP

Northwestern State at Arkansas, 2:30 p.m., SEC

FGCU at Xavier, 3 p.m., FS1

Wake Forest at Richmond, 3 p.m., NBCSN

Belmont at Butler, 5 p.m., FS1

UC Davis at Washington State, 5 p.m., P12

Howard at Fordham, 5 p.m., SNY

UCLA at Alabama, 5:30 p.m., ESPNU

Buffalo at Wisconsin, 7 p.m., BTN

Stony Brook at Washington, 7 p.m., P12

Cal State Bakersfield at California, 9 p.m., P12

MEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY

Great Lakes Invitational: Michigan vs. Michigan Tech, 2:30 p.m., FCSA

Quinnipiac at Princeton, 3 p.m., ESPNU

Great Lakes Invitational: Michigan State at Ferris State, 6 p.m., FCSA

MEN'S SOCCER

English Championship: Birmingham City at Nottingham Forest, 5:55 a.m., beIN/beIN2

English Premier: Manchester United at Tottenham Hotspur, 6 a.m., NBCSN/mun2

English Premier: Chelsea at Southampton, 8 a.m., NBCSN

English Championship: Middlesborough at Blackburn Rovers, 8:55 a.m., beIN/beIN2

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

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

English Premier: Crystal Palace at Queens Park Rangers, 9 a.m., NBCET

English Premier: West Brom at Stoke City, 9 a.m., NBCET

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

English Premier: Arsenal at West Ham, 9 a.m., NBCET

Scottish Championship: Aberdeen at Inverness CT, 9 a.m., FOXSOCP

English Premier: Everton at Newcastle, 10:15 a.m., NBCSN/TELE

NBA

Houston at San Antonio, 6 p.m., FSSWP/FSSWSA

Oklahoma City at Dallas, 6:30 p.m., FSSW

NFL

Dallas at Washington, Noon, FOX

San Diego at Kansas City, Noon, CBS

Detroit at Green Bay, 3:25 p.m., FOX

Carolina at Atlanta, 3:25 p.m., CBS

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m., NBC

RUGBY

Aviva Premiership: Wasp at Gloucester, 11 a.m., beIN

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

East Carolina at USF, 11 a.m., ESPNU

Oregon State at Tennessee, Noon, SEC

Michigan at Wisconsin, 3 p.m., BTN

Notre Dame at UCLA, 3 p.m., P12

Temple at Memphis, 7:30 p.m., ESPNU

WHAT'S ON RADIO

NFL

Jacksonville at Houston, Noon, KCRS (550 AM)

Dallas at Washington, Noon, KNFM (92.3 FM)

TRANSACTIONS

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

HOUSTON ROCKETS — Assigned C Cleanthony Early to Rio Grande Valley (NBADL).

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Suspended WR Josh Gordon for violating a team rule. Waived LB Eric Martin and TE Ryan Taylor. Signed DL Jamie Meder, QB Connor Shaw and WR Pro Bates from the practice squad.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed LB Jon Kaadu. Placed LB Anthony Barr on injured reserve.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed WR Josh Boyce from the practice squad. Placed DB Alfonzo Dennard on injured reserve. Signed DB Daxton Swanson to the practice squad. Released DL Sam Henderson from the practice squad.

NEW YORK JETS — Placed S Rontez Miles on the injured reserve list. Signed WR Quincy Enunwa from the practice squad.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Activated W Scott Hartnell from injured reserve. Recalled D Andrej Nodeng from Springfield (AHL). Assigned D Sean Collins to Springfield.

DALLAS STARS — Recalled C Cameron Hebert from Texas (AHL).

DETROIT RED WINGS — Activated G Jimmy Howard from injured reserve. Assigned G Tim McGrangle to Grand Rapids (AHL). Reassigned Mahan Bakshaei from Grand Rapids (AHL) to Linkoping (Sweden).

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Named Adam Oates, Scott Stevens and Tom Fitzgerald coaches. Recalled Kreighton Sanders from Albany (AHL). Activated F Stanislav Zubov from injured reserve. Placed F Ryan Bourque and D Mark Fraser on injured reserve. Activated D Andy Greene from injured reserve and assigned him to Albany (AHL) for a conditioning assignment.

Dec. 20

American Hockey League

CHARLOTTE CHECKERS — Signed F Gabriel Desjardins to a professional tryout contract. Recalled G Daniel Altshuller from Florida (ECHL).

HARTFORD WOLF PACK — Announced G Jason Missiaen was reassigned to the team from Greenville (ECHL).

SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE — Recalled F Stephan Veiger from Cincinnati (ECHL).

SPRINGFIELD FALCONS — Recalled G Scott Munroe from Kalamazoo (ECHL).

ECHL

ECHL — Suspended Stockton's Tyler Shattock one game and fined him an undisclosed amount for his actions in a Dec. 26 game at Bakersfield. Fined Cincinnati's Josh McFadden an undisclosed amount for his actions in a Dec. 26 game at Indy. Fined Colorado's Teigan Zahn an undisclosed amount for his actions in a Dec. 26 game against Utah.

ELMIRA JACKALS — Announced F Justin Kea was reassigned to Rochester (AHL). Loaned F Brodie Reid and G Travis Fullerton to Rochester.

READING ROYALS — Announced G Connor Knapp and D Adam Comrie were recalled by Lehigh Valley (AHL). Placed F Ian Watters on the reserve list. Activated F Andrew Johnston from the reserve list. Signed G Matt DiGirolamo.

COLLEGE

CLAYTON STATE — Promoted Stephanie Vasquez to assistant athletic trainer.

MICHIGAN STATE — Promoted secondary coach Harlon Barnett and linebackers special teams coach Mike Tressel to defensive coordinators and elevated Barnett to assistant head coach.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE — Announced WR Bo Hines is transferring to an Ivy League school.

GLANTZ-CULVER LINE

NFL

FAVORITE	OPEN	Today TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
[illegible]			51	Detroit
[illegible]			41	Jacksonville
[illegible]			48	Cincinnati
[illegible]			44 1/2	at Tennessee
[illegible]			49	Cleveland
[illegible]			44	Buffalo
[illegible]			42	N.Y. Jets
[illegible]			47 1/2	Carolina
[illegible]			44	Chicago
[illegible]			49 1/2	San Diego
[illegible]			52 1/2	Philadelphia
[illegible]			49	at Washington
[illegible]			48 1/2	at Tampa Bay
[illegible]			41	St. Louis
[illegible]			46 1/2	Arizona
[illegible]			48	Oakland

COLLEGE

		Monday Liberty Bowl At Memphis, Tenn.		
West Virginia		4½		Texas A&M
		Russell Athletic Bowl At Orlando, Fla.		
[illegible]	PK		53	Clemson
		Texas Bowl At Houston		
Arkansas		4 1/2	49	Texas
		Tuesday Music City Bowl At Nashville, Tenn.		
		2	52 1/2	Notre Dame
		Belk Bowl At Charlotte, N.C.		
Georgia			56 1/2	Louisville
		Foster Farms Bowl At Santa Clara, Calif.		
Stanford		4	68	Maryland
		Wednesday Peach Bowl At Atlanta		
[illegible]		7 1/2	56 1/2	Mississippi
		Fiesta Bowl At Glendale, Ariz.		
Arizona	4 1/2	3	68	Boise St.
		Orange Bowl At Miami Gardens, Fla.		
Mississippi St.	7 1/2	7	61 1/2	Georgia Tech
		Thursday Outback Bowl At Tampa, Fla.		
Auburn	5 1/2	6 1/2	63 1/2	Wisconsin
		Cotton Bowl Classic At Arlington		
Baylor	1	2 1/2	70 1/2	Michigan St.
		Citrus Bowl At Orlando, Fla.		
Missouri	6	5	47 1/2	Minnesota
		Rose Bowl Playoff Semifinal At Pasadena, Calif.		
Oregon	8	9	72	Florida St.
		Sugar Bowl Playoff Semifinal At New Orleans		
Alabama	9 1/2	9	58 1/2	Ohio St.
		Friday Armed Forces Bowl At Fort Worth		
Pittsburgh	2	3	53 1/2	Houston
		TaxSlayer Bowl At Jacksonville, Fla.		
Tennessee	3	3 1/2	51 1/2	Iowa
		Alamo Bowl At San Antonio		
UCLA	+ 2 1/2	1 1/2	59 1/2	Kansas St.
		Cactus Bowl At Tempe, Ariz.		
Washington	5	5 1/2	66 1/2	Oklahoma St.
		Saturday Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl		
Florida	7	6 1/2	56 1/2	East Carolina
		Jan. 4 GoDaddy Bowl At Mobile, Ala.		
Toledo	1	3 1/2	(67)	Arkansas St.

Sunday Morning Line

LEN HAYWARD
lhayward@mrt.com

This and that as we have reached an overload of bowl games involving mediocre teams:

■ I read with interest the story in Saturday's sports section about the length of college games.

What gets me is that college football doesn't just adopt the NFL clock rules. It will make a major difference in how quick the games are. The NFL's rules are in place for a league that throws the ball, and even though old school football fans don't like it, the college game features more passing these days.

As games go three-and-half and even four hours, television networks — who foot the bill — will start to complain about it. And when the people who have the money start complaining, then something will happen.

Either way, it's time for a change.

■ The Byron Johnston Holiday Classic begins Monday at the Chaparral Center with some interesting teams coming to town. The girls bracket will feature a team from Australia and a team from New Orleans. Meanwhile, the boys bracket will have one of the top Class 5A teams in the state in El Paso Bel Air.

Plus the Midland Classical Academy girls team will makes its return, while all four Lee and Midland High squads will be playing.

There is plenty of basketball this week, so get out and catch a game.

■ Even though I have been a critic of the numerous bowl games this year, it was good to see Penn State back in a bowl. Even though the Nittany Lions were 6-6 this season, having the chance to participate in a bowl game was huge for that university and the program.

I still feel the punishment from the NCAA was too harsh and was driven by outside forces because none of the current athletes had anything to do with the scandal that surrounded them. Plus, the criminal justice system was taking care of Jerry Sandusky at the same time.

Getting this reward will help keep that program relevant as Ohio State continues to gain traction nationally out of the Big 10.

■ Monday both Texas and Texas A&M will play in their bowl games. But the two schools should be playing each other in a bowl.

Yes, I know it's wishful thinking, but one day these two rivals have to renew that series. It just makes too much sense.

■ OK, the Cowboys are in the playoffs and Dallas fans can relax. But they still have plenty to play for today against Washington. Either way, the Cowboys have proven that the key to a playoff team is a good offensive line and running game. It's a tried and true way of winning games in the NFL.

■ And finally, have a Happy New Year.

Follow Len on Twitter: @Len_Hayward_MRT

MC loses opener of Fiesta Bowl Shootout

From staff reports

MESA, Ariz. — Midland College couldn't hang on to a halftime lead as Central Arizona outscored the Chaps in the second half to take an 85-77 victory on Saturday during the first day of the Fiesta Bowl Junior College Shootout.

The Chaps (9-4) were up 37-35 after the first half, but the Vaqueros (11-2) outscored MC 50-40 in the second half to take the eight-point victory.

Torren Jones led Midland College with 24 points and 13 rebounds. Maurice O'Field added 17 and Dontay Caruthers 13 for the Chaps in the loss.

Torrian Epps led the Vaqueros with 22 points and eight rebounds.

Midland College will take on Salt Lake Community College at 3 p.m. today during the second day of the three-day tournament.

CENTRAL ARIZONA 85, MIDLAND COLLEGE 77

Central Arizona (11-2) — Brandon Rosser 4-10 5-6 14; Jack Ocwieja 3-9 2-2 8; Torran Epps 7-17 7-10 22; Javion Watson 4-10 2-2 11; Malik Thames 6-10 5-6 19; Ravaughn Gayle 0-0 0-0 0; Mike Nwabuzor 0-5 1-2 1; Josh Rideau 0-1 2-2 2; Joey Bankston 4-5 0-0 8. Totals 28-67 24-30 85.

Midland College (9-4) — Torren Jones 10-18 4-11 24; Maurice O'Field 6-15 4-6 17; Jordan Miller 0-0 0-2 0; Dontay Caruthers 6-13 0-2 13; Sayer Pryor 3-6 2-2 9; Tyler Whitehead 0-1 0-0 0; Ndogyadinga Kong 3-7 0-0 9; Dylan Cham 0-0 0-0 0; Jamal Evans 0-5 1-2 1; William Tchiengang 2-6 0-0 4. Totals 30-71 11-25 77.

Halftime score — Midland College 37.

Central Arizona 35. 3-point goals — C. Arizona 5-17 (Rosser 1-4, Epps 1-5, Watson 1-2, Thames 2-6). MC 6-17 (O'Field 1-5, Caruthers 1-3, Pryor 1-3, King 3-5, Evans 0-1. Total fouls — C. Arizona 24, MC 24. Fouled out — None. Rebounds — C. Arizona 31 (Epps 8, Thames 8). MC 42 (Jones 13).

Next game: Midland College vs. Salt Lake Community College 3 p.m. today, Mesa, Ariz.

HSBASKETBALL

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Byron Johnston Holiday Classic
All games at Chap Center unless otherwise noted

BOYS

Pool A: Midland High, Hereford, Crowley, Bushland

Pool B: Lee, El Paso Bel Air, Plainview, El Paso Americas

Monday's Games

10:30 a.m. — Hereford vs. Bushland

1:30 p.m. — Plainview vs. El Paso Bel Air

4:30 p.m. — El Paso Americas vs. Lee

7:30 p.m. — Crowley vs. Midland High

Tuesday's Games

9:30 a.m. — Lee vs. El Paso Bel Air

9:30 a.m. — El Paso Americas vs. Plainview, MHS

12:30 p.m. — Midland High vs. Bushland

12:30 p.m. — Crowley vs. Hereford, MHS

3:30 p.m. — El Paso Bel Air vs. El Paso Americas

7:30 p.m. — Bushland vs. Crowley, MHS

7:30 p.m. — Lee vs. Plainview, Lee HS

7:30 p.m. — Hereford vs. Midland High

Wednesday's Games

10:30 a.m. — Seventh place game, MHS

10:30 a.m. — Fifth place game

1 p.m. — Third place game

4 p.m. — Championship Game

GIRLS

Pool A: Midland High, Midland Classical, El Paso Eastlake, Aussie Travellers

Pool B: Lee, Plainview, Bushland, New Orleans St. Mary's Academy

Monday's Games

9 a.m. — Midland Classical vs. El Paso Eastlake

Noon — St. Mary's Academy vs. Plainview

3 p.m. — Bushland vs. Lee

6 p.m. — Aussie Travellers vs. Midland High

Tuesday's Games

8 a.m. — Lee vs. St. Mary's Academy

8 a.m. — Bushland vs. Plainview, MHS

11 a.m. — El Paso Eastlake vs. Aussie Travellers, MHS

11 a.m. — Midland High vs. Midland Classical

2 p.m. — St. Mary's Academy vs. Bushland

6 p.m. — Lee vs. Plainview, Lee HS

6 p.m. — Aussie Travellers vs. Midland Classical, MHS

6 p.m. — El Paso Eastlake vs. Midland High

Wednesday's Games

9 a.m. — Seventh place game, MHS

9:30 a.m. — Fifth place game

11:30 a.m. — Third place game

2:30 p.m. — Championship Game

These are the games to remember from 2014

By Paul Newberry
Associated Press

They kept us on the edge of our seats and brought us to our feet.

They sent us into joyful celebration or left us in anguished disbelief.

When we look back at 2014, these are some of the games — not to mention stock car races, tennis finals and golf rounds — we'll remember the most.

IRON MAN BUMGARNER

So much for pitch counts and pampered arms. Madison Bumgarner almost single-handedly pitched the San Francisco Giants to their third World Series title in five years with three masterful performances against the upstart Kansas City Royals. He won the opener with seven innings of one-hit ball and pitched a four-hit shutout with 117 pitches in Game 5. But the drawling left-hander will be remembered most for his performance in Game 7, when he threw five innings of scoreless relief on two days rest for a decisive 3-2 victory. The last of his 68 pitches came with the potential tying run at third, resulting in a series-ending popup. "You know what?" he would say about a half-hour later. "I'm a little tired now."

SHOOTOUT IN SOCHI

T.J. Oshie was one of the last choices to the U.S. Olympic hockey team, but he sure came up big in Sochi. Facing the Russians and their screaming hometown crowd, including President Vladimir Putin, Oshie scored on four out of six chances in a shootout to give the Americans a thrilling 3-2 victory. Oshie scored in the first round and the shootout was still tied after three attempts by each team. At that point, under international rules, the same shooter can be used over and over again. The Americans kept turning to Oshie, five times in a row, before he put a forehand through the goalie's legs for his fourth goal in six chances. "At some point, you think, 'Does he have any more moves left?'" U.S. captain Zach Parise said.

BRAZIL BLOWOUT

For a soccer-mad nation hosting the World Cup for the first time since 1950, it was championship or bust. Oh, what a bust it was. Brazil was blown out by Germany 7-1 in the semifinals, the biggest rout ever that far along in the tournament. The Germans were unstoppable, scoring five goals in the first half-hour — four of them in a seven-minute span. "It was very important to stay calm, cool and courageous in facing Brazilian passion," said the winning coach, Joachim Loew, whose team went to capture the title that was supposed to go to the home team. For Brazil, there was nothing but heartache, a nation plunging into mourning at the unimaginable result. "We apologize to all Brazilians," defender David Luiz said.

WILD NIGHT IN WACO

In a Big 12 showdown, neither team played a lick of defense until Marcus Mallet returned an interception 49 yards for a touchdown with 11 1-2 minutes remaining, giving TCU a seemingly comfortable 58-37 lead over Baylor. Turns out, no lead was safe against Bears quarterback Bryce Petty. He led three lightning-quick touchdown drives to tie the game, then drove Baylor into position for Chris Callahan's 28-yard field goal as time expired for a beyond-improbable 61-58 victory. "I just knew looking at guys' faces that we were going to come back in that game," Petty said. "Twenty-one points isn't a big deal for us."

COLTS COMEBACK

Speaking of comebacks, the Colts pulled off a memorable one of their own in an AFC wild-card playoff game. Kansas City led 38-10 early in the third quarter, but Indianapolis scored 35 second-half points for the second-biggest rally in NFL postseason history. Andrew Luck threw for 443 yards and four touchdowns, shaking off three interceptions. He also scored a touchdown on a fumble recovery. The teams combined for 1,049 yards, a playoff record. Not enough, it turned out, for Kansas City to end a 20-year drought since its last playoff win.

SHOCKERS SHOCKED

Wichita State had not lost since the previous year's Final Four and took a 35-0 record in its third-round game against Kentucky, a team that had underachieved after starting the year ranked No. 1. The game went back and forth the entire way, the margin never more than five points over the final 18 1-2 minutes. The Wildcats finally went ahead for good, 73-71, when James Young knocked down a 3-pointer with less than 2 minutes to go. The Shockers had a chance to win it and stay on course to be the first unbeaten national champion since Indiana in 1976. Fred VanVleet's 3-pointer bounced off the side of the rim as the horn sounded. Kentucky 78, Wichita State 76.

DURANT BRINGS THE THUNDER

Memphis had a 98-93 lead in Game 2 of the NBA playoffs with just under 20 seconds remaining. But Oklahoma City had Kevin Durant, who came up with what might be shot of the year — a towering 3-pointer from the corner as he was tumbling out of bounds. Nothing but net. Plus, he was fouled by Marc Gasol and knocked down the free throw to complete a four-point play. The Thunder wound up sending the game to overtime, but the Grizzlies bounced back from the shock of Durant's amazing shot to win handily, 111-105.

WIMBLEDON CLASSIC

Novak Djokovic was on the verge of finishing off Roger Federer in the fourth set of the Wimbledon final. The 33-year-old Swiss star would not go that easy. With Djokovic serving for the match at 5-3, Federer broke for the first time all day. He would go on to win five straight games, forcing a decisive set that pushed this one into classic territory. Djokovic held on after nearly four hours of momentum shifts, winning 6-7 (7), 6-4, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-4 to deny Federer his record eighth title at the All-England Club. "I respect your career and everything you have done," Djokovic told Federer afterward. "And thank you for letting me win today."

WINNING IN THE GLOAMING

After golf's first three majors failed to produce much drama, the PGA Championship turned out to be a pure theater with an All-Star cast. Rory McIlroy, Phil Mickelson, Rickie Fowler and Henrik Stenson all held a share of the lead on the back nine. The final two hours were filled with eagles and birdies, with tension and chaos. Finally, with darkness threatening to push the finale to the next morning, McIlroy knocked in a 10-inch putt that gave him a one-stroke victory over Mickelson. It was Boy Wonder's second straight major title and fourth overall, making him just the fourth player in the last century to win that many before his 26th birthday. The other three? Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Bobby Jones. Not bad company.

RACE FOR THE TITLE

While it may seem a bit like pro wrestling in the way it tries to manipulate the results, NASCAR got what it was looking for in the latest version of the Sprint Cup championship. Kevin Harvick pulled off a relentless dash through the field, going from 12th to first over the final 15 laps to claim his first title in the final race of the year at Homestead.

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

RAPTORS 110 CLIPPERS 98

LOS ANGELES — Kyle Lowry scored 25 points and the Toronto Raptors' reserves came up big in the fourth quarter of a 110-98 victory over the Clippers on Saturday, ending Los Angeles' eight-game home winning streak.

Jonas Valenciunas had 22 points and 11 rebounds for the defending Atlantic Division champion Raptors, who entered the day with a one-game lead over Atlanta for the best record in the Eastern Conference. DeMar DeRozan missed his 14th straight game because of a torn muscle in his left groin, and Landry Fields was sidelined for the third game in a row with a concussion.

Lowry made 9 of 17 shots, after averaging 9.3 points and 27.5 percent from the field over his previous four games against the Clippers.

Terrence Ross scored 11 for Toronto.

WIZARDS 101 CELTICS 88

WASHINGTON — Kris Humphries scored 18 points, Paul Pierce had 17 and the Washington Wizards beat the Boston Celtics 101-88 on Saturday night.

It was the Wizards' eighth win in their last 10 games, and it was decided quickly. Washington scored 13 consecutive points to take a 15-2 lead with not even 4 minutes gone.

Jeff Green scored 23 points for Boston, which has lost four straight.

By the time the Celtics' nightmare first quarter ended, they were behind 30-12 and outrebounded by 16-6 and had eight turnovers.

It was quite a contrast from the last time the teams met on Dec. 8, when the Wizards outlasted the Celtics 133-132 in a grueling double-overtime game.

MAGIC 102 HORNETS 94

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Nikola Vucevic had 22 points and 11 rebounds, Tobias Harris scored 21 points and the Orlando Magic overcame 42 points from Kemba Walker to beat the Charlotte Hornets 102-94 on Saturday night.

Walker scored a Charlotte-record 35 in the second half and finished 15 of 30 in the highest-scoring game of his career, but the Hornets could never regain the lead after falling behind by 10 at halftime.

GRIZZLIES 103 HEAT 95

MIAMI — Mike Conley scored 24 points, Marc Gasol added 22 points and 10 rebounds, and the Memphis Grizzlies never trailed on their way to beating the Miami Heat 103-95 on Saturday night.

Beno Udrih scored 11 for the Grizzlies, who led by 19 early in the second half before Miami scored to get within one or two points on 11 different occasions in the final minutes.

BULLS 107 PELICANS 100

CHICAGO — Jimmy Butler scored 33 points, Derrick Rose had 19 and the Chicago Bulls beat the New Orleans Pelicans 107-100 on Saturday night for their sixth consecutive victory.

The Bulls (21-9) also had three reserves score in double figures in their ninth win in 10 games. Aaron Brooks scored 13 points, and Taj Gibson added 12 points and 10 rebounds. Nikola Mirotic finished with 10 points.

PACERS 110 NETS 85

NEW YORK — Rodney Stuckey scored 20 points, David West added 17, and the Indiana Pacers overwhelmed the Brooklyn Nets 110-85 on Saturday night.

Former Nets guard C.J. Watson, who played for Brooklyn during the 2012-13 season, came off the bench and scored 17 points. Luis Scola added 13, Chris Copeland had 12 and Lavoy Allen chipped in 10.

HAWKS 90 BUCKS 85

MILWAUKEE — Jeff Teague scored 10 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, Al Horford added 20, and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Milwaukee Bucks 90-85 on Saturday night.

The Hawks avenged a 30-point loss to Milwaukee on Friday in Atlanta with their 15th win in their last 17 games.

JAZZ 88 76ERS 71

SALT LAKE CITY — Derrick Favors had 17 points, 15 rebounds and five blocked shots to lead the Utah Jazz to an 88-71 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Saturday night.

Trey Burke added 17 points, Gordon Hayward chipped in 15 and Enes Kanter finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz (10-20). Tony Wroten scored 20 points and Robert Covington added 17 for the Sixers (4-25), who could not overcome a sluggish offensive performance before halftime.

NBA STANDINGS AND BOXES

STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	23	7	.767	—
Brooklyn	17	16	.448	9 1/2
Boston	10	18	.357	12
New York	5	26	.161	18 1/2
Philadelphia	4	25	.138	18 1/2

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	22	8	.733	—
Washington	21	8	.724	1/2
Miami	17	14	.548	5
Orlando	12	21	.364	11 1/2
Charlotte	10	21	.323	12 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	21	9	.700	—
Cleveland	18	11	.621	2 1/2
Milwaukee	15	16	.484	6 1/2
Indiana	11	20	.355	10 1/2
Detroit	6	23	.207	14 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	21	7	.750	—
Memphis	22	8	.733	—
Dallas	21	10	.677	1 1/2
San Antonio	18	13	.581	4 1/2
New Orleans	15	15	.500	7

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	24	7	.774	—
Oklahoma City	15	16	.484	9
Denver	13	17	.433	10 1/2
Utah	10	20	.333	13 1/2
Minnesota	5	23	.179	17 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	23	5	.821	—
L.A. Clippers	20	11	.645	4 1/2
Phoenix	17	14	.548	7 1/2
Sacramento	12	17	.414	11 1/2
L.A. Lakers	9	21	.300	15

Saturday's Scores

Toronto 110, L.A. Clippers 98
Washington 101, Boston 88
Orlando 102, Charlotte 94
Memphis 103, Miami 95
Chicago 107, New Orleans 100
Indiana 110, Brooklyn 85
Atlanta 90, Milwaukee 85
Utah 88, Philadelphia 71
New York at Sacramento, late
Minnesota at Golden State, late

Today's Games

Detroit at Cleveland, 2:30 p.m.
Houston at San Antonio, 6 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Dallas, 6:30 p.m.
New York at Portland, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Denver, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY'S BOXES

RAPTORS 110, CLIPPERS 98

TORONTO (110): J.Johnson 3-7 0-0 6, Johnson 4-7 0-1 8, Valanciunas 8-13 6-8 22, Lowry 9-17 4-5 25, Ross 5-15 0-0 11, Patterson 4-5 0-0 10, Williams 2-9 3-3 9, Hansbrough 1-1 0-0 2, Vasquez 5-12 2-2 16. Totals 41-86 15-19 110.

L.A. CLIPPERS (98): Barnes 2-4 0-0 6, Griffin 9-20 4-5 22, Jordan 2-4 0-0 4, Paul 3-12 3-4 10, Redick 9-16 0-1 23, Crawford 6-14 5-5 20, Davis 3-5 0-0 6, Bullock 1-2 0-0 2, Farmar 0-1 0-0 0, Turkoglu 0-0 0-0 0, Cunningham 2-3 0-0 5, Douglas-Roberts 0-0 0-0 0. Udrih 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-81 12-15 98

Toronto	22	27	31	30 — 110
L.A. Clippers	26	23	29	20 — 98

3-Point Goals—Toronto 13-34 (Vasquez 4-8, Lowry 3-7, Patterson 2-2, Williams 2-6, J.Johnson 1-3, Ross 1-8), L.A. Clippers 12-25 (Redick 5-9, Crawford 3-8, Barnes 2-2, Cunningham 1-1, Paul 1-3, Bullock 0-1, Farmar 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Toronto 48 (Johnson 12), L.A. Clippers 48 (Jordan 20). Assists—Toronto 25 (Lowry 7), L.A. Clippers 26 (Paul 8). Total Fouls—Toronto 17, L.A. Clippers 19. Technicals—Lowry, Toronto defensive three second. Griffin A—19,335 (19,060)

WIZARDS 101, CELTICS 88

BOSTON (88): Green 7-17 7-8 23, Sullinger 5-9 0-0 12, Zeller 1-6 1-2 3, Bradley 0-5 0-2 2, Smart 1-1 1-2 3, Nelson 1-6 0-0 3, Olynyk 6-11 3-4 15, Turner 5-8 1-3 11, Bass 2-5 0-0 4, Pressey 0-4 0-0 0, Crowder 3-5 3-3 10, Wright 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 32-79 16-24 88

WASHINGTON (101): Pierce 6-9 2-4 17, Nene 1-5 2-3 4, Gortat 3-6 1-2 7, Wall 6-13 0-0 12, Beal 4-11 0-0 9, Humphries 9-14 0-0 18, Butler 3-9 1-1 8, Porter 6-8 0-0 12, Seraphin 5-9 0-0 10, Miller 1-3 0-0 2, Blair 1-2 0-0 2, Gooden 0-1 0-0 0. Temple 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 45-90 9-15 101

Boston	12	27	24	25 — 88
Washington	30	26	24	21 — 101

3-Point Goals—Boston 6-24 (Sullinger 2-5, Green 2-8, Crowder 1-2, Nelson 1-4, Turner 0-1, Olynyk 0-2, Bradley 0-2) Washington 5-13 (Pierce 3-5, Beal 1-2, Butler 1-4, Porter 0-1, Wall 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Boston 44 (Olynyk 8) Washington 58 (Gortat 10). Assists—Boston 18 (Turner 4), Washington 28 (Miller, Wall 7). Total Fouls—Boston 24, Washington 24. Technicals—Wall. A—20,356 (20,308)

MAGIC 102, HORNETS 94

ORLANDO (102): Harris 7-16 5-8 21, O'Quinn 1-3 0-0 3, Vucevic 9-19 4-4 22, Payton 4-13 5-14 11, Oladipo 6-9 1-2 13, Fournier 5-14 0-1 12, B.Gordon 3-5 3-3 11, Frye 2-3 0-0 5, Dedmon 1-1 2-2 4. Totals 38-83 18-24 102

CHARLOTTE (94): Kidd-Gilchrist 3-8 3-4 9, Zeller 1-5 1-2 3, Jefferson 7-11 0-0 14, Walker 15-31 7-9 42, Henderson 3-8 0-0 7, Neal 3-9 0-0 7, Williams 3-8 3-3 9, Biyombo 0-0 0-0 0. Roberts 1-3 0-0 3, Hairston 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 36-86 14-18 94

Orlando	22	30	29	21 — 102
Charlotte	18	24	26	26 — 94

3-Point Goals—Orlando 8-20 (B.Gordon 2-2, Harris 2-4, Fournier 2-7, O'Quinn 1-2, Frye 1-2, Payton 0-1, Oladipo 0-2). Charlotte 8-24 (Walker 5-12, Roberts 1-2, Henderson 1-3, Neal 1-4, Lee 3-6, Jefferson 3-4, Kidd-Gilchrist 0-1, Williams 0-1, Hairston 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Orlando 51 (Vucevic 11), Charlotte 54 (Jefferson 9). Assists—Orlando 22 (Payton 8), Charlotte 18 (Walker 5). Total Fouls—Orlando 18, Charlotte 19. Technicals—Oladipo, Jefferson, Charlotte defensive three second. A—19,985 (19,077).

GRIZZLIES 103, HEAT 95

MEMPHIS (103): Allen 3-5 0-0 6, Lee 2-8 1-4 5, Gasol 7-14 8-10 22, Conley 7-12 6-7 24, Lee 3-6 3-4 10, Koufos 3-4 0-1 6, Prince 4-7 2-2 10, Carter 1-6 2-2 5, Udrih 4-8 2-2 11, Pondexter 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 34-73 28-37 103

MIAMI (95): Deng 6-10 3-4 16, Williams 3-5 0-0 7, Anderson 5-5 3-4 13, Chalmers 2-12 3-3 7, Wade 11-17 2-2 25, Cole 3-10 0-0 7, Whiteside 5-12 2-6 12, Granger 7-10 2-2 18, Haslem 0-1 0-0 0, Ennis 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 37-72 15-21 95.

Memphis	27	30	15	31 — 103
Miami	18	25	28	26 — 95

3-Point Goals—Memphis 7-16 (Conley 4-6, Lee 1-1, Udrih 1-3, Carter 1-4, Pondexter 0-2). Miami 6-20 (Granger 2-5, Williams 1-3, Deng 1-1, Wade 1-3, Cole 1-6, Ennis 0-1, Chalmers 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Memphis 49 (Gasol 10), Miami 40 (Whiteside 7). Assists—Memphis 22 (Prince 5), Miami 18 (Wade 7). Total Fouls—Memphis 22, Miami 26. Technicals—Miami Coach Spoelstra. A—19,744 (19,600).

BULLS 107, PELICANS 100

NEW ORLEANS (100): Babbitt 0-1 0-0 0, Davis 13-24 3-3 29, Ajinca 1-5 2-2 4, Holiday 9-12 0-0 19, Evans 10-21 6-7 26, Cunningham 0-1 0-0 0, Anderson 4-11 3-4 13, Rivers 3-11 0-0 7, Ajinca 1-2 0-0 2, Salmons 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 41-88 14-16 100.

CHICAGO (107): Dunleavy 1-4 0-0 3, Gasol 3-9 2-2 8, Noah 3-6 1-2 7, Rose 8-18 1-2 19, Butler 12-18 9-10 33, Brooks 5-14 2-2 13, Gibson 5-9 2-2 12, Mirotic 3-8 2-2 10, Moore 1-2 0-0 2, Snell 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 41-89 19-22 107.

New Orleans	25	20	26	29 — 100
Chicago	23	26	31	27 — 107

3-Point Goals—New Orleans 4-14 (Anderson 2-6, Holiday 1-2, Rivers 1-3, Babbitt 0-1, Evans 0-2), Chicago 6-20 (Mirotic 2-4, Rose 2-5, Dunleavy 1-2, Brooks 1-6, Moore 0-1, Butler 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—New Orleans 47 (Davis 11), Chicago 53 (Gibson 10). Assists—New Orleans 18 (Holiday 7), Chicago 19 (Gasol 6). Total Fouls—New Orleans 19, Chicago 17. Technicals—Rivers. A—21,935 (20,917).

PACERS 110, NETS 85

INDIANA (110): S.Hill 1-6 0-0 3, West 7-13 3-4 17, Hibbert 3-6 0-0 6, G.Hill 5-9 0-0 12, Stuckey 7-13 5-7 20, Watson 7-10 0-0 17, Scola 4-8 5-5 13, Copeland 5-12 0-0 12, Allen 5-9 0-2 10, Whittington 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 47-86 13-18 110.

BROOKLYN (85): Johnson 4-12 8-8 18, Garnett 2-4 2-2 6, Plumlee 2-5 5-7 9, Jack 0-1, Olynyk 0-2, Bradley 0-2) Washington 5-13 (Pierce 3-5, Beal 1-2, Butler 1-4. Porter 0-1, Wall 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Boston 44 (Olynyk 8) Washington 58 (Gortat 10). Assists—Boston 18 (Turner 4), Washington 28 (Miller, Wall 7). Total Fouls—Boston 24, Washington 24. Technicals—Wall. A—20,356 (20,308).

MAGIC 102, HORNETS 94

ORLANDO (102): Harris 7-16 5-8 21, O'Quinn 1-3 0-0 3, Vucevic 9-19 4-4 22, Payton 4-13 5-14 11, Oladipo 6-9 1-2 13, Fournier 5-14 0-1 12, B.Gordon 3-5 3-3 11, Frye 2-3 0-0 5, Dedmon 1-1 2-2 4. Totals 38-83 18-24 102

CHARLOTTE (94): Kidd-Gilchrist 3-8 3-4 9, Zeller 1-5 1-2 3, Jefferson 7-11 0-0 14, Walker 15-31 7-9 42, Henderson 3-8 0-0 7, Neal 3-9 0-0 7, Williams 3-8 3-3 9, Biyombo 0-0 0-0 0. Roberts 1-3 0-0 3, Hairston 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 36-86 14-18 94

Orlando	22	30	29	21 — 102
Charlotte	18	24	26	26 — 94

3-Point Goals—Orlando 8-20 (B.Gordon 2-2, Harris 2-4, Fournier 2-7, O'Quinn 1-2, Frye 1-2, Payton 0-1, Oladipo 0-2). Charlotte 8-24 (Walker 5-12, Roberts 1-2, Henderson 1-3, Neal 1-4, Lee 3-6, Jefferson 3-4, Kidd-Gilchrist 0-1, Williams 0-1, Hairston 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Orlando 51 (Vucevic 11), Charlotte 54 (Jefferson 9). Assists—Orlando 22 (Payton 8), Charlotte 18 (Walker 5). Total Fouls—Orlando 18, Charlotte 19. Technicals—Oladipo, Jefferson, Charlotte defensive three second. A—19,985 (19,077).

GRIZZLIES 103, HEAT 95

MEMPHIS (103): Allen 3-5 0-0 6, Lee 2-8 1-4 5, Gasol 7-14 8-10 22, Conley 7-12 6-7 24, Lee 3-6 3-4 10, Koufos 3-4 0-1 6, Prince 4-7 2-2 10, Carter 1-6 2-2 5, Udrih 4-8 2-2 11, Pondexter 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 34-73 28-37 103

MIAMI (95): Deng 6-10 3-4 16, Williams 3-5 0-0 7, Anderson 5-5 3-4 13, Chalmers 2-12 3-3 7, Wade 11-17 2-2 25, Cole 3-10 0-0 7, Whiteside 5-12 2-6 12, Granger 7-10 2-2 18, Haslem 0-1 0-0 0, Ennis 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 37-72 15-21 95.

Memphis	27	30	15	31 — 103
Miami	18	25	28	26 — 95

3-Point Goals—Memphis 7-16 (Conley 4-6, Lee 1-1, Udrih 1-3, Carter 1-4, Pondexter 0-2). Miami 6-20 (Granger 2-5, Williams 1-3, Deng 1-1, Wade 1-3, Cole 1-6, Ennis 0-1, Chalmers 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Memphis 49 (Gasol 10), Miami 40 (Whiteside 7). Assists—Memphis 22 (Prince 5), Miami 18 (Wade 7). Total Fouls—Memphis 22, Miami 26. Technicals—Miami Coach Spoelstra. A—19,744 (19,600).

BULLS 107, PELICANS 100

NEW ORLEANS (100): Babbitt 0-1 0-0 0, Davis 13-24 3-3 29, Ajinca 1-5 2-2 4, Holiday 9-12 0-0 19, Evans 10-21 6-7 26, Cunningham 0-1 0-0 0, Anderson 4-11 3-4 13, Rivers 3-11 0-0 7, Ajinca 1-2 0-0 2, Salmons 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 41-88 14-16 100.

CHICAGO (107): Dunleavy 1-4 0-0 3, Gasol 3-9 2-2 8, Noah 3-6 1-2 7, Rose 8-18 1-2 19, Butler 12-18 9-10 33, Brooks 5-14 2-2 13, Gibson 5-9 2-2 12, Mirotic 3-8 2-2 10, Moore 1-2 0-0 2, Snell 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 41-89 19-22 107.

New Orleans	25	20	26	29 — 100
Chicago	23	26	31	27 — 107

3-Point Goals—New Orleans 4-14 (Anderson 2-6, Holiday 1-2, Rivers 1-3, Babbitt 0-1, Evans 0-2), Chicago 6-20 (Mirotic 2-4, Rose 2-5, Dunleavy 1-2, Brooks 1-6, Moore 0-1, Butler 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—New Orleans 47 (Davis 11), Chicago 53 (Gibson 10). Assists—New Orleans 18 (Holiday 7), Chicago 19 (Gasol 6). Total Fouls—New Orleans 19, Chicago 17. Technicals—Rivers. A—21,935 (20,917).

PACERS 110, NETS 85

INDIANA (110): S.Hill 1-6 0-0 3, West 7-13 3-4 17, Hibbert 3-6 0-0 6, G.Hill 5-9 0-0 12, Stuckey 7-13 5-7 20, Watson 7-10 0-0 17, Scola 4-8 5-5 13, Copeland 5-12 0-0 12, Allen 5-9 0-2 10, Whittington 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 47-86 13-18 110.

BROOKLYN (85): Johnson 4-12 8-8 18, Garnett 2-4 2-2 6, Plumlee 2-5 5-7 9, Jack 1-2 0-0 2, Davies 0-2 0-0 0, Mozgov 0-4 0-0 0, Anderson 2-5 2-2 7, Bogdanovic 0-4 0-0 0, Teletovic 0-6 0-0 0, Williams 2-7 2-3 7, Jordan 1-2 0-0 2, Davies 0-2 0-0 0, Morris 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 28-77 22-27 85.

Indiana	22	28	29	31 — 110
Brooklyn	23	24	18	20 — 85

3-Point Goals—Indiana 9-18 (Watson 3-4, G.Hill 2-4, Copeland 2-7, Stuckey 1-1, S.Hill 1-2), Brooklyn 7-25 (Karasev 2-4, Johnson 2-7, Williams 1-1, Jack 1-2, Anderson 1-3, Morris 0-1, Davies 0-1, Bogdanovic 0-2, Teletovic 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Indiana 53 (Watson 9), Brooklyn 48 (Plumlee 8). Assists—Indiana 33 (Stuckey 8), Brooklyn 15 (Johnson 6). Total Fouls—Indiana 25, Brooklyn 20. Technicals—West. A—17,732 (17,732).

HAWKS 90, BUCKS 85

ATLANTA (90): Carroll 3-8 1-2 9, Millsap 8-19 0-0 17, Horford 8-20 4-6 20, Teague 7-14 10-10 25, Korver 2-9 0-1 6, Antic 1-5 0-0 3, Sefolosha 3-6 0-0 8, Schroder 0-3 0-0 0, Scott 1-5 0-0 2, Mack 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 33-90 15-19 90.

MILWAUKEE (85): Antetokounmpo 2-5 1-2 5, O'Bryant 0-4 0-0 0, Pachulia 4-8 3-3 11, Knight 4-12 0-0 12, Marshall 1-5 0-0 3, Dudley 3-8 2-3 9, Middleton 8-15 0-0 21, Bayless 3-9 2-2 9, Henson 2-3 1-2 5, Mayo 4-11 2-2 12. Totals 31-80 11-14 85.

Atlanta	21	18	27	24 — 90
Milwaukee	19	27	26	22 — 85

3-Point Goals—Atlanta 9-29 (Sefolosha 2-4, Carroll 2-4, Korver 2-7, Antic 1-3, Teague 1-4, Millsap 1-5, Schroder 0-2, Scott 0-1, Milwaukee 7-30, Middleton 5-8, Knight 2-5, Mayo 2-6, Dudley 1-3, Marshall 1-4, Bayless 1-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Atlanta 61 (Horford 9, Milwaukee 52 (Pachulia 15). Assists—Atlanta 25 (Teague 7), Milwaukee 21 (Bayless 6). Total Fouls—Atlanta 17, Milwaukee 18. Technicals, Bayless. A—16,788 (18,717).

JAZZ 88, 76ERS 71

PHILADELPHIA (71): Covington 5-10 5-8 17, Sims 4-9 2-2 10, Noel 2-5 1-1 5, Carter-Williams 2-20 3-4 8, Sampson 1-3 0-2 2, Wroten 8-17 3-5 20, McDaniels 2-8 0-0 5, Alderrey 0-1 0-0 0, Grant 0-1 4-6 4. Totals 24-74 18-28 71.

UTAH (88): Hayward 4-14 5-6 15, Favors 7-11 3-3 17, Kanter 4-13 2-2 10, Burke 5-18 6-7 17, Hood 1-8 1-2 4, Booker 5-8 2-2 14, Exum 1-7 3-4 5, Ingles 0-1 2-2 2, Gobert 2-3 0-4 4, Christopher 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 30-84 24-28 88.

Philadelphia	12	20	23	16 — 71
Utah	25	19	15	29 — 88

3-Point Goals—Philadelphia 5-26 (Covington 2-6, McDaniels 1-3, Wroten 1-6, Carter-Williams 1-7, Sampson 0-2, Sims 0-2), Utah 4-23 (Hayward 2-5, Hood 1-5, Burke 1-6, Ingles 0-1, Christopher 0-1, Kanter 0-1, Exum 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 53 (Noel 10), Utah 65 (Favors 15). Assists—Philadelphia 11 (Carter-Williams 6), Utah 17 (Burke 4). Total Fouls—Philadelphia 20, Utah 23. Technicals—McDaniels, Ingles. A—18,890 (19,911).

COLLEGEBASKETBALL

FROM WIRE REPORTS

TEXAS ROUNDUP

Women

NO. 2 UCONN 96 SMU 45

HARTFORD, Conn. — Moriah Jefferson had a career-high 24 points and No. 2 UConn routed SMU 96-45 on Saturday in the American Athletic Conference opener for both teams.

The junior point guard hit eight of her 12 shots, including 4 of 5 from 3-point range. Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis scored 19 points, Kia Nurse had 13 points and seven assists and Morgan Tuck added 12 points for UConn (9-1), which hosts No. 10 Duke on Monday night.

The win gives Geno Auriemma the best winning percentage in the history of women's college basketball (.86889) just ahead of former Louisiana Tech Coach Leon Barmore, who finished his career with a percentage of .86878 and a record of 576-87. Auriemma is now 888-134.

Sisters Keely and Alicia Froling and Raven Short each had seven points to lead SMU (4-8), which has now lost five in a row.

The Huskies scored the game's first eight points and hit 10 of their first 11 shots, opening a 20-2 lead that put the game out of reach early.

Men

UTAH ST. 75 WAYLAND BAPTIST 63

LOGAN, Utah — Jalen Moore scored 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds, and David Collette added 14 points to lead Utah State past Wayland Baptist 75-63 Saturday night.

Sean Harris also added a career-high 10 points and eight rebounds for the Aggies (7-5). JoJo McGlaston added 12 in the final preseason game for USU.

Bunja Yaboe led the Pioneers with a career-high 20 points. Royal Crouch had 18 points and Ta'Quan McDew added 11.

After trailing by six at halftime, Wayland Baptist's Crouch made a jumper to get the Pioneers within 41-38 with 16 minutes to play. They were never able to get closer as Moore and Harris scored layups on consecutive possessions and USU stretched to 64-49 with 6:52 in the game.

Aggies Chris Smith and McGlaston combined for 5-of-7 shooting from the 3-point line

SATURDAY'S SCORES & SCHEDULES

Men

TOP 25 FARED

1. Kentucky (13-0) beat No. 4 Louisville 58-50. Next vs Mississippi, Tuesday, Jan. 6
2. Duke (10-0) did not play. Next vs. Toledo, Monday.
3. Arizona (12-1) did not play. Next vs. Arizona State, Sunday, Jan. 4
4. Louisville (11-1) lost to No. 1 Kentucky 58-50. Next vs. Long Beach State, Tuesday
5. Virginia (11-0) did not play. Next vs. Davidson, Tuesday.
6. Wisconsin (11-1) did not play. Next vs. Buffalo, Sunday.
7. Villanova (12-0) did not play. Next vs. Butler, Wednesday.
8. Gonzaga (12-1) beat BYU 87-80. Next at San Diego, Monday.
9. Texas (10-2) did not play. Next vs. Rice, Monday.
10. Kansas (9-2) did not play. Next vs. Kent State, Tuesday.
11. Wichita State (10-2) did not play. Next Drake, Wednesday.
12. Iowa State (9-1) did not play. Next vs. MVSU, Wednesday.
13. Washington (11-0) did not play. Next vs. Stony Brook, Sunday.
14. Utah (9-2) did not play. Next vs. Carroll (Mont.), Tuesday.
15. Maryland (12-1) beat Oakland 72-56. Next at Michigan State, Tuesday.
16. Notre Dame (12-1) did not play. Next vs. Hartford, Tuesday.
17. St. John's (10-1) did not play. Next vs. Tulane, Sunday.
18. West Virginia (11-1) did not play. Next vs. Virginia Tech, Tuesday.
19. Oklahoma (8-3) did not play. Next vs. George Mason, Wednesday.
20. North Carolina (9-3) beat UAB 89-58. Next vs. William & Mary, Tuesday.
21. Ohio State (11-2) beat Wright State 100-55. Next vs. Iowa, Tuesday.
22. Baylor (10-1) did not play. Next vs. Norfolk State, Tuesday.
23. Northern Iowa (10-1) did not play. Next vs. South Dakota State, Sunday.
24. Colorado State (13-0) beat New Mexico State 58-57. OT. Next vs. Boise State, Wednesday.
25. TCU (12-0) did not play. Next vs. Tennessee State, Monday.

SATURDAY'S SCORES

SOUTH

Georgia 86, Mercer 77, 3OT
Jacksonville 75, Jacksonville St. 61
Kentucky 58, Louisville 50
Maryland 72, Oakland 56
North Carolina 89, UAB 58
Tennessee 87, Tennessee St. 46
Virginia Tech 87, Presbyterian 65
W. Kentucky 89, Brescia 42

MIDWEST

Green Bay 78, Georgia St. 61
Illinois 93, Kennesaw St. 45
Minnesota 108, UNC Wilmington 82
Northwestern 76, N. Kentucky 55
Ohio St. 100, Wright St. 55

FAR WEST

Gonzaga 87, BYU 80
IUPUI 55, Pepperdine 53
Portland 61, San Diego 58
Sacramento St. 74, Utah Valley 49
Saint Mary's (Cal.) 73, Santa Clara 61
San Francisco 77, Pacific 71
Utah St. 75, Wayland Baptist 63

EAST

Georgetown 91, Indiana 87, OT
Seton Hall 72, Maine 43

TODAY'S GAMES

SOUTHWEST

Northwestern St. at Arkansas, 2:30 p.m.
Haskell Indian Nations at Okla. Roberts, 3 p.m.
MVSU at Houston, 4 p.m.

SOUTH

UNC Greensboro at East Carolina, 1 p.m.
Marist at Elon, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati Christian at Liberty, 1 p.m.
Campbell at Samford, 1 p.m.
Thomas (Maine) at High Point, 2 p.m.
NC Wesleyan at NC A&T, 2 p.m.
Gard.-Pennsylvania at Radford, 2 p.m.
Bowling Green at South Florida, 2 p.m.
Wake Forest at Richmond, 3 p.m.
UCLA at Alabama, 5:30 p.m.

MIDWEST

Concordia (Mich.) at E. Michigan, Noon
Longwood at Ball St., 1 p.m.
Morgan St. at Marquette, 1 p.m.
Coppin St. at Evansville, 1:05 p.m.
UMKC at Indiana St., 1:05 p.m.
Texas Southern at Kansas St., 2 p.m.
Northland at N. Dakota St., 2 p.m.
S. Dakota St. at N. Iowa, 2 p.m.
Harris-Stowe at SE Missouri, 2 p.m.
Robert Morris (Chicago) at SIU-Edwardsville, 2 p.m.
Milwaukee at South Dakota, 2 p.m.
Florida Gulf Coast at Xavier, 3 p.m.
Judson at IPFW, 3:30 p.m.
W. Chicago at Bradley, 4 p.m.
Belmont at Butler, 5 p.m.
Buffalo at Wisconsin, 7 p.m.

FAR WEST

Harvard at Arizona St., 2 p.m.
Saint Katherine at Fresno St., 3 p.m.
San Diego Christian at N. Arizona, 3 p.m.
Abilene Christian at Grand Canyon, 5 p.m.
UC Davis at Washington St., 5 p.m.
Stony Brook at Washington, 7 p.m.
CS Bakersfield at California, 9 p.m.

EAST

Tulane vs. St. John's at the Barclays Center, 1 p.m.
Iona at Drexel, Noon
CCSU at UConn, Noon
Sacred Heart at Brown, 1 p.m.
Colgate at Columbia, 1 p.m.
Md.-Eastern Shore at Duquesne, 1 p.m.
NJIT at Lafayette, 1 p.m.
Bucknell at Siena, 1 p.m.
Long Beach St. at Syracuse, 1 p.m.
Hofstra vs. LIU Brooklyn at the Barclays Center, 1:30 p.m.
Coast Guard at Army, 2 p.m.
Rutgers at Monmouth (NJ), 2 p.m.
St. Peter's at Cornell, 3 p.m.
Loyola (Md.) at Fairfield, 4 p.m.
Delaware St. at Temple, 4 p.m.
Lehigh at UMBC, 4 p.m.
Howard at Fordham, 5 p.m.

Women

TOP 25 FARED

1. South Carolina (12-0) did not play. Next vs. Auburn, Friday, Jan. 2
2. UConn (9-1) beat SMU, 96-45. Next vs. No. 10 Duke, Monday.
3. Texas (10-0) did not play. Next vs. Rice, Tuesday.
4. Notre Dame (11-1) did not play. Next at UCLA, Sunday.
5. Texas A&M (11-1) did not play. Next at Washington, Monday.
6. Baylor (10-1) did not play. Next vs. Prairie View, Monday.
7. Louisville (11-1) did not play. Next vs. Evansville, Monday.
8. Tennessee (9-2) did not play. Next vs. No. 10 Oregon State, Sunday.
9. North Carolina (11-1) did not play. Next vs. Albany, Tuesday.
10. Duke (8-3) did not play. Next at No. 2 UConn, Monday.
10. Oregon State (10-0) did not play. Next at No. 8 Tennessee, Sunday.
12. Kentucky (10-2) did not play. Next vs. Tennessee State, Sunday.
13. Nebraska (10-1) did not play. Next at Minnesota, Monday.
14. Georgia (12-0) did not play. Next at Seton Hall, Sunday.
15. Maryland (9-2) did not play. Next vs. Ohio State, Monday.
16. Stanford (7-4) did not play. Next vs. UC Santa Barbara, Sunday.
17. Rutgers (9-2) did not play. Next at Indiana, Sunday.
18. Oklahoma State (9-1) did not play. Next vs. Northwestern State, Monday.
19. Mississippi State (14-0) did not play. Next vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Monday.
20. Michigan State (8-3) did not play. Next vs. Northwestern, Sunday.
21. West Virginia (9-2) did not play. Next vs. St. Francis (Pa.), Monday.
22. Syracuse (8-3) did not play. Next vs. Cornell, Sunday.
23. Iowa (9-2) did not play. Next vs. Penn State, Sunday.
24. Green Bay (9-2) did not play. Next at Dayton, Sunday.
25. Arizona State (10-1) did not play. Next vs. Pac. Sunday.

SATURDAY'S SCORES

SOUTHWEST

[illegible] 64, Houston 50

EAST

[illegible], 64, SMU, 45

FAR WEST

San Diego, 67, Portland 60

TODAY'S GAMES

SOUTHWEST

Chattanooga vs. SIU-Edwardsville, at the Convocation Center, San Antonio, Noon
Houston Christian at Houston Baptist, 2 p.m.
Denver at North Texas, 2 p.m.
Lamar at Rice, 4 p.m.
South Dakota at Texas San Antonio, 4:30 p.m.
Accom. St. at UTEP, 3 p.m.

SOUTH

Drexel vs. Miami (Ohio), at John Paul Jones Arena, Charlottesville, Va., 11 a.m.
East Carolina at South Florida, 11 a.m.
Oregon St. at Tennessee, Noon
North Florida at Florida, 12 p.m.
Tennessee St. at Kentucky, 1 p.

COWBOYS

From 1C

happened elsewhere. Three years running, they needed a win on the final weekend of the regular season to clinch a playoff berth — and failed each time.

Now they're in with a week to spare, and the last thing they want to hear is that their game might be meaningless.

"I think really you think about momentum," tight end Jason Witten said. "This game is a crazy game. You want to play well every opportunity you get. For one, there's still stuff out there for us. And then, two, you want to be playing well going into the playoffs. You never want to back door your way into it. I think this team has been playing well, and we want to continue to do that."

Here's more that's in store today as the Cowboys (11-4) and Redskins (4-11) wrap up the regular season:

RECORDS TO BREAK: Another reason for playing Murray is his pursuit of Emmitt Smith's franchise rushing record. Murray leads the NFL with 1,745 yards and needs 29 to surpass Smith's mark of 1,773 from 1995.

Also, Romo has a chance to finish with one of the five best passer ratings in NFL history. He's sixth right now at 114.4, and a stellar game would move him past Peyton Manning's 115.1 last year with Denver.

Then there's Dez Bryant, who leads the league with 14 touchdown catches and needs one to tie Terrell Owens' franchise record from 2007.

OH, IT'S YOU AGAIN: The Cowboys-Redskins rivalry loses much of its sting when one or both of the teams are struggling, but Washington's signature victory in an otherwise tough season was a Monday night win at Dallas in October.

One of the oldest one-liners in D.C. is that it's permissible for Washington to go 2-14 if both wins come against the Cowboys. The Redskins wouldn't be far off the mark with a victory on Sunday.

"I know we are 4-11, not a whole lot of excitement after this game happening," Washington coach Jay Gruden said. "But, still, to beat Dallas, to play Dallas is a great opportunity for a lot of guys to get more work and go against a heck of a football team. That's always great."

COWBOYS GOT D: Sure, everyone knows Romo, Murray and Bryant — and the young offensive line has received its props as well — but the Dallas defense might be the most improved of all.

The Cowboys allowed 1 yard rushing last week against the Colts and have held five of their last six opponents to 89 yards rushing or fewer. A defense that was worst in the league last year is ranked 16th with one game to go — not bad considering that all six Dallas players selected to the Pro Bowl came from the other side of the ball.

RG3'S CASE: The game represents one last chance this season for Washington's Robert Griffin III to show that he's making progress as a pocket passer.

There was improvement last week in a win over Philadelphia that broke a six-game skid, although Griffin sprained his shoulder late in the game and was limited in practice this week. He's expected to play today.

HISTORY LESSON: In 2007, the Cowboys had already clinched a playoff spot when they sleepwalked through a 27-6 loss at Washington in the final weekend of the regular season. That Dallas team was 13-3 and appeared poised for a Super Bowl run, but it lost to the New York Giants in its first playoff game.

NFL STANDINGS & INJURY REPORT

FROM WIRE REPORTS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	12	3	0	.800	459	296
Miami	8	7	0	.533	364	336
Buffalo	8	7	0	.533	326	280
N.Y. Jets	3	12	0	.200	246	377
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Indianapolis	10	5	0	.667	431	359
Houston	8	7	0	.533	349	290
Jacksonville	3	12	0	.200	232	389
Tennessee	2	13	0	.133	244	411
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Cincinnati	10	4	1	.700	348	317
x-Pittsburgh	10	5	0	.667	409	351
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	389	292
Cleveland	7	8	0	.467	289	317
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Denver	11	4	0	.733	435	340
San Diego	9	6	0	.600	341	329
Kansas City	8	7	0	.533	334	274
Oakland	3	12	0	.200	239	405

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Dallas	11	4	0	.733	423	335
Philadelphia	9	6	0	.600	440	374
N.Y. Giants	6	9	0	.400	354	366
Washington	4	11	0	.267	284	394
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	6	8	1	.433	305	371
Atlanta	6	9	0	.400	328	383
New Orleans	6	9	0	.400	378	404
Tampa Bay	2	13	0	.133	257	387
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Detroit	11	4	0	.733	301	252
x-Green Bay	11	4	0	.733	456	328
Minnesota	6	9	0	.400	312	334
Chicago	5	10	0	.333	310	429
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Seattle	11	4	0	.733	374	248
x-Arizona	11	4	0	.733	293	279
San Francisco	7	8	0	.467	286	323
St. Louis	6	9	0	.400	318	334

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Sunday's Games

Indianapolis at Tennessee, Noon
Jacksonville at Houston, Noon
San Diego at Kansas City, Noon
Chicago at Minnesota, Noon
Cleveland at Baltimore, Noon
Dallas at Washington, Noon
N.Y. Jets at Miami, Noon
Buffalo at New England, Noon
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, Noon
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, Noon
Arizona at San Francisco, 3:25 p.m.
St. Louis at Seattle, 3:25 p.m.
Oakland at Denver, 3:25 p.m.
Detroit at Green Bay, 3:25 p.m.
Carolina at Atlanta, 3:25 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.

INJURY REPORT

CAROLINA PANTHERS at ATLANTA FALCONS — PANTHERS: QUESTIONABLE: LB A.J. Klein (knee). PROBABLE: RB DeAngelo Williams (hand). FALCONS: QUESTIONABLE: G Jon Asamoah (back), RB Steven Jackson (quadriceps), WR Julio Jones (hip), CB Robert McClain (illness), CB Josh Wilson (hamstring).

CLEVELAND BROWNS at BALTIMORE RAVENS — BROWNS: OUT: NT Ahtyba Rubin (ankle), T Ryan Seymour (hamstring). DOUBTFUL: QB Brian Hoyer (right shoulder, bicep). QUESTIONABLE: TE Gary Barnidge (rib), DE Desmond Bryant (thumb), CB Joe Haden (shoulder), WR Andrew Hawkins (thumb), LB Jabaal Sheard (foot), TE Ryan Taylor (elbow), CB K'Waun Williams (hamstring). PROBABLE: WR Marlon Moore (knee). RAVENS: DOUBTFUL: T Eugene Monroe (ankle). QUESTIONABLE: DE Chris Canty (ankle, thigh), LB Terrell Suggs (back, thigh), RB Fitzgerald Toussaint*(ribs).

DALLAS COWBOYS at WASHINGTON REDSKINS — COWBOYS: OUT: LB Dekoda Watson (hamstring). DOUBTFUL: T Doug Free (ankle). PROBABLE: DT Josh Brent (calf), S Jeff Heath (thumb), G Zack Martin (ankle), LB Rolando McClain (knee, not injury related), RB DeMarco Murray (hand, illness), QB Tony Romo (back). REDSKINS: DOUBTFUL: DE Jason Hatcher (knee). QUESTIONABLE: NT Chris Baker (toe, elbow), DE Stephen Bowen (ankle, illness), LB Gabe Miller (ankle), LB Keenan Robinson (knee), T Trent Williams (shoulder). PROBABLE: CB Bashaud Breeland (thigh), NT Barry Cofield Jr. (shoulder), T Tom Compton (knee), LB Will Compton (shoulder), QB Robert Griffin III (right shoulder), LB Jackson Jeffcoat (calf), G Kory Lichtensteiger (stinger), RB Darrel Young (ankle).

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS at TENNESSEE TITANS — COLTS: DNP: TE Dwayne Allen (finger), T Gosder Cherilus (groin), WR Reggie Wayne (not injury related). LB Bjoern Werner (shoulder). LIMITED: LB Jerrell Freeman (hamstring), WR T.Y. Hilton (hamstring), G Joe Reitz (ankle), LB Erik Walden (knee). FULL: DE Cory Redding (knee), G Hugh Thornton (knee). TITANS: DNP: T Terren Jones (concussion). LIMITED: NT Sammie Hill (foot), T Taylor Lewan (ankle), QB Zach Mettenberger (right shoulder), T Byron Stingily (ankle), LB Kamerion Wimbley (hamstring). FULL: LB Zavier Gooden (hamstring).

DETROIT LIONS at GREEN BAY PACKERS — LIONS: OUT: DT Nick Fairley (knee). PROBABLE: RB Joique Bell (Achilles), WR Calvin Johnson (ankle), CB Mohammed Seisay (hamstring). PACKERS: OUT: CB Davon House (shoulder). PROBABLE: G T.J. Lang (ankle), LB Clay Matthews (biceps), LB Mike Neal (abdomen), QB Aaron Rodgers (calf), G Josh Sitton (toe).

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS at HOUSTON TEXANS — JAGUARS: DNP: DT Roy Miller III (knee). LIMITED: RB Toby Gerhart (ribs), WR Cecil Shorts III (shoulder). FULL: QB Blaine Bortles (foot), C Luke Bowanko (wrist), DE Andre Branch (groin), DE Chris Clemons (knee), WR Tommy Streeter (abdomen). TEXANS: DNP: TE Garrett Graham (ankle), LB Mike Mohamed (concussion), WR DeVier Posey (calf), QB Tom Savage (knee). LIMITED: G Brandon Brooks (knee, ankle), T Tyson Clabo (shoulder), TE C.J. Fiedorowicz (shoulder), WR DeAndre Hopkins (wrist), CB Kareem Jackson (back), NT Ryan Pickett (groin), G Xavier Su'a-Filo (back). FULL: LB Brian Cushing (ankle), RB Arian Foster (not injury related), WR Andre Johnson (not injury related), CB Johnathan Joseph (ankle).

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS at KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — CHARGERS: OUT: RB Ryan Mathews (ankle), P Mike Scifres (shoulder). DOUBTFUL: WR Keenan Allen (ankle, shoulder). QUESTIONABLE: G Chris Watt (ankle). PROBABLE: DT Corey Liuget (ankle), QB Philip Rivers (chest, back), CB Shareece Wright (concussion). CHIEFS: OUT: CB Phillip Gaines (illness), QB Alex Smith (spleen). QUESTIONABLE: WR Dwayne Bowe (shoulder), RB Jamaal Charles (hamstring, ankle), G Zach Fulton (foot, toe). PROBABLE: TE Anthony Fasano (knee), LB Tamba Hali (knee), LB Josh Martin (hand), LB Joe Mays (knee).

NEW YORK JETS at MIAMI DOLPHINS — JETS: OUT: S Rontez Miles (shin). QUESTIONABLE: NT Damon Harrison (illness), WR Percy Harvin (ankle, ribs), S Jaiquawn Jarrett (shoulder), S Dawan Landry (illness), C Nick Mangold (finger, ankle), CB Darrin Walls (shoulder), DE Muhammad Wilkerson (toe, illness). PROBABLE: S Antonio Allen (hand), G Willie Colon (knee), K Nick Folk (right hip), RB Chris Ivory (hamstring), RB Chris Johnson (knee). DOLPHINS: QUESTIONABLE: LB Jelani Jenkins (foot), DE Derrick Shelby (ankle), G Dallas Thomas (foot). PROBABLE: TE Charles Clay (hamstring, knee), CB Cortland Finnegan (ankle), LB Jonathan Freeny (hamstring), S Don Jones (shoulder), LB Koa Misi (hamstring, knee), DT Earl Mitchell (back), DT Jare Wallace (back).

CHICAGO BEARS at MINNESOTA VIKINGS — BEARS: OUT: QB Jimmy Clausen (concussion), S Chris Conte (back), K Robbie Gould (right quadriceps). QUESTIONABLE: DE Jared Allen (ribs), CB Al Louis-Jean (hamstring), DT Jeremiah Ratliff (knee). PROBABLE: DE David Bass (knee), DT Ego Ferguson (ankle), G Kyle Long (hip), WR Marquess Wilson (knee). VIKINGS: OUT: LB Anthony Barr (knee). QUESTIONABLE: WR Jarius Wright (back). PROBABLE: RB Matt Asiata (foot), S Robert Blanton (ankle), S Antone Exum Jr. (knee), DT Sharrif Floyd (knee), TE Chase Ford (foot), T Mike Harris (foot), WR Greg Jennings (hamstring), G Charles Johnson (ankle), S Andrew Sendejo (thumb).

BUFFALO BILLS at NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — BILLS: DOUBTFUL: DT Marcell Dareus (knee), CB Stephon Gilmore (concussion). PROBABLE: K Dan Carpenter (right groin), S Aaron Williams (hip). PATRIOTS: OUT: CB Alfonzo Dennard (hamstring), RB Jonas Gray (ankle). QUESTIONABLE: C Danny Aiken (finger), CB Kyle Arrington (hamstring), RB LeGarrette Blount (shoulder), CB Brandon Browner (groin), LB Jamie Collins (hip), G Dan Connolly (knee), WR Julian Edelman (thigh, concussion), T Cameron Fleming (ankle), LB Dont'a Hightower (shoulder), DE Chandler Jones (hip), WR Brandon LaFell (shoulder), DE Rob Ninkovich (heel), RB Shane Vereen (ankle), T Sebastian Vollmer (back), LB Chris White (ankle). PROBABLE: OB Tom Brady (ankle).

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES at NEW YORK GIANTS — EAGLES: OUT: QB Nick Foles (collarbone). QUESTIONABLE: CB Bradley Fletcher (hip). PROBABLE: DT Beau Allen (shoulder), DE Brandon Bair (knee), TE Trey Burton (back), LB Trent Cole (hand), LB Mychal Kendricks (ankle), S Chris Maragos (hamstring), WR Jordan Matthews (knee). GIANTS: OUT: LB Devon Kennard (toe). QUESTIONABLE: RB Andre Williams (shoulder). PROBABLE: DE Paul Hazel (hamstring), RB Rashad Jennings (ankle), LB Jameel McClain (knee).

CINCINNATI BENGALS at PITTSBURGH STEELERS — BENGALS: DNP: G Clint Boling (illness), DE Will Clarke (illness), CB Adam Jones (illness), CB Chris Lewis-Harris (illness), CB Terence Newman (illness), T Andrew Whitworth (not injury related). LIMITED: LB Chris Carter (knee), DE Wallace Gilberry (hamstring), LB Emmanuel Lamur (hamstring), S Reggie Nelson (illness), K Mike Nugent (illness), WR Jermaine Wright (knee). FULL: CB Dexpaseo Dennard (shin), WR A.J. Green (biceps), TE Jermaine Gresham (illness). STEELERS: LIMITED: TE Michael Palmer (groin), S Troy Polamalu (knee), CB Ike Taylor (shoulder, forearm). FULL: T Kelvin Beachum (back), TE Matt Spaeth (elbow), LB Vince Williams (ankle).

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS at TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — SAINTS: OUT: T Terron Armstead (hamstring). QUESTIONABLE: NT John Jenkins (abdomen). PROBABLE: S Jamarca Sanford (hamstring), T Zach Strief (neck). BUCCANEERS: DOUBTFUL: LB Mason Foster (Achilles). QUESTIONABLE: CB Isaiah Frey (ankle), S Dashon Goldson (shoulder), WR Robert Herron (hip), WR Solomon Patton (foot), DE Bobby Rainey (wrist).

OAKLAND RAIDERS at DENVER BRONCOS — RAIDERS: DNP: WR Vincent Brown (groin), CB Chimdi Chekwa (hamstring), WR Demarius Moore (knee, ankle). LIMITED: CB TJ Carrie (ankle), S Ras-I Dowling (hamstring), LB Khalil Mack (hamstring), T Menelik Watson (foot, ankle). FULL: QB Derek Carr (illness). BRONCOS: DNP: LB Brandon Marshall (foot). LIMITED: T Paul Cornick (toe), WR Emmanuel Sanders (hip), S T.J. Ward (neck). FULL: RB C.J. Anderson (ankle), LB Lamin Barrow (illness), S David Bruton Jr. (calf), T Ryan Clady (thigh), T Chris Clark (back), RB Ronnie Hillman (foot), QB Peyton Manning (thigh), C Will Montgomery (knee), C Manny Ramirez (illness), TE Jacob Tamme (foot), WR Demaryius Thomas (ankle, hip), TE Julius Thomas (ankle), RB Juwan Thompson (hip, knee), DT Mitch Unrein (illness), CB Kayvon Webster (shoulder), DE Derek Wolfe (knee).

ARIZONA CARDINALS at SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — CARDINALS: OUT: QB Drew Stanton (knee). DOUBTFUL: LB Larry Foote (knee). QUESTIONABLE: S Deone Bucannon (knee), TE John Carlson (calf), G Jonathan Cooper (wrist), NT Dan Williams (foot). PROBABLE: LB Lorenzo Alexander (knee), WR Jaron Brown (foot), DE Calais Campbell (hip), WR Larry Fitzgerald (knee), S Rashad Johnson (ankle), C Ted Larsen (shoulder), S Tyrann Mathieu (thumb), LB Matt Shaughnessy (shoulder). 49ERS: DOUBTFUL: RB Carlos Hyde (ankle), WR Stevie Johnson (knee), S Eric Reid (concussion). QUESTIONABLE: CB Tramaine Brock (hamstring), LB Ahmad Brooks (thumb), CB Perrish Cox (shoulder), WR Bruce Ellington (hamstring). PROBABLE: WR Michael Crabtree (knee), CB Chris Culliver (knee), WR Brandon Lloyd (groin), C Marcus Martin (illness), DT Justin Smith (back).

ST. LOUIS RAMS at SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — RAMS: DNP: CB E.J. Gaines (concussion), DE Chris Long (not injury related). FULL: CB Janoris Jenkins (back), C Scott Wells (back). SEAHAWKS: DNP: DE Demarcus Dobbs (ankle), WR Jermaine Kearse (hamstring). LIMITED: TE Cooper Helfet (ribs), WR Chris Matthews (hamstring), CB Thurold Simon (shoulder). FULL: RB Marshawn Lynch (back), TE Tony Moeaki (shoulder), T Russell Okung (chest), C Max Unger (knee, ankle)

TEXANS

From 1C

but that was the last play of the game. He's making very good decisions and I think he still keeps his aggressiveness."

Some things to know about the Jaguars-Texans game:

WATT'S WORK: Houston defensive end J.J. Watt leads the NFL with 25 tackles for losses and 47 quarterback hits. His 17 1/2 sacks are second most in the NFL and he needs 2 1/2 more to become the first player in NFL history with at least 20 sacks in two seasons. Watt has a franchise-record 54 sacks in his four-year career and has batted down 37 passes in that span. Watt leads the NFL with five fumble recoveries and has 11 in his career. He is the first player since Bill Golding in 1948 to have three offensive touchdowns and two touchdowns on takeaways in a season.

ON THE MARK: Marks is having the best year of his career in his sixth season in the NFL. He has 42 tackles and 8 1/2 sacks, which are both career highs. He's gotten better as the season has progressed and 6 1/2 of his sacks have come in the last eight games.

FOSTER'S FINE FORM: Arian Foster is second in the NFL with 101.9 yards rushing a game a year after missing eight games because of a back injury. He leads the Texans with 12 touchdowns, including a career-high four receiving this season. He added to his contributions on offense last week when he threw a touchdown pass in his first career attempt. Foster has 1,223 yards rushing with seven 100-yard rushing games this season, and a franchise-record 32 in his career.

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".

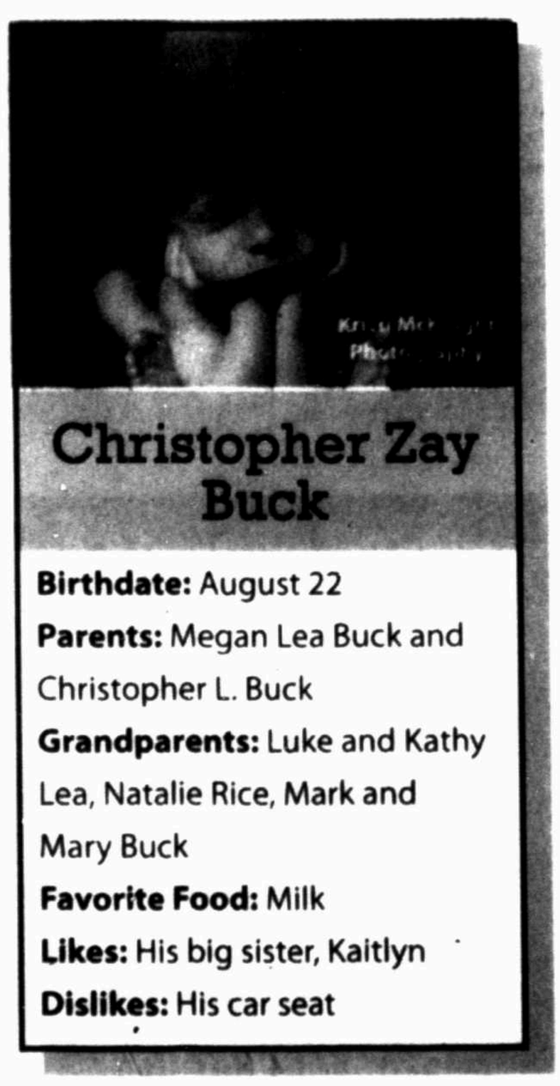
Now is your chance to show everyone how cute your baby is! If a baby was born in your family in 2014, complete this form and return it with a photo and payment to our office by Sunday, January 11, 2015 to get your baby published in a 2.46 " x 5" profile in our Babies of 2014 special section! *Please 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.

Digital Photo Requirements
- 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
Parents _____
Grandparents _____
Favorite Food _____
Likes _____
Dislikes _____

Your Information

Parent's Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

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To Submit Your Form Online Go To: mrt.com/babies2014
Publishes Sunday, 1/25/15

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Arizona State takes care of Duke in Sun Bowl

By John Erfort
Associated Press

No. 15 Sun Devils.....36
Blue Devils.....31

EL PASO — Kalen Ballage returned a kickoff 96 yards to set up the winning score in No. 15 Arizona State's 36-31 victory over Duke on Saturday in the Sun Bowl.

Ballage's big return came after Duke (9-4) took a 31-30 lead on receiver Jamison Crowder's 12-yard touchdown pass to Isaac Blakeney with 5:03 left.

On the kickoff, Ballage took the ball near the goal line and went straight up the right hash for about 15 yards before picking up a block and cutting to his right. He was pushed out of bounds at the 4.

On the next play, Demario Richard took a shovel pass from Taylor Kelly and bulled his way over the left side and into the end zone. Kelly was stopped on the 2-point conversion try.

Duke drove to 14 on its final drive, but Anthony Boone's third-and-10 pass was intercepted by Kweishi Brown in the end zone with 45 seconds left.

Richard, a freshman, was selected the game MVP. He scored four touchdowns for the Sun Devils (10-4) and tied a Sun Bowl record for points with 24. Richard carried seven times for 41 yards and two scores, and caught five passes for 22 yards and two more touchdowns.

Duke cut it to 30-24 with 10:10 left in the fourth on Boone's 14-yard pass to Barnes.

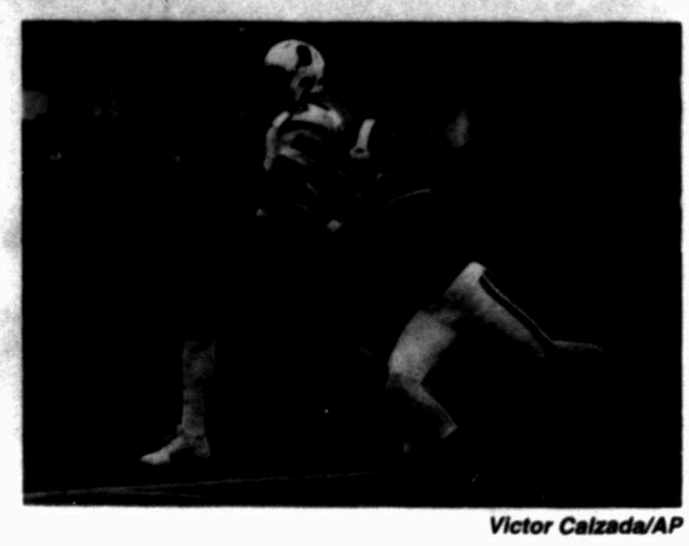
Richard opened the scoring with a 9-yard run in the first quarter and gave the Sun Devils, who scored the first four times they had the ball, a 20-3 lead on a 1-yard run midway through the second.

Duke rallied with two touchdowns in 1:55 span — Boone's 14-yard pass to Shaquille Powell and Crowder's 69-yard punt return — to cut it to 20-17 at the half.

Kelly threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Richard in the third and Zane Gonzalez added a 47-yard field with 2:23 left in the quarter to push Arizona State's lead to 30-17.

Kelly was 24 of 34 for 240 yards in his final game for the Sun Devils. The senior said he felt as healthy as he had at any point since injuring his foot against Colorado early in the season.

Jaelen Strong, leaving early for the NFL, led Arizona State in receiving with seven catches for 103 yards.



Victor Calzada/AP

Arizona State's Kalen Ballage, left, is pushed out of bounds by Duke's Terrance Als after a long kickoff return during the fourth quarter of the Sun Bowl on Saturday in El Paso. The return enabled the Sun Devils to score the go-ahead touchdown late in the game.

Nittany Lions win thriller

Bill Kostroun/AP

Penn State cornerback Devin Pryor (16) celebrates with teammates after Penn State defeated Boston College, 31-30, in overtime in the Pinstripe Bowl on Saturday at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Penn State tops Boston College in OT

By Dan Gelston
Associated Press

Nittany Lions.....31
Eagles.....30 (OT)

NEW YORK — Sam Ficken was Penn State's captain in the clutch at Yankee Stadium on Saturday night.

Ficken used Derek Jeter's old locker, then showed No. 2 must have left behind some postseason kismet. He booted a walk-off winner deep into Monument Park, kicking the extra point that Boston College could not to give the Nittany Lions a 31-30 overtime win in the Pinstripe Bowl.

Christian Hackenberg hit Kyle Carter for a 10-yard touchdown pass that set up Ficken's automatic kick that sent the Nittany Lions dancing on top of the Yankees' dugout.

"I couldn't have asked for a better ending for my career," Ficken said.

The Nittany Lions (7-6) played in a bowl game for the first time since January 2012 after the NCAA lifted the most severe sanctions levied against the program in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal.

Captain to captain, Ficken had the honor of using the retired Jeter's locker and some of the five-time World Series champion shortstop's clutch postseason play appeared to rub off.

Ficken sent the game into OT with a 45-yard field goal with 20 seconds left in regulation and won it with his extra point.

"He's probably been our best offensive weapon all year long," coach James Franklin said.

Tyler Murphy hit David Dudeck for a 21-yard touchdown pass on Boston College's drive. Mike Knoll shanked the extra point for the Eagles (7-6) and that was the opening Penn State needed to complete its comeback from a 21-7 deficit late in the third quarter.

"We lost a game we didn't need to lose," Boston College coach Steve Addazio said.

Penn State has played under the cloud of scandal and sanctions for the most of the last four years, tearing at the fabric of the community known as Happy Valley and tarnishing the legacy of Joe Paterno.

Moments after Penn State hoisted the bowl trophy on the field, Franklin took the microphone and thanked the seniors "who stayed with this program when we needed them most."

"I think experiences and games like this has restored the hope," Franklin said.

The Eagles left stunned after blowing the lead and missing their eighth extra point of the season. Knoll put the Eagles ahead 24-21 on a 20-yarder with 2:10 left in the fourth.

"I just told him to keep his head up," Murphy said. "That one PAT didn't lose us the game."

Ficken, who won the opener in Dublin with a 36-yard field goal as time expired, bookended the season with his biggest kick yet.

Hackenberg threw four touchdowns and played more as he did his freshman year, when he had NFL scouts raving about first-round potential rather than this season's erratic sophomore effort. He set Penn State records for completions and yards passing (34 of 50, 371 yards) and earned MVP honors. He went over the middle and hit DaeSean Hamilton to make it 21-all with 6:48 left in the fourth.

BOWL AND PLAYOFF GLANCES

BOWLS
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 46
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 33, Cincinnati 17
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Arizona State 36, 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
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
West Virginia 7-5 vs. Texas A&M 7-5, 5 p.m., ESPN
Russell Athletic Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Clemson 9-3 vs. Oklahoma 8-4, 4:30 p.m., ESPN
Texas Bowl
At Houston
Texas 6-6 vs. Arkansas 6-6, 8 p.m., ESPN
Tuesday
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Notre Dame 7-5 vs. LSU 8-4, 7 p.m., ESPN
Belk Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Louisville 9-3 vs. Georgia 9-3, 8:30 p.m., ESPN
Fosters Farm Bowl
At Santa Clara, Calif.
Stanford 10-2 vs. Maryland 7-5, 4 p.m., ESPN
Wednesday
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
Mississippi 9-3 vs. TCU 11-1, 5 p.m., ESPN
Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Boise State 11-2 vs. Arizona 11-1, 8 p.m., ESPN
Orange Bowl
At Miami Gardens, Fla.
Mississippi State 10-2 vs. Georgia Tech 11-1, 1 p.m., ESPN
Thursday
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, 2 p.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), 2:30 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 (9-3) vs. Washington (8-5), 9 p.m., ESPN
Saturday, Jan. 3
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
Florida (8-5) vs. East Carolina (8-4), Noon, ESPN2
Sunday, Jan. 4
GoDaddy Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
Ohio (8-4) vs. Arkansas State (9-3), 4 p.m., ESPN
Saturday, Jan. 10
Medal of Honor Bowl
At Charleston, S.C.
American vs. National, 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 12
College Football Championship
At Arlington
Sugar Bowl winner vs. Rose Bowl winner, 7 p.m., ESPN
Saturday, Jan. 17
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West, 3 p.m., NFLN, NFHS
Collegiate Bowl
At Carson, Calif.
National vs. American, 1 p.m., ESPN2
Saturday, Jan. 24
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South, 1 p.m., NFLN

FCS Playoff Glance
First Round
Saturday, Nov. 29
Fordham 44, Sacred Heart 22
Indiana State 36, Eastern Kentucky 14
Richmond 46, Morgan State 24
Sam Houston State 27, Southeastern Louisiana 7
South Dakota State 47, Montana State 40
Montana 54, San Diego 14
Liberty 28, James Madison 21
Northern Iowa 44, Stephen F. Austin 7
Second Round
Saturday, Dec. 6
New Hampshire 44, Fordham 7
Chattanooga 19, Indiana State 13
Coastal Carolina 36, Richmond 7
Illinois State 41, Northern Iowa 7
Sam Houston State 17, Jacksonville State 16
North Dakota State 23, South Dakota State 21
Eastern Washington 17, Montana 2
Villanova 29, Liberty 22
Quarterfinals
Friday, Dec. 12
New Hampshire 31, Chattanooga 16
Saturday, Dec. 13
North Dakota State 39, Coastal Carolina 10
Sam Houston State 34, Villanova 10
Illinois State 56, Eastern Washington 49
Semifinals
Friday, Dec. 19
North Dakota State 35, Sam Houston State 7
Saturday, Dec. 20
Illinois State 27, New Hampshire 14
Championship
Saturday, Jan. 10
At FC Dallas Stadium
Frisco
North Dakota State 47, Illinois State 13, Noon

Victor Calzada/AP

Rogelio V. Solis/AP

South Carolina running back Mike Davis (28) runs through Miami defenders Saturday in the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La. The Gamecocks came away with a 24-21 win.

BOWLROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

INDEPENDENCE BOWL
SOUTH CAROLINA 24
MIAMI 21

SHREVEPORT, La. — Dylan Thompson threw for 294 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another score in South Carolina's 24-21 victory over Miami on Saturday in the Duck Commander Independence Bowl.

Pharoh Cooper was Thompson's favorite target, catching nine passes for 170 yards, including a spectacular 25-yard grab on what proved to be the decisive drive late in the fourth quarter.

Thompson completed 22 of 34 passes.

South Carolina (7-6) has won a school-record four straight bowl games. Miami (6-7) ended the season on a four-game losing streak and hasn't won in the postseason since 2006.

Miami's Duke Johnson ran for 132 yards and caught five passes for 51 yards, but his costly fumble with a little more than 5 minutes remaining set up South Carolina's winning drive.

Miami's Brad Kaaya threw for 236 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

MILITARY BOWL
VIRGINIA TECH 33
CINCINNATI 17

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — J.C. Coleman ran for 157 yards and a touchdown, and Virginia Tech harassed and ultimately injured Cincinnati quarterback Gunner Kiel in the Military Bowl.

Virginia Tech (7-6) knocked Kiel out of the game in the third quarter during a play that virtually assured the Hokies a 22nd consecutive winning season.

Deon Clarke sacked Kiel and forced a fumble at the Cincinnati 43. Nigel Williams picked up the ball and fumbled at the 12, where Greg Stroman scooped it up and took it into the end zone for a 27-10 lead.

Kiel remained down for several minutes and was helped off the field and taken to the locker room. The 6-foot-4 sophomore did not return, and without him Cincinnati (9-4) had little chance to mount a comeback.

Kiel finished 14 for 26 for 244 yards.

Michael Brewer went 14 for 24 for 94 yards and a touchdown for the Hokies. Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer worked in the upstairs coaching box to avoid the risk of infection during his recovery from throat surgery.

HOLIDAY BOWL
NO. 24 USC 45
NO. 25 NEBRASKA 42

SAN DIEGO — Adoree' Jackson scored on a 98-yard kickoff return and a 71-yard pass from Cody Kessler, and No. 24 Southern California blew most of an 18-point, third-quarter lead before beating No. 25 Nebraska 45-42 in the Holiday Bowl on Saturday night.

Kessler threw for 321 yards and three touchdowns for USC (9-4), which was playing Nebraska (9-4) in a bowl game for the first time.

USC stuffed De'Mornay Pierson on fourth-and-3 from the USC 31 with 2 1/2 minutes left. Nebraska had one final shot but Tommy Armstrong Jr.'s desperation pass as time ran out was knocked down inside the 10.

Armstrong had brought Nebraska back from a 45-27 deficit with a 65-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Westerkamp and a 15-yard keeper and a 2-point conversion pass to Kenny Bell.

Armstrong threw for 381 yards and three TDs.

USC had 515 yards of total offense and Nebraska finished with 525.

Brad Stillwell/Courtesy photo

The No. 57 God is Awesome Racing truck driven by Carty Beal, Byran Sherry and David Pedregon compete in a race last season.

RACING

From 1C

years the team ran races in Texas, in a regional series in different parts of the state and New Mexico.

Wells admitted the first few years were interesting as he got used to working on the high-powered off-road trucks that feature high suspensions and large tires. The team added another truck in 2011.

In 2013, the team won a title in a series in Texas and decided to make the move to the more competitive circuits in Nevada, Arizona and California with three trucks competing prior to the 2014 season.

"It's a big deal out there, there is all the (Bureau of Land Management) land, and there are races out there every week somewhere," Carl said. "There are lot of race teams, a lot of race trucks out there. We are going out there to race and everyone has trucks, and it's virtually equivalent to what we have."

And the draw for the racers is that they can race in long stretches of anywhere between 80 to more than 100 miles, and it offers plenty of excitement. The racers race against the clock and not other races during an event.

"When you can run 100 to 120 miles an hour across the desert, it's so cool," Carl said. "And you jump 30-40 feet high. It's so neat."

The team has three trucks, and is based out of a shop in West Midland, a few blocks off Wall Street. Wells, along with his nephew Greg, do much of the maintenance and work on the trucks in between races.

And all of it is financed by Carty Beal.

The team has no sponsors, although Carl joked with the recent dip in oil prices, they might be looking for some.

But even without sponsors, the team doesn't lack for anything. Wells said they have access to the same type of equipment larger teams have in the series, even without the same type of manpower.

Wells said, "they've got 10 guys on one truck, and we've got two, and I really think that's too much for those big teams. They just get in the way."

He said they have between four to six weeks between races, and after each race the trucks are torn down to the frame and rebuilt. It can be a time consuming process, but they've gotten used to it and Carty and Carl both said that Wells, and Greg, are the linchpins to the whole operation.

He said Randy's meticulous preparation allowed them to finish races and be as competitive as they were this past season.

"Without them we wouldn't be there," Carty said. "You have to have a good machine when you start off that starting line or you will not finish. My motto is, if I'm going to spend all the money to go all the way out there to Nevada, I want to finish the races."

Two trucks completed the full 2014 season in the 1400 or "Trick"Truck Unlimited" class in the Best of Desert Series. The class has few rules for engines, chassis and tires, but does have stringent safety requirements.

The team's top truck is the "Red" truck and is No. 69 with Carl as a driver, and it also had Midlander Kevin Allen behind the wheel. Matt Parks and Greg Wells served as navigators.

The second truck, which is No. 57 and yellow, is driven by Carty, Brian Sherry and David Pedregon, and Dustin Turner and Trey Palreiro served as navigators.

A third truck, which is No. 82 and pink, was driven by Carl's wife Krisha, Carty's daughter Lauren Sherry and two teenage granddaughters 18-year old Claire Pedregon and 16-year old Rose Pedregon. Robert Stamper and Palreiro shared navigation duties on that truck. They competed in a different class early in the season before getting a new truck to race in the Trophy Truck class later in the year.

"Our goal was to get one truck in the top 10 in points," Wells said. "We were kind of intimidated at first seeing those guys, thinking, 'We don't have a chance against them,' and wanted to go out there and have fun."

When the season ended at the Henderson 250 in Nevada earlier this month, Carl finished third overall in points, second in the 1400 class, and had a third-place finish at the Bluewater Desert Challenge in Parker, Arizona.

The yellow truck was fifth in overall points and third in the class. The pink truck finished outside the top 10 but in the two races it did race in the 1400 class it finished 11th and 15th in the class standings.

Those accomplishments were coupled with Carl winning Rookie of the Year, and finishing three minutes shy of the fastest combined time in all six events.

The success surprised all involved. The goal at the beginning of the season was to finish races and drive the trucks on the trailers to return home to Midland.

"None of us could believe it," said Carty, who was born in California but has lived in Midland since the early 1950s. "When we started, if Carl could be in the top 10 and I could be in the top 20, we would be really doing good. I never dreamed going into the last race we would be doing so good."

Beyond those surprising results, though, the key is being with family. The family comes from different parts of Texas and Colorado each time there is a race, and Carl called it a "family reunion."

"It's so cool and it's so fun," Carl said. "We all have kids now about the same age, and they all play in the pits. And the racing is just awesome. But it's the family deal is what makes it funnest."

Follow Len on Twitter: @Len_Hayward_MRT

God is Awesome Racing Team

Series: Best in the Desert Racing Series

The team: Carl Beal, Kevin Allen, Braden Allen, Matt Parks, Carty Beal, Brian Sherry, Trey Palreiro, Krisha Beal, Lauren Sherry, Robert Stamper, Dustin Turner, David Pedregon, Claire Pedregon, Rose Pedregon, Randy Wells (Crew Chief), Greg Wells, Hudson Hall

Class: 1400 Trick Trophy Unlimited Trucks

The Trucks: The trucks are purpose-built racing trucks which utilize 454 cubic inch Chevrolet small block engines

Compiled by Len Hayward

Daley, Demers lead Stars over Blues

Stars.....4
Blues.....3

By Nate Latsch
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The Dallas Stars seized control with power-play goals from Trevor Daley and Jason Demers in the second period and held on to beat the St. Louis Blues 4-3 on Saturday night.

The Stars (15-14-5) have won five of their last six. Dallas had a four-game win streak snapped with a loss to Toronto on Tuesday.

The Blues (21-11-3) have lost four straight games. They lost in Los Angeles, San Jose and Colorado during a recent three-game road trip.

The Stars scored just 2:08 into the first period after Blues goalie Jake Allen misplayed a puck behind the net and Travis Moen shot it into an open net for his first goal of the season.

The Blues answered 27 seconds later when Alex Pietrangelo's shot went through Kari Lehtonen's pads.

The Stars took the lead with 5:14 left in the first period after Ryan Garbutt took advantage of a turnover in the Blues defensive zone and beat Allen with a slapshot to make it 2-1.

Vladimir Tarasenko tied the score with a power-play goal, assisted by Alexander Steen and Kevin Shattenkirk, with 3:50 left in the first period. It was Tarasenko's 21st goal of the season and gave him 50 goals and 100 points in his career.

Daley scored his eighth of the season at the 7:41 mark, assisted by Tyler Seguin and Lehtonen, when he beat Allen with a wrist shot after Tarasenko was called for hooking.

After St. Louis was called for too many men on the ice, Demers scored from the slot on a pass from Erik Cole with 47 seconds remaining in the period to put Dallas ahead 4-2.

The Blues cut the deficit at the 5:40 mark of the third period, when David Backes redirected a shot from Jay Bouwmeester for his ninth goal of the season, but they could not get the tying goal over the final 14 minutes.

NOTES: Moen returned to the Stars lineup after missing five games with an upper-body injury. . Tarasenko had 21 goals in 64 games last season. . The Blues had an eight-game point streak at home and four-game win streak at home snapped with the loss. . The Blues had their fourth sellout of the season with 19,683 announced in attendance.

Scott Kane/AP

Dallas Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen deflects a shot from St. Louis' David Backes, center, during the second period Saturday in St. Louis.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	37	22	11	4	48	119	97
Detroit	36	19	8	9	47	103	89
Montreal	35	22	11	2	46	95	84
Toronto	35	20	12	3	43	118	102
Boston	36	18	15	3	39	93	97
Florida	32	15	9	8	38	73	82
Ottawa	35	14	14	7	35	92	97
Buffalo	36	14	19	3	31	73	118

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	35	22	8	5	49	108	83
N.Y. Islanders	35	23	11	1	47	108	98
N.Y. Rangers	33	19	10	4	42	100	84
Washington	35	18	11	6	42	102	90
Philadelphia	35	14	15	6	34	98	105
Columbus	34	15	16	3	33	86	109
New Jersey	37	12	18	7	31	79	107
Carolina	35	10	21	4	24	71	95

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	36	24	10	2	50	112	74
Nashville	34	23	9	2	48	99	71
St. Louis	35	21	11	3	45	103	90
Winnipeg	36	19	10	7	45	92	84
Minnesota	33	16	13	4	36	96	93
Dallas	34	15	14	5	35	99	116
Colorado	35	13	14	8	34	92	106

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	37	23	8	6	52	105	100
San Jose	35	19	11	5	43	99	90
Vancouver	33	20	11	2	42	99	91
Los Angeles	35	17	11	7	41	97	88
Calgary	36	18	15	3	39	104	98
Arizona	35	13	18	4	30	82	113
Edmonton	35	7	21	7	21	75	121

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

Saturday's Scores

Buffalo 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, SO
Arizona 2, Anaheim 1, SO
Detroit 3, Ottawa 2, OT
Tampa Bay 2, Carolina 1
N.Y. Rangers 3, New Jersey 1
Columbus 6, Boston 2
Winnipeg 4, Minnesota 3, OT
Washington 3, Pittsburgh 0
Dallas 4, St. Louis 3
Nashville 4, Philadelphia 1
Chicago 5, Colorado 2
Edmonton at Calgary, late
San Jose at Los Angeles, late

Today's Games

Toronto at Florida, 4 p.m.
Vancouver at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

HOOPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

BYRON JOHNSTON HOLIDAY CLASSIC

Monday – Wednesday Dec. 29-31

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Midland Reporter Telegram

★ Kids 8 and Under are FREE ★

FIRST GAMES – Monday, Dec. 29th

Monday December 29 - GIRLS Schedule
9:00 AM Chap Center — Midland Classical vs El Paso Eastlake
12:00 PM Chap Center — St. Mary's (New Orleans) vs Plainview
3:00 PM Chap Center — Bushland vs Midland Lee
6:00 PM Chap Center — Southern Stars (Australia) vs Midland High

Monday December 29 - BOYS Schedule
10:30 AM Chap Center — Crowley vs Bushland
1:30 PM Chap Center — Plainview vs El Paso Bel Air
4:30 PM Chap Center — El Paso Americas vs Midland Lee
7:30 PM Chap Center — Hereford vs Midland High

ADMISSION COST:

3-Day Tournament Pass:
Adults - $20.00
Students - $10.00
(includes free program)

Daily Pass:
Adults - $8.00
Students - $4.00
(Programs - $2.00)

RED RAIDER BASKETBALL | LADY RAIDER BASKETBALL

DEC. 29TH 7:00PM VS. NORTH TEXAS

DEC. 30TH 7:00PM VS. HOUSTON BAPTIST

JAN. 3RD 1:00PM VS. TEXAS

JAN. 4TH 4:00PM VS. TCU

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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

HAPPY ADS

Surprise your child, parent, or special friend with a Happy Ad!

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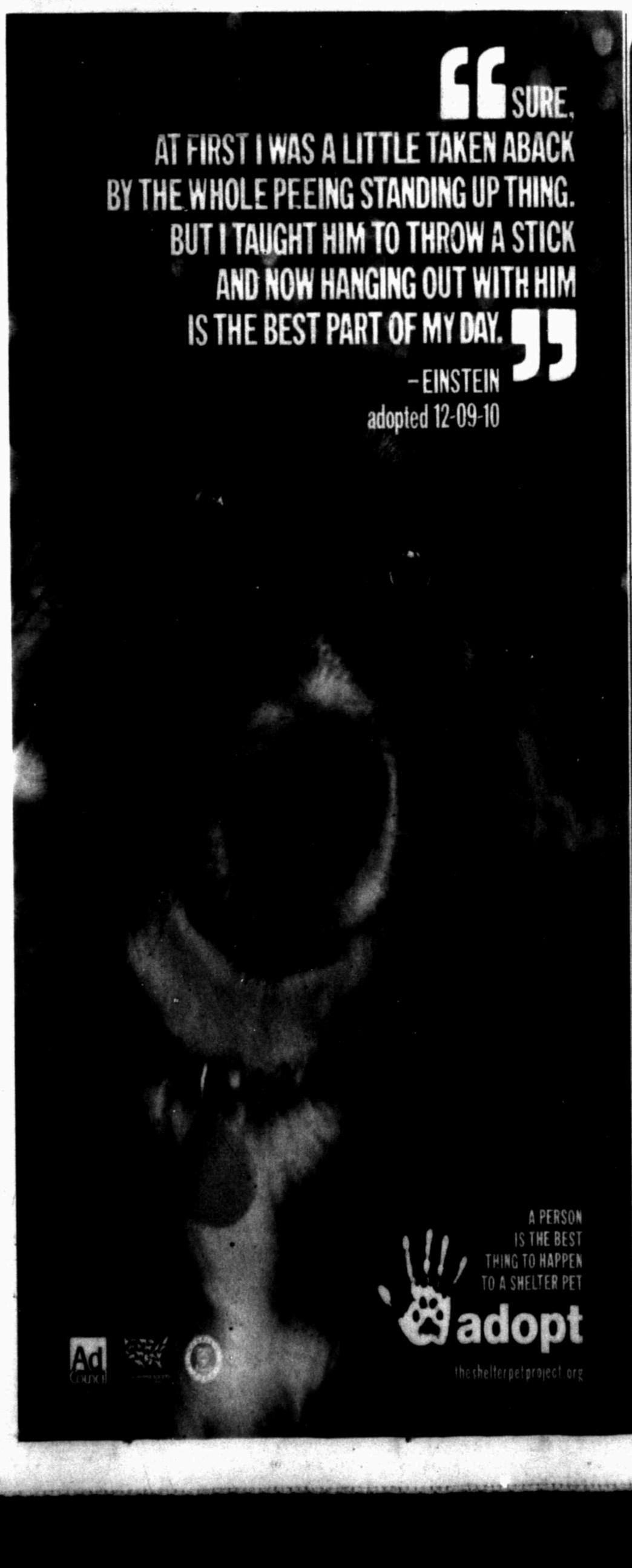

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

		1	8		5			
2		4		9				1
5	9		4				3	
			1					2
	1						6	
6					8			
	4				9		2	7
8				1		6		9
			5		3	1		

12/28/14

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

9	1	8	5	2	4	3	6	7
5	7	3	1	8	6	4	2	9
6	4	2	3	9	7	8	5	1
4	9	6	8	3	1	5	7	2
2	8	1	9	7	5	6	4	3
3	5	7	6	4	2	1	9	8
8	6	9	7	5	3	2	1	4
1	3	4	2	6	9	7	8	5
7	2	5	4	1	8	9	3	6

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Attention Readers

In observance of

New Year's Day

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed

Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Thurs., Jan. 1st	Wed., Dec. 31st, NOON
Fri., Jan. 2nd	Wed., Dec. 31st, 2 PM

Classified Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Dec. 31st	Mon., Dec. 29th, 5 PM
Thurs., Jan. 1st	Tues., Dec. 30th, 5 PM
Fri., Jan. 2nd	Tues., Dec. 30th, 5 PM

Retail Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Dec. 31st	Mon., Dec. 29th, 5 PM
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Bid No. 8802-15

For: Heavy Duty Cab & Chassis

If the Contract is awarded, it will be awarded to either the lowest responsible bidder, or to the bidder who provides goods or services at the best value for the City of Midland. In determining the best value for the City of Midland, the City of Midland may consider the criteria enumerated in Section 252.043 of the Texas Local Government Code. Information for Bidders, Proposal Forms, Specifications and General conditions for bidding may be obtained from the office of the Purchasing Agent, City Hall, 300 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas.

Purchasing Division
City of Midland, Texas

Legal & Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Bid(s) will be received until 11:00 A.M., January 7, 2015 to be opened at 11:00 A.M., in the Office of the City Secretary City Hall, 300 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas for the following Bid(s):

Bid No. 8795-15

For: Roll off Hoist

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Bid No. 8788-15

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Purchasing Division
City of Midland, Texas

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE OF Suddenlink Channel Changes - Midland, Andrews, Big Spring

Effective January 28, 2015 the following channel changes will be made to the channel lineup.

Bloomberg on Digital Family Tier channel 371 will be removed from the lineup but will remain on the Digital Sports & Info Tier.
Game Show Network will move from Digital Family Tier channel 333 to Expanded Basic channel 86.
Game Show Network HD on HD Digital Family Tier channel 433 will be moved to the HD Basic Tier on channel 286.

The following channel changes are coming soon; no date has yet been determined.
BBC America on Digital Family Tier channel 317 will move to Expanded Basic channel 87.
BBC America HD on HD Digital Family Tier channel 417 will move to HD Basic Tier channel 287.
El Rey will be added to Expanded Basic channel 85.

If you have any questions about these changes, please call us at 1-866-269-4386.

Legal & Public Notices

Request For Bids
Lee Lewis Construction, Inc., as construction manager, will be receiving bids for the Odessa High School Phase 4, a 2,400 sq. ft. addition and renovations to the existing kitchen and miscellaneous renovations to the existing main building.

A Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled for 2:30 PM, January 7, 2015, at the Lee Lewis Jobsite Trailer, 802 N. Sam Houston, Odessa, TX 79760.

Bids are due by 3:00 PM, January 22, 2015.

Location:
Lee Lewis Construction, Inc.
7810 Orlando Ave
Lubbock, Texas 79423
Phone: 806-797-8400
Fax: 806-797-8492

Bid packages will be available at the following locations:
AGC Plan Room / Dodge Plan Room - Lubbock, Texas.
Lee Lewis Construction - Lubbock, Texas
www.isqft.com

Lee Lewis Construction specifically invites Small Business Concerns and Women Owned Business Concerns and Small Business Concerns Owned/Controlled By Socially And Economically Disadvantaged Individuals to bid this project.

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Public Notice
Request for Proposals
#2015-007

Midland College is accepting competitive sealed proposals for roofing and repairs for areas on O'Shaughnessy Hall, located at 3600 North Garfield, Midland, Texas 79705. A Walk-Through Conference will be held at 1:30 p.m., Monday, January 5, 2015, at the Midland College Maintenance Facility and Warehouse. The proposal forms and specifications may be obtained at the walk-through conference. **Proposals will be accepted until 2:00 p.m., Monday, January 12, 2015**, at which time they will be opened and read aloud in the Gibson Board Room. For proposal packet information, contact the College's consultant, Gregg Carroll, at (806)789-3267. A final determination may be made at a future board meeting. The College reserves the right to accept or reject any and or all bids submitted.

Legal & Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

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Bid No. 8773-15

For: Annual Supply of Vehicle Batteries

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Purchasing Division
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TCEQ TO GIVE GRANTS THROUGH THE STATE'S 24 REGIONAL COUNCILS FOR SOLID WASTE PROGRAMS

Grants are available for regional and local Solid Waste Management programs under the direction of the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission (PBRPC) will issue grants for a variety of solid waste projects, including local enforcement, litter and illegal dumping cleanup and community collection events, source reduction and recycling, citizens' collection stations and small registered transfer stations, household hazardous waste management, technical studies, educational and training projects and other solid waste management projects. These projects must be consistent with the PBRPC current Solid Waste Management Plan. The funds for Grants will be available to counties, cities, school districts, special law districts and general law districts.

Applications can be picked up at the PBRPC offices, 2910 La Force Blvd., Midland International Air & Space Port, Midland, Texas or can be downloaded at **www.pbrpc.org** starting December 15, 2014 through February 6, 2015. Applications must be completed and submitted to the PBRPC – Solid Waste Coordinator by 5:00 P.M., February 6, 2015. The PBRPC Solid Waste Advisory committee will evaluate proposed grant projects for their impact on existing private recycling and solid waste programs. Private and nonprofit providers are encouraged to contact the PBRPC to find out about projects proposed for funding.

For more information on the Solid Waste Grants, contact Virginia Belew, Director of Regional Services at 432-563-1061.

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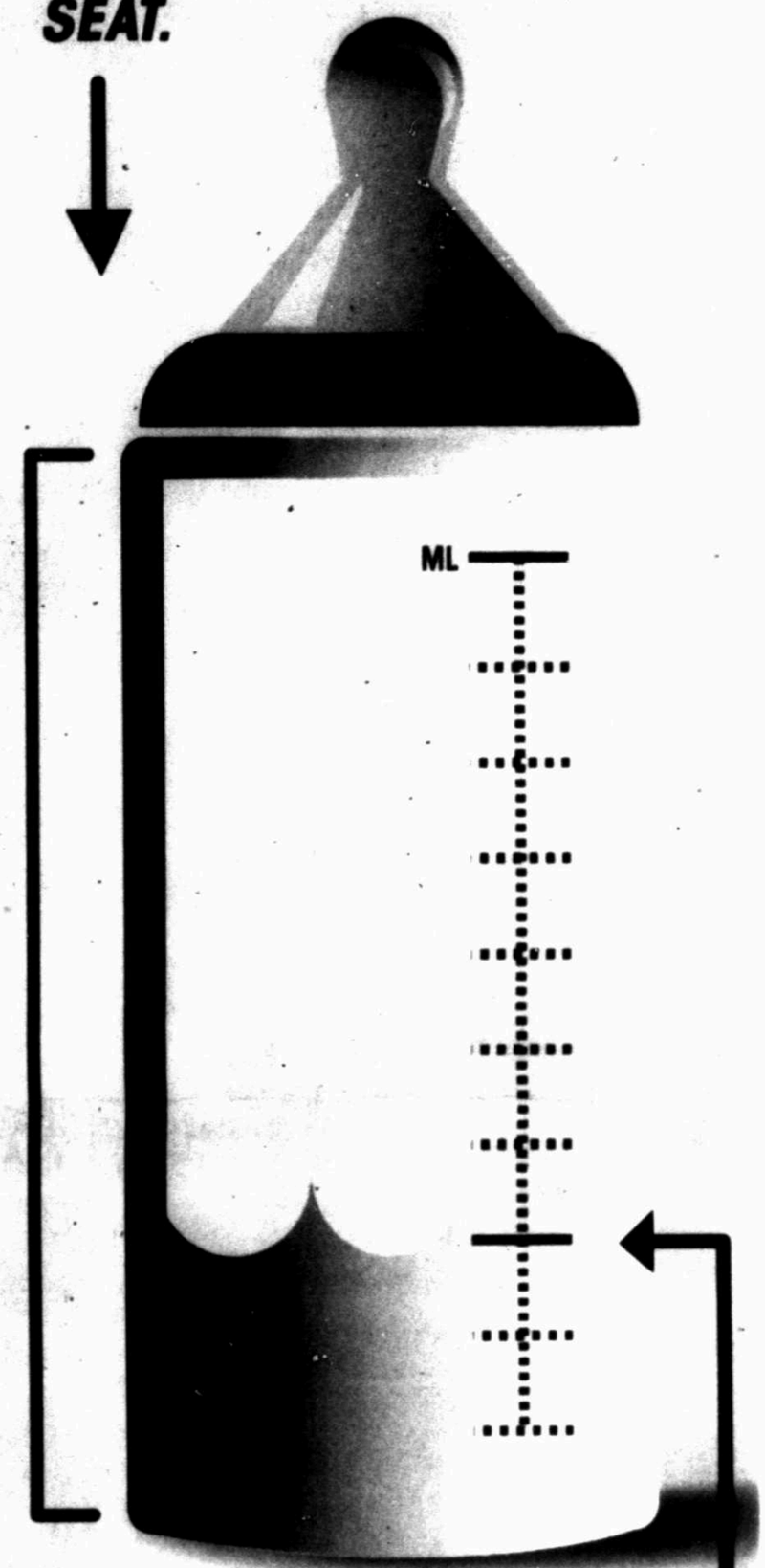

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JOB WEEK

Percent of employers who say they plan to throw holiday parties this year.

SOURCE: CareerBuilder.com

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DON'T MISUSE TIME

By DAWN KLINGENSMITH
CTW Features

For people resolving to make better use of their time in the New Year, there's no shortage of books on time management. Much less is written about the misuse of other people's time, which happens all too often among colleagues. Sally's late report may be due to Bob's constant intrusions as opposed to procrastination. Most likely, Steve has no idea he is wasting her time though he jealously guards his own.

So how can folks like Steve recognize and change their time-sucking ways? Avoidance sends a strong signal. "You might be a time vampire if people regularly cancel or postpone calls or meetings with you," says Dave Kerpen, CEO of Likeable Local, a social media marketing software company.

From past experience people know that a vampire's lack of preparation, tendency to veer off topic or overuse of Devil's advocacy will squander their time so they look for a way out.

Similarly, if repeated emails go unanswered, the recipient may be putting them off because they can't be dealt with quickly.

Email bombardment is one of the biggest encroachments on people's time, so don't keep piling it on.

"I don't think people realize when it's OK not to respond to an email," says Matt Abrahams, a Stanford Graduate School of Business lecturer on organizational behavior. If writers want to discourage nonessential, time-frittering responses like "Thanks" or "Got it," they can end messages with NNTR (no need to reply) when appropriate and perhaps it will catch on, he adds. Inefficient meetings are another time waster. It helps to specify a start and stop time beforehand and allocate less time than seems necessary. "Parkinson's law states that a meeting will last the entire amount of time you make available," says international business consultant Paul Rulkens. Try setting aside half the usual time, he recommends, and "the meeting outcomes will be the same or even better."

Meeting participants should refrain from using smartphones to multitask. Though it might seem like a way to maximize efficiency, it ends up wasting time because attendees inevitably miss things and burden others later with questions.

Many emails and meetings are intended to make sure two or more people are "on the same page" for the duration of a project. The surest way to free up time and inbox space is by "starting encounters with the question, 'What does success of this meeting or project or call look like for you?' Then spend your time together to achieve success in the fastest way possible," Rulkens says.

Notice his advice entails a shift from "What's in it for me" thinking.

"That's the biggest thing – the whole empathy piece," Abrahams says. "If you care about what's in it for the other person, they're not going to feel like you're wasting their time."

© CTW Features

CAREFUL START

THE PROMISE AND PERILS OF A STARTUP JOB

By CHRIS GELBACH
CTW Features

The runaway success of former startups Google and Facebook and shows like HBO's "Silicon Valley" have brought an ever-greater focus to startup culture. But is it a good bet to actually work at a startup? It might depend on who you are and what you want from the experience.

First, it's important to consider what a startup actually is. Troy Henikoff, managing director of the startup accelerator Techstars Chicago, defines a startup as a business created with the intention to become a high-growth, scalable business.

According to Piaw Na, author of the self-published book "An Engineer's Guide to Silicon Valley Startups," (Piaw Na Publishing LLC, 2010) venture funding may also be part of the puzzle. "What we traditionally think of in Silicon Valley as a startup is a company that's venture-funded," says Na, who was a pre-IPO employee at several Silicon Valley startups, including Google in its early days.

Just like many other new businesses, most startups fail. In fact, according to research by Shikhar Ghosh, a senior lecturer at Harvard Business School, about three-fourths of America's venture-backed firms don't return investors' capital.

That's why Na says you have to be comfortable with failure to even consider joining a startup. "If you have a pile of student debt and a mortgage and two kids to support, maybe you should think twice," Na says. Startups can also fail quickly, making a six-month cushion of savings a wise move for any employee taking the plunge.

Henikoff also cautions against thinking of joining a startup as a way to strike it rich. He notes that he's sold multiple businesses and has enjoyed big exits, but would probably have more money in his bank account today had he gone to work for a top consulting firm after graduating college.

"If you go into an early-stage business because you think you're going to make a lot of money, you're doing it for the wrong reasons. Stop now," Henikoff says. "This is what I love to do. If you're passionate about creating something that hasn't been created before, doing things that haven't been done before, and solving problems, then a startup is the right place for you."

Henikoff sees the opportunity to do more and learn more as another benefit of working at a startup. "The real cost of working in corporate America is that you learn so much less," he says.

Na agrees, saying that working at startups gave him the opportunity to have experiences that went far beyond his engineering training. "If you enjoy doing lots of different things, startups are the place to be because you're never pigeonholed," Na says. "You can be an engineer and spend one day doing engineering, a day doing recruiting, a day doing technical support, a day helping out with sales."

For this reason, Na sees startups as a good fit for people who are versatile and enjoy making full use of that versatility. "Whereas if you're a specialist and you want to be the world's expert on the Google search engine for 20 years, you should join Google," Na says.

Henikoff agrees, emphasizing that startups aren't for everyone – or even most people. "In a startup, the world changes every day. To a lot of people, that's really frustrating. To others, it's invigorating. And it's really binary," he says.

Because equity is often a key component of the compensation mix at startups, Na says they often have a relative lack of politics compared to larger companies because everyone's incentives are linked to the firm's success. He also believes that titles are less important. "You can be brought in as VP of muckety muck, but if the company fails, you're all going to be out of a job," Na says.

Both Na and Henikoff stress that working with people you like and can learn from is integral to making any startup job worthwhile. In some cases, you may even make valuable connections even if the company fails. "I met Jeff Rothschild and Reed Hastings at startups and they're now very wildly successful people," Na says. "As an engineer, I'd never have those kinds of relationships if I hadn't joined a startup and worked with them day after day."

Henikoff goes so far as to place personal factors above how much a startup has raised or what its business model is. "If you hitch your wagon to people you respect and trust and believe in and want to learn from, you'll have a great experience no matter what happens to the company," he says.

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JOB TRENDS

LOCAL BENEFITS

The smaller the better? Despite an increasingly global world, smaller, locally run businesses are gaining appeal.

A study published in the journal Local Economy found that workers at small, local companies are more committed to their employer. The study used data gathered by Baylor University on the attitudes of 763 workers around the country, with 146 of those being in rural areas.

Employees at locally owned and operated firms were more likely to "have a sense of belonging to the organization," says Katie Halbesleben, the study's lead author and a doctoral student in sociology at Baylor University.

Local firms also tend to give their workers more autonomy, and workers have a "sense of personal investment in their organization," Halbesleben adds.

For workers in rural areas, commitment was even greater when the employer was local. Moreover, when there were many small, local companies in a given region, there is less income inequality amongst residents.

Not that big business doesn't offer its own rewards – generally higher earnings, more fringe benefits and more opportunities to advance within the firm, Halbesleben notes.

Still, "this finding does not surprise me," notes Raymond J. Keating, chief economist of the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council. "I think there is a greater feeling of family at small companies. In addition, working for a small business often provides workers with a wide array of experiences that will help them build careers," he adds.

For those looking for a job with a local employer, it may be helpful to stress that you value the sense of commitment that workers at smaller companies tend to have, Halbesleben adds. "That recognition would be appreciated by most small business owners," says Keating.

– Marilyn Kennedy Melia

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Provide **stable leadership and direction for the UT Permian Basin Accounting Department to include Accounts Payable, Student Receivables, Grants and Contracts Accounting, Treasury, General Accounting and Financial Reporting.**

Required qualifications:
Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field with five or more years of experience in governmental or fund accounting including three years supervisory experience. Equivalent combination of relevant education and experience may be substituted as appropriate.

Preferred qualifications:
MPA or CPA with seven or more years of experience in governmental or fund accounting including five years of supervisory experience. Knowledge of DEFINE and/or experience with PeopleSoft. Proficient in Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word. Have strong communication and organizational skills, and work well with others.

For full information and application, please visit http://www.utpb.edu/services/business-affairs/human-resources/employment-opportunities/staff-positions

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin is an **Equal Opportunity Employer.**

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 Doreen at 687-8856 or sdoreen@mrt.com**. Writing samples are required. Interested candidates should have their own transportation and could work as many as 25 hours a week.

Master Control Operator

CBS-7 has an opening for a Full-Time or Part-Time Master Control Operator. This is an entry level position. We will train. Interested applicants should send resumes or fill out an application at CBS-7, 4101 E. 42nd St. Suite J-7, Odessa, TX 79762 or email to rjaona@cbs7.com. CBS-7 is an EEO employer. Paid vacation, flexible hours.

Production Assistant

CBS-7 has an opening for a Full-Time or Part-Time Production Assistant. This is an entry level position. We are willing to train. Interested applicants should send resumes or fill out an application at CBS-7, 4101 E. 42nd St. Suite J-7, Odessa, TX 79762 or email to djordan@cbs7.com. CBS-7 is an EEO Employer. Paid Vacation, flexible hours.

CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES

Carpenters

Hiring experienced **carpenters**. Overtime weekly, plus benefits. Apply in person: 1809 **West County Rd. 114, Midland.** Call for directions **432-617-0163**

Overhead Door Installers

Accepting applications for experienced **Overhead Door Installers**. Pay based on experience. Apply in person **Affinity Overhead Door 1809 W County Rd 114 Midland,TX**. Call **432-695-6287** for directions.

Welders & Sheeters

Accepting applications for experienced **Metal Building Welders & Sheeters**. Pay based on experience. Over time weekly. Health insurance after 60 days. Apply in Person: **AJ Construction 1809 W County Rd 114 Midland,TX,** Call 432-617-0163 for directions.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Employment Opportunity

Camp Fire
Light the fire within

Camp Fire West Texas
Kids Care Program
Youth Development Leader

Camp Fire is looking for after-school personnel to work Monday-Friday, from 2:30PM to 6:00PM, in Midland and Odessa. Must be 18 years of age. High school diploma or GED and pass a criminal background check. Wages will start at $9.50 to $10.50 per hour based on work experience. Camp Fire also offers a 90 days employment bonus. Apply at 3500 North A Street #1200 in Midland or call 432-570-4144 or download an application at www.campfirewtx.org

ENERGY & UTILITIES

ESI
ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS AND INSTRUMENTATION INC

Huge opportunity for the right individual!

- **Journeyman Wireman (State Certified) (Hiring Bonus Available)**
- **Journeyman Lineman (State Certified)**
- **Master Electrician**
- **Warehouseman**
- **Other Positions Available**

Comprehensive Benefit Plan including Health, Vision Plan, Life Insurance, Paid Vacation, Sick and Holiday Pay. Salary is negotiable DOE.
ESI is a Drug Free Workplace

Ph. (432) 563-3519
Email resumes to [illegible]

Draftsman

SPORT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES seeking applications for DRAFTSMAN - Autodesk AutoCAD experience required. Autodesk Inventor, 3D Modeling experience preferred. Send resume to: info@sportenvironmental.com

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

Attendant

Disability Services of the Southwest is looking for attendants to provide in-home care. Must be 18 years old and CPR trained. Apply online at www.dsswtx.org or call 432-550-6900.

F/T Field RN & Marketer

Growing home health agency, looking for a F/T Field RN compensated at above average rates and a Marketer offering a competitive salary plus commission. Please send resume to P-115 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79701

MA Needed for Physicians Practice

MA needed for physicians practice. Great Benefit Package. Please fax resume to 682-2284 or mail to Premier Physicians, Attn: Arita Routh, P.O. Box 5291, Midland, TX 79704. No phone calls please.
P.O.# PP-8242

Massage Therapist

Seeking fun and energetic Licensed Massage Therapist. Therapist must be licensed/insured and preferably have a clientele. Therapist would have their own office in a professional tidy environment that would be available to them 7 days a week. Covered parking for clientele. 432-599-1338

HEALTHCARE

PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS

Seeking caring and dependable people to work in the homes of elderly and disabled clients. Will assist with preparing meals, shopping, personal care, errands, light housekeeping, and other assigned duties. We offer flexible day, evening, and weekend shifts. Must be at least 18 years of age with a clean criminal background. MUST have reliable transportation. No certifications or prior experience required. Fax Resume referencing Ad#15617 to 432-332-1640. Or apply in-person at 819 N. Grant, Suite 110, Odessa, Texas 79761. E.O.E./M.F.D.V.

GIRLING HEALTH CARE

Pharmacy Technicians or Cashier

Super Mercado Pharmacy, an independent retail pharmacy is looking to hire full time registered technicians or cashier. We offer competitive hourly pay, medical, benefits, and holidays. Hours are Monday-Friday 9am-7pm and Saturday 9am-1pm. Please contact Eric or Sokkan at **432-682-9501**

PRE EMPLOYMENT TECHNICIAN

Midland Physical Therapy FT
Physical Therapy and Pre-Employment clinic has immediate postions available for Pre Employment Technician. No experience needed. We will train the right person. Please fax resumes to Ashlea Pilgrim at 432-570-8713 or email to ashlea@midlandpt.net or apply in person at 301 Dodson in Midland.

Receptionist

Looking for full time experienced receptionist for medical office. Qualified candidate must be able to work independently with minimal supervision, must be dependable, well organized and have the ability to multi-task. Please fax resume to 682-2284 or mail to Premier Physicians, Attn: Arita Routh, P.O. Box 5291, Midland, TX 79704. No phone calls please.
P.O. RIL-8009

Registered Nurse

Midland Women's Clinic FT
Immediate opening for RN's, experience preferred. Excellent benefit package. Send resume with references to: Midland Women's Clinic **Attn: Joni Hires, 2500 W. Illinois Ave, Suite 100, Midland, TX 79701.**

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**

Crew Leader & Team Members Needed

BLACKMON MOORING, a national leader in residential cleaning and restoration is looking for motivated individuals to join our team. If you are looking to expand your current capabilities and work toward a rewarding career this could be the place for you. No opportunity is out of reach with dedication and hard work. Blackmon Mooring promotes from within.

For immediate consideration:

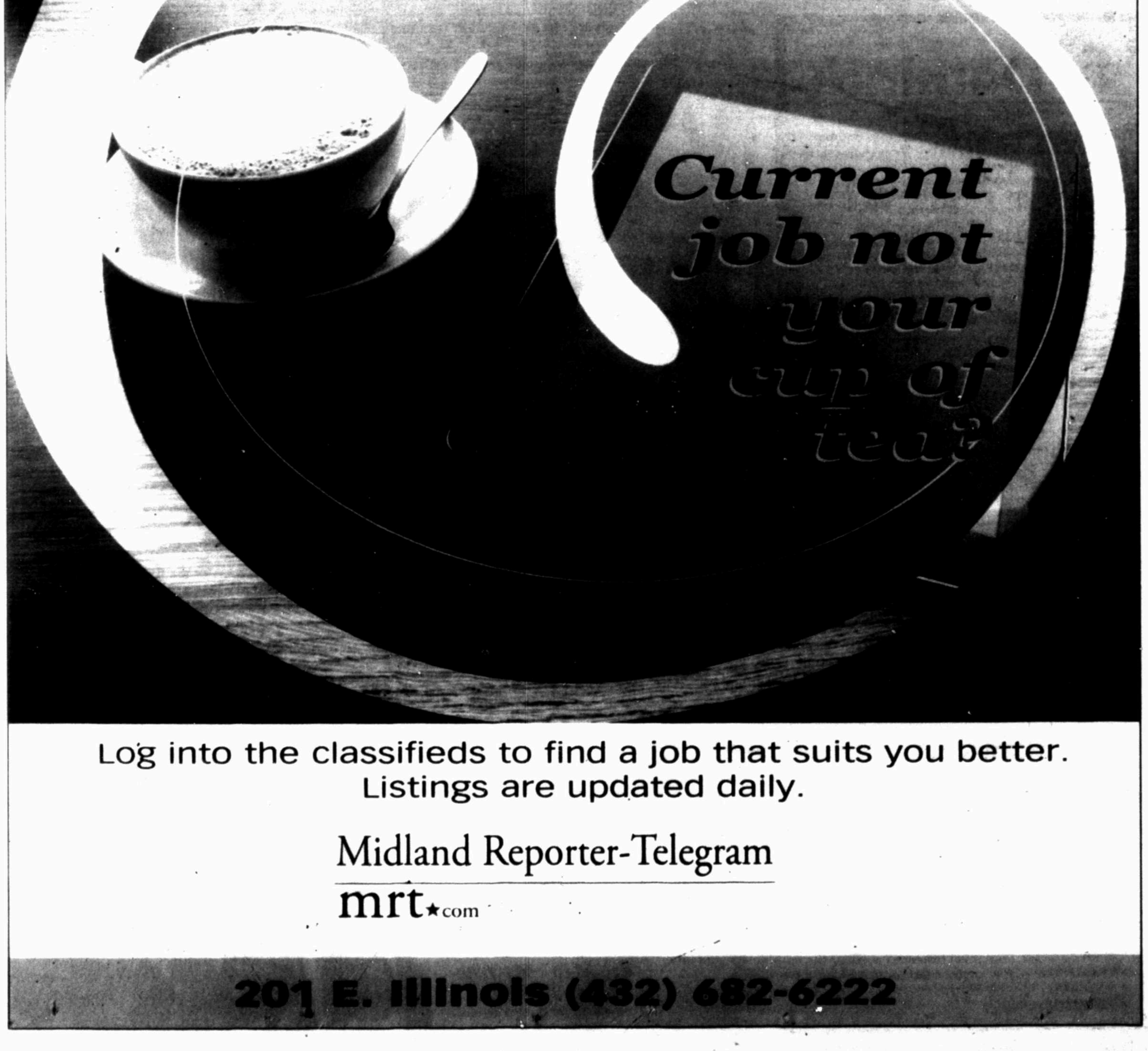
Apply at our facility located at 2060 Market Street, Midland, TX 79703.
Please email you resume to: pmurdock@bmsmanagement.com
Check out our web site at: www.blackmonmooring.com

Immediate Openings

Available in Midland & Odessa area grocery and retial 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 drivers 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 Reps 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.



Log into the classifieds to find a job that suits you better.
Listings are updated daily.

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt★com

201 E. Illinois (432) 682-6222

mrt★com/jobs

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 move accurately and do simple math
- Able to operate a forklift and willing to be certified

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

- 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

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

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt★com

HEARST media services

OTHER JOBS

Want to join our team of bingo experts at the Bingo Barn? And earn $18 per hour? We are seeking hard working energetic applicants to announce bingo numbers and sell bingo papers. Public speaking and customer service skills are preferred and an awesome "can do" attitude is a must. We really want our team members to apply in person. Show us you are serious by showing up any day between 5:00PM and 5:30PM with a printed copy of your resume or a completed copy of our application which is available at the link below. Serious applicants will be taken very seriously and we have immediate openings. web address: http://thebingobarn.com/jobs-in-midland-texas/physical address: 1101 S Marienfeld St Midland, TX 79701 (432) 682-9783

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 ericm@industriallogistics.com

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

CRACKER BARREL NOW HIRING!

Looking for more pay? Look no more. We provide you with an exceptional training program that rewards you with a raise at the completion of each level. That's up to 3 raises in your first year! We also offer great promotion opportunities, flexible scheduling, paid vacation, benefits and a 401K savings plan.
- **SERVERS** - No tip outs/ tip share
- **GRILL COOKS** - Starting at $15.00
- **OVERNIGHT JANITORIAL** - Starting at $15.00
- **DISHWASHER** - Starting at $13.00

Stop by **3108 North Loop 250 West Midland, TX 79707** or call **432-689-3137 www.crackerbarrel.com Cracker Barrel** EOE

Domino's

JOIN OUR WINNING TEAM - NOW HIRING

Domino's Pizza is the number one food delivery company in the Basin. Full-time drivers needed. Earn $35,000 to $70,000 a year in wages and tips. We are busy, busy, busy! Your earning power delivering pizzas is amazing! Great customer service = great tips! Part-timers needed too! Earn up to $100 a shift in as little as 3 hour shifts!

Waiters and waitresses get off your feet and get behind the wheel for the best pizza company in the Permian Basin. Openings are available at all stores. We DO NOT pay by wage. Earn $7.50 an hour plus tips. Your trips to the customer are compensated for. We have company vehicles if you prefer not to use your own. This is easy money and fun. Apply at Indeed.com or stop by any of our stores, fill out an application and start down the road to making serious money daily!

SALES JOBS

Route Service/ Sales

Solaray Sunglasses, Route Service/Sales. Based out of Midland. Earnings $45k - $50k, excellent benefits: Blue Cross, 401k, Nice vacation package, vehicle furnished. Overnite travel 4 nights per week. Clean MVR required. Apply at: https//my.peoplematter.com/solarayllc/hire

Sales Associates

DuraSeal Coatings Company LLC is looking for sales associates in the protective coatings industry for the downhole oil and gas market. Duraseal is technology driven and expanding rapidly.

- Must have a minimum of 5 yrs prior sales experience in the O&G industry.
- Demonstrated ability of closing & growing sales.
- Must have excellent oral and verbal communication skills.
- Must be computer and internet literate.
- Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering, Industrial Distribution, Petroleum Engineering or a related field is preferred.
- Coatings knowledge is a plus, but not required.

Please send your resume to jobs@durasealcoatings.com

Sales Person

Local drilling contractor seeking energetic salesperson with at least 5 years' experience in Oil and gas sales. Applicant must have excellent communication skills, be self-motivated, able to work independently, willing to travel and be reliable. This is a salaried position with bonuses and benefits including paid insurance, company vehicle, 401k, expenses and paid vacation. Applicant must pass a complete background check, drug test and have a clean driving record. Please submit resumes either via email to info@hwdrillers.com or in person at 2915 State Hwy 74 South Purcell, OK 405-527-1232.

SKILLED LABOR

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

PETROSMITH

Petrosmith is a highly respected, well-established, full service oilfield company.

We are now seeking a:

Drafter

Abilene, Texas

Must have experience working as a drafter. Tank and Vessel experience preferred. Experienced applicants only please.

Pay DOE. Medical Insurance, Life Insurance, 401k. EOE

Apply in person or online at:
www.petrosmith.com
7435 Hwy 277 South, Abilene, TX 79606
No calls please
Background / Drug Screen Required

Electrical Apprentice

Electrical Apprentice needed full time immediately. 2 years experience required. Competitive wage. Email resume to: nancyyearout@gmail.com

Housekeeping Personal

The Hilliard Companies needs a full time (benefits included) Housekeeper. Perform any combination of cleaning duties to maintain private households and commercial establishment's in a clean and orderly manner. Person must have a valid driver license and their own transportation. Please call Sterling Hilliard at 432-683-9100 for more details.
(Español) The Hilliard Companies necesitan una persona de tiempo completo (incluye beneficios) para limpiesa de oficinas y casas. Necesita una licencia valido para manerjar y su propio transportacion. Para más información comunicarse con Sterling Hilliard 432-683-9100.

Maintenance/Construction

The Hilliard Companies has an opening for maintenance/construction personnel. Person should be knowledgeable in all areas of general commercial building, residential, automobile and other common maintenance/construction duties. Please send resume to: careers@mmbo.com or call 432-683-9100 for more information. Office at 3001 W. Loop 250 N. Ste. E-127, Midland, Tx.

Service Technician

Canon copier dealership seeking an entry level service technician. Candidate must have basic electrical and mechanical troubleshooting skills, basic computer knowledge & good customer service skills. Willing to train right candidate. **Fax resume to Service Manager at (432) 563-9397 or email hilda@cmcbsi.com**

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

DRIVERS: BUSINESS IS BOOMING.

DAY AND NIGHT SHIFTS IN MIDLAND

- Excellent Pay & Benefits + 401K
- Up to $5,000 Sign-On Bonus for Experienced Drivers and Quarterly Safety Bonuses
- No Over the Road, you're home daily

CDL-A w/"X" Endorsement
1 year 18-Wheeler or
Tanker Experience Needed

GulfMark Energy, Inc. EOE

Apply Online at www.gulfmarkenergy.com

Call: 800-577-8853

CDL Drivers for Mixer Trucks

Ingram Concrete is seeking **CDL Drivers** for Mixer Trucks to fill full-time positions in various locations in West Texas. Compensation based on verifiable experience. Paid weekly. Home daily/ weekends. Gaurainteed hours. No waiting period. **Please apply at 2608 N. FM 1788 in Midland, Texas 79707** or call **432-561-8922** for additional info. EEO Employer.

INGRAM CONCRETE LLC

Class A CDL Drivers

Energy Pumping Specialities 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

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: $2500 Sign-On Bonus!

Dedicated Runs! Top Pay, Weekly Home-Time! Over 50 years Strong, Stable, Werner Enterprises: 1-855-515-8445.

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Drivers

Mason Drywall Supply seeks Class A and Class B CDL drivers. Duties include: loading, stocking, and delivering various building materials. Full time weekdays with opportunities for overtime. Paid vacations and benefits. Applications accepted at Mason Supply, 2011 Trade Drive, Midland, TX.

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.

DRIVERS-OIL-COMPANY & O/O

BRIDGER TRANSPORTATION has Multiple opportunities available! We are looking for lease operators in West Texas, ND, CO, WY. Also offered are company positions in West Texas. Now only 6 months CRUDE HAULING EXP. 3 years overall driving & CDL A REQ'D. Call 844-800-7140 or Email recruiting@bridgergroup.com or apply today at www.drivewithbridger.com

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.

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

NEWSPAPER STREET CORNER SALES

Selling Newspapers On The Street Corners
(avg. income $50.00 - $100.00/day)

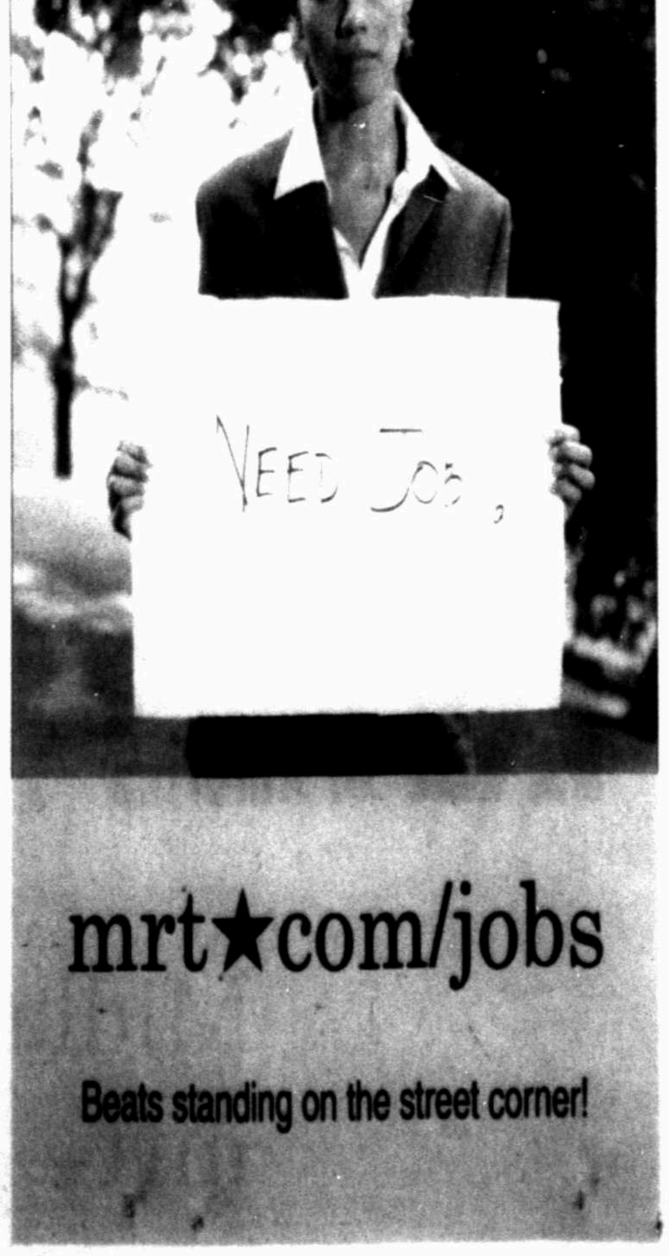
MUST BE AT LEAST 14 YEARS OLD
SUNDAYS ONLY
IF INTERESTED CALL
TOMMY 967-2267

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone??

Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

Contact: Linda 687-8807



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Beats standing on the street corner!

THE
LEAVES ARE TURNING COLOR
THIS MONTH
AND
WHERE DO CONSUMERS TURN TO SAVE
MONEY?

NEWSPAPERS

NEWSPAPERS
ARE #1 SOURCE
FOR PEOPLE USING COUPONS

7/10 ADULTS WHO USE COUPONS IN AN AVERAGE MONTH GET THEM FROM NEWSPAPERS.

Newspaper Association of America

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www.naa.org

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OTHER JOBS

NOW HIRING EXTRA! EXTRA!

Midland Reporter-Telegram
HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN IT'S DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm - 1am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person.

Starting pay $10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be $11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-5:00 pm • email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Midland Reporter-Telegram
HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN IT'S DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

NOW HIRING EXTRA! EXTRA!

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person.

Starting pay $10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be $11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-5:00 pm • email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

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

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt★com

SALES JOBS

MRT MEDIA GROUP mrt★com
Midland Reporter-Telegram

YOU can have a rewarding career in ADVERTISING!

Do you have excellent communication skills?
Are you detail oriented?
Do you have an assertive, positive attitude?
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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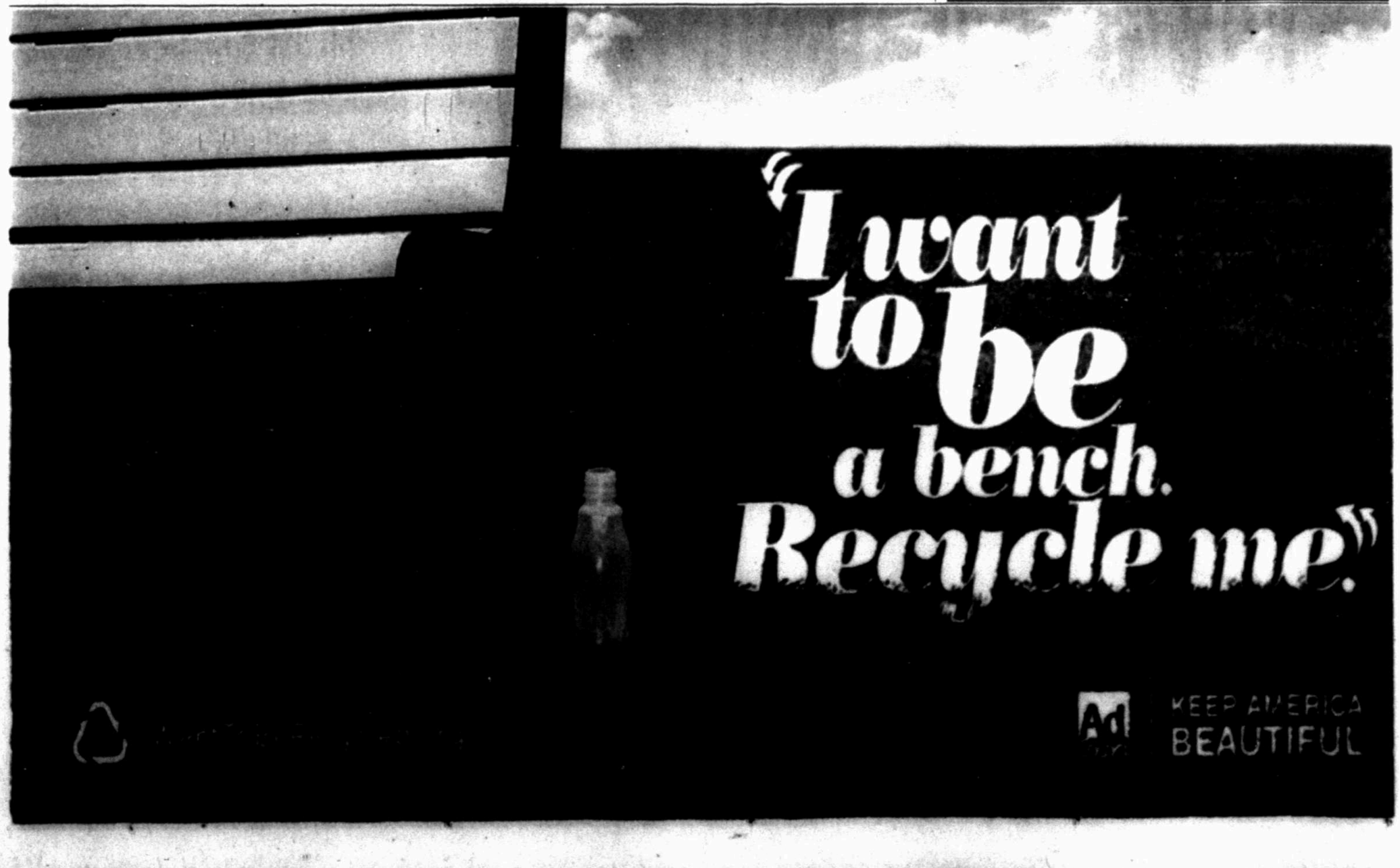
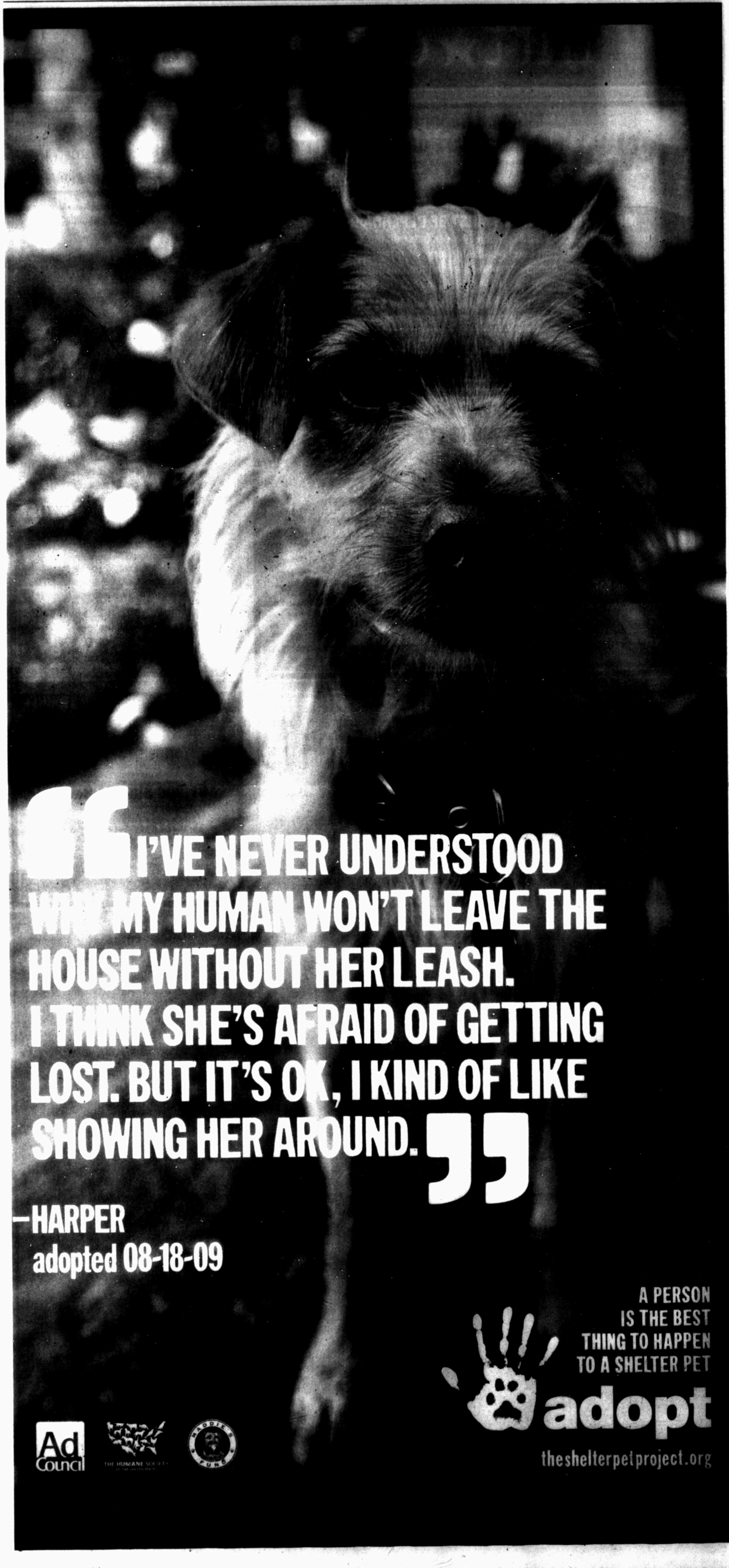
TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Dream BIG
Become an Owner Operator

Gibson is expanding-we have oil to haul and equipment to Lease
Class A CDL, 2 years' experience, hazmat and tanker endorsements required.
Call today and become your own boss!

888-404-3529
www.drivegibson.com
EOE

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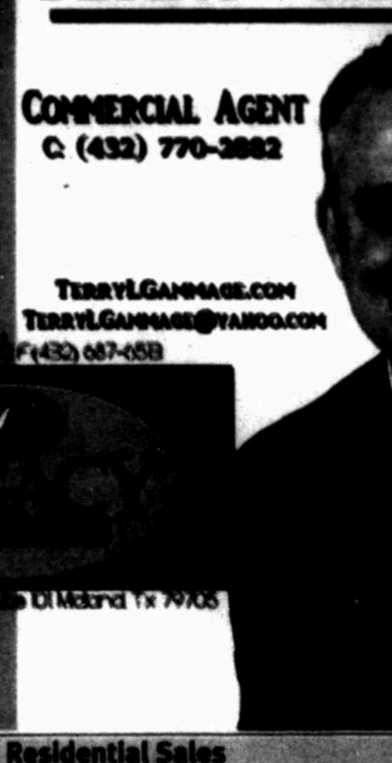

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Well maintained home with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spacious living area with vaulted ceiling and a wood burning fireplace. Sequestered master suite, dining area, interior freshly painted, inside utility room with connections for a gas or electric dryer, work bench in the garage and a security system (leased).

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Metal Building includes an efficiency unit/Garage and Workshop. Mobile Home has not been occupied in over 4 years and is not habitable. Property is completely fenced. Room for horse in back of property and front of acreage is room for home to be built. Has a septic system and water well in place.

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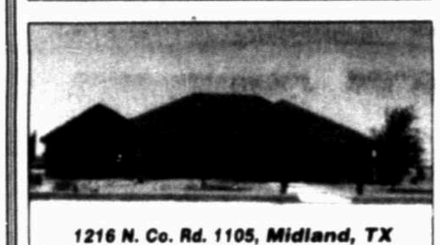
2705 W Illinois Ave., Midland, TX

Property built in 1957 as a duplex. Could be converted back to a duplex. Main house has 5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths. Garage apartment is 1 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchen, living area. Bath down stairs for swimming pool, and 2 car garage. Lots of storage.

Call Lou Matson 432-559-1950



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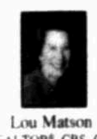

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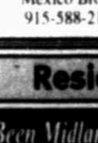

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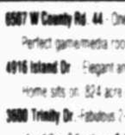

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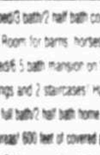
REALTOR®
432-967-0652



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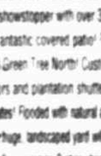

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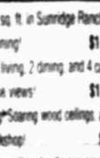

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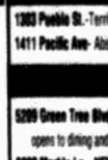

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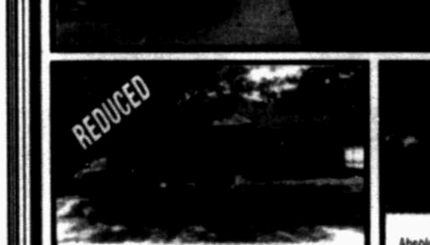
3929 FAIRWOOD COURT

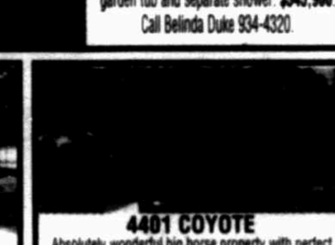
Amazing 4 bedroom, 4 1/2 bath, 3 living area home with inground pool and spa. Separate office, cabana for good 2 eating areas. Beautiful patio overlooking pool. 3 car garage. Separate guest house with mini kitchen and bath. All for only **$680,000**. Kay McDonald 864-2120.



REDUCED

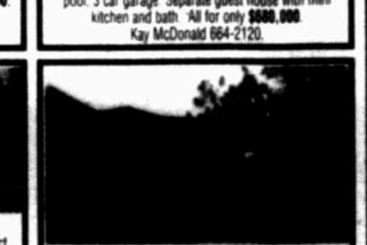
413 E. PINE AVE.

Beautiful home is a must see! Tons and tons of space 3 bedrooms and 3 baths plus two bonus rooms that could be used as bedrooms. **$229,000**. Please contact Elvia Lopez.



4401 COYOTE

Absolutely wonderful big horse property with perfect maintenance. 3 horse stalls with tack/hay area, lanes of pipe fencing to handle livestock, roping arena that is complete except the chute has been removed. 1296 sq. ft. metal building with 11x40 shed on each side. **$569,000**. Contact Carol Fuller 528-1632.



3204 SOUTHRIDGE COURT

Shows like new. Near schools, shopping and restaurants. Vaulted ceilings, fabulous open floor plan with beautiful archways. A must see move in ready house. Great for entertaining!! **$260,900**. Call Belinda.

UNDER CONTRACT

4304 GULF AVE.

Beautiful remodel with everything new. Affordable and like new. **$210,000**. Please call Carol Fuller 432-528-1632

REDUCED

3844 MORNING GLORY DR. GARDENDALE, TX

Come and look and see if this works for you. Property sets on the Western most part of the lot so leaves room for possibly some rv slots etc. There are 2 mobile homes on the lot across the street so possibly the same sort of thing could be done on this property. **$84,000**. Please call Carol Fuller 432-528-1632

4 BDRMS

209 N. EISENHOWER DR.

CUTE CUTE HOME!!! 4 Bedrooms with 2 Baths. Wood floors in bedrooms. Home has been well taken care of with big back yard with covered patio. 200 sq. ft. shop. Go Show this one will not last long!!! **$197,500**. Call Elvia Lopez

LAND

12205 W. CO. RD. 56

Land in well developed Gardendale area. Great country property with 2 water wells. **$121,670**. Please contact Elvia

UNDER CONTRACT

4405 TREVINO ST.

Nice 3-3-2 looking for new owner. Please show and sell. The window units will be removed before closing the central unit is in the process of being repaired. **$286,000**. Contact Carol Fuller 528-1632

3201 A&B DENTCREST DR.

Investor Special. Both sides rented all 3bedroom 2 bath 2 car garage. Positive cash flow. Live in one side rent the other. **$329,900**. Call Belinda.

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2± 400sqft, 750 sqft has office and bathroom, ok for small business

UNDER CONTRACT

2905 DOUGLAS AVE.

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LAND

1600 S. CO. RD. 1140

5 acres Greenwood. Area is developed with beautiful homes. Horses allowed. **$62,500**. Contact Elvia Lopez 432-978-9798

BIG SPRING

1002 12TH ST.

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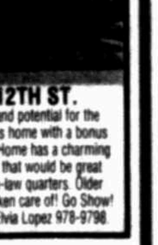

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6507 W County Rd. 44 - One of a kind 4 bed/3 bath/7 half bath contemporary showstopper with over 3.5 acres and 5537 sq. ft. in Sunridge Ranch Estates! Perfect game/media room! 3 patios! Room for barns, horses and pool! Fantastic covered patio! Perfect for entertaining! **$1,300,000**

4916 Island Dr - Elegant and stately 6 bed/6.5 bath mansion on the course in Green Tee North! Custom MR (any two 3 living, 2 dining, and 4 car garage home sits on .924 acre w/ lush zoning and 2 staircases, hardwood floors and plantation shutters! 2 Story! Course views! **$1,350,000**

3600 Trinity Dr - Fabulous 1 story 4 bed/3 full bath/1 half bath home in Trinity Estates! Flooded with natural and museum lighting! Soaring wood ceilings, a gorgeous chandelier, 2 fireplaces & 3 large living areas! 600 feet of covered patio overlooking huge, landscaped yard with brick fence & workshop! **$625,000**

4800 ECR 81- Spectacular 5 bed/4.5 bath/3 living media study great room/3 car garage 2 story home sits on 2.7 acres with a dazzling swimming pool, slide and fantastic hot tub! All concrete and tile flooring downstairs! Sexy-restored master suite! 2 water wells! **$750,000**

5531 County Rd. 594-LAKE BROWNWOOD - Spectacular 2011 Brownwood lake custom 4 bed/3.5 bath home on .97 acres! **$675,000**

5620 Ashwood Ct- One-owner 4 bed/2.5 bath Goodland home sits on a quiet cul-de-sac on a huge almost half acre lot! Downstairs master bedroom has dual sinks, 2 closets, separate shower and tub! Great light everywhere! Large kitchen with 2 gas cooktops and huge pantry! **$554,900**

6943 Sunrise Ct - Fantastic 4 bed/3 bath home in Green Tee North sits on a quiet cul-de-sac with sweeping views of the course! Gorgeous hardwood floors throughout! Light and bright kitchen has 2 ovens, breakfast bar island, and abundant cabinetry! Huge bathroom and covered patio! **$529,000**

1706 W. Illinois Ave. -NEW!- Absolutely stunning 3 bed/3.5 bath home with 2 huge living areas, extremely updated 3,702 sqft. w/ guest house w/4th bed/4th bath/ 3rd living area (215 sqft) on huge set midland lot!! Dazzling pool with entertaining back yard and mature trees! **$499,900**

5907 San Clemente Dr - Fabulous 4 bed/3 bath new construction home in Los Patios by Jim Morgan Homes! Plantation shutters and granite throughout! Rounded archways and miles of 9'6" Easy access to schools, shopping and parks! Just! reduced! **$415,000**

4902 Rustic Trail-Lovely 4 bed/2.5 bath/2 car garage home in Green Tee North! Laminate wood floors in the living and bedrooms! ..... **SOLD $408,000**

5432 Rosewood Circle- Spacious 4 bed/3 bath home sits on a large corner lot in Green Tree! Wood shutters throughout! Tile in the walkways! Kitchen has abundant cabinetry, island, and desk nook! Over-sized guest bedroom! Golf cart garage and water well! **$385,000**

5200 Greathouse Dr- Spectacular 4 bed/3 bath home in Greathouse! Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, an island & skylights! Soaring ceilings in den with gas log fireplace! Master bath with shower & jetted tub! Backyard with extended covered patio! **$349,900**

4011 S. Co. Rd. 1173-NEW-awesome home minutes away from downtown! Gorgeous 4 bed/2.5 Bath/4 car garage brick home on 2 acres! Large tile throughout living areas! Lovely water-stone fireplace in huge living! Soaring ceilings and skylights! Gourmet open kitchen w/ custom cabinets, island, breakfast bar and pantry. Large master w/dual vanities, closets, jacuzzi tub, shower! Recent roof and pump! House is gorgeous! **$349,900**

5300 Coachlight- Wonderfully spacious 4 bed/ 2 bath/ 2 car garage. Hard surface flooring through out home! Grand master suite with soaking tub, separate w-tiled shower w/ his and her's closets! Lovely french doors to patio which lead to a low maint. back yard with large parking pad! Abundant light from walls of windows and skylights! **$344,900**

1303 Pueblo St. - Terrific 4 bed/2 bath home with 3 living areas, miles of tile and fresh paint! Sequestered master bedroom! ..... **SOLD $335,000**

1411 Pueblo Ave- Absolutely fabulous 4 bed/ 2 bath home with recent wood ceramic tile flooring! High ceilings! ..... **SOLD $334,900**

1, 2 & 3 BEDROOMS

5209 Green Tree Blvd.-Spectacular 3 bed/3 bath townhome w/ 3-car garage and sweeping views of golf course! Each room opens to a balcony! Kitchen w/ island opens to dining and den areas! Lots of recent updates & beautiful back yard with extended covered patio and turf grass. **$425,000**

2308 Marble Ln. - NEW! - Absolutely stunning 3 bed/2.5 bath/2-car garage home with soaring ceilings, walls of windows, and miles of fabulous tile! Light and bright den opens to the dining areas and kitchen! Kitchen has breakfast bar and granite! **$374,900**

107 Washington #202-Spectacular 3 bed/2 bath townhome has 2 dining areas and a 2 car garage! Kitchen boasts granite countertops, stainless appliances, abundant cabinetry, and breakfast bar! Wood like flooring, huge closets, and small yard! **$268,000**

107 Washington #104-Spectacular 3 bed/2 bath townhome has 2 dining areas and a 2 car garage! Kitchen boasts granite countertops, stainless appliances, abundant cabinetry, and breakfast bar! Wood like flooring, huge closets, and small yard! **$268,000**

5705 San Saba-NEW- absolutely stunning 3 bed/2 bath home w/dazzling pool/hot tub (2013), extended tile patio & pergola! (No one can build behind this lot)! Soaring ceilings, rounded corners, arched doorways, walls of windows & plantation shutters thru-out! Fabulous tile thru-out! Gourmet kitchen w/granite countertops & stainless appliances! Open & spacious... still has backyard space! Surrounded by larger homes-lovely! **$288,000**

2910 E FM 1212 STARTON - Fabulous country property on 12.888 acres w/2 water wells, 40X25 workshop, 3 storage buildings! **$288,000**

6508 Evergreen-NEW!-Fabulous 3 bed/2 bath new construction in lovely area and on a tb acre lot! Miles of tile, 2 inch blinds, walls of windows, soaring ceilings and granite package throughout! Kitchen boasts stainless appliances, dark cabinetry and breakfast bar! Sequestered master suite! **$288,000**

6015 Pedernales Dr - Fabulous 3 bed/2 bath Mark Payne Resale with an open floor plan! Granite, soaring ceilings! ..... **SOLD $274,900**

5603 Rio Grande-NEW-immaculate 2007 build/resale by Jack Cunningham! 3 Bed /2 Bath/2 Car Garage brick home in Holiday Hill Village! Close to Scharbauer Elementary! Ideal Kitchen! soaring bar! Grand den w/ high ceilings! Master w/ double sinks, separate shower and jetted tub! RO system, water softener and security system! Covered patio w/ entertaining backyard! Great curb appeal! **$284,900**

3209 Carol Dr - Lovely 3 bed/2 bath patio home with 3 private patios in the heart of Midland! Updated kitchen with granite countertops! **$269,000**

2809 Baron-REDUCED-Spectacular low maintenance 3/2 Harlan 3 bed/2 bath home has spacious bedrooms plus a formal room! Light and bright kitchen has granite countertops, stainless appliances, and abundant cabinetry! Living area boasts beautiful hardwood floors! Covered back patio! **$259,000**

2500 Candy Club- Spectacular 3 bed/ 2 bath/ 2 car garage! Enormous living room with formal dining! Kitchen completely redone with granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances with tons of storage!!!! Hardwood floors throughout out! Sit-in nook anywhere! Fantastic master suite! Great backyard for entertaining! Mature trees! Water well **$219,000**

304 S. Northwood Drive-Fabulous 3 bed/2 bath home with 2 car garage! Open and spacious living room is ablaze with light, ceilings! ..... **SOLD $205,000**

1, 2 & 3 BEDROOMS

3005 ECR 1150-Must see this near town 3 bed/2bath home that sits on 2 fenced in acres! 2 living areas! ..... **SOLD $204,500**

2915 W. Golf Course Rd-Spacious 3 bed/2 bath home with basement sits on a large corner lot! Overhead fireplace and built-ins! ..... **SOLD $184,500**

4712 Timber Lane-Beautiful 2 bed/2.5 bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac! One owner and well-maintained! ..... **SOLD $185,000**

1329 E. 7th - Absolutely spectacular 2 bed/2 bath new construction home from G.O. Homes! Fabulous kitchen with granite & tons of cabinets! ..... **SOLD $178,000**

4311 - A &CR 1172 - awesome home minutes away from downtown! gorgeous 2bed/2bath manufactured home w/ 1 pcn of land! super spacious home w/ high ceilings! lovely wood-like stone fireplace in huge living! gourmet open kitchen w/ huge island, pantry, tons of storage, wood look floors, granite tile, shower/ sweet electrical! will sell paint/ lease w/ propane! ..... **NEW! $168,000**

1303 E. Pennsylvania Ave-Fabulous 2 bed/2 bath new construction from G.O. Homes! Kitchen with granite & tons of cabinets! ..... **SOLD $165,000**

1304 Sparks- Spacious 3 bed/ 2 Bath sits on a large lot in a quite neighborhood! Miles of tile and ceiling fans throughout! Living room has great flooring, massive picture window and towering fireplace! Abundant cabinetry! Oversized bedrooms! Fabulous covered patio, perfect for entertaining! **$149,000**

708 Alaska St.- Cute! Cute! Cute! 2 Bed/1 Bath home with 2 living areas! The 2nd living area makes a great game room! **$139,000**

COMMERCIAL, LAND AND LOTS

4102 N County Rd. 1247 - RV Park with clubhouse and 2 cabins! 26 RV spots rent for $575 a month! 2 cabins rent for a $1000's a month! Clubhouse has kitchen, laundry facilities, and entertainment area! Entire park has RO system! Great investment! **$2,200,000**

1910 Washington Ln. - 2 tracts of land at NE corner of Pete Field-next to Saddle Club Estates! Total land 3.224 acres! Cinder block barn with 12 inside stalls! 20 ton grain! Hay barn, round pen, and apartment for workers! Feces Sunday Fields! All offers welcome! **$800,000**

10307 W County Road, Midland Texas 79707- Great Industrial Location! 5 acre tract of land per corner. Conveniently located off 1788 & close to 191! Restrictive covenants as follows: as mobile home parks or travel trailer rental or sales lots. No cattle, hog or animal feed lots. No auto salvage or scrap/ oriented business of any kind. No commercial water sales. No motel or hotel. Survey and! **$149,000**

1030 W. County Rd. 140 - 8.9 ac for residential purposes only! Mobile hm is allowed with underpinning! Water well 15 GPM, no pump! **$132,000**

2221 Timber Wolf Lane - Build in Midland's newest subdivisions, Timber Wolf Estates! Roads will be paved by developer! 25 LOTS! **$75,000**

1975 Timber Wolf Lane - Build in Midland's newest subdivisions, Timber Wolf Estates! Roads will be paved by developer! 25 LOTS! **$72,000**

1950 Timber Wolf Lane - Build in Midland's newest subdivisions, Timber Wolf Estates! Roads will be paved by developer! 25 LOTS! **$64,000**

Cotton Estates – Build in Gardendale's newest subdivision, Cotton Estates! Approximately .75 acre lots! $35,000 per lot! 16 LOTS! **$35,000**

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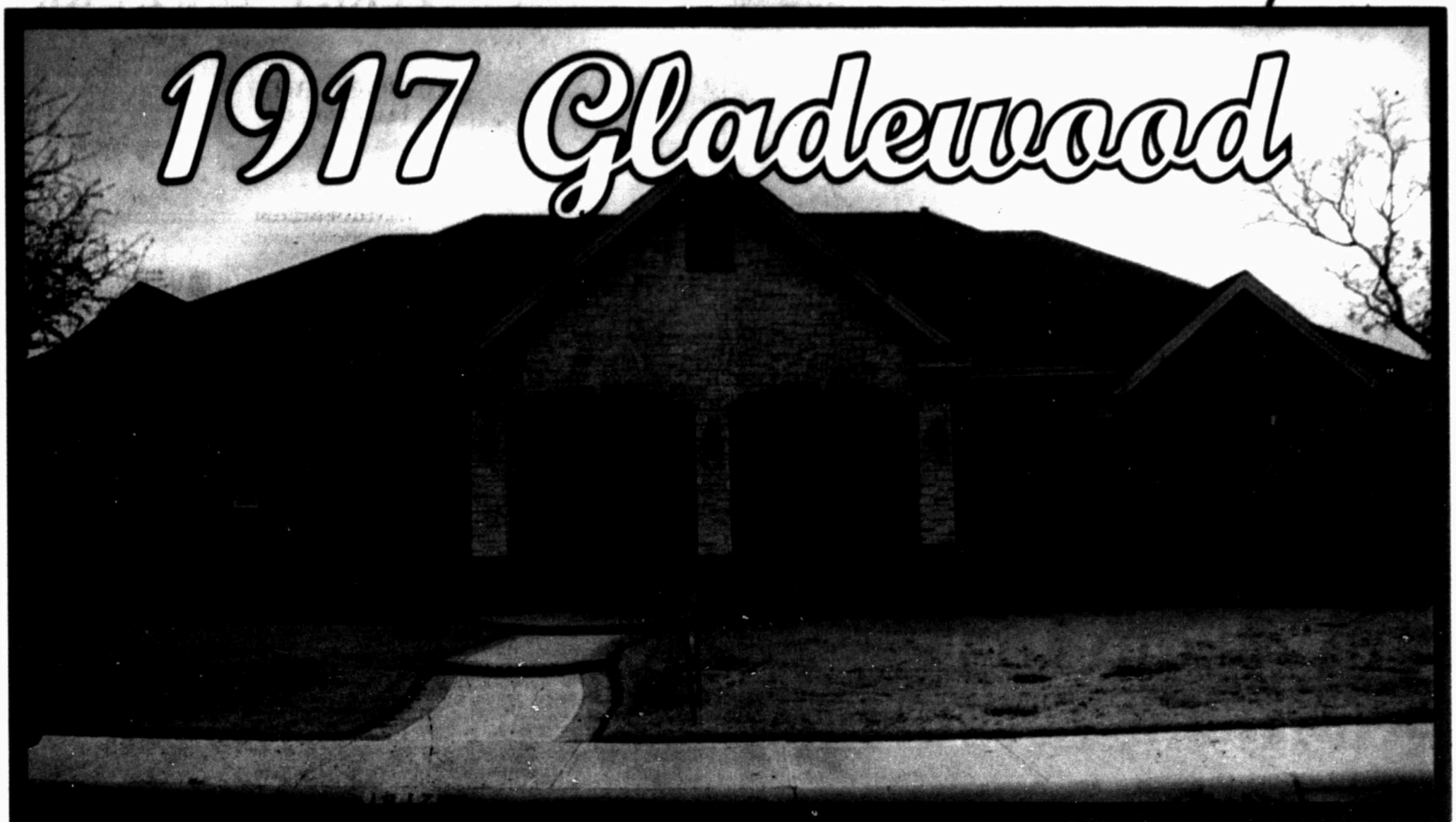
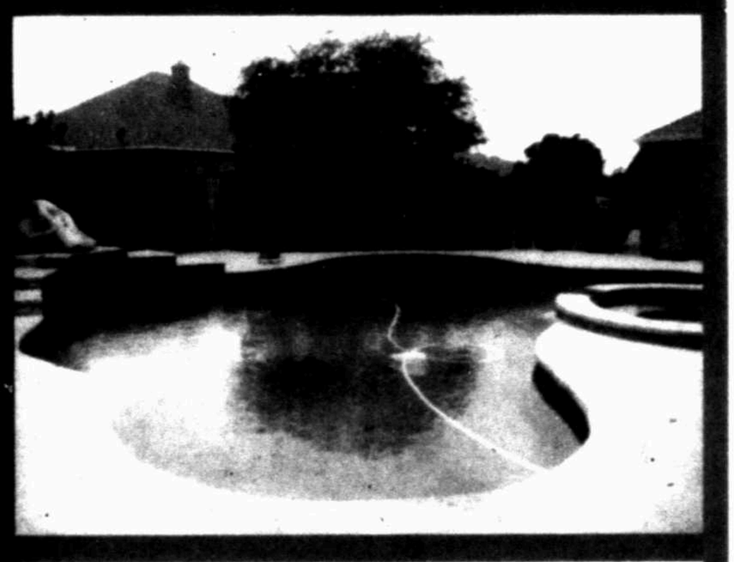
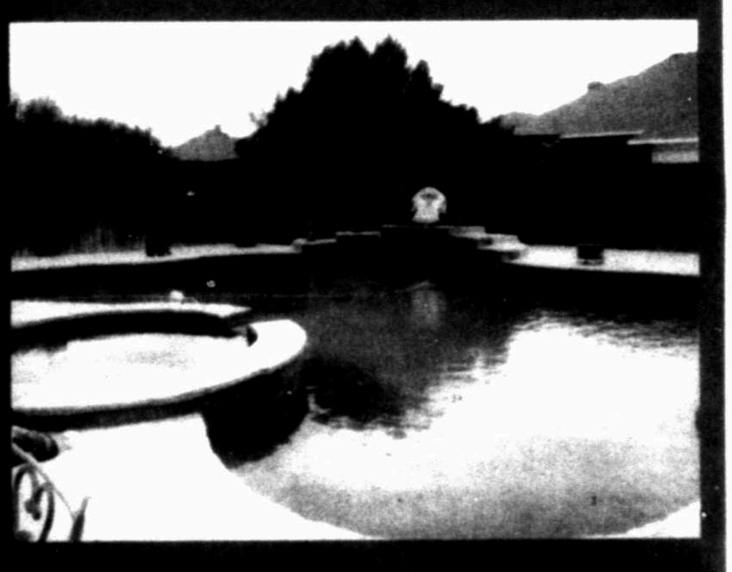
1917 Gladewood



Your New Year's resolution of finding the right house for your family has been answered! This home has open spaces, wonderful entertaining areas including a pool with fountain and hot tub, a massive amount of storage and is located in the quiet neighborhood of Grassland Estates West. 1917 Gladewood, constructed in 2009 with 4,401 square feet (per MCAD), has four bedrooms, three full baths, two half baths, three living areas, two dining areas and a four car garage. Schools for this area include Scharbauer Elementary, Abell Jr. High and Lee High.





As you arrive at the home, you will notice the curb appeal-reddish brick and stone with tan trim, brick lined flowerbeds and sidewalks and a very inviting large covered porch that was meant for relaxing. Black iron gates on both sides of the house help keep the backyard private. Inside, Plantation shutters, crown molding, tall ceilings, oversized floor molding and arched doorways add to the ambiance of this address.

To the right of the entry is the formal dining room with a view out to the front yard. Ahead of the front door is the formal living area where a wall of windows invites you to explore the covered back porch and pool area. The back porch features an outdoor kitchen with a grill and two side burners. With the deepest area of the pool only five feet, it is perfect for pool games. A wading area has a spot for an umbrella so you can easily lounge in the water or jump in the hot tub to relax.

Your new kitchen features granite countertops, an island with a large skylight, rich wood cabinets with space overhead for displaying items, double ovens, gas stove, large pantry and tile flooring. The wrap around bar adds seating or move to the breakfast area where you can enjoy the view of the backyard. The kitchen is open to the den where a fireplace surrounded by bookshelves is the center of attention. This is the perfect room for family gatherings! Near the kitchen is a very spacious laundry room with more cabinets, storage closet, granite counters and sink. The hall has another storage closet and half bath.

The roomy master bedroom is sequestered for privacy and quiet. Enjoy your bath in the jetted tub which offers another place to relax at the end of the day. Dual sinks and dressing areas as well as a wrap around his and hers walk-in closet with built-ins will keep you neat and organized. Arched ceilings over the dressing areas add more display opportunities and a linen closet keeps towels and sheets out of the way. Near the entrance to the master bedroom is a corner office with built-in bookshelves and windows to the yard.

On the other side of the house is a gameroom where kids and adults alike can play and entertain friends. Another sequestered bedroom with full bathroom and walk-in closet is on this hall and is perfect for visitors. There is also a half-bath for convenience. Two more bedrooms share a Jack and Jill bathroom; each has a walk-in closet. There are two more large closets on the hall for storage.

Additional amenities to this home include two sequestered bedrooms, pool, water softener, skylights, reverse osmosis system, tile and wood flooring and great curb appeal! Start the New Year off right in this gorgeous home! Listed at $759,900, more information may be obtained by contacting Vicky Garrett, Real Estate One John Short (432)425-8889. MLS#101963.

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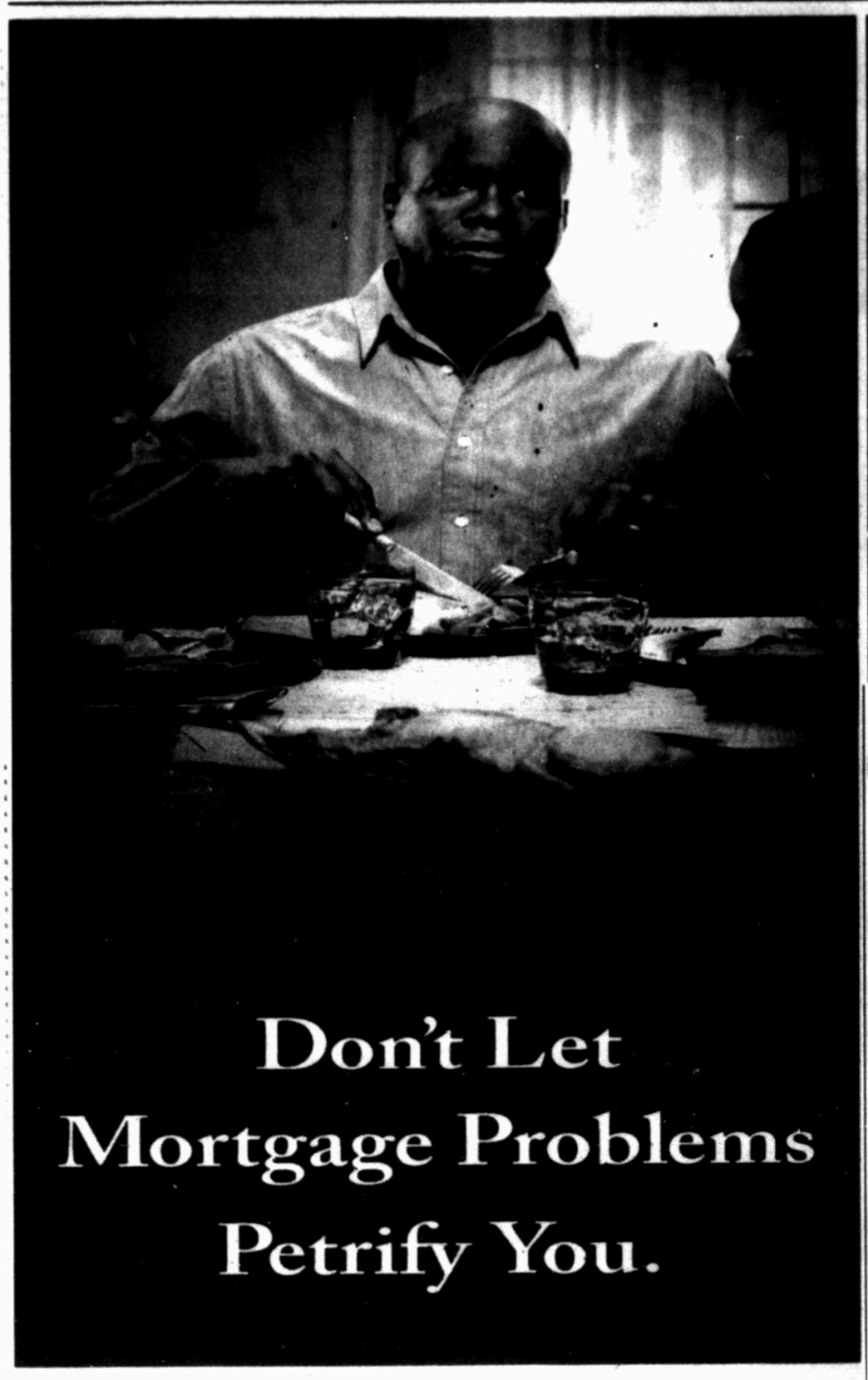

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Ad Council

Special Gift

Over the past few days we have opened lots of gifts and all of them have been very special and appreciated. But we are reminded of other gifts, the ones that come into our lives daily – the people we meet through our real estate business. We can view people as gifts which are sent to us wrapped. Some are beautiful with attractive wrapping and shiny ribbons and bows. Some come wrapped in plain brown paper, tied with string. Others have been mishandled or dropped and may be broken or crushed. Occasionally there is a special delivery. Others are very tightly wrapped, requiring effort and patience before what is inside is revealed. Perhaps these are people with fear in their lives or people who have experienced hurts. We must always remember that the wrapping is not the gift; there are often many surprises inside. We should always look for a special gift inside each person. You are a gift too, a gift to yourself and a gift to others. We appreciate you, as our customer, and all you are willing to give of yourself to your family, your friends, and your neighbors. You will always be a special gift to us.

****

This story was submitted by Norma Pine, Broker/Owner Chris Beckett, Broker/Owner Pine & Beckett, REALTORS www.pineandbeckett.com

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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

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Lots & Land

Retail and residential land between Midland & Odessa, the Estates of Shiloh, gated residential estate lots available (Northeast corner - Hwy 191 & Faudree Rd). Underground utilities, deed restrictions, various lot sizes. Contact Family Partner Land Owners and Texas Real Estate Licensees with Realty Unlimited: Cindy Brown 432-352-3566 or Wyly Brown 432-352-4621

Lots & Land

LOTS/LAND AVAILABLE: Prime Developing Area between Midland & Odessa. Hwt 191 and Faudree Rd. **RETAIL LAND:** For Shopping Centers, Outlet Malls, Restaurants, Offices, Grocers, Pharmacy, Medical Complexes, etc. **RESIDENTIAL LOTS:** For Luxury Estate Homes within The Estates of Shiloh, gated addition. (Underground utilities, various lot sizes) Contact Family Partner Land Owners and Texas Real Estate Licensees with Realty Unlimited: Cindy Brown 432-352-3566 or Wyly Brown 432-352-4621

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- 80+/-Ac Lea Ironton, good hunting, paved access on front site ..... $1,975 per ac.
- 75+/-Ac Jim Hogg County, high fenced, huge whitetail, quail, close proximity to Laredo ..... $2,500 per ac.
- 79+/-Ac Uvalde County 1.5 mi. Sabinal River, big ridge, high fenced, great mineral ..... $1,900,000 per acre
- 2,275+/-Ac Terrell County, Hunting ranch, abundance of game with plenty of history $799,500
- 4,000 +/-Ac Kinney County, 3 miles Pinto Creek, nice ranch ..... $1,500 per ac.
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  - 4,212 ac, Maverick Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $625/ac
  - 1,771 ac, windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great whitetail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850/ac
- **Nolan County**
  - 646 ac, over 1 mile SOLD d creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, pole barn $3,565/ac
  - 560 +/- Prosper Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres planted for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $3,550/ac
- **Howard County**
  - 642 ac, canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oil/field traffic $750/ac
  - 150 ac, big canyons, SOLD anks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, pho $895/ac
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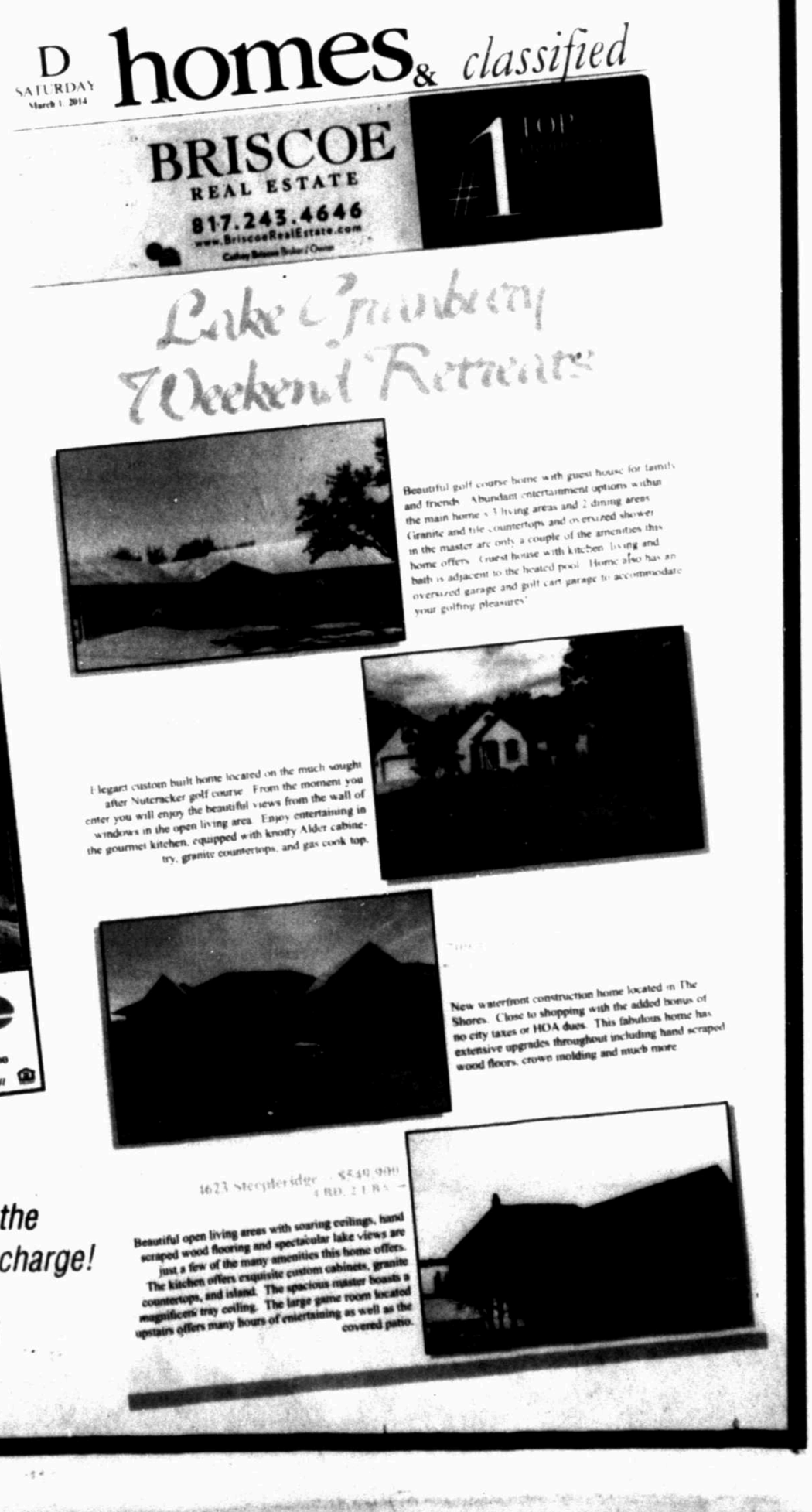

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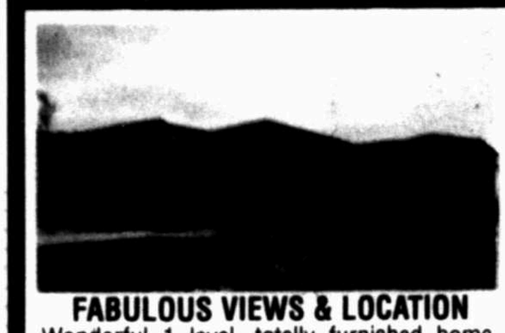

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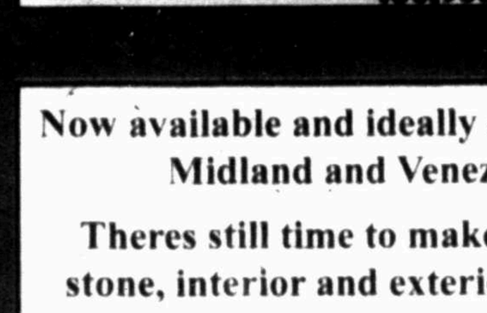
Bernal Homes, Inc



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Theres still time to make selections for your brick, stone, interior and exterior paint colors, wood flooring, tile flooring, carpet and so much more. All Bernal Homes come standard with a fireplace, wood shutters across the front windows, stainless steel appliance package, privacy fence with concrete runner, lush landscaping package and 3 car rear entry garage.

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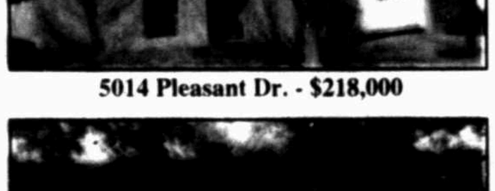
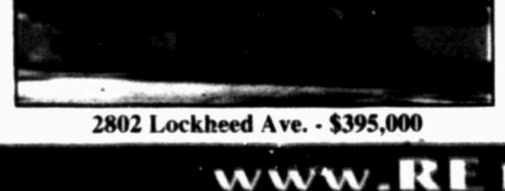
Featured Homes

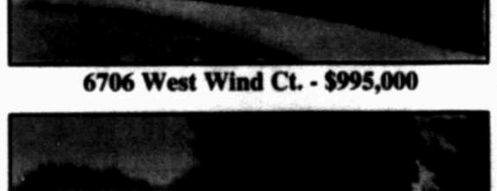


5014 Pleasant Dr. - $218,000



2802 Lockheed Ave. - $395,000

Happy New Year!
May 2015 Bring Peace and Prosperity to You and Your Family!



6706 West Wind Ct. - $995,000

2300 Neely Ave. - $245,000

www.REMidland.com to view all MLS Listings

New and Reduced Listings

7083 Winfield -Heart of Warwick' Gorgeous landscaping and great amenities $895,000
418 Affirmed Ave -Stunning 4 bedroom/ 3 baths/ 2 half baths, den, gameroom, study, 3 car garage on .994 acres. $799,000
5101 Castleford Rd -Wonderful 4bdr/2.5bth home w/great kitchen, large living area, great outdoor area for entertaining and many updates $574,900
4294 Baybrook Place -Perfectly wonderful 4bdrm/3 bth home in Medkingbird $540,000
2925 S. County Rd. 1066-4 bedroom/2.5 bath home, perfect for entertaining! Barn/shop is amazing $449,500
5412 Ridgemont Ct -Stunning 4 bdrm/2.5 bth on quiet cul-de-sac in Grassland Estates all new paint, new hardwood floors and granite $369,000
4101 S. County Rd 1184-Great 4 bedroom on 1.4 acres...Lots of updating! $339,900
3204 Apperson Dr -Step inside to a contemporary feel in this 3 bdrm/2.5 bath custom built home. Fully remodeled from floors to walls to ceilings to HVAC to sethical to plumbing. WOW! $312,700
3308 Whitney Dr -Spacious 4 bdrm/2.5 bth with large kitchen, utility room, bonus room and 2 living and dining area $249,000
1904 Ward St -4BR 2 bath 2LA nice updates including laminate flooring, gas cook top, open plan! $234,900
3605 Roosevelt Ave -Totally remodeled 4 bedroom/3 bath home! Move-in ready! $230,000
5014 Pleasant Dr -Beautiful newer home with 3bdrms/2bth in newer area of Pleasant with all the bells and whistles. $218,000

One Bedroom

600 Lidden #54 - Low maintenance condo ..... w/E $83,000

Two Bedrooms

4706 Dunbrook -Large duplex with tall ceilings, tile flooring, storm windows, nicely landscaped and located in desirable neighborhood! Ready for quick occupancy $300,000
2 Oak Lawn Park 2 bdrms/2 bths, Low Maintenance townhouse in Oaklawn Park! $230,000
4700 Boulder Dr - Low maintenance 2 bedroom/2 bath condo $80,000

Three Bedrooms

1500 Douglas Ave - beautiful home w/pool $595,000
6200 FM 307 -This must see unique 3bdrm/2.5 bath lodge like home is perfect for entertaining indoors and out! ..... w/E $550,000
1600 N. I St -Wonderful 3 bdrm/2.5 bth home in Prime!location! Great outdoor entertaining space and inground pool $399,900
2509 Concord Ave -3/3 and large living and dining area, beautiful, spacious kitchen - loads of amenities ..... w/E $265,000
7118 E. Co. Rd. 111-Wonderful M-R Larry custom build 3 bdrm/2.5 bth home on 1.38 acres located in the new Chaney Ranch Addition! ..... w/E $398,000
3204 Apperson Dr -Step inside to a contemporary feel in this 3 bdrm/2.5 bath custom built home. Fully remodeled from floors to walls to ceilings to HVAC to electrical to plumbing- WOW! $312,700
4 Oak Lawn Park-Nicely updated townhouse in Oaklawn Park! $300,000
4700 Dunbrook-Large duplex with tall ceilings, tile flooring, storm windows, nicely landscaped and located in desirable neighborhood! Ready for quick occupancy $300,000
3206 Chelsea Place-Wonderful 3 bedroom/2 bath home that is move-in condition! ..... w/E $294,900
3533 Boyd Ave -Upscale townhouse in Lone Oak with 3 bedrooms, 3 private baths and a powder room. Very private and beautifully maintained! $279,500
3163 Elma Dr -Spacious 3 bdrm/2 bth home in lovely quiet neighborhood with mature trees and easy access to shopping and restaurants. $245,000
2300 Neely Ave. -Workshop over 800 sq ft! Charming 3/2.5 with circle drive. Master has jacuzzi tub and fireplace. $245,000
51 Ward Rd. -Fabulous Lake Henry get-away. This 3 bdrms/2bth home is located within HOA gated community in Oak Canyon Estates. Public dock for residents only. $240,000

Three Bedrooms

4100 Cloudcroft Ct -Updated 3 bedrooms/2 bath home located on a quiet pretty cul-de-sac with mature trees! ..... w/E $224,900
1002 Shell-"Old Midland" nice neighborhood for growing family ..... w/E $200,000
5012 Pleasant Dr -Beautiful newer home with 3bdrms/2bth in newer area of Pleasant with all the bells and whistles. $218,000
RCRI FM 307-Custom built in Greenwood in 1977. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, formal dining, fireplace, 2 car carport on 2.340 acres ..... w/E $199,900
4058 Conley Ave 3 Bdrm/2 Bth Home in ODESSA $189,000
4706 Cindy Ct -3 bedroom/2 bath home in desirable neighborhood at this low price! ..... w/E $178,900
3614 Shell Ave -3 bedrooms/2 bath home in Wedgewood Park $169,900

Four Bedrooms

7083 Winfield -Heart of Warwick' Gorgeous landscaping, great amenities $895,000
15 Saddle Club Dr -4 bd/2.5 ba, detached game room and workshop $850,000
3600 Fairwood Ct.-Updated in Mockingbird Heights. 2 story, granite, and full guest house! $649,500
418 Affirmed Ave.-Stunning 4 bedroom, 3 baths, 2 half baths, den, gameroom, study, 3 car garage on .994 acres. $799,000
1917 Gladewood-Magnificent 4 bdr/3 bth home w/1/2 ceilings and unmatched storage! Gourmet kitchen and butterfly shaped pool w/separate spa! $799,000
5101 Castleford Rd.-Wonderful 4bdr/2.5bth home w/great kitchen, large living area, great outdoor area for entertaining and many updates $574,900
4294 Baybrook Place-Perfectly wonderful 4bdrm/3 bth home in Medkingbird $540,000
1257 Silverton-Woodland Pyrs, almost new! Open plan and beautiful! ..... SOLD $529,000
5201 Oak Valley Dr.-Custom, one owner 4 bdrm/3.5 bth home in beautiful Greathouse subdivision $495,000
2925 S. County Rd. 1066-4 bedroom/2.5 bath home, perfect for entertaining! Barn/shop is amazing $449,500
4600 Bishops Castle Dr-Spacious updated 4 bedroom, 3 full baths, 2 living, formal dining, 3 garage $395,000
5412 Ridgemont Ct.-Stunning 4 bdrm/2.5 bth on quiet cul-de-sac in Grassland Estates all new paint, new hardwood floors and granite $369,000
4101 S. County Rd. 1184-Spacious 4 bedroom with room to roam. Great Ridge Heights location $339,900
2903 Oaktown Dr.-Wonderful 4 bdrms/3 baths home located on cul-de-sac. Warm, inviting and spacious! $321,000
3305 Stansfield-Quiet cul-de-sac, beautiful with a sunroom $299,000
505 Meadowpark Dr.-4 Bedrooms, 3 full Baths, formal dining, hardwoods, shutters, family yard ..... w/E $298,500
3308 Whitney Dr.-Spacious 4 bdrm/2.5 bth with large kitchen, utility room, bonus room and 2 living and dining area. $249,000
1904 Ward St.-4BR, 2 bath, 2LA, nice updates including laminate flooring, gas cook top, open plan! $234,900
3605 Roosevelt Ave.-Totally remodeled 4 bedroom/3 bath home! Move-in ready! $230,000
5800 S. Co. Rd. 1130-Large, spacious 4 bdrm/2 bth manufactured home on 1 acre. $149,900

Five or More Bedrooms

5011 N. Midland Dr.-This spacious home has it all! Contemporary style great guest house, beautiful grounds, horse lovers dream includes an indoor arena! $1,950,000
6706 West Wind Ct.-Elegant, family friendly 5/6 bedroom, 5.5 bath, 4/5 living areas, 5 car garage, parking pad, gorgeous poolitopia, koi pond, plus family yard on #6 Tee Box Green Tree North - $995,000
905 Country Club-Beautiful in Old Midland! Contemporary style, gorgeous outdoor area and pool! $775,000
2508 Calloway Dr- Beautiful spacious Grassland Gem ..... w/E $649,000
2902 Lockheed Ave.-Well maintained 5 bdrm/4.5 baths in great block in Old Midland with spacious rooms, lovely yard, and good plan $395,000

New Construction

Chaney Ranch-Call Holly Cohen to build your dream home. Greenwood subdivision w/acreage 638-3090

For Lease

1304 W. Texas-Approximately 2976 sq ft of Medical office space, conveniently located between Rip Hospital and Downtown. For lease ..... Call Bill Scott 682-1111

Lots, Land and Acreage

3003 Racquet Club Dr -Only lot in Racquet Club! $1,000,000
Chaney Ranch-Call Holly Cohen to build you dream home 638-3090
S. Co. Rd. 1129-Could be a great location for cattle and livestock, truck yard, pipe yard, etc. on 160 acres in Greenwood $2,000,000
I-20, West Murphy & Loop 338 in West Odessa-1116.26 acres, terrific frontage. Call Bill Scott or Brandee Noll 682-1111 ..... $2,000,000
S. Co. Rd. 1040-Perfect area for subdivision development - 325.8 acres in Greenwood $1,303,200
1100 E. Co. Rd. 150-56.39 acres with a 4,500 sf quonset barn, mobile home can stay for $50,000. Perfect for oil field business or pipe yard. Call Bill Scott or Brandee Noll 682-1111 ..... $451,120
5703 E. Co. Rd. 80-2784 sq. ft. w/in-law plan $399,900
64 Lincoln Park-San Angelo lot & boat house. Lake Nasworthy $179,000
7010 W. Co. Rd. 82-Water well $169,000
6313 Dunbarton Oaks Blvd - .97 acre, lot in Mockingbird Oaks $149,000
11918 W. County Rd. 58 1/2 W - 6 acre in a great residential neighborhood $114,000
E. Co. Rd. 120-Four 1 acre lots in new subdivision in Greenwood - The Meadows ..... w/E $85,000
Lot 14 W. County Rd. 152-Unlimited potential whether you are looking for a homesite or commercial site ..... SOLD $35,000

Commercial Investment Property

1304 W. Texas-Approximately 2976 sq ft of Medical office space, conveniently located between the Hospital and Downtown. For lease ..... Call Bill Scott 682-1111
3000 S. Co. Rd. 1270-2.330 acres with a 10,792 sf industrial warehouse/distribution center. Fenced, gated and secured facility located conveniently just south of Midland International Airport. Grade level access and dock high loading. Call Bill Scott or Brandee Noll 682-1111 ..... $800,000
5000 Block of N. Midkiff-2.84+ acres for development, great for office complex. Call Bill Scott $675,000
1120 E. Big Spring-Great office $175,000
0 Cotton Flat Rd.-Zoned Industrial Park $100,000
12020 West I-20-For Lease. Approx. 4,080 sq. ft., light or medium duty manufacturing or as warehouse space. Call Bill or Brandee @ 682-1111 ..... w/E $9,000/Month

Out of Town Properties

3625 Country Club, San Angelo-Fabulous! Lake front home, Southwestern Style $695,000
51 Ward Rd.-fabulous Lake Henry get-away. This 3 bdrms/2bth home is located within HOA gated community in Oak Canyon Estates. Public dock for residents only $240,000
4058 Conley Ave.-3 bdrm/2 bth home in Odessa $189,000

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3964 CALDERA BLVD. Gorgeous 4bd, 3ba, in law quarter office closing Call Cassandra Pearce, 432-703-2545

SUNDAY FEATURED HOME

6702 MOSSWOOD - $474,252
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Robert Graham
Call Denise Underwood 432-553-0121

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SUNDAY FEATURED HOMES

1825 CORD ST., ODESSA
$156,000
Nicely maintained 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a large living area with cozy brick fireplace. Great floor plan with a nice flow in a nice & quite neighborhood. Established yard with sprinkler system. Back yard is large with many sitting areas and a workshop. Won't last long so call asap to view this home
Call Sharon Horton, 689-0021

2507 REDBUD AVE., ODESSA
$195,500
Check out this 3 bed, 2 bath home with granite in the kitchen & 2 living areas. One living area could be used as a bedroom, game room, formal dining or man cave! Don't miss out on this one!!!
Call Stephanie Jones, 528-0452

2200 PRINCETON AVE.
$372,500
Don't miss this lovely home in Old Midland with an open floor plan that is wonderful for families & entertaining! The kitchen is huge with gorgeous granite stainless appliances, a large island and a great pantry. Lots of windows allow enjoyment of the lush landscaping & wonderful trees while inside. Roomy master bedroom and a newly remodeled master bath with granite & large spa shower
Call Jane McCrary, 553-5523

1 BEDROOM

1 BEDROOM

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WITH PETER G. MILLER
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THE GLAMOUR OF GRAMMAR

QUESTION:

Why do newspapers insist on capitalizing the term "Realtor" when other similarly used nouns such as "appraiser," "lender" and "borrower" are not capitalized?

ANSWER:

In real estate we usually think in terms of houses and property, tangible assets that we can touch and feel. However there also is something called "intellectual property," where assets can be very real even though they lack a physical presence. The term "Realtor" is an example of intellectual property.

Intellectual property broadly refers to creations of the human mind, such as trademarks, copyrights, service marks, literary works and symbols. Once an intellectual-property owner has staked out a claim, their property can be protected from unauthorized use in the same way that only you have the right within applicable rules to determine how your property will be used if you want it used at all.

A trademark, says the World Intellectual Property Organization, is a distinctive sign that identifies certain goods or services produced or provided by an individual or a company.

It adds that "the system helps consumers to identify and purchase a product or service based on whether its specific characteristics and quality – as indicated by its unique trademark – meet their needs."

A major problem with intellectual property is that ownership rights can slip away if a term is used in a generic manner. Expressions in the U.S. such as "elevator," "aspirin," "laundromat," "thermos" and "video tape" were once copyrighted but are now regarded as generic. In a similar sense, the owner of real property can lose their right of exclusive usage with an "easement by prescription," a situation where unauthorized usage meets certain conditions and continues over time.

To protect their rights, intellectual property owners engage lots of lawyers to vigorously protect such things as trademarks and copyrights, and this brings us to "Realtor," a term owned by the National Association of Realtors.

One of the major purposes of a trademark is to create marketplace distinctions. Real estate "brokers" are licensed by state regulators, but only NAR members may describe themselves as a "Realtor." Thus, it is possible for "Smith" to be a licensed real estate broker but not a Realtor, while "Jones" with NAR membership might be both a licensed broker and a Realtor.

Why, then do media outlets not use the term "Realtor" with a trademark symbol?

If you think about traditional print media, such as newspapers, books and magazines, you can see that trademark and copyright symbols scattered repeatedly throughout blocks of type would make reading difficult. Thus, the standard in journalism is not to use such symbols, a tradition which has carried over to electronic media.

The result of assorted rules and traditions is that reporters write about both "brokers" and "Realtors" in an effort to respect intellectual property claims while at the same time producing content in an accepted style that is both easy to read and absorb.

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E-mail peter@ctwfeatures.com. Due to volume, not all questions may be answered.

REAL ESTATE

3% Down-payment requirement on Freddie Mac's recently launched Home Possible Advantage, a conventional mortgage geared to low- to moderate-income borrowers.

FYI: Fannie Mae also introduced a 3-percent down payment mortgage for borrowers meeting certain eligibility requirements.

Source: Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac

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STRATEGIES FOR STAYING PUT IN RETIREMENT

FOR THOSE PLANNING TO AGE IN PLACE IN THEIR CURRENT HOME, IT'S ESSENTIAL TO MAKE ENSURE THE HOME IS PROPERLY AND SAFELY OUTFITTED FOR THEIR LATER YEARS

By ERIK J. MARTIN
CTW Features

The older we get, the more resistant to change we usually become. That's a big reason why many seniors choose to "age in place," living out their remaining years in their current homes. But doing so safely and comfortably isn't always so easy, which is why this option should be planned carefully, say the experts.

A recent survey by the Demand Institute, a nonprofit organization that studies consumer behavior, found that 63 percent of baby boomers do not anticipate moving from their current home (of which 62 percent of those polled have lived in for at least a decade). Further, three-fourths of respondents indicated that their residences are places they can remain in as they get older, despite the reality that many of these abodes lack low-maintenance and easy-accessibility features.

Among the reason seniors may typically choose to stay put because they have grown children/grandchildren who have boomeranged back home to live with them; they're still working longer and need to stay close to their jobs; they can't afford to move; and/or they feel more comfortable in their familiar environment.

"The big advantage of aging in place is that it's likely more affordable than purchasing or renting anew, especially if your intention is not to downsize," says Natalie J. Frazier, an agent with Fenwick Keats Real Estate in New York. "The big disadvantage is that your home or neighborhood may not be suitable for your life as an older individual."

Consequently, seniors who plan to age in place need to be proactive by making necessary home modifications. The first step in that process is to declutter.

"Accumulated belongings that are no longer relevant often get in the way in terms of safety and space," says Lauren Silverman, president of MOREganized in Glenview, Illinois. "Furniture and belongings should not be positioned in ways that impede movement, and items used daily should be stored in easy-to-reach places."

Next, the home should be assessed for needed convenience and accessibility upgrades. Chris Donatelli, owner of Donatelli Builders in Geneva, Illinois, recommends the following remodeling projects:

- Step-free entry
- Wider doorways and halls – minimum of 60 inches to be wheelchair-amenable – with barrier-free flow between rooms, especially the bathroom.
- Master bedroom suite located on the first level, if it's a multi-level home.
- Remodeled bathroom with stand-up shower or walk-in tub, detachable showerheads, grab bars and handrails.
- Simpler operability of sinks, hardware and appliance controls, such as single-lever faucets, pull-loops on cabinets/drawers.
- Open space beneath sinks for wheelchair use.
- Appliances mounted in the wall or located in drawers to avoid bending.
- Non-slip, low-maintenance flooring (e.g., solid vinyl/rubber, cork, or hardwood).
- Lower countertops, appliances and cabinets for easier reach, but raised base cabinets to accommodate wheelchair foot rests.
- Smarter storage, including pullout drawers and counters, slide-out shelves, and rollout cabinets.
- Bright task lighting in kitchen and office areas.
- Countertop, flooring and backsplash materials with colors that contrast for greater visibility.

While many of these projects can be costly, "keep in mind that it's much more cost-effective to do a custom remodel than build a new home," Donatelli says.

Lastly, it's important to consult with loved ones on your decision to age in place and to get their approval and assistance, Terry Martin-Back, broker associate with Exit Realty Producers in Gainesville, Florida.

"They should have family or friends support them in this process," says Martin-Back. "Allowing seniors to have their independence, if they're capable of living independently, will create a healthier environment for everyone involved."

© CTW Features

TRENDS

MARKETS SET TO GO BOOM

Baby boomers are staying in the work force longer, but they're eyeing their retirement housing needs now. Here are the markets poised to attract them

A low cost of living and, of course, sunny weather are the keys to attracting baby boomers in retirement.

But even though many boomers remain in the work force and delay retirement, many metro markets still can anticipate attracting boomer buyers, according to analysis from the National Association of Realtors.

Looking at population trends, housing affordability and local economic conditions, the NAR identified the top housing markets positioned to see an increase of baby boomer homebuyers in coming years.

Boise, Idaho, and Raleigh, North Carolina – with solid job growth, affordable home prices and share of self-employed workers – were identified as the standout markets.

According to Lawrence Yun, the NAR's chief economist, metros with a strong local economy, sufficient housing supply and low cost of living are set to see an increase in buying activity, as the share of men and women working past age 65 has increased.

"A broadly improving economy and rebounding home prices are giving baby boomers the opportunity to sell and move to support their retirement lifestyle," Yun said in a statement. "Furthermore, our research identified cities movers are gravitating to while remaining in the work force as a business owner."

The NAR analyzed 100 metro areas that have low state taxes, robust job market conditions and strong migration patterns of baby boomers to that area to determine which markets are likely to see a boost from boomer buying activity. The top markets positioned to see an increase of boomer buyers are (alphabetically):

- Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Boise, Idaho
- Denver
- Fort Myers, Florida
- Greenville, South Carolina
- Orlando, Florida
- Phoenix
- Raleigh, North Carolina
- Sarasota, Florida
- Tucson, Arizona

According to the NAR, boomers represent 30 percent of all buyers, with a median income of $92,400 and purchased homes that cost $210,000.

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Merry Christmas!
Have a Safe and Prosperous New Year!

Congratulations to our 2014 Award Winners!

Ashley Procter — Rising Star Award
Sabrina Rodon — Best Marketing Award
Miranda Sigler — Diamond Award & Top Marketing
Carol Cunetto — Gold Award & 110% Award
Blanca Salgado — Eagle Award
Lindsay Barton — MVP Award

4+ BEDROOMS

6308 Dunbland - 6 Bedroom, 4 Bath, 4 Living + Study & Workout Room in Coveted Saddle Club Ranch Estates!!! Outdoor Kitchen & Fireplace, Salt Water Pool, 2.5 Acres, RV Parking, with Shop/Barn. Too To Much To List! Call Ron for Private Showing! — Now Listing! $1,250,000
6004 W Cr Rd 40 - 4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath, Secluded Estate Away From the World! Gourmet Kitchen, Viking Wine Fridge, 2 Living +Study & HUGE Workout Room. Master Suite with Own Fireplace! 8+ ACRES, Gorgeous Stable for 8 Horses, 4 Water Wells, Too Much To List! Call Norma for Private Showing — Now Listing! $1,125,000
5 La Provence, Odessa - 4 Bedroom, 4.5 bath, Super Floor Plan, Double Master Bedrooms - Full Outdoor Kitchen & Fireplace! Gourmet Kitchen, TOO MUCH TO LIST! Call Chris for a Private Showing! — New Construction! $1,100,000
6400 Washington - 5 Bedroom, 5 Bath. Gorgeous French Country Design! Brand New Floor Plan by Summit Home! High End Finishes. Upgraded Appliance Package, Granite, Plantation Shutters, 3 Car Oversized Garage! — New Construction! $1,098,000
5253 S Co Rd 1005 - 5 Bedroom, 6.5 Bath on 32.58 ACRES!!! Valuable Land Opportunity and Massive Sized Estate! Energy Efficient. Wind Turbine. Party Venue. Barn. Shop! Call Chris for more details! — Now Listing! $949,900
5017 Mira Vista - 4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath, Designer's Choice Here! Huge Open Plan. High Ceilings, Gourmet Kitchen, Sparkling Pool, Outdoor Kitchen. Guest House! Too To Much To List! THIS ONE WON'T LAST!!! Call Norma! — Rec Price! $799,000
2913 Maplewood - 5 Bedroom, 3 Bath, 3 Living, 4 Car Garage. Another Stunning NEW McPherson Home! — Sale Pending! $815,000
2913 Edgebrook - 4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath, 3 Living, Open Plan, HUGE Home w/Fabulous Party Pool Room!!! Gorgeous Pool w/3 Water Falls & Hot Tub! — New Price! $499,900
6001 Rosewood - 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath. New Floor Plan by Abigard Construction! Patio Style Home for EASY Maintenance! This One is LOADED!! Est. Completion March 2015. — New Construction! $459,900
5516 Casa Grande - 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath, 2 Living. Another Stunning Abigard Home! Beautiful Amenities, Gourmet Kitchen. Builder to pay $1,500 in Closing Cost!!! — SOLD! $444,900
1208 Harvard - 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath. Completely Renovated Home in OLD Midland! Space Galore. High End Finishes. Granite. Travertine/ Dry Sauna & More! — New Price! $429,900
5407 Hillcrest - 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath, 2 Living. Designer's Choice in Grassland Estates! Ultra Rich Design. Granite. Stone Accents, Deco Lighting! Don't Miss This Jewel!!! — New Price! $429,900
23 Durham, Odessa - 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath. Gorgeous NEW Rosas Home! Custom Accents, Faux Texture Treatments! This One is Heavy Lopdes! Est. Completion March 2015. — New Construction! $427,300
3204 Fairfield - 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath. Beautiful 2013 Resale Home in Mayfield Place! This One's LOADED! Granite, Skylights, Crown molding, Shutters! — Back on the Market! $388,900
5003 S Co Rd 1090 - 4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath on over 8 ACRES!!! Beautifully updated, unique architectural details. 1900sqft Shop — New Listing! $385,000
4412 Graceland - 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, Brand NEW Construction in Los Patios! Still Time to Make Selections. Est. Completion May 2015 — New Construction! $379,900
1808 E Co Rd 1085 - 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Great Rest or Greenwood on 0.5 ACRES! Granite, Beautiful Flooring, Sequestered Master. — New Listing! $365,000
3234 W Business 20 - 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath, Stunning Completely Renovated Home in Desert Granite, Stainless, Tile Backsplash! A Must Show in This Price Range!!! — New Price! $229,000
2409 W. Golf Course - 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, So many updates! Lots of parking on property — New Price! $223,000

2 & 3 BEDROOMS

4307 Dublin - 3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath. Beautiful New AGA Home. Huge Open Plan w/High Ceilings! Located on a Quiet Cul-de-sac in Los Patios. Est. Completion Feb. 2015 — New Construction! $412,000
5700 Carmel Ct - 3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath. Beautiful Semi/ Signature Home Resale in Los Patios! Like New w/Many Outstanding High End Finishes! — New Price! $395,000
5410 La Palma - 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Impeccably Clean Home on Corner Lot in Las Palmas! 2008 Resale Updated Granite Throughout. Under Cabinet LED Lighting! SO MUCH MORE! — New Listing! $385,000
3101 Chelsea - 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath in a Quiet Cul-de-sac in Mayfield Place! 2014 Viatech Resale! Shows Like a New Home! Granite Throughout. Custom Cabinets!!! A Must See! — New Listing! $365,000
2305 Hermitage - 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath on a Great Cul-de-sac! Restore & Remodeled Kitchen! Granite, Plantation Shutters, Hot Tub! — SOLD! $299,900
2309 Portofino - 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath. AMAZING! This house is decked out in crown molding, shutters, granite, tile flooring! Dream kitchen completely remodeled bathrooms. — Sale Pending! $298,900
3604 Oakmont - 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Spacious, One Owner Home in Fairmont Park — SOLD! $298,900
3301 Glendon - 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2 Liv. 1 Dining. This is LOADED! Granite, Marble, Shutters, Crown Molding, Faux Finishes! So Much More! — Sale Pending! $245,000
1501 Pinehill - 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2 Car Garage. Immaculately maintained. Neutral tile &maple cabinets throughout! Move-in ready! — ★★★Under Contract Less Than 24Hrs! $215,000
1401 McDonald - 3 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom, Cold Corner Lot House! 2nd Living w/Endless Possibilities! Neat House! Superior Pricing!! — New Price! $219,900
2101 Abbey - 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Fantastic Value on this Cleanest Home on the Market! Move in Condition. Open Plan. Miles of Tile! — Sale Pending! $204,500
605 E Estes - 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2 Car Garage. Beautifully Detailed New Home! Estimated Completion February 2015! — New Construction! $199,250
1121 E Sycamore - 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Beautiful 2012 Resale, Better Than NEW! Open Plan, Sequestered Master, Neutral Colors! — New Listing! $177,000
4025 Phoenix - 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2 Car Garage, Tile and laminate floors, corner fireplace! — ★★★Under Contract Less Than 24Hrs! $169,900
4010 Stacy - 3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bathroom, Super Cute & Clean!!! Spacious Master, Tons of Storage, Updated Baths!!! FHA Ready! — New Price! $159,900
3221 Marlena - 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 2 living areas brick fireplace Cute house updated central heat and air, bonus room in back!!! — Sale Pending! $149,900
4010 Ella - 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath in WILSHIRE HEIGHTS! Fireplace Brick Ranch, Shed, AND Workshop! — Sale Pending! $135,000
2100 W Co Rd 1134 "LE" - 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Beautiful 1996 Model Home! 1,400 sqft. Lots of Updates! Roof Replaced in 2010. Rebuilt Front Porch! Selling Mobil Home Only — New Listing! $64,000

COMMERCIAL/LOTS/ACREAGE

2500 N Co Rd 1150 - Main Shop is 50'x140' w/insulated bay doors w/one office & 1 full bath! 2nd building has 4 separate shops! 11,800 sqft — New Price! $850,000
520 S CR W, Odessa - Phenomenal Investment Opportunity Here! ENTIRE block of land. Church & Warehouses Included! — Sale Pending! $600,000
3004 Bitty Hunt Rd., Odessa - Fabulous Pad Site in Eastridge Office Park! Anchor Location! Call Chris for more details! — New Price! $425,000
1110 Andrews Hwy - High Traffic Area. Opportunity is Knocking!!! Full Service Gas Station. Zoned LR-2 per City. Lot Size 19,602 — Sale Pending! $399,000
106 Baltimore Lane - 2.02 ACRES in Missouri Properties. Perfect to Build Estate home! Call Norma for more details — New Listing! $399,000
1817 County Rd 1050 - Build Your Dream Home! Greenwood School District!!! 21.51 ACRES. Water Well, Septic, & Electric! Call Sabrina for details! — New Price! $250,000
Scharbauer Dr. - Investor Opportunity!!! 4 Lots Sold in package, 1201-1207 Scharbauer Dr. Owner will not subdivide. Ready to Build! May require flood insurance — Lots! $65,000
405 & 407 E Wadley -CALLING ALL BUILDERS! Vacant Lots! Prime Spot to BUILD!!! No Restrictions! Call Chris for details! — Lots! $30,000/each
Loop 464 - Stonehenge - 10+ Known Restrictions] Corner lot on S 41 Acres. Call Daniel for details! — Lot! $18,000
E County Rd. 80 - Lots Available! Horses Allowed. No Mineral Rights. Mobil & Modular Homes Allowed! — Call Now! 349-9140

CALL ONE OF OUR TOP NOTCH AGENTS

Norma Pina — 349-3440
Chris Beckett — 349-7000
Ginger Reed — 349-7000
Amelia Rincones — joined 2014 — 682-7000
Ron Crow — 349-9149
Blanca Salgado — joined 2014 — 238-0177
J. David Pina — 689-3997
Sabrina Rodon — 312-5681
Miranda Sigler — 770-2012
Carol Cunetto — 425-5487
Ruby Rojas — 978-3060
Dawn Holcomb Herman — 978-8310
Lauren Lambdin — 978-6331
Alexis Smith — joined 2014 — 556-7008
Jeaneen Pruitt team

Jeaneen Pruitt — 557-0212
Amber Pruitt — 413-1008
Ashley Procter — 553-0277
Maryanne Campbell — joined 2014 — 631-6560
Julie Golden — 349-4441
Liz Pickrell — 853-3707
Danielle Gross — 853-1267
Lauren Jackson — 934-6691
Lindsay Barton — 212-2272
Shawna Whitenhill — joined 2014 — 219-5660

Merry Christmas

THE JEANEEN PRUITT TEAM IS GOING "ABOVE & BEYOND" FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

Thank you to all of our clients who have supported us!
We have made donations to:
The American Cancer Society
St. Jude's Hospital
Breaking Bread
Safe Place
Church Under The Bridge
on your behalf!
Merry Christmas!!!

Happy New Year

FEATURED LISTINGS

3101 SEABOARD - $309,900
Beautifully renovated/updated corner lot in sought-after MaMar Terrace!

6207 DUNBARTON OAKS BLVD. - $1,400,000
Spectacular New construction by Troy Hunt Homes 5 bed, 5 bath, 4 car garage w/ a Gameroom in Mockingbird Oaks!

4428 ROOSEVELT - $179,900
Spacious 3 bedroom home on corner lot w/carport, workshop & water well!

1908 MISSOURI - $299,900
Lovely home across from museum of the Southwest! 3 bed/2 bar2 half ba & 3 living areas!

3516 HYDE PARK - $299,900
Spacious 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 car in established neighborhood!

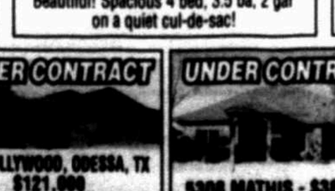
2209 S. CO. RD. 1086 - $315,000
Fabulous custom home in greenwood on .41 Acres! 3Bed/2ba/2gar & circle drve!

4321 DOUGLAS - $175,000
Cute, cute! 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 garage! Move in ready!

14 AUBURN - $290,900
Beautiful! Spacious 4 bed, 3.5 ba, 2 gar on a quiet cul-de-sac!

5602 CAMDEN - $489,900
Beautiful home in coveted Grandridge Park! 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 2 dining, 3 garage!

3112 BOTTICELLI AVE. - $208,900
Wonderful, move in ready 3bd, 1.5ba home! Like new construction w/upgrades.



1029 HOLLYWOOD, ODESSA, TX - $121,000
Cute 3 bed, 1ba, 1 garage home w/updates & 14x16 shop!

5308 MATHIS - $385,000
Wonderful 4 bed, 3 ba, 3 car garage in Greathouse!

3033 HYDE PARK- $225,000
Cute, cute! Updated 3 bed/2 bath/2 car garage in quiet neighborhood!

Jeaneen Pruitt — Realtor Associate — 557-0212
Amber Pruitt — Realtor Associate — 413-1008
Ashley Procter — Realtor Associate — 553-0277
Maryanne Campbell — Realtor Associate — 631-6560
Julie Golden — Realtor Associate — 349-4441
Liz Pickrell — Realtor Associate — 853-3707
Danielle Gross — Realtor Associate — 853-1267
Lauren Jackson — Realtor Associate — 934-6691
Lindsay Barton — Realtor Associate — 212-2272
Shawna Whitenhill — Realtor Associate — 219-5660

Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

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

WE BUY HOMES, LAND & BLDGS! Fair prices, quick cash! Call 432-266-1212, 432-631-8100.

Lots & Land

Acreage

132 ACRES PREMIUM SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY. San Angelo area on Country Club Road, off 277 south between San Angelo Country club & Lake Nasworthy, in Wall ISD. for more information www.hflandforsale.com

+/- 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

MOBILE HOME LOT, 1217 W Montgomery, $20000 407 E Montgomery 1 acre, $30000 810 S Madison $12000. Call 432-683-2243

Lots & Land

Acreage

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. $146,500K. 830-928-8713

Fax Your Ad 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 enfrance, beautiful scenic home sites. 12 minutes from San Angelo. 20ac track - $170K, 40ac track - $260K. 325-650-9960

Oil & Gas Leases

LAND FOR Lease. 5 Acres in St. Lawrence, TX. Hwy frontage off 2401. Prime location for yard or disposal. Garry 432-268-3365.

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.

Lots & Land

Oil & Gas Leases

BEAUTIFUL LAKE HOME
610 OAK POINT ROAD
MAY, TEXAS

2,800 sq. ft., 3 bedroom/
3 full baths on Lake Brownwood

Google 610 Oak Point Road, May, Texas for pictures

MINERAL RIGHTS to Sprayberry Unit in Glasscock, Midland, Reagan and Upton counties.

Will sell for best offer.

Will consider lease with purchase option on home.

Call 432-770-0285

Residential Sales

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Residential Sales

Vacation & Resort Property

BEAUTIFUL LAKE HOME
610 OAK POINT ROAD
MAY, TEXAS

2,800 sq. ft., 3 bedroom/
3 full baths on Lake Brownwood

Google 610 Oak Point Road, May, Texas for pictures

MINERAL RIGHTS to Sprayberry Unit in Glasscock, Midland, Reagan and Upton counties.

Will sell for best offer.

Will consider lease with purchase option on home.

Call 432-770-0285

Ranches

RANCH FOR SALE
4,212 Acres
near Snyder, Tx.
Water, 3 houses,
great hunting.
Owner Financing.
$795/ Acre
(432) 664-7764

Commercial

Commercial Building For Lease
13,500sq/ft
Fenced/Paved Yard
Midland, Texas
$14.750/month
432.664.7764

COMMERCIAL YARD FOR LEASE
5 ACRES, FENCED
2 AC. CALICHED
ELECTRICITY AVAILABLE
$2200/MONTH
JUST EAST OF MIDLAND
432.664.7764

FOR LEASE 1700 SQ FT Work Shop
432-664-4576

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.

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

NEED RESPONSIBLE family $1,200 month & $200 deposit. Sleeps 5. No pets 6 months or 1 year lease. Call 806-252-9517 or 806-448-8634.

RV FOR rent. $750 month + deposit bills paid in Midland. 806-292-2695. Hablo Espanol.

Mobile Homes for Sale

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.

Find it fast in the Midland Reporter-Telegram

The Bottom Line

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

Source: Scarborough Research 2013

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com
201 EAST ILLINOIS AVENUE
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701
432-682-5311

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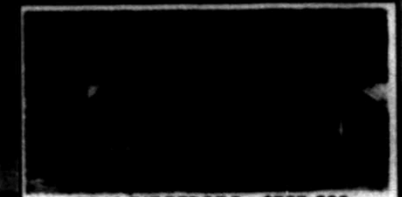
www.DeLauraGammage.com

2014 SILVER

6814 W. CO RD. 50 - $1,250,000
EXQUISITE ESTATE!
Carrera doors! Formal living/dining! Gourmet kitchen w/granite & faux painted cabinetry! Huge dining w/beamed ceiling35 sq master w/fireplace, sitting area, great bath! Office/study! Gameroom! Wood deck w/gorgeous views! Stunning pool, hot tub, pool bath! Fireplace, huge playground! Plus over 5000 sq ft in outbuildings-barn: 4 stalls 50x35 2 tact rooms, 60x60 shop, 50x25 awning! 10 Beautiful acres!!

4521 CORSAIR CT. - $950,000
CUSTOM MF LADY HOME ON COVETED STREET!
Attention to detail at every turn! Wood floors! Formal dining! Formal living! Walls of windows! Cozy den! Gourmet kitchen w/island & breakfast bar! Office w/seat Sec master! Gorgeous bath w/heated floors, huge shower&tub tub! Designer closet! Seq in-law plan! Huge bedrooms! Amazing closets! Studio w/barn door & storage! 3Cg+golf cart-could be 4th! Incredible patio w/ourone views!

3802 ST. ANDREWS CT. - $790,000
FANTASTIC HOME IN TRINITY WITH ALL THE BELLS & WHISTLES!
Fabulous updates thru-out! Formal living! Den w/fireplace! Formal dining! Updated kitchen w/breakfast nook! Master suite w/sitting area & incredible bath!In-law suite downstairs! 3 Bedrooms & 2 baths upstairs plus gameroom! Recently refurbished pool in wonderful backyard! High privacy fence! 4 Car garage plus office in between! Tons of parking!Awesome!



7813 RIDGEBORO - $585,000
INCREDIBLE PROPERTY!!!
2 Story elegance! Updated & tons of living space! Formal living! Formal dining! Gourmet kitchen w/granite & stainless appliances, island, pantry & breakfast bar that opens onto the breakfast nook w/large windows & den w/fireplace & built-ins! Spacious master suite is downstairs & offers great bath w/updated shower, separate tub, dual sinks & nice closet! 3 Bed bath up plus gameroom! 3Cg!

2104 N. I ST. - $534,000
UNBELIEVABLE SPACE IN THIS CLASSIC HOME!! POOL!
Formal dining! Formal living w/views of pool! Cozy den w/fireplace is open to the kitchen/breakfast bar! Glass sunroom! 2 Roomy bedrooms w/hall bath downstairs! Master bedroom w/private bath & great closet on mid-level! 2 Great bedrooms & hall bath on upper level! Sooooooo much storage in this one! Pool w/diving board & slide! Hot tub room outside! Fabulous location!!!

1913 GLADEWOOD - $525,000
GRASSLAND WEST W/GORGEOUS POOL!
Formal dining! Large formal/family room! Den is open to large kitchen w/island, granite, tons of cabinetry & counter space plus pantry! Seq master w/nice bath & closest space! Seq in-law plan! Love outdoors, too! w/great patio & beautiful pool! Roomy bedrooms w/jack&jill bath! Recent carpet & wood flooring! Awesome utility rm! High ceilings! Circle drive! 4 Car garage!

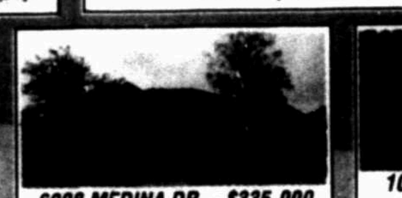
4975 RUSTIC TRAIL - $500,000
FABULOUS VIEWS FROM THIS BEAUTIFUL BACKYARD!
This property is an entertainer's delight! Gorgeous pool w/hot tub! Recent outdoor kitchen is incredible! Huge gameroom w/half bath! Updated kitchen w/granite & stainless appliances! Seq master w/walls of windows offering course & backyard views! Updated bathrooms! Recent paint! Outdoor shower! Fenced pool area! Tons of tile! Recent carpets too! 2 Cg! Spectacular!!

811 TRINIDAD - $436,500
ANOTHER FABULOUS MARK PAYNE HOME IN COVETED WOODLAND PARK!
Tons of great space!Living room is open to the kitchen w/breakfast bar & nook! Formal dining can also be office/study! Huge gameroom! Master w/gorgeous bath & incredible closet! Roomy bedrooms! Nice utility room w/access to master closet! High ceilings! Stained concrete flooring! Wonderful extended patio! Small yard! 3 Car garage! Wow!

5609 ECR 120 - $425,000
GREAT HOME IN GREENWOOD ON 4+ACRES W/POOL!
3 large bedrooms with their own bathrooms!!! ½ bath for guests!!! open floor plan !!! huge living area with fireplace !!! fabulous kitchen great for entertaining! outside offers nearly 5 acres, inviting pool , fire pit area and covered patio!! circle drive 2 car garage!!!

1007 ECR 128 - $360,000
WOW! WONDERFUL COUNTRY PROPERTY W/WORKSHOP!
One owner,immaculately maintained home w/tons to offer! Living area w/high ceilings, fireplace, skylights offers room for formal dining! Kitchen w/pretty oak cabinetry & breakfast bar! Sunroom is a perfect den or office! Spacious master w/private bath & nice closets! Covered patio! Large w/shop w/half bath, tons of storage upstairs & 2 garage doors! 2 Cg+3 car detached garage w/rv space! Pens! Gates! Fab!

3300 GREENBRIAR DR. - $350,000
SPECTACULAR!
3 Bedroom 2.5 Bath w/coffered ceilings, crown moulding, plantation shutters, tinted thermapane windows, dbl sided gas fireplace, recent HVAC, instant hot water! Gourmet kitchen has island, dbl oven, abundance of cabinets plus breakfast dining & bar! Formal living & dining! Cozy den! Sequestered master suite offers double sinks, walk-in shower, jetted tub & w/up-around closet! Recent paint & floors! 3 Car garage! Small yards!

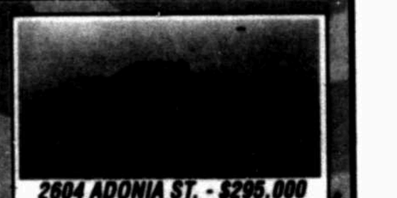


6008 MEDINA DR. - $335,000
FABULOUS MARK PAYNE RESALE!
Open concept w/no wasted space! Open kitchen offers granite countertops, breakfast bar & nook! Spacious living rm w/corner fireplace! Big windows! Sequestered master suite w/gorgeous bath, soaking tub, sep shower & large closet! Roomy bedrooms w/great closets! Hall bath has dual sinks, granite & tub/shower! Stained concrete! Wow!

10706 ECR 109 - $325,000
GREENWOOD SCHOOLS!
WONDERFUL WORKSHOP!
Gameroom! Man-cave/workshop! This one has something for everyone! Large living rm w/fireplace is open to the dining area & kitchen! Breakfast bar! Pantry! Seq master suite w/large bath & closet! Spacious bedrooms! Nice utility rm! 2 Car garage attached + parking in workshop! Carport too! Covered patios! Huge yard plus storage space behind fence! Gray water system for yard! Nice!

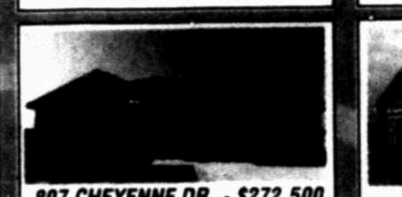
2210 WHITNEY DR. - $325,000
READY TO BE CHARMED?
Just walk inside to see this fabulous home w/pool! This beauty offers hardwood flooring,brick fireplace tons of windows & a round formal dining room!Kitchen w/island & corner window sink has tons of cabinets!Formal living w/bay window!Large utility room w/desk!4 Roomy bedrooms!Spacious master w/updated bathroom!Circle drive!Entertainers backyard w/ patio,pool & trees!Impressive!

4706 ECR 140 - $325,000
ONE OWNER CUSTOM HOME OF 4 ACRES ON QUIET COUNTRY LIVING
Living room w/fireplace & beamed, vaulted ceiling! Kitchen w/breakfast nook! Sequestered master suite w/private bath offers 2 closets, dual sinks & sep shower & tub! 47k bedroom 4, converted garage & could be office/playroom/home gym! Bedrooms are spacious w/great closets! Fenced backyard! 3 Cg!workshop has huge storage closet! Horse barn!



2694 ADONIA ST. - $296,000
EXQUISITE NEW CONSTRUCTION BY MASTER BUILDERS!
Open concept w/great living room & fireplace! Gorgeous kitchen w/island, granite countertops, pantry & tons of cabinetry! Formal dining space too! Sequestered master suite offers large bedrooms w/gun ceilings, wonderful bathroom w/his & her vanities, jetted tub, separate shower & two huge closets! Covered patio! Spacious bedrooms w/nice closets! 2 Cg!

901 CHEYENNE ST. - $290,000
WONDERFUL NEW CONSTRUCTION IN A BRAND NEW SUBDIVISION!
Gorgeous home loaded with upgrades. Formal dining area! Large living room w/high ceilings! Fireplace! Gourmet kitchen with tons of cabinetry & granite countertop, pantry & big island/breakfast bar! Spacious sequestered master suite w/beautiful bath offers jetted tub, 2 vanities & 2 closets! Covered patio! 2 Car garage!

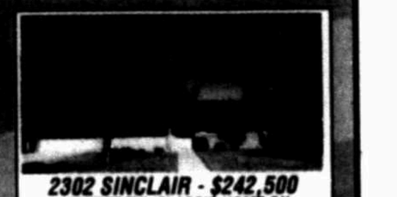


807 CHEYENNE DR. - $272,500
WONDERFUL NEW CONSTRUCTION BY TROY HUNT!
...pgrades thru-out! Granite countertops! Beautiful cabinetry! Carpet & tile flooring! Fireplace in living w/high ceilings! Open kitchen w/breakfast bar & dining area! Sequestered master suite w/tray ceiling & beautiful bathroom offers dual vanities, large shower, jetted tub & great closet! Spacious bedrooms w/ walk in closets! Covered patio! 2 Car garage!

809 CHUKAR - $250,000
SPEND YOUR EVENINGS ON THIS PORCH!
Wonderfully updated home on huge lot! 1 Dbl Acre lot with fencing & close to downtown! Wood floors! Granite countertops, Crown moulding! Tons of windows! Roomy bedrooms & great baths! Garage has been converted for a wonderful gameroom/2nd living room! High efficiency windows & heater, a/c! Low e vinyl insulated windows! City utilities! Land w/city convenience!

2310 DENGAR AVE. - $245,000
BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED!
Wood flooring! Formal living & dining! Wonderful kitchen w/big window & breakfast bar is open to cozy den! Hall bathroom is gorgeous w/granite! Master bathroom remodel completed 2013! Spacious master w/2 closets! Roomy bedrooms w/great closets! Plantation shutters thru-out! Recent windows! Covered patio! Nice backyard w/cinder block fence! 2 Car garage! Close to fannin school!

1004 MCDONALD - $245,000
NICELY UPDATED HOME WITH OPEN PLAN!
Living area has fireplace, bookcases and high ceilings! Recent wood floor recently added! 2 Dining areas!! Large master bedroom and bath has dual sink and separate closets! Kitchen has breakfast nook plus bar area! Garden/sun room! Pool!! Close to Bonham and alamo schools!!

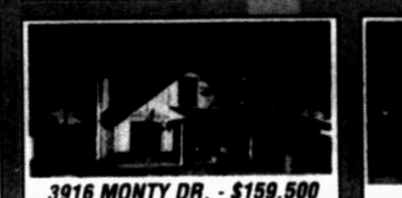


2302 SINCLAIR - $242,500
WONDERFUL CLASSIC HOME ON TREE LINED STREET CLOSE TO PARK!
Formal living & dining w/large windows! Cozy den w/fireplace! Kitchen w/breakfast nook! Large utility room! Spacious master bedroom w/private bath! Roomy bedrooms w/nice closets! Wonderful backyard w/fenced patio that extends larger w/cinder block fence! 2 Cg! With some updates this one could be fabulous!

2817 SHANDON AVE. - $235,000
WONDERFUL HOME W/HUGE OAK TREES!
...arge formal living room& dining area! Den w/built-in bar & fireplace! Kitchen w/island/pantry/storage has breakfast bar, breakfast nook w/bay windows! Large utility room w/half bath! Master suite offers 2 closets plus bath w/tub, shower, jetted tub, sep bath has extra large walk-in shower! Roomy bedrooms! Great storage thru-out! Covered patio! Nice yards! Block fence! Fannin area! Nice!

3505 SHANDON AVE. - $192,500
INVITING WELL-MAINTAINED HOME!
3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths! Front living area perfect for formal office or playroom! Cozy den with fireplace & built-in bookcases! Dining area with large window! Kitchen is nice, counterspace, pretty room! Open patio with large back yard! Water well! 2 Car garage! Great location close to schools & shopping!

4321 COUNTRY CLUB DR. - $175,000
ADORABLE & UPDATED COTTAGE!
Walls removed & living, dining, kitchen are all open! Tons of recents! Nice kitchen & baths! Roomy bedrooms! Master bedroom has dual closets & bath with large shower! Ceramic tile! Recent carpet! Recently painted patio doors to the covered patio! Super fenced yard! Tons of attic space & great insulation! Wonderful neighborhood & close to schools! Move-in ready!



3916 MONTY DR. - $159,500
NICE FAMILY HOME WITH GREAT ENTERTAINING LIVING ROOM!
Cozy den with fireplace greets you & opens to beautiful kitchen with breakfast bar & nook! Spacious family room is perfect for media room or large family gatherings! Master suite downstairs plus one bedroom! Two bedrooms & full bath upstairs! Utility room! Nice patio & big backyard! Storage building!

1221 MARY ST., CRANE
$150,000
GREAT SPACIOUS HOME IN CRANE!
Formal living room! Kitchen has abundant countertops, breakfast bar & breakfast nook! Cozy den with fireplace! Study/office too! 3 Roomy bedrooms! 2 Full baths! 4 Carports (2 on front & 2 on side)on storage bldg! Cinder block fence! Patio! Corner lot! Nice front porch!

QUAIL RIDGE SUBDIVISION
ATTENTION BUILDERS!!!
WONDERFUL NEW AREA BEING DEVELOPED NOW! BRICKED ENTRY TO SUBDIVISION! PAVED ROADS! CITY UTILITIES! 79 TOTAL LOTS IN PHASE 1! COMMON AREAS IN PLAN! NICE FAMILY COMMUNITY! LOTS STARTING AT $43,500! RESTRICTED AREA WITH CRITERIA REQUIREMENTS - CALL DELAURA FOR MORE DETAILS! OFF NORTH SERVICE ROAD OF BUSINESS 20 BETWEEN FAIRGROUNDS & TODD RD.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Houston Chalmers HOMES

4304 Saltillo Court
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 car garage priced @ $389,900

Ashingdon Homes

2512 Legacy Oaks
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 car garage, priced @ $779,500

Walter Pate's TEXAS CLASSIC HOMES
432.853.5782 www.TexasClassicHomes.net

5309 Half Moon Circle
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 car garage

The Real Estate Company
432-618-0286

FEATURED HOME

5300 Balfour Court
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 car garage, priced @ $499,900

"Christmas is more than just presents, it's love and harmony."
~ Julie Hebert

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Midland Gallery Homes

5304 George Yard Court
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 car garage, priced @ $498,000

Saenz Signature Homes

5317 Half Moon Circle
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 car garage, priced @ $504,500

Carrasco Homes

5310 Half Moon Circle
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 car garage, priced @ $499,850

RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS/HOME SITES/ACREAGE

RESIDENTIAL

501 Scharbauer Dr	Townhome/1 Bdrm/1 Ba/1 Carport	$84,900
1329 N. Fairgrounds Rd	3 Bdrm/2 Ba/Mobile Home	$87,500
4700 Pleasant Dr	3 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage	$155,000
300 Jax Avenue	3 Bdrm/2 Ba	$155,000
501 W. Scharbauer #33	Townhome/2 Bdrm/1 Ba/Carport	U/C
409 Idlewilde Dr	2 Bdrm/2 Ba	U/C
15425 Hollyhock Ave	Gardendale/3 Bdrm/2 Ba	$190,000
3109 Haynes Drive	3 Bdrm/3 Ba/2 Car Garage	$285,000
2606 Garfield Street	3 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/ 2 Car garage	$287,000
3219 Chelsea Place	3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage	U/C
3209 Chelsea Place	3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage	$295,000
5312 Widener Strip	3 Bdrm/3.5 Ba/2 Car Garage/Pool	$398,900
5800 Dunbarton Oaks Blvd	4 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/3 Car Garage	$460,000
6401 Los Conchos lane	4 Bdrm/3 Ba/1 Half Ba/4 Car Garage	$1,395,000

NEW CONSTRUCTION

503 S. Madison	Madagui Construction/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage	$164,500
501 S. Madison	Madagui Construction/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage	$170,500
5601 Camino Reale	Carrasco Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage	$379,700
4304 Saltillo Ct	Chalmers Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	$389,900
4300 Saltillo Ct	Chalmers Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	U/C
7213 E. Co. Rd. 91	Crystal Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	$454,500
5321 Half Moon Circle	Elgin Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	$469,900
5304 George Yard Ct	Midland Gallery Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	U/C
5319 Half Moon Circle	Carrasco Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	$499,850
5303 Dunraven Court	Crystal Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	U/C
5300 Balfour Court	R & M Home Builders/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	$499,900
2512 Legacy Oaks	Ashingdon Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage	$779,500
6106 Dunbarton Oaks	James Isbell Homes/4 Bdrm/4.5 Ba/3 Car Garage	$1,095,000

SUBURBAN/ACREAGE

Lariat Trail	Gardendale/4.73 Acres	$80,500
5312 S. Co. Rd. 1216	4 Bdrm/2 Ba/Mobile Home	U/C
Luna Rosa Estates	Gardendale/New Homes	Call Gary

1205 W. Co. Rd. 137	5 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Living Areas/1.93 Acres	$230,000
4108 N. Co. Rd. 1133	4 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage/1.2 Acres	$375,000
14140 Lariete Trail	Gardendale/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage	U/C
5611 S. Co. Rd. 1195	3 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage/4.12 Acres	SOLD
13501 E. Co. Rd. 120	Greenwood/30 acres/Horse property/Barn	$785,000
Highway 87	Big Spring/RV Park	$1,100,000
6401 Los Conchos lane	4 Bdrm/3 Ba/1 Half Ba/4 Car Garage	$1,395,000
8911 FM 307	Approx 190 Acres/Greenwood	U/C

SUBURBAN HOME SITES

Co. Rd. 160	5.35 Acres	$295,000
Luna Rosa Estates	W. Co. Rd. 30/1.5-2 Acre Lots	Call Gary

OUT OF TOWN PROPERTIES

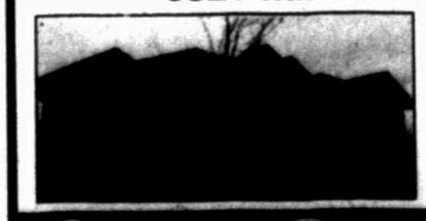
458 Duck Puddle Road	Colorado City/4 Bdrm/2 Ba/Guest House	$179,000
610 Oak Point Drive	Brownwood Lakefront Property/3 Bdrm/3 Ba/2 Car Garage	$425,000

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

3008 Elkins Rd	3.25 Acres/Office/Warehouse	$1,350,000

FEATURED PROPERTIES

5321 Half Moon Circle



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5312 Widener Strip

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4400 N. Big Spring Street, Ste. C-30 www.midlandreco.com

REAL ESTATE

687-6500

www.LegacyRealEstate.com

Sunday Featured Homes!

809 CHUKAR LANE - $250,000
SPEND YOUR EVENINGS ON THIS PORCH!

Wonderfully updated home on huge lot! 1.259 Acre lot with fencing & close to downtown! Wood floors! Granite Countertops! Crown moulding! Tons of windows! Roomy bedrooms & great baths! Garage has been converted for a wonderful gameroom/2nd living room! High efficiency windows & heater/ac! Low-e vinyl insulated windows! City utilities! Land w/city convenience!

1004 MCDONALD ST. - $245,000
NICELY UPDATED HOME WITH OPEN PLAN!

Living area has fireplace, bookcases and high ceilings!! Recent wood floor recently added! 2 Dining areas!! Large master bedroom and bath has dual sink and separate closets! Kitchen has breakfast nook plus bar area! Garden/sun room!! Pool!! Close to Bonham and Alamo schools!!

2310 DENGAR AVE. - $240,000
BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED!

Wood flooring! Formal living & dining! Wonderful kitchen w/ big window & breakfast bar is open to cozy den! Hall bathroom is gorgeous w/granite! Master bathroom remodel completed 2013! Spacious master w/2 closets! Roomy bedrooms w/great closets! Plantation shutters thru-out! Recent windows! Covered patio! Nice backyard w/cinder block fence! 2 Car garage! Close to fannin school!

2817 SHANDON AVE. - $235,000
WONDERFUL HOME W/HUGE OAK TREES!

Large formal living/formal dining area! Den w/saltillo tile & fireplace! Kitchen w/abundant storage has breakfast bar! Breakfast nook w/bay windows! Large utility room w/half bath! Master suite offers 2 closets plus bath w/ tub/ shower combo! Hall bath has extra large walk-in shower! Roomy bedrooms! Great storage thru-out! Covered patio! Nice yards! Block fence! Fannin area! Nice!!

"Whether you are selling the home where your memories are made or buying the home of your dreams... I look forward to helping you with any of your real estate needs."

Call DeLaura Gammage 288-3880

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

"Voted Midland's Favorite Real Estate Agency!"

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HOMESTYLE
SIMPLE SOLUTIONS FOR EVERYDAY LIVING Sunday, December 28, 2014

New Year, New Life for Your Old Stuff

It's organizing season, but don't get overeager and sidestep these ethics of decluttering

By Bev Bennett | CTW Features

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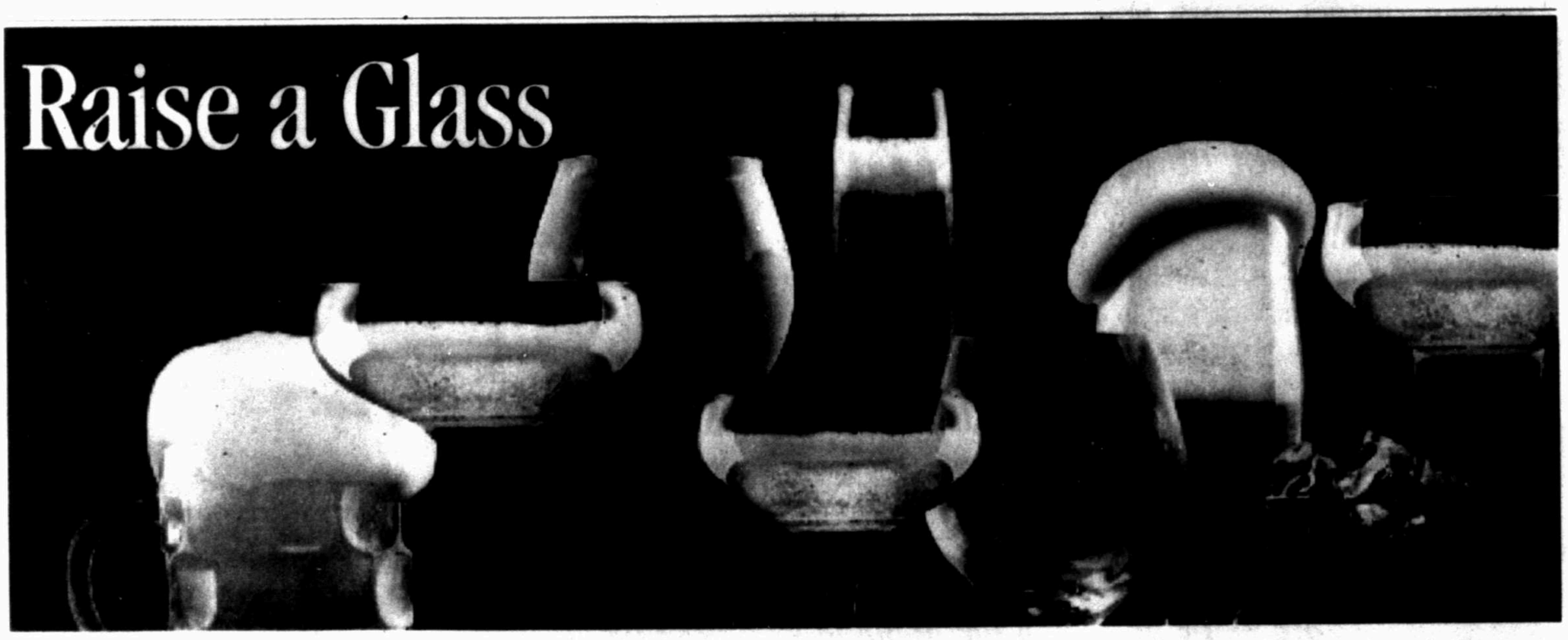
© CTW Features

Raise a Glass



Beautiful glassware is perfect for amateur mixologists and at-home bartenders aiming to impress guests

By Lauri Klingensmith | CTW Features

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Newer lines of glassware tend to be simpler. "Gone are the days of the heavily etched, gold-rimmed wine glasses," Najafi says, although retro patterns with pops of color also are popular.

Crate & Barrel's Mingle bar glass has a gold and platinum weave pattern, while Pier 1 Imports offers olive speckled and amber crackle glassware in a range of shapes and sizes. Another national retailer, Pottery Barn, offers the Mahalo line of specialty glasses with a distinctive green tint for classic cocktails like the daiquiri and Mai Tai.

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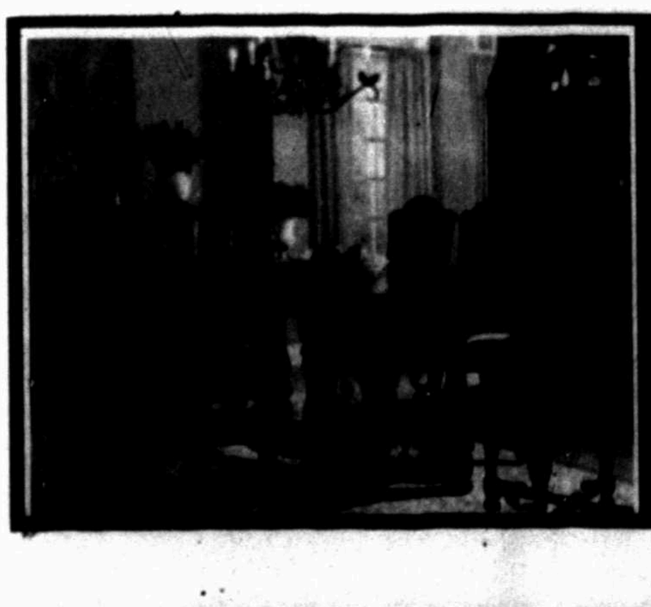
Spruce Up Your Dining Room For The New Year!

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Sandy J. Hanson
REALTOR/ASSOCIATE
ABR, GRI, CRS, ASR
Office: 618-0613
Cell: 638-3819
NEW E-MAIL: sandy@sandyjhanson.com

The "KEY" to your Real Estate needs!

Thankfulness is not some sort of magic formula; it is the language of Love! Thank you for the opportunity to work for you in 2014 and I look forward to a relationship in 2015.

Happy New Year!

FEATURED LISTINGS

5312 Chesley Ct.	-3/3.5/3-car & pool		MLS #100725	$719,000
1103 SCR 1110	-4/3.5 on 40+ acres		MLS #100342	$639,900
2001 Evans Ln	-4/3/3 car		MLS #101333	$475,000
5204 Wimberly Spring Ct.	-3/3/3-car, cul-de-sac			$445,900
2305 Metz Pl.	-4/3/2 car on cul-de-sac		MLS #100051	$356,000
5402 La Jolla		UNDER CONTRACT	MLS# 102073	$309,000
306 ECR 140	-1.76 Acres		MLS #98742	$307,500
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1004 North A St.	-3/2, $5000 closing cost incentive/Lease $2,200 Mo.		MLS #101008	$229,000
4507 Mathis St.		UNDER CONTRACT	MLS #101863	$172,500
6714 FM 715	-22 Acres		MLS #96888	$444,000
Sundridge Ranch Estate	-New Homesites (Only 4 Lots)			3+ acre lots $135,000
000-ECR 130	-6.795 Acres		MLS #98687	$115,500

Barbara Bates
Office Manager for Sandy Hanson

LEGACY REAL ESTATE
687-6500

Homes for Sale

Mark Payne Homes

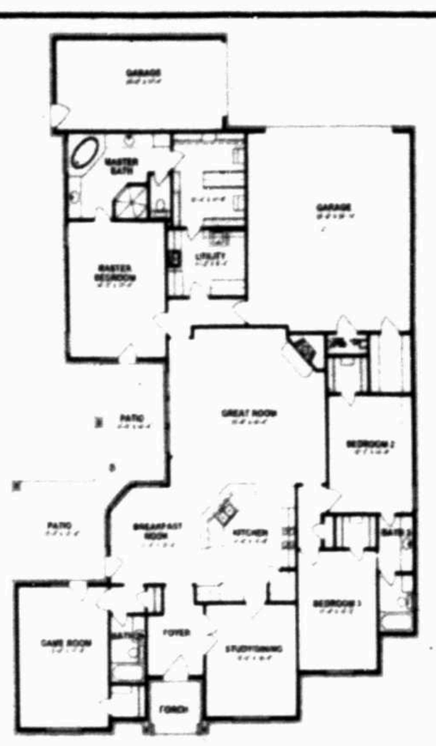
6006 Wichita
$404,500

Open kitchen in this beautiful 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath home. Includes a formal dining room, game room & spacious utility room. Dark stained custom cabinets, stained concrete & a gas cooktop!

NOW READY!

811 Trinidad
$436,500

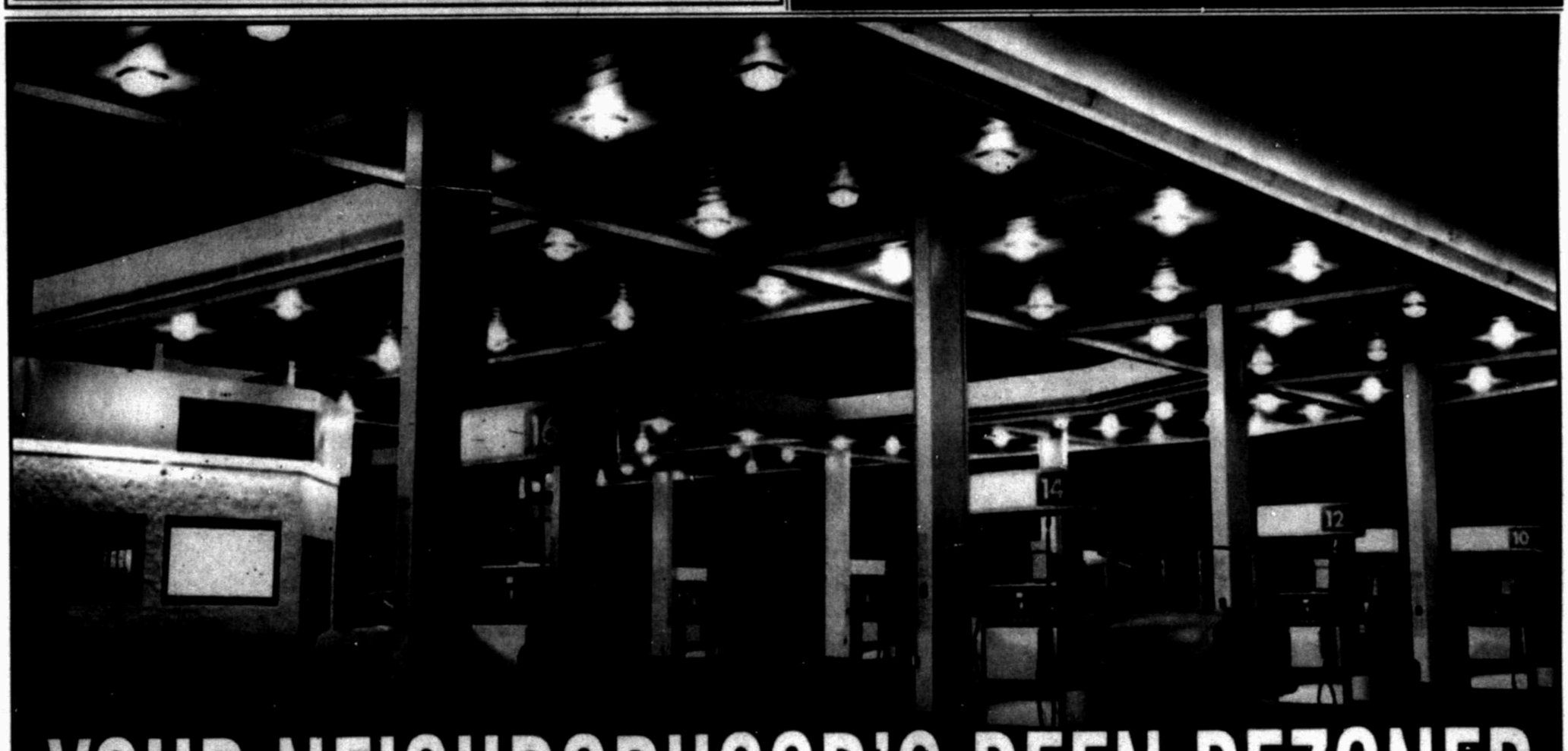
You don't want to miss this gorgeous home in Woodland Park. It includes 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, a formal dining and large game room. Great patio perfect for entertaining!



Mark Payne Homes Available Homes

6011 Frio- 4 Bed, 2 Bath, Study, 2 Car Garage	$318,500
6015 Frio- 4 Bed, 2 Bath, 2 Car Garage	$292,500
4005 Navasota- 3 Bed, 2 Bath, 2 Car Garage	$273,500
4009 Heritage Oaks- 3 Bed, 3 Bath, Formal Dining, Flex Room, 3 Car Garage	UC
6011 Oak Creek- 4 Bed, 3 Bath, Game Room, 3 Car Garage	$379,500
1206 Silverton- 4 Bed, 3 Bath, Formal Dining, Game Room, 3 Car Garage	UC
904 Trinidad- 4 Bed, 3 Bath, Formal Dining, 3 Car Garage	$429,500
906 Trinidad- 4 Bed, 3 Bath, Formal Dining, Game Room, 3 Car Garage	$459,500

For More Information call Jamie Pruitt 432-520-0000



YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S BEEN REZONED OR HADN'T YOU HEARD?

When local governments make decisions they are required to publish a newspaper notice to let you know. But that could change.

Local governmental entities across the state want to bury their public notices on little seen, rarely visited government websites.

What you don't know will affect you personally!

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HOMESTYLE

SIMPLE SOLUTIONS FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Sunday, December 28, 2014

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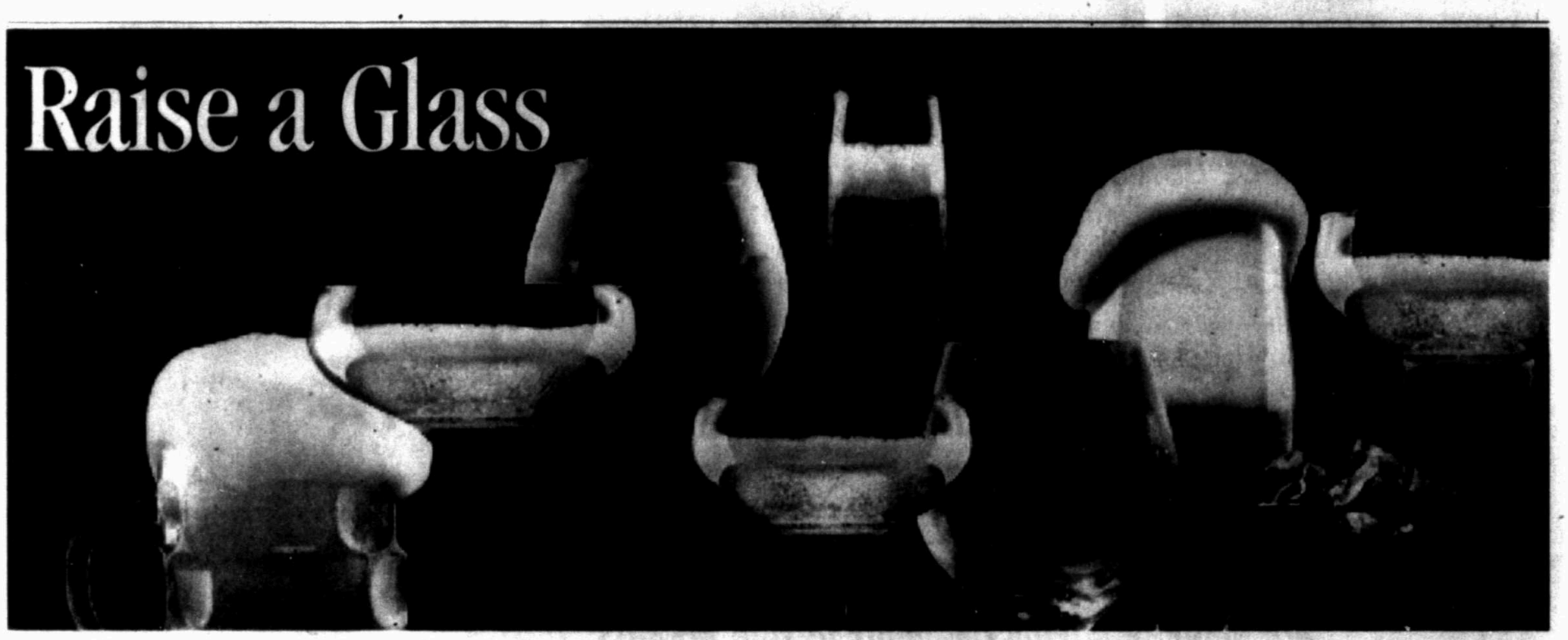

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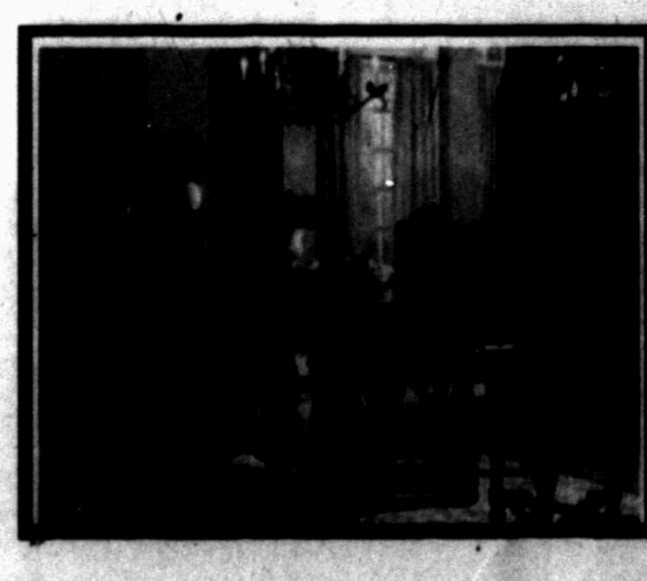
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NEW EMAIL: sandy@sandyjhanson.com

The "KEY" to your Real Estate needs!

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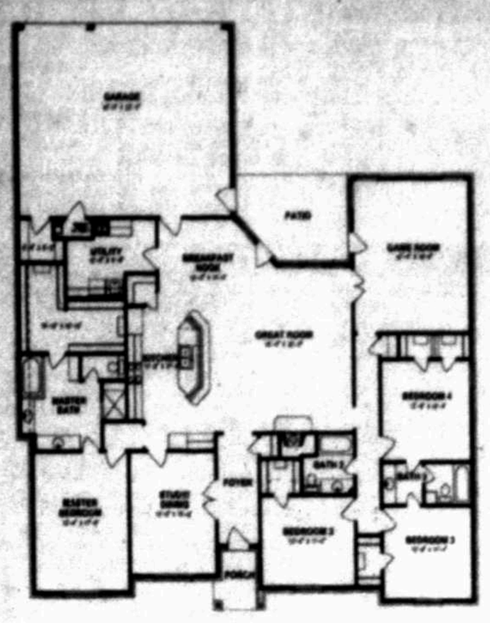
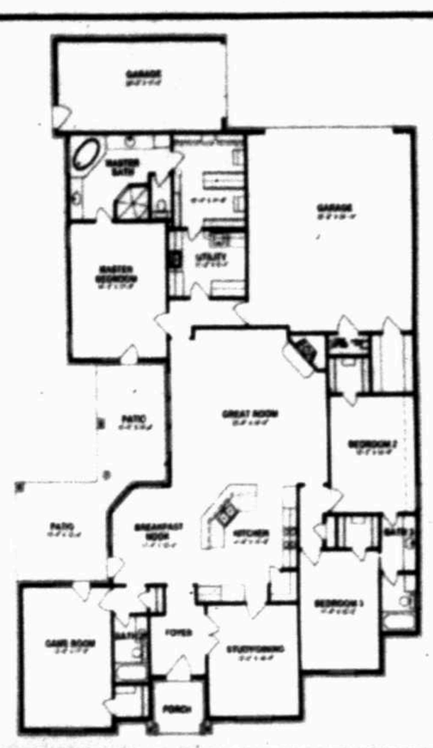
Mark Payne Homes



6006 Wichita
$404,500

Open kitchen in this beautiful 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath home. Includes a formal dining room, game room & spacious utility room. Dark stained custom cabinets, stained concrete & a gas cooktop!

NEW LISTING



811 Trinidad
$436,500

You don't want to miss this gorgeous home in Woodland Park. It includes 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, a formal dining and large game room. Great patio perfect for entertaining!

Mark Payne Homes Available Homes

6011 Frio- 4 Bed, 2 Bath, Study, 2 Car Garage	$318,500
6015 Frio- 4 Bed, 2 Bath, 2 Car Garage	$292,500
4005 Navasota- 3 Bed, 2 Bath, 2 Car Garage	$273,500
4009 Heritage Oaks- 3 Bed, 3 Bath, Formal Dining, Flex Room, 3 Car Garage	UC
6011 Oak Creek- 4 Bed, 3 Bath, Game Room, 3 Car Garage	$379,500
1206 Silverton- 4 Bed, 3 Bath, Formal Dining, Game Room, 3 Car Garage	UC
904 Trinidad- 4 Bed, 3 Bath, Formal Dining, 3 Car Garage	$429,500
906 Trinidad- 4 Bed, 3 Bath, Formal Dining, Game Room, 3 Car Garage	$459,500

For More Information call Jamie Pruitt 432-520-0000

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S BEEN REZONED OR HADN'T YOU HEARD?

When local governments make decisions they are required to publish a newspaper notice to let you know. But that could change.

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NEW CONSTRUCTION IN MIDLAND

11400 WCR 82 ...Elsie Rall 557-7159 ... MLS #101570 ... $599,000
1011 CO. RD. 1066 ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #101146 ... $599,000
2904 ADONIA ST. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101440 ... $599,000
901 CHEYENNE ST. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101444 ... $599,000
807 CHEYENNE ST. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101145 ... $272,500

SHEA LADY HOMES

208 E. OAK ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #101567 ... $199,000

SHEA LADY HOMES

5500 CASA GRANDE TRAIL ...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ... MLS #101011 ... $379,900*

SHEA LADY HOMES

5917 CASA GRANDE ...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #100711 ... $299,900

SE HOMES, INC.

7111 E. CO. RD. 92 ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #101304 ... $570,450

1133 CO. RD. 1116 ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #100837 ... $471,450

1133 CO. RD. 1116 ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... $471,450

SHEA LADY HOMES

5900 SAN CLEMENTE ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #100508 ... $399,900
5906 CASA GRANDE TRAIL ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #100547 ... $382,900

SHEA LADY HOMES

1716 S. JEFFERSON ST. ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #100000 ... $215,000
111 E. ESCUELA ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #100000 ... $215,000
5400 LOCKIE ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #100000 ... $215,000

SHEA LADY HOMES

2014 S. CO. RD. 1080 ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #101522 ... $397,900
1400 S. CO. RD. 1116 ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #101539 ... $382,900
1214 S. CO. RD. 1116 ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #101540 ... $382,900

1333 S. CO. RD. 1116 ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #101523 ... $349,900
1339 S. CO. RD. 1116 ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #101527 ... $349,900
1218 S. CO. RD. 1116 ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #101524 ... $349,900
1184 S. CO. RD. 1116 ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #101526 ... $297,900

J.D. SHELBURNE

4209 LLANO ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #100147 ... $379,500

LARGE PRIMARY HOMES

6211 ELLEN JAYNE WAY ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #97704 ... $449,900

J.D. SHELBURNE, LLC

2501 EVANS LANE ...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #101333 ... $405,000

SHEA HOMES, INC.

1213 DALLAS ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #101356 ... $219,000

FOUR OR MORE BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

6814 W. CO. RD. 90 ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101406 ... 10 Acres/$1,250,000
4521 CORSAIR CT. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101916 ... $900,000
4513 KEYSTONE CT. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101915 ... $899,000
3802 ST. ANDREWS CT. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101896 ... $799,000
49 SUFFOLK ...Stephanie Roger 978-9575 ... MLS #96897 ... SALE PENDING
5312 CHESLEY CT. ...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #101569 ... $719,500
4114 TAMPORAN AVE. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101115 ... SALE PENDING
2608 N. CO. RD. 1275 ...Maria Mallory 352-4021 ... MLS #101386 ... $619,900
1811 WOODRIDGE LANE ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #100589 ... SALE PENDING
6827 ISLAND CIRCLE ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #96536 ... $699,500
9 INDIAN RIDGE-BIG SPRING ...Kay Bivens 934-5995 ... MLS #101284 ... $699,000
5809 BAYBROOK CT. ...Cherry Parrish 352-3053 ... MLS #100072 ... SALE PENDING
7111 E. CO. RD. 92 ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #101304 ... $570,450
7913 RIDGEWOOD CT. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101472 ... $569,900
1202 BRECKENRIDGE DR. ...Stephanie Rogers 978-9757 ... MLS #100250 ... $549,000
2104 N. I ST. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #99836 ... $535,500
7913 GLADEWOOD ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #98776 ... $529,000
4844 RUSTIC TRAIL ...Jane Wolf 352-4808 ... MLS #1001138 ... $499,000
2901 EVANS LANE ...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #101333 ... $479,900
4109 EDGEBROOK ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101095 ... SALE PENDING
5207 MATHIS ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #101394 ... $439,500
2814 COLEMAN CT. ...Larry Hatfield 432-349-4788 ... MLS #100548 ... $424,900
4809 W. CHERRYWOOD CT. ...Josie Alvarez 296-1395 ... MLS #99245 ... $409,900
5509 SAN CLEMENTE ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #100586 ... $409,900
5505 CASA GRANDE ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #100587 ... $409,900

5200 CASTLE PINE RD. ...Cherith Hamilton 556-0306 ... MLS #100763 ... SALE PENDING
3410 MEADOWHAVEN LANE ...Kim Merrill 664-4702 ... MLS #99033 ... SALE PENDING
3414 VENTURA ...Lisa Janisz 618-3388 ... MLS #100958 ... SALE PENDING
5405 RIDGECROFT ...Marla Mallory 352-4021 ... MLS #101840 ... $399,900
2212 SINCLAIR AVE. ...Reannah Wyatt 210-275-9015 ... MLS #101579 ... $379,900
5500 CASA GRANDE TRAIL ...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ... MLS #101011 ... $379,900*
2705 STRATFORD CT. ...Denise Brasher 889-5022 ... MLS #101178 ... $375,000
5013 CROWLEY BLVD. ...Martha Manulik 557-8744 ... MLS# 100472 ... $370,000
5 OAK CREEK ...Pam Dodd 413-0795 ... $369,000
3101 FAIRFIELD ...Mark Philliber 222-5071 ... MLS #101944 ... $366,000
4208 METZ PL. ...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #100081 ... $365,000
6 15 WINCHESTER ...Martha Manulik 557-8744 ... $365,000
2403 METZ PLACE ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #99260 ... $349,900
4408 CROWLEY ...Kim Merrill 664-4702 ... MLS #100358 ... $349,900
6808 MEDINA ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101972 ... $336,900
4905 CRESTWOOD AVE. ...Stephanie Rogers 432-978-9796 ... MLS #100518 ... $330,000
4209 VALLEY DR. ...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #100808 ... SALE PENDING
5911 MARBLE LANE ...Larry Hatfield ... MLS #100613 ... $324,900
5716 CROWLEY ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #101557 ... $325,000
2218 WHITNEY DR. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101908 ... SALE PENDING
5002 CRESTGATE ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #101163 ... $325,000
5004 LEMONHEAD CT. ...Michelle Leskar 230-3633 ... $319,900
606 E. CO. RD. 148 ...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #98742 ... $307,500
1422 LAMAR ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #100252 ... $299,000
1422 LAMAR ...Martha Manulik 557-8744 ... MLS# 100408 ... $299,000

2902 CALDERA ...Stephanie Roger 978-9757 ... MLS #101959 ... $299,900
3604 DOUGLAS ...Paul Culver 934-1021 ... MLS #100911 ... $299,500
2109 CRESTGATE ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #100137 ... $299,000
2408 AUBURN PL. ...Betty Hicks 553-9194 ... MLS#101172 ... $292,500
2300 CORONADO ...Tracy Farrow 432-413-4412 ... MLS #99201 ... $279,900
5500 CRESTGATE ...Cheryl Parrish 352-3053 ... MLS#100441 ... $279,000
4101 CRESTGATE ...Martha Manulik 557-8744 ... MLS# 100470 ... SALE PENDING
3004 CRESTMONT ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #100845 ... SALE PENDING
2109 N. I ST. ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #100660 ... SALE PENDING
1014 VENTURA AVE. ...Lisa Janisz 681-3389 ... MLS #100959 ... $269,900
1615 HEELY ...Jane Wolf 352-4808 ... MLS #1-30298 ... $264,900
2902 KESSLER ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #100129 ... SALE PENDING
1504 HEELY ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #101046 ... $250,000
4911 WESTMINSTER ...Lavonne Johnson 770-3883 ... MLS #100130 ... $250,000
3407 WYOMING AVE. ...Tracy Farrow 681-3388 ... MLS #101618 ... $249,900
3213 ORIENTAL AVE. ...Pam Messer 349-8573 ... MLS #101955 ... $219,000
4911 TEMPEST ...Josie Alvarez 618-5013 ... MLS #100904 ... $260,000
1909 DELMAR ...Cheryl Parrish 352-3052 ... MLS #101622 ... $199,900
3016 DIGNITY DR. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101917 ... $199,500
1903 SINCLAIR ...Susan Palmer ... SALE PENDING
4900 BONHAM AVE. ...Kay Bivens 934-5995 ... MLS #100744 ... SALE PENDING
6210 OLYMPIC CT. ...Cheryl Parrish 352-3053 ... MLS #100244 ... SALE PENDING
1721 MAGNOLIA AVE. ...Darla Davis 260-8077 ... MLS #100024 ... SALE PENDING
2811 W. CO. RD. 116 ...Mark Philliber 222-5071 ... MLS #93498 ... SALE PENDING

THREE BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

8600 N. CO. RD. 1150 ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 ...MLS #99373 ... HUGE Shop, 200+ Acres $2,400,000
2 LIVE OAK ...Janice Murrell 349-7242 ... MLS #99996 ... $1,200,000
1209 CUTHBERT AVE. ...Larry Hatfield 432-349-4788 ... MLS #99171 ... $849,900
3807 NORTHFIELD ...Ashley St. John 352-6254 ... MLS #97301 ... $800,000
49 SUFFOLK ...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #98330 ... 25 Acres/$775,000
121 WINDRIDGE CIRCLE ...Lisa Janisz 681-3389 ... MLS #101569 ... $719,500
3302 BLUEBIRD LANE ...Lavonne Johnson 770-3883 ... MLS #94206 ... SALE PENDING
2906 CARDINAL LANE ...Caleb Matott 432-349-3330 ... 5+ Acres/$699,000
3301 EBBETS ...Lisa Janisz 618-3389 ... MLS #102187 ... $499,900
3409 E. CO. RD. 120 ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #100489 ... $479,000
4109 EDGEBROOK ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101095 ... SALE PENDING
5211 ELLEN JAYNE WAY ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #97704 ... $449,900
3217 W. CO. RD. 189 ...Madison Shaw ... $439,000
3226 FAIRFIELD LANE ...Cheryl Parrish 352-3053 ... MLS #100318 ... SALE PENDING
5517 CASA GRANDE ...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #100711 ... $419,900
3405 FELDSPAR LANE ...Jane Wolf 432-349-7742 ... MLS #101330 ... $379,900
1907 E. CO. RD. 128 ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101746 ... $360,000
3309 BRENHAM DR. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #100330 ... $355,000
10700 E. CO. RD. 109 ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #100811 ... $350,000
3625 IMPERIAL ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101435 ... SALE PENDING
5913 LIMESTONE ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #101537 ... SALE PENDING
5704 SAN SABA ...Lisa Janisz 681-3389 ... MLS #101249 ... $349,900
3402 LA JOLLA ...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #100073 ... $349,000
4007 ANGELINA DR. ...Reece Blevins 230-9647 ... MLS #102100 ... $299,900
44 AMHURST ...Donna Omar 349-1458 ... MLS #102036 ... $299,000
5806 COLT COURT ...Maria Mallory 352-4021 ... MLS #101400 ... $299,000
4604 MEADOWOOD COURT ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #99453 ... $295,500
2904 ADONIA ST. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101146 ... $294,000
901 CHEYENNE ST. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101251 ... $290,000
3805 EMERSON LANE ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #99294 ... SALE PENDING
2810 DURANT ...Jacey Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #99124 ... $289,900
2509 STANOLIND AVE. ...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #101612 ... $288,500
4723 SPRINGMEADOW LANE #2 ...Kay Bivens 934-5995 ... MLS #101636 ... $285,000
5801 MELVILLE DR. ...Cherith Hamilton 556-0306 ... MLS #100235 ... $285,000
5113 BRIGHTON PL. ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #100786 ... $279,900
5600 WOODHOLLOW DR. ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 ... MLS100460 ... SALE PENDING
1500 KANSAS ...Maria Mallory 352-4021 ... MLS #101388 ... $275,500
1005 S. CO. RD. 1129 ...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... 1.89 Acres/$275,000
807 CHEYENNE DR. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101145 ... $272,500
4910 FIELDS PLACE ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #100161 ... $269,900
2912 NOEL ...Martha Manulik 557-8744 ... ... $267,500

3007 JORDAN AVE. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #100834 ... SALE PENDING
609 CHUKAR ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #100020 ... $259,900
1409 MOHAWK AVE. ...Jane Wolf 352-4808 ... MLS #101016 ... $249,900
5113 WAGNER DRIVE ...Wendy Waddell 638-9855 ... MLS #100281 ... $249,900
4410 LAMAR ...Wendy Waddell 638-9855 ... MLS #100033 ... $249,900
2407 TERRACE AVE. ...Denise Brasher 889-5022 ... MLS #101547 ... SALE PENDING
3101 S. CO. RD. 1125 ...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS# 99841 ... SALE PENDING
1213 DEAN AVE. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101961 ... SALE PENDING
2407 TERRACE AVE. ...Denise Brasher 889-5022 ... MLS #101062 ... SALE PENDING
2302 SINCLAIR ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... $242,500
1409 LINDA ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #101358 ... $240,000
1905 SINCLAIR ...Susan Palmer 978-7818 ... MLS #101503 ... $239,500
3409 BROOKDALE DR. ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #101100 ... $239,000
2817 W. SHANDON AVE. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101404 ... $235,000
2209 BOARDWALK ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #101378 ... SALE PENDING
3 Smith "A" ...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #101008 ... $225,000
2503 CASTLEFORD RD. ...Darla Davis 432-260-8077 ... MLS #100091 ... $225,000
3401 S. CO. RD. 1070 ...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #99579 ... 1 Acre/$225,000
1905 CASCADE ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101530 ... SALE PENDING
2104 HUGHES ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #100663 ... SALE PENDING
3109 WINDSOR DR. ...Lisa Janisz 681-3389 ... MLS #101537 ... SALE PENDING
3709 HEELY ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #98902 ... $219,900
3709 MCDONALD ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #101181 ... $219,000
2901 AURORA ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #100487 ... SALE PENDING
1715 S. JEFFERSON ST. ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #100698 ... $215,000
3409 E. WHITE WAY ...Jane Wolf 432-352-4808 ... MLS #101585 ... $215,000
5806 SINCLAIR AVE. ...Darla Davis 260-8077 ... MLS #101800 ... $215,000
2014 CARUER ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #99633 ... $215,000
1701 STONEY ...Lydia Scudder 853-2200 ... ... SALE PENDING
4406 ST. ANDREWS ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... ... SALE PENDING
1401 E. NOBLES-DUPLEX ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #101832 ... $210,000
3601 W. LOUISIANA ...Lavonne Johnson 770-3833 ... MLS #100500 ... $210,000
5212 SHEA LANE ...Jennifer Martin 349-2632 ... ... $209,900
2309 WINDSOR DR. ...Lisa Janisz 681-3389 ... MLS #100745 ... SALE PENDING
3521 HYDE PARK AVE. ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #99972 ... $208,000
1808 ALCOTT CT. ...Samantha Smith 978-3588 ... MLS #101445 ... SALE PENDING
3320 MAXWELL DR. ...Cheryl Parrish 352-3053 ... MLS #101045 ... SALE PENDING
3300 SHAXWELL ...Lisa Janisz 681-3389 ... MLS #101499 ... SALE PENDING
3400 CINNAMON ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #101862 ... SALE PENDING
3316 W. MICHIGAN ...Angie L. McKay 599-0272 ... ... $199,000

3611 W. LOUISIANA ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #102229 ... $199,000
16011 E. CO. RD. 104 ...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... ... SALE PENDING
3225 ESTRADA AVE. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101460 ... SALE PENDING
5102 SUNNYSIDE ...Jennifer Martin 349-2632 ... MLS #101369 ... SALE PENDING
5125 SUNNYSIDE DR. ...Susan Palmer 978-7818 ... MLS #101264 ... SALE PENDING
3009 SHANNON AVE. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101200 ... SALE PENDING
1500 N AVE. E ...Lydia Scudder 853-2200 ... MLS #100249 ... $199,000
2305 MAXWELL ...Lisa Janisz 681-3389 ... MLS #100882 ... SALE PENDING
3500 DOUGLAS ...Gina Reyes 553-6381 ... MLS #100098 ... SALE PENDING
104 E. CO. RD. 120 ...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS#102185A ... 3BD/2 Acres/$185,000
4318 BRENHAM DR. ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #101054 ... SALE PENDING
3902 PERRY ...Angie L. McKay 599-0272 ... MLS #101950 ... $188,000
111 S. IMOGENE ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #101697 ... $185,000
3807 CRESTMONT DR. ...Darla Davis 260-8077 ... MLS #99282 ... $180,000
705 ALPINE ST. ...Ashley St. John 352-6254 ... MLS #101390 ... SALE PENDING
705 BOYD AVE. ...Debbie Hatfield 349-3472 ... MLS #101915 ... SALE PENDING
4321 COUNTRY CLUB DR. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #102040 ... $175,000
5714 EDWARDS ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101855 ... SALE PENDING
4902 PRINCETON ...Jennifer 349-2632 ... MLS #101269 ... SALE PENDING
3121 BARKLEY ...Kim Merrill 664-4702 ... MLS #101099 ... $165,000
3114 BIRDWELL ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101858 ... SALE PENDING
105 N. BENTWOOD ...Gina Reyes 553-6381 ... MLS #101408 ... $165,000
3110 ESTANCIA AVE. ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #101818 ... SALE PENDING
3018 BAUMANN ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #100543 ... $160,000
5312 BRAZOS TRAIL ...Lisa Janisz 618-3389 ... MLS #102196 ... $160,000
1 S. BENTWOOD ...Jennifer Martin 349-2632 ... MLS #101805 ... SALE PENDING
3010 STOREY AVE. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101605 ... SALE PENDING
3009 SAINT LANE DRIVE ...Stephanie Rogers 978-9757 ... MLS #99353 ... SALE PENDING
4102 PRINCETON ...Jennifer 349-2632 ... MLS #101786 ... SALE PENDING
4207 ANETTA DR. ...Pam Messer 349-3075 ... MLS #99057 ... $119,000
4724 LAURA ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #101855 ... SALE PENDING
4604 CHEROKEE ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #101970 ... SALE PENDING
1510 ETHEL ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #101955 ... SALE PENDING
1604 W. WASHINGTON ...Darla Davis 432-260-8077 ... MLS #100396 ... $100,000
1506 COLORADO ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #101835 ... SALE PENDING
1 S. BENTWOOD ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #100808 ... $60,000
107 S. MCDONALD ...Martha Manulik 557-8744 ... MLS #99949 ... SALE PENDING

ONE/TWO BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

3713 W. CO. RD. 1148 ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #101219 ... SALE PENDING
1407 W TEXAS AVE. ... MLS# 991A ... $249,900
3100 TEALWOOD PL. ...Cherith Hamilton 556-0306 ... MLS #100882 ... $213,500
2100 W. WADLEY #66 ...Kay Bivens 934-5995 ... MLS #94465 ... $205,500

3207 JORDAN AVE. ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101834 ... SALE PENDING
3017 BAUMANN AVE. ...Mark Philliber 222-5071 ... MLS #101371 ... SALE PENDING
418 W. PECAN ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #102005 ... $139,000
1100 HUMBLE ...Donna Omar 349-1458 ... MLS #101341 ... SALE PENDING

200 COWDEN ...Gina Reyes 553-6381 ... MLS #99110 ... $119,000
915 HOLLY DR. ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS#101354 ... $80,000
1400 E. NEW YORK ...Maria Mallory ... MLS #102209 ... $39,000
2305 CASTLEFORD RD. ...Martha Manulik 618-5049 ... MLS #99006 ... SALE PENDING

HOMES IN MIDLAND COUNTY

6814 W. CO. RD. 90 ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101406 ... 10 Acres/$1,250,000
1209 CUTHBERT AVE. ...Larry Hatfield 432-349-4788 ... MLS #99174 ... $849,900
9708 E. CO. RD. 127 ...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #98330 ... 25 Acres/$775,000
5312 CHESLEY CT. ...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #100575 ... $719,900
4009 I CO. RD. 63 ...Peggy Spence 664-3011 ... MLS #100824 ... 2.2 Acres/$674,000
1103 N CO. RD. 1110 ...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #100342 ... 40.5 Acres/$639,900
6512 MOCKINGBIRD LANE ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #100589 ... $630,900
5702 S. HWY. 349 ...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #100135-100131 ... $599,900
2508 N. CO. RD. 1275 ...Maria Mallory 352-4021 ... MLS #101386 ... $595,000
4109 E. CO. RD. 63 ...Ashley St. John 352-6254 ... MLS #99043 ... SALE PENDING
3905 CARDINAL LANE ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS # ... 5+ Acres/$535,000
5609 CO. RD. 120 ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... ... $475,000
2211 S. CO. RD. 1118, GREENWOOD ...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #99851 ... SALE PENDING
6800 FM 715 ...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #96956 ... 3BD/2 Acres/$450,000
3405 W. CO. RD. 145 ...Josie Alvarez ... MLS #98906 ... $425,000
1113 CO. RD. 1116 ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #100887 ... $421,450
1201 CO. RD. 1116 ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... ... SALE PENDING
5509 SAN CLEMENTE ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #100586 ... $409,900

7244 MANFORD LANE, ODESSA ...Kay Bivens 934-5995 ... MLS#101981 ... SALE PENDING
5327 LONGSHORE RD. ...BG SPRING ...Mark Philliber 222-5071 ... MLS #101735 ... 38D/$172,000
2875 SE CO. RD. 3001, ANDREWS ...Cynthia Blocker 296-1448 ... MLS #99263 ... 38D/$199,900
4513 CONLEY AVE, ODESSA ...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #100833 ... SALE PENDING
1221 MARY ST., CRANE ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #100029 ... 38D/$150,000
900 NE END, ANDREWS ...Cynthia Blocker 296-1448 ... MLS #100262 ... 38D/$140,000
1211 NW 4TH ST., ANDREWS ...Cynthia Blocker 296-1448 ... MLS #98998 ... SALE PENDING
706 COLLIE WAY, ANDREWS ...Cynthia Blocker 296-1448 ... MLS #99661 ... SALE PENDING
706 GRAY ST., STANTON ...Michelle Kidd 894-1253 ... MLS #100264 ... 38D/$112,500
2102 ALLENDALE, BIG SPRING ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #99561 ... 48D/$130,000
309 ST. CHARLES, STANTON ...Jane Wolf 352-4808 ... MLS #101494 ... 28D/$125,000

1197 WHEELER ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #101367 ... 38D/$119,000
711 ST. FRANCIS, STANTON ...Michelle Kidd 894-1253 ... MLS #93473 ... SALE PENDING
2002 L JOHNSON AVE. ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #99618 ... 48D/$110,000
5013 EL PASO AVE., ODESSA ...Wendy Waddell 638-9855 ... MLS #93495 ... 38D/$79,900
109 S. 21ST., CRANE ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #65747 ... SALE PENDING
1007 JENNIFER ...BIG SPRING ...Michelle Kidd 894-1253 ... MLS #93348 ... SALE PENDING
1712 HACKBERRY ST., PECOS ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #99971 ... SALE PENDING
514 W. 53RD, ODESSA ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #92454 ... 38D/$79,900
2708 BAILEY ...DORA ROBERTS ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #96576 ... 38D/$79,900
1013 STADIUM, BIG SPRING ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #101629 ... 38D/$69,900
1407 HW AVE. B., ANDREWS ...Cynthia Blocker 296-1448 ... MLS #89176 ... 28D/$30,000

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

W. CO. RD. 118 ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 ... 12.54 Acres/$4,000,000
5308 WALL ST ...Ginj Reyes 553-6381 ... MLS #99121 ... $999,900
331 TAMMY DR ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #102144 ... $621,000
5702 S. HWY. 349 ...Ashley St. John 352-6254 ... MLS #100135-100131 ... $599,900
1002 MARIENFELD ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #101869 ... $580,000
810 W. KENTUCKY ...Maria Mallory 352-4021 ... MLS #101596 ... $425,000
2700 W. WALL ST ...Terry Gammage 770-2882 ... MLS #1011222 ... $390,000

4403 WEST IH 20 ...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ...7 Acres Raw Land ...MLS# L102976 ... $395,000
3207 W. FRONT ...Pam Messer 349-3075 ... MLS #99573 ...0.96 Acres/$350,000
1811 ORCHARD LANE ...Maria Mallory ... $299,900
1111 W. IL ...Karen Foster 559-4086 ... MLS #100364 ... $295,000
1407 W TEXAS AVE. ...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS# 991A ... $249,900
705 S. BIG SPRING ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #101687 ... $102,500
3102 CUTHBERT AVE. ...Jane Wolf 352-4808 ... MLS #99770 ... SALE PENDING

1110 E. CO. RD. 114 ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #97579 ... $150,000
701 & 703 S. BIG SPRING ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #100230 ... 2 Lots/$120,000
600 E. BROADWAY, ANDREWS ...Cynthia Blocker 296-1448 ... MLS#79313 ... $80,000
919 ST. ANDREWS ...Michelle Kidd 894-1253 ... MLS #99066 ... $75,000
1211 N. LAMESA RD. ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #100946 ... $65,000
502 E. BROADWAY, ANDREWS ...Cynthia Blocker 296-1448 ... MLS #99899 ... $75,000
2825 MERCEDES ...Ashley St. John 352-6254 ... MLS #97750 ... $60,000

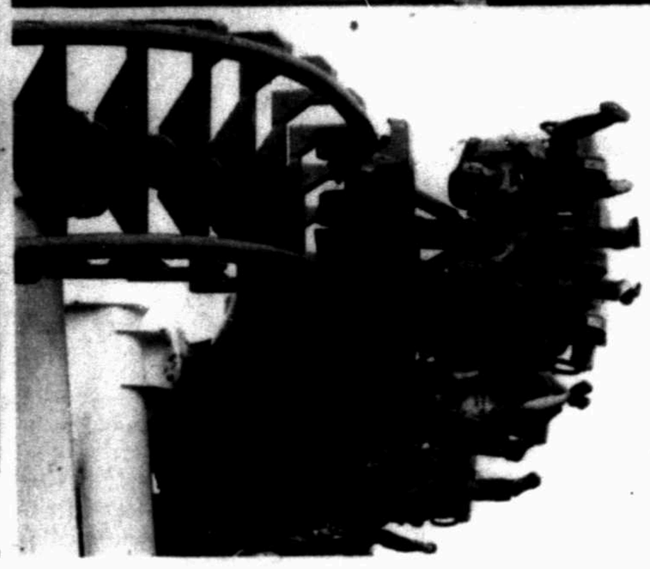
LANDS AND LOTS

W. CO. RD. 118 ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 ... 12.54 Acres/$4,000,000
LAKE ALAN HENRY ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 ... North Ridge Dev. - RV Park
Sherman Dunagan ... $20,000,000
CO. RD. 160 & CO. RD. 1065 ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 ... MLS #97407
SUPERB Land. Will Split, 640 Acres/$2,560,000
3021 E. I-20 ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #96926, 31.74 Acres/$2,500,000
CO. RD. 1065 ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 ... MLS #97403
CLEAN Land, Will Split, 585+ Acres/$2,340,000
CO. RD. 160 ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 ... MLS #97408
IDEAL Land, 502.20 Acres/$2,008,800
3202 S. CO. RD. 1050 ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #101019 ... 99.01 Acres/$1,543,955
CO. RD. 1110 ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #96969 ... 261.045 Acres/$1,435,500
CO. RD. 160 & CO. RD. 1065 ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 ... MLS #97405
SUPERB Land/320 Acres/$1,280,000
S. CO. RD. 1050, GREENWOOD ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 ... 80.00 Acres/$1,200,000
CO. RD. 3100, STANTON ...Michelle Kidd 894-1253 ... MLS #94070 ... 160 Acres/$925,000
1296 STOKES ...Jane Wolf 352-4808 ... MLS #100781 ... 10+ Acres/$800,000
FM 715 ...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #96888 ... 22 Acres/$444,000

3291 CYNTHIA CR. ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #97539 ... 11.4 Acres/$425,000
5401 E. CO. RD. 120 ...Mark Philliber 222-5071 ... MLS #95128 ... SALE PENDING
4403 WEST IH 20 ...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ...7 Acres Raw Land ...MLS# L102976 ... $395,000
3708 W. CO. RD. 145 ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #96344 ... 10 Acres + a building/$325,000
N. CO. RD. 1150/ELKINS RD. ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 ... MLS #96584 ... 20 Acres/$299,000
E. CO. RD. 1139 ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #99515 ... 20.1 Acres/$290,000
907 N. FAIRGROUNDS RD. ...Virginia Elizondo 349-7782 ... MLS #94740 ... 1.75 Acres/$290,000
503 S. MAIN ST., ANDREWS ...Cynthia Blocker 296-1448 ... MLS #99526 ... 1.00 Acres/$190,000
HWY. 80 ...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #101970 ... $190,000
4219 S. HWY. 349 ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 ... ... SALE PENDING
3401 W. CO. RD. 145 ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 ... MLS #99648 ... 5+ Acres Lots/$175,000
5100 DUNBARTON OAKS BLVD ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #101143 ... $175,000
CR 119 GREENWOOD ...Caleb Matott - 432-349330 ...New Subdivision/1available ... 5 Acres/$150,000
SUNRISE RANCH ESTATES ...Sandy Hanson 638-3819 ... 5+ Acre Lots/$125,000
1401 ECR 145, Midland, TX ...Angie McKay ... MLS #101366 ... 3.8 Acres/$129,000
CO. RD. 54 ...Pam Messer 349-3075 ... MLS #100052 ... $119,000
7408 E. CO. RD. 90 ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #100047 ... 4.58 Acres/$99,100

CR 119 GREENWOOD ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 New Subdivision/1 available ... SALE PENDING
CR 119 GREENWOOD ...Caleb Matott 349-3330...New Subdivision/2 available ... 2 Lots/$55,000
E. CO. RD. 123 ...Kay Bivens 934-5995 ... MLS #100744 ... 1.488 Acres/$84,564
1202 S. CO. RD. 117 ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #100043, 1.488 Acres/$81,564
CR 119 GREENWOOD ...Caleb Matott - 432-349-3330 ...New Subdivision/1 available ... 3+ Acres/$60,000
1202 S. CO. RD. 1050 ...Pam Messer 349-3075 ... MLS #99572 ... 35+ Acres/$30,000/Acre
7316 E. CO. RD. 90 ...Clemmie Sorge 553-9136 ... MLS #100046, 1.517 Acres/$59,900
CHAIN RIDGE SUBDIVISION ...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... 64 Lots Available/Starting At $43,500
LOOP 250 & I-20 ...Caleb Matott - 432-349-3330...Res. Devel ... 35+ Acres/$30,000/Acre
LOOP 250 & I-20 ...Caleb Matott - 432-349-3330...NEW Development/2 avail ... 35+ Acres/$30,000/Acre
LOOP 250 & I-20 ...Caleb Matott - 432-349-3330...Midland Southwest Crossing/27+ Acres/$30,000/Acre
LOOP 250 & I-20 ...Caleb Matott - 432-349-3330...Residential Development ... 25+ Acres/$30,000/Acre
S. CO. RD. 1050, GREENWOOD ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 ... 80.00 Acres/$10,000/Acre
CO. RD. 160 & CO. RD. 1065 ...Caleb Matott 349-3330 ... MLS #97405 ... SOLD
GREAT Land, 329 Acres/$4,000/Acre
112 SW 2ND ST., ANDREWS ...Cynthia Blocker 296-1448 ... MLS #99499 ... SALE PENDING
S. TYLER ...Danny Norwood 618-5012 ... MLS #92810

CULTURE



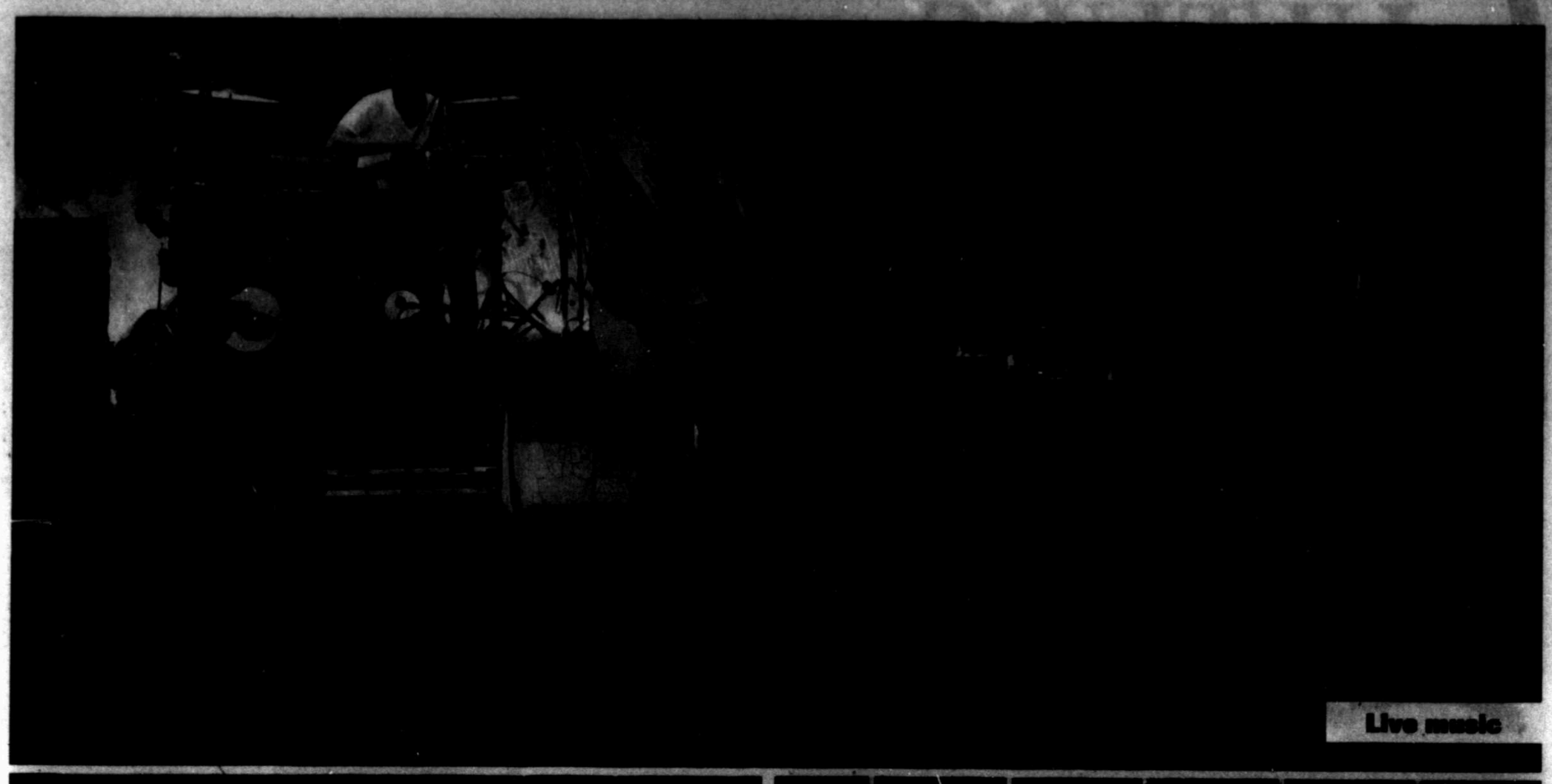
WHAT DO YOU WISH FOR?

AS MIDLAND'S POPULATION CONTINUED TO BOOM IN 2014, SO DID ITS ENTERTAINMENT SCENE. THIS YEAR, WE REPORTED ON EVERYTHING FROM NEW BARS AND RESTAURANTAS TO NEW ART GALLERIES. WHILE MIDLAND IS GAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHOPPING, EATING ANDHEARING LIVE MUSIC, THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM TO IMPROVE. HERE'S OUR 2015 ENTERTAINMENT AND QUALITY-OF-LIFE WISH LIST FOR THE TALL CITY. CHECK OUT OUR — AND OUR READERS' — WISH LIST ON PAGE 2E.

5 QUESTIONS

With Alyson Trevino

What's inside



Live music

Indie films

More coffee

Wishful thinking: MRT staff makes Tall City wishlist

From staff reports

After mulling over the many amenities Midland has to offer, we came up with a list of areas in which the city could improve, as well as things we could love to see show up in the Tall City:

■ We'd love to see (and taste) more diversity in the local food scene. The past couple of years have seen the openings of restaurants serving Indian food and Venezuelan food, as well as a Greek restaurant and a Brazilian steakhouse. We hope to see that trend continue.

■ While there is no shortage of 5k runs in the Permian Basin, a bit of variety in the types of runs would be appreciated. From hardcore spartan races to tough mudders, some variety could go a long way in preventing 5k fatigue.

■ Cars are great, but they're not for everyone. Dedicated bike paths and lanes providing a safe route to get around the city would be appreciated for those who are looking for an alternative method of travel. Added bonus: kill two birds with one stone by getting in your daily exercise on your commute.

■ Shaded sidewalks would also help people safely bike around town.

■ More coffee! Sure we can get by with McStarbucks, but a diverse landscape of coffee offerings would be ahhh ... great. While we appreciate the Ground Floor and Harvest Caffe, Midland could benefit from a more finesse hand in caffeinery with baristas who know how to properly do a pour-over and know that non-dairy milk options are crucial.

■ We had a great year of concerts in 2014 with bands like Okkervil River, 2Chainz and The Avett Brothers, and we'd like even more. Country fans, you're coveted. But for hip-hop, EDM, pop and rock fans, it's not so simple. Thanks to promoters like TallTownes and venues like La Hacienda that have brought a plethora of music options, but there's still room to grow.

■ In our one plea to CrudeFest and Rock the Desert: more signage, please. Highway and road signs with directional arrows would make a huge difference.

■ Late-night noshing — wouldn't it be nice to have more options for after show/bar/party eats? With the exception of a few much appreciated food trucks, 24-hour diners and fast-food joints, not much is open in Midland past 10 p.m. Not that there's anything wrong with Whataburger and IHOP, but some variety would be great.

■ Shopping! Midland has seen so many new stores pop up in the past few years and we're finally seeing more options for young professionals with national brands like Banana Republic, Gap and LOFT. Keep it coming, please! (ahem ... JCrew and Anthropologie)

■ Local theater took some contemporary chances this season which paid off both for the theaters and the audiences. West Texas audiences were treated to stellar productions of "In the Heights" (Permian Playhouse) and "Urinetown" (Midland Community Theatre). All we can say to that is, "More, please."

■ The arts community saw some unique voices blossom throughout 2014. Brothers Scott and Elliott Lunson opened the contemporary art gallery Kamiposi in the summer. Lauren Curry's ArtPush collective opened with an impressive cabaret performance and most recently, Vanessa Hope culled together a comedy show with intentions of making it a regular monthly event. We welcomed these voices with open arms and only hope for more to come by these people and those voices waiting to be heard.

■ Brunch, we would like to get to know you better. Thankfully Basin Burger House, The Bar and Wall Street Bar and Grill offer you as a weekend meal, but we'd like the culture of you to grow bigger and better — and on both Saturday and Sunday. You're not just a meal, but a glorious experience to be shared with friends over mimosas and eggs benedict until 2 p.m. In fact, we'd like to introduce you to such places like The Garlic Press, Murray's and Cafe at the Gardens, because we think you would really get along.

■ Local nonprofits, arts organizations, everyone: We're here for you and are willing to report or write up your event or goings-on for our paper and website. And sometimes timing is an issue. Please help us to help you by providing your information early so we have time to properly craft our articles. Social media and updated websites can help everyone.

■ We'd love to see a walkable entertainment center that wasn't fully indoors or enclosed — like an open air mall.

■ We like to party; we like to boogie, but where? OK, so if we want to two-step, Rockin' Rodeo is the place to go, but for just some good ol' nightclub dancing, the Midland scene is rather limited. We've discovered enjoyable dance floors at Zac's, The Reserve and even the Atrium Lounge, but they are also hit and miss. We have our country and western clubs, our rock clubs and even some jazzy venues, but some we're on the lookout for a consistent dance club with some stellar DJ work.

■ Blockbusters can be fun with their big explosions, plot twists and deafening scores, but sometimes a quiet movie driven by characters hits the spot. Independent movies have become an avenue where filmmakers can explore heavy topics with an intimacy that can easily be hindered by a big budget. Please give the Midland moviegoer the opportunity to experience some of these gems — like this year's critically acclaimed "Boyhood," which didn't make it to any of the local theaters — and take a break from the standard big-budget picture.

Readers' 2015 wish list

From staff reports

We asked our Facebook followers what they would like to see in Midland. Comments included popular chain restaurants, retail and entertainment options for kids and adults. Some of you seem to have reasonable expectations. (Is a Panera Bread really asking for too much?) And some of you took the concept of WISH list to heart. (Sorry, but we don't see a casino in downtown Midland's future). Here are the highlights of what you would like to see in Midland next year.

More restaurants, please!

Joe's Crab Shack took the spot of most wished-for restaurant, followed closely by Panera Bread and TGIFriday's. The Cheesecake Factory, Applebee's and Pei Wei also saw multiple votes. Other restaurants Midlanders want include In-N-Out Burger, La Madeleine, PF Chang's, Krispy Kreme, Red Robin, Landry's, Rockfish, Longhorn Steak House, Pappadeaux, Boston Market, Chuys and Rudy's BBQ.

Entertain us

It's no surprise Midlanders want more to do. Your entertainment wish list includes venues for activities such as rock climbing, miniature golf, and laser tag. Indoor entertainment hubs such as Main Event and Dave and Busters scored high. More than a few readers mentioned zoos and museums catering to kids. Among the wishes most likely never to come true: a water park (sorry, but we haven't heard of any plans to bring back Water Wonderland), Fiesta Texas, Six Flags, Sea World and a casino in downtown Midland.

If you sell it, we will come

Major department store Macy's tied with Costco to top your retail wish list. Trader Joe's and Whole Foods also saw some love from readers. Other wished-for stores include Super Target, Bass Pro Shop, Crate & Barrel, Urban Outfitters, Forever 21, Gander Mountain and IKEA. We also saw requests to bring back Kmart and Hollister.

Tell us what you really want

While most readers followed our lead and listed restaurants and retail, a couple of comments took the list to another level with wishes for $100 a barrel oil and no layoffs.

Autonomous Uber cars, more cyberhacks in 2015

OMAR GALLAGA
Cox Newspapers

Some years, it would be nice just to get some normal Christmas presents, but instead I am doomed to see the future as the tech soothsayer Omarstradamus!

Chocolates and new shoes in shiny gift wrap? No! Instead, I receive visions of 2015 as my holiday gift (some would say curse). I guess when you go around calling yourself a seer named "Omarstradamus," you're kind of asking for that.

Anyhoo, before we peek into the crystal ball for my predictions about next year's technology trends, let us see how I did on my 2014 ones a year ago:

Netflix will experiment with live programming such as stand-up comedy specials, concerts or series premieres that will also be available for later viewing. It's true! Fresh from its success with shows such as "House of Cards," Netflix has flexed its muscle, landing Chelsea Handler to host an upcoming talk show for the network and signing Adam Sandler for multiple original films.

Netflix has also regularly added original stand-up comedy specials from comics such as Bill Burr and Chelsea Peretti. Netflix hasn't ventured into live sports yet, but I think it's only a matter of time.

Drones will be flying all over Austin, including fly-bys during SXSW. They are not yet taking over the skies here (partly due to FAA restrictions), but drones were a hot topic of conversation at SXSW Interactive 2014. Omarstradamus may have been a little premature on this one.

Google Glass goes on sale ... and fails to catch on. The video-shooting, Internet-connected glasses from Google are still in beta testing, but they can be purchased pretty easily secondhand or even on Amazon.com these days. The thrill has worn off, though. A backlash hit Glass wearers earlier this year, and the technology is nowhere near going mainstream anytime soon. The world wasn't ready for Glass, clearly.

Smartphone design will get wacky. Except for Samsung's interesting Galaxy Note Edge phone, smartphones remained boring, screen-dominant rectangles for the most part. Most surprising was Apple going big with its larger-sized iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus phones, catching up with Android phones that have had larger screens a lot longer.

3-D printing shows up in more places. I didn't predict 3-D printers would show up in lots of homes, but my expectation of more common 3-D printing kiosks, vending machines and mail order services has only come partially true. Those things exist, but they're not ubiquitous yet.

Gigabit fuels "Giga-envy." I predicted that super-fast Internet speeds would cause Austinites to get jealous of other Austinites with access to faster services like Google Fiber. Given that Google's service is taking longer to launch than expected, it's not a huge issue yet, even with competitors such as Grande Communications and AT&T going there as well.

Should we call that about even? Predicting the future is not an exact science.

Now let's move on to 2015. What does the future hold for tech geeks and everyone else?

Bring on the VR celebrities: There are YouTube celebrities and even selfie-shooting Instagram photo celebrities. But 2015 will be the year when the emerging field of virtual-reality filmmaking, the kind you would view with a headset like the Oculus Rift, will begin to take off.

And in that space, you'll need a human touch, especially actors up to the challenge of performing in a 360-degree field of view. Reese Witherspoon is appearing in such a short, based on her film "Wild," and you can expect a new generation of unknown performers to quickly draw fans in this medium.

Cyberhacks get worse: The recent online leaks and threats against Sony Pictures are just the beginning of much worse illegal activity that could bring major companies, and even governments of some countries, to their knees. The next big targets for hackers will likely be making the health records of political leaders and celebrities public or hacking into Internet-connected devices, from laptops to power grids, to make our lives unpredictably miserable.

Podcasting gets experimental: Maybe I'm biased because I love podcasting, but I think the success of "This American Life" spinoff "Serial" will bring not only another season of that show but many attempts to replicate its formula of journalism and compelling episodic audio storytelling. At the very least, you'll see the podcast spotlight shift from comedy and pop culture to areas such as true crime and serialized fiction.

Author pens three-part paranormal romance series

GLEN AARON
Columnist

The talented Odessa author, Dawn Kirby, has brought readers a three-part paranormal romance entitled the "Serenity Series." In the first book, "Secrets," readers meet Leah and Mia and begin to learn the secrets they hold.

Leah has locked away secrets her entire life; secrets from her friends, secrets from her mother. To Leah, they were simply quirks. Little things she couldn't explain — phenomenal senses, light sensitivity, the ability to hear what others have to say at great distance and to read people using their unique scents. The darkest secret of all was hidden inside Leah.

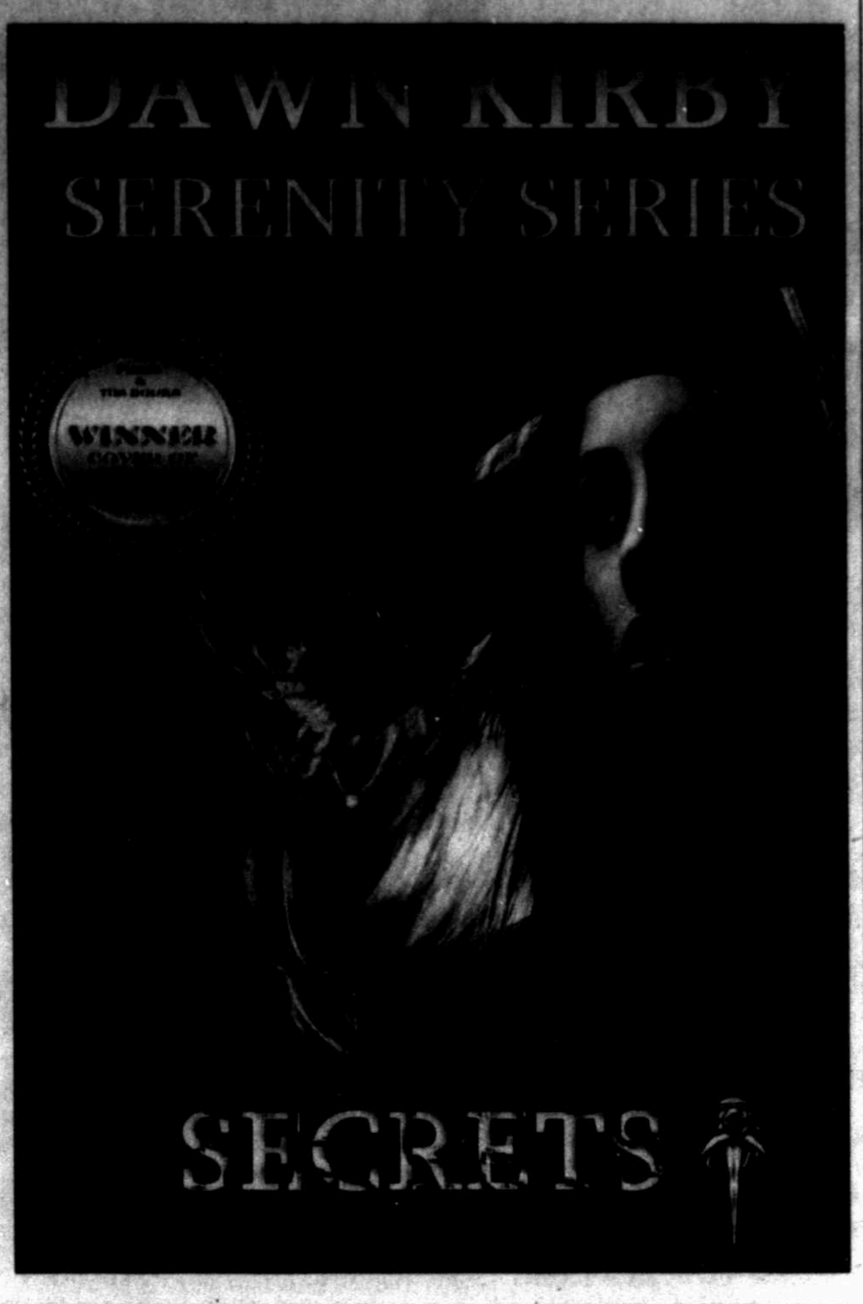
A secret her mother, Mia, was determined to keep silent. Trusting an old friend with her daughter's safety, Mia kept Leah's secret well guarded. Mia and her friend made a vow long ago to never let the monster that took Leah's father step foot in their daughter's life again. In a fit of revenge fueled by years of jealousy, Mia's secret is revealed, throwing Leah's life into a freefall. A trail of blood and bodies soon follows Leah wherever she goes. She is suddenly thrust into a world she never knew existed; a world as fascinating as it is deadly. Beings foreign to her step in and try to protect her. As the gorgeous Raine takes his place beside her, he is forced to face a few secrets of his own. Will they uncover the secrets that bind them? Will they succumb to the devil himself?

"Deceit" is the second book in the series, and through that paranormal plot, readers begin to learn all that Leah and Raine accomplished in "Secrets" begins to fall apart and come under attack. "Deceit" is followed by "Tribulations," and the paranormal thrillers continue with the same protagonists.

Kirby is a talented writer and her character, Leah, is the leading lady paranormal fans have been waiting for. Each of these books are intense thrillers and bring to life that other world that only those with an exceptional degree of sensitivity can connect with.

Not many authors are capable of writing in the genre of the paranormal. It is a unique talent and the author must have a high degree of sensitivity in order to touch the readers' fear and inquisitiveness. Kirby has that talent, similar to Stephen King. Added to the paranormal technique in this series is the author's ability to touch the heart with love, compassion and desire.

All three books of the paranormal romance "Serenity Series" are published by Twisted Core Press and can be ordered through your favorite bookstore or at Amazon.com. Additionally, it is fun to follow Kirby at www.dawnmkirby.com.



BESTSELLERS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Hardcover fiction

1. "Gray Mountain" by John Grisham (Doubleday)
2. "Hope to Die" by James Patterson (Little, Brown)
3. "Revivial" by Stephen King (Scribner)
4. "The Escape" by David Baldacci (Grand Central Publishing)
5. "Tom Clancy: Full Force and Effect" by Mark Greaney (G.P. Putnam's Sons)
6. "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr (Scribner)
7. "The World of Ice & Fire" by George R.R. Martin (Bantam)
8. "Leaving Time" by Jodi Picoult (Ballantine)
9. "The Burning Room" by Michael Connelly (Little, Brown)
10. "Flesh and Blood" by Patricia Cornwell (William Morrow)
11. "The Mistetoe Promise" by Richard Paul Evans (Simon & Schuster)
12. "Edge of Eternity" by Ken Follett (Dutton Adult)
13. "The Cinderella Murder" by Mary Higgins Clark and Alafair Burke (Simon & Schuster)
14. "Prince Lestat" by Anne Rice (Knopf)

Hardcover nonfiction

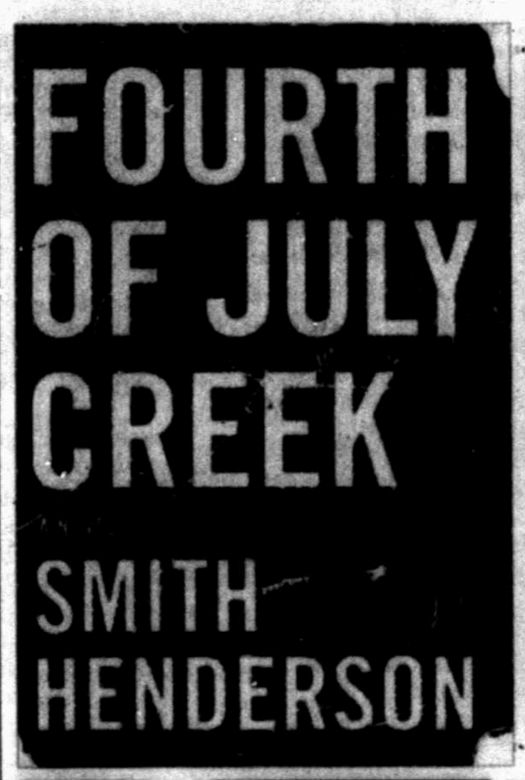
1. "Killing Patton" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard (Henry Holt and Co.)
2. "41: A Portrait of My Father" by George W. Bush (Crown)
3. "Make It Ahead" by Ina Garten (Clarkson Potter)
4. "Guinness World Records 2015" by Guinness World Records (Guinness World Records)
5. "Yes Please" by Amy Poehler (Dey Street Books)
6. "What If?" by Randall Munroe (HMH)
7. "Money: Master the Game" by Tony Robbins (Simon & Schuster)
8. "Dungeon Master's Guide" by Wizards RPG Team (Wizards of the Coast)
9. "Dreamers and Deceivers" by Glenn Beck (S&S/Threshold)
10. "Thug Kitchen" by Thug Kitchen (Rodale)
11. "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" by Ripley's Believe It or Not (Ripley)
12. "You Can't Make This Up" by Al Michaels (William Morrow)
13. "The Big Book of Minecraft" by Triumph (Triumph)
14. "Being Mortal" by Atul Gawande (Metropolitan)

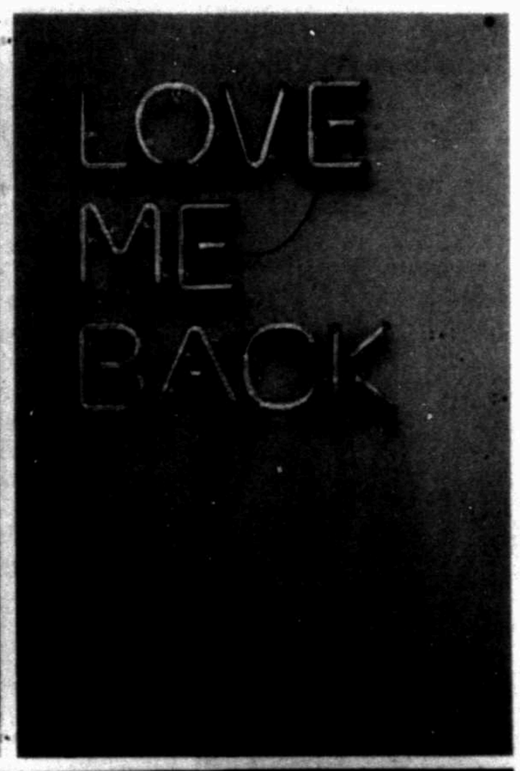
Mass market paperbacks

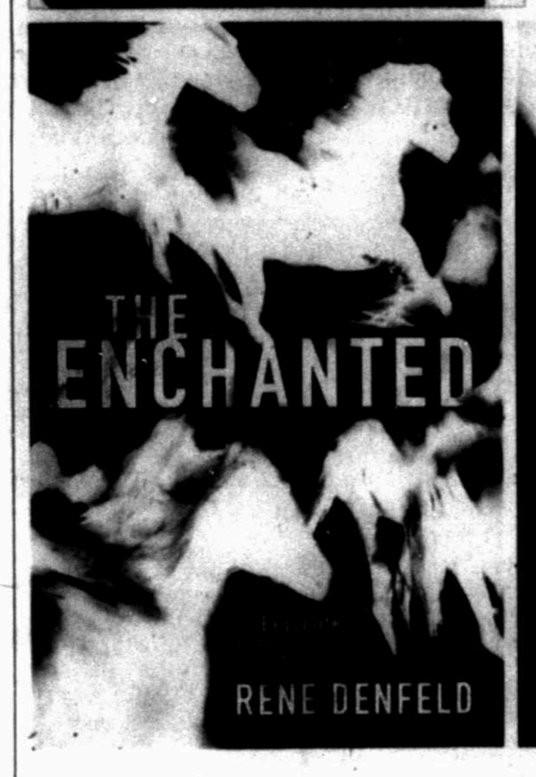
1. "Innocence" by Dean Koontz (Bantam)
2. "Home in Seattle" by Debbie Macomber (Mira)
3. "Gone Girl" (movie tie-in) by Gillian Flynn (Broadway Books)
4. "Wicked Ways" by Lisa Jackson and Nancy Bush (Kensington/Zebra)
5. "American Sniper" (movie tie-in) by Chris Kyle (Harper)
6. "Mistress" by James Patterson and David Ellis (Vision)
7. "Sycamore Row" by John Grisham (Dell)
8. "Terror of the Mountain Man" by William W. Johnstone (Pinnacle)
9. "Starry Night" by Debbie Macomber (Ballantine)
10. "Carnal Curiosity" by Stuart Woods (Signet)
11. "The Lincoln Myth" by Steve Barry (Ballantine)
12. "A Country Christmas" by Debbie Macomber (Mira)
13. "The Best of Me" (movie tie-in) by Nicholas Sparks (Grand Central Publishing)
14. "Sharp Objects" by Gillian Flynn (Broadway)

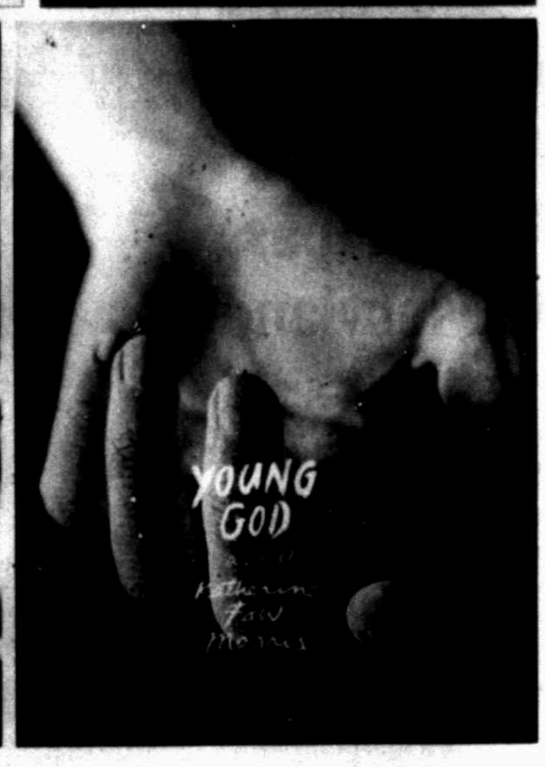
Trade paperbacks

1. "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand (Random House)
2. "Unbroken" (movie tie-in) by Laura Hillenbrand (Random)
3. "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown (Penguin)
4. "Wild" (movie tie-in) by Cheryl Strayed (Vintage)
5. "Gone Girl" by Gillian Flynn (Broadway Books)
6. "American Sniper" (movie tie-in) by Chris Kyle (Morrow)
7. "Gone Girl" (movie tie-in) by Gillian Flynn (Broadway Books)
8. "Captivated By You" by Sylvia Day (Berkley)
9. "The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2015" by Sarah Janssen (World Almanac)
10. "Blood Magick" by Nora Roberts (Berkley)
11. "The Martian" by Andy Weir (Broadway)
12. "Private India: City on Fire" by James Patterson and Ashwin Sanghi (Grand Central Publishing)
13. "Pogue's Basics" by David Pogue (Flatiron)
14. "Every Last Crumb" by Brittany Angell (Victory Belt)









2014 a banner year for fiction

By Vick Mickunas
Cox Newspapers

DAYTON, Ohio — Some extraordinary novels were published this year. I have had a tough time narrowing down my favorites. Four of my choices are debut novels. Here's the list of fiction titles that bowled me over:

"Fourth of July Creek," by Smith Henderson (Ecco, 470 pages, $26.99)

This novel's main character is Pete Snow, a social worker who helps families living on the fringes of society in Montana. One day a young boy appears. The lad is semi-feral; he's been living out in the wilderness with his survivalist father. Pete becomes involved and soon encounters the mysterious fugitive Benjamin Pearl, the boy's father. Pete has problems of his own — he's able to feel great empathy with his clients because he's experienced some damage himself. This book has much to offer readers, from gritty reality to lyrical beauty.

"The Enchanted," by Rene Denfeld (Harper, 237 pages, $25.99)

Rene Denfeld is a death penalty investigator in Oregon. One day she was leaving a prison when she began to hear a voice speaking in her imagination. That voice became the main character in her compelling debut novel, "The Enchanted." This nameless prisoner is isolated. We understand he has done something unspeakable. We know not what. He reels us into his secret world. His perceptions are startling. We cannot hate this man.

"Love Me Back," by Merritt Tierce (Doubleday, 217 pages, $23.95)

This is the story of a waitress named Marie. The oblivion she seeks cannot save her. The drugs don't make her feel better. Neither does the meaningless sex. She doesn't really feel much at all. She keeps trying to hurt herself because she really would like to feel something, anything. The potent expression of her agony slices through these pages. Merritt Tierce is fierce.

"Young God," by Katherine Faw Morris (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 193 pages, $24)

Here's another crackling first novel. The protagonist is a 13-year-old girl named Nikki. This saga explodes in the hill country of North Carolina. Nikki has grown up far too fast. Her father is a criminal who she much admires. They have a weird relationship. He tries to victimize her but she'll have no part of that. This book isn't for everybody. You'll either love it or hate it.

"Neverhome," by Laird Hunt (Little, Brown, 248 pages, $26)

A farmer who calls himself Ash Thompson crosses the border from Indiana to Ohio to enlist in the Union Army. The Civil War is raging — Ash is a superb sharpshooter ready to fight for the Union cause. There's something about Ash that doesn't seem right. What could that be? Well, for one thing, Ash is a woman disguised as a man. Imagine what that was like. Laird Hunt has done exactly that in this impressive and captivating story.

"A Brief History of Seven Killings," by Marlon James (Riverhead Books, 688 pages, $28.95)

In 1976 a group of armed men and boys attempted to assassinate the Jamaican reggae star Bob Marley. He survived. This dramatic event inspired Marlon James to write a novel about it. The book has numerous narrators. The Marley character is referred to as "the Singer." He hovers over the proceedings like a sacred ghost as his would-be killers meet their fates one by one. James spools out these tales with cinematic precision.

An artifact of Mark Twain's 'Duel that Never Was'

By Guy Clifton
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — The story of Samuel Langhorne Clemens' hasty departure from Virginia City in the spring of 1864 has been stretched and massaged for much of the 150 years since it happened.

The legend has it that Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, had to light a shuck off the Comstock or face prosecution for violating the Nevada territory's law against dueling after he challenged rival editor James Laird to a duel.

What's left are dueling theories and compelling an artifact of "the duel that never happened" a rusted, fire-damaged piece of pistol, which has been in the collection of the Nevada Historical Society for more than 100 years.

The gun is on display along with other Clemens family artifacts including a cigar butt sent by his daughter at the historical society in Reno and it will be shown in a segment of the History Channel program "Mysteries at the Museum," which starts a new season this week.

Christine Johnson, curator of artifacts at the historical society, said the gun itself is a good story and, while it can't be proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that it once belonged to Clemens, it also cannot be proven that he didn't own it.

"We know it's an 1858 Remington, which is the right timeframe," Johnson said. "The people that are known to have touched it, we have the record from 1910 of who gave it to who and why, it seems pretty solid. We can't prove it's not his gun. That's the fun part of this particular story."

According to his autobiography, Sam Clemens was in in charge of the Territorial Enterprise during his editor's absence in May of 1864 and ended up in a heated back-and-forth with James Laird of the rival Union newspaper.

"He was hurt by something I had said about him some little thing I don't remember what it was now probably called him a horse-thief, or one of those little phrases customarily used to describe another editor," Twain wrote in his autobiography.

The feud escalated to the point where one challenged the other to a duel (some stories say Twain issued the challenge, others say Laird did so.) It was set to take place at 5 a.m.

The story is that Clemens wasn't much of a marksman. He said in his autobiography that when he and his second, Steve Gillis, set up a rail from a fence against a barn door to practice shooting, not only could he not hit the rail, but he couldn't hit the barn door.

As luck would have it, Gillis shot the head off a bird "no bigger than a sparrow" just minutes before Laird and his second arrived for the duel. When it was asked who shot the bird, Gillis said Clemens had done it from 30 yards.

"The second took Mr. Laird home, a little tottery on his legs, and Laird sent back a note in his own hand declining to fight a duel with me on any terms whatever," Twain wrote in his autobiography. "Well, my life was saved by that accident. I don't know what the bird thought about that interposition of Providence, but I felt very, very comfortable over it satisfied and content. Now, we found out, later, that Laird had hit his mark four times out of six, right along. If the duel had come off, he would have so filled my skin with bullet-holes that it wouldn't have held my principles."

Sam Clemens left Virginia City on May 29, 1864, leaving the gun he'd practiced with in the possession of his "Enterprise" co-worker and friend, Dan DeQuille.

The pistol remnant came into possession of the Nevada Historical Society in 1910 coincidentally, the same year Mark Twain died.

ENGAGEMENT

Boyd-Cronin

Kirk and Suzie Boyd, of Midland, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Paige Allison, to Richard Craig Cronin, son of Bill and Sharon Cronin of Katy.

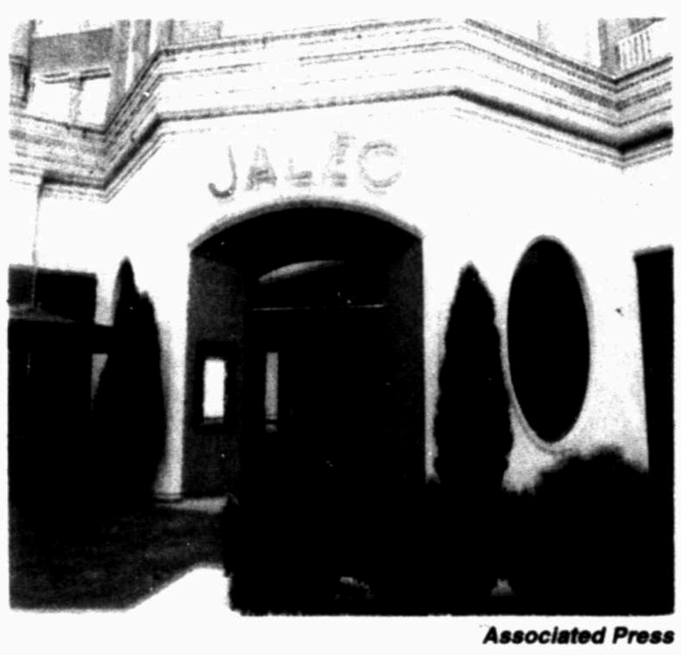
The bride-to-be is the grand-daughter of Gerald and Dot McCurry, of Katy, Milton and Pauline Rheums, of Waller, and the late Ray and Wyna Boyd, of Ozona.

The prospective groom is the grandson of Charlotte Gray and the late Herbert Gray, of Houston, and Madeline Cronin and the late William Cronin, Sr., of Fort Pierce, Florida.

Paige attended Trinity School in Midland and later graduated from Cy-Fair High School in 2007. In 2011, she received a BS degree in Environmental Engineering from San Diego State University. Paige is employed as a civil engineer at AECOM.

Ricky graduated from Katy High School and attended Texas A&M University, class of 2004, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Master's degree in Finance. Ricky works as a Director at KPMG, LLP.

After a March wedding, the couple will reside in Dallas.



Associated Press

This Oct. 23 photo shows the exterior of Jaleo restaurant in Bethesda, Maryland. The tapas menu by chef Jose Andres offers numerous choices of flavorful small plates inspired by Spanish cuisine, made with simple but authentic ingredients.

Go for the Food: Tapas at Jaleo in DC-Maryland

By Beth J. Harpaz
Associated Press

BETHESDA, Md. — I have a love-hate relationship with famous chefs and their trendy restaurants.

I see them on TV, read about them and often love their food the first and second time I try it. But then they start building empires. They give more interviews and put their names on eateries in Vegas and Miami, on cruise ships and in airports. You go back to that little place where they started and suddenly it's overpriced and mediocre. You suspect they haven't been back in ages.

But there's one man who hasn't let me down — yet. He's Jose Andres, the Spanish chef behind the tapas restaurant Jaleo. Granted, I haven't tried Jaleo in Vegas, but the meals I've had at his restaurants in Washington, D.C., and suburban Maryland have never disappointed.

Tapas are small plates, a Spanish tradition that's not always done well in the U.S., even though Americanized versions have become ubiquitous on pseudo-sophisticated bar menus from Brooklyn, New York, to Tulsa, Oklahoma. What makes Jaleo so good, time after time, is that the menu is both enormous and simple — peasant food fit for a king's feast. There are so many tempting options that you can find new favorites every time you go. The plates are easily shared by two or three people, and the meal works for lunch or dinner. The sangria's great, too.

I'm a cheese-lover, and I can't resist the Idiazabal, which the menu describes as "a smoked, nutty-flavored raw sheep's milk cheese," served with quince paste. Salads I've loved include ensaladilla rusa, which is potato salad with tuna, carrots, peas and mayonnaise. The verduras section of the menu is enough to turn a carnivore into a vegetarian, with dishes like sauteed cauliflower with dates and olives; a Moorish stew of chickpeas and spinach; and a melange of roasted red pepper, eggplant and onion. Other irresistible items include seared piquillo peppers filled with goat cheese and wrinkled baby potatoes served with green and red sauces.

And then there are the meats, poultry and fish. Fried baby squid, seared scallops, chicken fritters, chorizo sausage, mussels, calamari, rabbit confit, grilled quail — it's all good. But the one thing you MUST try is some iteration of what is repeatedly described on the menu as "cured ham from the legendary acorn-fed, black-footed Iberico pigs of Spain." Friends and I like to read every option involving the legendary pig aloud, just for fun.

Now, I must tell you that the first time we ate at Jaleo, we ordered the most expensive ham they had — a $22 sample of the 48-month cured ham — just to try it. But we learned on subsequent visits that at least to our uneducated palates, all the legendary pigs on the menu were equally yummy, so you don't need to splurge. You can also order dishes that use it as one of several ingredients.

Sometimes I wish Andres would open a Jaleo in New York, where I live, so I could go there more often. But then I remember how expansion has ruined some of my other favorite restaurants, and I'm just as glad that I can only find it in someone else's hometown.

Associated Press

This Dec. 8 photo shows rosemary-chili marinated goat cheese in Concord, N.H.

An effortless New Year's Eve party? No problem!

By J.M. Hirsch
Associated Press

It probably was a moment of weakness. You offered to host a New Year's Eve gathering, but — as usual — you lack the time and energy to pull together anything company-worthy.

Got you covered. All it really takes is a couple of items that show a little love combined with some purchased goodies and you're set. It's easy to get stressed over food and drink at the holidays, but it's good to remember that most people set the bar pretty low and a little — very little — effort can go a long way.

Here's my formula:

Head to the grocer and hit up the olive bar. Get yourself a selection of marinated olives, some mixed, some straight up. Also grab some marinated peppers (Peppadews are awesome), maybe some marinated mushrooms, too. Next, meander over to the deli counter and grab some prosciutto, some roast beef and perhaps a hard salami.

Over in produce, you want a bag or so of tiny red potatoes and a few thin, red chili peppers. Down the condiment aisle, you want to snag some fancy mustard, a good mayonnaise and hot sauce. Go with whatever inspires you. At the bakery, pick up a baguette or two and a loaf of rustic sourdough.

At the cheese counter, you want a couple aged cheeses, maybe a gouda and a Parmesan. Also get a couple 4-ounce logs of chevre (soft goat cheese).

For drinks, keep it simple. Pick up a few bottles of bubbles (kind of mandatory given the event), a couple bottles of red wine and a bit of craft beer. It's a combination that should keep everyone happy. If you feel the need to offer a cocktail, pick something that can be assembled ahead of time by the pitcher (you can do lots worse than a blend of bourbon and apple cider topped with prosecco).

Now, assembly time. Slice the bread and put that in baskets or on platters. Each of the olives and marinated goodies should get its own bowl with toothpicks or serving spoons. The meat can be rolled like cigars and arranged on a platter. Spoon a little of the mustard over each roast beef roll.

Toss the potatoes in a bit of olive oil, kosher salt and black pepper, then roast them at 350 F until tender, about 30 minutes. If you feel inspired, toss some fresh rosemary on them, too. Serve the potatoes (cooled) with a dipping sauce made by spiking the mayonnaise with a bit of hot sauce.

Finally, the cheese platter. Set out the hard cheeses (be sure to break them up a bit with a knife, otherwise guests will hesitate to be the first one to dig in). The goat cheese? That's where we get a little fancy.

Rosemary-chili marinated goat cheese

Canning jars are ideal for marinated the goat cheese, but any container large enough and with a tight-fitting lid will work. Also, be sure to save the oil you marinated the cheese in. It's great for dipping bread, sauteing vegetables or tossing with warm pasta.

Start to finish: 2 days (5 minutes active)
Servings: 8

- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 thin, red chili peppers
- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- Two 4-ounce logs chevre (soft goat cheese)
- 1/4 cup crushed pistachios

In a small, microwave-safe bowl, combine the honey, olive oil and garlic. Use a paring knife to cut a slit down the length of each chili pepper, then add those, the rosemary, salt and pepper to the oil and honey. Microwave on high for 30 to 45 seconds, or until just warm. Stir well. The honey will not mix with the oil, but it will become much smoother and easier to stir.

Place the cheese in one or two airtight containers with tight-fitting lids. The containers should be just large enough to hold the cheese and some liquid. Pour the honey-oil mixture over the cheese, dividing it evenly if using 2 containers. The liquid should cover the cheese. Insert a garlic clove, chili pepper and rosemary sprig (trimmed to fit) into each container. Cover and refrigerate for 48 hours.

To serve, drain the cheese and arrange the marinated logs on a serving plate. Sprinkle each log with some of the pistachios. Serve with bread or crackers.

Photos by Associated Press

LEFT: This Dec. 8 photo shows the making of Moroccan chicken in a pot with harissa in Concord, N.H. **RIGHT:** This photo shows Moroccan chicken in a pot with harissa.

However you say it, chicken in a pot is wonderful

By Sara Moulton
Associated Press

Chicken in a pot. Not a very romantic name, I'll admit. Luckily, the French have the more melodic "poule au pot" to fill that gap for this utterly delicious dish.

But however you say it, chicken in a pot is a traditional French country dish that dates back to Henry IV in the 17th century. You see, he apparently promised that during his reign everyone would be able to afford chicken in a pot on Sundays. A few hundred years later, this idea was revived in American politics when Herbert Hoover's presidential campaign promised a chicken in every pot, and a car in every garage.

Monarchs and presidents aside, you need to learn this simple and fantastic recipe.

The traditional version of chicken in a pot consists of a whole stuffed chicken poached with vegetables. All of the ingredients contribute to a rich broth, which then is served over the chicken and vegetables, often garnished with pickles, mustard and coarse salt.

But truth is, most of us won't bother with the stuffing. And that's a good thing. Because then this becomes a lean dish, one well suited for the new year as we try to recover from the excesses of the holidays.

Given that all animal protein becomes tough when boiled, the key to success in this recipe is to cook the chicken gently, ensuring that it stays moist and tender. In my recipe, the chicken simmers softly for just 25 minutes. Then, pulled off the burner, it finishes cooking in the residual heat of the broth. The vegetables are cooked afterward in the same broth.

Finally, the chicken is skinned, deboned and returned to the pot in large chunks, but only to be reheated, not cooked any further. All of this care pays off in the finished texture of the star of the show. Rubber chicken is a dish only a comedian could love!

In terms of seasonings, I've taken this French dish to Morocco, adding ginger and harissa, a hot chili past from Africa. I serve it with country bread, toasted and rubbed with garlic, though you're welcome to ladle the chicken and vegetables onto couscous instead, which would complete the Moroccan theme. Whatever you decide, this is a wonderful dish to serve to a crowd.

Moroccan chicken in a pot

Start to finish: 1 hour 50 minutes (50 minutes active)
Servings: 8

For the harissa:

- 16-ounce jar roasted red peppers, drained
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 1/2 teaspoon coriander seeds
- 1/2 teaspoon caraway seeds
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

For the chicken:

- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 large leeks, trimmed, halved lengthwise, then cut crosswise into 1-inch pieces
- 1/2 pound cremini mushrooms, quartered
- 1 1/2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 1/2 tablespoons finely grated fresh ginger
- 3 1/2-pound whole chicken
- 3 quarts chicken broth
- 1 pound carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1/2 pound parsnips, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1/2 pound turnips, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1/2 pound white potatoes, cut into 1-inch pieces
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- Chopped fresh cilantro or parsley, to garnish

To prepare the harissa, in a blender combine all ingredients and blend until smooth. Set aside. Can be refrigerated for up to 3 days.

To prepare the chicken, in a 7- to 8-quart stockpot over medium, heat the oil. Add the leeks and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 3 minutes. Add the mushrooms and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes. Add the garlic and ginger and cook, stirring, for 1 minute.

Add the chicken, breast side down, then pour the broth over it. The broth should cover the chicken. If not, add a bit of water or additional broth. Bring the broth just to a boil, then reduce the heat and simmer, skimming any scum that comes to the surface, for 10 minutes. Cover and reduce the heat to simmer gently for another 15 minutes. Turn off the heat and let the chicken sit in the hot broth, covered, for 30 minutes.

Carefully remove the chicken from the pot and set it on a plate. Let it cool until it can be easily handled.

Add the carrots, parsnips, turnips and potatoes to the broth, then bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cook, covered, until the vegetables are just tender, 12 to 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, pull off and discard the skin from the chicken and remove the meat from the bones in large chunks. When the vegetables are tender, return the chicken meat to the pot and cook gently, just until heated through. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Ladle the soup into soup bowls and top each portion with a spoonful of harissa and some cilantro.

HINTS FROM HELOISE

King Features Syndicate

Airtight jar keeps marshmallows fresh

Dear Heloise: I really enjoy marshmallows, but they get stale quickly. I don't remember reading this in your column, but here is my hint: Store them in a home-canning jar. I've kept them for months this way, and they are still fresh. — Linda D., via email

How do they last that long in your household? Keeping air out is the key, so putting them in any container that won't allow air in (or out) works just fine. — Heloise

Hard-cooked eggs

Dear Heloise: Don't know if you're aware, but there is a simple way to tell if eggs are hard-cooked without coloring them. (A previous hint: Add food coloring to the boiling water. — Heloise)

An uncooked egg cannot spin, but a hard-cooked one does. Put the egg on a hard surface, long axis parallel to the table, and give it a spin. If it is not cooked, the egg will stop immediately. If hard-cooked, it will spin on for quite a while. Never fails. — John Zelenak in New Jersey

Well, I guess it depends on your definition of "spin," John. A fresh or uncooked chicken egg (in shell) will spin — not fast, it just sort of wobbles. And, interestingly, the older the egg, the larger the air pocket inside and the more it seems to wobble, but it does spin a few times. Thanks for the reminder about this forever hint that was used by our grandmothers and theirs, too! — Heloise

Keep shelves clean

Dear Heloise: I use old, clean cloth place mats on refrigerator shelves to keep them clean. When time to change them, I toss the soiled ones in the wash. Keep rotating, and you'll find it's easier than washing the shelf itself. — D.G., Battle Ground, Wash.

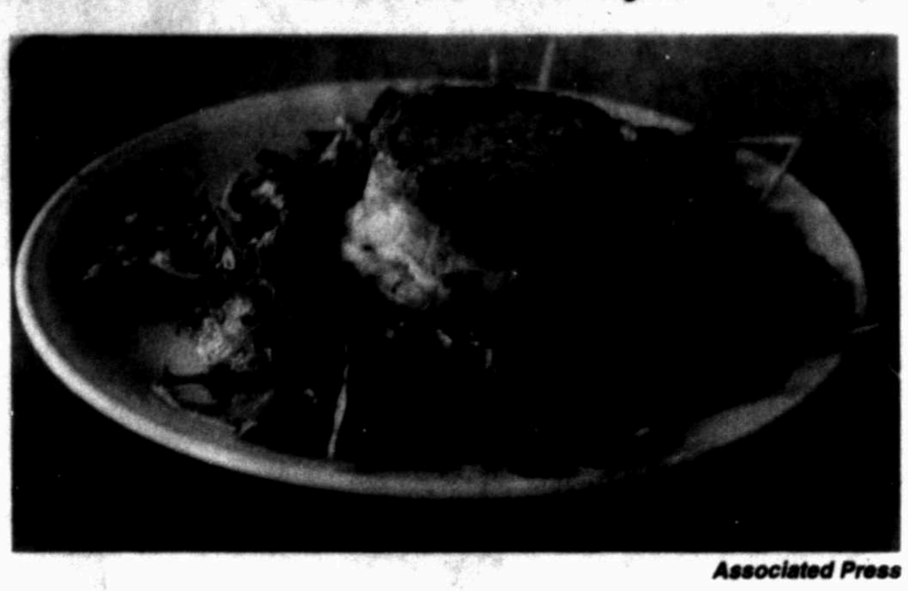
Easy fix

Dear Heloise: I punctured my new rubber gloves that I use for washing dishes. To salvage them, I applied a waterproof adhesive bandage on the puncture site, and they haven't leaked for months! — Karen W., Erie, Pa.

Send a hint to Heloise at P.O. Box 795000, San Antonio, 78279-5000, fax 210-HELOISE or email heloise@Heloise.com.

Fear not the souffle! It's easier than you think

By Sara Moulton
Associated Press



Associated Press

This Dec. 1 photo shows cheddar and walnut souffles on arugula with pear dressing in Concord, N.H. A souffle is comprised of two elements, a base and a leavener. It's worth noting that the base must be highly seasoned.

The prospect of making a souffle strikes fear into the hearts of many home cooks. There's this misconception that a souffle is so delicate it will collapse if you so much as look at it sideways.

The happy truth is that these elegant and airy little egg cakes are pretty doggone resilient. James Beard had it all figured out decades ago. He used to say that the only thing that will make a souffle fall is if it knows you are afraid of it. So I say, have no fear!

A souffle is comprised of two elements — a base and a leavener. It's worth noting that the base must be highly seasoned. This is because the leavener — namely, egg whites — not only contributes no flavor of its own, it actually dilutes the souffle's flavor by adding air into the mix.

The only tricky part of making a souffle also is related to those egg whites. The challenge is to ensure that the whites reach their full whipped capacity, then retain as much of that oomph as possible right up until the first bite is eaten. To help you get there, I've assembled a checklist that walks you through the most important points.

■ Start with the freshest eggs you can find; the whites will be more viscous and stable than those of older eggs.

■ Separate the eggs using your impeccably clean hands, not the eggshells. There are no sharp edges on your hands, meaning that the yolks will not break easily and ruin your whites.

■ If just a little bit of yolk does somehow speckle your whites, use an eggshell to remove it. Somehow the eggshell acts like a yolk magnet. You don't want any fat (yolk) in your whites.

■ Beat the whites when they're at room temperature. It's easier than when they're cold.

■ If you own one, use a copper bowl for beating your egg whites. There is a chemical reaction between the copper and the whites that makes the whites sturdier. If you don't have a copper bowl, add cream of tartar or a little lemon juice to the whites; these additions produce similar reactions.

■ Be careful not to overbeat the whites. Indeed, don't whip them until they become stiff peaks. Instead, whip them until the peaks are firm, but soft, right before they become stiff.

■ Fold the whites into the lightened base slowly and gently; do not press down. Stop just as soon as the two seem to have come together.

Take a bow when you're done. If anyone asks, it wasn't magic, it was science.

Seek the savory side of chocolate in the new year

By Melissa D'arabian
Associated Press

While I still pay attention to what I eat during the holidays, I nonetheless allow plenty of small splurges. And those splurges mostly can be summed up in one word: chocolate!

Trouble is, the holidays eventually pass, but my cravings for the deep flavor of a perfectly-roasted cocoa bean linger. Even more than the sweetness that accompanies most chocolate desserts, I miss the unctuous coating cocoa leaves on the palate. But who says healthy eating must mean the end of that deliciousness? Enter unsweetened chocolate! All the richness of the flavor without the sugar.

My healthy chocolate-eating strategy has me leaning toward savory dishes because they need no sugar for me to appreciate the wonderful flavor of the cocoa. Among the most classic choices — and one of my favorites — is Mexican mole, a thick, spicy sauce based on cocoa or chocolate that traditionally takes a couple of days to develop its rich flavors.

But I have four hungry kids who aren't willing to wait days for chocolate, sweet or savory. So I have developed a version of mole that takes under an hour. Does it capture all the flavor of a two-day mole? Nope. But for a recipe that shaves 47 hours off my labor, I think it still does a pretty darned good job.

And you can take comfort in knowing that you're getting all the delicious benefits and satisfaction of chocolate without the pesky sugar. Chocolate in the New Year? Yes, indeed. All in the name of health.

Chicken in quick mole sauce

Start to finish: 45 minutes
Servings: 4

■ 3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (about 1 1/4 pounds), cut into 1 1/2-inch cubes
■ Kosher salt and ground black pepper
■ 2 tablespoons olive oil
■ 1 large yellow onion, roughly chopped
■ 3 cloves garlic, roughly chopped
■ 2 teaspoons chili powder
■ 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
■ 3/4 teaspoon ground coriander
■ 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
■ 15-ounce can diced tomatoes
■ 2 tablespoons chopped chipotles in adobo (more or less according to heat preference)
■ 1 teaspoon grated orange zest
■ 1/2 cup prune juice (or 1/4 cup chopped pitted prunes)
■ 1 1/4 cups chicken stock
■ 1 tablespoon almond butter or peanut butter
■ 2 ounces unsweetened chocolate, chopped
■ Squeeze of lime (1 to 2 teaspoons)
■ Fresh cilantro, chopped, to serve

Season the chicken on all sides with salt and pepper.

In a large saute pan over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the chicken and brown until golden on all sides, about 7 minutes. Transfer to a plate and set aside.

Return the pan to medium heat and add the onion. Cook, stirring often, for 5 minutes. Add the garlic, chili powder, cumin, coriander and cinnamon, then cook, stirring, until very fragrant, another 2 minutes. Add the tomatoes and let cook for 3 more minutes. Add the chipotles, orange zest and prune juice, then cook an additional minute, stirring.

Add the stock and let simmer until the onion is fairly soft, about 8 minutes. Remove the mixture from the heat and allow to cool for several minutes. Pour or spoon carefully into a blender, then add the almond butter, chocolate and lime juice. Let sit for a minute in the hot liquid. Blend carefully — low at first, then at higher speed — until the sauce is smooth, about 1 minute. Add more stock if the sauce is too thick.

Return the chicken to the pan (no need to clean it) and pour the sauce over the chicken. Heat over medium until the chicken is cooked through, another 8 to 10 minutes. Serve with rice and beans and top with cilantro.

Nutrition information per serving: 430 calories; 190 calories from fat (44 percent of total calories); 21 g fat (7 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 105 mg cholesterol; 25 g carbohydrate; 8 g fiber; 11 g sugar; 39 g protein; 660 mg sodium.

Home Accents
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DOES NOT INCLUDE SEASONAL DEPARTMENT
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• Candleholders WALL & TABLE
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ITEMS PRICED $24.99 & UP
• Trays, Coasters & Place Mats
• Knobs, Drawer Pulls & Handles
• Glass Decor Sale
• Men's Metal & Wood Decor WALL & TABLE
• Framed Art & Canvas Art
• All Wicker, Decorative Boxes & Storage
• Decorative Lanterns, Birdcages & Terrariums
• Decorative Vegetable- & Fruit-Filled Bottles
ITEMS LABELED THE SPRING SHOP™ AND VALENTINE'S ARE NOT INCLUDED IN HOME ACCENTS SALE
All Remaining Christmas Items 80% OFF
All Items Labeled the spring shop 40% OFF
• Statuary
• Garden Planters
• Gazing Balls
• Garden Wall Decor & More
Floral
Categories Listed
50% OFF
• Ribbon & Trims by the Roll
• Garlands, Swags, Wreaths & Teardrops
• Floral Arrangements
• Wedding Sale
Furniture
Always 30% OFF THE MARKED PRICE*
Needle Art
• Yarn Bee™ Effervesce™ 4.49
• Baby Bee™ Baby Yarns 4.22
• Soft Secret™ 3.33
• Packaged Quilt Battings & Pillow Forms 30% OFF
Framing
Categories Listed
50% OFF
• Collage Frames
• Wall Frames
• Custom Frames ALWAYS 50% OFF THE MARKED PRICE*
• Photo Frames ALWAYS 50% OFF THE MARKED PRICE*
Crafting
Categories Listed
30% OFF
• Me & My Bag™
• Leather & Leather Kits
• All Clays
• EVA Foam Packaged Shapes & Packaged Sheets
• T-Shirts ALWAYS 30% OFF THE MARKED PRICE*
• Chalkboards, Corkboards & Dry-Erase Boards
Papercrafting
• Gemstones by the Paper Studio®
• Tim Holtz® Brand Products
• Cards, Tags & Envelopes by the Paper Studio®
• Cricut® Cartridges & Accessories
• Punches & Punch Sets
Art Supplies
• Poster Board 4/1.00 WHITE 2/1.00 COLORED & FLUORESCENT
• Master's Touch® Art Canvas
• Art Easels & Tables
• Artist Sets
• Master's Touch® Oil Paint 4.87 50 ml 12.87 200 ml
Jewelry Making
Categories Listed
50% OFF
• Poetic Spirit by Bead Treasures™
• Brilliance and Bead Treasures™
• Glass Beads by Bead Treasures™
• Czech Glass Beads
• Color Gallery by Bead Treasures™
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Fashion Fabric
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• Sew-ology® Sewing Notions 50% OFF
• Home Decor Fabric
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• DISCOUNTS PROVIDED EVERY DAY; MARKED PRICES REFLECT COMPARABLE PRICES OFFERED BY OTHER SELLERS FOR SIMILAR PRODUCTS.
OPEN NEW YEAR'S EVE AND NEW YEAR'S DAY 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Limit one coupon per customer per day. Must present coupon at time of purchase. Offer is not valid with any other coupon, discount or previous purchase. Excludes CRICUT products, Tim Holtz® Ingredients™ Machine, Silhouette CAMEO® Machine, candy, texture paste, gift cards, custom orders, special orders, labor, rentals or class fees. A single cut of fabric or trim "by the yard" equals one item. Online sales & in-store discount is limited to 10 yards, single cut.
Coupon Code 2611
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40% OFF One Item at Regular Price
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VISIT OUR SITE — HOBBYLOBBY.COM

Wife troubled by new husband's suspicions

DEAR ABBY

Universal Press Syndicate

DEAR ABBY: I recently got married. My husband goes through my purse, my papers, my jewelry, my clothes — and even my underwear. He says that as my husband he has the right to do that. He says I am wrong to object.

What are your thoughts on this? I feel like although I'm a wife, I am still a person and have a right to be respected. How would you react? — CONFUSED JANE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR CONFUSED JANE: I would react by calmly asking my husband why he thought it was necessary to invade my privacy like that and if he thought I was unfaithful, and I'd tell him I regarded it as a threat to the marriage. I'm sure he would react the same way if you searched through his belongings and the history on his phone and computer.

What he is doing is a red flag. It's an indication that he's insecure and controlling, and spouses who behave that way have been known to escalate to domestic violence. Marriage counseling NOW might head it off. But if it doesn't, you would be wise to consider ending the marriage before there are children involved.

DEAR ABBY: I was married to an incredible man for 32 years. He was quite a bit older and passed away a few months ago.

Along with a wonderful marriage, I also enjoyed the gracious family I married into: stepchildren, step-grandchildren and, in later years, step-greats. Although we rarely used the word "step," everyone always understood how I was related to them.

My question is, now that my husband is gone, am I still their step-whatever, or did I lose that when my husband died? We remain close. — STEP-WHATEVER IN KANSAS

DEAR STEP-WHATEVER: Please accept my condolences for the loss of your husband. Because your relationship with the family is a warm and close one, you shouldn't worry. I'm sure you will always be family to them. It's only when relationships are strained that problems like the one you're concerned about arise.

DEAR ABBY: While going through some old paperwork, I came across a bunch of pictures of my ex-girlfriend and me. Our relationship ended 10 years ago. She's married and lives in another state.

Part of me says it's time to get rid of at least some of them, but I'm not sure how to do it with respect to my ex and our past relationship. The other part of me wants to keep them, as they represent a happy time in my life and what I looked like back then.

My dilemma seems to be that these images still bring out strong emotions and memories even after all this time. What do you suggest? — PHOTO-FINISHED?

DEAR PHOTO: If the memories and emotions are pleasant ones, hang onto the photos as souvenirs of happy times gone by. If you're unable to do that, destroy them because time has marched on, and so did the lady in the pictures.

Attainable goals helps ensure success

ELIZABETH BUCHANAN

Centers for Children and Families

As 2015 begins, it is a good time to look back at 2014 and set goals. Asking questions that lead us toward positive change can be helpful, such as, what do I want my life to look like in this new year? Take a realistic look at your strengths and how you would like to improve in the future, and make a five-year plan. Then break down the five-year plan to show what you would like to accomplish in 2015 and take steps toward reaching those goals.

Balance using categories. Start your goal setting by taking a look at the following parts of your life: career and/or school, spirituality/religion, family, friendships, health, personal growth, financial, community and recreation. Setting goals toward a balanced life helps us work toward achievement and personal growth.

Be specific. Set a specific date, time and amount. Setting a goal of "I want to lose weight" is too vague. A goal of losing 20 pounds in the next 10 weeks is specific, measurable and timed. Under each goal, list numbered tasks or steps to be taken to attain the goal.

Be realistic. Set your goals high enough to promote personal growth, keeping them realistic and attainable. Allow for self-care time to rejuvenate. If goals are too large and unmanageable, you may not see any progress and become discouraged. Be aware of setting goals too low, which can result in not reaching your potential.

Performance. Performance goals are actionable and attributable to our own specific steps. Establishing your goals on skills, knowledge to be acquired or personal performance helps to keep you in control of the achieving your goals. State your goals in a positive manner to keep you motivated.

Prioritize. Determine which goals are the most important to you, give each a priority. Then prioritize the steps and tasks necessary to help reach these goals. This helps you stay structured and organized, without becoming overwhelmed.

Write down goals. Goals not written down are soon forgotten and ineffective. Make a list that you continuously look at and check off, and it will help keep you moving forward.

Follow through allowing for flexibility. In order to attain your goals, you must routinely look at your list of goals and tasks. Place your list of goals somewhere that you will read them every day to remind you of what you are working toward and keep you focused on that path. Having a plan is important to helping you follow through, but we also need to be prepared for unexpected interruptions. At that point, we may need to reassess and re-prioritize to keep on track.

Staying on track. Once goals are achieved, we should always be reviewing and updating our goal list to continue growing, reflecting our changing priorities. Regularly looking at accomplishments and/or movement toward reaching goals helps with motivation.

Start now. With the new year starting, there is no better time than now to begin setting goals to keep you moving forward.

Elizabeth Buchanan has been with Centers for Children and Families since 2006.

New Year's resolutions can be dangerous to your mental health

DR. GREGORY RAMEY

Cox Newspapers

Over the next few weeks, prepare to be barraged by admonitions to make New Year's resolutions. These messages connect with us because we aspire to be better persons. Research indicates that the most popular resolutions in 2014 focused on losing weight, getting organized, spending less/saving more, enjoying life to the fullest, and staying fit and healthy.

About 50 percent of us make such resolutions every year. What a great opportunity to reflect upon our lives and make a commitment to change the way we think, act and feel. Who wouldn't want to be healthier, happier, and more engaged with our work, family and friends?

However, be warned. New Year's resolutions can be dangerous to your mental health!

More than 90 percent of us will fail at achieving our goals, and our mental health will suffer as a result. We'll get discouraged yet again about our inability to live a healthier lifestyle or improve our relationships. We'll view ourselves as weak and ineffective, unable to do something as simple as losing a few pounds or having a real conversation with our spouse.

We are failures. The way we are today is about as good as it gets. We maintain a modicum of hope about the future, but know that we are just too weak, disorganized, distracted and overwhelmed to make any real changes in our lives.

We'll resign ourselves to the reality that our personal relationships will remain tedious and uninspired, and our work life will continue to alternate between boredom and frustration. We fill our time with mind-numbing activities to avoid intense feelings of sadness and regret.

Making New Year's resolutions can be dangerous to your mental health because they are based upon Peter Pan's assertion that "anything is possible if you wish hard enough." Wishing accomplishes nothing. Behavior change is all about hard work and translating noble aspirations into effective strategies.

Change is rarely immediate, easy or simple. Once you jettison the fantasy world of hoping and dreaming, you can put more effort on working to achieve your goals. That's when good stuff starts to happen.

Here's an alternative to New Year's resolutions. Replace your visionary goals with a more modest change that you can accomplish today.

Forget about losing 20 pounds. Instead, walk around the block every day after dinner. Don't aspire to fall in love with your spouse all over again. Rather, say one genuinely nice thing to her every day.

It will take several weeks for those small steps to become habits. Once you've established those habits, gradually expand your goals.

Forgo making resolutions that you'll never achieve and will only make you more discouraged. Instead, accomplish something modest today that will help make you a real success.

Dr. Gregory Ramey is the executive director of Dayton Children Hospital's Pediatric Center for Mental Health Resources.

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

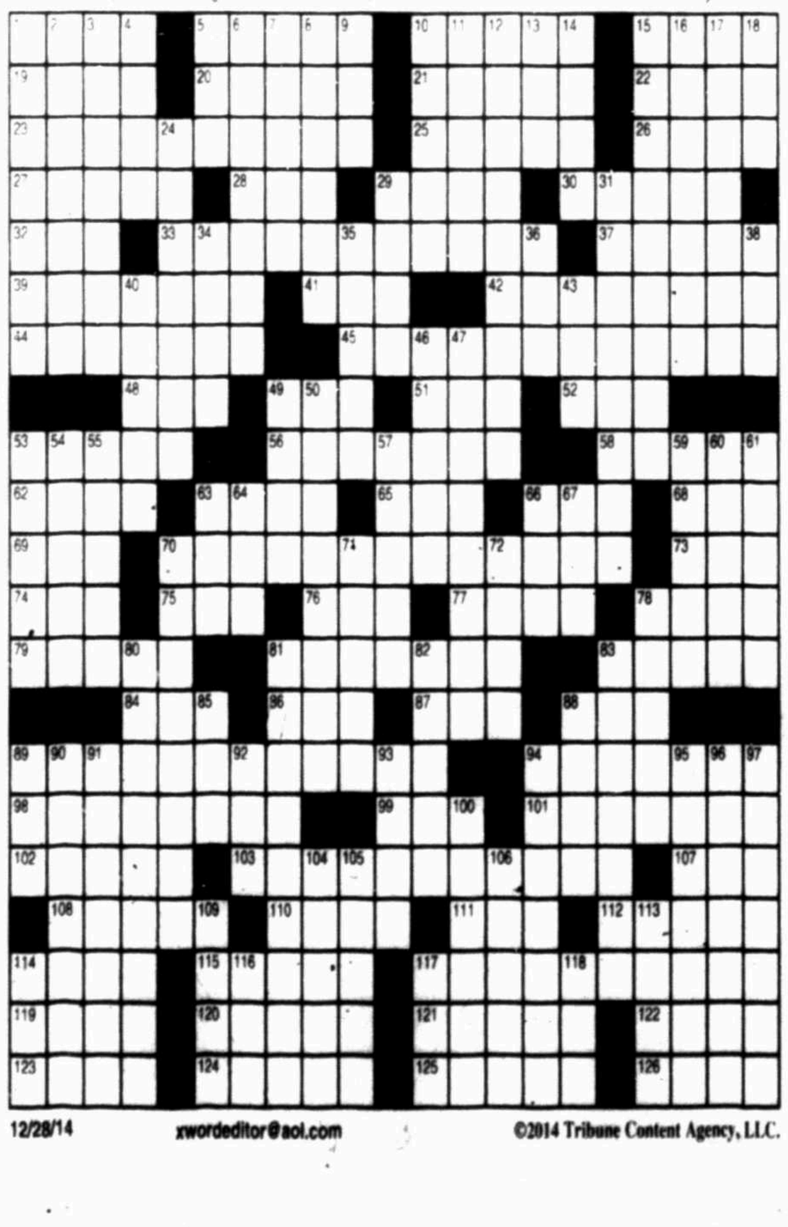
THE SIXTH SENSE By C C BURNIKEL

ACROSS

1 Hoyle, as a put
6 Gives and takes
10 Jam
15 Showy display
17 Heat as
20 ___-Roma
21 But
22 Google Nexus competitor
23 Nonconformist
24 Predecessor of Beg
26 Superman's lover
27 Choice cut
28 Went for a spin
29 British aristocrat
30 Get hot or ___ water
32 Longtime Guardian cartoonist Asquith
33 Roadwork warning
37 Equally hot
39 Rosemary relative
41 Tolkien forest giant
43 Moneyball Oscar nominee
44 Boneheads
45 Candy that comes in three colors
48 Gimme
51 start of a Rutgers cheer
49 "1058 Overture" band
51 Good buddy
52 HDTV brand
53 Pulls a fast one on
56 Don McLean song that begins "Starry, starry night"
58 Large spitz
62 Parts of teacups
63 Central Utah city
65 Pomegranate color
66 Dragon roll ingredient
68 Room to chill
69 Still undecided, briefly
70 X Games pursuits
73 Permitted
74 Huge load
75 Uni. in sushi bars
76 You, to Goethe
77 Tax-sheltered accts.
78 They may be placed
79 Delivery expert, briefly
81 Canal transport
83 Forward
84 "Ich bin Berliner"
86 Has too much briefly
87 Shying stuff
88 Pop holder
89 Proportion field, three times by Henry Clay
94 Troop support Tissue
98 Looks for flaws in
99 The Royal Tenenbaums director Anderson
101 Eavesdrops on, in a way
102 Stretch
103 Athlete's setback
107 Ottoman governor
108 "You ___ right"
110 Olympian's wife
111 Auction group
112 Stern with a bow
114 South Pacific capital
115 Tea grade
117 Pledge drive take, essentially
119 Brings together
120 Revise, as text
121 Map feature
122 Spice Girl Halliwell
123 Hebrides tongue
124 Fellas
125 Insincere
126 Teeny amt. of time

DOWN

1 Paella ingredient
2 Existing independent of experience, in logic
3 Eponymous market analyst
4 Joint where kids are welcome?
5 Son of a Gun whyl protectant maker
6 Oddballs
7 Pianist Claudio
8 Royal issue
9 Helo court
10 Junkyard metal
11 Midwest hub
12 Fundamentalist region
13 Longtime Brit. music label
14 Second-home income perhaps
15 Colorado Gold Rush area
16 Feature of dust nights for wannabes
17 Official order
18 Safeco Field summer hrs.
24 Stretches to the limit
29 Where e-so sells
31 Extremists
34 Ernest Monz's dept.
35 2001 scandal subject
36 Who and Nic Abbr.
38 Rehab hurdle
40 Chews (on)
43 National Humor Mo.
46 Blunted blades
47 Construction site sight
49 Continually
50 Citrus drink
53 Squabble
54 Big wheel
55 Bomec rainforest denizen
57 Words to live by
59 Wastes time
60 Brush targets
61 Fidgeting
63 Good Grips kitchenware brand
64 Google Maps offering, Abbr.
66 Depression
67 The X-Files extras
70 Two-time British Open champ
71 Belarus capital
72 ___ exam
78 Cake pan trademark
80 Polite acceptance
81 Gets buff?
82 Role-playing game beasts
83 Carrot cousin
85 Pres. advisory team
88 DVV - V
89 To each own
90 Theoretically
91 Handles for surfers
92 National org. with the slogan "everychild onevoice"
93 "Babe" extras
94 Twelve Steps support group
95 Money-back ures
96 Pot size perhaps
97 One with the ability hidden in one puzzle answers
100 Make waves in a way
104 Danish coin
105 Victoria Quarter city
106 Rich boy in "Nancy" comics
109 Rebuttal piece perhaps
113 Fire
114 Leave wide-eyed
116 Feathered swimmer



12/28/14 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2014 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Potholes

North South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ K 6
♥ K Q 9 7
♦ A 3
♣ K Q 9 5 4

WEST
♠ J 9 4 2
♥ 10 3 2
♦ 7 2
♣ A 8 7 6

EAST
♠ Q 10 8 5
♥ A 8 4
♦ K 10 9 8 6 4
♣ Void

SOUTH
♠ A 7 3
♥ J 6 5
♦ Q J 5
♣ J 10 3 2

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
1	1NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: Seven of ♥

Today's deal is from the World Mixed Teams, contested recently in China. Bill Pollack, of New Jersey, on his way to a bronze medal in this event, was East.

On a diamond lead, declarer can always succeed by rising with dummy's ace and leading a heart. That line wins only because East has the ace of hearts and West the ace of clubs. Were the aces reversed, declarer would only come to seven tricks. It is normal for declarer to duck in dummy and get his second diamond trick right away.

There are several potholes for the defense. Should East win his king of diamonds and continue the suit, the contract always makes 10 tricks. West, having no third diamond, can do no harm when he wins his ace of clubs. Better for East to duck his king, leaving West with a diamond to lead when he wins his club ace. South succeeds by playing on hearts. One heart trick is all that is needed. Declarer then goes after clubs and has his nine tricks.

Pollack rose with his king of diamonds and shifted to a low spade. South won in dummy in order to lead a low heart. Had Pollack ducked this, declarer would have scored his jack of hearts and then gone after clubs, making his contract. Pollack, however, rose with his ace of hearts and played another spade. When West won her ace of clubs, the defense had two spades to cash. Well done!

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, Dec. 28, 2014:

This year you have a lot of excitement in your life, especially involving your loved ones. You never know what you will walk into next.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ You could feel rather restrained. You might find that a friend at a distance seems to be rather quiet once you start sharing. Tonight: Out late.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You'll feel more restrained with a certain person than you normally do. What occurs will be much subtler than you might realize. Tonight: A must show.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Focus on your friends, who are more indulgent of your whims than you might realize. One friend could act in an unexpected way. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ Be willing to assume more responsibility right now. You will enjoy bringing others together, no matter what the excuse. Tonight: Say "yes."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Your spontaneity will take you down a new path, though you might feel somewhat restricted by a loved one. Tonight: Dinner for two.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ You could decide to let someone else take the lead on making plans. You know that this person will make choices that would please you. Tonight: Avoid a power play.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Encourage others to make the final decision, and everyone will get more of what he or she wants. Tonight: Have a long-overdue chat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ Your ability to read a situation will emerge. You might be rethinking an awkward interaction. Tonight: Ever playful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec 21) ★★★★ You are likely to be a little more stern or serious than you typically are. Tonight: Don't push so hard.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ Your smile is a sure-bet winner. You seem to be in conflict with a family member. Go with the unexpected. Tonight: Order in.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Whether you're at the mall returning items or hanging out with a friend, you seem less than pleased. Tonight: Don't make a big fuss, please.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ Today, you could become exhausted just by balancing your checkbook. Tonight: Make it your treat.

BORN TODAY

Actor Denzel Washington (1954), comic-book writer Stan Lee (1922), singer/songwriter John Legend (1978)

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

S	A	N	K		S	W	A	P	S		S	O	B	E	R		P	O	M	P
A	P	I	N		T	E	R	R	A		C	H	I	M	E		I	P	A	D
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'Sons of Liberty' tells tale of America's founders

By Paige Sutherland
Associated Press

BOSTON — Don't let the powdered wigs and oil paintings fool you: Samuel Adams, John Hancock and the other eventual Americans who changed the course of history were a ragtag band of secretive and sometimes mischievous young radicals.

Just ask Paul Revere, aka actor Michael Raymond-James, who's part of the cast of "Sons of Liberty," a new miniseries premiering in January on the History Channel.

There was more to Revere than his famous ride of April 18, 1775, to warn the colonists the British were coming.

"He was so much more involved than that. He was a major operative and a huge thorn in the British crown," Raymond-James said, sipping a pint of beer during an interview at the Green Dragon Tavern in Boston's North End — a favorite meeting place of the revolutionaries.

"Sons of Liberty," a three-part, six-hour series that airs starting Jan. 25, tells the back stories of the Founding Fathers and their furtive efforts to turn a colony into a country.

Freedom didn't come easily, said Dirk Hoogstra, History's general manager.

"Most people think of this time as a bunch of guys in wigs who got in a room and wrote up the Declaration of Independence, but it is so much more than that," Hoogstra said.

"I'm not sure people really understand how crazy it was to make the decision they made to go to war with the most powerful military in the world, being untrained and unorganized," he said.

Actor Ben Barnes plays Sam Adams, who led the rebellious gang and was known for his tenacity and fearlessness. Barnes, who is British, said the experience gave him a new appreciation for America.

Contrary to what some grammar school history books might suggest, the revolution didn't happen overnight.

"There is this 10-year buildup sparked by this urge for equality that leads them toward independence," Barnes said.

The renegades didn't openly oppose the Crown at first — they built forces and devised their plots in the shadows through secret meetings and whispers.

Few knew that Sam Adams and his cousin, John Adams, were prominent members of the group of agitators who eventually came to be known as the Sons of Liberty. Though both spoke up against British taxes and laws in numerous published articles, they hid behind pen names while publicly claiming to be loyal to the Crown.

Dr. Joseph Warren, who cared for British General Thomas Gage and his wife, also hid in the shadows. By gathering intel about the British Army's whereabouts and supply chain, he helped his fellow comrades plan attacks.

The group's facade kept the revolutionaries under the British radar — allowing the colonists to grow stronger and better prepared, Barnes said.

The miniseries was filmed in Romania. But Raymond-James, the Revere actor, marveled at the history evoked by the Green Dragon Tavern.

"To come and be able to sit here — it's incredible," he said. "I'm sitting where Paul Revere used to come with his fellow Patriots to devise their plan of attack. You can't recreate this feeling — it's like grasping at smoke."

Photos from the Associated Press

ABOVE: In this 2014 photo released by the History Channel, actors portray Revolutionary War soldiers in a scene from "Sons of Liberty," a new miniseries premiering in January 2015 on the History Channel. **BELOW FROM LEFT:** Michael Raymond-James plays the role of Paul Revere in "Sons of Liberty." Marton Csokas portrays British General Gage in a scene from "Sons of Liberty."

After leak, Madonna offers show of force

By Jon Pareles
N.Y. Times News Service

Associated Press

Madonna visits Malawian President Peter Mutharika on Nov. 28 at State House in Lilongwe Malawi. In a surprise preview of her new album, Madonna released six songs Dec. 20 on iTunes and various streaming services. The songs were released because several in-progress demos were leaked earlier this week, according to Madonna publicist Liz Rosenberg.

In some circles, the six saddest words in the English language may be: "Don't you know who I am?" Often the answer is an ego-crushing "no." So when Madonna names a song "Bitch I'm Madonna" — and books Nicki Minaj to add praise — well, no one knows better than she does that celebrity is Darwinian.

At 56, Madonna has to contend with a generation of singers who have studied her playbook so thoroughly that they are far more her competition than her admirers. But with the six songs she suddenly released Saturday, she's still a contender.

Madonna put the songs out shortly after an online leak of more than a dozen songs thought to have been planned for "Rebel Heart," an album she had scheduled for release March 10. In an Instagram post that she later deleted, Madonna called the leak a "form of terrorism."

But her commercial response was shrewd. The songs can be downloaded from online music services with a preorder of the album or separately, and Madonna's name recognition is still so strong that the announcement catapulted all six tracks into the iTunes Top 10 in dozens of countries. (They have since slipped in the United States, but five of the tracks were in the Top 20 early Tuesday.)

Madonna said that the leaked files were unfinished, and that's exactly how they sound, particularly those that can be compared with the official releases. Madonna and her producers tweaked the songs further, changing up rhythms and adding sizzle and sharpness to each mix.

In some ways, "Rebel Heart" shapes up as a sequel, with lessons learned, to her 2012 album, "MDNA." On that album she switched between angry breakup songs and party-girl boasts; she also returned to her longtime strategy of collaborating with top DJs of electronic dance music as producers. But the resulting songs often felt coldly mechanized and dutifully trendy; overprocessed vocals and cliché-slinging lyrics didn't help.

The six-song preview of "Rebel Heart" features Madonna's better side: as a savvy pop ear and musical team leader, and as a lyricist who sometimes ponders sin along with romance and fame.

Madonna is still reacting to a breakup in two of her new songs (and in more of the demos). But at this point, she's bouncing back. "Living for Love," easily one of her best singles in a decade, transmutes revenge into upbeat redemption. Diplo and Alicia Keys are among its seven songwriters; Keys' piano is also in the track, which harnesses blipping electronics and a house beat to a gospelly buildup. Madonna moves through accusations on the way to positive thinking: "After the heartache, I'm gonna carry on," she declares.

"Unapologetic Bitch," another Diplo collaboration, is more testy. It swerves in and out of a reggae band groove, punctuated by air horn and electronics, as Madonna insults her ex's sexual performance and taunts, "I don't care no more/Tell me how it feels to be ignored."

"Ghosttown" mixes affection and postapocalyptic gloom. It's a straightforward ballad over synthesizer chords, written with songwriters who have also supplied material to Rihanna, Demi Lovato and Jason Derulo; it begs for a dystopian-romance video.

"This world has turned to dust/All we've got left is love," Madonna sings, before the chorus promises, "When it all falls down, we'll be two souls in a ghosttown."

Most of the "Rebel Heart" songs tend to check off at least two idioms per track. "Bitch I'm Madonna" is, fortunately, the most negligible of the "Rebel Heart" tracks.

Film 'Selma' disappoints LBJ historian

By Paul J. Weber
Associated Press

AUSTIN — The widely acclaimed movie "Selma" about the 1965 Civil Rights movement has disappointed at least one moviegoer: a leading historian of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

The director of the LBJ Presidential Library in Austin, which hosted a major civil rights summit this year that was headlined by four U.S. presidents, said the film that opens in theaters Thursday incorrectly portrays Johnson as an obstructionist to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Selma" is based on the 1965 marches from the Alabama cities of Selma to Montgomery that were led by King. At the time, marchers were calling for voting rights.

LBJ Library director Mark Updegrove said the film unfairly casts Johnson as a sort of composite character who represents the obstacles blacks faced in getting civil rights laws passed. What history shows, Updegrove said, is that Johnson and King had a partnership.

He said Johnson and King had disagreements but not like the film suggests. Updegrove called the portrayal unfortunate given the current climate following the deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of police.

> *"When racial tension is so high, it does no good to suggest that the president of the U.S. himself stood in the way of progress a half-century ago. It flies in the face of history."*
>
> **Mark Updegrove,** LBJ Library director

"When racial tension is so high, it does no good to suggest that the president of the U.S. himself stood in the way of progress a half-century ago. It flies in the face of history," Updegrove said.

A spokeswoman for Paramount Pictures, the studio that released the film, did not immediately return messages for comment Wednesday.

"Selma" is nominated for four Golden Globe awards, including best picture for a drama and best director.

In April, Updegrove and the LBJ Library commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act with a summit that included appearances by four of the five living U.S. presidents. President Barack Obama closed out the event with a speech that lauded Johnson's congressional deal-making and push for greater racial equality.

Jackie Chan expresses shame over son's drug charge

Associated Press

BEIJING — Hong Kong action film star Jackie Chan said he feels shame for his son, who has been indicted by Beijing prosecutors on a drug charge and could be jailed for up to three years.

The remarks, reported Wednesday by China's official Xinhua News Agency, came two days after authorities announced the indictment against Jaycee Chan, 32, who is charged with sheltering others to use drugs.

The scandal has been particularly embarrassing for Jackie Chan, who was named by Beijing as an anti-drug ambassador in 2009.

Jackie Chan, who sits on China's top national political advisory panel — the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference — told Xinhua that he did not use his connections to interfere with the case and that he hopes his singer-actor son will become an anti-drug ambassador when he is released.

Beijing police detained the younger Chan at his Beijing apartment in August along with Taiwanese movie star Ko Kai. Police said Chan and Ko both tested positive for marijuana and admitted using the drug, and that 100 grams (3.5 ounces) of it were taken from Chan's home.

Ko, whose real name is Ko Chen-tung, was released after a 14-day administrative detention for the drug use, but Chan — who has remained in detention since August — is faced with the more serious criminal charge.

State broadcaster CCTV in August aired video of the police raid on Chan's apartment, in which Chan was shown identifying marijuana in his possession. Ko testified on camera that he had used drugs at Chan's home.

CCTV also said Chan told police that he has been using drugs for eight years.

In June, Chinese President Xi Jinping declared that illegal drugs should be wiped out and that offenders should be severely punished. The crackdown snared more than 7,800 people in Beijing alone, according to police, and celebrities were targeted because of their influence over the public.

As the only son of Jackie Chan, Jaycee Chan commands much media attention. The younger Chan has appeared in several films and has released three albums.

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

There is one letter, not counting S, that, when added to all of the seven-letter words below, can be used to form new eight-letter words. Find the letter that works, add it to each word, and then rearrange each set of letters to form a new word.

CURATED

SHADILY

COMMON LETTER

GUARDED

MALICES

Yesterday's Answer: POOCREEP CHEAPOO PEER CIGAR HERE

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12.28

ONWARD PRANCER (TO BEER)!

Photos by Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

The Museum of the Southwest hosted its fourth annual ReinBeer celebration earlier this month. The popular event is part of Christmas at the Mansion, which continues through Jan. 4. The museum will be closed Wednesday and Thursday. For more information, go to museumsw.org.

CALENDAR

Compiled from staff reports and from the Arts Council of Midland | acmidland.org

TUESDAY

Tall City Youth Calf Roping, 9 a.m. at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

Moscow Ballet's "Great Russian Nutcracker," 7 p.m. at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Marfa Public Radio's "Nature Notes," 8:35 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. every Tuesday-Thursday. KXWT-Midland/Odessa-91.3 FM.

WEDNESDAY

Ultimate Calf Roping, 9 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

PDAP Annual Family New Year's Eve Celebration, 7 p.m.-midnight at Midland Center. pdapmidland.org.

New Year's Eve DJ Dance Party and Champagne Toast, 8 p.m.-midnight at El Cosmico in Marfa. elcosmico.com.

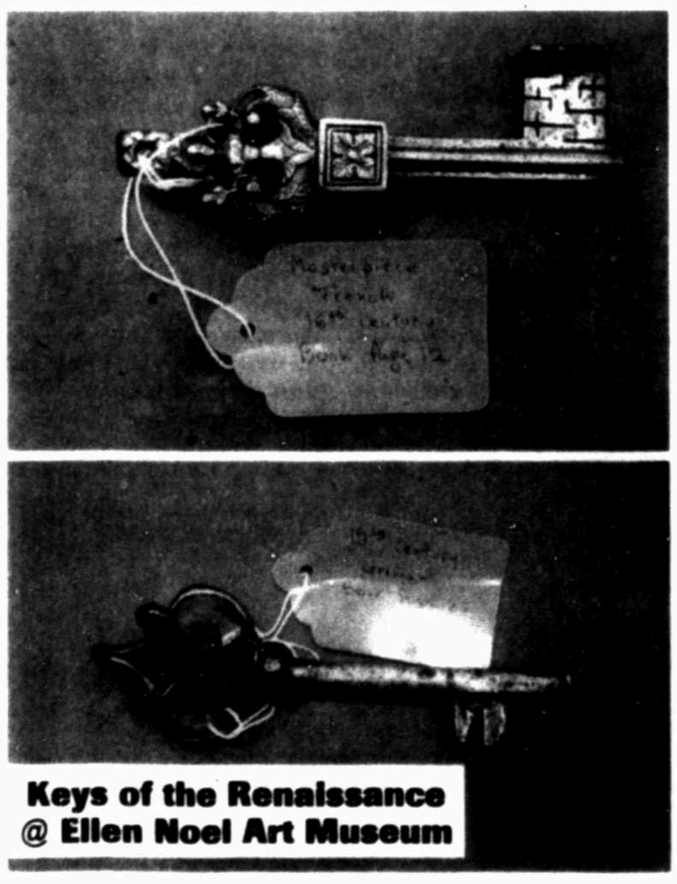
FRIDAY

Tex-Mex Barrel Race, through Jan. 4 at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

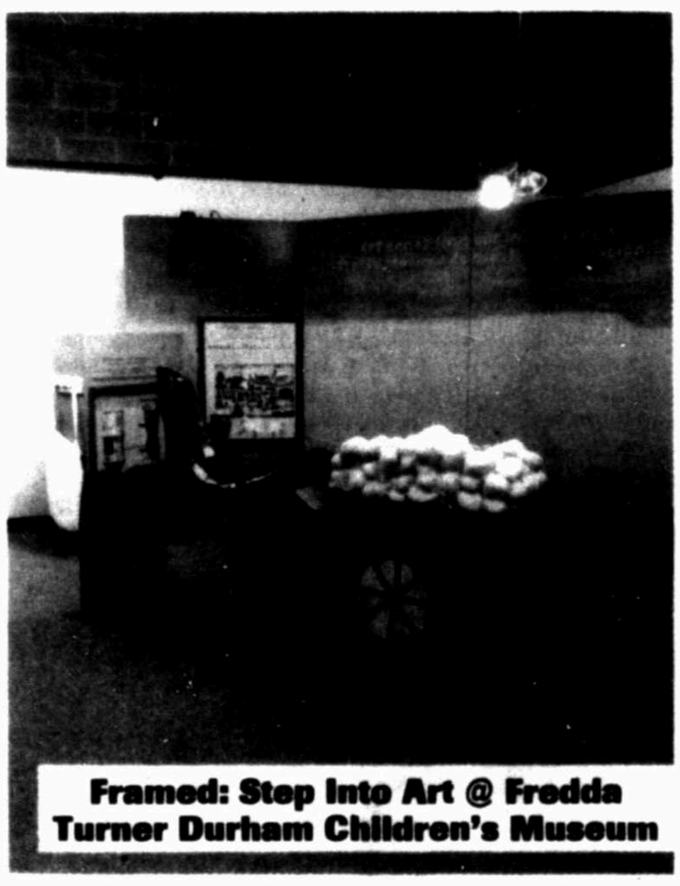
SATURDAY

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

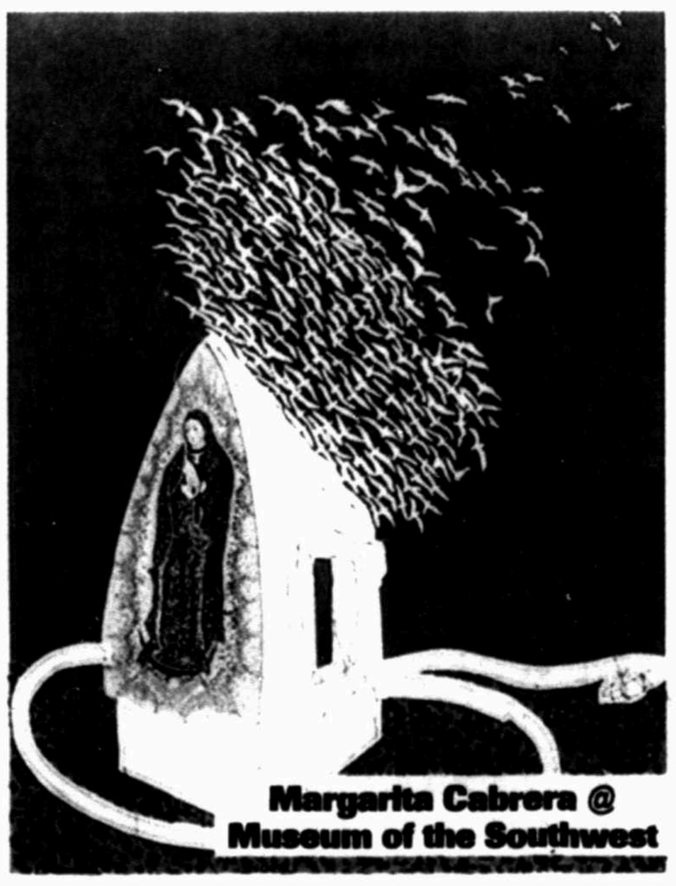
An Evening Inspired By Downton Abbey, hosted by Basin PBS, 6:30 p.m. at Midland Country Club. basinpbs.org.



Keys of the Renaissance @ Ellen Noel Art Museum



Framed: Step Into Art @ Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum



Margarita Cabrera @ Museum of the Southwest

ON DISPLAY

ArtiZen Outlet gallery space and co-op. 436 Andrews Highway. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. artizenoutlet.com.

ArtQuest Studios: Reserved Studio Time. $35 per month. 700 Andrews Highway. heronartconnection@sbcglobal.net. 553-0420. www.artquesttx.com.

Blakemore Planetarium's permanent exhibits are open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Closed Sunday and Monday. Sky shows throughout the week.1705 W. Missouri Ave. 683-2882.

The Ellen Noël Art Museum's "Spirit of the Mask" through Jan. 12. and "Keys of the Renaissance" through Jan. 4. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free. www.noelartmuseum.org. 550-9696.

Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum's exhibit "Framed: Step Into Art" through Feb. 1. Permanent exhibits include "My Town," "Beach Babies" and "Touch of Sound." Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 2-5 p.m., Admission charged. 1705 W. Missouri Ave., 683-2882.

George Bush Childhood Home's tours and gift shop hours are 2-5 p.m. Sundays and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturdays. Admission charged. 1412 W. Ohio Ave., 685-1112

Haley Library and History Center's hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Free. 1805 W. Indiana Ave. 682-5785

Kamiposi Gallery. 510 S. Big Spring St. 230-0256. Facebook.com/kamiposi.

Midland Arts Association presents the artwork of Scottie Mansfield in the Community National Bank Lobby, 401 W. Texas Ave., during December.

Midland County Historical Museum's exhibit honoring World War II veterans in cooperation with the Texas Historical Commission's three-year program. Permanent exhibits: Native American artifacts; early Midland photos and relics; replica of Midland Man discovery; early obituary files available for research, 301 W. Missouri Ave. 2-5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Free. 682-2931 or 688-8947.

Midland County Historical Society's Z. Taylor Brown-Sara Dorsey Medallion Home, oldest restored home in Midland. Open by appointment. 213 N. Weatherford St., 682-5447.

Museum of the Southwest's exhibits Margarita Cabrera through Tuesday. Christmas at the Mansion through Jan. 4. museumsw.org. Permanent exhibits: Taos Master: Taos Society of Artists collection. MSW Sculpture Park has 14 sculptures on display. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 2-5 p.m. Sunday. $5 adults, $3 children. 1705 W. Missouri Ave., 683-2882.

Nancy Fyfe Cardozier Gallery, UTPB. Free and open to the public. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 2-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Options Gallery, Odessa College, 201 W. University Blvd. Free. 335-6640.

Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, Library and Hall of Fame is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 2-5 p.m. Sunday, 1500 Interstate 20 West, 683-4403.

Scarborough-Linebery House is open by appointment and available for rental for weddings and other special occasions. 802 S. Main St. 685-7368.

Arts Council of Midland is accepting artists' applications for Celebration of the Arts, March 27-28. Applications are due Jan. 20. zapplication.org.

Arts Council of Midland maintains a calendar of all submitted arts-related activities. To submit events see use form from www.acmidland.org.

Growth is no piece of cake

More 'Help Wanted' signs up at small businesses

By Joyce M. Rosenberg
Associated Press

NEW YORK — If you're looking for signs that the U.S. economy is growing and that the job market is improving, just talk to small business owners.

After cutting back on spending for years, people are splurging again. That's evident at Lady M Cake Boutiques.

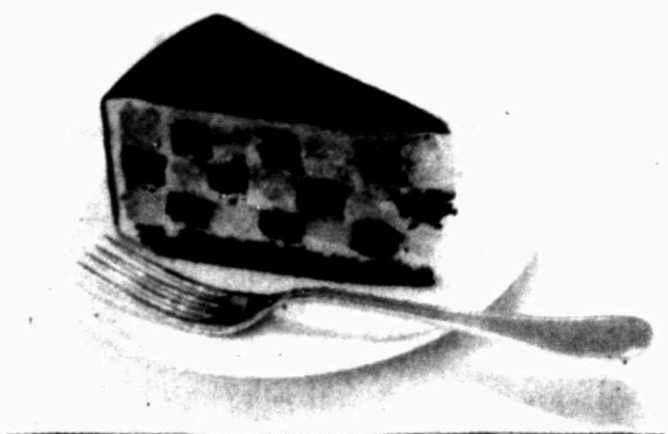
Revenue is up 40 percent this year at the New York-based company with more customers paying $60 to $85 — three or four times what a supermarket cake costs — for confections made of paper-thin pastry dough and flavored with ingredients like green tea and chestnuts. Business is so good that owner Ken Romaniszyn, who has two locations in Manhattan and one in Los Angeles, plans three or four next year in New York, Boston and Charlotte, North Carolina. He'll hire 60 new employees to staff the stores, adding to Lady M's current staff of 145.

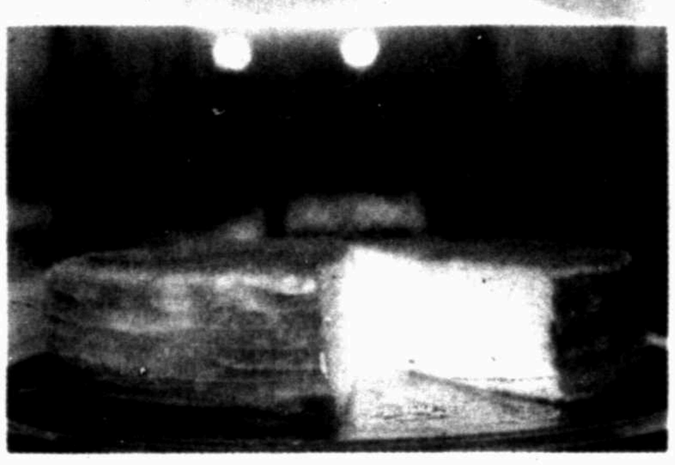
His cakes used to appeal mostly to the wealthy but are now attracting a wider range of customers, Romaniszyn said.

"The middle class, they can afford to make a special occasion a little more special," he said.

The U.S. economy is growing at a solid pace. This week, government figures showed that consumers and businesses drove growth to a sizzling 5 percent annual rate last quarter. Fewer Americans are applying for jobless benefits. In the first 11 months of this year, employers have added 2.65 million jobs. That already makes 2014 the best year for hiring since 1999.

A good chunk of the good news can be attributed to improvements at small companies. Reports from payroll company ADP and software maker Intuit show small business hiring has gained momentum since the summer. The trend looks to continue — surveys by Wells Fargo & Co. and the National Federation of Independent Business show more owners plan to bring in new employees in the coming months.





With revenue up 11 percent this year at her four Squeeze In restaurants in Reno, Nevada, and near Lake Tahoe, owner Misty Young plans to add nine people to her staff of about 90 next year. She'll also open a fifth restaurant next month in Redwood City, California, and hire 25 employees there.

Diners are spending an average 35 cents more per meal. When multiplied by the 270,000 people Young serves a year, it gives her an extra $94,500 in annual revenue, she said. Customers are ordering some of the most expensive items on the menu, like a $22 crab omelet. They're willing to pay a few dollars more for a premium vodka like Grey Goose in their Bloody Marys.

"People are in this 'I deserve it' mentality. They've worked hard, and they want to play hard," Young said.

The healthier economy is luring customers back to Spa Lamar for massages, facials and pedicures. Owner Heidi Lamar, who has 35 employees, is hiring to bring her staff back up to 50, the level before the recession.

Customers visit the Scottsdale, Arizona, spa more often, and they're asking for more services. The average bill has soared this quarter to $122 from $98, Lamar says. She needs more staffers to handle the increased workload.

"The group we have is getting to the point where they're maxed out," she said.

The increase in business has encouraged Lamar to add new services such as massages for couples. She's also renovating and painting the spa.

Some of the pickup in revenue comes from snowbirds, people who come to Arizona to escape the cold. But area residents are splurging on themselves again, she said.

"They say, 'we've really missed you. It's good to be coming back again,'" she said.

TOP PHOTO: Ken Romaniszyn, right, owner of Lady M Cake Boutique, serves a customer in New York on Dec. 17. Romaniszyn says his cakes, that once appealed mostly to the wealthy, are now attracting a wider range of customers. "The middle class, they can afford to make a special occasion a little more special," he says.

INSET PHOTOS: A slice of Checkers chocolate and vanilla sponge cake, top, and a mille crepes cake, bottom, at Lady M Cake Boutique in New York. *Associated Press*

Economic impact of hunger in US is widespread

THE ECONOMIST
By M. Ray Perryman

Hunger. The very word brings thoughts of suffering and need — be it children leaving school on a Friday afternoon knowing they will not have a decent meal until Monday morning, parents confronting the impossible choice between buying food and providing adequate shelter or transportation to work, or seniors enduring pain and humiliation on a daily basis. Although hunger is devastating to those affected, it remains all too common. This fact alone should be sufficient to motivate lasting and permanent solutions, yet decades of heroic effort have fallen short.

As a public service, we recently studied the economic aspects of hunger and found that there are also practical economic reasons for the elimination of hunger. This is the first in a series of columns related to the issue.

The problem of hunger is bigger (and more costly) than many people realize. Some 17.5 million U.S. households (almost 50 million people) had difficulty obtaining sufficient food last year, according to the latest US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Household Food Security in the United States in 2013 report released in September 2014. In other words, at some time during the year, these households — more than 14 percent of the households in the United States — had some difficulty providing enough food for all family members due to a lack of resources.

Worse, 6.8 million of those households (5.6 percent of the total number of U.S. households) had very low food security, meaning that at some point during the year, food intake of some members of the household was reduced and normal eating patterns disrupted due to limited resources.

The recent recession exacerbated the problem of hunger. The number of households that were food insecure increased by over four million and has been slow to improve. In fact, even with the slight drop in 2013, the number of food insecure households (17.5 million) is still far above the pre-recession total of 13 million in 2007.

Federal programs have failed to deal adequately with the problem of food insecurity. Although there was a temporary increase in some benefits within the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) during this period, the additional funding ceased in 2013. The more recent trend has been toward reductions in funding, a pattern that seems likely to continue.

Even beyond the obvious physical and mental costs of food insecurity and the incalculable toll on the stability and dignity of families across the U.S., there is a tremendous economic cost. Health care needs of people who are food insecure are higher due to increased incidence and severity of disease. Health outcomes are also worse, reducing productivity and lifetime earnings. In addition, education expenses are higher. Food insecurity is associated with a greater need for intervention such as special education, and education and achievement levels (and, hence, lifetime earnings) are negatively affected.

These costs multiply as they work their way through the business complex and are largely borne by the whole of society. Economic aspects of hunger have been the subject of numerous prior studies, and empirical assessments have provided valuable data regarding the effects of hunger on health care, education, and related outcomes. While many of these prior efforts reflect excellent and careful scholarship that is highly useful, they are based on traditional health economics approaches and, thus, only measure certain aspects of the total cost.

Incremental outlays for excessive and avoidable health care and education is largely a net withdrawal of resources from the economy that could otherwise be used in more productive ways. Moreover, when the earnings of individuals are diminished, society is deprived of productive capacity and spending potential which causes losses in output throughout the supply chain and reduces the demand for consumer goods. The effects of these drains, which have not previously been quantified in a comprehensive manner, cascade through all aspects of business activity. We therefore developed a new way to look at the economic cost of hunger. (The full methodology is explained in the study, which may be downloaded at www.perrymangroup.com.)

According to our analysis, hunger costs the economy $461.9 billion in total expenditures, $221.9 billion in gross product each year, and nearly 2.5 million permanent jobs. These amounts represent about 1.3 percent of total output in the United States and 1.8 percent of total domestic employment, thus reflecting a significant drain on current business activity. It should be noted that the lifetime effects of

Please see ECONOMIST/2F

Ask the Fool

A Different Dividend

Q What's a stock dividend? — *G.W., Manchester, New Hampshire*

A You're probably familiar with traditional dividends, which involve companies with excess cash paying out some of it to shareholders in the form of cash dividends every quarter (and sometimes every month).

But not all dividends are paid in cash. A company might opt to reward shareholders with additional shares of stock, instead. That can seem more appealing for us investors, but by increasing its share count, the company is diluting the value of existing shares. (Imagine a pizza, where the more slices there are, the smaller each one is.)

The idea can appeal to the company's management, though, as it gets to reward shareholders without sacrificing any cash. It awards shareholders a share or a fraction of a share for each share owned, and in many ways is like a stock split.

***

Q How many shareholders do companies usually have? — *P.Y., Memphis, Tennessee*

A It can vary widely. Privately held companies might have just a few, but publicly traded ones typically have many thousands. Hormel, for example, cites about 13,800 shareholders of record, while Kroger has 30,449.

Keep in mind that the number of shareholders changes all the time as shares are bought and sold, and that the numbers are rarely exact. Many shares are held in "street name," too, meaning that their brokerage holds their shares for them, and the company may not know how many individuals make up that block of brokerage shares or who they are.

IBM, for example, has stated that, "At year-end 2012, there were 491,541 registered owners of IBM stock. Another 1,600,000 stockholders own IBM stock through brokerage firms, banks, credit unions and other financial institutions."

Got a question for the Fool? Send it in — see Write to Us

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To Educate, Amuse & Enrich

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Fool's School

Terms to Know

Understanding the following terms can help you be a better investor:

- **Book value**: A company's assets, minus liabilities and intangible assets, which can be calculated via the company's balance sheet. It represents what would be left over in assets if the company went out of business.
- **Bull (and bear) market**: When the overall market gains (or loses) value over an extended period of time. There's no official definition, but many feel a gain (or drop) of at least 10 percent is needed to qualify. (A smaller drop is often called a "correction.")
- **Capital appreciation**: One of the two components of total return (along with dividend yield), capital appreciation reflects how much the underlying value of a security has increased. If you bought a stock at $20 per share and it has risen to $23, you've got 15 percent appreciation on your investment.
- **Capital gain/loss**: The difference between the price at which an asset is sold and its original purchase price (or "basis"). Buy a stock for $10 and sell it for $15, and you've got a capital gain of $5, less trading costs.
- **Liquidity**: A measure of how quickly an asset can be sold at a fair price and converted to cash, such as mutual funds and most major stocks. Illiquid assets include stocks with low trading volume, real estate and antiques.
- **Market timing**: An investment strategy based on predicting short-term price changes in securities, which is virtually impossible to do.
- **Standard & Poor's 500 Index**: An index of 500 of America's biggest publicly traded companies. The S&P 500 is considered a good measurement of the overall U.S. stock market, and indeed, it represents about 80 percent of the market.
- **Treasury bill (T-bill)**: A short-term debt obligation issued by the U.S. government, with a maturity of one year or less. It's sold at a discount, so that you collect no coupon payments but receive the full value at maturity.

Learn more terms at **investopedia.com** and **investorwords.com**.

FOOLISH TRIVIA

Name That Company

One of my roots goes back to 1833 and another to 1889, when a company was founded in the Netherlands to process concentrated fruit juices. By 1917, another key predecessor company had a presence in Manhattan and was importing essential oils. A 1958 merger gave me my current name and made me a major supplier in the flavor and fragrance industry. My flavor compounds are used in foods, drinks and sweets, while my fragrances are used in everything from perfumes to detergents to deodorants. My 2000 acquisition of Bush Boake Allen created the world's largest flavor and fragrance company. Who am I?

Know the answer? Send it to us with Foolish Trivia on the top and you'll be entered into a drawing for a nifty prize!

My Dumbest Investment

Costly Advice

My dumbest investment move was listening to a broker from a large brokerage. I figured he had to be very savvy to work there. I told him, back around 1994, to buy shares of America Online, Dell, Microsoft and Johnson & Johnson, among other stocks.

Instead, he pushed his presumably better ideas and soon I was invested in them. Then, just before some of them went up, he said that his brokerage was recommending real estate investment trusts (REITs) now. I was moved into some of them, and they dropped in value. For all this, I was paying him more than $6,000 per year. I could have had millions by investing on my own. — *F.I., Dover, Oklahoma*

The Fool Responds: Some financial advisers have conflicts of interest, getting compensated by having you make certain investments. And a brokerage will profit more if you trade frequently, as it charges trading commissions. You might already be a savvier stock picker than your adviser, or you can become one by reading and learning. You'll cost yourself less, too, investing on your own. Remember, some brokers are mostly salespeople.

Do you have an embarrassing lesson learned the hard way? Boil it down to 100 words (or less) and send it to The Motley Fool c/o My Dumbest Investment. Got one that worked? Submit to My Smartest Investment. If we print yours, you'll win a Fool's cap!

The Motley Fool Take

Energize Your Portfolio

If you're looking for a seemingly undervalued stock with a fat dividend, check out Enerplus (NYSE: ERF). It's a North American oil, gas and natural gas liquids exploration and production company, which, not surprisingly, has been whacked by falling oil prices that can lower its top- and bottom-line results.

Still, there's a lot of growth potential in Enerplus, even with oil prices at multiyear lows. Enerplus has employed hedging techniques to shield some of its production, locking in higher-than-prevailing prices.

Meanwhile, Enerplus' juiciest assets are sitting in the oil-rich Williston Basin, which spans North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Saskatchewan. Whether it's selling at the wellhead, in Cushing, Oklahoma, or shipping by rail to Louisiana to take advantage of the Brent-West Texas Intermediate spread, Enerplus has a number of options available to get the best possible price for its assets.

Enerplus has also been a leader in "downspacing" — putting more than one well in a space where, traditionally, only one well would operate. This method could give Enerplus a way to quickly boost its yield and profits.

Enerplus offers investors a monthly dividend with an annual dividend yield recently near 10 percent. It's not without risk, especially if oil prices keep falling, but with a forward-looking price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio near 11, well below its five-year average, Enerplus is inviting.

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

I began as a grocery store launched in Cincinnati in 1883 with $372. In 1901, I was the first grocery store to feature a bakery. Today I'm one of the world's biggest retailers, with more than 2,600 locations in 34 states and more than 375,000 employees. My formats include grocery stores, multi-department stores, discount stores, convenience stores and jewelry stores. Brands under my roof include City Market, Dillons, Food 4 Less, Fred Meyer, Fry's, Harris Teeter, Jay C, King Soopers, QFC, Ralphs, Smith's and my own well-known name. I rake in more than $100 billion annually. Who am I? (Answer: The Kroger Co.)

Write to Us! Send questions for Ask the Fool, Dumbest (or Smartest) Investments (up to 100 words), and your Trivia entries to Fool@fool.com or via regular mail c/o this newspaper, attn: The Motley Fool. *Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.*

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The game has changed: Today's hedge funds don't necessarily hedge against risk

GLEN AARON
Columnist

There seems to be little known by the average American about the huge financial industry of hedge funds. We can remember in the Mitt Romney/Barack Obama presidential campaign that it came to light that candidate Romney had an amount of close to $100 million in hedge funds. There was nothing wrong with that. In fact, hedge funds have been used by the upper 2 percent of American wealth at least since the 1990s in order to increase profits, hedge against risk and reduce commissions and loads.

At its most basic definition, a hedge fund is an investment vehicle that pools capital from a number of investors and invests in securities and other instruments. It is administered by a professional management firm and is often structured as a limited partnership, limited liability company, or similar vehicle.

Hedge funds invest in a diverse range of markets and use a wide variety of investment styles and financial instruments. They are generally distinct from mutual funds as their use of leverage is not capped by regulators and from private equity funds, as the majority of hedge funds invest in relatively liquid assets. The hedge fund industry is most often open-ended and allows for additions or withdrawals on a quarter, semi-annual, or annual basis by their investors.

Many hedge fund investment strategies are aimed at achieving a positive return on investment regardless of whether markets are rising or falling. At the same, time hedge fund managers often invest money of their own in the fund that they manage, which serves to align their own interests with those of the investors in the fund.

In the current decade, hedge funds have become more popular and utilized by more investors than that top 2 percent of American wealth. It would appear that this is true because, unlike mutual funds, fees are not charged unless the hedge fund is actually making a profit beyond a certain "high water mark." Nevertheless, hedge funds are made available only to certain sophisticated and accredited investors who meet certain financial standards and investment knowledge. The pool of that type of investor has greatly expanded among the American public, since the debacle of 2007-2008.

A hedge fund typically pays its investment manager an annual management fee of from 1 to 2 percent, and a performance fee based on profit of 20 percent of the increase in the funds net asset value during the year, after the fund has reached that certain "high water mark." Some hedge funds have several billion dollars of assets under management (AUM). As of June 2013, the estimated size of the global hedge fund industry was $2.4 trillion, and it continues to grow.

The word "hedge," meaning a line of bushes around a field, has long been used as a metaphor for the placing of limits on risk. Early hedge funds sought to hedge specific investments against general market fluctuations by shorting the market, hence the name.

Nowadays, however, many different investment strategies are used, some of which do hedge against risk, while others do not.

Glen Aaron is a contributor to the Reporter-Telegram

Tips to tackle your holiday gift returns

By Alex Veiga
Associated Press

Keep gifts in good condition

Retailers will resist taking back a purchase that's not in good condition or in the original packaging.

Whether it's clothing or consumer electronics, make sure the item is free of wear, and that you have all of the parts.

"The biggest problem is when you don't have accessories like a remote control or a battery," said Mike Abt, co-president of Glenview, Illinois-based Abt Electronics, one of the largest independent retailers of electronics and appliances in the country.

But what if you lost part of an item and want to return it? Try offering to pay for the lost accessory. That'll make it more likely that the merchant will take the item back and issue you a refund or credit, Abt said.

And don't think a retailer won't open the box and take an inventory of the parts. Abt notes he's had customers bring back a box that looks like a recent purchase, but the contents were different.

"One time we found a bottle of Windex and a tomato soup can," he said.

Don't stress the receipt

Having a gift receipt handy in case it's needed for a return is ideal. But don't worry if you've misplaced it. Odds are your ID will do. Nearly 71 percent of retailers now require customers who are returning an item without a receipt to show identification, according to the NRF.

Target requires a receipt for all returns and exchanges, but in most cases, within 90 days, it can verify purchases made using credit, debit cards and other electronic payment methods.

If you're being met with resistance, ask to speak with a manager. Often pleading your case to a store manager in person will be enough.

Heed return deadlines

Be aware of how much time you have. It's not uncommon for certain items, like cameras and other electronics, to have a limit of 15 days for refunds or exchanges.

That's partly because some consumers will buy some items, like a GoPro camera or a TV, for a one-time use. Then they will attempt to return it for a refund. The practice is known as "wardrobing," which alludes to a similar scenario: When someone buys clothing to wear for one night and then returns the item in exchange for a refund.

"Retailers can't afford to be too lenient with certain products," said Kathy Grannis, a spokeswoman for the National Retail Federation.

Check the store's policy online or the gift receipt for details on when the return window closes.

Sell that unwanted gift card

Several websites will pay for your gift card in cash. There's a catch, though: You'll receive less than the face value of the card.

During a recent look at Giftcardexchangeday.com, a $25 gift card for Starbucks brought up cash offers from companies such as GiftCards.com, Cardpool.com and eBay, among others. The offers ranged from $17.25 to $18. At best, that's a 28 percent fee to wring some of that coffee credit into cash.

BUILDING PERMITS

Building permits Dec. 15-19

1211 Overshine Lane	New Residence	$148,770
1209 Overshine Lane	New Residence	$200,970
6103 Copper Sky Court	New Residence	$162,810
1217 Overshine Lane	New Residence	$162,810
1207 Overshine Lane	New Residence	$173,160
5302 George Yard Court	New Residence	$270,540
2203 Country Club Drive	Residential Addition	$45,000
1214 Humble Ave.	Residential Alteration	$9,800
4200 W. Illinois Ave.	Commercial Alteration	$200
1900 Orchard Lane	New Commercial	$1,200,000
3101 Shell Ave.	Residential Alteration	$32,552
6500 Saddle Horn Lane	New Commercial	$104,000
6405 Bowman Circle	Fence	$1,000
941 N. Fort Worth St.	Residence-Detached	$5,000
3715 Northfield Drive	Residence-Detached	$3,000
1304 N. Loop 250 W.	Sign	$6,800
1304 N. Loop 250 W.	Sign	$6,800
1008 Alpine St.	New Residence	$40,000
509 E. Peck	MH-Single Lot	$65,000
6923 Cattleman Drive	New Residence	$233,000
6924 Cattleman Drive	New Residence	$232,000
6925 Cattleman Drive	New Residence	$231,000
5306 George Yard Court	New Residence	$241,830
1304 N. Loop 250 W.	Commercial Alteration	$20,000
6417 Patriot Parkway	New Residence	$203,400
6511 Commonwealth Road	New Residence	$168,480
900 Founders Road	New Residence	$168,460
908 Founders Road	New Residence	$270,000
6419 Patriot Parkway	New Residence	$168,480
809 Founders Road	New Residence	$235,260
6416 Vanguard Road	New Residence	$227,880
6410 Vanguard Road	New Residence	$203,400
805 Gallantry Lane	New Residence	$227,880
6404 Hall of Fame Blvd.	New Residence	$203,400
6418 Commonwealth Road	New Residence	$203,400
6418 Vanguard Road	New Residence	$168,480
6400 Vanguard Road	New Residence	$270,000
6415 Commonwealth Road	New Residence	$159,120
910 Founders Road	New Residence	$168,480
6408 Commonwealth Road	New Residence	$203,400
618 Victory Parkway	New Residence	$168,480
6415 Hall of Fame Blvd.	New Residence	$203,400
902 Founders Road	New Residence	$235,260
800 Founders Road	New Residence	$181,080
6507 Hall of Fame Blvd.	New Residence	$217,890
914 Founders Road	New Residence	$235,260
6410 Commonwealth Road	New Residence	$235,260
6411 Hall of Fame Blvd.	New Residence	$168,480
6412 Commonwealth Road	New Residence	$227,900
6001 Deauville Blvd.	New Commercial	$43,626,126
801 Founders Road	New Residence	$168,480
2800 Fairfield Lane	New Residence	$243,450
5104 Binney Cove	New Residence	$189,810
5108 Binney Cove	New Residence	$227,880
1300 Dayton Road	Sign	$9,500
1300 Dayton Road	Sign	$9,500
2211 Humble Ave.	Residential Addition	$25,000
708 E. Texas Ave.	Residential Alteration	$9,000
1900 Jadewood Drive	Residential Addition	$50,000
1215 Overshine Lane	New Residence	$200,970
1301 Overshine Lane	New Residence	$148,770
6608 Mosswood Drive	New Residence	$308,970
4218 W. Wadley Ave.	Commercial Addition	$45,000

Source: City of Midland

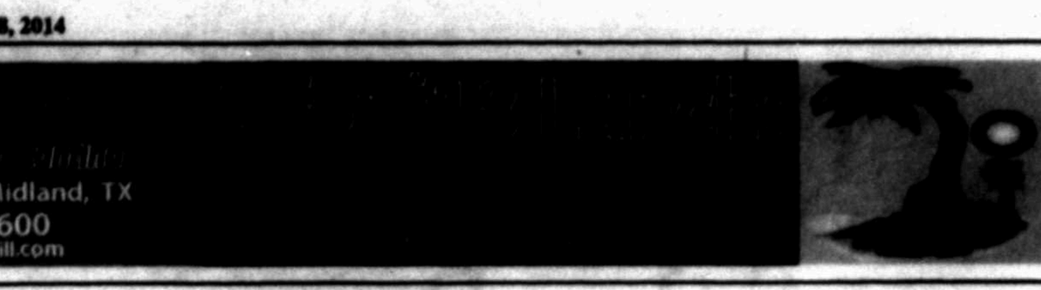
ECONOMIST

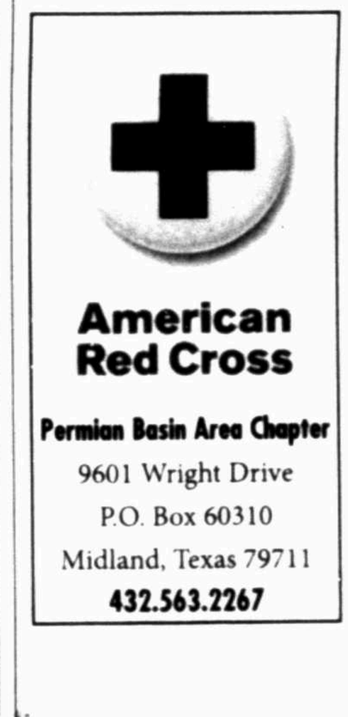
From 1F

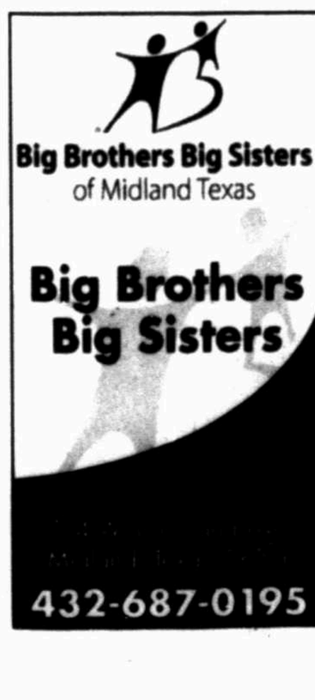
hunger occurring in 2014 alone (as opposed to the impacts in a typical year as described above) are much larger and include almost $3.4 trillion in aggregate spending, over $1.5 trillion in gross product, and 15.9 million years of employment.

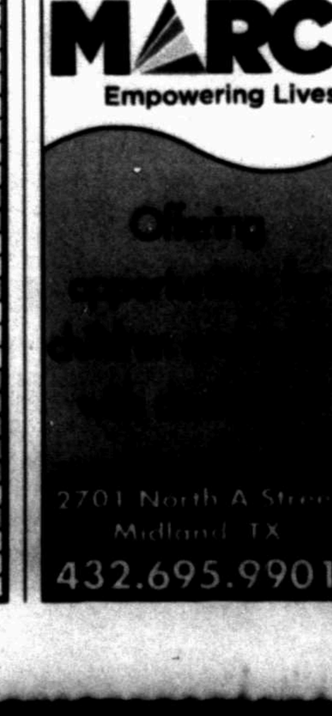
This more comprehensive picture sheds new light on the overall burden to society, as well as the potential benefits of solving the problem. It also informs the policy process and assists in crafting economically sound solutions. The vast majority (85.7 percent) of households were food secure throughout the year in 2013, meaning they had access to a plentiful, consistent supply of food. However, in a nation as affluent as the U.S., the fact that one in seven people go hungry at some point in the year is no less than tragic.

M. Ray Perryman is president of The Perryman Group.









SUNDAY MORNING — DECEMBER 28, 2014

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

						6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KMID	ABC	3	3	4	3	2	In Touch Ministries		GMA/Sunday		The Truth	House	J.Jones	This Week		Church		Paid	Paid
KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	Paid	Hunt	Rain	M. Lyon	CBS Sunday Morning			FaceNat.	First Baptist Church		First Baptist Odessa		
KWWT	CW	5	14		5	14	D.Reed	D.Reed	Hunters	Hunters	Gilligan	Gilligan	SaveBell	SaveBell	SaveBell	SaveBell	Brady8.	Brady8.	
KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Support	W.Minist	F.Hardin	Cowboy	Fox News Sunday		Odessa	FaithAve	Rain	Edition	Fox NFL Sunday (L)		
KMLM	IND	11	11	12	11	11	(5:00) Light of south		Walking	Stringer	In Touch Ministries		Zion	Day Disc.	R/Manusc	HaYesod	Nueva Vida		
KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	Havas	Secrets	Paid		Sunday Today (N)		Meet the Press (N)		First Baptist Church		Havas	Paid	
KPBT	PBS	13	13		13	8	C.George	C.George	W.World	D.Tiger	Sesame	DinoTrain	DinoTrain	Peg + Cat	Cat/ Hat	Odd Squ	Wild K.	Arthur	
KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Al punto		Republica deportiva				
KOSA	MNT	16	16		16		JTV	JTV Direct	Spaces	Homeown.	Green	Hazelton	O.House	HomeT.	Bucket	Trobador	The NFL Today (L)		
FLIX		340	65		165		(6:10) Phantom ...		(7:55) Bad Boys (95, Act) Will Smith.		Homeward Bound II: Lost ...				(10:30) Sahara (Matthew McConaughey,				
HBO		300	68	14	14		(6:30) Undercover ...		Divergent (14, Act) Shailene Woodley.				Tapia		Fight Game		Wedding (5:15)		Bl...
HBO2		302	69	15	101	23	(6:00) Scooby Doo ...		(7:20) Batman v Tale (14, F and) Colin Farrel.				(8:20) Enough Said Julia Louis-Dreyfus.		Tomorrow		Tomorrow		
HBO3		304	70	16	102		Gravity		50 Days, Seven Flights		(7:20) The Comeback				(10:30) How You See Me Jesse Eisenberg.		The Wire		
MAX		380	71	17	120	24	(6:00) Ride Along		Big Momma's House				(2:25) Gangster Squad		(7:30) The Hulk (03, Sci-Fi) Eric Bana.				
MAX2		382	72	18	122		(6:00) Star Trek: F...		(7:55) The Skeleton Key				(4:40) Must Love Dogs		(7:20) Enemy of the State Will Smith.				
PLEX				96			(5:50) Centennial		Centennial						(10) Centennial "The Massacre"		(50) Centennial "The Long Horns"		
SHOW		320	66	19	140	25	(5:15) Stop at Nothing		Inside the NFL		Lost Christmas Eddie Izzard.		(4:00)		The Butler				
TMC		336	67	22	155	26	(5:45) Alone for C...		(7:15) The Face of Love				(5:50) Heatstroke ('13, Thril) Stephen Dorff.		The Trip Steve Coogan.				
A&E		27	32	28	35	47	Dog B.H. "Tent City"		Dog B.H.	Dog B.H.	Crim. Minds "Proof"		C. Minds "Omnivore"		Criminal Minds		Reporter "Actors"		
AMC		40	21	23	42	51	Mad Men				Mad Men		Breaking Bad "Pilot"		(:05) Breaking Bad		(:10) Breaking Bad		
BET		58	26		40		(5:00) BET Inspiration		Game	Game	Game	(:25) Game	(:10) Game	(:45) Game	(:25)"The Game		Game	(:35) Game	
BRAVO		65	63		41		Millionaire		Beverly Hills		Beverly Hills				Beverly Hills		Beverly Hills		
CNBC		46	45		39	72	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	
CNN		43	24	51	30	56	New Day	Sanjay	New Day	Politics	State of the Union		Zakaria GPS (N)		Reliable Sources		State of the U`ion		
DISC		50	20	31	24	42	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Gold Rush: The Dirt		Epic Homes		Epic Homes		Epic Homes		
DISNEY		56	27	36	25	36	Sofia 1st	McStuffins	The 7D	Jake	StarWars	I Didn't	Austin	Liv/Mad	Jessie		Liv/Mad	Liv/Mad	
ESPN		32	29	48	31	30	SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		Sunday NFL Countdown (L)						
ESPN2		34	28	49	32	31	SportsCenter		OLines	Report	C's Toon	C's Toon	SportsCenter		Fantasy Football Now (L)				
FAMILY		53	54	34	42	33	Melissa	Daddy	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban						Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix				
FNC		45	58	53	23	55	(5:00) FOX & Friends Sunday						Morning Futures		Media Buzz		News HQ	Housecall	
FOOD		64	59	27	68	54	Ray's... "Noodle This"		Barefoot	Table	Pioneer	Southern	Barefoot	Giada	Big Bite	Pioneer	Heart	Rules	
FSSW		37	43	50	45	29	Paid	Outdoors	Words	Golf Life	Paid	Paid	Huddle	Texans	Countdown (L)		Game365	Xterra (N)	
FX		31	31	59	64	69	Buffy "Wrecked"		Buffy Vamp. "Gone"		Mother	Mother	Mother	Mother	Mother		American Reunion Jason Biggs.		
HALLMARK		54	49	58		34	(5:00) Christmas a...		Naughty or Nice ('12, Dral Hilarie Burton.				A Princess for Christmas Katie McGrath.				Christmas Wish...		
HGTV		63	50	26	48	44	FleaFlip	FleaFlip	FleaFlip	FleaFlip	FleaFlip	FleaFlip	FleaFlip	FleaFlip	FleaFlip	FleaFlip	Property Brothers		
HISTORY		71	62	29	50	43	The Bible Code		Bible Code II:		God vs. Satan: The Final Battle				Banned From the Bible				
LIFETIME		28	25	25	28	48	In Touch Ministries		Amazing	David Jer.	J.Osteen	Paid	Unsolved Mysteries		To Be Announced				
MSNBC		47	51		49	73	Lockup	Business	MSNBC Live								Weekends-Alex Witt		
NBCSN		38	39				EPL Soccer Man Utd vs Tottenham (L)						EPL Soccer Chelsea at Southampton (L)				(:15) EPL Soccer Everton vs Newcastle U. (L)		
NICK		55	34	39	34	37	Parents	Rangers	Rangers	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Ninja	SanjayCr	SanjayCr	Sponge	
SPIKE		30	22	55	53	58	Paid Program		Paid Program		Wrath of the Titans ('11, Act) Sam Worthington.				Raiders of the Lost Ark.				
SYFY		66	64	41	57	67	(5:00) Paid Program				Mega Shark vs. Mecha Shark				Ragin' Cajun Redneck Gators				
TBS		25	11	44	66	41	Married	Queens	Queens	Queens	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	The Replacements Keanu Reeves.				
TCM		41	61	24	63	66	Movie	(:40)	Goodbye, Mr. Chips		(:45)		Jailhouse Rock Elvis Presley.		The Last Time I Saw Paris				
TELE		20	8	10	20		Pagado	Pagado	Raggs	Noodle	De chica	LazyTown	Pagado	Videos	EPL Fútbol Everton at Newcastle United (L)				
TLC		51	33	32	38	52	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé		
TNT		24	23	40	26	50	Law & Order		The Librarians				(:05) The Librarians		(:05) The Librarians		Sherlock Holme...		
TVLAND		49	48	35	54	35	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	Hot In	The Exes	Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	
USA		26	30	42	27	49	Paid Program		Paid Program		SVU "Behave"		SVU "Merchandise"		SVU "Penetration"		Law&O: SVU "Gray"		
WGN		19	18				Lord	Paid	Key David	Tomorr.	Blue Bloods		Blue Bloods		Blue Bloods		Blue Bloods		

SUNDAY AFTERNOON — DECEMBER 28, 2014

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

						12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KMID	ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	The Year: 2014				News	Paid	
KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	NFL Football (L)								(:25) NFL Football Oakland Raiders at Denver Broncos (L)				
KWWT	CW	5	14		5	14	Brady8.	Brady8.	The Love Boat		Remington Steele		Streets Francisco		The Rockford Files		Hawaii Five-O		
KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	NFL Football (L)						NFL Football (L)						
KMLM	IND	11	11	12	11	11	Biblical	Mani Erfan	S. Baras	Sal.	Light of the Southwest		Best of Week		J.McGee	Dollars	House Call	Dr. R.B.	
KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	Premier League		Goal Zone (L)		Adventure Sports		Tour Highlights (N)		Equestrian		Inside Ed.	News	
KPBT	PBS	13	13		13	8	Cyberch.	Maya&M.	Fitness	BioCent	Quilt Arts	Beads	Sewing	Peregrine	E.Smith	Platts	News. (N)	America	
KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	Hotel todo incluido		Chavo	Cita Con	Premios Juventud						Nacional	Noticiero	
KOSA	MNT	16	16		16		Christmas attheGrove		Green	Homes	CARS.TV	AmAthlete	Entertainers		Flipside	Insider	Access Hollywood		
FLIX		340	65		165		(:05) Powder Mary Steenburgen.				The House of Yes				A Night at the Roxbury		(5:55) Sahara		
HBO		300	68	14	14		(11:15) Black Nell...		Regarding Susan Sontag		Making				Wicker Park Josh Hartnett.				
HBO2		302	69	15	101	23	The LEGO Movie		(:40)		Behind Enemy Lines Owen Wilson.				Boxing		Comeback	Comeback	
HBO3		304	70	16	102		Wire "All Due Respect"		Wire "Dead Soldiers"		Wire "Hamsterdam"		The Wire		Wire "Homecoming"		Wire "Back Burners"		
MAX		380	71	17	120	24	Movie	(:05)	We're the Millers			(:45)	Fast and Furious 6 ('13, Act) Vin Diesel.				Red 2		
MAX2		382	72	18	122		Movie	(:35)	Universal Soldier: The ...				Con Air ('97, Act) Nicolas Cage.		Identity Thief Jason Bateman.				
PLEX				96			Centennial	Centennial	"The Shepherds"		(:05) Centennial		"The Storm"	(:40)	Centennial "The Crime"		(:20) Centennial		
SHOW		320	66	19	140	25	(11:15)		The Butler				The Wolf of Wall Street		(:15) The Peri2s of Being a Wallflower		August: Osage ...		
TMC		336	67	22	155	26	Movie		A Case of You Peter Dinklage.		(:05)		A Promise Rebecca Hall.	(:45)	The Face of Love		(:20) Welcome to...		
A&E		27	32	28	35	47	Reporter "Actresses"		S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	
AMC		40	21	23	42	51	(:10) Breaking Bad		(:15) Breaking Bad		(:20) Breaking Bad		(:25) Breaking Bad				Breaking Bad		BreakBad
BET		58	26		40		(:10) Game	(:45) Game	(:25) The Game		Game	(:35) Game	(:10) Game	(:45) Game	(:25) The Game		Game	(:35) Game	
BRAVO		65	63		41		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		
CNBC		46	45		39	72	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	
CNN		43	24	51	30	56	Fareed Zakaria GPS		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		
DISC		50	20	31	24	42	Epic Homes		Epic Homes		Epic Homes		Epic Homes		Epic Homes		Alaska/Frontier		
DISNEY		56	27	36	25	36	Liv/Mad	Jessie	Jessie	Jessie	GoodLuck	GoodLuck	GoodLuck	Dog Blog	Dog Blog	Dog Blog	Austin	Austin	
ESPN		32	29	48	31	30	PBA Bowling		Rd.2 CF	Rd.2 CF	Rd.2 CF	Rd.2 CF	Poker World Series						
ESPN2		34	28	49	32	31	Billiards		Billiards		Billiards		Fitness		Fitness		Fitness		
FAMILY		53	54	34	42	33	(10:00) Harry Pot...		Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince ('09, Adv)-Daniel Radcliffe.						Harry Potter & the Deathly ...				
FNC		45	58	53	23	55	America's News HQ		Fox News Sunday		Journal E.	News HQ	Healthy	Housecall	Media Buzz		Fox News Sunday		
FOOD		64	59	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Diners, Drive-Ins		
FSSW		37	43	50	45	29	Lombardi	Preview	The Big Shootout		E. Games	Mavricks	Texans Wrap (L)		Darts		Insider	Playbook	
FX		31	31	59	64	69	Movie		Step Brothers ('08, Com) Will Ferrell.				Here Comes the Boom				Grown Ups		
HALLMARK		54	49	58		34	(11:00) Christmas ...		A Very Merry Mix-Up Alicia Witt.				Matchmaker Santa Lacey Chabert.				A Bride for Chr...		
HGTV		63	50	26	48	44	Property Brothers		Property Brothers		Property Brothers		Property Brothers		Property Brothers		Property Brothers		
HISTORY		71	62	29	50	43	Banned From the Bible II				The Antichrist		Rise/ Antichrist		Pickers "Keep Out!"		American Pickers		
LIFETIME		28	25	25	28	48	To Be Announced				To Be Announced				To Be Announced				
MSNBC		47	51		49	73	Taking the Hill		Meet the Press		Caught on Camera		Caught on Camera		Caught on Camera		Caught on Camera		
NBCSN		38	39				GoalZone	Rally America (N)			Mecum Auctions "Kansas City"		NCAA Basketball Wake F./Rich. (L)				NDAword	OceanRce	
NICK		55	34	39	34	37	Sponge	Sponge	Sam Cat	Sam Cat	Sam Cat	Sam Cat	Sam Cat	Sam Cat	Sam Cat	Sam Cat	Swindle		
SPIKE		30	22	55	53	58	(10:30) Raiders of ...		(:15) Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom Harrison Ford.						(:10) Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade				
SYFY		66	64	41	57	67	Dinoshark ('10, Sci-Fi) Eric Balfour.				Bait ('11, Act) Richard Brancatisano.				Robocroc ('12, Sci-Fi) Corin Nemec.				
TBS		25	11	44	66	41	Movie		Blades of Glory ('07, Com) Will Ferrell.				Yes Man ('08, Com) Jim Carrey.				Meet the Fockers		
TCM		41	61	24	63	66	Movie		The Age of Innocence Michelle Pfeiffer.						Anastasia Ingrid Bergman.		Adam's Rib		
TELE		20	8	10	20		Titulares	Enfoque	Pistol Whipped Steven Seagal.				Death Race 2 Luke Goss.		Noticiero	Op. Repo	Videos	Movie	
TLC		51	33	32	38	52	90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé		
TNT		24	23	40	26	50	(11:00) Sherlock Holmes: A G...				Sherlock Holmes ('09, Adv) Robert Downey Jr..						Angels and Demons Tom Hanks.		
TVLAND		49	48	35	54	35	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	
USA		26	30	42	27	49	SVU "Possessed"		Law&O: SVU "Mask"		Law&O: SVU "Dirty"		SVU "Spectacle"		SVU "Russian Brides"		Law & Order: S.V.U.		
WGN		19	18				Blue Bloods		Blue Bloods		Blue Bloods		Blue Bloods		Blue Bloods		Blue Bloods		

SUNDAY PRIME TIME — DECEMBER 28, 2014

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

						6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID	ABC	3	3	4	3	2	America's Funniest Home Videos		Revenge "Contact"		Revenge "Intel"		Revenge "Atonement"		KMID News	(:35) Post-Game	(:05) White Collar		
KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	(3:25) NFL Football	60 Minutes			Boss "Bikinis Spots Bar and Grill" (N)		The Mentalist "The Silver Briefcase" (N)	CSI: Crime Scene `Dead Woods." (N)	CBS 7 News		(:05) The Wire	(:35) Good Wife	
KWWT	CW	5	14		5	14	Sheep Squad "The Last Mission Over Senga"		Columbo "Short Fuse"				M*A*S*H	Man U.N.C.L.E. "The Yellow Scarf Affair"	Mission: Impossible "Odds on Evil"		Get Smart	Get Smart	
KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	(3:00) NFL Football	The OT (L)	The Simpsons	Brooklyn 99	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Modern Family	Modern Family	Texans Weekly	Jack Van Impe	
KMLM	IND	11	11	12	11	11	Shepherd's Heart		Walking	All About Us	Light of the Southwest				Zola Levitt	Update	Day of Discovery	Dollars & Sense	
KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	Football Night in America (L)		(:20) NFL Football (L)							(:35) NewsWest	Country Reporter	Whacked Out	
KPBT	PBS	13	13		13	8	The Heiress and Her Chateau: Carolands		Great British Baking `Cake' (P) (N)		Masterpiece "Downton Abbey Season 4: Part Eight' Lady Rose meets the Prince of Wales.				Austin City Limits "Radiohead"		Song of the Mountains		
KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	Aqui y Ahora		La rosa de Guadalupe		Sal y pimienta "Musica, Muerte y Tragedia"				Familia P. Luche	Noticiero Univision	Premios Juventud		
KOSA	MNT	16	16		16		Ent. Tonight		Castle		Scandal		The Closer		Anger M.	M&M	Office	NameGame	
FLIX		340	65		165		(4:55) Sahara		Grams ('03, Dra) Sean Penn.				(:05) Bad Boys ('83, Cri) Sean Penn.				(:10) Manhunter		
HBO		300	68	14	14		Movie	(:35)	Divergent ('14, Act) Shailene Woodley.				The Comeback (N)		The Comeback		Boxing		
HBO2		302	69	15	101	23	Comeback	Comeback	Comeback	(:50)	The Comeback				47 Ronin ('13, Act) Keanu Reeves.		The LEGO Movie		
HBO3		304	70	16	102		Wire "Moral Midgetry"		The Wire "Slapstick"		Wire "Reformation"		Wire "Middle Ground"		The Wire		(:05)	A Good Day...	
MAX		380	71	17	120	24	(3:00) Red 2		The Hulk ('03, Sci-Fi) Eric Bana.				(:25) Riddick ('13, Sci-Fi) Vin Diesel.		(:20) In Bed		(:50) Zane		
MAX2		382	72	18	122		Wedding Crashers Owen Wilson.				The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug				(:40) X-Men: The Last Stand				
PLEX				96			(5:20) Centennial		Centennial		The Winds of Death"	(:40)	Centennial "The Scream of Eagles				(:10) Zathura: A...		
SHOW		320	66	19	140	25	(5:00) August: Os...		Lincoln ('12, Bio) Sally Field, Daniel Day-Lewis.						The Butler Forest Whitaker.		(:45) Affair		
TMC		336	67	22	155	26	(5:30) Welcome to...		Raze ('13, Act) Zoë Bell.		(:35)		Hostel				(:10) Buffalo Soldiers		
A&E		27	32	28	35	47	S. Wars	Storage W.	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	
AMC		40	21	23	42	51	BreakBad	(:35) Breaking Bad		(:40)	Breaking Bad		(:45) Breaking Bad		(:50) Breaking Bad		(:50) Breaking Bad	"Negro y Azul"	
BET		58	26		40		(:10) Game	(:45) Game	(:25) The Game		Game	(:35) Game	(:10) Game	(:50) Game	(:25) The Game		BET Inspiration		
BRAVO		65	63		41		Atlanta Social (N)		Housewives Atl. (N)		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		
CNBC		46	45		39	72	Guide	Money	60 Mins "Hard Times"		60 Minutes		The Costco Craze		Coca-Cola		Pepsi's Challenge		
CNN		43	24	51	30	56	The Sixties		The Sixties		The Sixties "1968"		The Sixties		The Sixties		The Sixties		
DISC		50	20	31	24	42	Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier (N)		Edge of Alaska (N)		Alaska/Frontier		Edge of Alaska		
DISNEY		56	27	36	25	36	Girl	Girl	High School Musical		Mickey		Jessie	StarWars	Jessie	Jessie	GoodLuck	GoodLuck	
ESPN		32	29	48	31	30	SportsCenter		SportsCenter		30 for 30 "The U"			ESPN	SportsCenter		SportsC.		
ESPN2		34	28	49	32	31	World of X Games (N)		Poker World Series		Poker World Series Final Table						ESPN PC		
FAMILY		53	54	34	42	33	(4:30) Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallo...				Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2				Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1		J.Osteen	Jeremiah	
FNC		45	58	53	23	55	FOX Report Sunday		Huckabee		Fox News Reporting		Shepard		Huckabee		Fox News Reporting		
FOOD		64	59	27	68	54	Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Game		Cutthroat Kitchen		Cutthroat Kitchen (N)		Cutthroat Kitchen		Cutthroat Kitchen		
FSSW		37	43	50	45	29	Mavs Pre	NBA Basketball	Oklahoma vs Dallas (L)				Maverick	DCowboys	Cowboys	School (N)	WPT Poker		
FX		31	31	59	64	69	Movie		Just Go With It ('11, Com) Adam Sandler.						Grown Ups ('10, Com) Adam Sandler.		UFC	Movie	
HALLMARK		54	49	58		34	(5:00) A Bride for...		Let It Snow ('13, Rom) Alan Thicke.						Christmas Under Wraps			Moonlight & M...	
HGTV		63	50	26	48	44	Property Brothers		Hawaii	Hawaii	Bargain	Bargain	Free Vacation House		H.Hunt	House	Bargain	Bargain	
HISTORY		71	62	29	50	43	American Pickers		Ax Men		Ax Men		(:05) Aleska Warr. (N)		(:05) Amer. Pickers		Ax Men		
LIFETIME		28	25	25	28	48	A Wife's Nightmare (2014, Drama)				Nancy Cain ('14, Dra) Laura Alen...				A Wife's Nightmare (2014, Drama)				
MSNBC		47	51		49	73	Caught on Camera		Pot Barons				Pot Barons		Pot Barons		Lockup		
NBCSN		38	39				Outdoors		Hunter	Deer TV	Babe W.	Huntin'	Tract. Pull	Match of the Day (N)	Sports Report		Soccer		
NICK		55	34	39	34	37	Sponge	Sponge	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	Friends	Mother	Mother	
SPIKE		30	22	55	53	58	(10:30) Indiana Jo...		(:15) Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull								(:20) Ocean's Eleven		
SYFY		66	64	41	57	67	Lake Placid 3 ('10, Hor) Yancy Butler.				Lake Placid: The Final Chapter						Shortbread (10, Sci-Fi) Eric Roberts		
TBS		25	11	44	66	41	(3:30) Meet the P...		Pure Country ('92, Dra) George Strait.				(:15) 1-45 Confidential Vince Vaughn.		(:15) Wedding Crashers		(:15) Couples Retreat		
TCM		41	61	24	63	66	Adam's Rib		Dark Passage ('47, Cri) Humphrey Bogart.				Key Largo ('48, Cri) Humphrey Bogart.				Kiss Me Deadly		
TELE		20	8	10	20		Titulares	Enfoque	Pistol Whipped Steven Seagal.				Death Race 2 Luke Goss.		Noticiero	Op. Repo	Videos	Movie	
TLC		51	33	32	38	52	90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé		TLC Love (N)		90 Day Fiancé		TLC Seasons of Love		
TNT		24	23	40	26	50	Law & Order		The Librarians				Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows ('11, Act) Robert Downey Jr.		The Librarians		Sherlock Holmes		
TVLAND		49	48	35	54	35	Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens	Friends	Friends	
USA		26	30	42	27	49	SVU "Theater Tricks"		Law & Order: S.V.U.		Law & Order: S.V.U.		Law & Order: S.V.U.		Modern	Modern	SVU "Behave"		
WGN		19	18				Man on Fire ('04, Act) Denzel Washington.						(:35) Man on Fire ('04, Act) Denzel Washington.		Two Broke Girls		Bones		

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin

www.utpb.edu

Online Student Graduates at UTPB

Iris Foster
Communication and Special Projects

When sociology major Myriam Luna walked across the stage at The University of Texas of the Permian Basin's Commencement Ceremony on December 13, it was her first visit to Midland/Odessa. The mother of four has finished her sociology major with a psychology minor entirely online from her home in Austin.

Her perseverance and ultimate successful completion of her bachelor's degree impressed her mentor, Dr. Joanna Hadjicostandi, UTPB associate professor and sociology program coordinator.

Ms. Luna's circuitous path to a college degree included employment in offices as well as day care establishments. She began her studies at Texas State University before a billboard advertising The University of Texas online consortium (UTOC) caught her eye. "UTPB offered a sociology degree, and I wanted an online program that was legitimate and accredited," she said.

Ms. Luna explained there were two reasons why she chose sociology. "One, I have always enjoyed observing and analyzing individuals and cultures; and two I already had classes that would transfer [in that field]."

Pursuing the remainder of her credits entirely online was less expensive and more convenient than taking traditional classes, while maintaining high quality of education. "I learned a lot about society and loved my professors," she said.

Now that she's completed the course work for her bachelor, Ms. Luna has set her sights on a graduate degree with the ultimate goal of becoming a college professor. While she admits that's a long-term plan, she intends to enroll in a master's program, perhaps at UTPB, next fall.

In the meantime, her four children and her parents proudly watched her obtain her diploma among hundreds of traditional and other non-traditional graduates.

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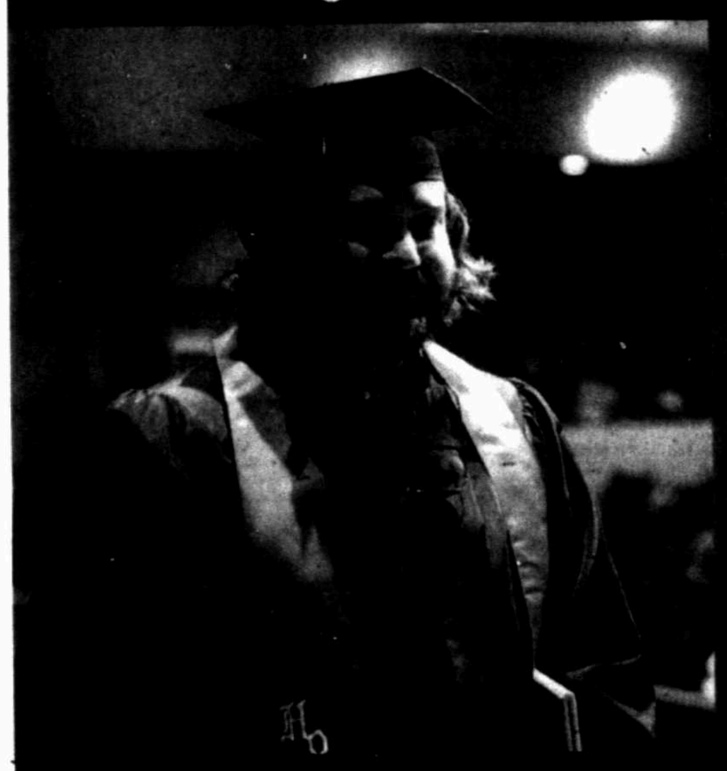

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WellDrive

Drillers go digital, reap the rewards

Access to organized data can help operators save money

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

Time is money, and that popular saying is even more relevant as the oil and gas industry faces a 50 percent plunge in oil prices.

Wells drilled in today's unconventional shale plays are both expensive and complicated. In addition, today's technology means wells are producing a tremendous amount of data. The most efficient handling of that data can potentially save an operator millions of dollars.

"Each well drilled today produces a terabyte of data a day," said Ken Henry, managing director of WellDrive, a Houston-based company that provides online data service.

"That data is increasing exponentially, and the files are getting bigger," he added.

Currently, more than 300 contractors working for over 11 major oil companies upload data from drilling sites to WellDrive, which has about 7,000 registered users, Henry said. Information is available on more than 5,200 wells.

Midland operators and residents are among those using the site, and the company hopes to add more Midlanders to its business, he said.

Other clients operate in the Eagle Ford, the Utica, in Oklahoma and even the Middle East.

Everything from receipts for delivery of supplies such as mud to photos of bits, directional data, wireline, fracturing and flowback reports can be uploaded to a central database. For example, a smartphone camera can take a picture of a receipt for a load of mud, upload it, and it will be routed to the accounting department. Or a trucker can receive directions to a well site by text.

The information can be sent to desktop computers, smartphones, tablet computers and is available anywhere there's an Internet connection.

Subscribers can customize what information they need and who should receive that data.

For example, Henry said, if a group of engineers meets at 10 every morning to go over daily drilling reports, the database ensures each member of the group has the same information at the same time.

Operating a central database also eliminates the need to place data on CDs and sending them to the recipients or trying to email data that often exceeds the capacity of email systems. Those emails may be just one of hundreds

Please see **DATA**/2G

TIPA extends tax benefits for oil and gas companies

LAURA ROMAN
CPA, CMAP

With passage of the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014 (TIPA) on Dec. 16, Congress approved substantial legislation that sustains 2013 tax year benefits for Permian Basin oil and gas companies.

TIPA is included in HR 5771, which encompasses an array of tax provisions affecting individuals and businesses operating in various industries. Of particular local relevance are "tax extenders" that retain favorable bonus deprecation, enhanced Section 179 expensing, research credit, and five-year S corporation recognition for built-in gains tax provisions from the 2013 tax year. Here are summaries for those extended provisions:

50 percent first-year bonus depreciation

First-year bonus depreciation of 50 percent may be claimed on qualified property acquired and placed in service before Jan. 1, 2015. An asset generally qualifies for the bonus deprecation rate if modified accelerated cost recovery system (MACRS) rules apply with a recovery period of 20 years or less, and if the property's original use commences with the taxpayer. Some computer software is also eligible, as is qualified leasehold improvement property. Certain longer-lived transportation property and other property may be placed in service prior to Jan. 1, 2016.

Enhanced Section 179 expensing

TIPA retroactively extends for 2014 the maximum $500,000 expensing amount under Internal Revenue Code Section 179, with an investment limit of $2 million. Without the tax extender, the maximum expensing amount would have been $25,000, with an investment limit of $200,000.

The enhanced Section 179 expensing applies to qualified property placed in service prior to Jan. 1, 2015. Off-the-shelf computer software is also eligible. In conjunction with the extension of first-year bonus depreciation, the continuation of enhanced Section 179 expensing allows all area companies to claim immediate, substantial depreciation for trucks, rigs and other property items placed in service during 2014.

Research credit

While the research credit was first introduced in 1981 and continually enjoys widespread political support, it has never become a permanent tax code provision. The research credit extension for the 2014 tax year enables local companies to attain the same tax benefits available during the 2013 tax year.

The credit typically allows a 20-percent credit for qualified research expenses or an alternative simplified credit. Items that might apply for oil and gas companies include geological surveys, well design, field trials and custom software. The credit can be applied toward qualified research expenses paid or accrued before Jan. 1, 2015.

S corporation recognition period

Income generated by an S corporation is generally passed on to shareholders, thereby eliminating income taxation at both corporate and individual levels. Some Permian Basin C corporations elect to become S corporations for that purpose.

When a C corporation elects to become an S corporation, gains that were built in — gains that could be attributed to the company's performance as a C corporation — are taxed at the highest corporate income tax rate during a recognition period following that election.

That recognition period was 10 years for tax years prior to 2009. For the 2009 and 2010 tax years, that recognition period was shortened to seven years. The recognition period was shortened to five years for the 2011, 2012 and 2013 tax years. Extension of the five-year recognition period for the 2014 tax year benefits local C corporations that elect to become S corporations this year.

Immediate ramifications for Permian Basin companies

The oil and gas industry is capital-intensive and Permian Basin companies incurred substantial expenditures this year to accommodate increased business demands and opportunities. While TIPA leaves many questions unanswered for 2015 and subsequent tax years, the act does provide immediate tax benefits and direction for filing 2014 income tax returns.

Laura L. Roman, CPA, CMAP is a partner in tax and strategic business services for the Midland office of Weaver, the largest independent accounting firm in the Southwest. She can be reached at 432-570-3030 or laura.roman@weaverllp.com.

'Energy revolution's' energy tops 2014 energy news

DAVID HOLT
Consumer Energy Alliance

This year the news has been full of good news and bad news for U.S. energy consumers. Major policy decisions (or lack thereof), changes in technology and emerging market forces have all played a role in influencing this year's cheers and jeers in U.S. energy news.

The energy revolution leads to lower gas prices: We've proved the critics wrong: The United States can — and has — drilled its way to lower gasoline prices. Burgeoning American unconventional oil and natural gas development has made the United States the top oil and natural gas producer globally and increased the proportion of non-OPEC oil on the global market. Extra supply combined with lower demand has led oil prices to fall to under $60 a barrel. Going into Christmas, the national gas price average was $2.39 — 85 cents, or 25 percent, less than this time last year.

Electricity consumers face uncertain future: While gasoline and diesel prices for consumers face a brighter future, our electric bills may not follow a similar fate. Following years of speculation and debate, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its draft Clean Power Plan, which seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing fossil-fuel power plants. As proposed, the plan is likely to lead to the premature closure of coal-fired power plants and have a huge impact on the reliability and affordability of our electricity. Moreover, the plan doesn't fully account for the value of our existing carbon-free nuclear power — a sector that is increasingly facing its own threat of closure. Finally, the influx of distributed generation, such as rooftop solar, has also raised concerns about the costs of maintaining a reliable grid. Combined, these challenges raise the specter of higher costs and reliability problems for electricity consumers.

Gulf Coast Pipeline comes online, while its northern counterpart remains stalled: Keystone XL's southern leg, the Gulf Coast Pipeline, came online this year, delivering crude from Cushing, Oklahoma, to Gulf Coast refineries in January. However, its northern counterpart, Keystone XL, has now been waiting more than six years for federal approval. As the White House dithers, the new Republican-majority Senate has vowed to make its approval a top priority next year.

Infrastructure constraints lead to winter price shock: Not all consumers have been able to benefit from the energy revolution. Last winter, heating and electricity prices skyrocketed for residents in New England in the face of a polar vortex. Without sufficient pipeline capacity to move natural gas to these markets and the closure of nuclear and coal-fired plants, consumers faced record-high prices due to the constrained energy supplies. Despite the wake-up call, policymakers in the region have been slow to support new and expanded pipelines and new electric generation. Inaction will have a high cost: Consumers in some areas of New England will pay 40 percent more for electricity this December over November because of these constraints.

Energy policy influences voters' choices at ballot box: Leading up to the election, Consumer Energy Alliance polling showed that energy issues, including offshore drilling and Keystone XL, play a role in how voters view their candidates. It's not surprising that voters are concerned about a candidate's views on energy. Energy prices are strongly tied to economic growth, and the economy was once again the top issue on voters' minds this November.

David Holt is president of the Consumers Energy Alliance.

New York Times

The Noble Energy plant in Ashdod, Israel, is photographed Oct. 21. Israeli officials and antitrust regulators have said that they are concerned that Noble Energy, a Houston-based oil company, and its partners, Delek Drilling and Avner Oil Exploration, had a lock on Israeli gas production.

Israel's antitrust regulator threatens to break up group's hold on natural gas

By Stanley Reed
New York Times News Service

LONDON — Israel's fledgling natural gas industry was rattled Tuesday by a threat by the country's antitrust regulator to break an American-Israeli group's hold on the country's gas resources.

Israeli officials and the antitrust regulator have said that they are concerned that Noble Energy, a Houston-based oil company, and its partners, Delek Drilling and Avner Oil Exploration, had a lock on Israeli gas production.

Noble and its partners are already producing nearly all of Israel's gas from an offshore field called Tamar, and that gas is used to generate about half of the country's electric power. The regulator is objecting to the group's dominating position over an even larger field, called Leviathan, that is under development.

Together, the Leviathan and Tamar fields hold an estimated 800 billion cubic meters of gas, according to Noble. That is enough to meet current Israeli demand for about a century, and to export gas to its neighbors.

"The entry of Delek and Noble into Leviathan has created a situation in which these groups control all the gas reserves on the coast of the state of Israel," Israel's antitrust commissioner, David Gilo, said in a statement.

Gilo said he would hold a hearing for the companies before making a final decision.

A move by the regulator to break up the consortium that is developing Leviathan would lead to further delays on the field, which has already proved difficult to develop. The partners have spent years trying to find ways to finance the development of Leviathan, whose first phase to bring onstream could cost up to $8 billion.

Nati Birenboim, a former adviser to the Israeli minister of energy and water, said he thought it likely that the regulator would try to force Noble and its partners to sell their stakes in Leviathan. Such a move could delay development by at least two or three years, he said, as the companies would most likely bring the decision to the courts and as new developers would have to be found.

Birenboim, a lawyer who is co-chief executive of the consulting firm Tamuz Group, said that some officials in the Israeli government were opposed to the decision by the antitrust administrator, which is independent.

The shortfall in tax income "is going to cost billions," Birenboim said. "We are sending a very pessimistic message to the business market around the world."

The current plan, supported by the U.S. government, is to sell the gas to Jordan and Egypt through long-term arrangements that could help cement existing peace agreements between Israel and the two Arab countries. The Noble-led group has reached preliminary deals to export substantial quantities of Leviathan gas to Jordan and to liquefied natural gas facilities in Egypt.

In an interview with Israel Radio on Tuesday, Gideon Tadmor, the chairman of Delek Drilling and the chief executive of Avner Oil, said that those deals were in Israel's interest. Changing owners could put these agreements at risk.

"We are in advanced negotiations for signing agreements for export of gas to Jordan, and customers in Egypt, and possible partnership with Cyprus and possible export to Turkey," Tadmor said.

He added, "It's a geopolitical change" for Israel.

Shares of Delek Drilling and Avner Oil both fell more than 10 percent in trading in Tel Aviv on Tuesday. Shares in Delek Group, which controls the two companies, were down about 12 percent. All three companies are controlled by the Israeli businessman Yitzhak Tshuva.

Tshuva and Tadmor teamed up with Noble Energy to begin developing Israel's gas reserves at the end of the 1990s. The partners have made a series of discoveries including Leviathan, which is one of the largest fields to have been found in recent years. The companies have also discovered gas off Cyprus.

Noble owns about 40 percent of Leviathan, and the Delek companies hold about 45 percent. Ratio Oil Exploration owns the remaining share.

The companies already had an agreement with Israel's antitrust regulator to sell two smaller fields, called Tanin and Karish, to address monopoly concerns. But Gilo of the antitrust commission said he was reconsidering this decision because it "did not create a real competitive solution to solve the problem of a monopoly in the market."

Noble expressed disappointment with the developments Tuesday.

A decision to reconsider the earlier settlement would "cast a shadow over the future of the oil and gas industry in Israel and will impact Noble Energy's continued investment there," Binyamin Zomer, the company's country manager, said in a statement.

ENERGYBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

HOUSTON

Southwestern Energy to buy more acreage

Southwestern Energy Co. said Tuesday it is planning to snap up Statoil's 20-percent stake in oil and gas assets in West Virginia and southwest Pennsylvania for $394 million, just a day after closing its biggest-ever deal with Chesapeake Energy in the region.

The transaction, which encompasses 30,000 net acres, boosts Southwestern Energy's working interests in that area of the Marcellus and Utica shale plays by 5.8 percent to 73 percent. The wells on the land produce about 29 million cubic feet of gas a day, as of October.

The deal is expected to close early next year. It's the Houston natural gas and oil producer's third proposed acquisition since October.

It had bought $5.4 billion worth of gas land from Oklahoma City-based Chesapeake, though the final closing price fell to $4.98 billion by Monday. And earlier this month, Southwestern agreed to acquire more nearby acreage in Pennsylvania for $300 million.

All told, the Chesapeake and the Statoil acreage amount to 443,000 net acres in the gas-rich region, cementing its bet on natural gas at a time when oil prices have fallen dramatically.

WEST VIRGINIA

Exxon Mobil affiliate to pay $5.3 million for pollution

CHARLESTON — An Exxon Mobil subsidiary will pay a $2.3 million fine and spend $3 million cleaning waterway pollution from Marcellus shale operations in northern West Virginia.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the consent agreement Monday with XTO Energy.

State and federal regulators said XTO Energy polluted waterways with natural gas drilling operations at eight sites in Harrison, Marion and Upshur counties. They said the company spilled sand, dirt, rocks and fill material into streams and wetlands while building well pads and other facilities.

The agreement also settles claims made by the state Department of Environmental Protection. The $2.3 million civil penalty will be split between the state and federal governments.

The company will monitor restoration for up to 10 years.

The company denies any liability for claims in the complaint.

DATA

From 1G

received during the day and can be easily overlooked or sent to the wrong folder.

"A client coined the term 'email jail,'" laughed Henry. One client recently uploaded nine gigabytes of data that included 168 files, he reported.

Given the dominance of cyber hacking in the news currently, including data breaches at major retailers and Sony Pictures, Henry said security is paramount.

That is why his company operates its own cloud system. It has its own servers, one set in Houston and a backup set in Austin, and all the data uploaded to WellDrive exists on both servers. Online access is controlled much like online banking services.

With such a wide array of data available in a central location, speed and efficiency of decision-making can be improved, Henry said. An operator who wants to choose the next drilling location can call up specific data on the previous 10 wells drilled in the area to better pinpoint an optimal spot.

The benefit is that clients can work across various departments, said Henry, noting that data tend to be segregated by department.

During his 20 years at Schlumberger, Henry said he visited hundreds of oil companies and at "less than a hand full of times could I go in and say 'Give me all the data on Black Gold No. 1' and I could get it."

WellDrive's main task is to monitor the database and ensure that all drilling and completion reports, whether a cementing report or a regulator filing, are uploaded and properly labeled.

Henry calls his the third wave of accessing information from drilling and completion sites. He said technology has evolved from faxing information to emailing it to today's real-time, secure, shared access.

Petroleum Professional Development Center

To register, go to the Midland College PPDC's Website: www.midland.edu/ppdc

PPDC courses

Module 4: On-Line Land Management Certificate Program
OIL & GAS LAW: Oil and Gas Law and Its Impact on Land Practices
January 6, 2015; Registration Deadline: Noon, January 6th
Returning students-$599; Out of State, $624; New students-$649; Out of State, $674-Includes $50 manual (AAPL Land Reference Guide)
If you plan to register for additional modules, the $50 materials fee is a one-time charge

Oilfield Terminology
Instructor: Tommy Lent
January 21-22, Wed-Thu, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
$430; Out of State, $455
Midland College PPDC Building, 105 W. Illinois

Well Control Drilling/Workover (WellCAP)
Instructor: Larry Chapman
January 26-29, Mon-Wed, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thu, 8 a.m.-Noon
$1,000; Out of State, $1,025
Midland College PPDC Building, 105 W. Illinois

PETRA (Fundamentals)
Instructor: Greg Hinterlong
January 29-30, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
$625; Out of State, $650
Midland College PPDC Building, 105 W. Illinois

On-Line Land Management Certificate Program-Module 5 of 6 Modules:
Contracts: Legally Enforceable Oil and Gas Contracts
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: February 2; End Date: February 28-Registration Deadline: Noon, February 2nd
Returning Registrants: $599; Out of State, $624 (purchased book for previous modules)
New Registrants: $649; Out of State, $674; (includes $50 manual (AAPL Land Reference Guide).
If you plan to register for additional modules, the $50 materials fee is a one-time charge

On-Line Division Orders Certificate Program: Module 1 of 6 Modules
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: February 2; End Date: February 28-Registration Deadline: Noon, February 2nd
$599; Out of State, $624
The required text is the NADOA Study Guide, which is $75 (one-time charge). Students need to join NADOA for $75 to download the "no cost" manual only available to members.

PetroSkills: Plunger Lift
Instructor: Dr. James Lea
February 9-13, Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
$4,100; contact www.petroskills.com or call (800) 821-5933. Fee is paid directly to PetroSkills
Midland College PPDC Building, 105 W. Illinois

Well Servicing Rig Management
Instructor: Fred Newman
February 10, Tuesday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
$325; Out of State, $350
Midland College PPDC Building, 105 W. Illinois

Basic Oilfield Operations Training
Instructor: Albert Garza
February 11-12, Wed-Thu, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
$475; Out of State, $500
Midland College PPDC Building, 105 W. Illinois

Petroleum Geology for Non-Geologists
Instructor: Paul H. Pausé
February 16-19, Mon-Thu, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
$1,795; Out of State, $1,820
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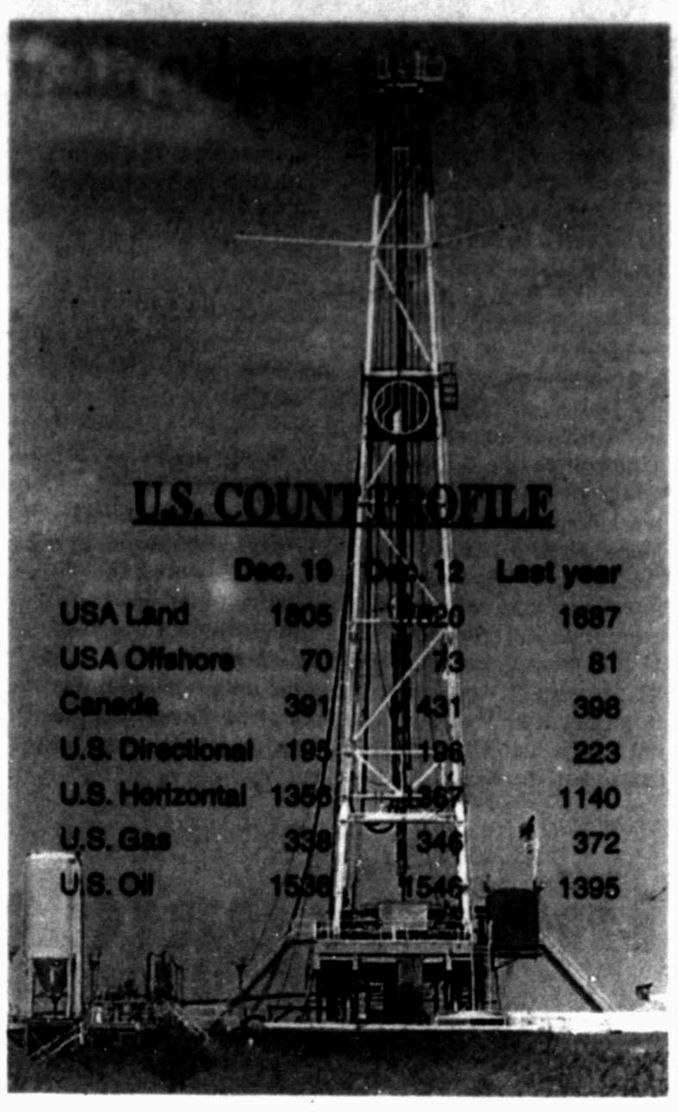


PERMIAN BASIN RIG COUNTS

Texas

DIST. #7C

Coke	1
Concho	1
Crockett	8
Irion	13
Kimble	0
McCulloch	0
Menard	0
Reagan	22
Runnels	2
Schleicher	3
Sutton	0
Terrell	2
Tom Green	0
Upton	39

DIST. #8

Andrews	22
Brewster	0
Crane	4
Culberson	14
Ector	16
Glasscock	33
Howard	27
Hudspeth	0
Jeff Davis	0
Loving	26
Martin	50
Midland	35
Mitchell	0
Pecos	10
Presidio	0
Reeves	53
Sterling	1
Ward	14
Winkler	8

DIST. #8A

Bailey	0
Borden	3
Cochran	0
Cottle	0
Crosby	1
Dawson	2
Dickens	1
Floyd	0
Gaines	5
Garza	1
Hale	0
Hockley	0
Kent	0
King	1
Lamb	0
Lubbock	0
Lynn	0
Motley	0
Scurry	4
Terry	2
Yoakum	7

TEXAS TOTAL 431

New Mexico

Chaves	0
Eddy	43
Lea	48
Roosevelt	1

NEW MEXICO TOTAL 92

MID-WEEK WTI AVERAGE PRICES

Posted	**$52.25**
Flint Hills Resources*	**$55.00**
Phillips 66	**$53.74**
Plains*	**$53.75**
Shell Trading	**$53.70**
Sun*	**$53.50**
Nymex futures	**$55.75***

Net price without transportation charge
Note: Posted prices as of Dec. 23

SPOT NATURAL GAS PRICE PROFILE

Current natural gas prices (price per MMBtu)

	First of the month price	Closing price 12/23/14	Same period one year ago
Nymex future price	**$4.282**	**$3.144**	**$4.463**
Composite Field Prices For Waha Hub	**$4.190**	**$3.260**	**$3.290**
Composite Field Prices For Rocky Mountains	**$4.175**	**$3.228**	**$4.304**
Composite Field Prices For Permian Basin	**$4.207**	**$3.285**	**$3.975**
Composite Field Prices For San Juan Basin	**$4.300**	**$3.340**	**$4.295**
CompositeField Prices For Midcontinent	**$3.863**	**$3.217**	**$4.351**
Composite Field Prices For Gulf Coast	**$4.185**	**$3.351**	**$4.273**

Oil price crash sparks war of words

By Joshua Cain
Houston Chronicle

Since the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries decided Nov. 27 it wouldn't cut oil production to try to halt plummeting prices, leaders of the world's oil powers have been taking shots at each other through the media to cast blame for the crash.

In trying to explain his country's economic woes, Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed the theory recently that the United States and Saudi Arabia could be colluding to send oil prices plunging, according to CNN Money.

"We all see the lowering of the oil price. There's lots of talk about what's causing it. Could it be the agreement between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia to punish Iran and affect the economies of Russia and Venezuela? It could," Putin said.

The price tailspin has been disastrous for Russia, the world's largest oil and gas producer; according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, 68 percent of the country's export revenues came from oil and gas.

OPEC member Iran has suffered, too, and the country's president, Hassan Rouhani, targeted Saudi Arabia in a speech in early December, calling the Saudis' oil strategy "politically motivated."

"Iran and people of the region will not forget such conspiracies, or in other words, treachery against the interests of the Muslim world," Rouhani said.

But Saudi Arabia's main voice on oil, Oil Minister Ali Al-Naimi, hasn't budged since the OPEC decision. Many have speculated that the Saudis want the price to drop to hurt U.S. shale producers, who sparked the oil boom that helped drive prices down in the first place.

"It is not in the interest of OPEC producers to cut their production, whatever the price is. Whether it goes down to $20, $40, $50, $60, it is irrelevant," Al-Naimi said, according to the Financial Times. Saudi Arabia and other OPEC members like Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have maintained from even before the organization's Vienna meeting in November that they'll do whatever it takes to preserve their market share.

"The price will go up and the Russians, the Brazilians, US shale oil producers will take my share," Al-Naimi said.

Futures traders start to see upside of oil

By Robert Grattan
Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON — While the news has been somber for oil markets recently, professional futures traders have begun to bet on a somewhat brighter future.

For the week ending Dec. 16, money managing traders bought 18,531 contracts betting the market will rise and closed out 6,701 contracts betting that the price of crude will fall. On total, for the week ending Dec. 16, money managing traders held 297,531 bets that the price of U.S. crude would rise and 88,204 bets that the price of crude would fall, according to data from Citi Futures.

Money managing traders are large speculators such as fund managers who routinely trade buy and sell oil on the futures markets. Some analysts consider the bets made by the group a useful metric for understanding sentiment on whether prices will rise or fall.

"If you look at how money managers have reacted, they've not been piling on to the short side of the market," said Timothy Evans, an energy futures specialist with Citi Futures. "They've started to rebuild some long positions," referring to contracts that gain value when the market rises.

The value of oil into the future is tracked by the futures curve, or a graph of the prices of futures contracts moving forward.

Until recently, the curve for U.S. oil had trailed downward further into the future, encouraging oil sales immediately as barrels were worth less moving forward. The curve has shifted now to indicate that oil sold in the future is more valuable than oil sold today — though only slightly.

Crude oil for delivery in February 2015 traded at $56.44 on Tuesday, while crude for delivery in February 2016 traded at close to $60.57 per barrel. Physical oil traded at $55.58 in Cushing.

One effect of that switch is an increased incentive to build storage inventories, said Morgan Downey, author of Oil 101. If more money can be made selling futures and paying for the cost of storage than selling oil now, he said, inventories are likely to rise. Storing oil costs roughly about 50 cents a month per barrel, he said.

According to financial services group Barclays, global oil inventories are now at about 5 billion barrels and may grow faster than they have been over the first half of 2015.

In the U.S. crude market, futures contracts only recently outpaced the price of present-day physical oil, said Francisco Blanch at the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global Research. U.S. oil storage — mostly at the crude pricing hub in Cushing, Oklahoma, have begun filling, he said.

"As inventories build across the country around the world, ultimately it's feeding back into Cushing," he said. "Anyone that has access to storage is going to benefit. If you have storage capacity and you can lock in these prices through the market you're being paid a handsome premium to store oil over the next few months."

Group wants regulators recused from case

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — State regulators in less than two weeks will begin deliberating a proposal that calls for shutting down part of an aging coal-fired power plant in northwestern New Mexico that serves more than 2 million customers in the Southwest.

But one environmental group, New Energy Economy, is calling for Public Regulation Commissioners Pat Lyons and Karen Montoya to recuse themselves from the deliberations.

The group, in a motion filed Wednesday, argues that phone calls and emails between the two commissioners and the electric utility PNM have created at least an appearance of a conflict of interest.

"People want to know choices are being made transparently and wisely and democratically," New Energy Economy executive director Mariel Nanasi said in a statement. "PNM and some of our state utility regulators have completely corrupted that public faith."

Lyons told the Santa Fe New Mexican that the allegations were baseless and politically motivated.

"They're a very liberal organization that doesn't take into consideration the ratepayers of New Mexico," he said. "They're grabbing at straws, trying to push through a liberal agenda."

ENERGY BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

MAINE

Oil train disaster settlement growing

PORTLAND — A proposed settlement fund for victims of a fiery train derailment that claimed 47 lives in Canada is nearly halfway to a goal of $500 million in funding commitments ahead of its filing next month, the defunct railroad's bankruptcy trustee said.

More than a dozen corporations that face potential liability in the 2013 Quebec oil train disaster have agreed to pay over $200 million to the fund and that sum could more than double by the time judges in the U.S. and Canada sign off, bankruptcy trustee Robert Keach told The Associated Press.

Keach, the trustee in the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railways bankruptcy case, is casting a wide net as he seeks to build the fund to compensate victims. The names of contributors and other companies targeted for contributions are confidential, he said.

"We're very proud of the fact that we've gotten to $200 million. But we have a larger goal in mind, and we're going to continue to work for that," he said.

The proposed settlement will be filed by Jan. 12, a deadline in the bankruptcy proceedings in Canada, Keach said. He said he hopes the full settlement will be approved by late March or April, meaning the first payments could be made by the second anniversary of the disaster.

Much of downtown Lac Megantic, Quebec, was destroyed on July 6, 2013, by a raging fire caused when an unattended train with 72 oil tankers derailed after it began rolling downhill toward the town of 10,000 people. More than 60 tankers derailed and several exploded. Forty-seven people died, and dozens of buildings were destroyed.

After filing for bankruptcy, Montreal, Maine & Atlantic was sold for $15.85 million but virtually all of that money went to repay creditors.

Keach said he's committed to getting as much money as possible for the victims.

"What's possible is a half-a-billion dollar fund. Will we get all the way there? That remains to be seen but that's the goal," he said.

Lac Megantic's mayor was not available for comment Tuesday.

A year ago, Keach sued World Fuel Services Corp., owner of the crude oil, and several other companies, accusing them of downplaying the volatility of the crude from North Dakota's Bakken shale region. Canada's transportation agency said the crude was roughly as flammable as unleaded gasoline.

World Fuel Services is presumed to be among the 20 or so companies targeted to contribute to the settlement. Keach also has asked for discovery documents from oil companies and subsidiaries including ConocoPhillips, Shell Trading U.S. Co. and Marathon Oil Corp.

Companies that choose not to participate in the settlement fund could be sued individually by victims. Wrongful death lawsuits are currently on hold pending the outcome of the settlement proposal.

Even if the settlement is approved, that wouldn't mean the end of the case.

Criminal charges are pending in Canada against three railway employees, including one accused of failing to set enough brakes on the train.

INDIANA

Company seeks to create fuel from plastics

LOGANSPORT — A northern Indiana company is working on a process for creating oil from plastics that can be refined into fuel.

The Pharos-Tribune reported that Waste2Fuel, formerly of Indianapolis, has moved its headquarters to Logansport and plans to establish a testing facility with the hope of developing a commercial plant. Executive Director Steve Bracken said the process consists of converting a feedstock of waste plastics into a synthetic crude oil that can be refined into fuel.

Testing of various types of waste plastics will begin in mid- to late February. Bracken said this will include materials from bottles to destroyed automobiles.

He said the waste-plastics-to-fuel industry is still in its infancy and that Waste2Fuel has been involved about three years using a process developed in China.

Halliburton, Baker Hughes overcame $3.3B divide to make deal

By Collin Eaton
Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON — Before they struck one of the biggest energy deals of the past 15 years, Halliburton and Baker Hughes executives had to bridge a $3.3 billion gulf.

It was the difference between what Baker Hughes wanted to get and what Halliburton wanted to pay to buy its smaller rival, according to regulatory documents filed Monday.

During the monthlong bout of haggling between the two companies, Halliburton CEO Dave Lesar said a counter offer proposed by Baker Hughes "shocked me and is clearly one that we cannot accept."

What Baker Hughes wanted — $36.1 billion in stock and cash — was 10 percent above Halliburton's initial offer of $32.8 billion for the company. They would eventually meet in the middle during final, over-the-weekend negotiations in November, which ended in a $34.6 billion deal to tie up two of the world's biggest oil field service companies.

Those figures, the initial offer and the counter offer, as well as a number of other details were disclosed for the first time Monday in a joint proxy filing by the two companies, providing an inside look into a massive corporate merger that will alter the landscape of the global oil-tool industry.

Lone shareholder

The filing revealed that in January, a lone shareholder of both companies was the first to bring up the idea of a merger in discussions with Lesar. The shareholder was left unnamed in regulatory documents, but the anonymous figure was apparently key to reviving an effort that had gone stale for nine years. The last time either company had seriously considered the merger was in 2005.

Halliburton declined to identify the shareholder.

For Halliburton, the shareholder's became more than just an idea. In August and September, Halliburton managers, its investment bankers at Credit Suisse and its lawyers at Baker Botts laid out plans for its approach. A central item in those early meetings: preparing for what could be an unpleasant hostile takeover, if Baker Hughes didn't want to make a deal.

Halliburton quietly bought 100 shares of Baker Hughes to give it an ownership position in the company, which would allow it to nominate a slate of directors, if it needed. That would come into play in the week before the deal was announced, but Baker Hughes would agree to a deal before a hostile takeover would become necessary.

"Dave," Baker Hughes CEO Martin Craighead wrote in an email, "it is not possible to pretend that your effort to replace our entire board with your nominees is 'just a legal matter.' It is coercive in every sense of the word."

No outside offers

Though it fought hard to get Halliburton to raise the value of its offer – and would eventually win a 5 percent boost to the price tag – Baker Hughes didn't get any third party counter offers or requests for meetings with other potential suitors. And Baker Hughes' board of directors decided it wasn't likely to get a significantly higher price from any other buyers, and it didn't want to spurn Halliburton by reaching out to others, according to the proxy filing.

Market observers had speculated that GE, Schlumberger and a number of other potential suitors could start a bidding war for Baker Hughes while oil prices were falling.

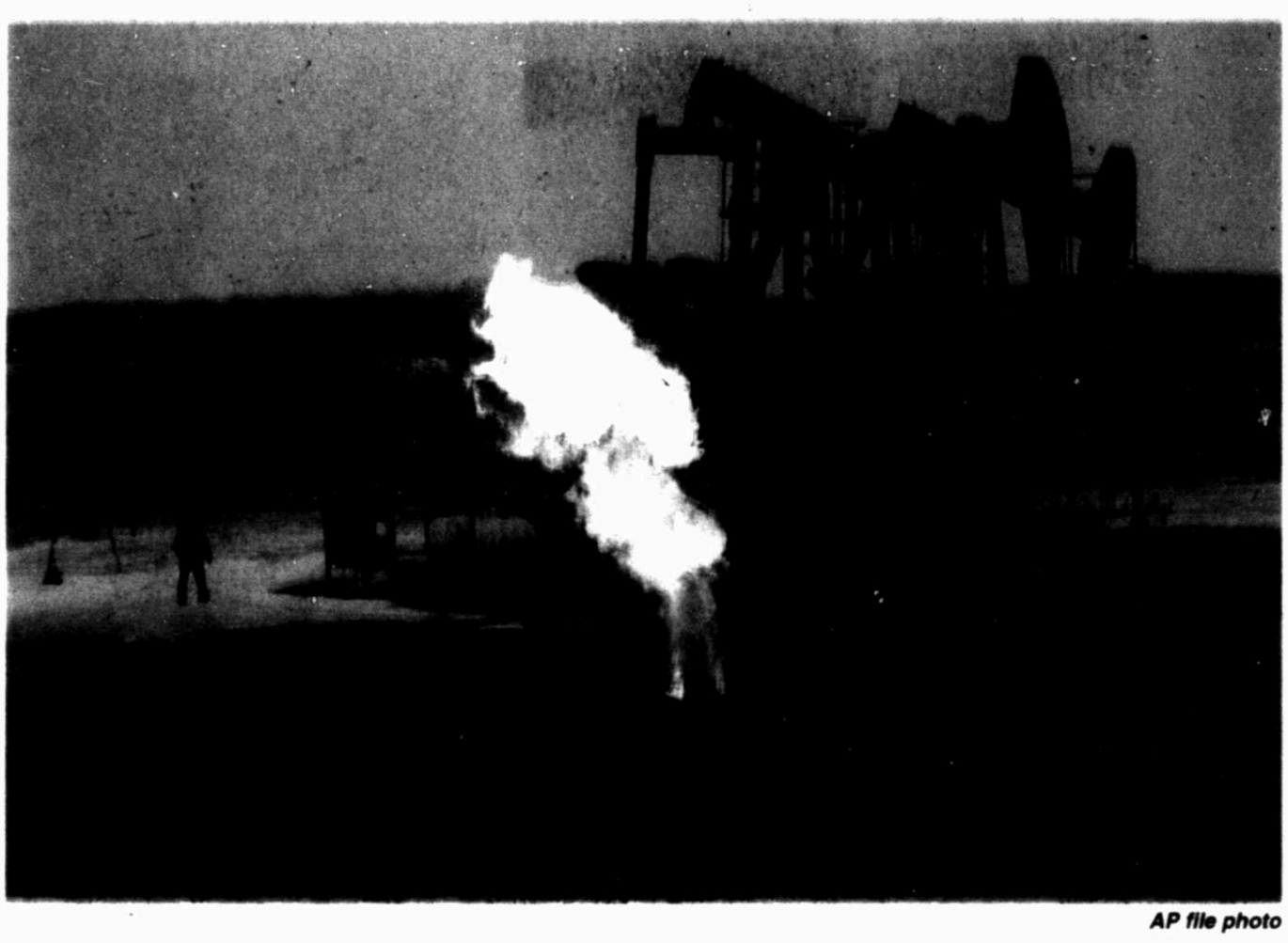
Cuts in the Eastern Hemisphere

Regulatory documents also shed some light on the upper-level dealings between Lesar and Baker Hughes CEO Martin Craighead. In his first letter, Lesar said Halliburton and Baker Hughes had the potential for "significant synergies" — $2 billion in cost reductions.

"The combinations will provide substantial efficiencies of scale and geographic scope, particularly in the Eastern Hemisphere," Lesar's letter said. A deal "also will allow the optimization of a combined R&D budget."

Two weeks ago, Halliburton said it would immediately lay off 1,000 employees across multiple regions in the Eastern Hemisphere. But in an email to Halliburton employees, Lesar emphasized that while it will likely have to make reduction in 2015, current job cuts were related to weakening market conditions, not the merger.

In the proxy filing, the companies also said five class action lawsuits have been filed in an effort to stop the deal, alleging members of Baker Hughes' board breached their fiduciary duties to shareholders because the deal undervalues Baker Hughes. The companies said they believe the suits are without merit.



AP file photo

Workers tend to oil pump jacks behind a natural gas flare near Watford City, N.D., on Dec. 17. Natural gas, the nation's most prevalent heating fuel, is getting cheaper just as winter is arriving because of mild temperatures and plentiful supplies.

Natural gas down 29 percent in past month

By Jonathan Fahey
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Natural gas, the nation's most prevalent heating fuel, is getting cheaper just as winter is arriving because of mild temperatures and plentiful supplies.

The price of natural gas has dropped 29 percent in a month, to $3.17 per 1,000 cubic feet on Tuesday from nearly $4.50 in late November. That's a steep drop even for a fuel notorious for volatile price swings.

The lower prices are expected to linger and could reduce electricity prices and heating bills in the coming months. Natural gas is used by half of the nation's households for heating and to generate 26 percent of the nation's electricity.

Natural gas often rises as winter weather approaches, and a frigid November sent the price higher. But December warmed up, and temperatures for the rest of the winter are expected to be close to normal.

Bob Brackett, an analyst at Bernstein Research, wrote in a recent note to investors that he expects natural gas to average "in the low 3's" into the spring, and a warm winter could push the price below $3.00.

Last year at this time natural gas was near $4.50 and it reached as high as $6.15 in February after unusually cold weather gripped the eastern half of the country and stuck around for weeks. Prices in some locations averaged double or triple that amount as pipelines struggled to carry all the gas that was needed.

Because of the way natural gas and electric utilities are regulated, customers won't likely see the recent drop reflected in their bills right away. Many will instead see higher prices as a result of last year's price spike.

But the lower market prices could at least slow the rise in retail prices and perhaps reverse it if the low prices last.

Conditions look good for low prices throughout the spring. After that, though, prices could head back up, analysts say.

One-fifth of the nation's natural gas production is from gas found when drilling for oil, so-called "associated gas." A drop in the price of oil is forcing drillers to cut back, and that may slow the growth in production of associated gas.

Also, in April of next year an Environmental Protection Agency rule governing emissions of mercury and other toxic chemicals goes into effect. That will force electric utilities to reduce their use of coal, the chief source of those emissions, and turn instead to natural gas.

And later next year the first of several new liquefied natural gas export terminals are expected to start up, further increasing natural gas demand.

Brackett expects natural gas prices to increase after the second quarter and average $4 per 1,000 cubic feet for the year.

Tom Pugh, an analyst at Capital Economics, thinks the gas price could reach $6 by the end of 2016 as power generation and exports boost demand.

That assumes normal weather, of course. Another strong blast of arctic air could bring higher prices much sooner.

"A resurgence in cold weather, and the resultant jump in demand, could still lead to large price spikes during January and February," Pugh wrote in a research note Tuesday.

Feds plan to hold Idaho oil and gas lease sale

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Federal officials in Idaho in a battle with a Texas oil company over what is believed to be a profitable natural gas field in Payette County plan to offer five parcels for competitive leasing by April.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management opened a 30-day public comment period about the proposed lease sale that will offer 6,350 acres to potential drilling in southwest Idaho.

Houston-based Alta Mesa responded by saying it will suspend its request with Idaho officials to exclude BLM lands and potential royalties from a drilling unit.

"One way to look at it is as an olive branch," said company spokesman John Foster. "Alta Mesa has been very diligently and carefully working hard to help the BLM develop the process that creates a reasonable pace of development. It's taken a while to get there, but we're hopeful this decision by the BLM will lead to that kind of reasonable pace."

Dave Murphy, the BLM's Idaho chief of lands, minerals and water rights, didn't return a call from The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The BLM concluded an environmental assessment earlier this month that found no significant impact with the leasing. But the agency said additional steps involving drilling will require more environmental analysis.

The five-member Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, appointed by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter in July 2013, has openly struggled in trying to referee the battle between the two sides as the state's nascent natural gas industry picks up speed with the development of new technologies.

Commissioners in September on a 3-2 vote rejected Alta Mesa's petition to omit 187 acres of BLM land from a 615-acre drilling unit, a move the company said allowed the BLM to dictate how mineral rights are developed in Idaho.

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around the oil patch

PAID CONTENT

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Victaulic pipe joining systems are easier to install and safer than welding, flanging or threading

If there were a system that joined pipe 5-6 times faster than your current method and also had the advantages of being safer, less likely to leak and easier to adapt when changes were needed, that would save you a lot of time and money. It would be well worth looking into.

There is such a system. For almost 90 years now, Victaulic has been providing just such pipe joining systems to the oil patch all across the United States and the world. They have had an office in Odessa since the 1950s. The company invented the grooved-end pipe joining system in 1919 and has been expanding and improving on that system ever since. Victaulic systems are suitable for production flow lines and headers, tank batteries and secondary recovery, drilling, collection tanks and refinery plant piping, among other applications.

Over those nine decades product durability has been thoroughly tested in the most hostile environments. The company reports couplings installed in those early days—the 1920s and 30s—are still in service, with connectors and gaskets still intact. Today's couplings are manufactured to the same rigorous standards, meaning you can expect the same long-term service.

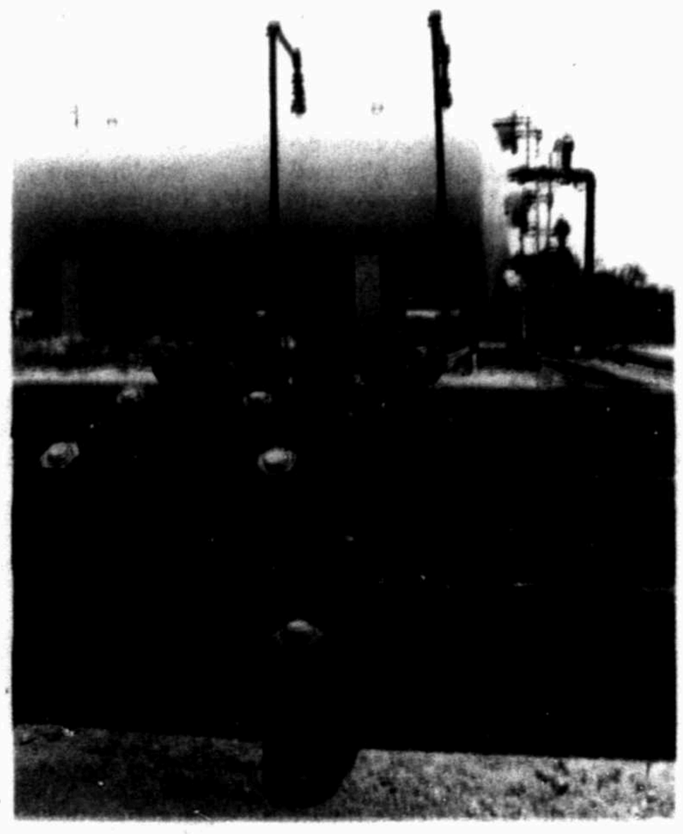
While Victaulic couplings are well suited to the most common pipe sizes—2-6 inch OD—there are plenty of options for any size pipe from ¼" to 60" OD. In addition to couplings, Victaulic supplies valves and fittings for any diameter pipe.

Victaulic products are designed for transporting wet and dry media through standard, light wall or extra heavy carbon steel, aluminum, internally coated plastic, FRP and stainless steel pipe.

In particular, the grooved system works well with coated pipe. Grooves can be put in the pipe prior to coating. Since this is a cold formed system the coating is not compromised when the couplings are installed. As stated above, these connections are 5-6 times faster to install than welding, flanging or threading. They are also much easier to disassemble, making them the right choice for any pipe that must be reconfigured from time to time. Flow lines for produced water or for other field applications benefit greatly from this aspect. Any facility needs to be changed from time to time, so even there Victaulic systems save time and money.

In all applications Victaulic connections are designed to eliminate leaks,which accomplishes several things. First, it does away with expensive loss of product—what goes in on one end comes out the other end. Second, because there are no leaks, environmental hazards are reduced. You will not need to call a hazmat team to a site to clean up a leak from a properly connected Victaulic joint.

...couplings installed in those early days—the 1920s and 30s—are still in service, with connectors and gaskets still intact. Today's couplings are manufactured to the same rigorous standards...

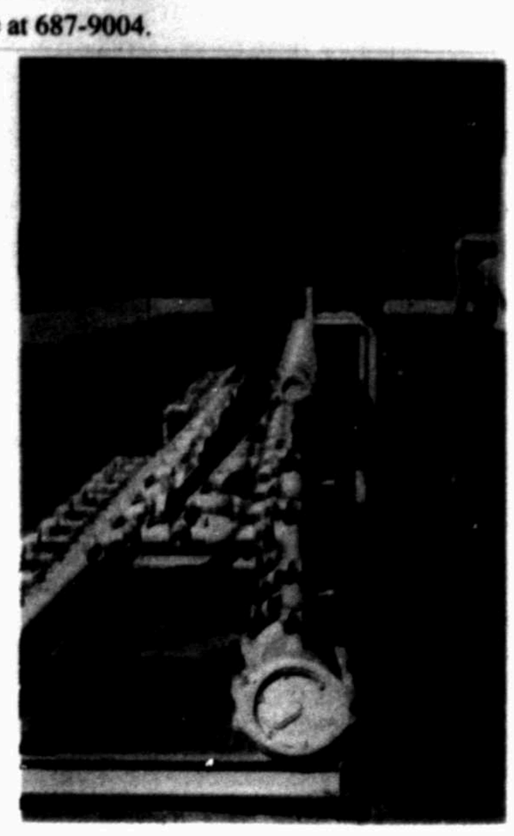


Victaulic systems improve safety in other ways. Because there is no welding involved, there are no hazardous flames or joint compounds, personnel face fewer risks in the installation process.

The reasons to use this system are many and varied—and they all make perfect economic sense. For anyone still thinking, "We've never done it that way before—I don't know if we should change," Victaulic offers full support for first-time clients. Although the system is simple enough that help is often not necessary, that extra service gives new clients confidence that the transition will be smooth and flawless.

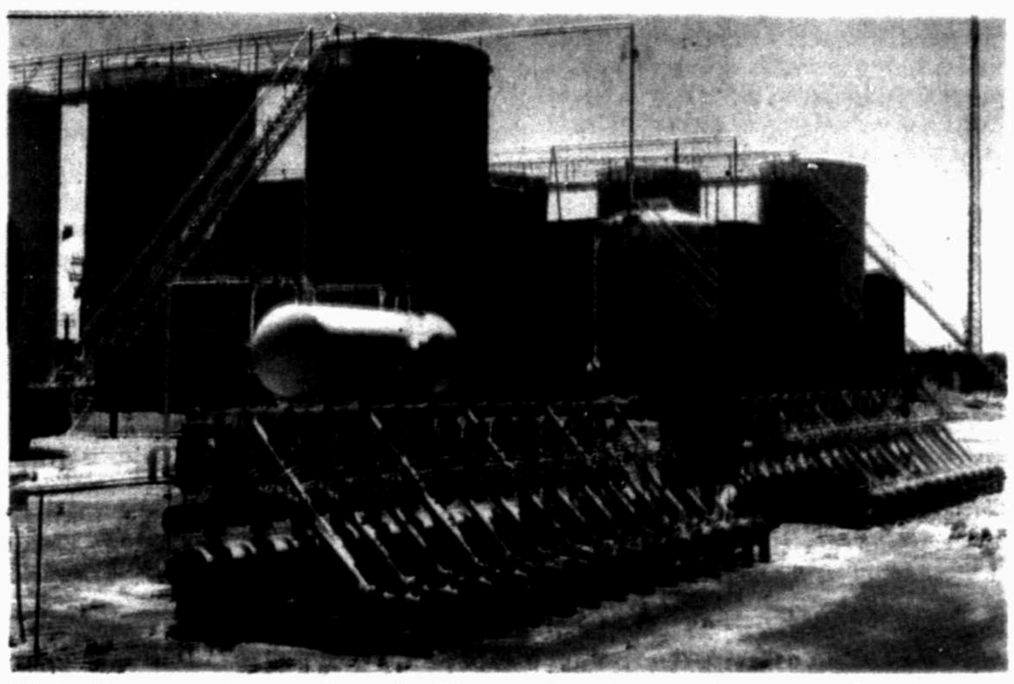
Very quickly, new users wonder how they managed with welding or flanging, and why they didn't change to Victaulic sooner.

Call Victaulic at 432-332-1480 to learn more. The web address is www.victaulic.com.

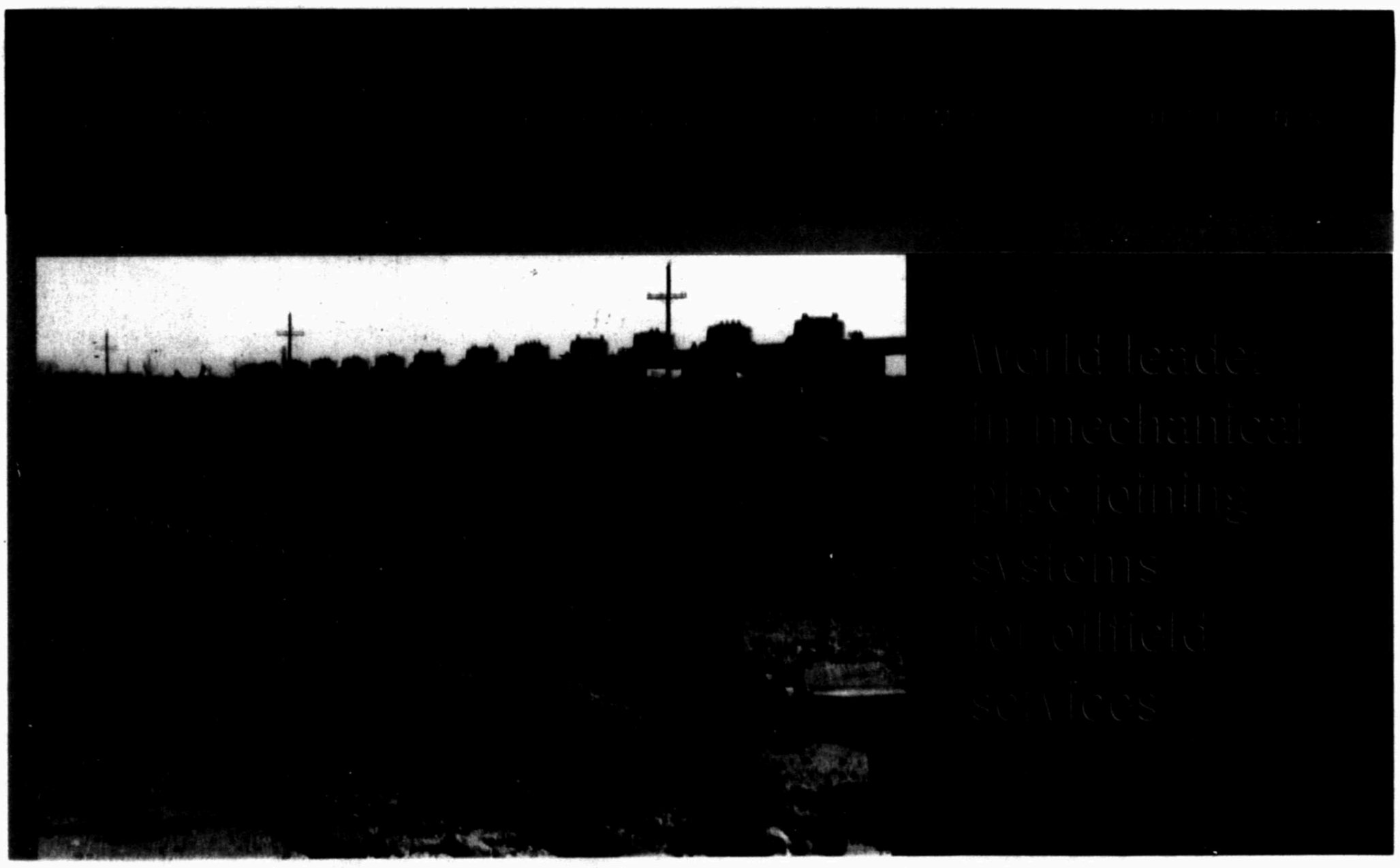


Above: Fast to install and secure to operate, Victaulic pipe joining systems, including joints, valves and fittings save time and money throughout their long life. Call 432-332-1480 to learn more.

Left: With installation times five to six times less than with other connections, Victaulic saves time and money when pipe needs to be installed or moved.



Victaulic connections cut product loss and reduce environmental hazards.



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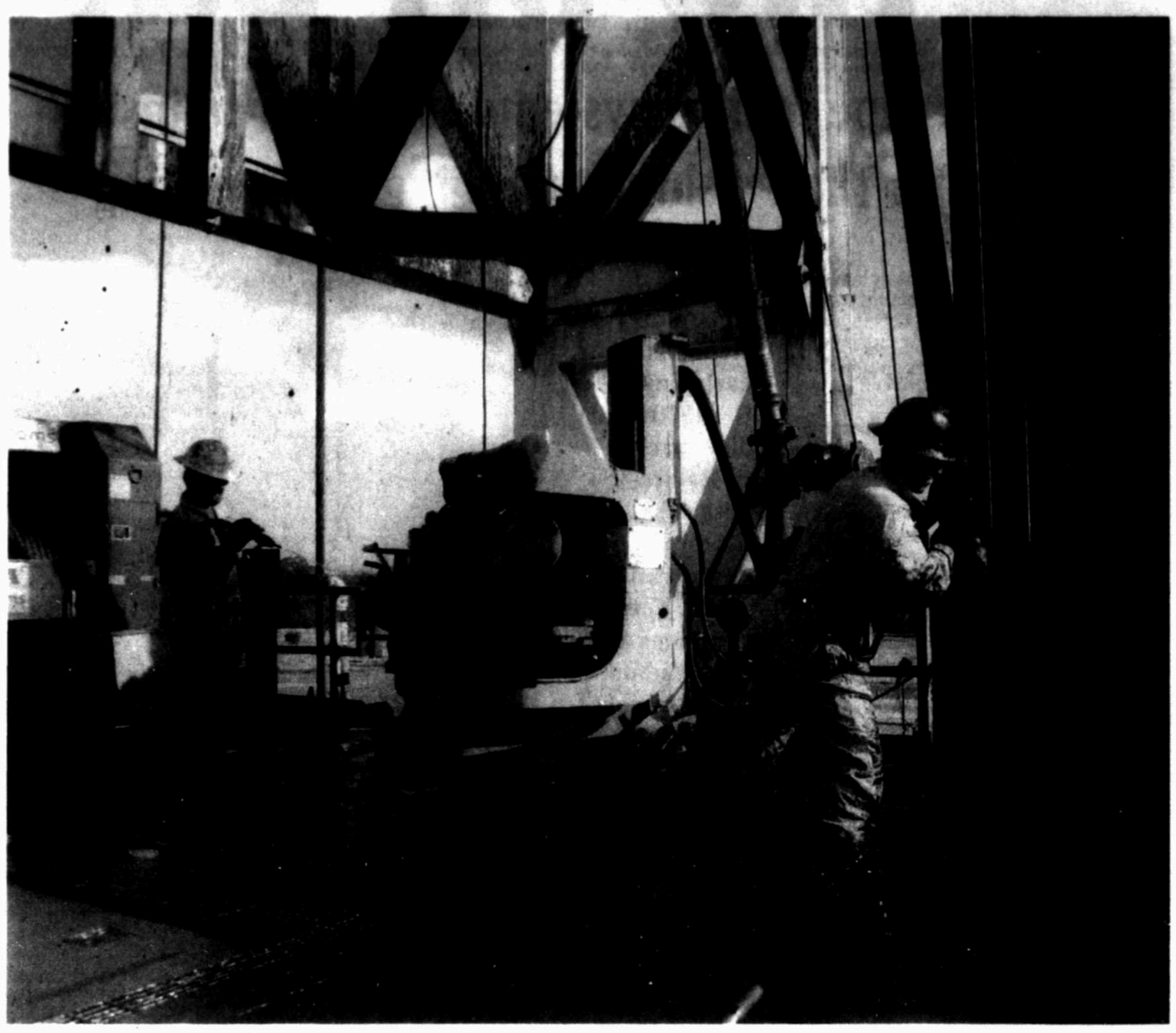
Natural gas: Abundance of supply and debate

By John Schwartz
New York Times News Service



New York Times file photo

Workers drill for natural gas on a Southwestern Energy drilling rig near Wonderview, Ark., on Nov. 20.

MEAD, Colo. — **Natural gas is the Rorschach test of energy policy. Depending on one's point of view, it can be either an essential tool for meeting the challenge of climate change or another dirty fossil fuel that will speed the planet down the path to calamitous warming.**

President Barack Obama is in the first camp. He sang the praises of natural gas in his State of the Union address in January, saying, "If extracted safely, it's the bridge fuel that can power our economy with less of the carbon pollution that causes climate change."

But many environmental activists have denounced shale drilling because of the potential health risks that were cited by Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York last week when he announced a ban on hydraulic fracturing in the state.

They also say that the growing use of plentiful natural gas is accelerating climate change and sapping the urgency to promote energy efficiency and develop renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

"It's time to stop searching for a bridge and simply take the leap," Bill McKibben, an environmental campaigner, said this year.

Because burning natural gas produces about half the planet-heating carbon dioxide that coal does for the same energy output, many energy experts suggest that natural gas has an important role to play in reducing carbon emissions. But in the debate over natural gas, nearly every fact is contested, including the amount of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, that escapes into the atmosphere while the gas is being drilled and transported.

There is little doubt, however, that the abundant natural gas unearthed by hydraulic fracturing and other drilling technologies has transformed the energy economy. Natural gas produces 27 percent of the electricity generated in the United States, and the percentage is rising. The plentiful oil and gas from the drilling boom has reduced America's dependence on foreign oil to levels not seen in decades and has contributed to falling oil prices.

But recent studies suggest the effects of relying on natural gas and expanding its use will provide no lasting benefit to the environment compared with burning coal unless policies are enacted to hasten the adoption of renewable technologies — to make the bridge a short one.

Carbon emissions from electricity generation dropped to 2.05 billion metric tons a year in 2013 from 2.5 billion in 2005. (They rose slightly this year because of the unusually cold months in early 2014.) But continuing to expand the use of natural gas instead of lower-carbon alternatives could wipe out any gains, said Haewon C. McJeon, a researcher with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory who participated in a recent study on natural gas.

"In the absence of a climate-change-mitigation policy, having abundant, low-cost natural gas alone is not going to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions," he said.

The best role for natural gas is as a complement to renewable energy sources, said Hal Harvey, who runs a policy research group called Energy Innovation in San Francisco. He noted that power plants that run on natural gas can ramp up more easily than, say, coal or nuclear plants and can fill the energy gaps for solar panels and wind turbines when the sun is not shining or the wind dies.

Gas-fired plants can also be built relatively quickly and cheaply — factors that led to a jump in gas-plant construction that actually preceded the natural gas boom.

But the advantages of natural gas are offset, in part, by persistent problems and questions surrounding leaks of its main component, methane. Because of methane's ability to trap infrared radiation more effectively than carbon dioxide, its effect on climate change is 84 times greater on a 20-year basis. However, its life in the atmosphere before being eliminated by chemical reactions is measured in years, while carbon dioxide persists for centuries.

Methane comes from many sources — the most recent Environmental Protection Agency inventory of greenhouse gas emissions estimated that a quarter of the total comes from burps and flatulence from cows and other livestock (the microbes in their digestive systems produce methane as a byproduct of breaking down their feed).

The methane that is created or that escapes from using natural gas as an energy source represents 23 percent. Other sources include coal beds and landfills. The EPA estimate puts the amount of methane released from drilling and transporting natural gas at 8 million metric tons a year, but recent reports suggest the figure could be far larger.

Anthony R. Ingraffea, a researcher at Cornell University who has been sharply critical of fracking, said that the gas industry had been lax in what it calls "well-bore integrity," which refers to the steel and cement that drillers use to seal off wells from the surrounding rock, soil and groundwater. The seal tends to deteriorate over time, he said, and abandoned wells have been found to leak methane, as well.

"Out of the 4 (million) or 5 million wells drilled on earth, nobody knows how many of them are leaking into the atmosphere, or how much they are leaking," he said.

The industry points to progress that has already been made in reducing methane emissions — a 73 percent decrease from hydraulically fractured wells since 2011, according to the EPA.

"It's difficult to look at the available data and say there is a huge problem here," said Steve Everley, a spokesman for Energy in Depth, an industry group. "Not only is production increasing, but emissions are going down."

The agency's figure on lower emissions from wells, however, does not account for the leaks that commonly occur farther downstream in the production process, where equipment like pneumatic devices and compressors have been identified as emissions sources. Research sponsored by the Environmental Defense Fund suggests that gas leaks can be cut by 40 percent at a relatively low cost: a penny for every 1 thousand cubic feet of natural gas produced.

"The good news is we know we can get significant reductions for marginal cost," said Mark Brownstein, associate vice president of the organization's U.S. climate and energy program.

Producers and regulators must do a better job of reducing risk, he said.

Fixing the problem of leaking methane can be achieved more easily than many other environmental challenges, said Harvey of Energy Innovation. Compared with "thermodynamic problems" like making automobiles more efficient and "chemical problems" like reducing smokestack pollutants, methane is largely a "plumbing problem," Brownstein said, and "plumbing is dead simple."

One of the nation's biggest gas producers, Anadarko, said that gas leaks can be minimized without much effort. The company consulted Colorado regulators on trailblazing state rules that call for drillers to use infrared cameras to detect leaks and then plug them quickly.

Here in Mead, 45 miles north of Denver, a production facility prepares the oil and gas from six wells for pipelines that will take the fuel to processing facilities. The big machines separate oil and recovered fluid from natural gas and put about 6 million cubic feet of natural gas into the pipeline every day.

Wrench-wielding Anadarko inspectors search for leaks — "fugitive gas" — as often as monthly at major facilities and tighten flanges that may have shaken loose. The equipment, too, is designed to minimize leaks. The valves on these pneumatic devices are run with compressed air; the more standard industry practice is to use the pressure of the extracted natural gas to power them, which means gas can escape. Instead, what is vented here is simply air.

Not every company takes such pains, and industry experts say there is a big difference between the best actors and some of the smaller players who generate more than their share of environmental damage.

Korby Bracken, Anadarko's director of health, safety and environmental issues in the Rockies, invited a visitor to look inside the steel smokestack column through a small sight glass. A pilot light burned inside and, after all the effort to capture, contain and sell gas, having it consumed in a 6-inch column of flame clearly irked him.

"We'd rather put it in the pipeline," he said.

Anadarko officials say their goal is to use the technologies employed at this site — which was so clean that a rabbit sat below one of its warm tanks, grooming its ears, on a chilly November day — wherever possible. Some sites are too remote for an electrical hookup to power air compressors, but the infrared cameras are being used throughout the company's facilities.

The Obama administration has tried to straddle the promise and risks of the natural gas boom by hailing the benefits of increased production while targeting carbon and methane emissions. The EPA proposed rules in June, known as the Clean Power Plan, to reduce carbon produced by electricity plants. That would call for more plants to run on natural gas rather than coal, which produces 74 percent of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States.

The plan also would require greater use of renewable energy sources and nuclear power in order to meet the president's target, announced last month with China, of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 28 percent by 2025.

In March, the administration announced the plan aimed at reducing methane leaks. The EPA, under this "Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions," is expected to publish its proposed rules next month.

Ultimately, fighting over the relative merits of natural gas compared with other fossil fuels misses the broader energy challenge for the nation and the world, said Steven Cohen, the executive director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

"Everybody's looking for a big fix — a magic bullet," Cohen said. "I don't think any of the existing technologies will do what we need to do to get to the renewable energy economy."

The challenge, he added, is to spur the same kind of technology revolution that transformed bulky computers into pocket-size devices.

"You need some kind of technology that doesn't exist now," he said.

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WILDCATS

Texas RRCD 7C

Reagan County

BURLESON PETRO., INC., WILDCAT (O) DRILL Well# 1 HANGING WALL UNIVERSITY, 1860 FSL 2260 FWL, SEC 26 BLK 9, UL SUR., A-U196 11000', 2 E TEXON API# 42-383-38883

Texas RRCD 8

Culberson County

HOLLY ENERGY PARTNERS-OP., LP, WILDCAT DRILL (CATH PROT) Well# 30 GPS, 3942 FEL 597 FSL, SEC 11 BLK 63 T2S, T&P SUR., A-3117 400', 60 NE VAN HORN API# 42-109-32701

Pecos County

KINDER MORGAN PROD. CO. LLC, WILDCAT (O/G) DRILL (DIREC) Well# D 1 IG YATES D 62, 1137 FNL 2810 FWL, SEC 62 BLK 1, I&GN SUR., A-728 9500', 1 SW IRAAN API# 42-371-39205

New Mexico

Eddy County

BOPCO LP
Poker Lake Unit CVX JV BS #53
Wildcat; Sec 2 T24S R30E; 2500/N & 330/W; 12 1/2 mi NE Loving; Rot 15144 Bone Spring; API #30-015-42456

BOPCO LP
Poker Lake Unit CVX JV BS #54
Wildcat; Sec 2 T24S R30E; 2500/N & 370/W; 12 1/2 mi NE Loving; Rot 14422 Bone Spring; API #30-015-42457

Chevron USA Inc.
Hayhurst 16 25 27 State #4
Wildcat; Sec 16 T25S R27E; 175/N & 990/E; 6 mi SE Black River; Rot 12320 Bone Spring; API #30-015-42553

BOPCO LP
Big Eddy Unit DI 28 #277
Wildcat; Sec 15 T21S R29E; 939/N & 889/W; 14 mi SW Halfway; Rot 25408 Bone Spring; API #30-015-42568

Lea County

Cimarex Energy Co.
Cascade 29 Federal #7
Wildcat; Sec 29 T25S R33E; 340/N & 864/E; 11 mi SW Ochoa; Rot 14302 Bone Spring; API #30-025-42031

ConocoPhillips Co.
War Hammer 25 Fed Com W3 #1
Wildcat; Sec 25 T26S R32E; 250/N & 125/E; 16 mi SW Ochoa; Rot 19695 Wolfcamp; API #30-025-42029

ConocoPhillips Co.
War Hammer 25 Fed Com W2 #2
Wildcat; Sec 25 T26S R32E; 283/N & 125/E; 16 mi SW Ochoa; Rot 19351 Wolfcamp; API #30-025-42028

ConocoPhillips Co.
War Hammer 25 Fed Com W1 #3
Wildcat; Sec 25 T26S R32E; 316/N & 125/E; 16 mi SW Ochoa; Rot 18865 Wolfcamp; API #30-025-42027

COMPLETIONS

Texas RRCD 7C

Irion County

COG Operating LLC
Schlinke "A" #4115
Spraberry (Trend Area); 467 fsl, 467 fwl, Sec 41, Blk 10, Abst. 462, SP RR, 12 nw Mertzon; TD 6771; Comp 11/28/2014; producing from 3578-6386; pump 75 BO, 6 MCF, 75 BW, 42 Oil Gravity; API #42-235-35908

Reagan County

Burleson Petroleum Inc.
Russell "58" #1
Wildcat; 2380 fsl, 1003 fwl, Sec 58, Blk 2, Abst. 412, T&P RR, 25 s Sterling City; TD 9942; Comp 12/1/2014; producing from 6549-9415; flow 75 BO, 100 MCF, 500 BW on 20/64 inch choke, FTP 470 psi, 38 Oil Gravity; API #42-383-38729

Texas RRCD 8

Andrews County

XTO Energy Inc.
Fullerton Clearfork Unit #7522
Fullerton; 15397 fwl, 10480 fsl, Sec 7, Blk 13, Abst. 399U, ULS, 16..2 nw Andrews; TD 7186; Comp 11/25/2014; producing from 6819-6994, fracture stimulated; pump 255 BO, 65 MCF, 831 BW, 41.4 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-46450

SandRidge Exploration and Production LLC
University "13-35" #32
Fuhrman-Mascho; 330 fwl, 940 fnl; Sec 35, Blk 13, Abst. 247U, ULS, 10 nw Andrews; TD 4953; Comp 12/2/2014; producing from 4610-4827; pump 51.1 BO, 16 MCF, 166 BW, 32 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-46458

SandRidge Exploration and Production LLC
University"13-35" #31
Fuhrman-Mascho; 940 fnl, 1650 fwl, Sec 35, Blk 13, Abst. 247U, ULS, 10 nw Andrews; TD 4952; Comp 11/30/2014; producing from 4594-4896, treated with acid and fracture stimulated; pump 42.5 BO, 19 MCF, 211 BW, 32 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-46457

SandRidge Exploration and Production LLC
Prichard #8
Fuhrman-Mascho; 167 fnl, 1155 fel, Sec 1, Blk A-41, Abst. 1993, PSL, 12 sw Andrews; TD 4802; Comp 12/4/2014; producing from 4430-4695; pump 65.8 BO, 20 MCF, 41 BW, 32 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-46751

SandRidge Exploration and Production LLC
University "47" #26
Fuhrman-Mascho; 344 fel, 1700 fsl, Sec 47, Blk 13, Abst. 439U, ULS, 8 nw Andrews; TD 4962; Comp 11/29/2014; producing from 4492-4723; pump 26.6 BO, 4 MCF, 249 BW, 32 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-46757

SandRidge Exploration and Production LLC
Lindley-Friemel #15
Fuhrman-Mascho; 344 fsl, 657 fwl, Sec 16, Blk A-47, Abst. 893, PSL, 10 nw Andrews; TD 4751; Comp 11/24/2014; producing from 4427-4714, treated with acid and fracture stimulated; pump 47 BO, 127 BW, 32 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-46758

SandRidge Exploration and Production LLC
University "38A" #5
Fuhrman-Mascho; 330 fsl, 990 fel, Sec 38, Blk 13, Abst. 430U, ULS, 8 nw Andrews; TD 5026; Comp 11/25/2014; producing from 4523-4813, treated with acid and fracture stimulated; pump 53 BO, 14 MCF, 212 BW, 32 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-46487

SandRidge Exploration and Production LLC
University "13-35" #30
Fuhrman-Mascho; 940 fnl, 2310 fel, Sec 35, Blk 13, Abst. 247U, ULS, 10 nw Andrews; TD 5010; Comp 11/29/2014; producing from 4605-4871, treated with acid and fracture stimulated; pump 6.1 BO, 6 MCF, 259 BW, 32 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-46456

SandRidge Exploration and Production LLC
Munger-Nix -A- #99
Fuhrman-Mascho; 330 fel, 2210 fsl, Sec 2, Blk A-41, Abst. 1994, PSL, 13 sw Andrews; TD 4860; Comp 11/29/2014; producing from 4440-4688, treated with acid and fracture stimulated; pump 98 BO, 50 MCF, 169 BW, 32 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-46770

SandRidge Exploration and Production LLC
University "38E" #3
Fuhrman-Mascho; 330 fnl, 29 fel, Sec 38, Blk 13, Abst. 430U, ULS, 8 nw Andrews; TD 5000; Comp 12/8/2014; producing from 4590-4898, fracture stimulated; pump 1 BO, 183 BW, 32 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-46521

Trey Resources Inc.
Dow-Hall #18
Shafter Lake (San Andres); 2235 fel, 1980 fsl, Sec 1, Blk A-36, Abst. 1963, PSL, 9.4 nw Andrews; TD 4820; Comp 12/3/2014; producing from 4630-4720, fracture stimulated; pump 10 BO, 32 MCF, 28 BW, 29 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-46782

Crane County

XTO Energy Inc.
Cordona Lake Consolidated Unit #101
Cordona Lake; 4083 fsl, 4610 fsel, Abst. 1, Juan Cordona, 12.6 sw Crane; TD 5627; Comp 12/3/2014; producing from 5414-5565, fracture stimulated; pump 48 BO, 76 MCF, 268 BW, 41.4 Oil Gravity; API #42-103-36413

Ector County

Citation Oil & Gas Corp.
East Harper Unit #502
Harper; 2162 fnl, 6239 fwl, Sec 26, Blk 44, T-2-S, Abst. 576, T&P RR, 10.85 w Odessa; TD 4430; Comp 12/12/2014; producing from 5570-5615, fracture stimulated; pump 40 BO, 421 BW, 34.7 Oil Gravity; API #42-135-43073

Ward County

Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation
Hutchings Stock Association #1779
Ward-Estes North; 5046 fsl, 5628 fwl, Sec 1, Blk O, Abst. 119, G&MMB&A, 7 sw Monahans; TD 2753; Comp 12/4/2014; producing from 2442-2617, treated with acid and fracture stimulated; flow 0.5 BO, 1 MCF, 300 BW on open choke, FTP 175 psi, 37 Oil Gravity; API #42-475-36803

Texas RRCD 8A

Crosby County

Custer & Wright Operating Inc.
Phil #320
Hoople (Clearfork); 2183 fel, 685 fsl, Sec 3, Blk 1, Abst. 430, K. Aycock, 17 s Ralls; TD 4106; Comp 11/29/2014; producing from 3718-3728, treated with acid and fracture stimulated; pump 34 BO, 324 BW, 35 Oil Gravity; API #42-107-31904

Custer & Wright Operating Inc.
GP #14
Hoople (Clearfork); 1595 fel, 882 fsl, Sec 1150, Abst. 497, K. Aycock, 17.6 s Ralls; TD 4107; Comp 11/28/2014; producing from 3764-3774, treated with acid and fracture stimulated; pump 33 BO, 343 BW, 35 Oil Gravity; API #42-107-31860

New Mexico

Eddy County

Burnett Oil Co. Inc.
Jackson B #67
Cedar Lake; Sec 24 T17S R30E; 2130/N & 1785/E. BHL: 1650/S & 1650/E; EL 3709 GL, TD 6144 MD, 6109 TVD, PBTD 6144; Spud 2-5-14, Comp 6-26-14; production is through treated perfs: 5652-5820, 5840-6066. Treat: Acdz w/2500 gals 15% NEFE acid,100 BS, 1,145,004 gals slickwater w/30,000# 100 mesh staged 18 gal, 350,680# 40/70. IP: 7-11-145 Pump 24 hrs 238 Bo, 663 BW, 504 MCF, Gty 38.3. Csg: 10 1/2 @ 524 w/537 sx, 7 @ 6144 w/1375 sx, 2 7/8 @ 5334; API #30-015-41968

Huddon Oil Co. of Texas
Puckett North #18
Maljamar; Sec 13 T17S R31E; 865/N & 1790/E; EL 3954 GL, TD 4338; Spud 10-27-13, Comp 4-9-14; production is through perfs: 3445-4172. IP: 2-13-14 Pump 24 hrs 110 BO, 143 BW, 294 MCF. Csg: 8 5/8 @ 786 w/450 sx, 5 1/2 @ 4293 w/950 sx, 2 3/8 @ 3690; API #30-015-41722

Cimarex Energy Co.
Hackberry 23 Federal Com #1
NW Hackberry; Sec 24 T19S R30E; 2280/S & 180/W. BHL:1955/S & 352/W; EL 3252 GL, TD 18640 MD, 8378 TVD, PBTD 18568; Spud 4-19-14, Comp 6-22-14; production is through treated perfs: 8760-18555. Treat: Frac w/4,339,966 gals total fluid & 5,937,685# sd. IP: 6-28-14 Pump 24 hrs 750 BO, 1217 BW, 934 MCF, GOR 1245, Gty 36.9. Csg: 20 @ 328 w/926 sx, 13 3/8 @ 1928 w/1350 sx, 9 5/8 @ 3612 w/1100 sx, 5 1/2 @ 18640 w/3765 sx, 2 7/8 @ 7872; API #30-015-42093

Devon Energy Production Co. LP
Sirius 17 Federal #6
NW Hackberry; Sec 17 T19S R31E; 1700/N & 240/E. BHL; 1717/N & 352/W; EL 3469 GL, TD 12,506 MD, 8011 TVD, PBTD 12,458; Spud 1-30-14, Comp 3028014; production is through treated perfs: 8035-12,448. Treat: 52,000 gals 15% acid, 557,230# 100 mesh, 1,815,204# 30/50 white, 952,788# CRC 20/40. IP: 4-8-14 Pump 24 hrs 126 BO, 1807 BW, 363 MCF. Csg: 20 @ 512 w/1134 sx, 13 3/8 @ 2470 w/2662 sx, 9 5/8 @ 4216 w/1929 sx, 5 1/2 @ 12,506 w/1940 sx, 2 7/8 @ 7862; API #30-015-41761

BOPCO LP
James Ranch Unit #190
Los Medanos; Sec 36 T22S R30E; 630/N & 370/E. BHL: 664/N & 2680/W; EL 3325 GL, TD 18300 MD, 10881 TVD, PBTD 18285 MD, 10881 TVD; Spud 3-22-14, Comp 6-8-14; production is through treated perfs: 11179-18267. Treat: Frac w/82726 bbls fluid, 3680095# sd across 13 stages. IP: 7-8-14 Flow 24 hrs 749 BO, 570 bW, 1442 MCF, GOR 1925, Gty 47. Csg; 13 3/8 @ 649 w/750 sx, 9 5/8 @ 3861 w/1355 sx, 7 @ 11135 w/1200 sx, 4 1/2 @ 11036-18290 w/760 sx, 2 7/8 @ 8714; API #30-015-42145

Cimarex Energy Co.
Marquardt 1 Federal #14
Cotton Draw; Sec 1 T25S R26E; 200/S & 660/E. BHL: 341/N & 416/E; EL 3268 GL, TD 11717, PBTD 11714; Spud 4-22-14, Comp 6-11-14; production is through treated perfs: 7033-11646. Treat: Frac w/3,453,240 gals frac fluid, 4,596,461# sd. IP: 6-19-14 Flow 24 hrs 820 BO, 1069 BW, 1486 MCF, 28/64" Ch, TP 740. Csg: 13 3/8 @ 455 w/500 sx, 9 5/8 @ 1997 w/690 sx, 5 1/2 @ 11717 w/2330 sx, 2 3/8 @ 6576; API #30-015-41808

Lea County

Apache Corp.
W A Weir B #7
Monument; Sec 26 T19S R36E; 990/N & 2310/E; EL 3677 GR, TD 7800, PBTD 7755; Spud 3-15-14, Comp 4-15-14; production is through treated perfs: 7106-7452. Treat: 12,726 gals acid. IP: 6-6-14 Pump 24 hrs 40 BO, 22 BW, 40 MCF, GOR 1200, Gty 39. Csg: 8 5/8 @ 1285 w/491 sx, 5 1/2 @ 7800 w/1600 sx, 2 7/8 @ 7527; API #30-025-41613

Apache Corp.
Monument Abo #3
Monument; Sec 2 T20S R36E; 2310/N & 1650/W; EL 3604 GL, TD 7800, PBTD 7637; Spud 3-24-14, Comp 4-30-12; production is through treated perfs: 7086-7673. Treat: 13,407 gals acid. IP: 6-14-14 Pump 24 hrs 6 BO, 1023 BW, 11 MCF, GOR 1833, Gty 38.4. Csg; 8 5/8 @ 1085 w/420 sx, 5 1/2 @ 7800 w/1700 sx, 2 7/8 @ 7080; API #30-025-41603

Chevron USA Inc.
Brininstool 25 23 33 #2
Triple X; Sec 25 T23S R33E; 50/N & 1980/W. BHL: 330/S & 1980/W; EL 3642 GL, TD 15630, PBTD 15516; Spud 2-11-14, Comp 6-13-14; production is through treated perfs: 10660-15346. Treat: 8196 gals HCL acid. IP: 6-13-14 Pump 24 hrs 497 BO, 1558 BW, 550 MCF Csg: 13 3/8 @ 1362 w/570 sx, 9 5/8 @ 5162 w/1735 sx, 5 1/2 @ 15600 w/1640 sx, 2 7/8 @ 10532; API #30-025-41627

Devon Energy Production Co. LP
Thistle Unit #48
Triple X; Sec 34 T23S R33E; 280/S & 2561/W. BHL: 276/N & 2035/W; EL 3640 GL, TD 16233 MD, 11222 TVD, PBTD 16144; Spud 11-12-13, Comp 3-21-14; production is through treated perfs: 11658-16060. Treat: Frac w/41,946 gals 15% HCL acid, 856,900# 100 mesh, 1,996,142# 30/50, 584,230# 20/40. IP: 2-9-14 Flow 24 hrs 154 BO, 208 BW, 0 MCF. Csg: 13 3/8 @ 1450 w/1275 sx, 9 5/8 @ 5263 w/1645 sx, 5 1/2 @ 16187 w/2210 sx, 2 7/8 @ 10815; API #30-025-41253

Devon Energy Production Co. LP
Thistle Unit #49
Triple X; Sec 34 T23S R33E; 280/S & 2611/W. BHL: 320/N & 2091/E; EL 3639 GL, TD 16178 MD, 11190 TVD, PBTD 16094; Spud 12-14-13, Comp 2-16-14; production is through treated perfs: 11609-16011. Treat: Frac w/52,975 gals 15% HCL acid, 909,877# 100 mesh, 2,039,024# 30/50, 565,737# 20/40. IP: 2-8-14 Flow 24 hrs 323 BO, 1832 BW, 388 MCF, TP 2050, GOR 1201. Csg: 13 3/8 @ 1450 w/1160 sx, 9 5/8 @ 5273 w/1460 sx, 5 1/2 @ 16142 w/2345 sx, 2 7/8 @ 10798; API #30-025-41254

Devon Energy Production Co. LP
Thistle Unit #50
Triple X; Sec 34 T23S R33E; 200/S & 660/E. BHL: 397/N & 666/E; EL 3633 GL, TD 15903 MD, 11288 TVD, PBTD 15846; Spud 1-12-14, Comp 4-3-14; production is through treated perfs: 11361-15763. Treat: Frac w/43,375 gals 15% HCL, 619,302# 20/40 sd, 2,051,188# 30/50, 811,477# 100 mesh. IP: 4-10-14 Pump 24 hrs 259 BO, 1886 BW, 375 MCF, GOR 1448. Csg: 13 3/8 @ 1415 w/1760 sx, 9 5/8 @ 5360 w/1570 sx, 5 1/2 @ 15903 w/1760 sx, 2 7/8 @ 10779; API #30-025-41302

Caza Operating LLC
West Copperline 29 State Com #1
Bell Lake; Sec 29 T23S R34E; 330/N & 1980/W. BHL: 340/S & 2000/W; EL 3540 GL, TD 15,035 MD, 10,605 TVD, PBTD 14933 MD, 10,604 TVD; Spud 8-7-13, Comp 11-9-13; production is through treated perfs: 10,850-14,888. Treat: Acid=24,234 gals 15% HCL, 70,757 bbls 20# linear/xl = 296720# 40/70 white sd + 999,960# 20/40 carbo prop + 2,000,040# 20/40. IP: 11-16-13 Flow 24 hrs 800 BO, 1259 BW, 1211 MCF, 22/84" Ch, TP 1790, GOR 1514/1, Gty 40.8. Csg: 13 3/8 @ 1130 w/1115 sx, 9 5/8 @ 6070 w/1555 sx, 5 1/2 @ 15028 w/2025 sx, 2 7/8 @ 10048; API #30-025-41313

Murchison Oil & Gas Inc.
Jackson Unit #17
West Triple X; Sec 15 T24S R33E; 200/N & 970/E. BHL: 330/S & 930/E; El 3613 GR, TD 15,782; Spud 3-11-14, Comp 4-29-14; production is through treated perfs: 11280-15690. Treat: 3,875,315# sd, 80,055 bbls trt wtr & 960 bbls acid. IP: 5-14-14 Flow 24hrs 1011 BO, 1807 BW, 700 MCF, CP 825, GOR 692, Gty 43.8. Csg: 13 3/8 @ 1300 w/600 sx, 9 5/8 @ 5268 w/1960 sx, 7 @ 10686 w/965 sx, 4 1/2 @ 10583-15757 w/375 sx; API #30-025-41087

Yates Petroleum Corp.
Heartaches BSX State #1
West Triple X; Sec 17 T24S R33E; 200/N & 660/W. BHL: 230/S & 648/W; EL 3575 GL, TD 15,815, PBTD 15,712; Spud 3-17-14, Comp 6-13-14; production is through treated perfs: 11,462-15,695. Treat: Acdz w/65,000 gals 15% HCL acid, Frac w/4,102,710# 30/50 & 20/40 sd. IP: 6-17-14 Flow 24 hrs 285 BO, 1334 BW, 139 MCF, 20/64" Ch, CP 2000. Csg: 13 3/8 @ 1249 w/675 sx, 9 5/8 @ 5155 w/1445 sx, 5 1/2 @ 15760 w/2170 sx; API #30-025-41056

DEVELOPMENTAL WELLS

Permits to drill provided by Wellreports.com

Texas RRCD 7C

Crockett County

FORELAND OPER., LLC, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 3H GUNSLINGER 18, 2200 FEL 1980 FSL, SEC 18 BLK Q, EL&RR/T BJORKMAN SUR., A-4764 9600', 31 NW OZONA API# 42-105-42062

KDM PRODUCTION CO., MIDWAY LANE (O) DRILL Well# 11 CHAMBERS COUNTY C SCHOOL LAND, 6564 FEL 5680 FSL, SEC 4, CHAMBERS CSL SUR., A-1689 2000', 16 NW OZONA API# 42-105-42058

RELIANCE ENERGY, INC., NOELKE (WLFCMP LO) (O) DRILL Well# 1 HALFF 66, 600 FNL 5460 FEL, SEC 66, I&GN SUR., A-567 8000', 39 NW OZONA API# 42-105-42057

Irion County

APACHE CORPORATION, LIN (WOLFCAMP) DRILL (EXPL TEST) Well# 1 SUGG 31, 2190 FSL 2645 FEL, SEC 31 BLK 14, H&TC SUR., A-370 9999', 8 NE BARNHART API# 42-235-35887

APACHE CORPORATION, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# H 41U SCOTT SUGG WEST UNIT, 369 FNL 2398 FEL, SEC 72 BLK 14, H&TC/AF SMITH SUR., A-1023 9999', 9 NE BARNHART API# 42-235-35834

APACHE CORPORATION, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# H 63M SCOTT SUGG WEST UNIT, 369 FNL 772 FEL, SEC 72 BLK 14, H&TC/AF SMITH SUR., A-1023 9999', 9 NE BARNHART API# 42-235-35839

APACHE CORPORATION, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# H 61U SCOTT SUGG WEST UNIT, 369 FNL 1234 FEL, SEC 72 BLK 14, H&TC/AF SMITH SUR., A-1023 9999', 9 NE BARNHART API# 42-235-35838

APACHE CORPORATION, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# H 53M SCOTT SUGG WEST UNIT, 369 FNL 1294 FEL, SEC 72 BLK 14, H&TC/AF SMITH SUR., A-1023 9999', 9 NE BARNHART API# 42-235-35837

APACHE CORPORATION, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# H 13M SCOTT SUGG WEST UNIT, 265 FNL 832 FWL, SEC 72 BLK 14, H&TC/AF SMITH SUR., A-1023 9999', 9 NE BARNHART API# 42-235-35829

APACHE CORPORATION, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# H 43M SCOTT SUGG WEST UNIT, 369 FNL 2338 FEL, SEC 72 BLK 14, H&TC/AF SMITH SUR., A-1023 9999', 9 NE BARNHART API# 42-235-35835

APACHE CORPORATION, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# H 70UU SSH UNIT, 395 FSL 17773 FEL, SEC 2, M CHAMBERLAIN/ WA RATLIFF SUR., A-1232 9999', 8 NE BARNHART API# 42-235-35840

APACHE CORPORATION, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# H 80UU SSH UNIT, 271 FSL 16135 FEL, SEC 2, M CHAMBERLAIN/ WA RATLIFF SUR., A-1232 9999', 8 NE BARNHART API# 42-235-35841

APACHE CORPORATION, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# H 23M SCOTT SUGG WEST UNIT, 265 FNL 1593 FWL, SEC 72 BLK 14, H&TC/AF SMITH SUR., A-1023 9999', 9 NE BARNHART API# 42-235-35831

APACHE CORPORATION, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# H 21U SCOTT SUGG WEST UNIT, 265 FNL 892 FWL, SEC 72 BLK 14, H&TC/AF SMITH SUR., A-1023 9999', 9 NE BARNHART API# 42-235-35830

BROAD OAK ENERGY II, LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) (RECOMP) Well# 1 BOLD FLINT HILL 69, 467 FWL 467 FSL, SEC 69 BLK 1, H&TC SUR., A-265 7600', 11 E MERTZON API# 42-235-34521

DEVON ENERGY PROD. CO., LP, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 29H CORTES, 201 FNL 1421 FEL, SEC 3, WC SUR., A-665 9000', 13 SW MERTZON API# 42-235-35854

DEVON ENERGY PROD. CO., LP, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 25H CORTES, 200 FNL 2264 FWL, SEC 1, CT&MC SUR., A-62 9000', 13 SW MERTZON API# 42-235-35849

DEVON ENERGY PROD. CO., LP, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 16H CORTES, 201 FNL 1461 FEL, SEC 3, WC SUR., A-665 9000', 13 W MERTZON API# 42-235-35827

DEVON ENERGY PROD. CO., LP, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 18H CORTES, 847 FSL 1814 FWL, SEC 1, GC&SF SUR., A-148 9000', 14 SW MERTZON API# 42-235-35844

DEVON ENERGY PROD. CO., LP, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 17H CORTES, 201 FNL 1381 FEL, SEC 3, WC SUR., A-665 9000', 13 SW MERTZON API# 42-235-35843

DEVON ENERGY PROD. CO., LP, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 19H CORTES, 847 FSL 1854 FWL, SEC 1, GC&SF SUR., A-148 9000', 14 W MERTZON API# 42-235-35845

DEVON ENERGY PROD. CO., LP, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 20H CORTES, 847 FSL 1894 FWL, SEC 1, GC&SF SUR., A-148 9000', 14 W MERTZON API# 42-235-35846

DEVON ENERGY PROD. CO., LP, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 26H CORTES, 200 FNL 2304 FWL, SEC 1, CT&MC SUR., A-62 9000', 13 SW MERTZON API# 42-235-35850

FIML NATURAL RESOURCES, LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O) DRILL Well# 1HA MUSTANG DRAW, 1572 FSL 562 FEL, SEC 1 BLK A, SL HARRIS SUR., A-1191 10000', 24 NW BARNHART API# 42-235-35842

McCulloch County

FLINT ROCK RES. MGMNT INC., EXOC (O) DRILL Well# 4 APPLETON, 521 FSL 1781 FEL, SEC 140, H&TC/W BOHM SUR., A-1630 1200', 1 E LOHN API# 42-307-31176

FLINT ROCK RES. MGMNT INC., EXOC (O) DRILL Well# 3 APPLETON, 1520 FEL 764 FSL, SEC 140, H&TC/W BOHM SUR., A-1630 1200', 1 E LOHN API# 42-307-31175

Reagan County

BOLD OPERATING, LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1HM BOLD HARTGROVE UNIT 22, 2239 FNL 1710 FEL, SEC 22 BLK K, D&SE/JST BAKER SUR., A-4 10300', 18 NW BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38791

BOLD OPERATING, LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 2HM BOLD HARTGROVE UNIT 22, 2239 FNL 1670 FEL, SEC 22 BLK K, D&SE/JST BAKER SUR., A-4 8600', 18 NW BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38792

ENDURING RESOURCES, LLC, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 5H WATKINS 1229, 290 FNWL 142 FSWL, SEC 2, H EICKE/ZT HARRISON SUR., A-195 8600', 15 NW BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38875

ENDURING RESOURCES, LLC, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 4H WATKINS 1229, 290 FNWL 1105 FSWL, SEC 2, H EICKE/ZT HARRISON SUR., A-195 8601', 15 NW BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38874

ENDURING RESOURCES, LLC, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 9H WATKINS 1229, 299 FNWL 918 FEL, SEC 2, H EICKE/ZT HARRISON SUR., A-195 8600', 15 NW BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38880

ENDURING RESOURCES, LLC, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 8H WATKINS 1229, 299 FNWL 952 FEL, SEC 2, H EICKE/ZT HARRISON SUR., A-195 8600', 15 NW BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38879

ENDURING RESOURCES, LLC, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 7H WATKINS 1229, 299 FNWL 986 FEL, SEC 2, H EICKE/ZT HARRISON SUR., A-195 8600', 15 NW BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38878

ENDURING RESOURCES, LLC, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 6H WATKINS 1229, 290 FNWL 176 FSWL, SEC 2, H EICKE/ZT HARRISON SUR., A-195 8600', 15 NW BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38877

EP ENERGY E&P CO., LP, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1135CH UNIVERSITY CENTRAL, 160 FNL 1276 FWL, SEC 35 BLK 11, UNIVERSITY LAND SUR., A-U277 8000', 6 W BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38888

EP ENERGY E&P CO., LP, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 829BH UNIVERSITY CENTRAL, 211 FNL 870 FEL, SEC 29 BLK 8, UL SUR., A-U164 8000', 8 W BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38871

EP ENERGY E&P CO., LP, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 829AH UNIVERSITY CENTRAL, 211 FNL 890 FEL, SEC 29 BLK 8, UL SUR., A-U164 8000', 8 W BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38869

EP ENERGY E&P CO., LP, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1135EH UNIVERSITY CENTRAL, 160 FNL 2107 FEL, SEC 35 BLK 11, UL SUR., A-U277 8000', 6 W BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38893

EP ENERGY E&P CO., LP, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 829CH UNIVERSITY CENTRAL, 211 FNL 850 FEL, SEC 29 BLK 8, UL SUR., A-U164 8000', 8 W BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38872

EP ENERGY E&P CO., LP, LIN (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1135BH UNIVERSITY CENTRAL, 160 FNL 1256 FWL, SEC 5 BLK 12, UL SUR. 8000', 6 W BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38886

LAREDO PETROLEUM, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1102SU SRH A, 867 FNL 990 FWL, SEC 11 BLK A, JC ROGERS SUR., A-404 10000', 20 N BIG LAKE API# 42-383-36785

LAREDO PETROLEUM, INC., JAILHOUSE (FSLMN) (O) DRILL Well# 110A HOLTA, 660 FNL 660 FEL, SEC 110 BLK 2, T&P/RW SHOCKLEY A-424 12000', 24 N BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38862

LAREDO PETROLEUM, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1108SU SRH A, 467 FNL 4925 FWL, SEC 11 BLK A, JC ROGERS SUR., A-404 10000', 20 N BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38761

LAREDO PETROLEUM, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1108SM SRH A, 467 FNL 4065 FEL, SEC 11 BLK A, JC ROGERS SUR., A-404 10000', 20 N BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38760

LAREDO PETROLEUM, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1102SM SRH A, 867 FNL 1015 FWL, SEC 11 BLK A, JC ROGERS SUR., A-404 10000', 20 N BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38784

LAREDO PETROLEUM, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1102SL SRH A, 867 FNL 1040 FWL, SEC 11 BLK A, JC ROGERS SUR., A-404 10000', 20 N BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38783

PARSLEY ENERGY OPERATIONS, LLC, NE BENEDUM (BEND LM) (O) DRILL Well# 2 EARL HANKAMER, 1430 FWL 2173 FNL, SEC 7 BLK M, TC SUR., A-465 11500', 20 NW BIG LAKE API# 42-383-38867

Runnels County

WISHBONE TX OPER. CO. LLC, MARY HALE (ELLEN) (O/G) DRILL Well# 2 DRENNAN TRUST, 524 FWL 467 FNL, MD PROCTOR SUR., A-1166 5000', 5 NW BALLINGER API# 42-399-35436

Schleicher County

BOAZ ENERGY II OPER., LLC, CAMAR (STRAWN-OIL) (O/G) DRILL Well# 14 EM CLANCY, 2269 FEL 2443 FSL, SEC 24 BLK 8, TWNG/WB SMITH SUR., A-1684 4500', 23 NE ELDORADO API# 42-413-32934

MIDENERGY OPERATING, LLC, WILLIAMS RNCH (CNYN) (O/G) (RECOMP) Well# 1 JW RANCHES, 660 FEL 298 FSL, SEC 37, HE&WT SUR., A-464 7800', 16 NW ELDORADO API# 42-413-32628

Upton County

APACHE CORPORATION, MCELROY (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 4H KING SOUTH U15, 150 FNL 2180 FWL, SEC 15, BLK 3 1/2, CCSD&RGNG SUR., A-1155 3600', 11 SE CRANE API# 42-461-39497

APACHE CORPORATION, MCELROY (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 5H KING SOUTH U15, 150 FNL 1280 FWL, SEC 15, BLK 3 1/2, CCSD&RGNG SUR., A-1155 3600', 11 SE CRANE API# 42-461-39498

ATHLON HOLDINGS LP, PEGASUS (CONS) (O/G) DRILL Well# 9 POWELL 35, 467 FSL 1980 FEL, SEC 35 BLK 40 T5S, T&P SUR., A-469 11500', 23 NW RANKIN API# 42-461-39496

ATHLON HOLDINGS LP, PEGASUS (CONS) (O/G) DRILL Well# 7 POWELL 26B, 467 FNL 467 FEL, SEC 26 BLK 40 T5S, T&P/J WINDHAM SUR., A-1511 11475', 25 NW RANKIN API# 42-461-39494

CABAL ENERGY CORP., SPRA (TREND CL FK) (O/G) DRILL Well# 1 BLACK MOUNTAIN 236, 660 FNL 1860 FEL, SEC 2, GC&SF/JH JOHNSON SUR., A-1239 8500', 7 SE RANKIN API# 42-461-39579

COG OPERATING, LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 28H NEAL RANCH 77 A UNIT, 250 FNL 2640 FWL, SEC 78 BLK D, CCSD&RGNG/ WW BRUNSON SUR., A-1380 15000', 21 NW RANKIN API# 42-461-39461

COG OPERATING, LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 31H NEAL RANCH 47, 250 FNL 1320 FWL, SEC 96 BLK D, CCSD&RGNG/ WW BRUNSON SUR., A-1381 15000', 22 NW RANKIN API# 42-461-39458

DIAMONDBACK E&P LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 4H JACEE D UNIT, 400 FEL 150 FNL, SEC 8 BLK 2, MK&TE/HE HILL SUR., A-1424 10000', 5 NE RANKIN API# 42-461-39447

DIAMONDBACK E&P LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 6H JACEE F UNIT, 554 FWL 163 FNL, SEC 8 BLK 2, MK&TE/HE HILL

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SUR., A-1424 10000', 5 NE RANKIN API# 42-461-39574

PARSLEY ENERGY OPERATIONS, LLC, JAR (PENN) (O) DRILL Well# 2 ELAINE 6, 467 FNL 467 FEL, SEC 6 BLK 39 T5S, T&P/T WINDHAM SUR., A-1514 12200', 11 W MIDKIFF API# 42-461-39469

PARSLEY ENERGY OPERATIONS, LLC, DAVIS (PENN) (O/G) DRILL Well# 2 DAVIDSON 12A, 467 FSL 684 FWL, SEC 12 BLK 39 T5S, T&P/AA ALLISON SUR., A-1373 11900', 6 W MIDKIFF API# 42-461-39470

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 19H UNIVERSITY 178B, 100 FSL 317 FEL, SEC 8 BLK 3, UL SUR., A-U8 9500', 9 NE RANKIN API# 42-461-39446

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRA (TREND) R 40 EXC (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 4H PEMBROOK X-1, 1802 FWL 287 FNL, SEC 3 BLK A, CCSD&RGNG SUR., A-12 10635', 18 NE RANKIN API# 42-461-39500

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 17H UNIVERSITY 178B, 100 FSL 377 FEL, SEC 17 BLK 3, UL SUR., A-U17 9500', 9 NE RANKIN API# 42-461-39444

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRA (TREND) R 40 EXC (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 3H PEMBROOK X-1, 285 FNL 1267 FWL, SEC 3 BLK A, CCSD&RGNG SUR., A-12 10635', 18 NE RANKIN API# 42-461-39478

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 18H UNIVERSITY 178B, 100 FSL 347 FEL, SEC 17 BLK 3, UL SUR., A-U17 9500', 9 NE RANKIN API# 42-461-39445

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRA (TREND) R 40 EXC (O/G) DRILL Well# 2 PRIEST 12, 467 FNL 467 FEL, SEC 12 BLK Y, GC&SF/M SHAW SUR., A-559 11600', 11 NE RANKIN API# 42-461-39479

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRA (TREND) R 40 EXC (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 5H PEMBROOK X-1, 1832 FWL 287 FNL, SEC 3 BLK A, CCSD&RGNG SUR., A-12 10635', 18 NE RANKIN API# 42-461-39501

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRA (TREND) R 40 EXC (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 6H PEMBROOK X-1, 287 FNL 1862 FWL, SEC 3 BLK A, CCSD&RGNG SUR., A-12 10635', 18 NE RANKIN API# 42-461-39502

XTO ENERGY, INC., SPRA (TREND) R 40 EXC (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 801AH LHS RANCH, 359 FWL 617 FNL, SEC 17 BLK 38 T5S, T&P SUR., A-405 9500', 4 W MIDKIFF API# 42-461-39491

XTO ENERGY, INC,, SPRA (TREND) R 40 EXC (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 801H LHS RANCH, 259 FWL 612 FNL, SEC 17 BLK 38 T5S, T&P SUR., A-405 9900', 4 W MIDKIFF API# 42-461-39490

Texas RRCD 8

Andrews County

APACHE CORPORATION, BAKKE (WOLFCAMP) (O) DRILL Well# 181 BAKKE UNIT, 115 FSL 1300 FEL, SEC 20 BLK A44, PSL/JE PARKER SUR., A-2056 9800', 4 S ANDREWS API# 42-003-46171

FORGE ENERGY, LLC, N SHAFTER LAKE (SA) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 4411H UL 13 OSSIPEE, 200 FSL 527 FEL, SEC 11 BLK 13, UL SUR., A-U403 4800', 8 N ANDREWS API# 42-003-46225

J. CLEO THOMPSON, MEANS (O) DRILL Well# 1219 WEST MEANS (GRYBG-SAN ANDR) UNIT, 2007 FSL 1365 FEL, SEC 14 BLK A35, PSL/E BUSTIN SUR., A-470 5000', 8 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46390

J. CLEO THOMPSON, MEANS (O) DRILL Well# 714 WEST MEANS (GRYBG-SAN ANDR) UNIT, 666 FSL 2582 FEL, SEC 7 BLK A35, PSL/DE PINNELL SUR., A-525 5000', 8 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46415

J. CLEO THOMPSON, MEANS (O) DRILL Well# 2922 WEST MEANS (GRYBG-SAN ANDR) UNIT, 604 FNL 2596 FEL, SEC 14 BLK A35, PSL/E BUSTIN SUR., A-470 5000', 8 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46418

J. CLEO THOMPSON, MEANS (O) DRILL Well# 2925 WEST MEANS (GRYBG-SAN ANDR) UNIT, 1490 FNL 1959 FEL, SEC 14 BLK A35, PSL/E BUSTIN SUR., A-470 5000', 8 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46422

J. CLEO THOMPSON, MEANS (O) DRILL Well# 2923 WEST MEANS (GRYBG-SAN ANDR) UNIT, 1472 FNL 717 FWL, SEC 14 BLK A35, PSL/DM PINNELL SUR., A-915 5000', 8 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46420

J. CLEO THOMPSON, MEANS (O) DRILL Well# 1221 WEST MEANS (GRYBG-SAN ANDR) UNIT, 2011 FSL 1266 FWL, SEC 14 BLK A35, PSL/J COOKE SUR., A-343 5000', 8 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46392

J. CLEO THOMPSON, MEANS (O) DRILL Well# 2924 WEST MEANS (GRYBG-SAN ANDR) UNIT, 1982 FNL 2592 FEL, SEC 14 BLK A35, PSL/E BUSTIN SUR., A-470 5000', 8 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46421

J. CLEO THOMPSON, MEANS (O) DRILL Well# 2926 WEST MEANS (GRYBG-SAN ANDR) UNIT, 1986 FNL 1369 FEL, SEC 14 BLK A35, PSL/E BUSTIN SUR., A-470 5000', 8 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46423

J. CLEO THOMPSON, MEANS (O) DRILL Well# 1220 WEST MEANS (GRYBG-SAN ANDR) UNIT, 1979 FSL 2572 FWL, SEC 14 BLK A35, PSL/DM PINNELL SUR., A-915 5000', 8 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46391

MEMORIAL PRODUCTION OPER. LLC, S WEMAC (WOLFCAMP) (O) DRILL Well# 10 WEMAC, SOUTH (WOLFCAMP) UNIT, 1933 FNL 2502 FEL, SEC 1 BLK 1, UL SUR., A-U1 10500', 7 SE ANDREWS API# 42-003-46303

OXY USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 4518DH SERAPHINA, 2414 FSL 2298 FEL, SEC 45 BLK 40 T1N, G&MMB&A SUR., A-93 12500', 16 NW MIDLAND API# 42-003-46250

OXY USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 4519SH SERAPHINA, 1554 FSL 2285 FEL, SEC 45 BLK 40 T1N, G&MMB&A SUR., A-93 12500', 16 NW MIDLAND API# 42-003-46263

OXY USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 4516H SERAPHINA, 2145 FEL 3345 FNL, SEC 45 BLK 40 T1N, G&MMB&A SUR., A-93 12500', 16 NW MIDLAND API# 42-003-46249

OXY USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 4517MH SERAPHINA, 910 FSL 2126 FEL, SEC 45 BLK 40 T1N, G&MMB&A SUR., A-93 12500', 16 NW MIDLAND API# 42-003-46264

QEP ENERGY COMPANY, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# H 1WD MABEE LN, 2661 FNL 2236 FEL, SEC 24 BLK 39 T2N, G&MMB&A SUR., A-300 12000', 19 E ANDREWS API# 42-003-46305

RING ENERGY, INC., NW BLK A-34 (GLORIETA) (O) DRILL (36) (37) Well# 1 12TH MAN STATE, 2179 FWL 856 FSL, SEC 8 BLK A34, PSL/AS CLEVELAND SUR., A-1676 6750', 14 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46290

RING ENERGY, INC., BLK A-34 (SAN ANDRES) (O) DRILL Well# 2 OAKS STATE, 991 FEL 2315 FSL, SEC 8 BLK A34, PSL/AS CLEVELAND SUR., A-1676 5100', 14 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46292

RING ENERGY, INC., BLK A-34 (SAN ANDRES) (O) DRILL Well# 6 SE CREWS-MAST 8, 1983 FEL 2314 FSL, SEC 8 BLK A34, PSL/AS CLEVELAND SUR., A-1676 5100', 14 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46317

RING ENERGY, INC., BLK A-34 (SAN ANDRES) (O) DRILL Well# 5 SE CREWS-MAST 8, 1653 FEL 840 FSL, SEC 8 BLK A34, PSL/AS CLEVELAND SUR., A-1676 5100', 14 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46301

RING ENERGY, INC., BLK A-34 (SAN ANDRES) (O) DRILL Well# 3 CREWS-MAST C, 2311 FWL 1651 FNL, SEC 8 BLK A34, PSL/AS CLEVELAND SUR., A-1676 5100', 14 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46313

RING ENERGY, INC., BLK A-34 (SAN ANDRES) (O) DRILL Well# 1 OAKS STATE, 991 FEL 1805 FSL, SEC 8 BLK A34, PSL/AS CLEVELAND SUR., A-1676 5100', 14 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46332

RING ENERGY, INC., BLK A-34 (SAN ANDRES) (O) DRILL Well# 3 OAKS STATE, 330 FEL 2087 FSL, SEC 8 BLK A34, PSL/AS CLEVELAND SUR., A-1676 5100', 14 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46296

RING ENERGY, INC., BLK A-34 (SAN ANDRES) (O) DRILL Well# 7 SE CREWS-MAST 8, 2315 FEL 1493 FSL, SEC 8 BLK A34, PSL/AS CLEVELAND SUR., A-1676 5100', 14 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46302

RING ENERGY, INC., BLK A-34 (SAN ANDRES) (O) DRILL Well# 8 SE CREWS-MAST 8, 1652 FEL 1320 FSL, SEC 8 BLK A34, PSL/AS CLEVELAND SUR., A-1676 5100', 14 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46299

RING ENERGY, INC., NW BLK A-34 (GLORIETA) (O) DRILL Well# 2 CREWS-MAST 8B, 853 FEL 856 FNL, SEC 8 BLK A34, PSL/R CLEVELAND SUR., A-864 6750', 14 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46280

RING ENERGY, INC., BLK A-34 (SAN ANDRES) (O) DRILL Well# 4 OAKS STATE, 330 FEL 1653 FSL, SEC 8 BLK A34, PSL/AS CLEVELAND SUR., A-1676 5100', 14 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46293

RING ENERGY, INC., BLK A-34 (SAN ANDRES) (O) DRILL Well# 4 SE CREWS MAST 8, 1653 FEL 330 FSL, SEC 8 BLK A34, PSL/AS CLEVELAND SUR., A-1676 5100', 14 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46295

RING ENERGY, INC., BLK A-34 (SAN ANDRES) (O) DRILL Well# 4 CREWS-MAST C, 992 FWL 1651 FNL, SEC 8 BLK A34, PSL/S CLEVELAND SUR., A-1676 5100', 14 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46316

SANDRIDGE E&P, LLC, FUHRMAN-MASCHO (O) DRILL Well# 9 UNIVERSITY 48B, 1650 FSL 1650 FWL, SEC 48 BLK 13, UL SUR., A-U440 5200', 8 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46306

Please see 10G

Foster & Harvey, P.C.
Title Attorneys

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DEVELOPMENTAL WELLS

From 9G

SANDRIDGE E&P, LLC, FUHRMAN-MASCHO (O) DRILL Well# 7 UNIVERSITY 13-39, 990 FNL 1650 FWL, SEC 39 BLK 13, UL SUR., A-U431 5200', 9 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46365

SANDRIDGE E&P, LLC, FUHRMAN-MASCHO (O) DRILL Well# 11 UNIVERSITY 13-33, 330 FNL 2310 FWL, SEC 33 BLK 13, UL SUR., A-U425 5200', 11 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46389

SANDRIDGE E&P, LLC, N SHAFTER LAKE (SA) (O) DRILL (DIREC) Well# 19 UNIVERSITY H, 700 FNL 1945 FEL, SEC 17 BLK 14, UL SUR. 5200', 9 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46308

SANDRIDGE E&P, LLC, FUHRMAN-MASCHO (O) DRILL Well# 31 UNIVERSITY 13-34, 330 FSL 990 FEL, SEC 34 BLK 13, UL SUR., A-U426 5200', 9 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46366

SANDRIDGE E&P, LLC, N SHAFTER LAKE (SA) (O) DRILL Well# 17 UNIVERSITY H, 1480 FNL 2310 FEL, SEC 17 BLK 14, UL SUR., A-U457 5200', 9 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46245

SANDRIDGE E&P, LLC, N SHAFTER LAKE (SA) (O) DRILL Well# 7 UNIVERSITY 48C, 1650 FSL 2310 FEL, SEC 48 BLK 13, UL SUR., A-U440 5200', 8 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46298

TEXLAND PETROLEUM, LP, FULLERTON (SA) (O) DRILL Well# 2081 SCARBOROUGH UNIT, 769 FSL 629 FWL, SEC 20 BLK A31, PSL/ WF SCARBOROUGH SUR., A-2130 4800', 22 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46310

W & T OFFSHORE, INC., BIZCO (MISSISSIPPIAN) (O) DRILL Well# 4 UNIVERSITY 7-19, 470 FNL 2000 FWL, SEC 19 BLK 7, UL SUR., A-U200 12500', 19 E ANDREWS API# 42-003-46265

XTO ENERGY, INC., FULLERTON (O) DRILL Well# 65 FULLERTON CLEARFORK UNIT, 1250 FSL 2238 FWL, SEC 13 BLK A32, PSL/ BM IRWIN SUR., A-613 7700', 17 NW ANDREWS API# 42-003-46318

Crane County

APACHE CORPORATION, MCELROY (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 5H UNIVERSITY LANDS 25, 300 FSL 350 FWL, SEC 24 BLK 31, UL SUR., A-U72 3500', 7 NW CRANE API# 42-103-36373

LARIO OIL & GAS COMPANY, SAND HILLS (TUBB) (O) DRILL Well# 14 JB TUBB, 330 FSL 1376 FEL, SEC 5 BLK 32, PSL/JB TUBB SUR., A-1145 5150', 16 NW CRANE API# 42-103-36394

LARIO OIL & GAS COMPANY, SAND HILLS (TUBB) (O) DRILL Well# 9 JB TUBB D, 1320 FNL 330 FEL, SEC 8 BLK 32, PSL/ JB TUBB SUR., A-1148 5100', 16 NW CRANE API# 42-103-36399

MIDENERGY OPERATING, LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 1 EDWARDS 1, 2100 FNL 2500 FWL, SEC 21 BLK B8, PSL/MA HIX SUR., A-860 12000', 19 S CRANE API# 42-103-36398

Culberson County

CAPITAN ENERGY, INC., W FORD (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1H LAUREN STATE 30, 210 FSL 660 FWL, SEC 30 BLK 58 T2S, T&P/ O RIDGEWAY SUR., A-4479 10200', 52 NE KENT API# 42-109-32691

CIMAREX ENERGY CO., W FORD (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1H LEONATUS 11 UNIT, 210 FNL 2283 FEL, SEC 11 BLK 59 T2S, T&P SUR., A-2715 10736', 14 NW ORLA API# 42-109-32683

COG OPERATING, LLC, SANDBAR (BONE SPRNG) DRILL (INJ) Well# 36SW DR STATE CENTRAL, 1880 FSL 1320 FEL, SEC 36 BLK 61 T1S, T&P/IJ BELL SUR., A-4764 13500', 51 NW PECOS API# 42-109-32685

CONOCOPHILLIPS CO., W FORD (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 803H TEXAS TWO STEP WC, 316 FSL 350 FEL, SEC 8 BLK 58 T-2, T&P SUR. 9900', 11 NW ORLA API# 42-109-32670

Ector County

APACHE CORPORATION, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 2702 AUGUSTA BARROW, 650 FSL 1790 FEL, SEC 27 BLK 42 T1S, T&P SUR., A-97 12200', 8 NW ODESSA API# 42-135-43095

APACHE CORPORATION, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 1602 AUGUSTA BARROW, 800 FNL 850 FWL, SEC 16 BLK 42 T1S, T&P/JE GRAHAM SUR., A-552 12200', 11 NW ODESSA API# 42-135-43096

BERRY OIL COMP., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 7 GARDENDALE 1, 479 FWL 1180 FSL, SEC 1 BLK 42 T1S, T&P SUR., A-84 11900', 12 SE ODESSA API# 42-135-43118

BERRY OIL COMP., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 5 GARDENDALE 1, 900 FWL 1826 FSL, SEC 1 BLK 42 T1S, T&P SUR., A-84 11900', 12 SE ODESSA API# 42-135-43117

BERRY OIL COMP., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 9 GARDENDALE 1, 467 FNL 1450 FEL, SEC 1 BLK 42 T1S, T&P SUR., A-84 11900', 13 SE ODESSA API# 42-135-43115

BERRY OIL COMP., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 2 GARDENDALE 1, 1141 FNL 1611 FWL, SEC 1 BLK 42 T1S, T&P SUR., A-84 11900', 13 NW ODESSA API# 42-135-43113

BERRY OIL COMP., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 1 GARDENDALE 1, 467 FNL 1257 FWL, SEC 1 BLK 42 T1S, T&P SUR., A-84 11900', 13 NW ODESSA API# 42-135-43112

BERRY OIL COMP., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 4 GARDENDALE 1, 1594 FNL 2131 FWL, SEC 1 BLK 42 T1S, T&P SUR., A-84 11900', 12 NW ODESSA API# 42-135-43114

OXY USA WTP LP, MONAHANS DRW(CNYN) (O) DRILL Well# 1 PARKER, 1980 FNL 1980 FWL, SEC 21 BLK 44 T2S, T&P SUR., A-304 10000', 13 W ODESSA API# 42-135-43101

SHERIDAN PRODUCTION CO., LLC, GOLDSMITH (CLRFRK) (O/G) DRILL Well# 19 CVX 43B, 2285 FNL 994 FWL, SEC 43 BLK 44 T1S, T&P SUR., A-291 6200', 8 NW PENWELL API# 42-135-43090

XTO ENERGY INC., GOLDSMITH (CLRFRK) (O) DRILL (DIREC) Well# 2404 CA GOLDSMITH ET AL, 2033 FNL 1065 FEL, SEC 16 BLK 44 T1S, T&P/WA BEATY SUR., A-687 7000', 3 SW GOLDSMITH API# 42-135-43098

XTO ENERGY INC., GOLDSMITH (CLRFRK) (O) DRILL Well# 2403 CA GOLDSMITH ET AL, 2041 FSL 1366 FWL, SEC 9 BLK 44 T1S, T&P SUR., A-274 7000', 2 SW GOLDSMITH API# 42-135-43097

Glasscock County

APACHE CORPORATION, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) (RECOMP) Well# 5 HESTER 39, 2173 FNL 853 FEL, SEC 39 BLK 34 T3S, T&P SUR., A-236 10748', 3 NW GARDEN CITY API# 42-173-35275

BLUESTEM ENERGY HOLDINGS, LLC, JAILHOUSE (FSLMN) (O) DRILL Well# K 1 BRUNSON E, 2159 FSL 1666 FEL, SEC 2 BLK 36 T4S, T&P/ SC ARMISTEAD SUR., A-913 12000', 13 SW GARDEN CITY API# 42-173-36555

CROWNQUEST OPERATING, LLC, NW GARDEN CITY (STRWN) (O) DRILL Well# 3 HOUSTON 25, 475 FEL 1265 FSL, SEC 25 BLK 35 T2S, T&P SUR., A-305 12000', 13 NW GARDEN CITY API# 42-173-36592

ENERGEN RESOURCES CORP., JAILHOUSE (FSLMN) (O) DRILL Well# 12 COLORADO, 1418 FSL 1276 FWL, SEC 43 BLK 33 T5S, T&P SUR., A-190 11000', 15 SE GARDEN CITY API# 42-173-36613

HANNATHON PETROLEUM, LLC, DEWEY LAKE (ATOKA) (O/G) DRILL Well# 4 MCCAULEY 6, 467 FNL 467 FWL, SEC 6 BLK 34 T3S, T&P/LH HILLGER SUR., A-809 11000', 11 NW GARDEN CITY API# 42-173-36638

LAREDO PETROLEUM, INC., JAILHOUSE (FSLMN) (O) DRILL Well# 47Q FUCHS B, 615 FSL 2125 FEL, SEC 47 BLK 34 T5S, T&P SUR., A-286 12000', 14 SE GARDEN CITY API# 42-173-36612

LAREDO PETROLEUM, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 15SU BARBEE C-B-BARBEE D (ALLOC), 1380 FSL 663 FEL, SEC 1, GB&CNG SUR., A-20 11000', 17 SE GARDEN CITY API# 42-173-36596

LAREDO PETROLEUM, INC., JAILHOUSE (FSLMN) (O) DRILL Well# 39F W JOST OIL UNIT, 1440 FNL 2120 FWL, SEC 39 BLK 34 T5S, T&P SUR., A-284 12000', 14 SE GARDEN CITY API# 42-173-36630

TRILOGY OPERATING INC., PAUL PAGE (ATOKA) (O/G) DRILL Well# 1 TAREE 193, 467 FWL 467 FSL, SEC 193 BLK 29, W&NW SUR., A-487 12000', 14 NE GARDEN CITY API# 42-173-36629

Howard County

ATHLON HOLDINGS LP, HILL RANCH (MISS) (O/G) DRILL Well# 2 CHRISTIAN 48, 1709 FNL 1088 FEL, SEC 48 BLK 32 T2N, T&P/JW RICE SUR., A-1182 9620', 10 N BIG SPRING API# 42-227-38013

CROWNQUEST OPERATING, LLC, CEDAR FLATS (MISS) (O) DRILL Well# 98 LINDSAY LA, 2165 FWL 2480 FSL, SEC 9 BLK 34 T1N, T&P SUR., A-526 12000', 12 W BIG SPRING API# 42-227-38020

CROWNQUEST OPERATING, LLC, CEDAR FLATS (MISS) (O) DRILL Well# 2303 WALKER FARMS, 1730 FSL 2050 FWL, SEC 23 BLK 34 T2N, T&P SUR., A-401 12000', 3 S KNOTT API# 42-227-38004

CROWNQUEST OPERATING, LLC, NW GARDEN CITY (STRWN) (O) DRILL Well# 4 QUINN 48, 525 FWL 1050 FNL, SEC 48 BLK 35 T1S, T&P/ MV OXSHEER SUR., A-141712000', 10 SW ELBOW API# 42-227-38016

CROWNQUEST OPERATING, LLC, CEDAR FLATS (MISS) (O) DRILL Well# 97 LINDSAY LA, 475 FNL 1141 FEL, SEC 9 BLK 34 T1N, T&P SUR., A-526 12000', 12 W BIG SPRING API# 42-227-38017

CROWNQUEST OPERATING, LLC, CEDAR FLATS (MISS) (O) DRILL Well# 2304 WALKER FARMS, 2050 FWL 980 FSL, SEC 23 BLK 34 T2N, T&P SUR., A-401 12000', 3 S KNOTT API# 42-227-38007

CROWNQUEST OPERATING, LLC, CEDAR FLATS (MISS) (O) DRILL Well# 2305 WALKER FARMS, 550 FWL 1430 FSL, SEC 23 BLK 34 T2N, T&P SUR., A-401 12000', 3 S KNOTT API# 42-227-38005

CROWNQUEST OPERATING, LLC, CEDAR FLATS (MISS) (O) DRILL Well# 4 JIM DAVIS 42, 1200 FEL 1680 FSL, SEC 42 BLK A, BAUER & COCKRELL SUR., A-591 12000', 4 SW KNOTT API# 42-227-38006

ENERGEN RESOURCES CORP., IATAN, E HOWARD (O) (RECOMP) Well# 61 GM DODGE, 982 FSL 345 FEL, SEC 1 BLK 30 T1S, T&P SUR., A-247 3500', 7 E COAHOMA API# 42-227-32577

MTN ENERGY OPER., LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) DRILL (INJ) Well# 1 HERM SWD, 350 FNL 1800 FEL, SEC 12 BLK 33 T2N, T&P/ PE LITTLE SUR., A-1673 6100', 6 NE KNOTT API# 42-227-38051

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 4 STONE 46, 2230 FWL 660 FNL, SEC 46 BLK 35 T1S, T&P/ JT RAWLINGS SUR., A-1548 10650', 13 NW GARDEN CITY API# 42-227-38012

TALL CITY OPERATIONS LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1H LESTER 27-34, 1320 FEL 381 FNL, SEC 27 BLK 33 T3N, T&P SUR., A-347 9000', 6 SE ACKERLY API# 42-227-38052

THREE RIVERS OPER. CO. II LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 4244 ADAMS, 660 FSL 660 FEL, SEC 42 BLK 33 T3N, T&P/CT ALLEN SUR., A-1236 11300', 4 NW KNOTT API# 42-227-38015

THREE RIVERS OPER. CO. II LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 2722 PATTERSON, 2140 FNL 1760 FWL, SEC 27 BLK 33 T1S, T&P SUR., A-371 10500', 3/4 E ELBOW API# 42-227-38002

Loving County

ANADARKO E&P ONSHORE LLC, PHANTOM (WOLFCAMP) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 3H JE HALEY 28-33, 800 FEL 330 FSL, SEC 33 BLK 28, PSL/JA HALEY SUR., A-1054 14000', 16 SW KERMIT API# 42-301-32218

APACHE CORPORATION, PHANTOM (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 302H CONDOR, 1090 FNEL 770 FNWL, SEC 87 BLK 33, H&TC SUR., A-11 9550', 3 NW MENTONE API# 42-301-32211

ENDEAVOR ENERGY RES. LP, PHANTOM (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1H PAUL 23, 475 FWL 280 FNL, SEC 23 BLK 28, PSL/RA COLLINS SUR., A-1343 12000', 12 NW WINK API# 42-301-32222

EOG RESOURCES, INC., SANDBAR (BONE SPRNG) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 4H EXCELSIOR 12, 360 FNL 687 FEL, SEC 12 BLK 54 T1, T&P/W HAGEN SUR., A-940 11000', 19 NE MENTONE API# 42-301-32198

EOG RESOURCES, INC., PHANTOM (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 3H VOYAGER 15, 305 FNL 250 FEL, SEC 15 BLK 54 T1, T&P SUR., A-51 11000', 18 N MENTONE API# 42-301-32201

EOG RESOURCES, INC., SANDBAR (BONE SPRNG) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 3H EXCELSIOR 12, 360 FNL 657 FEL, SEC 12 BLK 54 T1, T&P/W HAGEN SUR., A-940 11000', 19 NE MENTONE API# 42-301-32194

MEWBOURNE OIL CO., SANDBAR (BONE SPRNG) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# B201OB TXL WEST 11, 250 FSL 2310 FEL, SEC 11 BLK 57 T1, T&P SUR., A-166 9500', 10 N ORLA API# 42-301-32217

OXY USA, INC., PHANTOM (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1H FD RUSSELL, 837 FNEL 476 FSEL, SEC 81 BLK 1, W&NW SUR., A-195 8510', 2 SE PECOS API# 42-301-32219

OXY USA, INC., PHANTOM (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 2H FD RUSSELL, 49 FSWL 1787 FSEL, SEC 80 BLK 1, W&NW/ JC MCDONALD SUR., A-415 13000', 1 SE PECOS API# 42-301-32221

RKI E&P, LLC, SANDBAR (BONE SPRNG) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 3H CBR 28, 270 FNL 1849 FWL, SEC 28 BLK 56 T1, T&P/ WD JOHNSON SUR., A-1137 16000', 12 NE ORLA API# 42-301-32216

RKI E&P, LLC, SANDBAR (BONE SPRNG) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 2H CBR 28, 175 FNL 567 FWL, SEC 28 BLK 56 T1, T&P/ WD JOHNSON SUR., A-1137 16000', 12 NE ORLA API# 42-301-32215

SHELL WESTERN E&P, PHANTOM (WOLFCAMP) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1H JOHNSON 53-2-30 LOV, 210 FSL 260 FEL, SEC 30 BLK 53 T2, T&P/WD JOHNSON SUR., A-1078 12500', 7 NE MENTONE API# 42-301-32220

Martin County

BREITBURN OPERATING L.P., CEDAR FLATS (MISS) (O) DRILL Well# 2 ELLIS 25, 2150 FWL 1980 FNL, SEC 25 BLK 35 T1N, T&P SUR., A-53 12000', 10 NE STANTON API# 42-317-39498

DIAMONDBACK E&P LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 4003H MABEE BREEDLOVE, 38 FSL 893 FEL, SEC 40, BRISCOE CSL/LOT 40/ LEAGUE 256 SUR., A-595 11000', 14 NW TARZAN API# 42-317-39518

DIAMONDBACK E&P LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 4001H MABEE BREEDLOVE, 38 FSL 863 FEL, SEC 40, BRISCOE CSL/LOT 40/ LEAGUE 256 SUR., A-595 11000', 14 NW TARZAN API# 42-317-39517

DIAMONDBACK E&P LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 2H WOLCOTT 253, 6844 FSL 1351 FEL, SEC 253, WARD CSL SUR., A-608 10000', 11 N TARZAN API# 42-317-39527

ENDEAVOR ENERGY RES. LP, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 4 KELVIN ALLRED 17, 1110 FWL 1980 FSL, SEC 17 BLK 35 T2N, T&P SUR., A-73 12000', 6 NE LENORAH API# 42-317-39363

HANNATHON PETROLEUM, LLC, PAUL PAGE (ATOKA) (O/G) DRILL Well# 1 A LLOYD 48, 2175 FSL 1373 FWL, SEC 48 BLK A, BAUER & COCKRELL SUR., A-1122 12000', 11 NE LENORAH API# 42-317-39519

HIBERNIA RESOURCES, LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (RECOMP) (WIW) Well# 1 DOROTHY FAYE 319, 1073 FNL 306 FEL, GARZA CSL/ LGE 319 LAB 9 SUR., A-998 1600', 15 NW LENORAH API# 42-317-34605

HIBERNIA RESOURCES, LLC, LOWE (ATOKA) (O/G) DRILL Well# 16 DOROTHY FAYE A326, 467 FSL 515 FEL, SEC 319, GARZA CSL/LOT 18 SUR., A-998 12500', 7 W TARZAN API# 42-317-39526

HIGH ROLLER WELLS, LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) DRILL (INJ) Well# 1 TARZAN 137 SWD, 200 FNL 497 FEL, SEC 137 BLK A, CC COLLINS/ CI MOBERLEY SUR., A-781 6500', 4 NW TARZAN API# 42-317-39528

HIGH ROLLER WELLS, LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) DRILL (INJ) Well# 2 TARZAN 137 SWD, 175 FNL 248 FEL, SEC 137 BLK A, CC COLLINS/ CI MOBERLEY SUR., A-781 6500', 4 NW TARZAN API# 42-317-39529

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 9 GREE-

Please see 11G

DEVELOPMENTAL WELLS

From 10G

MAN GRISHAM, 507 FWL 467 FNL, SEC 16 BLK 36 T1N, T&P/ M ROBERTSON SUR., A-806 11300', 8 NW STANTON API# 42-317-39412

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 5 CASAGA, 467 FWL 2173 FSL, SEC 8 BLK 37 T1S, T&P/WB WALDEN SUR., A-952 11540' 10 W STANTON API# 42-317-39415

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 8 INEZ WOODY C, 660 FEL 660 FNL, SEC 32 BLK 37 T2N, T&P/CM HOUSTON SUR., A-887 11750', 15 NW STANTON API# 42-317-39398

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 2 SAWYER 25, 2173 FWL 467 FSL, SEC 25 BLK 36 T2N, T&P SUR., A-163 11200', 14 NW STANTON API# 42-317-39536

QEP ENERGY COMPANY, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 12 MAEE D, 660 FSL 660 FEL, SEC 10 BLK 39 T2N, G&MMB&A SUR., A-396 12500', 13 SW TARZAN API# 42-317-39588

Midland County

ENERGEN RESOURCES CORP., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 201H LB EPLEY NS 39-46, 3690 FNL 2330 FEL, SEC 39 BLK 37 T1S, T&P SUR., A-191 9400', 12 E MIDLAND API# 42-329-39382

FASKEN OIL AND RANCH, LTD., W LOWE (STRAWN) (O) DRILL Well# 4112 FEE BH, 2550 FSL 467 FEL, SEC 41 BLK 40 T1N, T&P SUR., A-1331 12000', 2 NW MIDLAND API# 42-329-39354

FASKEN OIL AND RANCH, LTD., W LOWE (STRAWN) (O) DRILL Well# 4117 FEE BH, 467 FSL 2310 FEL, SEC 41 BLK 40 T1N, T&P SUR., A-1331 12000', 2 NW MIDLAND API# 42-329-39353

FASKEN OIL AND RANCH, LTD., W LOWE (STRAWN) (O) DRILL Well# 4110 FEE BH, 2050 FSL 1650 FWL, SEC 41 BLK 40 T1N, T&P SUR., A-1331 12000', 2 NW MIDLAND API# 42-329-39358

FASKEN OIL AND RANCH, LTD., W LOWE (STRAWN) (O) DRILL Well# 4118 FEE BH, 660 FSL 467 FEL, SEC 41 BLK 40 T1N, T&P SUR., A-1331 12000', 2 NW MIDLAND API# 42-329-39352

FASKEN OIL AND RANCH, LTD., W LOWE (STRAWN) (O) DRILL Well# 4111 FEE BH, 2200 FSL 1650 FEL, SEC 41 BLK 40 T1N, T&P SUR., A-1331 12000', 2 NW MIDLAND API# 42-329-39357

PARSLEY ENERGY OPERATIONS, LLC, MIDKIFF (ATOKA LIME) (O) DRILL Well# 3 MINDY LYNN 42, 467 FWL 1667 FNL, SEC 42 BLK 39 T3S, T&P/ WL HOLMSLEY SUR., A-1318 13000', 14 S MIDLAND API# 42-329-39406

PARSLEY ENERGY OPERATIONS, LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) (RECOMP) Well# 1 ESTES A, 766 FSL 1336 FEL, FO SPEARMAN SUR., A-619 9600', 7 SE MIDLAND API# 42-329-30976

PARSLEY ENERGY OPERATIONS, LLC, JAR (PENN) (O) DRILL Well# 2 ELAINE 37, 1980 FNL 1796 FEL, SEC 37 BLK 40 T4S T&P SUR., A-311 12200', 11 W MIDKIFF API# 42-329-39407

PARSLEY ENERGY OPERATIONS, LLC, BETTY SUE (DEVONIAN) (O/G) DRILL Well# 2 JV ESTES E, 873 FNL 467 FEL, FO SPEARMAN SUR., A-619 11400', 7 SE MIDLAND API# 42-329-39272

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 19H TEXAS TEN Y, 200 FSL 590 FWL, SEC 36 BLK 38 T2S, T&P/ IM PEMBERTON SUR., A-746 9500', 9 SE MIDLAND API# 42-329-39410

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRA (TREND) R 40 EXC (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 3462H PRESTON A, 2183 FSL 1214 FWL, SEC 36 BLK 38 T4S, T&P/ RC CAUBLE SUR., A-871 10000', 24 SE MIDLAND API# 42-329-39404

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 18H TEXAS TEN Y, 200 FSL 545 FWL, SEC 36 BLK 38 T2S, T&P/ IM PEMBERTON SUR., A-746 9500', 9 SE MIDLAND API# 42-329-39409

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 17H TEXAS TEN Y, 200 FSL 500 FWL, SEC 36 BLK 38 T2S, T&P/ IM PEMBERTON SUR., A-746 9500', 9 SE MIDLAND API# 42-329-39408

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRABERRY (TREND) (O/G) DRILL Well# 2 JADEE, 1980 FNL 660 FWL, SEC 4 BLK 38 T3S, T&P/VC RAY SUR., A-1090 12100', 10 SE MIDLAND API# 42-329-39419

PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., SPRA (TREND) R 40 EXC (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 3463H PRESTON A, 2195 FSL 1241 FWL, SEC 36 BLK 38 T4S, T&P/ RC CAUBLE SUR., A-871 10000', 24 SE MIDLAND API# 42-329-39405

TRINITY ENVIRONMENTAL SWD, LLC, SPRABERRY (TREND) DRILL (INJ) Well# 1 BRYANT BRINE STATION, 270 FWL 289 FNL, SEC 29 BLK 40 T1S, T&P SUR., A-255 3000', 10 W MIDLAND API# 42-329-39416

Mitchell County

ENERGEN RESOURCES CORP., WESTBROOK DRILL (INJ) Well# 820W NORTH WESTBROOK UNIT, 759 FNL 1850 FWL, SEC 2 BLK 28 T1N, T&P/JM HELTON SUR., A-1518 4000', 11 NW COLORADO CITY API# 42-335-35892

ENERGEN RESOURCES CORP., TURNER-GRGRY (CLRFRK) (O) DRILL Well# 9W WOMACK A, 660 FNL 775 FEL, SEC 3 BLK 28 T1N, T&P SUR., A-538 4000', 12 NW COLORADO CITY API# 42-335-35890

ENERGEN RESOURCES CORP., NORTH WESTBROOK UNIT DRILL (INJ) Well# 821W NORTH WESTBROOK UNIT, 1370 FNL 1800 FWL, SEC 2 BLK 28 T1N, T&P/JM HELTON SUR., A-1518 4000', 11 NW COLORADO CITY API# 42-335-35894

ENERGEN RESOURCES CORP., TURNER-GRGRY (CLRFRK) (O) DRILL Well# 9W POOR FARM B, 2025 FSL 660 FEL, SEC 17 BLK 28 T1N, T&P SUR., A-565 4000', 11 NW COLORADO CITY API# 42-335-35891

ENERGEN RESOURCES CORP., NORTH WESTBROOK UNIT DRILL (INJ) Well# 919W NORTH WESTBROOK UNIT, 1370 FNL 3328 FWL, SEC 2 BLK 28 T1N, T&P/JM HELTON SUR., A-1518 4000', 11 NW COLORADO CITY API# 42-335-35895

ENERGEN RESOURCES CORP., NORTH WESTBROOK UNIT DRILL (INJ) Well# 918W NORTH WESTBROOK UNIT, 650 FNL 3345 FEL, SEC 2 BLK 28 T1N, T&P/JM HELTON SUR., A-1518 4000', 11 NW COLORADO CITY API# 42-335-35893

ENERGEN RESOURCES CORP., TURNER-GRGRY (CLRFRK) DRILL (INJ) Well# 10W POOR FARM B, 2633 FSL 660 FEL, SEC 17 BLK 28 T1N, T&P SUR.. A-565 4000', 11 NW COLORADO CITY API# 42-335-35896

PURVIS OPER. CO., PURVIS RNCH (WLFCMP) (O) DRILL Well# 3 WHITEFACE 36, 1500 FSL 3810 FEL, SEC 36 BLK 19, LN CO/ EL SMITH SUR., A-1559 5900', 10 SW WESTBROOK API# 42-335-35900

Pecos County

FORGE ENERGY, LLC, WOLFBONE (TREND) (O) DRILL Well# 1 125 MARINER, 1650 FNL 1200 FWL, SEC 4 BLK 125, T&STL/ EW MCKENZIE SUR., A-5459 8500', 20 SE FT. STOCKTON API# 42-371-39204

FORGE ENERGY, LLC, WOLFBONE (TREND) (O) DRILL Well# 1 126 CASSINI, 1710 FSL 1570 FEL, SEC 3 BLK 126, T&STL SUR., A-3584 7500', 28 E FT. STOCKTON API# 42-371-39192

MID-STATES OPER. CO., TAYLOR LINK (O) (RECOMP) Well# 89 TAYLOR-LINK (YATES), 1688 FWL 998 FNL, SEC 31 BLK 16, UL SUR., A-U31 1092', 1 NW BAKERSFIELD API# 42-371-35332

Reeves County

ANADARKO E&P ONSHORE LLC, PHANTOM (WOLFCAMP) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1H WINGHEAD 56-2-29, 550 FWL 330 FNL, SEC 29 BLK 56 T2, T&P SUR., A-590 14000', 1 SE ORLA API# 42-389-34306

ANADARKO E&P ONSHORE LLC, PHANTOM (WOLFCAMP) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1H TETON 56-2-23, 310 FNL 722 FWL, SEC 23 BLK 56 T2, T&P SUR., A-587 14000', 4 NE ORLA API# 42-389-34298

APACHE CORPORATION, TWO GEORGES (B.S.) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 202H ROBIN 8, 500 FNEL 500 FSEL, JF STINSON SUR., A-1102 9350', 14 SE ORLA API# 42-389-34285

ATLANTIC EXPL., LLC, PHANTOM (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL Well# 2H JOHNSON STATE, 311 FNL 696 FEL, SEC 1 BLK C9, PSL/WD JOHNSON SUR., A-4691 11200', 10 SW PECOS API# 42-389-34301

COG OPERATING, LLC, HOEFS T-K (WLFCMP) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 4617H BIG CHIEF, 1905 FSL 250 FEL, SEC 146 BLK 1, H&TC/EF ROSENBAUM SUR., A-4915 11000', 27 S PECOS API# 42-389-34305

COG OPERATING, LLC, HOEFS T-K (WLFCMP) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 7302H BIG CHIEF, 300 FNL 1758 FEL, SEC 173 BLK 1, H&TC SUR., A-986 11000', 25 S PECOS API# 42-389-34310

COG OPERATING, LLC, HOEFS T-K (WLFCMP) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 4613H BIG CHIEF, 1950 FSL 250 FEL, SEC 146 BLK 1, H&TC/EF ROSENBAUM SUR., A-4915 11000', 27 S PECOS API# 42-389-34304

COG OPERATING, LLC, HOEFS T-K (WOLFCAMP) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 406H OURAY STATE, 467 FWL 2244 FSL, SEC 104 BLK 1, H&TC SUR., A-4809 11000', 16 E SARAGOSA API# 42-389-34288

COG OPERATING, LLC, HOEFS T-K (WLFCMP) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 4609H BIG CHIEF, 250 FEL 1995 FSL, SEC 146 BLK 1, H&TC/EF ROSENBAUM SUR., A-4915 11000', 27 S PECOS API# 42-389-34302

ENERGEN RESOURCES CORP., PHANTOM (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 1H HORNET C19-6, 250 FNL 1865 FWL, SEC 6 BLK C19, PSL/A HOURIGAN SUR., A-1430 11500', 11 NW PECOS API# 42-389-34309

EOG RESOURCES, INC., PHANTOM (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 202H STATE APACHE 57, 250 FSL 500 FEL, SEC 2 BLK 57, PSL/RP HICKS SUR., A-2227 12000', 17 SE ORLA API# 42-389-34313

EOG RESOURCES, INC., PHANTOM (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 2102H STATE HARRISON RANCH 57, 300 FSL 730 FEL, SEC 21 BLK 57, PSL/AB CAROTHERS SUR., A-4443 13000', 21 SE ORLA API# 42-389-34303

EOG RESOURCES, INC., PHANTOM (WOLFCAMP) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 203H STATE APACHE 57, 250 FSL 530 FEL, SEC 2 BLK 57, PSL/RP HICKS SUR., A-2227 12000', 16 SE ORLA API# 42-389-34314

OXY USA WTP LP, WOLFBONE (TREND) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 5H CHEVRON MINERALS 17, 268 FSL 467 FEL, SEC 8 BLK 50 T7S, T&P/HM CRIGHTON SUR., A-5569 12000', 14 SE PECOS API# 42-389-34297

OXY USA, INC., COLLIE (DELAWARE) (O/G) DRILL Well# 35 PERKINS F, 5481 FSWL 1300 FEL, SEC 2 BLK 6, H&GN/B RANDALS SUR., A-4882 6600', 4 E PECOS API# 42-389-34311

PATRIOT RES., INC., WOLFBONE (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 3H LEMUR UNIT 24B, 500 FEL 500 FNL, SEC 25 BLK C1, PSL/ LW HOLT SUR., A-1325 13000', 21 SE PECOS API# 42-389-34287

ROSETTA RES. OPER. LP, WOLFBONE (TREND) (O/G) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 2H BILLY MINER 27, 467 FWL 200 FSL, SEC 27 BLK 5, H&GN SUR., A-434 13000', 6 S PECOS API# 42-389-34300

Sterling County

HUNT OIL COMPANY, SPRABERRY (TREND) (O) (RECOMP) Well# 3 IW TERRY, 467 FEL 1322 FNL, SEC 4, MRS DL CARVER SUR., A-26 8335', 17 SW STERLING CITY API# 42-431-30849

Ward County

SHELL WESTERN E&P, PHANTOM (WOLFCAMP) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 2H MONROE STATE 1-4 WRD, 340 FNEL 884 FNWL, SEC 4 BLK 1, W&NW/AM KENT SUR., A-921 12200', 9 NW BARSTOW API# 42-475-36740

Texas RRCD 8A

Borden County

O'BENCO INC., GOPHER CREEK (MISS) (O) DRILL (HORZ) Well# 2H JONES 519, 200 FNL 500 FEL, SEC 519 BLK 97, H&TC/ JV STEPHENS SUR., A-1251 8300', 4 NW FLUVANNA API# 42-033-32340

RAW O&G, INC, N GAIL (PENN REEF) (RE-ENTER) (INJ) Well# 1 HUDSON HORNETT, 550 FSL 1900 FWL, SEC 9 BLK 32, T&P SUR., A-299 9820', 10 SW GAIL API# 42-033-30785

SHENANDOAH PETROLEUM CORP., CLARA GOOD (FSLMN) (O) (HORZ) (RE-ENTER) Well# 1R PORTER 16, 660 FEL 660 FNL, SEC 16 BLK 32 T3N, T&P/ CM HAUGHTON SUR., A-1143 9800', 4 NE VEALMOOR API# 42-033-31212

Crosby County

CUSTER & WRIGHT OPER., INC., HOOPLE (CLEAR FORK) (O) DRILL Well# 18 GP, 2310 FWL 2261 FSL, SEC 1150, TT/K AYCOCK SUR., A-497 5000', 17 S RALLS API# 42-107-31864

Dawson County

BRECK OPER. CORP., DEROEN (MISS) (O) DRILL Well# 2 FIELDER 34, 1980 FNL 660 FWL, SEC 34 BLK 34 T5N, T&P/ HS CHILDERS SUR., A-514 10700', 7 E LAMESA API# 42-115-33675

HALVEY ENERGY, LLC, KEY WEST (SPRABERRY) (O) DRILL Well# 1 ANDERSON, 680 FNL 2620 FWL, SEC 9 BLK 34 T5N, T&P SUR., A-68 8000', 8 E LAMESA API# 42-115-33674

Gaines County

BRECK OPER. CORP., FLANAGAN (CLRFRK) (O) DRILL Well# 3D CLOPTON, 2314 FNL 330 FWL, SEC 20 BLK A23, PSL/O STOLLEY SUR., A-2030 7500', 14 SW SEMINOLE API# 42-165-38084

BRECK OPER. CORP., FLANAGAN (CLRFRK) (O) DRILL Well# 4D CLOPTON, 2314 FNL 2420 FEL, SEC 20 BLK A23, PSL/O STOLLEY SUR., A-2030 7500', 14 SW SEMINOLE API# 42-165-38085

CITATION OIL & GAS CORP., N ROBERTSON (SA) (O) (RECOMP) Well# 307 NORTH ROBERTSON SAN ANDRES UNIT, 635 FEL 2180 FNL, SEC 9 BLK A24, PSL/ DS WATROUS SUR., A-656 5000', 7 SW SEMINOLE API# 42-165-31346

CITATION OIL & GAS CORP., N ROBERTSON (CLRFRK) DRILL (DIREC) (INJ) Well# 26W EXXON FEE EUBANKS D, 2960 FNL 2633 FEL, SEC 8 BLK AX, PSL/CH EUBANK SUR., A-1050 7600', 11 SW SEMINOLE API# 42-165-38133

COBALT OPER., LLC, GLASCO (ELLENBURGER) (O) DRILL Well# 7 MARIA, 1487 FNWL 888 FNEL, SEC 29 BLK A19, PSL/ JP COLLINS SUR., A-2095 13800', 22 SE SEMINOLE API# 42-165-38111

OCCIDENTAL PERMIAN LTD., WASSON DRILL (INJ) Well# 8449 DENVER UNIT, 2222 FSL 277 FEL, SEC 53 BLK AX, PSL/B ANDERSON SUR., A-998 5800', 3 S DENVER CITY API# 42-165-38099

OCCIDENTAL PERMIAN LTD., WASSON DRILL (INJ) Well# 8447 DENVER UNIT, 2050 FSL 2200 FEL, SEC 53 BLK AX, PSL/B ANDERSON SUR., A-998 5800', 4 SW DENVER CITY API# 42-165-38098

OCCIDENTAL PERMIAN LTD., WASSON DRILL (INJ) Well# 7456 DENVER UNIT, 2197 FSL 1506 FWL, SEC 52 BLK AX, PSL/B ANDERSON SUR., A-997 5800', 3 SW DENVER CITY API# 42-165-38092

OCCIDENTAL PERMIAN LTD., WASSON DRILL (DIREC) (INJ) Well# 8445 DENVER UNIT, 1182 FNL 878 FEL, SEC 53 BLK AX, PSL/B ANDERSON SUR., A-998 5800', 3 SW DENVER CITY API# 42-165-38095

OCCIDENTAL PERMIAN LTD., WASSON DRILL (DIREC) (INJ) Well# 7579 DENVER UNIT, 431 FSL 961 FWL, SEC 49 BLK AX, PSL/ML CUNNINGHAM SUR., A-1045 5800', 3 S DENVER CITY API# 42-165-38094

OCCIDENTAL PERMIAN LTD., WASSON DRILL (DIREC) (INJ) Well# 7458 DENVER UNIT, 662 FSL 517 FEL, SEC 52 BLK AX, PSL/B ANDERSON SUR., A-997 5800', 3 SW DENVER CITY API# 42-165-38093

THREE SPAN O&G INC., ADAIR (O) DRILL Well# 1 ROSENBERG, 330 FNL 2318 FEL, SEC 16 BLK C31, PSL/A CUNNINGHAM SUR., A-1034 5000', 27 NE SEMINOLE API# 42-165-38087

THREE SPAN O&G INC., ADAIR (O) DRILL Well# 59 ADAIR SE (SAN ANDRES) UNIT, 1650 FSL 994 FWL, SEC 15 BLK C31, PSL/A GROVES SUR., A-1325 5000', 27 NE SEMINOLE API# 42-165-38089

THREE SPAN O&G INC., ADAIR (O) DRILL Well# 2 ROSENBERG, 1654 FNL 2318 FEL, SEC 16 BLK C31, PSL/A CUNNINGHAM SUR., A-1034 5000', 27 NE SEMINOLE API# 42-165-38088

THREE SPAN O&G

Please see 12G

DEVELOPMENTAL WELLS

From 11G

INC., ADAIR (O) DRILL Well# 60 ADAIR SE (SAN ANDRES) UNIT, 330 FNL 1350 FWL, SEC 10 BLK C31, PSL/A GROVES SUR., A-1324 5000', 27 NE SEMINOLE API# 42-165-38090

XTO ENERGY INC., RUSSELL (CLEARFORK) (O) DRILL (DIREC) Well# 550 RUSSELL CLEARFORK UNIT, 2025 FNL 1450 FWL, SEC 458 BLK G, CCSD&RGNG SUR., A-925 8100', 8 SW DENVER CITY API# 42-165-38029

XTO ENERGY INC., RUSSELL (CLEARFORK) (O) DRILL Well# 474 RUSSELL CLEARFORK UNIT, 2486 FNL 1349 FEL, SEC 452 BLK G, CCSD&RGNG/DF MCCLESKEY SUR., A-575 8100', 8 SW DENVER CITY API# 42-165-38083

XTO ENERGY INC., N ROBERTSON (CLR-FRK) (O) DRILL Well# 1125 ROBERTSON CLEARFORK UNIT, 581 FSL 1451 FEL, SEC 9 BLK A24, PSL/DS WATROUS SUR., A-656 7700', 9 SW SEMINOLE API# 42-165-38086

Hockley County

CANAN MOWREY OPER., LLC, WDA (STRAWN) (O) DRILL Well# 1 SPADE 24, 1429 FSL 6527 FWL, SEC 16, HOWARD CSL SUR., A-13 13000', 4 SW SMYER API# 42-219-37335

King County

HUNT OIL COMPANY, ANNE TANDY (STRAWN) DRILL (INJ) Well# N 71AR SB BURNETT ESTATE, 345 FSEL 2155 FNEL, SEC 2 BLK X, RM THOMSON SUR., A-642 6000', 17 SE GUTHRIE API# 42-269-32920

HUNT OIL COMPANY, ANNE TANDY (STRAWN) DRILL (INJ) Well# N 74AR SB BURNETT ESTATE, 1760 FNWL 1032 FNEL, SEC 2 BLK X, RM THOMSON SUR., A-642 6000', 17 SE GUTHRIE API# 42-269-32921

HUNT OIL COMPANY, ANNE TANDY (STRAWN) DRILL (INJ) Well# N 69AR SB BURNETT ESTATE, 1212 FNEL 1676 FSEL, SEC 2 BLK X, RM THOMSON SUR., A-642 6000', 17 SE GUTHRIE API# 42-269-32919

Lynn County

REATTA ENERGY INC., PEG'S DRAW (MISS) (O) DRILL Well# 1 REBEL 403, 600 FNL 2530 FEL, SEC 403 BLK 9, EL&RR SUR., A-33 9300', 6 NE DRAW API# 42-305-30553

Scurry County

APACHE CORPORATION, SHARON RIDGE (CLRFRK) (O) DRILL Well# 22 MATTIE MINOR, 1320 FSL 1320 FEL, SEC 131 BLK 97, H&TC SUR., A-1958 3600', 12 SW SNYDER API# 42-415-35029

KINDER MORGAN PROD. CO. LLC, KELLY-SNYDER (O) (RECOMP) Well# 200-5 SACROC UNIT, 1059 FSL 1552 FWL, SEC 15 BLK 1, JP SMITH SUR., A-470 7250', 2 NW SNYDER API# 42-415-30834

KINDER MORGAN PROD. CO. LLC, KELLY-SNYDER (O) DRILL (DIREC) Well# 12A21A SACROC UNIT, 1095 FSL 353 FWL, SEC 448 BLK 97, H&TC/MG CASH SUR., A-1693 7250', 10 N SNYDER API# 42-415-35063

KINDER MORGAN PROD. CO. LLC, KELLY-SNYDER (O) DRILL Well# 201-3 SACROC UNIT, 483 FNL 1826 FWL, SEC 14 BLK 1, JP SMITH SUR., A-469 7250', 2 NW SNYDER API# 42-415-35061

KINDER MORGAN PROD. CO. LLC, KELLY-SNYDER (O) DRILL Well# 8-1A SACROC UNIT, 2116 FNL 1957 FEL, SEC 450 BLK 97, H&TC/ BL PATTERSON SUR., A-1531 7250', 10 N SNYDER API# 42-415-35060

PROBE EXPL. CO., NE TONTO (CISCO) (O) DRILL Well# 2 HAMLETT, 2658 FNL 2081 FWL, SEC 236 BLK 2, H&TC/ T LOCKWOOD SUR., A-545 5100', 12 NE SNYDER API# 42-415-35058

New Mexico

Eddy County

Apache Corp.
Outlaw State #1
Artesia; Sec 29 T17S R28E; 440/S & 330/E; 12 mi SE Artesia; Rot 5300 Glo/Yeso; API #30-015-42563

Apache Corp.
Outlaw State #2
Artesia; Sec 29 T17S R28E; 990/S & 990/E; 12 mi SE Artesia; Rot 5200 Glo/Yeso; API #30-015-42554

Apache Corp.
Outlaw State #3
Artesia; Sec 29 T17S R28E; 440/S & 990/E; 12 mi SE Artesia; Rot 5300 Glo/Yeso; API #30-015-42564

Apache Corp.
Outlaw State #5
Artesia; Sec 29 T17S R28E; 330/S & 2310/E; 12 mi SE Artesia; Rot 5200 Glo/Yeso; API #30-015-42555

Apache Corp.
Outlaw State #6
Artesia; Sec 29 T17S R28E; 990/S 1650/E; 12 mi SE Artesia; Rot 5300 Glo/Yeso; API #30-015-42556

Apache Corp.
Outlaw State #7
Artesia; Sec 29 T17S R28E; 330/S & 1650/E; 12 mi SE Artesia; Rot 5300 Glo/Yeso; API #30-015-42557

Apache Corp.
Outlaw State #8
Artesia; Sec 29 T17S R28E; 990/S & 2310/E; 12 mi SE Artesia; Rot 5300 Glo/Yeso; API #30-015-42558

Apache Corp.
Outlaw State #9
Artesia; Sec 29 T17S R28E; 1650/S & 2310/E; 12 mi SE Artesia; Rot 5300 Glo/Yeso; API #30-015-42559

Apache Corp.
Outlaw State #10
Artesia; Sec 29 T17S R28E; 1650/S 1650/E; 12 mi SE Artesia; Rot 5300 Glo/Yeso; API #30-015-42560

Apache Corp.
Outlaw State #11
Artesia; Sec 29 T17S R28E; 2310/S & 1535/E; 12 mi SE Artesia; Rot 5300 Glo/Yeso; API #30-015-42561

Apache Corp.
Outlaw State #12
Artesia; Sec 29 T17S R28E; 2255/S & 2330/E; 12 mi SE Artesia; Rot 5300 Glo/Yeso; API #30-015-42562

Apache Corp.
AAO Federal SWD #1
SWD; Sec 1 T18S R27E; 2470/N & 2380/E; 10 mi SE Artesia; Rot 9000 Wolfcamp; API #30-015-42549

Lime Rock Resources II-A LP
Windfohr 4 J Fed #9
Red Lake; Sec 4 T18S R27E; 2190/S & 1650/E; 7 1/2 mi SE Artesia; Rot 4700 Glo/Yeso; API #30-015-42550

Apache Corp.
Palmillo 14 State #2
SW Palmillo; Sec 14 T19S R28E; 660/S & 330/W; 13 mi NE Lakewood; Rot 11885 Bone Spring; API #30-015-42544

Apache Corp.
Palmillo 14 State #3
SW Palmillo; Sec 14 T19S R28E; 1980/N & 245/W; 14 mi NE Lakewood; Rot 11885 Bone Spring; API #30-015-42548

Chi Operating Inc.
Benson Delaware Ut #23
Benson; Sec 11 T19S R30E; 990/N & 150/E; 10 mi SE Loco Hills; Rot 5258 Delaware; API #30-015-42566

Chi Operating Inc.
Benson Delaware Ut #24
Benson; Sec 11 T17S R30E; 1040/N & 125/E; 10 mi SE Loco Hills; Rot 5275 Delaware; API #30-015-42567

Nadel & Gussman Permian LLC
Parkway 19 Federal Com #1
Parkway; Sec 19 T19S R30E; 150/S & 330/W; 12 mi SW Loco Hills; Rot 12986 Bone Spring; API #30-015-42545

Yates Petroleum Corp.
Crescent ANV Fed Com #2
Gatuna Canyon; Sec 11 T20S R30E; 1830/S & 1970/E; 12 mi NW Halfway; Rot 15194 Bone Spring; API #30-015-42547

Yates Petroleum Corp.
Rafter BJL Fed Com #2
Gatuna Canyon; Sec 11 T20S R30E; 1840/S & 1970/E; 12 mi NW Halfway; Rot 11409 Bone Spring; API #30-015-42546

Devon Energy Production Co. LP
Apache 24 Fed #12
Los Madanos; Sec 24 T22S R30E; 920/S & 330/E; 13 mi SW Halfway; Rot 15519 Bone Spring; API #30-015-42551

Devon Energy Production Co. LP
Apache 24 Federal #13
Los Medanos; Sec 24 T22S R30E; 970/S & 330/E; 13 mi SW Halfway; Rot 15766 Bone Spring; API #30-015-42552

Mack Energy Corp.
Club Fee #1
S Culebra Bluff; Sec 26 T23S R28E; 1650/N & 990/E; 1 mi SE Loving; Rot 10300 Bone Spring; API #30-015-42571

Cimarex Energy Co.
Riverbend 14 Fed #3
N Hackberry; Sec 14 T25S R28E; 15/N & 2040/W; 6 mi S Malaga; Rot 14937 Bone Spring; API #30-015-42542