MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

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WEEKENDER

Check out our end-of-year lists for the best movies, music and TV moments.

Inside

ONLINE MEOW

Get the latest local, state and national news and sports, check out our photo galleries of recent events and sporting competitions and lots of year-end best-of lists. Give us your feedback on all of the above.

mrt.com

Bar patrons gather for Christmas meal

Riley's Bar and Grill serves 35th annual buffet free to guests

By Joseph Basco
jbasco@mrt.com

Behind the dated, dive-bar facade of Riley's Bar and Grill, a warm buffet was served free to anyone who came in on Christmas Day.

Sliced ham, creamed corn, green beans, stuffing and bread were free for the taking all day. The food, all cooked using in-house recipes, was reminiscent of a homemade meal the diners might have with family on Christmas.

Even though bars are typically empty during the day, Riley's Christmas buffet attracted a few regular customers and some families at lunchtime. It was estimated that the food, which was put out beginning 12:30 p.m., would likely be gone by late afternoon.

The Wall Street business has carried on this holiday tradition for the past 35 years. On Thanksgiving Day, Riley's serves turkey with the usual fixings. On New Year's Day the buffet menu will be ham, cabbage and black-eyed peas.

Patrons sat at tables set up next to the buffet, and while most didn't say a word while they ate — possibly because of the quality of the food — they all thanked the kitchen staff for the excellent meal. It was not unusual to see someone go back for a second plate.

Some of the regulars said they come to Riley's more often to eat rather than drink; some frequent the place as much as five times a week. They lauded the bar's "Steak and Bake" Sunday cookout of Shiner Bock-marinated cuts of meat and the deep-fried favorite: armadillo eggs, which are whole jalapeno peppers wrapped in bacon and stuffed with cream cheese.

Though the food may convert new customers into regulars, it's the feeling of unity and solidarity that brings bikers, service industry workers, retired people and sometimes even young people to Riley's. On Christmas, the staff and customers were like a family, eating together and wishing each other Merry Christmas.

"We do this just to give back to people," said Brandon Sandifer, general manager of Riley's. "They come in here, and, you know, a lot of our customers don't have families. This is their family. This is my family."

Las Vegas cab driver finds $300K in back seat

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Las Vegas cab driver Gerardo Gamboa thought someone left a bag of chocolates in the back seat of his vehicle, but the stash turned out to be $300,000 in cold hard cash.

Now, Gamboa is winning honors for honesty after turning in the money he found Monday. The money was returned to an unidentified poker player. Yellow Checker Star Transportation named Gamboa its driver of the year and rewarded him with $1,000 and a dinner for two at a restaurant.

A message left Wednesday for Gamboa at the cab company wasn't immediately returned.

Gamboa told the Las Vegas Review-Journal he had another passenger by the time he began wondering what kind of chocolates were in the brown paper bag. He peeked inside at a traffic light.

"I told my passenger, 'You are my witness on this,'" the 13-year taxi driver told the Las Vegas Sun, "and then I immediately called my dispatcher."

Gamboa took the six bundles of $100 bills to the company's main office, where Las Vegas police and casino officials linked it to the poker player.

Gamboa said the man gave him a $5 tip after a trip from the Cosmopolitan resort to the Palms Place tower, and Gamboa then drove to the Bellagio resort, where a doorman helping a passenger into the car noticed the bag.

It took several hours to verify the identity of the owner and return the cash. He took Gamboa's information, but didn't immediately leave a reward.

"If he doesn't give me anything, that's OK," Gamboa told the Sun. "I'm not waiting for any kind of return. I just wanted to do the right thing, and I appreciate what the company did for me."

BOYS' TOYS

ABOVE: Khalyb Butler, 18 months, rides his new Mater power car Wednesday afternoon after opening Christmas presents with family. **RIGHT:** Khadyn Smith, 6, rides his new bike Wednesday.

Photos by Tim Fischer Reporter-Telegram

Santa's sleigh delayed after snags at UPS and FedEx

By Scott Mayerowitz
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Santa's sleigh didn't make it in time for Christmas for some this year because of shipping problems at UPS and FedEx.

The delays were blamed on poor weather earlier this week in parts of the country, as well as overloaded systems. The holiday shopping period this year was shorter than usual, more buying was done online and Americans' tendency to wait until the last possible second to shop probably didn't help either.

Neither company said how many packages were delayed but noted it was a small share of overall holiday shipments. While the bulk of consumers' holiday spending remains at physical stores, shopping online is increasingly popular and outstripping spending growth in stores at the mall.

The problems appear to have affected many parts of the country. The Associated Press spoke to people in Alabama, California, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia who didn't receive presents in time for Christmas.

Many were left with little or no time to

Please see **DELAYS**/4A

Reader comments

We asked Facebook users if their packages made it in time for Christmas. Here are some of the comments that we received. Be sure to like the MRT facebook page at facebook.com/thereportertelegram.

- Angela 'Dray' Gideon — Nope. All my family that sent packages arrived on time.
- Melissa Calley — Yep some of the family will have to wait until the weekend to get gifts.
- Ashley Gallegos Crawford — Yep was shipped Dec. 6th and still don't have it was last in Dallas on the 10th.
- Letty Rubio — My sons bike didn't get here for Christmas. Was supposed to be here since last Friday.

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Unreturned library books can mean jail time

By Will Weissert
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Call it throwing the book at the bookworms.

A Texas man who was arrested for failing to return an overdue library book ignited an online flurry of snarky comments and headlines about the Lone Star State extending its tough-on-crime bravado to books. But such cases aren't unheard of, and many communities faced with shrinking budgets and rising costs have ordinances calling for fines or even arrest warrants when library property isn't returned.

In Texas alone, the issue has cost libraries an estimated $18 million.

Jory Enck learned that the hard way. He was arrested for not returning a GED study guide that he checked out three years ago in the Central Texas community of Copperas Cove. Enck declined comment to The Associated Press, but he told the Killeen Daily Herald that he wouldn't set foot in a library again: "I think I will probably just purchase a book from Amazon."

A Texas state law took effect in September that defines the failure to return library books as theft. The law, which doesn't trump stricter community ordinances, mandates up to a $100 fine per offense.

Other states also call for fines or even arrest warrants in such cases, including Iowa — where an overdue-book offender was jailed for a week — Vermont and Maine.

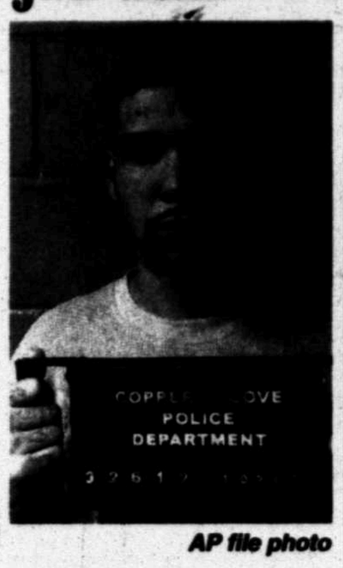
In Copperas Cove, about 70 miles northwest of Austin, a 2002 ordinance mandates a $200 fine for each library item that goes unreturned 20 days after a written notice is sent demanding its return. If the fine isn't paid, the municipal court issues a warrant, city spokesman Kevin Keller said. Keller said he didn't know how many people had been jailed on library-related offenses.

"I was a police officer for 12 years, and while it wasn't a regular daily thing, we had maybe a couple of these a year," he said, adding that he didn't know why Enck's arrest in October got so much attention.

In that case, police were called to the 22-year-old's apartment on an unrelated disturbance charge, but officers arrested him after finding a past warrant for the study guide. Enck was released on a $200 bond, requested time-served — and returned the book. He said he couldn't do it earlier because he checked it out before beginning a three-year prison term for robbery.

Being jailed for absconding with library materials "is an uncommon occurrence, but can happen once in a while," said Mark Gould of the Chicago-based American Library Association. But he said there was no accurate count on how many states and communities issue arrest warrants.

It's an issue that has cost libraries a lot of money. Nearly 150 libraries in Texas participated in a survey earlier this year that found 966,000 items were checked out long enough to be considered lost, with the total cost exceeding $18.2 million, said Gloria Meraz, a spokeswoman for the Texas Library Association.



AP file photo

This undated booking photo provided by the Copperas Cove Police Department shows Jory Enck. In October, police were called to Enck's Copperas Cove apartment on an unrelated disturbance charge but arrested Enck after finding a past warrant for an unreturned GED study guide. He was released on a $200 bond, then requested time-served. Enck, who has since returned the book, said he couldn't bring it back initially because he was in prison. He checked it out before beginning a 3-year sentence for robbery.

Among the most notable library-related arrests came in 2011, when a man from Newton, Iowa, served more than a week in jail for failing to return 11 library books and six CDs worth $770. Iowa law classifies failure to return library materials as theft, and the town has a 1993 ordinance, said Sue Padilla, director of the Newton library.

Padilla said she saw a spike in returned overdue materials after the arrest.

"We did notice that some things that had been out for quite a while did suddenly come back," she said.

The library hasn't been back to court since that case, she said. She said going to court was a last resort, but that "we try to be good stewards of those things that were purchased with taxpayer funds."

Other notable cases include police visiting the home of a 5-year-old in Charlton, Mass., last year to collect overdue books. Also last year, police in Freeport, Pa., called the home of a 4-year-old whose family had racked up more than $80 in overdue fines for four books.

Back in Texas, two women in Baytown were arrested following traffic stops in 2006 and 2010, after police discovered they had outstanding warrants for unreturned library books.

Indiana-based Unique Management Services is a collection agency that works with more than 1,600 libraries nationwide to recover overdue materials and administer fines and fees. During sluggish economic times, libraries became more anxious than ever to recover unreturned books, said Kenes Bowling, the agency's customer development manager.

"They feel the budgetary pressure, no doubt," Bowling said. "But what we've seen over the years is that, no matter what the library does, there's still a percentage of folks who need third party encouragement."

That includes a woman whose excuse for unreturned books ranks as Bowling's favorite: He said she claimed the leg on her dining room table had broken "and the stack of books under it were just right."

Gay men say bar kicked them out for dancing

VICTORIA — The American Civil Liberties Union of Texas is supporting a gay couple after the men said they were kicked out of a South Texas nightclub for dancing together to country music.

The incident occurred Saturday night at a Victoria nightclub when Justin Meyer, 21, said he and his partner danced together to the country song "Cowboys and Angels," the Victoria Advocate reported.

The men said a manager approached them and told them Cactus Canyon had a policy barring two men from dancing together to country music.

Meyer's partner, James Douglas, 30, said the manager told them they could dance together to rap or hip-hop music, but not country.

"So you're telling me it's OK for me to bump and grind my boyfriend to the song 'Bubble Butt,' but we can't dance a two-step?" Douglas told the newspaper.

But Cactus Canyon's director of operations, Robert Dillender, said the men were asked to leave because they were being disruptive.

"We've never kicked anyone out of the club for dancing," he said, adding the club does not have a policy barring same-sex couples from dancing together.

Obituaries

Christopher Alan Smart

Christopher Alan Smart was born on March 24, 1975, in Ft. Collins, Colorado to Larry Smart and Sandra Stain Smart.

They soon returned to the Midland/Odessa area, where Chris was raised. He attended Emerson Elementary, Goddard and Lee High School. Chris loved music, fishing, all animals, his family and the Dallas Cowboys. He was a loving, funny and generous person and was always willing to help anyone who needed it. Chris was predeceased by his paternal grandparents James and Ann Smart and his maternal grandfather Charles Stain.

He is survived by his parents, his beloved daughters Ashley Smart and Kayla Byrne, sisters Amy (Nash) Hassan of Atlanta, Ga. and her daughter Caitlin and sister Becky Smart of Dallas. Also his maternal grandmother Mary Stain, uncle Chris Smart, aunt Beverly Monroe, uncle Gary Stain (Leslie), cousins James, Jeremy and Jon Monroe, Kristin Luft and Shelley Fietz.

A graveside service will be held on Friday, December 27, 2013 at 11:00 A.M. at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Odessa, TX. with Pastor David Newton officiating. The family requests donations to a local animal shelter or a charity of your choice, in lieu of flowers.

Services are under the direction of Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.sunsetodessa.com.

SUNSET MEMORIAL
GARDENS & FUNERAL HOME

John "Tiny" Williams

John "Tiny" Williams, 58, of Midland, passed away on December 20, 2013 in Midland TX.

The family will receive friends on Friday, December 27, 2013 from 6:00-8:00PM at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, December 28, 2013 at 2:00PM at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel with Pastor Dean Cook officiating.

John was born in Neches TX on October 2, 1955. He graduated from Neches High School where he played basketball and ran track. He moved to Midland and worked for McClatchy Brothers Trucking for over 25 years until he retired. He loved to watch drag racing and attend races at Penwell and dreamed of owning his own when he retired.

John is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Williams; his sisters: Alice Faye Golightly of Levelland; Clara Jean Young of Midland; Bettie Lockridge of Levelland; Hellen Ann Martin of Midland; Ann Veronica Williams of Neches; his uncle, Richard Williams of Houston, numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

John is preceded in death by his mother, Bernice Williams and his father, L.T. Williams.

All of those that knew "Tiny" knew him as a worker and worked while sick and other ailments but he continued on no matter the obstacle. He was and is an amazing man that cared for friends and his family. We will miss his amazing smile and how he made everyone laugh! John "Tiny" Williams will be missed.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials be donated to the National Kidney Foundation, 2200 W. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79703.

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

Robert "Bob" Marion Boone

Robert "Bob" Marion Boone of Midland, Texas, passed away on December 21, 2013, after a long struggle with cancer and other medical issues. Memorial services will be held at 10AM, on Saturday, December 28th, 2013, at the First Presbyterian Church, 800 West Texas Ave., Midland, Texas, 79701.

Bob was born in Amarillo, Texas, on April 11, 1934, to Virginia and Marion Boone and graduated from El Paso High School in 1952. He was a proud member of the Corps of Cadets at Texas A & M College and graduated in 1957 with a BS in Industrial Engineering with a minor in Mechanical Engineering. His early engineering experiences started with the Cooper-Bessemer Corporation in Odessa, Texas, and later at the corporate location in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, with a follow-on assignments again to Odessa and ultimately to Houston, Texas.

Based upon his experience and knowledge, he pursued his main interest in all facets of the natural gas industry and moved to Littleton, Colorado, initially working with Power Application Manufacturing Company (PAMCO) as Vice-President. Bob later started his own business as Rocky Mountain Compression, Incorporated. In 1982, Bob and his wife, Allegra, moved to Midland, Texas, taking the position of VP-Marketing, for Compression Systems (CSI), INC., until he retired. After a brief hiatus, as an experienced Texas Professional Engineer, Bob started a new company, Compressor Search, INC., and also became a limited partner with Knight-Crawford Enterprises. Bob remained successfully involved in these entities until he fully retired.

Bob loved the industry he was involved in and frequently contributed his time and talent to the National Gas Processor Association. He loved to teach and mentor others in the "oil patch" and conducted seminars throughout the industry, especially pertaining to liquid gas compressors and their use. Because Bob's interest in the oil industry was contagious, Bob, Jr. became associated with the industry in 1977 and is currently working offshore in California.

Bob was an avid sportsman for the majority of his life and loved fishing for trout and salmon. He spent many winter days fishing in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with his brother, his son and son-in-law together with his numerous friends and members of the Thompson Creek, Fishing Club. Bob was also President, and an active member of the Midland Fly Fishing Club. Besides fly fishing, he was an accomplished artisan in the making of fly rods and flies. He successfully introduced his grandchildren to the fun of fishing in the Yukon, Alaska and other streams in the lower 48. Later in life, Bob became an avid dove hunter and he also continued to play golf and tennis.

Bob was an ardent and dedicated family man and his best catch was Allegra Boone, a lovely Mineral Wells, Texas, girl. They were married in June 1957, and have two children, Bob Jr., and Mrs. Brad (Ginger) Martin. Ginger and Brad have 4 sons, Bradley, Daniel, and his daughter, Jaelyn, and Tom and Bryan. He is also survived by his brother, Colonel Tom Boone and his wife Valerie, his daughters, Dr. Laura Boone and her daughter, Megan Richards; and, Mrs. Tom (Barbara) Perry. Barbara and Tom have one daughter, Chloe. Bob is also survived by numerous family and step-family members throughout the US. Both of Bob's parents, Virginia L. and Marion A. Boone of El Paso "outran" him in his race to the Father's House!

His A & M Classmates and other members of Texas A & M were very near and dear to him throughout his life. He was an Aggies's Aggie and supported a variety of activities and needs by his word, work and gifts. He learned well the attributes of leadership, and integrity in all matters was his watchword. He encouraged others in a variety of career patterns through his advice and example.

Bob loved his church, plain and simple, no matter the location. He and Allegra were actively involved as Youth Leaders for 13 years and he also served as a Deacon in three and as an Elder in two Presbyterian Churches. He and Allegra also served in a variety of church offices and on committees and Bob enjoyed the fellowship of his Midland Sunday School Class. As a couple, they complimented one another in their care of others and they particularly enjoyed their long time service to "Meals on Wheels".

Bob was not part of the "silent majority" as he was well read and informed about the world we live in. He passionately expressed his views to others and was equally a good listener to the strong beliefs and opinions of others. He loved this country and all it stands for and was a staunch Conservative.

Honorary pallbearers are "The Old Boys" Sunday School Class of Midland's First Presbyterian Church; local members of the Texas Aggies Former Student Association and Mr. Marc Nelson.

It is suggested that in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the Deacons Fund, First Presbyterian Church, 800 West Texas Ave., Midland, Texas, 79701, or the charity of one's choice.

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

Sonja Kay Jacobsen McCarley

Sonja Kay Jacobsen McCarley of Midland passed away in her home on Saturday 12-21-2013. Sonja was born in McCamey Texas August 1st 1940 to Oscar Oliver and Crystal Jacobsen. Sonja later met and married the love of her life, Jax McCarley of Andrews and Amarillo Texas. The couple had no children.

Sonja was proceeded in death by her father Oliver Jacobsen of Midland,her mother Crystal Jacobsen Rogers of McCamey, her step mother Jean Gressett Jacobsen of Midland and her only sibling Oliver O. "Sonny" Jacobsen of Midland.

Sonja is survived by a nephew, John Oliver Jacobsen and his sister Tiffany, her aunt Marion Gressett Balkum of Midland and her two sons Wiley and Wesley Balkum along with numerous other cousins.

A memorial service will be held at a later date yet to be determined by family members.

The family wishes to express their deepest appreciation to her wonderful neighbors the Subia family of Midland. Online comments and condolences may be sent to webcoyoteone@aol.com.

Questions about death notices or online Guest Books? Email: obits@mrt.com

www.mrt.com

Wind power developers race clock to secure subsidy

By Diane Cardwell and Matthew Wald
N.Y. Times News Service

As the rest of the world prepares to toast the new year, the wind industry is hard at work on its own year-end tradition, rushing to make sure projects qualify for an important subsidy before it is set to vanish at the stroke of midnight Tuesday.

Developers are signing deals, ordering equipment and lurching ahead with construction starts to qualify for a tax credit that is worth 2.3 cents a kilowatt-hour for the first 10 years of production. This month, giant turbine-makers like Vestas and Siemens have announced major new orders, including a deal worth more than $1 billion with MidAmerican Energy, an Iowa-based utility majority-owned by Warren E. Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway, and another with the Cape Wind project in Nantucket Sound.

In previous years, the projects had to be in commercial operation by New Year's Eve. This year, they need only to have begun.

"What we see right now is a race to the finish line, where we're trying to get projects signed," said Mark Albenze, chief executive of the Wind Power Americas unit of Siemens Energy. "It's a little bit of a different dynamic, whereas in '12 our projects teams were the ones stressing out in December and now it's our acquisition team."

But, he added, getting those deals signed means plenty of work for the next 18 months or so, "so it's not as dire of an expiration as it has been in the past."

Although the wind industry has grown enormously since the tax credit began in the 1990s, it has followed a boom-and-bust cycle driven by the fate of the subsidy. Over the years, Congress has allowed it to expire several times before renewing it, according to the American Wind Energy Association, a trade group. With each expiration, new installations dropped sharply.

That happened in late 2012, when manufacturing and new project starts nearly came to a standstill, only to pick up again after Congress revived the credit, called the Production Tax Credit, in January for a year. The renewal was intended as a temporary fix to keep business going as lawmakers overhauled the tax code.

Under the current rules, a lapse in the credit will not have much immediate effect, since many projects are in the early stages of development.

However, executives said, developers are unlikely to start any projects without a credit in place, because they cannot compete with power generation from other sources like cheap natural gas. And with prospects for a redesign of the whole tax code looking dim at the moment, clean-energy advocates are calling for yet another extension of the subsidy.

Referring to the credit, Kevin A. Lynch, managing director of external affairs at Iberdrola Renewables, which develops and operates green energy projects, said: "In the near term, projects that do not have the PTC attached to them are probably difficult to justify economically for buyers to purchase, and therefore for us to build."

He added that with the credit, "Wind has clearly become a very competitive generation source, and I do have to say we're pretty confident that the president and the Congress will see their way to extending the credit."

Still, how that process will go is anybody's guess, especially given that President Barack Obama nominated one of the chief architects of the larger tax effort, Sen. Max Baucus, to become ambassador to China.

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., who is in line to succeed Baucus as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said tax reform was a priority.

"My first choice is comprehensive tax reform where in effect you start moving toward a more level playing field," Wyden said. "But I'm not going to support just letting renewables just fall off a cliff."

Opponents of the credit campaigned against a renewal all fall. They include some fiscal watchdogs worried about the cost. But the bulk of the opponents are mostly generators of other forms of energy, who say that, by subsidizing wind, the government is adding supply to the market in a way that depresses prices for electricity, cutting the revenues of other generators and, in some cases, driving them out of business.

The subsidy "is grossly distorting the marketplace," said Don Nickles, a Republican who represented Oklahoma in the Senate from 1981 to 2005 and is now a consultant on energy policy. The problem, he said, was that the credit was very large relative to the wholesale price of electricity. It is occasionally infinitely larger. During the late-night hours when overall electric demand is low and wind production is high, the value of a kilowatt-hour on the open market is sometimes zero or below. Wind generators collect the credit regardless.

Nickles, who was a senator when the first production tax credit was passed, said that it was meant to be an incubator for a fledgling industry. Now, he said, "This child is ready to go to college."

Some of the economic logic behind wind energy no longer exists. In most places, every additional megawatt-hour generated by a wind machine means that a plant running on natural gas could be dialed back. When natural gas prices were high, the savings could be significant. But natural gas prices have dropped with the new supplies brought on by hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. So the savings have shrunk.

The production tax credit for wind energy has passionate opponents in the nuclear industry. This is because in about half the country, electrically speaking, the wholesale price of electricity is set by auction, and when there is oversupply, prices drop. Sometimes they drop below zero.

This is a problem for generators that run on coal or natural gas, but within minutes or hours they can reduce their output. Reactors, however, cannot easily lower their power output. Thus, at hours when wholesale electricity prices go negative, operators often end up paying to generate electricity.

At Exelon, the country's largest civilian reactor operator, executives say its Illinois plant sees negative prices during 14 percent of the off-peak hours. And some of its plants could be shut as uncompetitive next year, not because of their true production costs, but because of the wind subsidy, the company argues. Exelon was a member of the American Wind Energy Association, the industry's trade group, but was expelled in September 2012 because it opposed extension of the production tax credit.

"With 20 years and 60,000 megawatts in the ground, this is a mature industry," David C. Brown, an Exelon lobbyist, said of the industry. "It's time we declare victory and celebrate our success."

Wind developers argue that all forms of energy receive government support and that the credit helps level the playing field. Their main focus now is the familiar race to make sure their projects qualify while the credit is still available.

"It's the same old story — it's just another 365 days later," said Paul J. Gaynor, chief executive of First Wind, a developer based in Boston.

Wind executives say the new deals will keep them busy through the coming months, but many of them are also taking potentially expensive gambles. This year's renewal does not require projects to go into production until the end of 2016, but they must either be in continuous construction or have spent at least 5 percent of the total costs this year. Project costs can top $100 million.

Companies are frantically reordering their usual processes, with some ordering turbines without permits to build or starting construction while still negotiating power contracts, said Michael Garland, chief executive of Pattern Energy, a developer of wind farms that went public this year.

"There's a lot of risk on it that you have to take in order to put that kind of money out," he said. "That's what everybody's running around trying to figure out what to do."

Paid Health News Advertisement

Doctors' Discovery Helps Diabetics

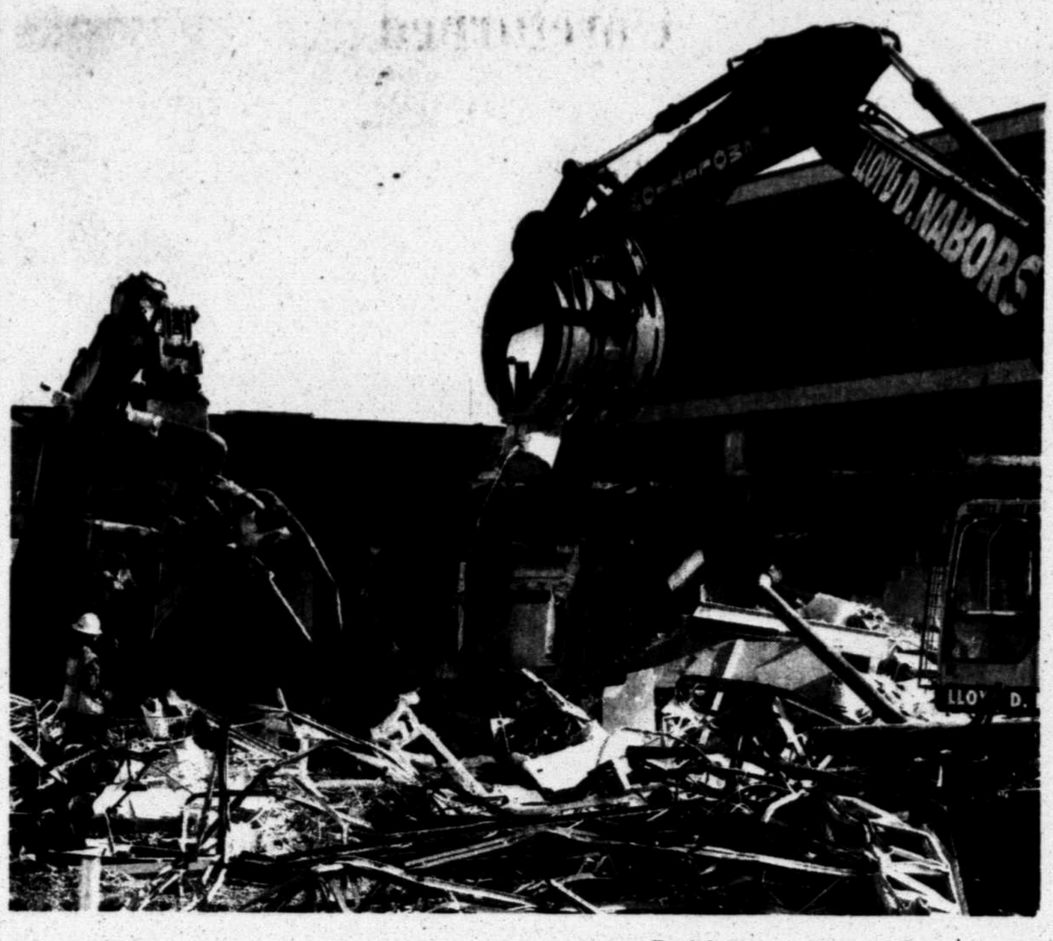
PHILADELPHIA — A team of doctors has found that a formulation of exotic sounding ingredients gives new hope to diabetic patients..

Called Cinnatrol™ , the formula promotes healthy blood sugar levels by effectively metabolizing glucose into energy. In a research study, all patients taking just one capful of the liquid (1 oz) daily, dramatically lowered their blood sugar levels compared to a placebo group. Another scientific study found that an ingredient in Cinnatrol made insulin 20 times more capable of converting blood sugar to energy.

While individual results vary, one patient in the study lowered his blood sugar from 220-245 to the 100-130 range in only 28 days, despite being instructed not to change his dietary habits or physical activity. Some patients, under their doctors care, have been able to reduce or eliminate their need for diabetic drugs. Scientists say that Cinnatrol helps diabetic drugs to work more efficiently. Study results are available at www.cinnatrol.com.

Cinnatrol is available without a prescription at pharmacies or call 1-800-339-3301. Now at:

Walgreens



Rod Aydelotte/Waco Tribune Herald

Construction workers begin the task of demolishing the West high school Dec. 12 in West. The high school, as well as two other buildings were severely damaged in the deadly April 17 fertilizer plant explosion.

Texas town mending from blast looks ahead to 2014

Associated Press

WEST — Some are celebrating in new homes, while others are still in rentals. But many residents of a Central Texas town still recovering from a fatal fertilizer plant explosion that flattened neighborhoods are counting their blessings this Christmas. And they're looking forward to 2014.

"I am very thankful that 2013 is ending. It has not been a good year," George Smith, a doctor who helped remove elderly people from a nursing home that collapsed in the April 17 blast, told the Waco Tribune-Herald for a story published Wednesday.

Fifteen people were killed, 12 of them while responding to the fire at the West Fertilizer Co. Dozens of others were injured. And the rural town of West, about 20 miles north of Waco, was left with a gaping hole where houses, schools and the nursing home had long stood.

For many, including Smith, just surviving that night is something to be grateful for this Christmas.

"You can rebuild property, but you can't rebuild lives," Smith said.

Rebuilding has occupied much of the town since the explosion. Smith is still repairing his clinic and his home and is spending Christmas in Orlando, Fla., with his daughter and grandchildren.

"I am ready to move into my house, but I'll be happy if I am in it by next Christmas," Smith said.

Syble Bohannan and her husband, Bo Bohannan, managed to celebrate this Christmas in the new, smaller house they built on the empty lot left after the explosion. Married for 62 years and both in their 80s, the Bohannans said people questioned why they bothered to rebuild after the home they had lived in since 1961 was destroyed.

"We had lived here for so long, and we thought we were getting ready for the glory land," Syble Bohannan said. "But one day in April, all that changed."

They could not imagine living anywhere else, so they rebuilt and moved back home in time for Christmas. There was no time for a tree, but the lights were hung, and the bustle of Christmas filled the home recently as Syble Bohannan prepared snacks for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"We have so much to be thankful for," she said, noting they were home when the blast shattered glass in their house and the force threw them around.

Yet except for a few scratches and bruises, they were largely unimpured.

"We were very, very fortunate," Syble Bohannan added. "We have had so many angels helping us."

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432-520-3134 ext. 7

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Please visit us at www.midlandhumane.org and 'Like' us on FaceBook

The Midland Humane Coalition would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Aubrey is an energetic and beautiful 1 year old Boxer mix. She would benefit from a family who would love on her and spend lots of time playing with her.

Solo is a very laid back 1 ½ yr. old male. His front claws were removed before he came to us, so he needs a very safe home where he can spend lots of time hanging out on the sofa, or a warm lap!

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Today is Boxing Day

Boxing Day is celebrated in the United Kingdom the day after Christmas Day. Traditionally, it was a day when employers distributed money, food, cloth or other valuable goods to their employees. As time went by, Boxing Day gift giving expanded to include those who had rendered a service such as tradesmen, mail carriers, doormen and porters.

It also is the day that churches opened and distributed contents of boxes where parishioners deposited coins for the poor.

In modern times, it is an important day for sporting events and the start of the post-Christmas sale.

Source: www.timeanddate.com and www.factmonster.com

Water usage

Dec. 18 total: 11,012,000 gallons (CRWMD 8,715,000, Paul Davis fields 2,297,000)

Dec. 19 total: 11,919 (CRMWD 9,619,000, Paul Davis fields 2,300,000)

Friday total: 12,554,000 (CRMWD 10,161,000, Paul Davis fields 2,393,000)

Saturday total: 11,299,000 (CRMWD 8,942,000, Paul Davis fields 2,357,000)

Sunday total: 11,358,000 (CRMWD 8,986,000, Paul Davis fields 2,372,000)

Current total storage by CRMWD in their lakes is 101,916 acre-feet (1 acre-foot is approximately 325,800 gallons). Total storage at this time last year was 159,876 acre-feet. The average for November was 12,480,900. December's average is 9,537,682.

When it's open

City Hall
300 N. Loraine St.
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
Customer Service line: 685-7320

Midland County Tax Assessor/ Collector
2110 N. "A" St.
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday
688-4810

Department of Public Safety: Driver's License Office
2405 South Loop 250 West
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays
498-2100

Midland County Public Library
Downtown branch
301 W. Missouri Ave.
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday
688-4320
Centennial branch
2305 W. Loop 250 N.
742-7400
9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Thursdsay and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Feeling sick?

Midland Memorial Hospital has partnered with Medical Center Hospital in Odessa on the telephone nurse triage program "68-NURSE," in order to bring the service to the entire Permian Basin.

The program is designed to help people determine whether or not their health situation warrants a trip to the emergency room. Midland residents can call the line by dialing 686-8773.

The program is free and available 24 hours a day-365 days a year. Local nurses are available to help you determine the best place to receive care for your situation. 68-NURSE can help you save time and money by directing you to the most appropriate healthcare option, whether it's a neighborhood clinic, urgent care center, emergency room… or just staying home.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 1-3-6
Pick 3 day: 1-5-1
Pick 3 evening: 9-2-7
Pick 3 night: 3-4-5
Daily 4 morning: 2-5-4-0
Daily 4 day: 9-3-6-8
Daily 4 evening: 3-9-0-5
Daily 4 night: 7-4-7-4
Cash Five: 4-18-20-24-35
Lotto Texas: 25-26-31-40-46-50
Powerball: 23-28-38-39-56 PB: 32
All or Nothing morning: 4-5-8-9-12-15-17-18-21-22-23-24
All or Nothing day: 1-2-4-5-7-9-15-17-18-19-20-23
All or Nothing evening: 2-3-5-9-11-12-13-14-16-20-23-24
All or Nothing night: 1-2-4-6-7-8-9-10-11-14-15-21

Today in history

Today is Thursday, Dec. 26, the 360th day of 2013. There are five days left in the year. The seven-day African-American holiday Kwanzaa begins today. This is Boxing Day.

On this date:

In 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, the embattled U.S. 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne, Belgium, was relieved by units of the 4th Armored Division.

In 1966, Kwanzaa was first celebrated.

In 1972, the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, died in Kansas City, Mo., at age 88.

In 1973, the demon-possession horror film "The Exorcist" was released.

In 1996, 6-year-old beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey was found beaten and strangled in the basement of her family's home in Boulder, Colo. (To date, the slaying remains unsolved.)

Today's birthdays: Actor Caroll Spinney (Big Bird on TV's "Sesame Street") is 80. Rhythm and blues singer Abdul "Duke" Fakir (The Four Tops) is 78. Record producer Phil Spector is 74. "America's Most Wanted" host John Walsh is 68. Baseball Hall of Fame catcher Carlton Fisk is 66. Retired MLB All-Star Chris Chambliss is 65. Baseball Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith is 59.

Charlie Riedel/AP

In this Dec. 16 photo, package handler Chris Addison arranges packages before loading a delivery truck at a FedEx sorting facility in Kansas City, Mo. Santa's sleigh didn't make it in time for Christmas for some this year due to shipping problems at UPS and FedEx.The delays were blamed on poor weather earlier this week in parts of the country as well as overloaded systems.

DELAYS

From 1A

make alternative plans.

Jeff Cormier and his Dallas family were among those who ordered gifts that didn't arrive.

He had three separate UPS packages — including two for which he paid extra for expedited shipping — delayed.

"I've had to apologize to three different people when I thought I had everything wrapped up and good to go way before," Cormier said.

He and his wife are celebrating their baby daughter's first Christmas and flew in his grandmother from Ohio to join them. Her gift, a customized iPhone cover with a photo of her new great-granddaughter, didn't come in time for Christmas.

"My wife and I had our presents to open. Our daughter had her presents to open. And my grandma, she didn't have anything to open," Cormier said.

"We apologize that our customers did not receive their packages on Christmas," said Natalie Godwin, a spokeswoman for United Parcel Service Inc.

Godwin said snow and ice in the Midwest last week and an ice storm that hit Dallas 2 1/2 weeks ago were partially to blame. She also said the volume of packages shipped exceeded the capacity of UPS but would not share the number of packages shipped or what the company's maximum capacity is.

UPS did not make pickups or deliveries Wednesday. Extra workers were being brought in Wednesday night to the company's hub in Louisville, Ky., to sort packages for delivery today and Friday, according to Godwin.

Godwin said "UPS will honor its peak shipments commitments" to customers who used its air delivery service. Those shipping by ground have no guarantee past Dec. 11. Godwin said she didn't know if customers would receive refunds.

However, some FedEx customers were able to pick up packages Christmas Day at their local FedEx Express centers.

"We're sorry that there could be delays and we're contacting affected customers who have shipments available for pickup," said Scott Fiedler, a spokesman for FedEx Corp.

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, FedEx handled 275 million shipments, according to Fiedler. Those that were not delivered in time, he said, "would be very few."

Three people told The Associated Press that when they tracked their packages online, FedEx said deliveries to their homes were attempted but failed because "the business was closed." During follow-up calls with customer service, they said they learned that the local depot was overwhelmed and didn't attempt delivery.

On Sunday, Eric Swanson ordered a doll for his daughter and a sweater for his wife through Amazon.com and one of its affiliated sites. As an Amazon Prime customer, there was a promise of two-day delivery, getting the gifts to his Carmichael, Calif. home just in time for Christmas. One was shipped via UPS, the other FedEx.

"I thought it would happen," Swanson said. Online tracking tools said the packages would arrive by 8 p.m. Tuesday. Neither did.

"My wife understands but my 5-year-old daughter ... I think we're going to let it be a surprise when it comes," Swanson said. "Next time, if I need to get a gift and cut it that close, I will just have to enter the fray and go to the mall."

COMMENTS

From 1A

■ Christie Williams — Yes we had a package that was in midland as of last Friday yet it still never got checked in so we couldn't pick it up!!! Still don't have the present.

■ Angie Merrill Nelson — Yep...mine were in Midland but could not be delivered due to "external reasons". Not sure what that means but still had a great Christmas!

■ Jennifer Rice — Yes. They won't be here until the 30th, 31st, and January 3rd now. And I had paid for 3 day shipping several days ago.

■ Shawna Nichols Lowrance — 2 gifts that have been "Out for Delivery" for 3 days now in Ft. Worth. Thanks UPS.

■ Denise Reed — Yep... ordered several items on the 15th got all but 1.... in fact I got received 2 or 3 days after order but that 1.. says its been in Midland snce the 21st... ????

Monster looks to rebuild brand after loss of Beats

Associated Press

ATLANTA — It's been a tough couple of years for Monster.

The audio cable company was in a coveted position as the decade began after launching what became the hottest headphones on the market, Beats by Dre. The audio devices had hip-hop/production legend Dr. Dre as a namesake and soon became synonymous with headphone chic. Celebrities like LeBron James, Diddy, Lady Gaga and Justin Bieber launched their own signature Beats by Dre lines, and a host of other performers, athletes and entertainers became unofficial representatives as the most famous faces on the planet sported Beats on their ears.

But Beats Electronics ended its partnership with Monster last year. Even though Beats is still superhot, Monster CEO Noel Lee believes his San Francisco-based company has the proper pieces in place to regain its mojo.

"It left us having to reinvent ourselves, and that's what we are going to do," said self-proclaimed "Head Monster" Lee.

Monster is pushing out headphones, tablets, slim battery power adapters and portable DJ turntable mixers. The company is also tapping stars like Shaquille O'Neal, Nick Cannon, Jason Aldean, Meek Mill and Drew Brees as its pitchmen.

Lee, who often rides a gold-plated Segway because of a neurodegenerative disease, is seen as an eccentric champion of the privately owned Monster. A confident individual, he takes a lot of the credit for the stylish Beats by Dre headphones. He said the key contribution of Beats Electronics, founded by Dr. Dre and Interscope Records chairman Jimmy Iovine, was marketing (though he allows that Robert Bruner, chief designer at Beats, did the industrial design).

"People have to realize that them was us," Lee said. "Monster did that. Beats supplied the marketing. We supplied all the distribution, all the technology, all the engineering that went into the product. What we didn't have was the marketing clout before."

Now, Lee says he does with music producer Swizz Beatz, who purchased a co-ownership stake in the company this year. But don't expect Swizz Beatz to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Dre and release his own line anytime soon. His focus has been to make the Monster brand appealing to consumers in the same way he helped in Reebok's return to relevance.

"I'm here to show the world who we are," said Swizz Beatz, who has appeared in a commercial with A$AP Rocky to promote Monster's DNA headphones. "There are so many being powered and plugged by Monster, but hardly anyone knows that. It's all about getting back to the roots and showing people what we're all about."

After Swizz Beatz was brought into the fold, he persuaded retired basketball champion O'Neal to be part of the Monster team. It was an easy decision for O'Neal, who still has strong marketing power.

"People ask me all the time, 'How do you pick a partner?'" O'Neal said. "It's simple. I've got to believe in the product. I believe in this. For me, it's never about money starting off. I learned a long time ago, when you invest your money, time and it's something you believe in, it will hit in the long run. Monster is proven."

Monster, which was founded by Lee in 1978, became known for selling pricey video and audio cables. Monster eventually partnered with Beats, launching Beats by Dre in 2008. Both companies flourished together over the next five years. In its last year with Monster, 2012, Beats by Dre captured 53 percent of the $1 billion annual headphone market, according to the NPD Group, a market research group.

MPD: Midland 17-year-old arrested on robbery charge

By Tyler White
twhite@mrt.com

A Midland teenager was arrested Friday after he was found in possession of stolen merchandise at Midland Park Mall, according to court documents.

Ian O. Kepple, 17, is being held on a $50,000 bond for a second-degree felony charge of robbery.

Kepple

A Midland police officer responded to a theft at about 5:30 p.m. Friday at the mall on Midkiff Road.

A mall security officer said Kepple went to Buckle, a clothing store, and gave an employee a wallet he had taken from the store. He then took off running, but the security officer caught Kepple in the parking lot.

Kepple hit the officer in the face with his elbow, resulting in the theft charge being upgraded to robbery, according to the arrest affidavit.

He also was found in possession of several stolen shirts, which were valued at less than $500, according to the affidavit.

Kepple was arrested in November for his involvement in more than 50 cases of vandalism across Midland. Kepple and three other teens used a BB gun to shoot out the windows of vehicles, businesses and residences. A 4-year-old boy was injured in one incident, according to Reporter-Telegram records.

If convicted, Kepple faces up to 20 years in prison for the second-degree felony charge.

Officials with Lubbock's Salvation Army look for woman who donated ring

Associated Press

LUBBOCK — A West Texas widow's anonymous donation of a ring at a Salvation Army red kettle has prompted an effort to get the piece of jewelry that belonged to her late husband back to her.

The woman dropped the ring into a red kettle outside a supermarket in Lubbock on Monday evening.

The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal reported the woman attached a note to the ring. It read in part, "In honor of my husband who passed away seven years ago today. He was my Angel and I know he continues to watch over me and his family. He had a giving heart and would want to help however he could. This was his ring. It's not much but I hope it helps ... Merry Christmas & GOD BLESS."

Money donated to the Salvation Army is used to provide services such as shelter, rent and utility assistance and disaster services.

Justin Eatherly, a spokesman for The Salvation Army of Lubbock, said his organization is now looking for the ring's owner after a man who was moved by her story offered to pay for the ring if it could be returned to her. Eatherly said the man is remaining anonymous.

"He lost his wife a few years back and he still wears her ring around his neck daily," Eatherly said.

The ring that the woman donated at the kettle was appraised at $250.

"It is very nice, real gold, and has a small diamond inside of it," he said.

Rings and other jewelry have been donated before — or even fallen accidentally into the red kettles, Eatherly said. But this was the first time that one was left with a note attached to it, he said.

Health care divides some Republican Senate rivals

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Republicans see the 2014 midterm elections as a chance to capitalize on voter frustration with the problem-plagued health care overhaul, but the GOP first must settle a slate of Senate primaries where conservatives are arguing over the best way to oppose President Barack Obama's signature law.

In intraparty skirmishes from Georgia to Nebraska, the GOP's most strident candidates and activists are insisting on a no-holds-barred approach. They accuse fellow Republicans — including several incumbent senators — of being too soft in their opposition to the Affordable Care Act and to the president in general.

The outcomes will help determine just how conservative the Senate Republican caucus will be during Obama's final two years. And they could influence which party controls the chamber, with Democrats hoping that the most uncompromising Republican standard-bearers will emerge from the primaries and fare as poorly in general elections as their counterparts did in several 2012 Senate races. Republicans need to gain six seats for a majority.

Republican Rep. Jack Kingston, of Georgia, who wants to succeed retiring GOP Sen. Saxby Chambliss, stepped into the rift recently when he seemed to scold much of his party during an interview on a conservative talk radio show.

"A lot of conservatives say, 'Nah, just step back and let this thing fall to pieces on its own,' Kingston said. "Well, I don't think that's always the responsible thing to do."

Rep. Paul Broun, one of Kingston's rivals in a crowded primary field, pounced immediately, declaring in an Internet ad, "I don't want to fix Obamacare, I want to get rid of it." Conservative commentators hammered Kingston with headlines like "Kingston has surrendered on Obamacare."

FELONY ARRESTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Junior A. Almazar, 23, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of burglary of a habitation.

Brandon S. Barrios, 38, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of assault of a family or house member.

Brett R. Cunningham, 19, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of violation of probation.

Taljavee V. Dean, 21, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of hindering the apprehension or prosecution of a known felon.

Jesus E. Guzman, 26, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

Gabriel Herrera, 33, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of injury to a child, elderly or disabled person.

Gregory S. Hood, 46, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of hindering the apprehension or prosecution of a known felon.

Sergio V. Ramos, 38, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of violation of probation.

Dominique J. Vigil, 20, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of hindering the apprehension or prosecution of a known felon.

Source: Midland County Sheriff's Office

Top business story in 2013: Booming stock markets

By Josh Boak
Associated Press

It was an easy year to emulate Warren Buffett even as Congress almost wrecked the economy.

U.S. stocks rocketed to new heights, and markets in Japan and Europe jumped, tob. The gains enriched investors and defied a still-subpar economic rebound from the Great Recession.

Budget fights closed much of the U.S. government for 16 days. Leaked classified documents showed that the National Security Agency collected private online communications via Internet companies. The disastrous rollout of President Barack Obama's health care law confirmed fears of a bureaucratic train wreck.

Central banks embarked on a shopping spree. JPMorgan Chase paid a record $13 billion for its role in the housing bust. General Motors flashed signs of its old horsepower. A colossal merger for American Airlines and US Airways took flight. Twitter's IPO recalled the dizzy dot-com era. And the heartbreaking deaths of 1,100 garment workers in Bangladesh showed that some overseas factories serving U.S. companies remain unsafe.

The stock market boom was chosen as the top business story of 2013 by business editors at The Associated Press. Washington's gridlock and dysfunction came in second, followed by revelations involving the NSA.

Here are the top 10 business stories of 2013:

1. STOCK MARKETS SURGE: The Dow Jones industrial average set a record in March and hardly stopped to celebrate. The blue chip average has soared roughly 25 percent so far, its best performance in a decade. Stocks stand out as among the few areas of the economy to fully recover from the 2008 financial crisis.

The Federal Reserve's bond purchases helped cut long-term interest rates, making stocks more alluring than bonds. Also, companies boosted share prices through an unusually large $751 billion in stock buybacks. And corporate profits achieved a record share of the U.S. economy. The explosiveness of the stock rally prompted fears of a bubble because economic growth has been tepid by historical standards.

2. FEDERAL CHAOS: Congress nearly derailed the economy — not once but several times. Lawmakers allowed a Social Security tax cut to lapse after Jan. 1, which shrank Americans' paychecks. Then they let deep federal spending cuts take effect in March because they couldn't agree on a budget. The dysfunction peaked in October: Unable to pass a 2014 budget, Congress shut down part of the government for 16 days. National parks were closed. Federal employees stayed home. The government even risked a default on its debt until, with just hours to spare, Congress reopened the government and by December forged a two-year budget deal.

3. TECH COMPANIES AND NSA: Big Brother has logged on. The U.S. government gathered data on online messages through a program that's intended to stop terrorism but that touches the communications of ordinary Americans. Internet companies already track users and then sell customized digital advertising. But they reacted indignantly after documents leaked by a former NSA contractor said the agency had backdoors at Google, Yahoo, Facebook, Apple and Microsoft. The companies said they provided data only as required by federal courts.

4. JPMORGAN CHASE: The biggest U.S. bank agreed to pay $13 billion for its part in the housing frenzy that sparked the financial crisis. The agreement dwarfed the previous record settlement with the government: $4 billion against BP for its 2010 oil spill. JPMorgan Chase and banks it had acquired had misled Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac about mortgage bonds it sold them that later went belly up. The settlement represented 60 percent of JPMorgan's 2012 net income.

5. HEALTH CARE LAW: The medicine didn't go down smoothly when the new health care law launched in November. It was almost impossible for uninsured individuals and small businesses to sign up on the glitch-ridden federal website. The Obama administration swung into emergency mode to fix the site. But businesses would need to enroll with paper applications until November 2014. The insurance plans offered online also drew sour reviews. Premiums rose for some small businesses. Others were unhappy with the limited plans and doctor networks.

6. CENTRAL BANKS GO LOW: The Fed and other central banks supported growth by keeping rates ultra-low. Investors, home buyers and corporations benefited. But many who depend on income from savings accounts suffered. Chairman Ben Bernanke kept the Fed's key short-term rate near zero and abandoned previous guidance about when a rate increase might eventually occur. The Fed finally decided in December to pare its bond buying program but will do so very gradually.

7. BANGLADESH FACTORY: Cheap jeans and T-shirts can impose a human cost. That was driven home in April, when a building in Bangladesh that housed garment factories collapsed and killed more than 1,100 people. The tragedy put pressure on clothiers and retailers such as Wal-Mart, the Gap and H&M to upgrade their working conditions in that nation. The overstuffed building had cracked from the weight of industrial machines. Angry garment workers in Bangladesh burned down a nine-story building in November. Protesters managed to secure a 77 percent minimum wage increase to the equivalent of $3.17 a day for new unskilled workers.

8. AIRLINES MERGE: American Airlines emerged from bankruptcy with a bang — merging with US Airways to form the world's biggest airline. The new American Airlines Group handles 6,700 flights a day to 339 destinations. Despite closing the merger in December, the combined company will have to operate as two carriers until their fleets get approval to combine, likely within two years. Just four airlines now control 80 percent of the U.S. market. Less competition has returned airlines to profitability, but tickets are getting pricier as carriers limit seats.

9. TWITTER IPO: The business of 140-character blast communiques thrilled Wall Street. Twitter went public in November at $26 a share; the price has since more than doubled. It was among 222 IPOs this year, the most since 2000. But Twitter is trading at an extremely high 50 times its projected annual revenue. That's evidence of both hype and the expectations being imposed on social media companies to deliver growth. Facebook's shares rebounded after its IPO flop last year. LinkedIn and Yelp also gained.

10. GM COMEBACK: Just six years ago, General Motors — and, by extension, much of the U.S. manufacturing base — needed taxpayer life support. But the automaker behind Chevy, Cadillac, Buick and GMC has roared back. The Treasury Department unwound its stake in GM this year at a $10.5 billion loss. But the government rescue saved more than 1 million jobs and helped return once-dominant GM to profitable health. It boasts $26.8 billion in cash, $1.3 billion to upgrade five factories and a new CEO: Mary Barra, the first female head of a major U.S. car company.

Greg DeRuiter/ Lansing State Journal

Dave Dora, a lineman from Grand Haven Board of Light and Power, works on connecting fallen wires on Macon Avenue in Lansing, Mich., on Monday. From Michigan to Maine, hundreds of thousands remain without power days after a massive ice storm — which one utility called the largest Christmas-week storm in its history — blacked out homes and businesses in the Great Lakes and Northeast.

Thousands left without power across US, Canada

Associated Press

LITCHFIELD, Maine — Utility crews from Maine to Michigan and into Canada worked Wednesday to restore power to more than half a million homes left in the dark by last weekend's ice storm, and people slowly trickled out of shelters to spend Christmas Day at their finally warm homes.

But not everyone was so lucky, including Ashley Walter, who was forced to spend Christmas at a shelter in a school in Litchfield with her husband, Jacob Walter, and their month-old daughter, Leah.

The family lost power Saturday, got it back temporarily then lost it again Sunday and has been without since. Ashley Walter and Leah stay warm at the shelter while Jacob Walter makes frequent trips home to check on their cats and water pipes.

"It's definitely kind of strange, but we're hanging in there," she said Wednesday about the challenge of being forced out of their home at Christmas. "We did our Christmas together last night. I packed little stockings and gave them to my husband, sisters and my daughter."

The frigid temperatures that cloaked a region from the Great Lakes to New England meant that ice remained on power lines and tree limbs. Officials worried that wind gusts of more than 20 mph could bring down more branches and that 2 to 6 inches of snow in places on Thursday would hamper line crews trying to get to remote spots.

"We've had two beautiful, sunny days in Maine, and the ice isn't going anyplace," Maine Emergency Management Agency spokeswoman Lynette Miller said. "They're very concerned about more weight coming down on trees that are already compromised by ice."

The ice storm last weekend was one of the worst to hit during a Christmas week, and repair crews were working around the clock to restore service. States that weren't hit were sending crews to help.

Authorities blamed the storm for 17 deaths in the U.S. and 10 in Canada. Five people in Canada died from carbon monoxide poisoning from emergency generators powering their homes, while two people in Michigan, a man in Maine and a man in Vermont also died from the poisonous fumes.

In Michigan, police said a woman died Christmas Eve when her vehicle ran a stop light that was out of service because of the ice storm and collided with a pickup truck.

About 140,000 homes were still without power in Michigan, down from more than 500,000 at the storm's peak.

In Canada, about 160,000 customers were without power. There were 72,000 customers without power in Toronto, down from 300,000 at the height of the outages, and Mayor Rob Ford said some may not have power restored until the weekend.

Back in Maine, about 60,000 people were without power, down from a high of 106,000. Trudy Lamoreau was supervising the emergency shelter where about 25 people stayed Tuesday night. Lamoreau, who's also the town manager, said they warmed the shelter with generators until the school got power back late Tuesday night.

"People are doing quite well considering the circumstances," she said.

Volunteers tried to make the shelter homey, including cooking up a ham dinner with potatoes, vegetables, bread and pie for dessert for Christmas.

Ashley Walter said the volunteers had been "amazing," setting up a separate room for her and Leah so they wouldn't disturb others when the infant woke during the night.

"They just try to make everything better for us," she said.

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OPINION

'Duck Dynasty' star exposes ideas on gay rights

■ Profit, not high-minded principles such as equal rights or freedom of religion, is the real coin of the realm

KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

It's Christmas and a strange white-bearded fellow uttering quack-quack-quack has streaked across the continent, dumping a large sack of something on America's hearth.

Phil Robertson — millionaire star of "Duck Dynasty"— seems an unlikely antagonist as 2013 wraps up. As all sentient beings know by now, he was suspended from the wildly popular A&E program for comments he made about gays during a recent GQ interview.

Suddenly our nation is consumed anew with impassioned debate about nearly every foundational principle — freedom of speech, religious freedom, civil rights and same-sex marriage.

The latter is relatively uncontroversial in some states and most urban areas, but not in rural America where hunters convene — or among fundamentalist Christians, for whom biblical literalism is a virtue — and certainly not among millions of "Duck Dynasty" fans. Needless to say, these three groups overlap considerably.

Robertson isn't just a megastar in waterfowl world; he is the composite character so loathed by liberals and certain elites who would nigh perish at the thought of close contact with his sort — white, fundamentalist, Bible-thumping, duck-killing yahoo who somehow missed the civil rights movement, not to mention the New England Enlightenment.

Distilled, Robertson said two things in particular that provoked protests outside the bayou. One, that homosexual acts are sins, which is hardly news among recipients of the Gospel (hate the sin, love the sinner). Two, he said that African-Americans he worked with during the Jim Crow era were just fine. "They were godly; they were happy; no one was singing the blues," he said.

Except, of course, many blacks were singing the blues and had been since about the 19th century when plantation slaves invented the genre while toiling in the Mississippi Delta not far from Robertson's haunts.

Robertson's words released an onslaught of fire and brimstone not seen since God unleashed his fury on Sodom. Speaking of which, it is tempting to note that God was rather selective in his outrage back then. Furious with homosexuals, he seemed to have no problem with Lot, whom he saved, when Lot offered his virgin daughters to townsmen who were demanding to "know" the angels hanging with Lot that God had sent to destroy Sodom.

Similarly, sort of, Robertson's fans didn't seem to care much about the vile, X-rated imagery he used to make his point to GQ concerning the relative merits of human apertures for sexual gratification. Granted, GQ is read mostly by old teenagers and young adults, but is this really the fellow Christians want instructing America's camouflaged kiddos?

Robertson's blunt talk caused a stir not because he was delivering tablets from the burning bush but because he was clearly speaking outside his wheelhouse to the detriment of people whose equal rights — even their very lives — are endangered, by such talk. Robertson may "love the sinner," but you sure can't tell.

Executives at A&E clearly were banking on hicks acting like hicks, not expressing what they actually think. But then, what did they expect from a Louisiana duck-call whittlin', part-time preacher, for Pete's sake? *"Aw, shucks, the more love in the world the better, is what I always say."*

To the greater point, the fact that a healthy if dwindling percentage of the country feels helplessly opposed to redefining marriage reveals a existential divide that won't easily be bridged. Robertson didn't create it; he exposed it.

He also helped illuminate our persistent confusion about gay rights. South Carolina's largest newspaper, The State, recently featured two stories back to back — one dealing with "Duck Dynasty" fans protesting Robertson's indefinite hiatus, the other about Methodists defrocking Frank Schaefer for performing his gay son's marriage.

One is damned for being anti-gay marriage and the other for being pro — both in the name of the same deity, presumably. So which is it? The Christian, as well as the constitutional, way seems to me the latter. But fundamentalism, regardless of religion, finds refuge in the toxic swamp of moral certitude.

In other near certainties, Robertson reportedly will be back on the show when it returns in January. With shelves emptied of "Duck Dynasty" paraphernalia by loyal consumers, and A&E facing boycott threats, there's too much money at stake.

Profit, not equal rights or freedom of religion or any of the other high-minded principles we seize to bolster our selective outrage, is the real coin of the realm. And, as if you didn't know, it quacks like a duck.

OUR VIEW

Riley's Bar and Grill displays giving spirit

We were thrilled to discover one local business' longtime holiday tradition. For the past 35 years, Riley's Bar and Grill, on Wall Street, has been serving a free holiday buffet for its regular customers and anyone else who wants to participate.

And this generosity occurs not only on Christmas Day. Riley's also prepares free homecooked meals on Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

This is yet another example of Midlanders' giving spirit and why the Tall City is a wonderful place to call home.

"We do this just to give back to people," said Riley's general manager, Brandon Sandifer. "... [A] lot of our customers don't have families. This is their family. This is my family."

You would expect nonprofit agencies such as the Midland Soup Kitchen to feed residents who otherwise might not have anywhere to eat on the holidays.

But it is gratifying to know that a private business such as Riley's has chosen to open its doors on Christmas to provide a hot meal and companionship for Midlanders who might be alone or who are in need.

And it appears that the effort made by Sandifer and Riley's staff was appreciated. As staff writer Joe Basco reported, the patrons "all thanked the kitchen staff for the excellent meal" and wished one another a Merry Christmas.

In a city that is known for its philanthropy, we realize that Riley's may not be the only business or company that fed the "least of my brothers" (Matthew 25:40) on Christmas Day.

We want to hear about other stories such as this. If anyone has been touched by the generosity of a business or individual this Christmas season, let us know at news@mrt.com.

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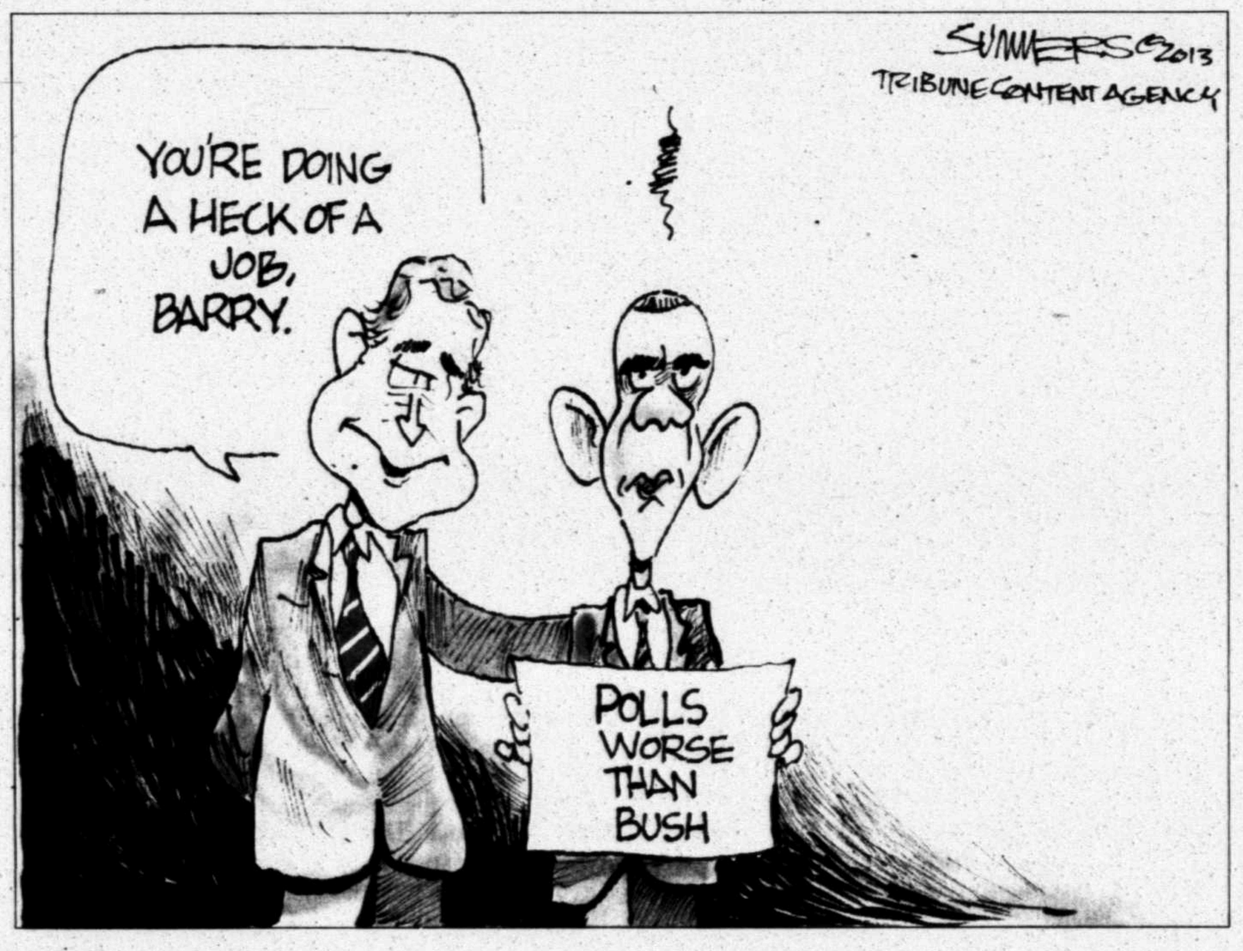


Christians shouldn't 'demand' tolerance

■ Controversy surrounding Phil Robertson likely will translate to higher ratings for 'Duck Dynasty'

CAL THOMAS
Tribune Content Agency

The outrage industry was in high dudgeon just before Christmas over remarks "Duck Dynasty" family patriarch, Phil Robertson, made to GQ magazine about homosexuality. Outrage is the primary ingredient for political fundraising and political power. One must always have an enemy.

Let's go down the "I Take Offense" checklist and make sure all the boxes were "ticked" before considering a larger point.

■ Liberal New York writer goes slumming among the hayseeds in Louisiana and deliberately creates a controversy by asking a Bible-loving Christian to define sin. Check.

■ Bible-reading Christian quotes from that book and is condemned by those who don't read or believe what it says, or have a different "interpretation" (same thing). Check.

■ The A&E Network, on which the highest-rated cable TV show is shown (up to 14 million viewers), quickly issues an apology and "full support" for the LGBT community. Check.

■ Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal issues a statement noting that the twerking Miley Cyrus gets laughs, while Phil Robertson is put on indefinite hiatus. Check.

■ The right to free speech is defended amidst allegations that quoting the Bible promotes hate and violence against gays. Check.

■ Various high-profile Christians, among them former governors, Sarah Palin, of Alaska, and Mike Huckabee, of Arkansas, and U.S. Sen. Senator Ted Cruz, R-Texas, denounce the "double standard" when it comes to their beliefs and the tolerance, even promotion, of beliefs and practices anathema to them. Check.

■ Both sides send out fundraising appeals that ask for contributions to (pick one) fight the intolerance, hate and bigotry of the fundamentalists and their Republican allies (liberals), or keep America from sliding into the moral and cultural pit from anti-God Christian bashers (conservatives). Check. Check.

There. Now, does everyone feel better? Has everyone had their say? Has anything changed? It might, if the Robertson family carries through on its implied threat to "walk" from the show if Phil is not allowed to continue on "Duck Dynasty." I don't know what their contract allows, but if it permits them to leave, or if they are fired "for cause," they are likely to "walk" their hit show and its huge audience to another network.

Now to the larger point. Christians who read the Bible, as Phil Robertson does, should be aware of verses other than the ones that list people it says can't enter God's kingdom apart from faith in Jesus, who changes behavior and forgives the past. That list, by the way, includes "all liars," which should put the fear of God into most politicians. (See Revelation 21:8)

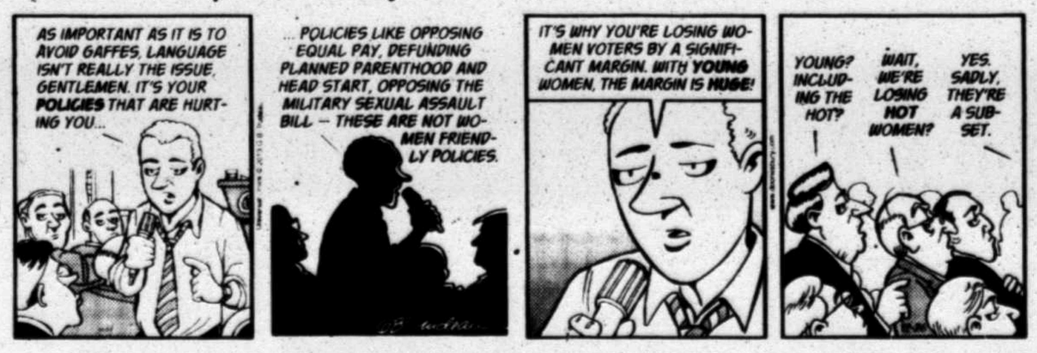
Other passages say Christians should expect persecution, even hate, because Jesus said they would. "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first" (John 15:18) and "In the world you will have tribulation" (John 16:33).

Christians should not "demand" respect and "tolerance" for their beliefs when their leader said to expect the opposite. Sure, they can point out hypocrisy (it is something in which they occasionally engage), but they should be known less for what they are against, than who they are for.

Condemnation ought not to be the first words out of their mouths when it comes to the beliefs and lifestyles of others. Quite the opposite. Phil Robertson must be familiar with this verse: "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:17)

Here's a New Year's prediction: "Duck Dynasty" will be back with Phil Robertson, either on A&E or another network. When it returns, the ratings will be even higher and the profits larger. As Sy Robertson might put it, "and that's a fact, Jack."

From the Left | Doonesbury



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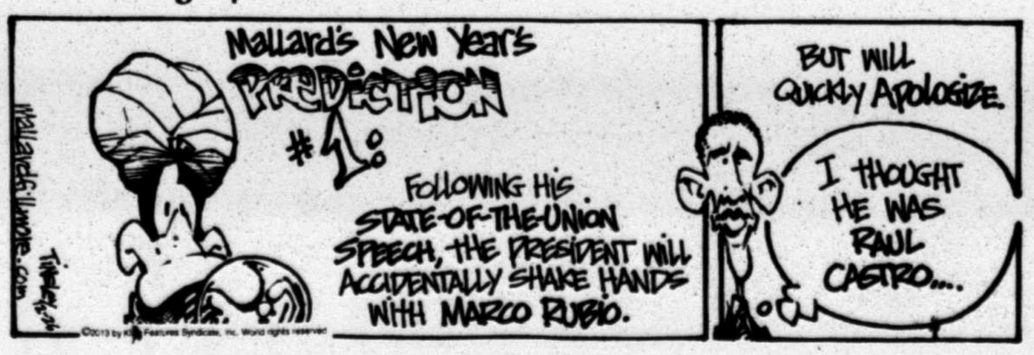

Tom Smart/The Deseret News

About 1,500 people gather to celebrate marriage equality after a federal judge declined to stay his ruling that legalized same-sex marriage in Utah, at Washington Square just outside of the Salt Lake City and County Building on Monday in Salt Lake City.

Gay marriage's latest frontier: state courts

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Advocates on both sides of the gay marriage debate predicted that the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June that overturned part of a federal ban on gay marriage would create a pathway for states to act.

They were right.

In the six months since the decision, the number of states allowing gay marriage has jumped from 12 to 18, a trend that started before the high court ruling that's been reinforced since. Judges in New Mexico, Ohio and, most surprisingly, conservative, Mormon-heavy Utah all ruled in favor of same-sex marriage in just the past week. Both Utah's case and another in Nevada will next be heard by federal appeals courts, putting them on the path toward the high court. Ohio's case, which recognized same-sex death certificates, also will likely be appealed.

The series of court decisions has many asking: When will the Supreme Court step in and settle the issue for good?

It may not be that simple.

The cases on the path to the Supreme Court now differ little from a case justices refused to hear in June, at the same time they made their landmark ruling on the federal law denying tax, health and other benefits to legally married same-sex couples.

That case, from California, hinged on a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

If the justices had acted, it would have struck down gay marriage prohibitions across the country.

Instead, the justices passed, relying instead on a technical legal argument to resolve the California case and clear the way for same-sex marriage in the state, which resumed at the end of June.

That convinces some legal scholars that the high court won't take up the issue again so soon. In a way, they've already passed the buck to the states, some say, including language in their Defense of Marriage Act ruling saying it relegates same-sex marriages to second-class status, and "humiliates tens of thousands of children now being raised by same-sex couples."

That language makes it clear state bans are ripe for challenge, said Andrew Koppelman, a professor of law and political science at Northwestern University. Language from both Justice Anthony Kennedy's majority opinion and Justice Antonin Scalia's biting dissent have appeared prominently in subsequent court challenges and rulings, including in Utah and Ohio. A federal judge in Ohio ordered officials to recognize gay marriages on death certificates.

"The Supreme Court has given them ammunition to go there if that's where they want to go," Koppelman said.

Alongside state court decisions has come a shift in public sentiment about gay marriage. Only one-third of Americans oppose gay marriage, down from 45 percent in 2011, an AP-GfK October poll showed.

With Utah's ban struck down, 28 states still have constitutional prohibitions on same-sex marriage. Another four states — Indiana, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Wyoming — do not permit it through state laws.

Attorneys and proponents say this is the civil rights issue for the current generation, comparing the scenes of gay couples marrying at county clerks offices to blacks breaking racial barriers in the 1960s.

More state rulings in favor of gay marriage could be in the works in 2014. The thinking goes, if it can happen in ultra-conservative Utah, it can happen anywhere. Utah is home to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which still teaches its members homosexuality is a sin despite a softening of their rhetoric in recent years.

"The ruling has had a symbolic impact already," Jon Davidson, director of Lambda Legal, which pursues litigation on LGBT issues nationwide. "It is recognition that the nation's attitudes, from public to legislative to judicial, are changing very rapidly in all parts of the country."

"And the opponents, many of them, are moving on," said William Eskridge, a professor at Yale Law School. "We are not seeing the same kind of Armageddon rhetoric we saw in the 1990s."

A federal judge in Michigan will hear testimony from experts in February before deciding whether to throw out the state's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. Two federal lawsuits in Virginia, including one being led by the same legal team that challenged California's ban, are moving forward.

Eskridge disagrees with those who say the Supreme Court won't act, predicting justices will get involved in the gay marriage dispute in the next year or two.

Different branches of the government are acting, he said — lawmakers, state courts, and federal courts — which could convince the justices to step in.

The long-term trend in favor of acceptance of same-sex marriage affects the courts. As each state's same-sex marriage ban is struck down, it serves as a domino effect helping make the next legal challenge easier, said Jon Davidson, director of Lambda Legal, which pursues litigation on LGBT issues nationwide. The Ohio ruling this week cited the Utah ruling from last week.

"You are going to see more federal courts do what just happened in Ohio and Utah," Koppelman predicted.

Capitol's dome set for 2-year renovation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A world-famous symbol of democracy is going under cover, as workers start a two-year, $60 million renovation of the U.S. Capitol dome.

Curved rows of scaffolds, like Saturn's rings, will encircle it next spring, enabling contractors to strip multiple layers of paint and repair more than 1,000 cracks and broken pieces. The dome will remain illuminated at night and partly visible through the scaffolding and paint-capturing cloths. But the Washington icon — and portions of the Rotunda's painted ceiling that lies below — will be significantly obscured for many months.

The project is beginning just as the nearby Washington Monument sheds scaffolding that was used to repair damage from a 2011 earthquake.

Half-completed when Abraham Lincoln stood beneath it to summon "the better angels of our nature" in 1861, the Capitol dome has since towered over Washington, which limits building heights to 130 feet.

Time, however, has let water seep through hundreds of cracks. The water attacks cast iron, which "continues to rust and rust and rust," said Stephen T. Ayers, Architect of the Capitol.

This first major renovation in more than 50 years should add decades of structural integrity to the dome, which Ayers calls perhaps "the most recognizable symbol across the globe." The $60 million undertaking will heal inner wounds, he said, without changing the way the dome looks from the ground.

Much of the work will be done at night and on weekends. It won't be as flashy as the 1993 helicopter removal and return of the 19-foot Statue of Freedom from the dome's top.

The Capitol's crowning piece is actually two domes, one nested under the other like Russian dolls, and separated by a web of cast iron braces hidden from view. From the ground it looks like a massive structure that would be too heavy for the building to support if it were indeed made of the solid stone it appears to be.

Malcolm Denemark/Florida Today

A surfing Santa Claus hits the waves Tuesday during the fourth annual surfing Santas event in Cocoa Beach, Fla. Organizer George Trosset said he may move the holiday event to downtown Cocoa Beach next year to accommodate growing crowds. He started the tradition in 2009 with a few family members after seeing a television commercial featuring people surfing in Santa Claus attire.

Surfers dressed as Santa Claus gather in Florida

Associated Press

COCOA BEACH, Fla. — More than 210 surfers dressed as Santa Claus, elves and snowmen were surfing the Christmas Eve waves off central Florida's Atlantic coast.

Florida Today reported that when Cocoa Beach Mayor Dave Netterstrom took in the view from the sand Tuesday, he declared the fourth-annual gathering "the largest surfing Santa event on the planet."

Organizer George Trosset said he may move the holiday event to downtown Cocoa Beach next year to accommodate growing crowds. He started the tradition in 2009 with a few family members after seeing a television commercial featuring people surfing in Santa Claus attire.

More friends joined them the following year, and in 2012, nearly 160 surfers participated. Trosset said the event "has gone from being a little family party to being a community event."

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Gregorio Borgia/AP

Pope Francis delivers his "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and to the world) message from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on Wednesday. Pope Francis on Christmas day is wishing for a better world, with peace for the land of Jesus' birth, for Syria and Africa as well as for the dignity of migrants and refugees fleeing misery and conflict. Francis spoke from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica Wednesday to tens of thousands of tourists, pilgrims and Romans in the square below. He said he was joining in the song of Christmas angels with all those hoping "for a better world," and with those who "care for others, humbly."

Pope's Christmas wish: hope for a better world

By Frances D'Emilio
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis offered Christmas wishes Wednesday for a better world, praying for protection for Christians under attack, battered women and trafficked children, peace in the Middle East and Africa, and dignity for refugees fleeing misery and conflict around the globe.

Francis delivered the traditional "Urbi et Orbi" (Latin for "to the city and to the world") speech from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to more than 70,000 cheering tourists, pilgrims and Romans in the square below.

In his first Christmas message since being elected pontiff in March, he asked for all to share in the song of Christmas angels, "for every man or woman ... who hopes for a better world, who cares for others," humbly.

Among places ravaged by conflict, Francis singled out Syria, which saw its third Christmas during civil war; South Sudan; the Central African Republic; Nigeria; and Iraq.

In Iraq on Wednesday, militants targeted Christians in two attacks, including a bomb that exploded near a church during Christmas Mass in Baghdad. The separate bombings killed dozens of people.

The Vatican has been trying to raise concern in the world for persecution and attacks on Christians in parts of the Middle East and Africa.

"Lord of life, protect all who are persecuted in your name," Francis said.

Adding an off-the-cuff remark, Francis said he was also inviting non-believers to join their desire for peace with everyone else.

The pope also prayed that God "bless the land where you chose to come into the world and grant a favorable outcome to the peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians."

Francis then explained his concept of peace.

"True peace is not a balancing of opposing forces. It's not a lovely facade which conceals conflicts and divisions," the pope said. "Peace calls for daily commitment," Francis said, reading the pages of his speech as they were ruffled by a chilly wind.

Francis also spoke of the lives of everyday people, especially those struggling for a better life.

Recalling the hundreds of migrants who have drowned this year while trying to reach European shores, including many close to the Italian island of Lampedusa, Francis prayed that refugees receive hope, consolation and assistance.

He added that "our thoughts turn to those children who are the most vulnerable victims of wars, but we think, too, of the elderly, of battered women" and others.

The 77-year-old pope kept to the simple style he has set for his papacy. Wearing a plain white cassock, Francis presented a sharp contrast in appearance to the pope who stood on the same balcony on Christmas exactly a year ago. Then Benedict XVI, who was soon to stun the world by retiring, read his Christmas speech while dressed in a crimson, ermine-trimmed cape. Benedict lives on the Vatican grounds, and Francis paid a holiday call on him earlier this week.

In another break with tradition, the Argentine-born Francis stuck to Italian for his Christmas greetings, forsaking a custom of wishing happy holidays in dozens of languages to the crowd below the balcony.

In the Mideast, pilgrims celebrated Christmas in the ancient Bethlehem church where tradition holds Jesus was born, as candles illuminated the sacred site and the joyous sound of prayer filled its overflowing halls.

This year's turnout was the largest in years in Bethlehem, and the celebrations have been marked by careful optimism amid ongoing Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. Leaders expressed hope the coming year would finally bring the Palestinians an independent state of their own.

The top Roman Catholic cleric in the Holy Land, Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal, led a prayer for some 1,000 worshippers. "The whole world now is looking at Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus," Twal said in his annual address, adding that the message of Jesus was one of "love and reconciliation."

Bethlehem lies 6 miles south of Jerusalem. Entry to the city is controlled by Israel, which occupied the West Bank in 1967.

Following a Palestinian uprising that began in 2000, the numbers of visitors to Bethlehem had plunged. But thanks to a period of relative calm, they have been steadily climbing in recent years.

Iskandar Salameh, an 18-year-old Palestinian, said the Christmas spirit was uniting those gathered Wednesday. "We all feel that Jesus is with us today," he said.

In Britain, the royal family turned out in force for a Christmas church service, but the newest family member, Prince George, son of Prince William and Kate, was nowhere in sight.

Cicely Howard said she asked about the baby when she greeted Kate outside the church. Howard told the British news agency Press Association that Kate described George as being "more interested in the wrapping paper than the presents." Britain's Queen Elizabeth in a pre-recorded Christmas message urged reflection among the distractions of the holiday period.

In his speech, Pope Francis also recalled the victims of natural disasters, especially Filipinos suffering from the recent typhoon in their homeland.

In North America, many spent a dark and cold holiday following an ice storm.

President Barack Obama encouraged fellow Americans to embrace the spirit of Christmas by volunteering at soup kitchens, buying presents for children in need or organizing food or clothing donation drives.

Al-Qaida leader targets UN workers

By Qassim Abdul-Zahra
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The shadowy leader of a powerful al-Qaida group fighting in Syria sought to kidnap United Nations workers and scrawled out plans for his aides to take over in the event of his death, according to excerpts of letters obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press.

Iraqi intelligence officials offered the AP the letters, as well as the first known photograph of the Nusra Front leader, Abu Mohammed al-Golani, the head of one of the most powerful bands of radicals fighting the Syrian government in the country's civil war.

The officials said they obtained the information about al-Golani after they captured members of another al-Qaida group in September. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to journalists.

"I was told by a soldier that he observed some of the workers of the U.N. and he will kidnap them. I ask God for his success," read an excerpt of a letter given by officials from Iraq's Falcon Intelligence Cell, an anti-terrorism unit that works under Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

The officials said other letters planned the kidnapping and killing of other foreigners, and Syrian and Iraqi civilians.

One U.N. worker was kidnapped for eight months in Syria and was released in October. Another two dozen U.N. peacekeepers were briefly held this year. It's not clear if those abductions had any relation to al-Golani's letters.

Syria's uprising began with peaceful protests, but it turned into an armed uprising after Assad's forces cracked down on demonstrators.

Since then, hard-line Islamic brigades have emerged as the strongest rebel forces in Syria, chiefly among them the Nusra Front.

Under al-Golani's leadership, it has dominated rebel-held parts of southern Syria, and it is a powerful fighting force in the Damascus countryside and northern Syria, with an estimated force of 6,000 to 7,000 fighters.

Al-Maliki's Shiite-majority government is considered a quiet ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad. The officials may have released the letter excerpts to underscore the dominance of al-Qaida in Syria.

The intelligence officials did not where they found the al-Qaida fighters who handed over the documents. They also would not say when the letters were written, though they said it represented a tiny sample of a large cache of documents.

The officials couldn't explain why the letter excerpts were in a sloppily written, grammatically incorrect version of an Arabic dialect used across the Levant. It is believed that al-Golani was an Arabic teacher before he rose through al-Qaida's ranks, and typically hard-line Muslims try to write in classical Arabic.

It may have been that an aide was writing down al-Golani's speech. Arabs typically speak in dialects that are often quite different from the classical Arabic.

"The claim by Iraqi intelligence that Jolani and by extension, Jabhat al-Nusra, have been behind an explicit policy of kidnapping U.N. workers should be treated with some suspicion," said Charles Lister, a prominent analyst of Syria's militant groups. He referred to the Nusra Front by its Arabic name. "While it might well be true, elements within Iraq's security services have a clear interest in portraying jihadists in Syria and Iraq in a highly negative light."

Little is known about al-Golani, including his real name. He is believed to be 39 years old. The photograph suggests a man in his thirties.

Al-Golani is a nom de guerre, indicating he was born in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

A Syrian native, he joined the insurgency after moving to Iraq.

He advanced through al-Qaida's ranks and eventually became a close associate of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian-born leader of the militant group al-Qaida in Iraq.

He eventually returned to Syria shortly after the uprising against Assad began in March 2011, where he formed the Nusra Front, first announced in January 2012.

The group gained prominence in April after Golani rejected an attempted takeover of the Nusra Front by another rival al-Qaida group, now known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Iraqi intelligence officials said it was members of ISIL who gave them the information about al-Golani.

Activists say 2013 dark year for Saudi rights

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — With global attention focused on upheaval elsewhere in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia quietly intensified its clampdown on dissent in 2013, silencing democracy advocates and human rights defenders with arrests, trials and intimidation in what reformists say was one of the darkest years ever for their efforts in the powerful U.S.-allied Gulf state.

The clampdown reflects the highly delicate times that the world's top oil producer is passing through.

The monarchy is trying to modernize the country's economy to reduce its reliance on oil revenues and create a more diverse private sector to provide jobs for a grumbling population. To manage the shifts, activists say it has manipulated the divisions in Saudi society, playing on tribal sentiments and shifting between Saudis who seek a more liberal lifestyle and the ultraconservative Wahhabi clerics who traditionally give the royal family legitimacy.

As it navigates those currents, the monarchy is blunting calls for political reform, fearing an Arab Spring-style upheaval that would rattle the ruling family's grip on power.

This year, at least nine prominent reformers were given lengthy jail sentences for offenses including "breaking allegiance with the king." A leading rights lawyer was forced to flee the kingdom for fear of arrest.

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New Year's Day
The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed
Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Jan. 1st	Tues., Dec. 31st, NOON
Thurs., Jan. 2nd	Tues., Dec. 31st, 2 PM

Classified Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Jan. 1st	Mon., Dec. 30th, 5 PM
Thurs., Jan. 2nd	Mon., Dec. 30th,, 5 PM
Fri., Jan. 3rd	Tues., Dec. 31st, NOON

Retail Display Ads

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Wed., Jan 1st	Mon., Dec. 30th, 5 PM
Thurs., Jan 2nd	Mon., Dec. 30th, 5 PM
Sun., Jan 5th (Oil Report/West Texas Living, Arts & Ent.)	Mon., Dec. 30th, 5 PM
Fri., Jan 3rd	Tues., Dec. 31st, Noon

CIRCULATION HOURS
Subscriber service calls will be taken
Wednesday, January 1st from 7 AM-11 AM only.
The office will be open Thursday, Jan. 2nd from regular business hours.
Midland Reporter-Telegram

Celtic Heritage Society
Of The Permian Basin
Presents
Odessa Celtic Concert
December 28, 2013
Ector Theater
500 N. Texas Ave.
3:00pm-9:00pm
Entertainers
Marc Gunn • Scotland Rising • Cleghorn
Tickets
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Celtic Heritage Society of the Permian Basin
Sponsors for the Odessa Celtic Concert

WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

WEEKEND TO-DO LIST

SATURDAY

LAST CHANCE
Golden Legacy: Original Art from 65 Years of Golden Books is on display through the weekend at Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum.

SUNDAY

RUSSIAN BALLET
Moscow Ballet brings traditional holiday ballet to Wagner Noel with "Great Russian Nutcracker."

MOVIES

New films this week at Midland theaters:

TALL CITY 14
"The Wolf of Wall Street," "47 Ronin," "Grudge Match," "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"

BIG SKY DRIVE-IN
"Grudge Match," "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"

CINERGY CINEMAS
"The Wolf of Wall Street," "47 Ronin," "Grudge Match," "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"

STAYING IN?

Find out which movies are worth watching from the comfort of your couch. **Page 3**

MUSIC

Catch Least of These, Phil Hamilton, Freeride and Hybrid Suns this weekend. **Page 2**

COMING SOON

Ector County Coliseum to host Sandhills Stockshow and Rodeo in January.

Styx to perform in the Basin early next year.

Find out what else is happening on **Page 2.**

From Shakespeare to outer space, 2013 had it all

By Tyler White
twhite@mrt.com

This year a slew of awful films hit the silver screen, but some movies were considered the diamonds in the rough. The following are the 10 best films of 2013, ranging from kid comedies to deep dramas. Also included are great movies that had minimal screenings at Midland-Odessa theaters, as well as a few films expected to be worth your time this holiday season.

THE TOP 10

10. "Much Ado About Nothing" Director Joss Whedon, creator of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and "Firefly," nails this cute modern-day adaptation of a Shakespeare classic. Fans of the legendary playwright will love the film's use of Shakespearean dialogue, and the ensemble cast seamlessly brought to life the story of two pairs of lovers.

9. "The Conjuring" This horror film follows paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren on one of their most disturbing cases of house possession. "The Conjuring" is a good mix of genuine scares and character development, while keeping the gore to a minimum. Viewers looking for a horror movie worth seeing this year should keep this one atop their list.

8. "Monsters University" Mike and Sully are back and trying to stay off academic probation in this prequel to the hit 2001 Pixar film, "Monsters, Inc." The beloved monster duo, voiced by Billy Crystal and John Goodman, get involved in college hijinks similar to "Animal House" and "Revenge of the Nerds" in a light-hearted, kid-friendly comedy. The film plays heavily off audience nostalgia, but it should not be any other way.

Please see **MOVIES**/Page 4

A little bit country, a little bit 'Save Rock and Roll'

By Tyler White
twhite@mrt.com

This year's discography of great albums is massive, with numerous career bests for several artists. Ranging from pop, R&B, rock to gospel, here are the Top 20 albums of 2013.

THE TOP 20

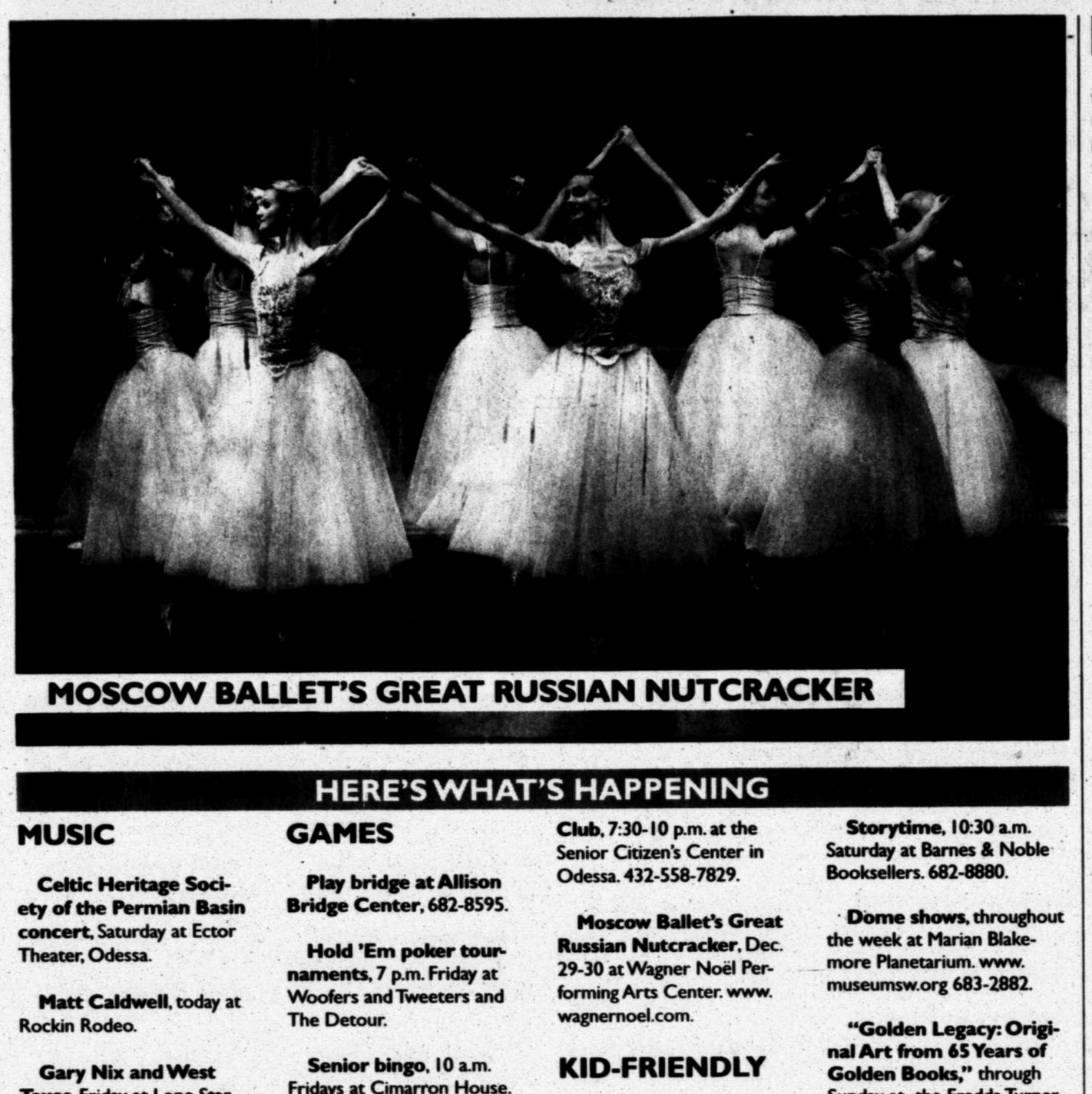
20. Daft Punk — "Random Access Memories" The French EDM duo's big comeback album provided one of the biggest singles of the year when they teamed up with Pharrell Williams for "Get Lucky." Other tracks such as "Lose Yourself to Dance" and the album's opener "Give Life Back to Music" offer great grooves, but "Random Access Memories" sounds more like a Zapp & Roger greatest hits compilation than a true Daft Punk album. It's great to have our enigmatic DJs back, but can we have them channel their old energy?
Key tracks: "Get Lucky" and "Doin' it Right"

19. Brad Paisley — "Wheelhouse" Brad Paisley is so endearing. Why? He's consistently good among the gamut of country acts. "Wheelhouse" continues to offer Paisley's signature feel-good lyrics that meld well with his guitar twang. "Beat This Summer" is a best for 2013 country music, and his collaborative efforts on "Pressing on a Bruise" and "Outstanding in our Field," show that Paisley's more fun with his buddies.
Key tracks: "Southern Comfort Zone" and "Beat This Summer"

18. Drake — "Nothing Was the Same" Coming off his massively successful 2011 LP, "Take Care," Drake has nothing to prove anymore. "Nothing was the Same" offers more of the same: Drake's analysis of fame, girls, weed and his haters. But he's growing into

Please see **MUSIC**/Page 4

CALENDAR



MOSCOW BALLET'S GREAT RUSSIAN NUTCRACKER

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING

MUSIC

Celtic Heritage Society of the Permian Basin concert, Saturday at Ector Theater, Odessa.

Matt Caldwell, today at Rockin Rodeo.

Gary Nix and West Texas, Friday at Lone Star Bar.

Ernesto Calderon, Saturday at The Wine Rack.

GAMES

Play bridge at Allison Bridge Center, 682-8595.

Hold 'Em poker tournaments, 7 p.m. Friday at Woofers and Tweeters and The Detour.

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

DANCE

Thursday Night Dance Club, 7:30-10 p.m. at the Senior Citizen's Center in Odessa. 432-558-7829.

Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker, Dec. 29-30 at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

KID-FRIENDLY

Storytime for children age 3 to 5, 10:30 a.m. Friday at Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. 685-7376.

Storytime, 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Barnes & Noble Booksellers. 682-8880.

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

"Golden Legacy: Original Art from 65 Years of Golden Books," through Sunday at the Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum, exhibits at the Museum of the Southwest complex. 683-2882.

COMING SOON

DECEMBER

Black and White New Year's Eve Party, Dec. 31 at The Blue Door. Reservations required. 218-8793.

JANUARY

Author David Bryant Perkins book signing, 5-7 p.m. Jan. 3 at Hastings Entertainment.

Sandhills StockShow & Rodeo, Jan. 3-11 at Ector County Coliseum. www.ectorcountycoliseum.org.

Tex-Mex Barrel Race, Jan. 4-5 at Midland County Horseshoe. www.midlandhorseshoe.com.

"An Evening Inspired by Downton Abbey" benefit for Basin PBS, Jan. 4 at Hilton DoubleTree.

Ector County Junior Livestock Show, Jan. 8-12 at Ector County Coliseum. www.ectorcountycoliseum.org

Improv at the Yucca, Jan. 9 at Yucca Theatre. mctmidland.org.

Robots: 3-D Design Workshop, Jan. 11, 18, 25 at Ellen Noel Art Museum. www.noelartmuseum.org.

Styx, Jan. 14 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

Elvis Lives, Jan. 15 at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

Midland County Livestock Show, Jan. 15-18 at Midland County Horseshoe. www.midlandhorseshoe.com.

Carmina Burana, Jan. 18 at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

American Idiot, Jan. 20 at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

Bridge lessons, starting Jan. 21 at Allison Bridge Center. 685-4518.

Tony Bennett, Jan. 22 at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

Travis Tritt, Jan. 23 at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

Oak Ridge Boys, Jan. 24 at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

Live on Stage presents Transit Authority, Jan. 28 at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

FEBRUARY

Steven Curtis Chapman, Feb. 1 at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

Free Bridge lessons for kids, Feb. 1 at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. Register by Jan. 21. 740-7432.

Around the World - West Texas Winds, Feb. 2 at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

Family Science Night - "Science Sensation," 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 6 at Petroleum Museum. petroleummuseum.org.

"Girls Night the Musical," Feb. 6 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

"Mary Poppins," Feb. 7-March 8 at Cole Theatre, Midland Community Theatre. www.mctmidland.org. 570-4111.

Foreigner, Feb. 7 at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

Trout Fishing in America, Feb. 9 at Yucca Theatre. 570-4144.

Gordon Lightfoot, Feb. 10 at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

Ballet Arkansas, Feb. 12 at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

Mike Tyson Undisputed Truth, Feb. 13 at Far West Event Center in Odessa. 381-9378.

Christopher Cross and Stephen Bishop, Feb. 14 at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

"Something Borrowed, Somethin' Blue" Permian Basin String Quartet concert, Feb. 16 Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

"Hair," Feb. 24 at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

Shrimpfest fundraiser for Ellen Noel Art Museum, Feb. 24 at Ector County Coliseum. noelartmuseum.org.

WHERE TO GRAB LUNCH

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

GRINDERS SUB SHOP Locally owned sandwich shop piles half a pound of meat on its regular-sized sub and a full pound on its large subs. If you want more toppings, choose from several condiments and veggies. 11 Meta Drive, Suite B 687-1300 | $ | 4 spoons

HARVEST CAFFE Coffee shop atmosphere with a fireplace, couches and unique chandeliers makes you want to stay awhile. Might as well add a lemon bar and hot tea to your order after you finish your chicken salad-stuffed tomato. 2101 West Wadley Ave., Suite 8 218-8331 www.harvestcaffe.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

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.smilingmoosedeli.com | $ | 4 spoons

STRAWBERRY FIELDS CAFE Try the Santa Fe wrap. All organic menu with daily specials, sandwiches, wraps, smoothies. Soup and salad bar. If you can't find a table or need a quick lunch, check out the section of foods "to go" inside the Natural Foods Market. 2311 W. Wadley Ave. 684-5869 www.naturalfoodsmkt.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

WHERE TO GRAB DESSERT

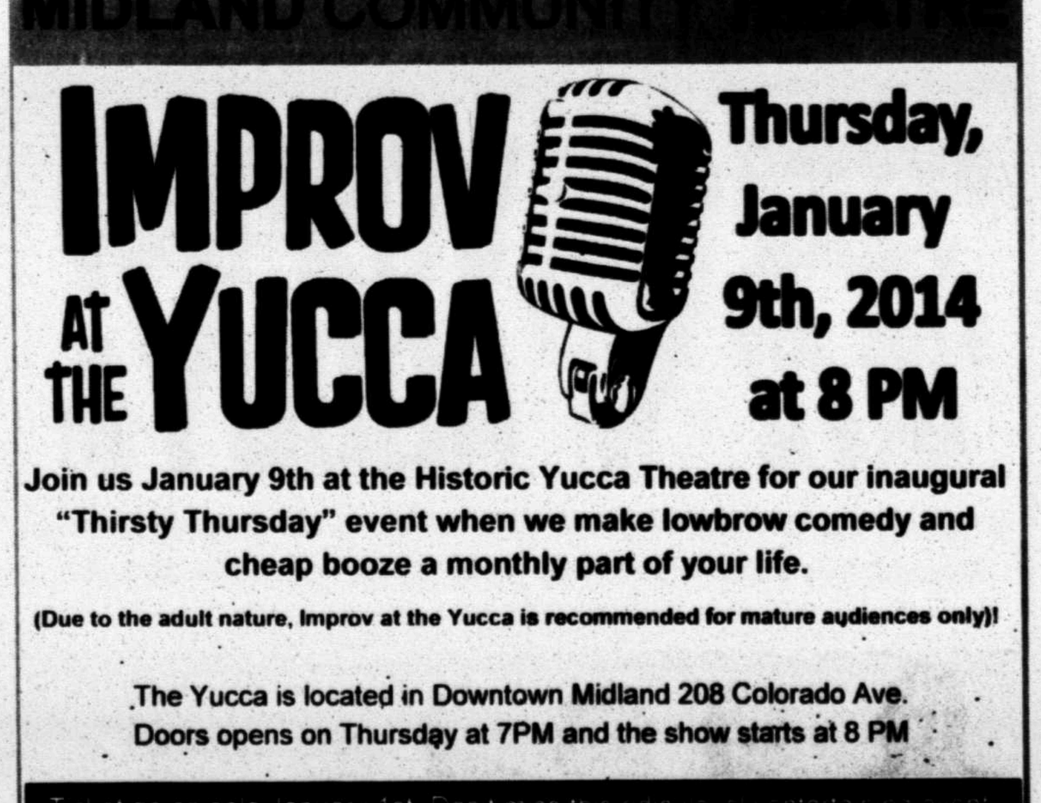
YOUR WAY YOGURT Start with self-serve yogurt and add toppings ranging from strawberries and whipped cream to cereal. 2300 W. Wadley Ave. Suite D 897-4393 | $ | 3 spoons

SUGAR MAMA'S Local bakery specializing in customized cakes, cupcakes, cookies. Try the Elvis — bananas on bottom with peanut butter cream on top. 1028 Andrews Highway, Suite G 618-0976 | 3 spoons

MARTINEZ BAKERY Walls lined with self-serve bakery cases filled with cookies. Also serves "super tortas" (Mexican sandwiches) with chicken, brisket or ham. 206 E. Florida Ave. 683-3100; 683-2278 | $ | 4 spoons

TONY'S BAKERY Order petit fours or a cake for your next party or stop to browse the bakery items for a quick snack. Also try the sandwiches for breakfast or lunch. 1108 N. Big Spring St. 570-4166 | $ | 4 spoons

West Texas *Living*
Look for it in Sunday's edition of the Reporter-Telegram



BEST OF 2013 & MORE

Treachery, travel and twerking: The year in TV

Tyler White
twhite@mrt.com

This year had so many excellent options for quality television. Whether you are interested in the rise and fall of a drug kingpin, the trials of a woman in prison or the hijinks of an average cartoon family, viewers were treated to a TV buffet. Of those great shows this year, many included jaw-dropping moments that will change the landscape of TV storytelling in the future, for better and for worse. Here is a list of some of the best moments in TV this year.

MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS

THE TOP 20

WARNING! This article features spoilers for many popular shows.

20. "How I Met Your Mother" — The mother of all reveals! In the season eight finale, viewers were finally (finally!) treated with a quick glimpse of Ted Mosby's (Joshua Radnor) future wife (Cristin Milioti). It's just a shame that it took the writers eight years to finally get there.

19. "The Americans" — Spies abducted, tortured Two KGB officers (played by Keri Russell and Matthew Rhys) were abducted and taken to an abandoned warehouse for questioning. The two officers believed they had been found out by the U.S. government, only to discover their kidnapping was a ruse by their superiors to test their commitment to their mission. Espionage isn't all that glamorous for these Russians.

18. "Vice" — 'The Hermit Kingdom' The Vice journalists entered North Korea by using basketball as a means to engage the attention of the country's leader, Kim Jong-un. The investigation shows a startling look at North Korea from the inside, which looks nothing like what it appears from the outside.

17. "Archer" — Undercover with Anthony Bourdain The ISIS agents investigated a threat against an ambassador by going undercover in Lance Casteau's (Anthony Bourdain) upscale restaurant. Hilarity ensues as the inept spies struggle to stay in character during their mission.

16. "New Girl" — Nick and Jess lock lips After a more than a season of sexual tension, roommates Nick (Jake Johnson) and Jess (Zooey Deschanel) shared a funny, sexy kiss at their apartment in season two. The two roommies have since blossomed into a full-blown couple, but man ... that kiss.

15. "Dexter" — The Finale "Dexter" makes the list for all the wrong reasons. As Dexter Morgan (Michael C. Hall) tried fleeing Miami with his son and lover, his younger sister, Debra (Jennifer Carpenter), was mortally wounded by his latest serial killer rival. She later recovered in the hospital while Dexter Morgan got his affairs in order. Then Debra suffered a blood clot-induced stroke that leaves her in a vegetative state. Her killer brother couldn't let her live like that, so he pulled the plug on her and threw her into the ocean before he drove straight into the eye of a massive hurricane. He's presumed dead, but the show jumped ahead to show our serial killer living alone and working as ... a lumberjack. Everyone saw that one coming, right?

14. Auburn University defeats Alabama in stunning win at Iron Bowl Auburn scored a game-tying touchdown. Alabama's Adam Griffith then missed a field goal and Chris Davis takes the ball 109 yards for the game-winning touchdown, to beat Alabama 34-28.

13. "American Horror Story: Coven" — Zombie invasion The war between witchcraft and voodoo amped up during a two-part Halloween storyline. As zombies began approaching the witches' academy, new student Zoe (Taissa Farmiga) grabbed a chainsaw and sliced her way through the horde to protect her fellow classmates. It's wicked fun seeing the pint-sized witch get her hands dirty.

12. "Orange is the New Black" — Chicken chase Netflix's hit series had new inmate Piper Chapman (Taylor Schilling) learning the ropes of prison life. When she saw a chicken in the prison yard, she fed into a longtime myth that all the inmates have known for some time. Chapman's obsession with the chicken showed her spiraling headfirst into the prison's culture, and it was interesting seeing her transition so quickly into that mindset.

11. "NCIS" — Several deaths rock the investigative team Two members of NCIS were never the same after a shooting at Director Leon Vance's (Rocky Carroll) home took the lives of Ziva David's (Cote de Pablo), father Eli (Michael Nouri) and Vance's wife Jackie (Paula Newsome).

10. "American Horror Story: Asylum" — "The Name Game" The hit anthology series on FX is horrifying and awesome. In the second season, centered around a mental institution in the 1960s, Sister Jude (Jessica Lange) is removed from her leadership position in the sanitarium. She is admitted as a patient before doctors force her to undergo electroconvulsive therapy for starting trouble in the hospital. Lana Winters (Sarah Paulson), a journalist wrongly admitted into the hospital, approached a dazed Jude in the dayroom to ask her name, prompting Jude to sing an oddly funny rendition of "The Name Game." It's a prime example of the writers' affinity for juxtaposing the witty and the macabre.

9. "House of Cards" — Frank Underwood's scheme for the VP nod Netflix's first major success in original programming, "House of Cards," chronicles U.S. Congressman Frank Underwood (Kevin Spacey), who was passed over for the secretary of state position. But his eye is on a bigger prize, and he decided to use revenge and deception to rise up the government ladder. Underwood's ultimate goal, the vice presidential nomination, was revealed in the latter half of the season, making viewers retrace the show's plot to better understand the congressman's complex mind. Spacey was magnificent in this role, and the show's second season, premiering Feb. 14, will take us even further into Underwood's political rabbit hole.

8. "Family Guy" — The Griffins bury one of their own Fans of the hit cartoon show were shocked and angered after the Griffins' family dog, Brian, was struck and killed by a car in the episode, "Life of Brian." Fans have signed several online petitions demanding the character be brought back from the dead, which may actually occur later this season. We'll just have to wait and see.

7. "Person of Interest" — Detective Carter brings down "HR" During a three-part saga on the hit CBS procedural drama, NYPD Det. Joss Carter (Taraji P. Henson) left John Reese (Jim Caviezel), Harold Finch (Michael Emerson) and other allies out of the loop in her plot to bring down a group of corrupt cops known as "HR." Carter exposed the group's ringleader, Alonzo Quinn, and took him into custody before being ambushed by "HR" cops, which resulted in a manhunt for the brave detective. Carter's allies came to her aid in getting Quinn to FBI investigators. But shortly after celebrating Carter's victory, "HR" officer Patrick Simmons gunned down Reese and Carter, and Carter died shortly after in Reese's arms in an emotional send-off for the show's moral compass. This was the show's first major death and marked an emotional high-point for the excellent action drama.

6. "South Park" — Kim Kardashian is a ... hobbit? The veteran cartoon show's three-part "Game of Thrones" parody of Black Friday was epic, but the season finale's was one of the best episodes in years, with its perfect satire of Photoshopped pictures and women's self-image issues. Kanye West's return provided numerous hysterical gags as he defended fiancee Kim Kardashian against claims that she is a hobbit. He upstaged Pope Francis' "Person of the Year" speech and reshot his now-infamous "Bound 2" music video. But Wendy's storyline, a best for the show, provided a great emotional weight and critique on society. Well done, Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

5. "The Walking Dead" — Prison showdown The Governor (David Morrissey) is a sinister man. After he gathered a new group of survivors and kidnapped Hershel (Scott Wilson) and Michonne (Danai Gurira), the Governor threatened to invade the main cast's shelter at the prison. Leader Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln) pleaded with the Governor's allies that they can live in peace. But the Governor denied peace as he used Michonne's katana to decapitate Hershel, which prompted a massive shoot-out between the prison's occupants and the invaders. Hershel's death was a powerful end to this year's string of episodes, and the aftermath has left the show's main cast without a shelter. What will they do after losing the safety of the prison?

4. "Breaking Bad" — Walter White cleans house In the amazing final episode of AMC's award-winning series, drug kingpin Walter White (Bryan Cranston) got his affairs in order before he mowed down his Aryan Brotherhood enemies with a machine gun mounted to his car. The firefight eliminated the Aryan Brotherhood cell and led to meth cook Jesse Pinkman's (Aaron Paul) freedom. Walter White didn't make it out alive, but this violent act represented his last effort to right his wrongs.

3. The MTV VMAs — Miley Cyrus twerks If Billy Ray Cyrus' "Achy Breaky Heart" wasn't already broken, it was surely shattered after his daughter "twerked" on singer Robin Thicke with her tongue wagging back and forth. The awards show became water cooler talk for the next month, but should it have been?

2. "Breaking Bad" — "Ozymandias" The Drug Enforcement Administration's agents Hank Schrader (Dean Norris) and "Gomie" (Steven Michael Quezada) faced off against several members of the Aryan Brotherhood in New Mexico. The DEA agents were killed and left in the desert, and methamphetamine kingpin Walter White (Bryan Cranston) had to deal with the consequences of his involvement in the drug trade. The episode continued to spiral out of control as his wife tried to kill him, his son alerted the police and he kidnapped his infant daughter. The episode filled up nearly every plot hole with masterful precision and timing and left many viewers in shock and awe.

1. "Game of Thrones" — The Red Wedding The hit HBO series' gut-wrenching ninth episode, "The Rains of Castamere," provided one of the most shocking string of character deaths in television history. As the Stark clan celebrated a peaceful matrimony, the wedding host, Walder Frey (David Bradley), ordered his guards to kill everyone in the party. Robb Stark's (Richard Madden) pregnant wife, Talisa (Oona Chaplin), was gutted several times in the stomach, while he himself was shot down with a flurry of arrows. Robb Stark's mother, Catelyn (Michelle Fairley), pleaded for her son's life, before a trusted ally delivered the final blow to end the "King of the North." Viewers were left with Catelyn's blood-curdling scream echoing the reception hall, shortly before her own throat was cut by one of Frey's men. The emotional episode resulted in numerous reaction videos online, as fans of the show screamed, shouted and cried alongside the powerful hour of television. It further emphasized the belief that no one is safe on "Game of Thrones."

Found-footage feature based on actual event brings chills

Reeled & Stream

By Nancy Adamson | nadamson@mrt.com

PICK O' THE WEEK

"Devil's Pass" (R) The less you know about this film, other than it's a found-footage effort about a group of college students recreating an expedition in Russia in which the hikers disappeared, the better it will be. So avoid the trailer, avoid the IMDb page and avoid reading the synopsis on the DVD cover. It's slow going in the set-up and exposition process, but act 3 is a doozy and Renny Harlin's ("Die Hard 2") best film in decades. **A-**

MORE REVIEWS

"Ain't Them Bodies Saints" (R) Moving character study comes closer to capturing the magic of Terrence Malick's classic "Badlands" than any film in years. **A-**

"The Family" (R) Erratic but likeable film about a couple and their two teenage children under witness protection who move to the only town in France where all the residents speak English. **B-**

"Ghost Team One" (R) This week's second found-footage effort is about as awful as these things get. There are a couple of moments of levity but none so big as when the credits start to roll. **C**

"Kick-Ass 2" (R) Was Jim Carrey's refusal to promote this film really because its violence unnerved him in the wake of the Newtown school shootings or was it because he knew this film was a stinker filled with unnecessary foul language, a nonsensical plot and, yes, enough gratuitous violence to kill the franchise? Regrardless, his comments probably helped this film at the box office. **C**

"The Lone Ranger" (PG-13) Thoroughly trounced by most critics, the film might deserve a new life on the small screen. Oh, it's bad, just not as bad as I was led to believe, possibly because I didn't have to pay $10 to see it. **C+**

"One Direction: This is Us" (PG) Fans will revel in this part documentary, part concert film about the boy band. The rest of us will learn new things we might not have otherwise known, such as one of them is probably going to go Lance Bass on us in a few years and come out of the closet. Also, judging from the consistently tousled look of Harry's hair, I suspect Taylor broke up with him becasue he spent more time in front of the miorror than she did. **B-**

"Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters" (PG) The effects in the second film of the franchise are much improved over those in 2010's "Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief," hopefully ensuring this underrated series nother sequel. **B**

"Prisoners" (R) Miranda warnings and search warrants aren't necessary in this film, which will be a nightmare for anyone even slightly familiar with police procedure. Yet for its nearly three-hour runtime, the story is fascinating, very well-acted by an A-list of stars and so well-made that the mystery will have you guessing right up until the last minute. **A-**

"Touchy Feely" (R) Uneven but sometimes delightful and witty comedy about the love and fear of making physical contact. The storyline about the dentist is the best of the bupch. **B-**

BEST OF 2013

MOVIES

From Page 1

7. "This Is the End" Easily the funniest film of the year, "This Is the End" has James Franco, Jonah Hill, Seth Rogen and company battling hunger, demons and Emma Watson during a fiery apocalypse. The popular celebrities are high on marijuana throughout most of this parody of celebrity high-life, and laughs are guaranteed to be just as high as the cast.

6. "The Butler" Lee Daniels directs Forest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey in a film inspired by a real-life White House butler who served the presidential home for more than 30 years. The film spans more than 60 years across several presidencies and looks at U.S. development from a unique perspective.

5. "Trance" James McAvoy plays Simon, an art auctioneer who becomes involved in a painting heist gone wrong. When the thieves who hired him want to find out what he did with the prized painting, they hire a hypnotherapist to delve into Simon's mind for the answers. Several plot twists drive the characters down a winding road to an explosive ending similar to thrillers "Inception" and "Memento." Enjoy the mind games on this one.

4. "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson are on fire as Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark in the sequel to last year's blockbuster. The rebellion against the Capitol heats up as the two Hunger Games victors deal with the consequences of their actions in last year's tournament. Fans of Suzanne Collins' novel trilogy will be pleased with the end result as we prepare for the endgame in the two-part "Mockingjay."

3. "Dallas Buyers Club" Anchored by Oscar-worthy performances by Matthew McConaughey and Jared Leto, "Dallas Buyers Club" tackles the AIDS epidemic in the mid-1980s when the FDA and doctors were struggling to find a way to treat the illness. McConaughey looks gaunt as Ron Woodroof, a homophobic rodeo cowboy given 30 days to live after an AIDS diagnosis. Woodroof begins a years-long battle with the FDA while smuggling non-approved drugs into Texas to help others and make money. McConaughey lights up the screen, but Leto's portrayal of Rayon, an HIV-positive trans-woman, provides the heart of the AIDS struggle.

2. "Captain Phillips" Despite claims of inaccuracy by the Maersk Alabama's crew, Tom Hanks delivers his best performance since "Castaway" as the titular captain in this year's retelling of 2009's piracy incident in the Indian Ocean. Director Paul Greengrass' film provides insight into both sides of the hostage situation, shining a light on the pirates' motivations and the internal conflict of Hanks' character during the chaos.

1. "Gravity" Director Alfonso Cuaron's space thriller "Gravity" showcased incredible cinematography as a routine space repair mission turns into a deadly nightmare. The plot's momentum, coupled with an anxiety-inducing score and great camera work elevate the bravest viewer's heart rate. Sandra Bullock's stellar performance as Dr. Ryan Stone is a career best for the actress, emulating the struggles of a broken woman fighting to find motivation to make it back to solid ground.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

"Pacific Rim" Guillermo del Toro's "Pacific Rim" made giant robots cool again after years of Michael Bay's awful contributions to the "Transformers" series.

"Elysium" The film provides another tale of an Earth dystopia from Neill Blomkamp, director of 2009's "District 9."

"Don Jon" Joseph Gordon Levitt makes his directing and screenwriting debut in this quirky look at love, sex, pornography and romantic comedies.

"Warm Bodies" "Romeo and Juliet" and "The Walking Dead" make a zombie baby in this cute post-apocalyptic take on the Shakespeare tragedy.

MOVIES YOU MISSED

"Mud" Matthew McConaughey continues his streak of riveting performances as a fugitive who seeks the help of two young boys to evade authorities and reunite with his lost love.

"Fruitvale Station" Michael B. Jordan is receiving Oscar buzz in this biopic as Oscar Grant III, who was fatally shot in 2009 by a police officer in Oakland, Calif.

"12 Years A Slave" Solomon Northup is a free black man in 1840s New York when he is kidnapped and sold into slavery. The film is expected to receive several nominations when award season starts later this month.

"Kill Your Darlings" Daniel Radcliffe plays Allen Ginsberg, one of several founding writers of the Beat generation, featured in this biopic surrounding a prominent murder.

NOW SHOWING

"American Hustle" David O. Russell's new film has con artists working with the FBI to bring down the Mafia and corrupt politicians based on the FBI's ABSCAM operation. The film includes an all-star cast including Christian Bale, Bradley Cooper, Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner and Jennifer Lawrence.

"Saving Mr. Banks" Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) works to convince author P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson) to hand over the screen rights to her novel, "Mary Poppins."

"The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" The tale of hobbit Bilbo Baggins, wizard Gandalf and a group of dwarves continues in the second installment of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy epic.

"Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues" America's favorite scotch-drinking anchorman Ron Burgundy and his coworkers are back to tackle the 24-hour news cycle in this long-awaited sequel.

"Her" Director Spike Jonze's new film has Joaquin Phoenix playing a writer who develops a relationship with Samantha, the female voice (Scarlett Johansson) produced by his computers operating system.

"The Wolf of Wall Street" Martin Scorsese directs Leonardo DiCaprio once again in a story of fraud and stock market manipulation based on entrepreneur Jordan Belfort's memoir.

"Inside Llewyn Davis" The Coen Brothers' new film follows a singer-songwriter who aims to become the next great folk music star in 1960s New York.

ARCADE FIRE

MUSIC

From Page 1

his larger-than-life persona with each release. "The Language" highlights the celebrity life and "Furthest Thing" focuses on insecurities on the way to the top. Drake comes off as emotional, but at least it seems genuine.

Key tracks: "Hold On, We're Going Home" and "Pound Cake/Paris Morton Music Two"

17. Phil Wickham — "The Ascension" Phil Wickham is a grossly under-appreciated singer-songwriter in the gospel music scene. His 2011 release, "Response," was good, but it wasn't great. "The Ascension" is a fantastic reboot for Wickham, bringing back his knack for religious imagery on anthemic praise songs such as "Carry My Soul" and "This Is Amazing Grace." And Wickham's falsetto tickles the arm hairs on tracks like "Mercy" and "Thirst." Wickham's album is the only gospel one you need this year.

Key tracks: "Carry My Soul" and "Thirst"

16. Fall Out Boy — "Save Rock and Roll" After more than three years on hiatus, the popular pop punk band came back with "Save Rock and Roll," a succinct blend of their old punk roots and their funk rock tendencies. Singer Patrick Stump and company brought in several big-name guests — Big Sean, Courtney Love and Elton John — to flair up the album's outrageous energy. FOB came back just in time to make pop punk fun again. Let's hope they decide to stick around.

Key tracks: "My Songs Know What You Did In The Dark (Light Em Up)" and "Alone Together"

15. Keith Urban — "Fuse" Keith Urban's "Fuse" blends the country star's pop and rock highlights into one of the year's best mainstream country releases. Miranda Lambert and Eric Church stop by for two tracks, but Urban plays better alone on hits like "Good Thing" and "Somewhere In My Car."

Key tracks: "Good Thing" and "Little Bit of Everything"

14. M.I.A. — "Matangi" M.I.A. continues to provide her concussive electronic experience on "Matangi." The English-Sri Lankan singer went on a sound effects shopping spree when creating this excellent collection. But to many, this album will come off as pure noise.

Key tracks: "Exodus" and "Bad Girls"

13. Paul McCartney — "New" Paul McCartney has and always will be fab, but "New" shows off some hidden energy that the former Beatle hasn't shown us in quite a few years. McCartney's collection acts like a welcome home by emulating early Wings hits and adding in some tricks he's picked up from newer names in the rock scene. Is McCartney a Jack White fan? "New" makes me think so.

Key tracks: "Alligator" and "Queenie Eyes"

12. Queens of the Stone Age — "... Like Clockwork" Vocalist Josh Homme nearly died a few years back after suffering a methicillin-resistant Staphlyoccucus aureus infection. Homme took that experience and chugged out "... Like Clockwork," a heavy, haunting look forward that has become one of the band's greatest critical and commercial successes. That's the way to bounce back.

Key tracks: "I Sat by the Ocean" and "My God is the Sun"

11. Lorde — "Pure Heroine" While Katy Perry's perusing a bland pop Sahara and Lady Gaga's recovering from a pop peyote trip, Lorde's pushing through the noise in this impressive pop debut. The pint-sized 17-year-old has one of the year's biggest hits with "Royals," but there's more to "Queen B" than "gold teeth, Grey Goose" and "driving Cadillacs in our dreams." Fans of Phil Collins, Adele and Amy Winehouse have someone to look forward to when searching through the radio stations.

Key tracks: "Royals" and "Tennis Court"

10. Kacey Musgraves — "Same Trailer Different Park" Kacey Musgraves, 25, is a progressive Texas country star whose major label debut puts a cowboy boot to the female country market dominated by Taylor Swift. Her attitude is rebellious and lovable as she sings about smoking weed, same-sex kissing and double standards on "Follow Your Arrow," but saves room for household problems on "Merry Go 'Round." Here's to a shift back to real country!

Key tracks: "Merry Go 'Round" and "Keep It to Yourself"

9. Arcade Fire — "Reflektor" Arcade Fire's "Reflektor" provides a unique groove that melds well with the group's indie roots. Those who may consider Arcade Fire a step too far into esoteric jams, this album provides a great introduction into the band's unique struts across dance hall melodies.

Key tracks: "Reflektor" and "Here Comes the Night Time"

8. Janelle Monae — "The Electric Lady" Janelle Monae's "The Electric Lady" includes the fourth and fifth installment into her multi-album concept series, "Metropolis." Beyond the tales of androids and futuristic prejudice, Monae strings together a fantastic meld of neo soul, funk, rock, R&B and jazz. Monae's soul and energy bounces off sultry grooves on "Primetime" and the album's title track, while guests Miguel and Solange fill the holes that her stilettos leave behind with harmony. "The Electric Lady" is the highlight of the R&B world this year. Prince found the album fascinating enough to make an appearance. Take a gander.

Key tracks: "Dance Apocalyptic" and "Givin Em What They Love (featuring Prince)"

7. Tegan and Sara — "Heartthrob" Some would say indie rock darlings Tegan and Sara have sold out for mainstream success. But "Heartthrob" is a pop evolution worth cheering for. The twin sisters' thoughtful, smart lyrics slip into '80s-synth pop tunes that provide a needed jolt to Top 40 radio. "Closer" is a monster single, but Tegan and Sara's discussion of failed relationships on tracks such as "I was a Fool" and "I Couldn't Be Your Friend" will bring you back for a second listen.

Key tracks: "Closer" and "Now I'm All Messed Up"

6. Nine Inch Nails — "Hesitation Marks" Trent Reznor is back with one of his best collections of industrial rock tunes since he helped popularize the genre in the 1990s. "Hesitation Marks" woos listeners to do two things: dance or self-reflect, perhaps both at once. Reznor reflects on his inner self on several tracks, sometimes delving into uncomfortably deep waters. But NIN's latest LP proves Reznor is better than ever: musically and mentally.

Key tracks: "All Time Low" and "Satellite"

5. Kanye West — "Yeezus" Oh Lord "Yeezus" there's a fire. Kanye West went "Bobby Boucher" on his latest LP, which fully embraces the melody of electronic noise as West points a middle finger at everyone during his continuous rise to the top. "Black Skinhead" is West's rap "The Beautiful People" as he channels his anger into a hip-hop tantrum. Listening to "Yeezus" can be like taking a fist to the ear, but West seems to want you to take it and like it.

Key tracks: "Black Skinhead" and "New Slaves"

4. Chvrches — "The Bones of What You Believe" Scottish synthpop band Chvrches made this year's most impressive debut album with a balanced array of high-tech alternative pop tunes. Vocalist Lauren Mayberry's smooth, simple voice resembles that of Purity Ring's Megan James, but the remainder of the Chvrches trio contributes to the band's tendency for uplifting anthems that Top 40 princesses scoff at, but secretly envy.

Key tracks: "Gun" and "Recover"

3. Vampire Weekend — "Modern Vampires of the City" The boys of Vampire Weekend experimented with their sound on "Modern Vampires of the City" and brought us this year's best collection of indie-pop ditties. The songs shake off what made the band quaint and gave listeners something else to pick apart for the next few years.

Key tracks: "Diane Young" and "Ya Hey"

2. The Civil Wars — "The Civil Wars" The folk duo has been fighting for more than a year, but through that conflict has brought us a warm collection of songs chronicling the singers' efforts to work things out — or to avoid conflict altogether. Joy Williams has a stronger presence on this album, a welcome change over their debut album "Barton Hollow," but we should hope that John Paul White comes back with greater emphasis in the future. Band drama sucks, but that's the only way this album could ever have seen the light of day.

Key tracks: "The One That Got Away" and "From This Valley"

1. Paramore — "Paramore" Don't be fooled by the band's diminutive lead singer with emo tendencies and hair like a peacock headdress. Paramore's self-titled album marked a rebirth for the band following the departure of two founding members. The band's previous efforts were pure pop punk with papercut of emo. This year's LP is eclectic and breezy, blending pop, punk, R&B, funk and gospel elements seamlessly together for a fun, fluid track list. Sure, "Still Into You" is almost bubblegum pop, but apart from the monster single there are fanged loved songs ("Proof," "[One of those] Crazy Girls") and fun revenge odes ("Grow Up," "Ain't It Fun"). "Paramore" is now the gold standard for bouncing back from a lineup change. We should be over all the butterflies, but ... You know how it goes.

Key tracks: "Ain't It Fun" and "Still Into You"

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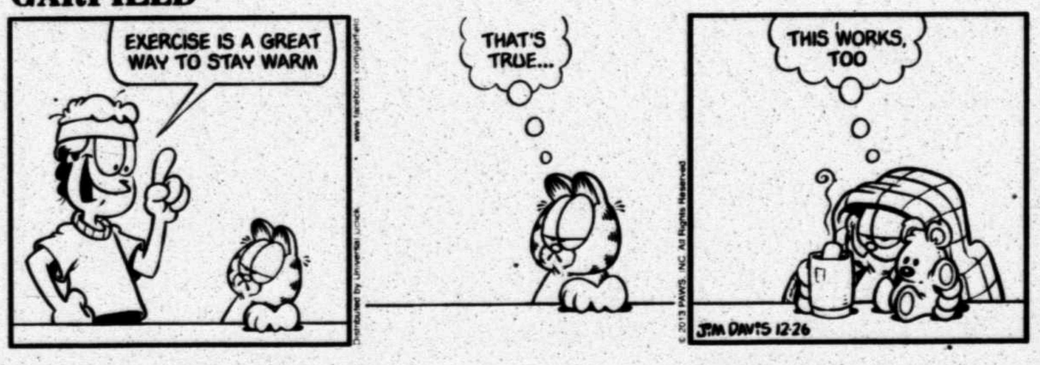
GARFIELD



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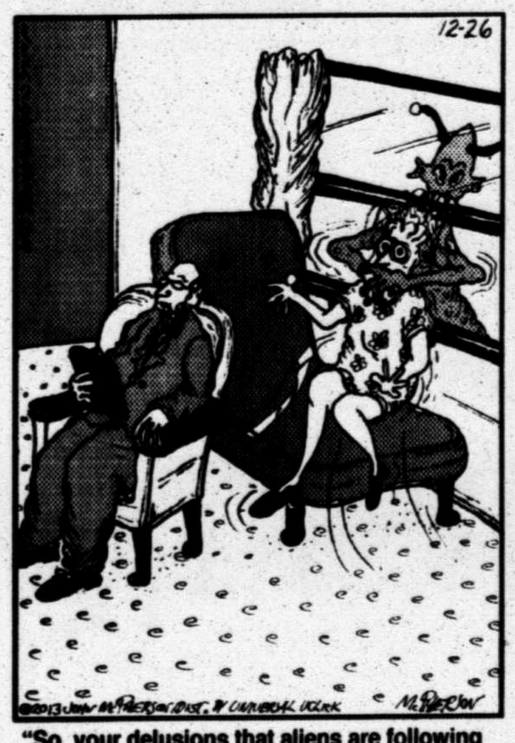

"So, your delusions that aliens are following you, how long ago did that begin, Tina?"

DENNIS THE MENACE

"YOU SHOULDA SEEN THAT ON THE LADY IN THE CATALOG, RIGHT, DAD?"

DUSTIN

WIZARD OF ID

LOCKHORNS

"IF YOU LEARN TO LAUGH AT YOURSELF, LEROY, YOU WON'T HAVE TIME TO DO ANYTHING ELSE."

FAMILY CIRCUS

"It's okay to be naughty again. Santa's done watchin' for this year."

DILBERT

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SPORTS

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt★com | Thursday, December 26, 2013 | Section C

Kyle Orton appears set to start for Cowboys

Associated Press

IRVING — Kyle Orton and Jon Kitna sat at opposite ends of a couch in the Dallas Cowboys' locker room Wednesday, turned toward each other and stared chatting.

They probably were talking about Dallas' offense.

Orton will make his first start at quarterback in his two seasons with the Cowboys on Sunday night, unless Tony Romo can recover from a herniated disc. Dallas will be playing a winner-take-all game at home against the Philadelphia Eagles for the NFC East title and a playoff berth.

Romo was nowhere to be seen in any of the public areas at Valley Ranch. He did not practice, and didn't attend a morning offensive meeting, according to coach Jason Garrett.

"I'm just excited," Orton said. "I think the guys have got a lot of confidence in me. I've got a lot of confidence in myself. I can fall back on my experience. I've played a lot of games in this league. I don't feel I have to do too much with the ball, just get it to 29 (DeMarco Murray), 82 (Jason Witten) and 88 (Dez Bryant)."

Garrett still hasn't ruled out Romo.

"I saw him briefly today. He's fighting through it. He's doing everything he can to get back. He's going through the rehab process.

"We'll evaluate him day to day, the same as most players who are injured."

Asked whether he thought Romo would play Sunday, Garrett said, "We'll have to see. It seems like he is feeling a little bit better."

Orton's most recent start was in Week 17 of 2011 for Kansas City in a 7-3 victory over the Denver Broncos. He had started the season with Denver, but was released after losing the starting job to Tim Tebow, who led the Broncos to the playoffs.

The 31-year-old Orton has a 35-34 record in 69 starts in nine NFL seasons.

For Dallas, Orton has appeared in three games, completing 12 of 15 passes for 129 yards.

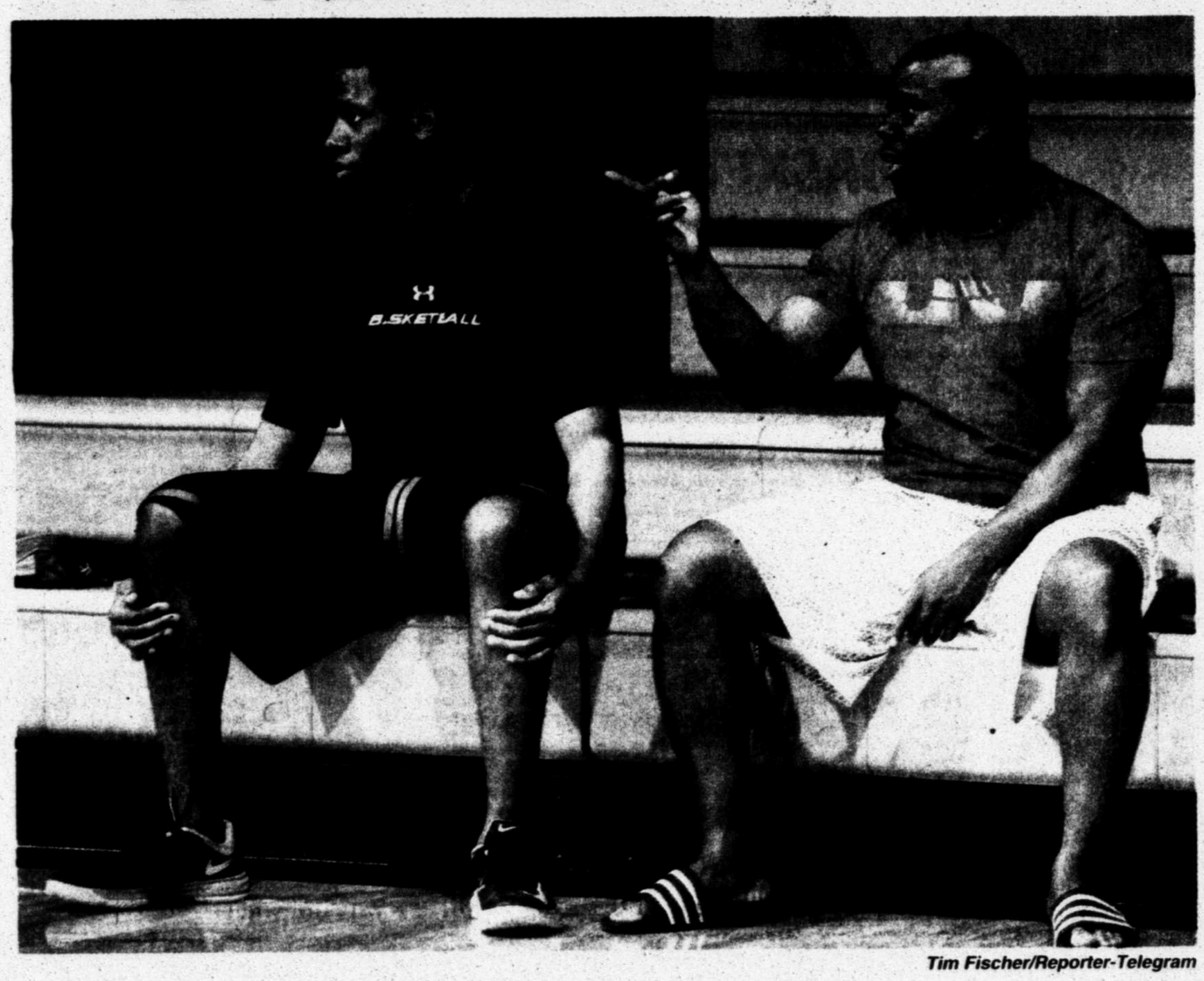
Garrett said even that limited experience was valuable.

"Any time, at any position, it's good to play," Garrett said.

Romo has been an active participant in preparing game

Please see **ORTON**/4C

YULETIDE GAMES



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Coaches Chris Packer and Charles Tatum talk and watch players from Lee, Midland, Midland College and the area play pickup games Tuesday evening at Lee High.

Tatum and Packer recall competition days

By Jonathan Hull
jhull@mrt.com

For many, the holiday are filled with memories of special time spent with family and friends around a dining room table or a Christmas Tree.

For Charles Tatum and Chris Packer, those memories also include basketball, and in particular, playing in the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic.

As former players for the same teams they're currently coaching, Midland High's Tatum and Lee's Packer fondly recall competing in the Tall City's premier high school basketball tournament.

"It was always a lot of fun," Packer said. "It was usually a couple days after Christmas and usually for those first couple days, we were all looking for somewhere to play. I love the timing of it."

Added Tatum: "It meant so much to me, especially what it meant to the Johnston family. It's a special tournament for me and always will be."

The Bulldogs and Rebels begin play in the BJHC today at Chaparral Center. The Rebels, who are in Pool B with Bushland, El Paso Americas and defending BJHC champion Alief Hastings, open pool play at 4:30 p.m. against Americas.

Midland High is in Pool A with Plainview, Crowley and El Paso Eastlake. The Bulldogs' first game is set for 7:30 p.m. against Plainview.

For Tatum, the tournament was particularly special because he played with Byron Johnston's son, Blake, in high school and remains close to him today.

"Blake's a great friend, a great

Please see **COMPETITION**/3C

MCA to play in Byron Johnston Holiday Classic

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland Classical's Kayla Beattie drives to the hoop while being covered by San Jacinto's Sarah Metz Friday at MCA. The Lady Knights are playing in the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic today after coach Carla Cunneen lobbied for years to get MCA into the tournament.

By Jonathan Hull
jhull@mrt.com

Midland Classical girls basketball coach Carla Cunneen has been trying for a couple years to get the Lady Knights into the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic.

She finally succeeded this season.

When the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic tips off today, the opening game is going to have a completely Tall City feel to it with the Lady Knights matching up against Lee at 3 p.m. at Chaparral Center.

For MCA, the process of even getting into the BJHC and having a chance to compete against one of the Midland ISD school has been at least a four-year process.

"I started trying to get us into the tournament a few years ago," Cunneen said. "I talked to coaches or anyone else I thought might have a connection to the tournament. I thought we were in last year, but we were out just as quickly as we were in."

Former Midland High girls basketball coach Ron Berry actually invited the Lady Knights to last year's tournament before finding out former MHS boys basketball coach Justin Hardin had already invited a team from El Paso to fill that slot.

But Berry guaranteed the Lady Knights a spot in the 2013 version of the BJHC. Of course those plans appeared to hit another obstacle when Berry resigned due to personal reasons.

Please see **MCA**/3C

Harden helps Rockets knock off Spurs

Rockets	**111**
Spurs	98

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — James Harden scored 28 points and Dwight Howard had 15 points and 20 rebounds, leading the balanced Houston Rockets to a 111-98 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Wednesday.

Each of Houston's starters scored in double figures as the Rockets improved to 2-0 against the Spurs this season, with both victories coming on the road. They also moved within 3 1/2 games of San Antonio (22-7) for the lead the Southwest Division.

Chandler Parsons and Terrence Jones each scored 21 points for the Rockets (19-11), who shot 52 percent from the field. Jeremy Lin had 13 points, eight assists and just one turnover.

The Spurs have dropped two of three and split their last six games. They are just 3-6 over the last month against teams with a record above .500.

Super sub Manu Ginobili led San Antonio with 22 points, and Tim Duncan added 11 points and 14 rebounds. Kawhi Leonard had 13 points, but Tony Parker was held to six points on 3-for-11 shooting.

San Antonio never recovered after Houston raced out to a 27-9 lead. The Spurs were unable to stop Parsons' long shots, Harden's drives, Howard in the paint or Jones on the boards for follow ups.

After trailing by 18 points in the first half, San Antonio made a couple of charges in the second half but couldn't get the defensive stops necessary to complete the rallies.

Leonard's three-point play on Howard's fourth foul pulled San Antonio to 71-64 with 4:47 left in the third. The Spurs closed to 73-71 before Harden and Lin began draining long jumpers to help the Rockets pull away again.

Harden closed out the victory, scoring 16 points in the final quarter. His second 3 of the game made it 100-90 with 5 minutes remaining.

Associated Press

San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili drives around Houston Rockets forward Dwight Howard during the first half Wednesday in San Antonio.

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

WHAT'S ON TV

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Little Caesars Bowl, Pittsburgh vs. Bowling Green, at Detroit, 5 p.m., ESPN

Poinsettie Bowl, Utah St. vs. N. Illinois, at San Diego, 8:30 p.m., ESPN

NBA

Memphis at Houston, 7 p.m., TNT

L.A. Clippers at Portland, 9:30 p.m., TNT

SOCCER

Premier League, Manchester United at Hull City, 6:40 a.m., NBCSN

Premier League, Arsenal at West Ham, 8:55 a.m., NBCSN

Premier League, Liverpool at Manchester City, 11:25 a.m., NBCSN

WHAT'S ON DECK

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Byron Johnson Holiday Tournament

Greenwood, Midland Christian at Caprock Tournament

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Byron Johnson Holiday Tournament

Greenwood, Midland Christian, Big Spring at Caprock Tournament

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	37	25	10	2	52	106	77
Tampa Bay	37	23	11	3	49	108	87
Montreal	38	22	13	3	47	96	84
Detroit	39	17	13	9	43	99	108
Toronto	39	18	16	5	41	106	113
Ottawa	39	15	17	7	37	111	126
Florida	38	14	19	5	33	88	123
Buffalo	37	10	24	3	23	86	105

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	39	27	11	1	55	121	88
Washington	37	19	14	4	42	117	112
Philadelphia	37	17	16	4	38	93	104
N.Y. Rangers	38	18	18	2	38	88	102
New Jersey	38	15	16	7	37	92	99
Columbus	37	16	17	4	36	101	106
Carolina	37	14	15	8	36	86	105
N.Y. Islanders	38	11	20	7	29	86	129

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	39	26	7	6	58	145	107
St. Louis	36	24	7	5	53	128	85
Colorado	36	23	10	3	49	106	88
Minnesota	39	20	14	5	45	88	96
Dallas	36	18	12	6	42	106	107
Winnipeg	39	16	18	5	37	103	116
Nashville	37	16	17	4	36	85	109

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	39	27	7	5	59	127	98
Los Angeles	38	25	9	4	54	106	76
San Jose	37	23	8	6	52	121	94
Vancouver	39	22	11	6	50	106	93
Phoenix	36	19	10	7	45	111	110
Calgary	37	14	17	6	34	95	118
Edmonton	38	12	24	3	27	101	135

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

Monday's Scores

N.Y. Rangers 2, Toronto 1, SO

Calgary 4, St. Louis 3, SO

San Jose 5, Colorado 4, SO

Buffalo 2, Phoenix 1, OT

Anaheim 3, Washington 2

Columbus 4, Carolina 3

Ottawa 5, Pittsburgh 0

N.Y. Islanders 3, Detroit 0

Tampa Bay 6, Florida 1

Philadelphia 4, Minnesota 1

Chicago 5, New Jersey 2

Boston 6, Nashville 2

Edmonton 6, Winnipeg 2

Dallas 5, Los Angeles 2

GLANTZ-CULVER LINE

FAVORITE	OPEN	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
		Little Caesars Pizza Bowl At Detroit		
Bowling Green	5½	6	(48½)	Pittsburgh
		Poinsettia Bowl At San Diego		
N. Illinois	2	1½	(57)	Utah St.
		Dec. 27		
		Military Bowl At Annapolis, Md.		
Marshall	1	2½	(63)	Maryland
		Texas Bowl At Houston		
Minnesota	4½	4½	(45½)	Syracuse
		Fight Hunger Bowl At San Francisco		
Washington	3	3	(57½)	BYU
		Dec. 28		
		Pinstripe Bowl At New York		
Notre Dame	15½	15½	(51)	Rutgers
		Belk Bowl At Charlotte, N.C.		
North Carolina	3	3	(56½)	Cincinnati
		Russell Athletic Bowl At Orlando, Fla.		
Louisville	3	3	(56½)	Miami
		Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl At Tempa, Ariz.		
Kansas St.	3	3	(56½)	Michigan
		Dec. 30		
		Armed Forces Bowl At Fort Worth		
Navy	6½	6½	(56½)	Middle Tenn.
		Music City Bowl At Nashville, Tenn.		
Mississippi	2½	3	(56)	Georgia Tech
		Alamo Bowl At San Antonio		
Oregon	10½	13	(69½)	Texas
		Holiday Bowl At San Diego		
Arizona St.	11½	13½	(72)	Texas Tech
		Dec. 31		
		AdvoCare V100 Bowl At Shreveport, La.		
Arizona	7	7	(57½)	Boston College
		Sun Bowl At El Paso		
UCLA	7½	7	(48)	Virginia Tech
		Liberty Bowl At Memphis, Tenn.		
Mississippi St.	7	7	(51½)	Rice
		Chick-fil-A Bowl At Atlanta		
Texas A&M	11½	12	(69)	Duke
		Jan. 1		
		Gator Bowl At Jacksonville, Fla.		
Georgia	9	9	(60)	Nebraska
Heart of Dallas Bowl				
North Texas	6½	6½	(55½)	UNLV
		Capital One Bowl At Orlando, Fla.		
Wisconsin	2	1½	(51)	South Carolina
		Outback Bowl At Tampa, Fla.		
LSU	7	7½	(49)	Iowa
		Rose Bowl At Pasadena, Calif.		
Stanford	1½	5½	(42½)	Michigan St.
		Fiesta Bowl At Glendale, Ariz.		
Baylor	17½	16½	(69)	UCF
		Jan. 2		
		Sugar Bowl At New Orleans		
Alabama	14½	15	(51½)	Oklahoma
		Jan. 3		
		Cotton Bowl At Arlington		
Missouri	Pk	1	(60½)	OklahomaSt.
		Orange Bowl At Miami		
Ohio St.	5	2½	(68½)	Clemson

Off Key

La.-Lafayette QB questionable

FAVORITE	OPEN	NFL THURSDAY TODAY SUNDAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
at Atlanta	8	8	(46½)	Carolina
at Chicago	OFF	OFF	(OFF)	Green Bay
at Tennessee	6	7	(44½)	Houston
at Pittsburgh	5½	7	(44)	Cleveland
at N.Y. Giants	3	3½	(46)	Washington
at Cincinnati	4	6	(44½)	Baltimore
at Indianapolis	4	11½	(45½)	Jacksonville
Philadelphia	2½	7	(52½)	at Dallas
at Miami	6½	6½	(41)	N.Y. Jets
at Minnesota	2	3½	(52)	Detroit
at New England	7½	9½	(47)	Buffalo
at New Orleans	12½	12½	(47½)	Tampa Bay
Denver	10½	12½	(54)	at Oakland
at Arizona	3	3	(43½)	San Francisco
at San Diego	10	10	(45)	Kansas City
at Seattle	10½	10	(43)	St. Louis

Off Key

Green Bay QB questionable

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

National League

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Agreed to terms with 3B Juan Uribe.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

DALLAS COWBOYS — Released WR/KR Michael Spurlock. Signed QB Jon Kitna.

DETROIT LIONS — Placed TE Brandon Pettigrew on injured reserve.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Signed S Terrence Frederick off of Cleveland's practice squad.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Placed S Cooper Taylor on injured reserve. Signed G Eric Herman from the practice squad and CB Travis Howard to the practice squad.

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

The Midland High girls basketball team celebrates on the bench during the game against Lee on Nov. 26 at Chaparral Center.

HSBASKETBALLTOURNAMENTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Byron Johnston Holiday Classic
Thursday-Saturday
All games at Chaparral Center unless noted.

Girls

Pool play

Pool A — Midland High, Odessa Permian, El Paso Eastlake, Bushland

Pool B — Lee, Midland Classical, Plainview, Baytown Lee

Thursday

3 p.m. — Lee vs. Midland Classical

3 p.m. — Odessa Permian vs. Bushland, Midland High gym

4:30 p.m. — Baytown Lee vs. Plainview

6 p.m. — El Paso Eastlake vs. Midland High

Friday

8 a.m. — Plainview vs. Midland Classical

8 a.m. — El Paso Eastlake vs. Odessa Permian, Midland High gym

9:30 a.m. — Lee vs. Baytown Lee, Midland High gym

11 a.m. — Midland High vs. Bushland

2 p.m. — Baytown Lee vs. Midland Classical

6 p.m. — Plainview vs. Lee, Lee gym

6 p.m. — Bushland vs. El Paso Eastlake, Midland High gym

6 p.m. — Odessa Permian vs. Midland High

Saturday

Seventh-place Game

9 a.m. — Pool A 4th vs. Pool B 4th, Midland High gym

Fifth-place Game

9 a.m. — Pool A 3rd vs. Pool B 3rd

Third-place Game

Noon — Pool A 2nd vs. Pool B 2nd

Championship

3 p.m. — Pool A 1st vs. Pool B 1st

Boys

Pool play

Pool A — Midland High, Plainview, Crowley, El Paso Eastlake

Pool B — Lee, Bushland, Alief Hastings, El Paso Americas

Thursday

4:30 p.m. — El Paso Americas vs. Lee

6 p.m. — Alief Hastings vs. Bushland, Midland High gym

7:30 p.m. — Crowley vs. El Paso Eastlake, Midland High gym

7:30 p.m. — Plainview vs. Midland High

Friday

9:30 a.m. — Lee vs. Bushland

11 a.m. — Alief Hastings vs. El Paso Americas, Midland High gym

12:30 p.m. — Midland High vs. El Paso Eastlake

12:30 p.m. — Crowley vs. Plainview, Midland High gym

3:30 p.m. — Bushland vs. El Paso Americas

7:30 p.m. — El Paso Eastlake vs. Plainview, Midland High gym

7:30 p.m. — Alief Hastings vs. Lee, Lee gym

7:30 p.m. — Crowley vs. Midland High

Saturday

Seventh-place Game

10:30 a.m. — Pool A 4th vs. Pool B 4th, Midland High gym

Fifth-place Game

10:30 a.m. — Pool A 3rd vs. Pool B 3rd

Third-place Game

1:30 p.m. — Pool A 2nd vs. Pool B 2nd

Championship

4:30 p.m. — Pool A 1st vs. Pool B 1st

Tiebreakers within pool play

A two-team tie for first-place goes to head-to-head record.

A three-team tie for any place goes to point differential.

Grady's Black Gold Cotton Classic
Friday-Saturday
Grady High School
Lenorah

BOYS

Friday's Games

Game 1: Trinity vs. Ira, 11 a.m., JH Gym

Game 2: Forsan vs. Klondike, 11 a.m., Wildcat Gym

Game 3: Highland vs. Wink, 2 p.m., JH Gym

Game 4: Grady vs. Lubbock Kingdom Prep, 2 p.m., Wildcat Gym

Championship Bracket

Semifinals

Game 6: Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 5 p.m., Wildcat Gym

Game 8: Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner, 8 p.m., Wildcat Gym

Consolation Bracket

Semifinals

Game 5: Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser, 5 p.m., JH Gym

Game 7: Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 loser, 8 p.m., JH Gym

Saturday's Games

Guarantee Game: Game 5 loser vs. Game 7 loser, 10:30 a.m., Wildcat Gym

Consolation Final: Game 5 winner vs. Game 7 winner, 4:30 p.m., Wildcat Gym

Third-place Game: Game 6 loser vs. Game 8 loser, 1:30 p.m., Wildcat Gym

Championship: Game 6 winner vs. Game 8 winner, 7:30 p.m., Wildcat Gym

GIRLS

Friday's Games

Game 1: Trinity vs. Ira, 9:30 a.m., JH Gym

Game 2: Forsan vs. Monahans JV, 9:30 a.m., Wildcat Gym

Game 3: Highland vs. Wink, 12:30 p.m., JH Gym

Game 4: Grady vs. Lubbock Kingdom Prep, 12:30 p.m., Wildcat Gym

Championship Bracket

Semifinals

Game 6: Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 3:30 p.m., Wildcat Gym

Game 8: Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner, 6:30 p.m., Wildcat Gym

Consolation Bracket

Semifinals

Game 5: Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser, 3:30 p.m., JH Gym

Game 7: Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 loser, 6:30 p.m., JH Gym

Saturday's Games

Guarantee Game: Game 5 loser vs. Game 7 loser, 9 a.m., Wildcat Gym

Consolation Final: Game 5 winner vs. Game 7 winner, 3 p.m., Wildcat Gym

Third-place Game: Game 6 loser vs. Game 8 loser, Noon, Wildcat Gym

Championship: Game 6 winner vs. Game 8 winner, 6 p.m., Wildcat Gym

Sands Christmas Tournament
Friday-Saturday
Sands High School
Ackerly

BOYS

Pool A: Sands, Sudan, Sonora, Sundown

Pool B: Garden City, Stanton, Meadow, Seagraves

Friday's Games

New Gym

10:30 a.m. — Sands vs. Sudan

1:30 p.m. — Meadow vs. Seagraves

4:30 p.m. — Stanton vs. Meadow

7:30 p.m. — Sands vs. Sonora

Old Gym

10:30 a.m. — Gardey City vs. Stanton

1:30 p.m. — Sonora vs. Sundown

4:30 p.m. — Sudan vs. Sundown

7:30 p.m. — Garden City vs. Seagraves

Saturday's Games

New Gym

10:30 a.m. — Sands vs. Sundown

1:30 p.m. — Stanton vs. Seagraves

4:30 p.m. — Pool A 2nd vs. Pool A 2nd

7:30 p.m. — Pool A 1st vs. Pool A1st

Old Gym

10:30 a.m. — Garden City vs. Meadow

1:30 p.m. — Sonora vs. Sudan

4:30 p.m. —Pool A 4th vs. Pool B 4th

7:30 p.m. — Pool A 3rd vs. Pool A 3rd

GIRLS

Pool A: Sands, Meadow, Stanton, Abernathy

Pool B: Klondike, Garden City, Sonora, Tahoka

Friday's Games

New Gym

9 a.m. — Sands vs. Stanton

Noon — Sonora vs. Tahoka

3 p.m. — Klondike vs. Tahoka

6 p.m. — Sands vs. Abernathy

Old Gym

9 a.m. — Klondike vs. Garden City

Noon — Meadow vs. Abernathy

3 p.m. — Stanton vs. Meadow

6 p.m. — Garden City vs. Sonora

Saturday's Games

New Gym

9 a.m. — Sands vs. Meadow

Noon — Garden City vs. Tahoka

3 p.m. — Pool A 2nd vs. Pool B 2nd

6 p.m. — Pool A 1st vs. Pool B 1st

Old Gym

9 a.m. — Sonora vs. Klondike

Noon — Abernathy vs. Stanton

3 p.m. — Pool A 4th vs. Pool B 4th

6 p.m. — Pool A 3rd vs. Pool B 3rd

55th Annual Fiberflux Caprock Classic
Thursday-Saturday
Lubbock

BOYS

Boren Bracket (Large School Boys)

Thursday's Games

Game 1: Midland Christian vs. Borger, 9 a.m., Lubbock High

Game 2: Levelland vs. Lubb. Monterey, 9 a.m., Wolfforth Frenship HS

Game 3: Greenwood vs. Lubbock, Trinity, Noon, Monterey HS

Game 4: Dumas vs. Seminole, Noon, Lubbock High

Game 5: Shallowater vs. Monahans, 10:30 a.m., Coronado HS

Game 6: Lubbock High vs. Perryton, 10:30 a.m., Lubbock Christian HS

Game 7: St. Andrews vs. Lubbock Cooper, 4:30 p.m., Coronado HS

Game 8: El Paso Harmony vs. El Paso Austin, 3 p.m., Frenship HS

Game 9: Devine vs. Lubbock Estacado, 3 p.m., Monterey HS

Game 10: Lubbock Coronado vs. Pampa, 6 p.m., Lubbock Christian HS

Championship Bracket

Quarterfinals

Game 11: Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 6 p.m., Estacado HS

Game 12: Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner, 7:30 p.m., Estacado HS

Game 13: Game 5 winner vs. Game 6 winner, 7:30 p.m., Lubbock Christian

Game 14: Game 8 winner vs. Game 9 winner, 9 p.m., Monterey HS

Friday's Games

Championship Bracket

Quarterfinals

Game 20: Game 1 winner vs. Game 10 winner, 1:30 p.m., Lubbock Christian

Semifinals

Game 21: Game 11 winner vs. Game 12 winner, 1:30 p.m., Estacado HS

Game 22: Game 13 winner vs. Game 14 winner, 4:30 p.m., Lubbock Christian

Game 30: Game 20 winner vs. Game 21 winner, 9 p.m., Lubbock High

Consolation Bracket

Game 15: Game 1 loser vs. Game 10 loser, Noon, Coronado HS

Game 16: Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser, 9 a.m., Estacado HS

Game 17: Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 loser, 9 a.m., Monterey HS

Game 18: Game 5 loser vs. Game 6 loser, 10:30 a.m., Estacado HS

Game 19: Game 8 loser vs. Game 9 loser, 10:30 a.m., Lubbock Christian HS

Quarterfinals

Game 23: Game 13 loser vs. Game 15 winner, 7:30 p.m., Frenship HS

Game 24: Game 12 loser vs. Game 16 winner, 4:30 p.m., Estacado HS

Game 25: Game 14 loser vs. Game 17 winner, 6 p.m., Monterey HS

Game 26: Game 11 loser vs. Game 18 winner, 6 p.m., Frenship HS

Game 27: Game 20 loser vs. Game 19 winner, 7:30 p.m., Coronado HS

Guarantee Games

Game 28: Game 16 loser vs. Game 17 loser, 4:30 p.m., Estacado HS

Game 29: Game 18 loser vs. Game 19 loser, 6 p.m., Monterey HS

Saturday's Games

Consolation Bracket

Game 32: Game 23 winner vs. Game 24 winner, 9 a.m., Frenship HS

Game 33: Game 25 winner vs. Game 15 loser, 10:30 a.m.

Game 34: Game 26 winner vs. Game 27 winner, Noon, Lubbock High

Game 35: Game 23 loser vs. Game 24 loser, Noon, Coronado HS

Game 36: Game 32 winner vs. Game 25 winner, 1:30 p.m., Monterey HS

Game 37: Game 26 loser vs. Game 27 loser, 1:30 p.m., Frenship HS

Game 38: Game 33 winner vs. Game 29 loser, 3 p.m., Estacado HS

Game 39: Game 28 winner vs. Game 33 loser, 3 p.m., Estacado HS

Game 40: Game 29 winner vs. Game 28 loser, 10:30 a.m., Estacado HS

Championship Bracket

Third-place Semifinal

Game 31: Game 21 loser vs. Game 22 loser, 9 a.m., Estacado HS

Third-place Game

Game 41: Game 30 loser vs. Game 31 winner, 3 p.m., Coronado HS

Championship

Game 42: Game 30 winner vs. Game 22 winner, 9:30 p.m., Rip Griffin Center

GIRLS

Chick-fil-A Bracket

Large School Girls

Thursday's Games

Game 1: Shallowater vs. Amarillo Tascosa, 9 a.m., Coronado HS

Game 2: Big Spring vs. Lubbock Titans, 9 a.m., Estacado HS

Game 3: Seminole vs. Lubbock High, 9 a.m., Monterey HS

Game 4: Pampa vs. Lubbock Trinity, 10:30 a.m., Monterey HS

Game 5: Lubbock Monterey vs. Greenwood, 10:30 a.m., Frenship HS

Game 6: Lubbock Cooper vs. Odessa High, 10:30 a.m., Trinity School

Game 7: Lubbock Coronado vs. Midland Christian, Noon, Lubbock Christian HS

Game 8: Monahans vs. Perryton, Noon, Coronado HS

Game 9: Andrews vs. Brownwood, 1:30 p.m., Frenship HS

Game 10: Wichita Falls Rider vs. Levelland, 1:30 p.m., Monterey HS

Game 11: Frenship vs. Gainesville, 3 p.m., Coronado HS

Game 12: Lubbock Estacado vs. Coppell, 4:30 p.m., Lubbock Christian HS

Championship Bracket

Quarterfinals

Game 13: Game 6 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 6 p.m., Frenship HS

Game 14: Game 1 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 7:30 p.m., Lubbock High

Game 15: Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner, 7:30 p.m., Monterey HS

Game 16: Game 8 winner vs. Game 10 winner, 9 p.m., Coronado HS

Game 17: Game 7 winner vs. Game 9 winner, Frenship HS, 9 p.m., Estacado HS

Friday's Games

Consolation Games

Game 19: Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 loser, 9 a.m., Monterey HS

Game 20: Game 7 loser vs. Game 9 loser, 10:30 a.m., Lubbock High

Game 21: Game 11 loser vs. Game 12 loser, 10:30 a.m., Trinity School

Game 22: Game 8 loser vs. Game 10 loser, 10:30 a.m., Coronado HS

Game 23: Game 6 loser vs. Game 2 loser, Noon, Monterey HS

Game 24: Game 1 loser vs. Game 5 loser, Noon, Estacado HS

Game 25: Game 19 winner vs. Game 18 loser, 4:30 p.m., Monterey HS

Game 26: Game 23 winner vs. Game 16 loser, 7:30 p.m., Trinity School

Game 27: Game 21 loser vs. Game 19 loser, 4:30 p.m., Coronado HS

Game 28: Game 20 loser vs. Game 22 loser, 6 p.m., Estacado HS

Game 29: Game 23 loser vs. Game 24 loser, 7:30 p.m., Monterey HS

Game 30: Game 23 winner vs. Game 16 loser, 7:30 p.m., Trinity School

Game 31: Game 21 winner vs. Game 15 loser, 4:30 p.m., Frenship HS

Game 32: Game 22 winner vs. Game 13 loser, 4:30 p.m. Frenship HS

Game 33: Game 20 winner vs. Game 14 loser, 6 p.m., Estacado HS

Championship Bracket

Semifinals

Game 34: Game 13 winner vs. Game 14 winner, 3 p.m., Trinity School

Game 35: Game 17 winner vs. Game 16 winner, 7:30 p.m., Lubbock Christian HS

Game 36: Game 18 winner vs. Game 15 winner, 3 p.m., Monterey HS

Saturday's Games

Consolation Games

Game 38: Game 33 loser vs. Game 32 loser, 9 a.m., Lubbock High

Game 39: Game 31 loser vs. Game 25 loser, 9 a.m., Frenship HS

Game 40: Game 30 loser vs. Game 26 loser, 9 a.m., Estacado HS

Game 41: Game 29 winner vs. Game 27 loser, Noon, Frenship HS

Game 42: Game 28 winner vs. Game 29 loser, Noon, Trinity School

Game 43: Game 27 winner vs. Game 28 loser, Noon, Monterey HS

Game 44: Game 31 winner vs. Game 25 winner, 10:30 a.m., Monterey HS

Game 45: Game 30 winner vs. Game 26 winner, Noon, Estacado HS

Game 48: Game 33 winner vs. Game 32 winner, Noon, Estacado HS

Championship Bracket

Semifinals

Game 37: Game 36 winner vs. Game 34 winner, 9 a.m., Coronado HS

Consolation Game

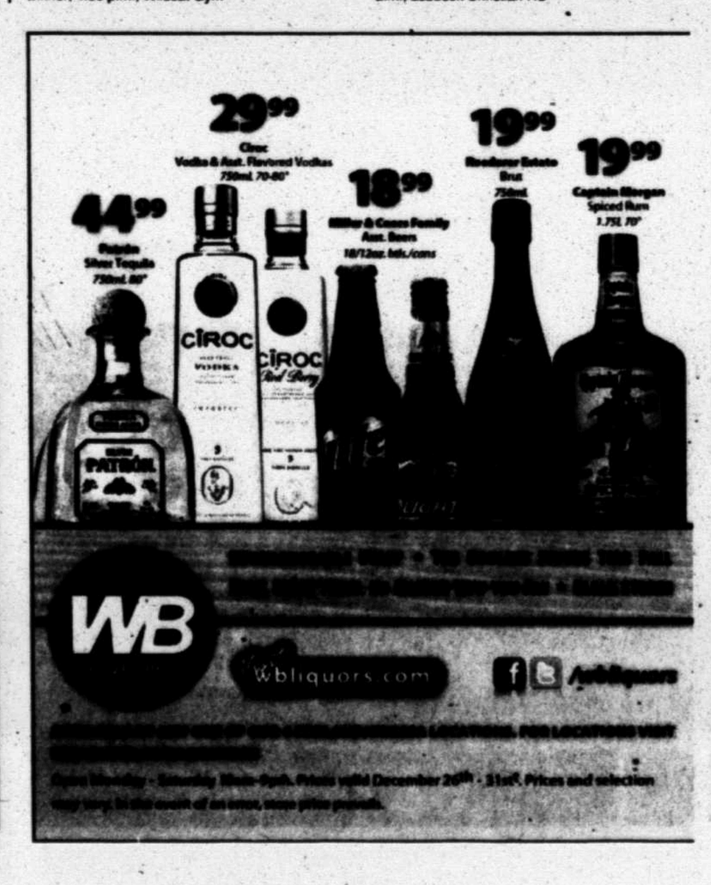
Game 46: Game 36 loser vs. Game 34 loser, Noon, Coronado HS

Third-place Game

Game 49: Game 35 loser vs. Game 37 loser, 3 p.m., Trinity School

Championship

Game 50: Game 35 winner vs. Game 37 winner, 7:45 p.m., Rip Griffin Center



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BYRONJOHNSTONCLASSIC

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Byron Johnston Holiday Classic
Today-Saturday
All games at Chaparral Center unless noted.
Girls
Pool play
Pool A — Midland High, Odessa Permian, El Paso Eastlake, Bushland
Pool B — Lee, Midland Classical, Plainview, Baytown Lee

Today
3 p.m. — Lee vs. Midland Classical
3 p.m. — Odessa Permian vs. Bushland, Midland High gym
4:30 p.m. — Baytown Lee vs. Plainview
6 p.m. — El Paso Eastlake vs. Midland High
Friday
8 a.m. — Plainview vs. Midland Classical
8 a.m. — El Paso Eastlake vs. Odessa Permian, Midland High gym
9:30 a.m. — Lee vs. Baytown Lee, Midland High gym
11 a.m. — Midland High vs. Bushland
2 p.m. — Baytown Lee vs. Midland Classical
6 p.m. — Plainview vs. Lee, Lee gym
6 p.m. — Bushland vs. El Paso Eastlake, Midland High gym
6 p.m. — Odessa Permian vs. Midland High

Saturday
Seventh-place Game
9 a.m. — Pool A 4th vs. Pool B 4th, Midland High gym
Fifth-place Game
9 a.m. — Pool A 3rd vs. Pool B 3rd
Third-place Game
Noon — Pool A 2nd vs. Pool B 2nd
Championship
3 p.m. — Pool A 1st vs. Pool B 1st

Boys
Pool play
Pool A — Midland High, Plainview, Crowley, El Paso Eastlake
Pool B — Lee, Bushland, Alief Hastings, El Paso Americas

Today
4:30 p.m. — El Paso Americas vs. Lee
6 p.m. — Alief Hastings vs. Bushland, Midland High gym
7:30 p.m. — Crowley vs. El Paso Eastlake, Midland High gym
7:30 p.m. — Plainview vs. Midland High
Friday
9:30 a.m. — Lee vs. Bushland
11 a.m. — Alief Hastings vs. El Paso Americas, Midland High gym
12:30 p.m. — Midland High vs. El Paso Eastlake
12:30 p.m. — Crowley vs. Plainview, Midland High gym
3:30 p.m. — Bushland vs. El Paso Americas
7:30 p.m. — El Paso Eastlake vs. Plainview, Midland High gym
7:30 p.m. — Alief Hastings vs. Lee, Lee gym
7:30 p.m. — Crowley vs. Midland High
Saturday
Seventh-place Game
10:30 a.m. — Pool A 4th vs. Pool B 4th, Midland High gym
Fifth-place Game
10:30 a.m. — Pool A 3rd vs. Pool B 3rd
Third-place Game
1:30 p.m. — Pool A 2nd vs. Pool B 2nd
Championship
4:30 p.m. — Pool A 1st vs. Pool B 1st

Tiebreakers within pool play
A two-team tie for first-place goes to head-to-head record.
A three-team tie for any place goes to point differential.

COMPETITION

From 1C

person," Tatum said. "This tournament means a lot to me because of what it represents. It represents his father, and it was an unfortunate loss for Blake in his childhood. To have the tournament named after him is a great honor. For me, it's an opportunity to honor his memory and my friend."

Tatum was a member of the Midland High team that won the BJHC in 1995, playing on the varsity as a sophomore. But of all the memories Tatum can recall from the Classic, it's a defeat that sticks out most in his mind.

"I remember missing the three that would have won the tournament for us my senior year," Tatum said. "We were down by two to a team from California. I can't even remember their name. They wore green and white.

"As much success as we had in that tournament, that's the memory that sticks out the most for me."

It was the success of those Midland High teams that Packer remembers best, as well.

"Those Midland High teams back then were really good," Packer said. "It was fun to watch them and play against them. Those were fun times as a player. It was better than just sitting around the house during the Christmas break. We were all trying to find gyms to play anyway. We were just wanting to play and the Byron let us do that."

Both coaches now need the tournament to allow their players to get their legs back under them and work off some of that holiday ham before they restart District 2-5A play before the Christmas break is even over on Jan. 2.

"That's a big deal for us," Packer said. "We've got to get our legs back under us because we've got some big games right out of the break."

And if this batch of Bulldogs and Rebels form some special memories of their own about the tournament, then it's just a bonus.

"You dream when you're playing, and honestly, coaching at Midland High was my dream job," Tatum said. "When I got into coaching, I look at all the avenues I might have to go through to coach at Midland High. Now, I get to coach in the Byron Johnston. I hope some of these players can have some of their own special memories about this tournament."

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MCA

From 1C

Fortunately for Cunneen and the Lady Knights, new MHS girls coach Wes Torres was already familiar with them when he took over the job and honored Berry's invite.

"I've played (MCA) in the past," Torres said. "We've played a couple times in the past three or four years. I was familiar with their program and thought they had a team that could add a little local flair to the tournament."

The Lady Knights will play in Pool B of the BJHC along with Lee, Baytown Lee and Plainview. They'll be matched up against a team from Pool A, which consists of Midland High, Odessa Permian, El Paso Eastlake and Bushland, depending on how they fare in pool play on Saturday.

For the Lady Knights, it's an opportunity to play a higher caliber of opponent to prepare them for their district and the TAPPS 3A state playoffs.

"It's going to be so good for us — a good learning experience," said MCA senior guard Kayla Beattie, the team's leading scorer. "It's going to be different for sure, playing at Midland College, but I think it's going to be really fun for us."

For Beattie, it's also an opportunity to do something she's wanted to do ever since she was in elementary school and watched the Lady Knight win the consolation title of the BJHC in 2007. They defeated Lee in the consolation championship game.

"It's something I've wanted to do ever since I was little," Beattie said. "A few years ago we had a team that was in the Byron, and that's something I've always wanted to do. It's really special."

Beattie and her younger sister Alissa — MCA's sophomore point guard — make up a talented backcourt for the Lady Knights that generates a majority of the team's points. It provides an intriguing matchup against Lee, which is headlined by a pair of athletic guards in juniors Daija Stanford and Bri'An Washington.

"Daija, she plays 100 percent, she goes as hard as you can possibly play," Cunneen said. "She's also a great defender. But on the flip side, we've got some scorers. I hope it's a battle, a back-and-forth game. We would love that — anything that's going to help prepare us for later in the season."

The Beattie sisters are actually very familiar with the Lady Rebels, having played club ball with several players, including sisters Jackie and Yaritza Rivas. But not all the Lady Knights have that kind of familiarity of playing with girls from the Tall City's 5A squads.

"I would say a lot of time the game is faster. It's just a different speed," Kayla Beattie said. "We've played against the Midland High and Lee teams in the spring and summer leagues. So we know a little bit, but it's going to be a faster game, especially from Lee. I know they run a very fast tempo."

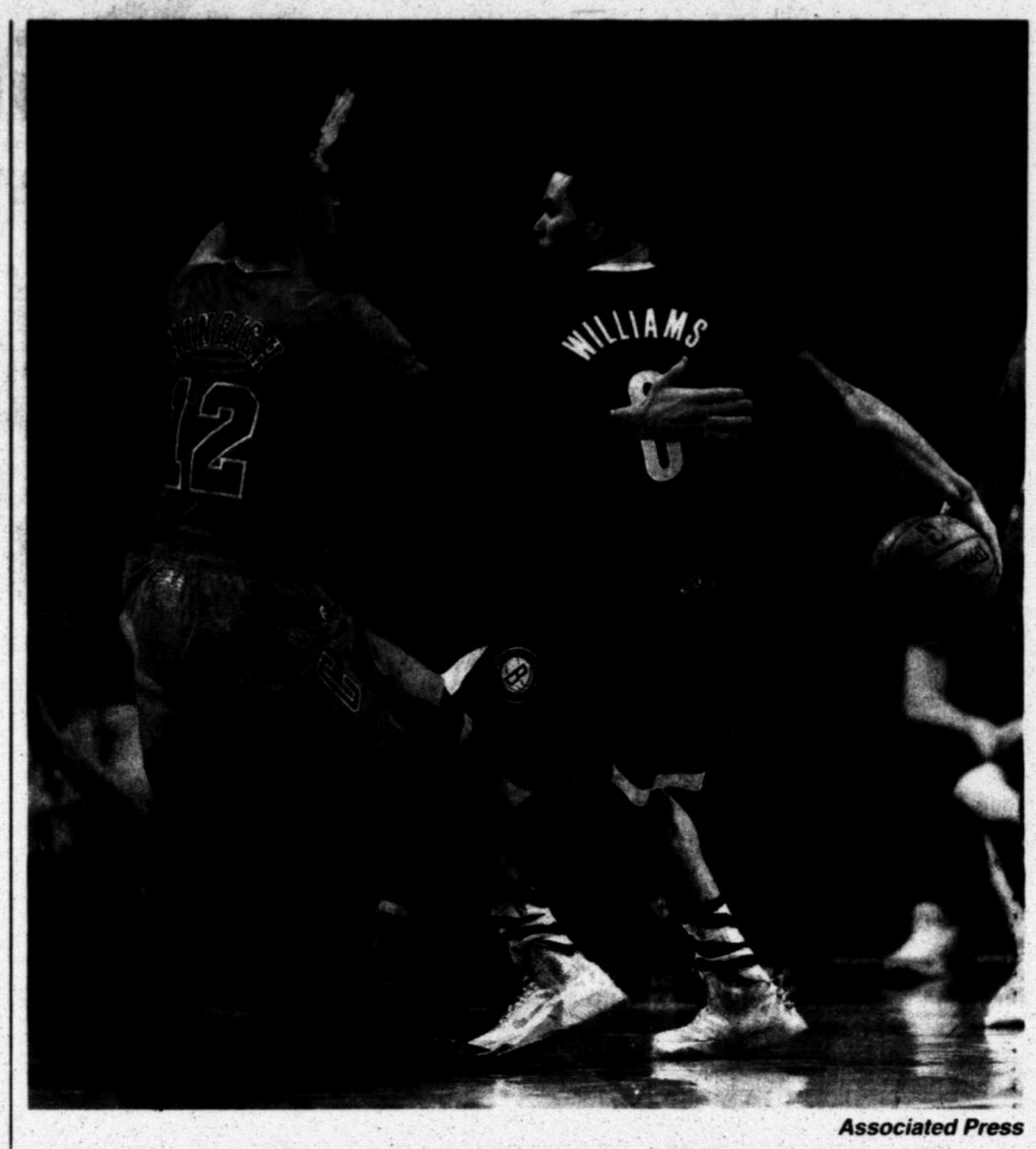
This is the third tournament the Lady Knights have played in this season, competing in the Kristen Corbin Classic in Andrews and the El Ave Shootout in Crane already. It's also a major step up in competition from those tournaments.

"Obviously, this is a big tournament," Cunneen said. "This will be the biggest tournament we've ever played in. I think all tournaments we play in are good preparation for our main goal, which is district and the playoffs. Obviously, this is a different caliber, and playing against Midland High and Lee is obviously something our kids are looking forward to."

But just because Lady Knights are the lone private school in the BJHC field doesn't mean they're tempering their expectations.

"I think we have a chance to be just as competitive as anyone," Beattie said. "Our goal going into this is just to get better for later in the season. I think there is a little bit of that (chip on our shoulder) feeling. Maybe a little bit. It's going to be fun playing against these girls I've known since I was a sixth grader. I know how good they are, but I know how good we are. It's going to be really fun."

Follow Jonathan on Twitter: @Hull_MRT



Associated Press

Brooklyn Nets' Deron Williams, right, passes behind his back while Chicago Bulls' Kirk Hinrich defends during the first half at the Barclays Center, Wednesday in New York.

NBA ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

THUNDER 123 KNICKS 94

NEW YORK — Not only was there no Kevin Durant-Carmelo Anthony showdown, there wasn't much of a game, either.

The Oklahoma City Thunder made sure of it with the most dominant performance ever by a road team on Christmas.

Durant scored 29 points, Russell Westbrook had a triple-double by the middle of the third quarter, and the Thunder rolled to a 123-94 victory Wednesday over the New York Knicks.

The 29-point victory was the largest for a road team on Christmas.

"I just know that if we play the way we play, team basketball, Thunder basketball, not too many teams that can beat us," Westbrook said.

The Knicks, without Anthony, weren't one of them.

The matchup between the NBA's top two scorers was canceled because of Anthony's sprained left ankle, so the Thunder had the Christmas spotlight all to themselves while winning for the 10th time in 11 games.

Westbrook finished with 14 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists in his first triple-double of the season and seventh of his career. Serge Ibaka added 24 points on 10-of-14 shooting as the Thunder left a sellout crowd of 19,812 booing the home team, or making no noise at all.

"I said that on the bench, I was like, 'Man, it feels like nobody's in here,'" Durant said.

Amare Stoudemire scored a season-high 22 points, and Tim Hardaway Jr. had 21 for the Knicks, who also were missing starting point guard Raymond Felton. J.R. Smith scored 20 points, but shot 8 for 22 and was booed when he left the court for good.

Anthony sat out for the first time this season. The Knicks were never really in it without him and may not have had a chance with him the way the Thunder played.

"Defensively, we just weren't there tonight," Knicks coach Mike Woodson said.

The Knicks not only had trouble with the Thunder, but also with the special edition sleeved jerseys NBA teams are wearing on Christmas.

Beno Udrih hit the side of the backboard on two shot attempts in the first half, tugging on his sleeve after the second as if blaming his struggles on his equipment.

Oklahoma City had a much easier time in the uniforms. Coach Scott Brooks said before the game the Thunder hadn't had a formal practice in them, but players had shot around the last few days in the jerseys that featured a giant logo in the middle of the chest and jersey numbers on the left sleeve.

"They look great. Hopefully, we play well in them," Brooks said.

They played superbly.

Coming off a 104-98 loss to Toronto on Sunday that ended a nine-game winning streak and was their first setback at home this season, they shot 54 percent and got 18 points from Reggie Jackson.

Durant made all five shots in the first quarter, with the Thunder leading 35-29 after shooting 70 percent. Jackson and Durant made 3-pointers to start the second, making Oklahoma City 16 of 22. Ibaka did most of the work in an 8-2 spurt midway through the period that extended the lead to 17, and the Thunder led 60-46 at halftime.

BULLS 95 NETS 78

NEW YORK — Taj Gibson scored 20 points and Jimmy Butler added 15, and the Chicago Bulls routed the Brooklyn Nets 95-78 on Wednesday.

Trailing 50-49 early in the third quarter, the Bulls took over behind Butler. He keyed a 21-5 run that gave Chicago control.

Butler, who sat out the last game with a right ankle injury, started the burst with a 3-pointer and then soon added a three-point play that made it 57-52. That was the first of 12 straight points by the Bulls.

Another three-point play by Butler made it 66-52.

Chicago (11-16) led by 19 at the end of the period after Reggie Evans' dunk with less than a second left ended a 5 1/2-minute field goal drought for the Nets (9-19).

Brooklyn couldn't get much closer in the fourth and was serenaded with a chorus of loud boos from the fans.

What once was viewed as a Christmas Day showdown between Eastern Conference contenders became a matchup of two of the NBA's biggest disappointments so far, as both teams have been plagued by injuries.

Deron Williams scored 18 points and Mizra Teletovic added 17 for the Nets, who have lost four straight.

The victory was Chicago's second straight, the first time since five consecutive wins from Nov. 8-18 that the Bulls had two in a row. Chicago is starting to get healthy with the return of guard Kirk Hinrich and Butler, both of whom started.

Hinrich spurred a 12-0 run midway through the second quarter that gave Chicago a 39-31 lead. Williams then scored seven straight to make it a one-point game. Chicago led 41-38 at the half before Butler took over.

While the Bulls got both guards back, they were still missing Luol Deng (Achilles) and Derrick Rose, who is sidelined for the season with a right knee injury.

Brooklyn has its own injury issues with center Brook Lopez lost for the season Friday to a broken right foot.

The two teams were wearing their Christmas short-sleeve jerseys that look straight out of a rec league game. Instead of numbers and a team name on the front, there was a big shiny logo. There are numbers on the sleeves, while the backs look more like a normal NBA jersey.

HEAT 101 LAKERS 95

LOS ANGELES — Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade had 23 points apiece, and the Miami Heat beat the Los Angeles Lakers 101-95 on Wednesday for their sixth straight win.

Bosh also had 11 rebounds in the Heat's fifth consecutive victory against the Lakers on Christmas Day. LeBron James added 19 points and Ray Allen had 12.

Miami shot 51 percent (41 for 80) from the field while improving to 7-0 against the Western Conference this season. It was its 19th straight win overall against West opponents.

Nick Young scored 20 points for the Lakers, who were tied four times in the fourth quarter. Los Angeles shot 42 percent (33 for 79) in its third straight loss.

Kobe Bryant was relegated to the sideline with his fractured left knee, leaving him unable to extend his NBA-record Christmas Day appearances to 16. Jodie Meeks had 17 points for Los Angeles, Xavier Henry scored 14 and Pau Gasol had 13 points and 13 rebounds.

Jordan Farmar returned from a left hamstring tear after missing 10 games, giving the Lakers a true point guard to run the offense. But he was ineffective, with three points and two assists in 32 minutes.

No. 14 Iowa State beats Boise State

Associated Press

Iowa State	70
Boise State	66

HONOLULU — Iowa State is flying home from its holiday trip to Hawaii with three more wins and its best start in school history.

The No. 14 Cyclones beat Boise State 70-66 on Wednesday night to win the Diamond Head Classic, recovering from a season-low 27 points in the first half.

The 70 total points also was a season low, but the result was still the only one they've known so far — the latest of 11 wins.

"We've only played eight games coming into this tournament so it was very important to get these and take care of business and give us some momentum heading into conference," Iowa State coach Fred Hoiberg said.

DeAndre Kane scored 23 points, winning tournament MVP honors for his three-game performance. Iowa State beat George Mason and Akron to get to the final.

Kane hit a 3-pointer with less than 2 minutes left to help seal the win for the Cyclones. Boise State's Derrick Marks had a chance to tie with less than 30 seconds left, but missed a 15-foot jumper.

Melvin Ejim had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Georges Niang had 16 points.

"The guys do a great job of sharing the ball and being unselfish and understanding who's got the best mismatch out there on the floor," Hoiberg said. "DeAndre did a great job getting to spots and making the right play. Georges hit some huge shots for us, and Melvin did what he always does for us by getting us extra possessions."

Kane said he, Ejim and Niang are "like a brotherhood."

"We hang together every day and all day, and when one guy gets it rolling, we know that we're going to that guy no matter what," he said.

Iowa State finished with 14 offensive rebounds, outscoring Boise State 16-5 on second-chance points.

Iowa State pushed beyond its best-ever start after tying it Monday. The Cyclones started with 10 straight wins in the 1996-97 season en route to a final 16 appearance in the NCAA tournament.

Iowa State came back after making less than a third of its shots in the first half, improving to 50 percent in the second half.

More Diamondhead Classic results

Iowa St. 70, Boise St. 66, third place
South Carolina 69, Akron 59, fifth place
Hawaii 79, Oregon St. 73, seventh place
George Mason 65, Saint Mary's (Calif.) 63

WEDNESDAY IN THE NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	11	15	.423	—
Boston	12	17	.414	½
New York	9	19	.321	3
Brooklyn	9	19	.321	3
Philadelphia	8	20	.286	4
Southeast Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Miami	22	6	.786	—
Atlanta	15	13	.536	7
Charlotte	14	15	.483	8½
Washington	12	13	.480	8½
Orlando	8	20	.286	14
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Indiana	23	5	.821	—
Detroit	14	16	.467	10
Chicago	11	16	.407	11½
Cleveland	10	17	.370	12½
Milwaukee	6	22	.214	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	22	7	.759	—
Houston	19	11	.633	3½
Dallas	16	12	.571	5½
New Orleans	12	14	.462	8½
Memphis	12	15	.444	9
Northwest Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Portland	23	5	.821	—
Oklahoma City	23	5	.821	—
Denver	14	13	.519	8½
Minnesota	13	15	.464	10
Utah	8	23	.258	16½
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
L.A. Clippers	20	9	.690	—
Phoenix	17	10	.630	2
Golden State	16	13	.552	4
L.A. Lakers	13	16	.448	7
Sacramento	8	19	.296	11

Wednesday's Scores
Chicago 95, Brooklyn 78
Oklahoma City 123, New York 94
Miami 101, L.A. Lakers 95
Houston 111, San Antonio 98
L.A. Clippers at Golden State, late

Today's Games
Atlanta at Cleveland, 6 p.m.
Memphis at Houston, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Portland, 9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S BOX SCORES

ROCKETS 111, SPURS 98

HOUSTON (111): Parsons 8-14 0-0 21, Jones 9-20 3-4 21, Howard 7-12 1-4 15, Lin 5-10 2-4 13, Harden 11-16 3-6 28, Cassip 3-9 0-0 7, Garcia 0-0 0-0 0, Brooks 2-5 0-0 6, Canaan 0-0 0-0 0, Brewer 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 45-86 9-18 111.

SAN ANTONIO (98): Leonard 6-14 1-1 13, Duncan 4-12 3-6 11, Splitter 2-7 2-2 6, Parker 3-11 0-0 6, Belinelli 4-8 0-0 9, Ginobili 8-17 3-3 22, Diaw 2-5 0-0 4, Mills 3-6 2-2 9, Green 1-4 4-5 6, Joseph 1-2 2-2 4, Bonner 2-3 0-0 4, Ayres 0-1 2-2 2, Baynes 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 37-91 19-23 98.

Houston	**40**	**20**	**23**	**28**	**— 111**
San Antonio	**25**	**26**	**24**	**23**	**— 98**

3-Point Goals—Houston 12-24 (Parsons 5-9, Harden 3-3, Brooks 2-3, Lin 1-2, Cassip 1-4, Jones 0-3). San Antonio 5-20 (Ginobili 3-7, Belinelli 1-3, Mills 1-3, Bonner 0-1, Diaw 0-1, Joseph 0-1, Leonard 0-2, Green 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Houston 57 (Howard 20), San Antonio 51 (Duncan 14). Assists—Houston 28 (Lin 8), San Antonio 18 (Duncan 5). Total Fouls—Houston 16, San Antonio 13. A—18,581 (18,797).

THUNDER 123, KNICKS 95

OKLAHOMA CITY (123): Durant 10-16 5-6 29, Ibaka 10-14 3-4 24, Perkins 2-2 0-0 4, Westbrook 5-15 3-4 14, Sefolosha 1-3 0-0 3, Collison 2-4 1-2 5, Jackson 6-18 3-3 18, Lamb 5-8 1-1 13, Fisher 1-1 1-2 4, Jones 0-2 0-0 0. Adams 1-1 3-4 5, Robertson 2-2 0-0 4. Totals 45-84 20-26 123.

NEW YORK (94): J.Smith 8-22 1-3 20, Bargnani 4-8 1-1 9, Chandler 2-5 1-2 5, Udrih 1-6 0-0 2, Shumpert 3-8 1-2 8, Hardaway Jr. 8-19 3-3 21, Stoudemire 10-16 2-4 22, Martin 0-1 0-0 0, Murry 2-5 2-2 6, Aldrich 0-0 1-2 1, C.Smith 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 38-90 12-19 94.

Oklahoma City	**35**	**25**	**27**	**36**	**— 123**
New York	**29**	**17**	**21**	**27**	**— 94**

3-Point Goals—Oklahoma City 13-24 (Durant 4-6, Jackson 3-6, Lamb 2-4, Fisher 1-1, Ibaka 1-1, Sefolosha 1-2, Westbrook 1-3, Jones 0-1). New York 6-23 (J.Smith 3-9, Hardaway Jr. 2-7, Shumpert 1-4, Udrih 0-1, Murry 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Oklahoma City 54 (Westbrook 13), New York 50 (Chandler 9). Assists—Oklahoma City 32 (Westbrook 10), New York 23 (Udrih 6). Total Fouls—Oklahoma City 21, New York 22. Technicals—Perkins, Oklahoma City defensive three second, Stoudemire A—19,812 (19,763).

BULLS 95, NETS 78

CHICAGO (95): Dunleavy 5-10 2-2 13, Boozer 6-11 2-2 14, Noah 3-8 4-4 10, Hinrich 3-5 0-0 6, Butler 4-10 5-6 15, Gibson 9-15 2-2 20, Augustin 4-7 3-4 13, Snell 2-6 0-0 4, Mohammed 0-1 0-0 0, Murphy 0-0 0-0 0, Teague 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 36-74 18-20 95.

BROOKLYN (78): Anderson 1-2 0-0 2, Teletovic 7-11 0-1 17, Garnett 2-7 2-2 6, Williams 6-10 4-4 18, Johnson 5-11 2-4 12, Blatche 1-11 5-6 7, Evans 1-1 3-6 5, Pierce 1-8 4-4 6, Terry 0-2 1-2 1, Livingston 0-3 0-0 0, Plumlee 1-5 2-2 4, Shengelia 0-0 0-0 0, Taylor 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-71 23-31 78.

Chicago	**21**	**20**	**36**	**18**	**— 95**
Brooklyn	**23**	**15**	**20**	**20**	**— 78**

3-Point Goals—Chicago 5-17 (Augustin 2-4, Butler 2-4, Dunleavy 1-4, Hinrich 0-1, Snell 0-4). Brooklyn 5-17 (Teletovic 3-7, Williams 2-3, Anderson 0-1, Terry 0-2, Pierce 0-2, Johnson 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 47 (Noah, Gibson 8), Brooklyn 47 (Evans 13). Assists—Chicago 20 (Augustin 5), Brooklyn 11 (Williams 4). Total Fouls—Chicago 22, Brooklyn 19. A—17,732 (17,732).

HEAT 101, LAKERS 95

MIAMI (101): James 7-14 5-9 19, Bosh 1-5 0-0 3, Bosh 9-18 5-6 23, Chalmers 3-7 0-0 7, Wade 11-17 0-2 23, Allen 4-5 0-0 12, Lewis 1-5 0-0 3, Andersen 1-1 0-0 2, Cole 3-6 0-0 7, Haslem 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 41-80 10-17 101.

L.A. LAKERS (95): Johnson 4-10 0-0 12, Williams 1-4 0-0 3, Gasol 6-12 1-2 13, Farmar 1-7 1-2 3, Meeks 6-12 1-2 17, Henry 5-8 4-7 14, Hill 2-6 5-9 9, Young 7-18 2-2 20, Kelly 1-2 1-2 4. Totals 33-79 15-28 95.

Miami	**21**	**30**	**25**	**25**	**— 101**
L.A. Lakers	**27**	**19**	**28**	**21**	**— 95**

3-Point Goals—Miami 9-27 (Allen 4-5, Wade 1-1, Cole 1-2, Chalmers 1-3, Butler 1-5, Lewis 1-5, Bosh 0-2, James 0-4). L.A. Lakers 14-36 (Young 4-7, Johnson 4-9, Meeks 4-10, Kelly 1-1, Williams 1-4, Henry 0-1, Farmar 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Miami 47 (Bosh 11), L.A. Lakers 56 (Gasol 13). Assists—Miami 29 (Chalmers, Wade 7), L.A. Lakers 15 (Meeks, Gasol 3). Total Fouls—Miami 20, L.A. Lakers 19. A—18,997 (18,997).

Oregon St. tops Boise St. 38-23 in Hawaii Bowl

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Rashaad Reynolds and Oregon State made the most of their final chance to stop a costly losing streak.

Reynolds returned two fumbles for touchdowns, helping the Beavers beat Boise State 38-23 in the Hawaii Bowl on Tuesday night.

Oregon State won six of its first seven games of the season. Then a 20-12 home loss to then-No. 8 Stanford started a five-game slide that came to an end when the Beavers (7-6) set several records in handing Boise State its worst loss in two months.

Oregon State coach Mike Riley said stopping the skid was the biggest deal for his team.

"They've worked hard, they haven't lost their focus even though there's been some discouragement, they didn't let it stay with them," Riley said. "I loved how they've responded all year."

Biletnikoff Award-winner Brandin Cooks grabbed eight balls for 60 yards and a touchdown. He extended his Pac-12 single-season record to 128 receptions and broke the conference record for yards receiving with 1,730, passing Southern California's Marqise Lee.

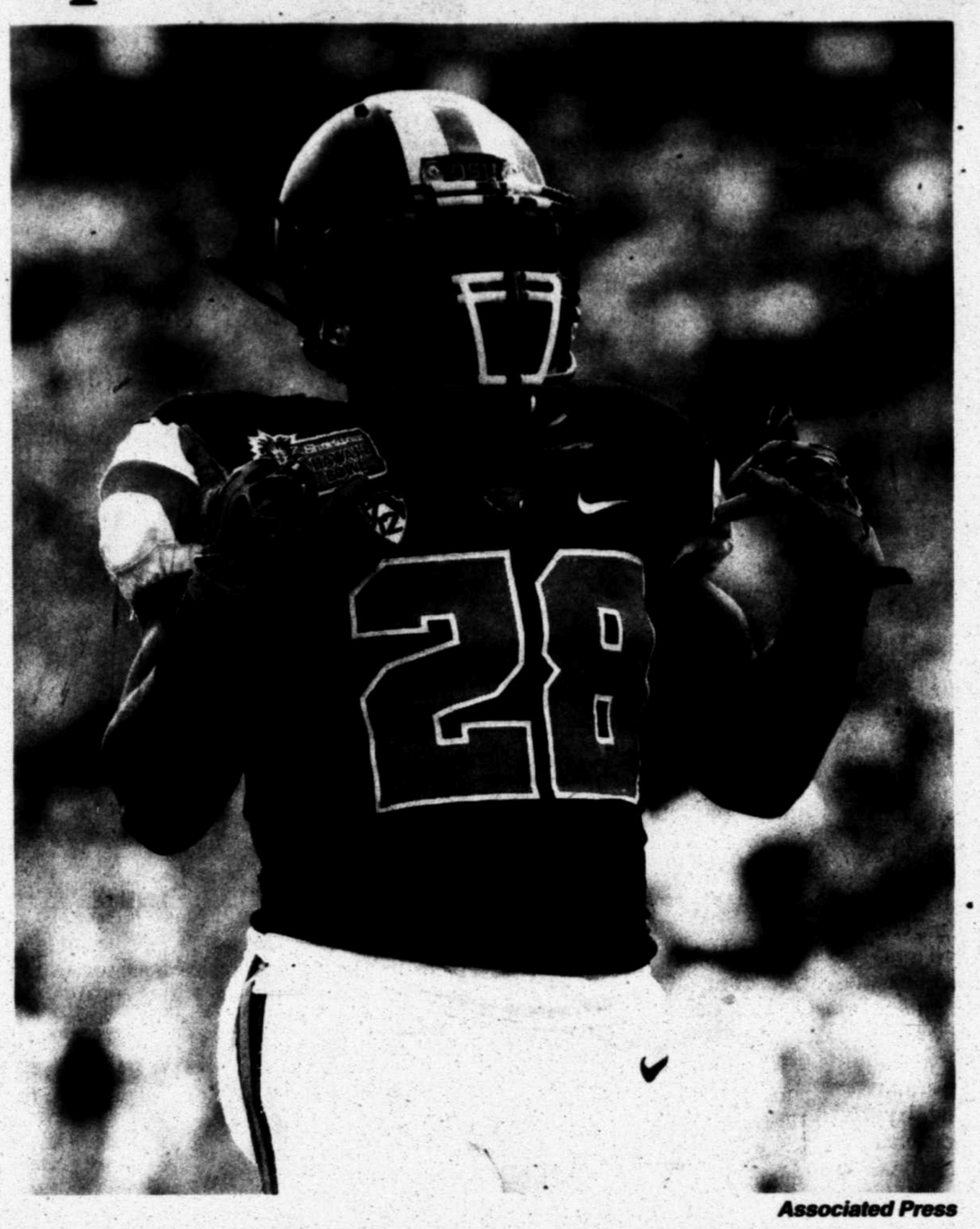
Sean Mannion threw for 259 yards and a touchdown, giving him a Pac-12-record 4,662 yards passing for the season.

"When you win, you'd like to say it's a good ending — a good beginning for the upcoming year," Riley said.

Oregon State kept Boise State (8-5) out of the end zone until the third quarter, well after the Beavers had opened a big lead.

Reynolds had his first fumble recovery about 12 minutes into the game when Scott Crichton stripped Boise State quarterback Grant Hedricks in the end zone. The ball popped forward to the 3-yard line, where Reynolds picked it up and ran it in.

Reynolds tacked on another fumble return in the second quarter on his way to game MVP honors. Troy Ware caught a 6-yard pass near the sideline for Boise State, but Larry Scott punched the ball out as Ware was falling to the ground. Reynolds picked it up and ran 70 yards to the end zone.



Associated Press

Oregon State running back Terron Ward celebrates after scoring a touchdown in the second quarter of the Hawaii Bowl against Boise State, in Honolulu on Tuesday.

"You just can't overcome those — it's very difficult to overcome those versus a Pac-12 team," Boise State interim coach Bob Gregory said. "That's tough when we're not on the field on defense, but we didn't make enough plays on defense either."

Matt Miller led Boise State with 11 catches for 206 yards and a touchdown, with most of the production coming after the game was decided. Miller, who set a school record with 88 catches this season, was the Broncos' MVP for the game.

Boise State's most successful drive came in the third quarter after Oregon State went 94 yards and scored a touchdown to make it 38-6. The Broncos responded with a nine-play, 76-yard drive spent partially in a hurry-up offense. Jay Ajayi took a shotgun handoff from Hedrick and ran up the middle for a 1-yard TD.

After the successful extra-point attempt went into the stands, the mostly-empty stadium provided its loudest ovation of the night in support of the fans who tried to keep the ball away from security by throwing it around the seats.

Oregon State finished with 454 total yards, averaging 6.8 per play. Storm Woods had 16 carries for 108 yards and a touchdown, and Terron Ward had a 9-yard TD run.

"That's exactly how we would like to look, we want to have that balance," Riley said. "We just frankly blocked better."

Hedrick threw for 382 yards and a touchdown, closing out a difficult stretch for the Broncos (8-5).

Joe Southwick was sent home by interim coach Bob Gregory after the quarterback was accused of urinating off a hotel balcony in Honolulu last week, though he later told a TV station he didn't do it and was unfairly dismissed.

It was Gregory's first major issue after taking over for Chris Petersen, who left the team to take over at Washington.

"I mean there were a lot of distractions for us, but we've got a bunch of resilient guys," Miller said. "It was looking like we were going to come out and play well and that just didn't happen there."

Gregory said he didn't think the distractions affected his team.

"There wasn't a loss of focus," he said. "I think we had really good bowl practices, I think we had good practices when we were here and again we just didn't make as many plays as we had to make to make a difference in the game."

Both teams started the game with similar drives, making progress on big plays before stalling in the red zone and kicking field goals. But Oregon State grabbed the lead for good on Cooks' 2-yard TD reception with 4:15 left in the first quarter, capping a 92-yard drive.

Johnson a bright spot for terrible Texans

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Andre Johnson is having another great season for the Houston Texans.

The star receiver certainly isn't celebrating it with the Texans mired in a franchise-record 13-game skid.

He told The Associated Press this week that dealing with another terrible season after already suffering through the lean times early in franchise history has taken the joy out of playing the game he loves.

"You don't expect to go back through it," said. "You think you're past that stage as a team ... it is no fun at all."

Despite his frustration with this year, Johnson has remained Houston's most reliable leader.

"It's amazing. Andre is just the consummate pro. He's always positive," interim coach Wade Phillips said. "He's always making plays. It's tremendous the number of plays he's made ... that just says so much about him. And if you know him as a person, he's even better."

This has been the most painful season for Johnson because the Texans were coming off consecutive playoff appearances and were expected to contend for a Super Bowl. Instead, they need a win at Tennessee on Sunday to avoid matching their franchise-worst record of 2-14 from 2005.

If the Texans lose on Sunday, they will be guaranteed the top overall pick in April's draft.

Johnson is the only player remaining on the team from the 2005 season. He has been with the Texans since their second season after being drafted third overall in the 2003 draft.

He went through four losing seasons with David Carr at quarterback before the Texans picked up Matt Schaub and the franchise began to turn around. The Texans won back-to-back AFC South titles and looked to take the next step this season.

But Schaub had the worst stretch of his career and was benched after six games in favor of Case Keenum.

But the losing continued with the undrafted, record-setting University of Houston quarterback running the offense. Now it looks like Johnson is likely to be catching passes from another quarterback next season.

Johnson isn't spending time worrying about Houston's quarterback situation, especially because the Texans don't know who their coach will be in 2014 after Gary Kubiak's recent firing.

"You just have to wait and see what happens," he said. "You don't necessarily know if it's going to be a rookie quarterback or a veteran guy. We don't even have a coach yet."

ORTON

From 1C

plans, and Garrett said Orton's input would be welcomed.

"We always want our players to communicate with us," Garrett said. "We have a lot of ideas as coaches. We want our players to be comfortable with us, and we want their feedback."

Orton said until this week he hadn't taken any in-season snaps with the first-team offense, but he believes the starters are comfortable with him.

"I was fortunate to get a lot of reps during OTAs (when Romo was recovering from back surgery)," Orton said. "I've been here a couple of years, so I've had plenty of experience with these guys."

Kitna arrived back at Valley Ranch on Wednesday, also for the first time in two years, as the No. 3 quarterback or as Orton's backup.

Garrett said Kitna's job would be to run the scout team, simulating the Eagles' offense.

He's familiar with that role, because for the last two years he has been running the scout team for Lincoln High School in Tacoma, Wash., where he is head coach.

The 41-year-old Kitna had retired from the Cowboys after going on injured reserve because of a back injury.

The 15-year veteran also missed most of the 2008 season because of a herniated disc.

Though he seemed skeptical that Romo could play Sunday, Kitna said, "There are varying levels (of herniated discs)."

Quarterbacks David Carr, Tyler Thigpen, John Skelton, Caleb Hanie and Richard Bartel worked out for the Cowboys on Tuesday, but Garrett said the deciding factor was Kitna's experience and familiarity with Dallas' offensive system.

"I think he was gung-ho. He actually reached out to us," Garrett said. "My comment back was 'Are you serious?' He said, 'Absolutely.' He spoke to his family about it, and it just made sense."

BOWL CAPSULES

FROM WIRE REPORTS

SAN DIEGO

Lynch leads NIU vs Utah St in Poinsettia Bowl

Jordan Lynch will make a run at history tonight when he suits up for the final time for No. 24 Northern Illinois in the Poinsettia Bowl against Utah State.

Lynch already owns the major college record for yards rushing for a quarterback with 1,881. With 119 yards, he can become the first player to rush for 2,000 yards and throw for 2,000.

"I'm just really proud of him, and wish I had him for about 10 more years, but we don't," NIU coach Rod Carey said. "This is the last game we get him. That's the biggest thing with him."

Here are five things to look for when Northern Illinois plays Utah State (8-5):

LYNCH PIN: Lynch accounts for 65 percent of the NIU offense with 1,881 yards rushing, 2,676 passing and 43 touchdowns. He's 24-3 as the starter in two seasons. His eight 100-yard rushing games include two of more than 300 yards.

CONSOLATION PRIZE: The teams are coming off losses in conference championship games. NIU, the Mid-American Conference West Division champion, was routed 47-27 by Bowling Green in the conference title game. Utah State, which edged Boise State for the Mountain West Mountain Division title, lost 24-17 to Fresno State in the league championship game.

SKILL GUYS: Lynch isn't a one-man band. Cameron Stingily has 1,081 yards rushing, giving NIU its first 1,000-yard rushing tandem. Three wide receivers have at least 30 catches each: Tommylee Lewis has 80 catches for 660 yards and three touchdowns, Da'Ron Brown has 42 catches for 689 yards and nine scores and Juwan Brescacin has 30 catches for 469 yards and five TDs.

LINEBACKERS: Jake Doughty and Zach Vigil lead an Aggies defense that has intercepted 16 passes in its last nine games and scored three touchdowns in 2013. Doughty has 140 tackles, two sacks, an interception, one fumble recovery — which he returned 86 yards for a TD against Fresno State — and one forced fumble. Vigil has 115 tackles, two sacks, one interception, two fumble recoveries and two forced fumbles.

BOWLING: NIU is playing in its sixth straight bowl game and second Poinsettia Bowl. It lost 37-7 to TCU in 2006 Poinsettia Bowl. Utah State is playing in its school-record third straight bowl game. The Aggies are facing a MAC team in a bowl for the third straight year and the fourth time overall.

DETROIT

Pittsburgh to take on Bowling Green at Pizza Bowl

Pittsburgh defensive tackle Aaron Donald won a slew of awards this year.

The senior is hoping to close the season with a win tonight against Bowling Green at the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl to help the Panthers finish with a winning record for the first time since he was a freshman.

The Falcons won't be easy to beat.

Bowling Green (10-3) is favored to top the Panthers (6-6) at Ford Field, where it defeated previously unbeaten and 16th-ranked Northern Illinois in the Mid-American Conference championship game earlier this month.

Here are five things to watch when Pittsburgh and Bowling Green match up in the Motor City:

DOMINANT DONALD: Donald won the Lombardi, Outland, Nagurski and Bednarik awards and was the ACC defensive player of the year. The 6-foot, 285-pound defensive tackle had 10 sacks this season and led the nation with 2.2 tackles for loss per game. "He's a disruptive force," Scheier said. "We're just going to have to keep him in check."

POTENT OFFENSE: Bowling Green averaged 35.4 points and 472.5 yards with a balanced offense. Travis Greene ran for a single-season, school-record 1,555 yards. Matt Johnson threw for 3,195 yards with 23 touchdowns and seven interceptions. Johnson outplayed Heisman Trophy finalist Jordan Lynch in the MAC title game, throwing four of his career-high five touchdown passes in the first half.

CONSISTENTLY AVERAGE: The Panthers finished 6-7 in each of the last two years, capping each losing season with a lopsided defeat at the Compass Bowl. Mississippi routed Pitt 38-17 last season and SMU beat the Panthers 28-6 a year earlier. "We want to finish strong and wanted the opportunity to play another game with this group," second-year Pitt coach Paul Chryst said. "We like this group, and there's a big difference in our room between going 7-6 and 6-7."

COACHING CHANGES: The Falcons won't have Clawson, but they will have some coaching continuity during their return to Detroit. Scheier, in his fifth season with the program, was the team's special teams coordinator and tight ends coach under Clawson. The interim coach will be assisted by offensive coordinator Warren Ruggiero and defensive coordinator Mike Elko against Pitt.

SWAN SONG: The Detroit Lions decided to get in the bowl business and will host a game next year, effectively pushing the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl out of their stadium.

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	11	4	0	.733	410	318
Miami	8	7	0	.533	310	315
N.Y. Jets	7	8	0	.467	270	380
Buffalo	6	9	0	.400	319	354
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
y-Indianapolis	10	5	0	.667	361	326
Tennessee	6	9	0	.400	346	371
Jacksonville	4	11	0	.267	237	419
Houston	2	13	0	.133	266	412
North	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
y-Cincinnati	10	5	0	.667	396	288
Baltimore	8	7	0	.533	303	318
Pittsburgh	7	8	0	.467	359	363
Cleveland	4	11	0	.267	301	386
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
y-Denver	12	3	0	.800	572	385
x-Kansas City	11	4	0	.733	406	278
San Diego	8	7	0	.533	369	324
Oakland	4	11	0	.267	308	419

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	9	6	0	.600	418	360
Dallas	8	7	0	.533	417	408
N.Y. Giants	6	9	0	.400	274	377
Washington	3	12	0	.200	328	458
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
x-Carolina	11	4	0	.733	345	221
New Orleans	10	5	0	.667	372	287
Atlanta	4	11	0	.267	333	422
Tampa Bay	4	11	0	.267	271	347
North	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Chicago	8	7	0	.533	417	445
Green Bay	7	7	1	.500	384	400
Detroit	7	8	0	.467	382	362
Minnesota	4	10	1	.300	377	467
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
x-Seattle	12	3	0	.800	390	222
x-San Francisco	11	4	0	.733	383	252
Arizona	10	5	0	.667	359	301
St. Louis	7	8	0	.467	339	337

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Sunday's Games

Houston at Tennessee, noon
Detroit at Minnesota, noon
Carolina at Atlanta, noon
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, noon
Washington at N.Y. Giants, noon
Baltimore at Cincinnati, noon
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, noon
N.Y. Jets at Miami, noon
Denver at Oakland, 3:25 p.m.
Kansas City at San Diego, 3:25 p.m.
St. Louis at Seattle, 3:25 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 3:25 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 3:25 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 3:25 p.m.
Buffalo at New England, 3:25 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOWL GLANCE

Today

Little Caesars Pizza Bowl
At Detroit
Bowling Green (10-3) vs. Pittsburgh (6-6), 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Poinsettia Bowl
At San Diego
Northern Illinois (12-1) vs. Utah State (8-5), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Dec. 27

Military Bowl
At Annapolis, Md.
Marshall (9-4) vs. Maryland (7-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Texas Bowl
At Houston
Minnesota (8-4) vs. Syracuse (6-6), 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Fight Hunger Bowl
At San Francisco
BYU (8-4) vs. Washington (8-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Dec. 28

Pinstripe Bowl
At New York
Notre Dame (8-4) vs. Rutgers (6-6), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

Belk Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Cincinnati (9-3) vs. North Carolina (6-6), 2:20 p.m. (ESPN)

Russell Athletic Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Miami (9-3) vs. Louisville (11-1), 5:45 p.m. (ESPN)

Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Kansas State (7-5) vs. Michigan (7-5), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Dec. 30

Armed Forces Bowl
At Fort Worth
Middle Tennessee (8-4) vs. Navy (8-4), 10:45 a.m. (ESPN)

Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Mississippi (7-5) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 2:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Oregon (10-2) vs. Texas (8-4), 5:45 p.m. (ESPN)

Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Arizona State (10-3) vs. Texas Tech (7-5), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Dec. 31

AdvoCare V100 Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Arizona (7-5) vs. Boston College (7-5), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)

Sun Bowl
At El Paso
Virginia Tech (8-4) vs. UCLA (9-3), 1 p.m. (CBS)

Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Rice (9-3) vs. Mississippi State (6-6), 3 p.m. (ESPN)

Chick-fil-A Bowl
At Atlanta
Texas A&M (8-4) vs. Duke (10-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Jan. 1

Heart of Dallas Bowl
At Dallas
UNLV (7-5) vs. North Texas (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPNU)

Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Nebraska (8-4) vs. Georgia (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)

Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Wisconsin (9-3) vs. South Carolina (10-2), noon (ABC)

Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Iowa (8-4) vs. LSU (9-3), noon (ESPN)

Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Stanford (11-2) vs. Michigan State (12-1), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Baylor (11-1) vs. UCF (11-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Jan. 2

Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Alabama (11-1) vs. Oklahoma (10-2), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Jan. 3

Orange Bowl
At Miami
Ohio State (12-1) vs. Clemson (10-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Cotton Bowl
At Arlington
Missouri (11-2) vs. Oklahoma State (10-2), 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

Saturday, Jan. 4

BBVA Compass Bowl
At Birmingham, Ala.
Vanderbilt (8-4) vs. Houston (8-4), noon (ESPN)

Sunday, Jan. 5

GoDaddy.com Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
Arkansas State (7-5) vs. Ball State (10-2), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 6

BCS National Championship
At Pasadena, Calif.
Florida State (13-0) vs. Auburn (12-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 18

East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West, 3 p.m. (NFLN)

Saturday, Jan. 25

Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
South vs. North, 3 p.m. (NFLN)

Ramirez has fended off doubters, d-linemen alike

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Manny Ramirez has arguably the toughest job in pro football. As Peyton Manning's center, he literally works under the most demanding quarterback in the NFL.

Not only that, but before this season, the seventh-year journeyman from Texas Tech hadn't played a full year at center since his junior year at Willowridge High School in Houston — way back in 2000.

With Ramirez as its anchor, the Broncos' offensive line has allowed the fewest sacks in the NFL (17), giving Manning time to throw his record 51 TD passes and plowing the way for Knowshon Moreno to top 1,000 yards rushing for the first time.

The Broncos (12-3) are 28 points shy of becoming the first 600-point team in history and a win at Oakland (4-11) on Sunday will secure home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.

"Manny's been awesome," Manning said after a Christmas afternoon practice in pads. "That is no easy task to go from guard to center, especially in a sophisticated, fast-moving, always-changing offense. I think it would be one thing if you knew what play was going to be called and you had 40 seconds to process it. But we call one play and change it to the next with five seconds on the play clock and when we change a play, Manny has to make his own calls and he has just gotten better each week."

He's got the brawn and backbone to match the brains, too, Manning said.

"I know he has played through a lot of injuries. It speaks to his toughness," Manning said. "He is one of the strongest guys on our team, so it's very impressive. I'm not sure people (appreciate it). I think people in this building understand with the sophistication of our offense just how difficult his job is and he's just been outstanding."

Ramirez is an unlikely fulcrum for this historic offense, spending all season casting aside doubters and defensive linemen alike.

"This summer, I'm hearing all kind of grief about Manny can't do this, Manny can't do that," offensive line coach Dave Magazu said. "Well, I think Manny's proven all those people wrong."

Coach John Fox laughs now that nobody seemed to believe him when he kept saying in the offseason that Ramirez was his starting center and that he wasn't just keeping the position warm for J.D. Walton or Dan Koppen or Ryan Lilja or Steve Vallos or even Chris Kuper.

Ramirez, whose claim to fame before this season was bench-pressing a school-record 550 pounds in college, didn't listen to the skeptics but he couldn't help but hear them, either.

"Truthfully, and unfortunately, that's been my entire life," Ramirez said. "You know, even when I was playing in middle school and high school, I've always had doubters, and that's fine. That's always been motivation for me."

He's been proving people wrong since he first starting playing football.

"Growing up, where I'm from, people aren't shy to tell you to your face, 'You're not going to make it. You're a Mexican, for one thing. There's not many Mexicans that play in the league anyways. You're not smart enough. If you go to college, you're going to have to go to a juco first and then go to college if you get an opportunity,'" Ramirez said. "I don't know, it's just some dumb stuff people were always saying, trying to put me down for whatever reason it might be. But you've just got to put all that to the side."

Ramirez started 11 games at right guard for Denver last year, but free agency was barely 20 minutes old when he got a call from his old college teammate, Louis Vasquez, informing him he'd just signed a four-year, $23.5 million deal with the Broncos to play right guard.

"I was shocked, but at the same time I was excited because Louie and I got a bond that's like brothers, so I was happy for him," Ramirez said. "And then my mindset was I've just got to fight for a job."

The Broncos had a plan in mind for Ramirez.

When Manning began the second chapter of his career in Denver following the series of neck surgeries that affected his famed right arm, he rebuilt his throwing motion from the ground up.

No longer does he rely as much on his arm strength so much as he does on proper mechanics, using more of his hips and torso to direct his passes and generate speed. So, it's imperative that he has room to step into his throws.

That means, the Broncos needed more height and beef in the middle of their line, and they got it with Vasquez (6-foot-5, 335 pounds) and Zane Beadles (6-4, 305) at guard and Ramirez (6-3, 320) at center.

"That's helped us become a little more powerful on the run and a little stouter on the pass," Fox said. "So, those are areas you try to get better at physically. And then mentally is the thing that Manny's done a great job with.

"He's got a quarterback behind him that's a pretty demanding guy and changes and does things on the fly, so you've got to be a sharp guy and you've got to earn his trust and he has and done an excellent job."

SPORTSBRIEF

FROM WIRE REPORTS

PHILADELPHIA

Foles still hears about 1 bad game vs. Cowboys

Nick Foles has a new nickname that's appropriate this time of year: Saint Nick.

Foles hardly resembles jolly old Santa Claus, but he's given fans of the Philadelphia Eagles plenty of gifts this year. They want one more Sunday.

A victory over the Dallas Cowboys (8-7) would clinch the NFC East title for the Eagles (9-6) and secure the No. 3 seed in the conference. It's already been a remarkable turnaround under rookie coach Chip Kelly after a 4-12 finish last year.

But this story is far from complete. For all of his accomplishments, Foles is constantly reminded about the first time the Eagles played the Cowboys.

Both teams were 3-3 when Dallas came to Philadelphia, shut down Kelly's high-flying offense and knocked Foles out of the game with a concussion at the end of the third quarter. Foles was 11 of 29 for 80 yards in the 17-3 loss, a dismal performance in only his second start after replacing an injured Michael Vick.

"I know everybody is going to dwell on last time, but this game isn't the last game," Foles said.

Foles returned from the concussion two weeks later and threw seven touchdown passes to tie an NFL record in a victory at Oakland. He leads the league with a passer rating of 118.8, which is third-highest in the history of the NFL.

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THURSDAY PRIME TIME — DECEMBER 26, 2013

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

						6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Shark Tank		20/20 "Mysteries of the Castle: Beyond Downton Abbey" (N)				KMID News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7 News	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory	The Millers	The Millers	Millers "Stuff"	Elementary "Snow Angels"		CBS 7 News	(:35) David Letterman		(:35) Late Late
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	Seinfeld	Rules "Liz Moves In"	Vampire D. "Dead Man on Campus"		Reign "Snakes in the Garden"		Rules of Engage.	Sein. "The Wallet"	Commu-nity	Commu-nity	That '70s Show	'70s "I'm a Boy"
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Glee "Extraordinary Merry Christmas"		Glee "Glee, Actually"		Modern Family	Modern Family	The Arsenio Hall Show		Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	Dr. Rik Wadge	Zola Levitt Ministries	Update News	Fruits of Zion	Light of the Southwest				Joe McGee	Matt Staver	Called Out	Biblical Israel
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 at 6 p.m.		Parks and Rec	Parks and Rec	Sean Saves	Michael J Fox Show	Parenthood		News-West 9	(:35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno		(:35) LateNight
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Daytri-pper	Just Seen It	Lidia Cele. "Moments and Milestones"		Antiques Roadshow "Finders Keepers"		Charlie Rose (N)		BBC News	Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Mentir Para Vivir		Por Siempre Mi Amor		Lo Que La Vida Me Robo				Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Una familia con suerte	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Fam.Feud	Million..	House		House		My News	Million..	30 Rock	Sunny	Access H.	OMG!
FLIX	340	65		165		(5:25) Playing God		★ Nurse Betty Renée Zellweger.				★★★ Heathers			(:45) Another Day in Paradise		
HBO	300	68	14	14		(5:15) Beasts of I...		Get On	★ Jack the Giant Slayer Nicholas Hoult.			Ja'mie		Real Sex		24/7	
HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	Sondheim	Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth		Broken City ('12, Cri) Mark Wahlberg.					Boxing's Best 2013		Boxing	Movie
HBO3	304	70	16	102		(5:00) Meet the F...		The Sopranos		Game of Thrones		Game of Thrones		Get On		Dodgeball: A True Underd...	
MAX	380	71	17	120	24	(5:15) In Good C...		(:15) ★★★★ The Campaign Will Ferrell.				★ Life of Pi ('12, Fant) Suraj Sharma.			(:10) Zane	Movie	
MAX2	382	72	18	122		★★★★ Safe House Denzel Washington.				★★★★ Les Misérables ('12, Mus) Hugh Jackman.					(:40) Million Dollar Baby		
PLEX			96			(:28) ★ High Spirits Daryl Hannah.				★★★ The Thing Called Love				★ Date With An Angel		Movie	
SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	(5:15) Intolerable...		The Rolling Stones			(:35) ★★ Beauty Shop Queen Latifah.				★★ The Best Man		
TMC	336	67	22	155	26	(5:00) Little Fish		★ The Ghost Writer Ewan McGregor.				(:10) ★★ Saw II			(:45) Dirty Movie		
A&E	27	32	28	35	47	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dy "Si-Yonara"	Duck Dy "O Little Town of West Monroe"		Duck Dynasty		Rodeo Girls "Rodeo & Juliet" (N)		Rodeo Girls "Rodeo & Juliet" (N)		Duck Dy "O Little Town of West Monroe"	
AMC	40	21	23	42	51	(4:30) ★★★★ The Godfather ('72, Dra) Marlon Brando.						★★★ The Godfather II ('74, Drama) Robert De Niro, Robert Duvall, Al Pacino.					
BET	58	26		40		Game	The Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	Wendy Williams	
BRAVO	65	63		41		Actors Studio (N)		Millionaire		Millionaire (N)		Courtney	Millionaire		Millionaire		Courtney
CNBC	46	45		39	72	The Kudlow Report		60 Minutes		American Greed		American Greed		Mad Money		American Greed	
CNN	43	24	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Live		A. Cooper 360		OutFront		Piers Morgan Live	
DISC	50	20	31	24	42	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced	
DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	Dog Blog	Austin	★ Bolt John Travolta.			(:45) Ferb	Dog Blog	Jessie	Dog Blog	Austin	GoodLuck	GoodLuck
ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	(5:00) NCAA Football Little Caesars Pizza Bowl Pit./Bowl. (L)						NCAA Football Poinsettia Bowl Northern Illinois vs. Utah State (L)					
ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	SportsCenter		College Gameday		X Games 19		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation				★★★ The Santa Clause Tim Allen.				The 700 Club		The Santa Clau...	
FNC	45	58	53	23	55	On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
FOOD	64	59	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Diners...	Diners...	Chopped	
FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	Cowboys Insider	SportsDay OnAir	Mavs Pre (L)	NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs vs. Dallas Mavericks Site: American Airlines Center -- Dallas, Texas (L)					Maveric-ks Live (L)	Cotton-BwlPre	Under the Lights	SportsD-ay OnAir
FX	31	31	59	64	69	(5:00) Rocky Balboa		★★★ Real Steel ('11, Sci-Fi) Evangeline Lilly, Hugh Jackman.						★★★ Real Steel Hugh Jackman.			
HALLMARK	54	49	58		34	(5:00) Let It Snow		★★ A Town Without Christmas			Premier League Match of the Day			★★★ The Christmas Blessing		The Christmas P...	
HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	House	HouseH	Rehab	Rehab	Rehab	Rehab	HouseH	House	RentBuy	RentBuy	Rehab	Rehab
HISTORY	71	62	29	50	43	Pwn Star	Pawn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pawn (N)	Pawn (N)	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star
LIFETIME	28	25	25	28	48	(5:00) Did You Hear About the Morgans?		★★★ Pretty Woman Richard Gere. A wealthy businessman hires a free-spirited call girl to be his companion for a week.						Biography "Julia Roberts"		★★★ Pretty Woman Richard Gere.	
MSNBC	47	51		49	73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN	38	39				Soccer	EPL Soccer				Premier League Match of the Day				P.World	Premier League	
NICK	55	34	39	34	37	Hathaway	Hathaway	SpongeBob		F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	22	55	53	58	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Impact Wrestling				Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
SYFY	66	64	41	57	67	★★ The Faculty Jordana Brewster.				★★ Resident Evil: Extinction				★★ The Ruins ('08, Hor) Jena Malone.			
TBS	25	11	44	66	41	Seinfeld	Family Guy "It's a Trap!"	Family Guy		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Ground Floor	Big Bang Theory	Conan		Ground Floor	Conan
TCM	41	61	24	63	66	(5:00) Life With Fa...		★★★ The Secret Life of Walter Mitty				★★★ Billy Liar ('63, Fant) Tom Courtenay.				Pennies From ...	
TELE	20	8	10	20		Caso cerrado		Marido en Alquiler		La Reina Del Sur		Santa Diabla		Al rojo	(:35) Titular.	La Reina Del Sur	
TLC	51	33	32	38	52	Gypsy Sisters "The Blame Game"		Gypsy Sister "Making Up is Hard to Do"		Gypsy Sisters "A Newborn King"		Fat Gypsy Wedding "Luck of the Irish" (N)		Gypsy Sisters "A Newborn King"		Fat Gypsy Wedding "Luck of the Irish"	
TNT	24	23	40	26	50	Castle "Kick the Ballistics"		NBA Basketball Memphis Grizzlies vs. Houston Rockets Site: Toyota Center -- Houston, Texas (L)					NBA Basketball Los Angeles Clippers vs. Portland Trail Blazers Site: Rose Garden -- Portland, Ore. (L)				
TVLAND	49	48	35	54	35	Griffith	(:35) Griffith	(:10) Griffith	(:50) Ray	(:25) Loves Ray		Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	30	42	27	49	NCIS "Rule Fifty-One"		NCIS "Spider and the Fly"		NCIS "A Man Walks Into a Bar"		NCIS "Up in Smoke"		NCIS "Till Death Do Us Part"		NCIS "Hung Out to Dry"	
WGN	19	18				America's Funniest Home Videos		Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Mother "Woooo!"	Met Your Mother	WGN News		Met Your Mother	Rules of Engage.	Rules "Flirting"	Parks and Rec

Serena Williams wins Athlete of Year award

Associated Press

AP file photo

Serena Williams returns a shot to Victoria Azarenka during the women's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis tournament Sept. 8 in New York. Williams is The Associated Press' 2013 Female Athlete of the Year, easily winning a vote by news organizations.

Serena Williams likes to make one thing clear: She is never satisfied, no matter how many matches and tournaments she wins.

Driven as ever, Williams won plenty this year. She went 78-4 with 11 titles, including at the French Open and U.S. Open, raising her Grand Slam championship total to 17. She compiled a 34-match winning streak. She earned more than $12 million in prize money, a record for women's tennis. In February, she became the oldest No. 1 in WTA rankings history and never left that perch.

Thanks to all of that, Williams was honored Wednesday as The Associated Press' 2013 Female Athlete of the Year. It's the third AP award for Williams, following 2002 and 2009. Only two women have been chosen more often as AP Athlete of the Year since the annual awards were first handed out in 1931.

"Whenever I lose, I get more determined, and it gives me something more to work toward," Williams told the AP in an interview shortly before the start of the U.S. Open. "I don't get complacent, and I realize I need to work harder and I need to do better and I want to do better — or I wouldn't keep playing this game."

The vote by news organizations was about as lopsided as many of Williams' matches this season. She received 55 of 96 votes, while Brittney Griner, a two-time AP Player of the Year in college basketball and the No. 1 pick in April's WNBA draft, finished second with 14. Swimmer Missy Franklin was next with 10.

The Male Athlete of the Year recipient will be announced Thursday.

Williams, who grew up in Compton, Calif., and turned 32 in September, produced the finest women's tennis season in years. According to the WTA:

- her .951 winning percentage was the best since Steffi Graf's .977 in 1989;
- her 11 titles were the most since Martina Hingis' 12 in 1997;
- her winning streak was the longest since her sister, Venus, had a 35-match run in 2000.

"She just continues to be an inspiration to American tennis," said Gordon Smith, the executive director of the U.S. Tennis Association, which runs the U.S. Open. "Her year this year? Unforgettable."

By adding a fifth career U.S. Open championship, and a second French Open title, Williams also moved within one Grand Slam trophy of the 18 apiece won by Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert. The record is 24 by Margaret Court.

Pretty heady company.

Evert is one of the only two women with more AP awards than Williams. Evert won four from 1974-80, while Babe Didrikson collected a record six — one for track in 1932, and five for golf from 1945-54.

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

For each of the three words below, change one letter to a P, and then rearrange the letters to spell a word used in sports.

T E L E C O M

L A T E N C Y

A N T A C I D

Yesterday's Answer: A F G VAPOR CAVORT GO O COW UN FAUN T POW 12.26

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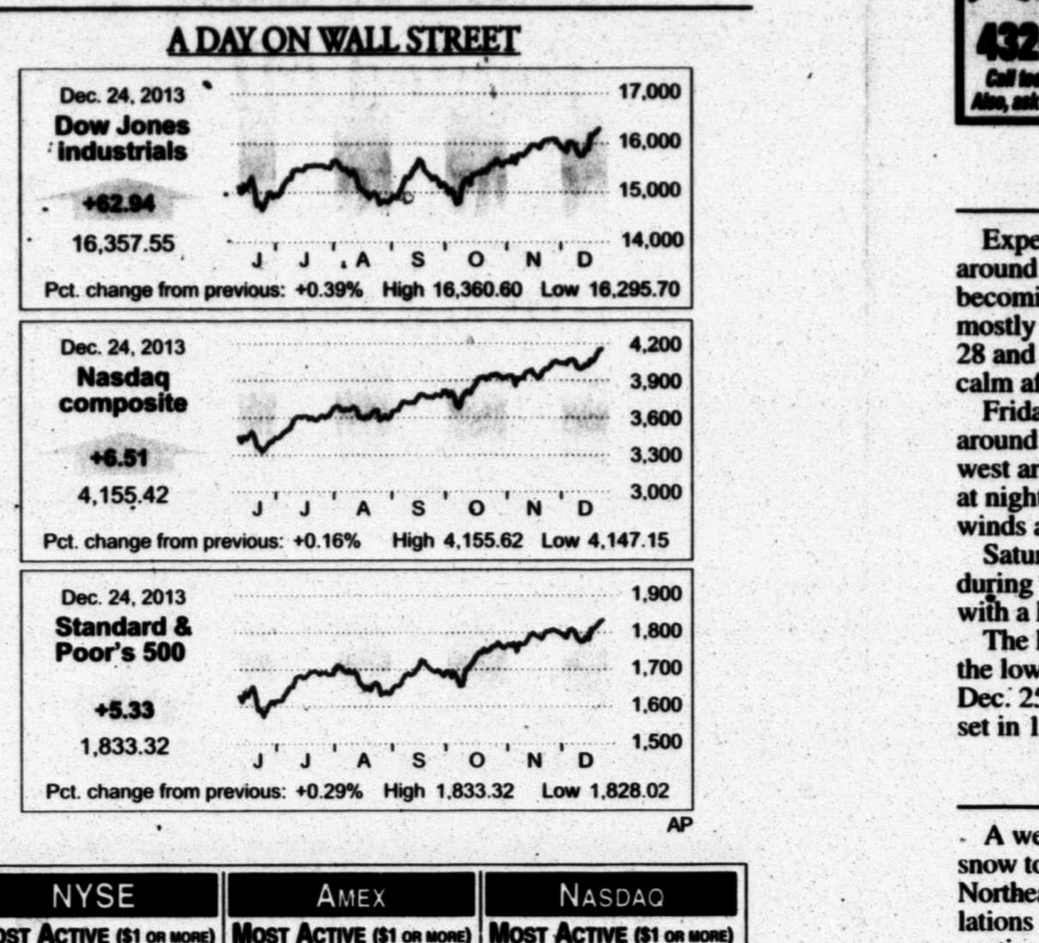
NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Name	Div	Last Chg
A-B-C		
AES Corp		20.14 -.47
AFLAC	.1	1.48% 59.39 +.37
AK Steel		7.87 -.03
AT&T Inc	.5	15e44.67 +.16
AbbottLab	.1	80.28 +.36
AbbVie n	.1	68.38 .19 -.25
Abercrombie	.2	16.25 -.19
AbtLab s		1.60 52.36 -.22
Accenture	.1	74e81.31 -.24
AdamsEx		.84e13.05 +.11
Aecom		26e29.25 -.03
Aeropostale		9.01 -.22
Agilent		53f57.23 -.31
Agrico g	.8	26.56 -.15
AlcatelLuc		18e 4.25 -.08
Alcoa		12s10.39 +.26
Allergan		20109.62 +1.23
AllBeth		1.59e21.37 -.13
AllyFin pfB		2.1326.84 +.14
AlonUSA		24s15.91 +.26
AlphaNRs		6.67 +.13
AlpTotDev		32 4.18
AlpNerMLP1		1.07e17.51 +.06
Altria		1.92e38.06 +.12
Ambev n		7.15 +.01
AMCOL		80 33.95 +.50
Amerenc		1.6036.04 +.18
AMovil L		34e23.04 +.22
AEagleOut		50 14.57 -.09
AmExp		50s88.69 +.38
AmerIntGrp		40 57.24 -.08
Ameriprise		2.08112.88 -.19
Amgen		72 78.40 -.09
Amphenol		1.70e101.51 -.10
AnadarkPet		1.92 88.21 -.88
Anadarko		2.08112.88 -.19
Analog		1.92 50.68 +.09
AnnTaylor		30 38.95 +.15
AnnInc		30 38.95 +.15
Annaly		1.10e9.79 +.07
Apache		1.20 85.67 -.42
ApolloEd		26.95 -.18
Apollo n		80 8.60 -.02
Apple Inc		12.20567.67 -2.42
ArchCoal		1.52s 3.57
ArcelorMit		7.11 +.11
ArmHld		23e 54.28 -.20
Arotech		3.49 +.16
ArrayBio		4.79 -.02
Arris		23.49 -.03
AshlandNet		17.43 -.03
AsialnfoL		11.95
Atmel		7.71 +.11
Autodesk		u49.70 +.24
AutoData		1.92f 80.22 +.28
AvagoTch		1.00f 52.62 +.56
AvalonBay		4.64 137.04
CME Grp		1.80a 80.03 -.49
Cadence		13.81 -.09
Camecos		20.55 -.30
CalAmp		25.63 -1.93
Camteh h		4.03 -.37
CamMax		1.20 53.42 -.09
CapFedFin		30a 12.12 -.02
CpshnTurb		1.26 -.02
CardinalH		1.70 59.42 -.22
Celgene		167.42 -.93
CelldexTh		23.04 -.63
CEnerInt		3.71% .30
CentAr		10.00 -.29
Cerner		65.38 -.09
ChkPoint		63.08 +.59
Cirrus		20.86 +.04
Cisco		68 21.69 +.13
CitiGrp		64 18.05 -.05
CleanEng		13.44
Comcast		78 51.28 +.29
Comc spcl		78 49.24 +.17
Compuware		50 11.25 -.08
Costco		1.24f 118.69
CrackerB		3.00f 112.31
Cree Inc		60.83 -.07
Ctrip.com		50.95 +.33
CumMed		1.47f 5.44 +.15
CypSemi		44 10.34 +.12
D-E-F		
Datarm rs		2.84
Dawson		33.58 +.49
Dndrson		3.35 +.02
DirecTV		67.47 -.29
DishNetw h		1.00e57.25 +.65
DollarTree		56.40 +.61
DonlleyRR		1.04 19.18 -.06
DorchMin		1.74e 25.16 -.34
DragonWf g		1.46 -.04
DryShips		u4.17 +.24
E Trade		u19.41 .07
eBay		55.17 -.39
EagleBulk		3.71 -.01
EagleRock		6.50n 6.35 +.43
EthnLink		20 1.98 .06
8x8 Inc		10 34 -.20
ElecArts		23.83 -.03
EntrprsCom		7.07 -.05
EnzonPh s		2.05e 1.15
Ericsson		43e 12.12 +.19
Euronsea		1.40 +.10
ExOnh n		58.35 -.52
Expedia		60e68.50 -.18
ExpScripts		69 52.46
ExxonMbl		u7.18 -.06
F-G-H		
FDL Bio		60 8.40 -.05
FMC Tech		88 50.14 -.04
PanASh		50 11.60 -.33
Patterson		64 40.89 +.11
PattUTI		20u25.59 +.61
Paychex		1.40 45.43 -.05
PeabEnr		1.20 18.36
PeopUtdF		65 14.98 +.10
PetSmart		78 70.32 -.62
Polycom		11.01
PwShs QQQ		88e87.45 -.04
PrmEgy		**--- 50.86**
PrognicsPh		5.46 -.16
ProShQQQ		d14.59 .07
ProspctCapI		32 11.37
QualCom		1.40 73.04 -.20
Questcor		1.20 54.07 -.07
RDA Micro		10e 17.92 -.05
RF MicD		5.26 -.09
Randgold		50 77.94 +.98
Rayonier		u27.45 +.14
RealNetw		29.60 -.54
RiverbedT		17.45 -.07
RossStrs		1.68f 73.99 -.04
S-T-U		
SLM Cp		60 26.05 +.10
SanderFm		**.80f 71.43 +.91**
SanDisk		90 70.34 -.08
SangBio		14 13 -.25
SanofiSA		90 -.04
Santarus		31.97
Sapient		**...u17.52 -.20**
SapientHn		20 01 -.04
SeagateT		1.72fu55.94 -.07
SearsHldgs		46.50 -.86
Sensatch		24.95 -.05
Sequenom		2.26 -.01
ShandaGm		4.48 -.06
SierraWr		22.20 -.13
SignalMg		4.49 -.02
SilvStd g		6.78 +.25
Sina		79.76 -.33
SirusXM		356 3.60 +.08
Sohu.com		72.58+2.42
SolarCity		56 13.17 -.03
SouthMed		2.97
Sorus		3.20 -.03
SpecPh		15e 8.45 +.12
Staples		48 15.91 -.10
StarScient		3.28 -.09
Starbucks		1.04f 78.57 +.25
StlDynam		44u19.36 +.54
Stryker		1.16 54.11 -.09
Stratasys		125.92-5.35
SungyMin		**...u17.57+1.33**
SunPower		29.12 -.21
Supermx		**...u8.38 +.98**
Symantec		60 22.92 -.03
Synaptics		51.09 +.71
Synaptic		62.88 -.12
Synopsys		40.06 +.06
SyntaPharm		4.89 -.10
TalleyInd		17.67 -.02
TASER		16.16 +.27
TesllaMot		**...151.41+7.85**
Teslinst		1.20 43.43 +.07
Theravance		34.00 -.06
TibcoSft		22.52 -.32
TiffanyCo		1.92 77.64 -.01
TowerCpI rf		66 2.88 -.01
TrimbleN s		u34.32 +.24
TripAdvis		82.82 -.58
TrueBlue		18 18.04 -.08
21stCFoxA		25 34.79 +.20
21stCFoxB		25 34.14 +.22
21stCentury		1.00 13.64 -.09
Umpqua		60au19.44 -.01
USBWV		**1.28f 32.12 +.05**
UltraPetr		u112.85-
1-66		
UrbanOut		36.76 -.12
V-W-X-Y-Z		
VandaPhm		11.66 .07
VanHntCpE63		31e 82.78 -.11
VertexPh		74 40.67 -.02
ViacomB		1.20 85.60 +.13
Vical		**... 1.21 +.05**
ViewpointFn		1.59e 12.77 +.14
VisnChina		**...u18.96+1.87**
Vivus		9.32 +.04
Vodafone		1.61e39.04 +.50
Windstys Co		20 8.86 +.10
WDigital		1.20f 82.56 +.23
Wsptrlm g		19 19.14 -.38
WstUnion		1.44f 17.99 +.04
Windstrm		1.00 8.37 +.03
WisdomTr		u17.62 +.23
Wynn		4.00au189.25
X-Y-Z		
XOMA		u7.07 +.22
Xilinx		1.00 45.23 +.09
Xyratex s		30u13.38 +.08
YRC Wrwd		**... 17.26 -.99**
Yahoo		u40.85 +.08
YingliGrn		56 13 -.37
ZetaIntr		17.97 -.39
ZionBkp		16 29.84 +.12
Zoltek		u3.45 +.06
Zynga		4.11 -.03

A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP

NYSE

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
S&P500ETF	392674182	93	+40
Twitter n	346896	69.96	+5.42
MktVGold	244408	21.03	-.04
Ford$	223745	15.19	+.04
BkofAm	207402	15.70	+.01

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
NoahEduc	2.55	+.30	+13.3
DrGMnBull	14.12	+1.24	+9.6
DxGldBll rs	27.02	+2.19	+8.8
DB AgsLg	14.59	+1.13	+8.4
Twitter n	69.96	+5.42	+8.4

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
DrGMBear	72.50	-9.21	-11.3
DrDGdBrs	45.49	-4.46	-8.9
PrUSRMCG	16.57	-1.17	-6.6
XuedaEd	6.49	-.45	-6.5
PulseEl rs	2.73	-.17	-5.9

Diary

Advanced	2,025
Declined	1,012
Unchanged	118
Total issues	3,155
New Highs	298
New Lows	31
Volume	1,274,078,621

AMEX

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
InovoPhm	40607	2.47	+.07
NwGold g	21426	5.04	+.24
AltaNvG	20056	3.41	+.19
ChanieuEn	12712	44.15	+.58
NovaCopp	11741	1.56	+.04

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Medgen wt	2.50	+.40	+19.0
TelInstEl	4.95	+.71	+16.7
InstFnMkts	2.03	+.14	+7.4
GormanRs	33.17	+2.23	+7.2
NTS Rlty	7.75	+.46	+6.3

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
PrGPrEq pt	42.62	-3.37	-7.3
BoweMed	2.06	-.14	-6.4
DGSE	2.24	-.15	-6.3
IhcOpR	4.70	-.22	-4.5
Can-Fite	8.25	-.35	-4.1

Diary

Advanced	233
Declined	170
Unchanged	18
Total issues	421
New Highs	18
New Lows	31
Volume	65,049,264

NASDAQ

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Facebook	444111	57.96	+.19
AriadP	224532	7.11	+.11
SiriusXM	209552	3.60	+.08
DryShips	196162	4.17	+.24
BlackBerry	187865	7.73	+.26

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Oramed n	15.00	+3.29	+28.1
BioanlySys	3.06	+.56	+22.4
IdenixPh	6.82	+1.05	+18.2
Supernus	8.38	+.98	+13.2
HeatBiol n	8.00	+.90	+12.7

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
HKTv	8.30	-.98	-10.6
USA Tch pl	16.83	-1.93	-10.3
PointeTel	10.66	-1.09	-9.3
ARC Grp	27.84	-2.65	-8.7
Camtek h	4.03	-.37	-8.4

Diary

Advanced	1,535
Declined	951
Unchanged	164
Total issues	2,650
New Highs	306
New Lows	13
Volume	777,769,970

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Name	Div	Last Chg
A-B-C		
Abraxas		3.51 -.20
AcadiaPh		26.31 -.38
Achillon		3.39 -.07
ActivsBliz		19f 18.17 -.02
Acxiom		36.83 -.18
AdobeSy		59.53 +.06
AkamaiT		47.73 -.22
Akorn		24.73 -.26
AlteraCp lf		60 32.10 +.12
AmTrstFin		56b 31.39 -.57
Amkor		1.90 -.02
Amazon		399.20 -3.72
AmbacFn n		23.98 -.83
Ambarella		u28.79 -.17
AmArt n		26.25 +.07
ACapAgy		3.75e 19.93 -.09
AmCapLtd		19.07 -.05
ACapMtg		3.05e 18.21 -.01
ARltCapPr		94f 12.74 +.10
AmSupr		**... 1.54 +.08**
Amgen		**2.44f112.25 -.95**
Amyris		**... 3.91 +.25**
AnalogDev		1.36e50.63 -.01
ApolloEdu		26.95 -.18
Apollo Inv		80 8.60 -.02
Apple Inc		12.20567.67 -2.42
AptiMat		**40 17.39 -.12**
ArenaPhm		5.64 -.01
AriesCap		1.52s 17.57
AriadP		7.11 +.11
ArmHld		23e 54.28 -.20
Arotech		3.49 +.16
ArrayBio		4.79 -.02
Arris		23.49 -.03
AtlasNet		17.43 -.03
AsialnfoL		11.95
Atmel		7.71 +.11
Autodesk		u49.70 +.24
AutoData		1.92f 80.22 +.28
AvagoTch		1.00f 52.62 +.56
AvalonBay		4.64 137.04
CME Grp		1.80a 80.03 -.49
Cadence		13.81 -.09
Camecos		20.55 -.30
CalAmp		**25.63-1.93**
Camtek h		**4.03 -.37**
CapFedFin		30a 12.12 -.02
CpshnTurb		1.26 -.02
CardinalH		1.70 59.42 -.22
Celgene		167.42 -.93
CeldexTh		23.04 -.63
CEnerInt		**3.71% .30**
CentAr		10.00 -.29
Cerner		65.38 -.09
ChkPoint		63.08 +.59
Cirrus		20.86 +.04
Cisco		68 21.69 +.13
CitiGrp		64 18.05 -.05
CleanEng		**83.06 -.80**
CleanEnrgy		13.44
Comcast		78 51.28 +.29
Comc spcl		78 49.24 +.17
Compuware		50 11.25 -.08
Costco		1.24f 118.69
CrackerB		3.00f 112.31
Cree Inc		60.83 -.07
Ctrip.com		50.95 +.33
CumMed		1.47f 5.44 +.15
CypSemi		44 10.34 +.12
D-E-F		
Datarm rs		2.84
Dawson		**33.58 +.49**
Dndrson		3.35 +.02
DirecTV		67.47 -.29
DishNetw h		1.00e57.25 +.65
DollarTree		56.40 +.61
DonlleyRR		1.04 19.18 -.06
DorchMin		1.74e 25.16 -.34
DragonWf g		1.46 -.04
DryShips		**...u4.17 +.24**
E Trade		u19.41 .07
eBay		55.17 -.39
EagleBulk		3.71 -.01
EagleRock		**6.50n 6.35 +.43**
EthnLink		20 1.98 .06
8x8 Inc		10 34 -.20
ElecArts		23.83 -.03
EntrprsCom		7.07 -.05
EnzonPh s		2.05e 1.15
Ericsson		43e 12.12 +.19
Euronsea		**1.40 +.10**
ExOnh n		58.35 -.52
Expedia		60e68.50 -.18
ExpScripts		69 52.46
ExxonMbl		u7.18 -.06
F-G-H		
FDL Bio		60 8.40 -.05
FMC Tech		88 50.14 -.04
PanASh		50 11.60 -.33
Patterson		64 40.89 +.11
PattUTI		20u25.59 +.61
Paychex		1.40 45.43 -.05
PeabEnr		1.20 18.36
PeopUtdF		65 14.98 +.10
PetSmart		78 70.32 -.62
Polycom		11.01
PwShs QQQ		88e87.45 -.04
PrmEgy		**--- 50.86**
PrognicsPh		5.46 -.16
ProShQQQ		d14.59 .07
ProspctCapI		32 11.37
QualCom		1.40 73.04 -.20
Questcor		1.20 54.07 -.07
RDA Micro		10e 17.92 -.05
RF MicD		5.26 -.09
Randgold		50 77.94 +.98
Rayonier		u27.45 +.14
RealNetw		29.60 -.54
RiverbedT		17.45 -.07
RossStrs		1.68f 73.99 -.04
S-T-U		
SLM Cp		60 26.05 +.10
SanderFm		**.80f 71.43 +.91**
SanDisk		90 70.34 -.08
SangBio		14 13 -.25
SanofiSA		90 -.04
Santarus		31.97
Sapient		**...u17.52 -.20**
SapientHn		20 01 -.04
SeagateT		1.72fu55.94 -.07
SearsHldgs		46.50 -.86
Sensatch		24.95 -.05
Sequenom		2.26 -.01
ShandaGm		4.48 -.06
SierraWr		22.20 -.13
SignalMg		4.49 -.02
SilvStd g		6.78 +.25
Sina		79.76 -.33
SirusXM		356 3.60 +.08
Sohu.com		72.58+2.42
SolarCity		56 13.17 -.03
SouthMed		2.97
Sorus		3.20 -.03
SpecPh		15e 8.45 +.12
Staples		48 15.91 -.10
StarScient		3.28 -.09
Starbucks		1.04f 78.57 +.25
StlDynam		44u19.36 +.54
Stryker		1.16 54.11 -.09
Stratasys		125.92-5.35
SungyMin		**...u17.57+1.33**
SunPower		29.12 -.21
Supermx		**...u8.38 +.98**
Symantec		60 22.92 -.03
Synaptics		51.09 +.71
Synaptic		62.88 -.12
Synopsys		40.06 +.06
SyntaPharm		4.89 -.10
TalleyInd		17.67 -.02
TASER		16.16 +.27
TesllaMot		**...151.41+7.85**
Teslinst		1.20 43.43 +.07
Theravance		34.00 -.06
TibcoSft		22.52 -.32
TiffanyCo		1.92 77.64 -.01
TowerCpI rf		66 2.88 -.01
TrimbleN s		u34.32 +.24
TripAdvis		82.82 -.58
TrueBlue		18 18.04 -.08
21stCFoxA		25 34.79 +.20
21stCFoxB		25 34.14 +.22
21stCentury		1.00 13.64 -.09
Umpqua		60au19.44 -.01
USBWV		**1.28f 32.12 +.05**
UltraPetr		u112.85-
1-66		
UrbanOut		36.76 -.12
V-W-X-Y-Z		
VandaPhm		11.66 .07
VanHntCpE63		31e 82.78 -.11
VertexPh		74 40.67 -.02
ViacomB		1.20 85.60 +.13
Vical		**... 1.21 +.05**
ViewpointFn		1.59e 12.77 +.14
VisnChina		**...u18.96+1.87**
Vivus		9.32 +.04
Vodafone		1.61e39.04 +.50
Windstys Co		20 8.86 +.10
WDigital		1.20f 82.56 +.23
Wsptrlm g		19 19.14 -.38
WstUnion		1.44f 17.99 +.04
Windstrm		1.00 8.37 +.03
WisdomTr		u17.62 +.23
Wynn		4.00au189.25
X-Y-Z		
XOMA		u7.07 +.22
Xilinx		1.00 45.23 +.09
Xyratex s		30u13.38 +.08
YRC Wrwd		**... 17.26 -.99**
Yahoo		u40.85 +.08
YingliGrn		56 13 -.37
ZetaIntr		17.97 -.39
ZionBkp		16 29.84 +.12
Zoltek		u3.45 +.06
Zynga		4.11 -.03

MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	Sell	Chg
AGR Funds:		
AGRPrtfl	10.44	-.01
Allianz Fds Inst Tr:		
NFJDivInt	14.85	-.06
NFJDivValue	24.87	-.13
Amer Beacon Inv:		
LgCapInv	26.91	+.16
Amer Century Inv:		
EqIncome	9.00	-.03
Amer Century Adv:		
EqIncome p	9.00	-.03
Amer Century Inv:		
EqValue p	8.50	-.03
EqValue	8.49	-.03
Growth	32.33	-.21
GrowthInv	32.33	-.21
IntlCore	13.42	-.13
IntlCorpInv x	13.42	-.13
SmCapInv	16.64	-.09
Ultra	30.44	-.17
ValueInv	6.79	-.04
Amer Century Adv:		
Ultra p	30.44	-.17
American Funds A:		
AmcapA p	19.66	-.13
AMcapA p	16.41	-.14
BalanA p	19.97	-.09
BondA p	12.67	-.04
CapWA p	20.12	-.07
CapWGA p	34.94	-.17
EupacA p	51.17	-.26
FdmtlA p	51.48	-.27
GrowthA p	43.59	-.22
IncomeA p	17.69	-.02
IntlGrInA p	34.16	-.17
IntlPtfInA p	31.44	-.16
NPhilA p	40.36	-.27
SmCpW A p	40.12	-.20
WshMutA p	38.95	-.14
Baron Funds:		
Growth	72.48	-.28
Baron Inst:		
Growth	71.74	-.27
SmallCap	24.08	-.12
Bernstein Fds:		
DivMu	14.29	
TxMuNy	14.29	
BlackRock A:		
GlobAl A	21.13	-.08
GlobAllc A	21.13	-.08
HiYldBd	7.31	-.04
BlackRock Bal:		
GlobAllc	19.58	-.07
BlackRock Inst:		
EquityDiv	23.96	-.09
GlobAllc Inst	19.74	-.07
Buffalo Funds:		
SmCap	20.16	-.09
Clearbridge:		
AggGr A	179.16	-.85
Apprec A	19.27	-.09
LrgCpGr A	12.98	-.06
Cohen & Steers:		
RlEstSec	62.88	-.12
Columbia Class A:		
DivIncome A	15.48	-.08
DivOpptyA	10.05	-.05
LrgCpGrA	19.17	-.09
Columbia Class Z:		
AcornZ	45.61	-.33
DivIncZ	15.48	-.08
LrgCpGrInsZ	19.17	-.09
Columbia Class I:		
CoreBond I	7.28	-.01
Columbia Class V:		
LrgCpGr V	12.56	-.10
LrgCpVal V	12.56	-.10
Columbia Class:		
DivBldrInst	14.89	-.07
Davis Funds:		
NYVenA p	40.89	-.31
Davis Funds C:		
NYVenC p	39.12	-.30
Davis Funds Y:		
NYVenY	41.49	-.31
Delaware Invest A:		
DiscFocA p	8.89	
Dimensional Fds:		
DfaEmMkt	27.25	-.11
DfaEmMktV	27.25	-.11
DfaRlEst	14.39	-.06
LargeCo	14.39	-.06
LrgCoVal	20.70	-.09
USCorEq1	16.20	-.13
USCorEq2	16.12	-.12
USLrgCo	13.93	-.06
USLrgCoVa	35.70	-.27
USMicro	16.76	-.12
Dreyfus:		
Aprec	51.65	-.03
DrfyMid	38.72	-.19
DrfyStrVa	41.58	-.12
DreyHrzn	10.76	
Dreyfus A:		
LgCpVal p	23.61	-.17
Eaton Vance Fds:		
PTLAMnInc	49.13	-.15
Eaton Vance A:		
AtlntaSm p	14.15	-.08
Eaton Vance I:		
GlobMacAbR	9.43	
LgCpVal	23.67	-.12
LrgCpGr	13.93	-.08
FBR Funds:		
SmCpVal	20.52	-.11
FPA Funds:		
Newinc	10.27	
FPACres	32.63	-.15
FPAPerm	48.79	-.25
Federated Inst:		
KaufmBd	10.21	-.01
KaufmSm	4.97	-.02
TotRetBd	10.97	-.02
Fidelity Advisor A:		
EnergyA p	24.14	-.15
StratInc	9.12	
Fidelity Advisor I:		
NatResgI r	24.28	-.15
Fidelity Advisor T:		
FltRateT p	9.96	
StratInc	9.12	
Fidelity Inst:		
DivGr	14.10	-.09
AMgGr	17.44	-.09
AssetMgr	14.64	-.07
AssetMgr r	14.64	-.07
BlueChip	62.90	-.34
BlueChipGr	62.90	-.34
CapAppr	35.85	-.29
Contra	95.47	-.66
Contra r	95.47	-.66
DiscEq	36.27	-.30
DivGro	36.27	-.30
Equity	36.27	-.30
FocusedStk	15.97	-.09
FreeDom	35.97	-.20
GrOpp	19.79	-.09
GrowthCo	110.19	-.57
GrowthCo r	110.19	-.57
Growth r	36.91	-.21
LowPriStk	50.65	-.27
LowPriStk r	50.65	-.27
MagellanR	91.19	-.47
MidCap	35.97	-.24
MidCap r	35.97	-.24
OTCPortR	56.43	-.32
OTCPortR r	56.43	-.32
Puritan	19.94	-.09
Puritan r	19.94	-.09
SmCpGr	14.38	-.08
SmCpGr r	14.38	-.08
SmCpStk	14.38	-.08
SmCpStk r	14.38	-.08
TotalBond	10.97	-.02
TotalBond r	10.97	-.02
Trend	91.71	-.46
Trend r	91.71	-.46
Fidelity Spartan:		
500IdxInv	64.73	-.25
500IdxInv r	64.73	-.25
500IdxInv n	64.73	-.25
IntlIdxIn r	30.94	-.34
IntlIdxIn n	30.94	-.34
TotMktIdxIn	51.40	-.22
TotMktIdxIn r	51.40	-.22
Fidelity Select:		
Gold	32.95	-.14
Pharm	15.27	-.07
Software	29.96	-.11
Technol	91.19	-.39
Fidelity Spartan I:		
500IdxInv	64.73	-.25
500IdxInv r	64.73	-.25
500IdxInv n	64.73	-.25
IntlIdxIn r	30.94	-.34
IntlIdxIn n	30.94	-.34
TotMktIdxIn	51.40	-.22
TotMktIdxIn r	51.40	-.22
Fidelity Spartan Inv:		
GlobA	52.95	-.14
GlobBond	12.78	-.12
Forum Funds:		
SmCpVal	10.97	
Franklin Templ Fnd A:		
CmnwlthTr A	23.38	-.08
ForeignA	17.14	-.06
FrnkTmpl A	11.74	
GlobalBond A	12.64	-.06
GrowthA p	64.55	-.34
GrOpp A	79.23	-.42
HYTFA p	9.77	
IncomeA	2.32	
IncomeA p	2.40	
RisingDivA p	21.41	-.12
SmCpGrA p	16.57	-.09
SmallCapV A	16.52	-.09
Franklin Templ Fnd I:		
ForeignI	17.14	-.06
GlobalBond I	12.64	-.06
GrowthI p	64.58	-.35
RisingDivI p	21.41	-.12
SmCpGrI p	16.57	-.09
Franklin Templ Fnd Adv:		
FrnkTmpl Adv	11.74	
Franklin Templ Fnd C:		
ForeignC	17.14	-.06
Franklin Templ Fnd Z:		
FrnkTmpl Z	11.74	
Franklin Templ Mut A:		
MutualA p	27.63	-.11
Franklin Templ Mut Z:		
MutualZ	27.63	-.11
Franklin Templ Cl A:		
GlobalBond A	12.64	-.06
Franklin Templ Cl Z:		
GlobalBond Z	12.64	-.06
Franklin Templ Cl R:		
GlobalBond R	12.64	-.06
Franklin Templ Cl I:		
GlobalBond I	12.64	-.06
Franklin Templ Cl R6:		
GlobalBond R6	12.64	-.06
Franklin Templ Cl Adv:		
GlobalBond Adv	12.64	-.06
Franklin Templ Cl C:		
GlobalBond C	12.64	-.06
Franklin Templ Cl Z:		
GlobalBond Z	12.64	-.06
Franklin Templ Cl R:		
GlobalBond R	12.64	-.06
Franklin Templ Cl I:		
GlobalBond I	12.64	-.06
Franklin Templ Cl R6:		
GlobalBond R6	12.64	-.06
Franklin Templ Cl Adv:		
GlobalBond Adv	12.64	-.06
Franklin Templ Cl C:		
GlobalBond C	12.64	-.06
Franklin Templ Cl Z:		
GlobalBond Z	12.64

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TODAY: Sunny High: 50 Low: 28

FRIDAY: Sunny High: 55 Low: 31

SATURDAY: Sunny High: 62 Low: 31

Local forecast

Expect sunny skies today with a high around 50 and north winds around 5 mph becoming calm. Tonight's forecast calls for mostly clear conditions with a low around 28 and south winds around 5 mph becoming calm after midnight.

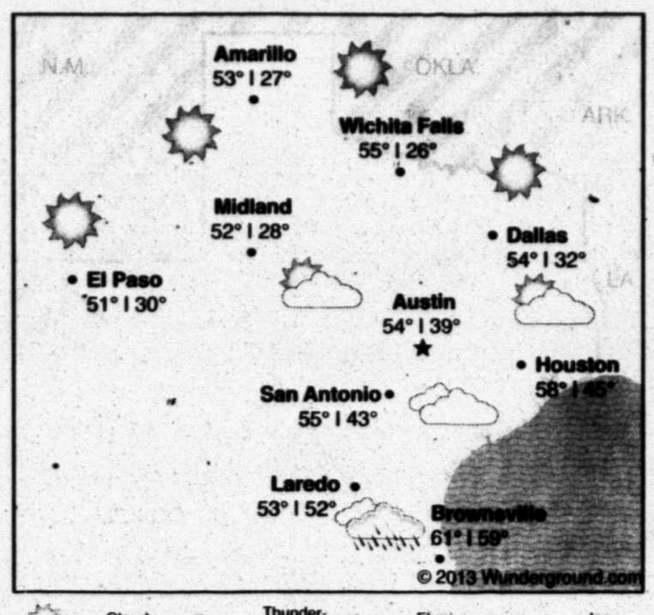
Friday, look for sunny skies with a high around 55 and calm winds becoming southwest around 5 mph. Expect mostly conditions at night, with a low around 31 and southwest winds around 5 mph.

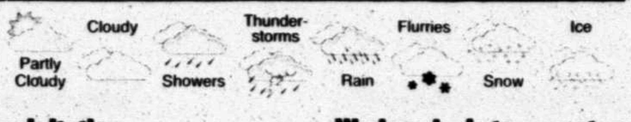
Saturday, the forecast calls for sunny skies during the day, mostly clear skies at night, with a high around 62 and a low around 31.

The high on Wednesday reached 48, while the low dropped to 35. The record high for Dec. 25 is 78 set in 1955. The record low is 7 set in 1983.

National forecast

A weak storm system will bring some light snow to spots from the Great Lakes to the Northeast today. Across this area, the accumulations will be generally small, ranging from a coating to 1 or 2 inches. But the low pressure causing the storm system will stall off the Atlantic Coast late, allowing for heavier snow accumulations in central Maine.



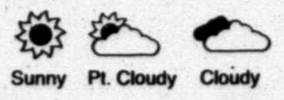


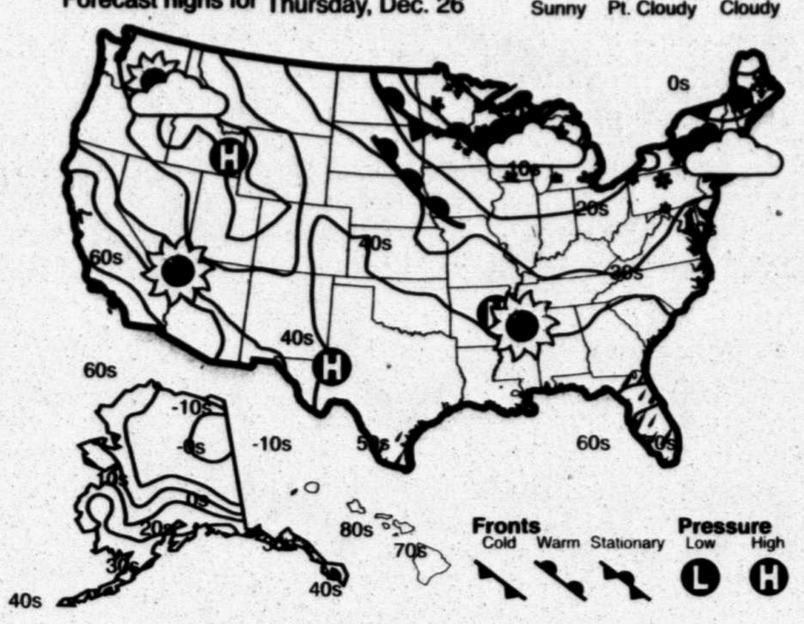
Precipitation	
Tuesday	0.00 in.
Wednesday	0.00 in.
Month total	1.44 in.
Year total	8.51 in.
Normal total (year to date)	14.49 in.

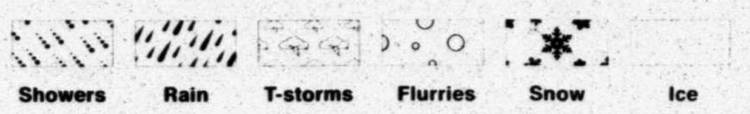
Wednesday's temperatures	
High	48
Low	35
Normal high	57
Normal low	30
Sunrise	7:47 a.m.
Sunset	5:52 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Thursday, Dec. 26







Mom's promises to kick drug habit are only empty words

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 am a 15-year-old girl and a caring person. I'm worried about my mother. She has been an addict for nine years. She always says she wants help, but she never follows through with getting the help she needs. I have asked her many times to go and get help, and have told her how bad her using makes me feel.

What do you think I can do to encourage her to follow through with treatment? I miss my mother. Any advice would be appreciated. — IN NEED OF HELP IN OLYMPIA, WASH.

DEAR IN NEED OF HELP: You are not only a caring young woman, you are also mature for your age and intelligent. If your mother has been an addict since you were 6, your entire childhood has been spent taking care of her and raising yourself. I am truly sorry for that.

Because nothing you say gets through to her, consider moving in with another relative if that's possible. You should also join a Narateen support group. It's a 12-step program for teenage friends and family members of addicts. There is one in your city called "Hope for Today." To find the location, check the Nar-Anon website, www.nar-anon.org.

DEAR ABBY: I am a grandmother, a former teacher and I have my master's in child psychology. I was also a school board member. I love children.

Please pass this along to parents and anyone else who cares for children: Quit force-feeding them! Again and again I see parents beg and coerce their kids to eat. There are too many obese people in the world. Kids will eat when they are hungry. Just don't give them any junk in between.

I know a dad who told me he forced his son to finish his food until the son went and threw up. He said he will never do that again. Remember: children have small stomachs. They don't need to eat much to feel full. Restaurants serve too much.

Let kids eat when they need to. Just give them healthy choices. — DIANE IN MILWAUKEE

DEAR DIANE: Unfortunately, babies don't come with written instructions. Many parents "encourage" their children to eat because they're afraid if they don't they're not doing their job. It's a reflection of their anxiety. Too often, mealtime turns into a power struggle, which is a big mistake.

What you have written is common sense. A pediatrician or health clinic can advise parents what and how much their child should eat. And I agree, restaurant portions are usually larger than customers should consume in one meal, which is why those who are watching their calories are advised to cut the portions in half before eating.

DEAR ABBY: I am a grown woman with a wonderful husband, two jobs and five beautiful children. I am a good person. My parents raised me to be respectful and accepting of all kinds of people.

My arms are partially tattooed with beautiful flowers. Family members openly express their dislike of it. They have a right to their thoughts and to say what they please. What can I say back that tells them how rude they are and how they hurt me? — INKED AND IRKED IN POCATELLO, IDAHO

DEAR INKED AND IRKED: You should say, "When you gave your opinion about my arms, I heard you the first time. For you to keep repeating it is insulting and hurtful, so please cut it out. I think my tattoos are beautiful and THAT'S what's important." And if your family members persist in making cruel comments, you have my permission to end the conversation.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Hand of a lifetime

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 7
♥ Q 10 7
♦ Q 9 5 4
♣ J 10 7 2

WEST
♠ A 10 8 6 5 2
♥ 5
♦ Void
♣ A K Q 9 5 4

EAST
♠ 9 3
♥ 8 6 2
♦ J 10 8 7 3 2
♣ 6 3

SOUTH
♠ K J 4
♥ A K J 9 4 3
♦ A K 6
♣ 8

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1	1♠	2	Pass
4	4♠	Pass	Pass
5	?		

Opening lead: Ace of ♣

What was West to do? He had the hand of a lifetime and he was being abused by his opponents. West already considered himself to be the unluckiest bridge player of all time and this hand was the proof! Should he pass, double or bid five spades? Bidding those spades for a third time didn't appeal, and neither did double on a wild hand. West meekly passed and led his top club when the next two passed as well.

South didn't catch a very good dummy, but the little that was there was golden. Three magical queens that were worth a trick each! South had no trouble scoring 11 tricks and making his contract. He just drew trumps, forced out the ace of spades and claimed. South was quick to point out that West could have done a bit better by bidding his spades once again. Five spades would have been down two, doubled, showing a small profit against the actual result.

West was disconsolate. He announced that next week, he would go bowling instead of playing bridge. The other three players at the table chuckled silently. They knew West would be back at the same table next week enjoying a game of bridge.

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, Dec. 26, 2013:

This year your sixth sense kicks in frequently. If your intuition tells you to head in a certain direction, do. You often sense people's feelings even before they are able to recognize them. Relax, and be a good listener. If you are single, you could be meeting a lot of people. Stay unattached until you meet someone who knocks your socks off. This encounter could occur in the next nine months. If you are attached, the two of you seem to be instinctive with each other this year. You will benefit from scheduling more one-on-one time together. LIBRA knows how to draw others in and have them agree with his or her ideas.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ You'll move forward with relief. You might need to deal with someone who has more than his or her share of clout. Your instincts will guide you in what you choose to say. A family member could be overly emotional. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ You could be too busy handling remaining tasks from the holidays. Take care of all your thank-you cards today. You and a friend might come up with a plan to revamp this New Year's Eve celebration. Tonight: It is about to get hectic again, so get as much sleep as possible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Make an effort to let others know how you really feel, as they often might equate a lack of your time or attention with a lack of caring. You could have a difficult time convincing others that this is not the case. Tonight: Togetherness works.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ You might want to anchor in and get some extra R and R. You also might feel the need to take care of unfinished post-holiday tasks. Some of you might run out the door to catch a sale or two, only to decide later that it was a mistake. Tonight: Finally, some peace and quiet.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ You are likely to express exactly what you think and feel. You might attempt to draw others into having a conversation. You could create a lot of chatter but little else at the moment. Tonight: Hang out with a few friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Kick back, catch a sale or two and start writing your thank-you notes. Don't make a big deal of any meal preparations; just nibble on any leftovers, or make a point of starting a new diet. Play it low-key. Tonight: Indulge yourself and relax.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ You are on a roll. Others seek you out, perhaps to give you a belated gift or to say "thank you." Indulge a loved one. The two of you could get into a fun hobby or pastime if you can't make it outside to enjoy the winter air. Tonight: Reach out to someone at a distance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ You will want to maintain a low profile. Some of you could experience a Scrooge attack, whereas others simply might be exhausted. Use today for you, either to sleep or to do whatever you need to do in order to feel up to snuff. Tonight: Play it low-key.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ You could be pushing your own limits, but you might not care. Get out with family and friends, and enjoy some of the post-holiday sales and events. Touch base with a friend whom you really care about. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ You might need to handle a problem or go into work, whether you want to or not. Others value your intuitive understanding and creativity. You are able to handle a problem with finesse and speed. Tonight: Sort through the many calls and invitations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Take an overview and decide what the possibilities are surrounding a trip. Play around with travel fees and different methods of getting to your destination. Meanwhile, relax to a great piece of music. Tonight: Answer emails and return calls.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ Reach out to the important people in your life whom you may have been too busy to visit on account of all the holiday celebrations. Everyone enjoys some quiet time, so head off to a movie or catch a late brunch. Tonight: Keep it on a one-on-one level.

***

BORN TODAY

Chess player Samuel Sevian (2000), novelist Henry Miller (1891), musician Lars Ulrich (1963)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Chess side
6 Chest bone
9 Stripped
14 Ancient region in Asia Minor
15 Republic on St. George's Channel: Abbr.
16 Basket willow
17 Pompeii attraction
18 Quicken Loans Arena NBAer
19 Strike site
20 Place to see FDR
21 40-decibel unit
22 St. Pat's Day, e.g.
23 Pretend to be
24 Cricket call
26 French pop
29 Large primates
31 Barbary Wars participant, now
33 One of the smart set
36 Seaweed extract
37 Ballpark fig.?
38 Boxing biopic
39 Minnesota's state fish, and a hint to all 12 border answers in this puzzle
41 Chum
42 Do goo
43 Covent Garden highlight
44 Dalmatian's spot
46 Slothfulness
48 Meyers of "SNL"
49 Motor suffix
50 "Coffee __?"
52 Pequod captain
56 Shade provider
58 Put in shells, say
59 Little brook
60 Prove untrue
62 Like the vbs. "creep" and "weep"
63 "Please, Mom?"
64 Lay to rest
65 Bolted down some nuts
66 '50s movie monster destroyed at Mount Aso
67 Calm water metaphor
68 Rosy
69 Brooks Robinson's base

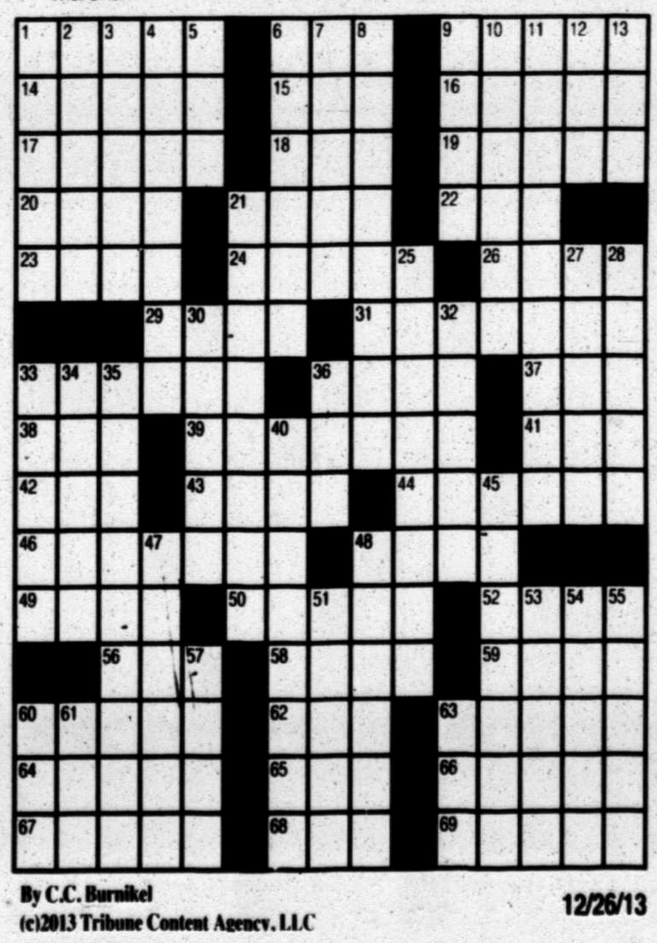
DOWN

1 Swallows, e.g.
2 Acerbic dispatcher on "Taxi"
3 Moving manga
4 Multiplexes
5 __ in kilo
6 Some copiers
7 "Argo" extra
8 Drink
9 Conductor of the first rescue mission
10 At an angle
11 Best-selling program, in tech lingo
12 Broad foot letters
13 Like some humor
21 Novel query requirement
25 What possums do when threatened
27 Bing, to Google
28 Two under par
30 Investigate, tabby-style
32 Classic
33 Hogwarts teaching
34 Kagan who clerked for Thurgood Marshall
35 Rosetta Stone discovery area
36 Like
40 1997 film with the tagline "Coming soon. Honest."
45 Giza pyramid builder
47 Depends (on)
48 Like some sesame-crusted tuna
51 Rich cake
53 Language that gives us "pajamas"
54 Scene of some sworn statements
55 Compulsory poker bet
57 Seas, to Cezanne
60 Important
61 Blowup: Abbr.
63 Old PC monitor

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

P	F	F	T		A	B	B	A	S		S	N	O	W
A	L	O	E		H	A	R	T	E		A	O	N	E
S	A	N	T	A	A	N	I	T	A		G	A	T	E
S	I	Z	E	S			M	A	L	T	S	H	O	P
E	R	A		I	D	I		C	A	R				
		R	U	D	O	L	P	H	B	O	Y	S	E	N
S	C	E	N	E	T	W	O			T	O	A	D	Y
T	A	L	I		H	U	L	L	S		U	L	E	E
I	G	L	O	O			A	P	P	A	R	E	N	T
R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	G	A	M	E	S		
			I	N	V		A	M	I		S	T	S	
O	F	F	A	N	D	O	N			S	P	L	I	T
A	L	U	M		S	L	E	I	G	H	R	I	D	E
K	E	N	O		I	V	O	R	Y		O	P	E	N
S	A	K	S		T	E	N	A	M		P	S	S	T

xwordeditor@aol.com 12/26/13



By C.C. Burnikel
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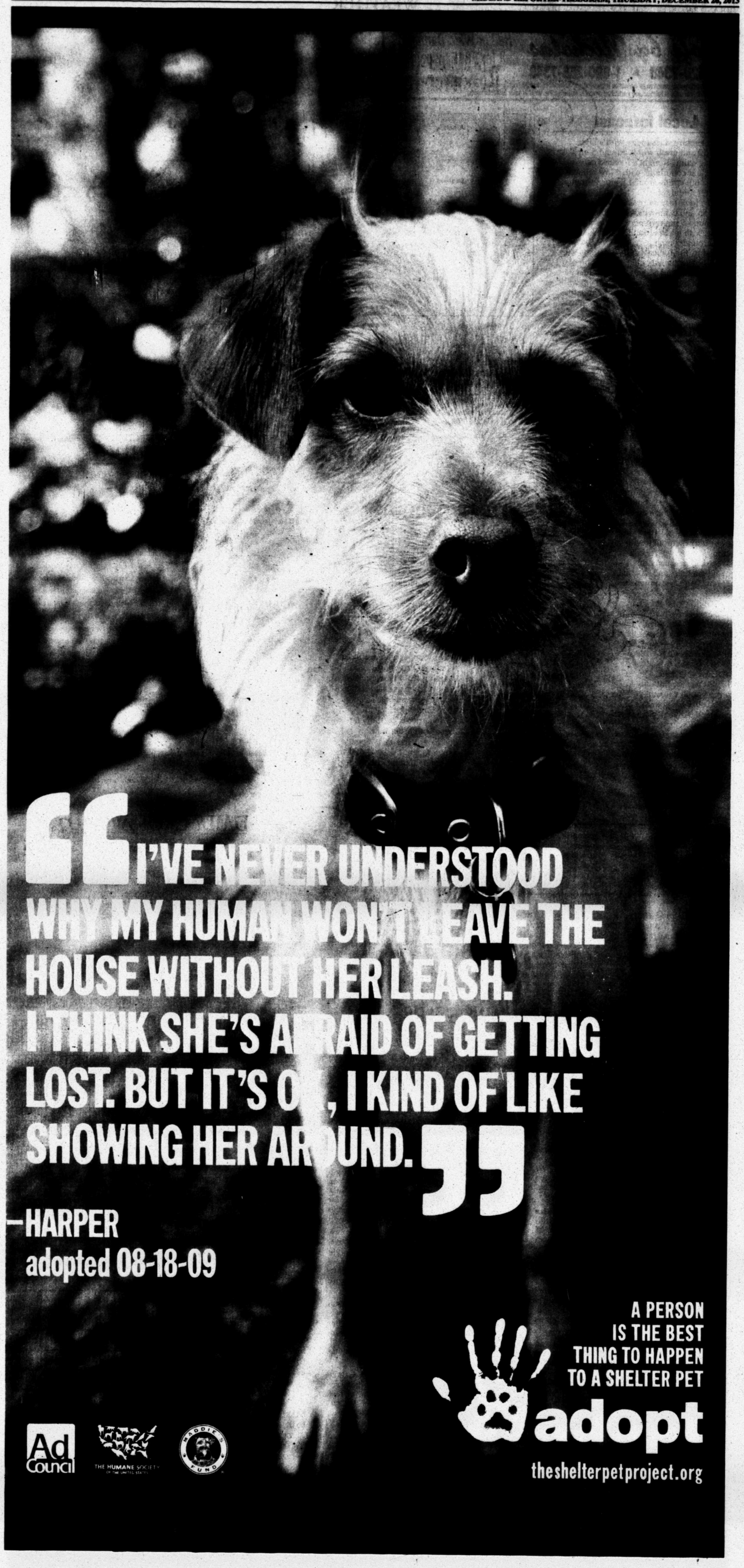
12/26/13


"I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY MY HUMAN WON'T LEAVE THE HOUSE WITHOUT HER LEASH. I THINK SHE'S AFRAID OF GETTING LOST. BUT IT'S OK, I KIND OF LIKE SHOWING HER AROUND."
—HARPER
adopted 08-18-09
A PERSON IS THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO A SHELTER PET
adopt
theshelterpetproject.org
Ad Council
THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
PADDIE FUND

Fax: 682-6566 • Email: mrtclassified@mrt.com • Search: mywesttexas.com • Mail: 201 E. Illinois, 79701

PLACING AN AD:
Call 682-6222
Monday through Friday
from 8a.m.-5p.m.

A friendly Advertising Consultant will help you word and schedule your ad for best results.

HOW TO WRITE A CLASSIFIED AD THAT WORKS!
- Promote Your Merchandise
- Check The Market Value
- Always Include The Price
- Keyword Your Ad

Midland Reporter-Telegram Classified

mywesttexas.com 682-6222

brought to you by the Midland Reporter-Telegram

Auto • Real Estate • Jobs • Marty's Market • Who's Who

GENERAL INFO

To ensure the integrity of our newspaper, for the benefit of our readers and advertisers, the Midland Reporter-Telegram reserves the right to revise, reclassify, edit or refuse any advertising. We also reserve the right to convert all advertising into digital and/or print formats within our other products and services.

Please check your ad the first day it appears, and, if you find a mistake, please call our office at 682-6222 so we can correct the error immediately. This will ensure that your ad is exactly what you want readers to see. If an error does occur, you can choose to rerun your ad once for free, or we'll gladly refund the cost of the portion of the ad affected by the error. If an ad is inadvertently omitted, we will assume liability up to the cost of the ad itself – consequently, we will publish your ad in our next available edition or refund the price you have paid.

Rate charges are determined at the time of placement. All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. Some classifications require payment in advance. Credit applications are required for business accounts.

We welcome suggestions or comments. Please call:
Jeri Houston,
Advertising Sales Manager,
687-8894.

HAPPY ADS

DEADLINES:

WORD ADS:

PUBLISHES ON:	DEADLINE IS:
Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri	5p.m. Prior Day
Saturday	12p.m. Friday
Sunday	5p.m. Friday
Monday	5p.m. Friday

DISPLAY ADS:

PUBLISHES ON:	DEADLINE IS:
Wednesday	3p.m. Monday
Thursday	3p.m. Tuesday
Friday, Saturday	3p.m. Wednesday
Sunday, Monday	3p.m. Thursday
Tuesday	3p.m. Friday

Surprise your child, parent, or special friend with a Happy Ad!

Happy Birthday! Congratulations! Welcome Home! Graduation Day!

We'll help you design something unique and publish it in the Midland Reporter-Telegram Classifieds...whatever the occasion!

Publish a special memorial to mark the passing of a loved one with an "In Memory Of" ad. Include a poem, prayer, and/or the names of all who care. Also, express your appreciation to everyone who brought food, sent flowers, or was there for you when you needed them most with a "Card of Thanks." We'll help you design a respectful, thoughtful ad.

Ads containing art or photos need to be in our office 2 working days before the ad is to be published and we ask that you pay in advance.

Midland Reporter-Telegram • The People To People Marketplace • 201 E. Illinois

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

	3			4	1	7		
	6						2	
		9	3			1		
	9					2	6	
			4	8	9			
		3					8	
		1			8	4		
	7						3	
		6	5	1				

Level: 1 2 **3** 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk**

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

5	1	9	6	4	2	7	3	8
2	8	6	1	7	3	5	4	9
4	7	3	8	5	9	2	6	1
1	4	7	5	9	6	3	8	2
9	2	8	7	3	1	4	5	6
6	3	5	4	2	8	1	9	7
3	9	4	2	6	7	8	1	5
8	5	2	9	1	4	6	7	3
7	6	1	3	8	5	9	2	4

12/26/13

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Attention Readers

In observance of

New Year's Day

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Jan. 1st	Tues., Dec. 31st, NOON
Thurs., Jan. 2nd	Tues., Dec. 31st, 2 PM

Classified Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Jan. 1st	Mon., Dec. 30th, 5 PM
Thurs., Jan. 2nd	Mon., Dec. 30th,, 5 PM
Fri., Jan. 3rd	Tues., Dec. 31st, NOON

Retail Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Jan 1st	Mon., Dec. 30th, 5 PM
Thurs., Jan 2nd	Mon., Dec. 30th, 5 PM
Sun., Jan 5th (Oil Report/West Texas Living, Arts & Ent.)	Mon., Dec. 30th, 5 PM
Fri., Jan 3rd	Tues., Dec. 31st, Noon

CIRCULATION HOURS
Customer Service calls will be taken
Wednesday, January 1st from 7 AM-11 AM only.
We will reopen Thursday, Jan 2nd for regular business hours.

Midland Reporter-Telegram

You Can Email your Classified Ad to: mrtclassified@mrt.com

Passenger Cars

mazda

Happy Holidays!

Mazda 3 ... Rides Like Cars Twice Its Price
~ Bloomberg

[The CX-5] simply stood above the competition.
~ Motor Trend

2014 Mazda6 Named 'CAR OF THE YEAR'
~ Popular Mechanics

Mazda has the lowest 5-Year Cost to Own as an overall brand
~ Kelly Blue Book

HUGE INVENTORY SALE

OVER 120 USED VEHICLES AVAILABLE

2079YA	2014	MAZD	MAZDA6 4DR SDN AUTO I SPORT	$23,991
U12675	2013	TOYO	TUNDRA 4WD CREWMAX 5.7L	$35,981
U12704	2013	NISS	JUKE 5DR WGN CVT S FWD	$19,881
U12680	2013	MERC	C-CLASS 4DR SDN C250	$29,981
M12593	2013	MAZD	CX-5 AWD 4DR AUTO SPORT	$23,881
U12653	2013	JEEP	WRANGLER 4WD 2DR RUBICON	$35,781
S10497	2013	JEEP	GRAND CHER RWD 4DR LIMITED	$34,441
U12672	2013	INFI	FX37 AWD 4DR BLACK	$38,881
U12651	2013	FORD	F-150 4WD SUPERCREW 145"	$37,881
M12609	2013	CHRY	300 4DR SDN 300C RWD	$28,750
U12688	2013	CHEV	SILVERADO 2WD CREW CAB	$27,581
S10485	2012	VOLK	JETTA SEDA 4DR AUTO SE	$15,225
U12659	2012	MITS	LANCER 4DR SDN CVT GT FWD	$16,881
S10482	2012	JEEP	WRANGLER U 4WD 4DR SAHARA	$34,900
U12693	2012	GMC	SIERRA 150 4WD CREW CAB	$34,581
U12687	2012	FORD	F-150 4WD SUPERCREW 145"	$35,781
S10490	2012	DODG	GRAND CARA 4DR WGN SXT	$19,025
M12544	2012	BMW	X5 AWD 4DR 35I PREMIUM	$38,789
S10459	2012	BMW	X3 AWD 4DR 28I	$35,750
U12673	2011	LEXU	ES 350 4DR SDN	$27,881
S10496	2011	JEEP	PATRIOT FWD 4DR SPORT	$12,221
U12677	2011	HOND	PILOT 2WD 4DR EX-L	$25,741
U12682	2011	GMC	YUKON XL AWD 4DR 1500 DENALI	$39,891
U12696	2011	FORD	F-150 2WD SUPERCREW 145"	$29,881
U12681	2011	DODG	DURANGO 2WD 4DR EXPRESS	$20,741
S10471	2011	CHEV	TAHOE 2WD 4DR 1500 LTZ	$43,125
U12644	2010	LEXU	IS 350C 2DR CONV	$33,864
U12697	2009	LEXU	ES 350 4DR SDN	$25,881
U12668	2008	INFI	FX35 RWD 4DR	$20,781
S10513	2007	PORS	BOXSTER 2DR ROADSTER	$23,881

Visit us online for more great deals!

mazda of Midland
5115 W LOOP 250 NORTH
MIDLAND, TX 79707
432-617-2273
MAZDAOF MIDLAND.COM

SKY mazda of Odessa
6101 E HWY 80
ODESSA, TX 79762
432-617-8040
SKYMAZDA.COM

Ends January 8, 2014. All Units Subject to Prior Sale. Tax, Title & License Extra. Financing With Approved Credit.

mywesttexas jobs

http://www.mywesttexas.com/jobs

Midland Reporter-Telegram in partnership with monster

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

EXPERIENCED TAX ACCOUNTANT

Johnson, Miller & Co., CPAs FT

Immediate openings for experienced tax accountants in our Odessa and Midland tax offices. Competitive salary and benefits. Come join our team of professionals at Johnson, Miller & Co., CPAs. Submit your resume to jobs@jmcotexas.com.

AUTOMOTIVE

Applicants for various positions

Stanley Ford - Andrews FT

Stanley Ford- Andrews is currently seeking applicants for the following positions:
Service Advisors
Cetified Diesel Techs
Experienced Techs
Sales Associate
State Inspectors
Parts Manager
We are willing to offer top pay depending on experience. Benefits include: vacation and medical benefits.
Qualified individuals may send resumes by fax to: 432-524-9112 or via email at: pplunkett@stanleyautogroup.com

HELP WANTED

AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION SPECIALIST, AUTO DETAIL TECH & USED CAR MAKE READY TECH

Best Pay in the Permian Basin. Plus Health, Life, Dental & Vision Insurance, Paid Uniforms and Paid Vacations. Two computers per Tech. Awesome tool room. Very Clean well lit shop in a modern Facility with state of the art equipment. Please ask for Bob Smith

FREEDOM
BUICK - GMC - TRUCK
5251 E 42nd • ODESSA TX 79762 • 432.550.9950
bob@freedomtg.com

General Mechanic Needed

Abilities:

- Welding, Oil Changes, Brakes & Maintenance on trucks.
- Maintenance & Service on John Deere Motors & Centrifical Pumps.
- Trailer Repairs including hangers, axles, equalizers & lights.

Blue Cross Blue Shield medical & dental available after 90 days.

Pay will be discussed at interview.

Please submit all resumes via Fax to:
432-686-8205

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Office Administrator

Hebbronville Lone Star Rentals, LLC FT
Midland, TX

Hebbronville Lone Star Rentals, LLC is seeking a full-time Office Administrator for its Corporate office, located in Midland. The right candidate will have three years + office experience, as well as experience working with MS Office, especially Excel. Attention to detail and ability to work in fast paced environment is a must. Rich benefits package; pay commensurate with experience. Great working environment. Please email resumes with salary requirements to hr@lonestarrentals.net, or fax to 855/833-8376. EOE

ENERGY & UTILITIES

hunt

A privately held exploration and production company, Hunt Oil has successfully conducted worldwide petroleum operations for over 75 years, and is one of the world's leading independent energy companies.

We are currently seeking candidates to work in Midland, TX in the following positions:

- **Production Foreman** - 10+ years' experience in field level supervision; High school diploma or equivalent required
- **Lease Operator** - 5+ years production experience; High school diploma or equivalent required
- **EHS & Regulatory Specialist** - strong oil & gas operational knowledge; experience in implementing safety & regulatory plans
- **Field Clerk** - experience as an Administrative Assistant or Field Clerk; High school diploma with college degree a plus
- **Production Engineer** - 3+ years' experience in Production Engineering and/or Well Completions; BS in Engineering required
- **Sr. Production Engineer** - 8+ years' experience in Production Engineering and/or Well Completions; BS in Engineering required
- **Assistant Foreman** - 7+ years' experience in operations; experience in field level supervision preferred
- **Gang Pusher** - 5+ years' experience in production; High school diploma or equivalent required.

Interested parties, please visit our website at www.huntoil.com and select the Career Opportunities link to find the appropriate position. You can "Apply for this Position" or if you are already registered use your email and password and select "Add to my Jobs" to be considered for this opportunity.

OTHER JOBS

NOW HIRING EXTRA! EXTRA!

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm -4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person

Pay $10.00 per hour paid every 2 weeks

These positions require some physical lifiting 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: [illegible] Monday-Friday, 8-5 or email jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

NOW HIRING EXTRA! EXTRA!

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person

Pay $10.00 per hour paid every 2 weeks

These positions require some physical lifiting 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
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

ENERGY & UTILITIES

DIRECTIONAL DRILLER

Directional drilling company seeking experienced drillers in West Texas. Must have at least 2 yrs experience. Send resume to resumes@aimdir.com.

Experienced Well Testing Operators

South Texas based well testing company looking for Experienced Well Testing Operators for project to commence mid to late January 2014. Salary compatible with experience. Send resumes to: rgarza8209@gmail.com

Plant Operator

West Texas Gas FT

PLANT OPERATOR NEEDED IMMEDIATELY: Experience preferred but not required. Location near Stanton, TX. Fax resume to: (432) 458-3423 or mail to: Sale Ranch, 2873 FM 829, Stanton, TX 79782. Can Email resume to dsatterfield@wtgbenedum.com.

Tubing Testers & Scanners

Confidential FT
Odessa, TX 79763

Oilfield Service Company in Odessa, TX looking to hire Tubing Testers and Scanners. Must have clean driving record and be able to pass a drug test. Come to 1535 Windcrest, Odessa, TX to fill out application.

HEALTHCARE

Caregivers wanted for 24 HR shifts

Visiting Angels is searching for Part Time and Full Time Caregivers in the Odessa/Midland, TX area. We have all shifts available including 24Hr live in shifts. Please call 432-897-1700 or apply online at 157.axiscare.com
•Location: Odessa/Midland, TX
•Compensation: 10.00 per hour/ 125.00 per day
•This is a part-time job.
•Principals only. Recruiters, please don't contact this job poster.
•Please do not contact job poster about other services, products or commercial interests.

HEALTHCARE

Mansfield Chiropractic

Our team has an opening for a motivated, energetic and dependable member to help us provide quality care to our patients. Experience is not mandatory but a great attitude is. Please bring resume to Mansfield Chiropractic at 4107 West Illinois

Medical Assistant

Medical Assistant needed for busy physicians practice. Great Beneifit Package.
Please fax resumes to 682-2284 or mail to Premier Physicians, Attn: Arita Routh, PO Box 5291, Midland, Texas 79704. No phone calls please
PP-7233

OTHER JOBS

All Positions

Firehouse Subs FT
Midland, TX 79701

Now hiring Slice, Prep, Cashiers, Catering & Kitchen help for AM/PM positions. Apply in person: 2900 W. Loop 250 North, Ste 162.

Housekeeper

Villa Chateau Apartments FT

Full time Housekeeper needed. Physical/Drug screen & Background check done. Apply in person at: Villa Chateau Apts., 1603 N. Midkiff Rd. Midland, TX 79701. No phone calls please.

Pump Down Supervisors and Operators

O-Tex FT/PT
Midland, TX

O-Tex Pumping is currently hiring experienced pump down supervisors and pump down operators. We offer competitive pay, job bonuses, matching 401K, full medical benefits, and life insurance. Please come by 2611 E. I-20 or go to www.otexpumping.com and fill out an application. Must be able to pass a MVR and drug screen. O-Tex Pumping is an EOE.

mywesttexas jobs

http://www.mywesttexas.com/jobs

Midland Reporter-Telegram in partnership with monster

SKILLED LABOR

Forklift Operator

The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an opening in its Production Department for the Position of "Fork Lift Operator" and other duties as assigned.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:
- Ability to read and write
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs.
- Ability to bend and reach overhead
- Ability to count accurately and do simple math
- Able to operate a forklift and willing to be certified
- Be reliable, responsible and able to follow instructions
- Capable of standing and walking for extended period of time
- Able to work in various environments that include winter and summer conditions.
- Must be able to work weekends when necessary

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Accurate loading and unloading of printed materials in a safe and efficient manner
- Ensure material are efficiently/properly stacked and stored in appropriate and designated areas
- Perform other non-forklift duties when assigned

The Hearst Corporation is one of the largest diversified communications companies. Its major interests include magazines, newspapers and business publishing, cable networks, television and radio broadcasting, Internet businesses and more. As an associate of the Midland Reporter-Telegram, you join more than 20,000 in the Hearst family.

Send resume and salary requirements to: John Maddox, Director of Production/Facilities
c/o Midland Reporter Telegram - 201 E. Illinois St - Midland, TX 79701
Email to: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

HEARST media services

Midland Reporter-Telegram — Delivering life...every day.

OTHER JOBS

The Midland Reporter Telegram has an opening in its Production Department for the position of:

Pressman/Pressman Trainee

for our Harris N 1650 Printing presses. This 5-6 day per week, fast paced, deadline oriented position, requires night shift weekend work, with a strong emphasis on safety. The Midland Reporter Telegram offers a full package of company benefits including 401k program. Salary DOE.

Send resume and salary requirements to:
John Maddox, Production Director
c/o Midland Reporter Telegram
201 E. Illinois St., Midland, TX 79701
E mail: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
or
come by 201 E. Illinois Street to fill out an application.

HEARST corporation

Midland Reporter Telegram is a part of Hearst Corp.

NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE

Wyndham Garden Hotel & Wall Street After 5 Sports Lounge Positions needed: Front Desk agents, Admin Assistant, Housekeepers Food & Beverage Director & Supervisor, Cooks, Servers/Hostesses, Breakfast Attendants, Bar Managers, Bartenders Pay based on experience. Please email resume wyndhammidlandgm@gmail.com or hand deliver at 3100 W. Wall Street, Midland, TX.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Oilfield Construction Manager

Minimum 5 years experience with bidding, invoicing and job cost tracking. Oversee building locations, roads, and containment pads. Please send resume to M-31 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, Tx. 79701

QA & QUALITY CONTROL

NACE Level 1 Inspector

NACE Level 1 Inspector with ASME code experience needed to act as Quality Assurance Manager. Salary DOE. Send resume and salary requirements **to RWI Construction, 10700 State Hwy 191, Midland, TX 79707.**

SALES JOBS

Salesperson

Salesperson needed for mattress store in Midland. Are you tired of working furniture store hours from dawn to dark? Personable, energetic individual needed for full time position. Should be good with people and have a professional appearance. Job description includes both sales and clerical/administrative duties. Compensation includes full commission (no tiers, minimums or holdbacks), plus spiffs, vacation, and 401k. No late hours or Sundays. Mail resume to Sleep Shop, 3303 W. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79703

SALES JOBS

STORE MANAGERS and CASHIERS

Smoker's Outlet is looking for **Store Managers** and **Cashiers** in the Midland area. We offer competitive wages and a good work environment. Paid weekly. Go by your nearest **Smoker's Outlet** to apply.

SKILLED LABOR

Apprentice/Journeyman Electricians

Apprentice/Journeyman Electricians needed. Fort Worth Electrical Contractor needs Apprentice and Journeyman Electricians for work in Andrews, TX area. Please fax resume, list of experience & salary requirements to: 817-355-5355, Attn: H.R. Dept.

Diesel Mechanic Night Supervisor

LPC Crude Oil Marketing, LLC **FT**
P. O. Box 3821
Midland, TX 79702
LPC Crude Oil Marketing LLC is seeking an Experienced Diesel Mechanic Night Supervisor. The qualified candidate will be responsible for performing routine maintenance as well as variety of repair work on Cummins and Cat engines. In doing so, the candidate must be able to safely drive the service truck to perform the repairs. All work done in this capacity is crucial to the safe and productive operation of the fleet. A class A or B CDL is preferred, but not required. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, performing repairs in an efficient, effective and timely manner. The qualified candidate must be able to communicate effectively. LPC offers a full benefit package including health, dental, vision and life insurance, as well as a retirement package. Please contact Darryl Mulkey at (432) 934-6148 or dmulkey@lpccrude.com

Document Preppers

Kelly Services now hiring Document Preppers. Drug & background screen required. $11.75/hour. Must be flexible and willing to work occasional Saturdays. Both Full Time and Part Time positions available. Apply in person at 4800 E. 42nd, Suite 205, Odessa. Or call 432-363-0123 for more information. Equal Opportunity Employer: Never an applicant fee.

I&E Tech : IMMEDIATELY NEEDED

West Texas Gas **FT**
I&E Tech for natural gas processing plant and gathering system near Rankin, Texas. Must have experience with electronic and pneumatic insturmantation and be able to troubleshoot 480V 3 phase electrical service. Experience with generators and plant automation a plus. Must be willing to take might and weekend call outs. Fax resume to (432)639-2132 or mail to Benedum Gas Plant, HC 34 Box 63, Midkiff, Texas, 79755.

Licensed Commercial Plumber & Exp. Helpers

TMI Mechanical currently hiring **Licensed Commercial Plumbers & Experienced Helpers** for local jobsites. We offer top pay (**up to $28/hr and we will pay additional for medical gas endorsements**). Paid medical, paid vacations and holidays. Must have good driving record. Please call **432-686-0002** for interview.

Multiple Positions

Confidential **FT/**
Midland, TX **0-1 Years Exp.**
Wood production facility has immediate openings for production laborers, forklift operators and CDL holders in Midland. Please call 806-773-2520 to schedule an interview.

Rocker A Cementers

Rocker A Cementers is currently hiring Pump Operators, Bulk Equipment Operators, P&A Supervisors, and Wireline Operators. All positions are in the Lubbock area. Must have a Class A CDL, and be able to pass regular DOT drug testing. Fax resumes and contact information to 806-495-0066, or email to mtmccalli@gmail.com

Shop/Field Mechanics

Basin Engine and Pump **FT**
Shop and Field Mechanics needed for Industrial Oilfield Shop. Uniforms provided. Benefits package. Pay DOE. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email to felicia@basinengine.com. Office 432-570-1114. Applications may be filled out at: 1914 South County Rd 1083, Midland, TX

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Class A CDL Truck Drivers

Prefer drivers with Pneumatic Tanker experience. Benefits include: driver $2,000 sign-on bonus, medical, life and dental insurance, and paid vacation. Applicants having experience hauling sand and/or dry cement helpful. Good driving record, DOT, drug & alcohol testing required. Apply in person, call 432-563-1894 for interview or online @ www.rockwaterenergy.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

General

NEWSPAPER STREET CORNER SALES

Selling Newspapers On The Street Corners
(avg. income $50.00 - $100.00/day)

MUST BE AT LEAST 14 YEARS OLD
SUNDAYS ONLY
IF INTERESTED CALL
TOMMY 967-2267

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone?? Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

Contact:
Linda 687-8807

LEGAL

Leagal Assistant

Experienced Legal Assistant for busy law office in the Claydesta area. Please email your resume to charles@wardmyers.com

Let Classifieds Work for You! Call

432-682-6222

IN THE DARK.

Start your newspaper subscription today and see the light. Get all the latest real estate, employment and more.

Midland Reporter-Telegram
201 E. Illinois
682-5311
http://www.mywesttexas.com

Marty's Marketplace

... leading you to the best bargains in the Permian Basin

Merchandise

Appliances

1- AAA Appliance Free pickup. Call 556-0104 / 528-3046.

Free Stuff

FREE TO good home. Golden retriever mix female. 2 1/2 years. Excellent guard dog. 432-631-2542 or 432-202-5650.

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!
Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

Appliances

We buy broken appliances w/ free removal. Also we repair appliances. 432-570-8278

Free Stuff

TWO LANE Rocker Recliners brown Call 432-699-5513.

Furniture

CAPTAINS BED with drawers underneath, book case Headboard, includes Mattress. Matching Dresser with Mirror. $300. or best offer 432-349-2812.

QUEEN BEDROOM set, ride rustic, includes 2 dressers. Will text picture. $450. Call 432-210-6070.

Miscellaneous for Sale

SEASONED OAK firewood, $350 for 1 cord, $190 for 1/2 cord. Delivered & stacked. 325-648-2818 or 512-913-7406.

Miscellaneous for Sale

Sub-Zero under counter wine cooler, $250 or best offer 432-978-0532

Wood burning stove $300, Camper Shell $350, 55 gl plastic barrels $15 Call 352-8419

Musical Instruments

Piano & Bench Sale Henry F. Miller, $500. 432-559-2046.

Sporting Goods

Nordic Track E-3800 Treadmill, Total Gym Schwinn exercise bike, 432-559-2046.

FIREWOOD FOR sale $85 per truck load. Call 432-296-9040

Free Stuff

If You Have Items You Are Giving Away For **FREE,** Your Ad Is On Us! **CALL 432-682-6222 TODAY!**

OAK, PECAN, mesquite, pinon, 432-209-0416, 325-762-4262.

Animals & Pets

Pets

AKC STANDARD Poodles. White, Int'l American bred $1500. 432-664-1888

DACHSHUND MINI puppies. Blond/smooth coat $400-$600. Call 432-570-4646.

SCHNAUZER AKC register 2 males left. Please call 432-889-4044.

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Pets

SCOTTISH TERRIER puppies. Adorable AKC register. Black beauties. Born 10/04/13. Current on shots . Call 325-207-0042.

What's Read!
Classifieds are.
Studies show that more readers turn to Classifieds everyday than almost any other section of the newspaper.
Call Classifieds Today!
432-682-6222

Events and Notices

General Announcements

BETTER READ Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ.

Lost & Found

FOUND BROWN Female Chihuahua, standard size, Lockheed and Mogford. 432-967-5162, 432- 967-5537

FOUND PUPPY near the Museum of the Southwest. Call 432-770-6337 to identify & claim.

Lost Diamond Bracelet
Wed. 12/18, Offering Reward! If found please call 432-528-8729.

LOST PARK PUG DOG near Humble and Godfrey. Reward offered. 432-631-9456

LOST SCHNAUZER with tail. Bowman / Alpine, No colar or tags. Answers to Max. 432-664-2226

Lost & Found

LOST WEDDING RING at Graves Post Office across from HEB on Wadley. Reward offered. Call 432-553-9410.

Schools & Instruction

Schools & Instruction

ART LESSONS for Children. Basic Art Instruction. For more information contact Margaret Hover at 432-934-4989 or 432-262-1206

Business Center

Business Opportunity

EARN 10% Interest on your money-secured by 1st lien on a home serious inquiries only. Please write: PO Box 4101 Midland, Tx 79704

Passenger Cars

BMW of the Permian Basin
3775 Lindbergh Ave - Midland
432-327-3900

2009 BMW 528i Alpine/ Cream Beige Prem , Xenon, Assist & Bluetooth, 98k miles

2011 BMW X5 50i Jet Black / Blk Sport Activity, Cold, Tech, Spare saver, Head up Avtive seats 13k miles, CPO

2013 BMW 335i Convertible Jet Blk/Blk Conv, Prem, Nav, SaT, Though Loading System heated seats 4k miles, DEMO

2013 BMW 535i Dark Graphite / Blk M sport , Tech, Prem , heated , head up display 6k miles, Service loaner

2013 BMW 528xi Space Gray/Oyster Prem, Heated seats, rear view camera , Nav, 4k miles, Demo

2007 GMC Yukon Gray/Blk Sat, Rear Seat Ent, 3rd row, 125k Super Clean

2012 BMW 535i Space Gray/Oyster Prem sound, Sport , Prem. 11k miles, CPO

2012 Mercedes CLS550 Blk/Blk Harman Kardon, Nav., 20k miles

2012 BMW 328i Coupe Mineral Wht/Oyster M sport , Prem., hi- fi, nav.,12k miles

2013 BMW 328i Wht/Blk-Red , Blk racing Stripe Sport line, Sport Trans, Nav, Heated seats, 3k miles, Unique

bmwpermianbasin.com

Lost & Found

FOUND AN ITEM?
If you are trying to return an item to its rightful owner, let us help you. Call 432-682-6222 For Your Complimentary Ad!

Passenger Cars

CHRYSLER '02 300M Special garaged kept with 81,000 miles, loaded, great condition. $5,750. Call Karen 432 520-4191

DODGE 2010 Charger SXT 53k miles. Clean bnbmidland.com 432-683-6222.

FORD 2005 Mustang GT V8 auto. We finance. 432-683-6222 bnbmidland. com.

FORD 2010 MUSTANG Candy Apple Red, Tan Leather Interior. Automatic V6. Power Windows, Seats, Mirrors. 6 CD Disk Changer One Owner, Non-Smoker Only 36,000 miles $13,500 432-967-0080

PONTIAC 2009 G8 GT White 95,800 Miles, new tires. Great Car. Loaded. $19,500 OBO 432-288-8018

WANTED! Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. FREE pick-up. 432-685-4078

Pickup Trucks

CHEVY 2006 3500 Dually Crew Cab LS. 6.6 Duramax. 432-683-6222 bnbmidland.com

CHEVY 2009 Ext Cab 4x4. We Finance bnbmidland.com. Call 432-683-6222.

DODGE 1998 one ton dually, crew cab, 24V diesel, new tires,clean $12,900, 683-6222

DODGE 2002 Ram 1500. 4X4. Large Mud Tires. Dark Blue. 172000 miles. Newer Engine. $5750 OBO. 432-528-8994

FORD 2005 F250 XLT CrewCab.Diesel, 128k miles. $14,999 683-6222 bnbmidland.com

FORD 2008 F150 XLT Crew Cab. 86k miles bnbmidland.com. Call 432-683-6222

FORD '97 F150 3 door step side white exterior with burgandy interior . $2000. 432-559-5936

4WD & SUV

CADILLAC 2007 ESV Clean, 1 owner, 6.2 engine, 82,800 miles. New rubber. Asking $25,900 432-683-8345

FORD 2007 Expedition LX. 92K miles. We finance 432-683-6222 bnbmidland.com

4WD & SUV

FORD 2008 Mustang, Limited edition, Loaded, Warrior package, Shaker stereo, Leather seats. Clean! 75,500 miles. Asking 13,900. 432-683-8345

GMC 2004 Envoy Red Come see at 3930 Fanwood CT. Good condition. Asking $7,500. 432-553-3897

JEEP 2006 BLACK Wrangler X 2 door, 26700 m, $18,000, garage kept, great condition. Call 432-556-7724

TOYOTA LAND CRUISER 2001 Silver, 4WD, 4 DR, tfrtrd row seat, tow pkg, navigation, leather, running boards, grill guard, moon roof, new battery, multi cd stereo, 186K miles, great starter car for Christmas! $11,000 call 553-2517.

Commercial Vehicles

Heavy Equipment

INTERNATIONAL 2004 4300. Bucket truck with chip box. Great condition. With 68,390 miles. $72,400. Call 432-553-2155.

Motorcycles

2002 GOLDWING, GL1800, beautiful black, perfect condition with lots of extras. 10,200 miles. 432-520-3177 or 432-559-1674 L/M

2003 HARLEY Davidson Centennial Edition Duece. Fuel injected with 10,000 garaged miles. 1 year only Gun Metal Peal paint. all the chrome and whistles you could want. $9500.00 OBO or trade. Please call 432-557-1228.

HARLEY Davidson 2012. 1200 Sportster 72. stage 1 upgrade, Open air Willie G breather, Basanni pipes, Burly lowering kit. Leather side saddle bag. Only 3,600 miles. Garage kept. $9,500 or best offer 432-559-2508.

RVs

2011 TRAIL Runner for sale $10,000. Clean, and roomy travel trailer, has plenty of storage both inside and outside. Two 30 gallon propane bottles located on the front of the trailer. Fully equipped kitchen. Travel trailer sleeps six comfortably, fold out couch, kitchen table folds down to make a bed, Furnace and A/C work perfectly. Call 832-579-6484

In A Hurry? E-Mail Your Ad Today! It's Quick & Easy mrtclassified@mrt.com

Recreational Vehicles

2012 WILDWOOD X-Lite Series, power awning & tongue jack, easy lube axles, radio w/ CD player, & 18" TV, pass through storage on front, stabilizer jacks. Refrigerator & 3 burner cook top. Like new, used twice. $25,000 Call Robert 432-934-5194

FLEETWOOD 2006 Discovery 39L Diesel 4 slides 17k miles $94,000. Call 432-631-9868

FOR SALE 2012 Lexion S-Lite. 31' with 1 slide. Loaded! Pulled 1 time. Used retail $30,310. Asking $27,300 or best offer. 432-687-2621 after 5pm

Auto Services and Parts

BUYING/Hauling Off Junk Or Unwanted Vehicles. Dependable Junk Removal. 432-352-5031

ATTN: READERS
Real estate advertising herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to indicate any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, age, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations or discrimination.
We are not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on equal opportunity basis.
To file a complaint, contact www.hud.gov or 1-800-669-9777

Real Estate Rentals & Sales

Residential Rentals

Apartments for Rent Furnished

REMODELED SMALL efficiency, washer, dryer, cable, RO water, ref. ice. $1650 monthly, $1000 deposit. 432-631-8100.

Apartments for Rent Unfurnished

1 BEDROOM/1 Bath Apartment, all bills paid $1500 monthly, $1000 Deposit. Call 432/894-3460

2 BEDROOM and Studio apartments. From $550 and up per month. Please call 432-684-6479

NEW MANAGEMENT Spacious 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments. Call 432-687-4514.

Townhouse/ Condo for Rent Unfurnished

SPACIOUS REMODELED 1600 +/- sf., 2/2 w/garage & fenced patio. 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

VERY NICE Townhome for rent in Midland. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. Call or text 325-207-0173

Houses for Rent Furnished

NICE NEW totally furnished 1 bedroom, 1 bath. washer, dryer, cable, ice, RO water, $1950/mo. $1,000 deposit. 432-631-8100

Condos/Townhouses

Real Estate Quick Sale
(Private Parties Only)
- 14 days in the Midland Reporter-Telegram
- 14 days on mywesttexas.com
- Up to 10 lines of text
- New Today Banner-1st Day Only
- (1) Homes Gallery listing with photo

$75 (each additional line $5)
Call 682-6222 today!

Homes for Sale

Real Estate Sure Sell
Call 682-6222 Today!
(Private Parties Only)
- 30 days - Midland Reporter-Telegram
- 30 days - mywesttexas.com
- New Today Banner on 1st Day Only
- Up to 10 lines of text

$55 *(each additional line $5)*

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL real estate advertising herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to indicate any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, age, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations or discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on equal opportunity basis.

To file a complaint, contact www.hud.gov or 1-800-669-9777

Homes for Sale Unfurnished

3603 HUMBLE. LARGE 4/3/3/2, new carpet, Rulsk/Alamo/Lee. $2950/mo. UP Group 889-2934.

3 BEDROOM 1 1/2 bath. $1,400/mo and $1,400 deposit. No Pets, Non Smoking. 4704 Seminole. Call 432-699-7316 or 432-553-8712.

4705 A Harvard. 2 Bedroom 2 Bath, 2 carport,fenced yard. No pets. $1550 monthly. 432-620-9222 432-694-2074

Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

3608 SINCLAIR, 4bedroom 3 bath 2900 + sq. ft. Owner finance. 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

3611 BAUMANN Ave. Well Maintained 3/2/2 Large living with lava rock fireplace with gas logs. Nice kitchen, dining with breakfast bar, dbl closets, walk in closet in master. large back yard with storage $195K 432-218-8869

3BD, 2BA, 313 S. Bentwood $139,000 will assist with closing costs. OPEN HOUSE 2pm-4pm every Sunday until sold. Call 432-683-2243

3BR/2BA NORTHSIDE completely remodeled in 2009. $189,000. 432-238-1777.

4007 Coyote Trail. 2,540 sq. ft. 4BR/3BA with 2 Car Gar., 700 sq. ft. guesthouse, 30x40 steel building on 2 acres. For sale by owner $389,000. Call 432-559-2046 by appointment only.

FOR SALE by owner- 4508 Lanham St.; 2BR/2BA; 1400 sqft. patio home. $165,000. Call 940-597-6743 to make appointment to see

FSBO EXECUTIVE home 4/5/3+. Gourmet kitchen, green house. Artist/dance studio, office/hobby room, wood floors, waterwell, 5000+ sq ft. $575,000. 1704 West Missouri. Call 432-254-2744.

HOME TO BE MOVED! Pier & beam, 3 bed/ 3 bath, 2273 sq. ft., metal roof, large master, his/her closet, remodeled kitchen open to living, office. Appraisal value $188,205 asking $155,000 located 40 miles SE of Midland. 432-268-5897.

IN MIDLAND home 3 bedroom 1 bath. Ready to move in $95,000. No owner finance 4715 Comanche Dr Call 432-262-3841

LAKE BROWNWOOD lake front. Stone ranch house. $119,000. Remodelled, 3/3, 2200 sq ft. 1.4 ac. Call 305-858-0014.

OWNER FINANCED 3 bed 2 bath, nice neighborhood. 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

OWNER FINANCED 4403 Trevino, 3 /2, Small down. 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

REDUCED $25K: 2201 W. Golf Course, 2,871 sqft., indoor pool, 4 car garage, $299k. Check zillow.com 432-530-8844.

WE BUY HOMES! Fair prices, quick cash! Call 432-266-1212, 432-631-8100.

Acreage

1.1 Acre lots 22K., 1.1 Acre lots with water well 28K., 1.5 Acre lot 30K., Greenwood area, new roads, electricity, mobile or modular OK. Britt 512-573-5479

40 ACRES I-20 Odessa location, $25,000 per acre Ask for Don 432-352-2067.

4.17 ACRES in Stanton City Limits. Has electricity and water, but will need septic. $50,000. Call 432-894-6015

HOUSE AND 50 acres for sale, 1 mile south of Interstate off Cotton Flat. Will Divide. $13,500 per acre. 432-661-5742

I-20 MIDLAND location, 27 acres. $60,000 per acre Ask for Don 432-352-2067.

Owner finance 5 acres water, Site built homes only, off Hwy 349, 20 mins. south of Midland. $59,500 432-631-8100/266-1212

Ranches

562 ACRES for sale south of Abilene in Runnels County. Lots of trees, wildlife & water. Two homes / lodges; main lodge 4,600sf. with large open floor plan. 2nd lodge 750sf. Awesome get-away, home or business. $1.6 mil. 325-668-9299

RANCH FOR SALE 4,212 Acres near Snyder, Tx. Water, 3 houses, great hunting. Owner Financing $795/ Acre (432) 664-7764

4 CEMETERY PLOTS in Resthaven, Garden of Love. 432-682-3974

MIDWAY RV Park conveniently located near Big Spring, TX. Spaces available; includes all utilities with TV cable and internet. For more information call, 325-206-2874.

Commercial

FOR LEASE /Build to Suit Commercial shop with 5 acre yard East of Midland. 432-664-7764 432-934-7777

"MAN CAVE" New storage on 1788, 1500-4500 square ft starting at $650 RV's/cars/industrial ask for Don 352-2067.

NOW LEASING Office/Warehouses Small Office Suites and Fenced Yards Various locations. Call 432-661-4057.

RED WAREHOUSE Yard for sale or lease 1015 West Industrial, 432-553-4596.

REGENCY CENTER, available for lease commercial spaces. 2203 A & B, Big Spring Street and 1700 W. Texas Street. Call 817-583-9736

AIRPORT HANGER located at MAF Airport. New construction. 80'x80'x35'. $750,000. Ask for Don 432-352-2067

BEEF JERKY ROUTE Part-time Route Old Trapper Jerky Servicing Convience Stores. 512-789-3285

NEW CONSTRUCTION 5/10/20/50 acres +/- yard with 5,000 or 10,000 sq. ft. building with Bridge Cranes/ wash bays. Ask for Don. 570-9155 or 352-2067.

Lots & Land

Hunting Leases

UNDERCOVER WHITETAIL Ranch is offering $500 off of all deer hunts that are booked before 12/31/2013. We are located just north of San Angelo, TX on Hwy 277 Ncrth. We have all inclusive hunting packages starting at $5250 ea. Deer range from 150"-250" and weigh from 165-200+ lbs. Visit our website: www.undercoverwhitetail.com

Commercial

READY-RANCH
WWW.READY-RANCH.COM
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.READY-RANCH.COM
- **East County**
- 11,155 ac. ft. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. min., creek, lakes, Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail $795/ac
- 4,212 ac, Maverick Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $825/ac
- 1,771 ac, windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great w-tail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850/ac
- **Robin County**
- 646 ac, over 1 mile ..... SOLD ..... d creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, cedar/mesquite $2,295/ac
- 565 ac, Pecan Creek, approx 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill, minerals $2,095/ac
- **Howard County**
- 942 ac, canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oilfield traffic $750/ac
- 150 ac, big canyons, blinds/feeders, cedar/mesquite, great deer, turkey, pen ..... SOLD $895/ac
- **Martin County**
- 135 ac, Sulphur Springs Draw, mule deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, metal storage building $1,150/ac

(432) 684-7764 or (432) 934-7777
No Realtors - Buy Direct!!!
Deal with Landowners that know the Country!!!
Owner Financing Available

Modular & Mobile Homes

Mobile Homes for Rent

1313 Dakota, 3 bedroom 2 bath, No pets. $995 month & $900 deposit. Must have good work & rental history. Call 432-522-1166 9am-5pm only!!!

OFFICE, 1800 to 2000 sq excellent location. Parking and other ammenities. 432 697-6268

3 BD 2 bath, Greenwood school , no pets. $1,100 month $1,000 deposit. 432-528-1609

Mobile Homes for Sale

1976 SOLITAIRE 3/2, Enclosed porch, covered patio and deck. Nice! On 2 lots, privacy and landscaped. Space 457, Airline MH Park. 7100 Airline Rd. 79706. $39,500 OBO. Owner may finance. WAC. Call 432-631-9882.

Fax it... 682-6999

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Home Cleaning

DEPENDABLE HOME CLEANING. Have References. Call 432-260-1429.

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Brick, Block & Stone

ADVANCED BRICK DOCTOR. brick & mortar repair, All types of new construction specializing in block and brick fence. Steve Rickey. 432-853-2859.

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Computer Services

Repair & Replacement

APPLIANCE REPAIR
REPAIRING & Selling Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, Washer & Dryers. Free Service call with repair. Free Removal Full warranty, very affordable prices. M&M Appliances 1007 N. Midkiff, Midland. Call 432-570-8278

COMPUTER PROBLEMS? WE SOLVE THEM! TechSmart will tell you in plain English how we can help you. Virus Removal, Repairs, Data Recovery, Security, Cloud Services & Networking, TechSmart does it all, at home or work. Our services are professional, affordable, and fast. For best results, call TechSmart first. (432) 631-7202

TJ'S COMPUTER REPAIR. Repair/Upgrades. New Computer Setup. Virus and Spyware Removal. Wireless Networking. Reasonable Rates. Work on site or pickup. 432-686-0831

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CONCRETE SPECIALTIES Drives, patios, staining, flagstone, brick pavers & block walls, outdoor kitchens and fire places. 35 years experience! 432-934-8102.

JS Concrete Slabs.curbs.driveways, patios. Stamp concrete. Free Estimates. Bonded & Insured. Juan Sanchez, owner. 432-413-0924

QUALITY CONCRETE & METAL BUILDINGS Work of all types. Driveways, patios, sidewalks, house/metal buildings, foundations. Call 432-816-6839 / 432-263-5272

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LBL ELECTRIC Free Esitmates. Residential & Commerical Services. TECL#29182. Call 432-695-6035

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TERRY'S FIREWOOD- Oak - Mesquite - Pecan. Full & 1/2 cords. Free local delivery & stacking. Cheaper price if picked up. 432-488-7695.

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E J'S Tile Installation Shower Tubs, counter tops, backsplashes & Floors. Free estimates. 20 years experience. All work guaranteed. 432-210-1033

Landscape & Tree Maintenance

Lawn & Garden

AFFORDABLE TREE shrub pruning, removal, sprinkler repairs. Licensed & Insured. Call Kut-Rite 561-8802, 638-6163.

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EL JARDIN Keep your trees strong & healthy this year with our professional level services. Tree healthcare, pruning, planting, and removal 20yrs. exp. in Permian Basin. Call now to schedule Fall tree pruning. 432-770-2399

LUIS LAWN'SERVICE Mowing, tree trimming, shrubs, flower beds. Free estimates, affordable prices. 15 years experience 664-7418

M & M Landscape, 22 years experience. Grass sodding, Xeriscaping, tree & shrub removal. Native Midlander, 432-230-3372.

Home Services & Home Improvement

Remodeling & Repair

December Specials
• Wholesale Granite Engineered Hardwood
• Exterior Painting

Pro Contractors OF MIDLAND

- Custom Brick/Rock Work
- Wholesale Granite
- Vendor for Carpet & Tile w/ Install
- Blow-in Insulation
- Tree Trimming/Removal
- Oil Field Services for Rig Locations
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Landscape & Tree Maintenance

Lawn & Garden

MOWING. Tree/Bush Trimming. Call Emilio 432-488-6520 or Arnold 432-978-1524.

MURPHY'S LAWN CARE Mowing, edging, trimming, Hedge/ shrub trimming, clean-ups. Bill or Maryann. **(432)687-2131**

RENT MY HUSBAND (For your honey do's) Prune Trees, shrubs, clean bed, lawn, maintenance. 432-230-1989.

ROSALES LAWN Service. Professional tree pruning and complete lawn maintenance. Free estimates. 432-528-0198. 432-697-1912.

STRACENER IRRIGATION Sprinkler Systems Repairs & Installations License #4933 Call (432) 561-9525

VIDAL'S LAWN Service-Trees, Flower- beds, Leaves, Alleys-Low Prices 599-4351.

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Let "Sure Sell" Work For You! Call 432-682-6222

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Landscape & Tree Maintenance

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NEED HELP with decorating your home or just moved and need help organizing. 15 years exp. References available 425-8759

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J & K LOADING AND PACKING SERVICES 432-553-2416

Moving & Storage

FIVE STAR Moving at affordable prices. We will move you anywhere, in state or out. No job 2 big or 2 small. Moving help available. Call 432-250-4386

Musical Instrument Tuning & Repair

EXPERT PIANO Tuning and Repairs. Please Call Michael Sherrod At 432-694-3161 For An Appointment.

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RESUMES THAT GET RESULTS! A GREAT JOB BEGIINS WITH A GREAT RESUME. 432-699-1919.

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Landscape & Tree Maintenance

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EL JARDIN - Trees, Landscape, Irrigation. Experienced Professionals From Start to Finish. New Landscape Design and Installation, Relandscaping, New Lawns and Lawn Restoration. Tree Pruning, Planting, Removal and Health Care. Sprinkler Repair, Modification, New Design and Installation. Drip Irrigation Specialists! 29 Years in the Permian Basin. Please Call Bruce at 432-770-2399.

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Billy 432-634-5040 or Eddie 432-413-1819

TREE EXPRESS
Tree Professionals
Tree Trimming, Tree Removal, Stump Grinding, Deep Root Fertilization, Sick Tree Diagnostics & Treatments
Free Estimates - Luke Everett
ISA Certified Arborist TX3759A
432-553-4066
www.treeexpress.net

Pet Services

ATTENTION DOG OWNERS!
Dog Waste Clean-Up & Removal Service $10.00/wk/1 dog; $2.00/add'l dog www.k9pottypatrol.com; 432-254-9951

DO YOU need a pet sitter for the holidays? If so call Michelle 432-556-2815.

Repair Services

All Type of Repair

TIM'S MOBILE Automotive, for all of your automotive needs. Over 25 years exp. Call 432-634-5395.

Fax Your Classified Ad In Today! 682-6999

Classified CAN 682-6222

Brick, Block & Stone

1/2 OFF! Price Special

½ OFF ½ OFF ½ OFF ½ OFF ½ OFF ½ OFF ½ OFF ½ OFF ½ OFF ½ OFF ½ OFF

- Run your Who's Who ad in multiple categories and save BIG!
- All subsequent ads are half off.
- Call 682-6222 to take advantage of this amazing offer!

1/2 OFF!

Feel like something's missing in your life?

Find whatever you're looking for in The Midland Reporter-Telegram's Classifieds and make your life complete.

Kid Scoop .com

"Like" Kid Scoop on Facebook!

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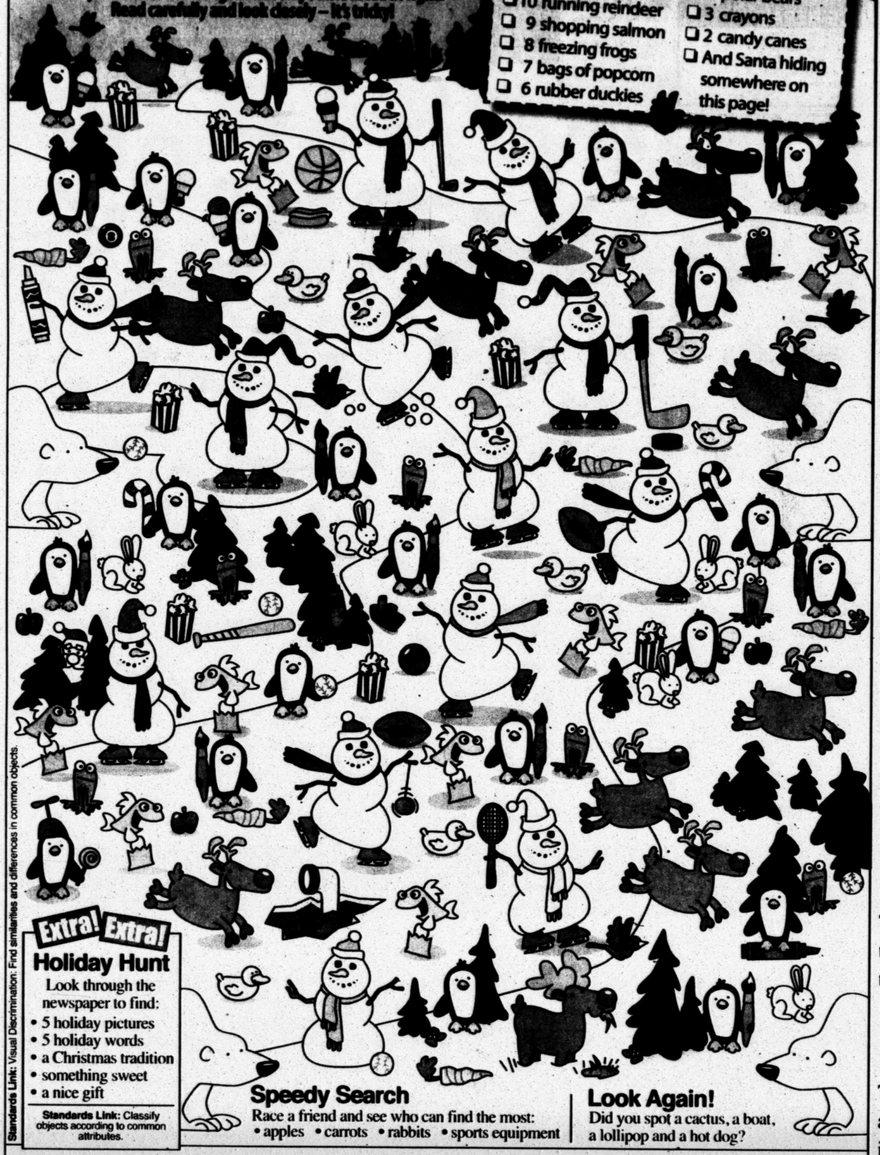
12 Silly Days of Christmas

Can you find all the things in this silly scene listed at right? Read carefully and look closely – it's tricky!

This year for Christmas, *Kid Scoop* gave to me:

- ❑ 12 skating snowmen
- ❑ 11 penguin painters
- ❑ 10 running reindeer
- ❑ 9 shopping salmon
- ❑ 8 freezing frogs
- ❑ 7 bags of popcorn
- ❑ 6 rubber duckies
- ❑ 5 ice cream cones
- ❑ 4 polar bears
- ❑ 3 crayons
- ❑ 2 candy canes
- ❑ And Santa hiding somewhere on this page!



Extra! Extra!

Holiday Hunt

Look through the newspaper to find:

- 5 holiday pictures
- 5 holiday words
- a Christmas tradition
- something sweet
- a nice gift

Standards Link: Classify objects according to common attributes.

Speedy Search

Race a friend and see who can find the most:
• apples • carrots • rabbits • sports equipment

Look Again!

Did you spot a cactus, a boat, a lollipop and a hot dog?

Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Can you find the two identical ornaments?

Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

CHRISTMAS
EQUIPMENT
REINDEER
POPCORN
PENGUIN
CONES
RABBITS
SPOT
WHO
SWEET
DOG
ICE
SEE
BEAR
BAGS

S	N	O	K	S	B	E	A	R	T
A	J	S	V	A	W	T	E	O	N
M	P	C	G	H	B	E	P	L	E
T	O	S	O	R	D	S	E	G	M
S	P	S	W	N	W	O	S	T	P
I	C	E	I	B	E	Y	G	F	I
R	O	E	A	T	W	S	O	F	U
H	R	A	B	B	I	T	S	E	Q
C	N	I	U	G	N	E	P	J	E

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Christmas Mystery

Secretly find a picture related to Christmas in the newspaper. Then give the newspaper to a friend. Give your friend clues about the picture you selected. Can he or she find out which is the Christmas mystery picture?

Standards Link: Oral Language: Use clear and specific vocabulary to communicate ideas.

Weekly Writing Corner

Alliterations

Big Bird bought a blue balloon at the big ballroom boutique.

Zack Heller,
6th grade, Hillander

The buzzing butterfly bustled around the boisterous boys at the baseball game. Bob went to the booming basketball game with blaring bouncy boys in Boston.

Sarah Mata,
6th grade, Hillander

The blind boy borrowed a black blanket from his brother Blake.

Grayson Price,
6th grade, Hillander

Two tiny turtles took a taxi to the teeny tiny town.

Natalie Boone,
6th grade, Hillander

On wacky Wednesday, we went to the Wolly Waterpark where there was weird weather.

Miles Abney,
6th grade, Hillander

Tommy taught twenty-two talking tots to tell tales to their parents.

Claire Christmann,
6th grade, Hillander

The buzzing bee buzzed across the busy boulevard in Boston.

Hayden Hall,
6th grade, Hillander

Zack the zebra zipped through the forest zanily while listening to Zumba.

Riggs McDonald,
6th grade, Hillander

Write On!

Silly Olympics

Invent a game for the wackiest Olympics ever! What are the rules? What equipment do players need? How do you win?

Deadline: January 20
Published: Week of Feb. 16
Send your story to:

Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
ljdiaz@mrt.com

Please include your school and grade.

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