Neat place to eat
Midland High renovates cafeteria
Learn more in EDUCATION/1B

Not as I do?
Paul's flights fly in face of cut-spending theme
Learn more in ELECTION 2012/7A

Midland Reporter-Telegram

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012 mywesttexas.com Vol. 83, No. 312 Daily 75¢, Sunday $2

Pioneer announces construction at ClayDesta

Company to spend $50 million on 250,000-square-foot, 6-story tower

By Mella McEwen
Oil Editor

Construction cranes will dot the Midland horizon this fall as Pioneer Natural Resources begins construction on a $50 million office building at Clay-Desta on North Big Spring Street.

Scott Sheffield, Pioneer's chairman and chief executive officer, said construction on the six-story building will begin in September or October and be completed in October 2013. It will include a large workout facility and a cafeteria. A three-story parking garage will be built adjacent to the office building.

"We looked at whether it was worth buying an older building and the cost to reconstruct it and (starting) from scratch," he said.

Company executives decided employees would get a better building by constructing a new facility.

"The employees helped choose this site," he said. "It's closer to their homes; it's close to Loop 250. We did consult with our employees before beginning negotiations with ClayDesta."

Clayton and Modesta Williams both noted that since purchasing the land 30 years ago, they had ridden economic ups and downs. At one point, they had to sell the ClayDesta building; they eventually were able to repurchase it.

"When they say real estate is a long-term investment, this is what they meant," Williams said, adding that he is pleased to see ClayDesta home to strong, upstanding corporations. "This is a happy day for Modesta and me. Pioneer will be a real force in the community."

Sheffield said the new building will house 250 to 300 employees, a percentage of the 1,000 people Pioneer already employs in the Permian Basin.

Please see **PIONEER**/2A



Scott Sheffield, CEO of Pioneer Natural Resources, speaks Monday as Clayton and Modesta Williams look on, as he announces plans for a new office building in the ClayDesta Plaza.

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

BELIEVE IT, ACHIEVE IT



Photos by Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Jakylan Fuller, front left, Jazhmine Sayles and other youth help lead the MLK Remembrance March on Monday.

Midlanders come together to honor King

By Audrie Palmer
Staff Writer

As he grasped the American flag in his hands, 8-year-old Jakylan Fuller-Reed proudly led his peers as a dozen children followed his lead and walked down Butternut Lane.

Fuller-Reed, the grandson of James Fuller and Robyn Hocker-Fuller, told his grandparents he wanted to lead the annual Martin Luther King Jr. symbolic march on Monday after his grandmother's health prevented her from doing so.

Robyne Hocker-Fuller led the march in Midland for more than 20 years, but an illness and surgery last fall halted her plans for this year's celebration.

"I'll take over and be glad to do it," Jakylan told her when he learned she couldn't take the lead.

He said Monday he volunteered to do it because he wanted to help her out and also because his grandparents have been teaching him about King and his legacy.

"It made me feel like he's really truly been listening to what's going on," Hocker-Fuller said. "I smiled and said, 'The little child shall lead them.'"

More than 50 residents and community leaders gathered at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church as James Fuller addressed the crowd and told them that this year is a very important year.

"We talk about Dr. King's legacy and what he did 40 years ago with the civil rights movement," he said. "But this is 2012, and our right to vote is being challenged. That's not good."



Sue Roseberry, left, leads members of the West Texas Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America in song Monday at the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Commemorative Program.

A law passed through the state legislature requires all people to present a photo ID before voting, Fuller said.

Fuller encouraged those at the march to make sure they're registered to vote in the November election.

"It's real clear why we're marching today. The election is aimed to do one thing, and that's to remove an African-American president from office," said Fuller, a Midland Independent School District board member.

"We're living in a time when we can't take for granted the right to vote. We have a reason to march today. It takes on a different meaning."

The crowd marched toward the MLK Community Center where the annual program and event honoring King was held at 7 p.m.

Local attorney Mary Lou Cassidy was the event's first speaker before the standing-room-only crowd in the center's auditorium.

"We must judge people by the quality of their character and not by what's on

Please see **MLK**/2A

2 Midland deputies involved in shooting

By Audrie Palmer
Staff Writer

Midland County Sheriff Gary Painter confirmed Monday that two of his deputies were involved with Department of Public Safety troopers in the high-speed chase and shootings that resulted in one dead in Andrews on Sunday night.

The deputies' names were not released by Painter or the Texas Rangers, who are the lead investigators on the incident.

The deputies and troopers involved in the shooting are on administrative leave by their respective departments while the investigation continues, according to trooper John Barton.

Barton said Monday it's not uncommon for law enforcement agencies from surrounding counties to assist each other and the Midland County deputies were the initial officers on the chase, and followed it all the way through because they were still part of the case themselves.

"It's not uncommon for other agencies to actually assist us going into those other counties in situations like this," he said.

Barton said it is part of department

Please see **FATAL**/2A

Shelter teams with Best Friends training program

By Kathleen Thurber
Staff Writer

Staff at Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals want to change the culture of adoption.

They work with dogs on basic commands to prepare them for life in a home, invest in surgeries for animals whose injuries preclude them from adoption and screen families hoping to take home a dog just as much as they screen any pet preparing for adoption.

The shifts taking place monthly at the Midland-based no-kill shelter may be small tweaks from the more widely used methods of letting dogs jump and bark from within their kennels and catering to future pet owners instead of the pet. But the changes seem to work, said Jen Severud, a certified dog trainer who is visiting Lone Star this week from Best Friends Animal Society in Utah, which is one of the largest no-kill shelters in the

Please see **SHELTER**/2A

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Sunny
High: 59 Low: 30

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Thing to do

■ Classic Movie Club presents "Heaven Can Wait," 7 p.m., Cigar Frog's.

Lizard opposition rally

The Texas chapter of Americans For Prosperity will announce its opposition to listing the dune sagebrush lizard as endangered during a press conference at 10 a.m. today at the Petroleum Museum.

State Director Peggy Venable, the Permian Basin Petroleum Association, State Republican Executive Committee member Jason Moore and others will discuss their opposition to the listing and the political strategy used to halt private businesses and industries from doing their work.

Meetings schedule

Permian Basin Community Center for Mental Health and Mental Retardation
3:30 p.m. today
Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission
2910 LaForce Blvd.

Planning and Zoning Commission
3:30 p.m. today
City Council Chambers, City Hall
300 N. Loraine

Midland College
4 p.m. today
Gibson Board room, Administration Building, Midland College campus

Community calendar

■ The January meeting of the Midland Association of Churches is set for noon today at St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church. Barbara Yarborough will present a program on her parent and student mentoring efforts.

■ The George W. Bush Childhood Home's monthly reading event for children is 4:30 p.m. Thursday. This month's featured book will be "Snow." Each child will receive a copy of the book. Refreshments will be served.

To make a reservation, call 685-1112.

■ Midland Community Symphonic Band meets 7 p.m. Mondays at the band room in Midland College's Allison Fine Arts building.

Auditions are not required to join our band and it is against the policy of the band to exclude anyone from becoming a member based on age or skill level. Without a doubt, participation by experienced players raises the level of musicianship of the entire ensemble, as well as provides examples and tonal support for the weaker players. However, the band leadership reserves the right to determine every member's level of participation in our musical performances.

For more information contact director Gary Simmons at 689-3359 or Walter McClure at 260-7136.

■ USDA's Farm Service Agency has scheduled a meeting to hear public comment on the proposal to consolidate the Midland County FSA.

The meeting is set for 3 p.m. Jan. 25 at the Midland County Extension Building, 2445 E. Highway 80.

Written comment may be submitted to txsed@tx.usda.gov or Texas Farm Service Agency, James Douglass, P.O. Box 2900, College Station, TX 77841. Deadline to submit comments is Feb. 6.

For more information, call Rick Hayter at 684-6781.

Street repairs

The city of Midland's Transportation Division will begin repairing damaged sections of pavement on Midkiff Road between Illinois Avenue and Wall Street.

The project will begin today in the southbound lanes between Travis Street and Wall Street. Lane closures will be used while repairs are made; however, no section of Midkiff Road will be closed to traffic.

On this date in Midland

Jan. 17, 2001: George W. and Laura Bush make Midland their last Texas stop before flying to Washington for before his inauguration. Lucias D. Bunton, a legendary West Texas federal judge, died at the age of 76.

Put your birthday/anniversary in the paper

The Reporter-Telegram will start running birthdays and anniversaries as part of our daily presentation on 2A or 4A. This includes Sunday's Your City section.

If you would like to submit an entry, please send us the following information.

■ Birthdays: Name, age, birthday and place of residence.

■ Anniversaries: Names, years married, anniversary date and place of residence.

This will not replace the longer, more detailed announcements that run in Sunday's West Texas Living section.

Please submit your item to Editor Stewart Doreen (sdoreen@mrt.com). We will run as many items as space allows.

Note: Because we cannot research and verify all information, by publishing them we neither imply nor guarantee the accuracy of information submitted to us.

Lottery

Pick 3 day: 1-8-3
Pick 3 night: 1-8-3
Daily 4 day: 3-4-9-6
Daily 4 night: 1-5-6-1
Cash Five: 2-7-8-24-36
Texas Two Step: 7-8-9-18 BB: 6

Today in history

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 2012. There are 349 days left in the year.

Today's highlight:

In 1929, the cartoon character Popeye the Sailor made his debut in the "Thimble Theatre" comic strip.

FATAL

From 1A

policy for officers in situations like this to be granted leave time during the investigation to deal with the extraordinary and stressful event.

Barton said Texas Rangers were going over in-car videos from all the vehicles of the officers involved and were beginning to collect statements from the officers on Monday. He estimates it could take up to a week before any new information on the incident and fatal shooting is released.

On Sunday, Earney Lee Maker Jr., 36, of Midland, led officials on a pursuit through three counties before coming to a stop in Andrews almost an hour later. Authorities were first alerted to Maker at 2:58 p.m. Sunday to check on his welfare, at which point Maker was believed to be armed, Barton said.

Midland police backed off the pursuit once Maker reached Highway 158, and only one police officer stayed with the chase into Andrews County to support DPS, said MPD public information officer Tasa Watts.

DPS troopers became the primary coordinators of the pursuit when it reached the intersection of County Road 60 and Highway 158, Barton said. Troopers deployed road spikes twice in an attempt to stop the vehicle as Maker traveled west on Highway 158, then north on Highway 385 at an average speed of 80 mph, Barton said. Troopers also fired shots at the vehicle's tires in Midland and Andrews County when the spikes failed to disable the truck. Traffic was reported to be minimal throughout the chase, which was limited mainly to state highways.

Maker attempted to strike officials' vehicles upon entering Andrews, Barton said, first attempting to drive into an Andrews Police Department officer set up at the intersection of Mustang Drive and Highway 385, and then turning in an attempt to hit a DPS trooper's vehicle.

Once in Andrews, troopers and Midland County deputies opened fire on Maker's vehicle, according to Barton, bringing the chase to an end near the intersection.

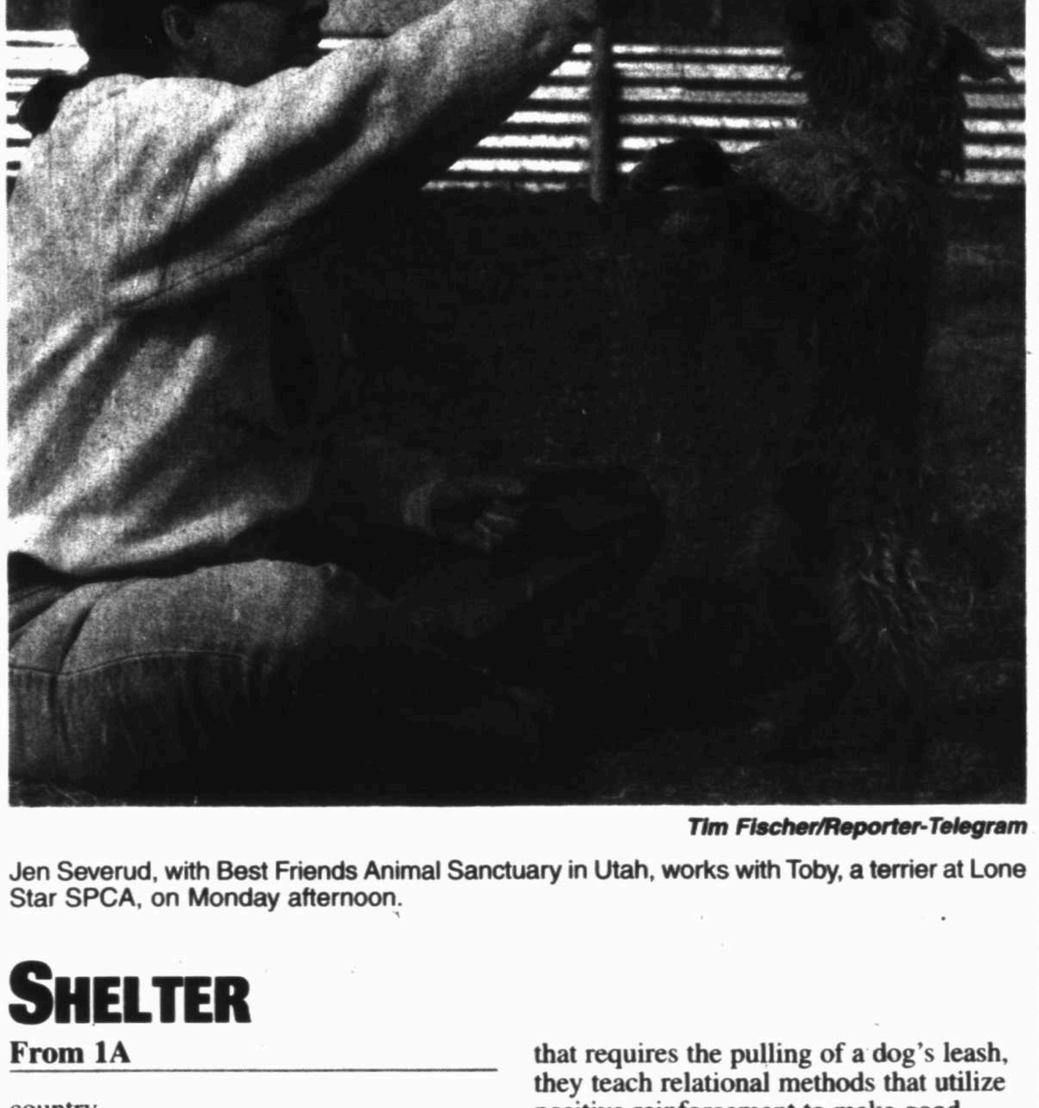
A weapon was found inside the vehicle as officials took Maker into custody and transported him to Permian Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead from gunshot wounds.

Barton said investigators still haven't determined how many shots were fired and from what officers.

Painter said Monday his department is assisting the Texas Rangers in the investigation and that if any investigation through the Midland County Sheriff's Office is done it will coincide with what the Rangers are doing.

Audrie Palmer can be reached at apalmer@mrt.com.

Staff Writer Sara Higgins contributed to this story.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Jen Severud, with Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah, works with Toby, a terrier at Lone Star SPCA, on Monday afternoon.

SHELTER

From 1A

country.

Lone Star placed 292 animals in new homes in 2011, up from 103 in 2010.

The shelter has adopted out as many animals in the first half of this month as were adopted out in the whole month of January last year.

"These guys (Lone Star staff) are a great example," Severud said.

Watching as one of their most recent finds — a terrier-mix named Frasier — examined the stitches in his hind legs, Lone Star Sanctuary Manager Beth Armstrong said the shelter started its redesign with the attitude that nearly all animals can find a new home.

"We just did ACL surgery on this dog," she said, pointing at Frasier. "We think his life is valuable."

For some dogs, medical attention or one-on-one care is what's required to transform them into adoptable pets. For many others, behavioral training and socialization are the keys, which is what Lone Star has been working on in recent months.

Armstrong and Kirk French, executive director at Lone Star, made their first trip to Best Friends in Kanab, Utah, in the spring of 2010 to complete beginner dog training courses. Then in the fall, they returned twice for intermediate and advanced courses, which were led by Severud.

The idea was that if they could learn how to train dogs whose behaviors make them unsuitable for homes, they eventually could change the dogs' habits and find them families.

"We've just applied what we were learning," Armstrong said. "When you come out and you see an animal jumping in a cage, no one wants to take them home."

When dogs can be taught to sit and to not bark incessantly each time a person comes near, they have a much higher chance of fitting into a family, she said.

Severud said the training classes include reading the body language of dogs and methods of teaching simple commands. Rather than using training that requires the pulling of a dog's leash, they teach relational methods that utilize positive reinforcement to make good behaviors stick.

"We believe in relationship-based training," she said.

Because Lone Star is a no-kill shelter, French said it has space for only new animals when dogs and cats already at their east Midland property get adopted.

Typically, they take in dogs Midland Animal Services has classified as "unadoptable," and therefore not eligible for the Midland Humane Coalition shelter. The shelter also provides care for pets dropped off by owners and those that are dumped over the nonprofit's fence in the middle of the night, he said.

Among the unadoptable dogs brought in recently are a litter of Rottweiler puppies and a dog who was deemed "food aggressive."

The puppies are being bottle-fed by volunteers and will be eligible for adoption.

Once the "food aggressive" dog was removed from the group environment at the city's shelter, Armstrong said he has not had issues.

By taking time to spend with the animals in various situations, Armstrong said shelter staff not only works to train them, but also works to better understand the animals' personalities to better match them with certain families.

If a dog could become food aggressive in a group, for example, they'll only allow him to be adopted by a family that doesn't have a large number of other pets.

If a dog doesn't interact well with children, it may go to an older couple.

Until the dogs are paired with exactly that right person, the shelter tries to raise them and provide them a stable group home, Armstrong said. Subtly changing the way of adoptions is a process, but it's one Lone Star is committed to continue for years to come, she said.

"We try to make it home for them until they get a home," she said.

Kathleen Thurber can be reached at kthurber@mrt.com.

PIONEER

From 1A

This year, the company intends to hire 400 more people, from field and service staff to technical and office support staff, he said.

In addition, over the last two or three years the company has invested $60 million in its field offices along Business I-20 and opened a new office in Midkiff, Sheffield said.

Midland Mayor Wes Perry said no new office buildings have been built in Midland in the past 30 years.

"This is a significant deal, when you think on the time it took for office space to be absorbed," he said. "Ten to 15 years ago, the thought of a new building wasn't even on anyone's radar."

In the mid-1990s, the combined value of all downtown Midland's office buildings was about $90 million, Perry said. Pioneer's new building is equivalent to half that amount. Downtown has rebounded with valuations totaling about $150 million to $200 million, he said.

"This is a great day for Midland and a great day for the industry with this kind of investment," Perry said.

Midland Independent School District Superintendent Ryder Warren, who attended the announcement, said Pioneer's commitment is a sign of Midland's economic growth and also represents a challenge to the school district to accommodate rising enrollment.

"We had so many students enroll — 1,250 kids this summer," Warren said. "We expect even more, and we're excited. Bring it on."

The district is committed to looking at improving school facilities districtwide and he hopes for the community's support, Warren said.

"Everyone can see the challenges and growth," he said.

Sheffield said the Permian Basin, and specifically the Spraberry, has been his background for more than 30 years. "I thought 10 years ago there was nothing left," he said. "Now, I realize with geology and more work, there's billions more oil to be recovered."

When Pioneer moved to Dallas in 1997, the company began investing in deepwater Gulf of Mexico drilling and international drilling but five years ago began divesting those assets to again focus on the Permian Basin.

"I've got supreme confidence in the growth of the Permian Basin," Sheffield said.

He thinks oil prices will stay in the $90 to $110 barrel range, supported by politics and supply and demand.

"We'll spend $1.5 billion in the Permian Basin to grow our business here," he said.

Mella McEwen can be reached at mmcewen@mrt.com.

Texas Parks and Wildlife to stock Beal, C.J. Kelly ponds with rainbow trout

From staff reports

Midland's ponds will receive an inflow of fish Wednesday when the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department drops off hundreds of rainbow trout.

Staff at the Possum Kingdom Fish Hatchery said they've scheduled fish stocking for C.J. Kelly Park and Beal Park ponds on Wednesday.

The ponds will be open for fishing in the days that follow. Anglers who want to cast a line must have a fishing license that contains a $5 freshwater fishing stamp.

Anyone younger than 17 can fish without a license.

Rainbow trout do best in colder weather and are brought into Texas from out-of-state because they don't survive — and typically don't reproduce — during the warm Texas summers, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Once received from out-of-state producers, the trout are prepared for their final destination by the department and dropped off throughout the state in December and January.

Anglers are permitted to bag no more than five fish each day and no more than two poles can be used at once, according to the department.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said stocking schedules are subject to change and if any shifts occur before Wednesday, it will update its website at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/management/stocking/trout_stocking.phtml.

FELONY ARRESTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Cary Dale Allen, 45, of Midland, was arrested Sunday by Department of Public Safety troopers on a charge of driving while intoxicated with an open alcohol container.

Daniel Flores, 38, of Midland, was arrested Sunday by Midland police on a charge of assault of a family and/or house member.

Michael DeAngelo Johnson, 41, of Midland, was arrested Sunday by Midland police on a charge of aggravated assault of a date, family and/or house member.

Freddie Ramirez Ribera, 41, of Midland, was arrested Sunday by Midland police on a charge of aggravated assault of a date, family and/or house member.

Source: Midland County Sheriff's Office

Hydraulic fracturing disclosures in Texas to include water totals

Texas Tribune

Starting Feb. 1, drilling operators in Texas will have to report many of the chemicals they use in hydraulic fracturing. Environmentalists and landowners are looking forward to learning what acids, hydroxides and other materials have gone into a given well.

But a less-publicized part of the regulation is what some water experts are most interested in: the mandatory disclosure of the amount of water needed to "frack" each well. Experts call this an invaluable tool as they evaluate how fracking affects water supplies in the drought-prone state.

Hydraulic fracturing involves shooting water, sand and additives deep into the earth to retrieve oil or gas. Under the new rule, Texans will be able to check a website, fracfocus.org, to view the chemical and water disclosures.

"It's a huge step forward from where we were," Amy Hardberger, an Environmental Defense Fund lawyer, said of the water-reporting rule.

MLK

From 1A

the outside," she said.

Several groups, including the MLK Community Youth Choir, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Alexander Temple Expressions of Praise Dancers also performed on stage for the crowd.

Keynote speaker the Rev. Debra Green serves as pastor of Greater St. Luke AME Church and talked about the night's topic, "A Dream Bigger Than Life," in honor of King.

"All of us in this room can remember the legacy that Dr. King left behind. He was an anointed man of God and learned that without God, it's impossible to do what he did," she said.

Green told the crowd, "If we dream, we ought to not dream a selfish dream, but to include someone else in our dream and open up a path for others."

She encouraged participants to hold onto their dreams, like King did, and that dreams do come true.

"Believe in what you're dreaming about. If you dream it, you can believe it," she said. "And if you believe it, you can achieve it."

Audrie Palmer can be reached at apalmer@mrt.com.

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South Texas sees last of weevil infestation

Associated Press

BROWNSVILLE — A federal effort to eradicate the boll weevil — cotton's long-time enemy — has had success, and the pest is now confined to the southernmost part of Texas along the border with Mexico.

Even there, near where the boll weevil first entered the country in the 1890s, farmers aren't finding the destructive bugs in nearly the numbers of years past.

Texas is the country's largest cotton producer and the last state with boll weevils. An eradication campaign coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for the dwindling numbers, and the southernmost Lower Rio Grande Valley Zone is the last infected area in the nation.

"Now, we're having a hard time finding boll weevils in cotton and it's really neat," Brad Cowan, a Texas AgriLife Extension Service agent, told the Brownsville Herald. "A lot of Texas growers haven't seen boll weevils for several seasons now."

The boll weevil is a beetle that lays its eggs in the reproductive part of a cotton plant, eliminating the possibility that the fluffy flowers, or bolls, will emerge.

"When the weevils are heavy, you can literally have a plant devoid of fluff," Cowan said.

The insects wreaked havoc through the country's "Cotton Belt" for nearly a century. Eradication efforts started in the late 1970s but didn't begin in the Lower Rio Grande Valley until 1995. Initial efforts resulted in crop loss that led growers to opt out. The program began again here in 2005. The support of growers is critical to the coordinated effort, Cowan said.

"If there's a field out there somewhere that is not being monitored and sprayed properly, they can spread out to other fields and it harms everybody," Cowan said.

Last year Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy counties in the southernmost tip of Texas produced about 200,000 acres of cotton, down somewhat from their historical average due to the drought, said Webb Wallace, executive director of the Cotton and Grain Producers of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

"Last year was the first year essentially that we had no damage to cotton," Wallace said. "A lot of people couldn't even find (boll weevils) all year. There were some hot spots along the river."

Public gets chance to view rescued endangered turtle

Houston Chonicle

GALVESTON — The small Kemp's ridley turtle looked miserable.

His carapace was cracked, his lungs were damaged, his front right flipper was gone, a chunk was missing from the edge of his shell and he had pneumonia.

Two fishermen caught the battered turtle in their net July 24 and brought it to Surfside police, who called the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Sea Turtle Facility in Galveston.

The turtle was nursed back to health and transferred last week to the new $3 million Sea Life Facility at Texas A&M Galveston, where the public will have a rare opportunity to view an endangered species.

The lab — part of a $43 million, 110,000 square-foot Ocean and Coastal Studies building that opened last year — is one of only three on the Gulf Coast and is the most advanced, said Kimberly Reich, Marine Research Facility manager and head of the Sea Turtle and Fisheries Ecology Research Lab. Scientists at other universities are already queuing up for a space to conduct research at the lab, she said.

Meanwhile, the rescued turtle can be viewed through a glass window in the lobby near the Sea Life Facility, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. It lives in a specially designed turtle tank with a constant current and a piece of plastic pipe that serves as a turtle house.

Reich said the university is in the process of transforming the now bare lobby into a sea life museum that will include numerous exhibits, including a large screen that will monitor sea creatures in 12 tanks in the state-of-the-art research lab.



Houston Chronicle

An injured Kemp's ridley sea turtle swims in a tank at in the Sea Life Facility at Texas A&M at Galveston's Ocean & Coastal Studies building in Galveston on Friday. The turtle had injuries ranging from a broken shell to punctured lung. The lab — part of a $43 million, 110,000 square-foot Ocean and Coastal Studies building that opened last year —is one of three on the Gulf Coast.

Ben Higgins, sea turtle program manager at NOAA's Fort Crockett facility in Galveston, said the turtle is healthy enough to return to the wild but can't be released until the weather is warm enough. Transferring the turtle to Texas A&M frees tank space at the sea turtle facility for other injured turtles, Higgins said.

The NOAA sea turtle facility takes care of injured turtles found from Sabine Pass to the Brazos River.

"It's like a 911 for sea turtles," said Higgins, who took the turtle to Joe Flanagan, director of veterinary services at the Houston Zoo.

"He is at least two years old. Probably three or four," said Flanagan, who receives three to four dozen injured turtles from NOAA each year.

Reich says the turtle is being fed squid and shrimp injected with nutrients and that eventually he will be given live food, such as blue crab, that he will have to catch to prepare him for release into the wild.

The turtle doesn't have a name yet.

Classes of Houston-area children are being asked to submit ideas, and a winner will be drawn in April.

Texas woman charged in death of psychiatrist

Associated Press

GLADSTONE, Mo. — A Texas woman accused in the shooting death of a psychiatrist in suburban Kansas City has been taken into custody in Kansas.

Shannon L. O'Roark Griffin, 52, of Granbury was charged Saturday in Clay County with first-degree murder and armed criminal action in the death of Dr. Irina Puscariu of Gladstone, according to court records.

According to a probable cause statement filed by Gladstone police, O'Roark Griffin shot Puscariu three times at the psychiatrist's home Friday afternoon after her husband said he would not end their affair. O'Roark Griffin then called her husband, Roscoe L. Griffin, and told him what she had done. Roscoe Griffin called the police.

The Kansas Highway Patrol arrested O'Roark Griffin Friday evening near Wichita, Kan. She was being held Monday in the Sedgwick County jail without bond and was awaiting extradition to Missouri.

Court records did not indicate if Griffin has a lawyer, and a telephone number listed under her name had apparently been disconnected. The Clay County prosecutor's office was closed for the holiday Monday.

Puscariu's mother, Aneta Puscariu, told police her daughter answered the door of their Gladstone home to a woman who came inside and shot her to death, according to the probable cause statement. Aneta Puscariu later identified O'Roark Griffin as the shooter from photographs, police said.

Roscoe L. Griffin, 62, told detectives he and his wife had been to see a therapist Friday. At that meeting, they discussed divorce and he said "he would not give I. Puscariu up," according to the probable cause statement.

Later, his daughter telephoned to say her mother had just called to say she had shot and killed Irena Puscariu. Shannon O'Rourk Griffin then called her husband and told him the same.

A phone listing for Roscoe L. Griffin in Lyons, Kan., was disconnected Monday.

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STATE BRIEFS
FROM WIRE REPORTS

AUSTIN

Cornyn: Texas' April primary likely faces delay

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn says he doesn't expect the Texas primary to be held on April 3 and calls the potential delay "not desirable."

The Texas Republican said Monday he believed a later primary date was likely considering that the U.S. Supreme Court had yet to rule on a dispute over the state's redrawn voting maps.

Minority groups say redistricting maps drawn by the Republican-dominated Texas Legislature last year diluted their voting power, and the Justice Department hasn't given required federal approval. The Supreme Court is considering the state's challenge to federally drawn interim maps.

Cornyn said the high court should respect the Legislature-drawn maps.

Once redistricting is settled, officials need 45 days to mail absentee ballots. The primary is supposed to be held before state party conventions in June.

CORPUS CHRISTI

Port of Corpus Christi drops unpaid Ingleside deal

A deal to redevelop former Naval Station Ingleside has been canceled because the $19 million down payment was never made.

Port of Corpus Christi commissioners held a special meeting Monday to rescind the contract with Canyon Supply and Logistics.

A formal letter of default will be sent to Canyon. The Port of Corpus Christi will keep Canyon's initial $1 million nonrefundable payment and attempt to find other buyers.

Commissioners in November approved selling 187 acres for a complex to be called Canyon Port, similar to one at Port Fourchon, La.

Canyon missed two deadlines, including the latest Jan. 9, for the down payment toward the proposed $66 million offshore drilling service facility.

Canyon CEO Larry Ramming blamed delays on international banks and said Monday he hopes to still do the deal.

NEW MEXICO

Autistic teen rescued at national monument

ALBUQUERQUE — Search and rescue workers on Monday found an autistic teenager who had wandered away from his family during a weekend outing at White Sands National Monument and spent the night among the sand dunes with no food or water.

The rescue came a week after a successful search for an Oklahoma couple who got lost at the monument while trying to hike back to their vehicle after the man proposed.

Monument officials said the autistic 15-year-old was spotted midmorning by a U.S. Air Force Blackhawk helicopter. He was walking in the dunes about six miles from where he was last seen.

The paramedic flight crew examined the teen, whose name was not released, and reported that he was in good condition. He was then flown to the command post and reunited with his family members, who are all from El Paso.

"The teen did not have water or food. He was dressed in jeans, a long sleeve shirt and Crocs shoes," said acting White Sands superintendent Becky Wiles. "The weather was mild last night, which certainly helped since the teen did not have a jacket."

The teen and his family had spent Sunday sledding and picnicking at the southern New Mexico monument

At about 3 p.m., the family realized the teen wasn't with the group. They searched for about an hour and then notified rangers.

for your information

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WaterSafe protects homes from plumbing leaks

After offering the WaterSafe™ smart leak detection system to the area for about a year ago, The Bosworth Company plumbing supervisor, Wayne Beaird, has seen the benefit for homeowners.

He tells of a family in Dallas for whom they installed WaterSafe. The system shut off the water one day and, after a brief investigation, the homeowner discovered a leak in the water softener. Because the softener is outside the home, this type of leak could have gone on for awhile before being noticed, wasting a lot of water and doing some real damage. WaterSafe saved the day!

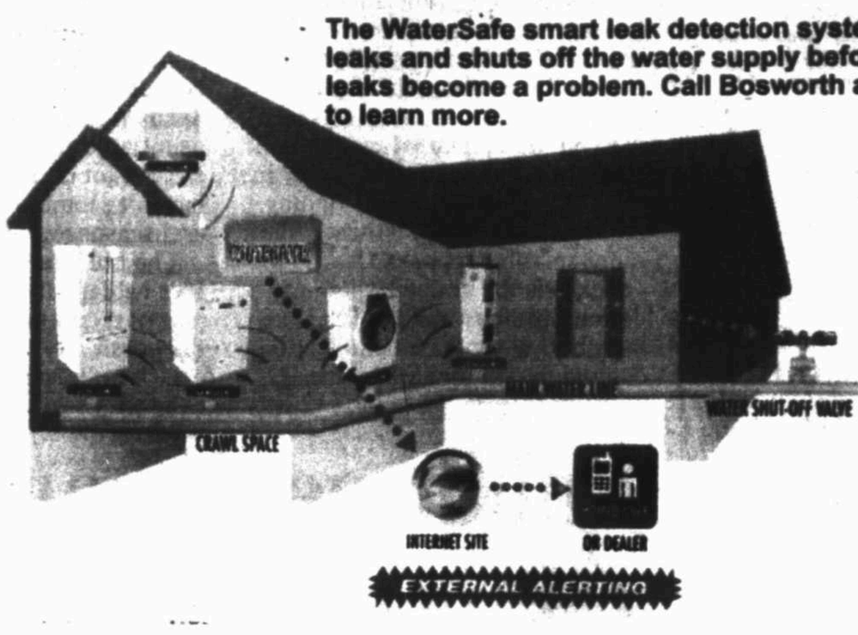
In another instance, WaterSafe detected a water leak in an upstairs bathroom and shut the water off. Think of how much damage *that* prevented!

Additionally, Wayne has heard of at least one homeowners' insurance company that has notified its clients that they should install a leak detection system if they have previously had a slab leak. And Wayne notes that he and his staff have seen more slab leaks in the last year than they have ever seen, possibly due to the ground drying and cracking as a result of the drought.

Here is how the system works. Anywhere from four to 14 wireless remote sensors placed in water-related locations throughout the house, communicate with an electronic base unit. The remote sensors are typically place near the water heater, under a sink, behind the washing machine and other similar places.

The control unit also communicates with an electronically operated shutoff valve placed on the fresh water pipe near where it enters the house. As you can probably imagine, when a sensing unit detects moisture, it signals the base unit, which then closes the valve, preventing further leaking.

There is an override button for when the repair is made or for times when the spill comes from a glass of water or something other than a true leak.



The WaterSafe smart leak detection system detects leaks and shuts off the water supply before those leaks become a problem. Call Bosworth at 570-5233 to learn more.

And for a monthly fee you can have the control unit email, text or call you when it shuts off the water. Add a friend, or neighbor, property manager or Bosworth to the list.

Wayne says a number of clients have installed WaterSafe systems on lake houses and other resort property for added peace of mind. A growing number of new home builders are beginning to offer WaterSafe as an option. When Building new or remodeling is a great time to add WaterSafe.

This time of year, with its cold waves and frostbite, a WaterSafe system is really a great idea.

A recent insurance industry survey showed that more than 25 percent of claims for a recent year were a result of water claims. The average cost to homeowners in those incidents was $3,000.

WaterSafe is really a "peace of mind" system for your home. Call Bosworth today to learn more.

Call the Bosworth Company at 570-5233.

Fender bender in recent snows? Slide into Allstar for repairs

If you had a fender bender during any of our recent snows, you'll be glad to know you can go to the shop of your choice for repairs. So many car insurance companies are pressuring their clients to accept non-factory parts and to go to "approved" repair shops, says Allen Frasier, owner of Allstar Refinishing and Collision, that the Texas Department of Insurance has posted a bulletin warning insurers about these practices.

The TDI bulletin says, "The Department has received information which causes it to be concerned that insurers may be providing claimants with additional notice regarding motor vehicle repairs that *may be in conflict with the TIC and the TAC,*" emphasis added. The TIC is the Texas Insurance Code and the TAC is the Texas Administrative Code.

Specifically, "Section 1952.301 of the TIC specifies that an insurer may not directly or indirectly limit the insurer's coverage under a policy covering damage to a motor vehicle by:

1. Specifying the brand, type, kind, age, vendor, supplier, or condition of parts or products that may be used to repair the vehicle; or
2. Limiting the beneficiary of the policy from selecting a repair person or facility to repair damage to the vehicle.

Section 1952.302 of the TIC specifies that an insurer, an employee or agent of an insurer, an insurance adjuster, or an entity that employs an insurance adjuster may not state or suggest, either orally or in writing, to a beneficiary that the beneficiary must use a specific repair person or facility or a repair person or facility identified on a preferred list compiled by an insurer for the damage repair or parts replacement to be covered by the policy."

Basically, Allen says, "Whatever your insurance company says, you have the right to choose the quality of parts and the place of repair," when your vehicle is in an accident.

Some insurance companies try to steer you to a repair shop that they have approved, even threatening that refusal to use such a shop may result in you having to pay for part of the repair. This is not true. Many times, those shops are told to limit costs by using second quality parts and shortcutting some methods.

The TDI bulletin further states, "The Department is also concerned that setting reimbursement rates artificially low for specific motor vehicle repairs and parts that are used to make the repairs may lead to substandard repairs, *which may also impact the warranty on a vehicle,*" emphasis added.

If you are in an accident involving covered insurance repairs, take your vehicle to Allstar Refinishing and Collision. They have more than 35 years of experience, along with the training and equipment needed to do your repairs right. They will even provide you with a rent car to use while repairs are being done.

Allstar Refinishing and Collision's Collision and Express Rent-A-Car Center is located at 4600 West Wall. The phone number is 683-2761 and the web address is www.alstarmidland.com.



Whatever your insurance company tries to say, you do have the right to take your vehicle to Allstar Refinishing and Collision, where their 35 years of experience goes to work for you.

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Call or go by In Thyme today to learn more about Tantasia.

In Thyme Skin and Body Care also offers microdermabrasion, Photo Rejuvenation, glycolic rejuvenating treatments and manicures/pedicures. The address is 111 North C, across from Hospice of Midland. Phone 685-1995.

Builder Davis: Jan Oberle gets things done

Greenwood homebuilder Mike Davis has been working with Permian Abstract's Jan Oberle for 19 years. The last five of those years she has been at Permian Abstract.

"Jan gets things done. At closing, she goes over and above expectations to make sure the deal works," he says. "Jan knows her business so well it seems she can anticipate and fix problems before anyone else even knows they're there. Others might've been cut off as the pass by those same issues."

In fact, "Everyone at Permian Abstract is great. They make the phone calls, work with the lenders, appraisers and everyone involved to make sure the deal comes together," he said. Mike says owner Harris Kerr and the entire "behind the scenes" staff make sure all the documents are ready and title searches are as thorough as possible.

"I've never had a problem with their title work nor have I had a problem come up after closing," Mike affirms.

Not only is Jan on top of things professionally, she is great to work with. "Everybody loves Jan—*everybody*," Mike reports. She helps Mike's buyers feel right at home at the closing table. "I've never heard a buyer ask something she did not know about," he continues. Whether a buyer wants to read every line of every document or simply sign them as she summarizes each one, Jan is completely at ease, Mike observes.

He recounts one closing in particular where Jan bent over backwards to make sure the client was pleased. "The buyer had not realized there was an easement across the back of his property until he came to closing. He was concerned that this easement might cause a problem with what he wanted to do with the property," Mike recalls. So Jan put the closing on hold, took the parties out to the property to inspect the location of the easement. After the buyer's concerns were alleviated, they returned to the office and completed the closing.

Mike has also found Harris and his legal staff ready to answer any questions, even some that were not directly related to a closing. "They are always willing to help," Mike states.

The purchase or sale of a house or property is the biggest transaction most families ever handle. Any closing is important to all parties, and making sure titles are researched, loans are in place and inspections done are vital to the whole process.

Jan Oberle and everyone at Permian Abstract is ready to do what it takes to make sure your closing is done simply, efficiently and correctly.



Builder Mike Davis has done many closings with Permian Abstract's Jan Oberle over the years. "She gets things done," he says.

Permian Abstract opened for business in 1954. It has been locally owned and operated by Harris E. Kerr since 2002. It is located at 2101 W Wadley, Suite 10. The phone number is 684-6389.

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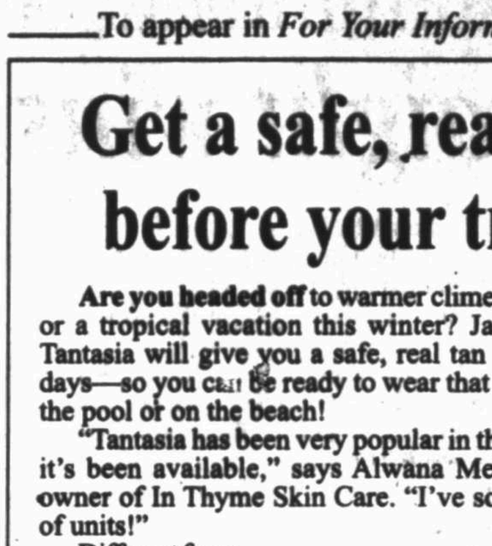
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Opinion

Courts give conservatives three straight wins

■ Texas' sonogram law decision one of three the courts got right on appeal.



CAL THOMAS
Tribune Media Services

While most attention is focused on the presidential race and Republican hopes to oust President Obama from office, some significant steps were taken last week on issues dear to the hearts of conservatives.

In Texas, a federal appeals court upheld the state's sonogram law, which requires that women seeking abortions view a picture of their baby before having the procedure. The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a lower court ruling, which had issued an injunction, preventing the law from taking effect. The decision allows the state to begin enforcing the law, mandating doctors to give pregnant women "truthful, non-misleading and relevant" disclosures before they have an abortion.

The appellate court logically said, "The State's interest in respect for life is advanced by the dialogue that better informs the political and legal systems, the medical profession, expectant mothers, and society as a whole of the consequences that follow from a decision to elect a late-term abortion."

Full disclosure for women should be a winning issue for Republican presidential candidates.

Elsewhere on the social issues front, a Marion Superior Court judge in Indiana upheld that state's school voucher law. Judge Michael Keele rejected arguments from opponents that the nation's largest school voucher program is unconstitutional because parents might send their children to religious schools.

Judge Keele ruled that since scholarship vouchers are given to parents, who then decide which school best serves their children, the state does not directly fund private religious schools. About 4,000 children currently are enrolled in Indiana's voucher program.

Then there is the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School v. EEOC. At issue was whether a church or religious organization could hire and fire ministers according to their theological beliefs and teachings. The Obama administration had argued that the plaintiff, Cheryl Perich, a teacher, was discriminated against when she tried to get her job back at the church's school in Redford, Mich., following a medical leave. When the school refused to dismiss Perich's temporary replacement and rehire her, she filed an employment discrimination claim, which violated Lutheran doctrine that says, "disputes over ministry should be resolved (internally) ... and not by civil courts."

The Supreme Court did not rule on whether Perich was terminated wrongfully, but instead on whether she had the right to sue at all for employment discrimination. In ruling, the Court upheld what is known as a "ministerial exception," which allows religious bodies to make their own personnel rules in order to promote their religious beliefs without government interference. The Obama administration had argued the church enjoys no special protection under anti-discrimination laws. In its unanimous ruling, the Court rejected that argument as "untenable."

It will be interesting to see if the "ministerial exception" can be extended to the Obama healthcare law in the event it withstands constitutional challenge. A decision is expected this spring. The Health and Human Services Department, under the pro-choice Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, is trying to require health insurance policies include contraceptive and abortion services. Churches supposedly will be exempt from this requirement, but other religious organizations like universities and hospitals will not be.

As Matthew J. Franck wrote last week in the Catholic scholarly publication First Things, "The only "religious exception" offered so far by the Department of Health and Human Services to its contraceptive coverage mandate is an exemption so narrow, for religious organizations that employ and serve only their own co-religionists, that even the ministry of Jesus would not qualify."

There is the potential for further advancement on life and education issues if the Republican presidential candidates talk of informed choice when it comes to abortion and education for children fortunate enough to have been born.

That is, if they are smart enough to do so.

OUR VIEW

Midland hasn't escaped blight of plastic bags

It only takes a short drive around our city to realize that we have a real problem with plastic bag litter. This is seen easily even after a massive cleanup effort just a couple of months ago.

If you think this is a problem unique to Midland, think again. Cities all across the nation are seeing a marked increase in litter, especially in the form of disgarded plastic bags. These bags have become the new symbols of urban blight. And no one is escaping a landscape covered with the lightweight plastic bags that get snagged in trees and bushes, pile up in streets, clog drainage systems and endanger wildlife.

Cities across the nation are fighting back. San Francisco was the first city to ban plastic bags. Several other cities in California, as well as Edmonds, Wash., Westport, Conn., Portland, Ore., and Seattle have followed suit.

Texans also are fighting back. Brownsville enacted the state's first plastic bag ban last year. South Padre Island has joined the crusade, and Fort Stockton has become the first West Texas town to adopt a ban.

Austin soon will have a public vote. If the measure passes, the capital would become the largest Texas city with a plastic bag ban. Fort Worth currently is monitoring bans in other cities before declaring its own war on the bags.

Some environmentalists say that despite recycling efforts, millions of bags end up in the environment, where they take decades or centuries to decompose. But supporters argue that the bags are useful, can be reused, offer shoppers more convenience, take up less space in landfills than their paper counterparts and provide countless manufacturing jobs.

Midland has not escaped the imprint of the bags. We have to find a better way of keeping our city clean. At this point we're not going to call for ban on plastic bags. While a ban certainly would help, it would change the way residents do things and would have a significant impact on grocery stores and restaurants.

Even with all the changes a plastic bag ban would cause, people eventually may tire of picking up the bags off our roadways and empty lots.

Hundreds of cities across the state and nation are taking up the challenge of removing the blight of plastic bags. We wonder if Midland will be far behind?

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Website: midlandtexas.gov
Mayor Wes Perry 685-7204

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Phone: 689-1000.
Website: midlandisd.net
Superintendent Ryder Warren 689-1001

MIDLAND COUNTY
P.O. Box 421, Midland, 79702
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County Judge Mike Bradford 688-4310

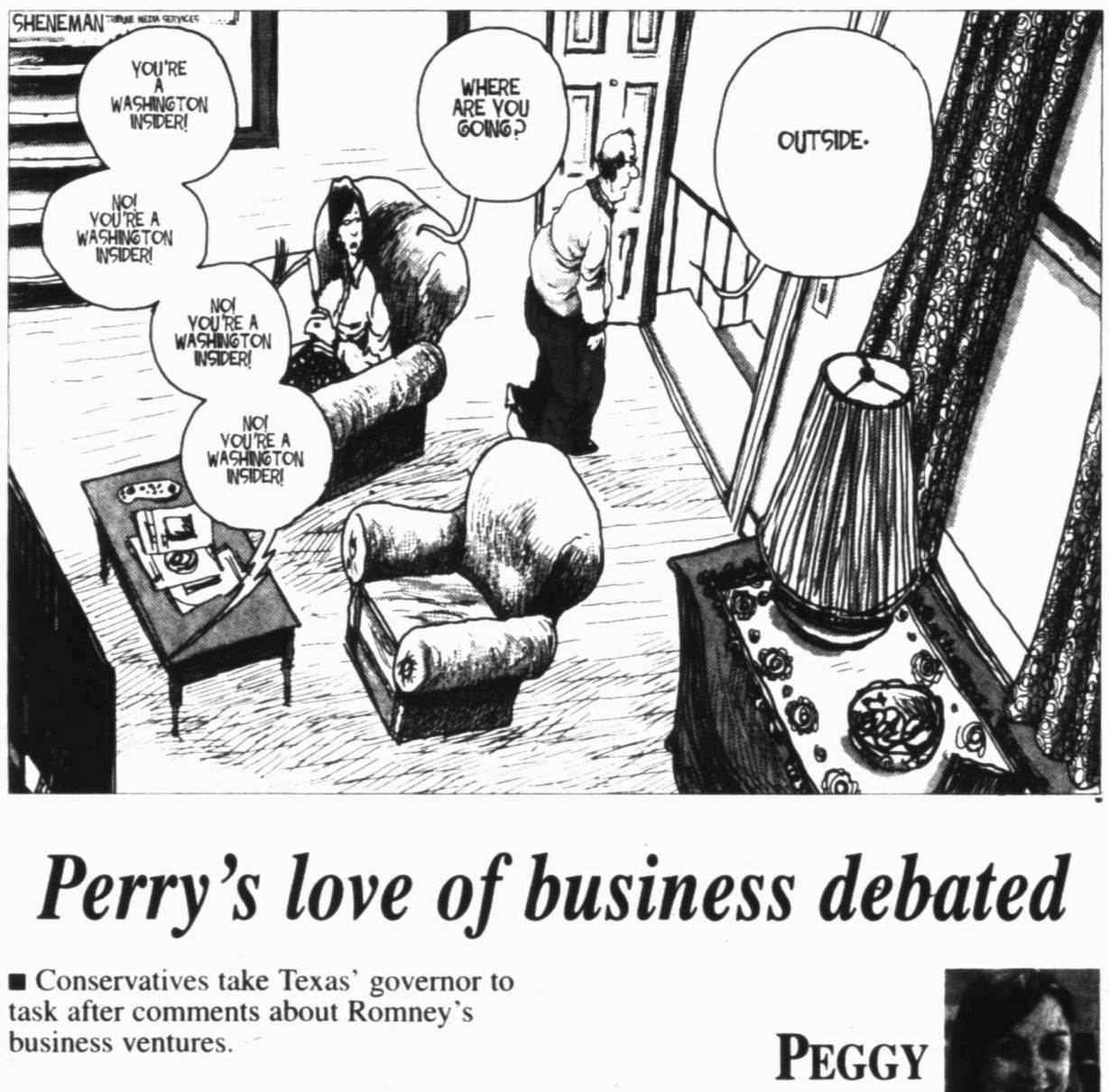
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Perry's love of business debated

■ Conservatives take Texas' governor to task after comments about Romney's business ventures.



PEGGY FIKAC
San Antonio Express-News

Who'd have thought the "Texas is open for business" governor would stir up conservative ire by attacking business? Well, maybe anyone who's watched Gov. Rick Perry search for a winning campaign message.

Perry drew heat after characterizing Mitt Romney's work with Bain Capital as "vulture capitalism," saying it cut jobs and made off with big profits. Newt Gingrich got backlash for similar attacks, but it's pressure that Perry's struggling campaign particularly didn't need.

Fox News' Sean Hannity told Perry it's a charge "that I would expect from Barack Obama." Conservative talk-show host Rush Limbaugh called it "the way Fidel Castro thinks." (Bain's portfolio includes the company that syndicates their radio shows).

Perry's attacks prompted a high-profile South Carolina backer, Barry Wynn, to drop him and support Romney instead. Tom Donohue of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce called the attacks by Perry and Gingrich disappointing.

Conservative commentator Laura Ingraham, citing donations to Perry from private-equity firms, asked him on her radio show, "Only Romney's are vultures? None of your guys are vultures, only Romney's?" The attacks even came up at a Brenham, Texas, meeting of national Christian leaders, according to one participant. They rallied around Rick Santorum on Saturday.

David Woodard, GOP consultant and political scientist at Clemson University, said it was a huge error "to start off this (South Carolina) campaign talking about the problems of capitalism." Scott E. Buchanan, executive director of The Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics, offered some cold comfort: "It was a big mistake but again, he wasn't going to win South Carolina anyway."

The state's first-in-the-South primary is Saturday.

Back home, Perry backer Bill Hammond, head of the Texas Association of Business, said it's unlike anything he's heard before from the governor.

"I was surprised," Hammond said. "That's pure free enterprise. People are risking their capital to make investments, and they don't always win, either. ... I think he (Perry) is pulling back on it. I think it's the right thing to do."

Perry communications director Ray Sullivan maintained Romney's business experience is fair game, adding, "As for what Perry may or may not talk about going forward, you will have to stay tuned."

By the end of last week, Perry had pulled back on the attack. But as so much with Perry's campaign, it may be too late.

Santorum's Texas Team

Some are holding back on endorsing another presidential candidate while Perry's still in the race — as one person told me privately, "out of respect for the governor, and out of self-preservation" — but others are bolder. Take Rockwall, Texas, City Council member Michelle Smith, who worked for Texans for Rick Perry in 2009 and is East Texas area director for Concerned Women for America. She said she's heading to South Carolina with several other Texas backers to campaign for Santorum.

"I firmly believe in him, and I believe he would be a strong leader for this country," she said of Santorum. As for Perry, she said, "I think that he's a great leader for Texas."

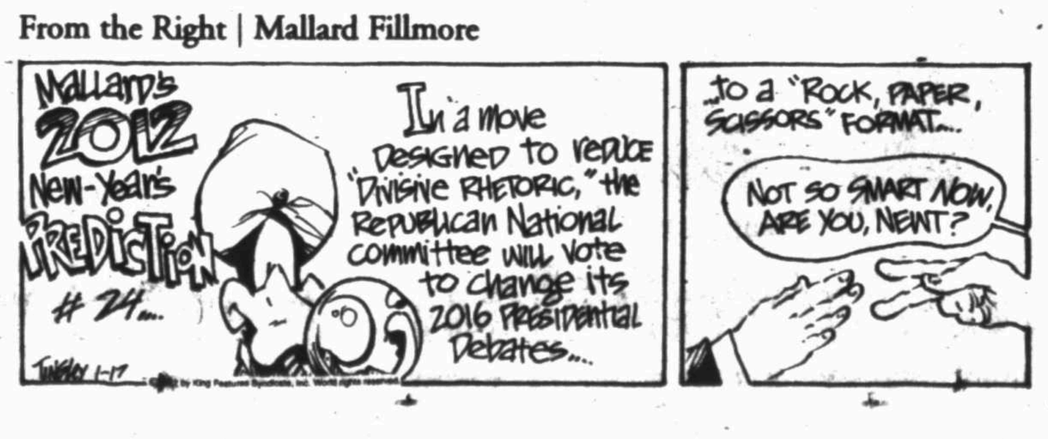
Twitter Remorse

Tweaking people on Twitter can be tempting, but it can also lead to tweet regret. Democratic consultant Jason Stanford and Eric Bearse of Perry's campaign got into a Twitter dust-up after Bearse, playing on Perry's comparison of himself to Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow, tweeted, "Rick Perry arrives in South Carolina. Tebow throws TD pass to beat Steelers in OT. I'm just sayin'." Stanford responded snarkily and they traded some harsh tweets — including this from Stanford: "Perry for prez leads your obit." Stanford later expressed remorse for picking on Bearse when his candidate is struggling: "It might have been an opportunity for compassion that I did not take."

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Rivals assail Romney in South Carolina debate



Associated Press

Republican presidential candidates, from left to right: Gov. Rick Perry; former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum; former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney; former House Speaker Newt Gingrich; and Rep. Ron Paul pose for a photo at the start of the South Carolina Republican presidential candidate debate Monday in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Associated Press

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Under heavy debate pressure from his rivals, Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney defended his record as a venture capitalist, insisted he bears no responsibility for attack ads aired by his allies and grudgingly said Monday night he might release his income tax returns this spring.

"I have nothing in them that suggests there's any problem and I'm happy to do so," he said. "I sort of feel like we're showing a lot of exposure at this point," he added in an apparent reference to the campaign to come against Democratic President Barack Obama.

Romney came under criticism from the opening moments of the debate, the first of two in the run-up to this weekend's first-in-the-South primary in South Carolina. The former Massachusetts governor won the first two events of the campaign, the Iowa caucuses and last week's New Hampshire primary, and leads in the pre-primary polls in South Carolina.

One of his rivals, Newt Gingrich, has virtually conceded that a victory for Romney in South Carolina would assure his nomination as Obama's Republican rival in the fall, and none of the other remaining contenders has challenged that conclusion.

That only elevated the stakes for Monday night's debate, feisty from the outset as Gingrich, Gov. Rick Perry and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum sought to knock Romney off stride while generally being careful to wrap their criticism in anti-Obama rhetoric.

"We need to satisfy the country that whoever we nominate has a record that can stand up to Barack Obama in a very effective way," said Gingrich.

The five men on stage also sought to outdo one another in calling for lower taxes.

Paul won that competition handily, saying he thought the top rate should be zero.

And in a state with a heavy military presence, the tone seemed more aggressive than in earlier debates.

Gingrich drew strong applause when he said: "Andrew Jackson had a pretty clear idea about America's enemies. Kill them."

The debate began hours after Romney reaped an endorsement from former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, who suspended his own candidacy and urged the remaining contenders to stop attacking one another for fear it might benefit Obama in November.

The former House speaker and Perry led the assault against Romney's record at Bain Capital, a private equity firm that bought companies and sought to remake them into more competitive enterprises, with uneven results.

"There was a pattern in some companies ... of leaving them with enormous debt and then within a year or two or three having them go broke," Gingrich said. "I think that's something he ought to answer."

Paul's flights fly in face of cut-spending theme

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul has been spending large amounts on airfare as a congressman, flying first class on dozens of taxpayer-funded flights to his home state. The practice conflicts with the image that Paul portrays as the only presidential candidate serious about cutting federal spending.

Paul flew first class on at least 31 round-trip flights and 12 one-way flights since May 2009 when he was traveling between Washington and his district in Texas, according to a review by the Associated Press of his congressional office expenses. Four other round-trip tickets and two other one-way tickets purchased during the period were eligible for upgrades to first-class after they were bought, but those upgrades would not be documented in the expense records.

Paul, whose distrust of big government is the centerpiece of his presidential campaign, trusts the more expensive government rate for Continental Airlines when buying his tickets. Paul chose not to buy the cheaper economy tickets at a fraction of the price because they aren't refundable or as flexible for scheduling, his congressional staff said.

"We always get him full refundable tickets since the congressional schedule sometimes changes quickly," said Jeff Deist, Paul's chief of staff. Paul might have to pay out of his own pocket for canceled flights in some cases if he didn't buy refundable tickets, Deist said.

But records show most of the flights for Paul were purchased well in advance and few schedule changes were necessary. Nearly two-thirds of the 49 tickets were purchased at least two weeks in advance, and 42 percent were bought at least three weeks in advance, the AP's review found.

Paul charged taxpayers nearly $52,000 on the more expensive tickets, or $27,621 more than the average Continental airfare for flights between Washington and Houston, according to the AP's review of his congressional expenses and average airfares compiled by the Department of Transportation.

GOPDEBATEROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

SOUTH CAROLINA

Candidates disagree over indefinite detention

MYRTLE BEACH — The Republican candidates have sharp disagreements over a new policy to detain American citizens suspected of terrorism.

President Barack Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act that would allow indefinite detention of such terror suspects. Many civil liberties activists believe the law is unconstitutional.

Front-runner Mitt Romney said he would have signed the law and insisted it was "appropriate" to detain American members of al-Qaida. Romney called membership in the group "treason" and said the U.S. government has the right to impose indefinite detention.

Rick Santorum said a U.S. citizen who is detained as an enemy combatant should have the right to a lawyer and to appeal their case before a federal court.

Ron Paul said holding American citizens indefinitely is a breach of the U.S. judicial system.

Gingrich defends remarks on the poor, food stamps

Newt Gingrich is refusing to back down from comments he made about the poor.

In a debate Monday night in South Carolina, Gingrich was asked whether his previous remarks about food stamps and allowing children to work janitor jobs to instill a work ethic were "insulting," particularly to African-Americans.

Gingrich replied that "only the elites despise earning money." The former House speaker said he won't stop raising the issues simply because liberals become uncomfortable.

Perry defends states' rights

Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry is blasting the Obama administration for intruding on states' rights.

In a Republican debate in South Carolina Monday night, the Texas governor said the state "is at war with this federal government and this administration."

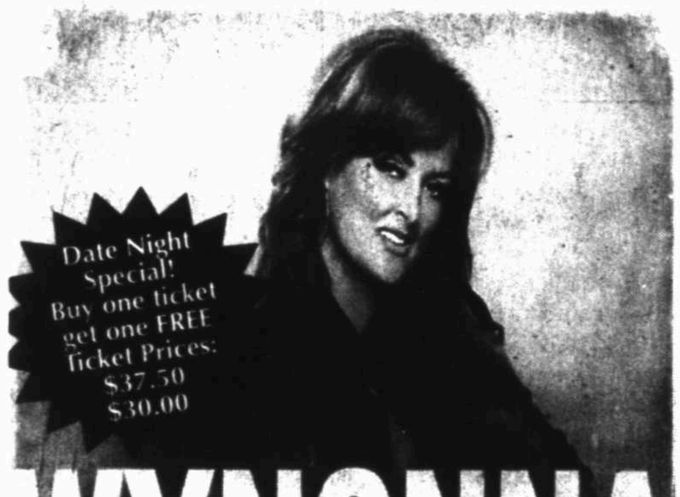
He criticized the Obama administration for slapping down South Carolina's voter identification law, which would require voters to show a photo ID before casting a ballot. He also objected to the Justice Department suing the state over its tough immigration law.

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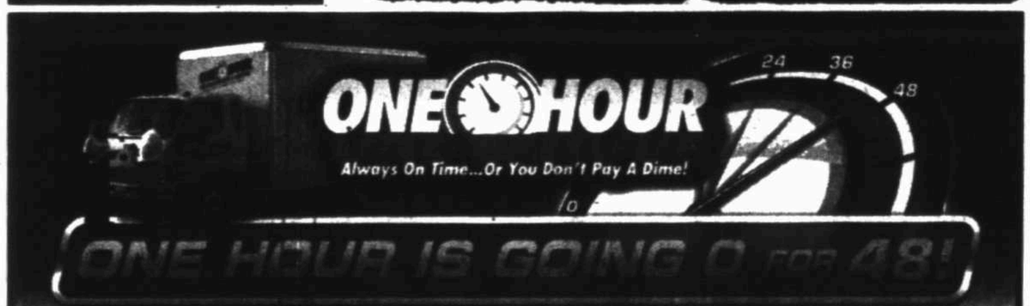
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Education

Shanna Sisson's column has moved from Tuesday to Thursday.

Midland Christian to end preschool program

By Meredith Moriak
Staff Writer

Midland Christian School will discontinue its preschool program for 3-year-olds and summer and holiday day care. The changes will go into effect at the end of the academic year.

Superintendent Eddie Lee said the school's board made the decision to put more attention on kindergarten through 12th-grade academics and eliminate programs they felt were offered elsewhere in the community.

"As a private school, we have limited resources and we have to allocate them as carefully as possible," said board president Rita Brown. "As we looked at things, we wanted to put more of our focus on the grade school, junior high and high school and make those programs as top-notch as we could."

The current program for 3-year-olds — which meets from 8:15 to 11:30 a.m. three days a week — will be eliminated in the fall. Lee said 33 students are enrolled.

"We felt there were other places in Midland that took care of pre-schooling; there are a lot of options," Brown said. "We felt like we didn't have a real unique niche there but felt like we do offer something unique to the community in the K-12 education."

The school's 4-year-old pre-kindergarten program has 60 students enrolled in its three- and five-day-a-week half-day classes, Lee said.

Beginning in August, the three-day option will be eliminated and all classes will meet from 8:15 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., Lee said.

Five classrooms in the school's current junior high building will be converted into new preschool classrooms once construction is completed on the new buildings.

In addition to cutting preschool for 3-year-olds, the school will discontinue its child care program on holidays and in the summers.

Currently, the school's day care is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and on holidays; typically, 30 to 50 kids attend.

Lee estimates about 50 to 60 kids regularly attended during the summer, but beginning in the fall, the day care will offer only after-school services.

Please see **END/2B**

NEW DIGS FOR FEASTING



Meredith Moriak/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High students Amanda Turnbow, Stephen Galan, Edward Abendroth, Desiree Nunez and Jennifer Barrientos talk Thursday in the newly renovated MHS cafeteria. **BELOW:** Students Kaylee Prince, Ashley Petralva, Hailey Perez and Abigael Robinson talk Thursday in the new cafeteria.

Midland High cafeteria gets a new look

By Meredith Moriak
Staff Writer

When Bulldogs returned to school after the holidays, many were surprised to see the cafeteria was renovated with new tables, chairs, booths and color scheme.

"It's absolutely awesome. It's like being at a restaurant," said junior Ashley Petralva as she sat with her friends in one of the new booths Thursday during lunch. The girls have claimed a window booth as their own and said they sit in the same place every day.

"It's not dull and boring anymore. It has personality," Petralva said of the room that has eight booths, 12 high-top tables with four chairs, 12 round tables with benches and 10 long tables that seat eight in chairs.

Michelle Helms, MISD Child Nutrition Services director, oversaw the renovation and said

Please see **CAFETERIA/2B**



MAKINGTHEGRADE

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Midland High School senior **Price Holt** has been honored by the Midland Morning Lions Club. He is the son of Phillip and Debra Holt.



Holt

He is president of National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society, is a football and academic letterman and a Texas Scholar. He is a Texas Boys State delegate and was selected to spend a week at NASA as a Texas Aerospace Scholar.

He is an Eagle Scout and Opportunity Camp counselor and volunteers with Meals- on-Wheels and Christmas in Action. He is a member of Golf Course Church of Christ.

Holt plans to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy.

* * *

BROWNWOOD — Four Midlanders were named to the honor rolls for the fall semester at Howard Payne University.

Named to the President's List were **Cassandra Jolly, Rebecca Knighton** and **Joshua Milam**. Named to the Dean's List was Alexis Wilburn.

Also, Kandace Schuelke of Stanton was named to the Dean's List.

To qualify for the President's List, students must have a 4.0 GPA; to make Dean's List, they must have at least a 3.65 GPA.

* * *

ABILENE — Three Midlanders graduated last month from Hardin-Simmons University.

Kayla Bender received a Bachelor of Music in music education and graduated summa cum laude, **Melissa Pena** received a Master of Music in music performance and **Sean Swezy** received a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting.

* * *

SAN ANGELO — Several Midlanders have been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Angelo State University.

Honorees are **Dale A. Beran, Meghan A. Collins, Laura Duran, Claudia A. Garcia, Jennifer R. Graham, Candace J. Johnston, Selena M. Martinez, Stephen R. Parker, Juan L. Porras, Kiah K. Rhea, Jason K. Slover, Kayla M. Stone** and **Meagan L. Willmon**.

To be eligible, students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.25.

* * *

ALPINE — Two Midlanders graduated last month from Sul Ross State University.

Riozelle Morales received a Bachelor of Science in biology and **Michael W. Smith** received a BS in natural resource management.

EDUCATIONINBRIEF

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Regional spelling bee set for Feb. 25

The Reporter-Telegram's 25th annual Regional Spelling Bee is scheduled for 9 a.m. Feb. 25 at the Allison Fine Arts Building at Midland College.

Students from Midland and Big Spring will compete for a chance to represent the Reporter-Telegram at the 2012 Scripps National Spelling Bee, which is May 30-31 in Washington, D.C. At the regional bee, prizes are presented through fifth place.

In addition to an all-expenses-paid trip to

Please see **BRIEFS/3B**

'Wayward kids' need to realize the importance of reading



MARY BRASELTON
Midland College director of the Associate Arts in Teaching program

The term "wayward kids" isn't used much anymore. Yet, few among us have not either had wayward kids in our own families or known others who have. The hope is that kids will outgrow their waywardness and become upstanding, productive citizens in society. Occasionally, they do.

This is the story of two very different people who found their way to a certain extent. Their stories are told with permission, though the places and names have been changed.

Rob, now a truck-driving 35-year-old, entered into an adult literacy class because he could not read.

He told his story to a large group of senior-level university students nearing the certification phase of their training.

"My parents moved a lot because they needed to find work to put food on the table. For me, that meant trying to fit in at one different school after another. The cool kids wouldn't accept me."

Soon, he found it easier to assimilate into the wayward kid group that had much more important things to do instead of sitting in classrooms and read. As a result, he never learned to read.

Immediately, hands sprang up around the classroom, and the disbelieving university students wanted to know how he graduated from high school or passed the CDL if he couldn't read. And they wanted to know how his parents were involved in his education.

In response, he merely shrugged and said in a subdued voice, "This is not easy to admit to a bunch of future teachers, but I cheated on everything. My girlfriend wrote my papers and read the required books and summarized them for me right before a test and I cheated on the tests." He also said that by the time he straightened out enough to take the CDL training, he had someone read the book to him and he memorized the pictures and probable answers. He found he could read in short spurts if he didn't have to read long passages and respond critically.

It took him a few years to understand the importance of reading, and he did it for those he loved — his children. He entered an adult literacy program when he was 35 because he didn't want his children to know he couldn't read. Rob not only has turned from wayward kid to productive citizen, but he also has become an enriched human being in the process. He realized what he had missed in life — understanding the written word — and why most of those words are important to being a productive citizen.

The second story is that of an individual who is a little different from the first. I met Geraldo in a group of a dozen people who had failed one or more times the Examination for the Certification of Educators in Texas (ExCET). My dean had asked me to coach these folks through the professional educator's examination beeause all of these individuals, though currently employed in school districts, were about to lose their jobs if they didn't pass the examination required by the state.

Geraldo had taken the exam 10 times and had failed it each time. The rules have changed significantly since this event took place.

He certainly was on the verge of losing his job if he did not take it one last time and pass it. During this initial roundtable session in the dean's conference room, six

Please see **BRASELTON/2B**

Obituaries



Eleanor Owen Kennedy

Eleanor Owen Kennedy, 82, of Midland, went to be with her Lord on January 15, 2012, at home, after a lengthy time in the hospital. She was married to Roger B. Kennedy for 46 years. She was born on February 17, 1929, to Ben L. and Eleanor Beale Owen, in Fort Worth, Texas. She was employed at Bass Enterprises for a number of years and was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother.

Eleanor was an active member of Golf Course Road Church of Christ and really enjoyed working with her care group. She enjoyed sewing, crafts, traveling, cooking, and especially loved visiting and playing with her grandchildren. Her family was the joy of her life.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her parents; her first husband, Bill Garrett; son, Owen Garrett; her brother, Benjamin Owen; and two sisters, Rosemary Eden and Dorothy Denton.

Survivors include her husband; three sons, Steve Garrett, Keith Garrett, and Chris Kennedy (Robin); one daughter, Yvonne Rydeen (Dan); and six grandchildren, Josh Rydeen, Ally Rydeen, Amanda Rydeen, Ian Kennedy, Aidan Kennedy, and Logan Kennedy; as well as a host of family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to The National Osteoporosis Foundation, 1150 17th Street NW, Suite 850, Washington, DC 20036. http://www.nof.org/.

Family will receive friends on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., at Ellis Funeral home. A funeral service is planned for Wednesday, January 18, 2012, at 2:00 p.m., at the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel, with Tim Baugh officiating. Condolences may be made at: www.ellisfunerals.com.

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Midland Reporter-Telegram

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



Betty Jean Baxter

Betty Jean Baxter, 85, passed away Sunday, January 15, 2012, at Midland Memorial Hospital in Midland.

She was born November 14, 1926, to Vurl and Jewel Belle Yeates Hinson in Roaring Springs, Tx. She was married to Sidney A. Baxter, and retired in 1992 as bookkeeper for Jack Arledge Cadillac.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her son, Carey Baxter and her great-granddaughter, Kaitlin Whitfield.

She is survived by her sons, Tommy Baxter and wife Johnnie of Midland, Tx.; Benny Baxter and wife Laverne and Eddy Baxter, all of Odessa; brother, John Hinson of Afton, Tx.; sister, Sylvia Belle Rogers and husband Kenneth Young of Fort Worth, Tx.; grandchildren, Terry Vurl Baxter and wife Cathy, Katheryne Melissa Hallmark and husband Jason, Janie Marie Whitfield, Marsha Diane Sowell and husband John, Serena Lyn Scitern, and Sheila Max Caudill and husband Chad; great-grandchildren, Brittany Scitern, Ryan Aaron Baxter, Jeremy Ray Hallmark, Jaxon Lee Hallmark, Austin Brooks Baxter, Abigail Susannah Baxter, Kelsey Marie Whitfield, Jonathan Hunter Sowell, Brandon Keith Sowell, Zachary Caulk and Stephen Max Caudill; and great-great-grandson, Jaxton Blake Scitern.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, January 18, 2012, at Hubbard-Kelly Chapel with the Rev. Jimmy Daniel officiating. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Services entrusted to Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home of Odessa.

Death Notices

Bobby Gene Merrick

Bobby Gene Merrick, 80, of Big Spring, passed away on Monday, January 16, 2012, at his residence.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 18, 2012, at Graveside with Chaplain Walter McCall, officiating. Interment will follow at Coahoma Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at the funeral home.

Survivors include two sons, Larry Merrick (Lola) and John Merrick (Vaughn Dell); one sister, Nelta Smart; five grandchildren; and one niece.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Edith Boyd Gary

Edith Boyd Gary, 88, of Big Spring, passed away on Monday, January 16, 2012, in a local hospital.

qFuneral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 18, 2012, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at the funeral home.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

James M. Holland

James M. Holland, 76, of Odessa, passed away Saturday, January 14, 2012 in Odessa.

He is survived by wife, Dana Jeanette Holland; sons, Jimmy and Dean Holland; and daughter, Tina Park; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren; sisters, Louise Johnson and Betty Lou Holland; brother, Billy Holland; and many nieces and nephews.

Private family services will be held at a later date, with Sunset Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral arrangements directed by Sunset Funeral Home.

Kenneth Gale Pruitt

Kenneth Gale Pruitt, 74, of Big Spring, passed away on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, in a Midland hospital.

There will be no formal service at this time, but the family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at the funeral home.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Matthew Don Hyman

Matthew Don Hyman, 33, of Midland, passed away on January 14, 2012.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Leslie Reed Hyman and his children, Marlie and Holt; his parents, Mike and Susie Hyman; brother, Jared Hyman and his daughter; three brothers; in-laws; grandparents; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Family will receive friends on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, at Ellis Funeral Home, 801 Andrews Highway, Midland, Texas, 79701. A funeral service is planned for Thursday, January 19, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., at First Baptist Church of Odessa, 709 N. Lee Avenue.

Braselton

From 1B

people read a practice question for me and analyzed each multiple-choice question giving rationales for and against each answer. Then it was Geraldo's turn. In a strong, affable voice and with twinkling eyes, he began to read the question as he looked around the table and smiled at several points. We all liked him and smiled back. He mispronounced several critical words and substituted entirely different words in the context. These errors changed the question completely. I allowed him to go on to see how he fared with the analysis. He carried those misperceptions through the analysis, consistently repeating the mispronunciations and the substitutions. He could not select the correct answer because Geraldo could not read.

What his story tells us is that it is quite possible to be functionally literate and succeed to a certain degree, but eventually a performance ceiling will be reached. To wit, this young man had completed college and was hired as a non-certified teacher and coach (legal at this time). He was a very successful coach and dearly beloved by his community and by his students. Yet he could not read at the level he needed to fulfill his teaching and coaching dreams. How had he completed college if he couldn't read? How did he graduate from high school with this limitation?

There are multiple answers, but in Geraldo's case, he attributed his success to two things: He was a great athlete and was a teacher-pleaser. He said he received special privileges in terms of no pass, no play during its formative years, and his personal charm appealed to many of his teachers. He worked the system.

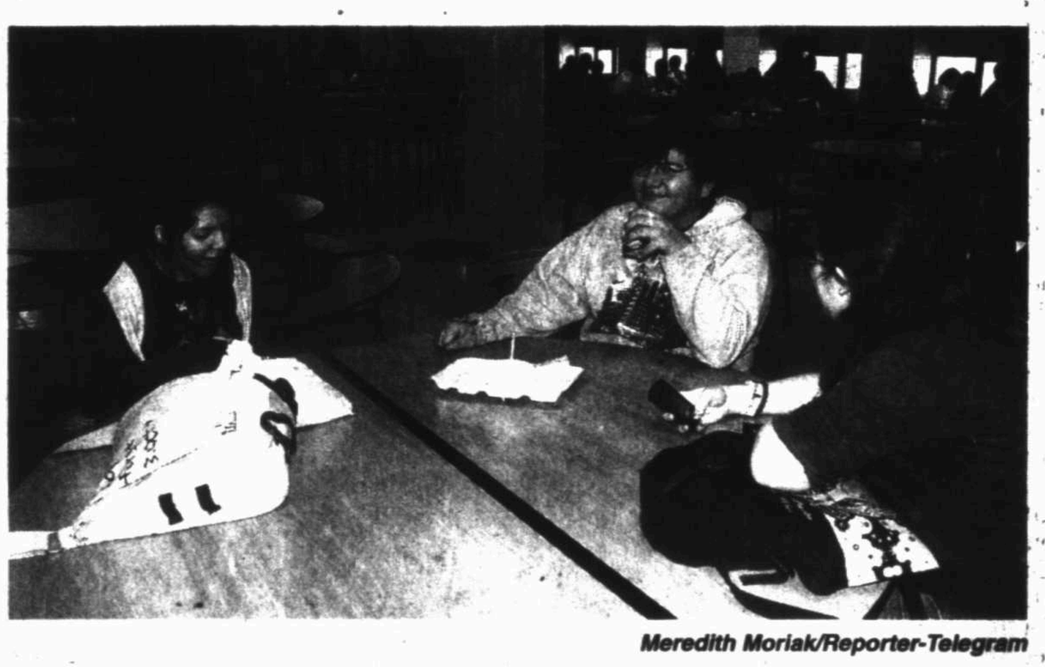
To public school teachers, wayward kids are a daily reality. These kids sit, or try to sit, on the back rows; they stare out the window or down at their laps at their hidden cell phones; they put their heads on their desks and sleep; or, in Geraldo's case, smile and nod at the appropriate times. However, most of these students rarely respond to questions verbally. Shoulder shrugging (even with a charming smile) is common. Conscientious teachers — and most are — try daily to connect with these students hoping to awaken the thing inside them that will turn them on to learning. If we were to peek into these kids' homes, we might see parents who desperately are hoping for a miracle.

It is true that all students need mentors, but it also is true that success comes as a result of seeing beyond self and understanding the important role we each have to play as part of a community — that means reading and analyzing what you read, listening and reflecting on what you hear.

If I had a magic scepter, I would so decree it for every citizen.

Note: Nationally, an estimated 30 percent of adults over the age of 25 need literacy intervention. Midland County mirrors the national averages. www.midland.edu/n2rfaqs.htm

Call Midland Need to Read office a 682-9693 to receive tutoring or to volunteer as a tutor.



Meredith Moriak/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High students Melissa Morales, Oscar Romo and Beatriz Morales talk Thursday in the newly renovated MHS cafeteria.

Cafeteria

From 1B

it's a project that took more than nine months and received input from many MHS teachers and students.

Justin Walker, marketing teacher, and Pat Wallis, family and consumer sciences teacher, worked with Helms and some of their students to provide input on the cafeteria, they said.

"The kids wanted it to feel like a student center, not an institutional dining room," Helms said. "We put in some more comfortable pieces of furniture and hope to see more kids eating lunch there."

The $110,000 renovation was completed from the child nutrition services budget. Helms said that money can be used only on food, food service equipment or cafeteria furniture. Each year, CNS budgets for one or two renovations. The department renovated Lee High's cafeteria last year and MHS was next on the list, Helms said.

"Just like the personality of both schools is different, the students' ideas for the cafeteria were a bit different," Helms said. While booths are very popular among students at both schools, Lee kids wanted a diner, while Midland wanted a coffee shop.

"What we heard over and over was that they wanted to be able to talk in a group and not have long tables where they can't hear anyone," she said.

During the next few years, junior high schools will be renovated as the funds are available.

Midland High junior Edward Abendroth said he never ate in the cafeteria before it was remodeled but went off campus every day. However, since the renovations, he's been inclined to stay on campus because it's more inviting.

Many of his friends said the individual chairs and places to sit give people — especially those who may be large — more space and makes everyone feel more comfortable.

Helms said they made sure all furniture was easy for the custodians to clean and could be moved to another location, if Midland High were to move.

"It's not a Cadillac, but it's good-quality furniture that will last for a long time," Helms said. She said the furniture that was replaced at both high schools was more than 25 years old.

Helms said she's hoping the number of kids who eat in the cafeteria will go up because of the renovation. In December, anywhere between 225 and 260 students purchased a meal in the cafeteria each day, Helms said.

Helms' experience with Lee's renovation was that there was a gradual increase in the number of students eating on campus. She said many start by buying a bottle of water or a piece of fruit, and may eventually start buying the meal.

Meredith Moriak can be reached at mmoriak@mrt.com.

Reporter-Telegram on TV

Reporter Meredith Moriak will be talking education issues, including answering questions about a possible Midland ISD bond, on KOSA's "Closer Look" television magazine at 4:30 p.m. today.

End

From 1B

Lee said all employees — 14 are listed on the school's website — will be asked to stay as part-time workers. However, Lee said he does anticipate some will seek other full-time opportunities.

The three changes were a result of the board's long-term planning, Brown said.

"Space, money and time are all issues and we just wanted to allocate more to the upper grades," Brown said.

Neither Brown nor Lee said they have heard any negative feedback at the board's decisions.

"(These changes) will help us focus resources on our older kids," Lee said. "This is a cut we can make to provide better academics for our students."

Meredith Moriak can be reached at mmoriak@mrt.com.

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AUCTIONS

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Okla. officials look to get waiver from No Child Left Behind Act

By Megan Rolland
The Oklahoman

OKLAHOMA CITY — A positive response from the U.S. Department of Education indicates Oklahoma could soon escape out from under federal regulations that have reigned supreme in education since 2002.

State schools Superintendent Janet Barresi said receiving a waiver from the No Child Left Behind Act would be a game changer for education in the state.

"Teachers and principals and superintendents aren't going to be chasing a magic golden test score number, which causes them to focus on certain groups to make sure they pass a test," Barresi said.

"They are now going to be able to focus on each individual child, children that are struggling up to gifted and talented children, because the focus will now be on growth of every student."

If the waiver is approved by the U.S. Education Department, Oklahoma schools would no longer receive Academic Performance Index scores that rate school performance on a scale from zero to 1,500 points. That score is based almost entirely on student performance on standardized tests.

Instead, Oklahoma schools would be judged on a new scale using an A-F letter grade. It will base the score in part on the same tests as the old system, but Barresi said it takes into account student improvement on the exams, rather than raw test scores.

Oklahoma submitted a more than 300 page application requesting the ability to ignore some of the federal mandates that stemmed from the Bush administration's sweeping education reform in 2002. The application outlines a homegrown system that would replace the federal regulations.

Only 11 states applied in this first round of waiver requests, but other states have indicated they will apply in the future.

Last month states received feedback on their applications. The cover letter sent to Oklahoma is mostly positive but raises a few key concerns.

"Oklahoma's request is particularly strong in providing a comprehensive framework for transitioning to the Common Core State Standards," wrote Michael Yudin, acting assistant secretary with the U.S. Education Department.

The Common Core State Standards were developed by a consortium of states. The standards will replace the current education standards and curriculum known as Priority Academic Student Skills by June 2014.

Yudin listed three areas of concern for the application: implementation and development of the A-F grading system; that the process for identifying large achievement gaps may hide the low-performance of some students and that the needs of students with disabilities and who are learning English as a second language were not fully addressed.

Barresi said they are working to address the shortcomings and are optimistic the application will be approved.

"We're encouraged by their response," she said.

The most controversial part of the waiver request is the section that details how the state Education Department will take over chronically failing schools.

"It is a very distinct possibility that there will be management by the state Board of Education, academic management of those schools," Barresi said. "Not all of them. It is absolutely on a case-by-case basis."



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Kimbry Lambert and Hank Killion, right, hug and pet Cole Meagle's goat Saturday at the Midland County Livestock Show.

BRIEFS

From 1B

Washington, the first-place winner will receive a Merriam-Webster's Third New International Dictionary, a $100 savings bond, $125 cash, a one-year subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica Online and a trophy.

The second-place winner will receive a Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, $75 cash, a one-year subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica Online and a trophy. The third-place winner will receive a $20 Amazon.com gift certificate, $50 cash, a one-year subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica Online and a trophy. The fourth-place winner will receive a $20 Amazon.com gift certificate, $25 cash and a trophy. And the fifth-place will receive $25 cash and a trophy.

Coleman hosts informational luncheons for teen parents

Coleman High School is continuing to host luncheons to provide its teen parents with information about taking care of their children.

Melissa Bryant, Coleman librarian and luncheon organizer, said the lunchtime education sessions are meant to give teen parents both the tools and the support they need to succeed as caregivers of young children.

The monthly luncheons are 11:45 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. at Coleman. The most-recent luncheon was Thursday; the topic was health care. Future luncheons are Feb. 9, following a budget; March 22, dental health; and April 12, child-proofing and household safety.

For more information, call 689-5000.

MISD to launch website redesign

Midland ISD is scheduled to release an updated and redesigned district website Wednesday. The web address will continue to be www.midlandisd.net; users can expect to find the information they are accustomed to accessing on the site.

Tom Holly, MISD executive director of Technology and Information Management, said, "Improved navigation and ease of use for target audiences was a major goal of this redesign. Selecting a tab designated for 'Parents,' 'Students' or 'Staff' will reveal a customized menu for each audience.

"The highest-need buttons, such as Lunch Payment, School Calendar, Enrollment Information, and Career Information, will be located conveniently at the top."

MISD expects a smooth transition; however, if users encounter any problems using the new site, they may e-mail misdwebmaster@midlandisd.net.



Courtesy photo

The Lee High School cheerleaders are shown in this undated photo. The squad placed 11th in National Cheerleading Association's National competition Jan. 7 - 8 in Dallas.

UTPB to host college preview day

UTPB will host Falcon Day for perspective students Feb. 4 on campus. Visitors will be able to talk with academic department representatives, hear about financial aid, testing services, residential living and student activities.

The event is free, but participants must register by Feb. 1 online at http://ss.utpb.edu/admissions/campus-visit/falcon-day-registration.

Call the admissions office at 552-2605 for more information.

Lee choir to hold annual madrigal dinner

The Lee High School choirs will present their 21st annual Madrigal Dinner during four concerts Jan. 26-29 at Green Tree Country Club.

The dinner concerts feature Renaissance music, costumes and language.

"It is a lot of fun," said director Paula Edwards. "The kids get to experience the Renaissance music. The costumes are fun. We herald all the dinner courses in with brass fanfare. It's quite a production."

The show is at 7:05 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 6:05 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are $35 each for Lords and Ladies seating and $40 each for Royalty seating.

Tickets are available for the concerts by calling the Choir Office at 689-1619.

Lee cheerleaders place 11th at national competition

The Lee High School competition cheerleading squad competed in the National Cheerleading Association's National competition Jan. 7 and 8 in Dallas.

As a medium intermediate squad, LHS competed with 22 other teams and placed 11th overall after two days of competition.

"These girls have put hours into the routine and did a fantastic job of representing Lee High School," said cheerleading coach Alicia Webb. "I am very proud of all the obstacles the squad has conquered this year."

The squad learned the routine in June and began practicing regularly in October, with the time commitment increasing as they got closer to the competition.

NCA nationals is the largest and most prestigious competition in the United States and 32 states were represented at the competition.

LHS debaters qualify for state meet

Lee High School debaters Marisa Kent and Meagan McIlmurry placed first at the district cross-examination meet on Jan. 10. The pair will represent LHS at the state meet in March in Austin.

Sophomores Shreya Patel and Palvasha Deme placed third and are alternates for state.

SCHOOLCALENDAR

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Jan. 25
MC Student Activities Spring Club Fair, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Scharbauer Student Center

Feb. 8
The Harlem Globetrotters, 7 p.m., Chaparral Center, tickets range from $17 to $68. To buy tickets, call 800-462-7979 or visit www.centralticketoffice.com.

Feb. 11
West Texas Frontier Council of Teachers of Mathematics Math and Science Practice Meet, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Lee High School.

Feb. 18
FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Workshop, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Midland College ATC, Room 136; open to the public (bring 2011 IRS 1040 and W-2 forms); for more information, contact Latisha Williams director of Financial Aid at MC, 685-5511, lwill@midland.edu.

Feb. 20
Holiday: Midland ISD, Midland Christian School, Trinity School, Midland Academy Charter School, Midland Classical Academy
Bad weather makeup day: Greenwood ISD

Feb. 23
Family Informational Fair: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Rusk Elementary School — Information will be available from city and county agencies and about MISD programs.

March 12-19
Spring break

March 22
Cowan Performing Arts Series presents The 5 Browns — "classical music's First Family of Piano Virtuosos" — 7 p.m., Chaparral Center

April 6
Holiday: Midland ISD (bad weather makeup day)

April 6 and 9
Holiday: Midland Christian School, Trinity School, Midland Classical Academy

April 24
Davidson Distinguished Lecture Series presents Fareed Zakaria, foreign policy adviser, columnist and television host, 7 p.m., Chaparral Center

May 28
Memorial Day Holiday: Midland ISD

Graduations
- Midland High School and Lee High School, June 2
- Greenwood High School, May 25
- Trinity School, May 25
- Midland Christian School, May 25
- Midland Classical Academy, May 5
- Midland College, May 11
- University of Texas of the Permian Basin, May 12

Meetings schedule
MISD's board of trustees typically meet at 5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. Meetings take place in the first floor board room at 615 W. Missouri Ave.

Midland College's board of trustees typically meet at 4 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month. Meetings take place in the Gibson Board room in the Administration Building.

Greenwood ISD's board of trustees typically meet at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Meetings take place in the Distance Learning Center at Greenwood High School.

NJ students find common ground studying Steinbeck

N.Y. Times News Service

WESTFIELD, N.J. — When an eighth-grade class at Roosevelt Intermediate School tackled Chapter 4 of John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" one morning last week, the conversation focused on the loneliness of a minor white character known as Curley's wife.

The next day at the same time, five miles away at the Cedarbrook K-8 Center in Plainfield, another eighth-grade class opened to the same chapter of the same book but paid scant attention to Curley's wife, spending most of an hour on the sole black character, Crooks.

Similar discussions of the classic 75-year-old novel of migrant workers in search of the American dream unfold in thousands of classrooms around the country. But these two sets of students are engaged in an unusual literary experiment, studying the book in a collaboration intended to provide lessons between the lines of Steinbeck's prose.

The mostly white students in Westfield say they live in a privileged "bubble," while Cedarbrook students in Plainfield are nearly all black and Hispanic.

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Cheyanne


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Pepper


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Sarah is a domestic long hair housecat with brown and grey coat. Needs a good home.
Sarah

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Weird gadgets at CES: Motorized unicycle, anyone?

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A motorized, seatless unicycle, a video game you control with your eyes, and a mind-reading headset that serves as a game controller were among the more bizarre gadgets being shown off at this year's International Consumer Electronics Show.

Some 3,100 exhibitors attended the show, and although there were plenty of mainstream technologies on display, the show attracted a fair share of off-beat gadgets. Here's a roundup of some of the weirdest devices:

■ SOLOWHEEL. Picture a unicycle without a frame or saddle, and you have the Solowheel. Not working for you? OK, add this to the picture: footboards that fold out from the wheel. To ride it, you stand on the footboards and straddle the wheel. Lean forward, and the wheel engages a battery-powered electric motor that can send it — and hopefully its rider— zooming along at 10 miles per hour. The wheel has a gyroscope that helps keep the rider upright. In other words, it's like a Segway with only one wheel.

Because of the rechargeable battery, which has a 15- to 20-mile range, the Solowheel weighs 26 pounds. That's as much as a folding bike, but the Solowheel is more compact. It's sold by Inventist LLC for $1,800. Its creator is a serial inventor, Shane Chen, who previously came up with the AquaSkipper, a human-powered hydrofoil.

Who's it for? Brave people with a good sense of balance, who want to utterly surprise everyone they meet.

■ FOAM FIGHTERS: Toy companies are eager to link their products with smartphone and tablet games, creating toys that are an amusing blend of virtual and real. Foam Fighters are made of two sheets of thin foam, painted and shaped like World War II fighter planes such as the famous Mitsubishi Zero. Toss them in the air, and they fly like paper airplanes. Better yet, you can attach them to a plastic arm with a suction cup that, in turn, sticks to the back of an iPhone, iPad or Android phone, right next to the camera. The airplane shows up on screen, and if you download a free app, the fighter plane will look like it's zooming around in war-torn skies, controlled by the movement of the phone or tablet. Foam Fighters go on sale in April. A pack of two, with a stand, will cost $10.

Who's it for: AppGear is aiming at kids, ages 8 to 12, but it could appeal to frustrated fighter pilots of all ages.

■ HAIER BRAIN WAVE: The Chinese appliance company brought this wireless mind-reading headset to the show, and demonstrated how it could be used to control a TV set. It holds one sensing pad to the wearer's forehead and another that clips onto an earlobe. The big limitation is that the mind-reading capability (actually just measurement of brain waves) is crude. The set can only be used to sense if the user wants something to go up or down. For any other direction, you need the remote. In a demonstration of a simple maze-like game, the wearer guided a figure up or down with his mind, and right and left with the remote. Haier said it's developing something that lets the wearer change channels by thinking about it.

Haier is selling the set in China, but has no plans to bring it to market in the U.S.

Who's it for: No one outside of China, yet. Eventually, this could be a dream come true for the laziest of couch potatoes.

■ EYE ASTEROIDS: Continuing on the theme of controlling electronics without moving, Swedish company Tobii brought its eye-controlled arcade game to the show. To play, you stand in front of it and look at a screen, where asteroids hurtle toward your battle station. It shoots laser beams at the asteroids you look at, destroying them. So yes, looks can kill.

The game cabinet contains cameras that track your gaze. The arcade game is really just a technology demonstration. What Tobii really wants is to have these gaze-tracking cameras built into laptops and other computers, so we can dispense with the mouse. But it does sell the game for $15,000.

Who's it for: Arcade owners who want the latest.

■ SIGNA POWERTREKK: This New York company showed off an alternative to batteries: a fuel cell the size of a big sandwich, powered by small, light "pucks" of a silicon-based material that produces hydrogen when water is added. The fuel cell is expensive, at $200, but the pucks are cheap, at $12 for three. Each puck will produce the equivalent of six AA batteries of electricity. That means it can charge an iPhone twice, through the included cables.

SiGNa will be selling the cell through outdoor retailer REI this spring.

Who's it for: Campers, hermits and others who need to go a long time without electricity.

Fuel transfer begins at iced-in Alaska town

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Crews began transferring 1.3 million gallons of fuel Monday from a Russian fuel tanker to the iced-in western Alaska city of Nome.

The offloading began near sundown, said Stacey Smith of Vitus Marine, the fuel supplier that arranged to have the Russian tanker Renda and its crew deliver the gasoline and diesel fuel. The process began after crews safety-tested two transfer hoses with pressurized air.

Earlier, crews laid the hoses along a stretch of Bering Sea ice. On Monday, they hooked the hoses to a pipeline that begins on a rock causeway 550 yards from the tanker, which is moored about half a mile offshore, said Jason Evans, board chairman of the Sitnasuak Native Corp.

Sitnasuak owns the local fuel company, Bonanza Fuel, and has been working closely with Vitus Marine. The pipeline leads to storage tanks in town.

Smith said the transfer began with one hose to see how the fuel flowed. She expected the second hose to begin flowing soon after.

State officials said the transfer must start during daylight, but can continue in darkness. Nome has just five hours of daylight this time of year.

The transfer could be finished within 36 hours if everything goes smoothly but it could take as long as five days.

The Renda got into position Saturday night after a Coast Guard icebreaker cleared a path for it through hundreds of miles of a slow journey stalled by thick ice and strong ocean currents. Before the hoses could be laid out, the ice disturbed by the tanker's journey had to freeze again so workers could create some sort of roadway.

Smith said the effort is a third of the way into completion with the arrival of the Renda to Nome. Pumping the fuel from the tanker will be the second part. The third part will be the exiting through ice by the two ships.

"It's just been an absolutely grand collaboration by all parties involved," she said of the work accomplished so far.

The city of 3,500 didn't get its last pre-winter barge fuel delivery because of a massive November storm.

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						6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID	ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Last Man Sx (N)	Work It (N)	Celebrity Wife Swap (N)		& Proof "Sympathy for the Devil" (N)		KMID News	(:35) News	Jimmy Kimmel Live
KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7	Ent. Tonight	NCIS: Los Angeles "Nature of the Beast"		Unforgettable "With Honor"				CBS 7 News	(:35) Midnight	(:35) Late Late Show (N)
KWWT	CW	5	14		5	14	Seinfeld "The Deg"	Seinf. "The Maestro"	90210 (N)		Remodeled "A Latte to Learn" (P) (N)		Cops	'Til Death	King of Queens	SouthPk "Gnomes"	South Park	Roseanne
KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Glee "Yes/No" (N)		New Girl (N)	Raising Hope (N)	The Simpsons	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Loves Ray "The Dog"	Law & Order: C.I. "Silver Lining"
KMLM	IND	11	11	12	11	11	Mark / Blitz	Cardoza Moore	Update News	Rico Cortes	La Luz del Surooeste				Jean-Claude	Newsbeginning	Ministerios Nueva Vida
KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	News-West 9	Be Millionaire	The Biggest Loser Temptation winner chooses gym match ups. (N)				Parenthood "It Is What It Is" (N)		News-West 9	(:35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	(:35) LateNight
KPBT	PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		American Experience "Custer's Last Stand" (N)				Frontline "Nuclear Aftershocks" (N)		Charlie Rose	BBC News	Tavis Smiley (N)
KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	Una familia con suerte				La Que No Podia Amar		Aquí y ahora		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Hasta que el dinero nos separe
KOSA	MNT	16	16		16		Office	30 Rock	NCAA Basketball Texas Tech vs. Oklahoma (L)					My News	Case "Schadenfreude"		Case "Strange Fruit"
FLIX		340	65		165		(5:15) Triggerman		★★ Narc ('02, Thrill) Ray Liotta.					★★★★ Capote Philip Seymour Hoffman.			★ The Sum of All...
HBO		300	68	14	14		(:15) Unstoppable ('04, Dra) Wesley Snipes.		★★ Black Swan Natalie Portman.						Boys	Boys	Paradise "Purgatory"
HBO2		302	69	15	101	23	(4:30) Paradise Lost		★ Hall Pass Owen Wilson.		(:45)Reaff.		Bill Maher				★ Arthur ('11, Com) Russell Brand.
HBO3		304	70	16	102		★ Deceived ('91, Thrill) Goldie Hawn.				★ Somewhere Stephen Dorff.		(:40)Making				★★ Edge of Darkness Mel Gibson.
MAX		380	71	17	120	24	★ Naked Gun: From the Files ...		★ The Naked Gun 2 1/2: The...				★ The Naked Gun 33 1/3: Th...				★★★ Robocop 2
MAX2		382	72	18	122		Movie		★★ Half Baked				★ Sting Night Kip Pardue.		Erotica	"Bedroom Fantasies 2"	★ 28 Days Later
PLEX				96			(:05)	★★ Mansfield Park Frances O'Connor.					★ Taking Chances Justin Long.		(:40)	★ TekWar; TekLab	(:10) ★ Hercules & ...
SHOW		320	66	19	140	25	(5:30)	★ Fair Game Naomi Watts.	(:25)	★ The Mechanic ...			House Lie	Califor.	Shameless		★ Piranha
TMC		336	67	22	155	26	(4:45)	★ Ed Wood		★ The Ghost Writer Ewan McGregor.			(:10)	★★★★ Bloody Sunday			★ Elephant White
A&E		27	32	28	35	47	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Ship War "Bullship"	Shipping Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars
AMC		40	21	23	42	51	CSI: Miami "Collision"		★★★ Die Hard II: Die Harder ('90, Act) Bruce Willis.					★★★ Die Hard II: Die Harder ('90, Act) Bruce Willis.			
BET		58	26		40		(5:00) 106 & Park (L)		Together	Together	The Game		Game (N)	Together	Game	Together	Wendy Williams
BRAVO		65	63		41		Beverly Hills		Housewives Atlanta		Tabatha Takes Over		Take Over (N)		Watch (N)	Tabatha Takes Over	Atlanta
CNBC		46	45		39	72	The Kudlow Report		BMW		60 Minutes		American Greed		Mad Money		60 Minutes
CNN		43	24	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Piers Morgan		A. Cooper 360		OutFront		Piers Morgan
DISC		50	20	31	24	42	Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Ragin' Cajuns		Dirty Jobs		Ragin' Cajuns
DISNEY		56	27	36	25	36	Jessie	Wizards	Austin		★★★ Underdog Jalon Lee.		Jessie	Wizards	Phineas	Phineas	Wizards	Wizards
ESPN		32	29	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball Mich. St./Mich. (L)				NCAA Basketball Arkansas vs. Kentucky (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter
ESPN2		34	28	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball Georgetown vs. DePaul (L)				ITF Tennis Australian Open Second Round Site: Melbourne Park -- Melbourne, Australia (L)						
FAMILY		53	54	34	42	33	Birth "The Tempest"		Switched at Birth (N)		Jane "The Birkin" (N)		Switched at Birth		The 700 Club		Jane "The Birkin"
FNC		45	58	53	23	55	FOX Report		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity		On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity
FOOD		64	59	27	68	54	Cupcake Wars		Cupcake Wars		Chopped		Chopped (N)		Chopped "Fired Up!"		Chopped
FSSW		37	43	50	45	29	Xterra	Stars Insider	Stars Pre-game (L)	NHL Hockey Detroit Red Wings vs. Dallas Stars Site: American Airlines Center -- Dallas, Texas (L)					Stars Live (L)	Rangers Insider	UFC Unleashed	
FX		31	31	59	64	69	(5:30)	★★ 2012 ('09, Act) Amanda Peet, John Cusack.					Justified (N)		Justified		Justified	
HALLMARK		54	49	58		34	Little House Prairie		L. House "The Gift"		Little House Prairie		Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV		63	50	26	48	44	House	HouseH	My Place	My House	Property	Property	HouseH	House	HouseH	House	Property	Property
HISTORY		71	62	29	50	43	MonsterQuest		Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Ax Men		Only in America		Modern Marvels		Pwn Star	Pwn Star
LIFETIME		28	25	25	28	48	Wife Swap "Pyke/Smith"		Dance Moms		Dance Moms "Return of the Candy Apples"		24 Hour Catwalk "Costume"		Project Runway "A Night at the Opera"		Dance Moms	
MSNBC		47	51		49	73	Hardball		The Ed Show		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		The Ed Show		Rachel Maddow	
NICK		55	34	39	34	37	SpongE	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	'70s	'70s	G. Lopez	G. Lopez	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE		30	22	55	53	58	WaysD	WaysD	★★ Crank 2: High Voltage				Ink Master (N)		Ink Master		★ Crank 2: High V...	
SYFY		66	64	41	57	67	★★ Dark Water Jennifer Connelly.				★★ The Haunting in Connecticut				★★★ 300 Feet ('08, Hor) Famke Janssen.			
TBS		25	11	44	66	41	Seinfeld	Seinf. "The Outing"	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan Guests Fred Armisen (N)		The Office	The Office
TCM		41	61	24	63	66	(5:15)	★ Saturday Ni...	★ What Ever Happened to Aunt Alice?				★ Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing				★ A Night in Para...	
TELE		20	8	10	20		Caso cerrado		Maid en Manhattan		Flor salvaje		La casa de al lado		Noticiero	Sin senos no paraiso		Decision
TLC		51	33	32	38	52	Toddlers & Tiaras		DC Cupcakes "One Ton Cupcake"		Next Great Baker "Headbanging Bakers"		Extreme Coupon	Extreme Coupon	DC Cupcakes "One Ton Cupcake"		Next Great Baker "Headbanging Bakers"	
TNT		24	23	40	26	50	(4:00) ★ The Bou...	★ The Bourne Ultimatum As government agents continue to track him down, Jason Bourne searches for his identity.					Southland "Wednesday" (SP) (N)		CSI: NY "Death House"		Southland "Wednesday"	
TVLAND		49	48	35	54	35	MASH	M*A*S*H	Home I.	Home I.	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	The Exes	Hot in	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA		26	30	42	27	49	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Authority"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Users"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Ballerina"		White Collar "Checkmate" (SP) (N)		Royal Pains "A Little Art, A Little Science"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Demons"	
VERSUS		38	39				NHL Live!	NHL Hockey	Nashville Predators vs. New York Rangers (L)				NHL Live!	NBC Sports	Talk (L)	Overtime	TrDwUnd	Cycling
WGN		19	18				America's Funniest Home Videos		Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Mother "Milk"	Met Your Mother	WGN News at Nine		30 Rock "College"	Scrubs	Scrubs	Always Sunny

Electric plants shift from coal to natural gas

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The huge, belching smokestacks of electric power plants have long symbolized air pollution woes. But a shift is under way: More and more electric plants around the nation are being fueled by natural gas, which is far cleaner than coal, the traditional fuel.

The most optimistic projections describe an abundant domestic energy source that will create enormous numbers of jobs and lead to cleaner skies.

Nationwide, the electricity generated by gas-fired plants has risen by more than 50 percent over the last decade, while coal-fired generation has declined slightly. The gas plants generated about 600 billion kilowatt hours of electricity in 2000 and 981 billion hours in 2010, according to the U.S. Energy Information Agency.

During the same period coal generation declined from 1,966 billion hours to 1,850 billion hours, while hydroelectric and nuclear generation stayed about the same. The figures include electricity use by consumers and industry.

Nationwide, EIA said natural gas use for power generation rose 7 percent between 2009 and 2010. That's about 515 billion cubic feet. The biggest jumps were in the Southeast, with use rising 24 percent in North Carolina, 18 percent in Virginia and 15 percent in South Carolina.

"Most of the people I know in the electric power industry are building natural gas" plants, said Jay Apt, a professor of technology at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. That's because of low prices over the last few years and the relatively low cost of building such plants, compared with coal-fired or nuclear.

But Apt cautions that the trend could stall because the basics of supply and demand mean that if too many plants embrace cheap gas, it won't stay cheap.

"The surest route to $6 or $8 gas is for everybody to plan on $4 gas," Apt said, and if prices do rise, coal will again be the most cost-effective fuel. Natural gas is priced per million BTU.

Apt noted that there was a "huge building boom" in natural gas plants from the late 1990s to 2004, because utilities thought they would get rich from the combination of cheap fuel and plants that were highly efficient and relatively cheap to build. There were predictions that prices would stay low over the long term, too.

But natural gas prices spiked, and the new gas-fired plants around the nation stayed idle much of the time. That trend was also driven by another irony: The gas-fired plants are easier to start and stop compared with coal or nuclear, so many utilities used them just for peak electric demand periods.

Still, history may not repeat itself because of the huge surge in supply from Marcellus Shale gas drilling. Vast gas deposits that previously couldn't be extracted economically are now being tapped using new technologies. Instead of drilling straight down, companies can drill horizontally and follow seams of gas for a mile or more deep underground. Then the drillers use hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," to free the gas from the relatively dense shale rock.

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R O U

A I O
R S V
Y Y

Yesterday's Answer: HEEL, EYE, KIDNEY

1.17

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Associated Press

This undated handout photo provided by Florida Atlantic University shows a baby, looking at a monitor, wearing a band that contains a little magnet that the head-tracker, under the monitor, uses to determine head position that, in turn, enables the eye tracker to find the eye and the pupil. New research suggests babies don't learn to talk just from hearing sounds — they're lip-readers, too. It happens during that stage when a baby's babbling gradually changes from gibberish into syllables and eventually into that first "mama" or "dada."

Study: Babies try lip-reading in learning to talk

By Lauren Neergaard
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Babies don't learn to talk just from hearing sounds. New research suggests they're lip-readers, too.

It happens during that stage when a baby's babbling gradually changes from gibberish into syllables and eventually into that first "mama" or "dada."

Florida scientists discovered that starting around age 6 months, babies begin shifting from the intent eye gaze of early infancy to studying mouths when people talk to them.

"The baby, in order to imitate you, has to figure out how to shape their lips to make that particular sound they're hearing," explains developmental psychologist David Lewkowicz of Florida Atlantic University, who led the study being published Monday. "It's an incredibly complex process."

Apparently, it doesn't take them too long to absorb the movements that match basic sounds. By their first birthday, babies start shifting back to look you in the eye again — unless they hear the unfamiliar sounds of a foreign language. Then, they stick with lip-reading a bit longer.

"It's a pretty intriguing finding," says University of Iowa psychology professor Bob McMurray, who also studies speech development. The babies "know what they need to know about, and they're able to deploy their attention to what's important at that point in development."

The new research appears in this week's issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. It offers more evidence that quality face-time with your tot is very important for speech development — more than, say, turning on the latest baby DVD.

It also begs the question of whether babies who turn out to have developmental disorders, including autism, learn to speak the same way, or if they show differences that just might provide an early warning sign.

Unraveling how babies learn to speak isn't merely a curiosity. Neuroscientists want to know how to encourage that process, especially if it doesn't seem to be happening on time. Plus, it helps them understand how the brain wires itself early in life for learning all kinds of things.

Those coos of early infancy start changing around age 6 months, growing into the syllables of the baby's native language until the first word emerges, usually just before age 1.

A lot of research has centered on the audio side. That sing-song speech that parents intuitively use? Scientists know the pitch attracts babies' attention, and the rhythm exaggerates key sounds. Other studies have shown that babies who are best at distinguishing between vowel sounds like "ah" and "ee" shortly before their first birthday wind up with better vocabularies and pre-reading skills by kindergarten.

But scientists have long known that babies also look to speakers' faces for important social cues about what they're hearing. Just like adults, they're drawn to the eyes, which convey important nonverbal messages like the emotion connected to words and where to direct attention.

Lewkowicz went a step further, wondering whether babies look to the lips for cues, as well, sort of like how adults lip-read to decipher what someone's saying at a noisy party.

So, he and doctoral student Amy Hansen-Tift tested nearly 180 babies, groups of them at ages 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 months.

How? They showed videos of a woman speaking in English or Spanish to babies of English speakers. A gadget mounted on a soft headband tracked where each baby was focusing his or her gaze and for how long.

They found a dramatic shift in attention: When the speaker used English, the 4-month-olds gazed mostly into her eyes. The 6-month-olds spent equal amounts of time looking at the eyes and the mouth. The 8- and 10-month-olds studied mostly the mouth.

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Natural gas price plunge aids families, businesses

By Jonathan Fahey
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The price of natural gas is plummeting at a pace that has caught even the experts off guard.

A 35 percent collapse in the futures price over the past year has been a boon to homeowners who use natural gas for heat and appliances and to manufacturers who power their factories and make chemicals and materials with it.

The country is flush with natural gas as a result of new drilling techniques that have enabled energy companies to tap vast supplies that were out of reach not so long ago. The country's natural gas surplus has been growing even as the country burns record amounts.

This winter's warm weather slowed the growth in demand, however, and created a glut. In the Northeast, December was the fourth warmest in the last 117 years. Winter supplies are 17 percent above their five-year average.

The natural gas futures price fell 13 percent last week, to $2.67 per 1,000 cubic feet. That's the lowest winter-time level in a decade.

"The market has been overwhelmed with gas," says Anthony Yuen, a commodities analyst at Citibank.

He and other analysts expect the price to average near $3 for all of 2012. If the weather stays mild, the price could even dip below $2, a level not seen since 2002.

Cheap natural gas is mainly a good thing for the economy:

■ More than half of U.S. households use natural gas for heat, and a quarter of the nation's electricity is made from it. Falling heating and electric costs are offsetting the impact of high gasoline prices and enabling families and small businesses to spend on other things. Residential gas and electric customers are saving roughly $200 a year, according to a study by Navigant Consulting.

■ For companies that make plastics, fertilizer and other chemicals derived from natural gas, the falling prices are nothing short of a windfall. The same goes for makers of products from steel to bricks to beer. All use a lot of natural gas to heat their furnaces. U.S. manufacturers are becoming more competitive globally as a result of the country's cheap natural gas, industry officials say.

Some industries aren't cheering, though.

With electricity prices falling, the profits of all electric power producers — whether they rely on coal, nuclear or wind — are shrinking.

Companies that drill solely for natural gas are earning less these days, too. That's prompting some to hunt instead for oil, whose price is near $100 a barrel.

Still, drillers aren't reducing natural gas production as much as they would have during previous periods of low prices. They've found ways to produce the fuel at much lower cost so they can be profitable at much lower prices. And, in many cases, natural gas is a byproduct of oil drilling, which is so profitable that companies are going after every barrel they can find.

Analysts say in some oil and gas fields, drillers could give the gas away and still be hugely profitable just from selling the oil.

The benefit of falling natural gas prices to homeowners is not as big as a major drop in oil and gasoline prices would provide. The average household's annual gasoline bill is about $4,000, roughly double the average annual gas and electric bill.

Also, the fuel cost is only half of a customer's bill. The rest is transmission and delivery charges, which don't change along with fuel prices. Homeowners are paying $10.18 per 1,000 cubic feet of gas on average, including transmission and delivery charges, according to the Energy Information Administration. Over a year, a customer will burn an average of 75,000 cubic feet, or about $760 worth.

The multi-year drop in natural gas prices caught most industry experts by surprise.

In the middle of the last decade, natural gas looked to be in short supply. Production in the U.S. was slowing, imports from Canada were rising and plans for importing liquefied natural gas from the Middle East and elsewhere were drawn up.

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DAILY PROMISE BROUGHT TO YOU BY
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James 5:19-20
My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

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Regards,

Scott Sheffield
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Pioneer Natural Resources

NEWSBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

ISLAMABAD

Court clashes with weakened government

The political crisis engulfing Pakistan deepened Monday when the nation's top court clashed with a beleaguered government already under attack from the powerful army — a combined assault that could bring down the U.S.-backed administration.

The Supreme Court launched contempt proceedings against Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani for failing to carry out its order to reopen a corruption case against President Asif Ali Zardari and demanded Gilani make a rare appearance before the judges Thursday. If the court convicts Gilani of contempt, he could serve up to six months in prison and be disqualified from holding office.

IVORY COAST

US seeks stronger democracies, partners in Africa

ABIDJAN — After an intense year of diplomacy sparked by revolution and repression across the Arab world, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is taking stock this week of an entirely separate democratic advance a half-continent away in West Africa.

The region's improvements in multiparty governance and the rule of law may have been overshadowed by the tumult of the Arab Spring. It made its own democratic gains in the past two years, even if the progress came in fits and starts, and often on the back of political violence. In Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf won a second term in an election that likely would have been declared free and fair, only to be marred when the opposition leader called for a boycott, forcing Sirleaf to run unopposed.

Here in Ivory Coast, the country successfully held its first transparent election in a decade, but the winner of the polling had to enlist the help of a rebel army in order to force the former president from power, after he refused to accept defeat.

Guinea also returned to democracy after five decades of strongman rule, and encouraging progress was made in Niger, where a military junta handed over power to a democratically elected government.

DENVER

Immigration courtrooms silent during ICE review

In a trial of a politically divisive program, U.S. prosecutors in Denver and Baltimore are reviewing thousands of deportation cases to determine which illegal immigrants might stay in the country — perhaps indefinitely — so officials can reduce an overwhelming backlog by focusing mainly on detainees with criminal backgrounds or who are deemed threats to national security.

Federal deportation hearings for non-criminal defendants released from custody were suspended Dec. 5 for the review and resume this week. Similar reviews are planned across the country to allow U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to target deportations of illegal immigrants with criminal records or those who have been deported previously.

While the immigration courtrooms in Denver have fallen silent, prosecutors had time to examine case files, check residency history — such as whether someone was brought to the country as a child — as well as criminal history.

Officials have not released information on how many cases will be placed on low priority based on the review. When they're finished, cases of those here illegally but deemed not a threat to public safety or national security will be placed on administrative hold and the numbers will be released.

WISCONSIN

Democrats still searching for Walker opponent

MADISON — Supporters of a push to oust Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker from office are prepared to declare victory in their effort to force the Republican into a recall election. But a problem looms for Democrats: They still don't know who would run against him.

Recall organizers say they have gathered far more than the 540,208 signatures required to force the election against both Walker and GOP Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch, and will submit their petitions Tuesday.

Walker has meanwhile dominated the state's airwaves with ads defending his agenda, including the law enacted last year that ended nearly all collective bargaining rights for most public workers and spurred the recall effort in the first place.

INDIA

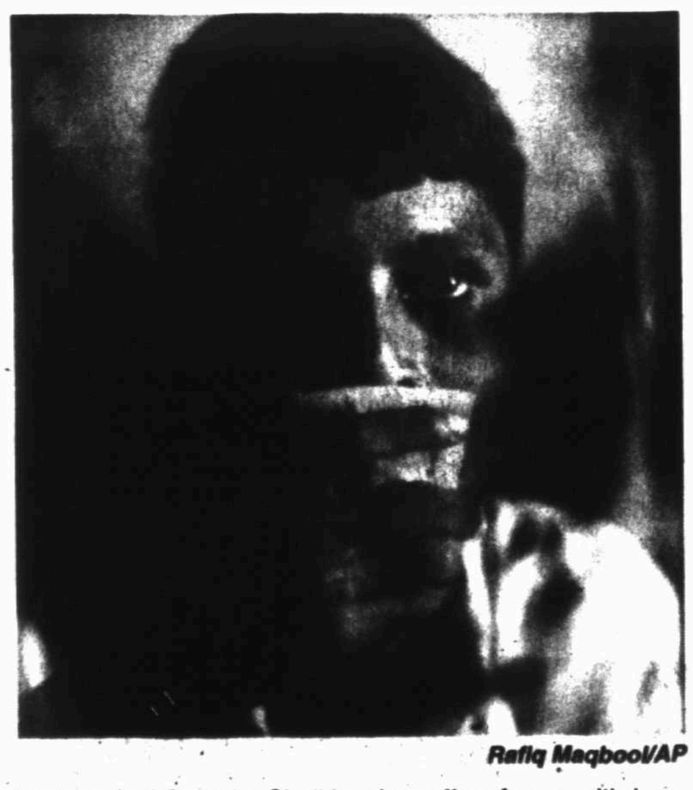
Doctors say new TB strain resistant to all drugs

Indian doctors have reported the country's first cases of "totally drug-resistant tuberculosis," a long-feared and virtually untreatable form of the killer lung disease.

It's not the first time highly resistant cases like this have been seen. Since 2003, patients have been documented in Italy and Iran. It has mostly been limited to impoverished areas and has not spread widely. But experts believe there could be many undocumented cases.

No one expects the Indian TB strains to rapidly spread elsewhere. The airborne disease is mainly transmitted through close personal contact and isn't nearly as contagious as the flu. Indeed, most of the cases of this kind of TB were not from person-to-person infection but were mutations that occurred in poorly treated patients.

What's more, there's a debate within the public health community about whether to even label TB infections as totally drug resistant. The World Health Organization hasn't accepted the term and still considers the cases to be what's now called extensively drug-resistant TB, or XDR.



Rafiq Maqbool/AP

Mohammed Shamim Sheikh, who suffers from multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis, is seen through an X-ray of his chest Monday as he listens to a social worker at his home in a slum on the outskirts of Mumbai, India. Indian doctors have reported the country's first cases of "totally drug-resistant tuberculosis," a long-feared and virtually untreatable form of the killer lung disease.



Gregorio Borgia/AP

Oil removal ships are shown near the cruise ship Costa Concordia leaning on its side Monday after running aground near the tiny Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy, Friday night. The rescue operation was called off mid-afternoon Monday after the Costa Concordia shifted a few inches in rough seas. The fear is that if the ship shifts significantly, some 500,000 gallons of fuel may begin to leak into the pristine waters.

Italian cruise disaster

Number of passengers and crew missing raised to 29

By Nicole Winfield and Frances D'Emilio
Associated Press

ROME — Italy's cruise liner tragedy turned into an environmental crisis Monday, as rough seas battering the stricken mega-ship raised fears that fuel might leak into pristine waters off Tuscany that are part of a protected sanctuary for dolphins, porpoises and whales.

The ship's Italian operator accused the jailed captain of causing the wreck that left at least six dead and 29 missing, saying he made an "unapproved, unauthorized maneuver" to divert the vessel from its programmed course.

Earlier, authorities had said 16 people were missing. But an Italian Coast Guard official, Marco Brusco, said late Monday that 25 passengers and four crew members were unaccounted for three days after the Costa Concordia struck a reef and capsized off the coast of the tiny island of Giglio.

He didn't explain the jump but indicated 10 of the missing are Germans. Two Americans also are among the missing.

Brusco said there was still "a glimmer of hope" there could be survivors on parts of the vast cruise liner that have yet to be searched. The lastest survivor, a crewman who had broken his leg, was rescued Sunday.

Waters that had remained calm for the first days of the rescue turned choppy Monday, shifting the wreckage and raising fears that any further movement could cause some of the 500,000 gallons of fuel on board to leak into the waters off Giglio, which are popular with scuba divers and form part of the protected Tuscan archipelago. Rescue operations were suspended for several hours because of the rough seas.

Italy's environmental minister raised the alarm about a potential environmental catastrophe. "At the moment there haven't been any fuel leaks, but we have to intervene quickly," the minister, Corrado Clini, told RAI state radio.

Even before the accident there had been mounting calls from environmentalists to restrict passage of large ships in the area.

The ship's operator, Costa Crociere SpA, has enlisted one of the world's leading salvagers, Smit of Rotterdam, Netherlands, to handle the removal of the 1,000-foot cruise liner and extract the fuel safely. Smit has a long track record of dealing with wrecks and leaks, including refloating grounded bulk carriers and securing drilling platforms in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Meanwhile, the Italian cruise operator said Capt. Francesco Schettino intentionally strayed from the ship's authorized course into waters too close to the perilous reef, causing it to crash late Friday and capsize.

The navigational version of a "fly by" was apparently made as a favor to the chief waiter, who is from Giglio and whose parents live on the island, local media reported.

A judge on Tuesday is to decide whether Schettino should remain jailed.

"We are struck by the unscrupulousness of the reckless maneuver that the commander of the Costa Concordia made near the island of Giglio," prosecutor Francesco Verusio told reporters. "It was inexcusable."

The head of the U.N. agency on maritime safety said lessons must be learned from the Concordia disaster 100 years after the Titanic rammed into an iceberg, leading to the first international convention on sea safety.

"We should seriously consider the lessons to be learned and, if necessary, re-examine the regulations on the safety of large passenger ships in the light of the findings of the casualty investigation," said Koji Sekimizu, secretary-general of the International Maritime Organization.

Miami-based Carnival Corp., which owns the Italian operator, estimated that preliminary losses from having the Concordia out of operation at least through 2012 would be between $85 million and $95 million, though it said there would be other costs, as well. The company's share price slumped more than 16 percent Monday.

Costa Crociere chairman and CEO Pier Luigi Foschi said the company would provide Schettino with legal assistance, but he disassociated Costa from his behavior, saying it broke all rules and regulations.

"Capt. Schettino took an initiative of his own will which is contrary to our written rules of conduct," Foschi said in his first public comments since the grounding.

At a news conference in Genoa, the company's home base, Foschi said that Costa ships' routes are programmed into their navigational systems, and alarms go off when they deviate. Those alarms are disabled if the ship's course is manually altered, he said.

"This route was put in correctly upon departure from Civitavecchia," Foschi said, referring to the port outside Rome. "The fact that it left from this course is due solely to a maneuver by the commander that was unapproved, unauthorized and unknown to Costa."

Foschi said only once before had the company approved a "fly by" of this sort off Giglio — last year on the night of Aug. 9-10. In that case, the port and company had approved it.

Residents, however, said such displays have occurred several times in the past, though always in the summer when the island is full of tourists.

Foschi didn't respond directly to prosecutors' and passengers' accusations that Schettino abandoned ship before all passengers had been evacuated, but he suggested his conduct wasn't as bad in the hours of the evacuation as has been portrayed. He didn't elaborate.

The Italian coast guard says Schettino defied their entreaties for him to return to his ship as the chaotic evacuation of the more than 4,200 people aboard was in full progress. After the ship's tilt put many life rafts out of service, helicopters had to pluck to safety dozens of people remaining aboard, hours after Schettino was seen leaving the vessel.

The captain has insisted in an interview before his jailing that he stayed with the vessel to the end.

Foschi defended the conduct of the crew, while acknowledging that passengers had described a chaotic evacuation where crew members consistently downplayed the seriousness of the situation as the ship lurched to the side.

"All our crew members behaved like heroes. All of them," he said.

He noted that 4,200 people managed to evacuate a listing ship at night within two hours. In addition, the ship's evacuation procedures had been reviewed last November by an outside firm and port authorities and no faults were found, he said.

Once on land, the survivors complained that Costa was stingy with assistance.

Blake Miller, who was on the ship to celebrate his partner's 50th birthday, said Costa representatives rebuffed his efforts to get reimbursement so he could buy a change of clothing.

"The Costa representative at our hotel told me, 'You might want to get a lawyer when you get back to the States,'" Miller told the Associated Press from his hotel in Rome, where he was staying at his own expense.

Only passengers who had paid for special insurance to cover lost belongings would receive compensation to buy replacements, he said they were told.

Costa Crociere didn't immediately respond to a phone message or an emailed request for a response.

Miller, of Austin, said survivors were taken to a hotel near Rome's airport and told Costa would pay for a single night's stay and their plane fare home only "if we pack up and leave the country" Sunday morning.

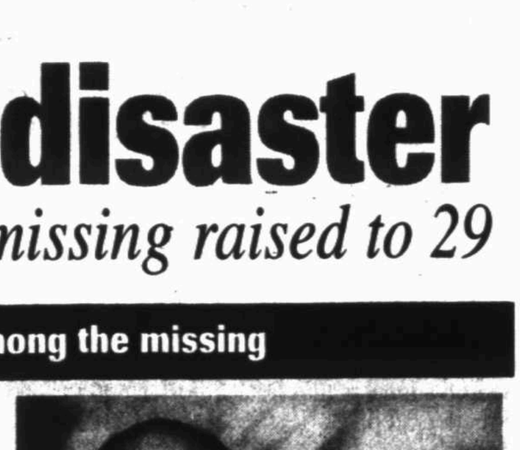
Miller, who is director of business travel for Intercontinental Hotels, said Costa representatives spoke to passengers about potential refunds or free cruise vouchers. But, in addition to the cost of the cruise, he said he had paid hundreds of dollars for excursions during port calls and other expenses.

Foschi, the Costa CEO, said he was certain "we'll be able to find a material solution that will make them happy."

Class action lawsuits are rare in Italy, but Italian consumer advocacy organization Codacons said more than 70 passengers had indicated that they wanted to join a class-action approach to winning compensation from Costa.

"Our aim is to make every passenger obtain an indemnity of at least ($12,500) for the material damage suffered and for moral damage, such as the terror suffered, ruined vacations and the grave risks that they ran," said Codacons president Carlo Rienzi.

Minn. couple among the missing



MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota couple missing after a cruise ship capsized off the west coast of Italy are devout Catholics who spend part of almost every day at church, where he teaches religious classes and she hands out baked goods and other sweet treats to parishioners.

Church members described the kindness and good deeds of Jerry and Barbara Heil on Monday as a search continued along the Italian coast. The Heils are among more than two dozen people still missing after the Costa Concordia hit a reef and ran aground near Tuscany on Friday night.

Six people have been confirmed dead, and prosecutors are investigating the ship's captain for manslaughter, abandoning ship and causing a shipwreck. The ship's owner said the captain, Francesco Schettino, caused the crash by deviating from the authorized course.

Diane Vorland, who is confined to a wheelchair, told the Associated Press that Jerry Heil, 69, came to her house every Thursday for the past three years to administer her communion and recite the rosary. The trip, she said, "was a big deal for them."

"On the Thursday before he left, he said, 'The next time you see me I'll have been to Rome,'" Vorland said.

Other members of Church of St. Pius X in White Bear Lake described the Heils as quiet, kind people deeply involved in the congregation. They joined the church in 1973, and their four children attended its elementary and middle school, said Larry Erickson, the parish administrator.

Texans take down chaps

MC shoots just 27 percent in loss to No. 3 South Plains College

By Oscar LeRoy
Sports Writer

There was no doubt in Chris Craig's mind that the better team on Monday night was No. 3-ranked South Plains College.

It seemed whenever Midland College made a run at South Plains, the Texans had an answer. It also didn't help that the Chaparrals shot just 27 percent from the floor, turned the ball over 21 times and allowed Marshall Henderson to pour in a game-high 22 points in a 70-54 victory by South Plains in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference opener at Chaparral Center.

"You know that's a really good team," said Craig, MC's first-year coach about the Texans. "At this point of the year, they are definitely better than us. And today they were certainly better than us. We've got a long way to go. I think our ceiling is high but we've got to start picking up the progress really quickly."

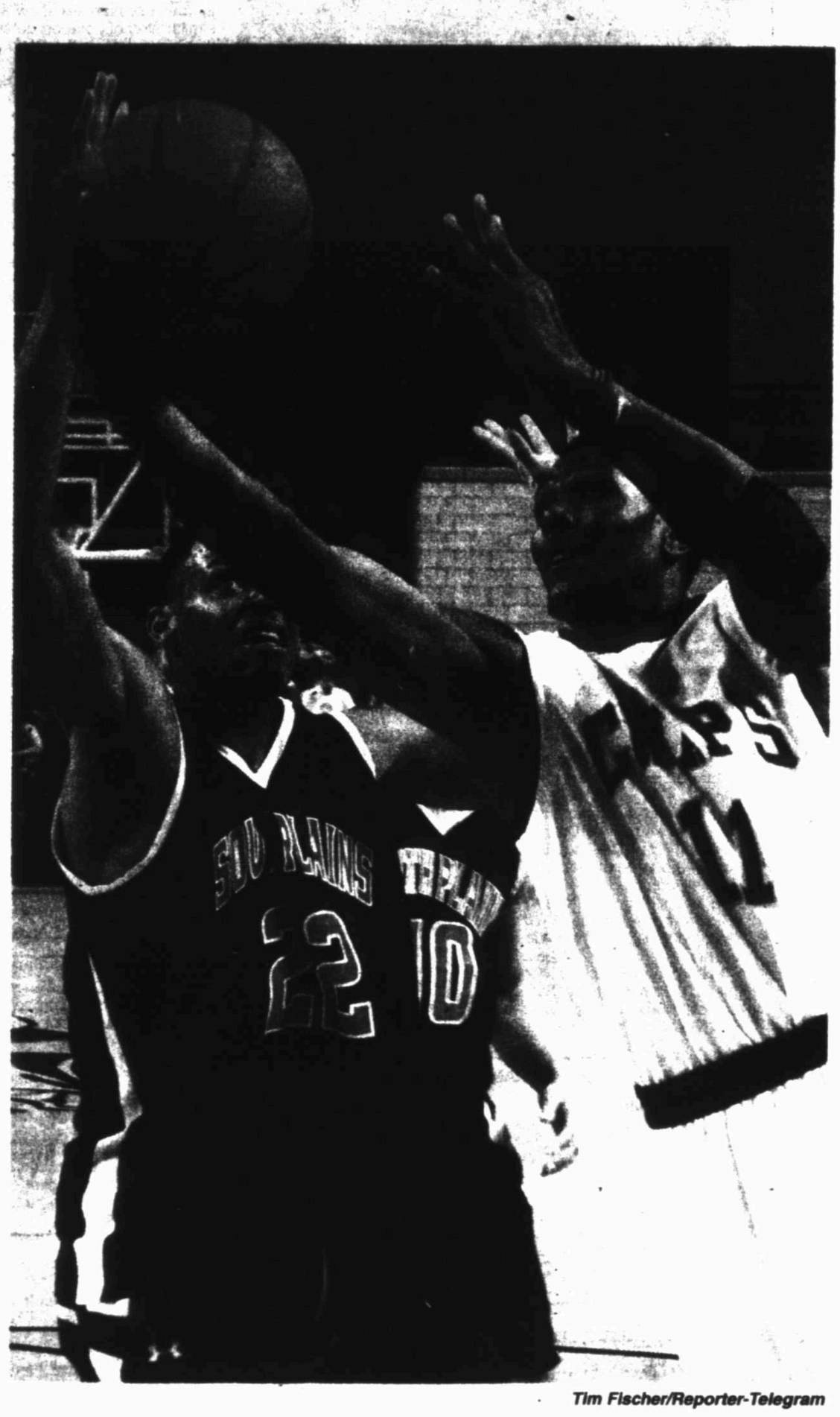
Texans	**70**
Chaps	54

The Chaps (12-3, 0-1) outrebounded the Texans 54-42 for the game, but at times, they seemed to be limited to just one shot on offensive possessions. South Plains (16-0, 1-0) outscored the Chaps 31-16 on second chance points.

"We look like we're still in Christmas break," Craig said. "It's certainly disappointing. It's our first conference home game. It's certainly not the way we started out. But as of right now, it's just one loss, and we've got to bounce back Thursday (at New Mexico Junior College)."

South Plains had a good start to the game as the Texans jumped out to a 12-4 lead behind the energetic and cocky Henderson, who

Please see **CHAPS/2C**



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Mike Taylor (11) tries to shoot as South Plains' Malcolm Miller (22) defends Monday night at Chaparral Center.

Lady Chaps open conference play with 18-point win

By Oscar LeRoy
Sports Writer

Midland College women's basketball coach Ron Jones lamented the fact that a much smaller South Plains College team equaled his team in rebounds on Monday night.

Jones' thinking was that if the Lady Chaparrals would have taken Achiri Ade's lead of attacking the glass, they probably would have had a larger margin of victory than the one they had against the Lady Texans in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference opener at Chaparral Center.

Ade had 12 points as she was one of three players in double figures, but also had a game-high 18 rebounds (10 on the defensive end) to lead Midland College to a 68-50 victory.

"The biggest thing for me is that I thought (the Lady Texans) went after the ball better than we did," said Jones, whose team tied SPC with 53 rebounds. "I thought we were kind of passive in that area. If we would have gotten 10 or 15 more rebounds, we would have gotten a little more separation.

Ade has a "knack for where the ball is at and does a good job of rebounding the basketball. Eighteen rebounds is really good," Jones added.

Lady Chaps	**68**
Lady Texans	50

Ade, a 6-foot-1 freshman forward from Baltimore, said her objective is to crash the boards as much as possible.

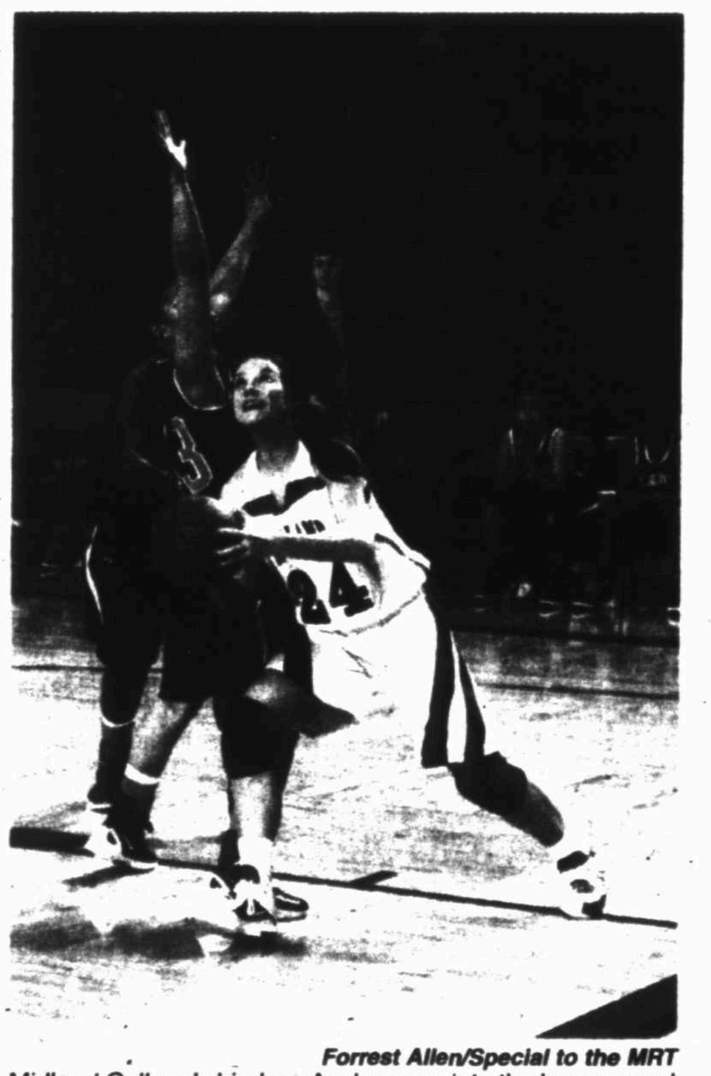
"I tell myself to get 10 rebounds, so my goal is to get more rebounds in every game," Ade said. "I know I can get more than I normally get. Defensively, I just tried to block out and prevent them from getting more rebounds and second shot opportunities."

Danesha Long added 13 points and Nety Sousa had 11 points for the Lady Chaparrals, who improved to 15-4 overall and 1-0 in the WJCAC.

The Lady Texans (3-13, 0-1) tried to overcome their size disadvantage by taking more shots from the outside but were just 5 of 24 from 3-point range and shot just 25 percent overall for the game.

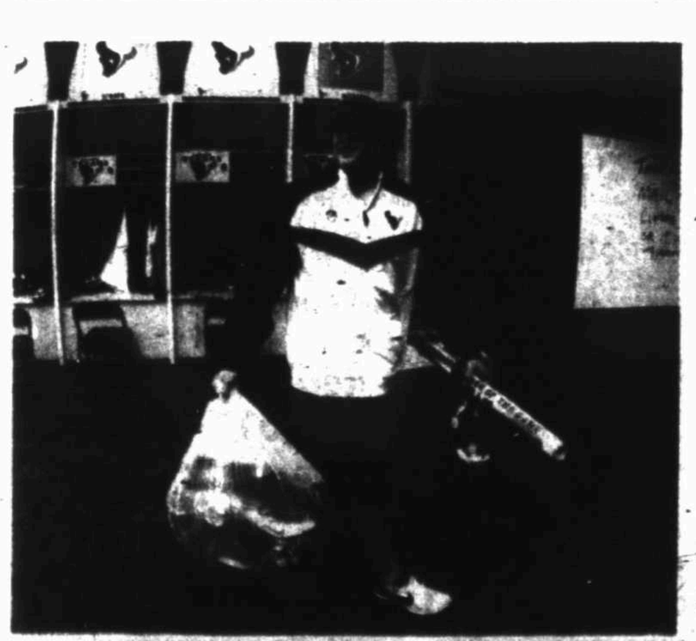
Ashley Roberts led the Lady Texans with a game-high 19 points and hit three of her team's 3-point-

Please see **LADY CHAPS/2C**



Forrest Allen/Special to the MRT

Midland College's Lindsay Ansley goes into the lane around two South Plains College defenders on Monday night at Chaparral Center.



David J. Phillip/AP

Houston Texans defensive end J.J. Watt carries his belongings after cleaning out his locker Monday in Houston. The Texans' season ended Sunday.

Texans lament playoff exit

By Chris Duncan
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Texans linebacker DeMeco Ryans dropped a cardboard box in front of his locker and started packing, while his mind was still on the team's missed opportunity in Baltimore.

Houston's historic season ended in a 20-13 loss to the Ravens on Sunday, a game that the Texans felt they should've won. Instead, Baltimore advanced to play New England in the AFC Championship, while the players in Houston were left reaching for positives after the sobering finish.

"It's come upon us too early," Ryans said. "You look back, it was a good season for us, but still, (we're) not satisfied with the way it ended. We expected more out of ourselves."

By most other measures, the season was an unprecedented breakthrough for a franchise much more accustomed to losing since entering the league in 2002.

The Texans won their first division title and first playoff game, and a midseason 7-game winning streak was the longest in team history. Running back Arian Foster earned a second straight Pro Bowl invitation and the defense, under first-year coordinator Wade Phillips, made one of the biggest turnarounds in NFL history, going from 30th overall (376.9 yards per game) in 2010 to second (285.7 yards per game) in 2011.

Most remarkably, Houston won a franchise-record 11 games despite major injuries to several

Please see **TEXANS/8C**



Orlin Wagner/AP

Kansas forward Thomas Robinson (0) shoots over Baylor forward Quincy Acy (4) during the first half Monday in Lawrence, Kan.

Kansas ends Baylor's bid for perfect season

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — T-Rob and Tyshawn gave Baylor more than it could handle — and Kansas more than enough.

Thomas Robinson had 27 points and 14 rebounds, Tyshawn Taylor matched a career-high with 28 points and the seventh-ranked Jayhawks rolled to a 92-74 victory Monday night, ending the third-ranked Bears' perfect start and proving once more that the road to the Big 12 title goes through Kansas.

Travis Releford and Elijah Johnson added 11 points each for the Jayhawks (15-3, 5-0), who won their 16th straight game at Allen Fieldhouse and 10th in a row at home over the Bears. Kansas is 17-2 against them all-time.

Jayhawks	**92**
Bears	74

A trendy pick to end the Jayhawks' seven-year stranglehold on the conference, Baylor (17-1, 4-1) had been riding the longest winning streak in school history to its best start ever.

It all came undone in one of college basketball's premier venues.

Perry Jones III scored 18 points, Quincy Miller had 17 and Quincy Acy added 14, but the long and lean Bears were dominated in the paint and had no answer for the combination of Robinson and Taylor, one of the best inside-outside tandems in the nation.

It was the first time an unbeaten team had come to Kansas during Big 12 play. The last time it happened with a current member was on Jan. 21, 1986, when Oklahoma came into the game 17-0.

Just like Baylor, the Sooners went home 17-1.

The outcome left No. 1 Syracuse and No. 12 Murray State as the only undefeated teams in Division I.

Robinson, who has cemented himself as a legitimate national player of the year candidate, overpowered the Baylor front line with an array of rim-rattling dunks and short-range jumpers. Meanwhile, Taylor hit four 3-pointers and doled out six assists in another stellar all-around performance.

Facing its fourth top-10 opponent of the season, the veteran Jayhawks swarmed the younger Bears with pressure from the opening tip, making life miserable on both ends of the court.

Robinson provided the early boost, scoring eight of his 12 first-half points in the opening 6-plus minutes. The run included a dazzling one-handed dunk off an alley-oop feed from Taylor that set Twitter ablaze and generated a roar inside Allen Fieldhouse that could be heard in Kansas City.

WHO'S OPEN?



Cindeka Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Sabrina Banks (40) looks to pass the ball as she's guarded by Abilene High's Lauren Williams during a Jan. 6 game at Chaparral Center. See today's HS basketball capsules on **Page 2C.**

HSBASKETBALLTODAY

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Girls

District 3-5A
ODESSA PERMIAN AT MIDLAND HIGH

When/where: 6 p.m. today, Chaparral Center

Records: Permian 15-7, 5-1 in District 3-5A; Midland High 14-13, 5-1

Last game: Permian 68, Abilene High 47; Abilene Cooper 36, Midland High 26

Last meeting: Midland High 53, Odessa Permian 42 on Dec. 6, 2011.

Notes & Quotes: Midland High saw its 23-game district winning streak come to an end Friday with a shocking 36-26 loss to Abilene Cooper. The Lady Bulldogs struggled shooting from the floor early in the game, then lost top scorer and team leader Krystal Valdez to an ankle injury early in the third period. Valdez returned in the fourth, but was slowed and MHS couldn't make up the deficit. ... The loss dropped Midland High into a first-place tie atop District 3-5A with Odessa Permian. The Lady Panthers have rattled off five straight district wins since their 53-42 loss to Midland High to open 3-5A play on Dec. 6, 2011, at Permian Fieldhouse. The game was tied 38-38 with 3:32 to play before Lady Dawgs freshman point guard Tana Driver sank a 3-pointer with 3:03 to play, putting MHS up for good. Permian led the game 21-17 at halftime. ... Valdez's availability against Permian is in question as she's been undergoing treatment for her ankle over the past few days. ... The winner of this game gets a leg up in the race for the district title and should win 3-5A, assuming the victor doesn't experience any hiccups through the rest of the regular season.

Next: Midland High at San Angelo Central, 6 p.m. Friday; Abilene Cooper at Odessa Permian, 6 p.m. Friday.

LEE AT ODESSA HIGH

When/where: 6 p.m. today, Odessa High Field House

Records: Lee 8-16, 2-4 in District 3-5A; Odessa High 11-14, 1-5

Last game: Abilene High 47, Lee 39; San Angelo Central 54, Odessa High 30

Last meeting: Odessa High 32, Lee 28 on Dec. 6, 2011

Notes & Quotes: After playing perhaps its best game of the season last Tuesday against San Angelo Central, Lee was unable to win a third straight District 3-5A game, falling to Abilene High, 47-39. The Lady Rebels managed to fight back from a 37-21 early fourth-period deficit to come within 43-39 with 24 seconds left in the game, but Abilene High hit key free throws down the stretch to secure the win. ... Odessa High lost its fifth straight District 3-5A game, 54-30, against San Angelo Central on Friday. The Lady Bronchos' lone district victory this season came in the opening week of 3-5A play when they knocked off Lee, 32-28, at Chaparral Center. ... The Lady Bronchos could find themselves in a must-win situation should they lose to Lee today. It would make them 1-5 in district play, leaving no more room for error if they want to secure the fourth playoff spot in the district. ... Lee needs a win to keep pace with Abilene Cooper, which sits fourth in 3-5A with a 3-4 district record. Cooper is off tonight, opening the door for Lee to make up the half game it trails the Lady Cougars by.

Next: Lee vs. Midland HIgh, 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, Chaparral Center; Odessa High at Abilene High, 6 p.m. Friday.

SAN ANGELO CENTRAL AT ABILENE HIGH

When/where: 6 p.m. today, Abilene High gym

Records: Central 12-10, 3-3 in District 3-5A; Abilene High 8-15, 2-4

Last game: Central 54, Odessa High 30; Abilene High 47, Lee 39

Last meeting: Central 59, Abilene High 45 on Dec. 6, 2011

Next: Midland High at San Angelo Central, 6 p.m. Friday; Odessa High at Abilene High, 6 p.m. Friday.

County capsules
GREENWOOD VS. NO. 7 BROWNWOOD

When/where: 5 p.m. today, Central High School gym, San Angelo

Records: Greenwood 12-14; Brownwood 19-6

Last game: Greenwood 55, Andrews 37; Brownwood 53, Big Spring 49

Notes & Quotes: Both Greenwood and Brownwood are taking a break from district play and meeting at a neutral site in San Angelo. ... Greenwood has won its last six games, including a pivotal District 4-3A victory against Andrews on Friday, 55-37. ... Brownwood is coming off a tight 53-49 win against a District 5-3A foe Friday. The Lady Lions have won three of their last four games with the lone loss coming against No. 1 Abilene Wylie. Brownwood led Wylie, 28-13, early in that game before losing, 48-41.

Next: Greenwood at Monahans, 6:30 p.m. Friday; Sweetwater at Brownwood, 6:30 p.m. Friday

NO. 12 MIDLAND CLASSICAL AT NO. 16 MIDLAND CHRISTIAN

When/where: 6:30 p.m. today, McGraw Special Events Center

Records: MCA 13-7; MCS 17-6

Last game: MCA 49, Crane 34; MCS 62, Arlington Grace Prep 38

Last meeting: MCS 39, MCA 34 on Nov. 29, 2011

Notes & Quotes: This is the second time Midland Classical and Midland Christian have played this season. In the first meeting on Nov. 29, 2011, Midland Classical cut a 35-22 deficit less than a minute into the second half to 36-33 with less than two minutes remaining in the game. Midland Christian held on for the 39-34 win. ... Midland Christian moved up nine spots in the latest TABC large private school girls basketball poll and is now ranked 16th. MCA debuted in the TABC small private school standings at No. 12.

Next: Amarillo San Jacinto at Midland Classical, 6:30 p.m. Friday; Arlington Pantego at Midland Christian, 1 p.m. Saturday

Boys

District 3-5A
ODESSA PERMIAN AT MIDLAND HIGH

When/where: 7:30 p.m. today, Chaparral Center

Records: Permian 16-4, 3-1 in District 3-5A; Midland High 4-18, 2-2

Last game: Permian 48, Abilene High 32; Abilene Cooper 47, Midland High 39

Notes & Quotes: This game had the potential to be for second-place in District 3-5A before Abilene Cooper snapped Midland High's two-game district winning streak to pick up its first district win in a 47-39 victory in Abilene. Inconsistency on offense has hurt the Bulldogs all season, and it crippled them again against Cooper as only four players scored for Midland High. Sophomore Mazelle Justice's 13 points was an encouraging sign, but the Bulldogs will need more than four players to score against high-powered Permian. Midland High's tight defense will be put to the test against Permian, which sports multiple weapons on offense. Freshman Robert Thomas mans the point, while 6-foot-6 wing Keouvion McCallop is able to score in the paint and even hit the occasional perimeter jumper. Permian will show a similar kind of zone on defense that slowed down the Bulldogs against Abilene High. T.J. Brown has proven capable of scoring in double figures against pretty much any opponent, but Midland High will need contributions from everyone if it hopes to hand Permian just its second district loss. The Bulldogs will be looking to end a two-game skid when they tip off against Permian tonight.

Next: Cooper at Permian, 7:30 p.m. Friday; Midland High at San Angelo Central, 7:30 p.m. Friday.

LEE AT ODESSA HIGH

When/where: 7:30 p.m. today, OHS Fieldhouse

Records: Lee 8-16, 3-2 in District 3-5A; Odessa High 10-12, 1-3

Last game: Lee 50, Abilene High 41; San Angelo Central 75, Odessa High 45

Notes & Quotes: Lee is coming off of a much-needed win at home against Abilene High that gave it a winning district record heading into the last game of the first half of district play. Coach Mark Coffman said that, despite disappointing home losses to Odessa Permian and San Angelo Central, he'd be happy if his team was able to come out of the first half of district play with a 4-2 record. Standing in Lee's way is an Odessa High team that's won just one district game and lost by 30 points to Central in its last game. But the Bronchos are at home, where they defeated Abilene Cooper for their only district win and held a fourth-quarter lead against Midland High before ultimately falling to the Bulldogs' rally. Guard Aaron McMaryion, the Bronchos' leading scorer, and forward Brian Brewster give Odessa High a nice inside-outside combo that must be accounted for. On offense, Lee will try to push the ball, which it didn't do against Abilene High despite Coffman saying the tempo was stressed in practice. The Rebels will again look for a strong performance from senior forward Jarrod Johnson, who turned in a double-double against Abilene High, scoring a game-high 21 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. Lee will look to duplicate a nearly perfect performance from the free throw line (20-25) as well.

Next: Midland High at Lee, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 24; Odessa High at Abilene High, 7:30 p.m. Friday.

SAN ANGELO CENTRAL AT ABILENE HIGH

When/where: 7:30 p.m. today, Abilene HS gym

Records: Central 22-4, 4-0 in District 3-5A; Abilene High 9-13, 1-3

Last game: Permian 48, Abilene High 32; Abilene Cooper 47, Midland High 39

Next: Cooper at Permian, 7:30 p.m. Friday; Midland High at San Angelo Central, 7:30 p.m. Friday.

MIDLAND CLASSICAL AT MIDLAND CHRISTIAN

When/where: 7:30 p.m. today, McGraw Special Events Center

Records: Midland Classical 10-8, Midland Christian 13-8

Last game: Midland Classical 52, Crane 43; Arlington Grace Prep 99, Midland Christian 41

Notes & Quotes: Both teams will be tuning up for a district game in this battle of in-town rivals. Midland Classical is coming off of a nine-point win against Crane in which John Stallings scored a game-high 21 points to lift the Knights to victory. Guard Rett Taylor reached double figures as well, adding 10 points. Taylor is part of an experienced backcourt that will be responsible for containing Midland Christian guard Devin Stricklin, who is a playmaker with the ball in his hands. Midland Christian is coming off of three straight losses by an average of 47 points and will be looking to get back in the win column before hosting district foe Arlington Pantego Christian on Saturday. The Mustangs' defense helped them get off to a 2-0 start in non-district before allowing 90 points to Lubbock Trinity and Arlington Grace Prep, two of the top three teams in the state, in two of their last three losses. They'll look to change that against Midland Classical, who is gearing up to host San Jacinto in a district game Friday.

Next: San Jacinto at Midland Classical, 7:30 p.m. Friday; Arlington Pantego Christian at Midland Christian, 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

Compiled by Jonathan Hull and Jordan Mason

3-5A Basketball

GIRLS

	District		Overall	
Team	W	L	W	L
Midland High	5	1	14	13
Odessa Permian	5	1	15	7
San Angelo Central	3	2	12	10
Abilene Cooper	3	4	11	13
Abilene High	2	4	9	15
Lee	2	4	8	16
Odessa High	1	5	11	14

Friday's Scores
Abilene Cooper 36, Midland High 26
Abilene High 47, Lee 39; San Angelo Central 54, Odessa High 30

Today's Games
Lee at Odessa High; Odessa Permian at Midland High; Chaparral Center; San Angelo Central at Abilene High; All games at 6 p.m.

BOYS

	District		Overall	
Team	W	L	W	L
San Angelo Central	6	0	23	4
Permian	3	1	16	4
Lee	3	2	8	16
Midland High	2	2	4	18
Odessa High	1	3	10	12
Abilene High	1	3	9	13
Abilene Cooper	1	4	7	12

Friday's Scores
Abilene Cooper 47, Midland High 39; Lee 50, Abilene High 41; San Angelo Central 75, Odessa High 45

Today's Games
Odessa Permian at Midland High; Lee at Odessa High; San Angelo Central at Abilene High; All games at 7:30 p.m.



Cindaia Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Tana Driver (5) goes for the ball after taking the ball away from Abilene High's Kinzee Reves (10) during a Jan. 6 game at Chaparral Center. Midland High hosts Odessa Permian in a key District 3-5A clash tonight.

CHAPS

From 1C

nailed two long-range 3-pointers.

But the Chaps fought back as they started hitting shots and getting stops to take a 19-16 lead.

But then the Texans found another switch, as Henderson — who shot 8 of 21 for the game — sparked a 15-2 run with a pair of 3s, which gave South Plains a 38-26 halftime advantage.

"You have to come out a long ways to guard us," SPC coach Steve Green said. "That opens up some stuff. I don't think we did a good job of converting inside, though."

The Chaps made another run at the start of the second half to close the gap to 38-32, but the Texans once again responded by making stops and forcing turnovers.

"They guarded us well," Craig said. "They did a good job of taking away reversals, they fought us in the post, they were tougher than us, and they outplayed us in every aspect of the game."

Added Green about his team's defense, "I'd like to think we played well, but I think they missed some shots and they got tired. I'd like to think we had something to do with it. I don't know if we did or not.

"Midland's got a good team. I'm not looking forward to the second go-round."

MC sophomore forward Majok Majok, who finished with nine points and 10 rebounds, said this was a learning experience for his team but hopes the Chaps can build on the positives.

"We've got to learn to take care of the ball, we've got to get stops and we have to make sure we capitalize on the turnovers," he said. "We just have to make sure we play hard overall."

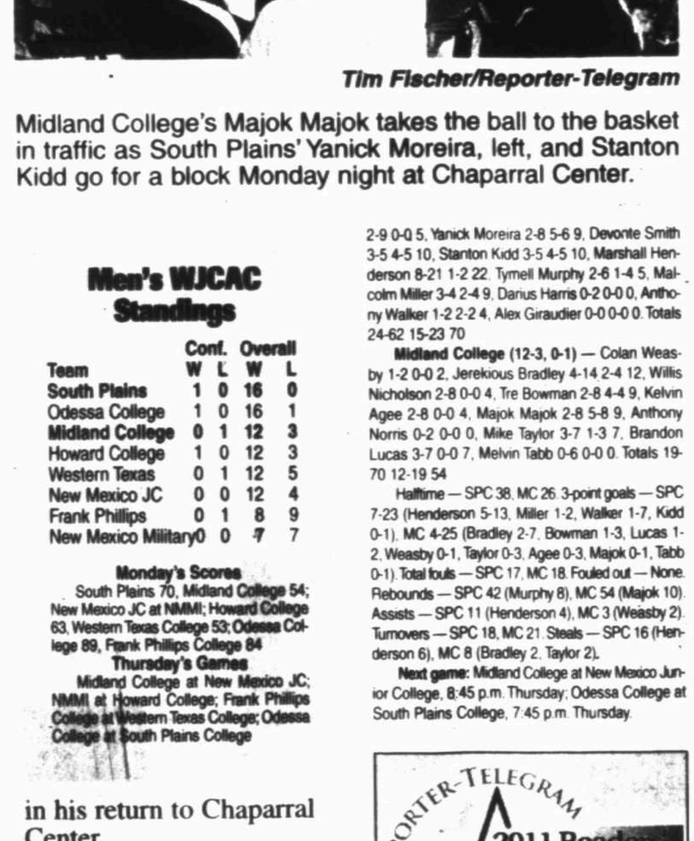
Jerekious Bradley added 12 points for the Chaps.

The Texans also had 10 points from Devonte Smith, while Lee grad and Texans sophomore guard Malcolm Miller added nine points off the bench in his return to Chaparral Center.

Green said the victory was key against one of teams he expects will be in the mix for a WJCAC championship this season.

"Midland is probably one of the top four teams in the league," Green said. "We're one game up on them now and I definitely think the championship is going to go through Midland, Howard, Odessa, us and New Mexico. If you can even win one of those games at their place, you put yourself in a little better position than where you started."

Oscar LeRoy can be reached at oleroy@mrt.com.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Majok Majok takes the ball to the basket in traffic as South Plains' Yanick Moreira, left, and Stanton Kidd go for a block Monday night at Chaparral Center.

Men's WJCAC Standings

Team	Conf. W	Conf. L	Overall W	Overall L
South Plains	1	0	16	0
Odessa College	1	0	16	1
Midland College	0	1	12	3
Howard College	1	0	12	3
Western Texas	0	1	12	5
New Mexico JC	0	0	12	4
Frank Phillips	0	1	8	9
New Mexico Military	0	0	7	7

Monday's Scores
South Plains 70, Midland College 54; New Mexico JC at NMMI; Howard College 63, Western Texas College 53; Odessa College 89, Frank Phillips College 84

Thursday's Games
Midland College at New Mexico JC; NMMI at Howard College; Frank Phillips College at Western Texas College; Odessa College at South Plains College

NO. 3 SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE 70, MIDLAND COLLEGE 54

South Plains (16-0, 1-0) — Deghaunt Walker 2-9 0-0 5, Yanick Moreira 2-8 5-6 9, Devonte Smith 3-5 4-5 10, Stanton Kidd 3-5 4-5 10, Marshall Henderson 8-21 1-2 22, Tyrrell Murphy 2-6 1-4 5, Malcolm Miller 3-4 2-4 9, Darius Harris 0-2 0-0 0, Anthony Walker 1-2 2-2 4, Alex Giraudier 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 24-62 15-23 70

Midland College (12-3, 0-1) — Colan Weasby 1-2 0-0 2, Jerekious Bradley 4-14 2-4 12, Willis Nicholson 2-8 0-0 4, Tre Bowman 2-8 4-4 9, Kelvin Agee 2-8 0-0 4, Majok Majok 2-8 5-8 9, Anthony Norris 0-2 0-0 0, Mike Taylor 3-7 1-3 7, Brandon Lucas 3-7 0-0 7, Melvin Tabb 0-6 0-0 0. Totals 19-70 12-19 54

Halftime — SPC 38, MC 26. 3-point goals — SPC 7-23 (Henderson 5-13, Miller 1-2, Walker 1-7, Kidd 0-1), MC 4-25 (Bradley 2-7, Bowman 1-3, Lucas 1-2, Weasby 0-1, Taylor 0-3, Agee 0-3, Majok 0-1, Tabb 0-1). Total fouls — SPC 17, MC 18. Fouled out — None. Rebounds — SPC 42 (Murphy 8), MC 54 (Majok 10). Assists — SPC 11 (Henderson 4), MC 3 (Weasby 2). Turnovers — SPC 18, MC 21. Steals — SPC 16 (Henderson 6), MC 8 (Bradley 2, Taylor 2).

Next game: Midland College at New Mexico Junior College, 8:45 p.m. Thursday; Odessa College at South Plains College, 7:45 p.m. Thursday.

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM 2011 Reader's Choice Awards SILVER
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LADY CHAPS

From 1C

ers.

"They don't have a post presence, so they use a lot of screens to get their shooters open," Jones said. "You saw Roberts hit a couple late, but she's a dangerous shooter. I've seen her hit five or six in a game. We relaxed a few times, but it's a starting place."

Still, the Lady Texans stayed with MC in the first half as the Lady Chaps only took a 31-23 advantage into the locker room.

Midland College, which shot 39.5 percent for the game, came out stronger to begin the second half as an 18-4 run helped the Lady Chaps build the lead to as much as 68-40.

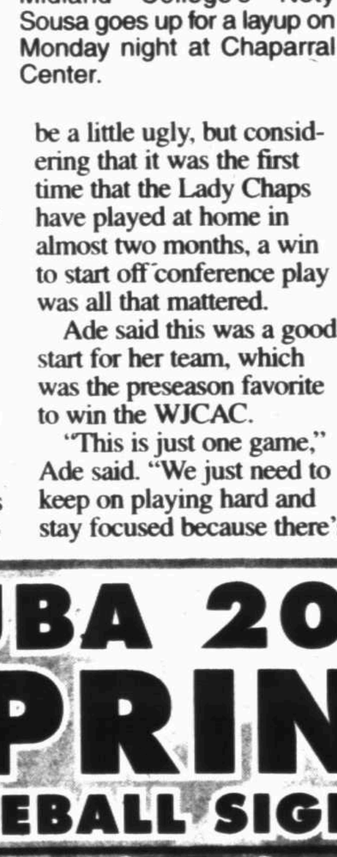
"At least for a little while we weren't giving up as many second shots," Jones said. "We got to where we could run, and when we got that going we were able to get some layups in transition. I think it was there the whole game but too many times (South Plains) would rebound the ball and get second and third opportunities."

Jones said he told the team that he usually expects the first conference game to be a little ugly, but considering that it was the first time that the Lady Chaps have played at home in almost two months, a win to start off conference play was all that mattered.

Ade said this was a good start for her team, which was the preseason favorite to win the WJCAC.

"This is just one game," Ade said. "We just need to keep on playing hard and stay focused because there's a lot more that we can do."

Oscar LeRoy can be reached at oleroy@mrt.com.



Forest Allen/Special to the MRT

Midland College's Nety Sousa goes up for a layup on Monday night at Chaparral Center.

Women's WJCAC Standings

Team	Conf. W	Conf. L	Overall W	Overall L
Midland College	1	0	15	4
Howard College	1	0	13	4
Odessa College	1	0	12	5
New Mexico JC	0	0	15	2
Western Texas	0	1	11	7
Frank Phillips	0	1	5	9
South Plains	0	1	3	13

Monday's Scores
Midland College 68, South Plains 50; Howard College 46, Western Texas College 39; Odessa College 82, Frank Phillips College 51; New Mexico JC was open

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

MIDLAND COLLEGE 68, SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE 50

South Plains (3-13, 0-1) — Ashley Roberts 7-21 2-4 19, Avril Matthews 0-3 0-0 0, Reely Pineda 5-16 0-0 12, Jazzmin Hill 1-3 1-2 3, Kayla Turner 1-9 0-0 2, Shea Myatt 2-16 0-0 4, Sydney Hearn 0-4 4-4 4, Stephanie Moore 3-4 0-0 6. Totals 19-76 7-10 50.

Midland College (15-4, 1-0) — Bernadette Sanchez 1-4 0-0 2, Darnetta Jackson 4-9 0-0 9, Anfisa Shulha 0-1 0-0 0, Cumeisha Woods 0-4 0-0 0, Alexis Kelley 1-5 3-4 5, Lindsay Ansley 3-7 0-0 6, Shola Adebayo 2-4 0-0 4, Morgan Schwartz 1-2 0-0 2, Danesha Long 5-11 2-2 13, Ornela Bacchini 2-5 0-0 4, Achol Ade 6-13 0-1 12, Nety Sousa 5-10 1-2 11. Totals 30-76 6-9 68.

Halftime — MC 31. SPC 23. 3-point goals — SPC 5-24 (Roberts 3-8, Parada 2-5, Turner 0-5, Myatt 0-5, Matthews 0-1), MC 2-10 (Long 1-2, Jackson 1-3, Sanchez 0-2, Shulha 0-1, Kelley 0-1, Adebayo 0-1). Total fouls — SPC 11, MC 11. Fouled out — None. Rebounds — SPC 53 (Hill 14), MC 53 (Ade 18). Assists — SPC 5 (Roberts 2), MC 8 (Sanchez 4). Turnovers — SPC 16, MC 14. Steals — SPC 7 (Myatt 2, Hill 2), MC 7 (Jackson 2).

Next game: Midland College at New Mexico Junior College, 6:45 p.m. Thursday; Odessa College at South Plains College, 5:45 p.m. Thursday.

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NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Rangers	43	28	11	4	60	122	90
Philadelphia	43	26	13	4	56	130	128
New Jersey	44	25	17	2	52	121	125
Pittsburgh	44	23	17	4	50	134	116
N.Y. Islanders	43	18	21	4	40	103	134

Northeast Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	42	29	12	1	59	153	83
Ottawa	47	25	16	6	56	148	148
Toronto	44	22	17	5	49	137	137
Buffalo	45	19	21	5	43	112	134
Montreal	45	17	20	8	42	116	123

Southeast Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	44	21	16	7	49	111	123
Washington	43	24	17	2	50	125	124
Winnipeg	45	21	19	5	47	115	128
Carolina	47	16	24	7	39	123	154
Tampa Bay	44	17	23	4	38	121	156

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	45	27	12	6	60	116	94
Chicago	46	27	13	6	60	150	133
Detroit	45	29	15	1	59	146	103
Nashville	45	26	16	4	56	125	120
Columbus	44	22	17	5	29	106	147

Northwest Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	46	28	15	3	59	149	114
Minnesota	45	22	16	7	51	105	113
Colorado	47	24	21	2	50	134	134
Calgary	46	21	20	5	47	111	131
Edmonton	44	17	23	4	38	114	127

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	42	25	12	5	55	123	99
Los Angeles	46	22	15	9	53	102	103
Dallas	44	24	17	3	51	120	126
Phoenix	46	21	18	7	49	120	119
Anaheim	44	15	22	7	37	113	138

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

Monday's Scores

Boston 3, Florida 2, SO
Nashville 3, N.Y. Islanders 1
Phoenix 6, Colorado 1
Winnipeg 2, Ottawa 0
Detroit 5, Buffalo 0
St. Louis 1, Dallas 0
Today's Games
Ottawa at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Winnipeg at New Jersey, 6 p.m.
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Carolina at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Washington, 6 p.m.
Edmonton at Columbus, 6 p.m.
Nashville at Chicago, 6:30 p.m.
Boston at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m.
Detroit at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
Calgary at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY'S BOXES

BLUES 1, STARS 0

Dallas	0	0	0 — 0
St. Louis	0	0	1 — 1

First Period—None.
Second Period—None.
Third Period—1, St Louis, Oshie 14 (Perron, Pietrangelo), 11:26.
Shots on Goal—Dallas 8-8-6—22. St Louis 7-11-14—32.
Goalies—Dallas, Lehtonen. St. Louis, Halak A—18,036 (19,150) T—2:30.

PREDATORS 3, ISLANDERS 1

Nashville	1	2	0 — 3
N.Y. Islanders	0	0	1 — 1

First Period—1, Nashville, Kostitsyn 11 (Ellis) 2:17. 2, Nashville, Halischuk 10, 5:34. 3, Nashville, Legwand 13 (Erat, C.Wilson), 11:37.
Second Period—None.
Third Period—4, N.Y.Islanders, Tavares 16 (Moulson, Okposo), 16:02.
Shots on Goal—Nashville 12-10-10—32. N.Y. Islanders 6-19-12—37.
Goalies—Nashville, Rinne. N.Y. Islanders, Poulin A—10,755 (16,234) T—2:20.

COYOTES 6, AVALANCHE 1

Colorado	1	0	0 — 1
Phoenix	2	2	2 — 6

First Period—1, Phoenix, Brule 1 (Yandle, Pyatt), 7:18 (pp). 2, Colorado, Kobasew 6 (Johnson, McDermott), 9:36. 3, Phoenix, Doan 13 (Yandle), 18:32.
Second Period—4, Phoenix, Doan 14 (Summers, Whitney), 10:54. 5, Phoenix, Gordon 4 (Whitney, Mueller), 16:37.
Third Period—6, Phoenix, Gordon 5 (Yandle, Summers), 5:31. 7, Phoenix, Klesla 2 (Brule, Chipchura), 15:54.
Shots on Goal—Colorado 14-14-11—39. Phoenix 11-13-9—33.
Goalies—Colorado, Varlamov. Phoenix, Smith. A—12,757 (17,135) T—2:16.

JETS 2, SENATORS 0

Winnipeg	1	1	0 — 2
Ottawa	0	0	0 — 0

First Period—1, Winnipeg, Slater 8 (Thorburn), :49.
Second Period—2, Winnipeg, Enstrom 2 (Wellwood, Ladd), 6:48.
Third Period—None.
Shots on Goal—Winnipeg 13-12-10—35. Ottawa 3-8-14—25.
Goalies—Winnipeg, Mason. Ottawa, Anderson A—19,927 (19,153) T—2:28.

BRUINS 3, PANTHERS 2

Boston	1	1	0	0 — 3
Florida	0	2	0	0 — 2

BOSTON WON SHOOTOUT 2-1

First Period—1, Boston, Bergeron 13 (Pouliot, Seguin), 1:20.
Second Period—2, Florida, Jagr 22 (Weaver, Bradley), 8:28. 3, Boston, Bergeron 14 (Seguin), 14:40 (pp). 4, Florida, Matthias 8 (Kopecky, Weiss), 15:54.
Third Period—None.
Overtime—None.
Shootout—Boston 2 (Pouliot NG, Seguin NG, Bergeron G, Krejci G), Florida 1 (Goc NG, Kulikov NG, Weiss G, Samuelsson NG).
Shots on Goal—Boston 6-15-12-2—35. Florida 12-12-11-5—40.
Goalies—Boston, Rask. Florida, Clemmensen. A—19,018 (17,040) T—2:36.

RED WINGS 5, SABRES 0

Buffalo	0	0	0	— 0
Detroit	3	2	0	— 5

First Period—1, Detroit, Zetterberg 9 (Huder), 5:20. 2, Detroit, Franzen 18 (Datsyuk, Bertuzzi), 18:11. 3, Detroit, Lidstrom 9 (Bertuzzi, Datsyuk), 19:43.
Second Period—4, Detroit, Bertuzzi 9 (Datsyuk), 4:19. 5, Detroit, Helm 5 (D.Miller, Cleary), 4:32.
Third Period—None.
Shots on Goal—Buffalo 11-7-9—27. Detroit 11-8-7—26.
Goalies—Buffalo, R.Miller, Enroth. Detroit, Howard A—20,066 (20,066) T—2:23.

NBA DL

East Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Iowa	14	5	.737	—
Canton	10	10	.500	4 1/2
Springfield	10	10	.500	4 1/2
Dakota	8	10	.444	5 1/2
Erie	9	12	.429	6
Fort Wayne	8	12	.400	6 1/2
Maine	7	14	.333	8
Sioux Falls	6	15	.286	9

West Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Austin	15	4	.789	—
Los Angeles	16	7	.696	1
Rio Grande Valley	12	9	.571	4
Bakersfield	11	9	.550	4 1/2
Reno	10	11	.524	5
Tulsa	10	11	.476	6
Idaho	8	12	.400	7 1/2
Texas	8	13	.381	8

Monday's Score

Canton 110, Tulsa 103, OT

Today's Games

Dakota at Fort Wayne, 6 p.m.
Rio Grande Valley at Sioux Falls, 7 p.m.

Boxing

Saturday

At Philadelphia (NBCSP), Eddie Chambers vs. Sergey Liakhovich, 10, heavyweights; Gabriel Rosado vs. Jesus Soto-Karass, 10, junior middleweights.

At Guadalajara, Mexico, Miguel Vazquez vs. Amaitis Diaz, 12, for Vazquez's IBF lightweight title.

Jan. 27

At Northern Quest Casino, Airway Heights, Wash. (ESPN), Ruslan Provodnikov vs. David Torres, 10, junior welterweights; Ji-Hoon Kim vs. Alisher Rahimov, 10, lightweights.

Jan. 28

At Turning Stone, Verona, N.Y., Brian Minto vs. Tony Grano, 10, NABF heavyweight title eliminator.

At Springfield, Mo., Cory Spinks vs. Sechew Powell, 12, IBF junior middleweight title eliminator.

Feb. 3

At Las Vegas (ESPN2), Yordenis Ugas vs. Edison Miranda, 10, light heavyweights.

Feb. 4

At Frankfurt, Germany, Yoan Pablo Hernandez vs. Steve Cunningham, 12, for Hernandez's IBF cruiserweight title; Enad Licina vs. Alexander Alexeev, 12, for the vacant European junior welterweight title; Eduard Gutknecht vs. Vyacheslav Uzelkov, 12, for Gutknecht's European light heavyweight title.

At San Antonio (HBO), Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. vs. Marco Antonio Rubio, 12, for Chavez's WBC middleweight title; Nonito Donaire vs. Wilfredo Vazquez Jr., 12, for the vacant WBO junior featherweight title.

Feb. 10

At Uncasville, Conn. (ESPN2), Demetrius Andrade vs. Derek Ennis, 12, IBF junior middleweight eliminator.

NBA

Memphis	28	30	19	25 — 102
Houston	29	28	22	23 — 102

3-Point Goals—Chicago 1-12 (Lucas 1-3, Bresler 0-1, Scalabrine 0-1, Watson 0-2, Deng 0-2, Korver 0-3), Memphis 3-10 (Conley 1-2, Gay 1-2, Selby 1-3, Davis 0-1, Mayo 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 42 (Boozer 7), Memphis 53 (Speights 12). Assists—Chicago 12 (Watson, Deng 3), Memphis 23 (Conley 8). Total Fouls—Chicago 14, Memphis 19. A—18,119 (18,119).

MAGIC 102, KNICKS 93

ORLANDO (102):	Turkoglu 5-9 1-2 15, Anderson 11-19 1-1 30, Howard 3-6 2-8 8, Nelson 3-10 1-2 8, Redick 8-12 2-2 21, G.Davis 3-8 6-6 12, Q.Richardson 2-4 0-0 5, Ratliffe 1-3 0-0 3, Walker 0-4 0-0 0, Clark 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-71 13-22 102.			
NEW YORK (93):	Anthony 9-27 14-16 33, Stoudemire 5-7 2-2 10, Chandler 2-4 0-0 4, Shumpert 4-7 2-2 10, Fields 2-3 2-2 6, Harrellson 3-5 0-1 8, Walker 0-1 0-0 0, Douglas 4-12 1-4 12, Jeffries 2-3 2-4 6, Bibby 1-2 0-0 2. Total 30-73 28-33 93.			
Orlando	17	28	30	29 — 102
New York	23	22	28	20 — 93

3-Point Goals—Orlando 12-35 (Anderson 7-13, Turkoglu 4-7, Redick 3-6, Duhon 1-1, Q.Richardson 1-3, Nelson 1-5), New York 5-20 (Harrellson 2-3, Shumpert 2-4, Anthony 1-8, Bibby 0-1, Walker 0-1, Douglas 0-3). Fouled Out—Howard. Rebounds—Orlando 50 (Howard 10), New York 42 (Anthony, Chandler 8). Assists—Orlando 21 (Nelson 7), New York 14 (Anthony 5). Total Fouls—Orlando 27, New York 23. Technicals—Howard, Orlando defensive three second. A—19,763 (19,763).

76ERS 94, BUCKS 82

MILWAUKEE (82):	Jackson 3-12 2-2 9, Leuer 5-8 0-0 11, Bogut 10-18 0-1 20, Jennings 3-11 1-2 7, Delfino 3-8 0-0 7, Harris 5-8 2-4 12, Udrih 3-4 4-4 10, Ilyasova 2-3 0-1 4, Livingston 0-0 0-0 0, Goodwin 1-3 0-2, Brockman 0-0 0-0 0, Hobson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-75 9-14 82.			
PHILADELPHIA (94):	Iguodala 9-14 0-0 21, Brand 2-8 2-2 6, Hawes 4-8 1-4 11, Holiday 6-17 0-0 14, Meeks 2-8 4-4 9, Williams 5-17 2-2 17, Battie 1-3 0-0 2, Young 1-8 0-0 2, Nocioni 1-1 0-1 2. Totals 37-84 9-13 94.			
Milwaukee	25	15	19	20 — 82
Philadelphia	31	16	29	18 — 94

3-Point Goals—Milwaukee 3-14 (Leuer 1-1, Delfino 1-4, Jackson 1-5, Bogut 0-1, Jennings 0-3), Philadelphia 11-23 (Iguodala 3-5, Williams 3-5, Hawes 2-3, Holiday 2-4, Meeks 1-6). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Milwaukee 50 (Bogut 11), Philadelphia 46 (Hawes 10). Assists—Milwaukee 16 (Jackson, Bogut 4), Philadelphia 22 (Williams 6). Total Fouls—Milwaukee 15, Philadelphia 15. Technicals—Jackson. A—17,281 (20,318).

ROCKETS 114, WIZARDS 106

HOUSTON (114):	Parsons 4-7 0-0 8, Scola 8-15 2-2 18, Dalembert 9-11 2-2 20, Lowry 3-14 6-6 15, Martin 7-16 10-10 25, Delfino 2-4 0-0 5, Budinger 2-5 4-4 9, Patterson 2-5 0-0 4, Hill 3-8 0-0 6, Budinger 3-6 1-2 8. Totals 42-87 25-26 114.			
WASHINGTON (106):	Singleton 3-6 0-0 6, Booker 1-6 1-2 3, McGee 4-7 0-0 8, Nene 3-13 2-2 8, Jordan 5-13 5-5 13, Blatche 4-8 3-4 11, Crawford 7-12 2-2 17, Mason 0-2 1-1 1, Vesely 3-4 1-2 7, Mack 1-1 0-0 2. Evans 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 39-80 25-32 106.			
Houston	31	33	23	— 114
Washington	28	26	21	31 — 106

3-Point Goals—Houston 5-16 (Lowry 2-5, Dragic 1-2, Budinger 1-3, Martin 1-5, Parsons 0-1), Washington 3-11 (Young 2-5, Crawford 1-2, Singleton 0-2, Mason 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Houston 46 (Parsons 8), Washington 48 (Blatche 12). Assists—Houston 24 (Martin 8), Washington 16 (Nene 6). Total Fouls—Houston 21, Washington 22. Technicals—Lowry, Houston defensive three second, Blatche, Wall. A—15,594 (20,278).

CAVALIERS 102, BOBCATS 94

CLEVELAND (102):	Casspi 4-9 6-7 14, Jamison 3-8 0-0 7, Varejao 7-14 0-0 14, Irving 9-16 6-8 25, Parker 0-1 0-0 0, Sessions 1-2 2-2 4, Gibson 3-6 2-2, Eaton 2-4 1-2 5, T.Thompson 4-8 0-3 8, Gee 3-4 3-4 10. Totals 39-80 20-29 102.			
CHARLOTTE (94):	Henderson 6-11 5-9 17, Thomas 0-3 1-2 1, Mullens 3-11 2-4 9, Augustin 9-17 4-5 24, Walker 6-21 1-2 14, White 7-9 1-2 15, Diaw 2-4 0-0 4, Higgins 1-6 0-2 2, Carter-Williams 0-2 0-0 0, Kidd-Gilchrist 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 34-84 14-29 94.			
Cleveland	30	16	33	23 — 102
Charlotte	23	34	20	17 — 94

3-Point Goals—Cleveland 4-15 (Jamison 2-6, Irving 1-1, Gee 1-2, Casspi 0-2, Gibson 0-4), Charlotte 4-17 (Augustin 2-7, Mullens 1-3, Walker 1-4, Diaw 0-1, White 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Cleveland 55 (Varejao 12), Charlotte 55 (Mullens 12). Assists—Cleveland 27 (Sessions 9), Charlotte 20 (Augustin 8). Total Fouls—Cleveland 23, Charlotte 23. Technicals—Cleveland defensive three second. A—14,986 (19,077).

TRAIL BLAZERS 84, HORNETS 77

PORTLAND (84):	Wallace 5-11 3-6 14, Aldridge 10-17 2-2 22, Thomas 4-5 0-0 8, Felton 1-8 0-0 2, Matthews 4-10 0-1 10, Batum 6-11 5-6 19, Crawford 2-8 0-0 5, C.Smith 2-2 0-0 4. Totals 34-73 10-18 84.			
NEW ORLEANS (77):	Summers 3-8 2-2 8, J.Smith 1-5 0-0 2, Okafor 4-5 4-8 12, Jack 6-13 9-10 21, Belinelli 0-3 0-0 0, Roberson 1-3 0-0 2, Vasquez 0-2 0-0 0, Kaman 6-15 0-0 12, Aminu 3-6 2-2 8, Ayon 4-5 0-0 8. TJohnson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 28-68 21-28 77.			
Portland	20	17	27	20 — 84
New Orleans	15	20	16	26 — 77

3-Point Goals—Portland 6-20 (Batum 2-5, Matthews 2-5, Wallace 1-2, Crawford 1-4, Aldridge 0-1, Felton 0-3), New Orleans 0-9 (Aminu 0-1, Jack 0-2, Belinelli 0-3, Summers 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Portland 42 (Aldridge 9), New Orleans 48 (Okafor 10). Assists—Portland 25 (Felton 12), New Orleans 16 (Vasquez 6). Total Fouls—Portland 24, New Orleans 15. Technicals—New Orleans defensive three second. A—14,758 (17,188).

CLIPPERS 101, NETS 91

NEW JERSEY (91):	Stevenson 1-4 0-0 3, Humphries 5-10 4-4 14, Blatche 7-14 3-4 19, She.Williams 2-5 4-7 8, Morrow 0-2 2-3 2, Petro 5-7 0-2 10, Farmar 2-11 2-2 6. Totals 33-78 17-26 91.			
L.A. CLIPPERS (101):	Butler 8-17 1-4 20, Griffin 9-15 5-13 23, Jordan 5-6 2-4 12, Billups 5-16 7-7 20, Bledsoe 2-7 0-0 13, Gomes 1-2 0-0 2, Forbson 0-0 0-0 0, Evans 2-2 2-5 6, Thompkins 1-5 0-0 2. Totals 37-80 19-35 101.			
New Jersey	17	23	25	26 — 91
L.A. Clippers	32	21	21	27 — 101

3-Point Goals—New Jersey 8-24 (Outlaw 3-6, D.Williams 2-5, She.Williams 2-5, Morrow 0-1, Farmar 0-4), L.A. Clippers 8-21 (Billups 3-5, Butler 3-8, Gomes 1-1, Foye 1-6, Thompkins 0-1). Fouled Out—Humphries. Rebounds—New Jersey 58 (Brooks, She.Williams 8), L.A. Clippers 65 (Griffin 14). Assists—New Jersey 22 (Farmar 7), L.A. Clippers 26 (Foye 10). Total Fouls—New Jersey 24, L.A. Clippers 21. Technicals—New Jersey

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men

MONDAY'S SCORES

MIDWEST

Gustavus 74, Concordia (Moor.) 58
Marquette 74, Louisville 63
Missouri 70, Texas A&M 51
St. John's (Minn.) 68, Macalester 50
Kansas 92, Baylor 74

EAST

Boston U. 70, Albany (NY) 57
Fairfield 61, Rider 52
Fellcian 70, Dowling 56
Longwood 87, Fairleigh Dickinson 83
Rutgers 65, Notre Dame 58
Stony Brook 61, New Hampshire 52
Syracuse 71, Pittsburgh 63
Vermont 79, Maine 65
William Paterson 72, Baruch 58

SOUTH

Austin Peay 69, Tennessee St. 63
Bellarmine 64, N. Kentucky 60
Belmont 95, Florida Gulf Coast 53
Bethune-Cookman 68, Savannah St. 62
ETSU 64, North Florida 63
Emory & Henry 69, Roanoke 60
Florida A&M 86, SC State 69
Freed-Hardeman 83, Trevecca Nazarene 57
Jackson St. 54, Texas Southern 51
Jacksonville 77, SC-Upstate 74, OT
King (Tenn.) 72, LeMoyne-Owen 51
Lee 80, Truett McConnell 70
Lipscomb 104, Stetson 103, OT
MVSU 77, Southern U. 56
Martin Methodist 110, Blue Mountain 84
Mid-Continent 79, Union (Tenn.) 46
Miles 60, Stillman 56
Milligan 82, Warren Wilson 60
Morgan St. 68, Hampton 56
NC Central 69, Howard 53
Norfolk St. 74, Coppin St. 66
Prairie View 81, Grambling St. 64
SC-Aiken 76, Augusta St. 54
Shenandoah 81, Methodist 72
St. Augustine's 86, Chowan 52
Tougaloo 58, Mobile 52
Winston-Salem 98, Lincoln (Pa.) 52
Xavier (NO) 87, Philander Smith 80

FAR WEST

Utah Valley 96, Haskell Indian Nations 72

MONDAY'S BOXES

NO. 7 KANSAS 92, NO. 3 BAYLOR 74

BAYLOR (17-1):	Jones III 8-17 1-2 18, Acy 7-10 0-0 14, Miller 5-12 5-5 17, Heslip 1-3 0-0 3, Walton 3-6 0-0 6, Franklin 1-2 0-0 3, Bello 0-1 0-0 0, Nelson 0-0 0-0 0, Pope 1-3 1-2 3, Austin 1-3 0-0 2, Jackson 3-9 3-4 11. Totals 29-63 9-11 74.			
KANSAS (15-3):	Robinson 11-18 5-6 27, Releford 5-7 1-2 11, Withey 3-10 4-4 10, Taylor 10-14 4-7 28, Johnson 4-7 2-2 11, Tharpe 1-1 0-0 3, Traylor 0-0 0-0 0, Lindsay 0-0 0-0 0, Juenemann 0-1 0-0 0, Young 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 35-61 16-21 92.			
Baylor	17	17	21	19 — 74
Kansas	23	23	22	24 — 92

3-Point Goals—Baylor 7-23 (Jackson 2-5, Miller 2-5, Franklin 1-2, Heslip 1-3, Jones III 1-4, Jones 0-1, Acy 0-1, Walton 0-2), Kansas 8-11 (Taylor 3-4, Johnson 1-1, Tharpe 1-2, Juenemann 0-1, Releford 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Baylor 24 (Acy, Jones III 5), Kansas 50 (Robinson 14). Assists—Baylor 20 (Jackson 11), Kansas 21 (Taylor 6). Total Fouls—Baylor 19, Kansas 12. A—16,300.

No. 5 MISSOURI 70, TEXAS A&M 51

TEXAS A&M (10-7):	Loubeau 2-8 6-6 10, Middleton 5-12 1-3 13, Davis 0-0 0-0 0, Harris 1-8 0-0 2, E. Turner 4-8 2-2 13, Hibbert 1-2

0-1 2, McDonald 0-0 0-0 0, Green 0-1 0-0 0, Alexander 0-1 0-0 0, R.Turner 4-8 3-3 11. Totals 17-48 12-15 51.

MISSOURI (17-1): Ruffin 5-7 7-8 17, Pressey 2-5 4-6 10, M. Pressey 0-3 0-0 0, Dennon 4-11 7-8 16, English 2-9 4-4 8, Dixon 6-10 2-2 18, Sutton 0-0 0-0 0, Moore 0-2 1-3 1, Jones 0-0 0-0 0, Rosburg 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 19-47 27-31 70.

Halftime—Missouri 42-23. 3-Point Goals—Texas A&M 5-12 (E. Turner 3-5, Middleton 2-4, Green 0-1, Alexander 0-1, Harris 0-1), Missouri 5-17 (Dixon 4-7, Dennon 1-7, Pressey 0-1, English 0-2). Fouled Out—Dixon, E. Turner. Rebounds—Texas A&M 26 (R. Turner 9), Missouri 38 (Dennon 9). Assists—Texas A&M 5 (E. Turner 2), Missouri 12 (Pressey 4). Total Fouls—Texas A&M 23, Missouri 15. A—15,061.

JACKSON ST. 54, TEXAS SOUTHERN 51

TEXAS SOUTHERN (5-12):	Price 0-0 1-2 1, Clemmons 2-5 0-0 4, Ellington 1-3 1-2 3, Strong 2-8 1-2 6, Johnson-Danner 2-9 0-0 5, Onwenu 0-1 3-6 3, King 1-3 0-0 2, Sturdivant 2-4 0-1 4, Joyner 0-6 1-2 1, Scott 0-1 2-2 2, Peters 0-0 0-0 0, Gibbs 4-5 1-2 9. Totals 19-41 11-22 51.

JACKSON ST. (4-14): Jones 2-5 0-0 4, Bush 9-18 4-4 23, Howard 4-12 2-3 10, Williams 3-12 2-2 9, Lewis 0-2 0-1 0, Taylor 0-1 1-2 2, Stewart 2-5 0-0 4, Green 0-1 0-0 0, Hollins 1-2 0-0 2, Meadows 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 20-62 12-19 54.

Halftime—Texas Southern 28-24. 3-Point Goals—Texas Southern 2-13 (Strong 1-5, Johnson-Danner 1-6, Scott 0-1, Ellington 0-1), Jackson St. 2-13 (Williams 1-4, Bush 1-5, Stewart 0-1, Howard 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Texas Southern 28 (Joyner 7), Jackson St. 47 (Bush 8). Assists—Texas Southern 9 (Gibbs, Onwenu 2), Jackson St. 9 (Lewis 4). Total Fouls—Texas Southern 19, Jackson St. 20. Technicals—Clayborn, Jones A—715.

PRAIRIE VIEW 81, GRAMBLING ST. 64

PRAIRIE VIEW (7-11):	Montgomery 1-3 0-2, Chapman 7-9 1-1, Hunks 6-12 1-2, Gesalkowski 4-8 0-0 12, Scott 1-6 0-0 3, DeMuynck 4-8 3-4 11, Wright 2-4 1-2 5, Jackson 0-0 0-0 0, Duplessis 1-2 0-0 2, Scranton 0-0 0-0 0, Adu 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 26-52 6-11 81.
Meadows 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 31-58 8-13 81.	
GRAMBLING ST. (2-14):	Dannidge 0-6 0-0 0, Dorsett 5-12 1-3 11, Roberts 10-20 12-16 34, Purvis 2-6 0-0 4, Copeland 1-1 0-0 2, Tucker 0-0 0-0 0, Luvis 2-4 4-4 8, Rogers 1-2 1-3 3, Hughes 0-0 0-0 0, Roberson 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 22-51 18-25 64.

Halftime—Prairie View 42-29. 3-Point Goals—Prairie View 11-17 (Munks 5-8, Gesalkowski 4-6, Duplessis 1-1, Scott 1-2), Grambling St. 2-12 (Roberts 2-7, Purvis 0-1, Dorsett 0-1, Rogers 0-3). Fouled Out—Purvis, Rogers. Rebounds—Prairie View 35 (Bell 8), Grambling St. 28 (Roberts 9). Assists—Prairie View 17 (Scott 5), Grambling St. 5 (Dorsett 4). Total Fouls—Prairie View 20, Grambling St. 18. A—2,584.

Top 25 Fared Monday

(Syracuse (20-0) beat Pittsburgh 71-63 Next: at Notre Dame, Saturday.

2. Kentucky (17-1) did not play. Next vs. Arkansas, Tuesday.

3. **Baylor (17-1) lost to No. 7 Kansas 92-74. Next: vs. No. 5 Missouri, Saturday.**

4. Duke (15-2) did not play. Next: vs Wake Forest, Thursday.

5. Missouri (17-1) beat Texas A&M 70-51 Next: at No 3 Baylor, Saturday.

6. Ohio State (16-3) did not play. Next: at Nebraska. Saturday.

7. Kansas (15-3) beat No. 3 Baylor 92-74 Next: at Texas, Saturday.

8. North Carolina (15-3) did not play. Next: at Virginia Tech, Thursday.

9. Michigan State (15-3) did not play. Next: at No. 20 Michigan, Tuesday.

10. Georgetown (14-3) did not play. Next: at DePaul Tuesday.

11. Indiana (15-3) did not play. Next: at Nebraska. Wednesday.

12. Marquette (18-0) did not play. Next: at Morehead State. Wednesday.

13. UConn (14-3) did not play. Next: vs. Cincinnati, Wednesday.

14. UNLV (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. TCU, Wednesday.

15. Virginia (14-2) did not play. Next: at Georgia Tech, Thursday.

16. San Diego State (15-2) did not play. Next: at New Mexico, Wednesday.

17. Florida (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. LSU, Saturday.

18. Mississippi State (15-3) did not play. Next: at Mississippi, Wednesday.

19. Creighton (16-2) did not play. Next: at Missouri State, Wednesday.

20. Michigan (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 9 Michigan State, Tuesday.

21. Marquette (15-4) beat No. 23 Louisville 74-63. Next: at Providence, Saturday.

22. Illinois (15-3) did not play. Next: at Penn State, Thursday.

23. Louisville (14-5) lost to No. 21 Marquette 74-63. Next: at Pittsburgh, Saturday.

24. Saint Mary's (Cal.) (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. Pepperdine, Thursday.

25. Kansas State (12-4) did not play. Next: vs. Texas, Wednesday.

Women

MONDAY'S SCORES

SOUTHWEST

Alcorn St. 65, Ark.-Pine Bluff 51

EAST

Boston U. 58, Albany (NY) 54
Bryant 71, Wagner 67
CCSU 73, Mount St. Mary's 63
Delaware Valley 72, Salisbury 60
Fairleigh Dickinson 71, LIU 65
Holy Cross 73, Army 44
Maine 70, Vermont 60
Monmouth (NJ) 53, St. Francis (NY) 44
New Hampshire 63, Stony Brook 53
Quinnipiac 82, Robert Morris 74
Rutgers-Camden 80, CCNY 62
Sacred Heart 82, St. Francis (Pa.) 56
UConn 86, North Carolina 35
UMBC 71, Hartford 59

SOUTH

Bethune-Cookman 58, Savannah St. 54, OT

Coastal Carolina 58, Radford 56
Coppin St. 67, Norfolk St. 62
E. Kentucky 61, Austin Peay 59
Florida A&M 79, SC State 62
Freed-Hardeman 83, Trevecca Nazarene 57
Hampton 83, Morgan St. 51
Howard 87, NC Central 26
Jackson St. 55, Texas Southern 38
Johnson C. Smith 65, Virginia Union 51
King (Tenn.) 55, Lees-McRae 52
Lee 87, Truett-McConnell 19
Liberty 79, Charleston Southern 64
MVSU 79, Southern U. 51
Martin Methodist 110, Blue Mountain 84
Mary Washington 75, Ferrum 64
Maryland 68, Virginia 61
Murray St. 73, Jacksonville St. 57
N. Kentucky 72, Bellarmine 65
NC State 75, Wake Forest 66
Prairie View 68, Grambling St. 55
Presbyterian 62, UNC Asheville 54
SC-Aiken 62, Augusta St. 33
St. Augustine's 65, Chowan 63
Stillman 52, Miles 48
Winthrop 86, Gardner-Webb 48
Xavier (NO) 56, Philander Smith 27
Young Harris 77, Voorhees 53

MIDWEST

Dominican (Ill.) 66, Alvernio 71
E. Illinois 70, UT-Martin 63
Gustavus 87, Concordia (Moor.) 72
IPFW 72, Indiana St. 57
IUPUI 56, S. Utah 49
Marantha Baptist 56, Lakeland 53
Northwestern 59, Illinois 58
Oral Roberts 78, W. Illinois 66
S. Dakota St. 59, South Dakota 51
SIU-Edwardsville 58, SE Missouri 43
UMKC 76, N. Dakota St. 58
Union (Tenn.) 79, Mid-Continent 46

FAR WEST

Idaho St. 78, Portland St. 63

Women's Top 25 Fared Monday

1. **Baylor (17-0) did not play. Next: at No. 17 Texas Tech, Wednesday.**
2. Notre Dame (17-1) did not play. Next: vs. Pittsburgh, Tuesday.
3. UConn (15-2) beat No. 24 North Carolina 86-35. Next: at Cincinnati, Thursday.
4. Stanford (15-1) did not play. Next: vs. Washington State, Thursday.
5. Duke (14-4) did not play. Next: at Georgia Tech, Wednesday.
6. Kentucky (16-2) did not play. Next: at No 15 Georgia, Thursday.
7. Rutgers (15-2) did not play. Next: at St John's, Tuesday.
8. Maryland (17-1) beat Virginia 68-61 Next: vs Wake Forest Thursday.
9. Tennessee (13-4) did not play. Next: vs LSU, Thursday.
10. Ohio State (17-1) did not play. Next: vs. No 20 Nebraska, Thursday.
11. Miami (15-3) did not play. Next: at Virginia, Thursday.
12. Green Bay (15-0) did not play. Next: vs Youngstown State, Thursday.
13. Penn State (15-3) did not play. Next: at Indiana, Thursday.
14. **Texas A&M (11-4) did not play. Next: vs. Missouri, Wednesday.**
15. Georgia (15-3) did not play. Next: vs No. 6 Kentucky, Thursday.
16. Delaware (14-1) did not play. Next: at Towson, Thursday.
17. **Texas Tech (14-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 1 Baylor, Wednesday.**
18. Louisville (14-4) did not play. Next: vs Providence, Wednesday.
19. Georgetown (14-4) did not play. Next: at Marquette, Tuesday.
20. Nebraska (15-2) did not play. Next: at No 10 Ohio State, Thursday.
21. DePaul (14-3) did not play. Next: at South Florida, Tuesday.
22. Penn State (13-4) did not play. Next: at Illinois, Thursday.

Retired basketball star Yao goes into politics

Associated Press

SHANGHAI — Retired NBA star Yao Ming has added another line to his post-basketball resume — politician — becoming a member of an advisory body to Shanghai's legislature.

Since the 31-year-old Yao announced last July that injuries had ended his career with the Houston Rockets, he has become a university student and set up a wine business to go with owning a professional basketball team in China.

Photos in official media on Monday showed Yao at the weekend closing ceremony for the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Shanghai Committee.



Yao

"There are about 142 members in the group, and Yao is the youngest," Kong Rong, who works in the service office of committee, was quoted as saying by the China Daily.

The advisory committee does not have any real power, but the newspaper said Yao is supposed to attend regular meetings, and can make suggestions for the advisory body and government departments.

Yao was quoted as saying "raising proposals is very serious business, and I do not want to be hasty."

It is common for sports figures to move into politics in China. Olympic gold medal hurdler Liu Xiang is a member of both the Shanghai and national political advisory bodies.

Yao, one of the most popular celebrities in China from his eight seasons in the NBA, is a student at Jiaotong University, one of the top universities in his hometown Shanghai.

In November, he released the first-ever bottles of his new Yao Ming-branded wine, a 2009 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon currently available only in mainland China, where the market for imported wines has boomed over the past decade.



Jeff Roberson/AP

St. Louis' T.J. Oshie (74) lands on the ice after scoring past Dallas Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen on Monday during the third period in St. Louis. The Blues won, 1-0.

MONDAY'S NBA ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

ROCKETS 114, WIZARDS 106

WASHINGTON — Kevin Martin scored 25 points, Samuel Dalembert added 20 and Houston broke away in the third quarter to beat Washington.

John Wall scored a career-high 38 points on 13 of 22 shooting for the Wizards. He began the game making under 35 percent this season.

Luis Scola had 18 and Kyle Lowry had 16 for the Rockets in their highest-scoring game of the season. Houston outscored the Wizards 25-6 during an eight-minute stretch in the third quarter.

76ERS 94, BUCKS 82

PHILADELPHIA — Jrue Holiday scored 24 points and Andre Iguodala had 21 to help the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Milwaukee Bucks 94-82 on Monday and remain unbeaten at home.

The Sixers have won three straight, nine of 10 overall and already hold a four-game lead over the second-place New York Knicks in the Atlantic Division. Philadelphia is also 6-0 at home.

Iguodala went 9 of 14 from the floor hours after he was chosen as part of the 20-player men's Olympic basketball pool. Known as a lockdown defender, he surprised Tobias Harris with a block from behind late in the third.

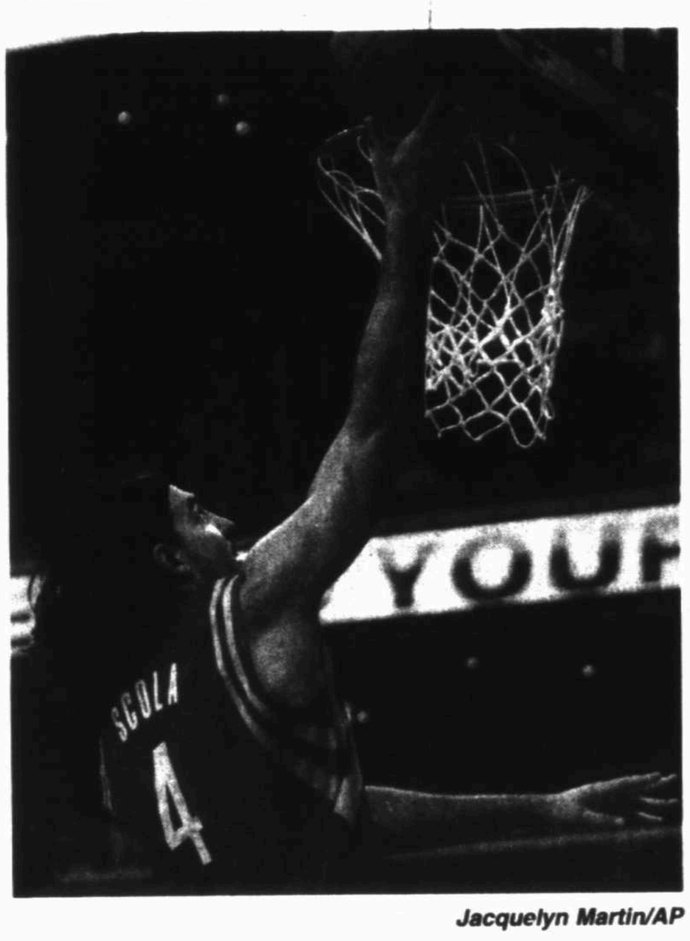
Spencer Hawes, their 7-foot-1 center, buried his first two 3-pointers of the season in the third.

THUNDER 97, CELTICS 88

BOSTON — Russell Westbrook scored 26 points, hitting a pair of 3-pointers in the final 91 seconds to help Oklahoma City pull away from slumping Boston.

Kevin Durant scored 28 with seven rebounds for the Thunder, who won their seventh consecutive game. Thabo Sefolosha scored 12 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, and Kendrick Perkins had seven points and five rebounds in his first game back in Boston since the trade that sent him to Oklahoma City and broke up the starting lineup from the Celtics' 2008 NBA championship team.

Paul Pierce scored 24 points and Kevin Garnett had 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Celtics. Rajon Rondo added 12 points, nine rebounds and nine assists for Boston, which lost its fifth straight game for the first time in the New Big 3 era.



Jacquelyn Martin/AP

Houston Rockets power forward Luis Scola makes a basket against the Washington Wizards during the second quarter Monday at the Verizon Center in Washington.

MAGIC 102, KNICKS 93

NEW YORK (AP) — Ryan Anderson scored a career-high 30 points, extending his NBA lead with seven 3-pointers, and Orlando completed a perfect four-game road trip.

Taking advantage of extra space as the Knicks focused on Dwight Howard, Anderson went 7 of 13 behind the arc and is now 40 of 93 for the season.

JJ Redick added 21 points for the Magic, who won three games on the West Coast before finishing in New York and will play at home the next two nights to wrap up a stretch of three games in three nights.

Howard was in foul trouble and finished with eight points and 10 rebounds.

CLIPPERS 101, NETS 91

LOS ANGELES — Blake Griffin had 23 points and 14 rebounds and the Clippers beat New Jersey without injured point guard Chris Paul after blowing an 18-point lead.

Trailing by 13 after a three-point play by Reggie Evans with 10 minutes remaining, the Nets tied it at 81 with 6:46 to play. But the Clippers outscored them 20-10 the rest of the way, as Chauncey Billups scored nine of his 20 points in the final 4:23 — including a clinching 3-pointer with 1:09 left.

It was the third straight victory for the Clippers, who never trailed en route to their sixth win in seven games following a pair of ego-inflating wins against the Miami Heat and the Lakers.

GRIZZLIES 102, BULLS 86

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Rudy Gay scored 24 points and Mike Conley added 20 points and eight assists to help Memphis end short-handed Chicago's five-game winning streak.

The Bulls played without leading scorer Derrick Rose, who missed his second game in the last four with a left toe sprain.

CAVALIERS 102, BOBCATS 94

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Kyrie Irving had 25 points and seven assists to lead Cleveland.

The Bobcats led 94-93 with less than two minutes to play, but the Cavaliers closed out the game by scoring the final nine points, getting a pair of key inside baskets from Anderson Varejao, who finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

TRAIL BLAZERS 84, HORNETS 77

NEW ORLEANS — LaMarcus Aldridge scored 22 points and Portland snapped a three-game skid.

Nicolas Batum add 19 points and Gerald Wallace 14 for the Trail Blazers, who blew open a tie game early in the third quarter with a 17-2 run during which Aldridge made all five of his shots for 10 points.

HAWKS 93, RAPTORS 84

ATLANTA — Josh Smith scored 28 points and pulled down a season-high 15 rebounds and Joe Johnson added 27 points to help Atlanta win its third straight game.

Leandro Barbosa finished with 22 points in a reserve role for Toronto, which has lost five straight. The Raptors were without center Andrea Bargnani, the NBA's ninth-leading scorer, for the third straight game because of a strained left calf. Reserve guard James Johnson didn't play because of a sprained right ankle.

TIMBERWOLVES 99, KINGS 86

MINNEAPOLIS — Kevin Love had 33 points and 11 rebounds and Luke Ridnour added 25 points and nine assists to lead Minnesota over Sacramento.

Wayne Ellington scored 15 off the bench for the Timberwolves, a significant contribution for a backcourt that was missing J.J. Barea for the third straight game because of a sprained left ankle.

NHL ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

BLUES 1, STARS 0

ST. LOUIS — Jaroslav Halak made 22 saves for his third shutout of the season and T.J. Oshie scored midway through the third period and surging St. Louis Blues stayed unbeaten in 2012.

The Blues have earned 13 out of a possible 14 points this month (6-0-1) and are tied with the New York Rangers and Chicago Blackhawks atop the NHL standings with 60 points.

St. Louis improved to 19-3-3 at the Scottrade Center and set a single-season club record by earning at least a point at home for the 13th straight game.

Halak, who has 19 career shutouts, has been a big part of that streak, going 9-0-3 in his last 12 starts.

Dallas lost for only the second time when allowing two or fewer goals (20-2-0). The Stars were blanked 1-0 by the Los Angeles Kings on Oct. 22.

Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen (31 saves) was the hard-luck loser.

RED WINGS 5, SABRES 0

DETROIT — Henrik Zetterberg scored the first of Detroit's three goals in the opening period and the Red Wings broke a franchise record with their 15th straight home victory, a 5-0 win over the Buffalo Sabres on Monday.

It is the longest single-season winning streak by an NHL team at home since 1976 when Philadelphia won 20 in a row to match a league mark set by Boston during the 1929-30 season, according to STATS, LLC.

The Red Wings won 14 straight at home in 1965.

Detroit's Jimmy Howard made 27 saves for his fifth shutout this season and NHL-high 27th victory.

The Sabres have lost a franchise-record nine straight road games in regulation.

Buffalo goalie Ryan Miller was pulled early in the second after giving up goals to Zetterberg, Johan Franzen, Nicklas Lidstrom, Todd Bertuzzi and Darren Helm.

BRUINS 3, PANTHERS 2, SO

SUNRISE, Fla. — Patrice Bergeron scored two goals and David Krejci scored the winner in the shootout and Boston beat Florida.

Bergeron scored two goals for Boston, and Tuukka Rask stopped 38 shots.

Jason Garrison and Shawn Matthias scored goals for Florida, and Scott Clemmensen made 33 saves.

Bergeron also had a goal in the shootout for Boston, and Stephen Weiss had a shootout goal for Florida.

Bergeron's second goal of the game came during a two-man advantage and put the Bruins ahead 2-1.

Tyler Seguin shot from the slot and Bergeron deflected the puck under Clemmensen's legs at 14:40 of the second.

JETS 2, SENATORS 0

OTTAWA — Chris Mason made 25 saves for his second shutout and Winnipeg ended a three-game losing streak with a win over Ottawa.

Jim Slater scored 49 seconds in to give Winnipeg an early 1-0 lead. Tobias Enstrom scored in the second period for the Jets, who had lost five of six.

Mason got his 23rd career shutout. Chris Neil and Bobby Butler both put shots off the crossbar late in the third.

Craig Anderson, who was selected as the NHL's first star of the week earlier in the day, stopped 33 shots for Ottawa, which ended a four-game winning streak.

The Senators, who were shut out for the first time this season, lost in regulation for the first time in 10 games (8-1-1).

PREDATORS 3, ISLANDERS 1

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Sergei Kostitsyn and Matt Halischuk scored on Nashville's first two shots against Islanders goalie Kevin Poulin, and the surging Predators rolled to a victory over in a holiday matinee.

David Legwand also finished a precision three-way passing play to close out the dominating first period for the Predators, who won for the eighth time in nine games and are 14-4 in their past 18.

Pekka Rinne made 36 saves for his 24th win, second in the NHL. He was denied his fourth shutout of the season when John Tavares extended his career-best point streak to nine games by scoring a goal with 3:58 remaining. Rinne's best stop came midway through the second period when he made a quick glove save to turn aside Tavares during New York's two-man power play.

COYOTES 6, AVALANCHE 1

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Shane Doan and Boyd Gordon scored two goals apiece and Phoenix returned from an 0-3 road trip to rout Colorado.

Gilbert Brule had a goal and assist for the Coyotes just six days after he was claimed off waivers from Edmonton. Rostislav Klesla scored Phoenix's season-high sixth goal in the third period.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Men

TEXAS NO. 5 MISSOURI 70, TEXAS A&M 51

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Reserve Michael Dixon scored 18 points and helped spark a 17-0 first-half run as No. 5 Missouri beat Texas A&M 70-51 on Monday, snapping an eight-game losing streak to the Aggies.

The Tigers (17-1, 4-1 Big 12) started the game by making only five of their first 14 shots from the field against the conference's best scoring defense. But Dixon's 3-pointer with 7:22 remaining in the first half started the 17-0 run that gave Missouri a 31-17 lead.

Elston Turner and Khris Middleton both had 13 points for Texas A&M (10-7, 1-4), which scored the first seven points of in the second half to get within 42-30. The Aggies got within 10 points three times, but could get no closer.

Marcus Denmon's steal and ensuing three-point play with 8:40 left started a 10-1 run for Missouri, which led 64-44 with 3:57 left in the game.

Missouri's last win over Texas A&M had been in the 2004 Big 12 tournament.

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M 81, GRAMBLING 64

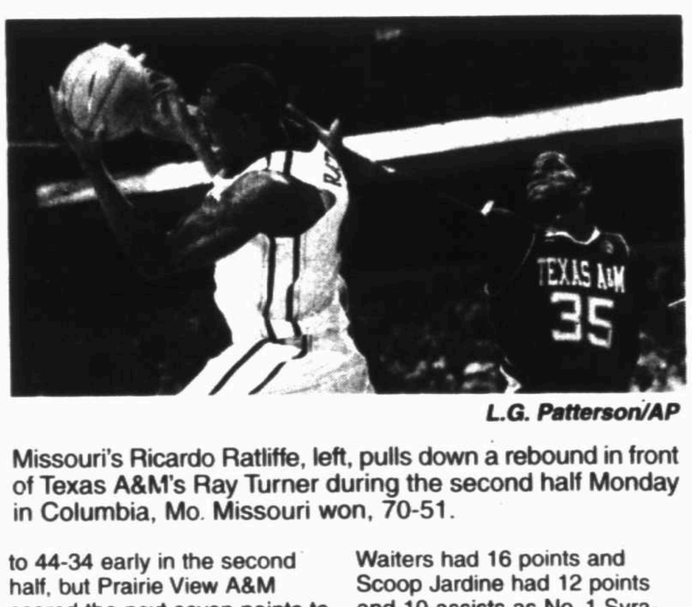
DALLAS (AP) — Louis Munks scored 22 points and made five 3-pointers to lead Prairie View A&M to an 81-64 victory against Grambling in the Martin Luther King Jr. Basketball Classic on Monday night.

Demondre Chapman added 17 points, Ryan Gesiakowski 12 and Jourdan DeMuynck 11 for the Panthers (7-11, 3-2 Southwestern Athletic), who shot 53.4 percent (31 of 58) from the floor. Prairie View A&M made 11 of 17 attempts from 3-point range.

Quincy Roberts had 34 points, nine rebounds and three steals for the Tigers (3-13, 2-4). Brandon Dorsett added 11 points.

A Munks 3-pointer was the first score, and the Panthers never trailed. Grambling shot 9 of 25 in the first half en route to a 42-29 deficit at the break.

A Dorsett layup cut the deficit to 44-34 early in the second half, but Prairie View A&M scored the next seven points to regain control. The Tigers got no closer than 12 points the rest of the way.



L.G. Patterson/AP

Missouri's Ricardo Ratliffe, left, pulls down a rebound in front of Texas A&M's Ray Turner during the second half Monday in Columbia, Mo. Missouri won, 70-51.

JACKSON STATE 54, TEXAS SOUTHERN 51

JACKSON, Miss. — Jenirro Bush scored 23 points and Christian Williams scored five in the final 22 seconds to lift Jackson State to a 54-51 victory over Texas Southern on Monday night.

Jackson State (4-14, 2-4 Southwestern Athletic Conference), which had lost its past four games, trailed 51-49 before Williams' 3-pointer gave the Tigers a one-point lead.

After Patrick Onwenu missed two free throws for Texas Southern (5-12, 4-1), Williams was good on a pair for Jackson State.

Bush's 3-pointer with 10:38 remaining had given Jackson State a 43-40 lead, its first in 15 minutes, and it continued to lead until a layup by Texas Southern's Daniel King set up Williams' heroics.

Kelsey Howard scored 10 points and Williams nine for Jackson State, and Bush had eight rebounds.

DaQuan Joyner scored 13 to pace Texas Southern, which had won its first four conference games by an average of 27 points.

TOP 25 NO. 1 SYRACUSE 71, PITTSBURGH 63

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Dion Waiters had 16 points and Scoop Jardine had 12 points and 10 assists as No. 1 Syracuse beat Pittsburgh 71-63 on Monday night to open the season with 20 straight wins.

The Orange (20-0, 7-0 Big East) set a school record for most consecutive victories to start a season and it was win No. 876 for coach Jim Boeheim, tying him with Adolph Rupp of Kentucky for fourth place all-time in Division I. North Carolina's Dean Smith is third with 879.

Boeheim extended his Division I record for most 20-win seasons to 34.

NO. 21 MARQUETTE 74, NO. 23 LOUISVILLE 63

MILWAUKEE — Darius Johnson-Odom scored 19 points and DaVante Gardner added 17 points and six rebounds to lead Marquette.

The Golden Eagles (15-4, 4-2 Big East) won their third straight conference game after losing to No. 10 Georgetown and top-ranked Syracuse.

Louisville (14-5, 2-4) has lost three of its last four conference games, including a 90-57 loss to Providence.

Jae Crowder added 14 points for Marquette, which trailed 18-2 after 7 minutes.

Women

TOP 25 NO. 3 CONNECTICUT, NO. 24 NORTH CAROLINA

STORRS, Conn. — Bria Hartley scored 17 points and Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis added 15 to help No. 3 Connecticut beat 24th-ranked North Carolina 86-35 on Monday night, handing the Tar Heels the worst loss in school history.

It only took 8 1/2 minutes for the Huskies (15-2) to blow this game wide open. Leading 11-6, UConn scored the next 15 points including five by Mosqueda-Lewis and five by Tiffany Hayes to take command. Hayes' layup with 11:34 left in the half made it 26-6. North Carolina got within 16, but the Huskies used a 16-0 run to put the game away.

NO. 8 MARYLAND 68, VIRGINIA 61

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Laurin Mincy scored 20, and Maryland bounced back from its first loss of the season.

Lynetta Kizer had 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Terrapins (17-1, 4-1). Maryland shot 44 percent from the floor, went 13 for 22 at the foul line and committed 17 turnovers.

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM 2011 Reader's Choice Awards SILVER
Award Winner
Swensen's
Favorite Ice Cream

2011 MHS BULLDOGS
GOODE THROUGH DECEMBER
You are invited to join us for our
2011 Football Banquet
Celebrating
The 2011 MHS Football Season
Honoring the Varsity, Gold, Purple & Freshman Football Teams, Trainers, Cheerleaders and the Starz Dance Team.
Thursday, January 26, 2012 - 7:00 PM
at the Midland Center
Dressy Attire
$15.00 per person
(Food line opens at 6:30pm)
Catered by Prescott's Cafe
Tickets on sale at the MHS Fieldhouse
Jan 17th - 19th from 8:00 am - 9:00 am and 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Tickets must be purchased in advance

Djokovic, Kvitova advance at Australian Open

By John Pye
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia —Anyone who didn't know Novak Djokovic won three of the four Grand Slam titles last year only had to look at his shoes.

That's if his emphatic first-round win today at the Australian Open wasn't evidence enough.

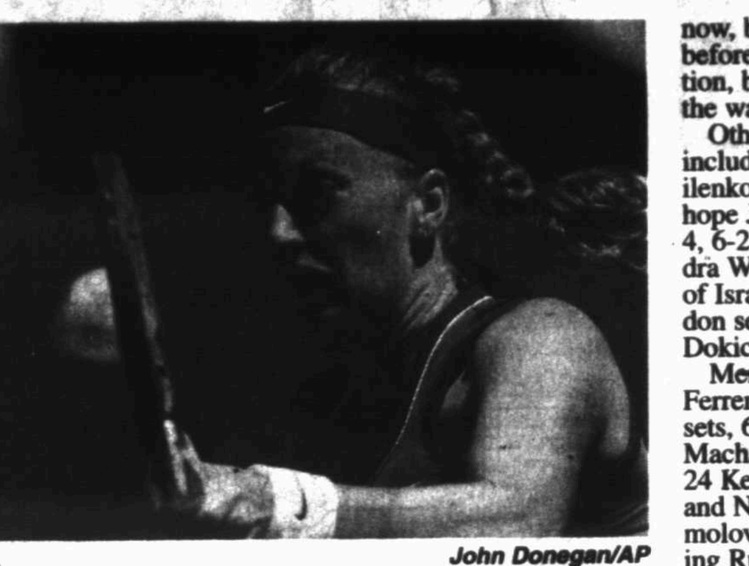
Djokovic started his Australian Open defense with a 6-2, 6-0, 6-0 win over Paolo Lorenzi of Italy, wearing a pair of red-white-and-blue shoes with images of his three major trophies on the sides and a Serbian flag on the heels.

He gave up an early break but immediately broke back at love as he won the next 17 games, saving a breakpoint in the opening game of the second set.

"It was a great performance for (my) first official match of the 2012 season," said the top-ranked Djokovic, whose only lost at a Grand Slam tournament last year was in the French Open semifinals.

The 24-year-old Serb has won two Australian titles — including his first major in 2008 — and his game is well suited to the pace of the hard court. But he struggled at times with the heat at Melbourne Park before his breakthrough season last year and didn't always look comfortable against Lorenzi as the temperature hit 90 degree in the first set.

It didn't stop him entertaining his fans, though. He played a shot between his legs, with his back to the net, to set up a breakpoint chance in the fourth game of the third set which brought the crowd to its feet.



John Donegan/AP

Petra Kvitova hits a forehand return to Vera Dushevina during their first-round match today at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia.

On the women's side, second-ranked Petra Kvitova and No. 4 Maria Sharapova advanced with lopsided wins.

After surrendering her opening service game with a double-fault, Wimbledon champion Kvitova won 12 consecutive games in a 6-2, 6-0 win over Russia's Vera Dushevina.

Wearing the purple color synonymous with Wimbledon, she underlined her growing stature on the women's tour by breaking her Russian rival's serve three times in each set.

Kyitova reached the quarterfinals here last year at the start of a season in which she surged up the rankings. Last week, she missed a chance to overhaul Caroline Wozniacki's No. 1 ranking when she lost in the Sydney International semifinals. She needed to win the Sydney tournament to take the top ranking.

But she gets another chance at Melbourne Park, where she's one of six women who can finish No. 1.

Sharapova, a former Australian Open and Wimbledon champion, won the first eight games of a 6-0, 6-1 win over Gisela Dulko of Argentina in her first match since returning from an left ankle injury.

The 2008 champion needed just 58 minutes for the win and the only game she lost was on her own serve. She then saved three breakpoints in the last game before serving out the match.

"I've been here for 14 days getting used to the conditions," Sharapova said. "Back in the heat now, but it was like winter before. Different preparation, but sometimes it's just the way it goes."

Other women advancing included No. 27 Maria Kirilenko, who beat Australian hope Jarmila Gajdosova 6-4, 6-2, Canada's Aleksandra Wozniak, Shahar Peer of Israel and 2000 Wimbledon semifinalist Jelena Dokic.

Men's No. 5 seed David Ferrer advanced in straight sets, 6-1, 6-4, 6-2, over Rui Machado of Portugal. No. 24 Kei Nishikori of Japan and No. 32 Alex Bogomolov Jr., now representing Russia, also advanced. Germany's Philipp Petzschner routed Czech Republic's Lukas Rosol 6-0, 6-0, 6-2 to advance.

Serena Williams, a 13-time Grand Slam winner, will play a night match on Tuesday against Tamira Paszek. She didn't get to defend her title last year because of injury and comes into the season's first major with concern over her left ankle, which she twisted at a tuneup tournament in Brisbane earlier this month.

U.S. Open champion Sam Stosur will be trying to end a rough stretch in which the Aussie has only one win in two tournaments on home soil this month.

Rafael Nadal, who lost his No. 1 ranking and six finals to Djokovic last year, wondered if he'd even be able to play his first-round match at the Australian Open on Monday after his right knee cracked and cramped and caused him "unbelievable pain" on the eve of the tournament.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN RESULTS

Australian Open Results
Today
At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: $26.83 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Men
First Round

Philipp Petzschner, Germany, def. Lukas Rosol, Czech Republic, 6-0, 6-0, 6-2.
David Ferrer (5), Spain, def. Rui Machado, Portugal, 6-1, 6-4, 6-2.
Santiago Giraldo, Colombia, def. Matteo Viola, Italy, 6-4, 6-2, 6-1.
Kei Nishikori (24), Japan, def. Stephane Robert, France, 6-1, 7-6 (7), 6-0.
Alex Bogomolov Jr. (32), Russia, def. Daniel Gimeno-Traver, Spain, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.
Richard Gasquet (17), France, def. Andreas Seppi, Italy, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1.
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Paolo Lorenzi, Italy, 6-2, 6-0, 6-0.
Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, def. Xavier Malisse, Belgium, 7-6 (8), retired.

Women
First Round

Petra Kvitova (2), Czech Republic, def. Vera Dushevina, Russia, 6-2, 6-0.
Maria Kirilenko (27), Russia, def. Jarmila Gajdosova, Australia, 6-4, 6-2.
Shahar Peer, Israel, def. Isabella Holland, Australia, 6-2, 6-0.
Aleksandra Wozniak, Canada, def. Zhang Shuai, China, 6-3, 6-3.
Lucie Hradecka, Czech Republic, def. Evgeniya Rodina, Russia, 6-3, 6-1.
Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (15), Russia, def. Klara Zakopalova, Czech Republic, 7-6 (5), 6-1.
Vania King, United States, def. Kateryna Bondarenko, Ukraine, 7-6 (3), 6-3.
Carla Suarez Navarro, Spain, def. Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania, 6-1, 7-5.
Sabine Lisicki (14), Germany, def. Stefanie Voegele, Switzerland, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.
Jelena Dokic, Australia, def. Anna Chakvetadze, Russia, 6-2, 6-1.
Dominika Cibulkova (17), Slovakia, def. Magdalena Rybarikova, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-1.
Greta Arn, Hungary, def. Rebecca Marino, Canada, 6-4, 6-2.
Maria Sharapova (4), Russia, def. Gisela Dulko, Argentina, 6-1, 6-0.
Jamie Hampton, United States, def. Mandy Minella, Luxembourg, 6-1, 6-1.

Monday
Singles
Men
First Round

Kevin Anderson (30), South Africa, def. Frederik Nielsen, Denmark, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.
Blaz Kavcic, Slovenia, def. James Ward, Britain, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.
Nicolas Almagro (10), Spain, def. Lukasz Kubot, Poland, 1-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-5.
Juan Martin del Potro (11), Argentina, def. Adrian Mannarino, France, 2-6, 6-1, 7-5, 6-4.
Pere Riba, Spain, def. Albert Montanes, Spain, 7-6 (2), 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5).
Flavio Cipolla, Italy, def. Nikolay Davydenko, Russia, 6-4, 4-6, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.
Feliciano Lopez (18), Spain, def. Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, 7-6 (5), 6-3, 7-6 (2).
Ivo Karlovic, Croatia, def. Jurgen Melzer (31), Austria, 7-6 (3), 7-5, 6-3.
Tobias Kamke, Germany, def. Victor Hanescu, Romania, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2.
Tomas Berdych (7), Czech Republic, def. Albert Ramos, Spain, 7-5, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.
Sergiy Stakhovsky, Ukraine, def. Illya Marchenko, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-7 (9), 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.
Mardy Fish (8), United States, def. Gilles Muller, Luxembourg, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.
Sam Querrey, United States, def. Kenny de Schepper, France, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.
Stanislas Wawrinka (21), Switzerland, def. Benoit Paire, France, 6-1, 6-1, 7-5.
Bernard Tomic, Australia, def. Fernando Verdasco (22), Spain, 4-6, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-2, 7-5.
Florent Serra, France, def. Steve Darcis, Belgium, 6-7 (3), 3-6, 5-4 retired.
Oliver Rochus, Belgium, def. Bjorn Phau, Germany, 6-1, 6-4, 6-0.
Carlos Berlocq, Argentina, def. Jesse Huta Galung, Netherlands, 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3), 6-3.
Alejandro Falla, Colombia, def. Fabio Fognini, Italy, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1.
Tommy Haas, Germany, def. Denis Kudla, United States, 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-0, 7-5.
Donald Young, United States, def. Peter Gojowczyk, Germany, 6-1, 6-2, 4-6, 1-6, 6-2.
Alexandr Dolgopolov (13), Ukraine, def. Greg Jones, Australia, 1-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-1, 6-2.
Lukas Lacko, Slovakia, def. Ivan Ljubicic (28), Croatia, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.
Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany, def. Juan Monaco (25), Argentina, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-0.
Marcos Baghdatis, Cyprus, def. Benjamin Becker, Germany, 6-1, 7-6 (5), 6-2.
Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, def. Jeremy Chardy, France, 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.
Rafael Nadal (2), Spain, def. Alex Kuznetsov, United States, 6-4, 6-1, 6-1.
John Isner (16), United States, def. Benjamin Mitchell, Australia, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (1).
Roger Federer (3), Switzerland, def. Alexander Kudryavtsev, Russia, 7-5, 6-2, 6-2.
David Nalbandian, Argentina, def. Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, 6-4, 4-2, retired.
Yen-hsun Lu, Taiwan, def. Rik de Voest, South Africa, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.
Andreas Beck, Germany, def. Eric Prodon, France, 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.

Women
First Round

Victoria Azarenka (3), Belarus, def. Heather Watson, Britain, 6-1, 6-0.
Casey Dellacqua, Australia, def. Bojana Jovanovski, Serbia, 6-3, 6-2.
Eleni Daniilidou, Greece, def. Kimiko Date-Krumm, Japan, 6-3, 6-2.
Lesia Tsurenko, Ukraine, def. Arantxa Rus, Netherlands, 7-6 (4), 6-1.
Anabel Medina Garrigues (26), Spain, def. Eva Birnerova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.
Daniela Hantuchova (20), Slovakia, def. Varvara Lepchenko, United States, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.
Paula Ormaechea, Argentina, def. Simona Halep, Romania, 6-1, 3-6, 7-5.
Agnieszka Radwanska (8), Poland, def. Bethanie Mattek-Sands, United States, 6-7 (10), 6-4, 6-2.
Julia Goerges (22), Germany, def. Polona Hercog Slovenia, 6-3, 7-6 (3).
Nina Bratchikova, Russia, def. Flavia Pennetta (19), Italy, 6-3, 1-6, 6-2.
Petra Cetkovska (32), Czech Republic, def. Ayumi Morita, Japan, 3-6, 6-1, 7-5.
Li Na (5), China, def. Ksenia Pervak, Kazakhstan, 6-3, 6-1.
Romina Oprandi, Italy, def. Anastasiya Yakimova, Belarus, 6-4, 6-1.
Christina McHale, United States, def. Lucie Safarova (24), Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-4.
Peng Shuai (16), China, def. Aravane Rezai, France, 6-3, 6-4.
Olga Govortsova, Belarus, def. Patricia Mayr-Achleitner, Austria, 6-2, 6-4.
Francesca Schiavone (10), Italy, def. Laura Pous, Spain, 6-1, 6-3.
Kim Clijsters (11), Belgium, def. Maria Joao Koehler Portugal, 7-5, 6-1.
Alberta Brianti, Italy, def. Inna Falconi, United States, 6-2, 7-5.
Stephanie Foretz Gacon, France, def. Elena Baltacha, Britain, 6-2, 6-1.
Galina Voskoboeva, Kazakhstan, def. Yanina Wickmayer (28), Belgium, 7-5, 6-2.
Chang Kai-chen, Taiwan, def. Petra Martic, Croatia, 6-4, 6-2.
Tsvetana Pironkova, Bulgaria, def. Sania Mirza, India, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5.
Anna Tatishvili, Georgia, def. Ashleigh Barty, Australia, 6-2, 7-6 (4).
Olivia Rogowska, Australia, def. Sofia Arvidsson, Sweden, 6-3, 6-1.
Mona Barthel, Germany, def. Anne Keothavong, Britain, 6-0, retired.
Iveta Benesova, Czech Republic, def. Mathilde Johansson, France, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4.
Jelena Jankovic (13), Serbia, def. Laura Robson, Britain, 6-2, 6-0.
Pauline Parmentier, France, def. Alla Kudryavtseva, Russia, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.
Marina Erakovic, New Zealand, def. Irena Pavlovic, France, 7-5, 7-6 (4).
Caroline Wozniacki (1), Denmark, def. Anastasia Rodionova, Australia, 6-2, 6-1.
Monica Niculescu (31), Romania, def. Alize Cornet, France, 5-7, 6-0, 6-3.

Miami boosters may no longer host athletes

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Miami boosters may no longer provide occasional meals for the university's athletes or host them at their homes, even though those acts are typically allowed by the NCAA.

The school's compliance office announced the changes in a newsletter distributed Monday, a copy of which was obtained by the Associated Press.

In August, former Miami booster Nevin Shapiro told Yahoo Sports that he provided extra benefits to 72 Hurricanes football players and recruits from 2002 through 2010. He said some of those benefits included meals and entertainment at his homes.

Going forward, Miami is telling its boosters that cannot happen.

"Boosters should not provide any type of food, drink, transportation, or other extra benefits to current student-athletes," the newsletter reads.

Under NCAA rule, athletes "may receive an occasional meal from a representative of athletics interests on infrequent and special occasions." The NCAA also cites certain conditions under which those meals may take place, and does permit those events to take place in a booster's home.

Shapiro, a convicted Ponzi scheme architect who federal officials say masterminded a scam that bilked investors of $930 million, is serving a 20-year prison sentence. He is not mentioned in the newsletter and Miami's athletic department remains under NCAA investigation for its compliance practices, an inquiry largely related to Shapiro's allegations.

Miami self-imposed a bowl ban for the 2011 season in response to the ongoing investigation. At 6-6, Miami would have been eligible to compete in a postseason game. Sanctions are expected once the NCAA probe ends, though there is no timetable for that to occur.

MLB Players, teams start rush to settle in arbitration

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Players and teams started rushing to settle arbitration cases Monday, a day before the sides were to swap proposed salaries.

Eleven players agreed to contracts, leaving 126 set to exchange figures after 142 filed for arbitration last week. About 100 more were expected to reach agreements before the sides submit proposals Tuesday afternoon for one-year contracts that are not guaranteed.

San Francisco Giants ace Tim Lincecum was expected to set records for the highest salaries asked for and received in arbitration. The two-time NL Cy Young Award winner made $13.1 million last season, completing a two-year deal worth $23.2 million.

The highest figure ever requested was $22 million by Houston pitcher Roger Clemens in 2005 after he became a free agent and accepted arbitration.

Among players with less than six years of major league service, the high of $18.5 million has been held by Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter since 2001.

San Francisco figures to top the $14.25 million the Yankees submitted for Jeter.

Others set to swap include NL Cy Young winner Clayton Kershaw and Los Angeles Dodgers teammate Andre Ethier, Philadelphia pitcher Cole Hamels and teammate Hunter Pence, World Series star Mike Napoli of Texas and Chicago Cubs pitcher Matt Garza.

Washington pitcher Gio Gonzalez, acquired from Oakland last month, has the big deal thus far, a $42 million, five-year contract that includes both a club option and a vesting player option. It could be worth $65.5 million over seven seasons.

Settlements are happening more slowly than in recent years: The 142 players who filed were the most since 150 in 1992.

WESTTEXASSPORTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

To submit an item for West Texas Sports, please either fax, bring in, mail or e-mail your information in hard-copy form to the Reporter-Telegram sports department.

Please make your submission as detailed as possible, including dates of events, deadlines, fees, age groups, etc.

To bring your item to the MRT, come to 201 E. Illinois Ave. in Midland. To mail your information, send it to Reporter-Telegram, c/o Sports Department, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX, 79701.

To fax your information, send to 570-7650

Baseball

GCM Baseball Academy
What: Professional private baseball lessons & clinics covering pitching, fielding, catching and hitting provided by three former professional players.
For: Ages 5 & up.
Cost: Individual lessons $65 an hour or $40 for 30 minutes. Bulk purchases & group lesson rates available at discount.
For more info: Call (432) 425-6108

Private batting and pitching instruction
For more info: Call Danny Jordan at 230-0096 for instruction on mechanics and pitch selection in a one-ton-one setting

Private hitting and catching instruction
For more info: Call Scott Chapman at 967-2364 for instruction in a one-on-one environment.

Pitching, hitting and fielding lessons
For more info: Call Midland High baseball coach Barry Russell at 296-2438

Private Baseball Instruction
Where: Next Level Sports Training, 704 W. Scharbauer
For more info: 262-6466 or www.nextlevelsportstraining.org

Private Baseball/Softball lessons
For more info: Contact Extra Innings Midland/Odessa at (432) 617-4487 or visit www.extrainnings-midlandodessa.com

Drillers U9 Select Baseball Team Tryouts
When: 3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 22
Where: North Central Baseball Fields (behind Lowes)
For more info: email Kevin Mannix at kevinerin2@gmail.com

Basketball

Permian Basketball Association needs officials
For more info: Jim Cox, 685-4143 or 553-3714

YMCA needs basketball referees
For more info: 682-2551

Vertical jump, speed and agility training
Where: Next Level Sports Training, 704 W Scharbauer
For more info: 262-6466, www.nextlevelsportstraining.org

Summer Pro/Am Basketball League
What: Regional Development Basketball League
For: Players 18 and up and teams for summer basketball league to start in June
For more info: Call 866-206-9073, ext. 4399

Billiards

Eight and Nine ball leagues
When: Every Sunday and Wednesday, 6-8:30 p.m.
Where: Fast Freddy's, Midland
Sign-up at: Basin Billiards or Fast Freddy's
For more info: Contact Bob Schultz, league director, 689-3113

Booster Clubs

Midland High Softball
When: First Thursday of every month, 7 p.m.
Where: MHS Youth Center

For more info: Call Russell at 561-8687

Bowling

Tuesday Night Petroleum Men's League
When: Meets at 6:45 p.m.
For more info: Melton Post 684-5176 or Cactus Lanes 694-0177

Edith McElmore Three-Person League
When: 10 a.m. Wednesdays
Where: AMF Lanes
For more info: Call AMF Lanes at 689-9725

Camps/Clinics

Ten Star All Star Camp
For whom: Boys and girls ages 10-19
For more info: Call (704) 373-0873 for a brochure

COM Aquatic Camps
What: Swimming, diving, snorkeling
Ages: Preschool and grade school
For more info: Call 684-7755

Beginner tennis clinics
Where: Midland High School tennis courts
When: Monday-Thursday from 8:30 to 10 a.m. or 7 to 8:30 p.m.
For: Kindergarten-12th grade, community-based organizations, parents and adults
Deadline: Two weeks before week wanting to attend
For more info: Call Luis Valdez at 570-6245, Brandi at 687-7059 or Elizabeth at 699-6058

YMCA Basketball Skills Clinic
When: Every Saturday
Times: 1 p.m.-3:45 p.m. for grades 3 through 12
Cost: YMCA Family member, free; YMCA Youth member, $5 and program participant, $10 per visit
For more info: Call Midland YMCA at 682-2551

Cycling

Permian Basin Bicycle Association Meetings
When: 7 p.m. third Monday of every month
Where: Atmos Energy's Fischer Community Room, 2304 Loop 40, Midland International Airport
Dues: $25/$30 for a family
For more info: Peyton's Bikes 699-1718 or go to www.pbbetx.com

Dodgeball

Sticks and Kicks Leagues
Who: Kids, adults, co-ed players
Cost: $35 per player (8 game season)
Where: Register at Sticks and Kicks, 3918 W Wall
For more info: Call 520-6633

Flag Football

YMCA Officials Needed
What: The YMCA needs officials for Youth Flag Football games Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
For more info: Call 682-2551

Football

Strength, speed, agility and power training
Where: Next Level Sports Training, 704 W. Scharbauer
For more info: 262-6466, www.nextlevelsportstraining.org

Permian Basin Officials Chapter seeks officials
Note: Education and training will be provided
For more info: Call Terrell Pierce at 559-5004 or Don Orren at 631-2395

Golf

Swing Speed Training
For: All ages and handicaps
Where: Next Level Sports Training, 704 W. Scharbauer
For more info: 262-6466 or www.nextlevelsportstraining.org

Swing speed and fitness training
Where: Next Level Sports Training
For more info: 262-6466, www.frappieracceleration.com

Gymnastics

Next Level Gymnastics
What: Preschool, Stretch-n-Grow, All-around, T&T, Boys, special sneeds
For more info: Call 262-6466 or www.nextlevelsportstraining.org

Martial Arts

Aikido
When: Monday-Friday, 7 to 9 p.m., Saturdays, 12:30 p.m.
Note: Specializing in traditional Hombu style Aikido
For more info: Call John Riggs, 684-7008 or 770-3155

Cardio Kickboxing Class
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Where: Jimenez Tae Kwon-Do and Fitness Studio, 4400 N. Midland Dr.
Cost: $35 a month
For more info: Call 689-8139

Women's Self Defense Class
When: Monday and Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Friday, 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.
Where: Jimenez Tae Kwon-Do Studio, 4400 N. Midland Dr.
For more info: Call 697-8554

Private Tae Kwon-Do lessons
Where: Jimenez Tae Kwon-Do Studio, 4400 N. Midland Dr.
For more info: Call 697-8554

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
When: 6-8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 2-3 p.m. Saturdays
Where: Perez Martial Arts Academy, 350 N. Midland Dr., Suite A
For more info: Call 634-9621 or (469) 248-8472

Matthews Martial Arts
When: Monday through Thursday, 5-8 p.m.
What: Karate-Judo-Jujitsu-Kempo-KungFu
For: Ages 3 and up
Where: 3205 Cuthbert
For more info: Contact Jason Matthews at 488-7467 or 689-8444

Miscellaneous

Student-Athlete Sports Consultant
For: Assisting high school student athletes with academic-athletic scholarships
For more info: Call Jacob Santillano at (915) 240-1030

Poker

Lone Star Poker League
What: Free to play Texas Hold 'em Poker tournaments.
For: Beginners to experienced players. Ages 21 and up.
When/where: 1 p.m. Sunday, Velvet Room (nonsmoking); 7 p.m. Sunday, Woofers & Tweeters; 7 p.m. Monday, Woofers & Tweeters (shootout); 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Hog Pit; 7 p.m. Wednesday, Woofers & Tweeters; 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Hog Pit; 1 p.m. Saturday, Velvet Room (non-smoking).
For more info: Go to www.lonestarpokertour.net

Rugby

Mad Dog Rugby Club Practice
When: 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
Where: Hogan Park
For more info: 697-6418

Midland Rugby (Bloodhounds) Club
For more info: Call Joshua 661-7147

HHO Dads & Lads Rugby
When: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
Where: Cowden Park
For more info: 212-6088

Running

Permian Basin Running Club
Cost: $20 per year for individual membership; $30 for per year for family membership
For more info: Go to www.pbrunningclub.com or email Shawn Hailey, president at haileyshawn@pbrunningclub.com

Gazelles Training Group
When: 6 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
For more info: Call Popcorn Leonard at 512-762-1020 or 682-0988

Shooting

Comanche Trail Shootists
What: Single Action Shooting Society affiliated club in Midland
When: Monthly shoots first Saturday and third Sunday of each month, first Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. Third Sunday from 1 p.m. (Mandatory safety meeting at 12:30 p.m.) Also shoot on fifth Sunday on months that have them (begin at 1 p.m. and are no cost to the shooter). Mandatory safety meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Where: Timberline Ranch adjacent to Jake's Clays
For more info: Go to comanchetrailshootists.org or call Hoodoo Brown 682-1422

Midland Shooters Association
What: All types of shooting practice and competition, featuring archery, benchrest rifle, bulls-eye rifle, high power rifle, pistol silhouette, rimfire silhouette, 3 gun, practical pistol, skeet, trap 5 state and sporting Clays.
When: Members can access rifle and pistol ranges from sunrise to sunset seven days a week. Shotgun ranges open 11 a.m. until dusk Wednesday to Sunday
For more info: Go to www.midlandshooters.com

Soccer

Permian Basin Soccer Association
What: Registration for women's spring/summer season
Where: Dunagan Park, located at corner of Gist and Terrell
When: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
For more info: Contact Jesus Chavez at 557-7032 anytime or Josh Chavez at 238-6947 after 6:30 p.m.

Speed and Agility Training
Where: Next Level Sports Training, 704 W. Scharbauer
For: All Ages
For more info: 262-6466 or www.nextlevelsportstraining.org

Softball

Throwing velocity and swing speed training
Where: Next Level Sports Training, 704 W. Scharbauer
For more info: 262-6466, www.nextlevelsportstraining.org

MUGS/AGA Umpires Needed
When: Each Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Where: MUGS umpire building
For more info: Call David Edens at 684-0805 or Mack Gipson at 694-2837

Midland Softball Association Tournament Schedule
Now available at www.midlandsoftball.com.
For more info: call Tommy Hawkins at 520-9100

Midland Men's Woodbat Fastpitch Association
What: Men's fastpitch softball
For more info: Call 413-3173 or visit www.facebook.com/pages/Midland-Texas-Mens-Fastpitch

Team Infinity Tryouts
What: Team Infinity is looking for 8 and under softball players for a travel team
For more info: Please call Bobby Perez at 432-416-6753

Swimming

COM Pre-competitive swimming
Where: Mabee Aquatic Center
Cost: $49 per month
Prerequisite: Must be able to swim 25 yards or freestyle or backstroke
For more info: 684-7755

COM Water Aerobics Classes
When: All times, Monday through Saturday
What: All skill levels
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Learn to Swim
Ages: All ages
Note: Private, semi-private and group lessons are available
For more info: 684-7755

COM Masters Swimming
What: Competitive or non-competitive program for adults of all skill levels
When: 5-6 a.m., 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Cost: $40 per month (includes cardio training)
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Diving Instruction
Who: All ages and levels invited
For more info: 684-7755

COM Learn to Dive
What: Learn basic skills for beginners then advance to pre-competitive and competitive diving that emphasize skilled diving techniques and participation in diving meets
Ages: 4 and up
For more info: 684-7755

COM Competitive Dive Team
Who: Try out for Bronze, Silver, Gold Prep or Gold levels of COM Dive Team
What: Emphasizes is on diving techniques and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: 684-7755

COM Elite Dive Team
What: Highest level of COM diving. Concentrates on perfecting Olympic level skills, national and international travel
For more info: 684-7755

COM Competitive Swim Team
Who: Try out for COM Swim Team, tryouts available by appointment
What: Emphasizes stroke correction and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: 684-7755

COM Adult Conditioning
What: Allows adult participation use of top quality lap pools and fitness room during specified hours
For more info: 684-7755

COM Wtr Walking Class
What: Unstructured, self-paced class
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Senior Fitness Class
Who: Senior citizens that need help with physical conditions resulting from injury, disease, chronic conditions, advanced age, etc.
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

Central YMCA Water Aerobics Classes
When: Early morning, morning and evening
For more info: Call Leaf Feller 682-2551

Central YMCA Arthritis Water Exercise Classes
When: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
For more info: Call Leaf Feller 682-2551

Central YMCA Swimming Lessons
Who: All ages and ability
For more info: Call Leaf Feller 682-2551

Central YMCA Synchronized Swimming
For: Ages 6 and up
For more information: Call Leaf Feller 682-2551

Tennis

West Texas Tennis Association
What: West Texas Tennis Association, a non-profit community tennis association, promotes and oversees USTA leagues, programs and events in the area.
For more info: Call 432-563-1333 or www.westtexastennis.com for more information

USTA Team Tennis Leagues
When: Adults 18 & older starting April 25
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
Call: Sherry 620-8610 or Email www.midlandtennis@aol.com

USTA Women's Lone Star Team League (18 & older) Novices
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
Call: 687-4046 or 296-0901

Midland Tennis Club (MTC)
What: MTC is a non-profit public tennis club having free tournaments and ladders for all ages and all levels for members
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
Annual dues: $65 Adults, $30 Youths, $140 Families
Call: 687-4046 or 563-1333 to join

Midland College tennis classes
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 to 1:50 p.m.
Where: Midland College
For more info: Midland College 685-4500 or Lance Armstrong 687-4046

Youth Clinics
When: For children 4-8 years of age (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 to 4 p.m.) and 9-15 years of age (Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: 687-4046

Midland Women's Tennis Association fall league
For more info: 889-0866

Agility Training & Injury Prevention
Where: Next Level Sports Training, 704 W. Scharbauer
For more info: 262-6466 or www.nextlevelsportstraining.org

Track & Field

Speed and Power Training
Where: Next Level Sports Training, 704 W. Scharbauer
For more info: 262-6466 or www.nextlevelsportstraining.org

Volleyball

Vertical jump, agility training
Where: Next Level Sports Training, 704 W. Scharbauer
For more info: Call 262-6466 or visit www.nextlevelsportstraining.org

Walking

Midland Walkabout AWA Club Meetings
When: Fun Walks, 10K, 3rd Saturday morning of the month; Monthly meeting 3rd Sunday at 5 p.m.
Where: Fun Walks, vary; meetings in Room 227, First Presbyterian Church, 800 W. Texas Ave.
Who: All ages
For more info: Call Alex Rose 687-2588 or go to www.midlandwalkabout.pbwiki.com

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GAF-ELK PREFERRED CONTRACTOR

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny
High 59	High 66	High 73
Low 30	Low 32	Low 39

LOCAL FORECAST

Expect sunny skies today with a high around 59 and north winds around 10 mph. Tonight's forecast calls for mostly clear conditions with a low around 30 and east winds around 5 mph becoming south.

Wednesday, look for sunny skies with a high around 66, a low around 32 and south winds between 5 and 10 mph becoming west.

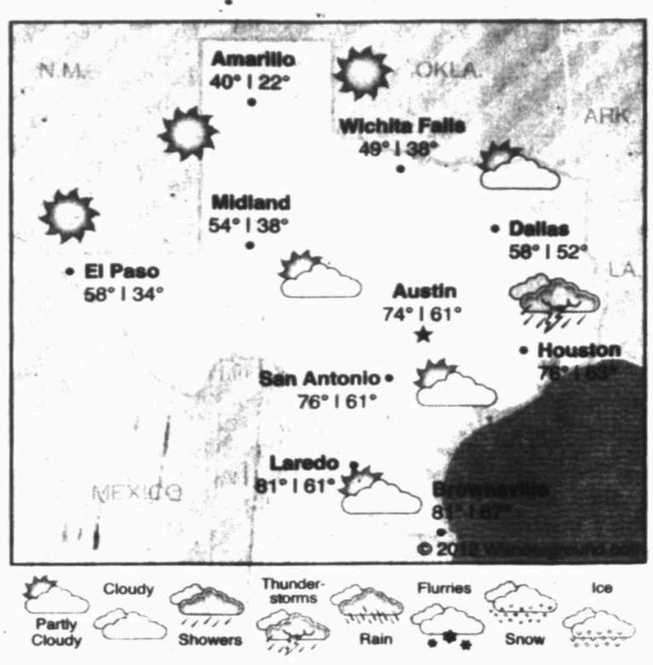
Thursday, look for sunny skies with a high around 73 and a low around 39.

The high on Monday reached 71 while the low dropped to 45. The record high for Jan. 16 is 79 set in 1971. The record low is 15 set in 1972.

***

The change in the weather pattern that began last week has allowed cold air to linger in the northern tier of the nation, bringing opportunities for snow and ice from New England to the Upper Midwest to the Northwest. Indications are this pattern will continue through the end of the month.

Warm air will temporarily erode the recent cold wave in the Midwest and Northeast today. A zone of snow and ice is expected from upstate New York to part of central and northern New England. Rain showers will stretch from southern New England to the lower Mississippi Valley.



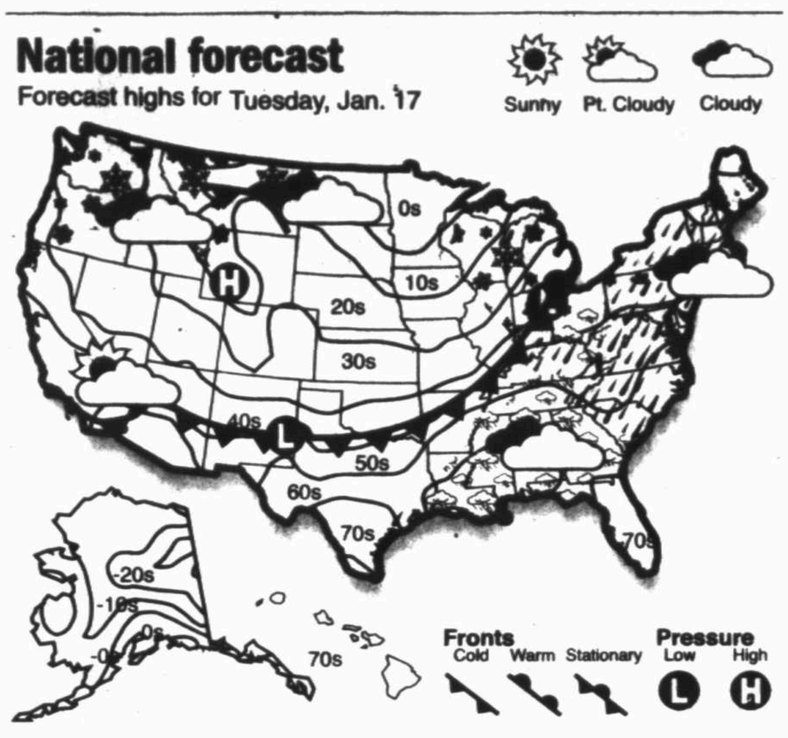
Precipitation

Rainfall Sunday	.0.00 in.
Rainfall Monday	.0.00 in.
Total for month	.0.73 in.
Total for year	.0.73 in.
Normal total (year to date)	.0.25 in.

Monday's temperatures

High	71
Low	45
Normal high	57
Normal low	30

Sunrise ... 7:49 a.m.
Sunset ... 6:09 p.m.



Daughter could use counseling to cope with controlling mom



DEAR ABBY

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Her column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 23, the only child of a controlling, paranoid, hermit-like and hyper-religious mother and a peace-loving, passive father. I graduated from college last year. Shortly after, my boyfriend and I accepted dream jobs in the same town several hours away from my parents.

Mom was appalled. She "warned" me that I wouldn't last and would come home. Instead, I have embraced my new city and job. Mom is at her wits' end. When I mentioned that my boyfriend had recorded a movie for me, she said he was controlling me via technology. If I tell her about a project I initiated at work, she says my employer is taking advantage of me.

Mom pays for a landline in my apartment that I don't want, but she insists because she's convinced that cellphones cause cancer. She calls me constantly, and if I don't answer she leaves frantic messages about how "disrespectful" I am, and how she and Dad are "praying for my soul."

This has gotten out of control. I try talking to her, but she won't listen and laughs at the idea of counseling. She says it's her "job" to tell me what to do. My father agrees that her behavior and approach are wrong, but says she has good intentions and I need to "work with her."

Abby, I don't know what to do. She's becoming increasingly controlling and worried about my soul. I'm worried that my distance is affecting her health. Some advice, please! — WANTS A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH MOM

DEAR WANTS: If you return home because you're afraid having moved away and asserting your independence is negatively affecting your mother's health, you will never have a life of your own. Because she laughs at the idea of counseling doesn't mean that YOU shouldn't get some in order to help you separate yourself from her constant efforts to manipulate you.

Her dependence on you is not normal. That's why you should enlist the help of a mental health professional. It will give you some insight in how to deal with her. If you try to "work with her" without that help, she will suck you in and you will never be free.

DEAR ABBY: I have very nice neighbors who believe in leaving the wild and natural growth on their property. They have posted a sign that claims it to be a "certified natural habitat." They never weed or cut anything back. At first, it was cared for, but now it has become an eyesore, and people who visit our house have made comments.

I have tried to grow border plants to hide the mess, but nothing seems to help. I believe it affects the value of our home. My husband doesn't want me to say anything for fear of hurting their feelings. They're nice people, but we don't live in a rural area where this might be more acceptable. Have you any suggestions? — THORN IN OUR SIDE

DEAR THORN: Yes. Who certified your neighbors' yard as a "natural habitat"? The city? If so, call City Hall and find out if their yard still qualifies. What you have described may be a fire hazard, so some investigation may be in order. If there is a homeowners association in your neighborhood, it should also be contacted to ensure their house is in compliance with the codes, covenants and restrictions. If necessary, someone who is close to these neighbors should volunteer to "help" them with their yard. A natural landscape can be beautiful, but only if it's properly maintained.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Use all your chances

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q J 9
♡ 5 2
◇ 8 4 3 2
♣ A Q 6 5

WEST
♠ 10 7 4 3 2
♡ 8 6 4 3
◇ Q 7
♣ K 8

EAST
♠ K 8
♡ K J 10 7
◇ K 10 6 5
♣ 10 9 3

SOUTH
♠ A 6 5
♡ A Q 9
◇ A J 9
♣ J 7 4 2

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

Possession of three aces made the South hand worth a full maximum no-trump so, when North invited game, South was happy to bid one. All that remained was to bring it home after the spade opening lead.

The three of spades was covered with the queen and king and taken with the ace. The obvious first move by declarer was to lead a club and take the finesse, which won. Declarer cashed the ace of clubs and when the king dropped, South's trick total was up to eight.

There is no hurry to take the heart finesse. Should it lose, the contract might be in jeopardy. Correct is to lead a low diamond from the table and finesse the nine! When that loses to the queen, declarer has an extra chance — a second diamond finesse.

West can do no better than continue with a spade. Dummy's nine is finessed. When that holds, declarer reverts to diamonds, finessing the jack and, when that wins, continues with the ace.

When the king doesn't drop, West showing out, declarer cashes all his winners, reducing all hands to three cards and ending in dummy. Declarer knows one of East's cards is the king of diamonds and so the defender can hold only two hearts. Declarer takes the heart finesse and, when the king and jack drop, declarer's nine becomes his 12th trick.

Today's Crossword Puzzle brought to you by Quiroz Custom Home Builders
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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-dynamic; 4-positive; 3-average; 2-so-so; 1-difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2012:

This year you see life with more vitality than ever. Whether you are an activist or a socialite, you will have the opportunity to bring people together for a specific cause. In the process, you'll transform your life. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone very special during the year. What you decide to do with this bond is your call. If you are attached, encourage your significant other to join you. You will bond even more closely. SCORPIO is a true friend.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ You clearly are developing an interest in a favorite pastime or hobby of a close associate. Adapt your schedule accordingly. A discussion comes forward. You don't want to say "no." What you take away from this conversation could be very different when you reflect on this talk in a few days. Tonight: Up late.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ Others come forward with new insights. Not everything is to your pleasing, but you still should listen. Others' ideas help clarify your thoughts and test the strength of a plan. A discussion evolves because of this openness. Tonight: Let your imagination put a spin on plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ You might want to make an additional effort to break through a barrier or come to an understanding. Once you do, a new type of bond evolves. Discussions are animated but also give you feedback as to what might be appropriate to change. Tonight: Chill out; put your feet up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ You are unusually playful, even if you do have to work. A partner or an associate might be taken aback by your mood at first. Others happily make an adjustment, wanting to have some of what you have. Of course it isn't that easy! Tonight: Make fun plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ You ponder whether you would like to start a home-based business. In some fashion, you want to revitalize your day-to-day life. Your determination surfaces, making anything possible. Your willingness to update your ideas and lifestyle is admirable. Tonight: Stay close to home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ A special relationship demands much more flexibility than you ever thought you had. Creativity opens up as you try to sleuth out and find the right answer to a situation. Remember that everything is transforming right in front of your very eyes. Tonight: Ever playful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Be aware of what you have to offer. Also, be sensitive to your energy. Decide how much energy you can invest in an emotionally difficult situation. Pay attention to a roommate or family member who can easily stress you out. Tonight: How about treating yourself?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Your smiling style attracts many people. You might wonder what would be best to do or say during an important interaction. Talk to a trusted friend or someone who has been in a similar situation. Be conscious of how many ways you can communicate. Tonight: Dream it up and make it so.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Sometimes everyone needs to take a personal day, when they do just for themselves. It doesn't matter if you are indulging a whim or just doing your thing — this is your time for a mini-retreat. Take it as soon as possible. You will see a difference quickly. Tonight: Not to be found.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ Zero in on your priorities. You know what works for you. If it means separating from the crowd, do just that. If you are feeling a little put out by someone else's demands, let that person know. If you don't establish boundaries, others cannot help but walk on them. Tonight: Where the fun is.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ Taking a stand will separate you from your friends, but it just might need to happen. No matter what is going on, you will assume more responsibility than in the past. Stay mellow; otherwise, you could be the source of your own stress. Tonight: A must show.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ You might want to explore ideas through brainstorming or finding someone with more expertise. A meeting also could open a door. The question remains: Are you going to walk through that door? Be direct in your dealings. Tonight: Wherever you are, the fun is.

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BORN TODAY

Inventor Benjamin Franklin (1706), actor Jim Carrey (1962), boxer Muhammad Ali (1942)

DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

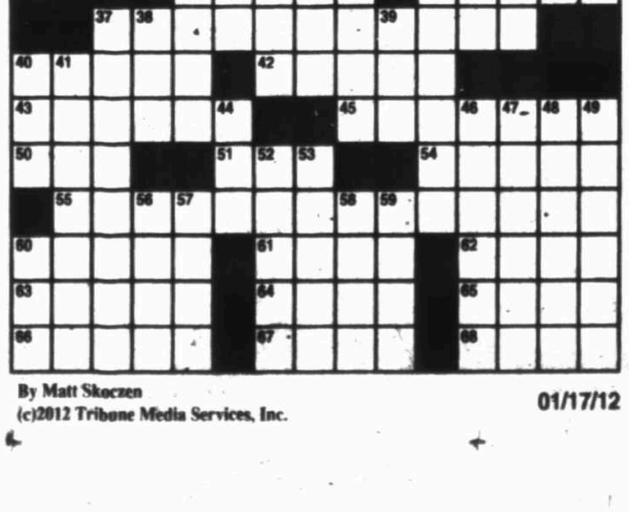
ACROSS
1 __ Romeo: sports car
5 Cleveland NBAers
9 With 66-Across, actress born 1/17/1922
14 Weevil's target
15 __ II razor
16 Love, in Italia
17 Fit to __
18 20-Across role for 9-Across
19 Infuriates
20 Sitcom co-starring 9/66-Across
23 Really revel in
24 Neptune's realm
25 NFL position
27 "Baby and Child Care" author
30 Entertain in style
33 Congestion site
36 Frasier's brother
37 Dramedy on which 9/66-Across had a recurring role
40 Buckeye State sch.
42 Miss America accessory
43 Message on a dirty car
45 Becomes fond of
50 White House advisory gp.
51 Skater Midori
54 Went out with
55 Sitcom co-starring 9/66-Across
60 Suppress
61 55-Across role for 9-Across
62 "American ___"
63 Fur tycoon
64 Lender's security
65 Canadian vocalist Vannelli
66 See 9-Across
67 Not as much
68 Political cartoonist Thomas

DOWN
1 Died down
2 Mandrake the Magician's assistant
3 Armadas
4 Good thing to get in competition
5 PC corner key
6 Yankee slugger, familiarly
7 Flower holders
8 Public embarrassment
9 Italian seaport
10 Mideast VIP
11 One in a phone bill list
12 Bridge support
13 "That's affirmative!"
21 Marsupial that plays dead
22 Long-snouted swimmer
26 Legal thing
28 Op. __: footnote abbr.
29 Necktie feature
31 Fencing challenge
32 Italian actress Scala
34 Prefix with form
35 Cabbagy side dish
37 Dunkable Italian cookies
38 "That's amazing!"
39 Generation
40 BYOB word
41 Cannabis preparation
44 German article
46 Bad-mouth
47 Ballparks
48 Dovetail sections
49 Less than 100 shares of stock
52 Immune system agent
53 Kukla's puppet pal
56 __ one's own horn
57 About, on a memo
58 Barely gets, with "out"
59 Soccer moms' rides
60 Went out with

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

L	O	N	I		L	A	M	E		W	I	P	E	D
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xwordeditor@aol.com 01/17/12



By Matt Skoczen
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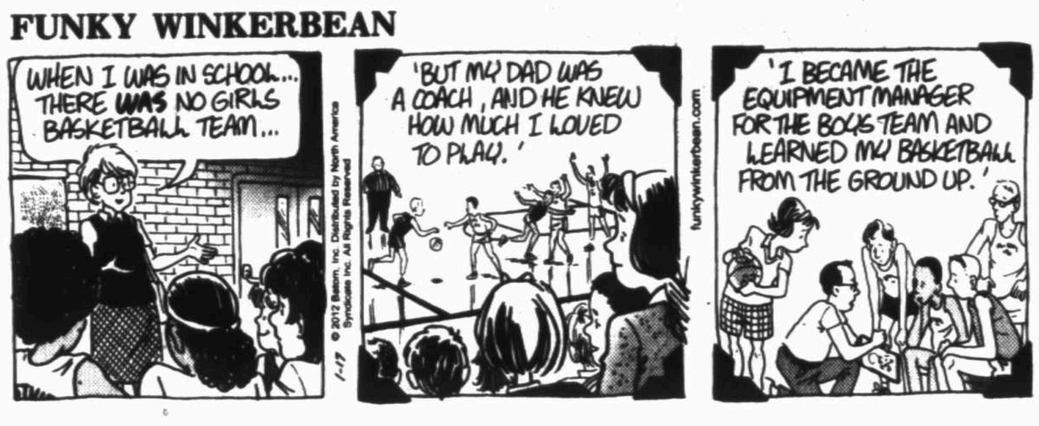
The wiseman built his house on a rock
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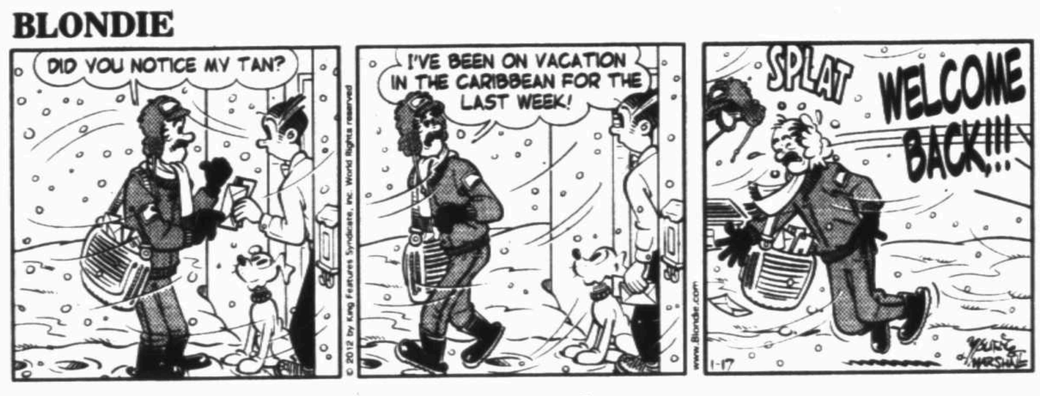
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FUNKY WINKERBEAN



BLONDIE



BEETLE BAILEY



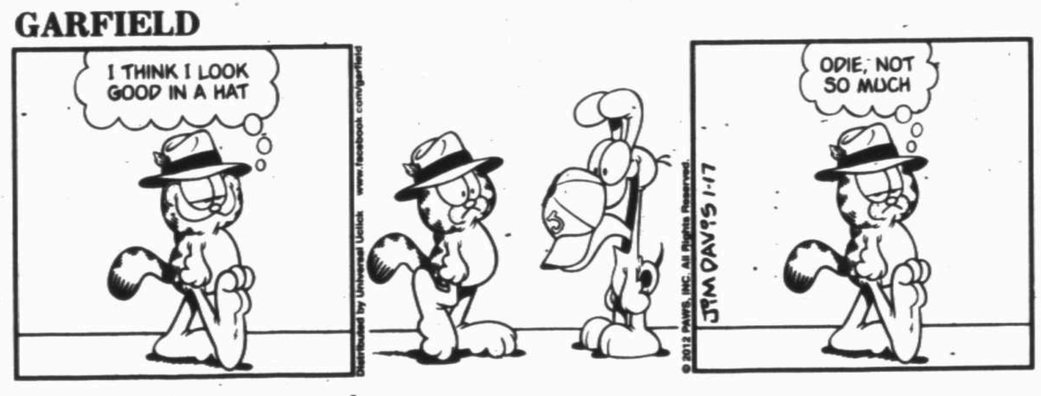
CLASSIC PEANUTS



SHOE



GARFIELD



DUSTIN



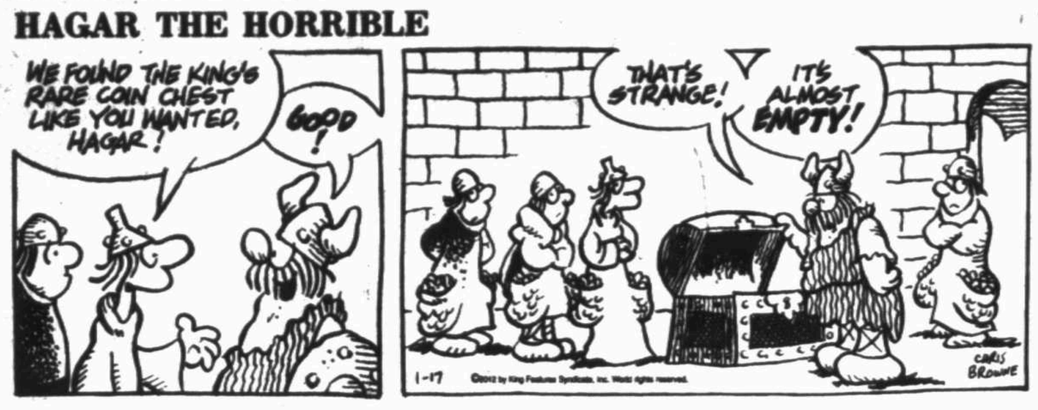
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DILBERT



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



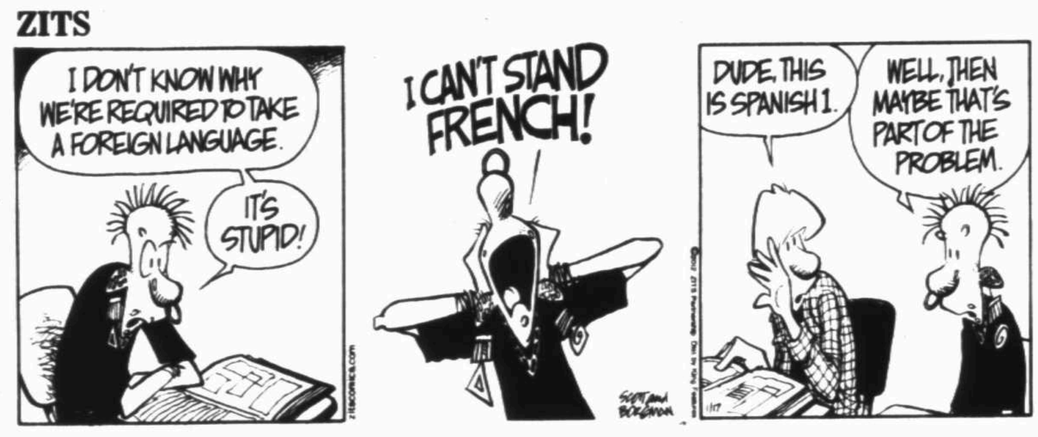
LUANN



MARY WORTH



ZITS



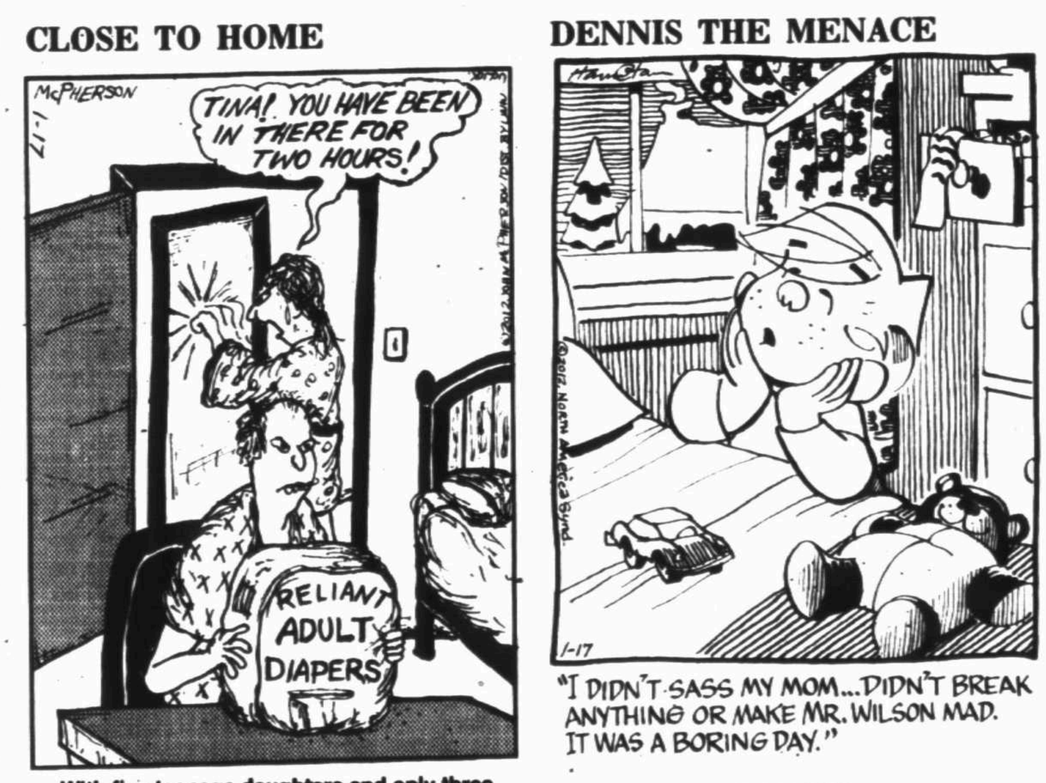
BABY BLUES



MUTTS



CLOSE TO HOME



With five teenage daughters and only three bathrooms, Jerry decides on a difficult solution.

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I DIDN'T SASS MY MOM... DIDN'T BREAK ANYTHING OR MAKE MR. WILSON MAD. IT WAS A BORING DAY."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"A little louder, Mommy. My ears still can't hear you."

LOCKHORNS



"LOOK AT THAT BEAUTIFUL MOON! I CAN ALMOST HEAR YOUR MOTHER HOWLING."

Patriots preparing for Ravens in AFC title game

By Howard Ulman
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — On a rare Sunday off, Patriots players relaxed in front of their television sets to watch the only team standing between them and another Super Bowl appearance.

They were impressed, though not surprised, by the Baltimore Ravens.

"They're a great team," New England wide receiver Wes Welker said Monday. "They wouldn't be in this spot if they weren't. They do some great things out there."

They were good enough on Sunday to beat the Houston Texans, 20-13, with the help of four turnovers in a matchup of dominant defenses.

Now the Ravens (13-4) must face the only one of the top three offenses in the NFL remaining in the playoffs. No. 1 New Orleans and No. 3 Green Bay were eliminated in their divisional games. The No. 2 Patriots (14-3) are 7 and a half point favorites in the AFC championship game on Sunday. They got there by beating Denver 45-10 Saturday night behind Tom Brady's six touchdown passes.

Brady was one of those Patriots who watched the Houston-Baltimore game that would determine which players would be trying to knock him to the ground and intercept his passes.

"I did watch that game, which is pretty rare," he said on WEEI radio.

Players can learn a lot more from watching video of games in team meetings, which resumed Monday, where they can view plays from different angles while coaches zero in on the finer points.

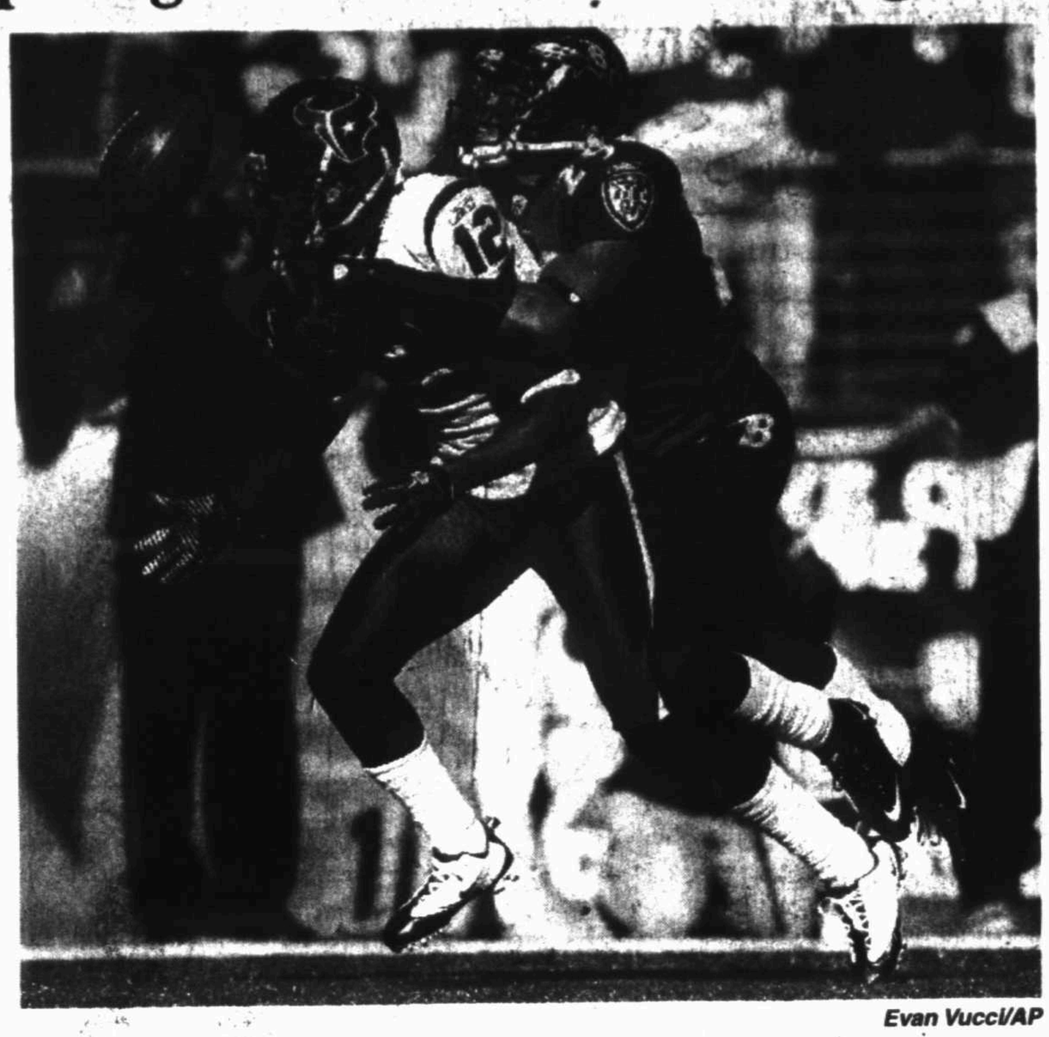
"You're just kind of watching the game more than anything and kind of seeing what happens and maybe pick up things here and there," Welker said, "but, for the most part, (the team video) is a different shot so you're able to watch all the players from their perspective, from their positions and be able to see everything.

"It is a little bit different, being able to rewind back and see a guy's footwork or leverage or different things like that."

No matter what the angle of the camera, the perception of the Ravens defense is the same — physical, aggressive and filled with playmakers such as linebackers Ray Lewis and Terrell Suggs and safety Ed Reed.

Lewis led Baltimore with seven tackles and Reed came up with a game-clinching interception near the goal line in the final minutes against the Texans. They also had big games two years ago in Foxborough when the Ravens won a wild-card game 33-14 as Lewis had 13 tackles and one sack and Reed had an interception.

Ray Rice scored on an 83-yard run on the first offensive play and Baltimore led 24-0 after the first quarter.



Evan Vucci/AP

Houston Texans wide receiver Jacoby Jones fumbles the ball under pressure from Baltimore Ravens cornerback Cary Williams on Sunday in Baltimore. Tom Brady and the New England Patriots have their work cut out for them as they prepare to face the Ravens defense.

Bryant reportedly involved in incident at Miami hotel

By Tom Orsborn
San Antonio Express-News

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Dez Bryant was reportedly involved in an incident Sunday night at a Miami Beach nightclub.

Dallas' WFAA-TV reported that Bryant's mentor, David Wells, confirmed Bryant's involvement in an altercation at the Fountainbleau Hotel. No arrests were made, according to reports.

Bryant has been plagued by off-the-field problems since the Cowboys drafted him in the first round in 2010.

Last summer, Bryant was temporarily banned from a Dallas-area mall for wearing sagging pants and arguing with police. He has also faced several lawsuits for unpaid debts, two of which he recently settled.

Cowboys vice president Stephen Jones recently said Bryant must learn "to get his hands around what he's doing off the field."

TITANS HIRE MAXIE: The Tennessee Titans announced Monday the hiring of former Cowboys assistant coach Brett Maxie as their secondary coach.

Maxie coached safeties for Dallas from 2008 until his contract expired after the end of this season. He is the third Cowboys assistant to leave in the last week.

Championship pedigree shows for Brady, Eli

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

The playoffs have a way of bringing out the pedigree in NFL quarterbacks. Simply take a look at the fingers of Tom Brady and Eli Manning to recognize it.

Brady has three Super Bowl rings, with another taken away by Manning and the Giants in 2008. Both have their teams on course for a reprise of that memorable title game.

Standing in their way are two inconsistent QBs seeking to fill out their own championship resumes: Joe Flacco of Baltimore and Alex Smith of San Francisco.

Based on their histories and the way they have performed this season, Brady and Manning overmatch Flacco and Smith. When things have gotten tight for New England or New York, the quarterback often has provided the winning edge.

"The team revolves around him," Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez said of Brady. "When he comes to play, which he mostly does every game, then we're going to be on fire, and when he's ready, we're all ready."

Ditto for Manning. Even when the Giants hit a four-game slide that jeopardized making the playoffs, he stood out.

"He's just been great," said receiver Victor Cruz, who had a breakout season with Manning throwing to him. "He understands the defense, he understands what we can see on every single down and every single coverage and he's just making the right reads and really hitting people when the time is right."

The time certainly is right. For a decade, it's been Brady time once New Year's Day hits. In early 2008, it also was Manning time.

It is again.

Brady was as good as ever in Saturday's romp past outmanned Denver. His six TD passes tied Steve Young and Daryle Lamonica for the NFL record. His five in one half were the most ever.

Sure, he's got superb targets in All-Pros Wes Welker at wideout and Rob Gronkowski at tight end, plus Hernandez and Deion Branch, who is something of a security blanket for Brady. He also makes them outstanding with his precise passes, leadership and competitiveness.

It rubs off.

"We never look at the individual. We all try and do our job," defensive tackle Vince Wilfork said. "If (Brady) plays well, everyone else plays well. When he has an off day, we try to rally around him as a team to help Tom and the offense. We aren't going to get 20-30 points all the time."

Thirty certainly could be difficult against Baltimore's staunch defense. But 20 might be enough if Flacco doesn't come through.

Something of a surprise first-round draft choice in 2008 out of Delaware, he's helped the Ravens make the playoffs in all four of his NFL seasons. In great part, Flacco has been along for the ride as opposed to driving the vehicle the way Brady does.

He also doesn't have nearly the talent to throw to, with the exception of running back Ray Rice, who led the NFL with 2,068 total yards. His offensive line is spotty.

For Baltimore to reach its first Super Bowl since 2001 — oh, yeah, the QB then was Trent Dilfer, and Flacco is a far better player than Dilfer was — some of Brady has to rub off on Flacco.

Smith finally has become comfortable in San Francisco thanks to new coach Jim Harbaugh's guidance and confidence in the seven-year veteran. The 49ers are efficient on offense with a strong running game behind Frank Gore, and a tight end, Vernon Davis, who displayed all his skills in a sensational playoff debut against New Orleans.

To expect Smith to trade throws with Saints star Drew Brees was unthinkable, yet there he was, making clutch pass after clutch pass in the late stages of Saturday's thrilling win. If he's capable of a similar performance against the Giants, it would enhance San Francisco's chances immeasurably.

"He deserves all this," Gore said of Smith's revival. "He's had some tough times. But I always believed he could play at this level. We have the right people leading us. And he's got the right people leading him."



Charles Krupa/AP

The New York Giants' Eli Manning, right, is congratulated by New England's Tom Brady after the Giants' 24-20 win in Foxborough, Mass on Nov. 6. Brady has three Super Bowl rings, with another taken away by Manning and the Giants in 2008. Both have their teams on course for a reprise of that memorable title game.

TEXANS

From 1C

key players, including receiver Andre Johnson (left and right hamstrings), outside linebacker Mario Williams (torn chest muscle) and quarterbacks Matt Schaub (right Lisfranc fracture) and Matt Leinart (broken left collarbone).

Rookie T.J. Yates, a fifth-round pick, guided the Texans to victories in his first two starts to help clinch the AFC South, while the team formed a tight bond.

"It's just amazing when you get 53 guys going in the same direction, what they can do," coach Gary Kubiak said. "A lot of things that happened to us this year can easily send you in the wrong direction. It made us stronger, it made our locker room stronger, it made just the whole group stronger."

Kubiak met with each of his players on Monday. He tried to encourage receiver Jacoby Jones, who fumbled a punt return in the first quarter to set up Baltimore's first touchdown.

Jones, who signed a three-year contract last July, apologized to his teammates for the gaffe.

"It's something I've got to live and learn with," he said. "It's a decision that I made. I've got to grow up and learn from it. It's a mistake I made with being a football player. Some people don't understand."

Yates shares some responsibility for the loss in Baltimore, throwing three interceptions and looking overmatched for the first time since taking the starting job in early December. The 24-year-old Yates had not thrown an interception in three previous games.

"Our defense was playing amazing," Yates said Monday. "Just that fact that a couple things that I did, personally, could definitely turn the outcome of the game is the thing that hurts the most."

Yates is resigned to the fact that he'll give up the starting job to Schaub, who walked through the locker room on Monday morning with a protective boot. Schaub says he'll be fully healed in time for offseason workouts in the late spring.

"It's a process with the foot with all the wait and all the stuff you got to do moving around side to side, laterally, but it will be fine," Schaub said. "I'm not worried about the rehab process. We're going to just jump right in and continue to progress as I have already."

Across the room, Jake Delhomme pondered retirement. The Texans signed the 37-year-old Delhomme in late November to help groom Yates.

Soured by his experience in Cleveland in 2010, Delhomme says he found the ideal final stop of his career in Houston. He played most of the Texans' regular-season finale against Tennessee and his last throw turned out to be a touchdown pass to Bryant Johnson.

"For me, to come to a place like this, where everybody's on the same page and to see the way these guys work, it's been great," he said. "If I've left this game, I've left it on a high note. My last pass I've ever thrown, if this was, was a touchdown, so that's kind of cool."

One of the big offseason priorities for Houston is deciding the future of Mario Williams, the much-ballyhooed first overall pick in the 2006 draft. Williams moved to outside linebacker before the season and was off to a strong start before tearing a chest muscle in Week 5.

Williams is an unrestricted free agent, and with the emergence of Connor Barwin and rookie Brooks Reed, the Texans must decide if Williams is worth the hefty salary he'll command.

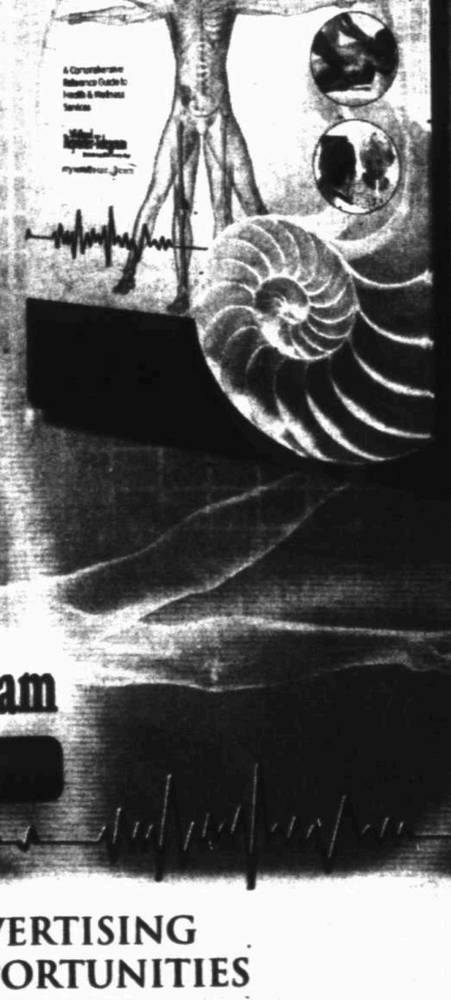
Kubiak says he'll leave that and other decisions for another day.

"I'm strictly in an evaluation process right now for me and the coaches, looking at players, trying to put a pecking order basically in how we think our football team finished the season," he said. "As far as Mario, obviously Mario is a tremendous player. He's done a great job here.

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JANUARY 29TH, 2012

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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.

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PUBLISHES ON: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday
DEADLINE IS: 3p.m. Monday, 3p.m. Tuesday, 3p.m. Wednesday, 3p.m. Thursday, 3p.m. Friday



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Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Odessa
Contract 0005-15-083 for INSTALL TRAFFIC SIGNALS in MIDLAND County will be opened on February 08, 2012 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.
Contract 0906-00-140 for PAVEMENT MARKINGS in ECTOR County, etc will be opened on February 07, 2012 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.tdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 39064

State Office

Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)

Odessa District
District Engineer
3901 E. U.s. Hwy 80
Odessa, Texas 79761
Phone: 432-332-0501

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Jan 9, 2012
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Feb 20, 2012
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.STATE.TX.US

Rule 38 Case No. 08-0274166
Status/Permit No. 730822

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., [RRC Operator No. 665748] has made application for a density exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 38 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the DENSITY requirement of the field rules for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 35, Blk. 39 T2S, T&P RR CO Survey, A-323, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, MIDLAND County, being 6.3 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512) 463-6848.**

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Feb 20, 2012 at 5:00 P.M. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND-AREA)

Lease/Unit Name :	HOOPER 'A'
Lease/Unit Well No. :	2
Lease/Unit Acres :	80.5
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	641.0
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	1320.0

Lease Lines :	641.0 F NORTH L,	659.0 F WEST L
Survey Lines :	687.0 F SOUTH L,	1980.0 F EAST L

As part of this application, applicant also seeks permit authority in 2 additional fields: (1) AZALEA (BEND), (2) BRADFORD RANCH (STRAWN). No rule exception is necessary pursuant to the field rules for these fields.

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY,(TREND AREA) : Special Rules 467/660, 80.0 acres.

AZALEA (BEND) : OIL Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.

BRADFORD RANCH (STRAWN) : OIL Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 11600 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, TAMMY SMITH at (972) 444-9001.

Legal & Public Notices

Notice to Physicians and Providers

UnitedHealthcare of Texas, Inc. and UnitedHealthcare Benefits of Texas, Inc. both located at 5800 Granite Parkway, Ste. 900, Plano, Texas 75024 and offer basic health care service Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plans and United HealthCare Insurance Company and PacifiCare Life and Health Insurance Company which offer Preferred Provider Options (PPOs) will accept applications for physicians and providers who wish to become contracted physicians and providers during the period of **February 1, 2012 through February 20, 2012**. Applicants must meet practice standards, qualifications and other participatory criteria established by the HMO and/or PPO. To initiate the application process please call 1-877-842-3210.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Parsley Energy Operations, LLC., c/o Box 953, Midland, TX 79702 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a commercial disposal permit to dispose of produced formation water/fluid into a formation that is productive of oil or gas.
The applicant proposes to dispose of fluids into the San Andres formation, their Dusek 45 SWD #1, located in Section 45, Block 39 T-4-S, T&P RR Co., Midland County, Texas.
The proposed injection well is located in the Spraberry (Trend Area) field, in Midland County, Texas, 30 miles S/SE from Midland, Texas.
Fluid will be disposed into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 4200-5000 ft.

Legal Authority: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Underground Injection Control, Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, TX 78711-2967 (512) 463-6815.

Lost & found

FOUND: CHIHUAHUA Mix. Call to identify. 432-889-8876.

FOUND MALE German Shepherd (maybe mix) Near Midland College. Call 512-222-7159

FOUND SMALL gray female chihuahua with tan markings on 3200 block of W. Illinois. Please contact animal control asap.

FOUND SMALL male, Dachsund, Saturday 7th. 432-312-2537.

FOUND YOUNG FEMALE black cat. If not claimed, free to good home, 432-557-9555.

CORDELL IS lost. 10 pound black and tan Chihuahua from Tealwood. $200 reward. 432-694-3195.

LOST 1/06/12 from West Louisiana St. female tan Shih Tzu - Poodle mix. Answers to Emma. Reward. Call 432-967-5396.

LOST MALE German Shepherd puppy on ECR 120-Greenwood nds vet care 664-5665

LOST WHITE poodle mix.14 yrs old, has cataracts. Please return! Family needs her back. Last seen on South Adams. Call 432-741-9025.

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE TO PHYSICIANS AND PROVIDERS

We are a Medicaid HMO that offers a wide range of health care services. We will accept applications for participation in our provider network from **01/2/2012-01/23/2012.** All applicants must meet practice standards. Call us at **817-861-7707** for an application packet.

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817-861-7707

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

To those indebted to or holding claims against the Estate of **Terry Michael Carter,** Deceased:

Kim Hinsley, having been duly appointed Independent Executor of the Estate of **Terry Michael Carter,** deceased, late of Midland, Midland County, Texas, by the Judge of the County Court of Midland County, Texas, in Cause No. P16630 on May 12, 2011, hereby notify all persons indebted to said estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said estate to present them to Independent Executor within the time prescribed by law, at the following address:

Kim Hinsley
Independent Executor of the Estate of
Terry Michael Carter, deceased
c/o Mary Lou Cassidy
550 W. Texas, Suite 800
Midland, Texas 79701

Meetings

Acacia Masonic Lodge #1414
1600 W. Wall
Stated Communication, 2nd & 4th Tues.
@ 7:30pm,
432-557-6041
Mike Patton, W.M.
Ed Wilson Sec
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Personals

FEMALE TO SHARE DRIVING to Connetticut. Expenses and return flight paid. Flexible departure time. Trip will take 7-10 days. Jacqulyn 432-332-3870.

Business Center

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NEED COMPANY to lease or manage Caliche pit. Must have rock crusher and loading equipment. Located 11mi. S/W of Garden City. 432-397-2226, 432-270-4226

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE TO PHYSICIANS and OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Humana Insurance Company, a Life, Accident and Health Insurance Company with offices located in Dallas, Texas, will accept written applications for the period beginning March 1, 2012, and ending March 20, 2012, from physicians and other health care providers to participate in Humana Insurance Company's preferred provider benefit plans through its networks of preferred providers.
Physicians and other health care providers may request an application by sending a letter to: Humana Insurance Company P.O. Box 19013, Green Bay, WI 54307-9013, Attention: Network Development.
Applicants must meet credentialing criteria for acceptance into the network(s) and will receive written notification within 90 days after Humana Insurance Company receives a complete application for participation.

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2002 TOYOTA Avalon, silver, cloth, 137K. Exceptionally nice! Only $7,000. 218-9941.

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ACURA 2005 RSX w/ 35k, warranty, and loaded. Kelly blue book value $13,352, asking $11,000. Call 432-559-7695.

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BMW 2003 745Li Blue, 64k miles, fully loaded. $20,000. Call 432-553-5632.

BUICK 1999 Park Avenue Ultra. 107k miles, very nice car. $3500 Call 432-664-4690.

BUICK 2005 LeSabre Limited, beautiful car. Call 432-699-2054.

CADILLAC 2001 DeVille, white diamond exterior, tan leather interior, 123K miles, excellent condition. $5,000. Call 432-400-2011.

Passenger Cars

CADILLAC 2007 SRX, all leather. We finance W.A.C, 36 mo warranty, 683-6222.

CHEVROLET 2002 Z28 convertible, 24K, looks and drives new, garaged, non smoker. $12,900. 685-4013.

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432-527-5900

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White/Tan, Nav. Pwr lift gate
10k miles

2007 328i Convertible
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2008 BMW 528i
Jet Blk/Natural Tan, Prem Pkg., Sport Pkg., Heated Seats. 51k Miles

2010 Lincoln Navigator
Gray/Gray
Nav., DVD, Heated/Cooled Seats, Rear Bucket Seats. 48k Miles

[2] 2011 BMW 328i
Premium Value Package, Heated Seats

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Mineral Green/Saddle
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		1	3		8	2		
			7			9		
	3					6		1
		9		4		8		
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Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

7	9	1	2	4	5	3	8	6
5	3	4	1	8	6	7	9	2
8	6	2	7	3	9	1	4	5
1	7	9	5	6	2	8	3	4
6	8	3	9	1	4	5	2	7
2	4	5	3	7	8	6	1	9
3	2	7	6	9	1	4	5	8
9	1	8	4	5	7	2	6	3
4	5	6	8	2	3	9	7	1

1/17/12

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Administrative Assistant
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Oil related service company has a position opening for Administrative Assistant. Duties to include: accounting, invoicing, data entry. Knowledge of QuickBooks, Peachtree, Word, Excel, a must. Company benefits. Must complete Drug Screen. Please fax resume to: (432) 689-6346.

Administrative Secretary
Confidential PT
Midland Community Theatre, a non- profit arts organization seeks a dynamic, hardworking and friendly individual for this Part-time hourly position. Strong consideration will be given to candidates with experience in maintaining records, data entry, filing and public relations. Send cover letter, resume and references to: Timothy Jebsen, Executive Director, Midland Community Theatre 2000 West Wadley Ave, Midland, Tx. tim@mctmidland.org

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Customer Service
Dollar Thrifty Car Rental FT/PT
Dollar Thrifty Car Rental is currently accepting resumes for Managers, Service Agents and Counter Sales Agents at the Midland/Odessa Airport. We will be interviewing potential candidates the week of 1/16/12. Please submit resume to: m.osborn@thriftysic.com

Customer Service Rep.
Fred Loya FT
Immediate opening for customer service rep. in Midland. Must be able to work M-F 8am-7p Sat. 9am-2pm. Bilingual a plus. Computer skills required. Candidates must be energetic, organized and independent. Pleasant personality and professional appearance are a must. We offer comprehensive benefits such as health insurance & 401K. Must have at least one year experience in customer service. Apply in person at: 2106 S. Rankin Hwy Space 300

ENERGY & UTILITIES

H2S Safety Technicians
Secorp Industries FT
Established Oilfield Service Company located in Odessa, TX. has immediate openings for H2S Safety Technicians. Oilfield experience a plus. Mechanical abilities and medical certification helpful. Job consists of both shop and field work, must be able to work extended hitches on locations. Good Driving Record and Reliable transportation recommended. Include references and salary requirements on resume. Send Resume and Salary Requirements to PO Box 53912, Lafayette, LA 70505-3912 Phone: 337-237-3471 Fax – 337-235-6278 Email – brandon.hebert@secorpindustries.com

Pump Technician
Quinn Pumps Inc. FT
Midland, Tx.
Seeking a full-time pump technician.
Experience Preferred but not necessary. Salary DOE. Benefits Included.
Apply at 3611 E. Hwy 158. Interviews will be held in Midland office.

Well Planner
Precision Directional Services FT
Looking for a well planner in a Midland office. Top Pay with benefits. Please contact 432-425-3141.

HEALTHCARE

CNA
Martin County Hospital Home Health FT
Martin County Hospital Home Health is looking for a full time CNA to work both in the field and in office as data entry/secretarial position. CNA certification required. Bilingual preferred. MCHHH is a great place to work with competitive pay and benefits! Call Allison Roy RN at 432-756-3259

CNA or MA
Seeking a full time **CNA** or **MA** for busy family practice clinic. Experience preferred in drawing blood, vitals, insurance, injections, etc. Non-smoking environment. Please fax resume to **432-699-6012** or bring to **MMH West Campus, 4214 Andrews Hwy. Ste. 306.**

LCDC- Full time
Confidential FT
Positions available in Midland and Odessa Addiction treatment Centers Mon - Fri 5:30am to 12:30pm & Sat - 6:00am to 11:00am. Treatment Planning, Case Managen ent, Therapy Paid, Vacation., No health Benefits available Fax Resume — 800-671-8364.

LVN
Confidential
FT experienced LVN needed for busy Internal Medicine practice. Benefits offered. Please mail resume to PO Box 50850 Midland, Texas 79710 or fax 432-682-9990.

LVN- Part-Time
Martin County Home Health PT
Martin County Home Health, in Stanton, Texas is seeking dedicated, energetic, compassionate employee. Benefits included.

Martin County Home Health has an immediate opening for the following position:

LVN - Part-Time

If interested please contact Allison Roy, RN at 432-756-3259 or apply in person at 116 N St. Peter Street, Stanton, TX 79782.

Receptionist
Dr. James Miller DDS, Pediatric Dental Specialist FT
Receptionist for Pediatric Dental Office. Experience/Bilingual preferred. Medical/Dental billing required. Mail resume: 2461 E. 11th, Odessa 79761. Non-smoking environment.

Staffing Coordinator
Nurses Unlimited, Inc. FT
Staffing coordinator needed for Nurses Unlimited Private Duty Division, experience preferred. Must have computer skills, good phone etiquette, and be able to multi-task in fast-paced environment. M-F 8a-5p and on-call every other weekend. Call 522-5080 or fax resume to 522-5094. EOE.

HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

All Positions
Confidential FT and PT
Hiring all positions, Part-time and Full-time available. Apply in person: 601 East I-20 & South Terrel, Midland, Tx 79701.

Now Hiring
Residence Inn-Midland FT
New Year; New job! We are looking for enthusiastic associates with a positive attitude to join our team. Must possess outstanding customer service skills and excellent attendance record and can work any shift. Experience preferred. We have openings in our Front Desk, Food & Beverage, Housekeeping Supervisor & Room Attendants, and Night Security Departments. Please apply in person at the Residence Inn 5509 Deauville Blvd.

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

Maintenance Needed
Dakota Apartments is now hiring a Painter. GREAT BENEFITS/PAY. Apply online at www.bhmanagement.com or in person at 5101 North "A" Street, Midland, TX 79705 EOE

MANAGEMENT & EXECUTIVE

Assistant Manager
Confidential FT
A local health food store looking for an assistant manager. Hours of operation are Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm and closed on Sunday. This position can offer an opportunity for growth at this store. Salary DOE but we offer competitive pay. Please contact Kelly Brown at 432-661-4020 or apply in person at 3326 N Midkiff rd.

Finance Manager
Company Confidential FT
New car franchise in Big Spring Area will consider assistance, contractors and other potential stars. M- 17 c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram 201 E. Illinois Midland, TX 79701

Operations Manager
Operations Manager needed for heavy equipment maintenance rental and sales. Equipment knowledge a must. Applicant should have good communication skills, leadership experience and clean driving record. This is a drug free working environment. Salary D.O.E. Please call 432-694-4530 to apply.

Property Management
Confidential FT
Opening for a property management position. Position includes heavy data entry, customer service, sales, overseeing an assistant, some heavy lifting, and usage of some chemicals. Position will involve 50% in office and 50% outside duties which involve physical labor. Applicant needs to be strong in problem solving, self motivation, and initiative. Background and credit check. Drug testing will be done. P- 121 c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram 201 E. Illinois Midland, TX 79701

MANAGEMENT & EXECUTIVE

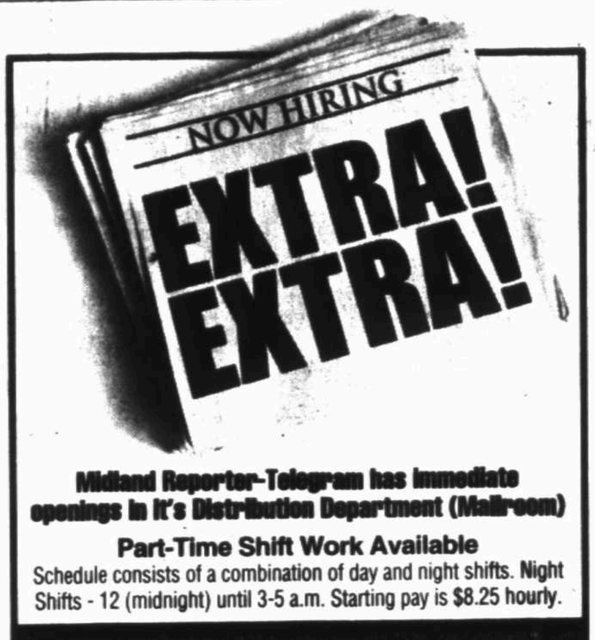
Service Manager
Company Confidential FT
New car franchise in Big Springs area will consider assistance and other potential stars. Please send resume to: M- 17 c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram 201 E. Illinois Midland, TX 79701

MARKETING

Marketing Manager
Position available with Odessa printing, advertising & publishing company. Requires marketing in Midland, Dawson, Borden, Scurry, Glasscock, Upton & Regan Counties. Salary plus commission & benefits. Income potential near 6 figures. Send resume to jimgolden@americanlenders.com or apply in person at BIDCO Corp., 312 E. 2nd St., Odessa, TX. 79761

OTHER JOBS

Auto Detailer
Now hiring experienced auto detailer call 432-631-1026, please leave a message.



Midland Reporter-Telegram has immediate openings in it's Distribution Department (Mailroom)

Part-Time Shift Work Available

Schedule consists of a combination of day and night shifts. Night Shifts - 12 (midnight) until 3-5 a.m. Starting pay is $8.25 hourly.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk
Monday-Friday 8-5 or email: etitsworth@hearstnp.com

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

First United Methodist Church
WANTED! Certified HVAC technician / custodian
Tremendous opportunity in a wonderful work environment for the right person. After completing a 90 day probationary period with our custodial staff, health insurance, sick leave, and paid vacation will be offered. Starting pay will be commensurate with job experience. Only hard working, career oriented individuals need apply. Contact Bobby Darst at (432)682-3701

Hiring NOW!
Molly Maid FT
3404 W. Illinois, Ave. #202, Midland **$10- $14/hr possible**
Apply in person only. No phone calls.

Installer
Confidential FT
Immediate openings for 2 people to install garage doors and openers. Call 432-528-8600.

Laborers
Brown's Permian Electric Co. FT
Laborers needed for local projects. Must furnish own transportation to jobsite and be able to pass drug test. Apply at Brown's Permian Electric Co., 803 S. Marienfeld St., Midland, Monday through Friday, 7-3.

Leasing Agent
Clusters Apartment PT
Part-time Leasing Agent needed at the Clusters, apply in person at 4415 Northcrest Dr. Midland, TX. 79707. Hourly plus bonus.

General

NEWSPAPER STREET CORNER SALES
Midland Reporter-Telegram



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

Positions Available
Aus Mex Tortilla Factory now hiring . Call Jose at 432-561-8869



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Cleaning Help
Cleaning Service FT
Now taking applications for cleaning service. Please call 432-520-3707.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Branch Office Manager
Summit Staffing Inc. FT
Summit is accepting resumes for Branch Office Manager in Odessa, TX. Candidates should be self-motivated, organized, with excellent business relations skills. Needed to cultivate new accounts, grow existing accounts, and identify growth areas in the West Texas Region. Should live within a 50 mile of Odessa or be willing to relocate. Operate office, oversee operations - sales, recruitment, business relations Familiarity with large industrial engines and tools preferred. Will communicate with client base, identify employees for job fill, communicate job requirements, communicate with clients, Corporate and employees in the field. Sales experience a plus. Millwrights with extensive field experience and management potential encouraged. Call the office at 432-272-2509 or cell at 254-631-1530.

Direct Care Staff Member
High Sky Children's Ranch Emergency Shelter is seeking energetic, youth oriented persons for part time employment. This person should at least 25 years of age, have a good driving record, valid driver's license, clear criminal history, drug screen, HS diploma or GED, ability to attend all trainings as assigned and the work consecutive days (including nights). The current positions open are for a direct care staff member working 2-3 evenings during the week 3p-11p and rotating weekends. (Weekends include a full day on Saturday and Sunday). The second shift is open for 11p-9a and requires you to stay awake the entire shift. Call for an application at 433-694-7728 or access at www.highsky.org. You can drop or mail completed application to: High Sky Children's Ranch, 8701 WCR 60, Midland, TX 79707, Attn: Karen Baker. For inquiries or a full job description you can contact Karen Baker at karenb@highsky.org. No phone calls please. Position closes 1/27/12.

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

Closing Drivers
Domino's Pizza needs YOU! Now hiring Full-Time Closing Drivers.
● Make cash everyday ● Great part time & full time shifts ● Starting wage - $7.25 an hour (no Tip Wage here) plus delivery reimbursement, plus tips ● We more than reimburse for high gas prices ● Senior citizens and stay at home Moms always welcome. Apply at any Midland Domino's Pizza locations. 3300 W. Illinois Ave., 604 N. Big Spring St., 4519 N. Garfield St., 2410 Rankin Hwy.

Line Cooks
La Bodega Mexican Restaurant FT
2700 N. Big Spring Street **Apply In Person**
Midland, TX **To fill out application.**
La Bodega Midland is now hiring for experienced Line Cooks.

Now Hiring Warriors
Genghis Grill FT
Server, Host, Busser, Dishwasher, Grill Cook and Prep. Apply in person between 2pm and 5pm. 4517 N. Midkiff Dr. 79705. EOE

RETAIL JOBS

Sales
Wood's Boots FT/PT
Sales associates position available at Wood's Boots. Come join a great team! 4803 Andrews Highway and 812 W. I-20, Midland.

SKILLED LABOR

Assistant Valve Technician
Universal Valve FT
Duties include service & repair of pressure relief valves, thief hatches, vent valves, actuator and various other field vessels. Customer contact and service. Previous experience preferred, must have current drivers license, drug test mandatory. Company benefits include health/dental, paid holidays, vacation, salary DOE. Please fill out application at 3501 W Industrial Ave. No phone calls please.

Backhoe Operator
TCO Field Services FT/
TCO Field Service: Needed Backhoe operator at least 1 year experience/Must have valid Class A CDL license/must pass drug test. Apply in person Tco Field Service, Inc.

DIESEL MECHANIC
Alan Ritchey, Inc. has the following opening in Midland for **Diesel Mechanic**. Primary responsibility is performing preventative maintenance. Would prefer someone ASE certified with at least 3 years experience. Benefits include Medical, Dental, and Vision Insurance, 401K, Cafeteria Plan, Holiday, Vacation, and Sick Pay. If you are interested please apply online at **www.alanritchey.com**.
EOE/M/F/H/V

EXPERIENCED COPIER SERVICE TECHNICIAN
Hilliard Office Solutions has an immediate opening for **Experienced Copier Service Technician**. Service copiers in the field for the Midland/Odessa region. You will be responsible for on-site repairs and maintenance of MFP copiers & HP Printers. This ideal candidate will have: • Minimum of 3-5 years experience servicing copiers • Demonstrate diagnostic expertise • Experience with Computers and networks • Mechanical aptitude • Customer service • Clean driving record. To apply please send your resume to **careers@mmbo.com**, fax **432-617-3043**, or mail to Hilliard Office Solutions, attn: **Human Resources, P.O. Box 52510, Midland, Texas 79710.**

Forklift Operator
Accurate, Inc. FT
Forklift Operator: Heavy Lift and Oilfield experience requires. Please apply at 9504 W CR 127, Midland, TX or call 432-563-1224

Full Time Maintenance
Villa Chateau Apartments FT
Full time maintenance person needed, must have own tools, Drug Screen/ Background Check done, Apply in person at Villa Chateau Apts. 1603 N. Midkiff Rd. No phone calls please.

HVAC Tech
Experience preferred. Will train right person. Paid vacation, paid holidays, retirement and medical insurance. Drug screen required. No DUI's. Apply at: 4501 West Industrial

NOV

Is now accepting applications for the following positions:
Service Mechanics – Diesel Engine knowledge Company truck will be provided
Shipping & Receiving Clerk-Computer knowledge

Please send resume to sheila.savoie@nov.com or NOV Portable Power, Attn: Sheila Savoie, PO Box 220 Larose, LA 70373
Must submit to physical & drug screen. EOE
Great pay & excellent benefits

Licensed Plumbers & Plumber Helpers
Apply in person at **1101 W. Florida** or fax resume to **682-2939**. Salary DOE. We offer benefits, paid holidays, paid vacation & 401k.

Loop, TX - Chemical Operator
Cooper Natural Resources FT
Experienced Chemical Operators-3 years minimum experience and high school diploma or equivalent required. Day and night shifts available. Plant located mid-way between Lubbock and Midland/Odessa. Excellent salary, bonus potential and benefits package. Must be willing to work 12 hours shifts and call-outs. Please apply by one of the following:

- Apply online at coopernatural.com
- Send a resume to CNR, 2407 E. Skelly Dr., Tulsa, OK 74105, or fax to: (918) 743-1291, or by email hr@coopernatural.com
- Request an application by email hr@coopernatural.com

Mack Truck Diesel Mechanic
Permian Pertroleum Services, Inc. FT
Need experienced Mack Truck Diesel Mechanic. Must have own tools. Sign-on bonus, competitive wages, paid health insurance, uniforms and vacations. Retirement, family medical, dental and vision coverage available. Apply to 4601 Rankin Highway, Midland, Texas, mail resume to P. O. Box 3663, Midland, TX 79702, fax to 432-683-7407, or call 24-hour phone 432-682-0434.

Maintenance
Summerhill Apartments FT
Now hiring **General Maintenance**. Apply in person only at: **3001 North Midland Dr. Midland, TX 79707.**

OILFIELD MECHANICS
Deepwater Resources, LP
Immediate openings for experienced drilling rig mechanics and diesel engine mechanics. Pay scale based upon experience, Health Insurance and vacation pay included. Call now! 432.561.5890 Mon. - Fri. 8AM - 5PM or apply in person at 3981 South CR 1297, Odessa, TX 79765

mywesttexas jobs
http://www.mywesttexas.com/jobs
Midland Reporter-Telegram in partnership with monster

SKILLED LABOR

Now Hiring
Mattlock Drilling FT
Are you needing a change? Want to work close to home? Have atleast 6 months experience working as a actual hand on a drilling rig and have never worked for us. Then Mattlock Drilling is the place for you. We offer insurance after 90 days and vacation after a year.The schedule is 6 days on and 2 off. NO CAMP JOBS.
Hiring for
- Drillers
- Derrickhands
- Motorhands
- Leadtonghands

Top Wages. If interesed come in and apply at 12505 WCR 54, Odessa Texas, 79765. Off of business 20 and the coors road. NO PHONE CALLS. Drug and Alcohol Testing. EOE

Pilot Car Driver /Truck Driver
Viking Pool FT
Vacation, dental and health insurance. Must pass drug screen. Apply in person, 8am-5pm, 10600 W. I-20 East, Odessa, TX 79762

RIG HANDS - MIDLAND, TX
Wireline company now hiring! Call **432-894-0712** for an excellent opportunity. We offer top pay, job bonus, insurance, 401k and uniforms. Must have CDL, Haz-Mat a plus, pass drug screen & background check.

Sand Blasters, Painters & Helpers
Accurate, Inc. FT
Hiring sand blasters, painters, helpers. Please call Accurate, Inc. at 432-563-1224 or 512-352-5278 or apply at 9504W CR 127, Midland.

Service Hand
Expro America FT
is looking for dedicated service hand with possibility of advancement for oilfield service company. Excellent benefits and daily job bonuses. Apply in person at 6501 W Industrial, Capstone Industrial Park, building 2708 or call 432-699-0050 or come by 6501 W. Industrial, building 8.

Shop Mechanic
Natural Gas Services Group FT
Natural Gas Service Group is seeking a Shop mechanic with experience rebuilding Cummins and Caterpillar engines, Rotary Screw compressors and reciprocating compressors. Pay depends on experience. Health benefits and 401k offered. Contact Employment@ngsgi.com or contact 432.262.2766

SINGLE HAND WELDER and RIG WELDER
Big Spring refinery contractor needs **Single Hand Welder**. Layout, pipefitting, welding skills required B31:3 Code. **$35.00 per hr., benefits**, permanent. Also need **Rig Welder $50.00 per hr. Call 432-263-9278.**

Welders/Fabricators/Mechanics
Energy Fabrication FT
Now accepting applications for Welders, Fabricators and Mechanics. Top pay, 401K and paid vacation. Please send resume to: 3750 Kermit Highway, Odessa, TX 79764, or apply in person.

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

CDL Driver - Day/Night Shifts
Mid-West Transport FT
Mid-West Truck Center Odessa, TX has immediate openings for:
CDL Drivers. Comprehensive Benefits include company paid Health and Life insurance, plus Vision/Dental/401k! **432-355-6760 / 432-209-9484**

CDL Drivers
Backhoes Plus FT
Class A CDL Drivers needed . BACKHOES/FORKLIFT experience preferred, but will train. Competitive pay, monthly bonuses, and full range of benefits. Apply at: 3700 E Hwy 158 in Midland or call 432-425-9891.

Class A CDL Truck Drivers
Silverline Transportation 432-563-1894
Prefer drivers with Pneumatic Tanker experience. Benefits include: driver sign-on bonus, medical, life & dental insurance, paid vacation, & 401k. Applicants having experience hauling sand and/or dry cement helpful. Good driving record, DOT, drug & alcohol testing required. Apply in person, call for interview or online @ **www.silverlinetx.com** Also hiring for Field Coordinators.

Driver
Hiring CDL Driver for Hot Shot company. Paying 30% of the load. Contact Christy at 432-553-5353. EOE

Drivers
Levinge Freight Lines FT
Levinge Freight Lines is now hiring experienced **Flatbed Drivers** for local pick up and delivery and line haul drivers. 2 years tractor/trailer experience required. We offer salary, mileage and precentage pay. Full benefits package available. **Contact Joey at 432-561-8721** or apply online at www.levingefreightlines.com

Experience CDL Driver
G & K Trucking FT
Local trucking company seeks an experienced driver with a Class A CDL and HazMat endorsement. 432-413-2472

Hot Oil Truck Drivers
Permian Pertroleum Services, Inc. FT
Need experienced hot oil truck driver with current Class A CDL and haz mat endorsement and clean driving record. Sign-on bonus, competitive wages, paid health insurance, uniforms and vacations. Retirement, family medical, dental and vision insurance available. Apply to 4601 Rankin Highway, Midland, Texas, mail resume to P. O. Box 3663, Midland, TX 79702, fax to 432-683-7407, or call 24-hour phone 432-682-0434.

Vacuum & Tank Truck Drivers
Permian Pertroleum Services, Inc. FT
Need Class A CDL vacuum and tank truck drivers with tank endorsement and clean driving records. Must be experienced. Offering sign-on bonus, competitive wages, paid health insurance, uniforms and vacations. Retirement, family medical, dental and vision insurance available. Apply to 4601 Rankin Highway, Midland, Texas, mail resume to P. O. Box 3663, Midland, TX 79702, fax to 432-683-7407, or call 24-hour phone 432-682-0434.

Gazelle International Inc.

NOW HIRING!
CLASS A TANKER DRIVERS & LEAD DRIVERS

Gazelle Transportation, Inc is expanding into West TX, and the surrounding areas in the permian basin. Driver applicants must have Hazmat, Tanker, Doubles and Triples endorsements along with a good MVR record and a minimum of 3 years Class A driving experience. Tanker experience is preferred but not necessary.

Along with exceptional pay, Gazelle offers: Health, Life, Vision, Dental, ST Disability, 125 Plan and 401k Plan. Drivers participate in two separate bonus programs: Quarterly Safety Performance and Annual Longevity Bonusees. Pay is percentage based. HUGE earning potential!!!

APPLY NOW! Positions are limited! Prompt response is encouraged to ensure your consideration.
Request an employment application by calling 1-855-H-A-U-L-O-I-L or by visiting our website: www.gazelletrans.com

Gazelle Transportation Inc is truly committed to the Safety and Success of our drivers!

Treater Truck Driver
X-Chem FT
X-Chem is seeking a Treater Truck Driver for our Midland location. The Treater Truck Driver is responsible for delivering chemical to customer locations, treating wells, monitoring raw material inventory supply, and other duties, as needed.

The ideal candidate will have 1-3 years experience in a similar role, a high school diploma (or equivalent), and a current Class A CDL with Hazmat endorsement.

We offer competitive salary and outstanding benefits including 401(K) with matching funds, major medical, dental, vision, life, long and short term disability. Additionally, we offer an employee credit union, tuition reimbursement, paid vacation and holiday policy, and much more!

Qualified candidates, please contact Jenny Johnson in Human Resources at 972-721-6712 or jenny.johnson@nch.com

LEGAL

Legal Secretary
Confidential FT
Small but very busy law firm seeking Legal Secretary/Assistant, 3 plus years experience preferred. Please send resumes to: P- 122, c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois Midland, TX 79701

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Marty's Marketplace

... leading you to the best bargains in the Permian Basin

Merchandise

Antiques

ANTIQUE DAYTON MONEYWEIGHT STORE SCALE- Early 1900's model. Accurate weight and in good working condition. $550 432-634-5426

ANTIQUE NATIONAL CASH REGISTER. Manufactured 1894. Two drawer model. Polished Brass finish. Very Good Condition $1100. 432-634-5426

SUNFLOWER ANTIQUES
3416 Thomason
(432)262-6778
BUYING/SELLING

Appliances

1 Hour Free AAA Appliances pickup. Call 238-9735 / 528-3046.

Dryer, $100. Refrigerator, $200. Call 432-352-7988.

MAYTAG NEPTUNE dryer, excellent condition. $150. 349-5562

Electronics

55" MITSUBISHI 1080 i Projection TV, $400 OBO. Call 432-262-3467.

HP PAVILLION laptop for sale! Like new! $500/OBO 559-8927

Food, Fruit & Produce

WE BUY pecans come by 302 S. Weatherford. Sandy's Nursery. 432-687-7097.

2 YR old German Shepard Mix & 3 puppies need a good home. Call 559-6874.

31 MOVING BOXES 11X16 inches, $1.00 each. 432-664-8476.

CHIWEENIE named Maddie, 5 lbs, tan, 6 months. Free to good home, 432-260-0955.

FREE 2 paint horses, 2 miniature donkeys, 1 baby mule. For more info call 631-2545

FREE BLUE nose pit, 1.5yr. female, please call 432-212-5346

FREE FEMALE Border Collie mix puppy. 2 month old. Call 432-553-3893.

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!
Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

46" inch Sony TV, Sony DVD player $400 pair. 2 Taupe recliners like new $75 each. 2 very nice bar stools $50 each. Call 432-699-7895

5FT. LEG console black - w/ beautiful black marble top $550, 8x11 rug $425, 72" curio credenza with marble top: new $3200 asking $800, grandfather clock top of the line $2500, call 631-8045, 683-5625

BEAUTIFUL RED couch & loveseat with wood trim. Purchased at Carters, good condition, $875, 978-5574.

BROYHILL QUEEN Continental Tapestry Bed frame in excellent condition, $500 worth $1500. 432-695-4599.

CHINA CABINET $250 Call 432-262-5802

Fax Your Classified Ad in Today, 682-6999

OAK DINING room table with 4 leaves, 6 chairs & buffet, $450, 432-520-3866.

QUEEN SIZE with headboard and footboard, $240. Call 432-689-0478, 631-1570.

SOLID OAK childrens rectangular table w/ six chairs $49.99. Call 432-694-0757.

TABLE 6 chairs w/leaf, matching China cabinet, $650 OBO, 432-218-7244.

Miscellaneous for Sale

55GL METAL burn barrel, clean $10. Please call 432-352-8419

BABY'S FIRST outfit, new. Never worn. Yours for $5. Call 432-694-9491

FOOD TRAILER, 10x7, all equipment necessary. $3500 OBO. 432-889-9697

KEN'S RV SALES
OPEN
Mon.-Fri. 9:00am-5:30pm
Sat. 9:00am-3:00pm
For Info. - After Hours Appt.
Call 432-559-7805
SAVE $1000's ON A LARGE INVENTORY OF QUALITY USED RVs!
• A FULL SERVICE DEALER
• INSURANCE ESTIMATES
• ALL TYPES OF REPAIR
• PROPANE
KEN'S RV SALES

FOR SALE: 2 side by side burial plots located in the Fountain Garden Resthaven Cemetery in Midland. Save 15% off current price. 254-947-9455.

STORAGE UNITS for rent, 10X20, $75 a month! Call 682-7827.

TAN GARAGE DOOR for sale $200. Treadmill 300, $300. 432-212-1772.

Buying Vintage Musical Instruments
Amplifiers. Guitars. Bass's. Drums - Any Band Instruments
432-556-5760 Or Bring By 5 04 W. Hwy 80 Midland, TX
KEN'S RV SALES

Find It! Buy It! Sell It! 432-682-6222

PERMIAN BASIN Gun Show - Ector County Coliseum, Odessa TX, Building G. Saturday & Sunday, January 21st & 22nd 9-5. Guns, knives, re-loading supplies, pistol grips, coins and jewelry. Sponsored by: John and Shirley Pokorny

Industrial Products & Supplies

Heavy Equipment

2007 CASE sidcteer owner deceased. Only 480 hours w/ 2 extra attachments. Call 325-456-8436.

ATTN: READERS Re: Advertising
It is against City ordinance to attach any notices or advertising matter to any utility pole. Please contact City of Midland Code Enforcement Office, 685-7410, for additional information

Animals & Pets

Livestock & Equine

CHAROLAIS BULLS. Registered. Ready to work. 432-448-2560.

Pets

AKC TOY Schnauzer Puppies for Sale-www.westtexastoyschnauzers.com, 432-520-0341

BLACK MOUTH Cur puppies. Ready to work. 432-894-2560.

BLACK-TRI Miniature Australian Shepherd puppies. Males & females $150. American Stock Dog registered. Ready 1/27/12. Call 432-296-1043

LITTER BOX Covers, uniquely designed to stop litter scatter & odors while keeping dogs out. Available online at www.mouzers.com or call 877-668-9377

PETS AT Peace now providing cremations and burials. Pre-need, 12 months, 0% interest. 620-8677.

PUG PUPPIES, 7 weeks old, registered, 432-664-0054.

Classified CAN 682-6222

Passenger Cars

FORD 2002 Focus, standard, 80K miles, good condition, gas saver. $3,200. 432-889-8550.

FORD 2008 Focus SE, 4 Door, 4 Cylinder. We finance W.A.C. B&B Auto 683-6222.

HONDA 2000 Prelude with 114k, silver, super nice. $6,275. Call 432-682-1706.

LINCOLN 1998 Continental. V8, leather, loaded, 127k miles, $1900. 432-664-4690.

MERCEDES 2004 E320, black on black 34k miles, new tires, looks brand new, $19,500. Call 631-8045 or 683-5625

NISSAN 2000 Xterra, real clean, new tires, excellent condition, $4500 OBO. 432-770-5338.

NISSAN 2009 Altima, 4 dr, with warranty, we finance W.A.C. B&B Auto 683-6222.

PONTIAC 2001 Grand AM GT. V6, very sporty, $1900. Call 432-664-4690.

SATURN 1998 SL2, 4 door, automatic, 30+ mpg, $1300. Call 432-664-4690

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PERFECTSOUND



In old vs. new violins, beauty is in ear of beholder

By Nicholas Wade
N.Y. Times News Service

What gives a violin made by Stradivari or Guarneri del Gesu its remarkable sound? Researchers have examined the wood preservatives, varnish, even the effects of the Little Ice Age on the density of wood for anything that might explain the instruments' almost magical properties.

Claudia Fritz, an expert on the acoustics of violins at the University of Paris, has arrived at a different explanation for the secret. Despite a widespread belief in the old violins' superiority and the millions of dollars it now costs to buy a Stradivarius, the fiddles made by the old masters do not in fact sound better than high-quality modern instruments, according to a blind-folded play-off she and colleagues have conducted.

"I don't think there is any secret, except in people's minds," she said.

Many tests have been conducted in which an audience tries, usually unsuccessfully, to guess whether a violinist behind a screen is playing a new instrument or an old master. But Fritz said to her knowledge, no one had conducted a well-controlled study putting the same question to the real experts: violinists.

Teaming up with the violin-maker Joseph Curtin and others, she corralled violinists attending an international competition in Indianapolis and had them compare three high-quality modern violins with a Guarneri and two Stradivari instruments.

People asked to rate a wine will judge it more pleasant when told it costs more. To avoid any such effect, the violinists had to wear goggles so that they could not identify the violins. In one test they were allowed to play all six violins and asked to choose which they would most like to take home. In another, they were required to compare a pair of violins, without being told that one was a classic and the other a new instrument.

Despite a general belief among violinists that Stradivari and Guarneri violins are tonally superior, the participants in Fritz's test could not reliably distinguish such instruments from modern violins. Only eight of the 21 subjects chose an old violin as the one they'd like to take home. In the old-to-new comparison, a Stradivarius came in last and a new violin as the most preferred.

"These results present a striking challenge to conventional wisdom," Fritz and her colleagues reported online Monday in The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Fritz's conclusions, naturally enough, are music to the ears of modern violin-makers. Violinists view them with less rapture.

The study is "highly credible," said Sam Zygmuntowicz, a luthier who has made instruments for Isaac Stern, Yo-Yo Ma and the Emerson String Quartet. It "puts cold water on some old myths and should certainly be good news to young musicians who yearn for violins that they will never afford."

"There isn't any ineffable essence" about the old violins, "only a physical object that works better or worse in a variety of circumstances," said Zygmuntowicz, who has worked with the physicist George Bissinger on a scientific documentation of old violins.

Does this mean there is no lost secret of the Cremona violin-makers? "It's impossible for us to say," Zygmuntowicz said. Each instrument is special, but it is hard to tell what is different about them as a class. "I think new violins can capture most if not all of what makes old violins great, and even if they can't, we shouldn't stop trying," he said.

A less respectful view of Fritz's study is offered by the violinist Earl Carlyss, a longtime member of the Juilliard String Quartet. "It's a totally inappropriate way of finding out the quality of these instruments," he said. The auditions, he noted, took place in a hotel room, but violinists always need to assess how an instrument will project in a concert hall. He likened the test to trying to compare a Ford and a Ferrari in a Walmart parking lot.

"The modern instruments are very easy to play and sound good to your ear, but what made the old instruments great was their power in a hall," he said.

Carlyss emphasized the very personal relationship that violinists have with their instruments — something that may be hard to emulate under the conditions of the test. A similar view was expressed by Mark Ptashne, a biologist and violinist who plays the Plowden Guarneri del Gesu — the old Italian violins all have individual names — and has also owned a Stradivarius.

"Even experienced players who have not lived with a great violin don't realize what they are hearing or doing when they first play a great instrument," he said. "Second, Strads and del Gesus vary tremendously in sound characteristics and quality, so generalizations are hard to make from a few cases, in any event."

Fritz acknowledged that her study used few violins. But it is quite difficult, she noted, to get owners to lend out their million-dollar instruments to be played by blindfolded strangers.

Paypal, BitCoin not the same

Dear PropellerHeads: Some guy told me PayPal was old news and I needed to start us-ing BitCoin. I must've missed this one. What's up?

A: I think your friend was mouthing off about some headline that he saw on Zite (zite.com) but never bothered to read past the first sentence in the article.

BitCoin and PayPal both involve paying for things electronically, but that's where the similarity ends. It's like Michel Bublé and Harry Connick Jr. They seem pretty similar, but Bublé? Seriously?

As you probably know, PayPal (paypal.com) is a payment service where you register your bank account and/or credit cards into a single account for convenience. Then, eCommerce sites use that for easy check-out.

BitCoin (BitCoin.org) is a virtual (electronic only) currency that may become a standard currency for online payments.

Now don't get all excited about the whole virtual money thing. It has been quite a while since our currency has had any direct relationship to anything tangible. We don't pay for our bacon in salt or gold.

Also consider that alternative/community currencies are more prevalent than you think, including Valley Dollars of Greenfield, Mass. or The Fourth Corner Exchange (fourthcornerexchange.com) from the Pacific Northwest, and others. In all cases, the money we use has value because we believe it does. Lastly, almost all of your current monetary transactions are likely electronic now anyway.

BitCoin is unique in that it is electronic-only. Also, unlike traditional transfer methods, BitCoins move through the Internet using a very sophisticated public/private key encryption system. BitCoins are identified by their transfer history and with the cooperation of a self regulating certification process. These BitCoin exchanges run software that verifies the electronic genealogy of any BitCoins (called blocks) as part of the transaction process. This commerce takes place using a peer-to-peer (P2P) non-centralized model.

There are about 8 million BitCoins in circulation with 21 million planned by 2041 in a decreasing release structure. Like any currency, BitCoin values fluctuate, albeit they are a bit more volatile than let's say the US dollar or British pound. As of this article, a BitCoin was worth about $6.

It is possible to employ BitCoins anonymously and BitCoin transactions cannot be blocked by a central payment processor such as PayPal. So, it has become a friend of those who don't want all of their momentary transactions monitored or blocked. This includes those who have donated to Wikileaks (http://onforb.es/pcnC5b) and internet gambling fans (http://bit.ly/J4seHt).

This PropellerHead decided to go for a spin and opened a BitCoin account on a popular Bit-Coin clearing house, MTGOX.com. This allowed me to accept BitCoins, buy them, and sell them. I could've alternatively created a BitCoin wallet on my Windows, Linux or Apple com-puter using software from BitCoin.org. You can view the block your BitCoins arrived in at blockexplorer.com. Once you have some BitCoins, you can spend them with folks that ac-cept them and you can exchange them for cash in your denomination of choice.

BitCoins are pretty hot right now. You may have missed it, but the CBS show The Good Wife (cbs.com/primetime/the_good_wife) had an episode on the subject that originally aired on Jan 15th. Look for the rerun.

I am not sure BitCoins are for everyone, but they might be one day. So we'll keep you posted.

Here's one: Oscar hosts James Franco/Anne Hathaway or Billy Crystal. C'mon.

Send questions on business or consumer technology to questions@asktheppropellerheads.com; or Data Directions Inc., 8510 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, Va. 23116. For more information visit www.asktheppropellerheads.com.

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