MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

NEW CONTRACT

XTO Energy receives contract from lunch services provider.

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TOURNAMENT TIME

Midland native Kelsey Hoppel and her Lubbock Christian University women's basketball team play in the NCAA Division II national tournament today.

Page 1C

Low prices could mean relief for small producers

By Jim Malewitz
Texas Tribune

After a 20-month free fall, West Texas crude prices thudded to a milestone last month — one that could bring some tax relief to small-time producers in Texas, state Comptroller Glenn Hegar said this week.

In 2005, Texas lawmakers created a tax credit for minor oil producers, triggered only when oil prices plunge below certain levels. It had never kicked in until February, Hegar said in an interview.

"It's a significant low threshold for oil prices in Texas," the Republican said, calling the credit "a big deal" to operators of "marginal wells" — typically stripper wells, whose nodding pumpjacks churn up low volumes of crude.

Those wells are the most common of those dotting the Texas landscape. They produce a significant share of the state's total output — up to 20 percent, according to Ed Longanecker, president of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners.

The tax credit applies only to those pumping an average of 15 barrels a day over three months. And it's based on average prices over that period, adjusted to 2005 levels.

Last month, that figure settled at $28.48 per barrel, according to the comptroller's office. That's just below the $30 threshold to shave 25 percent off a small producer's severance tax bill.

If adjusted prices range between from $22 to $25, those producers could claim a 50 percent credit. The credit swells to 100 percent at $22 per barrel or lower.

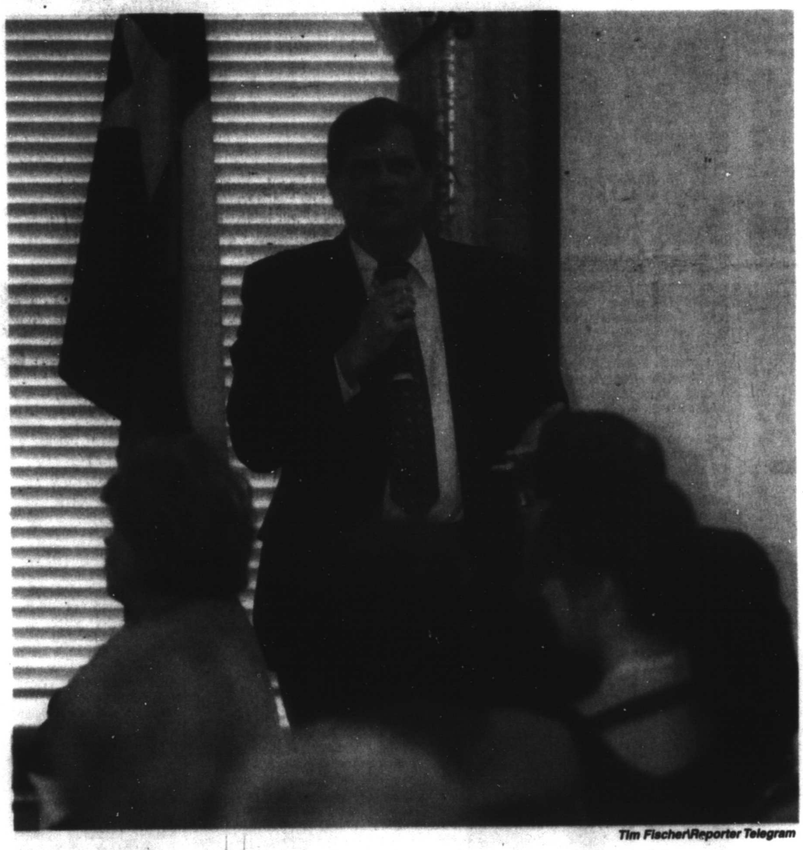
Hegar said his number crunchers aren't yet sure how the credit would affect the state's budget outlook, since they had no historic data on the incentive to analyze. That would depend on how many producers take advantage. If the incentive works, he said, it would prevent producers from completely shuttering marginal wells, slowing the decline in production statewide.

Longanecker, whose group represents small producers, said he was still gathering information about the incentive, which he welcomed.

"It's very refreshing to see our elected officials having that foresight to create policies that provide some relief to

Please see **RELIEF**/4A

A CALL FOR UNITY



Tim Fischer\Reporter Telegram

Texas GOP Chairman Tom Mechler speaks Wednesday at the Midland County Republican Women's luncheon.

State GOP chairman: 'We've got to unite'

Tom Mechler, Jerry Morales address MCRW at luncheon

By Cassie Burton
cburton@mrt.com

Several Midland residents heard about current state and national politics and future Midland projects when the Midland County Republican Women hosted Texas Republican Party chairman Tom Mechler and Mayor Jerry Morales Wednesday at its monthly luncheon.

Mechler spoke of unity within the party for the November presidential election and in the months preceding.

"After (primaries are) done, we're going to rally behind a nominee. That's our nominee, period," Mechler said. "When you start out with 17 candidates, most people may not get their first or second or even third choice as the nominee, but let's remember who the enemy is," he said, referring to the Democratic Party.

Melcher said the media carries some blame for the divisive rhetoric among presidential candidates and that Republican National Committee leaders don't encourage derogatory rhetoric. He also said that he and other party leaders don't have any control of what presidential nominees choose to say in public.

Mechler said that regardless of varying opinions among party members, "we've got to unite."

"Anybody who is conservative in Texas should be a Republican because we're the conservative party," Mechler said. "Anybody who is a Republican should feel welcome in their party and that is an important part of what we're doing."

Mechler said that if Republican voters choose to stay home in November rather than vote for a candidate who was not their top choice, it's a vote for the Democratic Party. He encouraged luncheon attendees to become a

Please see **MCRW**/4A

City reports another 20 percent sales tax decrease

From staff reports

Another month, another 20 percent decrease in the city's sales tax collection.

For the fourth time in the last seven months, the city of Midland reported its sales tax collection from the state showed a 20-plus percent decrease from the same month in the previous year.

Officially, the report indicates the Comptroller's Office sent a $2.648 million check in March to the city of Midland. The collection represents a 22.41 percent decrease compared to March 2015, the seventh straight double-digit decrease and 13th straight decrease overall.

If sales tax collection is based on spending, and therefore one of the more important economic indicators a community has, the March collection provides city officials with more bad news.

For the second straight year, the city is reporting lower sales tax collection numbers in March, so the comparisons to the most heated economic times are coming to a close. One has to go back to 2012 to find a month of March when the city performed worse than 2016.

For the year, the city's sales tax collection is down nearly 20 percent — 19.7 percent. With six months month remaining in the fiscal year, the city has faced a $4.75 million decrease.

The Reporter-Telegram reported last month that should the city post a 19 percent decrease in collections for the year, it would represent a loss of more than $8 million compared to the previous fiscal year. A collection of just more than $36.1 million would be the worst year for sales tax collections in Midland going back to 2012 ($34.58 million).

Just as the city's collection has dropped by nearly 20 percent this year, so has the amount being collected to pay off the debt created to build the Scharbauer Sports Complex and the amount dedicated for economic development. Both are on pace to raise just more than $9 million this year. Last year, both quarter-cent taxes raised more than $11.14 million.

Sales tax revenue is generated by sales tax income from two months before collection; March collection is based on January sales.

By the numbers

Sales tax collection decreases

October	23.61 percent
November	16.08 percent
December	25.77 percent
January	23.84 percent
February	10.21 percent
March	22.41 percent

Fiscal year average: 19.7 percent decrease

Weather
Mostly cloudy
68/48
Get your complete forecast on 7C

Energy prices

WTI Futures	$36.29	▲ $1.76
WTI Posted	$34.75	▲ $1.75
WTS Posted	$30.15	▲ $1.75
Natural Gas	$1.702	▲ $0.040
Gasoline	$1.627	▲ $0.036

The big number
The Senate voted
16-6
for the new education secretary. Page 7A

Word of the Day: galumph
Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 3A

Brought to you daily by Jim Burris

Vol. 87, No. 365
Daily $1, Sunday $2

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Obituaries

Doris (Dee) Ladell Spires

Doris (Dee) Ladell Spires, 86, of Midland, passed away on Thursday, February 25, 2016.

There will be a memorial service at the First Baptist Church Chapel on Friday, March 11, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

Doris was born in Mound, Texas on September 8, 1929 to Quince and Gladys Davidson. She graduated from Hamilton High School and attended Tarleton College. Doris was married to Truman E. Spires (Gene) on February 17, 1950 in Brady, Texas. They moved to Midland, Texas in 1953.

Doris worked as an interior designer for 30 years. After retiring, she was a full-time artist. She was a member of Oil Painters of America and participated in a plein air impressionist group that included Don L. Parks, Charles N. Pruitt, and Mary Rasmussen at the Haley Library for 26 years. She was selected in the top 200 picks in the Arts for the Parks Competition in 1998 and 2000. Her work was represented by the Adobe Gallery in Ruidoso, New Mexico and Concetta D. Gallery in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She was a featured artist at Midland Arts Associations Celebration of the Arts in 1995. She was a recipient of a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International.

Doris was a member of the Junior League of Midland, Green Thumb Garden Club, Midland Arts Association, and a Hospital Pink Lady. She was a member of the First Baptist Church since 1953 and served as a Sunday school teacher, WMU leader, and church training leader.

Doris was preceded in death by her mother, Gladys; her father, Quince; and her two sisters, Martha Lou and Marilyn.

Doris is survived by her husband of 67 years, Gene Spires; son, Gerry Spires; and daughter, Connie Gardenhire, both of Midland; her grandchildren, Jason Spires, Trevor Spires, and Karli Spires; her great-grandson, Thomas Reed Spires; as well as many nephews, nieces, and their children, and numerous friends.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to the staff and nurses at Midland Memorial Hospital and, especially, to Reverend David Johnson from the First Baptist Church for his many visits.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Haley Memorial Library and History Center, 1805 W Indiana Ave, Midland, TX 79701, 432-682-5782, to the Kairos Prison Ministry at P.O. Box 50002, Midland, Texas 79710 or to the charity of your choice.

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

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-3355

Elmer Winston Barnett, Sr.

Elmer Winston Barnett, Sr., 91, of Midland, passed away on Monday, March 7, 2016. Private services will be held at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Elmer was born on August 21, 1924 in Steephollow, now Bryan, Texas, to Calvin Luther Barnett and Jewell Webster Barnett. Many of his childhood years were spent in Navasota, Texas.

Elmer married his high school sweetheart, Marie Barber, on October 4, 1947 in Midland, Texas. They both graduated from Midland High School with the Class of 1944. Together they raised three children, Elmer Winston Barnett, Jr. "Buster," Geoffrey Lynn Barnett, and Jeanette Barnett Dragisic.

In 1946, Elmer began working for Chevron as an oil scout for 40 years until his retirement in 1986. Marie passed away on July 26, 1984. On August 30, 1985, Elmer married Sarah Carter Barnett and the couple continued to reside in Midland until his passing.

Elmer was a lifetime PTA member, Little League, and Pony League Baseball coach, umpire, and league president. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Midland and a Master Mason of the Masonic Lodge of Midland. He was also a member and past officer of the Downtown Lion's Club. Elmer was an enthusiast of rocks, gems, minerals, and coin collecting. He loved researching genealogy and Texas history. Elmer enjoyed western movies and music and loved his family's many pets.

Elmer is survived by his wife, Sarah Carter Barnett; son, Elmer "Buster" Winston Barnett, Jr.; grandchildren, Amanda Barnett and Trey Barnett and his wife Nikki; great-grandchildren, Tanner Barnett, Noble, Miriam, Asa, Kiah, and India Riddell; son, Geoff Barnett and wife, Sylvia Barnett; grandchildren, Geoffrey Barnett, Jr., Wade Barnett, and Meredith Barnett; great grandchild, Ian Barnett; daughter, Jeanette Barnett Dragisic and husband Thomas; grandchildren, Nicole Dragisic and Noelle Dragisic Hall and husband Clint Hall; and by numerous friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Marie Barber Barnett; daughter-in-law, Susan Barnett; sister, Wanda Barnett; and brother, Raymond Barnett.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the Lone Star Animal Sanctuary, 4200 North Fairgrounds Road, Midland, Texas 79705, 432-683-7387 under the account name "E.W. Barnett."

The family would like to express their gratitude toward Compass Hospice and the loving staff at Legacy Ranch. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences may be made at *www.npwelch.com* .

Gwendolyn Miles

Funeral services for Gwendolyn Miles, 77, of Belton, will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 11, 2016 at Harper-Talasek Funeral Home in Belton. She passed away Monday, March 7, 2016 at a local hospital.

There will be a time of visitation and fellowship at Harper-Talasek Funeral Home, 503 N. Main St. Belton, TX 76513, on Thursday, March 10, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Gwen was born November 8, 1938 in Lampasas, Texas to the late Katharine Bryant and George Jefferson Norris.

She is survived by three siblings and their spouses - Nona Slaughter, Ronnie and Betty Rains, and Donnie and Sharon Rains.

Gwen married Lowell Miles in Midland, Texas on February 15, 1957. Gwen lived in Arkansas for many years. She moved with her husband and children to Belton in 1976 to help her husband constitute a Primitive Baptist Church which is still thriving in Temple, Texas.

Gwen's 23 years of service as a Belton ISD cafeteria manager were recognized upon her retirement in a local paper. "Mrs. Miles never treated a student or adult with anything but respect. She has fed a multitude of hungry little folks and waited patiently as kindergartners tried to choose certain foods and learned often the hard way, how to carry their trays without dumping them on her or their neighbor. Through it all, she kept smiling and hugging those who needed it."

She was a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother and loved spending time with the children. Gwen was a fountain of good-will, and she was loved by everyone who knew her. She will be remembered for her sweet nature, sense of humor, and fighting spirit.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lowell Miles on June 4, 2006; her mother and father; and her brother, Harold Norris.

Survivors include four children and their spouses, Teresa and James Rush, Laresa and Jon Trusty, Debra and Mike Martin, and son, Billy Miles.

She is also survived by 12 grandchildren and their spouses, Joshua and Alisha Rush, Leah and Armi Easterby, Erin and Terry Timberlake, Brandy and Dustin Smith, Jennifer and Brandon Mathiews, Daniel Rush and Melissa Baddock, Adam Trusty and Stephanie Mullins, Steven and Amanda Trusty, Kimberly and James Burgess, Blake Miles Blanchard, Brandon Miles, and David Miles, and by 10 great-grandchildren.

She was loved dearly and will be greatly missed.

Kirk Douglas Payne

Kirk Douglas Payne was born in Dalhart, Texas on August 4, 1963 to Donna Holland-Bryant and the late Ray Payne. He passed away on Monday March 7, 2016.

Kirk graduated from Dalhart High School and later became a resident of Midland, Texas after marrying Sheila Payne on October 27, 1984. Kirk was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus at St. Stephens Catholic Church in Midland. He enjoyed riding bulls while growing up in Dalhart and later found passion in hunting, fishing, firearms, and football.

Kirk is survived by his children, Joshua Payne, Jacob Payne, Jessica Payne, their mother Sheila Payne, and spouses Tony Davis and Emily Payne; grandchildren, Parker Payne and Beckett Payne; mother, Donna Bryant; grandmother, Leona Holland; and by brothers, Kit Payne and Coy Payne.

Kirk was preceded in death by his sister, Radona Payne; and by grandparents, Jimmy Holland, Hugh Payne, and Pauline Payne.

Graveside services will be held Friday March 11, 2016 at Dalhart City Cemetery at 302 Cherry Ave at 1:30 p.m. Flowers can be sent to the cemetery or a donation can be made in his memory to any addiction awareness organization of your choice or to the Midland Habitat of Humanity.

The family would like to thank all those who have offered their condolences in the way of food, flowers, and moral support.

Lynette Blum Brooks (Barnes)

Lynette Brooks, 80, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her four children, on Monday, March 7, 2016, at a Midland hospital.

Family will receive friends from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2016, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, March 11, 2016, at First Baptist Church, Big Spring with burial immediately following at Trinity Memorial Park.

Lynette was born on January 14, 1936 in Kilgore, Texas to Pauline Louder Blum and Joe Blum. The family moved to Big Spring when she was a teenager. Lynette attended and graduated with the Big Spring High School Class of 1954 and enrolled at Howard College that fall.

In 1955, on a blind date set up by Jann Brooks at Carlos' Restaurant, she met Ralph Brooks (Jann's brother), an Air Force pilot home on leave. It was love at first sight and they married three weeks later. The newlyweds were off to Germany to start their life together in the United States Air Force.

Lynette was the perfect officer's wife who kept a spotless home, a smile on her face and was ready to move to the next assignment with very short notice.

A strong and devoted woman, she cared for their four children (Laura, Greg, Cindy, and Mike) with love, patience, and kindness as Ralph proudly served his country as a USAF fighter pilot in the Korean War, then, as a member of the USAF Thunderbirds Aerial Demonstration Team and, finally, as a fighter pilot in Vietnam. Lynette never wavered in her dedication to her family and husband, constantly looking after their well-being.

When Ralph retired in 1973, the Brooks family returned to Big Spring to join Lynette's parents' business - Blum's Jewelers. She was a constant fixture at the family business and enjoyed meeting and greeting customers and friends.

Lynette was baptized in 1988 at First Baptist Church by Dr. Kenneth Patrick and, in recent years, she attended services at First Presbyterian Church of Midland.

After Ralph's passing in 1993 at age 62, Lynette continued to work at Blum's with their eldest son, Greg, until she married Vess John Barnes, Jr. in 2003 and moved to Amarillo. Mr. Barnes passed in 2005 and Lynette moved to Midland for the milder winters, close enough to Big Spring to visit family and far enough away to keep Greg from putting her back to work full-time.

Most recently, Lynette and her long-time friend, Colonel Harry Spannaus of Midland, were constant companions and best friends. They enjoyed traveling, Air Force reunions, and glasses of wine in the evenings. Harry fulfilled her life in Midland and they held a special bond, which she cherished dearly.

Lynette loved traveling with her children, going on cruises and seeing the world. She was especially fond of spending the Fall season in Angel Fire, New Mexico with Ralph. She loved the outdoors, the water, and was most at peace on a beach or in a boat with the sun on her face. She kept herself busy and was constantly on the move making the most of her time.

Her children and grandchildren were the dearest things in her life. Lynette was always prepared, in advance, with a phone call, gift, or card for them on special occasions. She treasured being with her family.

Lynette's smile was infectious and could warm any heart. Her beautiful blue eyes welcomed everyone they graced and people knew immediately of her sweetness and gentle manner. Lynette's kindness was paralleled by her strength, surviving two bouts of lung cancer and the deaths of her husbands and granddaughter, Christie. When faced with her greatest challenge in the most recent weeks, her most courageous act of strength was her resolution to find peace and comfort in arms of the Lord.

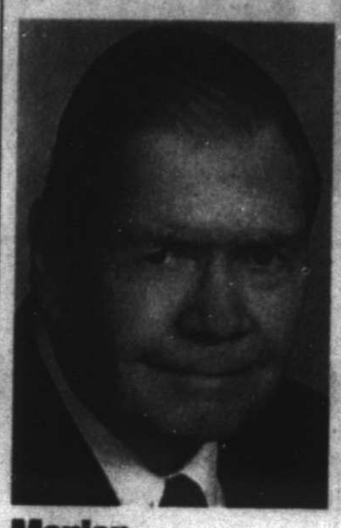
Lynette is survived by her children, Laura and Joe Covarrubias, Jr. of Allen, Texas, Greg and Lisa Brooks of Big Spring, Cindy Barnes of Austin, Texas, and Mike and Liz Brooks of Spicewood, Texas, as well as honorary family member, long-time employee and friend, Betty Gamboa; grandchildren, Adam Brooks Proctor, David Brooks and Christopher Brooks, Nicole Barnes, Allyson Barnes and Ivan Barnes, Jon Michael Brooks, and Forrest Brooks and Caroline Brooks; one great-grandson, Hunter Brooks Proctor; and by her beloved brother, Bob Blum and his wife Peggy of Cumming, Georgia and their children, Steve Blum and Karen Davidson.

Lynette was preceded in death by her wonderful parents, loving husbands, and precious granddaughter, Christie Dianne Proctor.

Pallbearers for the funeral service will be David Brooks, Christopher Brooks, Jon Michael Brooks, Forrest Brooks, and Ivan Barnes and Glenn Prescott, with Adam Brooks Proctor as an honorary pallbearer.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the American Cancer Society or other favorite charity.

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



Merion Luke Johnson

Merion Luke Johnson, 83, of Midland, passed away on Monday, March 7, 2016.

Memorial services will be held at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, March 12, 2016 at Christ Church Anglican in Midland.

He was born June 14, 1932 to Roy (Buck) and Mary Avis Johnson in Weatherford, Texas. He attended public schools in Weatherford, graduating from high school in 1949 at the age of 16. He served in the United States Navy, attending schools in Jacksonville, Florida and electronics school in Memphis, Tennessee. He worked in Norfolk, Virginia and Corpus Christi, Texas, ending his naval career as an Aviation Electronics Technician 3rd Class.

He married Virginia (Ginger) Tong in 1953 in Corpus Christi. He attended Texas A&M from 1953 until 1960, receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1957, and the Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1960. He was employed by Phillips Petroleum Company in Bartlesville, Oklahoma from 1960-1970, working in the Research and Development Department doing process control research. He was inventor/co-inventor on nine United States Patents during that period and co-author of 10 nationally published technical articles on petrochemical process control.

In 1970, he moved to El Paso Products Company in Odessa as a Control Engineer, where he worked on such projects as installing computer control in the Olefin plan. In 1989, he transferred to Ref Chem Corp., of Odessa until retirement in 1997.

He served in the Episcopal Church in Odessa until 1997 in many positions such as Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Diocesan Convention Delegate, Eucharistic Minister, and in several diocesan committees. He and Ginger moved to Midland in 1998 in order to join Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and later, St. Nicholas Christ Church Midland, a Bible-believing Anglican Church, in 2005.

Merion is preceded in death by his wife, Ginger, and oldest son Dennis.

He is survived by one son, David Johnson; and one daughter, Bethany Caldwell, both of Odessa. He has five grandchildren, Luke Johnson, Rachel Johnson, Joshua Caldwell, Katy Caldwell, Jacob Caldwell all of Odessa. There are also five great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Christ Church Midland or a charity of your choice. For flowers that are being sent, please have them delivered to Christ Church.

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

To Submit Obituaries:
Contact
Direct: 432-682-6222
Fax: 432-682-6999
Email: obits@mrt.com
Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com

Michael Paul Whirley

Michael Paul Whirley, 60, of Odessa, Texas, passed away on March 7, 2016 in Odessa, Texas.

Michael Paul Whirley was born in Big Spring, Texas to Ray and Mildred Whirley on February 25, 1956. He attended Burleson Elementary School, Bowie Junior High School, and Odessa High School in Odessa, Texas. He married his "Brown Eyed Girl" Cynthia Gail Rimer on May 1, 1976 in Odessa, Texas. He graduated from high school with a GED while serving his country in the United States Marine Corps.

He was a life-long oilfield entrepreneur, working with R&H Well Service, Trey Trucks, Whirley Equipment & Sales, Globe Energy Services, and Dragon West Texas. He was a veteran of the Viet Nam War era, serving our country as a Lance Corporal Explosives Ordinance Disposal in the United States Marine Corps. He served as a Director for the Permian Basin International Oil Show. He had a great love for the American Cancer Society Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Mr. Whirley is preceded in death by his father, Raymond, and mother, Mildred Whirley; sister, Deana Whirley; and by two brothers, Allen and Dennis Whirley.

Michael is survived by his faithful sweetheart of 41 years, Cynthia Gail Whirley; son, Phillip and Wendy Whirley of Odessa, Texas, daughter, Tiffney Lanette Pedersen and husband Anders of Abilene, Texas; brother, Jerry Ray Madry of Abilene, Texas; sisters, Sharon Ranell Herrington of Houston, Texas, Patty Marie Floyd of Odessa, Texas, Tammy Eyvonne Gibson of Big Spring, Texas, and Mary Ann Smith of Crane, Texas; and by five grandchildren, Samantha Nicole, Kyle Nicholas, Sabrina Gail Whirley, Michael Robert, and Johanne Faith Gail Pedersen.

Honorary pallbearers are Chris Brashear, Ray Floyd, Gary Kemp, Chris Rimer, Darrell Rimer, Johnny Floyd, John Hawkins, Wade Havens, and Cody Vogler.

Memorials may be given to the American Cancer Society Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The family of Michael Paul Whirley wishes to express our sincerest thanks to Mr. Will Crenshaw and the Dragon Family for their faithful support, the Veterans Administration staff and doctors, and the Medical Center Hospital nurses, doctors and oncology staff.

Semper Fi and God Bless America!

Memorial services will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m., Friday, March 11, 2016 at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Kyle L. Rodgers officiating. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

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

SUNSET MEMORIAL
GARDENS & FUNERAL HOME
To Submit Obituaries:
Contact
Direct: 432-682-6222
Fax: 432-682-6999
Email: obits@mrt.com
Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com

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

Obituaries

Sharon Joyce Gaston Hollis-Rogers

Sharon Joyce Gaston Hollis-Rogers, 76, of Midland, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Sunday, March 6, 2016.

The family will receive friends at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland, Texas on Thursday, March 10, 2016 between 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Graveside services will be held 11:00 a.m., Friday, March 11, 2016 at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Sharon was born November 13, 1939 in Hobbs, New Mexico to Bernice and Burl Gaston. She was raised in Hobbs and graduated from Hobbs High School and married Ray Hollis August 27, 1957. Together they raised two daughters before he passed away 30 years later.

Sharon was a loving homemaker and loved taking care of her family. She was a member of First Baptist Church and loved her church. She taught Sunday school for over 30 years and worked as a Director of Sunday School, and served on many committees.

She was a Brownie Scout Leader, member of Order of Eastern Star #253, Rainbow Secretary, PTA Secretary at Jane Long Elementary, Auxiliary Pink Lady for Hobbs Lea County General Hospital and Midland Memorial Hospital, Volunteer for Junior Achievement, Hospice volunteer and a member of Phi Theta Kappa Society, always involved in all activities of her family.

She enjoyed many friends, movies, dancing, a good book, and playing and winning Skip Bo and Words With Friends. She was much loved by her children, grandchild, great-grandsons, and devoted husband. She was employed part-time at KCRS Radio when her daughters started school. Full time employment evolved later and she moved on as Deputy Clerk for State Court; Deputy Clerk for Federal Court; in later years, she retired from Midland College. She also earned her degree from Midland College.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Jerry D. Rogers of Midland; daughter, Gwendolyn Hollis Haney and husband Jay of Midland; daughter, Gaylene Hollis Burfield and husband Buddy of San Angelo; granddaughter, Jennifer Harkey of Midland; two great-grandsons, Jacob Harkey and Jayden Harkey of Midland; and stepchildren, Raye Lynn Kirkland and Rick Rogers.

She is preceded in death by late husband, Ray Hollis; parents, Bernice and Burl Gaston; and brother, Kenneth Gaston.

We, the family, would like to offer our sincere gratitude for the exceptional care from Dr. Staton Awtrey, Dr. Leela Lella, Dr. Satish Mocheria, and the CCU Nursing Staff of MMH for their love and consideration that went above and beyond their duties, especially Scott Turner, RN and Aimee Marshall, RN.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to Pink the Basin, (P.O. Box 62122, Midland, TX 79711); Midland College, Baptist Crisis Center, Hospice of Midland; or any charity of your choice.

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

Anylah Christine Hearst

Anylah Christine Hearst, 4 months old, born on October 29, 2015 in Midland, Texas, passed away on March 4, 2016 in MIdland, Texas.

Anylah was a sweet, happy baby who was always smiling and laughing. She had a very healthy appetite, and the prettiest eyes you've ever seen.

If there ever comes a day when we can't be together, keep me in your heart and I'll stay there forever.

She is survived by her parents, Chris Hearst and Deja Williams of Midland, Texas; one brother, Elijah Foster; two sisters, Nakilan Hearst and Azalea Hearst; maternal grandparents, Stacy DeVille and James Williams of Beaumont, Texas; and paternal grandmother, Dorothy Van Dyke of Midland, Texas.

She is preceded in death by her paternal grandfather, Laurence Jackson.

A viewing will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2016 between 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at American Heritage Cemetery & Funeral Home.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, March 11, 2016 at Antioch Baptist Church in Midland at 11:00 a.m., officiated by Pastor Van Dyke, followed by a burial at American Heritage Cemetery & Funeral Home, 4100 N. FM-1788, Midland, Texas.

Arrangements are entrusted to American Heritage.

American Heritage
CEMETERY & FUNERAL HOME
The Healing Starts Here.

Death Notices

Dorothy Roberts Slattery

Dorothy Roberts Slattery, 77, of Midland, passed away on Sunday, March 6, 2016. Memorial services will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at Calvary Christian Fellowship, 1024 Andrews Hwy #E, Midland, TX, 79701.

She is survived by her husband, William Beaumont Slattery; son, Joseph Martin Slattery; son, Marc Beaumont Slattery; son, Matthew Roberts Slattery; daughter, Marsha Sue Thomas; and son, Michael James Slattery.

Elvin Britton

Elvin Britton, 67, of Midland, died Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

Memorial services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 12, 2016 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland.

There are no survivors.

Gerald "Jerry" Lynn Welch

Gerald "Jerry" Lynn Welch, 63, of Midland, passed away on Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

A celebration will be held at a later date.

He is survived by his son, Scottie Welch; daughters, Terri Killinen, Bridgette Boyd, and Maegan Coppedge; his father, L.V. Welch; and by one brother.

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

Launch services provider awards contract to XCOR

From staff reports

United Launch Alliance, the nation's premier launch services provider, has awarded XCOR Aerospace with a new contract through the U.S. Air Force to develop an upper stage propulsion system for Vulcan, ULA's next-generation launch system, according to a press release on XCOR's website.

"We are very proud of our long and ongoing relationship with ULA, and very pleased ULA has chosen XCOR as a potential upper-stage engine provider," said Jay Gibson, president of XCOR, which is headquartered in Midand. "We have already begun work on the 8H21 development and are very excited about the long-term potential for XCOR to support ULA and the United States Air Force in their evolving launch efforts."

XCOR's 8H21 is being developed for the upper-stage propulsion for ULAs Advanced Cryogenic Evolved Stage. Since 2008, XCOR has been working closely with ULA, which is headquartered in Centennial, Colorado, on a subscale liquid hydrogen engine, which was successfully built and tested in 2015, according to the release.

Earlier this year, XCOR began development on the full-scale liquid hydrogen engine, the 8H21, under a privately funded contract with ULA.

This partnership with the Air Force will further support this engine development, according to the release.

Stay tuned

Read about what the contract means to XCOR in a future edition of the Reporter-Telegram.

Teacher says she was 'being silly' when mouths taped

Associated Press

WICHITA FALLS — A first-grade teacher in Wichita Falls says she was just "being silly" when she let students put duct tape on their mouths to keep them quiet.

The Wichita Falls Times Record News obtained school district documents in the investigation of Dawn Renfro. She was put on administrative leave, then resigned following the incident.

The newspaper reported Tuesday that the Zundy Elementary School teacher said she used poor judgment Jan. 21 in allowing the students to tape their mouths shut for a few minutes.

Renfro, in a letter of response the next day, said there was no malicious intent and students were not required to wear tape.

"I have worked in the district for about 11 years now, and I would never intentionally harm a child ..." Renfro wrote in the open letter. "The situation has been misconstrued and made out to be something it wasn't."

A first grade teacher told administrators that Renfro told her that the students had decided to duct tape their mouths.

"(Renfro) then stated that she hoped she wasn't going to get in trouble," the teacher said.

A kindergarten teacher said Renfro had told her she passed out the tape as a joke when the students wouldn't stop talking.

Principal Shannan Porter told Renfro that she put the students in danger.

"She began crying and stated it was only a joke and we were having fun," Porter wrote. "She said we needed a laugh."

No working telephone number could immediately be located Wednesday for Renfro.

WORD OF THE DAY
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galumph
[guh-luhmf-] verb.

1. to move along heavily and clumsily.

Midland Reporter-Telegram
AT YOUR SERVICE
ISSN 0890-5932
A Hearst Newspaper
Published each morning by the Hearst, Midland Reporter-Telegram Division, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701. Periodicals postage paid at Midland, TX 79711. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701.

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STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

LAKE DALLAS

Ex-teacher, coach gets probation over student sex

Prosecutors say a 59-year-old ex-teacher and coach at a high school in North Texas must serve eight years of probation for having sex with a student.

The Denton Record-Chronicle reported Wednesday that Dugan Walker pleaded guilty last week to having an improper relationship between an educator and a student.

The former Lake Dallas High School teacher and softball coach was arrested last August, placed on administrative leave, then resigned.

Investigators said Walker, since 2013, texted the teenage girl with luring messages such as "my wife's not home." An affidavit says the girl told police she had sex with Walker at his residence.

Walker must also surrender his teaching license, do community service and undergo drug and alcohol testing. He's barred from contacting the victim or her family.

HOUSTON

Man charged with assault after gunfire at UPS site

Houston police say a part-time UPS employee has been charged with assault after shots were fired outside a company site and two officers were threatened.

Harris County jail records show 20-year-old Levoda Ramon Jackson was being held Wednesday on a charge of aggravated assault against a public servant.

Online jail records don't list an attorney to speak for Jackson, whose bond was set at $30,000 following his arrest Tuesday in a UPS parking lot.

Two officers responded to reports of an upset employee and arrived to find a man holding and firing a shotgun. The man refused police orders to drop his gun. Both officers opened fire when the suspect pointed the shotgun toward them.

Nobody was hurt.

A spokeswoman for Georgia-based UPS didn't immediately return a message Wednesday.

HOUSTON

Ex-priest accused in woman's 1960 death extradited to Texas

Authorities said Wednesday they used new evidence to help revive a more than half-century-old murder case in which an 83-year-old former priest is accused of killing a Texas teacher and ex-beauty queen, but they declined to give details.

John Feit, who had been jailed in Phoenix since his arrest last month, was turned over to Texas authorities earlier Wednesday and was headed back to South Texas, Hidalgo County District Attorney Ricardo Rodriguez said. He will be held in the county jail.

"Today we can say that after a long wait of approximately 56 years, is the beginning of bringing justice to ... the victim and the community," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez and other officials at a news conference declined to comment on what evidence was presented to grand jurors to indict Feit, only saying "we do have new facts and evidence." Rene Guerra, the former longtime Hidalgo County district attorney who had previously investigated the murder but never brought charges, has said there was no DNA evidence.

Authorities allege the then-27-year-old priest killed 25-year-old teacher Irene Garza on April 16, 1960, after hearing her confession at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in McAllen.

Her body was found days later. An autopsy determined Garza, who was named Miss All South Texas Sweetheart 1958, had been raped while unconscious and was beaten and suffocated.

The now frail Feit, who uses a walker, was arrested Feb. 9 in the Phoenix suburb of Scottsdale, where he's lived for years. He had been indicted in Texas.

His arrest followed other investigations over the years, including a grand jury probe in 2004 that concluded there was insufficient evidence to charge him.

McAllen Police Chief Victor Rodriguez said Wednesday that his agency had believed since 2002 "there was probable cause" to charge Feit in the case.

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

■ Tenth Avenue North, Hawk Nelson, I Am They, 7 p.m. at Andrews County Expo Arena, 1441 Highway 176, Andrews. $18-$40. whatyeshuacando.webs.com.

■ Fun Fit Kids program, 4:30 p.m. at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch.

Community calendar

■ The West Texas Iris Society is to meet 1:30 p.m. March 20 at the Village at Manor Park clubhouse. Howie Dash of New Mexico will give a presentation, "Growing and Hybridizing Iris."

■ Midland Archeological Society is to meet 7 p.m. Wednesday at Sibley Nature Center. Joe Rogers will present the program, "A New Look at an Old Building Material."

■ The George W. Bush Childhood Home monthly reading event is planned for 4:30-5:30 p.m. March 17. This month's featured book is "A Tale for Easter."

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

Meetings schedule

■ Chronic fatigue fibro-myalgia syndromes support group, noon, Rays of Hope Grief Centre; 520-3500.

■ Permian Basin Community Service Organization (for individuals, organizations or businesses that provide services to improve quality of life), 11:45 a.m., Mi Piaci Italian Restaurant, 2607 N. Grandview Ave., Odessa, 432-210-4234.

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

■ The Midland Blue Star Military Family, 7 p.m., Koinonia Room at First Presbyterian Church; Doc Weathers 631-7646 or docweathers@suddenlink.net.

Caring Bunny Experience

■ Midland Park Mall will host Caring Bunny Experience, for children with special needs and their families 10-11:30 a.m. Sunday. The photo experience with the Easter Bunny set at the JCPenney Court will offer an environment that supports the sensory, physical and other development needs of kids with all abilities. There will be no lines, crowds or music.

Source: Midland Park Mall

Spring cleaning

■ The annual Great American Cleanup/Don't Mess with Texas Trash-off is April 2. After picking up trash, volunteers can gather for lunch 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Hogan Park.

T-shirts will be available to individuals who register by Friday. Keep Midland Beautiful will provide bags, gloves and safety vests.

To register, go to www.keepmidlandbeautiful.org or call 688-7745.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 8-1-0
Pick 3 day: 3-9-6
Pick 3 evening: 0-9-3
Pick 3 night: 7-4-8
Daily 4 morning: 5-0-8-1
Daily 4 day: 2-6-9-6
Daily 4 evening: 5-7-4-0
Daily 4 night: 5-9-6-9
Cash Five: 01-08-11-26-27
Lotto: 15-18-40-41-45-48
Triple Chance: 13-17-19-23-30-34-36-46-49-54
Powerball: 14-23-32-34-68 PB: 3 Power Play: 3
All or Nothing morning: 01-04-05-10-12-17-18-19-20-21-23-24
All or Nothing day: 03-04-06-07-08-10-15-16-18-20-22-24
All or Nothing evening: 03-04-05-07-09-12-13-16-17-18-19-22
All or Nothing night: 01-02-03-05-07-10-12-13-14-15-17-23

Today in Midland history

March 10, 1929 The Midland Reporter-Telegram came into being when the Midland Reporter merged with The Midland Daily Telegram. The former was owned by a group headed by T. Paul Barron; the latter was owned by C.C. Watson and was the city's first daily.

Today in history

Today is Thursday, March 10, the 70th day of 2016. There are 296 days left in the year.

Today's highlight:

On March 10, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell's assistant, Thomas Watson, heard Bell say over his experimental telephone: "Mr. Watson — come here — I want to see you" from the next room of Bell's Boston laboratory.

On this date:

In 1880, the Salvation Army arrived in the United States from England.

One year ago: Breaking her silence in the face of a growing controversy over her use of a private email address and server, Hillary Rodham Clinton conceded that she should have used government email as secretary of state but insisted she had not violated any federal laws or Obama administration rules.

Today's birthdays: Actor Chuck Norris is 76. Singer Dean Torrence (Jan and Dean) is 76. Rock musician Tom Scholz (Boston) is 69. Actress Sharon Stone is 58. Britain's Prince Edward is 52. Country singer Carrie Underwood is 33.

Associated Press

Lucy Mueller poses with her 2015 Fiat 500 in Los Angeles. Mueller lived in Los Angeles for eight years without a car before she finally bought one in July. Mueller took buses and trains, hitched rides with friends and used ride-sharing services like Lyft. Her commutes lasted more than an hour each way.

Millennials are finally arriving in the car market

By Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press

DETROIT — Millennials were once a source of panic in the auto industry. Dubbed the "go nowhere" generation, they weren't getting driver's licenses, never mind buying cars. Headlines declared it was "The End of Car Culture."

New data suggests at least some of that worry was misplaced. Millennials — especially the oldest ones — are these days buying cars in big numbers. They just had a late start.

Now the largest generation in the U.S., millennials bought 4 million cars and trucks in the U.S. last year, second only to the baby boomers, according to J.D. Power's Power Information Network, which defines millennials as those between 21 and 38 in 2015. Millennials' share of the new car market jumped to 28 percent. In the country's biggest car market, California, millennials outpaced boomers for the first time.

Industry watchers say it's been hard to get a read on millennials because the generation is big and diverse, ranging from recent college graduates to settled-down suburbanites. Automakers were also unsure about the impact of new transportation choices, like ZipCar and Uber, which helped millennials delay car buying. But as they got jobs and started families, millennials headed into car dealerships just like previous generations.

"This whole idea that they're not going to need cars is absolutely ridiculous," said Steven Szakaly, the chief economist for the National Automobile Dealers Association. "The new car buyer age is just happening much later."

It's a very different story from 2010, when millennials — who make up around 30 percent of the population — bought just 17 percent of new cars. Auto executives wondered aloud if the trend would be permanent.

In 2011, a University of Michigan study showed a steady decline in the number of young people getting their driver's licenses. In 1983, the survey found, 87 percent of 19-year-olds had a license. By 2010, that had fallen to 69 percent. Millennials told the study's authors that they were too busy to get licenses and were happy to hitch rides from others.

But there was more to the story. The advent of graduated licensing laws — which make teens practice driving in stages before granting a full license — was one reason millennials were getting their licenses later. An even bigger reason? The economy.

For many millennials, the Great Recession hit just as they were getting their first job or graduating from college. By 2010, millennials' unemployment rate reached 13 percent — four percentage points higher than the national average — according to a report by the White House Council of Economic Advisers. For teens, things were even worse. The teen unemployment rate rose from 15 percent to 26 percent between 2006 and 2012.

Millennials' unemployment rate has improved to around 8 percent. Add low interest rates and low gas prices to the mix and the car market suddenly looks more enticing to young buyers.

Lucy Mueller, 26, lived in Los Angeles for eight years without a car. She took buses and trains, hitched rides with friends and used ride-sharing services like Lyft. Her commutes lasted more than an hour each way. Finally, last July, she bought a slightly used 2015 Fiat 500.

"Now that I have a car, it's almost bewildering to me. I feel like a grown-up," said Mueller, a project manager and video producer for financial software maker Intuit.

Several things kept Mueller out of the car market. She didn't have a credit card until a year ago; without any credit history, financing a car would have been difficult. Also, like many recession-weary millennials, Mueller wanted to avoid accruing debt, so she saved enough for a substantial down payment.

Szakaly says it will take millennials another four to five years to match the spending power of boomers. According to government data, the median household income for people ages 25-34 is $54,243. For those ages 55-64, it's more than $60,000. In addition, the average 25-year-old has more than $20,000 in student debt, according to Goldman Sachs. That's enough to buy a new Kia Optima sedan.

Bret Hyde, a cameraman with Access Hollywood in New York, waited until he was 37 to buy his first car. He and his wife used to rent ZipCars or take buses to visit friends and family. It was tiresome and expensive, he said, but there wasn't much parking in their old neighborhood. After moving to a new neighborhood and renting a garage last spring, the couple bought a 2015 Nissan Rogue SUV.

Sheryl Connelly, a futurist with Ford Motor Co. who studies buying trends, said even as millennials start buying cars in bigger numbers, their attitudes are different than previous generations. Owning a car and getting a driver's license aren't the milestones they once were, and that may be a permanent change.

"The sense of freedom and independence that used to come with getting a vehicle has been arguably displaced by the cellphone," she said.

Automakers have taken note. They're improving in-car technology to make it easier for young drivers to stay connected to their friends and music while they're driving. They're forming partnerships with ride-hailing and car-sharing services and conducting mobility experiments of their own. And they're ditching things that don't appeal to millennials. Toyota Motor Corp. is axing its youth-oriented Scion brand, for example, after finding that millennials prefer the Toyota brand.

"Millennials are going to be the main generation we will cater to as an industry," says John Humphrey, J.D. Power's senior vice president of global automotive operations.

Video shows Google self-driving car hitting bus

By Justin Pritchard
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Newly released video shows the moment a Google self-driving car learned the hard way not to tussle with a public bus.

The collision happened on Valentine's Day, when a Google vehicle struck the side of a public bus in the Silicon Valley city of Mountain View. Footage recorded by cameras on the bus shows a Lexus SUV, which Google has outfitted with sensors and cameras that let it drive itself, edging into the path of the bus that was rolling by at about 15 mph.

It was the first time in several years of testing on public roads that a Google self-driving car prototype caused a crash. Google has blamed other drivers for past collisions during testing, but, in a first, accepted at least partial responsibility for this crash.

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority released the video and post-crash photos this week to The Associated Press under a public records request.

Though it was a low-speed collision, the impact crumpled the Lexus' front left side, flattened the tire and tore off the radar Google installed to help the SUV perceive its surroundings.

The Lexus had to be towed. Neither the Google employee in the driver's seat — who must be there under California law to take the wheel in an emergency — nor the 16 people on the bus were injured.

The transit agency has concluded based on the footage that the bus driver was not responsible, spokeswoman Stacey Hendler Ross said. An independent claims adjustor has not yet determined liability, she said.

Here are a few other things to know about the crash and Google's self-driving cars:

No. The Feb. 14 crash is the first in which Google has acknowledged its car made a mistake that led to a collision.

Google has reported that between September 2014 and November, its prototypes drove themselves about 400,000 miles on city streets near its Silicon Valley headquarters without causing a collision.

Its fleet has likely driven an additional 100,000 miles since then, though the company won't be specific. According to Google's accounting, its cars have been hit nearly a dozen times on the streets in or around its Mountain View headquarters since road testing began in spring 2014.

The Lexus intended to turn right off a major boulevard but stopped after detecting sandbags around a storm drain near the intersection, according to an accident report Google filed with the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

Photos show two small, black sandbags on either side of a drain at the curb. The right lane was wide enough to let some cars turn and others go straight, but to avoid driving over the sandbags, the Lexus needed to slide to its left within the lane. The bus and several other cars that drove straight were to the left of the Lexus, in the same lane.

When the light turned green, several cars ahead of the bus passed the SUV. Google has said that both the car's software and the person in the driver's seat thought the bus would let the Lexus into the flow of traffic. The Google employee did not try to intervene before the crash.

"This is a classic example of the negotiation that's a normal part of driving — we're all trying to predict each other's movements. In this case, we clearly bear some responsibility, because if our car hadn't moved there wouldn't have been a collision," Google wrote of the incident.

The footage shows angles from eight onboard cameras.

In one clip, passengers gazing out on a sunny afternoon are jolted to attention by a scraping, crunching sound and the impact, which causes several hand straps to sway.

In another clip, the Lexus RX450 can be seen bouncing off the side of the bus. Photos show a long scratch mark traversing the side of the bus. The car's radar unit ended up wedged in the crack where two side passenger doors of the bus join, cracking a glass panel.

A camera trained on the driver shows him open his mouth in surprise, then gesture as if to say, "Why did you just hit my bus?"

Damage to the bus was between $2,000 and $3,000, the transit agency said Wednesday. Google would not disclose the cost to fix its car.

Google has said that safety is its guiding principle in developing the cars, and that once mature, the technology promises to reduce collisions and deaths dramatically.

The software that controls the cars is programmed to follow all traffic laws and to drive conservatively, the company said.

The law-abiding algorithms that rule the SUV's onboard computer make its decision to try and slip in front of the bus surprising.

Footage shows there was not much more than a full car length between the bus and the GMC Yukon in front of it.

Google said it has tweaked its software to "more deeply understand that buses and other large vehicles are less likely to yield to us than other types of vehicles."

MCRW

From 1A

member of a Republican strike force to inform potential voters about candidates and party values, including recruiting minorities, and join the "Grassroots Club," a small-donor club.

"You need to join that," Mechler said, comparing the average monthly dues of less than $10 to giving up a Starbucks drink or two. "You're looking at one of the best bargains around. Not one person in this room can change the outcome of anything. We can only do it collectively if we unite our arms together as a powerful force."

Morales went through the first of several upcoming presentations on the 4B tax. City Council members repurposed the 4B, or type B, quarter-cent sales tax earlier this year but did not put it on a May ballot after voters told council members that the language was "too broad" for them to fully understand, Morales said. It likely will be on the ballot in November.

"The repurposing allows Midland to broaden the scope of what can be done with funds generated by a quarter of one center per dollar sales tax that is already in place," Morales said.

Morales said that instead of a 30-year sunset for the tax as originally proposed, he would be happy with a 15-year sunset if that was what voters wanted. The approximate $13 million owed on the Scharbauer Sports Complex will be paid off at the end of this year, leaving $26.8 million left in the unappropriated fund balance, Morales said.

The repurposed language would expand the tax from paying only for maintenance and operation of the sports complex to include infrastructure, parks and athletic facilities. He included a PowerPoint slide show and several print-outs of projects that the funds could be used for — such as Washington Aquatic Center and Dennis the Menace park improvements.

Morales said that if voters do not pass the tax, it is possible that among other things, concession prices and rental fees could be raised. It could also mean property taxes will increase, he said.

The complex costs between $2 million and $3 million a year to maintain, and costs could go up, depending on improvements, such as new turf, Morales said.

Follow Cassie on Twitter at @Cassie_Burton51

RELIEF

From 1A

producers," he said.

West Texas crude has rallied over the past month to around $36 per barrel (less than $30 in 2005 prices), but will still likely hit one of the tax credit thresholds when Hegar's office recalculates averages later this month.

Without incentives, oil producers pay a 4.6 percent severance tax.

A separate exemption exists for marginal wells pumping natural gas, which has been plentiful and cheap for years. With the exception of 12 scattered months, it has been activated at various levels since May 2009, according to the comptroller's office.

Marginal gas wells have been eligible for a 100 percent tax credit since March of 2015. Otherwise, Texas taxes natural gas at 7.5 percent.

Local reaction

"The severance tax relief for stripper wells kicks in below $30 a barrel, which occurred in the month of February.

So, for that month, small producers will have their severance tax reduced by 25 percent. The purpose of this relief was to incentivize stripper producers to keep their wells producing during periods of low oil prices in order to keep some tax monies flowing into the state coffers. This relief might be meaningful for some stripper well operators, but it would be surprised that it would change the economics of producing or shutting in high lease operating expense wells."

Joseph Castillo,
President, Bold Energy III LLC

Leader of Western governors: Change endangered species plan

By Dan Elliott
Associated Press

DENVER — The nation needs to change the way it protects endangered species because the current practice is bogged down in lawsuits and weakened by mistrust, the head of the Western Governors Association said Wednesday.

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead said Wednesday the problem is nationwide and that he hopes to build bipartisan support for changes in the federal Endangered Species Act, the primary tool for protecting species on the brink of extinction.

He stopped short of suggesting specific changes but said yearslong legal battles frustrate landowners, local governments and industry and eat up resources that could be used to protect other other species.

Mead, a Republican serving a one-year term as chairman of the Western Governors Association, said the problem is partly in the law itself and partly in the way it's put into practice. Deciding whether to protect a species is nearly always a long, contentious struggle because federal intervention can result in rules that limit oil and gas drilling, mining, agriculture and other land uses.

"I don't think it's collapsing, but I do think there's definite chinks," Mead said after speaking to wildlife managers, conservationists and business interests meeting in Denver to review how well the Endangered Species Act works. Mead directed the Western Governors Association to conduct the review.

AP file photo

A female Mexican gray wolf is photographed Dec. 7, 2011, at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in central N.M. Wildlife managers, conservationists and business interests are meeting in Denver as the Western Governors Association looks for ways to change the way endangered species are protected. They spent Wednesday and will continue today talking about the states' role in deciding what species get protection under the federal Endangered Species Act and how conservation is paid for, among other topics.

Mead's initiative comes as southwestern states are battling the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over reintroducing endangered Mexican gray wolves in Arizona and New Mexico, and the federal government is attempting to lift protection from grizzly bears around Yellowstone National Park.

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat, agreed that decisions about protecting individual species drag on too long with no definitive conclusion. "There's got to be a point ... where we can declare victory," he said.

Hickenlooper, who also spoke at Wednesday's gathering, declined to say whether the law needs major or minor changes.

Eric Holst of the Environmental Defense Fund agreed the process of protecting species should be faster and less complicated, but he said changes could be made without rewriting the law.

"We believe that the law has sufficient flexibility in it to solve some of the legitimate problems that folks in this forum (in Denver) have pointed out," he said.

Mead and Hickenlooper cited a sweeping conservation effort just getting under way to save the greater sage grouse as a model for how endangered species can be protected with support and guidance from a wide range of interest groups.

The federal government decided in September not to list the ground-dwelling sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act, instead opting for new rules and land use policies for federal lands.

The birds, known for their elaborate mating ritual, range across a 257,000-square-mile region spanning 11 states.

Environmental groups, mining companies, ranchers and some state governments have filed multiple lawsuits challenging the conservation plan, arguing it either goes too far or not far enough.

Mead said such protected legal battles threaten to leave residents and state and local officials disillusioned.

Mead also argued that court challenges make it too difficult to remove a species from protection, even if it has recovered. Since the Endangered Species Act was passed in 1973, only 1.4 percent of the 2,200 protected species have been removed from the list because they have recovered, he said.

He pointed to wolves, which were briefly removed from federal protection in Wyoming but then put then returned to protected status after environmental groups filed lawsuits challenging state management plans.

"You have to have a way to reach the goal line," Mead said.

NM Gov. Martinez signs Uber, Lyft bill

By Russell Contreras and Morgan Lee
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez arrived Wednesday in her first Uber ride and signed a bill allowing ride-booking companies Uber and Lyft to operate in the state.

The Republican governor said the measure ends the confusion over whether the companies are welcome in New Mexico.

"After one ride, I can see why Uber is so amazing," Martinez said. "It makes the state accessible."

Martinez said the companies will help reduce drunken driving in the state and allow tourists to roam.

Uber and Lyft use smartphone apps to connect their drivers with people seeking rides.

The legal status of the companies in the state had been in limbo since they began offering service in 2014. The companies had argued that the state's Motor Carrier Act did not apply to them because they do not operate as commercial taxi businesses.

The dispute forced Lyft to pull out of New Mexico after state regulators couldn't come up with a solution. Martinez said she hoped Lyft would give New Mexico another look after she signed the new legislation into law.

Associated Press

New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, center, signs a bill that regulates ride-booking companies like Uber and Lyft during a ceremony in Albuquerque on Wednesday. Martinez said the bill ended confusion over whether those companies could legally operate in the state.

In a statement, Lyft praised the passage of the bill but did not say if it would return to New Mexico.

The new regulations include background checks for drivers against criminal and sexual offender databases.

Rep. Monica Youngblood, R-Albuquerque, said it was a two-year fight to get the legislation through the GOP-controlled House and the Democrat-led Senate.

Traditional taxi companies had fought bills to allow Uber and Lyft to operate in New Mexico over safety concerns.

Uber spokeswoman Taylor Patterson said the company was pleased to have another state with a regulatory framework.

She said Uber already is active in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Taos and Las Cruces. In Las Cruces, the district attorney's office has helped Uber promote its services as a safe alternative to drinking and driving.

"Even though New Mexico is a newer market for Uber, it certainly is no less important than any other market we're in, in terms of our focus to expand," she said.

Pro-gun mom shot by her 4-year-old son

By Larry Hannan
The Florida Times-Union

JACKSONVILLE — One day after a 4-year-old child shot his mother in a pickup in Putnam County, police are still waiting to interview the mother.

Capt. Joseph Wells with the Putnam County Sheriff's Office said Jamie Gilt, 31, of Jacksonville remains hospitalized and is medically unable to be interviewed yet, although police have been told she is recovering and in stable condition.

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office is investigating the case in conjunction with the Florida Department of Children and Family Services, Wells said.

An investigation into the mother is ongoing. The case is generating national and international attention because a Facebook page that appears to be Gilt's has multiple posts supporting gun rights, and in a post hours before the shooting she said that her 4-year-old son "gets jacked up to target shoot."

Wells said Gilt could face a first-degree misdemeanor charge if it's determined she left the gun in a location where the child could get easy access to it.

That criminal charge carries penalties of up to one year in jail, one year of probation and a fine of up to $1,000.

The gun was registered to Gilt and she had a legal permit to carry it, so the only question was whether she was negligent in where she left the firearm, Wells said.

Wells said the child is not under investigation, and will not face any charges.

The gunshot went through Gilt's back and out the other side. When police arrived, Gilt told them her 4-year-old child accidentally fired the shot while sitting in the back seat.

A .45 caliber handgun was found on the floor in the back of the vehicle and there didn't appear to be any bullet entry points on the exterior of the truck so Wells said the shot was most likely fired from inside. The mother and her son were the only people in the vehicle.

A public Facebook account for a woman named Jamie Gilt who lives in Jacksonville and is from Palatka features various pictures of horses and pro-gun messages. Another Facebook page is called "Jamie Gilt for Gun Sense."

One post, shared on the Jamie Gilt page Sunday, shows an image of two burglars breaking into a home with a message below saying guns are not the answer, but calling 911 is. In disagreement, Gilt shared the photo and commented that the criminals might change their plans if they knew they were going to get killed.

The post included other comments in a discussion that defended the right to carry guns.

"Thanks. All of ours know how to shoot too. Even my 4-year-old gets jacked up to target shoot the .22," Gilt responded Monday evening on Facebook after someone commented on the post.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Air Force vet guilty of trying to join Islamic State group

By Michael Balsamo and Colleen Long
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A U.S. Air Force veteran was convicted Wednesday of terrorism charges for attempting to join the Islamic State group and die a martyr, the first verdict from more than 70 cases the government has brought against Americans accused of trying to support the militant group.

An anonymous jury in Brooklyn began deliberations Tuesday afternoon in the case against 48-year-old Tairod Pugh, of Neptune, New Jersey. He was convicted of attempting to provide material support to terrorists and obstruction of an official proceeding.

"I think he's sad," Pugh's attorney, Eric Creizman, said as he left the courthouse. "I feel bad for his family."

"Right now, it's just disappointing," he said of the verdict. "This was an interesting case in that there was no direct evidence — everything was circumstantial."

Prosecutors said Pugh was stopped at a Turkish airport in January 2015 carrying a laptop with information on Turkey-Syria border crossing points, 180 jihadist propaganda videos, including footage of an Islamic State prisoner beheading, and a letter declaring: "I will use the talents and skills given to me by Allah to establish and defend the Islamic States."

During the trial, prosecutors showed jurors materials found on Pugh's computer and cited a letter Pugh wrote to his wife saying, in part: "There is only two possible outcomes for me: Victory or martyr."

Prosecutors said he flew there so he could find a route into Syria and join the Islamic State group. He was forced by authorities to turn back and was arrested soon after his return on a flight to New York City. Pugh was in the Air Force from 1986 to 1990, when he was trained to install and maintain aircraft engines and navigation and weapons systems.

During closing arguments Tuesday, Creizman insisted Pugh had no ill intent when he went to Turkey a month after losing his job as an aviation mechanic and telling his supervisor to stop "talking to me like I'm an idiot." He said Pugh had hoped to move to the Middle East with his wife.

He said his client was feeling small and inconsequential when he started researching the rise of the Islamic State group in the summer of 2014, impressed that Muslims somewhere were trying to establish a country and wouldn't "back down from anything."

"This is a fantasy," Creizman told jurors of Pugh's social media posts that seemed supportive of radical Islamists.

He said his client had always talked about Middle East politics and liked to research the subject online, but he noted that many of the articles he read were written by mainstream news organizations, including some critical of the militants.

Still, he acknowledged that Pugh had opinions some might find offensive and Pugh believed some of the Islamic State group's atrocities were a media creation.

Other defendants have pleaded guilty to charges of trying to support the Islamic State group, but the verdict "further demonstrates our commitment to bring justice to all those who seek to provide material support to terrorists," said John Carlin, Assistant Attorney General for National Security.

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A standard grave is 7'8 x 3'2 x 6.

Tina Turner's real name is Annie Mae Bullock.

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Matthew 5:5-6

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for the righteousness, for they will be filled.

GOP abandoned long ago its role in race issues

CARL LEUBSDORF

Dallas Morning News

Amid the brouhaha prompted by Donald Trump's fumbled rejection of Ku Klux Klansman David Duke, House Speaker Paul Ryan sought to refute suggestions the Republican Party condones racism.

"This party does not prey on people's prejudices," Ryan told reporters. "We appeal to their highest ideals. This is the party of Lincoln."

Though Ryan's reputation on racial issues is beyond reproach, it's not quite that simple. For more than a generation, many top Republicans have, through action or inaction, curried favor with — or at least condoned — the elements in American society that have played on racial prejudices and fears.

To be fair, neither party's hands are clean when it comes to the racial divisions that have riven this country since its beginnings.

For a century after the Civil War, Northern Democrats relied on racist Southern allies in seeking national majorities. Their most fabled leaders included presidents Woodrow Wilson, who expanded segregation within the federal government and fired many black employees, and John F. Kennedy, whose federal court choices included a segregationist judge who once called voting rights plaintiffs "a bunch of chimpanzees" in the infamous "Mississippi Burning" trial.

Into the early 1960s, Lincoln's influence still pervaded the GOP; Southern Republican judges named by President Dwight Eisenhower for helping his 1952 campaign were crucial in ending legal segregation, and Republican lawmakers played a major role in enacting the initial civil rights acts.

But starting in 1964, when GOP nominee Barry Goldwater carried five Southern states after opposing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 while Democrat Lyndon Johnson embraced civil rights, the balance between the two parties changed dramatically.

As the Democrats attracted much of the expanding black vote, Republicans increasingly sought common ground with white Southern opponents of civil rights. They pressed racially tinged issues, such as opposition to school busing and support of states' rights. Ronald Reagan opened his 1980 campaign by pointedly defending "states rights" in an area of Mississippi where three civil rights workers were murdered in 1964.

There is no more apt symbol of GOP ambivalence on racial issues than former President George H.W. Bush. Son of a Connecticut senator who voted for the first Civil Rights Act in 1957, he condemned the sweeping 1964 Civil Rights Act when seeking the Senate that year and assailed his Democratic rival for backing it. As a House member in 1968, he courageously voted for a law banning housing discrimination.

But his successful 1988 presidential campaign included what many regarded as a racist appeal using the horrific case of an African-American, Willie Horton, who committed rape and assault while on furlough from Massachusetts, where he had been convicted of murder.

In 1989, as president, Bush celebrated the 25th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act he had once condemned. Later, he filled the Supreme Court seat of the nation's first African-American Justice, Thurgood Marshall, with a black conservative, Clarence Thomas, whose views were anathema to Marshall and most black Americans.

The outpouring of minority and young voters, who helped elect Barack Obama in 2008 as the first African-American president, apparently prompted Republicans to enact new legal barriers to voting. A court challenge led to the 2013 Supreme Court decision to invalidate a key provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Numerous GOP-controlled states passed restrictive voter identification laws aimed at alleged — though virtually non-existent — fraud, while others limited early voting and registration procedures used to expand minority and youth voting.

The Republican majority of Congress, which almost unanimously backed extension of the Voting Rights Act just 10 years ago, refused to even consider reviving the invalidated section that the Supreme Court said should be updated for changing circumstances.

Opposition from hard-core GOP conservatives also prompted House Republicans to refuse to consider a Senate-passed immigration reform bill, despite widespread belief a bipartisan majority favored some form of the measure. Trump's railing against Mexicans and Muslims is but the latest manifestation of an increasingly virulent GOP attitude toward immigrants.

California is the prime example of the political impact of such attitudes. GOP Gov. Pete Wilson's 1994 adoption of a hard-line against governmental benefits for illegal immigrants helped consign his party to minority status. Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, a moderate on social issues, is the only Republican to win a major California statewide race since then.

Speaker Ryan, by all accounts an eminently fair and moderate man, is hardly to blame for his party's sad history over the past half century. But Republicans abandoned their historical role as Lincoln's heirs long before Donald Trump emerged.

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GUEST VIEW

Primary is evidence method of judicial selection is faulty

Houston Chronicle

Justice is supposed to be blind. The people electing judges, less so. But voters in last week's Republican Party primary might as well have taken a shot in the dark when they cast their ballots in the race for Place 5 on the Court of Criminal Appeals.

These judicial elections, whether local or statewide, don't always go to the most qualified candidates. However, it was shocking to see Sid Harle, who has been widely praised as one of the greatest legal advocates in the state, land in last place with 18.5 percent of the vote. His support was more than doubled by a lawyer named Scott Walker, who led the race with 41 percent.

No, that's not Scott Walker, governor of Wisconsin. It is Scott Walker, solo practitioner in North Texas who didn't campaign for office. How he emerged as the leading candidate in the statewide race for a seat on Texas' highest criminal court remains a mystery. Were voters misled into thinking that the former presidential candidate and Green Bay Packers fan was running for judge in the Lone Star State? Did Walker somehow run an incredibly successful stealth campaign while refusing to meet with media or endorsement groups? His reason for not meeting with the Houston Chronicle editorial board, by the way, was that he had just completed a two-week trial and was too busy.

Walker faces a runoff on May 24 against Brent Webster, who received 20 percent of the primary vote. Webster, an attorney in the Williamson County prosecutor's office, actually ran a campaign. That campaign largely focused on his anti-abortion bonafides, which are completely unrelated to the issues faced by the Court of Criminal Appeals, but it was a campaign nonetheless.

Bizarre results like this are nothing new in Texas' elected judiciary. Webster and Walker also faced a fourth person in that race, Steve Smith, a perennial candidate who is infamous for defeating the well-regarded Judge Xavier Rodriguez in the Republican primary after Rodriguez was appointed to the Texas Supreme Court in 2001. Smith was voted out two years later.

These sorts of disappointing results happen at the local level, too. In this year's Montgomery County Republican primary, voters put their weight behind a former judge, Michael Seiler, who had resigned from office as part of a plea deal with prosecutors. Seiler stepped down after being investigated for sending campaign material to former jurors, but the deadline had passed to remove his name from the ballot. Now he's in the runoff for his former seat.

The pattern is clear: Without any other information on judicial candidates, voters will go for the names that they recognize. It is hard to blame voters for hedging on familiarity. Judges have complex duties that many laypeople don't understand, and ethics considerations limit what judges can say about how they'd rule on the bench. And in large counties like Harris County, there's almost too many judges for even the most informed voters to keep track.

There's been a slow and steady drumbeat dating back to the late 1980s urging Texans to change the way we select our judges. This march has often been led by the judges themselves, including former Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice John Hill, former Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson and Associate Justice Don Willett, who has been floated as a future Republican nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court.

It isn't just about avoiding unqualified candidates. A 2013 study by the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy found that judicial campaigns and their associated fundraising undermine the appearance, if not reality, of an impartial judiciary.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has twice proposed changing judicial selection by removing the partisan indicators next to judges' names on the November ballot. This move would stop the sweeping changes brought by straight-ticket voting, which unnecessarily removes experienced and accomplished jurists. However, it would also delete the only guidance that voters have on the ballot besides name recognition.

This year's primary election, like practically every other election in the past three decades, serves as another piece of evidence in favor of reforming judicial selection. If Republicans and Democrats in the Texas Legislature both can't see that by now, then justice isn't the only one who is blind.

Midland Reporter-Telegram

A Hearst newspaper

Farewell to Pat Conroy, beloved author

■ In his books, 'sexiest man alive' sought to explain his tortured childhood to himself

KATHLEEN PARKER

Washington Post Writers Group

Soon after "The Prince of Tides" became a blockbuster movie in 1991, People magazine put the film's leading man, Nick Nolte, on its cover as the "Sexiest Man Alive."

This couldn't possibly be true, I thought (and wrote) at the time. Nolte, who played protagonist Tom Wingo, was a good-looking actor who did well by his role. But what made him sexy was the character created by beloved author Pat Conroy, who died last week.

Conroy, I wrote, was the sexiest man alive.

It was Conroy, after all, who had crafted sentences so sensuously lush and true that they begged to be read aloud. He wrote that "... salmon dreamed of mountain passes and the brown faces of grizzlies hovering over clear rapids. Copperheads ... dreamed of placing their fangs in the shinbones of hunters. Ospreys slept with their feathered, plummeting dreamselves screaming through deep, slow-motion dives toward herring."

It was Conroy who described South Carolina's seductive Lowcountry as something you breathe: "the bold, fecund aroma of the tidal marsh, exquisite and sensual, the smell of the South in heat, a smell like new milk, semen, and spilled wine, all perfumed with seawater."

Ever after, there would be no point in anyone else trying to describe animal dreams or the marsh. Forevermore, the world would experience the Lowcountry through Conroy's eyes.

Several years after that column, I met Conroy at a Naples, Florida, hotel where, serendipitously, we happened to have adjoining rooms. We discovered this while speaking to each other on the phone, a conversation that I was simultaneously hearing through the hotel wall.

Wondering whether we might be next-door neighbors, we poked our heads out our respective doors, receivers to ears, and were delighted to find ourselves face-to-face. Over drinks later that evening, Conroy regaled me with stories, including that cartoonist Doug Marlette had teased him mercilessly about my sexiest-man-alive column. We talked about friends, family, children and writing.

Why, he asked, hadn't I written my own father-daughter novel? I began to answer, "I was waiting ..." when he interrupted to complete the sentence: "for your father to die."

Yes.

"I wish I had," he said. At the time, his father — the great Santini — was up in their hotel room, waiting for his son to escort him to the family wedding that had brought them to Naples.

Before we parted, I asked him, "What's it like to be Pat Conroy?"

He threw back his head and roared with laughter: "It's a dream!" he said, though I was never sure he really meant it. Sometimes, as his readers know, it was a nightmare, too.

One painful irony was his recognition that his books had liberated throngs of fellow sufferers — the depressed, the abused, the father-haters — not to seek therapy or write books but to share their miseries with Conroy at book signings. This was unwelcome duty for a writer who wasn't inclined to guide others through their self-realization. Writing is not group therapy.

But such was the price Conroy paid for exposing so much of himself and his family, book after book, as he sought to explain his tortured childhood to himself.

When he wasn't writing, Conroy was reading — four hours a day — or talking to Marlette on the phone, nearly every day for decades. Marlette, who wrote two novels of his own before his death in a 2007 car accident, also drew cartoons and comic strips. While he doodled, he liked to talk to his friends.

One can only wish to have had a party line with those two, both raconteurs with razor-sharp vision, wicked senses of humor and a flair for expressing what most others hide or never notice.

The last time I saw Conroy was, alas, nine years ago at Marlette's funeral, where we were two among 10 eulogists and became forever bonded as members of what Conroy dubbed "Team Marlette." Bereft beyond measure, we were nearly staggering with grief and choking on tears as we rendered our words of farewell. Conroy loved how, as we returned to our seats, the others would pat us on the back and offer commendations as though we'd scored a touchdown.

He found this both funny and heartbreakingly lovely. Now we are heartbroken again, our losing season upon us, another of our most brilliant players down. At least there is consolation in knowing that Conroy and Marlette can roar together now, laughing and weeping at the glory of it all — as ever the envy of the living.

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore

POLITICS BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

RHODE ISLAND

Obama administration expands 'TechHire' jobs initiative

PROVIDENCE — The White House is adding 15 new communities to its "TechHire" initiative for getting low-skilled workers jobs in the tech economy.

The expansion comes a year after President Barack Obama announced the program and days before he's scheduled to speak at the South by Southwest technology festival in Austin, Texas.

The initiative pairs private employers with cities and states to create accelerated training programs such as coding boot camps.

The newest communities include two states — Hawaii and Virginia — and 13 cities from Flint, Michigan, to Jackson, Mississippi. No federal money is tied to the distinction.

Federal officials point to Rhode Island's 6-month-old program as a model.

WASHINGTON

Obama recommends extending phone subsidy to broadband

The Obama administration says a discount designed to help low-income Americans purchase telephone service should be extended to cover the Internet.

The discount, currently at $9.25 a month, has been around since 1985 and was expanded under President George W. Bush to include mobile phones.

The idea behind the subsidy is to help more people access telephone service so that they can land a job or get help in an emergency.

Now, with more people using the Internet to communicate, the Obama administration says it's supporting a Federal Communications Commission effort to extend the subsidy to broadband.

WASHINGTON

Senate backs bill to ease presidential transitions

The Senate has given final approval to a bill intended to improve presidential transitions.

The bill requires the White House to create a team of officials from different agencies at least six months before Election Day.

That team would develop ways to help smooth the transition from one president to the next.

Sen. Ron Johnson said it's "a colossal undertaking" to handle over control of the federal government, and setting the stage for that handoff needs the proper resources and attention.

The Wisconsin Republican heads the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, and he sponsored the bill with the committee's top Democrat, Delaware Sen. Tom Carper.

The bill is heading to President Barack Obama.

WASHINGTON

White House dinner for Canada to evoke coming of spring

Today's White House state dinner for Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau evokes the coming of spring.

And the Colorado lamb main course will be drizzled with Canadian whiskey before the about 200 guests dig in.

Toasted Texas pecans and New England maple syrup feature in the dessert cake. Guests will also pick from an assortment of petite pastries with American and Canadian influences as part of a sugar sculpture that was inspired by the Rocky Mountains.

Dinner will be served in the White House East Room and be the ritzy conclusion to Trudeau's official U.S. visit. He's been in office since November.

Singer Sara Bareilles is scheduled to provide the after-dinner entertainment.

Bill would standardize the way airlines disclose fees

By Joan Lowy
Associated Press

AP file photo

Chairman John Thune, R-S.D., left, speaks June 10, 2015, during a Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. Also pictured is Ranking member Bill Nelson, D-Fla., right. The government would standardize the way airlines disclose fees for basic services like checked bags, seat assignments and ticket changes so that passengers can more easily comparison shop the full cost of flights under a bipartisan Senate bill introduced Wednesday. The proposal is part of an airline policy bill sponsored by Thune and Nelson. It would extend the operating authority of the Federal Aviation Administration through Oct. 1, 2017. That authority is due to expire on March 31.

WASHINGTON — The government would standardize the way airlines disclose fees for basic services like checked bags, seat assignments and ticket changes so that passengers can more easily comparison-shop the full cost of flights under a bipartisan Senate bill introduced Wednesday.

The proposal is part of an airline policy bill sponsored by Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, and Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., the committee's senior Democrat. It would extend the operating authority of the Federal Aviation Administration through Oct. 1, 2017. That authority is due to expire on March 31.

The bill would require the Department of Transportation develop a way to display fees that's easy for consumers to understand and require that airlines and ticket agents use the system. A report last year by the committee's Democratic staff found that airline fees, especially for things like ticket cancellations or changes, are often hidden from consumers while shopping fares online or disclosed in lengthy paragraphs of tiny typeface that's difficult to read.

Airlines would also have to return fees for bags that are lost or delayed more than six hours after the arrival of a domestic flight, and more than 12 hours after the arrival of an international flight under the bill. Airlines would also be required to automatically refund fees for services purchased but not received by passengers. Examples would include things like advance seat assignments that turn out to be unavailable or early boarding that isn't provided.

The consumer provisions were a compromise that doesn't go far enough some senators. Sens. Ed Markey, D-Mass., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., also introduced a proposal to prohibit airlines from charging fees for basic services "that are not reasonable and proportional to the costs of the serves provided." The proposal is likely to be one of several amendments offered next week when the committee is scheduled to take up the aviation bill.

Missing from the bill is any effort to wrest air traffic control operations from the FAA and spin them off into a private, nonprofit corporation. An FAA reauthorization bill that would have privatized air traffic control services was passed last month by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on a mostly party-line vote with Democrats unanimously opposed. The bill has the backing of the committee's chairman, Rep. Bill Shuster, R-Pa., and the airline industry, but it was sidelined by House leaders in the face of opposition from other powerful GOP lawmakers and influential segments of the aviation industry.

Eighteen months is an unusually short time-frame for an FAA reauthorization bill. But Thune and Nelson are pitching their bill to their House counterparts as a means to make important policy changes while continuing to work on politically difficult question of whether to pass a privatization bill. Privatization supporters say it would make the funding of air traffic control operations more stable and speed up the modernization of the air traffic system from one based on radar to one based on satellite technology.

Besides provisions aimed at protecting airline passengers, the Senate bill also requires the government to set product safety standards for small drones and that consumers and hobbyists take an online safety knowledge test before they fly their unmanned vehicles. The Department of Transportation is directed to adopt an international ban on cargo shipments of rechargeable lithium on passenger planes. FAA tests have shown the batteries are capable of igniting intense fires.

The bill also authorizes greater use by the FAA of the employees of manufacturers as surrogates for government inspectors in order to speed up the safety certification of planes and aviation equipment. Manufacturers have complained they lose business to overseas competitors because they have to wait too long for FAA approval of their products.

AP file photo

Acting Education Secretary John King Jr., second from left, sits down to testify before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on Feb. 25, during his confirmation hearing as the Education Secretary as his wife Melissa, third from right, and daughters Mireya, second from right, and Amina, right, watch. On Wednesday, the committee approved King to be education secretary.

Committee OKs new education secretary

By Jennifer C. Kerr
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Senate committee on Wednesday approved President Barack Obama's nomination of John B. King Jr. to be education secretary.

The 16-6 vote in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee sent the nomination of the acting secretary to the full Senate.

If confirmed, King would oversee the department as it puts in place a bipartisan education law passed by Congress and signed by Obama in December. The measure revamps the widely criticized No Child Left Behind Act and substantially limits the federal government's role in public schools.

King, who began his education career as a high school social studies teacher, was tapped by Obama late last year to succeed longtime Education Secretary Arne Duncan, who stepped down in December.

The committee chairman, Sen. Lamar Alexander, supported the nomination and said he hoped the full Senate would act quickly. Alexander, R-Tenn., said he did not think it was "good for our system of government to go through an entire year" with no one firmly in place to lead the department as it works with the states and local school districts to implement the new K-12 law.

Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the committee's top Democrat, said King "has really demonstrated a long-standing commitment to fighting for kids."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., said before the vote that the department hasn't done enough to protect student borrowers and take prompt action against for-profit schools such as Corinthian Colleges, which filed for bankruptcy protection last year amid fraud allegations.

Warren said she would vote to approve King's nomination in committee but that she would not support him in the full Senate until she gets more "direct answers" to her concerns. "I still have questions about how he plans to change the culture at the department," she said.

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., voted against the nomination. "He is clearly the wrong person for the job," Burr wrote on Twitter. "We need someone who will listen to teachers and parents. John King has demonstrated that he is not that person."

US cyber pros test skills in exercise meant to stop attacks

By Tami Abdollah
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The moment a U.S. official pressed a computer key, dozens of security experts who gathered in an underground control room girded themselves for a cyberattack — a drill meant to thwart the kinds of intrusions that have recently crippled health networks and retail giants.

The weeklong event run by the Homeland Security Department and hosted by the U.S. Secret Service is now a decade old. But officials say this week's exercises are becoming more important as both the government and private sector have reeled from breaches of personal data.

More than 1,000 U.S. cybersecurity professionals are participating in — and testing how well they respond to — a mock attack, said Gregory Touhill, a Homeland Security Department deputy assistant secretary for cybersecurity protection. They'll be working together for three days in Washington and across the nation.

"Retail and health care have been in the headlines — and, frankly, in the crosshairs for a lot of criminals," Touhill said Tuesday. Household names like Target Corp., The Home Depot, UCLA Health Systems and Anthem Inc. have all faced recent cyberattacks that compromised millions of their customers' data.

U.S. officials wouldn't detail the attack scenarios unfolding this week because they said it would tip off the drill's participants. But they said their event has one, overarching scenario, with roughly 1,000 smaller events — spurred by a phone call, an email or a news article — that could be indicators of an looming cyberattack.

Suzanne Spaulding, a top Homeland Security cyber official, said the "challenge is here and now." She pointed to a "nightmare" scenario last December, in which hackers attacked the Ukrainian electrical grid and cut power to about a quarter-million people.

During previous U.S.-led tests, officials found what they called areas for improvement. Touhill said at least two areas from a previous test are still being addressed, including ensuring people have and follow protocols, and security personnel share information effectively.

Secret Service Director Joseph Clancy described the event Tuesday as a way to stay one step ahead of criminals who've taken advantage of new and changing technology, and who have changed their own tactics.

In addition to eight participating state governments — Wyoming, Missouri, Mississippi, Georgia, Maine, Nevada, Oklahoma and Oregon — officials from five countries are also observing the exercises. The Homeland Security Department wouldn't reveal the countries involved.

Mourners pay respect for former first lady

By John Rogers
Associated Press

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. — Three days of formal mourning for former first lady Nancy Reagan began Wednesday as her casket was taken in a police-escorted motorcade up an empty freeway for a public viewing at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

The procession from Santa Monica passed beneath a large American flag on a stretch of normally congested highway and then turned onto the Ronald Reagan Freeway where firefighters in dress blues saluted from atop fire trucks parked on overpasses and other observers held their hands over their hearts.

As the procession turned up the long, steep driveway to the library in the hills of Simi Valley, more than 100 docents held small flags.

Members of the armed services carried the casket past a gurgling courtyard fountain into the library, where daughter Patti Davis, dressed in black, was among about 20 family members and close friends who attended a short prayer service at the closed casket.

"May angels surround her and saints release her to Jesus," the Rev. Stuart Kenworthy, vicar at the Washington National Cathedral, said during the 10-minute service.

The Rev. Donn Moomaw, the Reagan family's pastor, read from the 23rd Psalm, which begins, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Attendees included the children of Ronald Reagan's son Michael and Dennis Revell, the widower of the president's late daughter Maureen. Michael Reagan and the president's other son, Ron Prescott Reagan, are expected at Friday's funeral.

After the private service, House Speaker Paul Ryan paid his respects, bowing his head in prayer aside the casket and making the sign of the cross.

The casket was covered in white roses and peonies, Mrs. Reagan's favorite flower.

Earlier in the day, after a short private service at a Santa Monica funeral home, the casket was carried by pallbearers that included members of Reagan's Secret Service detail to a hearse for the final 45-mile journey to the hill country northwest of Los Angeles, where two days of public viewing precede the funeral.

Do you know innovative educational leaders who make an impact on the students they teach?

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WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

BEST BETS

TODAY

MIX IT UP The Young Professionals of Midland will take over The Blue Door to host Mix at Six, a networking event that will also feature special guest speakers. 6 p.m.

SATURDAY

OFF TO MARKET Grab your shopping bags for locally grown produce, homemade food items and even area-brewed coffee. The Midland Downtown Farmers Market is open this weekend at the Museum of the Southwest with a variety of goods that also include craft works such as bird feeders, clothing and more. 8:30 a.m.

GREEN DAYS There will be lots to see and do at the Midland Scottish-Irish Faire and Highland Games this weekend at the Horseshoe Pavilion. Festivities begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

See complete schedule of weekend events on Page 2.

MOVIES

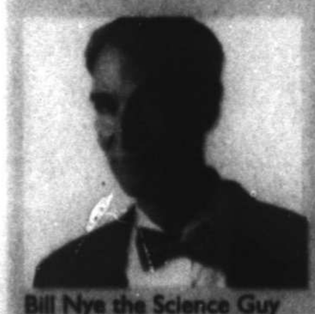
Films opening and closing this week at Midland theaters:

TALL CITY 14
Opening: "10 Cloverfield Lane," "The Brothers Grimsby," "The Perfect Match," "The Young Messiah"
Closing: "Eddie the Eagle," "Kung Fu Panda," "Triple 9"

CINERGY CINEMAS
Opening: "10 Cloverfield Lane," "The Brothers Grimsby," "The Perfect Match"
Closing: "Eddie the Eagle," "Risen," "Triple 9"

STAYING IN? Find out which movies are worth watching from the comfort of your couch. **Page 4**

COMING SOON



Bill Nye the Science Guy will talk science, the climate and space exploration at Midland College March 17 as part of the Davidson Distinguished Lecture Series.

SALVATION & SOBRIETY

Mike Farris' path has been epic — from addiction to a Grammy Award

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

With a long career in music, Mike Farris' work isn't always at the forefront when discussing his award-winning blues and gospel fusion. He might be more famous for his bouts with addiction that led to salvation and ultimately, sobriety. But Farris is fine if that is what defines him.

"That's a big part of my story but what's most important is that I survived to tell the story," he said via phone from Lafayette, Louisiana.

Farris' story continues in Midland on Sunday when he plays the Wagner Noel.

He embraced God into his life and after leaving his successful band, Screamin' Cheetah Wheelies, he incorporated a spiritual message into his music. But he kept the soul of a rocking bluesman.

"The music just does what it does, man," he said. "I think for some reason, just naturally, it comes out not as religious but more accessible instead."

Farris isn't your typical Christian music artist. He doesn't quite fit in the squeaky clean genre. And lyrically, he's not singing about the blues when he vocalizes biblical messages. He's just Mike Farris, and that approach has been his winning formula.

"I'm not a religious person. I'm a spiritual person and a believer with all my heart," he said.

He still had to navigate his faith with his audiences or even the industry.

"Anything pertaining to God in my world of music can have such bad connotations. It can be dangerous to talk about those things," he said.

Farris doesn't come off overly calculating in regards to his career. Instead, he performs the music, records the albums and hits the road. Yet, the simplicity to that approach has yielded him acclaimed releases and a 2015 Grammy for Best Roots Gospel Album for "Shine for all the People." He won the inaugural award for that category.

His current tour is another curveball in his career. He steps away from his own catalog in his Sings the Soul of America tour and tackles classic soul from Motown, Stax and Muscle Shoals.

"I think Midland is going to be excited, delighted and loved," he said Wednesday, before heading back on the road.

WANT TO GO?

Mike Farris, 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $11-$35. liveonstage-pb.com.

Sam Riggs goes against the grain for his brand of country music

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

At 29 years old, Sam Riggs' two life dreams have already come true. After receiving his pilot's license in February, he lived up to his wish to fly. And as a country artist who just released "Breathless," which could be his breakthrough album, his dream of playing music is in full swing.

He owes some of that fulfillment to his wife, Natalie, and her suggestion he read a book.

"She gave me 'A Million Miles in a Thousand Years' (by Donald Miller), which really pulled the shades up for me," he said by phone from his Austin home. "It proposes living life like it's a movie. Like, would you go see your own life as a movie. And so, I started putting everything into music or piloting. Things that are on my bucket list."

The payoff has been big for Riggs. His newest full-length album, "Breathless," charted at No. 3 on the Billboard country charts and has received major buzz from the industry and fans. He's touring, which brings him to Midland tonight to headline Rockin Rodeo. And, of course, he's officially a pilot.

Success is nice, but Riggs talks with full intent on living his life with determined purpose. He even applied that to his newest songs.

"I'm a very passionate person and I write songs to try that out. Intimacy is something a lot of songwriters want, which means putting yourself out there on the line. That personal experience of myself in music is the epitome of opening my heart to fans. And they connect with that," he said.

Country music tends to be a steadfast genre in relation to pop or rock, but Riggs' music goes against the grain while still embracing its basic sensibilities. He refers often to 1980s and '90s country, but he keeps his music modern with a healthy dose of rock guitars and lyrics that are beyond the popular bro-country hits. He's described his work as eccentric, a word not often heard in regards to country music.

"I'm an eccentric person and I look at Garth Brooks or Tim McGraw albums, and think how there was always a song for me regardless of what emotion I was feeling at the time," he said. "I tried to make my record full of those. I guess I am going against the grain but I'm just trying to see how great I can make my songs and how raw I can get."

WANT TO GO?

Sam Riggs 9 p.m. today at Rockin Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. $9. rockinrodeomidland.com.

MEETING WITH FANS

Sam Riggs will be at Hastings, 3111 W. Cuthbert Ave., 4 p.m. today.

Comic April Macie brings edgy laughs to the Tall City

By Trent Johnson
tsjohnson@mrt.com

Comedian April Macie doesn't shy away from sensitive topics. Not five minutes into a set, the 39-year old will tackle relationships, people and sex. With appearances on the "Howard Stern Show," "Last Comic Standing" and rapper Snoop Dogg's "The Bad Girls of Comedy," Macie has carved out her niche for creating laughs.

Macie

On her off days, Macie spends an admittedly tremendous amount of time napping at her home in Los Angeles. That is if she's not boxing (her hobby), or honing her comic craft. She comes to Midland on Friday as co-headliner in Beauty and the Beast with West Texas co-median Chris Crawford. In advance of her Midland visit, Macie talked about choosing comedy as a career, life on the road and plagiarism versus parallel thinking.

MRT: What's your first comedic memory?

Macie: I grew up in Easton, Pennsylvania, and I remember

Please see MACIE/Page 3

CALENDAR

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

ART & DANCE

The works of Allison Easlon Moyers on view throughout March. 6 p.m. Friday. Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St. Free. All ages. facebook.com/kamiposi.

Adventures in Art: Sculpture for children ages 6 to 12. Children will tour the exhibition "Recent Acquisitions" and then created their own sculpture. Registration must be made in advance. 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University Blvd., Odessa. noelartmuseum.org.

2016 Student Art Exhibition: Storytellers. The annual art show features works by area students representing elementary through high school in a variety of media. Through April 10. Durham Children's Museum, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

58th annual Odessa Art Association Juried Art Exhibition. Meet area artists at the opening reception and awards presentation on Thursday. The art will be on display through April 2. 7 p.m. Thursday at Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University Blvd., Odessa. noelartmuseum.org.

"Otra Vez" featuring works by Wayne Hilton. Using recycled materials, Hilton focuses his works on Mexican arts and culture. The works were commissioned specifically for the Centennial branch's public gallery space. The art will display through April 30 with a series of programming. MCPL Centennial, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. co.midland.tx.us.

Winter Art Exhibit featuring artists from ArtQuest, ArtiZen, Midland Arts Association and Palette Club of Midland as well as works by clients from Rays of Hope and MARC. The exhibit runs through March 17. The Gallery at Midland Shared Spaces, 3500 N. "A" St. midlandss.org.

"Texas Native Wildflowers Exhibition" at Sibley Nature Center, 1307 E. Wadley Ave. On display through March 26. sibleynaturecenter.org.

EVENTS

Spring Break Fun at the Museum. The museum will host activities through Friday. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

Otra Vez Spring Break Workshop with artist Wayne Hilton. The artist will hold workshops on his art, which reflects Mexican culture. 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m. today at Hispanic Cultural Arts Center, 1311 E. Wadley Ave. bit.ly/otravezspringbreak.

Teen Tech Week continues as part for Midland County Public Library's spring break offerings. The free event is for ages 13-19 with themed sessions each day. 3-6 p.m. Through Friday. Midland County Public Library Centennial, 2503 Loop 250. i20wildlifepreserve.org.

Mix at Six. The Young Professionals of Midland host this networking event with featured speakers Anna Standford from Make-A-Wish Foundation and personal trainer Jessica Hood. 6 p.m. today at The Blue Door, 4610 N. Garfield St. ypmidland.org.

Star Party with the West Texas Astronomers. The group offers an educational look up at the night sky at Haley Park. Dusk. Friday. Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. Free. museumsw.org.

Midland Downtown Farmers Market Second Saturday will also feature crafters and their items for sale. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W Missouri Ave. midlanddowntownfarmersmarket.com.

80s and 90s Old School Night with DJ Lovechild. 9 p.m. Saturday at Wyndham Garden, 3100 W. Wall St. $7 advance $8 door. eventbrite.com.

Midland Scottish-Irish Faire and Highland Games is presented by the Celtic Heritage Society of the Permian Basin. The event will feature workshops, Celtic music, bagpipe performances, Highland games and more. Saturday and Sunday at Midland County Horseshoe Pavilion, 2514 Arena Trail. chspb.org.

FAMILY FUN

Caring Bunny Experience invites children with special needs and their families for a special photo experience in an environment set up to support sensory, physical and other developmental needs, In the J.C. Penney court. 10-11:30 a.m. Sunday at Midland Park Mall, 4511 N. Midkiff Drive. facebook.com/midlandparkmall.

Old Miner's Maze interactive adventure features a maze, rock walls, mechanical bull and more. Winter hours: Fridays 5-8 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday noon to 6 p.m. 4305 N. County Rd. 1140. oldminersmaze.com.

GAMES, SPORTS & FITNESS

Bingo Nights. The American Legion Auxiliary hosts weekly play throughout the week. 7 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 4 p.m. Sundays. 501 Veterans Airpark Lane. 628-5511.

Zia Park Casino Hotel and Racetrack bus trips by Midland Shuttle Services. Departs at 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays to Hobbs, New Mexico. $55 adults, $45 65 and older. RSVP by calling 432-260-5428. midlandshuttleservices.com.

Friday Night Magic at Hastings, 3111 W. Cuthbert Ave. Fridays at 7 p.m. Free.

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

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

Free skateboarding lessons, noon-1:30 p.m. Saturdays at RTD Skatepark. rtdskatepark.com.

Tabletop players group at Astral Castle, 10 Meta Drive. 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

Family Nite roller skating, Sundays from 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at KC's Nutty Roller, 1004 A Andrews Highway. kcsnuttyroller.com.

Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment. 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Basin Burger House.

Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment. 8 p.m. Wednesdays at Torino's. challengeentertainment.com.

MUSIC

Tenth Avenue North, Hawk Nelson, I Am They, 7 p.m. today at Andrews County Expo Arena, 1441 Highway 176, Andrews. $18-$40. whatyeshuacando.webs.com.

Kansas, 7:30 p.m. today at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $36-$46.

Sam Riggs. The Texas country artist will do an in-store performance before his show at 9 p.m. at Rockin Rodeo. 4 p.m. today at Hastings, 111 W Cuthbert Ave. samriggsandthenightpeople.com.

One Night at Gilley's with Mickey Gilley and Johnny Lee. 7 p.m. Friday at Hacienda Event Center, 12600 Hwy 191. $43.19. eventbrite.com.

The Revolution Hip-Hop Show 7:30 p.m Friday at The Atrium, 3904 W. Wall St. $5.

Gary Kyle, 7 p.m. Friday at Beer Garden, 7112 W. Highway 80.

Leighton Fields, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Cigar Frogs, 216 N. Main St.

Jeremy Steding, 9 p.m. Friday at Firewater Bar and Grill, 3113 W. Industrial Ave.

Cory Dutton, 9 p.m. Friday at The Bar, 606 W. Missouri Ave.

The Chet Johnson Band, 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Your Place, 3704 W. Wall St.

Wicked West Band, 9 p.m. Friday at Detour Bar, 1708 Rankin Highway.

Shane Rogers Band, 10 p.m. Friday at Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St. midlandlonestarbar.com.

Top Talent Takeover is a showcase of hip-hop music, spoken word and art. 8 p.m. Saturday at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St. thisistoptalent.com.

Jennie Dale Lord, 9:30 p.m. Saturday at Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St. midlandlonestarbar.com.

South By Swing By: LEX, Crescendo, Brothers In Law, Saturday at The Garage, 1110 N. Main St., Fort Stockton. 6 p.m. Free. thegaragetx.com.

Mike Farris, 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $11-$35. liveonstagepb.com.

MOSC: Permian Basin String Quartet perform the next in their Late Beethoven Cycle and will include Beethoven Op. 135 and Brahms Op. 51. 3 p.m. Sunday at the Rea-Greathouse Recital Hall at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $15. MOSC.org.

THEATER, COMEDY & FILM

Beauty and the Beast Comedy Show featuring April Macie and Chris Crawford. 8 p.m. Friday at Wyndham Garden, 3100 W. Wall St. mspn-entertainment.com.

"Around the World in 80 Days" tells the tale of a rich Englishman who has to circumnavigate the globe or lose a steep wager. Opens Friday and runs through March 19 at Midland Community Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave. mctmidland.org.

Auditions: "La Cage aux Folles" by Midland Community Theatre. The musical runs April 15-30. Auditions are at 6:30 p.m. Sunday and Monday. Scripts are available for checkout and character information and rehearsal schedule can be found on the website. MCT, 2000 W. Wadley Ave. mctmidland.org.

COMING SOON

MARCH

Lunch & Lecture: James Collett's Postcard History Series on Midland, 11:30 a.m. March 15 at the Petroleum Museum, 1500 W. Interstate 20 W. Free. pbpetro.org.

South By Swing By: Jon Pattie, Ice Cream, March 15 at The Garage, 1110 N. Main St., Fort Stockton. 6 p.m. Free. thegaragetx.com.

MOSC: Lone Star Brass performs a Brown Bag Concert in the ClayDesta Atrium. 11:45 a.m. March 17 at Clay Desta, 6 Desta Drive. Free.

An Evening with Bill Nye, The Science Guy as presented by the Davidson Distinguished Lecture Series. 7:30 p.m. March 17 at the Chaparral Center at Midland College. Free.

Third Thursday Reading Program will feature "A Tale for Easter." The free children's reading event will offer free copies of the book to those in attendance. Refreshments provided but spaces must be reserved. 4:30 p.m. March 17 at George W. Bush Childhood Home, 1412 W Ohio Ave. 432-685-1112. bushchildhoodhome.org.

The Gallery at Midland Shared Spaces Spring Art Opening will feature new art by local artists with a reception. 5 p.m. March 17 at MSS, 3500 N. "A" St. midlandsharedspaces.org.

"Dust and Depression" will feature historic photographic works of the country after the Stock Market Crash of 1929. The exhibition includes works by John Collier Jr., Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange and more. Opens March 17 and runs through June 6. Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University Blvd., Odessa. noelartmuseum.org.

Aaron Einhouse, 9 p.m. March 17 at Rockin Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. rockinrodeomidland.com.

Parents' Night Out. The YMCA will offer activities for children six weeks to 12 years for parents to enjoy some time for themselves. Space is limited so registration is required. Dinner is included but parents must provide formula, milk or baby food if needed. 6-9 p.m. March 18 at Midland YMCA, 800 N. Big Spring St. Members $10 per child, non-members $30. 682-2551. midlandymca.org.

St. Patrick's Day Party, 7 p.m. March 18 at KC's Nutty Roller, 1004 Andrews Highway.

Robert Plant and the Sensational Space Shifters, March 18 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. wagnernoel.com.

Forgotten Road Band, 9 p.m. March 18 at Detour Bar, 1708 Rankin Highway.

Permian Basin Comic Con X 2016 with announced guests Kevin Nash (from "Magic Mike" films and WWE wrestler), Verne Troyer (Mini Me from "Austin Powers") and Mighty Morphin Power Rangers. March 18-20 at Horseshoe Pavilion, 2514 Arena Trail. pbcomicconx.com.

The Unsweet Ts, March 18 and 19 at Your Place, 3704 W. Wall St.

Warbirds and Wheels car truck and motorcycle show. Proceeds benefit the Permian Basin Honor Flight and Midland Army Air Field Museum. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 19 at High Sky Wing, 9600 Wright Drive. highskywing.org.

Irish-American Heritage Month Story and Craft. The Genealogy Department will offer storytime and heritage-based activities for families. 2 p.m. March 19 at Midland County Public Library Centennial, 2503 Loop 250.

Random Acts of Art: Vintage Photography with Odessa College photography professor Steve Goff. Coinciding with the "Dust and Depression" exhibition, students will learn how to take vintage photos with a cellphone and apps. Registration is required. For ages 15 and older. 1:30 p.m. March 19 at Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University Blvd., Odessa. $30. noelartmuseum.org.

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• Scottish Gaelic by David Gressett
• Celtic Textiles by the Illuminated Threads
• Beer & Whiskey Tasting by Red McWilliams
• Food Tasting by Tammy Dooley
• Penney Whistle by Clint Adams
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LATE Beethoven
Beethoven Op. 135 and Brahms Op. 51
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March 13, 2016 | 3:00PM
Rea-Greathouse Recital Hall - WNPAC
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ON STAGE & SCREEN

MACIE

From Page 1

watching Eddie Murphy's "Raw," and me and my friends were not old enough to be watching it. We just repeated the filth on the playground. Over the course of my life, I've had a series of jobs but comedy is my only life skill. I worked at Hooters, I worked at a talent agency, and I was just a bad employee before comedy. I come from a dysfunctional family, and I grew up with a tremendous amount of dysfunction, so you just make your way through it by being funny.

MRT: Was there a moment when you realized you had made it as a comedian?

Macie: I think it's always a work in progress, and before you actually get something, you always feel like you deserved it. I remember one day when I was driving home from the Comedy Store, and I didn't know what I wanted to do. I began to giggle and at that moment, I realized it was my calling.

MRT: How do you do spend your free time?

Macie: I do an aggressive amount of napping when I'm on the road, and eat cookies in bed like a glutton. When I'm at home, I'm going to go to boxing, and I've been dancing around my apartment. I go to boxing because it takes a lot of aggression. I think it's one of the best classes in Los Angeles at Box and Burn and you start up and do shadow boxing, which makes me feel like a wild fool and I look so stupid. Then I do three minutes in the ring with a trainer, even though I'm highly uncoordinated. I'm a delicate flower.

MRT: Do you have a joke-writing process?

Macie: I think it's just if something happens. You know, if you stop and notice, things like relationships and sex are ridiculous. My family is lunacy, I mean, my mom wakes up and eats candy because she has what she calls midnight diabetes. I should be writing every day, but when you're with other comics and you just say something, it works out better. Bits kind of just evolve from a joke or something funny you said in conversations. I don't have a sit down and write kind of structure. It takes all I have to drive my fat butt to boxing.

MRT: Who are some comedians you enjoy, and why do you subscribe to their styles?

Macie: I guess I like so many. Right now, I love Bill Burr, Dave Attell, Chris Rock, Wanda Sykes and Louis C.K.. I like so many, I think if you attain a certain level in your life, then you can always pull elements that make you fantastic. I like joke writing and word choice. I really like storytelling and people that sell things with their face, timing and delivery. There's so many elements that make comedy fantastic and people should have a combination.

MRT: What was your response to the accusations that comedian and actress Amy Schumer from "Trainwreck" was accused of stealing jokes from other female comedians?

Macie: Parallel thinking is a real thing. I don't feel that those jokes were necessarily stolen. I think that you can come up with similar concepts and unless the jokes are extremely specific it's likely just similar thinking. If I write a joke and see someone else do something similar, I just go "oh that's not that original." I had a joke about someone in my family getting arrested at a stop light after falling asleep drunk, and I saw another comic who told a very similar joke, and it wasn't that he stole a joke, it's just that's what drunks do, apparently — they fall asleep at stop lights. There just aren't that many original concepts out there. There's nothing really that new, something happens to you that's funny, it's likely happened to more than one person.

WANT TO GO?

Beauty and the Beast Comedy Show 8 p.m. Friday at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, 3100 W. Wall St. $15, 21 and older. mspn-entertainment.com.

Baron Cohen's 'Brothers Grimsby' is truly shameless

LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Be suspect of movies that are infamous before they even hit theaters.

The "they did WHAT" anticipatory glee is generally bound to be a letdown — especially when the big joke is someone getting a disease. In the off-chance that you've managed to stay blissfully unaware of the gag, I won't go into any more specifics. Needless to say, it does indeed happen, it is brazen, and it will leave you dumbfounded.

Whether or not the joke will also elicit a laugh is the big question, though. It's one that applies to much of the humor in the movie, too, which starts out with a Bill Cosby jab and steamrolls on from there.

The plot finds a sweet-hearted dimwitted working class Northern Londoner (Sacha Baron Cohen's Nobby) reunited with his younger brother Sebastian (Mark Strong) after 28 years apart. Sebastian is now a top spy and assassin, with a hardcore shaved head to match his ruthless attitude.

Nobby's ill-timed reunion with his long-lost kin puts Sebastian's job, and life, in jeopardy — tethering the two for the remainder of the movie as they try to clear Sebastian's name and save the world.

The jester and the brain pairing is a time-tested formula that on paper seems pretty foolproof. The way it's carried out here, however, feels plucked from a 1990s movie that's still experimenting with the novelty of gross-out humor, know-it-all storytelling, and just how far you can coast on the charisma of a star.

Strong plays it straight, but isn't nearly as memorable as Jason Statham's turn in "Spy."

Baron Cohen, who also co-wrote the movie, is sort of lovable as Nobby with his daffy, crooked-toothed smile, Oasis hair, teeny potbelly, and grungy socks and sports sandals.

Nobby is such an earnest dolt that even the Bill Cosby joke is almost OK. The presumed hilarity of his preference for curvier girls (Rebel Wilson and Gabourey Sidibe among them) is similarly made more tolerable by his unending sincerity.

In fact, flashbacks to Nobby and Sebastian's hooligan youth are fairly touching and effective, too, as is the thru line about class and the worthiness of Nobby's rowdy, soccer-loving, out of shape buddies — or, as he later puts it, "the scum who keep the 'Fast & Furious' franchise alive."

But then there's a joke about pedophiles at Legoland, or an ancient Saturday Night Live Celebrity Jeopardy riff on the word "therapist," and your jaw is once again on the floor.

It's almost impossible to tell whether you're laughing at or with a particular party, if you're even laughing at all. Ultimately, the jokes are more stupefying than funny and no one's anatomy is safe from a gratuitous close-up, whether it's that of a wild animal or an Oscar nominee.

Speaking of Oscar nominees, "Captain Phillips'" Barkhad Abdi even pops up for a spell as a heroin dealer.

It's hard to give yourself over to a certain type of humor when you're still recovering from the shock of what you just saw or heard. And boy, does "The Brothers Grimsby" push those boundaries, over and over and over again.

Whether or not that's a good thing can only really be determined by the individual viewer, and in some corners of the world, "The Brothers Grimsby" might actually be well-positioned to become a cult classic somewhere down the line, even if Nobby does look pretty minor in a legacy that includes Borat and Ali G.

In the spy spoof realm I'd rather just re-watch last year's almost equally raunchy, but infinitely cleverer "Spy."

"The Brothers Grimsby," a Columbia Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "strong crude sexual content, graphic nudity, violence, language, and some drug use." Running time: 83 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

IS YOUR EVENT LISTED?

If you would like your event listed in the Weekender, submit information to Rich Lopez, Features Editor. Email: rlopez@mrt.com Phone: 687-8859

PERMIAN BASIN Gun Show - Ector County Coliseum, Odessa TX, Building G.

Saturday & Sunday, March 19th & 20th
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ON SCREEN

FILM CAPS

"The Brothers Grimsby" (R) Sacha Baron Cohen plays a football hooligan in Northern England who sets out to find his sibling — they were adopted by different families — unaware he is now an MI6 agent. With Mark Strong, Isla Fisher. Directed by Louis Leterrier.

"Deadpool" (R) Ryan Reynolds stars as the former Special Forces operative-turned unconventional antihero in the Marvel Comics adaptation. With Ryan Reynolds, Morena Baccarin, Ed Skrein. Written by Rhett Reese & Paul Wernick. Directed by Tim Miller.

"Eddie the Eagle" (PG-13) Inspirational story of Eddie Edwards, the unlikely British ski jumper who captivated the world at the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics. With Taron Egerton, Christopher Walken and Hugh Jackman. Written by Sean Macaulay. Directed by Dexter Fletcher.

"Gods of Egypt" (PG-13) To save his true love, mortal hero Bek teams with god Horus to battle Set, the god of darkness, who illegitimately occupies the throne of Egypt. With Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Brenton Thwaites, Chadwick Boseman. Written by Matt Sazama & Burk Sharpless. Directed by Alex Proyas.

"Kung Fu Panda 3" (PG) Furry martial artist Po journeys with his long-lost father to a panda paradise where he must train his klutzy compadres to fight the evil Kai. Voices of Jack Black, Bryan Cranston, Dustin Hoffman, Angelina Jolie. Directed by Jennifer Yuh Nelson and Alessandro Carloni.

"London Has Fallen"(R) The funeral of the British prime minister is the target of terrorists in this sequel to the 2013 hit "Olympus Has Fallen." With Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart, Morgan Freeman. Written by Creighton Rothenberger & Katrin Benedikt and Christian Gudegast and Chad St. John. Directed by Babak Najafi.

"The Perfect Match" (R) A smooth operator bets his therapist sister's friends that he can remain in a relationship for a month without falling in love. With Terrence J., Cassie Ventura, Paula Patton, Donald Faison, Joe Pantoliano and Brandy Norwood. Directed by Bille Woodruff.

"The Revenant" (R) Oscar-winning director Alejandro Innaritu is up to his old pretentious tricks, but his wilderness survival tale is saved by an Academy Award-winning performance by Leonardo DiCaprio and brilliant cinematography by Emmanuel Lubezki.

"Risen" (PG-13) Rome orders a military tribune to investigate Jesus' final weeks and quell a potential uprising in Jerusalem. With Joseph Fiennes, Tom Felton, Peter Firth, Cliff Curtis. Written by Kevin Reynolds and Paul Aiello. Directed by Reynolds.

"10 Cloverfield Lane" (R) A woman wakes up to find herself imprisoned in a cellar, unsure whether to believe her captor who claims the outside world has been rendered uninhabitable. With John Goodman, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, John Gallagher Jr. Directed by Dan Trachtenberg.

"Triple 9" (R) A rookie police officer throws a wrench into the heist plans of crooked cops in league with the Russian mob. With Casey Affleck, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Anthony Mackie. Written by Matt Cook. Directed by John Hillcoat.

"Whiskey Tango Foxtrot" (R) Tina Fey stars as an American journalist who discovers the absurdity and adrenaline rush of serving in the war zones of Afghanistan and Pakistan. With Tina Fey, Margot Robbie, Martin Freeman. Written by Robert Carlock, based on the memoir "The Taliban Shuffle: Strange Days in Afghanistan and Pakistan" by Kim Barker. Directed by Glenn Ficarra & John Requa.

"The Young Messiah" (PG-13) The 7-year-old Jesus Christ and family discover the nature of his divine being. With Adam Greaves-Neal, Clive Russell, Vincent Walsh. Written by Betsy Giffen Nowrasteh & Cyrus Nowrasteh. Directed by Cyrus Nowrasteh.

"Zootopia" (PG) Rookie cop Judy Hopps — a bunny — teams with slick con-artist fox Nick Wilde to solve a mystery in Disney's 55th animated feature. Voices by Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman, Shakira. Directed by Byron Howard, Rich Moore, co-directed by Jared Bush.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Reele & Stream

By Nancy Adamson | nadamson@mrt.com

Poignant 'Room' features amazing performances

PICK O' THE WEEK

"Room" (R) I suspect the real reason Brie Larson won the best actress Oscar was not necessarily for her performance — though it's very good — but for wrangling the precocious Jacob Tremblay, who credits her on the behind-the-scenes featurettes with putting him in the right frame of mind to play in such a dark drama. His performance is critical to the film's believability and he pulls it off. **A-**

ICK! O' THE WEEK

"All Roads Lead to Rome" (PG-13) This comedy never clicks, despite Sarah Jessica Parker's endless over-the-top attempts to make you like her. **F**

MORE REVIEWS

"Anger of the Dead" (not rated) Just when you thought filmmakers couldn't possibly come up with a fresh idea for a zombie movie comes "Anger of the Dead," which proves that theory right. **D**

"The Danish Girl" (R) Eddie Redmayne's performance is electrifying but Alicia Vikander, who should have been nominated for best actress, not best supporting actress, beautifully portrays what the real Gerda Wegener must have gone through when her husband told her he was a woman born in a man's body. **A-**

"Estranged" (not rated) After building up the suspense, the film never really delivers. **B-**

"Extraordinary Tales" (unrated) The animation is delightful in this adaptation of five stories by the original master of horror, Edgar Allan Poe. But it's the voice-overs — notably its use of a 1949 reading of "The Tell Tale Heart" by Bela Lugosi — that really make this memorable. **B**

"Frankenstein" (R) Xavier Samuel got the chance to prove he's more than a pretty face as Monster in this modern retelling of Mary Shelley's classic story. It's a star-making performance, but unfortunately it's in a movie few will see. **B**

"Legend" (R) Tom Hardy shines in this true story of identical twin gangsters; it's kind of a British version of "Married to the Mob." **B**

"Miss You Already" (PG-13) Despite wonderful acting and the levity, if you've seen "Beaches" or "Wit" or "The Fault in Our Stars" or countless other films about cancer, this one offers nothing special. **C-**

"My All-American" (PG) If a Red Raider can appreciate this touching story of a Longhorn football player with a heart of gold, anyone can. Well, there may be an Aggie or two out there who might still hold a grudge. **A**

"Narcopolis" (not rated) This film is a perfect example of what happens when the director, editor and writer are too close to the project to see things objectively. In this case, a little more exposition was needed to explain what was going on in the flashbacks. **C+**

"The Night Before" (R) Comedy goes for the easy, sophomoric angle too often but it's still one of the funniest films of the year. **B**

"Night of the Wild" (TV-14) SyFy's made a name for itself with its horror parodies that can actually be a lot of fun. This attempt to craft a real horror story about the family pets of the world turning into killers after a meteor shower is a regressive move, and it's not at all pretty. **D**

"Ratter" (R) All your worst fears about the invasion of your privacy possible from social networking are attempted in this film, which does a better job of it than "Unfriended" or "Open Windows." **B**

"Uncertain Terms" (not rated) Film about a group of girls living in a home for pregnant teens is devoid of the pithy wisdom it so wants to convey. **D**

"Weaponized" (not rated) Action thriller is riddled with cliches, which it makes up for with nifty special effects. **C+**

"Western Religion" (not rated) In what might be the most unusual genre ever, the fantasy western, things get muddled very quickly and never recover. It's too bad, there seemed to be a good film lurking in the muck. **C**

"Yosemite" (R) While it's no "Stand By Me," this trio of stories about three boys strikes a chord, even when it goes places you pray it won't. **B**

'Zootopia' poised to top domestic box office again

By Ryan Faughnder
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Walt Disney Animation Studios' "Zootopia" is expected to hold the top spot at the U.S. box office this weekend, despite a herd of new movies including J.J Abrams' "Cloverfield" follow-up and the latest Sacha Baron Cohen comedy.

The well-reviewed computer-animated movie about an unlikely rabbit-and-fox duo is poised to gross $40 million to $50 million Friday through Sunday in the U.S. and Canada, a solid follow-up to its stellar opening.

"Zootopia" took in $75 million in domestic receipts last weekend, the biggest debut ever for a Disney Animation movie, not adjusted for ticket price inflation. It's been a hit internationally as well, with $159 million from overseas so far, bringing its global total to $233 million.

As "Zootopia" continues to draw families to the multiplex, a pack of rivals will fight for second place. The best bet for second place is Paramount Pictures' low-budget mystery-thriller "10 Cloverfield Lane," which is on track for a strong debut of $22 million to $25 million, according to people who have seen pre-release audience surveys.

The studio is projecting a more conservative opening of less than $20 million, which would still be a solid start for a movie that cost around $15 million to make.

2008's "Cloverfield," a found-footage monster movie directed by Matt Reeves, was a box-office success that generated $170 million worldwide on a production budget of only $25 million.

Yet the filmmakers have stressed that "10 Cloverfield Lane," directed by newcomer Dan Trachtenberg, is not a straight-ahead sequel to the original hit. Abrams, who produced both movies, has called the new film a "spiritual successor" to the 2008 picture. "10 Cloverfield Lane" eschews the well-worn raw-footage style, and the trailers (the first of which was released only two months ago) take place largely in an underground bunker, rather than the streets of New York.

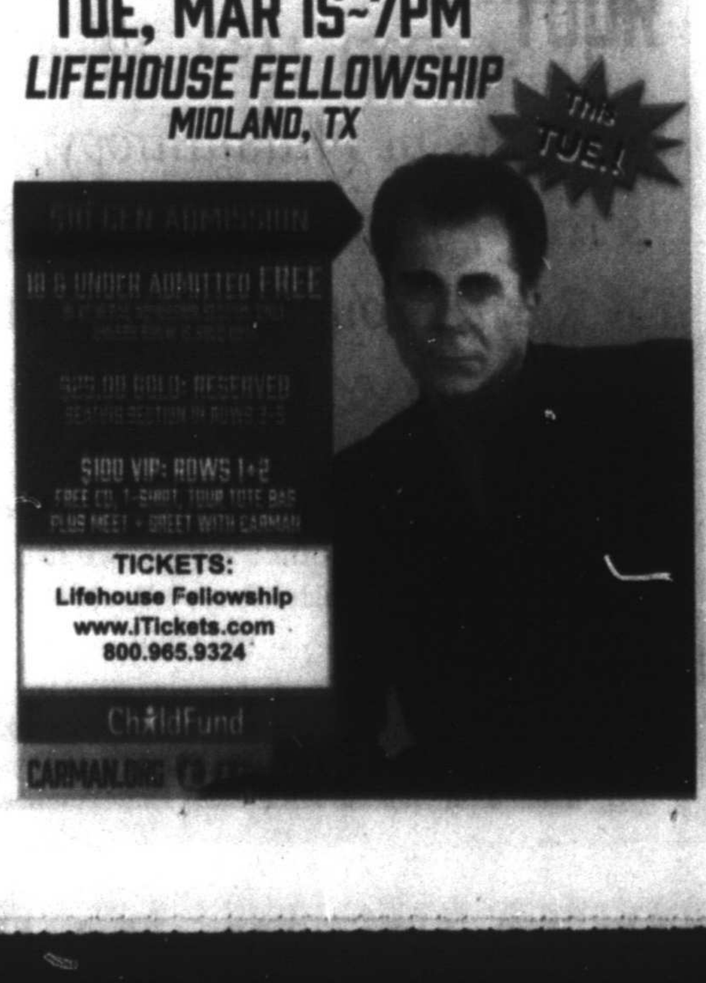
Meanwhile, "Borat" star Baron Cohen could be headed to a box-office misfire with his new movie "The Brothers Grimsby," which is not likely to stir up much business.

The British filmmaker's spy action-comedy is headed to an opening of less than $10 million, which would be considered a poor turnout for the Sony Pictures release and the weakest debut to date for a Baron Cohen-penned film.

The 2006 faux-documentary "Borat" opened to $26.5 million on its way to a powerful $128 million in the U.S. and Canada. The most recent Baron Cohen-written satire, "The Dictator" (2012), did a less impressive $60 million in domestic ticket sales after scoring $17 million in its first three days.

Focus Features will take a crack at the faith-based genre with "The Young Messiah," about the early life of Jesus. But coming to theaters just after Sony's biblical epic "Risen," the new movie is not expected to do much business. Sony will add another Christian movie to the mix next weekend with the modern-day drama "Miracles From Heaven."

Lionsgate's Codeblack Films division, meanwhile, is debuting its new romantic comedy, "The Perfect Match," aimed at black moviegoers. The picture about a romantically challenged bachelor in an unexpected relationship stars Terrence Jenkins of "Think Like a Man" and Cassie Ventura. Queen Latifah executive produced the film, which is expected to debut to $5 million from a mid-range release in 900 theaters or more.



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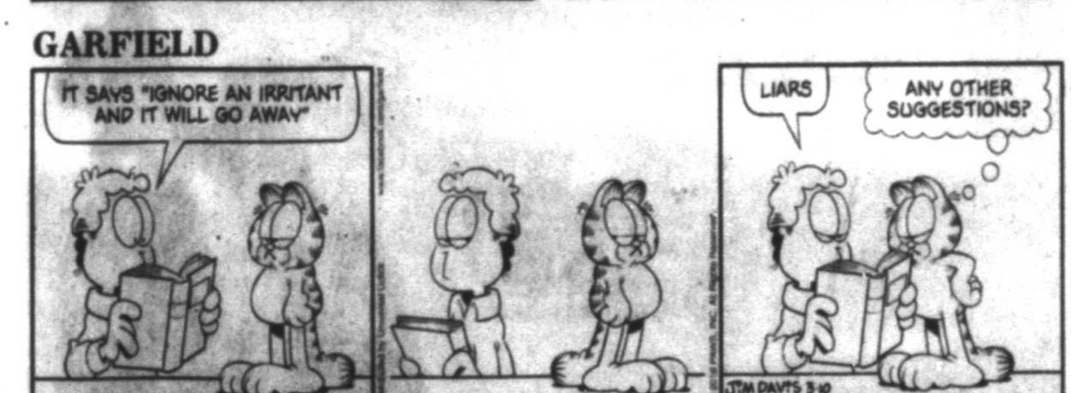

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

LUANN

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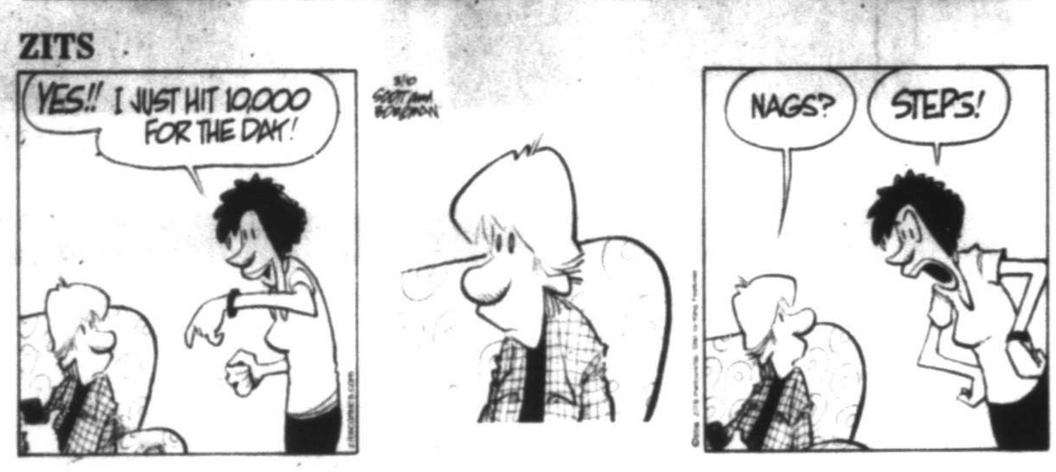
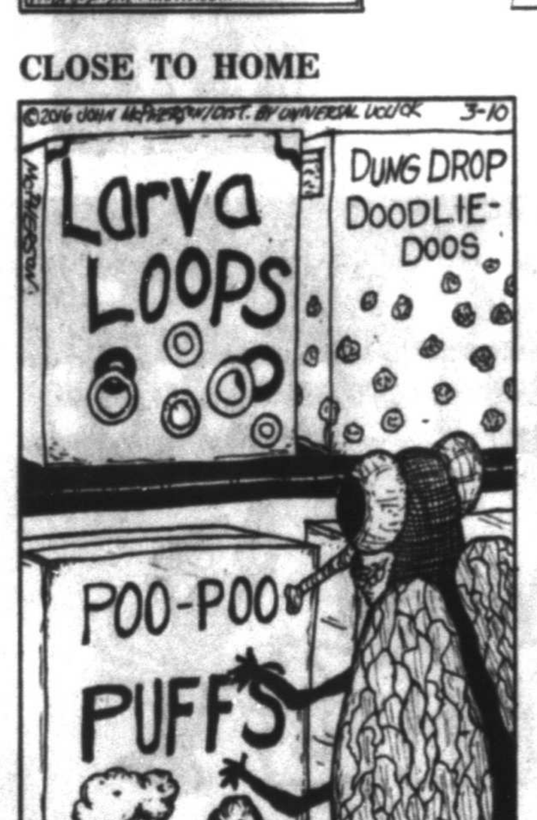
ZITS



BABY BLUES

MUTTS

CLOSE TO HOME



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DENNIS THE MENACE

"WELL, MAYBE NEXT TIME MOM SHOULD BRING HOME THE BACON AND YOU TRY COOKIN' IT."

LOCKHORNS

"DID THE DOCTOR SPECIFY WHICH PART OF THE HORSE YOU'RE AS HEALTHY AS?"

FAMILY CIRCUS

"No, but that's a great idea."

DINING

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

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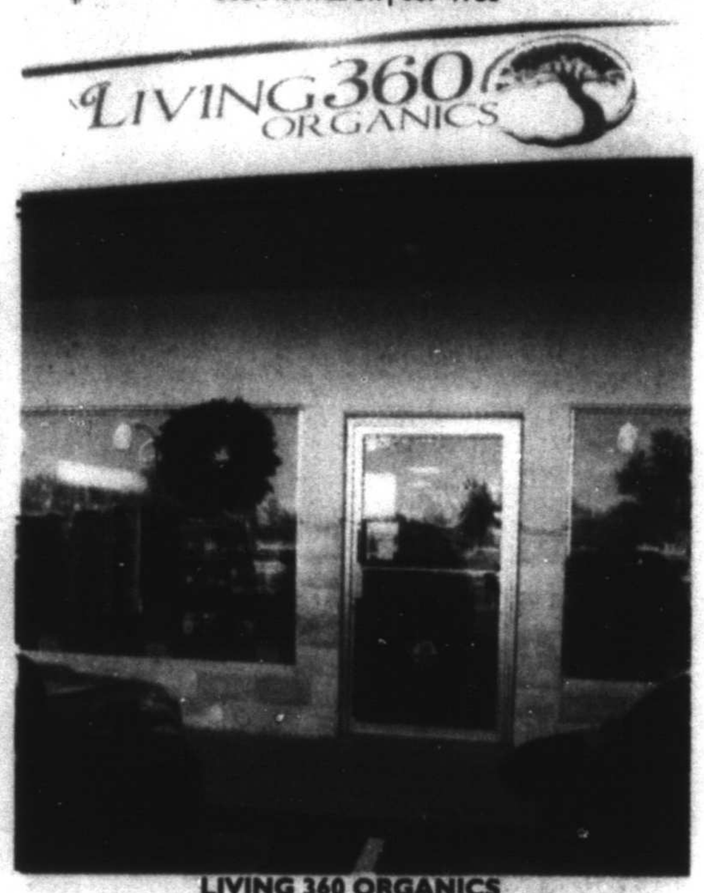

LIVING 360 ORGANICS
3211 W. WADLEY AVE., STE. 21 | 262-3411

DELI

FIREHOUSE SUBS National chain with tribute to local firefighters. Try the meatball sub or the Italian. Order it "fully involved" if you want all the veggies, mayonnaise, mustard and a pickle slice. 2900 W. Loop 250 N. 689-6500 www.firehousesubs.com | $ | 4 spoons

JASON'S DELI National chain has a salad bar that's hard to beat and a nice selection of sandwiches and soups. Plenty of vegetarian, organic and gluten-free options. 4610 N. Garfield St., Suite D 1-B 682-2200 www.jasonsdeli.com | $ | 4 spoons

JERSEY MIKE'S SUBS The New Jersey-based sub shop offers freshly sliced meats and special sauces on its made-to-order sandwiches. 4400 N. Midland Drive, 695-9990 jerseymikes.com | $ | 4 spoons

LIVING 360 ORGANICS All organic, non-GMO menu includes juices, smoothies and acai bowls. Soups change daily. Sandwiches, wraps and a la carte items are available. Try the cold quinoa salad and a cup of soup. 3211 W. Wadley Ave. Suite 21 | 262-3411 | living-360organics.com | $ | 4 spoons

McALISTER'S DELI Hot and cold sandwiches, salads and soups. Combo options let you customize your meal and watch your calorie count. Two Midland locations. 2306 Rankin Highway, Suite 100. 687-0880 | 4415 W. Wadley Ave. 694-1800 www.mcalistersdeli.com | $ | 4 spoons

MURRAY'S You're sure to spot someone you know at this Midland lunch hotspot. Try the cheese soup or the turkado with curly fries. 3211 W. Wadley Ave. 697-3433 | $ | 5 spoons

SMILING MOOSE DELI Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, this deli serves breakfast burritos, wraps, soups, sandwiches and salads. The namesake sandwich starts with ground beef on a hoagie bun. 3322 North Loop 250 West 697-3354 www.smilingmoose-deli.com | $ | 4 spoons

SWENSEN'S One menu for sandwiches, burgers, patty melts and salads and an entirely separate full menu for ice cream. Friendly service and a clean atmosphere. 900 W. Loop 250 N. 570-7271 www.swensons.com | $ | 4 spoons

TASTE@508 Stop by the chic downtown cafe for breakfast, lunch or a coffee break. We recommend the chocolate croissant, Cubano Westie panini and beet and goat cheese salad. 508 W. Wall St. | 687-1755 | taste508.com | $ | 4 spoons

TASTE OF CHICAGO Start with the Italian beef sandwich, add spicy or mild peppers, cheese or cheese sauce and decide if you want it dipped in au jus. You may be surprised that you can — and will — finish the whole thing. 1100 E. Illinois Ave. 682-3200 www.letseat.at/t_o_chicago | $ | 5 spoons

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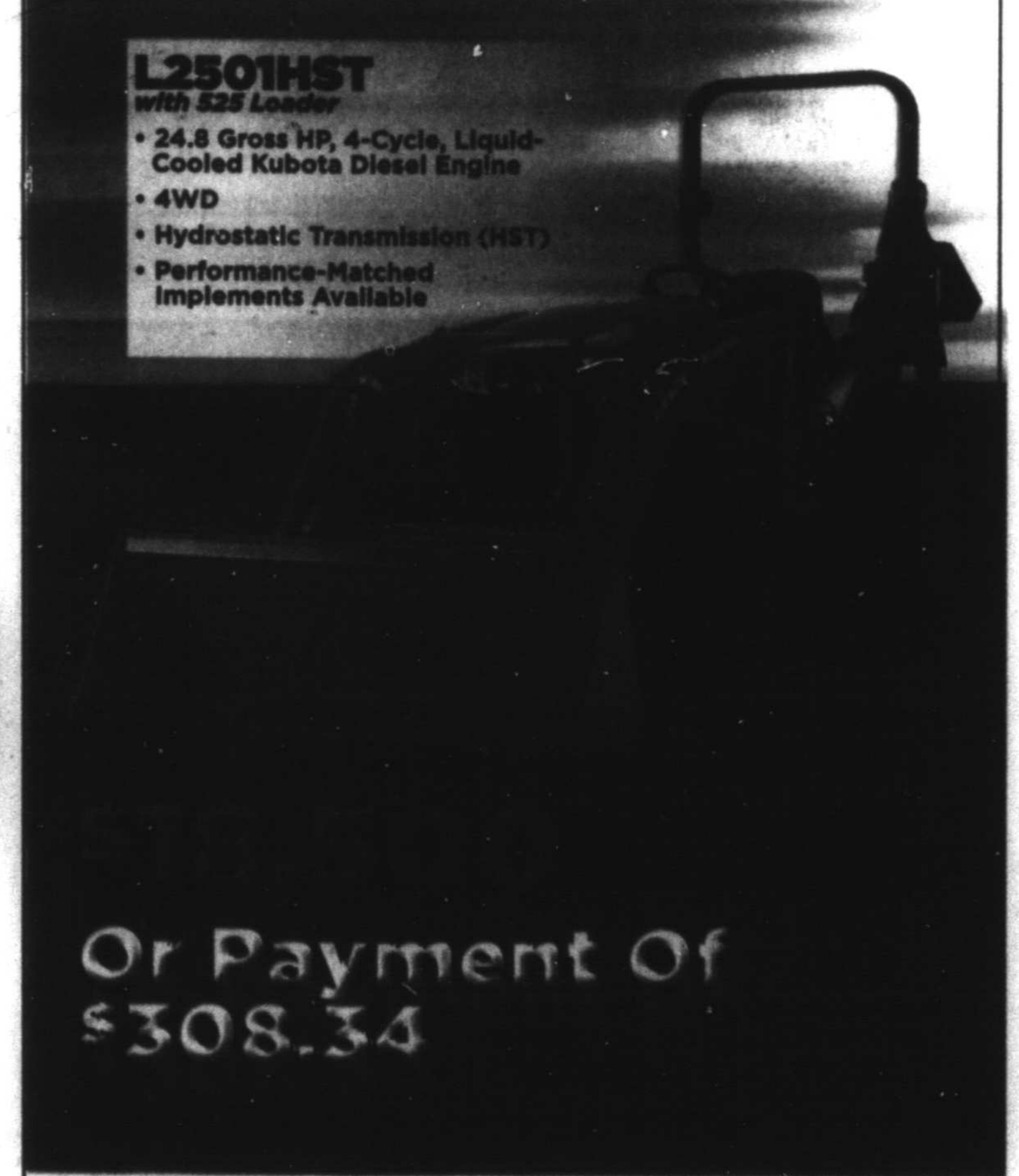

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Hoppel, LCU take No. 1 ranking into tourney

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

Midland native Kelsey Hoppel and her Lubbock Christian University women's basketball team will be chasing history when they hit the hardwood today.

Hoppel and the No. 1-ranked Lady Chaparrals (29-0) host Texas Woman's University in the first round of the NCAA Division II national tournament at 6 p.m. at Rip Griffin Center.

Hoppel and top-seeded LCU are in a unique position. Not only are they trying to join Massachusetts' program Bentley (2014) and North Dakota State (1995) as the only unbeaten national champions in Division II history, but the Lady Chaps are playing in their first Division II tournament after moving up from the NAIA level in 2013-14.

This is the first year LCU is eligible for the tournament after a two-year probationary period. Despite them being new to the tournament, Hoppel and the Lady Chaps will carry a bull's eye.

"There's a lot of pressure being ranked No. 1, being undefeated so far," Hoppel said. "Obviously, we got to be undefeated from here on out if we want to win a national championship. But I just think our team is really good at not getting a big head.

"We just kind of go into each game, thinking about that game only and just focus on that game. We are just trying to stay humble. I don't think it's really gotten to us."

Hoppel has been a key starter as a guard on the Lubbock Christian squad. The 5-foot-9, redshirt senior is averaging 12.6 points per game, one of three Lady Chaps players that is scoring in double figures for the season.

The Midland High graduate has served as LCU's primary long-range shooter, making a whopping 75 3-point goals, 46 more than the next closest player on her team.

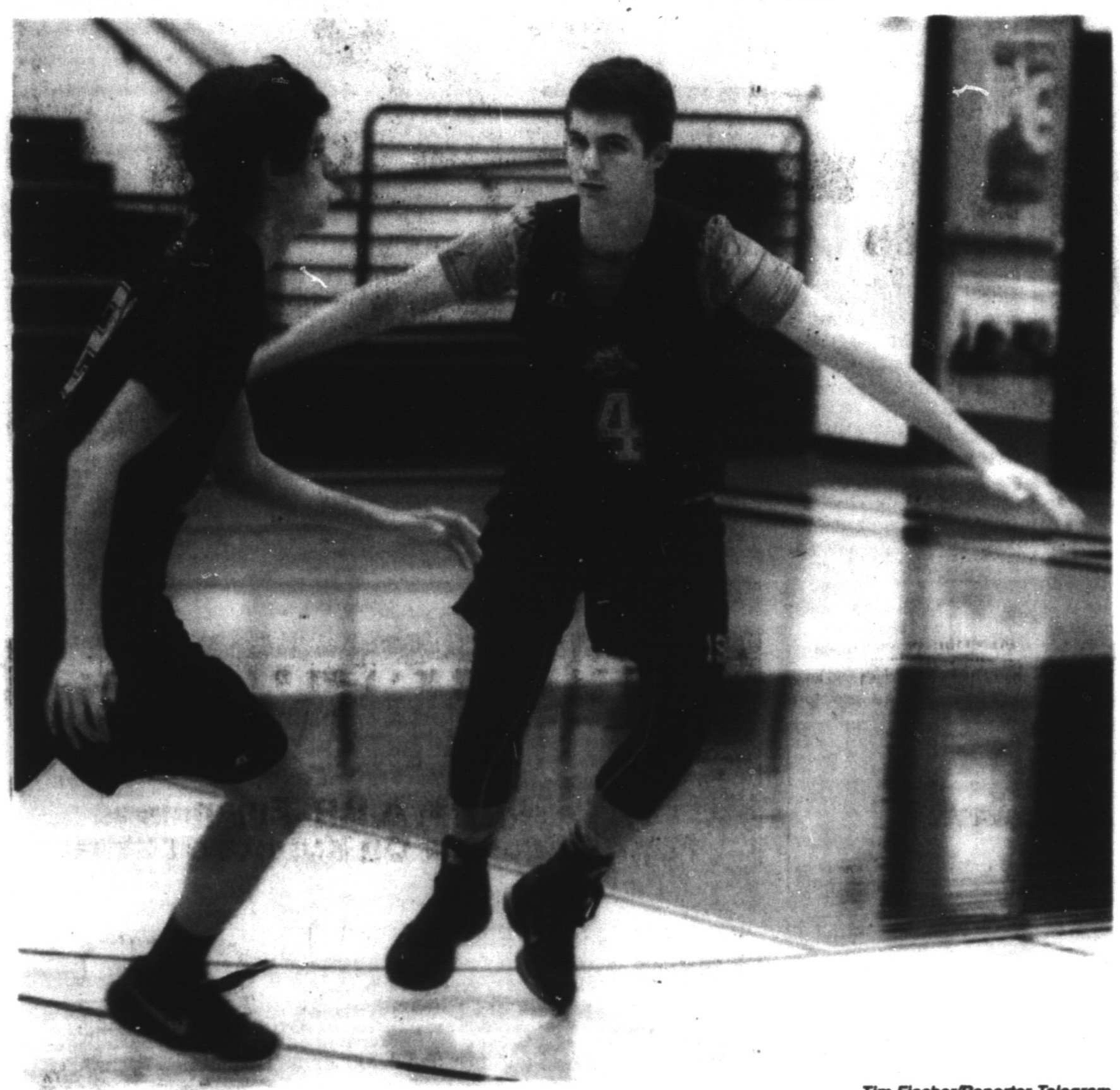
Maybe the most impressive stat has been Hoppel's dependable dribbling and passing as she ranks seventh on the team in total turnovers (26) despite being one of

Please see **HOPPEL**/3C

Photo courtesy of LCU Athletics

Lubbock Christian University senior guard Kelsey Hoppel is seen here with the ball in an exhibition game against UCONN in Hartford, Conn., on Nov. 2.

Ready for the big time



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Grady's Kyle Garza (4) and other players run shadow drills Tuesday morning during practice at Grady High School.

Grady returns to state with title hopes

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

The No. 3-ranked Grady boys basketball team has some unfinished business to attend to.

The Wildcats have made three trips to the Class 1A state tournament since the program's Division II championship season in 2003-04. Grady fell in last year's state final against Texline, lost in the state semifinal in the 2011-12 season and also lost in the state final in its 2009-10 campaign.

But as Grady is set to open play today in its fifth state tournament in the last 13 years, the Wildcats will be looking to pick up where they left off last season and get over the hump that has been winning the elusive state championship game.

Grady (30-4) will take on No. 4 Coolidge (30-3) in the state semifinal at 10 a.m. today at San Antonio's Alamodome. The winner will face the winner of the other semifinal game, No. 2 Avinger vs. No. 5 Happy, in the championship game at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

Wildcats senior forward Kyle Garza said he remembers what happened in last year's state tournament all too well. He said it was a great feeling to play in San Antonio as a junior, but is even more excited to be making back-to-back trips to the Alamo City, representing West Texas.

"Making state, for me, is something I'll never be able to forget," said Garza, who scored a game-high 27 points for Grady in the team's 65-54 victory against Klondike in the regional quarterfinal round. "It's been an amazing journey to be able to even go up to San Antonio, to be one of the top four teams in (Class) 1A. This year, I'm even more excited than last year to get a second chance at it."

It has been a memorable and suspenseful ride to San Antonio for the Wildcats this season. After the team swept through its District 11-A schedule with a perfect 12-0 record and earned

Please see **GRADY**/3C

Cowboys bringing back LB Rolando McClain

By Schulyer Dixon
Associated Press

IRVING — Rolando McClain is returning for a third in season in Dallas, where the middle linebacker revived his career after quickly flaming out as a high draft pick in Oakland.

The agency that represents McClain, Sports Trust Advisors, said in a tweet that the 26-year-old agreed to a contract Wednesday, the first day of free agency. The deal is for one year at $5 million, according to a person with knowledge of the contract who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because terms weren't released.

The eighth overall pick by the Raiders in 2010, McClain was dumped after three disappointing seasons and spent a year away from football before the Cowboys traded for him out of desperation when Sean Lee went down with a season-ending knee injury in the first offseason workout of 2014.

Oakland released McClain after the 2012 season, and he ended up in Baltimore but never played for the Ravens. He retired once, and walked away

Please see **MCCLAIN**/4C

AP file photo

On Nov. 26, the Dallas Cowboys' Rolando McClain defends against the Carolina Panthers in Arlington. The Cowboys are bringing back middle linebacker McClain for a third season.

Greenwood, MCA hope to build off March Classic

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

Both the Greenwood and Midland Classical Academy baseball teams are on a mission this season to redeem themselves after enduring upsetting ends to their respective 2015 campaigns.

And as the Rangers (4-8) and the Knights (0-1) — two of the youngest teams in Midland County — open play in the 21st annual West Texas March Classic today, there will be plenty of opportunity to make an early season statement.

The two teams will play each other at 11:30 a.m. today at the Greenwood High School field.

The WTMC will run today through Saturday, with games being played at the Greenwood field, Midland High's Zachery Field and Security Bank Ballpark.

The MHS Purple JV team is also back in the tournament's field this year after going 4-1 against five varsity squads at last season's WTMC.

After his team's first 12 games this season, Greenwood head coach Siephen Rodriguez said the Rangers are beginning to find an identity as a group that forces opponents to work hard consistently.

"We're grinding," Rodriguez said. "They're (the Greenwood players) grinding. We like to fight back and there's no quit in them."

Similarly to last season, when Greenwood opened the year 2-9 over its first 11 games, the Rangers' 4-8 record can be misleading. The team played several strong Class 6A opponents in its El Paso Tournament from Feb. 25-27 and then faced a string of quality clubs in the Levelland Tournament from March 3-5.

This year, the Rangers' roster features just two seniors and 11 juniors — many of whom are playing in their first season at the varsity level. Three of the team's key contributors — pitcher Dawson Merryman, shortstop Josh Urias and outfielder Jared Nail — are sophomores.

As such, Rodriguez said his club is trying to learn and grow each time it steps onto the field and especially over its next four games during the WTMC.

"We're still trying to get better at executing offensively," Rodriguez said. "There have some been some base running mistakes, the signs of a young team. We've still got a lot of work to do but they're (the Greenwood players) improving every day."

As is the case with most teams, strong pitching and clean defense are the catalysts for the Rangers.

"Our base has to be good pitching and good defense," Rodriguez said. "We chart it and when we're good with that, we're doing well. If we pitch well and play defense, we'll be in any ball game."

Meanwhile for the Knights, things could be especially difficult this weekend in WTMC play. The team is undergoing a coaching change, as first-year head coach Eric Littleton replaced Clete Seyle during the offseason. Seyle is now serving as MCA's first base coach.

Additionally, the Knights have had extremely limited practice time, have only played one game entering tournament play, and on top of that, two of the club's most experienced players — senior brother tandem Blake and Heath Gladson — are out of town and will not be available this weekend.

Littleton is staying positive and said he wants to use his team's time in the WTMC to better gauge what he has on his green roster, over half of which is comprised of underclassmen.

"We're taking this tournament as an extended time to get better," Littleton said. "We really haven't had that many

Please see **MARCH CLASSIC**/2C

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

ON TV

AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Carlton vs. Sydney, 12:20 a.m., FSP

Gold Coast vs. Adelaide, 3:30 a.m., FSP

GOLF

PGA: Valspar Championship, 1st Round, 2 p.m., GOLF

European PGA: True Thailand Classic, 2nd Round, 2 a.m., GOLF

HOCKEY

KHL Eastern Semifinal Gm 2: Avangard vs. Salavat Yulev, 7:30 a.m., OWSPN

MLB

Detroit vs. Philadelphia, Noon, MLB

Chic. White Sox vs. Texas, 2 p.m., FSSW

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

ACC Quarterfinal: North Carolina vs. Pitt/Syracuse, 11 a.m., ESPN

Big East Quarterfinal: Villanova vs. Georgetown/DePaul, 11 a.m., FS1

A10 2nd Round: Fordham vs. Richmond, 11 a.m., NBCSN

Big 10 2nd Round: Michigan vs. Northwestern, 11 a.m., BTN

Big 12 Quarterfinal: Texas vs. Baylor, 11:30 a.m., ESPN2

SEC 2nd Round: Florida vs. Arkansas, 1 p.m., SEC

ACC Quarterfinal: Notre Dame vs. Duke/NC State, 1 p.m., ESPN

Big 12 Quarterfinal: Kansas vs. Kansas State/Oklahoma State, 1:30 p.m., ESPN2

Big East Quarterfinal: Providence vs. Butler, 1:30 p.m., FS1

A10 2nd Round: George Washington vs. George Mason/St. Louis, 1:30 p.m., NBCSN

Big 10 2nd Round: Iowa vs. Illinois/Minnesota, 1:30 p.m., BTN

SEC 2nd Round: Vanderbilt vs. Tennessee/Auburn, 2 p.m., SEC

MW Quarterfinal: San Diego State vs. Wyoming/Utah State, 2 p.m., CBSSN

Big West Quarterfinal: UC Santa Barbara vs. UC Davis, 2 p.m., FCSP

AAC 1st Round: East Carolina vs. USF, 2:30 p.m., ESPNU

MW Quarterfinal: New Mexico vs. Nevada, 4:30 p.m., CBSSN

Big West Quarterfinal: Hawaii vs. Cal State Fullerton, 4:30 p.m., FCSP

AAC 1st Round: UCF vs. Tulane, 5 p.m., ESPNews

Big Ten 2nd Round: Ohio State vs. Penn State, 5:30 p.m., ESPN2

A10 2nd Round: Rhode Island vs. UMass, 5:30 p.m., NBCSN

ACC Quarterfinal: Virginia vs. Clemson/Georgia Tech, 6 p.m., ESPN

Big 12 Quarterfinal: West Virginia vs. Texas Tech/TCU, 6 p.m., ESPNU

Big East Quarterfinal: Xavier vs. Marquette/St. John's, 6 p.m., FS1

SEC 2nd Round: Ole Miss vs. Alabama, 6 p.m., SEC

Big 10 2nd Round: Wisconsin vs. Nebraska/Rutgers, 7:30 p.m., ESPN2

ACC Quarterfinal: Miami-FL vs. Virginia Tech/Florida State, 8 p.m., ESPN

Big 12 Quarterfinal: Oklahoma vs. Iowa State, 8 p.m., ESPNU

A10 2nd Round: Davidson vs. Duquesne/La Salle, 8 p.m., NBCSN

SEC 2nd Round: Georgia vs. Mississippi State, 8 p.m., SEC

MW Quarterfinal: Fresno State vs. UNLV/Air Force, 8 p.m., CBSSN

Big West Quarterfinal: UC Irvine vs. Cal Poly, 8 p.m., FCSP

Big East Quarterfinal: Seton Hall vs. Creighton, 8:30 p.m., FS1

Pac-12 Quarterfinal: California vs. Oregon State/Arizona State, 10:30 p.m., FS1

MW Quarterfinal: Boise State vs. Colorado State/San Jose State, 10:30 p.m., CBSSN

Big West Quarterfinal: Long Beach State vs. UC Riverside, 10:30 p.m., FCSP

MEN'S SOCCER

UEFA Europa: Bosrussia Dortmund vs. Tottenham Hotspur, Noon, FS2, ESPNDEP

UEFA Europa: Basel vs. Sevilla, Noon, FSP

UEFA Europa: Liverpool vs. Manchester United, 2 p.m., FS2

UEFA Europa: Villarreal vs. Bayer 04 Leverkusen, 2 p.m., FSP, ESPNDEP

Copa Libertadores: CA River Plate vs. Sao Paulo FC, 4 p.m., FXDEP

Copa Libertadores: Club Boliviar vs. Boca Juniors, 6:15 p.m., FSP

Copa Libertadores: LDU Quito vs. Deportivo Toluca FC, 6:30 p.m., FXDEP

NBA

Chicago at San Antonio, 7 p.m., TNT

Cleveland at LA Lakers, 9:30 p.m., TNT

NHL

Winnipeg at Detroit, 6:30 p.m., NHL

TENNIS

ATP/WTA: BNP Paribas Open, 1 p.m., TENNIS

WHAT'S ON DECK

High school

BASEBALL

Midland High at Highland Park Tournament

Lee at Brenham Tournament

Greenwood, MCA at March Classic

Midland Christian at Chisolm Trail/Saginaw Tournament

BASKETBALL

Class 1A state semifinal, Grady vs. Coolidge, 10 a.m., Alamodome, San Antonio

SOFTBALL

Greenwood at San Marcos Classic

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with RHP Austin Adams, 1B Jesus Aguilar, OF Abraham Almonte, RHP Cody Anderson, RHP Shawn Armstrong, RHP Dylan Baker, RHP Trevor Bauer, RHP Michael Clevinger, LHP Kyle Crockett, LHP T.J House, SS Francisco Lindor, LHP Ryan Merritt, LHP Shawn Morimando, OF Tyler Naquin, RHP Dan Otero, SS Jose Ramirez, OF James Ramsey, RHP Danny Salazar, 3B Giovanny Urshela and OF Zach Walters on one-year contracts

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Optioned C Justin O'Connor to an unspecified minor league farm team

American Association

FARGO-MOORHEAD REDHAWKS — Signed INF Elmer Reyes.

SIOUX FALLS STAMPEDE RAILCATS — Signed LHP Dan Ludwig.

LINCOLN SALTDOGS — Signed LHP Randy Zeigler.

SIOUX FALLS CANARIES — Signed OF Cameron Monger and INF Brett Balkan.

WICHITA WINGNUTS — Signed LHP Alex Sogard.

Atlantic League

LONG ISLAND DUCKS — Signed RHPs Nick Struck, Frank DeJulio Jr and Kevin Vance.

SUGAR LAND SKEETERS — Signed C Chris Wallace, INF-OF Delwyn Young and RHP Sean Gallagher.

Can-Am League

NEW JERSEY JACKALS — Signed OF Matt Helms.

SUSSEX COUNTY MINERS — Signed C Gaby Juarbe and RHP Joe Donino.

Frontier League

FLORENCE FREEDOM — Signed RHP TJ Bozeman. LHP Matt Eshleman and RHP Josh Martinez.

LAKE ERIE CRUSHERS — Signed C Jose Barraza to a contract extension.

NORMAL CORNBELTERS — Signed INF Kevin Czarnecki, INF R.J. Peruski, C Chris Power and INF Michael Skoller.

WASHINGTON WILD THINGS — Signed OF Jamal Austin.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS — Signed G Jordan McRae for the remainder of this season.

SAN ANTONIO SPURS — Waived F Rasual Butler. Signed G Kevin Martin.

WASHINGTON WIZARDS — Waived G Gary Neal. Signed G Marcus Thornton.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

NFL — Announced Kansas City will forfeit its 2016 third-round draft pick and its 2017 sixth-round draft pick and pay a fine of $250,000 for a violation of the Anti-Tampering Policy relating to improper contact during the 2015 "Negotiating Period" with prospective unrestricted free agent player Jeremy Maclin (Philadelphia). Fined Kansas City coach Andy Reid $75,000 and general manager John Dorsey $25,000 for their part in the tampering.

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed QB Drew Stanton.

ATLANTA FALCONS — Agreed to terms with C Alex Mack on a five-year contract. Released NT Paul Soliai.

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Agreed to terms with TE Benjamin Watson on a two-year contract.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Re-signed DE Charles Johnson to a one-year contract and FB Mike Tolbert to a two-year contract.

CHICAGO BEARS — Agreed to terms with LB Danny Trevathan on a four-year contract and OT Bobby Massie on a three-year contract. Re-signed CB Tracy Porter to a three-year contract and RB Jacquizz Rodgers and OT Nick Becton to one-year contracts.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Agreed to terms with LB Rolando McClain on a one-year contract.

DENVER BRONCOS — Agreed to terms with OT Donald Stephenson on a three-year contract.

DETROIT LIONS — Re-signed DT Haloti Ngata.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — QB Matt Hasselbeck announced his retirement. Released WR Andre Johnson.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Re-signed TE Marcedes Lewis.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed LB Jonathan Massaquoi. Agreed to terms with OL Mitchell Schwartz on a five-year contract.

LOS ANGELES RAMS — Re-signed C Tim Barnes and S Cody Davis to two-year contracts.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed DE Mario Williams to a two-year contract and S Isa Abdul-Quddus to a three-year contract. Removed the transition tag on DE Olivier Vernon, making him a free agent. Released CB Brent Grimes. Signed T Sam Young to a one-year contract.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Re-signed DT Kendrick Ellis and OT Mike Harms.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed LB Ramon Humber. Released LB Dane Fletcher.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Signed TE Coby Fleener to a five-year contract.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Re-signed DE Jason Pierre-Paul to a one-year contract. Agreed to terms with DE Olivier Vernon, CB Janoris Jenkins and DT Damon Harrison on five-year contracts.

NEW YORK JETS — Released TE Jeff Cumberland and WR Jeremy Kerley.

OAKLAND RAIDERS — Agreed to terms with LB Bruce Irvin on a four-year contract.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Traded CB Byron Maxwell, LB Kiko Alonso and their 2016 first-round (No. 13) draft pick to Miami for their 2016 first-round (No. 8) draft pick. Traded RB DeMarco Murray and a 2016 fourth-round draft pick to Tennessee for a 2016 third-round draft pick. Agreed to terms with OL Brandon Brooks and S Rodney McLeod on five-year contracts and QB Chase Daniel. Agreed to terms with CB Ron Brooks and T Donald Stephenson on three-year contracts.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Agreed to terms with G Ramon Foster on a three-year contract.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS — Re-signed QB Kellen Clemens to a one-year contract. Agreed to terms with TE Antonio Gates on a two-year contract. NT Brandon Mebane and S Dwight Lowery on three-year contracts, and WR-KR Travis Benjamin on a four-year contract.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Re-signed RB Doug Martin to a five-year contract.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Re-signed QB Colt McCoy, S Duke Ihenacho, LB Mason Foster and DL Kedric Golston.

Canadian Football League

CFL — Named Glen Johnson becomes the senior vice-president/football, Christina Litz becomes senior vice-president/content and marketing and David Cuddy becomes senior vice-president/finance and business operations.

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Signed OL Travis Bond.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

NHL — Suspended Arizona D Jarred Tinordi 20 games for violating terms of the NHL's performance-enhancing substances program. Fined New Jersey F Tuomo Ruutu $5,000 for slow-footing Pittsburgh F Matt Cullen during a March 6 game.

DALLAS STARS — Recalled D Stephen Johns from Texas (AHL).

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Agreed to terms with F Nick Lappin on a two-year, entry-level contract.

NEW YORK RANGERS — Assigned D Brady Skjei and G Magnus Hellberg to Hartford (AHL).

ECHL

ECHL — Suspended Adirondack's Ryan Lomberg one game and fined him an undisclosed amount for his actions during a March 8 game at Manchester. Suspended Wheeling's John McCarron one game and fined him an undisclosed amount for his actions in March 8 game against Brampton.

ELMIRA JACKALS — Signed F Darcy Murphy.

FLORIDA EVERBLADES — Loaned F Brant Harris to Manitoba (AHL).

READING ROYALS — Acquired F Mike Pelech from Norfolk for F Robbie Czarnik and D Sam Windle.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

PORTLAND TIMBERS — Acquired M-D Jack Barmby on loan from Leicester City (EPL).

COLLEGE

COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION — Named Joe D'Antonio commissioner.

ILLINOIS — Named Garrick McGee offensive coordinator.

SAN FRANCISCO — Fired men's basketball coach Rex Walters.

ST. ANDREWS — Named David Harper football coach.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER STANDINGS

2016 District 3-6A boys soccer

Team	W	PW	PL	L	Pts.
xy-Midland High (18-4-0)	7	2	0	1	22
x-Abilene High (15-6-0)	5	0	0	4	15
x-San Angelo Central (9-8-2)	4	1	0	4	14
x-Odessa High (6-12-2)	4	0	2	3	14
Lee (9-9-0)	2	1	2	4	10
Odessa Permian (9-11-2)	1	1	1	5	8

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched district title
Note: 3 points for a win, 2 points for a penalty kick win, 1 point for a penalty kick loss

Wednesday's Score

San Angelo Central 2, Abilene High 1

March 19

Odessa High at Midland High, noon; Lee at Abilene High, 10 a.m.; San Angelo Central at Odessa Permian, noon

2016 District 3-6A girls soccer

Team	W	PW	PL	L	Pts.
x-San Angelo Central (18-3-2)	7	0	1	1	22
x-Odessa Permian (14-6-2)	6	1	0	2	20
x-Midland High (9-11-0)	6	0	0	3	18
Odessa High (12-8-1)	3	0	0	6	9
Abilene High (10-10-0)	2	1	0	6	7
Lee (7-9-1)	1	0	1	7	4

x-clinched playoff berth
Note: 3 points for a win, 2 points for a penalty kick win, 1 point for a penalty kick loss

Wednesday's Score

San Angelo Central 2, Abilene High 0

March 19

Odessa High at Midland High, 2 p.m.; Lee at Abilene High, noon; San Angelo Central at Odessa Permian, 2 p.m.

Royals finding market inefficiency in low-risk reclamations

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — The first thing that Dayton Moore does is to deflect credit to the players. Then he tries to pass it off to his scouts, who have dissected every one of those athletes in every way possible.

That's just the way the general manager of the Kansas City Royals operates.

But when you ask those same players and scouts why the World Series champions have been so successful at finding the proverbial diamond in the rough — the low-risk, high-reward reclamation project that has become a staple of their championship teams — their first instinct is to give Moore all the credit.

"You look at Dayton and the way he embraces the players once you get here, it's not like you're just the guy to make up the numbers," said pitcher Peter Moylan, who is trying to rebound from his second Tommy John surgery and make Kansas City's stacked bullpen as another powerful arm.

"He really shows you that he wants you here and he's going to give you every chance to prove that you still have something left," Moylan said. "For me, that was a big reason why I came here."

It's also a big reason why the Royals have gone to back-to-back World Series.

Despite a rapidly rising payroll the past few years, the Royals will always be a small-market franchise strapped for cash. They can't afford to win many bidding wars in free agency. So they instead search for market inefficiencies, niches in the game where they can gain ground on rival clubs.

One area where they've done that is giving players second chances.

The Royals realized the same amount of money that could land them a mediocre utility player on the open market could get them five or six guys trying to make a comeback. If just two of those fliers panned out, and perhaps one had a transcendent season, it would be a much better investment.

MLB SPRING TRAINING GLANCE

Standings

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct
Toronto	7	1	.875
Texas	6	1	.857
Houston	6	2	.750
Chicago	4	2	.667
Boston	5	3	.625
Detroit	6	4	.600
Oakland	4	3	.571
Minnesota	4	3	.571
Seattle	4	4	.500
Cleveland	3	4	.429
Kansas City	4	5	.400
Los Angeles	3	5	.375
Tampa Bay	3	5	.375
New York	2	5	.286
Baltimore	0	9	.000

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct
Los Angeles	4	1	.800
Washington	6	2	.750
Philadelphia	7	3	.700
Arizona	5	3	.625
Colorado	5	3	.625
Milwaukee	4	3	.571
St. Louis	4	3	.571
Cincinnati	4	4	.500
New York	3	3	.500
San Francisco	4	5	.444
Miami	3	4	.429
Atlanta	2	6	.250
Pittsburgh	2	6	.250
San Diego	2	6	.250
Chicago	1	7	.125

NOTE: Split-squad games count in the standings; games against non-major league teams do not.

Scores and schedule

Wednesday's Scores

Houston 9, Atlanta 5

Detroit 11, Washington 5

Philadelphia (ss) 4, Minnesota 2

Philadelphia (ss) 8, Baltimore 4

Boston 6, Pittsburgh 2

Miami 5, St. Louis 3

Toronto 5, Tampa Bay 1

N.Y. Mets 4, N.Y. Yankees 4, tie, 10 innings

Colorado 8, San Francisco 6

Oakland 12, Chicago White Sox 3

Cleveland 5, Chicago Cubs 3

Texas 11, Cincinnati 5

Kansas City (ss) 7, Milwaukee 5

L.A. Angels 13, L.A. Dodgers 13, tie

Seattle 7, Kansas City (ss) 5

Arizona 8, San Diego 4

Today's Games

Atlanta vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla., 12:05 p.m.

Pittsburgh vs. Tampa Bay at Port Charlotte, Fla., 12:05 p.m.

Detroit vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla., 12:05 p.m.

Minnesota vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla., 12:05 p.m.

Houston vs. Washington at Viera, Fla., 12:05 p.m.

Toronto vs. N.Y. Yankees (ss) at Tampa, Fla., 12:05 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (ss) vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla., 12:05 p.m.

St. Louis vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla., 12:10 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers vs. Oakland at Mesa, Ariz., 2:05 p.m.

San Diego vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz., 2:05 p.m.

Kansas City vs. Chicago White Sox (ss) at Glendale, Ariz., 2:05 p.m.

San Francisco vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, 2:05 p.m.

Chicago White Sox (ss) vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz., 2:05 p.m.

Cincinnati vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Ariz., 2:10 p.m.

Chicago Cubs vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz., 2:10 p.m.

Arizona vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz., 2:10 p.m.

MARCH CLASSIC

From 1C

practices and then spring break hit. Heath and Blake are out of town, so we're looking to fill some holes there."

As it did last year, the early going of the Knights' baseball season has taken a hit thanks to the success of the school's basketball team. The playoff run bled over into baseball workouts and because of that, the team also hasn't had much time to forge any type of chemistry in real game situations.

Littleton said he believes his club can still put together a solid showing over its four-game schedule this weekend.

"(I) just want (them) to go out and give their best effort, compete and be coachable," Littleton said.

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT

West Texas March Classic
Today-Saturday
Today's Schedule
Greenwood HS Field

Odessa High JV vs. Reagan County, 9 a.m.
MCA vs. Greenwood, 11:30 a.m.
Alpine vs. Greenwood, 2 p.m.
Pecos vs. Reagan County, 4:30 p.m.
San Angelo Lake View vs. Alpine, 7 p.m.

Zachery Field

Monahans vs. MHS JV, 10 a.m.
Pecos vs. San Angelo Lake View, 12:30 p.m.
- Presidio vs. MHS JV, 3 p.m.

Friday's Schedule
Greenwood HS Field

Presidio vs. Odessa High JV, 10 a.m.
Presidio vs. Monahans, 12:30 p.m.
Odessa High JV vs. Greenwood, 3 p.m.
Monahans vs. San Angelo Lake View, 5:30 p.m.

Zachery Field

MCA vs. Pecos, 10 a.m.
MCA vs. MHS JV, 12:30 p.m.
Alpine vs. Reagan County, 3 p.m.

Saturday's Schedule
Greenwood HS Field

MCA vs. Odessa High JV, 10 a.m.
Security Bank Ballpark
Monahans vs. Reagan County, 10 a.m.
Pecos vs. Presidio, 12:30 p.m.
Alpine vs. MHS JV, 3 p.m.
San Angelo Lake View vs. Greenwood, 5:30 p.m.

NHL GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	67	39	23	5	83	185	160
Boston	68	38	23	7	83	208	184
Florida	66	36	21	9	81	181	161
Detroit	66	32	23	11	75	167	177
Ottawa	68	31	29	8	70	196	212
Montreal	67	31	30	6	68	183	188
Buffalo	68	27	32	9	63	162	185
Toronto	66	22	33	11	55	159	197

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	66	49	13	4	102	214	151
N.Y. Rangers	67	39	22	6	84	192	173
N.Y. Islanders	65	37	20	8	82	189	163
Pittsburgh	66	34	24	8	76	180	168
Philadelphia	65	31	23	11	73	167	174
Carolina	67	30	26	11	71	165	181
New Jersey	67	31	29	7	69	148	170
Columbus	67	28	31	8	64	178	208

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	68	41	21	6	88	193	163
Dallas	68	40	20	8	88	218	196
St. Louis	68	39	20	9	87	173	166
Nashville	67	34	21	12	80	185	170
Minnesota	67	31	26	10	72	177	169
Colorado	68	34	30	4	72	183	195
Winnipeg	66	27	34	5	59	171	198

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	65	37	19	9	83	185	151
Los Angeles	65	38	22	4	82	175	149
San Jose	68	37	23	6	80	198	174
Vancouver	65	25	28	12	62	157	186
Arizona	66	28	32	6	62	175	207
Calgary	68	27	34	5	59	179	207
Edmonton	69	26	36	7	59	167	204

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

Scores and schedule

Wednesday's Scores

Toronto 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, SO

St. Louis 3, Chicago 2, SO

Nashville at Calgary, late

Anaheim at Colorado, late

Arizona at Vancouver, late

Washington at Los Angeles, late

Today's Games

Carolina at Boston, 6 p.m.

Buffalo at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.

Winnipeg at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.

Ottawa at Florida, 6:30 p.m.

Edmonton at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

New Jersey at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

Pittsburgh at Columbus, 6 p.m.

Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m.

Anaheim at St. Louis, 7 p.m.

Chicago at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

Arizona at Calgary, 8 p.m.

TEXAS FISHING REPORT

WEST

ALAN HENRY: 2.19 feet low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs. Catfish are fair on live bait.

ARROWHEAD: 0.35 feet high. No report available.

COLORADO CITY: 20.13 feet low. No report available.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water murky; 57-65 degrees. 0.05 feet high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and split shot rigged Rattlesnakes. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water off-color; 58-69 degrees; 14.24 feet low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, Rat-L-Traps and jigs. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and live bait.

NASWORTHY: 55-62 degrees; 1.34 feet low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and jigs. No reports on crappie. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers.

OAK CREEK: Water stained; 54-62 degrees; 15.25 feet low. Black bass are fair on drop shot rigs, Texas rigs and jigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on chartreuse (use Worm-Glo) nightcrawlers.

O.H. IVIE: Water stained; 54-65 degrees; 46.48 feet low. Black bass are fair on Senkos with a 1/16-oz. bullet weight, Texas rigs, jigs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs fished shallow. Catfish are fair to good on live bait.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water off color; 58-67 degrees; 0.05 feet low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, spinnerbaits, drop shot rigs and jigs. Crappie are fair on live minnows. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Striped bass are fair on live shad. Catfish are fair to good on live shad and nightcrawlers.

SPENCE: 55.89 feet low. No report available.

STAMFORD: 0.54 feet high. No report available.

SWEETWATER: Water off color; 53-61 degrees; 27.57 feet low. No report available.

WHITE RIVER: Water stained; 54-62 degrees; 16.66 feet low. No report available.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water murky; 63-67 degrees; 24.69 feet low. Black bass are good on crankbaits, jerkbaits, soft plastics, spinnerbaits, and swimbaits. Striped bass are fair on slabs and jigging spoons. White bass are fair on slabs, jigging spoons, and live minnows. Catfish are fair on cheeseboat, shrimp, and liver over baited holes. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines and droplines baited with live perch. Anglers in a boat must have a Mexico fishing license (if fishing the Mexico side) whether fishing or not.

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear; 63-67 degrees. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are very good on live bait, frozen shrimp, liver, and bloodbait. Yellow catfish are slow.

BELTON: Water murky; 61-65 degrees; 0.15 feet high. Black bass are good on Rat-L-Traps and crankbaits. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are very good on minnows around structure under lights at night. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines and throwlines baited with live perch.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 65-64 degrees; 0.08 feet low. Black bass are fair on craw colored crankbaits, chartreuse/blue Bass Hogg spinnerbaits and jigs, and watermelon soft plastics. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on white tube jigs and minnows over brush piles. Channel and blue catfish are slow. Yellow catfish are slow.

BUCHANAN: Water murky; 58-62 degrees; 6.93 feet low. Black bass are good on pumpkin JDC Craws, hard jerkbaits, and watermelon Whacky Sticks on jigheads off points in 10-20 feet. Striped bass are fair trolling crankbaits and Curb's striper jigs, and drifting live bait from near Paradise Point in 20-25 feet. White bass are fair on LITI Fishies. Shad Raps, and live bait near Cedar Point. Crappie are fair on minnows over brush piles in 10-20 feet. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

CANYON LAKE: Water murky; 59-63 degrees; 0.01 feet high. Black bass are fair on chartreuse jerkbaits, watermelon Curb's hair jigs, and Scoundrel worms along break lines and ledges in 12-20 feet. Striped bass are fair trolling white Curb's striper jigs and vertically jigging Spoiler Shads. White bass are good on minnows and LITI Fishies along the main river channel in 30 feet. Smallmouth bass are good on pumpkinseed curl tail grubs, JDC smoke/red flake tubes, and chartreuse drop shot worms over rock piles in 10-20 feet. Crappie are fair on minnows and green tube jigs upriver. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

COLEMAN: Water murky; 58-62 degrees; 4.55 feet low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and dark soft plastic worms. Hybrid striper are fair on live shad. Crappie are slow. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow catfish are slow.

COLORADO RIVER: (At Colorado Bend State Park) No report available.

FAYETTE: Water murky. Black bass are good on white and white/chartreuse spinnerbaits, and on pumpkinseed Dead Ringer worms along the outside edges of breaks. Channel and blue catfish are good on cut shad and shrimp over baited holes.

GRANBURY: Water murky; 57-61 degrees; 0.08 feet low. Black bass are good on chartreuse soft plastic worms with white tails. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on pet spoons. Crappie are fair on minnows and blue tube jigs. Catfish are fair on shrimp and stinkbait.

GRANGER: Water clear; 60-64 degrees; 0.53 feet high. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits around standing timber. White bass are good on spinnerbaits upriver near Dickerson's Bottom. Crappie are good on minnows and white tube jigs in coves and sloughs. Blue catfish are good on live bait, and on juglines baited with cut bait and Zote soap. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines baited with live bait in the river.

LBJ: Water stained; 61-65 degrees; 0.87 feet low. Black bass are good on watermelon Curb's jigs and chartreuse Rat-L-Traps from docks. Striped bass are slow. White bass are good on silver Pirk Minnows and Spoiler Shads in main lake channels. Crappie are fair on minnows over brush piles. Channel catfish are fair on shrimp and nightcrawlers. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water stained; 60-64 degrees; 0.10 feet high. All boat ramps are closed.

PROCTOR: Water stained; 62-66 degrees; 0.52 feet high. Black bass are fair on watermelon soft plastic worms and lizards. Striped bass are fair on silver striper jigs. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows and pink tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are fair on live shad. Yellow catfish are slow.

SOMERVILLE: Water murky; 58-62 degrees; 0.24 feet high. Black bass are fair on green pumpkin spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are fair on minnows and slabs. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are fair on shrimp and chicken livers. Yellow catfish are slow.

STILLHOUSE HOLLOW: Water stained; 59-63 degrees; 0.05 feet high. Black bass are good on pumpkinseed soft plastics and watermelon Super Flukes. White bass are fair on minnows in 10-20 feet. Crappie are fair on minnows in 10-22 feet. Channel and blue catfish are fair on shrimp. Yellow catfish are slow.

TRAVIS: Water murky; 60-64 degrees; 3.00 feet low. Black bass are fair on buzzbaits, flukes, and crawfish crankbaits in 6-18 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are good on chartreuse crankbaits, white grubs, and minnows in 10-25 feet. Crappie are good on minnows in 10-20 feet. Channel and blue catfish are slow. Yellow catfish are slow.

WALTER E. LONG: Water murky. Black bass are fair on watermelon Rat-L-Traps, crankbaits, and spinnerbaits. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are good on slabs and chartreuse soft plastics. Crappie are good on minnows and blue tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait and hot dogs. Yellow catfish are slow.

WHITNEY: Water murky; 58-62 degrees; 2.49 feet low. Black bass are good on pumpkinseed spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and soft plastics. Striped bass are fair on chartreuse striper jigs. White bass are fair on silver spoons and minnows. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are good on live bait and frozen shrimp.

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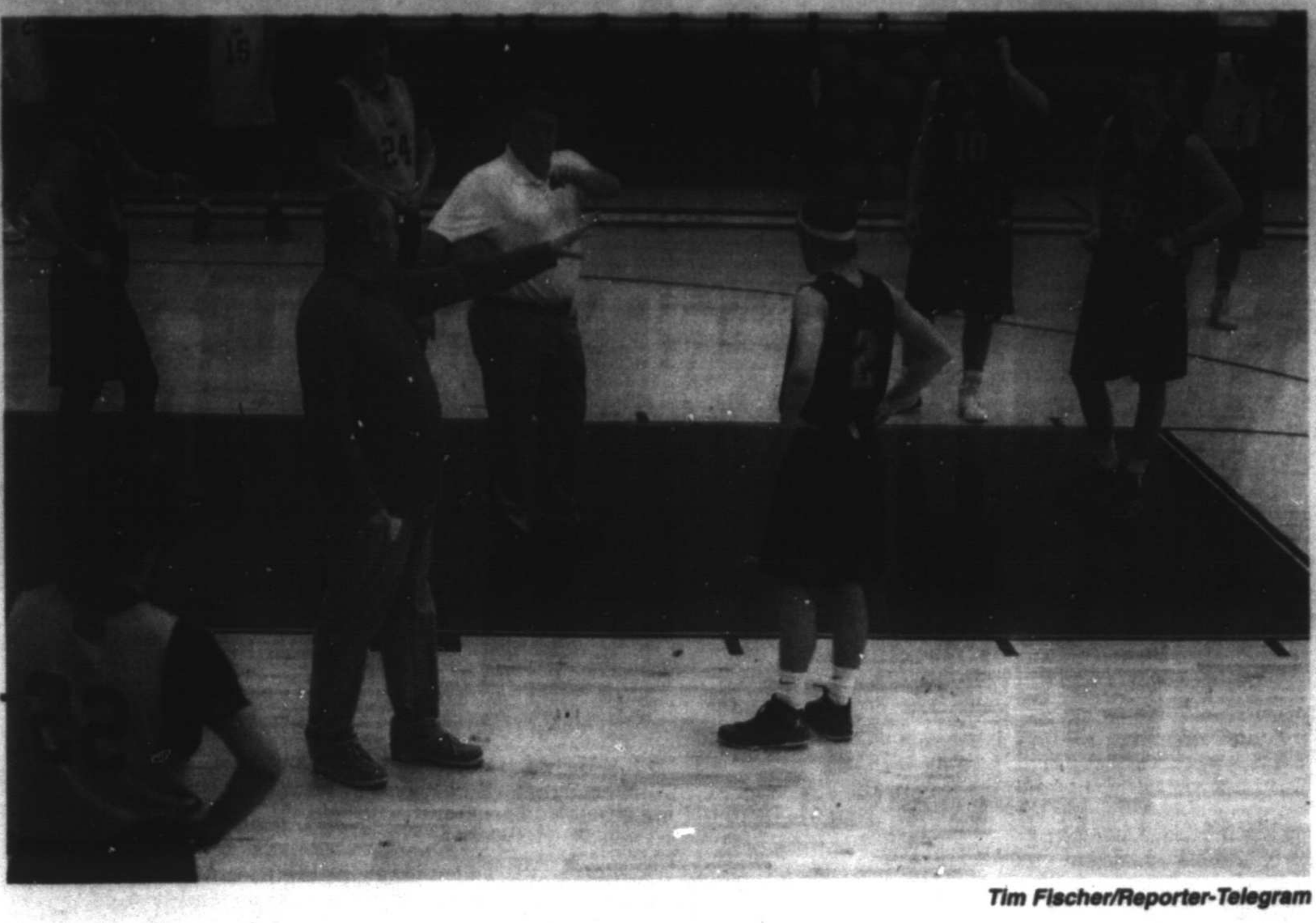


Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Assistant coach Brent Lucas, pointing, and head coach Chris Short go over defense Tuesday during a morning practice at Grady High School.

GRADY

From 1C

a first-round bye, Grady blew through Wink, 82-53 in the area round.

But the Wildcats were severely tested over the next three games and had to find ways to grind out the three victories that sent them to the state tournament. Most notably, Grady trailed No. 11 Menard by 18 points at one point in the two teams' regional final game on Saturday.

But the Wildcats kept their heads up, clawed all the way back and advanced to San Antonio with a 57-55 victory.

Grady head coach Chris Short said he continues to find himself in awe of what his team has accomplished in his first season as coach.

"This group has all year just done things like that (come back against Menard) that has absolutely amazed me," Short said. "Playing bigger schools and things like that. I'm amazed but yet I'm not surprised."

Short added that his team's experience playing in the state tournament should serve it well against Coolidge and possibly in the state final game as well.

"I think we're really confident," Short said. "I feel like the experience is going to be a factor. We're the only team returning to the state tournament (from last season). So I'm hoping that plays a big part in our success this weekend."

Senior guard Alejandro Jimenez and senior post Cole Avery are two others of the four Wildcat players who played on the Alamodome's court last March.

Avery, who tallied 16 points in Grady's comeback win against Menard, said after last season's loss to Texline in the final, there's an extra dose of motivation to show the state that the Wildcats are a championship caliber squad.

"I want to get back to that championship game and show people that (the Texline game) wasn't a good game for us and you don't do that, you don't drop eggs in the state tournament," Avery said. "I want to get back there and show people what we're made of."

Added Jimenez: "Not a lot of teams get to go to state and not a lot of them can say they went back-to-back. But this team has worked hard from day one and we know we aren't satisfied with what happened last year."

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT

The Game

CLASS 1A STATE SEMIFINAL
NO. 3 GRADY VS. NO. 4 COOLIDGE

When/where: 10 a.m. today, Alamodome, San Antonio

Records: Grady 30-4; Coolidge 30-4

Road to state: Grady — Bi-district, bye; Area, def. Wink, 82-53; Regional quarterfinal, def. Klondike, 65-54; Regional semifinal, def. Jayton, 75-61; Regional final, def. Menard, 57-55; Coolidge — Bi-district, bye; Area, def. Oakwood, 86-61; Regional quarterfinal, def. Laneville, 87-79; Regional semifinal, def. McMullen County, 69-53; Regional final, def. Calvert, 71-69

Notes: Coolidge enters this year's state tournament as the winners of Region IV out of District 26-1A. ... Grady head coach Chris Short fully expects that the Yellowjackets will live up to their No. 4 ranking in today's state semifinal game against the Wildcats. "Coolidge is a very athletic ball club," Short said. "They're very disciplined and extremely quick. They pass the ball as good as any team I've seen. They penetrate and they try to get into the lane. Our biggest key is we've got to keep them out of the lane. We've got to make them beat us from the perimeter. You can't wear this bunch down." ... Coolidge edged Calvert — the team Grady knocked off in last year's state semifinal game thanks to a last-second shot by Beau Lucas — 71-69 in the Region IV final on Saturday. ...Short added that the Wildcats will need to be patient and look for the best possible shot if they want to give themselves the best possible chance to get back to the state title game. "We're gong to have to be very patient, be efficient offensively. (We need) good shot selection and (need to) slow the tempo down, make them work and take the transition part of their game out." ... Grady is the only returning team from last season's final four tournament field.

Next: Winner plays winner of Avinger-Happy in state final, 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Alamodome, San Antonio

2016 UIL Boys Basketball State Tournament
Today-Saturday
Alamodome, San Antonio

Today
Class 1A Semifinals
8:30 a.m., Avinger (32-2) vs. Happy (28-5)
10 a.m., Grady (30-4) vs. Coolidge (30-4)
Class 3A Semifinals
1:30 p.m., Winnie East Chambers (33-6) vs. Van Alstyne (29-7)
3 p.m., Brownfield (30-3) vs. Aransas Pass (30-9)
Class 5A Semifinals
7 p.m., Edinburg Vela (35-2) vs. Lancaster (34-2)
8:30 p.m., Fort Bend Elkins (35-2) vs. Fort Worth Dunbar (23-11)

Friday
Class 2A Semifinals
8:30 a.m., Dallardsville Big Sandy (38-2) vs. Muenster (33-3)
10 a.m., Thorndale (34-2) vs. Canadian (16-6)
Class 4A Semifinals
1:30 p.m., Silsbee (30-5) vs. Levelland (25-11)
3 p.m., La Marque (33-8) vs. Dallas Lincoln (22-14)
Class 6A Semifinals
7 p.m., DeSoto (34-2) vs. Cibolo Steele (32-3)
8:30 p.m., Humble Atascocita (37-0) vs. Houston Math and Science Tech (34-4)

Saturday
8:30 a.m., Class 1A Final
10 a.m., Class 3A Final
1:30 p.m., Class 2A Final
3 p.m., Class 5A Final
7 p.m., Class 4A Final
8:30 p.m., Class 6A Final

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

PISTONS 102
MAVERICKS 96

DALLAS — Marcus Morris scored 20 points, including two 3-pointers during a decisive fourth-quarter run, and Andre Drummond had 25 points and 17 rebounds to help the Detroit Pistons beat the Dallas Mavericks 102-96 Wednesday night.

Drummond leads the NBA with 54 double-doubles. Tobias Harris added 19 points for Detroit.

Chandler Parsons and Dirk Nowitzki each scored 25 points for Dallas, which lost its season-high fourth in a row.

Following a tight first three quarters, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope stole an outlet pass and drove for a layup to give the Pistons an 82-81 lead. That started a 12-2 run that included Morris' two 3s, the last to go up 92-83 with 5:21 to go. That was the largest lead either team held in the game.

ROCKETS 118
76ERS 104

PHILADELPHIA — Houston Rockets coach J.B. Bickerstaff wasn't surprised to see Jason Terry come through in the clutch.

That's what he's been doing for nearly two decades.

James Harden scored 29 points, Dwight Howard had 21 points and 18 rebounds, and the Rockets beat the Philadelphia 76ers 118-104 on Wednesday night.

Terry, a 17-year NBA veteran, finished with 10 points off the bench, seven in the final four minutes after the Sixers had cut Houston's lead to two.

"Jason Terry did what he does," Bickerstaff said. "He hits huge shots. He's clutch. He's been that way for a long, long time."

Patrick Beverly added 16 points — all in the first half — and Trevor Ariza finished with 15 for Houston. The Rockets, currently holding the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference, have won three of four to even their record at .500.

Ish Smith scored 21 points and Nerlens Noel and Robert Covington had 17 points apiece for the Sixers (8-56), who lost their 13th straight despite a big fourth-quarter rally.

BUCKS 114
HEAT 108

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 24 points and Khris Middleton made four free throws in the closing seconds to help the Milwaukee Bucks hold off the Miami Heat 114-108 on Wednesday night.

Jabari Parker added 23 points, Middleton had 22, and Miles Plumlee scored a season-high 18 for the Bucks. They snapped the Heat's winning streak at five games.

Luol Deng had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Miami. Hassan Whiteside added 23 points and 13 rebounds, and Dwyane Wade, playing with five fouls, had 18 points.

After Wade scored on a fast-break layup to cut it to 110-106, Middleton made two free throws. Joe Johnson scored off a pass from Wade, but Middleton answered with two more free throws.

Deng's 3-pointer gave the Heat a 92-89 lead early in the fourth, but Plumlee and Antetokounmpo sparked an 8-0 run that put the Bucks ahead 97-92 with 6:07 to play. Plumlee made both free throws after Justise Winslow was called for a Flagrant Type 1 foul.

CELTICS 116
GRIZZLIES 96

BOSTON — The Boston Celtics didn't need a halftime pep talk.

All they needed for their 14th straight victory at home was a reminder that they could play better.

"It wasn't brain surgery," coach Brad Stevens said after the Celtics turned a three-point halftime deficit into a 16-point lead and coasted to a 116-96 victory over the short-staffed Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday night.

"We just walked in and said, 'They're beating us to every loose ball and getting every rebound,'" Stevens said. "'This is the way they (can) beat you tonight. So, we either have to change that or we won't win.'"

Isaiah Thomas scored 16 of his 22 points in the third quarter, and nine of them during a 14-1 run when the Celtics pulled away after Grizzlies guard Mario Chalmers left with what appeared to be a serious leg injury.

The Celtics have not lost in Boston in more than two months, a span that has seen them climb from ninth in the East into the conference's No. 3 seed.

HORNETS 122
PELICANS 113

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kemba Walker said he hasn't felt this confident shooting the basketball since leading Connecticut to the national championship five years ago.

"I'm shooting it really well," Walker said.

Walker turned in his fourth straight 30-point game, pouring in 35 to help the Charlotte Hornets hold off the New Orleans Pelicans 122-113 on Wednesday night for their fifth straight win. He has scored at least 20 points in 12 of the last 13 games and the Hornets are 11-2 during that span.

Walker shot 9 of 18 from the field and had five 3-pointers, along with four clutch free throws down the stretch. He also added seven assists and seven rebounds for Charlotte (35-28).

"He's a different shooter," Hornets coach Steve Clifford said. "He's put so much work in and right now he's in such a rhythm."

Courtney Lee had 16 points and Nicolas Batum added 15 as all five Charlotte starters reached double figures in scoring midway through the third quarter.

TEXAS/BIG12ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Men

TCU 67
TEXAS TECH 62

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Chauncey Collins scored 19 points, hitting three free throws in the final minute, and No. 10 seed TCU dealt a major blow to Texas Tech's NCAA Tournament hopes with a 67-62 victory in the first round of the Big 12 tournament Wednesday night.

Brandon Parrish had 15 points, Vlad Brodziansky added 13 and Malique Trent had 10 for the Horned Frogs (12-20), who scuffled into the Sprint Center having lost seven consecutive games.

KANSAS STATE 75
OKLAHOMA STATE 71

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Freshman forward Dean Wade scored a career-high 20 points, Justin Edwards added 17 and Kansas State beat Oklahoma State 75-71 on Wednesday night in the opening round of the Big 12 tournament.

Wesley Iwundu added 14 points for the eighth-seeded Wildcats (17-15), who built a big lead on the No. 9 seed Cowboys (12-20) in the opening minutes before holding them off down the stretch.

CHARLOTTE 79
RICE 69

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Jon Davis scored 27 points and seventh-seeded Charlotte beat No. 10 seed Rice 79-69 in a Conference USA second-round matchup on Wednesday night.

The 49ers (14-18) will face second-seeded Middle Tennessee (21-9) in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

NBA GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	42	20	677	—
Boston	39	26	600	4½
New York	27	39	409	17
Brooklyn	18	46	281	25
Philadelphia	8	56	125	35

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	37	27	578	—
Atlanta	36	28	563	1
Charlotte	35	28	556	1½
Washington	30	33	476	6½
Orlando	27	36	429	9½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	44	18	710	—
Indiana	34	30	531	11
Chicago	32	30	516	12
Detroit	33	31	516	12
Milwaukee	27	38	415	18½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	54	10	844	—
Memphis	38	26	594	16
Dallas	33	32	508	21½
Houston	32	32	500	22
New Orleans	24	39	381	29½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	43	20	683	—
Portland	34	31	523	10
Utah	29	34	460	14
Denver	26	38	406	17½
Minnesota	20	45	308	24

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Golden State	56	6	903	—
L.A. Clippers	41	21	661	15
Sacramento	25	37	403	31
Phoenix	17	47	266	40
L.A. Lakers	14	51	215	43½

x-clinched playoff spot

Scores and schedule

Wednesday's Scores
Boston 116, Memphis 96
Houston 118, Philadelphia 104
Charlotte 122, New Orleans 113
Milwaukee 114, Miami 108
Detroit 102, Dallas 96
New York 128, Phoenix 97
L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City, late
Cleveland at Sacramento, late
Utah at Golden State, late

Today's Games
Atlanta at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.
Chicago at San Antonio, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Denver, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL GLANCE

Wednesday's scores

MEN
TOURNAMENT

Atlantic 10 Conference First Round
Saint Louis 83, George Mason 78
Atlantic Coast Conference Second Round
Duke 92, NC State 89
Georgia Tech 88, Clemson 85, OT
Pittsburgh 72, Syracuse 71
Big 12 Conference First Round
Kansas St. 75, Oklahoma St. 71
Big East Conference First Round
Georgetown 70, DePaul 53
Big Ten Conference First Round
Illinois 85, Minnesota 52
Nebraska 89, Rutgers 72
Conference USA Second Round
Charlotte 79, Rice 69
Old Dominion 72, FAU 46
W. Kentucky 84, North Texas 76
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Quarterfinals
Hampton 83, Morgan St. 81
Mountain West Conference First Round
UNLV 108, Air Force 102, 3OT
Utah St. 88, Wyoming 70
Pacific-12 Conference First Round
Colorado 80, Washington St. 56
Washington 91, Stanford 68
Patriot League Championship
Holy Cross 59, Lehigh 56
Southland Conference First Round
SE Louisiana 84, New Orleans 74
Southwestern Athletic Conference Quarterfinals
MVSU 64, Alcorn St. 61

WOMEN
TOURNAMENT

Atlantic Sun Conference Semifinals
Florida Gulf Coast 61, Stetson 46
Jacksonville 67, SC-Upstate 56
Big Sky Conference Quarterfinals
Idaho St. 52, Montana St. 50
North Dakota 65, Montana 62
Colonial Athletic Association First Round
Coll. of Charleston 71, UNC Wilmington 62
Towson 71, William & Mary 65
Conference USA Second Round
Old Dominion 62, North Texas 55
Rice 72, Louisiana Tech 67, OT
UAB 64, Southern Miss. 46
Mid-American Conference Quarterfinals
Akron 73, Toledo 71, OT
Buffalo 72, Ohio 60
Cent. Michigan 66, W. Michigan 62
E. Michigan 67, Ball St. 53
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Quarterfinals
NC A&T 67, Florida A&M 50
SC State 56, Bethune-Cookman 48
Northeast Conference Semifinals
Robert Morris 72, Bryant 59
Sacred Heart 92, St. Francis (Pa.) 71
Southwestern Athletic Conference Quarterfinals
Alabama St. 88, Alabama A&M 72
Southern U. 61, Alcorn St. 57
Sun Belt Conference First Round
Arkansas St. 81, Appalachian St. 61
Troy 62, South Alabama 49
UALR 62, Texas St. 50
Western Athletic Conference First Round
Texas Rio Grande Valley 60, Chicago St. 52
Utah Valley 61, UMKC 53

Today's games

MEN
TOURNAMENTS

American Athletic Conference
At Orlando, Fla.
First Round
East Carolina vs. South Florida, 2:30 p.m.
UCF vs. Tulane, 5 p.m.
Atlantic Coast Conference
At Washington
Quarterfinals
North Carolina vs. Pittsburgh-Syracuse winner, 11 a.m.
Notre Dame vs. Duke—N.C. State-Wake Forest winner, 1:30 p.m.
Virginia vs. Clemson-Georgia Tech winner, 6 p.m.
Miami vs. Virginia Tech—Florida St.-Boston College winner, 8:30 p.m.
Atlantic 10 Conference
At Brooklyn, N.Y.
Second Round
Fordham vs. Richmond, 11 a.m.
George Washington vs. George Mason-Saint Louis winner, 1:30 p.m.
Rhode Island vs. UMass, 5:30 p.m.
Davidson vs. Duquesne-La Salle winner, 8 p.m.
Big East Conference
At New York
Quarterfinals
Villanova vs. Georgetown-DePaul winner, 11 a.m.
Providence vs. Butler, 1:30 p.m.
Xavier vs. Marquette-St. John's winner, 6 p.m.
Seton Hall vs. Creighton, 8:30 p.m.
Big Sky Conference
At Reno, Nev.
Quarterfinals
Weber State vs. Portland State, 2 p.m.
Idaho State vs. North Dakota, 4:30 p.m.
Montana vs. Sacramento State, 7:30 p.m.
Idaho vs. Eastern Washington-Northern Arizona winner, 10 p.m.
Big Ten Conference
At Indianapolis
Second Round
Michigan vs. Northwestern, 11 a.m.
Iowa vs. Illinois-Minnesota winner, 1:25 p.m.
Ohio St. vs. Penn St., 5:30 p.m.
Wisconsin vs. Nebraska-Rutgers winner, 7:55 p.m.
Big 12 Conference
At Kansas City, Mo.
Quarterfinals
Texas vs. Baylor, 11:30 a.m.
Kansas vs. Kansas St.-Oklahoma St. winner, 2 p.m.
West Virginia vs. Texas Tech-TCU winner, 6 p.m.
Oklahoma vs. Iowa St., 8:30 p.m.
Big West Conference
At Anaheim, Calif.
First Round
UC Santa Barbara vs. UC Davis, 2 p.m.
Hawaii vs. Cal St. Fullerton, 4:30 p.m.
UC Irvine vs. Cal Poly, 8 p.m.
Long Beach St. vs. UC Riverside, 10:30 p.m.
Conference USA
At Birmingham, Ala.
Quarterfinals
UAB vs. W. Kentucky-North Texas winner, Noon
Louisiana Tech vs. Old Dominion—FAU-UTSA winner, 2:30 p.m.
Middle Tennessee vs. Charlotte-Rice winner, 6 p.m.
Marshall vs. UTEP-FIU winner, 8:30 p.m.
Mid-American Conference
At Cleveland
Quarterfinals
Akron vs. Eastern Michigan, 11 a.m.
Central Michigan vs. Bowling Green, 1:30 p.m.
Ohio vs. Northern Illinois, 5:30 p.m.
Buffalo vs. Miami (Ohio), 8 p.m.
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference
At Norfolk, Va.
Quarterfinals
S.C. State vs. Coppin St., 5 p.m.
Bethune-Cookman vs. Savannah State, 7:30 p.m.
Mountain West Conference
At Las Vegas
Quarterfinals
San Diego St. vs. Wyoming-Utah State winner, 2 p.m.
New Mexico vs. Nevada, 4:30 p.m.
Fresno St. vs. UNLV-Air Force winner, 8 p.m.
Boise St. vs. Colorado St.-San Jose St. winner, 10:30 p.m.
Pacific-12 Conference
At Las Vegas
Quarterfinals
Oregon vs. Washington-Stanford winner, 2 p.m.
Arizona vs. Colorado-Washington St. winner, 4:30 p.m.
Utah vs. Southern Cal-UCLA winner, 8 p.m.
California vs. Oregon St.-Arizona St. winner, 10:30 p.m.
Southeastern Conference
At Nashville, Tenn.
Second Round
Florida vs. Arkansas, Noon
Vanderbilt vs. Tennessee-Auburn winner, 2:30 p.m.
Mississippi vs. Alabama, 6 p.m.
Georgia vs. Mississippi St., 8:30 p.m.
Southland Conference
At Katy
Second Round
Houston Baptist vs. SE Louisiana-New Orleans winner, 5 p.m.
Sam Houston St. vs. McNeese St.-Nicholls St. winner, 7:30 p.m.
Southwestern Athletic Conference
At Houston
Quarterfinals
Jackson St. vs. Prairie View, 2:30 p.m.
Southern vs. Alabama St., 8:30 p.m.
Sun Belt Conference
At New Orleans
First Round
Georgia Southern vs. South Alabama, 5 p.m.
Georgia St. vs. Texas St., 7:30 p.m.
Western Athletic Conference
At Las Vegas
First Round
Utah Valley vs. UMKC, 4 p.m.
CS Bakersfield vs. Chicago St., 6:30 p.m.
Seattle vs. Texas Rio Grande Valley, 9 p.m.

WOMEN
TOURNAMENTS

Big South Conference
At Asheville, N.C.
First Round
Campbell vs. Coastal Carolina, 1 p.m.
Charleston Southern vs. Longwood, 3:30 p.m.
High Point vs. Winthrop, 6 p.m.
Colonial Athletic Association
At Upper Marlboro, Md.
Quarterfinals
James Madison vs. Coll. of Charleston-UNC Wilmington winner, 11 a.m.
Elon vs. Delaware, 1:30 p.m.
Drexel vs. William & Mary-Towson winner, 4 p.m.
Hofstra vs. Northeastern, 6:30 p.m.
Conference USA
At Birmingham, Ala.
Quarterfinals
UTEP vs. UAB-Southern Miss. winner, 11 a.m.
Charlotte vs. Old Dominion—FAU-North Texas winner, 1:30 p.m.
Middle Tennessee vs. Louisiana Tech-Rice winner, 5 p.m.
W. Kentucky vs. Marshall—UTSA-FIU winner, 7:30 p.m.
Horizon League
At Green Bay, Wis.
First Round
Detroit vs. Valparaiso, Noon
N. Kentucky vs. Cleveland St., 2:30 p.m.
Wright St. vs. Ill.-Chicago, 5 p.m.
Youngstown St. vs. Oakland, 7:30 p.m.
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference
At Norfolk, Va.
Quarterfinals
Hampton vs. Md.-Eastern Shore-Howard winner, 11 a.m.
Coppin St.-Norfolk St. winner vs. Morgan St.-N.C. Central winner, 1:30 p.m.
Missouri Valley Conference
At St. Charles, Mo.
First Round
Wichita St. vs. Bradley, 4 p.m.
Illinois St. vs. Evansville, 7 p.m.
Southland Conference
At Katy
First Round
Houston Baptist vs. Lamar, 11 a.m.
Nicholls St. vs. Sam Houston St., 1:30 p.m.
Southwestern Athletic Conference
At Houston
Quarterfinals
Texas Southern vs. Jackson St., Noon
Grambling St. vs. Prairie View, 6 p.m.

HOPPEL

From 1C

the primary ball handlers as a guard.

Hoppel says that ball security has been a major reason why the Lady Chaps have been able to sustain an unbeaten mark.

"We take care of the ball pretty well and we know where the ball needs to go, where it doesn't need to go," Hoppel said. "We just like to run the ball up and down the court in transition. We just try to score and take care of the ball and play good defense."

Hoppel, who ranks second on LCU with 48 steals, will be trying to prevent steals on the base paths later this spring when she throws in the circle for the Lady Chaps softball team. Hoppel is a pitcher/infielder for LCU.

It's no surprise that Hoppel is able to excel in two sports on a college level given that her younger brother Bryce, a University of Kansas signee, is one of the nation's elite track and field athletes as a senior at Midland High.

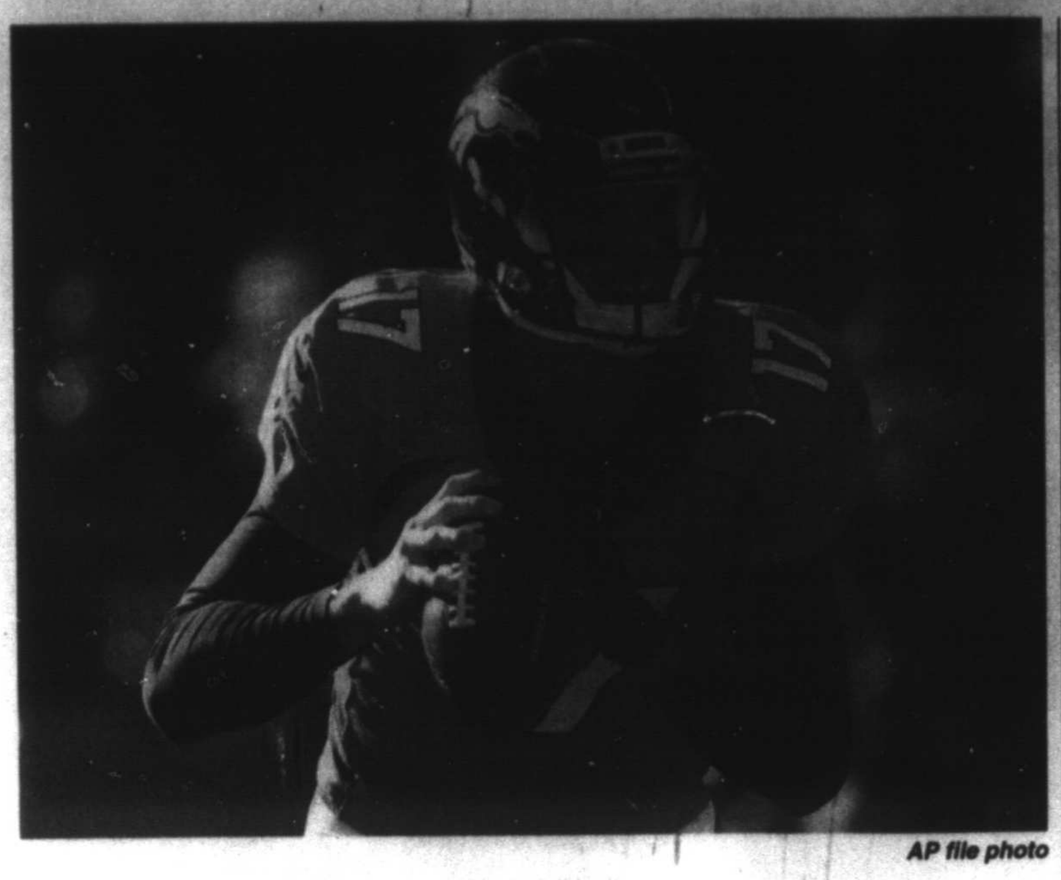
Hoppel's father Monty is the general manager of the Midland RockHounds, so athletics has always held a special place in the household.

"Our parents (Monty and Rita) have always made it fun," Hoppel said. "We have grown up being coached by our parents. They've taught us a whole lot of things. They've taught us, no matter what, keep trying, be humble. They just instilled that work ethic in us just because of how they are. They're such great role models for us."

After graduation, Hoppel hopes to be a role model for younger generations as she is studying education at Lubbock Christian. She also plans to follow in her father's footsteps of making a living out of athletics.

"I would like to teach and coach," Hoppel said of career goals. "Maybe go back to the Midland area, back home for a few years or so and move on from there. I plan on hopefully teaching and coaching."

Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris_MRTsports



AP file photo

On Jan. 3, Denver Broncos quarterback Brock Osweiler warms up during the first half of a game against the San Diego Chargers in Denver.

Texans agree to multi-year deal with QB Osweiler

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — A person familiar with the negotiations says the Houston Texans have agreed to a multiyear contract with free agent quarterback Brock Osweiler.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because free-agent deals can't be finalized until later Wednesday.

The Texans were looking for an upgrade at the position after Brian Hoyer's struggles last season, particularly his turnover-filled performance in their wild-card playoff loss to Kanas City.

Osweiler appeared in eight games with seven starts last season for the Super Bowl champion Broncos. The 6-foot-7, 240-pound player spent the first four years of his career with the Broncos after being drafted in the second round in 2012 out of Arizona State.

He threw for a career-high 1,967 yards and 10 touchdowns with six interceptions last season.

Osweiler's decision comes two days after Peyton Manning retired from the Broncos.

McClain

From 1C

from the game again in April 2014 shortly after deciding to return.

Three months later, with Lee out for the year because of a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee, Baltimore sent McClain to Dallas in a trade also involving late-round draft picks just before training camp.

Despite lingering questions about his desire to play because he frequently sat out of practices, McClain ended up second on the team in tackles with a career-high 108 in 2014.

McClain missed the first four games last season for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy. He finished with 97 tackles, third behind Lee, who went to his first Pro Bowl, and safety Barry Church. McClain was out another game with a concussion.

While he was out of football in 2013, McClain was arrested for a third time since 2011 in his hometown of Decatur, Alabama, on charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. He was convicted by a judge a year later in a trial held just as training camp with the Cowboys was starting, but the case was dismissed during appeal.

Now that the Cowboys have secured McClain, they are likely to look for pass-rushing help in free agency for a defense that needs impact players after Dallas finished last in the NFL in takeaways (11) and turnover margin (minus-22) in 2015.

Troubled defensive end Greg Hardy is unlikely to return after a tumultuous season in Dallas related to his domestic violence case in North Carolina. Second-year end Randy Gregory will miss the first four games on a substance-abuse suspension.

Spieth looking to dial back the expectations

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

Associated Press

Jordan Spieth hits from the 11th fairway during the first round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament March 3 in Doral, Fla.

PALM HARBOR, Fla. — Jordan Spieth feels his game is in about the same spot as last year going into the Valspar Championship, which turned out to be the start of big run that carried him all the way to a green jacket.

The difference is that eight-shot victory to start the year in Hawaii, and the expectations that came along with it.

Spieth knew he was going to be a target this year. He is No. 1 in the world, the Masters and U.S. Open champion who made a bold pursuit of the Grand Slam. And then he blew away the winners-only field at Kapalua in his first start of 2016, and winning felt easy.

Maybe too easy.

"You want to set high-end, borderline unrealistic expectations for yourself because if you get anywhere close to it you're going to be there," Spieth said Wednesday. "But there's a balance that I needed to find. It's been a learning experience this year."

A year ago, Spieth had three top 10s, a missed cut at Torrey Pines and a tie for 17th at Doral, a course that doesn't seem to suit him or anyone else who doesn't hammer tee shots 300 yards in the air.

Throw out the eight-shot win at Kapalua this year, and Spieth has a pair of top 10s, a missed cut and another tie for 17th at Doral.

Spieth is the defending champion at the Valspar Championship, which gets lost among the Florida Swing on the PGA Tour but still manages to attract a strong field because of the Copperhead Course at Innisbrook. Henrik Stenson, Patrick Reed, Danny Willett and Branden Grace give the tournament five of the top 12 in the world.

Spieth finished with three tough par saves last year to get into a three-man playoff, and he beat Reed and Sean O'Hair with a 30-foot birdie on the third extra hole. He followed with runner-up finishes in San Antonio and Houston, and then he went wire-to-wire at the Masters and tied Tiger Woods' record score.

Repeating is never easy at any tournament, let alone a stretch of four of them.

"I've actually been off to a better start in 2016 than I was in 2015," Spieth said. "I feel like I'm in a better place. ... Really need to get my putter going. Hasn't really slicked yet. Feels fine. Haven't quite gone in yet. But they will."

Even so, it seems as though his game hasn't been as sharp. In his last three tournaments, he finished 10 shots behind at Pebble Beach, missed the cut at Riviera after the worst opening round (79) of his young PGA Tour career, and then finished 11 shots behind at Doral.

It was last week at Doral that Spieth learned to temper his expectations, and the Blue Monster at Trump National Doral was the perfect place for that.

"That course is going to make you ... it's really bad for player-caddie relationships, as well as player-golf club relationships," Spieth said with a laugh. "You don't like your caddie or your clubs after that week. But I set lower expectations given I don't think the course is a good fit for me."

It was the two months in between that caused so much frustration.

Spieth was 30-under par at Kapalua — the second-lowest score to par in PGA Tour history for a 72-hole tournament — and headed overseas ready to conquer the world. He tied for fifth in Abu Dhabi and was runner-up in the Singapore Open. That wasn't bad. It just didn't feel good enough.

"I certainly think the expectations that I put on myself were too high because of Hawaii, and I kind of needed to dial it back a little bit," he said. "I just thought that each part of my game, and especially my putting, would be like that each time if I put in the same amount of work. But sometimes, different factors inhibit that."

NFL FREE AGENCY ROUNDUP

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Eric Winston re-signs with Bengals

Lee grad and NFL offensive tackle Eric Winston has re-signed with the Cincinnati Bengals, according to league sources.

Winston's deal is reportedly for one year at $1.09 million.

Winston has been with the Bengals since 2014 and has been a key backup. He appeared in 13 games last season.

He also continues to serve as president of the NFL Players Association.

Former Dolphins RB Lamar Miller to sign with Houston Texans

Running back Lamar Miller, the Dolphins' starter the last three seasons, will sign with the Houston Texans for four years and $26 million with $14 million fully guaranteed.

Miller, who rushed for 1,971 yards and 19 touchdowns for the Dolphins in the last two seasons, was expected to depart because he couldn't agree to contract terms with the team.

Miller, a fourth-round pick by the Dolphins in 2012 from the University of Miami, will replace Texans running back Arian Foster, who sustained a season-ending Achilles injury against the Dolphins last season.

The Dolphins will now have to find a starting-caliber running back in the draft or in free agency.

TENNESSEE

Murray trade cost Titans new deal, swap of 4th-round picks

NASHVILLE — New Tennessee general manager Jon Robinson made his first big move in rebuilding the woeful Titans. And acquiring the NFL's 2014 Offensive Player of the Year DeMarco Murray cost only a new contract for the running back and a simple swap of fourth-round draft picks with Philadelphia.

The Titans confirmed the trade Wednesday and tweeted out a photo of Murray signing his new deal. Murray will be introduced at a news conference Thursday.

Murray's agency announced that the running back would be traded with a new contract Monday night, and what Tennessee had to give up to the Eagles had been unknown.

CLEVELAND

Browns hang on to Manziel, lose 4 starters in free agency

Johnny Manziel hasn't been bounced by the Browns yet.

Cleveland did not release the partying quarterback as expected on Wednesday, but the team lost four starters when the NFL opened free agency and kicked off a new calendar year.

The Browns have indicated for weeks that they are done with Manziel because of his behavior and intend to cut ties with him. But he'll be on their roster for at least one more day.

MICHIGAN

Lions agree to 5-year deal with WR Jones

ALLEN PARK — A person with knowledge of the deal says the Detroit Lions have agreed to a five-year contract with free agent wide receiver Marvin Jones.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday night because the deal had not been announced. Jones caught 65 passes for 816 yards and four touchdowns last season for the Cincinnati Bengals.

After losing Calvin Johnson to retirement, the Lions were clearly in the market for a receiver they could put opposite Golden Tate.

TENNESSEE

Titans agree to terms with OL Jones, QB Cassel

NASHVILLE — A person familiar with negotiations says the Tennessee Titans have agreed to terms with Texans offensive lineman Ben Jones and veteran quarterback Matt Cassel.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Wednesday because the deals hadn't been finalized.

The Titans swipe a lineman who started every game last season for AFC South rival Houston in Jones while adding experience to their offensive line to better protect quarterback Marcus Mariota. Tennessee gave up a league-worst 54 sacks last season.

INDIANAPOLIS

Hasselbeck retires after 18 seasons, joins ESPN as analyst

Matt Hasselbeck is moving from the huddle to in front of the camera.

The 40-year-old quarterback said Tuesday he is retiring after 18 seasons in the NFL and will join ESPN as an NFL analyst beginning this fall.

"As a kid, playing in the NFL was always my dream and it turned out to be way more fun than I could've ever imagined," Hasselbeck said in a statement released by ESPN.

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	G	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Grey's Anatomy "All Eyez on Me" (N)		Scandal (N)		Away With Murder "There's My Baby" (N)		Local 2 News/ 10	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News	Ent. Tonight	The Big Bang (N)	Life in Pieces (N)	Mom (N)	2 Broke Girls (N)	Elementary "Hounded" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) Stephen Colbert		(:35) J.Corden
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H "Kim"	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Happy Days	Laverne & Shirley	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	P. Mason "The Case of the Deadly Verdict"		Twilight Zone
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	American Idol "Top 6 Perform" (N)				Fox 24 News	TMZ	2 Broke Girls	Modern Family	Two and Half Men	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	Lars Enarson	Zola Levitt Presents	Update News	HaYesod	Light of the Southwest		Light of the Southwest		Joshua Caleb	Wings of Truth	Faith for Families	Biblical Israel
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	News-West 9	NewsWest 9 Now	Apocalypse "T Minus" (N)		The Blacklist		Shades of Blue "What Devil Do?" (N)		NewsWe-st 9 at 10	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Celtic Woman "Destiny" A musical enchantment from Ireland's famed group.				The Bloody Irish! Songs of the 1916 Rising Real-life stories of Irelands' most famous week.				World News	Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Un camino hacia el destino		Sueño de amor		Pasion y poder		El Hotel de los Secretos		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Fam.Feud	Fam. Feud	The Mentalist		Mentalist "Red Rum"		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Office	Access H.
FLIX	340	575		165	·	(5:30) My Teacher'...		★★ Fear Reese Witherspoon.			(:45) ★★★ Wicker Park Josh Hartnett.				(:40) The Weight of Water		
HBO	300	550	14	14		(5:15) Beauty Shop		Spy ('15, Act/Com) Melissa McCarthy.				Together	(:45) Girls	(:15) Girl in the River		As Above, So B...	
HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	★★ Magic Mike Channing Tatum.				★★★ Magic Mike XXL Channing Tatum.				Cathouse		Animals.	Movie
HBOS	304	552	16	102		(5:25) ★★ Antwone Fisher			Vice	★★ Troop Beverly Hills Shelley Long.				★★★★ Mad Max: Fury Road			
MAX	380	557	17	120	24	Movie	Gone Girl ('14, Myst) Rosamund Pike, Ben Affleck.					★★★★ Children of Men			(:50) Forbid	Science	Movie
MAXZ	382	558	18	122		Movie	(:25) ★★ The Boy Next Door			★★★ The Judge ('14, Dra) Robert Downey Jr..					(:25) ★★★ 300 Gerard Butler.		
PLEX			96			(5:35) Searching for Bobby F...			★★★ My Girl			(:15) ★★ We're No Angels				Who's Harry Cr...	
SHOW	320	565	19	140	25	★ Pride ('07, Dra) Terrence Howard.				Billions "The Punch"		Shameless		Dark Net	Gigolos	Dark Net	Billions
TMC	336	573	22	155	26	★★★ Meet Joe Black ('98, Dra) Sir Anthony Hopkins, Brad Pitt.						★★ Kate and Leopold Meg Ryan.				★★ Serendipity	
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	The First 48 "Trust No One/ Risky Business"		The First 48 "In a Lonely Place" (N)		60 Days In "Unusual Suspects/ First Timers" (P) (N)				The First 48 "Bound and Burned"		The First 48 "In a Lonely Place"	
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(4:30) The Italian J...		★★★ The Bourne Identity ('02, Act) Matt Damon.					★★ Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines				
BET	58	·		40		Movie	Martin	Martin	Alex Cross		Mann's	Mann's	About the Business		Martin	Wendy Williams	
BRAVO	65	76		41		T Chef "Wok This Way"		Top Chef		Top Chef (N)		Recipe Deception (N)		Watch (N)	T. Chef "Magic Hour"		Atlanta
CNBC	46	52		39	72	The Profit		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		American Greed		American Greed		American Greed	
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		CNN Special		CNN Special		CNN Special		CNN Special	
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Street Outlaws		Street Outlaws		Street Outlaws		Street Outlaws		Street Outlaws		Street Outlaws	
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	★★★★ Up Edward Asner.			Underc.	Friends	Liv/Mad	Bunk'd	Girl M.	Jessie	Jessie
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball ACC Tournament (L)				NCAA Basketball ACC Tournament Site: Verizon Center (L)					SportsCenter		
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	(5:30) NCAA Basketball			NCAA Basketball Big-10 Tournament (L)					Basketb.	30 for 30 "Playing for the Mob"		
FNC	45	48	53	23	55	On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Chopped	
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	(5:00) John Tucke...		(:15) ★★★ Grease ('78, Mus) Olivia Newton-John, John Travolta.						The 700 Club		★★ Bring It On	
FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	Cowgirl-Round (N)	SportsDay OnAir (N)	MLB Baseball Spring Training Chicago Cubs vs. Texas Rangers Site: Surprise Stadium -- Surprise, Ariz.						RodeoWra p/Big 12	The Beat Tex A&M	ACC (N)	SportsD-ay OnAir
FX	31	56	59	64	69	(4:00) American ...		★★ Grown Ups ('10, Com) Adam Sandler.				Baskets	Baskets	Baskets	★★★★ American Hustle		
HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	H.Hunter	House (N)	Five Day Flip (N)		FlipFlop	FlipFlop
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	Pawn S.	Pawn Star	Join,Die	Join,Die	Vikings "Mercy"		Vikings "Yol" (N)		Join,Die	(:35) Class	Join,Die	Join,Die
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	Project Runway: All Stars		PR All Stars Social "Fashion 911" (N)		Project Runway "Birthday Suits" (N)		Child Genius "Finale" (SF) (N)		Project Runway: All Stars "Birthday Suits"		PR All Stars Social "Fashion 911"	
MSNBC	47	53		49	73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN	38	43				(5:30) NCAA Basketball A-10 Tournament Second Round Site: Barclays Center -- Brooklyn, N.Y. (L)									Auto Auctions "Chicago, IL"		
NICK	55	·	39	34	37	Paradise	H.Danger	★★★ Diary of a Wimpy Kid				F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	·	55	53	58	(5:00) ★★★ Sherlock Holmes				Lip Sync	Lip Sync Battle		Lip Sync	★★★ Iron Man 2 Robert Downey Jr..			
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	(5:30) ★★★ The Fifth Element Bruce Willis.				★★★ The Rundown ('03, Adv) Dwayne Johnson.					★★★ The Faculty		
TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Seinfeld "The Trip"	Seinf. "The Trip" 2/2	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	Conan Jason Bateman, Wendy Williams, Kaleo		Frontal (N)	Conan
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(5:00) A Thunder ...		M ('51, Thril) David Wayne.			(:45) ★★★ The French Line Jane Russell.				(:45) & God Created Woman		
TELE	20	·	10	20		Caso cerrado		Quien es quien?		Eva, La Trailera		Querida centauro		Al rojo	Titulares	Gran Hermano	
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	My 600-lb Life "Susan's Story"		600 Life: Supersized "Randy's Story" (N)		Extreme Weight Loss "Mike" Mike wants to lose half his body weight.				Fat Chance "Cheyanne"		600 Life: Supersized "Randy's Story"	
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	Castle "A Murder Is Forever"		NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at San Antonio Spurs Site: AT&T Center -- San Antonio, Texas (L)					NBA Basketball Cleveland Cavaliers at Los Angeles Clippers Site: Staples Center -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)				
TVLAND	49	·	35	54	35	Griffith	A. Griffith	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	55	42	27	49	NCIS "Prime Suspect"		WWE Smackdown! WWE superstars do battle in long-running rivalries.				Colony "Zero Day" (N)		(:05) Law&Order: SVU "Criminal Hatred"		(:05) Law&Order: SVU "Monster's Legacy"	
WGN	19	85				Elementary "The One That Got Away"		Elementary "Hemlock"		Elementary "When Your Number's Up"		Underground "The Macon 7"		(:05) Met Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother

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Circuit of the Americas: US Grand Prix will run in 2016

By Jim Vertuno
Associated Press

AUSTIN — The U.S. Grand Prix will run in 2016 after months of speculation that its financial struggles could scuttle Formula One's only race in the United States.

Circuit of the Americas President Bobby Epstein said race officials had paid Formula One its rights fee last week.

"We're excited," Epstein said Wednesday. "I'm proud of our team and those who stuck with us up to this point."

Epstein said he got a "good job" message from Formula One commercial boss Bernie Ecclestone, who had predicted the Oct. 23 race would run but gave no wiggle room to track officials to meet their financial obligations.

Epstein also the "subject to confirmation" asterisk next to the race on the official Formula One calendar should be removed soon.

Losing the race would have been a blow to Formula One's efforts to expand in the American market. Formula One didn't race in the U.S. from 2008-2011 and its return to a specialized facility was seen as a major move to gain a long-term foothold in a country where NASCAR is the most popular motor series by far. And the 2016 season will include Haas F1, the first American-led team on the grid in 30 years.

The race has enjoyed a prominent late-season place on the Formula One calendar, which has made it an important stop in the season championship.

"As an American team, it's very important to have a race on home soil. It helps cultivate a fan base that not only follows Haas F1 Team, but Formula One as a whole," said Haas F1 Team Principal Guenther Steiner.

Epstein declined to disclose how much the track paid Ecclestone and F1, but money has been the root of the track's struggles to keep the race afloat.

Severe weather and flooding swamped the 2015 race weekend and all but wiped out attendance at the race where Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton clinched his third consecutive championship. And soon after the race, state officials had more bad news.

Track officials expected up to $25 million per year for 10 years from the state's Major Events Trust Fund, public money spent largely to pay Formula One's rights fees. But that money was cut by nearly $6 million last year when the fund was put under control of Gov. Greg Abbott's office and state officials tweaked the formulas used to calculate reimbursement.

NASCAR leader faces fallout from Trump endorsement

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — When Brian France endorsed Donald Trump for president, the chairman and chief executive of NASCAR thought of it as nothing more than a "routine endorsement."

He's been dealing with the fallout ever since.

France's decision to personally back the front-runner for the Republican nomination has roiled a sport his family built from the ground up. It's threatened a decade of work to broaden NASCAR's appeal among minorities, upset one of the most powerful teams in the sport and risked a break with the corporate sponsors that are its financial lifeblood.

France acknowledged he's had to have conversations with sponsors since making the endorsement, which came as NASCAR is seeking a new main sponsor for its top series.

France's appearance at a Trump rally the day before last week's Super Tuesday elections fits with the sport's history of occasionally blending politics with the action at the track. France's grandfather, NASCAR founder Bill France Sr., endorsed George Wallace for president. Its all-time winningest driver, Richard Petty, celebrated his 200th victory with President Ronald Reagan and ran for statewide office in North Carolina in the 1990s.

France told the AP on Wednesday he backed Barack Obama in 2008 and actively participated in the campaign, shifting his support to Mitt Romney four years later.

But Trump is a candidate unlike any other in recent memory, drawing intense criticism for the racial undertones of his rhetoric and policies. The billionaire has called immigrants from Mexico rapists and drug dealers, has vowed to forcibly deport the 11 million people living in the country illegally and seeks to temporarily bar Muslims from entering the U.S.

Trump has also earned the explicit or implicit backing of a slew of white nationalist leaders, including former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke. Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto has compared his language to that of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

It's into that cauldron that France inserted himself and his sport — admittedly without knowing all of what Trump has proposed. "I don't even know all their policies, truthfully," France said. He said he likes Trump's "business approach" and his status as a Washington outsider.

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

Each of the three-letter groups below may be extended both on the right and the left to form a seven-letter word. Use the tiles directly above each group to fill in the blanks.

A B I N R S T
☐☐ M I L ☐☐

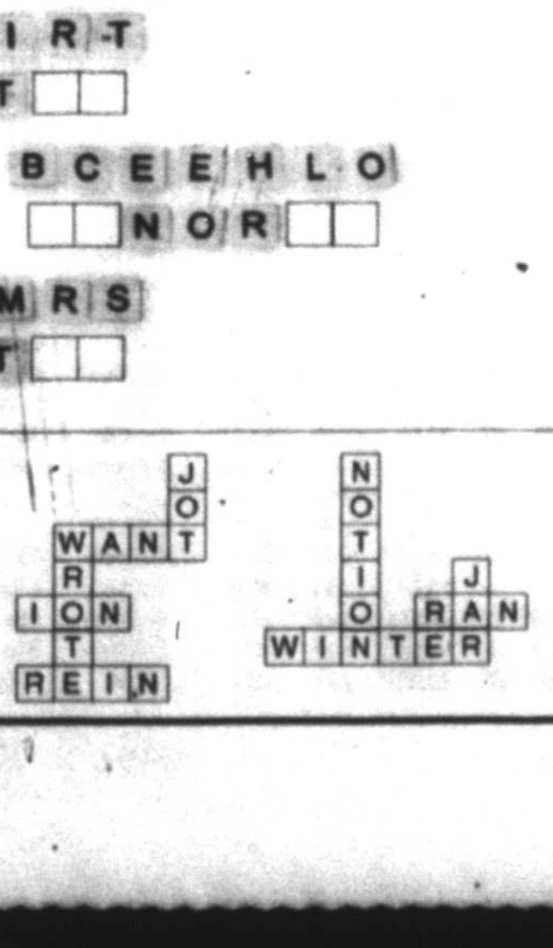
A D E I L M T
☐☐ M O R ☐☐

A C D E I R T
☐☐ N E T ☐☐

B C E E H L O
☐☐ N O R ☐☐

A B I I M R S
☐☐ N U T ☐☐

Yesterday's Answer:



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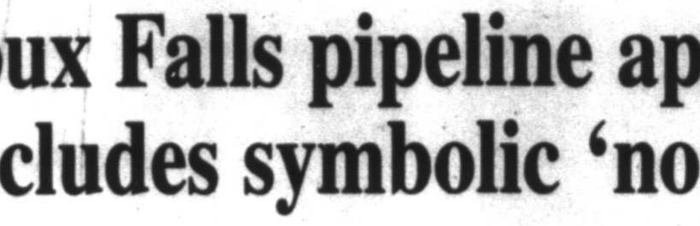
3.10

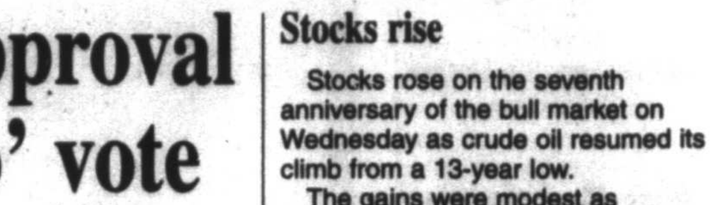
BUSINESS & OIL

A DAY ON WALL STREET

AP graphic



AP graphic



AP graphic

OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Wednesday: $38.29
Previous: $36.50

POSTED

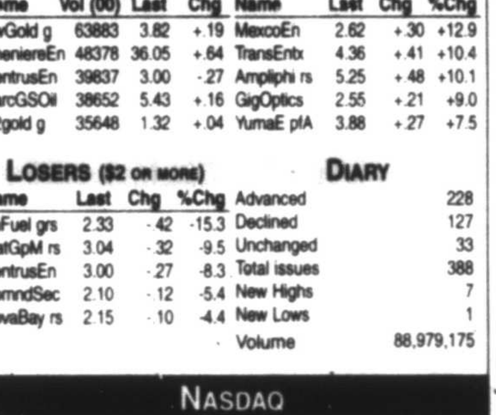
Wednesday: $34.75
Previous: $33.00

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Wednesday: $30.15
Previous: $28.40

NATURAL GAS

Wednesday: $1.752
Previous: $1.712



Sioux Falls pipeline approval includes symbolic 'no' vote

Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — Leaders in South Dakota's largest city voted to allow a proposed $3.8 billion oil pipeline to pass by, but not before one Sioux Falls councilman made a point about what some view as the pipeline company's poor treatment of landowners.

The proposed 1,130-mile Dakota Access Pipeline would move oil from North Dakota to Illinois, passing through South Dakota and Iowa. State regulators in Illinois and both Dakotas have approved the project, with a decision expected in Iowa this week. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must also approve the pipeline because it would cross beneath the Missouri River twice in North Dakota.

Landowners along the route must also reach easement agreements with Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners, developer of the pipeline. Some landowners have said they have been treated fairly, while others say the opposite.

The Sioux Falls City Council on Tuesday approved an easement for the pipeline to run near the city's landfill, but it took two votes. The first time around, Councilman Rex Rolfing voted in opposition, saying he was symbolically acknowledging complaints from landowners, the Argus Leader reported.

"My sole point in voting 'no' was basically to make sure people knew that I've been getting a lot of phone calls, and I think some of the others have too, about the way some people have been treated on this," he said.

Rolfing then called for a revote and voted in favor the second time, enabling the proposed easement to pass.

Energy Transfer Partners vice president Joey Mahmoud told the council that the company has initiated some eminent domain cases for the project. Agreements with six landowners remain unresolved, he said.

"You do reach an impasse in certain circumstances," Mahmoud said.

"My sole point in voting 'no' was basically to make sure people knew that I've been getting a lot of phone calls, and I think some of the others have too, about the way some people have been treated on this."

Rex Rolfing, *Sioux Falls city councilman*

Stocks rise

Stocks rose on the seventh anniversary of the bull market on Wednesday as crude oil resumed its climb from a 13-year low.

The gains were modest as investors await key policy decisions from Europe's central bank on Thursday and from the U.S. Federal Reserve next week. Energy companies rebounded from big drops the day before, gaining 1.5 percent.

The stock market has been climbing for three weeks as reports on hiring, retail spending and manufacturing suggest the U.S. economy is strengthening and that fears that a slowdown in China would tip the U.S. into recession are overblown. The Standard and Poor's 500 index is up 9 percent from its mid-February low.

"People are becoming more optimistic and markets are recovering," said Seth Masters, chief investment officer at AB Bernstein.

The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 36.26 points, or 0.2 percent, to 17,000.36. The Nasdaq composite increased 25.55 points, or 0.6 percent, to 4,674.36. The S&P 500 climbed 10 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,989.26.

Metals end mostly lower

Prices for industrial and precious metals ended mostly lower. Gold slipped $5.50 to $1,257.40 an ounce, silver fell two cents to $15.37 an ounce and copper gained one cent to $2.23 a pound.

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
CSVLgCrd rs	1541105	2.49	+.33
BkofAm	905321	13.14	+.08
S&P500ETF	831011	199.38	+.98
DirDGldBr	792388	3.92	-.05
Pfizer	751881	29.74	+.38

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
BridgptEd	9.10	+2.33	+34.4
PeabdyE rs	5.89	+1.35	+29.7
hhgregg	2.61	+.59	+29.2
PerfSports	3.51	+.60	+20.6
AtlasR pfD	4.35	+.71	+19.5

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Unisys	7.97	-3.06	-27.7
BP Pru	22.96	-6.80	-22.8
SeadrillLtd	3.95	-.88	-18.2
Atento SA	7.26	-1.57	-17.8
DianaShip	2.72	-.53	-16.3

DIARY

Advanced	2,160
Declined	923
Unchanged	95
Total issues	3,178
New Highs	96
New Lows	6
Volume	3,970,608,409

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
NwGold g	63883	3.82	+.19
CheniereEn	48378	36.05	+.64
CentrusEn	39837	3.00	-.27
BarcGSOil	38652	5.43	+.16
BGold g	35648	1.32	+.04

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
MexcoEn	2.62	+.30	+12.9
TransEnix	4.36	+.41	+10.4
Ampliphi rs	5.25	+.48	+10.1
GigOptics	2.55	+.21	+9.0
YumaE pfA	3.88	+.27	+7.5

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
EnFuel grs	2.33	-.42	-15.3
PlatGpM rs	3.04	-.32	-9.5
CentrusEn	3.00	-.27	-8.3
CommdSec	2.10	-.12	-5.4
NovaBay rs	2.15	-.10	-4.4

DIARY

Advanced	228
Declined	127
Unchanged	33
Total issues	388
New Highs	7
New Lows	1
Volume	88,979,175

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Cisco	382808	27.61	+.56
FrontierCm	322947	5.17	-.37
LinnEngy	308232	1.60	+.36
SiriusXM	292349	3.95	+.08
Microsoft	272321	52.84	+1.19

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Astrotch h	2.38	+.93	+63.0
Proteos n	11.75	+3.43	+41.2
UranmPrs rs	3.52	+.98	+23.9
Sunworks n	3.02	+.58	+23.8
BlueBPet n	22.75	+4.19	+22.6

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
EdtasM n	31.10	-10.89	-25.9
CheckCap n	2.57	-.59	-18.8
Zagg	8.81	-1.64	-15.7
SucampoPh	12.31	-2.23	-15.3
HTG Mol n	2.63	-.42	-13.8

DIARY

Advanced	1,656
Declined	1,109
Unchanged	182
Total issues	2,947
New Highs	32
New Lows	34
Volume	1,729,723,154

Amazon leases 20 jets to build out logistics network

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Amazon is taking to the skies.

The e-commerce powerhouse has finalized an agreement to lease 20 Boeing jets from Air Transport Services Group Inc. as it builds out its U.S. delivery capabilities.

Amazon has been investing heavily in its shipping infrastructure, adding sorting centers, which sort packages by zip code and deliver them to post offices. And it has started to roll out thousands of trucks to speed up package delivery from its warehouses to the sorting centers.

Amazon said the goal is not to compete with package delivery carriers such as FedEx Corp. and UPS but work on improving its own logistics to offer faster delivery for customers as well as providing shipping services for third-party sellers on the site, a service called Fulfilled by Amazon. Amazon's $99 annual Prime loyalty program offers free two-day shipping on many items.

Air Transport Services said the company had been working on the agreement with Amazon since last summer.

Amazon will lease 20 747 freighter jets. The 20 leases are for five to seven years. The agreement for the operation of the aircraft will be for five years.

Amazon is also taking a stake in the Wilmington, Ohio-based company. It will get warrants to buy during a five-year period up to 19.9 percent of the company's shares at $9.73 per share.

Dave Clark, Amazon's senior vice president of worldwide operations and customer service, said in an emailed statement that the agreement will help supplement its existing delivery network and ensure the company has the air cargo capacity to support one- and two-day delivery for its customers.

Shares of Air Transport Services jumped 17 percent to close at $13.73. Earlier, the stock reached $14.90, an all-time high. Amazon.com Inc. shares dipped 79 cents to $559.47. Shares of FedEx and UPS both edged down about 1 percent, to $141.98 and $99.56, respectively.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $15.78 Down 0.58

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $96.68 Up 1.23

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $3.91 Down 0.05

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $74.70 Up 0.31

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $1.22 Up 0.05

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $2.62 Up 0.30

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $19.31 Up 0.24

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $26.19 Up 0.62

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $4.80 Up 0.01

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $16.52 Up 0.26

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.92f	16	37.98	-.11	+10.4
Abraxas	...	6	1.13	+.05	+6.6
AdaDvsEq	.92e	...	12.24	+.12	-4.6
Alcoa	12	16	9.42	+.09	-4.6
AlonUSA	60	15	10.94	+.70	-26.3
Ambev	.19e	...	5.00	...	+12.1
Amgen	4.00	15	140.90	-3.73	-13.2
Anadarko	.20m	...	42.32	+1.18	-12.9
Apache	1.00	...	46.23	+.06	+4.0
Apple Inc	2.08	11	101.12	+.09	-3.9
ApldMatl	.40	18	19.17	+.39	+2.7
Archrock	.75f	...	5.92	+.24	-21.3
ATMOS	1.68f	23	70.91	+.13	+12.5
AutoData	2.12	27	85.72	+.76	+1.2
BP PLC	2.40a	...	30.30	+.23	-3.1
BabsCCInv	1.20	...	17.30	...	+.3
BakrHu	.68	...	44.31	+.26	-4.0
BcoBrad s	.44e	...	6.79	-.15	+41.2
BkofAm	.20	10	13.14	+.08	-21.9
B iPVixST	...	...	22.43	-.31	+11.6
BarrickG	.08	47	13.69	+.36	+85.5
BasicEnSv	...	...	2.99	+.29	+11.6
BerkHa A	...	1	4209250.00	+1260.99	+5.8
BlkHillsCp	1.68f	40	58.54	+.93	+26.1
BrlMySq	1.52f	47	66.54	-.72	-4.7
BrownFA	1.36f	33	104.55	-1.05	-5.0
BrownFB	1.36f	29	97.33	-.67	-2.0
CVS Health	1.70f	21	100.52	+1.48	+2.8
CabotO&G	.08	...	21.25	-.12	+20.1
CallfResc	...	...	1.61	+.18	-30.9
Cameron	...	18	66.12	-.12	+4.6
Caterpillar	3.08	14	71.87	+.14	+5.8
Celestic g	...	13	10.84	-.02	-1.7
CntryLink	2.16	20	31.53	+.02	+25.3
ChesEng	...	...	4.63	+.33	+2.9
Chevron	4.28	38	92.82	+4.08	+3.2
Chicos	.32f	46	12.82	-.10	+20.1
Cimarex	.32m	...	92.70	+1.96	+3.7
Cisco	1.04f	14	27.61	+.56	+2.5
Citigroup	.20	9	41.15	+.10	-20.5
ClayEng	...	...	15.78	-.59	-46.6
CocaCola	1.40f	25	44.81	+.49	+4.3
ColgPalm	1.82	25	67.96	+.48	+2.0
ConAgra	1.00	23	43.25	+.47	+2.6
ConchoRes	...	...	96.68	+1.23	+4.1
ConocoPhil	1.00m	...	39.05	+.43	-16.4
CrackerB	4.40a	21	150.00	+.72	+18.3
CSVLgNG rs	...	...	.83	+.06	-65.8
CSVLgCrd rs	...	...	...	2.49	+.33
CSVelIVST	...	...	20.62	+.27	-20.1
CSVixSh rs	...	...	7.07	-.18	+12.9
CrosTlm	1.48e	10	15.40	+.21	+18.4
DCP Mid	3.12	26	22.95	+.40	-7.0
DTE	2.92f	19	87.93	+.67	+9.7
Dataram h	...	...	.87	+.06	+31.8
DenburyR	...	...	2.29	+.07	+13.4
DevonE	.24m	...	22.93	+1.46	-28.3
DirDGldBr	...	...	3.92	-.05	-76.3
Disney	1.42f	18	97.66	-.16	-7.1
DowChm	1.84f	12	49.06	+.23	-4.7
EOG Resrc	.67	...	72.26	+1.70	+2.1
EmpDist	1.04	26	33.33	+.20	+18.7
EnCana g	.06m	...	5.44	+.22	+6.9
Energen	.08	...	31.34	+1.90	-23.5
EgyTrEq s	1.14f	7	7.50	+.18	-45.4
EngyTsfr	4.22f	...	27.84	-.27	-17.5
EnPro	.84f	...	57.15	+1.39	+30.4
EntProdPt	1.56f	18	23.40	+.03	-8.5
Ericsson	.43e	...	9.25	...	-3.7
ExxonMbl	2.92	21	82.40	-.23	+5.7
Facebook	...	70	107.51	+1.58	+2.7
FordM	.60a	7	13.19	-.04	-6.4
FreeSea rs	...	...	.03	-.01	-97.2
FrptMcM	...	...	9.15	+.49	+35.2
FrontierCm	.42	...	5.17	-.37	+10.7
GATX	1.80f	9	47.68	-.08	+12.1
GabMulYT	.94e	...	7.26	+.02	-3.2
GAInv	1.15e	...	30.16	+.14	-5.6
GenElec	.92	...	30.05	-.01	-3.5
GtPlainEn	1.08f	22	30.56	+.28	+11.9
Groupon	...	...	4.11	-.47	+33.9
HalconRs rs	...	...	1.07	-.06	-15.1
HallBurtn	.72	...	34.68	+.21	+1.9
iShBrazil	1.03e	...	25.20	+.26	+21.9
iShJapan	.13e	...	11.28	-.01	-6.9
iShEMMkts	.84e	...	32.41	+.20	+.7
iS Eafe	1.70e	...	55.95	+.21	-4.7
iShR2K	1.73e	...	106.80	+.54	-5.2
Intel	1.04f	13	30.87	+.31	-10.4
InterDig	.80	16	52.97	+.02	+8.0
ItauUnibH	.45e	...	8.35	-.10	+28.5
JohnJn	3.00	18	106.84	+.82	+4.0
KimbClk	3.68f	37	131.97	-.36	+3.7
KindMorg	.50m	27	17.99	+.19	+20.6
Kinross g	...	...	2.86	...	+57.1
LegacyRes	.60m	...	1.22	+.05	-30.3
LinnEngy	...	...	1.60	+.36	+24.0
Lubys	...	...	5.00	+.04	+11.9
MarathnO	.20m	...	10.48	+.36	-16.8
MktVGold	.12e	...	19.51	+.09	+42.2
MktVRus	.64e	...	15.89	+.44	+8.5
McDnlds	3.56f	24	119.64	+1.22	+1.3
Merck	1.84f	24	52.36	-.09	-.9
MerltMed	...	34	18.81	-.31	+.1
MexcoEn	...	...	2.62	+.30	-18.9
MicronT	...	6	10.81	+.15	-23.7
Microsoft	1.44	34	52.84	+1.19	-4.8
MorgStan	.60	8	24.61	-.40	-22.6
NRG Egy	.56	...	12.36	-.15	+5.0
Nabors	.24	...	8.24	+.20	-3.2
NatGrid	3.35e	...	68.73	+.70	-1.2
NOilVarco	1.84	12	31.38	+.34	-6.3
NvMdAd	.79e	...	14.05	-.06	+1.4
NvPtM	.75e	...	14.04	-.07	+2.8
NuvPI	.82a	...	14.27	+.01	+1.2
NSTFI3	.86e	...	14.78	+.03	+1.4
NTXQI	.85	...	14.78	...	+2.4
OccilPet	3.00	51	68.43	+2.03	+1.2
Oracle	.60	18	38.48	+.33	+5.8
PerTech	...	...	6.36	+.05	-5.2
PerkDri	...	...	2.09	+.07	+14.8
PattUTI	.40	...	17.82	+.23	+16.8
PeabdyE rs	...	...	5.89	+1.35	-23.3
Penney	...	...	11.51	-.35	+72.8
PennaRE	.84	...	20.39	-.02	-6.8
Pmrlan	.35e	14	6.32	-.12	+24.9
PetrbraA	...	...	4.06	+.14	+19.4
Petrobras	...	...	5.13	+.06	+19.3
Pfizer	1.20f	18	29.74	+.38	+7.9
PioNtrl	.06	61	128.68	+3.03	+2.6
PlainsAAP	2.80	15	23.06	+.72	-.2
PwShs QQQ	1.52e	...	104.82	+.87	-6.3
Praxair	3.00f	20	109.06	+.92	+6.5
PrmEgy	...	23	49.56	...	-6.5
PUVixST rs	...	...	31.84	-.83	+12.3
PrUCrude rs	...	...	9.86	+.86	-21.4
ProctGam	2.66	27	82.96	-.10	+4.5
RangeRs	.06m	...	29.55	-.35	+20.1
RegionsFn	.24	12	7.87	-.12	-18.0
Rowan	.40	...	15.78	-.67	-6.9
RoyDShlA	3.76	73	48.22	+1.10	+5.3
SpdrDJIA	3.99e	...	170.02	+.40	-2.3
S&P500ETF	4.13e	...	199.38	+.98	-2.2
SpdrOGEx	.73e	...	28.82	+.98	-5.3
SabnR	2.50e	10	32.67	+.42	+24.4
SanderFm	.88e	10	92.84	+1.63	+19.8
Schlmbrg	2.00	22	72.75	+.05	+4.3
SeadrillLtd	...	...	3.95	-.88	+16.5
SiriusXM	...	40	3.95	+.08	-2.9
Smucker	2.68	34	127.07	+.86	+3.0
SwstnEngy	...	...	7.13	-.20	+.3
Sprint	...	...	3.96	-.02	+9.4
SP Engy	2.04e	...	60.74	+.97	+.7
SPDR Fncl	.46e	...	21.94	+.03	-7.9
StemCells h	...	...	.26	-.11	-37.4
SunEdison	...	...	1.92	-.08	-62.3
SunocoLog	1.92f	38	25.58	-.26	-.5
TelefEsp	1.03e	...	10.89	-.07	-3.3
Tesoro	2.00	6	88.50	+4.50	-16.0
3M Co	4.44f	21	160.09	-.11	+6.3
Torchmark	.56f	13	62.87	+.26	-7.3
TriContl	.82e	...	19.47	...	-2.7
Twitter	...	...	17.66	-.67	-23.7
TylerTech	...	56	120.67	-.09	-30.8
UltraPt g	...	...	.92	+.18	-63.2
UBSI	1.32	18	36.18	-.12	-2.2
US NGas	...	...	6.24	+.16	-28.0
US OilFd	...	...	10.15	+.50	-7.7
USSteel	.20	...	12.53	+.18	+57.0
Vale SA	.29e	...	3.93	-.07	+19.5
Vale SA pf	.29e	...	2.95	-.06	+15.7
ValeroE	2.40f	7	64.80	+2.47	-8.4
VangEmg	1.10e	...	32.97	+.21	+.8
VerizonCm	2.26	12	52.34	-.12	+13.2
ViacomM	.80f	59	102.86	+.43	+8.0
WEC Engy	1.98f	21	58.06	+.31	+13.2
WalgBoots	1.44	24	81.60	+1.21	-4.2
WealthInt	...	...	6.50	+.66	-22.5
WellsFargo	1.50	12	48.79	-.26	-10.2
WstnRefin	1.52f	7	28.16	+1.33	-20.9
WhitingPet	...	...	7.83	+.90	-17.1
WmsCos	2.56	90	17.96	+.70	-30.1
XcelEngy	1.38f	21	40.72	+.06	+13.4
Xerox	.31f	22	10.54	+.29	-.9

Can't find your favorite stocks or mutual funds listed?
Send your favorite to sdoreen@mrt.com or mmcewen@mrt.com.
We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
18,351.36	15,370.33	Dow Jones Industrials	17,000.36	+36.26	+.21	-2.44	-3.60
9,178.20	6,403.31	Dow Jones Transportation	7,528.44	+50.07	+.67	+.26	-15.38
643.36	539.99	Dow Jones Utilities	646.00	+3.23	+.50	+11.80	+13.05
11,254.87	8,937.99	NYSE Composite	9,804.82	+56.30	+.57	-2.16	-7.06
5,231.94	4,209.76	Nasdaq Composite	4,674.36	+25.55	+.55	-6.85	-3.62
2,134.72	1,810.10	S&P 500	1,989.26	+10.00	+.51	-2.68	-2.50
1,551.28	1,215.14	S&P Midcap	1,384.87	+5.17	+.37	-.98	-5.63
22,537.15	18,462.43	Wilshire 5000	20,479.58	+100.00	+.49	-3.25	-5.19
1,206.00	943.09	Russell 2000	1,072.76	+4.89	+.46	-5.56	-11.76

TODAY: Mostly cloudy	FRIDAY: Mostly cloudy	SATURDAY: Sunny	SUNDAY: Sunny	MONDAY: Sunny	TUESDAY: Sunny
High: 66 Low: 48	High: 63 Low: 44	High: 75 Low: 54	High: 80 Low: 51	High: 81 Low: 53	High: 80 Low: 51

Local forecast

There is a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms tonight and a 20 to 30 percent chance on Friday, according to the National Weather Service. By early next week, the highs will be in the 80s, according to the NWS.

The record high for March 9 is 85 set in 1955 and 1954. The record low is 17 set in 1996 and 1931. On March 9 of last year, the high was 56 and the low was 40.

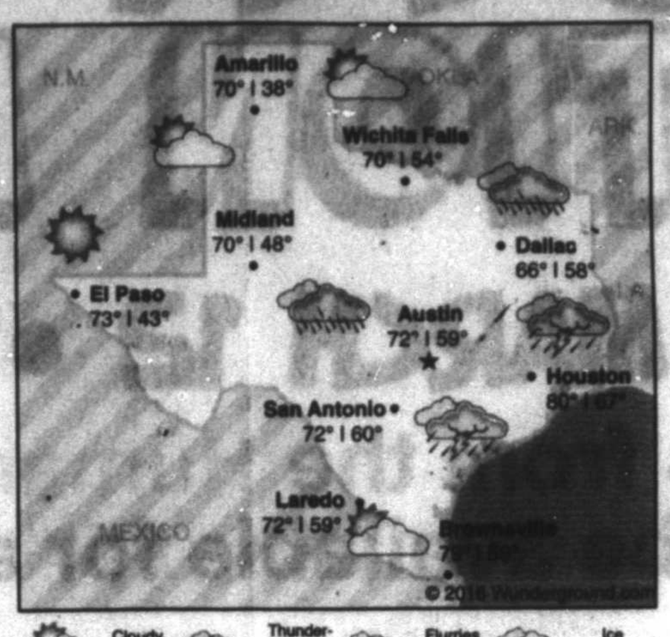
Weather brief

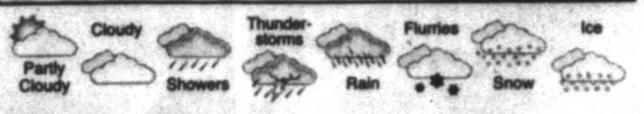
NEW DELHI

India to launch heat wave programs in vulnerable cities

Indian officials are launching a program to protect people from extreme heat in two high-risk regions, after a devastating heat wave killed at least 2,500 people last year.

Already, India experiences severe heat waves almost every year. With climate change bringing higher temperatures, the country is bracing for even more challenging summers that will dry up forests, destroy crops, wipe out farm animals and kill hundreds if not thousands of people if they are not prepared.





Precipitation

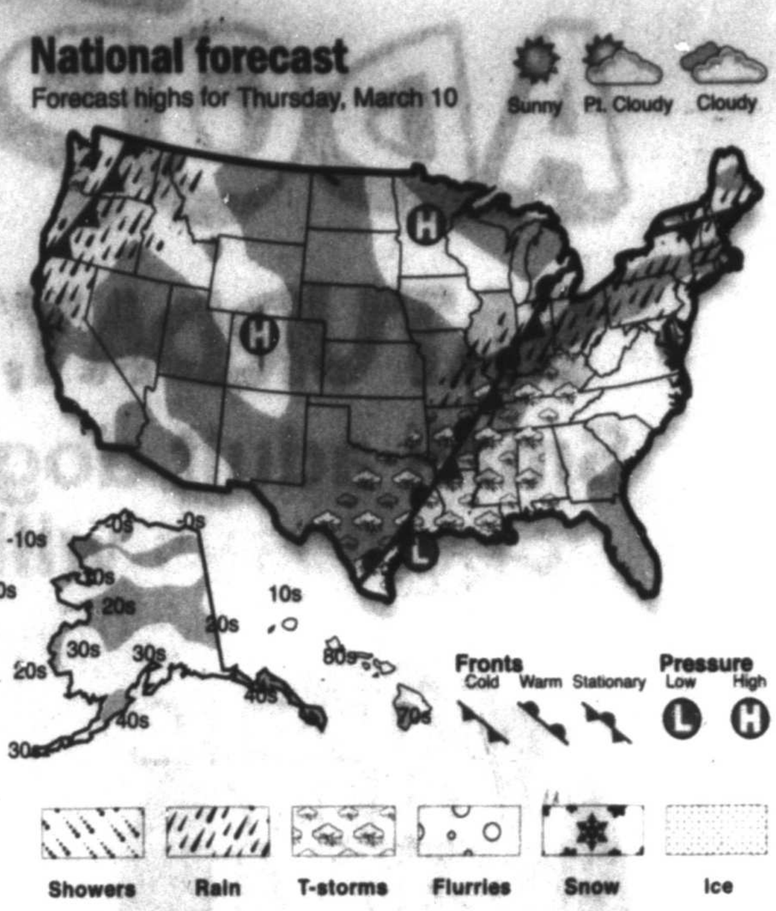
Tuesday	0.01 in.
Wednesday	0.33 in.
Month total	0.34 in.
Year total	0.82 in.
Normal total (year to date)	1.45 in.

Wednesday's temperatures

High	58
Low	51
Normal high	68
Normal low	40
Sunrise	7:04 a.m.
Sunset	6:54 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Thursday, March 10



Sibling estranged in life opts to remain estranged in death

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've been estranged from my three siblings, their spouses and their families for 35 years — my choice. There has been no correspondence, and I have seen them only at our parents' funerals.

Since we are all in our 80s, I anticipate there will be funerals for us in the next decade. If I go first, there is no problem. However, I'm considering not attending their funerals or those of their spouses. My grown children say I MUST attend because I'm their brother. I'm concerned that I might be a distraction or there could be a confrontation. Besides, I still remember what caused my estrangement and I just don't want to see them. I know I'm stubborn, but am I wrong? — TO GO OR NOT TO GO

DEAR GO OR NO: I disagree with your children. People attend funerals to pay their respects to the deceased and/or comfort the family who has suffered the loss. If, after 35 years, you show up at the funeral, you could, indeed, be a distraction — unless it has been so long that nobody recognizes you.

DEAR ABBY: Is it wrong to have no interest in grandchildren? My wife is five years older than I am and she's elated with our new grandchild. I'm only 42 and I feel I'm too young to be a "Gramps." I prefer to be free from kid activities and enjoy my adult pursuits.

I have raised children for the last 20-plus years and I think it's my stepdaughter's turn to be a parent. My wife is all gung ho to watch the grandchild anytime she's free, but I'm not interested at all.

Am I wrong for wanting my own time and space with my wife? — TOO YOUNG FOR IT IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR TOO YOUNG: No law says you must babysit if you don't want to. Not everyone enjoys the company of small children. If your wife enjoys doing it, that's her privilege. However, if the baby-sitting is interfering with your marriage, then you're complaining to the wrong woman, and the two of you need to work out a compromise on which you can both agree.

DEAR ABBY: I have very long hair and I'm proud of it. I have worn my hair long ever since I was a little girl. My problem is when I go somewhere, other women come up to me and start touching it.

I understand that they like my hair because they always compliment me on it, but I hate it when strangers touch me. Apparently, people have forgotten the concept of "personal space."

How can I tell someone — without sounding rude — to please not touch me? Or must I just keep quiet and tolerate it with a smile? — RAPUNZEL IN DALLAS

DEAR RAPUNZEL: Not everyone enjoys being touched, particularly by strangers. If someone reaches out to pet you, smile, step back and say, "I'd prefer you not do that." You have a right to your personal space. As long as you say it in a pleasant but firm tone, no one has the right to be offended. And if someone is, refrain from making it your problem.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Reading the green

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

	NORTH	
	♠ K 8 7 3	
	♡ K 4	
	◇ 9 8 3	
	♣ K 10 4 2	
WEST		EAST
♠ Q 10 2		♠ J 4
♡ Q 6 2		♡ J 10 9 3
◇ A 6 5		◇ K J 10 7
♣ J 8 7 6		♣ Q 9 5
	SOUTH	
	♠ A 9 6 5	
	♡ A 8 7 5	
	◇ Q 4 2	
	♣ A 3	

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All pass		

Opening lead: Six of ♣

Jesper Parnevik is a professional golfer and a fine bridge player. He was South in today's deal. West was Larry Cohen.

Parnevik and his partner played four-card majors. The opening club lead went to East's nine and Parnevik's ace. There appeared to be four sure losers, one trump and three diamonds, but Parnevik made one of them disappear. He cashed the ace and king of trumps, the king of clubs, and the king and ace of hearts, giving him six tricks. Parnevik then ruffed a heart in dummy and a club in his hand, getting him up to eight tricks. This was the position:

	NORTH	
	♠ 8	
	♡ Void	
	◇ 9 8 3	
	♣ 10	
WEST		EAST
♠ Q		♠ Void
♡ Void		♡ J
◇ A 6 5		◇ K J 10 7
♣ J		♣ Void
	SOUTH	
	♠ 9	
	♡ 8	
	◇ Q 4 2	
	♣ Void	

Parnevik led the eight of hearts and Cohen, who was West, had no answer. Should Cohen ruff, South would discard a diamond and score his two trumps separately. A diamond discard and Parnevik would ruff in dummy and then ruff another club. Cohen chose to discard his jack of clubs. Parnevik ruffed the heart and led the 10 of clubs, discarding a diamond.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-dynamic; 4-positive; 3-average; 2-so-so; 1-difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, March 10, 2016:

This year you often underestimate how much you have to offer and how talented you are. You rarely pull back and take an overview of your life. More often than not, you stay in the moment. Getting the whole story might be very important. If you are single, a friendship could lead to an important romantic bond. If you are attached, a tendency to be financially impulsive could stress out your significant other and cause a problem for both of you. Work on your self-discipline in this area. ARIES could give you quite a jolt at times.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ You are known to be impulsive, yet you will make an effort to stay steady in pursuing a certain goal. Confusion could surround you, which will reflect a need to change your direction at work or within the community. Tonight: Switch gears; let go of any hassles.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★ You might want to let a partner dominate more when dealing with a matter that affects both of you. Though you usually see the big picture, right now you might be biased by a resistance to change. Take your time, and do not force a decision or action. Tonight: Not to be found.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ Your friends could cause a major ruckus if you support their ideas. Listen to a loved one who seems more serious-minded. You might make a demand that changes your financial status. Make sure you understand the pros and cons of the situation first. Tonight: Where the gang is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ You will take a stand and express why you feel as if a certain decision is needed. Expect to hear from a partner all the reasons you might be wrong. Understand that you do not need to respond immediately to an outrageous matter. Tonight: Up late, possibly hashing out a situation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Reach out for more information. Once you gather all the facts, you will feel much better and more prepared to deal with nearly anything. The solution might be unusually simple and uncreative, yet you will need to see the bigger picture. Tonight: Consider a getaway!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ One-on-one relating might be preferred by many people right now. You only have so much time to pursue a certain course of action. Don't be surprised if a partner or a loved one loses his or her patience and reacts in an unexpected way. Tonight: Play it easy and relaxed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Defer to others. Communication might be difficult at this point, and you don't need any hassles. A change around a domestic matter might feel uncomfortable at first. Work with it. Others continue to surprise you with their reactions. Tonight: Try not to be controlling.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ Recognize that you have only so much energy, and that it needs to be focused appropriately. A financial matter might be on the back burner, but it is in the forefront of your mind. Your nervous energy is high, and could result in some emotional swings. Tonight: Take it easy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ You will allow much more input from a loved one, especially as you know that you have been uptight and perhaps negative as of late. This person radiates positive energy, but might shock you with his or her choices. Tonight: Go into weekend mode as soon as possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ Work from home if you can. You could benefit from some quiet, reflective time. You might be weighing the pros and cons of a situation, as you understand that there still may be another path. Maintain your levelheadedness, and play it cool. Tonight: Pull back if need be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ Communication flourishes all around you. In fact, it might please you to ignore others' efforts to reach out to you. In a sense, you will be in your own world, and you'll be prepared to maintain that status no matter what others say or do. Tonight: Feel free to be spontaneous.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ Your possessive side emerges when dealing with a difficult boss or client. You could feel as if the other party is demanding too much from you. Be smart and be realistic. The unexpected could occur if you push too far with your spending. Tonight: Buy a lottery ticket.

BORN TODAY

Actor Chuck Norris (1940), singer/songwriter Carrie Underwood (1983), actress Sharon Stone (1968)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Aboveboard
6 Triumphant cries
10 Hurdle for a jr.
14 Lose some ground
15 Berry rich in antioxidants
16 "Pygmalion" author
17 *Star of Comedy Central's "Insomniac"
19 Sleek, in car talk
20 Best replacement?
21 Exercises, in a way
23 Daily Planet VIP
25 Insensitive
26 "The Good Wife" field
29 Man cave fixture
32 Caller in a mask
35 Get up
37 Dupe
38 "bye 4 now"
39 Praise
40 Big letters in home security
41 Islamic decree
42 "Of __ curls on calmed brows": E.B. Browning
43 City where Perry's flagship Niagara is exhibited
44 "Which is to say ..."
45 Viewed
46 1988 Oscar winner for Best Picture
48 Bread for Reubens
49 Roasting aid
51 Shutter piece
53 Smooches
57 Justice Kagan
60 Snack with a Thins variety
61 "Home business?
64 Layer on a wall
65 Not again?
66 Mall map symbol
67 Press supplies
68 Got up
69 "I rock!"

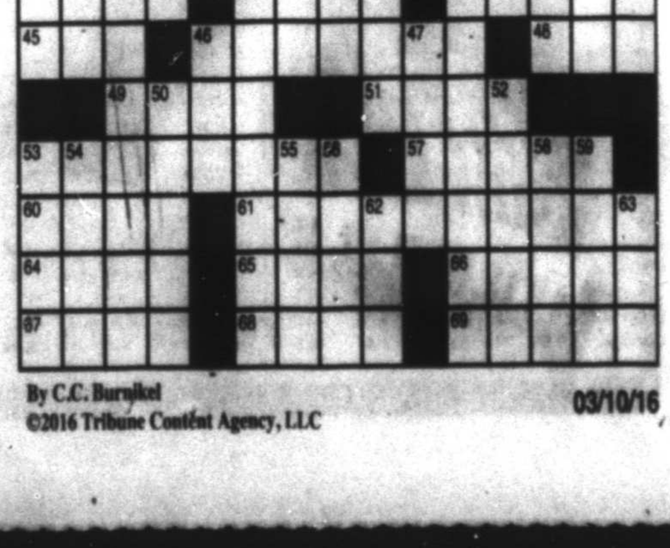
DOWN

1 Spearheaded
2 Big Band and Swing
3 C-SPAN subject
4 Often unreachable goal
5 Fragrant hybrid blooms
6 Bean topper?
7 Didn't have to putt on
8 Angel hair topper
9 10-Down feature
10 Item in a five-section Bible book
11 *Popular cosmetic moisturizer
12 Boomer advocacy group
13 Ark units
18 Tidy cut
22 Lexus GX, e.g.
24 Exotic vacation
26 Lures for anglers?
27 Its capital is Oranjestad
28 *Leonardo DiCaprio feature
30 "The Kiss" sculptor
31 Symbols on poles
33 Classic hit that begins "And now, the end is near"
34 Control tower concern
36 Lad
38 Highland cap
41 Ultimate authority ... or what's hidden in the answers to starred clues
43 Issue an embarrassing retraction
46 2016 Olympics city
47 On the safer side
50 Maps out
52 Aquarium fish
53 Point sets, in math
54 One is often used in the rough
55 Ball game
56 Santa's burden
58 __ a one
59 Tiny energy source
62 Finch creator
63 Woolly mom

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

I	M	A	C		B	L	U	E		B	A	B	A	S
N	A	S	H		T	E	S	T		U	N	A	G	I
B	R	A	I	N	W	A	S	H		M	A	B	E	L
		G	R	O		F	R	E	E	S	T	Y	L	E
T	R	I	A	G	E			R	A	T		F	I	N
O	F	F	C	O	L	O	R		R	E	D	A	N	T
P	D	T			E	L	I	A		E	S	T	E	S
			B	I	C	E	P	C	U	R	L			
S	I	P	O	N		S	U	E	Z			I	Q	S
I	T	H	A	C	A		P	R	I	C	E	C	U	T
T	S	O		I	D	A			S	P	R	E	E	S
C	A	N	A	D	A	D	R	Y		A	R	F		
O	B	E	S	E		H	A	I	R	S	A	L	O	N
M	E	N	I	N		O	R	N	E		N	O	T	I
S	T	O	A	T		C	A	G	Y		D	E	C	K

xwordeditor@aol.com 03/10/16



By C.C. Burnikel
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03/10/16

DOGGY ADOPTION DAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 12 • 2-6PM

Small adult dogs from the Humane Society of Odessa will be available for adoption.

MUSIC CITY MALL

4101 E. 42nd
Odessa
Across from Fuddrucker's inside entrance

432-381-5503
odessahumanesociety.org

An ICA Company • For employment opportunities log on to: www.icajobs.net

BUNNY HAS ARRIVED!

Every child receives a FREE gift!

HEY KIDS!

VISIT US ONLINE FOR FUN & GAMES!

WWW.MUSICCITYMALL.NET
CLICK ON *THE LATEST*

mrt★com/jobs

Employment ads by:

432.682.6999

432.682.6222

mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Billing/Processing Clerk

Basin Engine and Pump Inc. is hiring for the position of billing/processing clerk. Jobs duties include phones, billing and electronic processing. Applicant must possess strong computer skills and be able to multi task. Health insurance, retirement savings and a competitive salary. Send resume to shawn@basinengine.com

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Medical Office Manager

Fast paced allergy pulmonary office needs full time office manager. Requirements for the Office Manager include: 4 year college graduate or experience as a medical office manager. Have vigorous enthusiastic & positive attitude, be able to multi task, problem solve, and complete projects in a professional timely manner.

- Be an honorable, trustworthy, dependable person
- Be the leader, teacher, & mentor of a team of 12 plus staff
- Lead by mature consistent, wise, dependable example
- Have a can do, will do attitude
- Is adaptable, medicine is undergoing rapid major changes
- A person who can stay fully focused on their job while at work & is efficient with time

Some of the benefits offered: Above average salary production bonus, excellent health insurance, vacation and holiday pay. And a 401 plan.
Call: 432-561-6183, Or come by: 606 Kent St. Midland 79701 to Apply

CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES

Industrial Civil Construction Company Seeking:

Superintendents (Minimum 5 years' experience), Safety Supervisor/Coordinator, Survey man/Lay-out man, Forming Carpenters, Reinforcing Iron Workers, Concrete Finishers, Laborers
Must be able to pass drug test and background check, Must be able to read and write English, Must have minimum of 3 job related references
Excellent pay with per diem included.
Please email resumes to: jobs@gilesinc.net

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Wireline Operator

Part Time Wireline Operator: 10 to 20 hours a week $20 hour to operate a wireline truck in the Midland/Odessa area. CDL is not needed. Call 1 888 804 9611

HEALTHCARE

Available Positions

Desert Gardens Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
3203 Sage Street
Midland, TX 79705
Desert Gardens located in Midland, Texas is currently seeking staff to fill the following Positions:
- **Medical Records (LVN or RN)**

Full Benefits

Available Positions

Desert Gardens Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
3203 Sage Street
Midland, TX 79705
Desert Gardens located in Midland, Texas is currently seeking staff to fill the following Positions:
- **RN $2,000 sign on bonus**
- **LVN $1,500 sign on bonus**

New Shift Differential Rate
Full benefits

Contact Lens Technician

Seeking friendly, dependable, hard-working person for busy eye clinic. Experience preferred but not required. Bring resume in person to:
Phillips Eye Clinic 4311 W Wadley, Midland.

Extended Care Services Director

Full time with great benefits, great working environment with quality staff. BSN/RN preferred. Two years experience as a Registered Nurse in a clinical care setting preferred; home health experience preferred. Management experience preferred. Compact or Current Texas Sate License as a Registered Nurse required. APPLY TODAY ONLINE! www.seminolehospitaldistrict.com

Medical Receptionist / Insurance Aging

Full Time Medical Office Receptionist / Part Insurance Aging needed for a busy clinic. Experienced required. Must have knowledge of insurance verification for Insurance Aging position. Must be willing to travel between Midland and Odessa. Attractive salary and benefits.
Please fax resume to 432-522-2980.

Midland Surgical Associates, P.A.

is seeking an experienced.

LVN / OFFICE NURSE

to join our team. Candidate must be aable to work independently and possess excellent communication and patient skills. Sterile technique, surgical assistant skills, wound care experience and Greenway computer knowledge desired.
Full Time N-F 8:30-5:30

Benefit package includes Medical, Life & ALAC Insurance Coverage, PTO and 401-K Retirement Plan.

Send resume to joann@midland-surgical.com

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

Maintenance Property Manager

Help Wanted - Maintenance Property Manager Hilliard Companies has an opening for a person who can maintain owners properties (commercial & residential) and vehicles. Person should have experience with HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and auto repair. Please fill out application at 3001 W. Loop 250 N. St. E127, Midland or call 432-617-4677 and ask for Sterling

MANUFACTURING & OPERATIONS

Plant Operator

Plant Operator Needed Immediately: Experience preferred but not required. Location near Stanton, TX. Email resume to employment@westtexasgas.com or mail to Martin County Gas Plant, 2718 CR 2500, Stanton, TX. 79782

OTHER JOBS

Management/ Retail Clerk

Now hiring at the UPS Store, 3001 W. Loop 250 N Ste. C-105 Midland, TX. behind Toy R US. Apply in person.

Multiple Positions

Regency Cleaners now hiring all positions. Please call 432-689-8338.

Rock Crusher Superintendent/ Foreman

Established company seeks to hire an experienced rock crusher superintendent/ Foreman for its operations in the Midland area. Candidates must include a resume and salary history with their initial response. Interested candidates may reply to: M- 41 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, Texas 79701
We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

OTHER JOBS

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME NIGHT ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work 7 nights a week between 11pm-5 am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. We will train the right person.

$10.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday- Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NOPHONECALLSPLEASE

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person

$10.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday-Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NOPHONECALLSPLEASE

Outside Sales Rep

Midland Reporter-Telegram
The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for someone with excellent communication skills to provide outstanding customer service to our Retail Advertising customers. Responsibilities include prospecting new clients, working closely with new and existing clients to develop multi-media advertising campaigns that provide outstanding results, tracking sales activity, and meeting/exceeding established monthly sales goals.

Qualified candidates must be a self-starter and possess excellent communication and organizational skills, be detail oriented and assertive, excel in spelling/grammar/punctuation, excel in time management, and possess a positive attitude.

We are willing to train and offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months, a cell phone allowance and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you want to join a **GREAT TEAM** and are ready to **SUCCEED**, please send a resume to:

Jeri Houston, Director of Advertising, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701 or **jhouston@mrt.com**. No phone calls please.

PETRO COMMUNICATIONS IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ALL POSITIONS
• 2-WAY RADIO TECHS • AUTOMATION/PLC TECHS
• INSTALLERS • TOWER CREW PERSONNEL
Apply at: 2425 E. Hwy 80, Midland, TX. 79706
or email resume to mmitchell@13wireless.com Fax: 432-687-3613

QA & QUALITY CONTROL

Manager- Safety & Compliance

An industry-leading provider of bulk fuels and lubricants is looking for a Safety professional in the Permian Basin. This individual will be responsible for ensuring the safety and compliance of the employees and resources of the Division. Some travel will be required. Applicants with DOT experience are preferred. Apply in confidence by providing your resume in MS Word format to msalesappe@arnoldoil.com

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

Restaurant Staff

Murray's Deli needs an Assistant Manager and Cashiers. Apply in person from 8am-11am or 2pm-4pm 3211 W Wadley Ave #24, In Midland

RETAIL JOBS

Receptionist/Customer Service Associate

Requires the ability to communicate effectively with customers and other team members, multi-task, prioritize, and problem solving skills. Will be responsible for answering phones, order taking, order processing, order inquiries, and problem resolution. Bilingual in English/Spanish is a plus. F/T Mon-Fri. Email Angie@susiessouthforty.com

Let Classifieds Work for You! Call

432-682-6222

SALES JOBS

Outside Sales Rep

Midland Reporter-Telegram
The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for someone with excellent communication skills to provide outstanding customer service to our Retail Advertising customers. Responsibilities include prospecting new clients, working closely with new and existing clients to develop multi-media advertising campaigns that provide outstanding results, tracking sales activity, and meeting/exceeding established monthly sales goals.

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Jeri Houston, Director of Advertising, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701 or **jhouston@mrt.com**. No phone calls please.

SKILLED LABOR

CNC Operator wanted

United Casing, Inc.
Experienced CNC operator needed for pipe threading facility in Midland. Must understand G-Code programming and keep up with established production rates on a daily basis. 3 years experience preferred. Email resume to rpatterson@unitedcasing.com. **Qualified candidates only.**

Diesel Mechanic

Local company seeks diesel mechanic with in frame experience, knowledge of cummins and CAT motors. Apply in person at 3913 FM 715, 79706.

Field Mechanics

Basin Engine & Pump
Mechanics needed for Industrial Oilfield Shop. Must be experienced working on centrifugal & positive displacement pumps. Furnish your own tools. Uniforms provided. Benefits package includes vacation, health insurance and retirement match savings. Salary depends on experience. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email toTodd@basinengine.com. Applications can be filled out at 1914 S. County Rd. 1083, Midland, TX 79706

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement

Service Seal LLC is accepting applications for a Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement. We are a stable company that offers competitive hourly pay and excellent benefits. More information regarding our benefits will be given during the interview process. This position requires at least 3 years of verifiable professional driving experience, strong computer skills, along with passing the pre-employment background screening. Our Drivers have most weekends off and will not have many overnight deliveries. Please submit your resume to tammy@oilcenter.com for review and consideration or contact Tammy at 432-570-9414 to complete an application.

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Established oilfield company looking for an experienced forklift operator and two haul truck drivers. New equipment, top pay, insurance, 401K. Must have Valid Class A CDL with air brakes. Contact Mike at 432-813-3400

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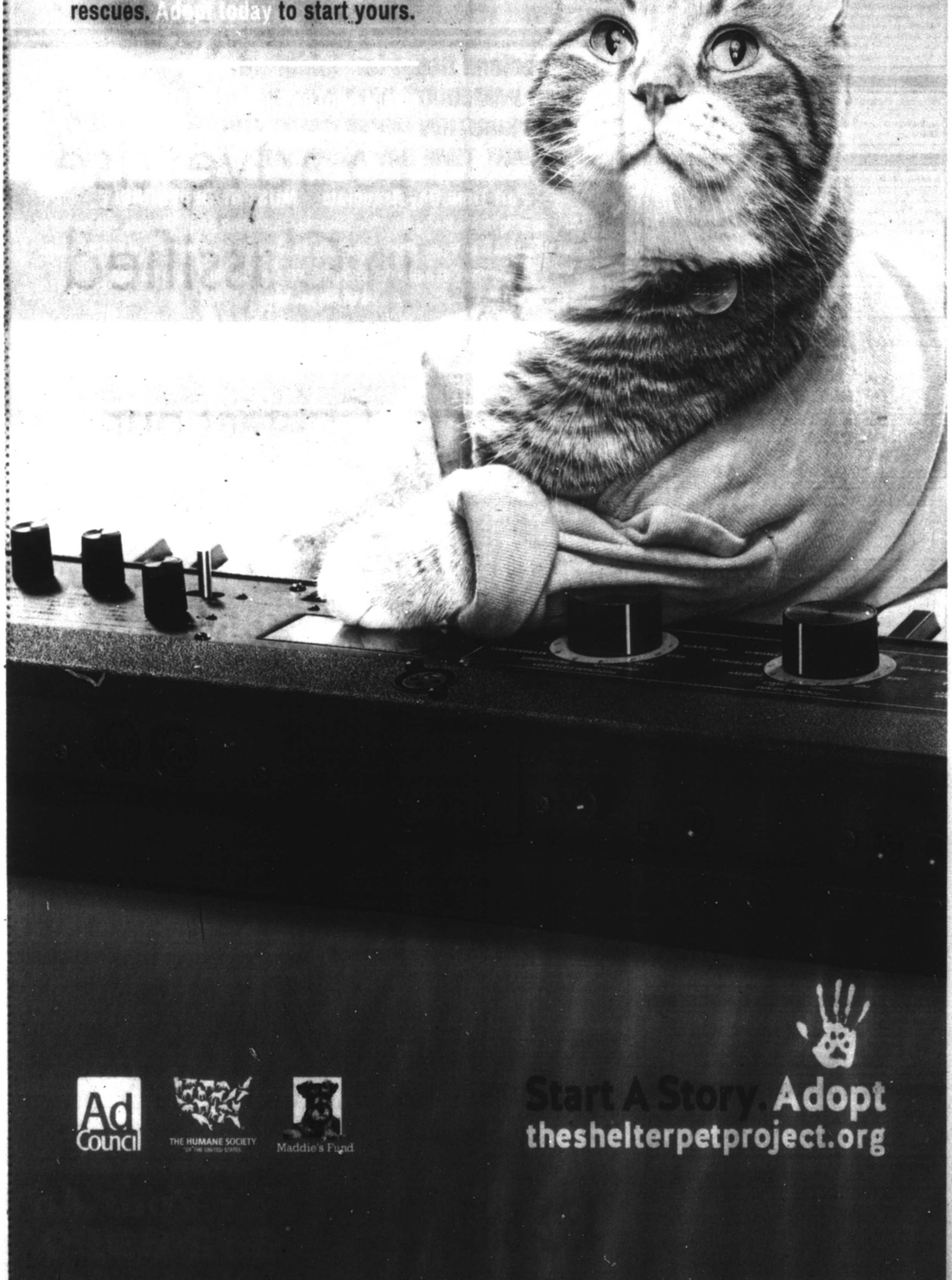

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Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTION TO SWR 26/27 SURFACE COMMINGLING PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that Diamondback E&P LLC (RRC P-5 # 217012) has filed with the Texas Railroad Commission the following P-17 Application for the exception to SWR 26 and/or 27 to surface commingle oil and casinghead gas production from leases: Saxon A well 1101LS (Drilling Permit # 807946); Saxon B well 1101WA (Drilling Permit #807951); Saxon C well 1101WB (RRC Drilling Permit # 807955) and TXL 11A well 2 (Lease # 26756). All wells are in the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field in Midland County, Texas. This application is for off lease storage, common separation, common storage and casinghead gas metering by allocation by well test. Production will be allocated by W-10 Tests. Any royalty interest owners who have not received written notification, please consider this your Notice of Application. If you have objections to the issuance of this permit, you may submit a letter to P-17 Department, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. Unless the Railroad Commission receives a protest to this application, the Commission may issue a permit within 21 days following the date of last publication.

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

To those indebted to or holding claims against the Estate of **Charlene J. Neithercutt, deceased:**

Kimberly Pearson and Kaprice Pearson, having been duly appointed Co-Independent Executors of the Estate of **Charlene J. Neithercutt**, deceased, late of Midland, Midland County, Texas, by the Judge of the County Court of Midland County, Texas, in Cause No. P18613 on March 8, 2016, 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 said Co-Independent Executors within the time prescribed by law, at the following address:

Kimberly Pearson and Kaprice Pearson
Co-Independent Executors of the Estate of
Charlene J. Neithercutt, deceased
c/o Mary Lou Cassidy
550 W. Texas, Suite 800
Midland, Texas 79701

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE OF ELECTION

In accordance with the provisions of the Texas Agriculture Code, Chapter 74, Subchapter D, and 4 Tex. Admin. Code, Chapter 3, Subchapter A, the Texas Department of Agriculture (the Department) will conduct a board election in the St. Lawrence Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, in order to select a representative of the above-referenced zone to serve on the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Board of Directors. The board is charged with administering the boll weevil eradication program in Texas.

The St. Lawrence Boll Weevil Eradication Zone consists of that area of Midland County south of a line 15 miles south of Interstate 20 running from the Ector County line east to the Glasscock County line; Glasscock, Reagan, and Upton counties.

Any cotton grower having planted cotton in the year 2015 within the zone defined above is eligible to vote, and, if he or she resides in the St. Lawrence Zone and has at least seven years experience as a cotton grower, can have his or her name placed on the ballot as a candidate in the board member election. A cotton grower is defined as a person who grows cotton intended to be commercial cotton. The term includes an individual who, as owner, landlord, tenant or sharecropper, is entitled to share in the cotton grown and available for marketing from the farm, or share in the proceeds from the sale of the cotton from the farm or from an indemnity or other payment received from or related to the planting, growing, or failure of the cotton. Any person eligible to vote in the board member election that resides in the St. Lawrence Zone and meets the seven-year experience requirement may place their name in nomination for election to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Board by written application to the Department at the address provided below. Nomination forms are provided by the Department and must be signed by the nominee and at least ten other eligible voters. The nomination form must be received by the Department at its office located in Austin by March 28, 2016, and must provide the legal residence of the applicant. A nomination form may be obtained by contacting the Department office or from any county agent located in the voting area.

The board election will be held by mail balloting. Ballots will be mailed to cotton growers by April 10, 2016. All ballots cast by mail must be postmarked no later than April 25, 2016, in order to be valid.

For more information regarding the referendum and election, or if you are a cotton grower in the above-referenced area and do not receive a ballot, please contact Stuart Stmad with the Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas, 78711, call (512) 463-3285 or by e-mail at Stuart.Stmad@TexasAgriculture.gov.

General Announcements

Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Lost & Found

FOUND BLACK male and WHITE female Lab mix & Godfrey area. (432) 296-2834. or 432-770-3222

FOUND SMALL black and white mixed male dog. Emerson area. Call 432 559 0443

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Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

CADILLAC 1990 DeVille, leather seats, Landau roof. $800. 432-556-1154.

CORVETTE, 2016 Stingray coupe, 'W-Z51. 3LT, new, loaded. $72,000 OBO. 682-561-4903.

FORD FLEX Limited 2012 with EcoBoost for sale. Seats 7 people using automatic 3rd seat. 67,300 miles, leather seats, heated front seats, sun roofs. Asking $22,000 OBO. 432-528-1191.

INFINITY G25X, 2011. 35K miles. Two-toned leather interior, heated seats, moon roof, handles great! Priced below book for a quick sale 17K. 432-853-9080. Unavailable for calls March 7-14.

Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. 432-685-4078

Pickup Trucks

FORD 2008 F150, Limited, 4X4, 109,000 miles, good condition asking $17,500 KBB valued at $17,905. Call 432-413-2798

FORD F250, 2013 for sale. pickup. 6.7 Diesel, automatic. XL Lariat. Excellent condition. 29,000 original miles. Ford warranty bumper to bumper. $46,000. 432-967-0129.

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CHEVROLET SUBURBAN 1500, 1999. 4 wheel drive. $1350 OBO. 801-699-1481.

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FORD EXPEDITION EL, 2008. Limited 2wd, Leather, 4 bucket seats, DVD player, 123,000 miles, white. $13,500 OBO Call 432-686 8915.

MERCEDES 1999 430 ML, $3,995 OBO. 432-349-0209

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PARK MODEL 2014 40' Travel trailer. 2 slide outs, 2 A/C's, electric awning, washer & dryer, hide-a-bed sofa & chair. $86,200. 817-408-0378

TAHOE Q 6 2008 excellent like new condition. Lake ready. $19,000, for more information call 432-634-4618

Garage -Estate & Yard Sales

Yard & Garage Sales

79701

501 N. Colorado, Midland, Warehouse sale in back of building; corner of Colorado & Tennessee. Thursday Friday & Saturday 9:30am-4pm. Desks, file cabinets, office furniture & supplies, paintings, prints, Oriental rugs, tools, Oil field tools, household furniture, outdoor lighting, enamel ware, womens Harley leather outfits, books & lots of miscellaneous.

79703

4516 PASADENA. Saturday 8am-2pm, Sunday 8am-12pm. Large garage sale! Tools, clothes, sports memorabilia, stamp collection, shoes, books, & miscellaneous.

79707

4903 BRAZOS. Friday, Saturday, Sunday 7:30am-? Baby items, furniture, and lots of clothes!

5104 OAK Valley Dr. Friday 8am-12pm. Girls, mens & womens clothes, books, mens bicycle, dishes & toys

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

			1	6	4			
4	3			7			1	
1					9			
	2						5	7
		5	4		7	3		
3	1						8	
			6					2
	8			1			4	5
			9	4	5			

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

6	5	7	3	9	1	2	4	8
1	3	4	8	6	2	7	9	5
8	2	9	7	5	4	3	6	1
3	4	6	1	8	5	9	7	2
7	8	2	6	3	9	1	5	4
5	9	1	4	2	7	8	3	6
9	6	8	2	4	3	5	1	7
4	1	5	9	7	8	6	2	3
2	7	3	5	1	6	4	8	9

3/10/16

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Merchandise

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TWO PLOTS in Resthaven Cemetery, Gethsemane 93 #'s 3 & 4, $2,500 each. Email if interested danoshi5@aol.com

USED TUBING FOR SALE 2 3/8 in. for $19 & 2 7/8 in. for $26 per joint. Call 432-661-1415.

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Apartments for Rent Unfurnished

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DUPLEX FOR LEASE 3304 B Moss Court 3bed. 2 bath 2 car garage. fireplace Appx 1600 sf $1550 per month. $1000 deposit 432-557-5557

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UNIQUE CUSTOM built luxury duplex large 2 bedroom 2 bath, bonus room, 2509 A Haynes. 432-553-3248 or 432-683-7679

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Residential Rentals

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

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Very Clean 3/2/1 extra large living room. 4702 Ric Credit & Reference check required. $1400 month. + deposit. Call or text 432-638-6053

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Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

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*1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great w-tail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850/ac
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*340 ac. Pecan Creek. New Living/Shop. 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $3,550/ac
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Saturday, March 12th - 9am-1pm

Furniture: Game/dining table with four chairs, three large curio cabinets, small curio cabinet, bookshelves, sofa table, glass table with four chairs, sofa & loveseat, three marble top coffee and end tables, lamps, hall mirror, glass top pillar table, small chest, Jenny Lind cradle, Thomasville queen size bedroom suite, Mid-Century full size bedroom suite, French Provincial full size bedroom suite, roll-top desk, large rocking chair, office computer armoire, French file drawer, spinning library bookcase.

Appliances & Kitchen: GE black side-by-side refrigerator, refrigerator/freezer, washer and dryer, small appliances, Pyrex, dishes and glasses.

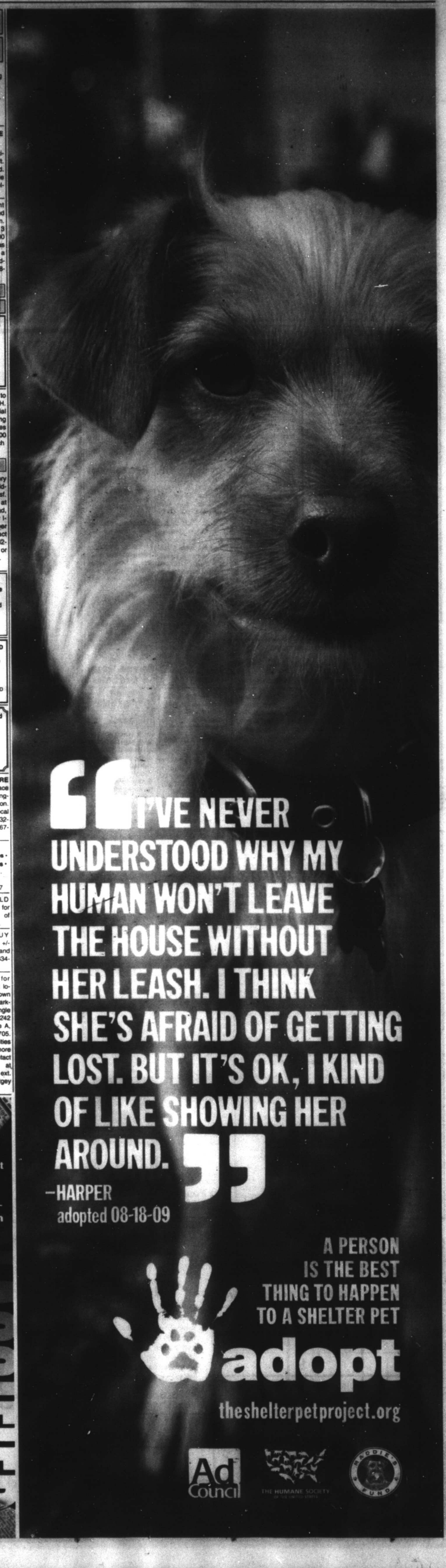
Miscellaneous: Tin car toys, luggage, artwork, pcndulum wall clock, massive cups/saucers collection, fireplace accessories, linens, puzzles, games, typewriters, Singer treadle sewing machine, men's and women's clothing and shoes.

Bar Accessories: Six 30" bar stools, collectibles/decanters, glassware.

Garage: Ladders, ping pong table, tools, weed-eaters, metal detector, cabinets, shelves.

Outside: Patio table and four chairs, garden pots & décor, gas grill, gazebo with cover, smoker, garden tools, golf caddies, wheelbarrow.

Sale by Linda L. Biden



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35 AND UP LAWN SERVICE. Ask for Donald 432-352-6200.

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AFFORDABLE TREE shrub pruning, removal, sprinkler repairs. Licensed & Insured. Call Kut-Rite 561-8802, 638-6163.

Arbor Max Solutions
Professional Landscape & Tree Care. Call for Dormant Oil App.
Taylor Maxwell Degreed Horticulturist Certified Arborist
TX3606A
432-528-1737

DMA LANDSCAPING accepting new accounts. Mow grass, trim shrubs, trim trees, sprinkler repair, and all kinds of clean out. Call 432-210-3130. Will work 24-7!

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Landscape & Tree Maintenance

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M & M Landscape 22 years experience. Grass sodding, Xeriscaping, tree & shrub removal. Native Midlander 432-230-3372.

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TWO GUYS MOWING
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VILLA'S YARD Service Free Est.. Reasonable Rates. Mowing, flower beds, tree trimming & removal. 432-349-3893 Lord Is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want. Psalm 23:1

WILL TRIM, prune or uproot just about any tree, very reasonable prices. Call Norman 432-296-1424.

Miscellaneous Services

BLUE'S SPRINKLER System installs and repairs. Backflow assembly tester. Lic 8285 432-889-8963. 684-6977

I buy used and junk Tricone drill bits. Any quantities. Call Jim 337-446-3230

Landscape & Tree Maintenance

Lawn & Garden

All Spring Cleanup
FREE ESTIMATES
Gutter & drain clean out, lawn services, trim trees and bushes, and removal of dead trees.
Billy - 432-634-5040

♣EL JARDIN - Trees, Landscape, Irrigation. Experienced Professionals From Start to Finish. New Landscape Design & Installation, Relandscaping, New Lawns & Lawn Restoration, Tree Pruning, Planting, Removal & Health Care. Sprinkler Repair, Modification, New Design & Installation. Drip Irrigation Specialists! 24 Years in the Permian Basin. We accept major credit cards. Please call Bruce at 432-770-2399 eljardintx@icloud.com

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NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION WEEK 2016

Student Publishes a Newspaper!

Replace the missing words in this article.

KIDS IDEAS SCHOOL AFTER SMILE FAMILIES NEWSPAPER CREATE

Zoey is a Wisconsin 3rd grader. She reads ***Kid Scoop*** in her local _____, the ***Watertown Daily Times***.

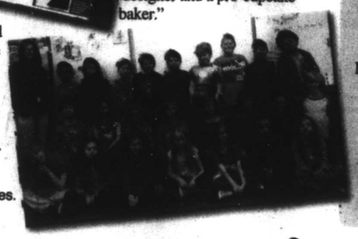
Her mother, who publishes a newspaper for the 5th grade at her _____, inspired Zoey to _____ her own newspaper.

Zoey's newspaper is called ***Webster3***. She gets her story _____ from the world around her. The next issue is all about birthdays, and _____ that she will do an issue about how animals survive.

Zoey's biggest challenge is getting people to take her seriously. "They don't think I'm really going to do it. But they are wrong!"

Zoey also wants other _____ to contribute to her paper. "***Kid Scoop*** helped me by getting my classmates excited about writing," said Zoey. "I also like it when they _____ when they get published."

Her paper will be available to kids and _____ online. "When I grow up," Zoey said, "I want to be a magazine editor and president, a fashion designer and a pro-cupcake baker."



Zoey and her classmates.

BIG NEWS: Wisconsin Classrooms Have a No Books Day

On Wednesday, March 9th, classrooms in Watertown, Wisconsin, will put books aside and spend the day learning with the newspaper. This is an annual event for the ***Watertown Daily Times*** and is called No Books Day. Last year 49 classrooms participated.

"Teachers tell us students love a break from the usual text books and that they love seeing how their school subjects connect to the real world," reports Dawn McBride, Newspaper In Education Coordinator for the ***Watertown Daily Times***.

"Newspapers can be used in the classroom for activities using every school subject – math, science, social studies, history, art and even P.E.," says McBride.

READING

Parts of an Article

Read the first three paragraphs of an article in the newspaper. Underline **who** the article is about in red. Underline **what** the article is about in blue. Circle in green **when** and **where** the event in the article takes place. Then fill in the chart below:

HEADLINE: _____

_____

_____

WHO: _____

WHAT: _____

WHEN: _____

WHERE: _____

SPELLING

Dot-to-Dot Challenge

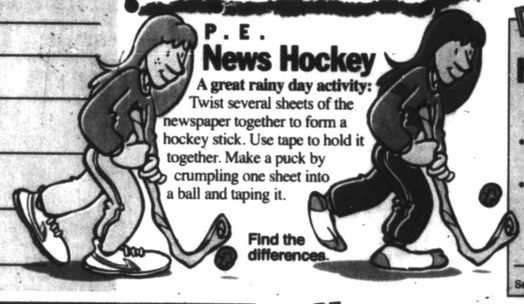
On a sheet of newspaper, find and circle the letters that spell each of the following words that are a challenge to spell. Connect the circled letters for each word with lines. Can you make a design from your lines and dots?

- Wednesday
- meringue
- ache
- neighbor
- calendar
- castle
- weird
- engine
- amphibian
- airplane

P. E.

News Hockey

A great rainy day activity: Twist several sheets of the newspaper together to form a hockey stick. Use tape to hold it together. Make a puck by crumpling one sheet into a ball and taping it.



Find the differences.

Extra! Extra!

MATH

It Adds Up

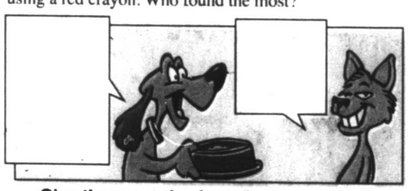
Look through the newspaper to find:

- Five numbers that add up to 100.
- Three numbers that add up to 65.
- Six numbers that add up to 44.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums to 100.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

The newspaper isn't all serious stuff. Comics, puzzles, movie listings and more make the newspaper entertaining. Set a timer for five minutes. Look through the newspaper and see how many fun things you can find. Circle each item with a blue crayon. Have a friend try next, using a red crayon. Who found the most?



Give these comic characters something funny to say.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

NEWSPAPER
CRUMPLING
DESIGNER
ARTICLE
SERIOUS
COMICS
EDITOR
ANNUAL
CHART
ISSUE
BAKER
WEIRD
USUAL
TEXT
ACHE

T	R	A	H	C	N	U	S	N	I
A	C	H	E	R	S	C	E	E	W
N	R	E	E	U	I	W	R	K	E
N	O	I	A	M	S	E	I	D	L
U	T	L	O	P	S	I	O	E	C
A	I	C	A	L	U	R	U	A	I
L	D	P	S	I	E	D	S	S	T
T	E	X	T	N	B	A	K	E	R
R	R	E	N	G	I	S	E	D	A

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Weekly Writing Corner

Why I read the Newspaper

Students describe why they like to read the newspaper and which parts they like the best.

I like to read the newspaper because I can read about the news and what is happening in our city, especially what is new and fun. I like to read the comics. I hope to read the whole newspaper some day and after that, I would take a long nap.

Piper, 5th grade

I read the newspaper because, if I don't watch a game, I can read the box scores. I also like the comics because they are really funny.

David, 5th grade

I like to read the comics because when things goes wrong and I need to loosen up, it helps to laugh.

Haven, 5th grade

I like to read sports and Kid Scoop because I like sports and I want to know how a team won or lost and by how many points. I like looking at Kid Scoop so that I know who got published.

Yasmin, 5th grade

The newspaper is fun and there are many interesting things happening in the world. My favorite part is the Weekly Writing Corner because it is so interesting to see what kids' write and I always wish my name and my story could be there.

Gabriela, 6th grade

The #1 reason I love the newspaper is that it keeps me busy. For example, when the power went off, I was so bored, but guess what? I had my pencil, newspaper and flashlight and, in the blink of an eye, I was doing Sudoku and the crossword puzzle.

Emily, 6th grade

I absolutely love the newspaper because it always keeps me updated on the most fascinating news. My favorite part is the front page because I love how I can count on the most jaw-dropping subjects right in front of me. Even if it doesn't sound like fun, I encourage you to try it. If you don't like the grown up parts, there's also comics and crossword puzzles!

Summer, 6th grade

I like to read the newspaper and all of its contents with my dad. First we read the top story the newspaper has to offer. Then we go looking for the fantastic and funniest comics. Finally, my dad and I read the Kid Scoop page and the movie section. Those are all the amazing things my dad and I read when we have the newspaper.

Ankeet, 6th grade

I love to scan the newspaper for interesting articles whenever I can. I love the Style Section, the hard news stories and also the magazines included in *The New York Times* and *The Los Angeles Times*. I take time out to read the Travel Section. The newspaper is a surefire way to brighten my day.

Damaris, 7th grade

Write On!

Woman I Admire

Write about a woman you admire. Include reasons why you chose this woman.

Deadline: April 3
Published: Week of May 1
Send your story to:

Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
ljdiaz@mrt.com

Please include your school and grade.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Cutting Cut Lines

The short information info under a picture is called a **cut line**. Cut out pictures from today's newspaper. Separate the pictures and cut lines. Give them to someone to see if they can put them back together correctly.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Chevron
OXY Permian
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Thanks For Your Support Of The Midland Reporter-Telegram's Newspaper In Education Program.