MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2015 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

SENATE SECRETS

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Vince Gill at MARC's Big Boys Toys event. MOSC's "Shakespeare in Love." Maverick Players' season opener. What do they have in common? They're all happening this weekend.

Weekender/inside

Midland County withholds TIRZ contribution

County opposes city's plan to take excess downtown funds after development tool expires

By Joseph Basco
jbasco@mrt.com

On Sept. 1, any remaining tax dollars held by the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone — a multi-entity effort to revitalize downtown — might be transferred to a single entity.

The money is scheduled to move out of the TIRZ fund and into the city of Midland's unappropriated fund balance, according to Scott Dufford, at-large councilman and TIRZ board member. The transfer to the fund balance opens up the funds to more purposes than just downtown revitalization.

But TIRZ board treasurer Link Grimes said it is uncertain where the unassigned money will go, which is about $500,000 as of Tuesday.

Because of the uncertainty, the county has yet to contribute dollars it might owe the TIRZ during the downtown revitalization group's final year of operation. The amount owed is $218,618.83.

County Judge Mike Bradford said Tuesday that TIRZ funds are meant for downtown development and improvement. Grimes also said that TIRZ money is meant for downtown revitalization.

In an ideal situation, Bradford expects every TIRZ penny to go toward downtown development before Sept. 1 — which is the expiration date for the TIRZ — therefore, leaving no funds behind.

The county is hesitant to move forward until the post-Sept. 1 mechanics are clear.

"Do you (the county) owe money?" Bradford asked. "Well, do you collect county taxes and funnel it through an operation (TIRZ) to put it through the city's general fund? No. The TIRZ collects taxes for development."

The uncertainty is a result of the Aug. 12 City Council 5-2 vote that confirmed the one-year expiration for TIRZ. The one year began Sept. 1, 2014. During the first reading of the expiration, on July 9, council members contemplated transferring remaining TIRZ money to the city's general fund, rather than leave it to the TIRZ to use for its final year.

The discussion to end the TIRZ lasted two months, and was primarily among council members, rather than TIRZ board members.

During the TIRZ's final year of operation, it has allocated $3.9 million out of $4.6 million toward downtown development as of Tuesday.

Our View

We have heard that dissolving the Tax Investment Reinvestment Zone takes away a golden opportunity to make things happen downtown, but that is overstating the issue.

The opportunity to improve and invest in Midland's downtown doesn't disappear because TIRZ no longer exists.

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Business season opens

Midland RockHounds' numbers slightly down, but so are costs

By Rye Druzin
rdruzin@mrt.com

The Texas League champion Midland RockHounds are hitting the field tonight to defend their title, but they, like many businesses across the Permian Basin, have been hit by the fall in oil prices.

"We're probably down a couple percentage points on sponsorships and season tickets right now, but we're not through our selling season yet," said general manager Monty Hoppel.

Some oil companies have cut back on renting out suites or buying sponsorships, but most of those have been picked up by other companies both in and out of the oil field, according to Hoppel. He said that other companies have made adjustments to their packages.

"Companies have always kept their sponsorships, but sometimes ... what companies will do is instead of buying their sign and their season tickets and then rent some suite nights, they'll take just a piece off their package and cut back a little bit, what I would call some 'fluff,'" he said.

Hoppel said the RockHounds' cost of doing business has risen over the past few years and that despite high oil prices giving the team a revenue bump, the increased expenses have eaten into the extra money.

"Last year, we brought in more revenue, but pretty much the extra revenue had to pay for all the increases that came from our vendors," he said.

Price inflation because of the oil boom affected businesses across the board, including the minor-league baseball team.

"Everything, almost every category went up. From wages to apartments to hotels to buying products and services," Hoppel said. "We've raised ... prices, too, so I'm not saying that no one stuck it to us, but when things are tight — I mean, supply and demand — things tend to go up a little bit."

The organization responded to the price rise, but the decision was more to keep pace with added expenses than to make more money.

In past years, vendors raised prices by as much as 4 percent a year, and other expenses also rose. This year, things have changed.

"So far, luckily, they (vendor rates) haven't gone up again like they normally (do)," he said. "Some of them have tweaked their price a little bit. But I think for the most part, most people are staying put instead of raising them this year. That's what we did with most of our sponsorship prices and things — we kept most of our prices the same."

The leveling-off of prices is helping to stabilize the organization's costs, while other expenses have begun to decrease.

While costs increased, the team has tried to continue offering what Hoppel called "inexpensive family entertainment" and through the ups and downs in the oil industry, the organization has done well at maintaining affordability for fans. He believes that the RockHounds' games are among the least-expensive in the Texas League.

Another wild card for the baseball team is how weather plays a factor in revenue. Bad weather last year kept attendance down during the regular season and the playoffs. Hoppel said it was cold and rainy during five playoff games.

Despite the downturn in the economy, Hoppel does not see his organization changing ticket packages or daily specials.

"We haven't taken away the offers in a good year, and we haven't added to the offers, Hoppel said. "We just stay consistent in our marketing because we have an established product and people know what to expect from us."

The RockHounds organization also handles non-baseball events at Scharbauer Sports Complex, and Hoppel said that this separate part of the business is in the midst of its own mini-boom.

"We're actually off to our best year ever for non-RockHounds special events out here. We've been booking all the events at both stadiums," he said.

Catch the opener

The Midland RockHounds season opener starts at 7 p.m. today at Security Bank Ballpark. The defending Texas League champs host the Northwest Arkansas Naturals. Tickets cost $9 to $16. Tonight is Thirsty Thursday, and there will be a magnet schedule giveaway.

Read up on the RockHounds' opener in Sports on Page 1C.

Photo: A grass mower sits idle at RockHounds Media Day on Tuesday at Security Bank Ballpark. Midland's Double-A squad begins its 2015 season tonight. ***James Durbin/ Reporter-Telegram***

'Not in My Town' campaign a factor in trash reduction

■ Keep Midland Beautiful: Litter pickup increased by 61 percent

By Joseph Basco
jbasco@mrt.com

A six-month anti-litter campaign launched last summer helped Keep Midland Beautiful's 2014 litter cleanup efforts, resulting in 224 tons of trash and debris, a 61 percent increase in litter picked up compared to 2013, according to Keep Midland Beautiful.

KMB joined the city of Midland, Midland County and private citizens to launch "Not in my Town," a full-fledged public awareness campaign that urged people to help with Midland's long-standing trash problem. Midlanders were bombarded with TV commercials, stickers, drink koozies, signs and press conferences. It's a similar concept to the Texas Department of Transportation's "Don't Mess with Texas" program.

"We wanted to get that messaging out there that our community does not want to tolerate litter anymore," said Amanda Byrom, executive director of Keep

Please see **TRASH**/4A

Midland boasts highest job growth

From staff reports

For the fourth straight month, no community in America has posted a larger year-over-year percentage gain in employment than Midland.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Wednesday that Midland's 8.8 percent gain in employment during the month of February was better than Ocean City, New Jersey (8.6 percent), and Lake Charles, Louisiana (8.5 percent).

Midland's civilian labor force rose to 97,400 (up from 91,300 in February 2014 and up from 97,300 in January). Midland had reported a workforce of 100,000 as

Please see **GROWTH**/4A

Weather
Sunny
83/53
Get your complete forecast on 7C

Energy prices

WTI Palnine	$50.49	▼ $3.86
WTI Posted	$48.75	▼ $3.75
WTS Posted	$42.30	▼ $3.75
Natural Gas	$2.619	▼ $0.091
Gasoline	$2.256	▲ $0.005

The big number
In Texas, more than
12,700
delayed VA medical visits took more than 60 days. Page 5A

Today in State
Big debate expected over ride-hailing bill. Page 3A

Coming Friday
Catch up on the latest faith and philanthropy news.

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Daily $1, Sunday $2

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TODAYINMIDLAND

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Things to do

■ Turn Up the Love Tour with Tedashii, Moriah Peters, V. Rose, Spec and Mattie Montgomery, 6:30 p.m., CAF. epiceventsministry.com.

■ Justin Langston, 7:30 p.m., Basin Burger House. basin burgerhouse.com.

■ The Business of Art: The Marfa Arts Scene with Susan Sutton, executive director of Ballroom Marfa, 6 p.m., Museum of the Southwest. museumsw.org.

■ RockHounds baseball opening day and Thirsty Thursday, 7 p.m., Security Ballpark. milb.com.

■ Music, Mayhem and Madness Sketch Comedy Show, 8 p.m., Dee's Bistro in Odessa. westtexastalent.com.

Note: For more information on the events taking place this weekend, see The Weekender section in today's Reporter-Telegram.

Support groups, club meetings today

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

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

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

■ Permian Basin Chess Club, 6 p.m., University of Texas of the Permian Basin student union; Steve Dudley, 556-1920; Brian Farrell, 288-7141; pbcc.50gigs.net; odessachess@cableone.net.

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

Sales tax revenue dips 1.45 percent

The city of Midland's sales tax revenue decreased this month, as collections decreased 1.45 percent, or $45,273 in April compared to April 2014.

The total amount collected for April was $3.07 million, according to the State Comptroller's Office.

This is the second straight month that the city's sales tax revenue fell. In March, revenue fell 0.13 percent, or $4,540, compared to March 2014.

Tax revenue has increased thus far for fiscal year 2015, which began in October, a few months before the downturn in oil prices. Since October, the city's sales tax total to-date is near $27.2 million, which is an 11.81 percent increase compared to fiscal year 2014.

In contrast, Midland County's sales tax collections increased by 13 percent year-over-year. The county is reporting that collection for April was $3.14 million. It was $2.9 million in April 2014.

The county's year-to-day collection is about $19.3 million.

The sales tax revenue is based on sales from two months before the reported date. So the sales tax revenue for April is from taxable sales in February.

MISD Health Fair today

Midland ISD is planning a free health fair 6-8 p.m. today at Midland College's Chaparral Center. More than 25 vendors will be participating in the event.

The first 100 people to arrive will receive a free T-shirt. For more information, call 240-1580.

MRT on the radio

Editor Stewart Doreen discusses local news at 9:40 a.m. Thursdays on KWEL (AM 1070, FM 107.1).

Volunteers needed for disaster exercise

The Midland International Air & Space Port seeks volunteers for a disaster exercise set for 6-11:30 p.m. May 8.

Federal aviation regulations require that the airport conduct a full-scale emergency exercise — designed to test the response time and performance of first responders — once every three years.

In order to simulate an actual emergency, volunteers are required to play the roles of victims and family members. The exercise will require that some volunteers are assessed and transported to area medical facilities, family reunification locations, and the terminal building.

To participate, sign up at www.midlandtexas.gov/AirportDrill.

Source: City of Midland

Market Street to hold two job fairs to fill 300 jobs

Market Street, a banner of United Family of stores, will hold two job fairs to staff its new location at the former Albertsons Market at Midkiff Road and Loop 250. When the converted store opens in June, as many as 300 people will be employed.

The job fairs are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m.-7 p.m. May 14-15 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 16 at Midland Shared Spaces.

Although walk-ins are welcome, job seekers can speed up the process by completing an online application at http://www.marketstreetunited.com/jobfair.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 7-7-6
Pick 3 day: 7-5-8
Pick 3 evening: 1-7-1
Pick 3 night: 6-7-5
Daily 4 morning: 3-2-4-2
Daily 4 day: 8-4-2-4
Daily 4 evening: 0-2-9-5
Daily 4 night: 7-1-2-1
Cash Five: 2-7-12-24-31
Lotto Texas: 4-10-21-24-50-51
Powerball: 1-19-45-46-58 PB: 29
Power Play: 2
All or Nothing morning: 2-4-5-7-9-10-14-15-16-19-20-23
All or Nothing day: 3-6-7-8-9-11-16-18-21-22-23-24
All or Nothing evening: 1-2-5-7-10-11-13-14-15-16-18-23
All or Nothing night: 1-2-5-6-7-15-17-19-20-21-23-24

Today in history

In 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

In 1959, NASA presented its first seven astronauts: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard and Donald Slayton.

In 1965, the newly built Astrodome in Houston featured its first baseball game, an exhibition between the Astros and the New York Yankees, with President Lyndon B. Johnson in attendance. (The Astros won, 2-1, in 12 innings.)

In 1996, in a dramatic shift of purse-string power, President Bill Clinton signed a line-item veto bill into law. (However, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the veto in 1998.)

One year ago: President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, visited Fort Hood, the scene of a shooting a week earlier in which three U.S. Army soldiers were killed by a fellow soldier who then took his own life.

Today's birthdays: Playboy magazine founder Hugh Hefner is 89. Country singer Hal Ketchum is 62. Actress Kristen Stewart is 25.

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

BRENHAM

Blue Bell expands recall made at Oklahoma plant

Blue Bell Creameries has expanded its recall of products made at an Oklahoma plant after pints of banana pudding ice cream tested positive for listeriosis.

The Texas-based dairy company said Tuesday that no illnesses linked to those pints have been confirmed.

The Texas Rangers said Wednesday that they won't offer Blue Bell at their upcoming homestand against the Houston Astros. The Astros previously said Blue Bell wouldn't be offered on their opening day earlier this week.

The company last month issued the recall after ice cream contaminated with listeriosis was linked to three deaths at a Kansas hospital. The foodborne illness was tracked to a production line in Brenham and later to a second line in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Operations have been suspended at the Oklahoma plant.

HOUSTON

Jailers accused of leaving inmate alone for weeks

A grand jury has indicted two Harris County sergeants who are accused of leaving a mentally ill inmate unattended in his cell for weeks.

The Houston Chronicle reported Ricky D. Pickens-Wilson and John Figaroa were charged Tuesday and face up to 10 years in prison on allegations they left Terry Goodwin unattended in his jail cell. They are also charged with tampering with a governmental record for signing off on paperwork stating that Goodwin was in good condition.

A sheriff's office compliance team said Goodwin was found in his cell with insect-infested food containers, a feces-clogged toilet and ropes from his shredded jail uniform hanging from the ceiling. A whistleblower had tipped the team to the situation last fall. Investigators were not able to determine exactly how long Goodwin had been in the cell.

Texas Commission on Jail Standards executive director Brandon Wood said they check the state's county jails every year.

"We had not seen anything remotely like that at annual inspections, which are unannounced," Wood said.

But Julian Ramirez, Chief of the Civil Rights Division of the Harris County District Attorney's Office, claims no searches of Goodwin's cell were made by jail staff.

Obituaries



Alan Russell White

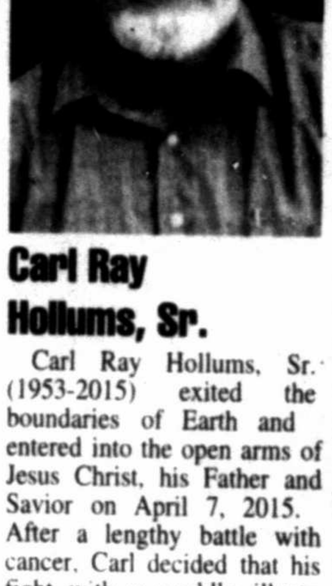
Alan Russell White, of Kerrville, passed away Friday, April 3, 2015. He was born September 15, 1969 in Anchorage, Alaska. He was raised by his father, Luther Alan White, with the help of Barbara White, his grandmother, and Doris Jean White, his step-mother. He graduated from Valdez High School in 1987.

Alan loved all sports. He wrestled, played baseball and softball, and truly enjoyed snowboarding. He was an avid outdoorsman, who loved fishing and hunting. Those of you who knew him, knew he had a passion for gambling LOL. Alan's expertise with plumbing and A/C provided him work in the Permian Basin for 25 years. His life's path led him to Kerrville where he was employed with Comfort Seal Insulation. He was a very hard worker and took pride in the work he did. Alan will be remembered for his generous and polite nature.

He is preceded in death by his grandmother, his father, his step-mother, and brother-in-law, David Wayne McKay.

He is survived by his daughter, Brooke Danielle; grandson, Matthew Benjamin; his son, Jared Blake; his nieces, Alexis, Alyssa, and Addison; his sister, Angie McKay; and numerous other family and friends.

A private memorial service has been scheduled on Thursday, April 9, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. at Andrews Chapel, 201 NE 1st Street, Andrews, Texas.



Carl Ray Hollums, Sr.

Carl Ray Hollums, Sr. (1953-2015) exited the boundaries of Earth and entered into the open arms of Jesus Christ, his Father and Savior on April 7, 2015. After a lengthy battle with cancer, Carl decided that his fight with a worldly illness could not and would not restrain him from the golden streets and pearly gates of Heaven any longer. He passed peacefully with his family by his side.

Carl was a devout Christian and lived his life to serve others through many good works while glorifying his father in Heaven. His belief in the Lord and giving to others was most apparent at the Midland Church of God, which he attended the majority of his life. He took great pride in being the cook for church gatherings, playing Santa during the holidays, and being an active member in the praise and worship team. However, his greatest contribution to the church was made on Father's Day of 1982, when he dedicated his life to the Lord.

Carl enjoyed many activities in life and found the most pleasing hobbies to be tinkering with engines and electronics. After many years of working to find his niche, he took a leap of faith and a lot of risk to transform this hobby into a functional realty. In 1991, from his backyard, he began the foundation of building his own business. He grew Southwest Lawnmower Equipment and Repair into a very successful business, built on quality work and principles that he carried on from his education at Midland High School, Southwestern Oklahoma State University and his years of service in the United States Army.

Carl loved life and found that living it by himself was a wasteful act. In 1970, he married, what he would know as the most beautiful and understanding woman that God could have ever given him and viewed her as the one that was better than anything he ever deserved. Carl was married to the love of his life, Nona Ruth Hollums, for 44 joyous years. They were a blessing to so many and especially to each other, as Carl often professed that "she was so lucky to have him." Carl was especially a blessing to his three children, raising them with what he had and showing them lessons through his own acts of respect, honor, faith, integrity, and love. He loved and enjoyed his time on Earth most, when his family could all be together.

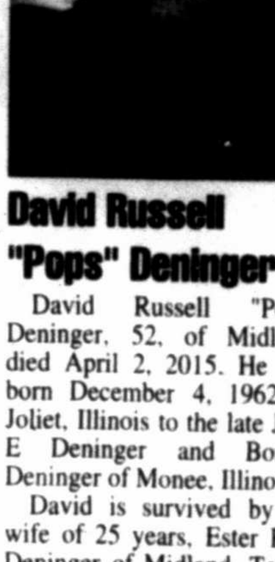
Carl is survived by his wife, Nona Hollums of Midland; two brothers, Bobby Wyatt and Don Hollums; two sisters, Penny Wyatt and Shirley Parker; his three children, Rachelle (Shelly) Hollums of Gardendale, William Hollums and wife Elisha of Midland, and Carl Hollums and wife Lori of Granbury, Texas; 11 grandchildren, Karley Hollums, Thomas Day, Zech Nickel, Tori Nickel, Christian Hollums, Evan Rankin, Koleton Hollums, Chance Hollums, Dylan Hollums, Makenzie Hollums, and Carson Hollums.

He is preceded in death by his father, W.L. Hollums; and mother, Madelyn Hollums; one brother, Bill Wyatt; and one sister, Earlene Wells.

The family will receive guests on Friday, April 10, 2015 at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. A celebration of Carl's life will be at the Midland Church of God on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., with graveside services immediately following at Fairview Cemetery.

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

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home
2308 N. Big Spring - Midland, TX - (432) 682-3706



David Russell "Pops" Deninger

David Russell "Pops" Deninger, 52, of Midland, died April 2, 2015. He was born December 4, 1962 in Joliet, Illinois to the late John E Deninger and Bonnie Deninger of Monee, Illinois.

David is survived by his wife of 25 years, Ester Ruiz Deninger of Midland, Texas; and three children Yvonne Ruiz Alvarado, Monica Ruiz, and David Andrew Deninger. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Johnathan and Jesse Lopez, Addison DeLa Fuente, and Jacob Alvarado.

David was a former Marine and an aviation structure mechanics until 2000.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, April 10, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at American Heritage Cemetery and Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations are appreciated for funeral expenses or Disabled Veterans at *www.dav.org*.

American Heritage
CEMETERY & FUNERAL HOME
AT WEST TEXAS MEMORIAL PARK
The Pleading Starts Here.
Midland Reporter-Telegram



Dr. Roy Harold Hart

Roy Harold Hart was born on November 9, 1940 to P.B. and Audie Pearl Hart in Odessa, and passed from this earth April 8, 2015, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

Roy's early life in Odessa was a very happy childhood filled with family, friends and a horse named "Little Brown Jug." Roy's father passed on a talent and love of music which led Roy to take up the violin that he played all through his school years and beyond.

Roy attended Bonham Junior High where he met Merita Hammond, under the guise of needing help in algebra class. She helped him in that class, as well as many others. They began dating that year and upon graduation from Odessa High School in 1959, they were married. In August of 2014, they celebrated 55 years of marriage.

After graduation from OHS, Roy and Merita furthered their educations, achieving degrees from Odessa College, Sul Ross State University, Abilene Christian University, and East Texas State University (now Texas A&M Commerce) where he obtained his doctorate degree. Each town and university was filled with rich experiences, good friends and fond memories.

It was also during this time that Roy fulfilled his service to the United States Navy. He often told the story of leaving early from a high school class in 1958 and joining the U.S. Navy Reserves. He served on the destroyer USS W.C. Lawe from 1963 to 1965.

After his discharge from the Navy, Roy returned to West Texas "for one year" - which turned into a lifetime commitment. His teaching career began in Seminole and three years later, he accepted a position in student services at Odessa College. Roy was committed to the philosophy of the community college and served in many associations in support of community colleges. He remained at Odessa College for 32 years, serving in a variety of administrative and teaching positions. At the time of his retirement, Dr. Hart was the Dean of Administration.

Along the way, Roy and Merita had two sons and five grandchildren. David Hart of Plano, Texas married Susan Hart and they have two children, Mallory and Michael. Philip Hart of Flower Mound, Texas married Amy Hart and they have three children, Aaron, Ian, and Ellen Kate.

Critical to Roy was his faith and commitment to service in the congregations where he worshiped. Roy served in various leadership positions and taught numerous classes. In 1992, Roy helped create a faith-based breakfast program designed to provide a full hot breakfast and a brown bag lunch to anyone who was hungry. This work continues today at The Jesus House in Odessa.

Roy enjoyed traveling with Merita. Whether it was enjoying the cool temperatures of the Pacific Northwest in the summer, the fall leaves of New England, visiting grandkids in the Dallas area, or a simple weekend trip to the Big Bend area, Roy and Merita enjoyed their travels to the fullest.

Roy never met a stranger, greeted all as friends, and touched countless hearts.

His Celebration of Life ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, April 10, 2015 at Golf Course Road Church in Midland.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the West Texas Food Bank of Odessa, Texas. *www.wtxfoodbank.org*.

Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home

Dignity 601 North Alleghaney Odessa, TX 79761 (432) 332-0991

Condolences may be offered at www.hubbardkellyfuneralhome.com



Mary Jane (Jana) Eaton

Mary Jane (Jana) Eaton, 80, of Odessa passed away Monday, April 6, 2015 at Medical Center Hospital.

She was born September 27, 1934 in Maud, Oklahoma to King and Martha Lawson.

She was a devoted wife, beloved mother, foster mother to over 300 children, friend to all and a member of West Odessa First Baptist Church, where she joyfully served the congregation in several capacities for over 40 years.

She is preceded in death by her parents; siblings; and her husband, Bill J. Eaton, Sr.

She is survived by her sons, Billy Jack Eaton, Jr. and spouse Joanie of San Antonio, Texas, Michael Wayne Eaton and spouse Lynda of Midland, Texas, and Lance Eaton and spouse Toy of Crane, Texas; a sister, Emma Kalka of Oklahoma; eight grandchildren, Michael Eaton, Jr. of San Antonio, Joshua Eaton of Midland, Caleb Eaton of Monahans, Texas, Chelsea and Amber Eaton of Crane, Joshua Houseman of Odessa, Texas, Jacob Houseman of Houston, Texas, and Joel Houseman of San Antonio; eight great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2015 at West Odessa First Baptist Church, with Reverend Glenn Clark officiating.

Services entrusted to Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home.

Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home

Dignity 601 North Alleghaney Odessa, TX 79761 (432) 332-0991

Condolences may be offered at www.hubbardkellyfuneralhome.com

Death Notices

Daniel Christopher Kirwan

Daniel Christopher Kirwan, 46, of Midland, died on Monday, April 6, 2015.

Visitation will be held on Friday, April 10, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Ellis Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be held at Noon on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at Christ Church of Midland. Burial will Follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Mary Dodd

Mary Dodd, 91, of Big Spring, passed away Monday, April 6, 2015.

Graveside service will be at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at Noxville Cemetery in Harper, Texas.

Raymond Ted Miller

Raymond Ted Miller (formerly of Midland) died April 2, 2015. He was 56.

He is survived by his sons, Stephen Miller, Andrew Miller, and Philip Miller; his father, Donald Raymond Miller; and by one sister, Tonie Auer (a former Midland Reporter-Telegram writer.)

A funeral is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2015 at Emerald Hills Funeral Home in Kennedale.

Efren Nieves, Sr.

Efren Nieves, Sr., 89, of Big Spring, passed away Sunday, April 5, 2015.

Funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m. on Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel, with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Efren is survived by his wife, Vicenta Nieves; sons, Jaime Nieves and Efren Nieves, Jr.; and daughter, Lupe Roque.

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

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

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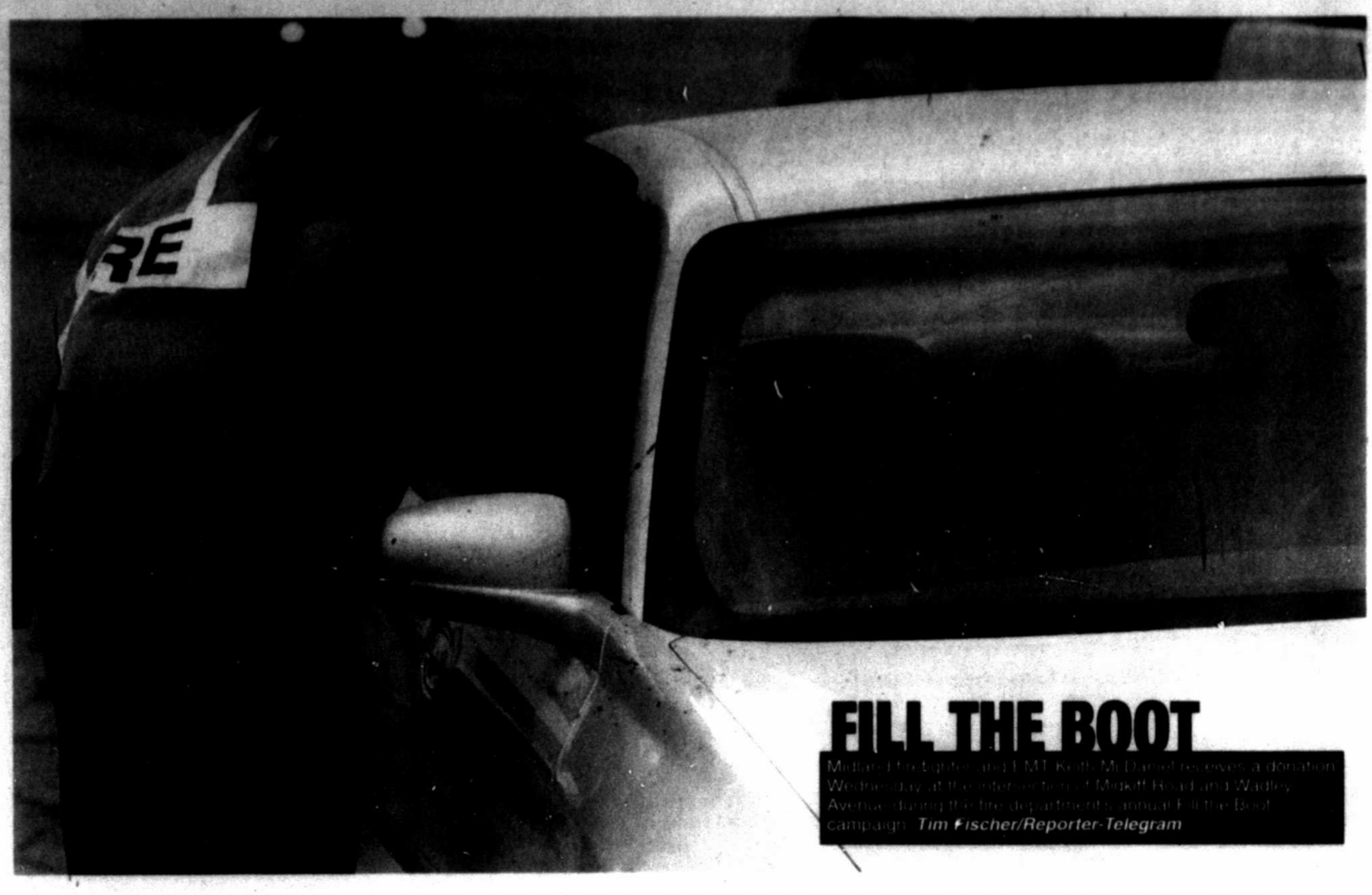
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FILL THE BOOT

Midland firefighter Jeff Mitchell, Mayor Jerry Morales and Midland Fire Chief Mike Wadley, Avenue J during the fire department's annual Fill the Boot campaign. *Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram*

Big debate expected over state ride-hailing bill

By Eva Ruth Moravec
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Ride-hailing giants Lyft and Uber left San Antonio in their rearview mirror after the nation's seventh-largest city restricted their operations, instead shifting their focus — and money — on persuading Texas lawmakers to allow them to operate statewide with fewer restrictions.

The companies are spending as much as $1 million on more than three dozen lobbyists at the Texas Statehouse this session, according to Texas Ethics Commission records. The companies are pushing legislation that would supersede local rules, allowing them to operate the same way in San Antonio as they do in other Texas cities.

Lyft and Uber — which use smartphone apps to connect drivers with customers who need rides — have successfully led similar efforts elsewhere: California, Colorado, Illinois, the District of Columbia and Virginia have all passed laws that regulate companies' operations, and about 35 states are considering similar laws.

But the companies' efforts in Texas could be among the biggest and most contentious to date, because the companies have essentially been kicked out of one of the state's largest cities.

The squabble centers on whether such companies should be held to the same standards as taxi operators. Records show that Texas Taxi, a group representing 2,500 drivers, hired eight lobbyists this legislative session, compared with one in 2013, and the industry has spent about $500,000 to block a statewide law.

Taxi companies argue that Uber, Lyft and similar services would hurt the industry's level of service. Ed Kargbo, president of Yellow Cab Austin, said the legislation would allow the companies to skirt the Americans with Disabilities Act because they could pay a $10,000 annual fine if they don't provide wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

"If this bill passes in its current capacity, it's the beginning of a really bad process of service delivery and would be detrimental to the benefit of the customer," Kargbo said.

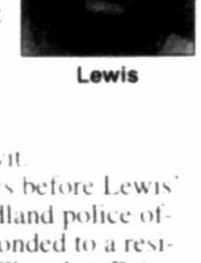
The bill's sponsor, Republican Rep. Chris Paddie, said he wants to avoid a patchwork of regulations across the state. Already, Houston has a strict ordinance that requires drivers to get permits — which requires fingerprinting — that Uber says left it with a fraction of the divers it has in other cities. Similar rules were adopted in San Antonio, prompting both Uber and Lyft to leave.

MPD: Man attacks, chokes woman

From staff reports

A 26 year-old Midland man was arrested April 2 after an investigation found he allegedly assaulted a woman by choking, according to court documents.

Bradrick J. Lewis was being held Tuesday on a $75,000 bond for a second-degree felony charge of assault with intent to impair breathing, according to the arrest affidavit.



Lewis

Two days before Lewis' arrest, Midland police officers responded to a residence off Cherokee Drive in reference to an assault. By the time officers had arrived the man was gone, according to the affidavit.

Lewis grabbed the woman around the throat and pushed her onto a bed, took her phone and keys and left the residence before the woman called 911, according to the affidavit.

If convicted of the second-degree felony, Lewis could face up to 20 years in prison.

CAPITOLALMANAC

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Taxes and pre-K

Tax cuts and better pre-K in Texas — two major promises of new Republican Gov. Greg Abbott — pushed ahead Wednesday when the House rallied behind a $2 billion proposed sales tax cut before passing an early education bill that schools say underwhelms.

Both moves simultaneously disappointed Democrats, deepened tensions with Senate Republicans and raised the chances of a rocky final two months in Abbott's first legislative session.

Across the aisle from the House, Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick dug in his heels, calling the House tax plan "out of step" and saying he will insist on property tax relief for rising home appraisals.

The significance of the day was set early when Abbott — who has largely kept behind the scenes so far in the Legislature — privately huddled with House Republicans before they called for lowering Texas' sales tax rate and then delved into a limited pre-K makeover.

"I'm very proud of the fact that the Texas House of Representatives has taken it this far," Abbott said.

School administrators and education groups are more frustrated than proud. They see Abbott's plan as a missed opportunity that only nudges the status quo, since Texas would not expand pre-K eligibility or extend to full-day classes. The state would instead give districts more money to improve its existing programs.

Abbott said Texas shouldn't rush into pre-K expansion but wait a few years until the state can study the impact of his $130 million plan. Four years ago, Texas cut $300 million from pre-K to help close a massive budget shortfall, which hasn't been restored.

Debate over the House bill began shortly after House Republicans unveiled a sweeping tax-cut package that includes what would be the first drop in Texas' sales tax rate in history.

"We discuss a $4.8 million tax relief package on the very same day we're about to give crumbs to pre-K education," Democratic state Rep. Trey Martinez-Fischer said.

Public Integrity Unit

Texas senators voted Wednesday to move a statewide public corruption unit out of liberal Austin and put local district attorneys in charge of prosecuting ethics violations, a move Republicans said was needed to "depoliticize" the agency tied to former Gov. Rick Perry's abuse-of-power indictment.

Republicans, who have sought the change for decades, insist the effort isn't about retribution for the Perry case or creating extra legal protections for politicians. But outnumbered Democrats worried local prosecutors who know officeholders might be unwilling to prosecute their friends.

Houston Republican Sen. Joan Huffman's bill makes the Public Integrity Unit part of the Texas Rangers rather than the Travis County District Attorney's Office, whose chief is chosen by heavily Democratic voters in Austin. It would have Rangers investigate corruption complaints, then forward cases to district attorneys where the accused official lives.

The measure passed 20-11 along party lines and needs a final, procedural vote before heading to the House — where a similar measure is waiting to hit the floor.

Preliminarily approval came despite Democratic Sen. Kirk Watson of Austin suggesting the changes could create a "special class" of prosecution for politicians.

"Most people don't get to be tried by a hometown judge, a hometown jury and a hometown prosecutor," Watson said.

Speaking to reporters afterward, Huffman countered, "The politicians now are being prosecuted in Travis County, that's a special system."

"I think this creates a more-fair and certainly a more-transparent process," said Huffman, a former judge and prosecutor.

She'd originally proposed that the unit be headquartered within the GOP-controlled state attorney general's office, but scrapped that to ensure speedier passage of her bill.

Perry in 2013 vetoed the Public Integrity Unit's funding after Democratic Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg refused his calls to resign following her drunken-driving conviction.

A separate grand jury in Austin eventually indicted Perry on coercion and abuse-of-power charges for publicly threatening the veto he later carried out — though that case was led by a special prosecutor, not Lehmberg or her ethics unit.

Marijuana

Legalizing marijuana remains out of the question in Texas, but pot looks to still be scoring a relatively big day in the statehouse.

Backers of softening laws in Texas over pot use hoped Wednesday wuld be when their proposals finally started getting traction in the Republican-controlled Legislature. Several marijuana laws were being considered before a House committee running late into the evening.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott is unlikely to approve relaxing penalties for pot use. But Democrats are playing the long game and say they're optimistic their bills may start making progress.

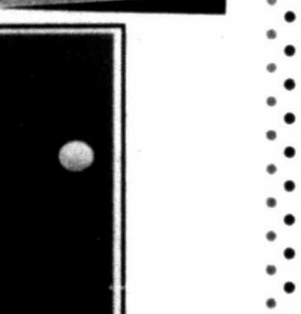
One proposal would remove the threat of arrest for possession of up to one ounce of marijuana.

Republican state Rep. David Simpson is calling to completely legalize pot. He contends that God didn't make a mistake when he made marijuana.

On deck

The House reconvenes at 10 a.m. today, and the Senate's back an hour later. But verbal fireworks may start earlier, during an 8 a.m. meeting of the House Transportation Committee, which is expected to hear contentious testimony over a bill that would allow ride-hailing companies like Lyft and Uber to operate statewide.

What's happening in Midland this weekend? Find out by reading
WEEKENDER
Look for it inside today's edition of the Reporter-Telegram

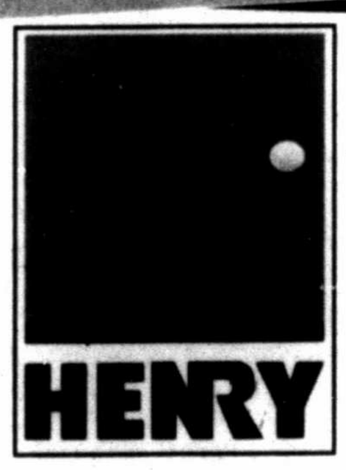


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1 Peter 1:15-16

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."



A FEW MINUTES OF FURY

Lightning strikes over the Midland County Courthouse on Wednesday, as seen from atop the Wall Street Lofts parking garage in downtown Midland. The National Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm warning for northern Midland County, but the inclement weather was brief. The National Weather Service reported about four-tenths of an inch of rain fell at Midland International Air & Space Port.

JAMES DURBIN | REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TRASH

From 1A

Midland Beautiful.

Volunteer hours in 2014 also increased by 30 percent compared to 2013.

While Byrom did not solely attribute the Not in My Town campaign to the increase in litter pickup and volunteer time, she said it was one factor. Other factors include Keep Midland Beautiful's inmate litter pickup, Trash for Cash event and other pickup events.

The city also noticed some positive changes after Not in My Town was launched. City spokeswoman Sara Bustilloz said 6,700 unique visitors looked at the Not in my Town website since its June launch, contributing to 50,300 page visits.

And after the campaign launch, the city added a second inmate cleanup crew that picks up large items from alleys and trash from thoroughfares.

The idea for Not in My Town came about in March 2014, when City Council met in an annual retreat and first discussed starting an anti-litter campaign.

Now that the campaign has ended, organizers plan to meet again within the next month or two to discuss whether it should be revived. And if it is to be revived, the extent of funding will also be discussed.

The inaugural Not in My Town cost $100,000, Byrom said.

"We're not usually able to get that kind of campaign out because it's pricey," Byrom said. "With a new website, all the giveaways, promotional items and advertising, we definitely can't do that on our own. We are grateful to have that partnership with the city."

Bustilloz said the plan is to continue Not in my Town, but the difference may be the amount of funding the city puts into it. One of the solutions may be to partner with local businesses so that the campaign becomes less reliant on city funds, she said. The future of the campaign will depend on City Council's direction, she said.

Byrom is hopeful that Not in my Town will live on, as she believes it was necessary at the time of its existence. Oil activity was still at a high note, and the trash along Loop 250 and other major roadways continued to pile up.

"We've had a litter issue and it was getting worse year-over-year," Byrom said. "And I don't know if that was because of the boom or what, but we know that people get busier and there's a lot more traffic and hauling of things, leading to accidental litter by unsecured loads. So, we know, just by looking around us, that there was a lot more litter. It was necessary for the campaign to happen at that time, and it was effective."

Keep Midland Beautiful's annual cleanup in conjunction with Great American Cleanup/Don't Mess with Texas Trash-off is Saturday.

Picnic for volunteers is planned for 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Hogan Park.

For more information, call 688-7745 or visit keepmidlandbeautiful.org.

GROWTH

From 1A

recently as September.

Midland did lose its grip on the lowest unemployment rate in the nation, according to the BLS. Still, with all the layoffs that had been reported, Midland finished with the third lowest jobless rate (2.8 percent), ended as one of three areas in the nation with a jobless rate below 3 percent and reported an unemployment rate better than February of last year (3.2 percent).

Whether it's a sign that things aren't as bad as they seem or the worst is yet to come remains to be seen. Economic indicators reported during the last month generally have been unfavorable.

Midland had posted the lowest unemployment rate in the nation in December and January. However, the BLS reported Lincoln, Nebraska, claimed the lowest rate in the nation (2.4 percent) in February. Ames, Iowa, was second (2.7 percent).

Texas dominated the BLS list of communities finishing with a jobless rate of 3.5 percent or lower, claiming six of the 19 spots. Interestingly enough, on the list are cities that host major universities. Those include Lincoln, Ames, Iowa City, Iowa (3.1); Lubbock (3.3); Ann Arbor, Michigan (3.4), Austin (3.4) and College Station (3.4); Manhattan, Kansas, (3.5) and Provo, Utah (3.5).

The following are the lowest unemployment rates in the nation during the month of February, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

- Lincoln, Nebraska, 2.4
- Ames, Iowa: 2.7
- Midland: 2.8
- Grand Island, Nebraska: 3.0
- Burlington, Vermont: 3.0
- Iowa City, Iowa: 3.1
- Amarillo: 3.1
- Omaha, Nebraska: 3.2
- Fargo, North Dakota: 3.3
- Lubbock: 3.3
- Ann Arbor, Michigan: 3.4
- Mankato, Minnesota: 3.4
- Austin: 3.4
- College Station-Bryan: 3.4
- Logan, Utah: 3.4
- Manhattan, Kansas: 3.5
- Sioux Falls, South Dakota: 3.5
- Odessa: 3.5
- Provo, Utah: 3.5

Lowest in January

- Midland: 2.6
- Lincoln, Nebraska: 2.8
- Ames, Iowa: 2.9
- Also: Odessa 3.3

Lowest in December

- Midland 2.2; (revised)
- Logan, Utah: 2.3
- Lincoln, Nebraska: 2.5
- Also: Odessa 2.6; Amarillo 2.9; College Station-Bryan 3.0; Lubbock 3.0

NATIONBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NEW YORK

Study: Short people's genes might confer higher heart risks

Short people have more risk for heart disease, and now researchers may know why: Genes that govern height also seem to affect cholesterol, especially in men.

Doctors have suspected that height and heart risks are related. Shorter people are more prone to heart attacks, high blood pressure and diabetes than taller people, but the reason has been unclear.

Earlier studies that made this link did it by comparing heart risks in groups of people according to their height. But that method makes it hard to rule out the influence of smoking, weight, nutrition and other things. The new study looked at genes, a factor present from birth. About 180 gene variations are known to affect height.

Dr. Nilesh Samani at the University of Leicester in England collected information from researchers around the world on 65,000 people with known risk for heart disease (two-thirds had already had a heart attack) and a comparison group of about 128,000 others.

First, researchers verified that stature played a role: The risk of coronary artery disease — clogged arteries — rose 13.5 percent with each 6.5 centimeter (about 2.5 inches) decrease in height.

Next, they looked for an explanation. Studying 12 risk factors, they found two were related to genes regulating height: LDL or bad cholesterol, and triglycerides, another type of fat in the blood.

The message, said Dr. James Stein, a preventive cardiologist at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, is that "people who are very short should be more rigorous about their lifestyle and control of their risk factors."

One theory for the disadvantage is that short people have smaller arteries, so it may take less plaque to clog them. But researchers say this can't be the whole explanation.

Women have smaller arteries than men; yet when the study results were analyzed by gender, height was clearly linked to heart risks only in men. However, there were fewer women in the study with heart problems, so this could have made it tough to spot a possible effect.

"I suspect it applies; they just couldn't show it," Stein said.

The study was published online Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine. The British Heart Foundation and other health groups paid for the work.

BOSTON

Tsarnaev guilty on all charges in Boston Marathon bombing

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was convicted on all charges Wednesday in the Boston Marathon bombing by a jury that will now decide whether the 21-year-old should be executed or shown mercy for what his lawyer says was a crime masterminded by his big brother.

The former college student stood with his hands folded, fidgeted and looked down at the defense table in federal court as he listened to the word "guilty" recited on all 30 counts against him, including conspiracy and deadly use of a weapon of mass destruction. Seventeen of those counts are punishable by death.

The verdict was practically a foregone conclusion, given his lawyer's startling admission at the trial's outset that Tsarnaev carried out the terror attack with his now-dead older brother, Tamerlan.

The defense strategy is to try to save Tsarnaev's life in the upcoming penalty phase by arguing he fell under Tamerlan's evil influence.

The two shrapnel-packed pressure-cooker bombs that exploded near the finish line on April 15, 2013, killed three spectators and wounded more than 260 other people.

Lengthy wait times persist at Texas VA facilities

By Seth Robbins
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — H.W. "Bill" Sparks never had trouble scheduling his annual physical at a Veterans Affairs clinic in El Paso until his doctor left early this year. Now he's been left in limbo, waiting several months to be paired with a new physician.

Sparks, a retired Army warrant officer, said the clinic has tried to reduce wait times since an audit last summer revealed it had one of the nation's worst backlogs. Yet it still struggles to attract staff and build enough capacity to treat a large veteran population.

"They don't have enough staff to do it," he said. "So why promise something you can't deliver?"

Despite a nationwide push to lessen the wait times for veterans seeking health care, VA medical facilities across Texas have shown little to no sustained progress. The dilemma mirrors a trend across the country in which facilities are struggling to improve how often they meet the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' goal to have patients seen within 30 days.

Nearly 66,000 medical appointments completed from September through February at VA facilities in Texas didn't meet that threshold, equating to 3.4 percent of patient visits, according to government data reviewed by The Associated Press. That's slightly higher than the 2.8 percent national rate for delayed appointments during that period. Of Texas' delayed visits, more than 12,700 took longer than 60 days.

The public outcry over the long wait times and attempts to cover them up led Congress to pass legislation last August providing an additional $16.3 billion to hire doctors, open more clinics and expand a program that allows vets to get private-sector care.

But lengthy delays persist across the massive health system in Texas, from small clinics along the Mexico border to medium-sized facilities near sprawling military bases and large medical centers in major cities.

"Texas is ground zero for new veterans. It is where we get things right or wrong," said Paul Rieckhoff, founder of the advocacy group Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, which recently developed a website called "The Wait We Carry," where vets describe their injuries and, at times, frustrations in getting care.

The AP examined waiting times at 54 VA hospitals and outpatient clinics in Texas to gauge improvements since the scandal last year led to the resignation of VA Secretary Eric Shinseki.

It's difficult to quantify exactly how wait times have changed because the VA introduced a new method of measuring them at the end of the summer. But the trend is clear: The number of lengthy delays in Texas has not shown consistent improvement.

The VA clinic in El Paso saw nearly 6 percent of its appointments delayed, ranking it among the highest in Texas. The numbers fluctuated from 5.6 percent in September to 5.9 percent in February.

Peter Dancy, director of the El Paso VA Health Care System, which treats some 40,000 veterans, described an increasing demand in certain areas of care such as mental health, which has more than a dozen vacant positions.

Recruiting staff to fill these and other vacancies in the remote West Texas city remains a challenge. El Paso's VA system received federal funding to hire 60 health care workers, but so far 20 have been hired.

"It's a matter simply of supply versus demand," said Dr. Homer LeMar, the health system's chief of staff. "And the demand is a little ahead of the supply right now."

Austin's VA clinic has also had difficulty meeting patient demand but for a different reason: a rapidly growing veteran population. A new clinic opened in July 2013 and by the end that September had about 25,300 patients. By the same time last year, the facility was serving 27,400 patients and far exceeding projections, which didn't predict 30,000 patients until 2025.

About 6.8 percent of the clinic's appointments took longer than 30 days during the six-month span — the highest rate in Texas. But its monthly rate in February was 4.8 percent, part of a downward trend since December.

"Austin is a great place to live, and they are close to Fort Hood," said Dr. Olawale Fashina, the health system's chief of staff. "So a lot of retirees are staying in the area and many of them are going to the Austin (clinic), and we do believe the patients like the care we provide."

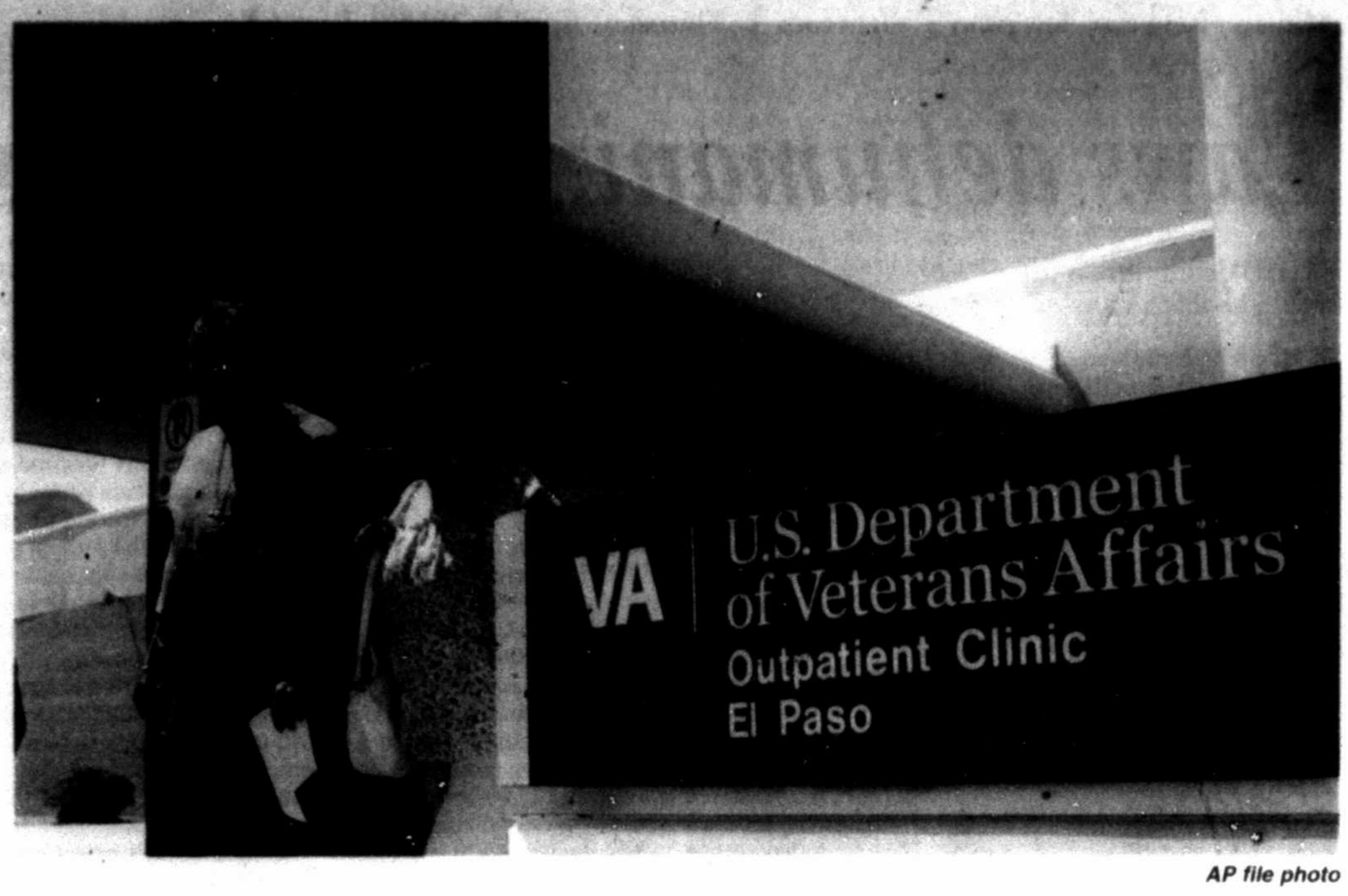
Two of the state's largest medical centers largely stagnated in reducing delays. The Houston facility's numbers rose from 2.8 percent in September to 3.8 percent in February. The San Antonio center saw 3.6 percent of its appointments delayed more than 30 days.

By the numbers

An Associated Press analysis has determined that Texas veterans spend more time waiting for medical care than the national average. From September through February, 3.4 percent of appointments at the state's 54 VA facilities were not within 30 days — the health system's stated goal after a scandal last summer over lengthy wait times. The national average during this span was 2.8 percent. Here are percentages from some Texas VA facilities:

- Austin VA Outpatient Clinic: 6.8
- El Paso VA Outpatient Clinic: 5.9
- Harlingen VA Outpatient Clinic: 5.8
- Permian Basin VA Outpatient Clinic in Odessa: 4.5
- Corpus Christi VA Outpatient Clinic: 3.9
- Houston VA Medical Center: 3.8
- San Antonio VA Medical Center: 3.6
- Central Texas VA Medical Center in Temple: 3.4
- North Texas VA Outpatient Clinic in Bonham: 2.4
- Dallas VA Medical Center: 1.8
- Fort Worth Outpatient Clinic: 1.1

Associated Press



AP file photo

On June 9, 2014, David and Marianne Trujillo exit the Vetarans Affairs facility in El Paso. In an analysis of six months of appointment data at 940 VA hospitals and clinics nationwide from September 2014 to February 2015, despite a nationwide push to lessen the wait times for veterans seeking health care, VA medical facilities across Texas have shown little to no sustained progress. The dilemma mirrors a trend across the country in which facilities are struggling to improve how often they meet the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' goal to have patients seen within 30 days.

VA makes little headway in fight to shorten wait times for care

By David B. Caruso
Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — A year after Americans recoiled at new revelations that sick veterans were getting sicker while languishing on waiting lists — and months after the Department of Veterans Affairs instituted major reforms — government data shows that the number of patients facing long waits at VA facilities has not dropped at all.

No one expected that the VA mess could be fixed overnight. But The Associated Press has found that since the summer, the number of medical appointments delayed 30 to 90 days has largely stayed flat. The number of appointments that take longer than 90 days to complete has nearly doubled.

Nearly 894,000 appointments completed at VA medical facilities from Aug. 1 to Feb. 28 failed to meet the health system's timeliness goal, which calls for patients to be seen within 30 days.

That means about one in 36 patient visits involved a delay of at least a month. Nearly 232,000 of those appointments involved a delay of longer than 60 days.

A closer look reveals deep geographic disparities.

Many delay-prone facilities are clustered in a handful of Southern states, often in areas with a strong military presence, a rural population and patient growth that has outpaced the VA's sluggish planning process.

Of the 75 clinics and hospitals with the highest percentage of patients waiting more than 30 days for care, 12 are in Tennessee or Kentucky, 11 are in eastern North Carolina and the Hampton Roads area of Virginia, 11 are in Georgia or southern Alabama and six are in north Florida.

Seven more were clustered in the region between Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Those 47 clinics and hospitals represent just a fraction of the more than 1,000 VA facilities nationwide, but they were responsible for more than one in five of the appointments that took longer than 60 days to complete.

That has meant big headaches for veterans like Rosie Noel, a retired Marine sergeant awarded the Purple Heart in Iraq after rocket shrapnel slashed open her cheek and broke her jaw.

Noel, 47, said it took 10 months for the VA to successfully schedule her for a follow-up exam and biopsy after an abnormal cervical cancer screening test. Her first scheduled appointment in February of 2014 was postponed because of a medical provider's family emergency, she said. Her make-up appointment at the VA hospital in Fayetteville, one of the most backed-up facilities in the country, was canceled when she was nearly two hours into the drive from her home in Sneads Ferry on the coast.

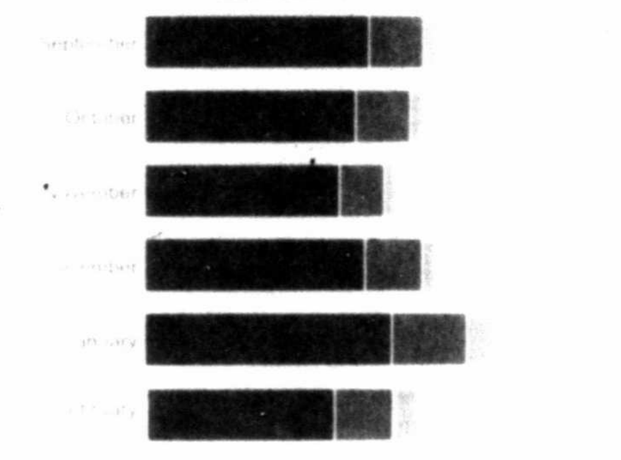
Noel said she was so enraged that she warned the caller she had post-traumatic stress disorder — and they better have security meet her in the lobby.

"To say I was livid is being mild," she said.

The AP examined six months of appointment data at 940 individual VA facilities to gauge changes since a scandal over delays led to the resignation of the VA's secretary and prompted lawmakers in August to give the VA an additional $16.3 billion to hire doctors, open more clinics and build the new Choice program that allows patients facing long delays to get private-sector care. Data for individual facilities were not available for August.

The analysis reveals stark differences between the haves and have-nots.

In the Northeast, Midwest and Pacific Coast states, few VA sites reported having significant delays. A little less than half of all VA hospitals and clinics reported averaging fewer than two appointments per month that involved a wait of more than 60 days.



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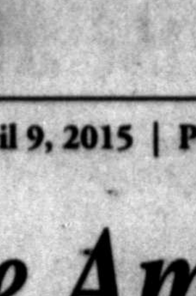
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OPINION

Laws dehumanize Americans who are poor

■ Legislation limits use of electronic benefits transfer cards



DANA MILBANK
Washington Post Writers Group

Rick Brattin, a young Republican state representative in Missouri, has come up with an innovative new way to humiliate the poor in his state. Call it the surf-and-turf law.

Brattin has introduced House Bill 813, making it illegal for food-stamp recipients to use their benefits "to purchase cookies, chips, energy drinks, soft drinks, seafood, or steak."

"I have seen people purchasing filet mignons and crab legs" with electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, the legislator explained, according to The Washington Post's Roberto A. Ferdman. "When I can't afford it on my pay, I don't want people on the taxpayer's dime to afford those kinds of foods either."

Never mind that few can afford filet mignon on a less-than-$7-a-day food-stamp allotment; they're more likely to be buying chuck steak or canned tuna. This is less about public policy than about demeaning public-benefit recipients.

The surf-and-turf bill is one of a flurry of legislative proposals at the state and local levels to dehumanize and even criminalize the poor as the country deals with the high-poverty hangover of the Great Recession.

Last week, the Kansas Legislature passed House Bill 2258, punishing the poor by limiting their cash withdrawals of welfare benefits to $25 per day and forbidding them to use their benefits "in any retail liquor store, casino, gaming establishment, jewelry store, tattoo parlor, massage parlor, body piercing parlor, spa, nail salon, lingerie shop, tobacco paraphernalia store, vapor cigarette store, psychic or fortune telling business, bail bond company, video arcade, movie theater, swimming pool, cruise ship, theme park, dog or horse racing facility, pari-mutuel facility, or sexually oriented business ... or in any business or retail establishment where minors under age 18 are not permitted."

The Kansas legislators must be pleased that they have protected their swimming pools from welfare recipients. But the gratuitous nature of the law becomes obvious when you consider that it also bans all out-of-state spending of welfare dollars — so the inclusion of a cruise-ship ban is redundant in landlocked Kansas.

The Topeka Capital-Journal quoted a champion of the bill saying "this is about having a great life." And the law is helping the poor have a "great life" by forbidding Kansas from accepting hardship waivers from the federal government that extend time limits for food-stamp recipients — reminiscent of many states' refusal to accept an expansion of Medicaid that was funded by the federal government.

Numerous laws that have bubbled up across the country in the last few years have imposed punitive new conditions on the poor. Many are from Republican states opposed to big government, but not entirely: According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, another state that prohibits welfare funds for cruise ships is true-blue Massachusetts (though it at least touches the ocean.)

In their budget plans in Congress, Republicans propose "devolving" food stamps and other programs to state control by awarding block grants with few strings attached. The states, the thinking goes, are closer to the people and have better ideas about how to reduce caseloads. But recent experience suggests that one strategy for reducing caseloads is to harass recipients:

Some states have been increasing legal fees for poor defendants. In Washington state, the American Civil Liberties Union has found, such obligations average $2,540 per case — and sometimes imprisoning them for their inability to pay. An NPR study last year found that defendants are routinely charged for public defenders, room and board in jail, parole supervision and electronic monitoring devices — items that were once free.

The federal government required in 2012 that electronic benefit transfer cards not be used for liquor, gambling or adult-entertainment, but many states went further. Massachusetts and Missouri require the EBT cards to have the beneficiary's photo, according to the NCSL, while others block the use of benefits for "psychic services," "riverboats," "permanent makeup" and "amusement parks."

NCSL also reports that 12 states, most in the South, have passed legislation in the last three years requiring drug testing for public-assistance applicants.

And what if all these new costs for the poor put them out on the street? The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty last year reported a 60-percent increase since 2011 in city-wide bans on public camping and a 43-percent increase in prohibitions on sitting or lying down in public places.

Even then, poor people can still stay on the right side of this new round of punitive laws, as long as they don't sleep, keep moving at all times — and lay off the steak and fish.

OUR VIEW

End of TIRZ is not a death knell to developing downtown

Reading the article in Wednesday's Reporter-Telegram — $3.9 million approved thus far for downtown revitalization entity — it was easy to wonder "who died?"

The answer is no one, and despite what you may have read, the opportunity to improve and invest in downtown doesn't go away because the Tax Investment Reinvestment Zone no longer exists.

We have heard that dissolving TIRZ takes away a golden opportunity to make things happen downtown, but that is overstating the issue.

The TIRZ was created years ago as a mechanism to help reverse the trend this community was seeing with downtown property values. The TIRZ called for capping property values for four entities — city of Midland, Midland County, Midland College and the hospital district — and extra tax revenue beyond that capped number was put into a fund for downtown improvements. The TIRZ fund stayed relatively empty until valuations soared, thanks to the oil boom.

Last year, the City Council correctly made the decision to end its involvement with the TIRZ. This, in our view, allows taxing entities to take advantage of the extra money from the higher valuations that Midland is enjoying.

Some took the council and this newspaper to task for the decision. Even in Wednesday's article, we sensed a morbid reaction to the end of the TIRZ era. We respectfully disagree with the idea that the community loses the ability to do so much without the TIRZ.

We tend to side with Scott Dufford, who on the day the City Council made the decision to end the TIRZ, told those in attendance that this council would not stop redevelopment efforts. And there is no reason that the city can't continue what the TIRZ started.

Governing is about prioritizing, and if the council thinks efforts to develop downtown need to continue, then it will. There is nothing stopping this council from creating a line item in future budgets based on what the city's portion of the TIRZ might have been (which was by far the largest contribution annually). If it's a council objective, it will happen.

Some would say, "Then why not keep the TIRZ together?" One reason, we believe, is the college and hospital district need its tax money for its operations.

We hope downtown is the best it can be today, five years from now and well into the future. There are options at this community's disposal for making things happen. It's all about prioritizing and not forcing participation. It's about governing, and we are confident in this city's ability to govern and not stop the great things happening downtown.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

CITY OF MIDLAND
300 N. Loraine, Midland, TX 79701
Website: midlandtexas.gov
Mayor Jerry Morales, 685-7204

City Council — At-large: Scott Dufford and Spencer Robnett. District 1: Jeff Sparks. District 2: John Love III. District 3: Sharla Hotchkiss. District 4: J. Ross Lacy.

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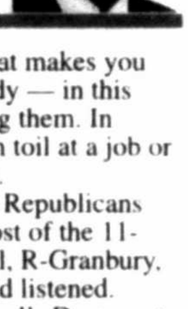
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Texas shouldn't kill the dream

■ Taking away in-state tuition for children of those who are living here illegally compounds the damage



KEN HERMAN
Austin American-Statesman

It was so nice to hear testimony about a state program that has been so great for so many young Texans at little, if any, cost to the state that I stuck with a legislative hearing on it from its 2 p.m. Monday start until it wrapped up at 1:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Witness after witness told upbeat, often emotional stories that made you feel good about state government. That's worth staying up late for. No scandal, no unintended consequences, no downside.

At one point, officials from the Texas Association of Business and Texas AFL-CIO testified side-by-side to support the program, a moment that moved the labor group's Rene Lara to tell the Senate Subcommittee on Border Security: "I'm sitting next to the Association of Business and we are taking the same position. On this one — maybe not on others later in the session."

And a Democratic and a GOP legislator — who both supported the program when it was approved in 2001 with overwhelming bipartisan backing — testified they still support it.

So, as expected, the meeting ended with Republicans voting to kill the program. By a 2-1 party-line vote, the subcommittee advanced Senate Bill 1819 by Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, who wants to repeal the Texas Dream Act.

The program was put in place 2001 with the signature of then-GOP Gov. Rick Perry. The law lets young Texans brought to the U.S. illegally by their parents pay in-state tuition at state post-secondary institutions. They have to be Texas high school graduates and have lived in the state for at least three years. Many have been here far longer.

There are no freebies, no admissions preference — just the same not-so-cheap, in-state tuition paid by other Texas high school grads. It's a nod to reality, an investment in our future and a low-price point of pride for a state not always known for doing all it can for people facing challenges.

Higher Education Commissioner Raymund Paredes testified that he has heard no complaints about the Texas Dream Act from anyone in the higher education world. The program displaces nobody from college. In 2013, immigrant students paid $51.6 million in tuition. There were 24,770 of them, less than 2 percent of the total student body at state post-secondary institutions, and 75 percent are in community colleges.

Paredes said there is absolutely no evidence that the Texas Dream Act serves as a magnet, luring foreigners into our country illegally, a concept proffered by Campbell.

Students are grateful in a way that makes you know they appreciate that somebody — in this case the state of Texas — is helping them. In return, they and their families often toil at a job or jobs to help turn dream into reality.

Knowing they had the votes, the Republicans shied from offering quotes. For most of the 11-plus hours, senators Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, and Bob Hall, R-Edgewood, sat and listened. Brownsville's Eddie Lucio, the panel's Democrat, chimed in after many witnesses, congratulating them and supporting the program.

At 11:15 p.m. Monday, Birdwell explained why it's bad to help immigrant students.

"You end up in a circumstance where you are rewarding illegal immigration in perpetuity. And short of federal action that ceases that, how do you make sure that you're affirming lawful conduct?" he said. "The question in my mind is — and while there's much to the aspects of charity that many of the witnesses have spoken about tonight — does being kind to the stranger alleviate the requirement of the stranger to obey the law? The answer is no."

Lucio responded with words that might draw Democratic fire if uttered by an evangelical Republican.

"Yeah," he said, "The law's important. Man's law is important. I think God's law is even more important, personally. And I think it supersedes man's law."

He spoke of young Texans illegally in the U.S. through no action of their own. And he spoke of a particular young Texan whose emotional testimony sparked Birdwell's comments.

"I don't see anything else but a man who actually, whether he likes it or not, is following God's plan," Lucio said of the witness.

Unlike many Texas leaders and legislators, I'm not privy to where God stands on any particular piece of legislation. And though I take a back seat to nobody in terms of obnoxious hard-heartedness toward foreigners who violate our laws to come here, I'm pretty sure we compound any damage they might cause when we punish their children.

Their children now are our children and an integral part our future.

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From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Senate creating secret encyclopedia of US spy programs

By Ken Dilanian
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Trying to get a handle on hundreds of sensitive, closely held surveillance programs, a Senate committee is compiling a secret encyclopedia of American intelligence collection. It's part of an effort to improve congressional oversight of the government's sprawling global spying effort.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein launched the review in October 2013 after a leak by former National Security Agency systems administrator Edward Snowden disclosed that the NSA had been eavesdropping on German Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone. Four months earlier, Snowden had revealed the existence of other programs that vacuumed up Americans' and foreigners' phone call records and electronic communications.

"We're trying right now to look at every intelligence program," Feinstein told The Associated Press. "There are hundreds of programs we have found ... sprinkled all over. Many people in the departments don't even know (they) are going on."

Feinstein and other lawmakers said they were fully briefed about the most controversial programs leaked by Snowden, the NSA's collection of American phone records and the agency's access to U.S. tech company accounts in targeting foreigners through its PRISM program. Those programs are conducted under acts of Congress, supervised by a secret federal court.

But when it comes to surveillance under Executive Order 12333, which authorizes foreign intelligence collection overseas without a court order, there are so many programs that even the executive branch has trouble keeping track of them, Feinstein said. Many are so sensitive that only a handful of people are authorized to know the details, which complicates the management challenge.

Lawmakers who serve on the intelligence committee sometimes have difficulty making sense of the information they receive, some of which can't be shared even with some of their own staff.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper has joked that only one entity in the universe has complete visibility over all the U.S. government's secret intelligence programs — "That's God."

Feinstein, a California Democrat, initially wasn't sure that Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina, who took her place as chairman of the panel when Republicans took control of the Senate in January, would agree to continue the review. But Burr and Feinstein recently reached an agreement to do so, said Senate aides. They were not authorized to discuss the inner committee workings publicly and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Two executive branch officials who had been detailed to the committee are returning to the executive branch and will not be replaced, the aides said, so the effort will be entirely the work of congressional staff. The project will end in September, the aides said.

Burr declined to comment. His spokeswoman, Rebecca Glover Watkins, said in an email that the committee "is constantly and continuously engaged in oversight of intelligence community activities. It is the very core of what the committee does, day in and day out, and it is a key component of the work done by the committee's professional staff."

Feinstein initiated the review, she said, after she and other lawmakers were taken by surprise by the revelation that the NSA was spying on the leader of a close ally.

At the time, Feinstein said the intelligence committee, which is regularly briefed on spying programs, had not been "satisfactorily informed," about some NSA surveillance. "Therefore our oversight needs to be strengthened and increased."

After that disclosure, President Barack Obama ordered his own review of NSA surveillance that resulted in the termination of some eavesdropping on the leaders of certain unidentified friendly countries.

The review will allow lawmakers to maintain and access information on all the programs, but will avoid creating a single document that amounts to a roadmap to American surveillance, said U.S. officials. They were not authorized to be quoted because some details are classified. Although the Senate intelligence committee has vaults, safes and secure computer networks, officials do not want to risk leaving such a file in the custody of the Senate.

If senators object to any of the surveillance, they can raise the issue in secret with Obama administration officials. They can't force a change, but they can use their influence over legislation, budgets and nominations to press for it.

However, that influence has its limits, as Sens. Ron Wyden and Mark Udall discovered when they sought to warn about some of the NSA collection that Snowden ultimately leaked. They could not make their warnings clear enough without disclosing secrets.

Obama lobbies Congress on Iran; Dems seek changes to bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic senators are intent on changing a bill that would give Congress a say in an emerging nuclear deal with Iran — tweaks that could make it more palatable to President Barack Obama, who called two key senators on Wednesday to lobby against undermining diplomatic efforts to end a standoff with Tehran.

The president's calls to Republican Sen. Bob Corker, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and the committee's top Democrat, Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland, were the latest consultations in the White House's robust lobbying campaign to convince Congress that an international framework agreement reached last week is the best way to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon.

"I am trying to bridge the differences here — not that I feel I'll be able to get the president as a cheerleader to the bill but try to deal with some legitimate concerns," Cardin said in an interview.

Cardin, who spoke with the president for about 15 minutes, said he hopes an amended bill can carry out two purposes: provide Congress with an orderly way to review any final agreement reached with Iran and mandate periodic reports on compliance so Congress can take action if Iran violates a final deal — ff it can be reached.

Obama has threatened to veto the bill, which was introduced by Corker of Tennessee and Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J.

Standing by the president, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi voiced her opposition to the Corker-Menendez bill, saying it undermines the ongoing nuclear negotiations and constructs an "unnecessary hurdle to achieving a strong, final agreement."

"To force Congress to weigh in now on the Iran nuclear talks before a final deal has been completed would be a reckless rush to judgment," Pelosi said, adding that more than 50 foreign policy and military leaders have urged Congress not to take any action that would impede progress toward reaching a final deal.

Whether the measure could garner a two-thirds majority in the full Senate to override a presidential veto is not known, but it's clear there is bipartisan support for finding a way for Congress to weigh in on any deal, regardless of whether the White House wants it to or not.

"I would hope that if we get it done the way I'm hoping to get it done that the concerns that the president has raised" will be addressed, said Cardin, who is proposing more than a handful of amendments. "Now, the president may feel compelled because of separation of powers to veto it. I understand that."

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Obama's conversation with Corker was not an opportunity for the two men to negotiate the terms of legislation, but rather to help members of Congress understand exactly what's included in the commitments that Iran has made thus far and make sure negotiators have the time and space to complete a final agreement by the end of June.

On Capitol Hill, the focus is on the committee, which is scheduled to vote on the bill Tuesday.

As it's written, the Corker-Menendez bill would require Obama to submit any final agreement reached with Iran to Congress within five days. It would require Obama to send a report that explains the extent to which the secretary of state will be able to verify that Iran is complying with the deal. The bill also would require the White House to certify that the agreement does not jeopardize U.S. national security, including preventing Iran from pursuing nuclear-related military activities.

In implementing any final deal, Obama could lift sanctions imposed through presidential action, but the bill would prohibit him — for 60 days — from suspending, waiving or otherwise easing any sanctions that Congress imposed on Iran. During that 60-day period, Congress could hold hearings and approve, disapprove or take no action on any final nuclear agreement with Iran.

If Congress passed a joint resolution approving a final deal — or took no action — Obama could move ahead to ease sanctions levied by Congress. But if Congress passed a joint resolution disapproving it, Obama would be blocked from implementing any relief of congressional sanctions.

After the 60-day congressional review period, the bill requires the president to assess Iran's compliance with the agreement at three-month intervals. If the president cannot certify Iran's compliance, or if he determines there has been a breach of the deal, the bill says Congress could quickly vote to restore sanctions that had been waived or suspended.

There's one provision of Corker-Menendez that has especially irked the White House. The bill calls on the Obama administration to certify that Iran has not directly supported or carried out an act of terrorism against the United States or an American anywhere in the world.

White House: Computers always a target

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's spokesman says the White House is always going to be a target for hackers.

Josh Earnest came close on Wednesday to confirming reports that Russian hackers accessed sensitive White House information.

In October, the White House disclosed suspicious activity on its unclassified network, but declined to identify a culprit.

Earnest saidclassified networks didn't appear to be compromised. He's not saying whether Obama's private schedule or emails were affected. But the spokesman said it's fair to say anyone reviewing material on the White House network is "in close proximity to sensitive information."

Earnest said the hack's timing six months ago as Washington and Moscow cooperated on Iran nuclear negotiations — is "an indication of the kind of complicated relationship we have with Russia."

SHARE YOUR OPINION

Letters to the editor run Sundays in the Reporter-Telegram. Letters submitted via email are preferred and can be sent to letters@mrt.com.

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Letters should indicate they are for publication.

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2015 Parish Mission

St. Stephen Catholic Church will be having a Parish Mission April 13-15, 2015, 7:00 PM each night, featuring Catholic Speaker Paul Koleske. Paul is a contemporary Catholic Christian Inspirational Speaker, Musician, Composer & Recording Artist from Racine, Wisconsin.

Theme of the Mission
"Igniting the Light of Christ Within You"

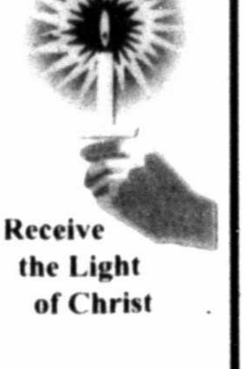
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Paul will sing and speak at all weekend Masses!

Monday April 13th: "Connecting with the Light of Christ"
Paul will tell us his story, his conversion from lukewarm-ness as a Catholic to a believer in miracles. He'll discuss the True Presence! Then he'll teach you about the miracle of You! **7:00 PM**

Tuesday April 14th: "Experiencing the Light of Christ"
Paul will teach us as Catholics to trust in God. He'll share practical ideas on what we can do to break the mental cycles of anxiety, fear, doubt, worry, and built once and for all! **7:00 PM**

Wednesday April 15th: "Living the Light of Christ"
What are the warning signs that show that we are 'imprisoned', all those things and attitudes that limit our willingness and energy to live fully our Christian faith - the Light of Christ within you, no matter what happens to you! **7:00 PM**



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A prehistoric giant is revived, if only in name

By James Gorman
New York Times News Service

For anyone who has ever been told by a smarty-pants 7-year-old, "There's no such thing as Brontosaurus; it's called Apatosaurus" — it is payback time.

"We have good evidence now for the resurrection of Brontosaurus," Emanuel Tschopp, a paleontologist with the New University of Lisbon, said Tuesday.

He was referring to the name, not to the creature itself, of course, and to an exhaustive study of 80 or so fossils in a group of long-necked giants called the Diplodocidae, familiar from natural history museums the world over. These plant-eaters grew to lengths of more than 100 feet and weighed thousands of pounds, and it is thought they could crack their long tails like bullwhips, creating sonic booms to scare away predators.

The name Brontosaurus was first used in the late 1800s to describe fossils of a dinosaur now on display at the Yale Peabody Museum, but by 1905 it had been reclassified as Apatosaurus, because it was so similar to another sauropod dinosaur of that name.

Tschopp and his colleagues Octávio Mateus at the New University and Roger B.J. Benson at the University of Oxford in England decided that although Brontosaurus and Apatosaurus are similar, there are actually two different genera and the Yale specimen is really a Brontosaurus after all. So are several other museum specimens, they said, including one at the University of Wyoming and a baby Apatosaurus at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh.

Their paper, released online Tuesday in the journal PeerJ, with all of its nearly 300 pages freely available to anyone, will not be the last word on whether the Brontosaurus name should come back into scientific use. Names of species and genera are matters of expert opinion. There is no national or international board of official dinosaur names that decides who is right.

"What's interesting to me is that Brontosaurus and Apatosaurus are still extremely close," said Matthew T. Carrano, a curator at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington. "This provides a lot of new information for the argument, but the argument will continue."

Tschopp and his colleagues looked at 477 distinct traits that could be identified on the fossil bones and then analyzed them in several ways to look for differences.

Benson said they set a standard based on the differences between two well-known species of similar long-necked dinosaurs, Diplodocus and Barosaurus.

"Brontosaurus is at least as different from Apatosaurus as Diplodocus is from Barosaurus," he said.

Benson pointed out that "the names are just handles" that help scientists study how life evolves into different forms.

Most of the differences are highly technical and noticeable only to anatomists, said Tschopp. To pick one understandable example, he said, "Apatosaurus has a relatively wider neck than Brontosaurus."

But it is the number of differences that are important, he said.

Jeffrey A. Wilson, a paleontologist at the University of Michigan, said that he did not have a position on whether the name should be resurrected but that he found the criteria for distinguishing between Apatosaurus and Brontosaurus arbitrary. It was a matter of judgment that involved deciding how different was different enough to justify two distinct genera.

"It's as if they had a pizza," he said, and "cut it in six pieces," as opposed to four pieces, he said.

The name game is played not only by scientists. There are pitfalls for parents and children doing their obligatory museum visits. The Apatosaurus on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York is probably still an Apatosaurus, said Tschopp, as is the adult skeleton at the Carnegie Museum.

In the end, it may be too complicated for parents to remember which is which. So the 7-year-olds may continue to rule.

NASA scientists: We'll find alien life in 10 to 20 years

By Deborah Netburn
Los Angeles Times

"We now recognize that habitable zones are not just around stars, they can be around giant planets, too. We are finding out the solar system is really a soggy place."

Jim Green, NASA director of planetary science

Are we alone in the universe? Top NASA scientists say the answer is almost certainly "no."

"I believe we are going to have strong indications of life beyond Earth in the next decade and definitive evidence in the next 10 to 20 years," Ellen Stofan, chief scientist for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, said at a public panel Tuesday in Washington.

"We know where to look, we know how to look, and in most cases we have the technology," she said.

Jeffery Newmark, interim director of heliophysics at the agency put it this way. "It's definitely not an if, it's a when."

However, if visions of alien invasions are dancing in your head, you can let those go.

"We are not talking about little green men," Stofan said. "We are talking about little microbes."

Over the course of an hourlong presentation, NASA leaders described a flurry of recent discoveries that suggest we are closer than ever to figuring out where we might find life in the solar system and beyond.

For example, Jim Green, director of planetary science at NASA, cited a study that analyzed the atmosphere above Mars' polar ice caps and suggests that 50 percent of the planet's northern hemisphere once had oceans up to a mile deep, and that it had that water for a long period of time — up to 1.2 billion years.

"We think that long period of time is necessary for life to get more complex," Stofan said.

She added that getting human field geologists and astrobiologists on Mars would greatly improve the chances of finding fossils of past life on our nearest planetary neighbor.

Green also described another recent study that used measurements of aurora on Jupiter's moon Ganymede to prove it has a large liquid ocean beneath its icy crust.

The findings suggest that previous ideas about where to find "habitable zones" may have been too limited. (A body considered to in a habitable zone is not too hot or too cold for liquid water to exist on its surface.)

"We now recognize that habitable zones are not just around stars, they can be around giant planets, too," Green said. "We are finding out the solar system is really a soggy place."

He also talked NASA's plans for a mission to Europa, another moon of Jupiter with an icy ocean.

"I don't know what we are going to find there," he said.

Newmark described how NASA is learning more about the role of Earth's magnetic field in protecting our planet's water and atmosphere from being blown away by the solar wind, thereby playing a role in the ability for life to develop.

"Mars does not have a significant magnetic field, so it lets the wind strip away the water and atmosphere," he said.

Paul Hertz, director of astrophysics at NASA, talked about how future telescopes already in the works will help scientists scan the atmospheres of large rocky planets around distant stars for chemical markers of life.

"We are not just studying water and habitability in our solar system, but also looking for it in planets around other stars," he said.

NASA associate administrator John Grunsfeld, said part of what excites him most about the search for life beyond our planet is to see what that life looks like.

"Once we get beyond Mars, which formed from the same stuff as Earth, the likelihood that life is similar to what we find on this planet is very low," he said.

Grunsfeld said he believes that life beyond Earth will be found by the next generation of scientists and space explorers, but Green said he hopes it is sooner than that.

"The science community is making enormous progress," he said. "And I've told my team I'm planning to be the director of planetary science when we discover life in the solar system."

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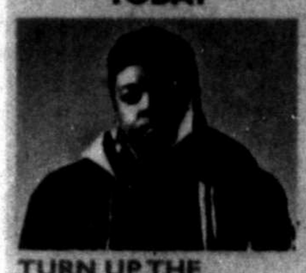
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WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

WEEKEND TO-DO LIST

TODAY



TURN UP THE LOVE Catch Tedashii, Moriah Peters, V. Rose, Spec and Mattie Montgomery at CAF.

FRIDAY



METAL WORKS Incite, Vital Remains, Vale of Pnath, Murder Death Kill, Spades & Blades and Better Left Unsaid to play Blue Max.

SATURDAY



BACK AT BASIN Folk Family Revival to play Basin Burger House's patio.

See complete schedule of weekend events on Page 2.

ONLINE

TO DO LIST Check out our new online entertainment guide under MRT Daily News Blogs at mrt.com.

MOVIES



Films opening and closing this week at Midland theaters:

TALL CITY 14
Opening: "The Longest Ride"
Closing: "Do You Believe," "The Gunman"

CINERGY CINEMAS
Opening: "The Longest Ride"

BIG SKY DRIVE-IN
Opening: "The Longest Ride"
Closing: "Run All Night"

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

COMING SOON



LIVE IN MIDLAND Jay Leno will be at Chap Center next week for the Phyllis and Bob Cown Performing Arts Series.



MUSIC AND ART Slaid Cleaves to play ArtiZen Outlet next week.



Photo courtesy Jim Wright

Heat Index: Major names and events fill weekend

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Only a few days in and April already feels like the busiest month for Midlanders. With several high-profile concerts and big events, this weekend alone is bursting at the seams. Here are the top five events happening this weekend. And trust us, it was hard to even get down to that few.

MIDLAND ROCKHOUNDS SEASON OPENER AND THIRSTY THURSDAY

Perhaps the truest sign spring has made it to Midland is the opening game of the Midland RockHounds. The team kicks off at Security Ballpark against the Northwest Arkansas Naturals. And it doesn't hurt that the first game also happens on Thirsty Thursday, where draft beer is half price until the seventh inning (what?) and half-price fountain drinks all night. And the first 2,000 fans will receive a magnet schedule.

Security Bank Ballpark, 5514 Champions Drive. 7 p.m. $9-$16. www.milb.com.

'MAMMA MIA' IS A SELLOUT

The hugely popular musical will have a packed house Sunday. The show is a sellout, so the best bet for tickets is lingering around the box office with some high hopes and a fast hand on your credit card. Using ABBA songs as a narrative, the musical mixes popular music with theatrics for a Broadway-pop extravaganza.

7:30 p.m. Sunday. Visit wagnernoel.com for additional information.

VINCE GILL HEADLINES BIG BOYS' TOYS

MARC's annual fundraiser, Big Boys' Toys, will feature famed country singer Vince Gill at the Horseshoe Pavilion on Saturday. The Grammy-winning singer will likely perform signature hits "When I Call Your Name," "I Still Believe In You," "Pretty Little Adriana" and "Don't Let our Love Start Slippin' Away" and hopefully some newer tracks from his impressively charming 2014 album "Bakersfield."

Visit marctexas.org for event and ticket information.

THEATER MEETS SYMPHONY AT 'SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE'

There's a whole lot of Romeo and Juliet going on in West Texas with the Globe's annual production of the play, Midland Community Theatre's upcoming "West Side Story" and this symphonic show featuring music inspired by Shakespeare's romantic side, the concert will feature music representing a selection of the Bard's plays and feature the Permian Basin singers and a cast of local actors.

Please see **WEEKEND**/Page 3



The Queso Diaries: The need for cheese

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Conversations in the Features office often center on food, whether it's deciding where to go for our weekly lunch meeting or discussing the merits of brunch and snack items. In turn, we try to come up with ways of turning those chats into actual work.

A couple weeks back, I randomly mentioned how much I truly appreciated the culinary virtues of Rosa's queso. So much so that I even left an event halfway through, just to make sure I could get to a location before they closed for a questionable dinner of chips and queso — or as I have now deemed it, the Nectar of the Cheese Gods.

This, of course, became a bigger conversation that has led us to our current Queso Quest.

With the plethora of Mexican restaurants and even non-Latin joints, we knew a chain restaurant couldn't be the end-all for queso in Midland.

And we needed a new excuse to partake in nosh and call it work.



So we've begun our quest, and every Friday, we'll post new entries on mrt.com. We're not necessarily looking for the best or the top 14 quesos of Midland, but instead we're gauging the variety of quesos out there and which ones we like best (or not) based on a set of criteria. We're considering taste, texture, cost and a variety of other aspects in hopes of finding Queso Mecca.

We could use your help, too.

Where do you think we should try? Heck, where do you think we absolutely shouldn't try? We might be game.

Besides, we're only doing this to help our readers.

Follow Rich Lopez on Twitter @getrichintexas

Andy Salcedo finds himself back onstage in 'Moose'

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

With only four months into April, 2015 has already been a theater-heavy year for one man. With two shows under his belt, Andy Salcedo will make his first stage appearance in this weekend's "Buying the Moose" by the Maverick Players. In some ways, it's a reprieve from his previous duties for the stage.

"I worked lights for 'Greater Tuna' and stage managed 'Charlie Brown' but I just wanted to try acting again," Salcedo said.

Salcedo is a veritable jack of all trades when it comes to local theater. He's directed, worked on costuming, read McLaren scripts and was president of the Ham Hocks Theater is his life.

A funny thing considering he had never done a show before he moved here in 1982.

"I had been in choir as a kid and was in a rock band, so I was fine in front of an audience, but then my wife showed me an audition notice for "Jesus Christ Superstar" at Midland Community Theatre and I knew that music inside and out," he recalled.

That was also in 1982 and the theater bug had hit.

"Superstar" was not only his first acting endeavor but, coincidentally, his first directorial effort just more than a decade later. His confidence came when his church was looking for a fundraiser. Salcedo pitched a play and then decided to direct.

"I thought that maybe I could, and I like to think I'm a pretty good director, as well as worked under a lot of great directors. I think also interacting with Tim (Jebsen) at

Please see **MOOSE**/Page 4

CALENDAR

HAPPRNING THIS WEEK

MUSIC

Imagine open mic night for contemporary Christian music, 6-9 p.m. Friday at Tea2Go. 689-5451.

Turn Up the Love Tour with Tedashii, Moriah Peters, V. Rose, Spec and Mattie Montgomery, 6:30 p.m. April 9 at CAF. epiceventsministry.com.

Justin Langston, 7:30 p.m. April 9 at Basin Burger House. basinburgerhouse.com.

The Bellamy Brothers, 8 p.m. April 10 at La Hacienda. haciendamidland.com.

Granger Smith, April 10 at Graham Central Station. grahamcentralstation-odessa.com.

Incite, Vital Remains and four more bands, 7 p.m. April 10 at Blue Max. facebook.com/blue-maxrocks.

Midland High School orchestra's Beethoven and Blue Jeans dinner and concert, 5-7 p.m. April 11 at Midland Downtown Lions Club. nikesha.hopes@midlandisd.net.

MOSC Masterworks 4: "Shakespeare in Love," 7:30 p.m. April 11 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Vince Gill at MARC's Big Boys' Toys event, April 11 at Horseshoe Pavilion. marctexas.org.

Folk Family Revival, 7:30 p.m. April 11 at Basin Burger House. basinburgerhouse.com.

Striker, 6 p.m. April 12 at Blue Max. 561-8190.

ART & EXHIBITS

The Business of Art: The Marfa Arts Scene with Susan Sutton, executive director of **Ballroom Marfa,** 6 p.m. April 9 at Museum of the Southwest. museumsw.org.

The Parklet Project Jazz Age themed party by Artpush and Ellen Noel Art Museum, 7:30 p.m. April 10 at downtown Odessa. noelartmuseum.org.

Spring Fashion Workshop, 1:30-4:30 p.m. April 11 at Ellen Noel Art Museum. noelartmuseum.org.

Adventures in Art: Design, 2:30-4:30 p.m. April 12 at Ellen Noel Art Museum.

GAMES & SPORTS

RockHounds baseball opening day and Thirsty Thursday, 7 p.m. Thursday at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

RockHounds baseball, 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 4 p.m. Sunday at Security Ballpark.

American Junior Rodeo Association finals, April 10-12 at the Horseshoe.

Run a K for United Way 5K/10K, April 11 at Midland High School parking lot. www.uwmidland.org.

Rock 'N' Stroll for Epilepsy, 10 a.m. April 11 at Midland YMCA. strollforepilepsy.org.

International Tabletop Day with RPG and tabletop games, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. April 11 at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. co.midland.tx.us.

Play bridge at Allison Bridge Center, 682-8595.

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

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

THEATER, COMEDY & FILM

Music, Mayhem and Madness Sketch Comedy Show, 8 p.m. April 9 at Dee's Bistro in Odessa. westtexastalent.com.

"Mamma Mia," 7:30 p.m. April 12 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

"Buying the Moose" Maverick Players production, April 10-26 at VFW Hall. 522-5225.

EVENTS

Association of Publishers for Special Sales (APSS) organizational meeting, 7 p.m. April 9 at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. www.co.midland.tx.us/lib.

Midland Downtown Farmers Market, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Museum of the Southwest. midlanddowntownfarmersmarket.com.

Educator Appreciation Day, 9 a.m. April 11 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

Spring plant sale, 9 a.m.-noon April 11 at Sibley Nature Center. sibleynature-center.org.

Family Tree Day one-on-one help with family trees, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 11 at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch genealogy department. www.co.midland.tx.us/lib.

CAF Hops & Props, 7-10:30 p.m. April 11 at CAF. highskywing.org.

Midland Energy Expo, April 12-14 at Horsehoe Pavilion. midlandhorseshoe.com.

KID-FRIENDLY

Disney Junior Live on Tour "Pirate & Princess Adventure," 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. April 12 at Ector County Coliseum. ector-countycoliseum.org.

Storytime for birth-2 years, 9:30 a.m. today at Midland County Public Library downtown location. www.co.midland.tx.us/lib.

Storytime for ages 2-6, 10:30 a.m. today at Midland County Public Library downtown location.

Storytime for ages 2-6, 11 a.m. Saturdays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch.

Storytime for 2-6 years, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch.

Storytime for birth-2 years, 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch.

Storytime for 2-6 years, 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch.

Storytime for preschool, 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

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

COMING SOON

APRIL

RockHounds baseball, 6:30 p.m. April 13 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

RockHounds baseball, 6:30 p.m. April 14 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

Storytime, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. April 15 at Ellen Noel Art Museum. noelartmuseum.org.

Laura Bush Literacy Program Reading Event, 4:30-5:30 p.m. April 16 at George W. Bush Childhood Home visitor center. bushchildhoodhome.org.

"To Kill a Mockingbird" discussion, 5 p.m. April 16 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

An Evening with Slaid Cleaves, April 16 at ArtiZen. talltownes.com.

Dokken, 8 p.m. April 16 at Hacienda. haciendamidland.com.

Petroleum Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner, April 16 at Midland Center. petroleummuseum.org.

Tessy Lou & The Shotgun Stars, 7:30 p.m. April 16 at Basin Burger House. basinburgerhouse.com.

Forrest Fest annual poetry festival, April 16-18 at Forrest Park in Lamesa. forrestfest.org.

1920s Fashion Show and Garden Party featuring White Ghost Shivers, 6:30-10:30 p.m. April 17 at Ellen Noel Art Museum. noelartmuseum.org.

Jay Leno for Phyllis and Bob Cowan Performing Arts Series, 8 p.m. April 17 at Chap Center. midland.edu.

SciFriday show: "Jurassic Park," 8:15 p.m. April 17 at Blakemore Planetarium. museumsw.org.

Robert Earl Keen at Best of the Basin barbecue cookoff and concert benefiting Bynum School, April 17-18 at CAF. bynumschool.org.

"Pillow Talk" film screening, 7:30 p.m. April 17-18 at Ector Theatre. ectortheatre.com.

"West Side Story," April 17-25 at Yucca Theatre. mctmidland.org.

Walk MS: Permian Basin for National Multiple Sclerosis Society, April 18 at Sherwood Park in Odessa. nationalmssociety.org.

Permian Basin Master Gardeners Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. April 18 at the Horseshoe. westtexasgardening.org.

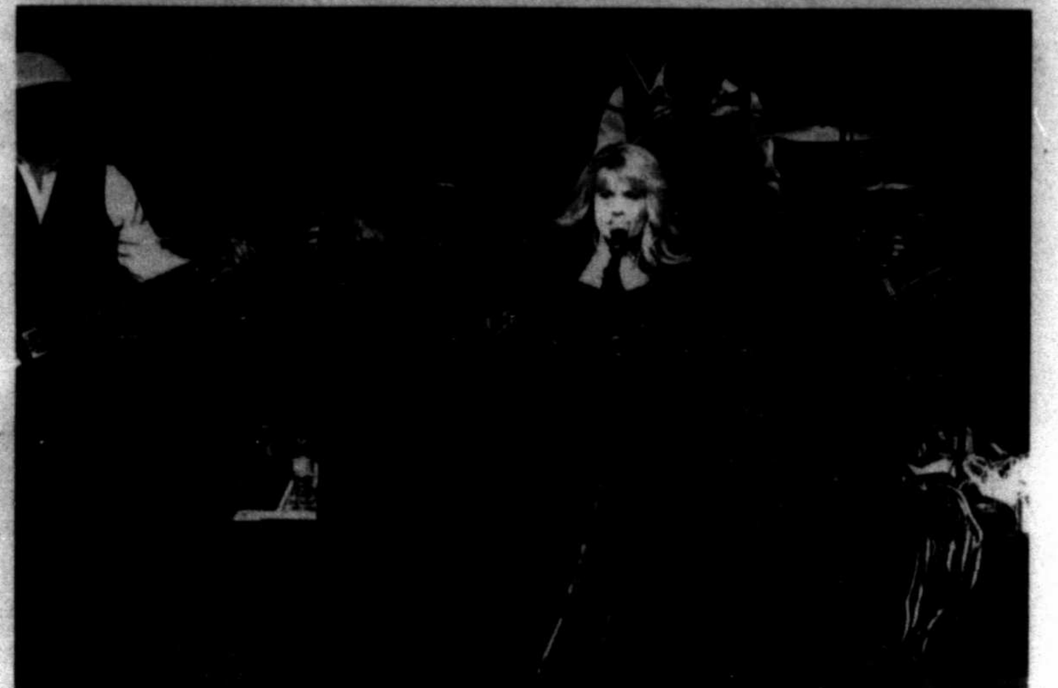
Basin PBS Explore the Outdoors, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. April 18 at I-20 Wildlife Preserve. basinpbs.org.

Cookie Mouse visits Midland, noon April 18 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

The Sharks to benefit Eastern European Mission, 7 p.m. April 18 at Golf Course Road Church of Christ. gcrcc.org.

3OG, 7:30 p.m. April 18 at Basin Burger House. basinburgerhouse.com.

Silver Spur Gun and Knife Show, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. April 18 and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 19 at the Horseshoe Pavilion. silverspurtradeshows.com.



FLEETWOOD MASK

Midland Festival Ballet's **"Alice in Wonderland,"** 2:30 p.m. April 19 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Lunch and Lecture with Bobby Burns of Midland Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m. April 21 at Petroleum Museum. petroleummuseum.org.

Texas Tech vs Abilene Christian, 6:30 p.m. April 21 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

The Doobie Brothers, 7:30 p.m. April 22 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Live on Stage: Those Were the Days featuring William Florian, 7 p.m. April 23 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

RockHounds baseball, 7 p.m. April 23 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

Troy Cartwright, 7:30 p.m. April 23 at Basin Burger House. basinburgerhouse.com.

RockHounds baseball, 7 p.m. April 24 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

Rieleros y Polo, April 24 at Hacienda Event Center. haciendamidland.com.

The Peddlars Show, April 24-25 at the Horseshoe Pavilion. midlandhorseshoe.com.

George Lopez, 8 p.m. April 24-25 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

11th annual Buffalo Gap Wine and Food Summit, April 24-26 at Perini Ranch in Buffalo Gap. periniranch.com.

Kenny Rogers, Dustin Lynch, Rae Lynn and The Swon Brothers, April 24-26 at Las Cruces Country Music Festival in Las Cruces, New Mexico. lascrucescountrymusic.com.

6th annual Permian Basin Autism SHARE Walk, 9 a.m. April 25 at Scharbauer Sports Complex. spc.convio.net/autismsharewalk.

American Girl craft program, 5 p.m. April 25 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

RockHounds baseball, 7 p.m. April 25 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

Funkster, 7:30 p.m. April 25 at Basin Burger House. basinburgerhouse.com.

Sandhills Quarter Horse Show, April 25-26 at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

RockHounds baseball, 2 p.m. April 26 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

MOSC Chorale: "Brahms Requiem," 3 p.m. April 26 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Trip Lee, Derek Minor and Social Club, 7 p.m. April 26 at Midland First Assembly of God. firstagmidland.com.

RockHounds baseball, 6:30 p.m. April 27 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

RockHounds baseball, 11 a.m. April 28 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

RockHounds baseball, 6:30 p.m. April 29 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

Uptown Midland Business & Professional Women Bunco Fundraiser, 6 p.m. April 30 at Garden View Beer Garden. 687-1777.

RockHounds baseball, 7 p.m. April 30 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

Thomas Craig Elliott, 7:30 p.m. April 30 at Basin Burger House. basinburgerhouse.com.

An Evening with Casting Crowns, 7 p.m. April 30 at Ace Arena in Andrews. whatyeshuacando.com.

MAY

"Permian Monsters: Life Before the Dinosaurs" opening, May 1 at Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum and the Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. museumsw.org.

Fleetwood Mask at annual free Aphasia Awareness Concert, 9 p.m. May 1 at Cimarex Energy Pavilion at Grande Stadium. aphasiawtx.org.

MOSC presents Classical Mystery Tour — Tribute to the Beatles, 7:30 p.m. May 2 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Unsweet Ts, 7:30 p.m. May 2 at Basin Burger House. basinburgerhouse.com.

Wade in the Water — A Collection Of African American Spirituals by Voices of the Permian Basin, 3 p.m. May 3 at First Presbyterian Church of Midland. $14. mosc.org.

Kidz Bop Live "Make Some Noise" Tour, 4 p.m. May 3 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Chicago, 8 p.m. May 5 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Family Science Night: Master of Disaster, May 7 at Petroleum Museum.

Jonny Burke, 7:30 p.m. May 7 at Basin Burger House. basinburgerhouse.com.

"Fixing Up," May 8-30 at Midland Community Theatre. mctmidland.org.

RockHounds baseball, 7 p.m. May 9 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

RockHounds baseball, 2 p.m. May 10 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

RockHounds baseball, 6:30 p.m. May 11 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

RockHounds baseball, 11 a.m. May 12 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

RockHounds baseball and Thirsty Thursday, 7 p.m. May 14 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

Crudefest Texas Music Festival, May 14-16 5209 South County Road 1270. thecrudefest.com.

RockHounds baseball, 7 p.m. May 15 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

RockHounds baseball, 7 p.m. May 16 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

An Evening with Tom Russell, 8 p.m. May 16 at Wagner and Brown Auditorium at Midland College. talltownes.com.

RockHounds baseball, 2 p.m. May 17 at Security Ballpark. milb.com.

Celtic Woman, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. May 17 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Neil Gaiman, 7 p.m. May 20 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

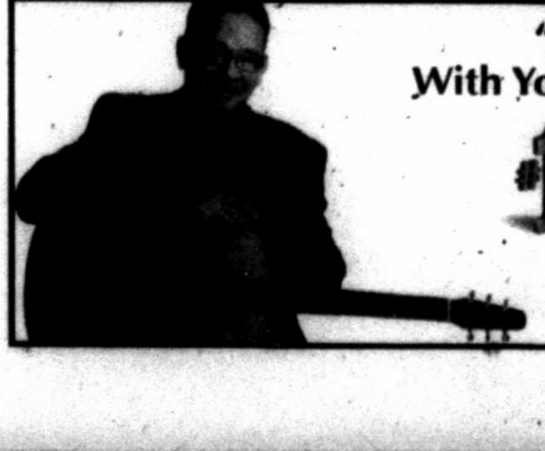
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EVENTS & MOVIES

FILM CAPSULES

Chappie (R) An experimental humanoid robot capable of thinking and feeling is kidnapped by street thugs. With Sharlto Copley, Dev Patel and Jose Pablo Cantillo. Written by Neill Blomkamp and Terri Tatchell. Directed by Blomkamp.

Cinderella (PG) When her merchant father unexpectedly dies, a young woman finds herself at the mercy of her cruel stepmother and stepsisters until a fateful ball arises. With Lily James, Cate Blanchett and Richard Madden. Written by Chris Weitz. Directed by Kenneth Branagh.

The Divergent Series: Insurgent (PG-13) In the ruins of futuristic Chicago, a group of noncomformist rebels continue their battle against a power-mad cabal. With Shailene Woodley, Theo James and Kate Winslet. Written by Brian Duffield, Akiva Goldsman and Mark Bomback. Directed by Robert Schwentke. In 3-D.

The Duff (PG-13) A high school senior sets out to reinvent herself after learning that she's known as the "designated ugly fat friend" to her two pretty, popular pals. With Mae Whitman, Robbie Amell and Bella Thorne. Written by Josh Cagan. Directed by Ari Sandel.

Focus (R) A veteran con man crosses paths with a former flame and protege amid Buenos Aires' high-stakes racing circuit. With Will Smith, Margot Robbie and Rodrigo Santoro. Written and directed by Glenn Ficarra and John Requa.

Furious 7 (PG-13) A crew of fast-driving outlaws battle the vengeful brother of a vanquished enemy. With Vin Diesel, Paul Walker and Dwayne Johnson. Written by Chris Morgan. Directed by James Wan.

Get Hard (R) A millionaire hedge-fund manager convicted of fraud and given 30 days to get his affairs in order foolishly enlists his car washer to toughen him up for prison. With Will Ferrell, Kevin Hart and Tip "T.I." Harris. Written by Jay Martel, Ian Roberts and Etan Cohen. Directed by Cohen.

The Gunman (R) A former special forces agent gets drawn back into his violent past. With Sean Penn, Idris Elba and Ray Winstone. Written by Pete Travis. Directed by Pierre Morel.

Home (PG) When the Earth is taken over by overconfident aliens in search of a new home, a resourceful girl and an outcast extraterrestrial become unlikely partners in crime. With the voices of Jim Parsons, Rihanna and Steve Martin. Written by Tom J. Astle and Matt Ember. Directed by Tim Johnson. In 3-D.

Kingsman: The Secret Service (R) A street kid is recruited into a super-secret spy organization just as a global threat emerges from an evil tech genius. With Colin Firth, Taron Egerton and Michael Caine. Written by Jane Goldman and Matthew Vaughn. Directed by Vaughn.

The Lazarus Effect (PG-13) Medical students discover a way to bring the dead back to life, but not without complications. With Evan Peters, Olivia Wilde and Donald Glover. Written by Luke Dawson and Jeremy Slater. Directed by David Gelb.

The Longest Ride (PG-13) When their love is tested, a bull rider looking to make a comeback and a college student about to enter the New York art world draw inspiration from a decades-long romance. With Scott Eastwood, Britt Robertson and Alan Alda. Written by Craig Bolotin. Directed by George Tillman Jr.

McFarland, USA (PG) Under the direction of a new coach, a predominantly Latino high school in an economically challenged California farm town forges a championship cross-country team. With Kevin Costner, Maria Bello and Morgan Saylor. Written by Christopher Cleveland, Bettina Gilois and Grant Thompson. Directed by Niki Caro.

Run All Night (R) When his estranged son becomes a target, an aging mob hit man is forced to choose between his crime family and the family he abandoned. With Liam Neeson, Joel Kinnaman and Vincent D'Onofrio. Written by Brad Ingelsby. Directed by Jaume Collet-Serra.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

REVIEW

The Longest Ride' tells 2 love stories

By Sandy Cohen
Associated Press



Ever since "The Notebook" made moviegoers swoon in 2004, Nicholas Sparks' name has been synonymous with teary-eyed romance.

The author's latest novel adapted for the big screen, "The Longest Ride," is no exception, offering two love stories at once. But the most heartfelt affair here isn't between its impossibly good-looking stars, it's shared by a couple 70 years their senior through a story told in flashbacks.

Sophia (Britt Robertson) and Luke (Scott Eastwood, son of Clint) comprise the younger pair. She's an art history student at North Carolina's Wake Forest University with plans to work in a New York gallery. He's a competitive bull rider trying to claim the national title. They meet when her friends persuade her to go to the rodeo. He's in the ring, and during a stunt, his cowboy hat flies off and lands right in her lap. Obviously, they have to go on a date.

A convoluted and unrealistic set of circumstances lead them to meet Ira (Alan Alda), a widowed curmudgeon who clings to a collection of love letters he wrote to his late wife. It is through these letters that the young couple, and the audience, learns about Ira's love affair with Ruth. Told through extended, sepia-tinted flashbacks, the young Ira (Jack Huston) and Ruth (Oona Chaplin) share the kind of romance that movies are made for.

It was love at first sight for the two, who meet in the early days of World War II. By the time he's called to serve, they're a couple, and Ruth waits for Ira until an injury sends him home for good. Despite years of personal challenges, they keep their marriage intact.

The letters, and the flashback sequences they inspire, reveal "the longest ride" has nothing to do with bull-riding. It's about Ira and Ruth's lifelong love.

While ostensibly meant to illustrate the timeless nature of romance, the richness of this relationship makes its modern foil seem superficial by comparison.

Eastwood is a fitting cowboy — handsome and sculpted, with a touch of his dad's famous swagger. He's believable as a bull-rider, and shows enough vulnerable charm to be a romantic leading man.

The cherubic, pillow-lipped Robertson makes for a fine potential partner. She's pretty and sweet, yet headstrong and focused when it comes to her future.

Both actors are easy on the eyes, but lack the fireworks, and just plain fire, to be a truly convincing on-screen romance.

The script by Craig Bolotin sets up each couple as sacrificing for love, but Sophia and Luke's struggle just doesn't seem as serious. The unnecessary setting of Sophia's sorority house doesn't help. Her sisters apparently exist only to wax euphoric about her date's looks, then disappear from the narrative.

"I want a cowboy," one says.

Both couples are filmed lovingly by George Tillman, Jr. ("Soul Food"), who was inspired by his own 25 year marriage to helm the story. He also brings a gritty realism to the bull-riding-shots, using a rider's-view camera to convey the power and intensity of the animal and sport.

If only the same power and intensity existed in Sophia and Luke's love affair.

Still, the film is likely to satisfy Sparks fans. And it brings something new to the romance genre: bull riding.

"The Longest Ride," a 20th Century Fox release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "some sexuality, partial nudity and some war and sports action." Running time: 124 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Reeled & Stream

By Nancy Adamson | nadamson@mrt.com

Christopher Nolan's space odyssey, 'Interstellar,' is baffling but glorious

PICK O' THE WEEK

"Interstellar" (PG-13) Matthew McConaughey's strange performance — he practically mumbles through the entire film — and director Christopher Nolan's admitted tribute to Warren Beatty's 1981 "Reds" are the defining moments in this film you will either love or hate but probably never fully comprehend. **A-**

ICK! O' THE WEEK

"3 Nights in the Desert" (R) If you were lucky enough to stumble across a fine little movie from 1985 called "Fandango" then you will recognize many of its elements at work here. Only load it with pretense and ego and you'll be lucky to make it through the first act. **F**

MORE REVIEWS

"Dying of the Light" (R) Nicolas Cage haters have raged for years about his acting capabilities or lack thereof, and I'm oft in agreement. But here's one of the few recent examples of his delivering the kind of performance that earned him a best actor Oscar. It's just too bad it's in a movie that's impossible to like no matter how hard you want to. **D**

"The Homesman" (R) Former Midlander Tommy Lee Jones doesn't make many films — this is his fourth — but when he does, they are bound to leave an impact. This film and its unforgettable scenes of violence are no exception. I don't know what life must have been like for a woman in the Wild West, but Jones sure makes me feel like I do. **B+**

"Out of the Dark" (R) Unique ghost story captivates for the first act but collapses under a tremendous pile of sloppiness. It becomes so ludicrous at a point that the plot of the movie gives way to wondering why the daughter of an American couple speaks with a British accent. **D+**

"Outcast" (not rated) I thought from the title that this was a film about Hayden Christensen's career after his talents were thoroughly trounced in the "Star Wars" films. Alas, it is merely a period piece about a warrior trying to save a future king. **B-**

"The Physician" (R) I usually need to hear no more than the phrase "starring Ben Kingsley" to be on board, but this ambitious epic about the advent of modern medicine — in its original 150 minute runtime — is well worth the time. **B+**

"The Rewrite" (not rated) Hugh Grant is just charming enough to make audiences fall for the fact that although he is playing the same scruffy, but loveable rogue he's played in several other films, he can pull it off one more time. Add an adorable performance from JK Simmons and the rest is a fun date movie. **B-**

"Sins of Dracula" (not rated) Imagine if Paul Bartel or a young John Waters wanted to make a horror version of "Waiting For Guffman" and you get an idea of what filmmakers were trying to go for here. While not groundbreaking, director Richard Griffin might be a cult filmmaker on the rise. **C+**

"The Voices" (R) The comedy horror genre is alive and well thanks to this sly story of a shipping clerk whose dog and cat talk to him. Ryan Reynolds' performance is one of his best and the supporting cast — although most characters are a bit two-dimensional — could not have been any more perfect. **B+**

"Wild" (R) Reese Witherspoon is not playing a woman you want to love in this true story. In fact, her character flaws are downright disgusting. Yet, Witherspoon plays her in such a way that you can't help but root for her on her 1,100 mile hike. The back story scenes get tedious but the journey itself is captivating. **B**

"Wild Card" (R) Look, it's a Jason Statham movie, and just like most of his others, he plays either a good guy or a bad guy who gets in lots of fights. Even his hard core fans must be growing tired, and unless he changes his tune, he will join Steven Seagul, Jean-Claude Van Damme and Wesley Snipes in the straight-to-video marketplace. **C**

WEEKEND

From Page 1

Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1340 N. FM 1788, 7:30 p.m. Saturday. $20-$30. MOSC.org.

BEER, CIDER AND ALE (OH, MY) AT HOPS AND PROPS

With more than 50 selections of beers and the like, the Hops and Props is a one-stop shop for tasting a whole lot of beer flights while benefiting the Commemorative Air Force's High Sky Wing. A silent auction, appetizers and even Tipsy Taxi service will keep the party in swing. But it doesn't stop there. The night will feature music from the Chris Brazeal Band and Mark McKinney.

CAF Main Hangar, 9600 Wright Drive. 7 p.m. Saturday. $40. cafhopsprops15.ticketleap.com.

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Sunday Skool Brunch
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THEATER & DINING



Photos by James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Andy Saucedo, at left in the top photo, and Maverick Players rehearse for the upcoming production of "Buying The Moose," on Tuesday.



Moose

From Page 1

MCT gave him confidence in me to direct 'Chicago.' That was huge for me. I've just found more interest in directing than acting in the last few years," he said.

Salcedo has also directed shows for the Maverick Players, competed in the McLaren Festival and helmed last year's "Falsettos" for Mark 10 Theatricals.

"Moose" is his first show in two years and while his interests may have veered toward the other side of the stage, there was also a reality he faced.

"I'm 62 now and there aren't a lot of parts for my age so I don't audition much because of that," he said. "But the director (Mary Lou Cassidy) asked me to be a part of it."

The play, by Canadian playwright Michael G. Wilmot is about two couples that explore relationships through comedy. But without many props or theatrics, the show is heavy on dialogue which Salcedo jokes has also been a challenge.

"The older you get, the harder it is to memorize lines, but I heard that's good exercise for the brain," he laughed.

The cast of four includes Marvin LeMaster, Cherri Timms and Kristi Culbert.

Maverick Players is often a showcase for obscure comedies with broad appeal, but Salcedo was sure to mention that "Moose" is definitely of a more mature nature.

"It's the classic male versus female premise but it's a little naughty with suggestive situations. And a lot of talk about sex," he said. "This is probably more risqué than any past shows but I think Mavericks can get away with that a little more."

WANT TO GO?

"Buying the Moose" will be presented at VFW Hall, 409 Veterans Airpark Lane from April 10-26. Tickets are $15 and $10. For more information, log on to Maverickplayers.org.

Weekender publishes a portion of the Restaurant Guide each week. Entree price range is based on the average entree price on the menu: $ = $1-10, $$ = $10-20 and $$$ = $20 or more. Restaurants are given a general rating based on quality of food, service, cleanliness, atmosphere and overall experience. 1 spoon = poor, 2 spoons = average, 3 spoons = above average, 4 spoons = good and 5 spoons = excellent.

ASIAN

BUSHIDO JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE AND SUSHI BAR Watch chefs roll sushi and cook at Teppan Yaki grills or sit at the bar and watch the game. Extensive sushi menu. Grill combos with chicken, steak, seafood. More of a casual atmosphere than other teppanyaki restaurants. 4416 Briarwood Ave. 689-7900 | $$ | 4 spoons

CHINESE KITCHEN Eat-in or take-out Chinese food. Choose combination meals with one, two or three choices. 4200 W. Illinois Ave. 694-3922 | $ | 3 spoons

GENGHIS GRILL With a buffet that consists of countless raw ingredients to pile into a bowl and hand over for a chef to cook, the food at Genghis Grill is as good as you can make it. If you're knowledgeable in what spices complement what meats, veggies and sauces — or if you're just lucky — count on a great meal. For the not-so-confident, the restaurant offers recipe cards to guide your selections. 4517 Midkiff Road 520-5426 www.genghisgrill.com | $$ | 3 spoons

GRAND BUFFET Extensive "all-you-can-eat" Asian buffet includes hodge-podge of options including Chinese dishes, salads, seafood, jello, fried okra, sushi and a Mongolian grill station. 2510 W. Louisiana Ave. 688-8881 | $ | 2 spoons

THE GREAT WALL Chinese takeout restaurant offers large portions from extensive menu. Try the General Tso's chicken with sesame shrimp and add an order of egg rolls or spring rolls. 2215 N. Midland Drive 694-5555 | $ | 3 spoons

HUNAN GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT Try the daily lunch buffet with about 10 options like sweet and sour chicken, cashew chicken and beef with snow peas. 4410 N. Midkiff Road, Building A., Space 1. 697-9818 | $ | 3 spoons

KING & I Authentic Thai food served in the heart of Midland. Try the basil fried rice or Popcorn's special with angel hair pasta, green onions, white onions, tomatoes, broccoli, garlic and jalapenos. There's a reason the lunch crowd is often standing-room-only at the location near downtown. It's worth the wait. 801 N. Big Spring St. | $ | 4 spoons

KUO'S CHINESE RESTAURANT Friendly service and a relaxed atmosphere. Try the cashew chicken or Mongolian steak with a fried cream cheese wonton. 3303 N. Midkiff Road. 697-8888 | $ | 4 spoons

MOON GARDEN Try one of the lunch specials like broccoli with garlic sauce or kung pao shrimp. The Chinese restaurant is housed in what used to be a Red Lobster — just in case you were wondering about the nautical decor. 2319 W. Loop 250 N. 570-1165 or 685-3012 | $ | 2 spoons

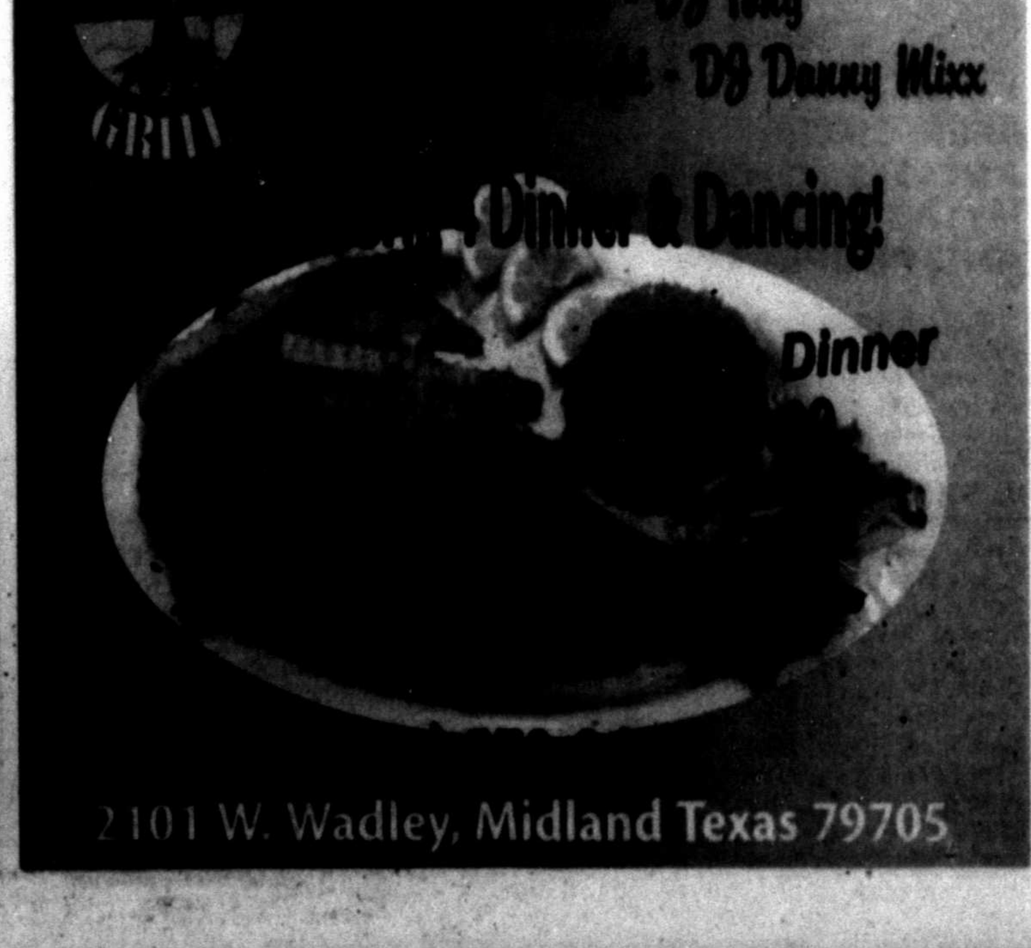
OSAKA JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE AND SEAFOOD Try steak, chicken or seafood grilled at Teppan Yaki tables or sushi with fresh seafood. Locations in Midland and Odessa. 1207 Tradewinds Blvd. 617-7252 www.my-osaka.com | $$ | 4 spoons

SHOGUN RESTAURANT Japanese steakhouse that's been serving Midlanders for more than 20 years. Watch your food being cooked on the Teppan Yaki tables after you enjoy cucumber and shrimp salad and soup. Lunch prices are very reasonable, be prepared to splurge for dinner. 4610 N. Garfield St. 570-8888 | $$ | 4 spoons

TASTE OF CHINA SUPER BUFFET All-you-can-eat buffet or order from menu. Senior citizen discount and children 3 and younger eat free. 4400 N. Big Spring St., #53. 684-5288 | $ | 2 spoons







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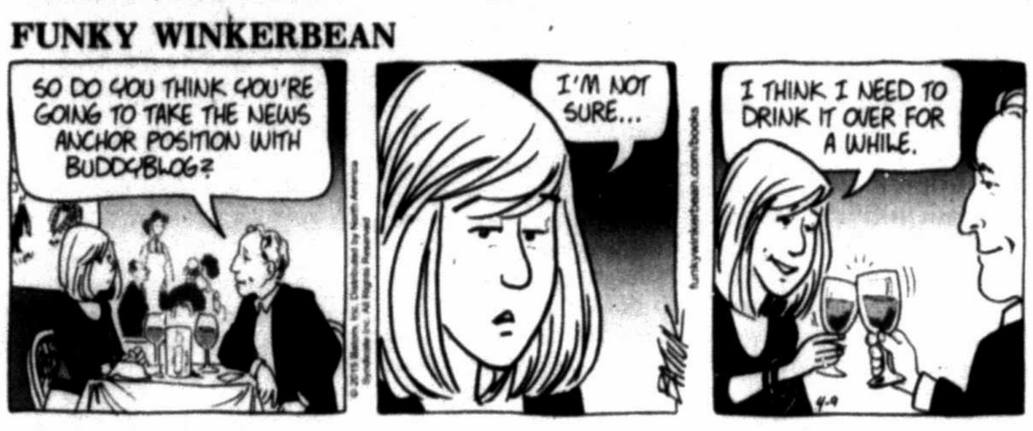
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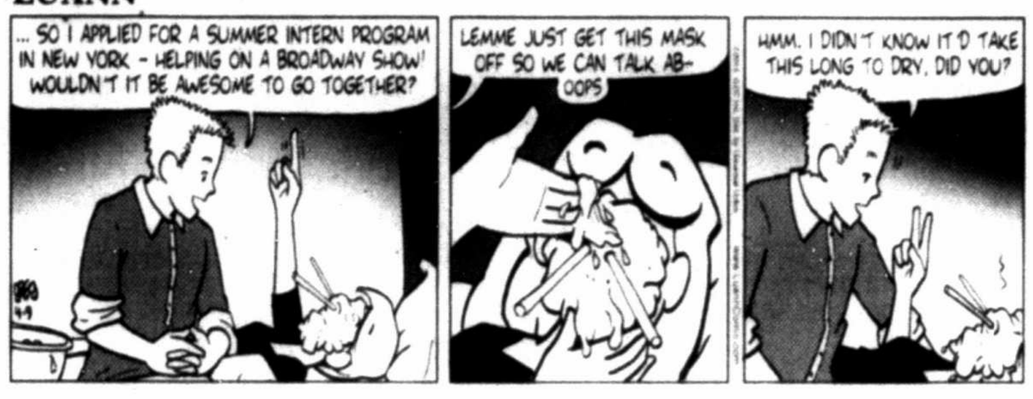
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CLOSE TO HOME



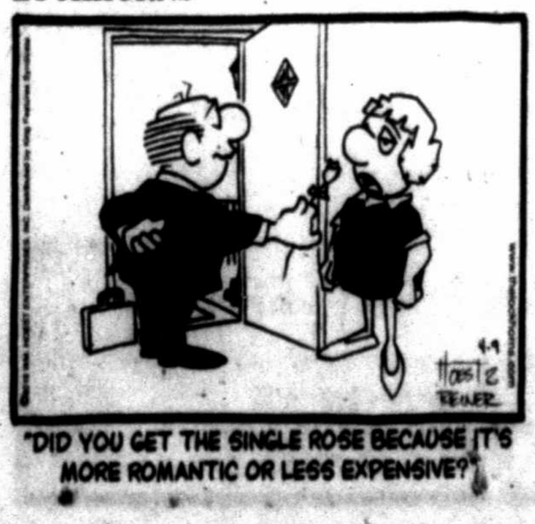
Raccoon restaurants.

DENNIS THE MENACE



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LOCKHORNS



"DID YOU GET THE SINGLE ROSE BECAUSE IT'S MORE ROMANTIC OR LESS EXPENSIVE?"

FAMILY CIRCUS



"I hope you practiced. This story has a lot of funny voices for you to do."

DINING

MEXICAN

ABUELOS Mix of traditional Tex-Mex with unique menu items featuring steak and seafood. Tired of rice and beans on the side? Try papas con chile and espinaca casserole. 2908 W. Loop 250 N. 685-3335 www.abuelos.com | $$ | 4 spoons

AJUUA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT Tex-Mex favorites such as enchiladas, tacos, burritos and combination plates. Daily specials and menudo served on weekends. 3205 W. Cuthbert Ave. 694-4116 | $ | 2 spoons

CANCUN GRILL Stylish downtown Mexican restaurant inside Wall Towers. Start with the corn queso and then move on to the seafood enchiladas or one of the steaks. 223 W. Wall St. 618-0390 | $$ | 4 spoons

CARAMBA'S SPANISH INN Bustling Mexican restaurant with a variety of foods and combination plates. Tex-Mex favorites and burgers, steaks and seafood. 3116 W. Front St. 520-9724 or 520-9525 | $ | 4 spoons

CASA DEL SOL RESTAURANTE Y CANTINA Reminiscent of a Mexican cantina. Mexican stir-fry is a popular choice or try one of the West Texas specialties like country-fried steak, shrimp or catfish. 523 East Illinois Ave. 686-1118 | $ | 3 spoons

CASA LOPEZ CAFE Sports bar, restaurant and catering service with entrees like enchiladas and fajitas and appetizers such as bacon wrapped shrimp and stuffed jalapenos. 4411 W. Illinois Ave. 699-7373 | $ | 4 spoons

CASA MADRID Established Midland restaurant serves fajitas, Mexican combination plates, tacos, tamales, flautas and enchiladas. 911 S. Big Spring St. 685-1350 | $ | 3 spoons

CHARLAS RESTAURANTE & BAR With a casual atmosphere and full service bar, Charla's serves enchiladas, shrimp nachos, tortilla soup and tropical salad. Delicious chips and salsa. 3330 W. Illinois Ave. 699-2440 | $ | 3 spoons

CHITO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT & SPORTS Traditional Mexican fare with sports bar atmosphere. Breakfast served on weekends. 4400 N. Midland Drive 689-8646 | $ | 4 spoons

DONA ANITA'S Some of the best chile rellenos in town. Or try the tacos or enchiladas. Heuvos con chorizo, menudo, huevos rancheros and migas on Sundays. 305 W. Florida Ave. 683-6727 | $ | 3 spoons

DOS COMPADRES We recommend the carne guisada or any of the enchiladas with a tangy and mild green sauce. 2200 W. Wadley Ave. #1 Oak Ridge Square 684-7239 www.Doscompadres.net | $ | 3 spoons

DOS MARGARITAS Extensive menu includes fajitas, combination plates, lunch specials and breakfast plates such as huevos rancheros and omelettes. 1501 North Big Spring St. 618-9536 www.dosmargaritasusa.com | $ | 3 spoons

EL BANQUETE Traditional Mexican cuisine such as soft beef and pork tacos. Breakfast burritos, fajitas and enchiladas. 1802 Rankin Highway 620-0123 | $ | 2 spoons

EL BURRITO RESTAURANT Serving burritos for more than 30 years. Breakfast and lunch burritos on homemade tortillas and other Tex-Mex favorites. Also known for their burgers. 1106 N. Big Spring St. 683-9701 | $ | 4 spoons

FAJITAS BRAVO Delicious and tender beef and chicken fajita burritos. Or try nachos, burgers, quesadillas or barbecue. 409 E. Scharbauer Drive 682-6848 | $ | 3 spoons

FREEBIRDS Create your own burrito, tacos, nacho, salad or bowl with fillings that range from cilantro lime rice, black beans and tomatillo sauce to carnitas, queso and pico de gallo. 3322 N. Loop 250 West www.freebirds.com 689-9100 | $ | 4 spoons

GARCIA'S BURRITOS Pick up a breakfast burrito for $2 starting at 7:30 a.m. on weekdays. Or try a fajita plate with beans, rice, guacamole and sour cream. 1306 N. Lamesa Road 684-4383 | $ | 2 spoons

GERARDO'S CASITA Try the tortilla soup or the fajitas. Don't forget a margarita from the full-service bar. 2407 N. Big Spring St. 570-8012 www.gerardosca-sita.net | $ | 4 spoons

JAVI'S MEXICANO RESTAURANTE Mexican restaurant, bakery, tortilla and tamale factory serves wide variety of burritos and great burgers. 1511 Rankin Highway 684-4898 | $ | 4 spoons

JORGE'S CAFÉ Two locations in Midland serving Tex-Mex fare. Jorge's does a simple queso without chunks of peppers or tomatoes — you'll either love it or hate it. 3323 N. Midland Drive 689-0032 4400 N. Big Spring St. 683-6303 www.jorges.com | $ | 4 spoons

JUMBURRITO Drive-through or eat-in for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Try the stewmeat with cheese and avocado and smother it with queso and/or jumburritos hot sauce. Expect a line for weekend breakfast. 1301 Lamesa Road, 682-5060 | 2101 W. Wadley Ave., 683-7017 | 908 S. Midkiff Road, 689-0350 | 4509 N. Midkiff Road, 689-3894 | www.jumburrito.com | 4 spoons

LA BODEGA MEXICAN RESTAURANT AND BAR Try the chile rellenos — stuffed with beef, chicken, cheese or shrimp, deep-fried and topped with red sauce, sour cream, pecans and raisins — or the rueda, described on the menu as a Mexican pizza. The upstairs bar allows smoking and keeps later hours than the restaurant. 2700 N. Big Spring St. 684-5594 www.mylabodega.com | $ | 4 spoons

LA HERRADURA MEXICAN CUISINE Go for breakfast and try the huevos rancheros with beans, potatoes and tortillas. Menudo, caldo de res and cabrito en salsa verde on the weekends. 1422 Rankin Highway 687-3000 | $ | 2 spoons

LA MISION Festive, colorful restaurant with great Tex-Mex favorites. In a hurry? Go for the lunch buffet. 1008 S. Big Spring St. 682-0320 | $ | 4 spoons

MANUEL'S AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD Home of the "Son of a Gun" plate — a 90 percent lean hamburger steak with onions, jalapeno gravy, beans, potatoes and tortillas — Manuel's also is known for its hot sauce. After you try it you can buy some to take home with you. 3905 Texas 349 www.manuelsdeli.com 682-2258 | $ | 4 spoons

PENO'S CAFÉ & CATERING COMPANY Try the tacos or the variety of breakfast burritos. Some menu items can be bought by the pound. Order tamales by the dozen. 4305 W. Illinois Ave. 262-5720 Facebook: Café J-Peno | $ | 3 spoons

REYNA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT An order of fajitas is too much for one person to eat, but they're so good you'll try anyway. 3601 W. Wall St. 699-2109 | $ | 4 spoons

ROMIE'S MEXICAN RESTAURANTE Don't underestimate this hole-in-the-wall restaurant serving traditional Tex-Mex fare. Quick service, daily specials and delicious food. 701 S. Marienfeld St. 432-683-5344 | $ | 3 spoons

OSCAR'S SUPER BURRITO Serving Lee High School students, and other loyal customers, for years, Oscar's offers almost endless choices of burritos and other Tex-Mex favorites for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Try the brisket and cheese burrito and don't skimp on the salsa. 4306 Neely Ave. | 699-0242 | 4 spoons

ROSA'S CAFÉ & TORTILLA FACTORY If you're a native Midlander, you get it. If you're not, try the queso and tortillas or the chicken fajitas with queso or the combo burritos. It's worth the long drive-through lines. 903 Andrews Highway 520-2358 2501 N. Big Spring St. 620-0634 | 4301 N. Midland Drive 520-0489 | $ | 4 spoons s

SEDONA MEXICAN GRILL & CANTINA Sit on the patio and enjoy drinks and chile con carne queso before your meal. Live entertainment on Fridays and Saturdays. 2101 W. Wadley Ave., # 45 www.sedonamexicancantina.com 570-9600 | $ | 4 spoons

TAMPICO SPANISH INN Go early to get a table. Start with an appetizer like queso, quesadillas or avocado salad. 2411 W. Wall St. 682-5074 | $ | 4 spoons

ITALIAN & PIZZA

DINO'S PIZZA Hand-tossed pizza with all the toppings and other Italian favorites including calzones. 4322 Andrews Hwy. Ste B | 699-7175 | $$ | 4 spoons

LUCIANO'S Take a break from shopping for pizza, pasta, calzones or cheesecake. Luciano's serves Italian food in the Midland Park Mall food court. Try the calzone with pepperoni, ham, mozarella and ricotta cheeses or go for a piece of stuffed gourmet pizza. 4511 N. Midkiff Road | 689-2244 | $ | 4 spoons

LUIGI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT Eat by candlelight at tables covered in red and white checkered table clothes in the heart of downtown Midland. Go for the pizza snack and the antipasta salad. 111 N. Big Spring St. 683-6363 | $ | 5 spoons

MANNY'S ITALIAN RISTORANTE Traditional Italian food — pasta, chicken, veal, seafood. Try the fettucini di flavia with shrimp, prosciutto, broccoli and artichokes in a creamy vodka sauce. 3211 W. Wadley Ave. 684-6595 www.mannysitalianvillage.com| $$ | 5 spoons

MD PIZZA FACTORY Locally owned pizzeria with unique toppings and combinations like chicken teriyaki and Genoa pesto chicken. Lunch specials, senior and teacher discounts. 4706 N. Midkiff Road, Suite 13 682-4440 | $ | 3 spoons

MI PIACI ITALIAN Traditional Italian food restaurant in Odessa. The garlic bread and dipping sauces make it worth the drive from Midland. 2607 N. Grandview Ave., Odessa 432-362-8060 | $$ | 4 spoons

PALIO'S Stop by during the lunch hour for a personal pizza, pasta or calzone plus a salad and drink for around $10. You'll have money left over for a cannoli or cheesecake. 2900 W. Loop 250 N. www.paliospizzacafe.com | $ | 4 spoons

PAPA MURPHY'S TAKE 'N' BAKE PIZZA Order a pizza with whatever toppings you like. Papa Murphy's puts it together and you take it home and bake it. It's almost like home-cooking. 4416 Briarwood Ave., Suite 113 699-7272 www.papamurphys.com | $ | 4 spoons

PIZZERIA VENTI Small pizzeria also serves salads, soups, pasta and timpanini. Top a slice of pizza with sliced sausage and peppers or artichokes and tomatoes. 3303 N. Midkiff Road. No. 135 689-7220 www.pizzeriaventi.com | $ | 4 spoons

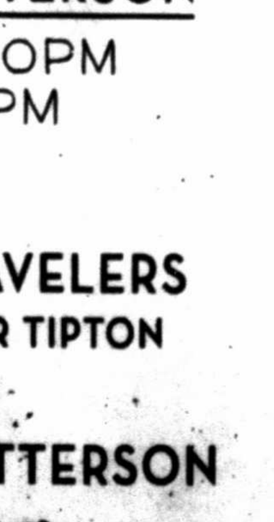
TORINO'S Comination pizza joint and sports bar. Go for other game-time snacks like wings, cheese sticks or fried mushrooms. 3303 N. Midkiff #110 218-6943 | $ | 4 spoons

VENEZIA RESTAURANT Fine dining in a beautiful atmosphere. Sit on the patio if there's room and enjoy a glass of wine, veal piccata and something from the impressive dessert table. 2101 W. Wadley Ave. #20 www.veneziarestaurant.info | $$$ | 4 spoons

ZUCCHI'S ITALIAN RISTORANTE Well-known Odessa restaurant with unique atmosphere and distinctive menu. Try the baked harvarti in phyllo dough with raspberry sauce for an appetizer. 1541 John Ben Sheppard Parkway, Odessa 550-7443 | $$ | 4 spoons

DINNER @ Café

APRIL 9TH
CRAWFISH BOIL



ENTERTAINMENT BY: JEANIE PATTERSON

ENJOY DINNER 5-10PM
LIVE MUSIC 7-9PM

APRIL 16TH 3-OG

APRIL 23RD TEXAS TRAVELERS
GARY SEAY, JR TIPTON
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APRIL 30TH JEANIE PATTERSON

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Dinner Committee

Danny Campbell	Shan Moon
Gary Douglas	Bobby Norman
Mike Gray	Teri Pender
Jay Horton	Mike Smith
Juanita Mendoza	Terri Solari

For table prices and early reservations,
Please contact Sharon Ziegler at
sharon.ziegler@nmss.org or
1.432.634.8530

MS
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

MHS mixed doubles team has great chemistry

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

Midland High junior tennis players Hannah Rey and Brandt Schneider have been close friends since the eighth grade.

When MHS head coach Alan Biel was seeking a mixed doubles team back in February, it seemed only natural to pair Schneider and Rey together. Biel coached the two as eighth graders when he was tennis coach at Goddard Junior High.

In short time, Rey and Schneider have translated their off-court chemistry between the white lines. The MHS mixed doubles team enters today's District 3-6A Tournament at Bush Tennis Center as one of the two top seeds in mixed doubles.

So what's the secret to the duo's quick ascent as a team?

"For one, we get along," Rey said. "Two, we have the same ideas. We have the same goals. I think having the same goals has definitely played a role in how far we've gotten. We're both very motivated. We both get along on the court, we have good communication. We have the same play. We like to play similar to how we play in singles so when we ever bring that play out into doubles, it works well together."

Rey and Schneider's relationship grew stronger when both were two of four freshmen on the MHS varsity in 2012-13.

"Freshman year, we hung out a lot during lunch and stuff in my mom's room since my mom teaches at the freshman school," Schneider said. "I think that's where we really became close, during those times we were by ourselves a lot of times.

"Playing with each other now is just kind of inevitable," Schneider added.

Rey is the most experienced of the two, taking up tennis at age 6. Rey has even had the privilege of playing on clay surface in Mexico.

By contrast, Schneider didn't start the sport until he was in eighth grade when he joined one of Biel's summer tennis camps before the school year.

Despite the difference in experience, Rey says she still picks up knowledge from Schneider.

For example, Schneider is the only one that has previous District 3-6A tournament experience as Rey will be making her debut today.

"It's not just him learning from me," Rey said. "I have learned things from Brandt. I have learned how to keep my mental game. I've calmed myself down. I think that's something we

Please see **TEAM**/2C



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High mixed doubles team Brandt Schneider and Hannah Rey are shown in this photo taken Monday.

'Hounds have returned



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

RockHounds top prospect Matt Olson hits the batting cage during RockHounds Media Day on Tuesday at Security Bank Ballpark

Olson looks to bring some pop to this year's lineup

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

This season, the Midland RockHounds will have one of Minor League Baseball's premier power hitters joining its lineup.

After smacking 37 home runs last season with the Class-A Advanced Stockton Ports in the California League, first baseman and Oakland Athletics' top prospect, Matt Olson, has arrived at Security Bank Ballpark.

Olson, 21, was drafted by Oakland out of high school in Lilburn, Georgia, in the 2012 draft with the 47th overall pick, a compensation pick acquired from the Chicago Cubs for signing David DeJesus in the 2011 offseason.

And in 2014, only three players in all of professional baseball hit more home runs than Olson. Kris Bryant, the Cubs' No. 1 overall prospect, hit 43. Joey Gallo, the Texas Rangers' top young slugger and the No. 6 rated prospect in baseball, hit 42. And Nelson Cruz, a three-time American League All-Star, smashed 40 long balls last season with the Baltimore Orioles.

Still, even with as strong a year as he had in 2014, Olson admitted that it might not have been a sure thing that he'd be heading to Double-A ball to start this season.

"I guess I was never officially told (about the promotion)," Olson said. "I just kind of assumed I'd be coming here. Obviously I'm excited and ready to continue moving and try to advance as much as possible. I came here, it's a new challenge and I'm ready for it."

One of those challenges facing Olson is the difference in weather conditions from California League parks and Texas League parks. The California League is well known for its strong, hitter-friendly winds that carry out to the outfield.

"Obviously I've heard the wind here is not as good to hit in as it is in the Cal league," Olson said. "But it's not really going to change anything and it's not going to change my approach. The guy (the opposing pitcher) is still throwing a ball at me and I've got to find a way to square it up."

Squaring up and staying balanced in the batter's box was a specialty of Olson's in 2014.

In addition to those 37 long balls and the 97 runs he drove in last season with he Ports, Olson also showed an impressive level of plate discipline. He drew 117 walks and posted a .404 on-base percentage.

RockHounds first-year manager Ryan Christenson, who managed Stockton last season and also at Single-A Beloit in 2013, has seen Olson grow firsthand as a player over the last couple of years. Christenson knows what kind of player

Please see **OLSON**/4C

Pitchers, staff not concerned about new pitch clock

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

One of the charms of baseball has been its timeless nature, being one of the team sports that doesn't utilize a clock.

But last year, the average time of a Major League Baseball game ballooned to a record 3 hours, 2 minutes according to the Associated Press, 33 years after games averaged 2:33.

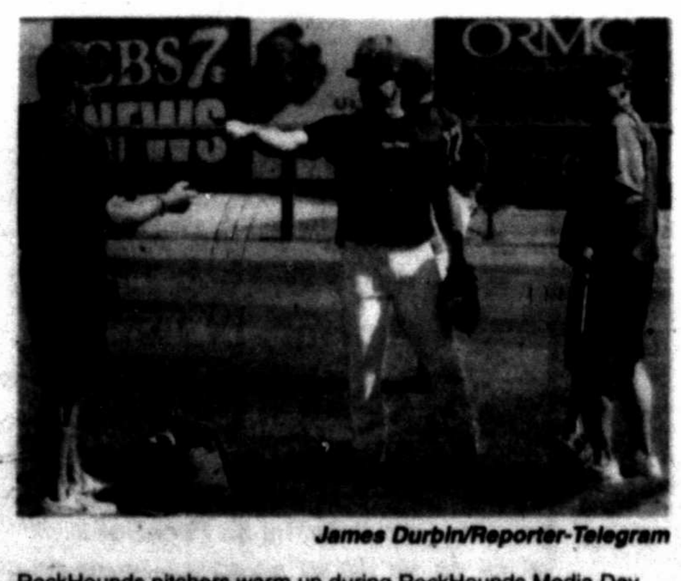
This season Major League Baseball is taking action to shorten length of games. MLB, in conjunction with Minor League Baseball's offices in St. Petersburg, Florida, is implementing a 20-second pitch clock at all Triple-A and Double-A venues.

Beginning on May 1, Midland RockHound pitchers will have 20 seconds to start their wind-up or the motion to come on the set position. If the pitcher fails to comply, the batter will be awarded a ball.

The clock will start when the pitcher has possession of the ball on the mound dirt and the batter is in the dirt circle surrounding home plate.

RockHounds pitchers Nate Long, Seth Frankoff and Ryan Doolittle were all confident that the new rules wouldn't affect them because they already throw with a quick tempo.

Please see **CLOCK**/4C



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

RockHounds pitchers warm up during RockHounds Media Day on Tuesday at Security Bank Ballpark.

Masters offers a major learning curve for most players

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Tiger Woods was the exception. Ben Crenshaw was closer to the rule.

Woods joined up with Crenshaw to play the back nine Wednesday on the final day of practice for a Masters that is shaping up as a mystery in many ways. They are Masters champions with multiple green jackets. What separates them is how soon they got them.

Crenshaw had to suffer a little before he could celebrate his first major. He was a runner-up four times in the majors, including a playoff loss to David Graham at the PGA Championship, before he broke through in 1984 at Augusta National. He won another one in 1995.

Woods wasted no time. He won the first major he played as a pro by setting 20 records in his 1997 Masters victory, and that was only the start. He already had eight majors before he recorded his first runner-up finish. He had four green jackets before he turned 30.

More players have taken the Crenshaw route.

Tom Watson. Nick Price. Phil Mickelson. Adam Scott. The group even includes Jack Nicklaus, who was a 20-year-old amateur when he finished second behind Arnold Palmer in the 1960 U.S. Open. Nicklaus played that day with Ben Hogan, who also had a chance to win until he hit into the water on the 17th hole at Cherry Hills.

Hogan said after the round, "Don't feel sorry for me. I played with a kid today who could have won this Open by 10 shots if he had known how."

Nicklaus figured it out.

Also on that list is Rory McIlroy, who returns to the scene of his greatest lesson in a major.

He was a 21-year-old with a four-shot lead at the Masters in 2011, ready to be crowned the next big thing in golf, when he shot 80 in the final round. He handled the collapse with remarkable poise, said he would learn from his mistakes. And then he posted scoring records at Congressional two months later in the U.S. Open.

"A lot of that win has to do with what happened at Augusta," McIlroy said.

The Masters is even more meaningful now.

It the only major keeping him from the career Grand Slam, and McIlroy will be the clear favorite when the Masters begins Thursday.

"Everything I've done, all the work I've done gearing up for this week has been good," McIlroy said. "I'm just ready for the gun to go off on Thursday."

The expectations are higher than ever for McIlroy, and lower than ever for Woods, who is competing for the first time since Feb. 5. That's when he walked off the course at Torrey Pines to work on a game that had become so bad that hardly anyone recognized it.

Woods has shown much improvement in three days of practice, including the nine holes he played with Crenshaw and Jordan Spieth.

McIlroy and Woods, even at different ends of the spectrum, have dominated the talk so much this week that a large group of contenders have largely been ignored.

Bubba Watson is the defending champion and going for his third green jacket in four years. Adam Scott is back to the long putter he used to win in 2013. Spieth and Jimmy Walker might be the hottest players on the PGA Tour — Walker is the only player with two wins this season.

Please see **MASTERS**/5C

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

WHAT'S ON TV

BEACH VOLLEYBALL
Loyola Marymount at USC, 4:30 p.m., P12
San Francisco at USC, 6 p.m., P12
COLLEGE BASEBALL
Mississippi at Vanderbilt, 6:30 p.m., SEC
Washington at Washington State, 9 p.m., P12/P12 LA
Oregon at Stanford, 9 p.m., P12 BAY
GOLF
The Masters, First Round, 2 p.m., ESPN
MLB
NY Mets at Washington, Noon, MLB
Cleveland at Houston, 1 p.m., ROOT
Texas at Oakland, 2:30 p.m., FSSW
San Francisco at San Diego, 5:30 p.m., MLB
MEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY
Frozen 4: Omaha vs. Providence, 4 p.m., ESPNU
Frozen 4: Boston vs. North Dakota, 7:30 p.m., ESPNU
MEN'S SOCCER
La Liga: Athletic Club vs. Valencia, 12:45 p.m., beIN/beIN2
Scottish Championship: Queen of the South vs. Rangers, 1:45 p.m., FOXSOCP
La Liga: Villarreal vs. RCD Espanyol, 2:45 p.m., beIN/beIN2
Copa Libertadores: Montevideo Wanderers vs. Boca Juniors, 8 p.m., FOXDEP
MOTORSPORTS
F1: Chinese Grand Prix, Practice, 1 a.m., NBCSN
NBA
Chicago at Miami, 7 p.m., TNT
Portland at Golden State, 9:30 p.m., TNT
NHL
Chicago at St. Louis, 7 p.m., NBCSN
RUGBY
NRL: Broncos vs. Roosters, 4:30 a.m., FOXSOCP
TENNIS
WTA: Family Circlue Cup, Round of 16, Noon, ESPN2

WHAT'S ON DECK

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL
Midland Christian at Lubbock Christian, 5 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS
District 3-6A Tournament, Bush Tennis Center

LOCAL SPORTS

GTCC LGA
MEMBER RESULTS
2015 Green Tree LGA Member Member Results
at Green Tree Country Club, Wednesday

First Flight — 1st Gross: Trina Albright-Lacy Glasser; 2nd Gross: Tracy Youngs-Susan Roberts; 1st Net: Joy Harlan-Jennie McIlvain; 2nd Net: Marilyn Westbrook-Kathy Cowan
Second Flight — 1st Gross: Liz Lemons-Holly Cannon; 2nd Gross: Barbara McIntosh-Mary Brown; 1st Net: Joy Stark-Dana Chandler; 2nd Net: Karen Farmer-Karen Dickerson

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League
DETROIT TIGERS — Placed RHP Justin Verlander on the 15-day DL, retroactive to March 29. Recalled LHP Kyle Lobstein from Toledo (IL).
NEW YORK YANKEES — Assigned C Austin Romine outright to Scranton-Wilkes-Barre (IL).
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Agreed to terms with OF Cody Ross on a one-year contract. Optioned OF Billy Burns to Nashville (PCL). Designated OF Alex Hassan for assignment.
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Placed 1B James Loney on the 15-day DL. Selected the contract of 1B Allan Dykstra from Durham (IL). Recalled RHP Burch Smith from Durham and placed him on the 60-day DL.
National League
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Agreed to terms with 1B Josh Harrison on a four-year contract extension.
Atlantic Association
LAREDO LEMURS — Signed RHP Ryan Heckman and RHP Joan Montero.
LINCOLN SALTDOGS — Released INF Jo Nunez.
SIOUX CITY EXPLORERS — Signed C Matt Koch. Released INF Chris McClendon and RHP Greg Hoff.
Can-Am League
NEW JERSEY JACKALS — Signed OF Jamal Austin.
OTTAWA CHAMPIONS — Signed RHP Joe Riley.
SUSSEX COUNTY MINERS — Acquired RHP Jason Rapp from Normal for a player to be named.
Frontier League
EVANSVILLE OTTERS — Named Daphne Lovell batting coach. Signed RHP Will Oliver to a contract extension and LHP Logan Ehlers and INF Manuel Rivera.
GATEWAY GRIZZLIES — Signed RHP Andrew Reich.
JOLIET SLAMMERS — Signed SS Alfredo Rodriguez and C Dante Rosenberg.
NORMAL CORNBELTERS — Signed RHP Jose Flores.
ROCKFORD AVIATORS — Signed RHPs Michael Hollack and Trey Ruzzoti and INF James Ahl.
TRAVERSE CITY BEACH BUMS — Signed RHP Andrew Brosher.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
SAN ANTONIO SPURS — Recalled F Kyle Anderson from Austin (NBAD).
FOOTBALL
National Football League
NFL — Named Peter Griffiths chief operating officer of NFL International.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Released DT Amobi Okoye.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Released T Aaron Adams.
NEW YORK JETS — Signed LB Erin Henderson. Agreed to terms with RB Stevan Ridley on a one-year contract.
OAKLAND RAIDERS — Re-Signed Ss Larry Asante and Charles Ross. WRs Andre Holmes and Rod Streater. P Marquette King. DE Denico Autry. TE Brian Leonhardt. T Matt McCants. RB Jamize Olawale and DB Neiko Thorpe.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ARIZONA COYOTES — Recalled F Henrik Samuelsson on an emergency basis from Portland (AHL).
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled D Keegan Lowe from Charlotte (AHL). Reassigned D Danny Biega to Charlotte.
NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Agreed to terms with D Kyle Burroughs on a three-year entry-level contract that will take effect in the 2015-16 season.
American Hockey League
ALBANY DEVILS — Signed F Brandon Baddock to an amateur tryout agreement.
BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS — Signed F Tanner Eberle to a professional tryout contract. Announced N.Y. Islanders has assigned D Kevin Czuzman to Florida (ECHL).
HAMILTON BULLDOGS — Announced Montreal (NHL) has assigned F Tim Bozon to the team from Kootenay (WHL).
SOCCER
Major League Soccer
MLS — Suspended San Jose F Innocent Emeghara one game and fined him an undisclosed amount for endangering the safety of an opponent in a game against Real Salt Lake on April 5.
COLLEGE
ARKANSAS-LITTLE ROCK — Named Chris Beard men's basketball coach.
CHARLOTTE — Named Verna Juliaton assistant volleyball coach.
HAMPDEN-SYDNEY — Named Patrick Slinkard men's assistant soccer coach.
MISSOURI — Announced junior G Deuce Bello is transferring.
SAN FRANCISCO — Named Mike Littman women's soccer goalkeeper coach.
UTAH — Signed men's basketball coach Larry Krystkowiak to a contract extension through the 2021-22 season.
WITHDRAWN — Announced the resignation of Matt Huddleston women's assistant basketball coach.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Montreal	80	48	22	10	106	213	182
x-Tampa Bay	80	48	24	8	104	255	206
Detroit	80	43	27	10	96	236	217
Boston	80	41	26	13	95	209	204
Ottawa	80	41	29	10	92	232	214
Florida	80	38	29	13	89	199	215
Toronto	81	35	34	12	82	208	238
Buffalo	80	23	49	8	54	159	268

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
y-N.Y. Rangers	80	52	21	7	111	248	187
x-Washington	80	45	27	8	98	240	199
N.Y. Islanders	80	46	28	6	98	245	224
Pittsburgh	80	42	26	12	96	218	207
Columbus	80	43	35	2	88	227	244
Philadelphia	80	33	29	18	84	213	228
New Jersey	80	32	35	13	77	176	209
Carolina	80	29	40	11	69	186	223

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
y-St. Louis	80	49	24	7	105	242	198
x-Nashville	80	47	23	10	104	229	200
x-Chicago	80	48	26	6	102	226	184
x-Minnesota	80	45	27	8	98	225	195
Winnipeg	80	42	26	12	96	225	208
Dallas	80	39	31	10	88	253	259
Colorado	80	37	31	12	86	215	225

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
y-Anaheim	80	50	23	7	107	234	221
x-Vancouver	80	46	29	5	97	231	217
Calgary	80	44	29	7	95	237	210
Los Angeles	80	39	26	15	93	215	201
San Jose	80	39	32	9	87	224	227
Edmonton	80	34	43	3	71	192	274
Arizona	80	24	48	8	56	169	265

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.
x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

Wednesday's Scores
Columbus 5, Toronto 0
Washington 3, Boston 0
Dallas at Anaheim, late

Today's Games
Ottawa at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m.
Carolina at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Detroit at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m.
Boston at Florida, 6:30 p.m.
Chicago at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Calgary, 8 p.m.
San Jose at Edmonton, 8:30 p.m.
Arizona at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

FISHING REPORT

WEST

ALAN HENRY: Water stained. 63-66 degrees. 19.96 low. Black bass are fair on Senkos, Rat-L-Traps, shakeworms and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on jigs, under a slip cork. Catfish are fair on chartreuse cutie Worm-Glo; nightcrawlers.
ARROWHEAD: Water off color. 62-67 degrees. 19.6 low. One ramp open and few anglers have been on the lake.
COLORADO CITY: 23.15 low. No report available.
FT. PHANTOM HILL: Water clear. 61-66 degrees. 16.86 low. Black bass are fair on flukes, Rat-L-Traps and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on jigs and live minnows. Catfish are fair on cut bait.
HUBBARD CREEK: Water off color. 62-67 degrees. 30.5 low. Black bass are fair to good on drop shot rigs, Rat-L-Traps and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and live shad.
NASWORTHY: No report available.
OAK CREEK: Water stained. 61-66 degrees. 25.71 low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs under a slip cork. Catfish are fair on chartreuse (use Worm-Glo) nightcrawlers.
O.H. IVIE: Water stained. 62-67 degrees. 43.27 low. Black bass are fair on shallow running crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs (moving shallow). Catfish are fair to good on live bait.
POSSUM KINGDOM: Water fairly clear. 62-66 degrees. 14.3 low. Black bass are fair to good on Texas rigs, split shot weighted flukes and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on Road Runners. Striped bass are fair on live shad. Catfish are fair to good on live shad and nightcrawlers.
SPENCE: 74.63 low. No report available.
STAMFORD: 17.01 low. No report available.
SWEETWATER: Water off color. 62-67 degrees. 28.38 low. No report available.
WHITE RIVER: Water stained. 61-67 degrees. 29.56 low. No report available.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water murky. 65-69 degrees. 28.64 low. Black bass are fair on Senkos, spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and soft plastic lizards in 10-25 feet. Striped bass are fair on slabs, crankbaits, and Sassy Shad. White bass are fair on slabs and LTI Fishies. Catfish are good on prepared baits over baited holes. Yellow catfish are slow. Everyone in a boat must have a Mexico fishing license (if fishing the Mexico side) whether fishing or not.
BRAUNIG: Water stained. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are fair on silver striper jigs. Redfish are slow. Channel catfish are fair on shrimp and live bait near the dam. Blue catfish are slow.
CALAVERAS: Water stained. Black bass are good on green pumpkin soft plastics and crankbaits near the dam. Striped bass are good on spoons and jigs near the dam. Redfish are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on liver, shrimp and cheeseball. Yellow catfish are slow.
CHOKE CANYON: Water stained. 62-66 degrees. 28.27 low. Black bass are good on white spinnerbaits and heavy jigs in grass. White bass are good on minnows and LTI Fishies. Crappie are fair on minnows. Drum are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimpkait and live perch. Yellow catfish are slow.
COLETO CREEK: Water murky. 70 degrees in main lake; offline at hot water discharge. 0.44 high. Black bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish to 15 pounds are good on cut bait and live perch in 8-10 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.
FALCON: Water murky. 60-64 degrees; 23.45 low. Black bass are good on green pumpkin soft plastics and spinnerbaits. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on frozen shrimp and cut bait. Yellow catfish are slow. Everyone in a boat must have a Mexico fishing license (if fishing the Mexico side) whether fishing or not.

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water stained. 64-68 degrees. Black bass are good on redwhite spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimpkait, liver, shrimp, and minnows. Yellow catfish are slow.
BELTON: Water murky. 62-66 degrees; 11.78' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon soft plastics and crankbaits. Hybrid striper are fair on live shad. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows under lights at night. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and shrimpkait. Yellow catfish are slow.
BROWNWOOD: Water murky. 63-67 degrees; 12.66' low. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows and white or shad LTI Fishies in 5-12 feet. Channel catfish are good on jiglines and trotlines baited with cheesebait and cut shad. Blue catfish are good on jiglines baited with prepared baits in 15-20 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

MCS girls golf wins TAPPS 1-4A title

From staff reports

BURLESON — The Midland Christian girls golf team won the TAPPS 1-4A title on Tuesday, while the MCS boys placed fourth to also qualify for the regional tournament.

The Midland Christian girls won the title by 15 strokes over Fort Worth Christian with a two-round 813 total, and they were led by medalist champion Christian Curnutte, who shot a 152 total. Curnutte's teammate Chloe Bice was second individually with a 182 total.

The Mustangs shot a 650 total as Fort Worth Southwest Christian shot 603 to take the team title.

MCS was led by Coleman Houston, who placed fifth individually with a 151 total.

The regionals will take place at Canyon West Golf Course in Weatherford on Monday, April 20.

TAPPS 1-4A CHAMPIONSHIPS
Hidden Creek Golf Course, Burleson
Final results, Tuesday
(x-regional qualifier)

GIRLS

Team standings — 1. x-Midland Christian 813; 2. x-Fort Worth Christian 828; 3. x-Arlington Pantego 928; Colleyville Covenant WD

Individual standings (top 5)— 1. Christian Curnutte, Midland Christian, 79-73—152; 2. Chloe Bice, Midland Christian, 89-93—182; 3. Meghan Poulan, Fort Worth Christian, 98-90—188; 4. Sydney Forrester, Fort Worth Southwest Christian, 101-91—192; 5. Krysten Waldron, Fort Worth Christian, 95-97—192

Midland Christian (813): Christian Curnutte 79-73—152; Chloe Bice 89-93—182; Blaire Neatherlin 112-115—227; Abby Platt 130-123—253; Gabbi Lyon 129-131—260

BOYS

Team standings — 1. Fort Worth Southwest Christian 603; 2. x-Grapevine Faith 634; 3. x-Fort Worth Christian 644; 4. x-Midland Christian 650; 5. Arlington Pantego 723; 6. Lubbock Trinity 730; Colleyville Covenant WD

Individual standings — 1. Garett Reband, FW Southwest, 67-72—139; 2. Jackson Markham, Grapevine Faith, 70-73—143; 3. Robert Collison, FW Southwest, 76-72—148; 4. Riley Fortner, Fort Worth Christian, 76-73—149; 5. Coleman Houston, Midland Christian, 74-77—151

Midland Christian (650): Coleman Houston 74-77—151; Bryce Waters 82-82—164; Gunnar Gault 81-86—167; Reagan Brown 85-84—169; Joe Smith 90-85—175

Garden City girls golf team, two boys qualify for Region II-1A Championships

From staff reports

The Garden City girls golf team and two Garden City boys qualified for the Region II-1A Championships next week after their strong finish at their respective District 14-1A tournaments.

The Garden City girls were the district champions after they finished with a two-round total of 965 after the final round at San Angelo's Quicksand Golf Course, the site of the regional tournament on April 13-14. The Lady Kats finished 16 strokes ahead of second place Robert Lee.

Hope Halfmann led Garden City with a 219 total and finished second indivdually, behind Robert Lee's Brady Clawson, who shot 208.

Garden City's boys team finished in third with an 837 total, behind district champion Bronte (696) and Robert Lee (802).

But the Bearkats will send Tanner Davis and Colton Hare to regionals as they were the lowest scoring individuals not on a qualifying team.

Davis was fourth individually after shooting an 86-93—179 total, while Hare was ninth individually after shooting 100-106—206.

DISTRICT 14-A CHAMPIONSHIPS
GIRLS

First round: Big Spring Country Club, March 26

Second round: Quicksand Golf Course, San Angelo, Monday
(x-regional qualifier)

Team standings — 1. x-Garden City 5-7-458—965; 2. x-Robert Lee 482-499—981

Individual standings — 1. Brady Clawson, Robert Lee, 100-108—208; 2. Hope Halfmann, 112-107—219; 3. Sandra Flores, Robert Lee 110-110—220; 4. Holly Hallmann, Garden City, 120-109—229; 5. x-Lauren Pitsillo, Sterling City, 117—116—233; 6. x-Hailey Bennett, Blackwell, 132-121—253

Garden City (507-458—965): Holly Hallmann 120-109—229; Hope Halfmann 112-107—219; Brooklyn Batla 138-125—263; Ally Burnett 137-117—254; Elizabeth Zuniga 139-141—280

BOYS

Team standings — 1. x-Bronte 335-367—696; 2. x-Robert Lee 393-409—802; 3. Garden City 392-439—837; 4. Sterling City 453-447—500; 6. Blackwell 506-502—1,008

Individual standings — 1. Jared Scott, Bronte, 82-86—168; 2. Lance Burns, Bronte, 85-85—170; 3. Josh Puentez, Bronte, 81-95—176; 4. x-Tanner Davis, 86-93—179; 5. James Roberts, Robert Lee, 87-93—180; 6. Ean Ward, Bronte, 87-95—182; 7. Jake Jackson, Robert Lee, 100-96—200; 8. Wade Allen, 106-99—205; 9. Colton Hare, Garden City, 100-106—206

Garden City (392-439—837): Tanner Davis 86-93—178; Colton Hare 100-106—206; Seth Miller 100-114—214; Blazes Hirt 135-142—277; Trent McMillan 106-126—232

Former Permian football coach passes away

From staff reports

One-time Odessa Permian football coach T.J. Mills died Tuesday of an apparent heart attack, according to the Houston Chronicle. He was 60.

Mills is best remembered in the state for leading Sealy to four straight Class 3A state championships from 1993-97.

Mills left Sealy after the 1999 season to coach at Permian but the Panthers went just 15-15 in his three years with the program, which was in the middle of a playoff drought.

Mills returned to the Houston area where he coach LaPorte to consecutive playoff appearances. He retired with 195 career wins.

Mills was also known for his generosity off the field as he started a scholarship program in Sealy and was a regular contributor to the Joe Beene Benefit, which helps raise money for a former Permian player paralyzed during a 2000 practice.

TEAM

From 1C

both need to work on. I've worked on that a whole lot now that I have a partner to depend on me so I have learned how to do that. His strokes, his ground strokes, his power, I have learned how to gain power through hitting with him so that's an upside."

Schneider said Rey has been helpful in helping him keep his emotions in check, which can be destructive to a team in a hotly contested match.

"I think physically speaking they have similar skills," Biel said. "I think it's more of mentally, emotionally and the intangible areas where they have maybe differences that can really help each other."

Biel says mixed doubles differs from boys and girls doubles because certain boys can't handle the harder, lower balls off the rackets of girls. On the other hand, some girls have difficulty with returning some balls with heavy spin that are hit by boys.

Biel says this factors in how he chooses a mixed doubles team.

"If you want to have a legitimate, strong, mixed doubles team, then you need a boy and girl that can each handle shots that each handle the differences in the shots that girls and boys hit," Biel said. "They're good doubles players so they have a good foundation and have the potential to be very good."

In today's tournament, some matches may come down to the team that can handle pressure the best and fight for every point by refusing to let balls get by them. Schneider says that Rey and him are adept at moving to the ball and winning long rallies.

While Rey and Schneider have been playing in tournaments all season, none of them match the intensity and tension of the District 3-6A Championships. It's a single elimination tournament that defines a tennis player's season. Only the top two doubles teams advance to the Region I-6A Tournament at UT-Arlington on April 20-21.

"The pressure is definitely up because we're mixed and that's one of the tougher groups," Schneider said. "Being picked to be a top seed and probably win the district, that adds more pressure onto it... It just kind adds on the fire that we really want to be district champions this year."

Tennis draws

DISTRICT 3-6A TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
First round draws
at Bush Tennis Center, matches begin at 8:30 a.m. today

Boys
Singles

(1) Alex Hunt (Odessa Permian) bye; Neil Patel (Lee) vs. Jon Woodard (Abilene); Devon Resig (Odessa) vs. Graham Goldman (Central); (4) Hayden Holdrick (Midland High) bye; (3) Alex Quinones (Lee), bye; Jack Wall (Midland High) vs. Sullivan Henson (San Angelo Central); Tyler Griffiths (Odessa) vs. Nicolas Outland (Abilene); (2) Keenan Nash (Permian) bye

Doubles

(1) Cecil-Rolando (San Angelo Central) bye; Hord-Taylor (Midland High) vs. Garvin-Contreras, (Odessa High); Rubio-Clark (Lee) vs. Edington-Grant (Abilene High); (3) Handy-Anderson, (Odessa Permian) bye; (4) Pannell-Van Cleave (Midland High) bye; Hoersman-White, Lee vs. Ko-Ervin (Permian); Meyer-Rider (San Angelo Central) vs. Arrezquita-Armstrong (Odessa High); (2) Ledbetter-Watson (Abilene Highbye

Girls
Singles

(1) Kaleigh Smith (Odessa High) bye; Mickey Jimenez (Midland High) vs Mackenzie Suggs, (San Angelo Central); Reagan Gabriel (Abilene) vs. Hannah Tarabochhia (Lee); (4) Elizabeth Lopez (Permian) bye; (3) Anna Parkison (Midland High) bye; Megan Carlson (Permian) vs. Reagan Holderness (Lee); Viviana Flores (Odessa High), vs. Marlee Daniel (Central); (2) Caroline Cannan (Abilene) bye

Doubles

(1) Schneemann-Schneemann (Central) bye; Cirilo-Alvarez (Odessa); "s. Clark-Sanchez (Lee) Garcia-Salcedo (Midland High) vs. Steen-Marler (Permian); (3) Funk-Wiley (Abilene), bye; (4) Gideon-Curry (Central), bye; Lefevers-White (Odessa) vs. Woodard-Morton (Permian); Dem-Pannell (Lee) vs. Young-Horn (Abilene), (2) Daugherty-Stewart (Midland High), bye

Mixed Doubles

(1) Salinas-Allen (Central) bye; Allen Marquez (Odessa) vs. Molina-Phillips (Lee); Hord-Rogers, (Midland High) vs. Haynes-Baten (Permian); (3) Brown-Cannan (Abilene), bye; (4) Bryant-Gregory (Permian) bye; Zobel-McGee (Central) vs. Luna-McBride (Central); Kidwell-Moore (Lee) vs. Brown-Craig (Abilene); (2) Ray-Schneider (Midland High), bye

Local lineups

Lee will be represented by Regan Holderness and Hannah Tarbochhia in girls singles, and by Alex Quinones and Neil Patel in boys singles.

The Rebels' boys doubles teams include the tandems of Cohen Clark and Thomas Rubio, and Amit Heeraman and Tyler White. The Lee girls doubles pairs are Celie Clark and Desirae Sanchez, and Taylor Parnell and Sami Demri.,

In mixed doubles, Lee is sending the duos of Ryan Kidwell and Brice Moore, and Jonathan Molina and Morgan Phillips.

MHS boys singles players are comprised of Hayden Boldrick and Jack Wall. Anna Parkison and Mickey Jimenez are the Lady Bulldogs singles players.

In boys doubles, Midland High is represented by the teams of Jack Pannell and Chase Van Cleave, and Hunt Ford and Will Taylor.

The pairs of Kate Daugherty and Allison Stewart, and Adriana Garcia and Sofia Salcedo will compete for MHS in girls doubles.

Joining Rey and Schneider in mixed doubles will be teammates Ellie Hord and Jad Rogers.

Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris_MRTsports



NFL hires Sarah Thomas, its 1st female official

By Rachel Cohen
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sarah Thomas saw the New York City area code pop up on her phone and started praying it was the NFL calling to say she'd been hired as a full-time game official.

Not because that would make her the first woman to hold the job. Her hopes were those of any longtime official on the cusp of working at the sport's pinnacle.

Thomas will be a line judge for the 2015 season, the league announced Wednesday. She's proud to serve as an example that anyone can succeed in any endeavor. But breaking down barriers was just a byproduct of her goals, not the goal itself.

"It's just a mindset of an official that you don't want to be seen or noticed," Thomas said on a conference call with reporters.

Then again, the NFL doesn't typically host a conference call for a newly hired official. The 41-year-old Thomas was both self-assured and self-deprecating in fielding questions, unfazed by the attention but also trying to deflect it. She's already become the first female official at the major college football level and the first to work a bowl game.

Thomas expects to still wear her hair tucked inside her cap. She started doing it on a suggestion that it would keep her from sticking out, though those days aren't more about habit than an attempt to blend in.

"I think my hair's the least of my concerns," Thomas said, laughing.

"I know that I will probably stand out being the first," she added, "but as far as players and coaches, I've been around a good little while, and I think they know who I am and just want to make sure I can do my job."

Chaps get win over Western Texas College

From staff reports

The Midland College baseball team jumped out early and then cruised to a 13-2 run-rule non-conference victory over Western Texas College on Wednesday.

The Chaparrals (20-16) scored five runs in the first and two more in the second before WTC (10-27) answered with a run in the third inning.

Chaparrals	**13**
Westerners	**2**

MC had 13 hits in the game as Tony Reyes was 2-for-3 with a home run and four RBI. Teammate Justin Clarkson was 2-for-4 with a home run and four RBI.

Jesse Borden got the win on the mound.

The Chaps return to Western Junior College Athletic Conference play at 1 p.m. Friday when they host El Paso Community College in a doubleheader at Christensen Stadium.

MIDLAND COLLEGE 13, WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE 2, 7 INNINGS

WTC	001	001	0	–2 3 4
Midland	520	330	x	–13 10 2

Joshua Haese, Braden Pearson (1), Michael Masters (4) and Mitchell Hazlett, Jacob DeAnda. Jesse Borden (4), Zach Murphy (6) Jacob Blevins (7) and Bryndan Arredondo. 2B — MC: Darren Alexander, Josh Narvaez. HR — MC: Justin Clarkson, Tony Reyes.

Record: Midland College 20-16; Western Texas 10-27

Next: El Paso CC at Midland College (DH) 1 p.m. Friday

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

SPURS 110
ROCKETS 98

SAN ANTONIO — Tony Parker scored 27 points and the San Antonio Spurs beat the Houston Rockets 110-98 on Wednesday night for their ninth straight victory.

The Spurs moved within a half-game of the Southwest Division lead shared by Houston and Memphis.

San Antonio will face Houston on Friday night in the closing game of a home-and-home set.

CAVALIERS 104
BUCKS 99

MILWAUKEE — Kyrie Irving scored 27 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers held on to beat the Milwaukee Bucks 104-99 on Wednesday night, clinching the Central Division title and the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference.

LeBron James scored 21 points with nine rebounds and eight assists for the Cavs, including 10 points in the fourth quarter. Kevin Love added 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Michael Carter-Williams scored 30 points for the Bucks, while Zaza Pachulia added 19 points and 10 rebounds. Milwaukee played without Giannis Antetokounmpo, although it wasn't immediately clear why he sat out.

CELTICS 113
PISTONS 103

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Isaiah Thomas had more than a few great games during the Pistons-Celtics rivalry of the 1980s and 1990s.

Wednesday, his namesake had his turn.

Isaiah Thomas had a season-high 34 points as the Celtics picked up a key victory and eliminated Detroit from playoff contention, beating the Pistons 113-103 Wednesday night.

MAGIC 105
BULLS 103

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Orlando Magic spoiled Derrick Rose's return from his latest knee injury.

Victor Oladipo had 23 points and scored on a layup with 1.5 seconds left to give the Magic a 105-103 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Wednesday night.

GRIZZLIES 110
PELICANS 74

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Zach Randolph had 15 points, 13 rebounds and six assists to help the Memphis Grizzlies beat the New Orleans Pelicans 110-74 on Wednesday night.

Jeff Green and Marc Gasol also each had 15 points, and Gasol added six assists and eight rebounds. Beno Udrih finished with 14 points, and Vince Carter and Mike Conley had 10 each.

PACERS 102
KNICKS 86

NEW YORK — The Indiana Pacers stayed close to the final Eastern Conference playoff spot when they defeated the New York Knicks 102-86 on Wednesday night.

George Hill led the Pacers (35-43) with 20 points. Roy Hibbert had a double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds. The win tied the Pacers with the Miami Heat, one game off the final playoff spot behind the Boston Celtics and Brooklyn Nets.

Langston Galloway led the Knicks (15-63) with 19 points.

RAPTORS 92
HORNETS 74

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Toronto Raptors were determined to beat the Charlotte Hornets for the first time in seven games Wednesday night.

Taking control midway through the second quarter, the Raptors led by as many as 29 points and rolled to a 92-74 victory that likely quashed the Hornets' slim playoff hopes.

HAWKS 114
NETS 111

NEW YORK — Al Horford made the go-ahead basket on a dunk with 19 seconds remaining, and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Brooklyn Nets 114-111 on Wednesday night to complete a season sweep.

Playing without injured All-Star Paul Millsap and further short-handed after Pero Antic and Thabo Sefolosha were arrested early Wednesday and didn't play, the Hawks recovered after blowing a 12-point, fourth-quarter lead.

Horford scored 24 points and Mike Scott had 20 points and eight rebounds for the Hawks. They won their third straight and improved to 59-19.

WIZARDS 119
76ERS 90

PHILADELPHIA — Bradley Beal scored 21 points and the Washington Wizards shot a franchise-record 65.3 percent from the field in their 119-90 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night.

The Wizards rested All-Star guard John Wall, ending his consecutive games streak at 208.

MLBROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

American League

INDIANS 2
ASTROS 0

HOUSTON — Carlos Carrasco struck out 10 while pitching three-hit ball into the seventh inning, Carlos Santana and Mike Aviles each homered and the Cleveland Indians got a 2-0 win over the Houston Astros on Wednesday night.

Carrasco (1-0) walked one in 6 1-3 innings a day after signing a four-year contract.

Santana put Cleveland up with his homer in the fourth inning and Aviles added an insurance run with his home run to the Crawford Boxes in left field in the eighth.

Cody Allen pitched a perfect ninth for his first save.

Houston starter Scott Feldman (0-1) yielded five hits and a run in 6 2-3 innings in the loss.

The Astros had trouble stringing hits together on a night when the first five batters in the lineup went 1 for 19 with 10 strikeouts. Cleanup hitter Evan Gattis was 0 for 4 with four Ks.

TIGERS 11
TWINS 0

DETROIT — The top of Detroit's starting rotation looks just fine so far — and so does the bottom of the batting order.

Anibal Sanchez helped the Tigers blank Minnesota for the second straight game. Jose Iglesias had four hits and Alex Avila scored four runs in Wednesday's 11-0 rout of the Twins.

Detroit had beaten Minnesota 4-0 on opening day behind star left-hander David Price, and Sanchez was impressive as well in his first start since Aug. 8. Sanchez was limited over the final two months of last season by a pectoral issue.

He has a different look in his eye this year," manager Brad Ausmus said. "It's like he's determined to do something."

YANKEES 4
BLUE JAYS 3

NEW YORK — Chase Headley hit a tiebreaking single that deflected off the wrist of reliever Brett Cecil, and the New York Yankees rallied for three runs in the eighth inning to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 4-3 Wednesday night.

Michael Pineda pitched six solid innings for the Yankees on a frigid night, and Jacoby Ellsbury scored twice and reached base safely all four times up. New York took advantage of mistakes by Toronto's bullpen, fighting back from a two-run deficit for its first victory of the season after knuckleballer R.A. Dickey gave the Blue Jays 6 1-3 effective innings.

Andrew Miller worked a perfect ninth for the save in his Yankees debut, the second of his big league career, before New York's smallest crowd for a home game in 11 years.

National League

CUBS 2
CARDINALS 0

CHICAGO — Cubs catcher Miguel Montero called Jake Arrieta a freak. Chicago manager Joe Maddon said Arrieta is in such good shape he could record fitness videos, like Jane Fonda used to.

Arrieta also can pitch.

Arrieta allowed three hits over seven innings and Starlin Castro had a go-ahead RBI single in a two-run seventh leading the Chicago Cubs over the St. Louis Cardinals 2-0 for their first win this season.

NATIONALS 2
METS 1

WASHINGTON — Jordan Zimmermann didn't quite pick up where he left off in 2014, when he threw a no-hitter to close the regular season, but he only allowed one run in six innings Wednesday night, and Ryan Zimmerman's two-run homer and pair of nifty defensive plays lifted the Nationals past the Mets 2-1.

After getting the Nationals first franchise no-no against the Marlins in September, Zimmermann (1-0) made it until the fifth batter this time before giving up a hit, a single to Daniel Murphy, who eventually scored on Travis d'Arnaud's single.

BRAVES 2
MARLINS 0

MIAMI — A.J. Pierzynski hit a two-run homer and five pitchers combined on a six-hitter Wednesday to help the Atlanta Braves complete a three-game sweep by beating the Miami Marlins 2-0.

The season-opening sweep was the first for the Braves since 2007. They're supposedly rebuilding, while the Marlins have playoff hopes, but Atlanta outscored Miami 16-3 in the series.

The 38-year-old Pierzynski, playing in his first game with his newest team, broke up a scoreless tie in the seventh inning against Tom Koehler (0-1).

Shelby Miller made his first start with the Braves and allowed four hits in five innings. Brandon Cunniff (1-0) followed with 1 2-3 perfect innings for his first major-league victory.

Jason Grilli, who assumed the closer's job when Craig Kimbrel was traded on the eve of the season, pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his second save in as many chances.

Interleague

PHILLIES 4
RED SOX 2

PHILADELPHIA — Jeff Francoeur wanted to stick around baseball badly enough that he even tried pitching in the minors.

His bat and glove got him back to the majors.

Francoeur hit a three-run homer, Aaron Harang took a one-hitter into the seventh inning and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Boston Red Sox and Rick Porcello 4-2 Wednesday night.

"It was nice," Francoeur said of circling the bases. "It was a lot of hard work last year, makes you appreciate being back here and you don't want to miss the opportunity."

Making his Red Sox debut after signing an $82.5 million, four-year contract through 2019, Porcello (0-1) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings.

"One big mistake was the difference," Porcello said.

Harang (1-0) gave up two hits, walked one and struck out eight in 6 1-3 innings in his first start for the Phillies. Jonathan Papelbon got four outs against his former team for his first save.

A fired-up Papelbon pumped his fist after striking out Xander Bogaerts for the final out. Then the mercurial closer faced a barrage of questions from reporters after he told a Boston writer before the game that he "don't really feel much like a Phillie."

"What is a Phillie? Is it a horse? I feel like a horse," Papelbon said, confusing the team's nickname with filly, a young female horse.

NBA STANDINGS AND BOXES

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Toronto	46	32	.590	—
Boston	36	42	.462	10
Brooklyn	36	42	.462	10
Philadelphia	18	61	.228	28½
New York	15	63	.192	31

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Atlanta	59	19	.756	—
x-Washington	45	33	.577	14
Miami	35	43	.449	24
Charlotte	33	45	.423	26
Orlando	25	53	.321	34

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Cleveland	51	27	.654	—
x-Chicago	46	32	.590	5
Milwaukee	38	40	.487	13
Indiana	35	43	.449	16
Detroit	30	48	.385	21

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Memphis	53	25	.679	—
x-Houston	53	25	.679	—
x-San Antonio	53	26	.671	½
x-Dallas	46	31	.597	6½
New Orleans	42	36	.538	11

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Portland	50	27	.649	—
Oklahoma City	42	36	.538	8½
Utah	35	42	.455	15
Denver	28	49	.364	22
Minnesota	16	61	.208	34

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Golden State	63	15	.808	—
x-L.A. Clippers	53	26	.671	10½
Phoenix	39	39	.500	24
Sacramento	27	50	.351	35½
L.A. Lakers	20	57	.260	42½

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

Wednesday's Scores

Washington 119, Philadelphia 90
Orlando 105, Chicago 103
Boston 113, Detroit 103
Toronto 92, Charlotte 74
Atlanta 114, Brooklyn 111
Indiana 102, New York 86
Memphis 110, New Orleans 74
Cleveland 104, Milwaukee 99
San Antonio 110, Houston 98
L.A. Lakers at Denver, late
Sacramento at Utah, late
Phoenix at Dallas, late
Minnesota at Portland, late

Today's Games

Chicago at Miami, 7 p.m.
Portland at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S BOX SCORES

SPURS 110, ROCKETS 98

HOUSTON (98): Ariza 7-12 0-0 19, Jones 1-3 0-0 2, Howard 7-10 2-4 16, Terry 2-5 0-0 4, Harden 6-15 8-9 22, Prigioni 3-6 0-0 7, Dorsey 1-1 0-0 2, Smith 5-13 0-0 13, Brewer 1-6 0-0 2, Johnson 3-5 0-0 6, Pipkin(slalom 0-0 0-0 0, McDaniels 2-5 0-0 4, Capela 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 39-84 10-16 98.

SAN ANTONIO (110): Leonard 9-15 2-2 20, Duncan 2-5 2-2 6, Baynes 4-7 0-0 8, Parker 13-18 1-3 27, Green 5-12 2-2 12, Belinelli 2-6 0-0 5, Ginobili 5-8 0-0 13, Joseph 2-5 0-0 4, Williams 1-4 0-0 3, Mills 0-3 0-0 0, Ayres 1-3 0-0 2, Anderson 1-4 0-0 2, Bonner 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 48-95 7-9 110.

Houston	33	20	18	27 — 98
San Antonio	32	25	23	25 — 110

3-Point Goals—Houston 10-25 (Ariza 5-6, Smith 3-8, Harden 2-6, McDaniels 0-1, Terry 0-1, Brewer 0-1, Prigioni 0-2), San Antonio 7-21 (Ginobili 3-4, Green 2-6, Diaw 1-3, Williams 1-3, Mills 0-2, Leonard 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Houston 49 (Howard 11), San Antonio 51 (Baynes 12). Assists—Houston 25 (Prigioni, Smith 5), San Antonio 21 (Joseph 5). Total Fouls—Houston 12, San Antonio 13. A—18,581 (18,797).

RAPTORS 92, HORNETS 74

TORONTO (92): Ross 3-7 0-0 6, Hansbrough 4-9 4-4 12, Valanciunas 1-3 0-0 2, Vasquez 6-13 0-0 16, DeRozan 5-16 5-7 18, Patterson 3-7 0-0 8, L.Williams 5-15 3-4 16, Johnson 5-7 1-4 11, Hayes 0-0 0-0 0, Caboclo 0-0 0-0 0, Siemens 0-0 0-0 0. Fields 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-77 14-19 92.

CHARLOTTE (74): Taylor 3-6 0-0 6, Ma.Williams 0-5 1-2 1, Biyombo 2-4 2-2 6, Walker 4-13 4-4 15, Henderson 4-13 1-3 9, M.Williams 4-13 0-0 10, Vonleh 1-7 0-0 3, Roberts 2-8 0-0 5, Daniels 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 26-81 8-11 74.

Toronto	20	27	22	23 — 92
Charlotte	15	16	14	29 — 74

3-Point Goals—Toronto 12-27 (Vasquez 4-9, Ross 3-5, L.Williams 3-8, Patterson 2-5, DeRozan 0-3, Charlotte 10-22 (Roberts 2-2, M.Williams 2-3, Taylor 2-3, Daniels 1-1, Walker 1-1, Walker 1-4, Hairston 1-5, Henderson 0-1, Ma.Williams 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Toronto 58 (Hansbrough 12), Charlotte 47 (Ma.Williams 8). Assists—Toronto 20 (DeRozan 7), Charlotte 15 (M.Williams, Roberts, Walker, Henderson, Ma.Williams 3). Total Fouls—Toronto 19, Charlotte 15. Technicals—Henderson A—15,593 (19,077).

MAGIC 95, BULLS 93

CHICAGO (103): Dunleavy 3-6 0-0 8, Gasol 4-10 7-9 15, Noah 2-6 0-2 4, Rose 2-5 2-2 7, Butler 6-10 4-4 19, Brooks 5-11 1-2 13, Gibson 6-12 3-5 15, Mirotic 3-11 6-7 15, Hinrich 2-4 0-0 5, Snell 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 34-79 23-31 103.

ORLANDO (105): Harris 2-13 4-4 8, Dedmon 3-5 0-0 6, Vucevic 9-16 4-4 22, Payton 6-14 3-3 17, Oladipo 8-14 4-6 23, A.Gordon 2-3 3-4 7, Fournier 3-7 3-3 11, Nicholson 1-4 0-0 9, Frye 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 36-82 21-24 105.

Chicago	29	30	28	16 — 103
Orlando	21	31	27	26 — 105

3-Point Goals—Chicago 12-26 (Butler 3-4, Mirotic 3-5, Dunleavy 2-4, Brooks 2-4, Hinrich 1-3, Rose 1-6), Orlando 6-23 (Oladipo 3-7, Payton 2-2, Fournier 2-5, Nicholson 1-2, A.Gordon 0-1, Frye 0-1, Harris 0-5). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 49 (Noah 11), Orlando 51 (Dedmon 11). Assists—Chicago 25 (Butler 6), Orlando 21 (Payton 9). Total Fouls—Chicago 16, Orlando 19. Technicals—Butler A—18,249 (18,500).

WIZARDS 119, 76ERS 90

WASHINGTON (119): Pierce 4-7 0-0 10, Gooden 2-4 0-0 4, Gortat 5-9 2-2 12, Sessions 5-7 7-9 19, Beal 7-9 4-5 21, Porter 1-2 1-2 3, Butler 4-7 0-0 9, Humphries 5-6 2-3 12, Bynum 5-11 0-0 10, Seraphin 6-8 0-0 12. Blair 0-0 1-2 1, Webster 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 47-72 17-23 119.

PHILADELPHIA (90): Grant 1-9 4-6 6, Noel 2-8 1-2 5, Alderner 1-3 0-0 2, Smith 1-9 1-2 3, Covington 4-11 7-8 27, Thompson 3-7 0-0 4, Mbah a Moute 3-10 0-0 7, Sampson 0-7 2-2 2, Robinson 5-12 1-2 11, Richardson 6-7 1-1 17, Sims 2-3 2-4 6, Robinson III 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 31-89 19-27 90.

Washington	35	35	25	24 — 119
Philadelphia	24	30	23	13 — 90

3-Point Goals—Washington 9-15 (Beal 3-3, Sessions 2-2, Pierce 2-4, Butler 1-1, Seraphin 0-1, Webster 0-2, Bynum 0-2), Philadelphia 9-27 (Richardson 4-5, Covington 4-8, Mbah a Moute 1-3, Smith 0-2, Thompson 0-3, Sampson 0-4, Grant 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Washington 53 (Gortat, Humphries 7), Philadelphia 44 (Robinson 12). Assists—Washington 35 (Bynum, Sessions 7), Philadelphia 17 (Smith 6). Total Fouls—Washington 21, Philadelphia 22. Technicals—Washington defensive three second, Flagrant Fouls—Sampson. A—12,611 (20,318).

CELTICS 113, PISTONS 103

BOSTON (113): Turner 2-5 0-0 4, Bass 5-7 6-6 16, Zeller 2-7 2-2 6, Smart 1-5 0-0 3, Bradley 4-13 0-0 11, Thomas 10-17 10-11 34, Crowder 4-8 9-9 17, Olynyk 5-9 2-2 12, Jerebko 2-4 2-2 6, Sullinger 1-5 2-2 4. Total Fouls 36-80 33-34 113.

DETROIT (103): Butler 0-5 0-0 0, Monroe 9-14 1-2 19, Drummond 11-18 0-2 22, Jackson 10-18 0-0 21, Caldwell-Pope 3-10 2-2 10, Tolliver 1-4 1-1 3, Anthony 0-0 0-0 0, Lucas III 0-2 0-0 0, Meeks 3-4 2-2 13. Prince 7-8 0-0 15. Totals 45-84 6-10 103.

Boston	30	25	36	22 — 113
Detroit	18	31	27	29 — 103

3-Point Goals—Boston 6-28 (Thomas 4-6, Bradley 3-9, Smart 1-4, Bass 0-1, Jerebko 0-1, Olynyk 0-1, Crowder 0-1, Sullinger 0-1, Turner 0-2), Detroit 7-18 (Monroe 3-3, Caldwell-Pope 2-4, Prince 1-1, Jackson 1-2, Drummond 0-1, Tolliver 0-3, Butler 0-4). Fouled Out—Caldwell-Pope. Rebounds—Boston 62 (Zeller 7), Detroit 46 (Drummond 14). Assists—Boston 20 (Thomas 6), Detroit 29 (Jackson 15). Total Fouls—Boston 15, Detroit 25. A—14,284 (22,076).

HAWKS 114, NETS 111

ATLANTA (114): Carroll 7-13 2-2 19, Horford 11-20 1-1 24, Muscala 4-6 1-2 9, Teague 4-11 1-1 11, Korver 3-6 0-0 9, Bazemore 1-4 2-2 4, Scott 7-14 4-6 20, Brand 1-2 0-0 2, Schroder 4-9 0-0 9, Mack 1-1 0-0 3. Totals 43-86 17-25 114.

BROOKLYN (111): Johnson 9-15 0-0 21, Young 1-3 0-0 2, Lopez 8-17 2-2 18, Plumlee 4-6 1-2 10, Brown 2-7 0-0 5, Bogdanovic 5-10 1-1 12, Plumlee 2-4 2-4 6, Jack 1-10 8-8 11, Clark 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 41-87 22-25 111.

Atlanta	33	32	29	20 — 114
Brooklyn	26	30	26	29 — 111

3-Point Goals—Atlanta 13-28 (Korver 3-4, Carroll 3-7, Scott 2-4, Horford 1-3, Mack 1-1, Schroder 1-4, Bazemore 0-1, Muscala 0-2, Teague 1-2), Brooklyn 7-26 (Johnson 3-9, Brown 1-2, Young 1-3, Bogdanovic 1-4, Williams 1-5, Jack 0-3). Fouled Out—Young. Rebounds—Atlanta 46 (Carroll 9), Brooklyn 54 (Young 11). Assists—Atlanta 35 (Teague 12), Brooklyn 27 (Williams 13). Total Fouls—Atlanta 18, Brooklyn 20. A—17,732 (17,732).

PACERS 102, KNICKS 86

INDIANA (102): S.Hill 3-6 2-2 8, West 5-5 1-2 11, Hibbert 5-9 1-2 11, G.Hill 7-11 5-6 20, Miles 5-14 2-2 13, Stuckey 2-6 2-2 7, George 2-7 5-6 10, Mahinmi 2-3 0-0 4, Sloan 2-5 1-2 5. Scola 4-5 3-3 11, Allen 1-3 0-0 2, Rudez 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 36-77 22-27 102.

NEW YORK (86): Thomas 1-4 0-0 2, Amundson 1-8 1-2 3, Bargnani 5-11 3-3 15, Lankin 1-10 0-0 2, Galloway 6-14 6-6 19, Aldrich 0-1 3-4 3, Hardaway Jr. 3-8 3-4 12, Ledo 2-7 2-4 8, Acy 1-6 2-2 12, Smith 5-13 1-1 12. Totals 29-86 21-32 86.

Indiana	26	28	29	19 — 102
New York	14	24	17	31 — 86

3-Point Goals—Indiana 4-22 (G.Hill 1-2, George 1-3, Stuckey 1-4, Miles 1-5, Scola 0-1, Sloan 0-2, S.Hill 0-2, Rudez 0-3), New York 7-17 (Hardaway Jr. 3-6, Bargnani 2-2, Smith 1-2, Galloway 1-2, Ledo 0-1, Acy 0-2, Lankin 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Indiana 60 (Hibbert 11), New York 44 (Smith, Bargnani 8). Assists—Indiana 23 (Sloan 6), New York 19 (Lankin 4). Total Fouls—Indiana 24, New York 25. Technicals—West, A—19,812 (19,763).

GRIZZLIES 110, PELICANS 74

NEW ORLEANS (74): Pondexter 4-7 0-0 11, Davis 5-9 2-2 12, Ajok 2-4 1-4 5, Evans 3-10 3-4 10, Gordon 4-13 0-0 9, Cunningham 0-4 1-2 1, Ajinca 2-4 1-2 5, Cole 3-9 2-2 9, Anderson 0-6 0-0 0, Douglas 3-8 2-2 8, Babbitt 2-4 0-0 4, Withey 0-0 0-0 0, Fredette 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 28-80 12-18 74.

MEMPHIS (110): Je.Green 7-11 0-0 15, Randolph 6-13 3-3 15, Gasol 6-12 3-4 15, Conley 4-9 0-0 10, Lee 3-9 0-0 8, Carter 4-7 0-0 10, Udrih 5-8 4-4 14, Koufos 4-9 1-1 9, Calathes 0-0 1-2 1, Leuer 2-4 0-0 4, Adams 1-2 0-0 3, Stokes 2-2 0-0 4, Ja.Green 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 45-88 12-14 110.

New Orleans	24	12	19	19 — 74
Memphis	27	28	26	29 — 110

3-Point Goals—New Orleans 6-21 (Pondexter 3-5, Cole 1-2, Evans 1-4, Gordon 1-5, Anderson 0-2, Douglas 0-3), Memphis 8-17 (Lee 2-3, Conley 2-3, Carter 2-4, Adams 1-1, Je.Green 1-2, Udrih 0-1, Ja.Green 0-1, Leuer 0-1, Randolph 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—New Orleans 47 (Cunningham 10), Memphis 56 (Randolph 13). Assists—New Orleans 13 (Gordon, Evans, Pondexter 3), Memphis 27 (Randolph, Gasol 6). Total Fouls—New Orleans 15, Memphis 16. A—17,518 (18,119).

CAVALIERS 104, BUCKS 99

CLEVELAND (104): James 8-15 3-4 21, Love 7-14 1-2 16, Mozgov 1-2 3-4 5, Irving 7-13 9-11 27, Smith 5-12 0-0 12, Dellavedova 1-5 0-0 3, Shumpert 4-8 0-0 9, Thompson 3-3 5-5 11, Jones 2-2 0-0 5. Totals 38-74 21-26 104.

MILWAUKEE (99): Dudley 2-4 0-0 5, Ilyasova 1-7 0-0 2, Pachulia 8-13 3-5 19, Carter-Williams 13-22 3-3 30, Middleton 7-10 0-0 16, Mayo 4-12 2-2 11, Henson 4-6 0-0 8, Bayless 1-4 1-3 3, Ennis 1-4 0-0 3, Plumlee 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 42-84 9-13 99.

Cleveland	26	26	22	30 — 104
Milwaukee	22	22	28	27 — 99

3-Point Goals—Cleveland 11-34 (Irving 4-8, James 2-5, Smith 2-6, Dellavedova 1-2, Shumpert 1-4, Love 1-5, Jones 0-2), Milwaukee 6-18 (Middleton 2-2, Ennis 1-2, Dudley 1-3, Carter-Williams 1-3, Mayo 1-5, Bayless 0-1, Ilyasova 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Cleveland 51 (Love 11), Milwaukee 38 (Pachulia 10). Assists—Cleveland 23 (Irving 9), Milwaukee 30 (Carter-Williams 8). Total Fouls—Cleveland 17, Milwaukee 22. Technicals—Milwaukee defensive three second. Flagrant Fouls—Thompson. A—14,629 (18,717).

STANDINGS
AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	1	0	1.000	—
Boston	1	0	1.000	—
New York	1	0	.500	½
Toronto	1	0	.500	½
Tampa Bay	1	0	.500	½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	2	0	1.000	—
Kansas City	2	0	1.000	—
Cleveland	1	0	.500	1
Chicago	1	0	.500	1
Minnesota	0	2	.000	2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	1	0	.500	—
Los Angeles	1	0	.500	—
Oakland	1	0	.500	—
Seattle	1	0	.500	—
Texas	1	0	.500	—

Wednesday's Scores

Detroit 11, Minnesota 0
Philadelphia 4, Boston 2
N.Y. Yankees 4, Toronto 3
Tampa Bay 2, Baltimore 0
Kansas City 7, Chicago White Sox 5
Cleveland 2, Houston 0
Texas at Oakland, late
L.A. Angels at Seattle, late

Today's Games

Minnesota (Gibson 0-0) at Detroit (Greene 0-0), 12:08 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Danks 0-0) at Kansas City (Volquez 0-0), 1:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Bauer 0-0) at Houston (Wacha/Keuchel 0-0), 1:10 p.m.
Texas (N.Martinez 0-0) at Oakland (Graveman 0-0), 2:35 p.m.
Boston (Masterson 0-0) at Philadelphia (Buchanan 0-0), 6:05 p.m.
Toronto (Da.Norris 0-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 0-0), 6:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	3	0	1.000	—
New York	1	1	.500	1½
Philadelphia	1	1	.500	1½
Washington	1	1	.500	1½
Miami	0	3	.000	3

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	1	0	1.000	—
Chicago	1	1	.500	½
St. Louis	1	1	.500	½
Pittsburgh	0	1	.000	1
Milwaukee	0	3	.000	2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Colorado	3	0	1.000	—
Arizona	1	1	.500	1½
Los Angeles	1	1	.500	1½
San Diego	1	1	.500	1½
San Francisco	1	1	.500	1½

Wednesday's Scores

Chicago Cubs 2, St. Louis 0
Philadelphia 4, Boston 2
Washington 2, N.Y. Mets 1
Atlanta 2, Miami 0
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, late
Colorado 5, Milwaukee 4, 10 innings
San Francisco at Arizona, late
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers, late

Today's Games

Pittsburgh (Burnett 0-0) at Cincinnati (DeSclafani 0-0), 11:35 a.m.
N.Y. Mets (Harvey 0-0) at Washington (Strasburg 0-0), 12:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Quintana 0-0) at Kansas City (Ventura 0-0), 1:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Kluber 0-0) at Houston (Keuchel 0-0), 1:10 p.m.
Minnesota (Hughes 0-0) at Detroit (Verlander 0-0), 6:08 p.m.
Texas (Lewis 0-0) at Oakland (Kazmir 0-0), 6:05 p.m.
Boston (Buchanan 0-0) at Philadelphia (Hamels 0-0), 6:05 p.m.
Toronto (Hutchison 0-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Kuroda 0-0), 6:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Richards 0-0) at Seattle (Iwakuma 0-0), 9:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Lohse 0-0) at Arizona (Collmenter 0-0), 9:40 p.m.
Miami (Haren 0-0) at San Francisco (Cain 0-0), 9:45 p.m.
St. Louis (Wainwright 0-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 0-0), 9:10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S AMERICAN LEAGUE BOX

INDIANS 2, ASTROS 0

Cleveland	ab	r	h	bi
Bourn cf	4	0	0	0
Jhmy.Rn lf	3	0	0	0
Kipnis 2b	4	0	1	0
Swisher 1b	4	0	0	0
Santn 3b	4	1	1	2
Moss rf	3	0	0	0
Gomes c	3	0	0	0
DvMrp dh	3	0	0	0
Chsnhll 3b	1	0	0	0
Aviles ss	3	1	1	2
Totals	33	2	7	2

Houston	ab	r	h	bi
Altuve 2b	4	0	0	0
Fowler cf	4	0	0	0
Valbuen lf	4	0	0	0
Gattis dh	4	0	0	0
Castro ss	4	0	1	0
Carter 1b	4	0	2	0
Corprn rf	3	0	0	0
Carter c	3	0	0	0
Totals	30	0	4	0

Cleveland	000	100	010	–2				
Houston	000	000	000	–0				

DP—Cleveland 1. LOB—Cleveland 5, Houston 4. 2B—Springer (1), Hrb. (1), Santana (1), Aviles (1). SB—Lowrie (1), S. Ramirez (1).

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO

Cleveland

| | | | | | |

Clock

From 1C

RockHounds manager Ryan Christenson nor pitching coach John Wasdin weren't concerned either after timing pitchers during spring training in Mesa, Arizona.

"We timed it, we played with it," Wasdin said. "It has never come to an issue except for the guys that walk all the way around the mound and take their time. You could probably go back and clock pitchers that are on TV, watching games and stuff, but there has never been really an issue. Yes, they are putting it into play, but to be honest with you, I don't ever see it being an issue or even having to worry about it because most of the guys are on and off bump well before that 20 seconds."

Doolittle pitched in the 2014 Arizona Fall League where MLB first experimented with the 20-second pitch clock.

Doolittle said the only adverse effect he witnessed was some batters and pitchers calling timeout, which is permissible under the 2015 rules if the umpire grants it.

"There was a lot more guys calling timeout just to get a couple extra seconds, to get a fresh clock," Doolittle said. "Other than that, it moved pretty quick. It was pretty standard.

"Some of the pitchers would step off the rubber to get more time. Some of the batters would call time, step out of the box, maybe fix their leg guard and stuff like that. As a whole, it moved pretty quick."

With runners on base, the 20-second pitch clock also resets when the pitcher "feints a pickoff" or steps off the rubber.

In addition to the 20-second pitch clock, in-between inning breaks will be two minutes, 25 seconds. A pitching change clock will also be used when a hurler is pulled within an inning. The pitching change clock of 2:25 starts when the reliever entering the game steps on the warning track or crosses the foul line after leaving the bullpen area. Relievers were granted eight warm up pitches in previous years, but are not assured that many in the new format.

"It really will probably come into play more so just for the guys coming out of the bullpen," Wasdin said. "Those guys who choose to walk or whatever. Again, it limits instead of always getting your eight (warmup) pitches, which you may only get one."

Pitchers are not the only ones being targeted with the pace of play rules, hitters are required to always have one foot in the batter's box.

"From a pitcher's point of view, I would say yes (I'm in support) because there's nothing worse than a batter taking a pitch and then walks around the entire plate, fixes his helmet, then his batting gloves, then his cleats," Doolittle said. "It's a little frustrating for us. I do like that they do have to kind of keep a foot in the box on certain pitches."

Triple-A New Orleans manager Andy Haines, who managed in the Arizona Fall League last season, expressed concern in a MLB Network Radio interview that the pace of play rules made it difficult to relay signs to the batter from the third-base coach's box.

Christenson was asked whether the pace of play rules would affect strategy since teams won't have free reign of time to send in signals or signs.

"I don't think so," Christenson said. "I don't do a ton of signs, and the signs that I usually give are going to be super quick."

No one knows for sure if the pitch clock will one day be a staple of MLB. Some believe it's simply a means to get minor league pitchers conditioned to work quicker once they reach the majors.

However, MLB will have a lot of data at its disposal with 60 different minor league clubs using the pitch clock this year.

"Minor leagues has typically been the test dummies for major league baseball so they kind of put things down here with us to implement them and see how they work and then they make tweaks and then they apply it to the big league level," Frankoff said. "I think that it's something that Major League Baseball is looking to put in place for years to come and right now it's kind of in the opening stages and they're going to see how it works at the Double-A and Triple-A level."

At Security Bank Ballpark, the pitch clock will be displayed where the radar gun reading is located beyond the center field wall and near both dugouts along the baselines.

Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris_MRTsports

TL standings

First Half
North Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Arkansas	0	0	.000	—
Northwest Arkansas	0	0	.000	—
Springfield	0	0	.000	—
Tulsa	0	0	.000	—

South Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Corpus Christi	0	0	.000	—
Frisco	0	0	.000	—
Midland	0	0	.000	—
San Antonio	0	0	.000	—

Today's Games
Northwest Arkansas at Midland, 7 p.m.
Arkansas at Frisco, 7:05 p.m.
San Antonio at Tulsa, 7:10 p.m.



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Bruce Maxwell prepares to hit the batting cage during RockHounds Media Day on Tuesday at Security Bank Ballpark.

Olson

From 1C

he has in Olson now and he says he's excited to have him again on the Double-A roster.

"He's a great player," Christenson said. "He's a great guy to have on the team in so many ways, not just his ability to play the game. I love his even-keeledness. He doesn't let the highs and lows get to him, which is a huge trait. I haven't had any issues in the clubhouse the last two years with him being the leader and the captain of the team."

Olson only hit .263 last season in Stockton, but he isn't just a power bat. Thanks in part to his sturdy, but agile 6-foot-5 frame, Christenson said he is also a gifted defensive player, who will have an opportunity to play right field at times this season.

"At first, defensively, he's a vacuum," Christenson said. "He's probably one of the best first baseman I've had."

RockHounds third baseman, Ryon Healy, who was a teammate of Olson's at Stockton last season, shared Christenson's excitement to have Olson's talent in Midland this year.

"Obviously his raw tools are inevitable," said Healy, who was a third round pick in the 2013 draft by the A's out of Oregon. "You can't really hide those. His power, his fleet of foot around the bases, his soft hands at first base. The way he handles failure, he's definitely the most mature high school kid I've ever seen. Watching the way he handles success and failure here in pro ball, it's special to watch."

But arguably one of Olson's greatest qualities is the way he approaches the game. He doesn't brag about his gaudy offensive numbers or publicly brand himself as the team's top player. Rather, he's a team player who leads by example.

"He's going to come out here and play hard," Healy said, when asked what RockHounds fans can expect of Olson this season. "Numbers wise, things are going to be what they are. Quite frankly, just sit back, watch and enjoy. I know I'll do the same, along with playing next to him. Just watch the kind of man he is and the kind of player he is."

Olson said he isn't setting any specific goals for his first season in Double-A. Instead he just wants to improve himself and be apart of as successful of a team as possible.

"Hopefully they (the people of the Midland/Odessa community) can expect some winning baseball," Olson said. "We've got a lot of talent in that clubhouse and hopefully we start meshing, we can get rolling quickly and keep it going."

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT

ROCKHOUNDS NOTEBOOK

Starting rotation set

RockHounds pitching coach John Wasdin said the team's starting rotation will be Zach Neal, Chris Jensen, Tanner Peters, Jake Sanchez and Chris Lamb.

Neal starts tonight's 7 p.m. opener versus Northwest Arkansas.

Neal, Jensen and Peters pitched for the RockHounds in 2014.

Sanchez was acquired by Oakland from the Chicago White Sox in a June 2014 trade. Sanchez went a combined 13-6, with a 3.14 ERA and 138 strikeouts in 132 innings with low Single-A Kannapolis and High -A Stockton in 2014.

Lamb pitched at every full-season level except Midland last year. Lamb recorded a 3.25 ERA in 130 minor league innings.

Pitching is the calling card

Christensen said that pitching figures to be the club's strength this season.

The starting rotation, in particular, should be solid. This year's starting rotation of Zach Neal, Chris Jensen, Tanner Peters, Jake Sanchez and Chris Lamb, combined to go 39-33 and post a 3.61 ERA across all levels of play last season.

That group also combined for a 3.05 strikeout-to-walk ratio, signaling its ability to throw strikes and keep under control in pressure situations.

Three of the five starters, Jensen, Sanchez and Lamb, finished their 2014 seasons with fewer hits allowed than innings pitched.

Two of them, Sanchez and Lamb, averaged better than a strikeout per inning, so this is a rotation that has the ability to miss some bats as well.

Team continuity and chemistry

There are several new faces on this year's RockHounds team, but many of the new players played together last season with the Class-A Advanced Stockton Ports.

Manager Ryan Christenson said he is familiar with most of the team's position players, as he spent 2014 as the Ports' manager and the 2013 season managing Class-A Beloit.

Most of the RockHounds infield, including Chad Pinder, Wade Kirkland, Matt Olson and Ryon Healy, spent significant time together in Stockton last season.

In addition, outfielder Bobby Crocker, catcher Bruce Maxwell, as well as pitchers Kris Hall, Zach Neal, Ryan Doolittle, Bobby Wahl, Chris Lamb, Tucker Healy and Jake Sanchez all spent some part of last year in Stockton.

2015 ROCKHOUNDS SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
April 9	NW Arkansas	7 p.m.
April 10	NW Arkansas	7 p.m.
April 11	NW Arkansas	7 p.m.
April 12	Arkansas	6:30 p.m.
April 13	Arkansas	6:30 p.m.
April 14	Arkansas	4 p.m.
April 16	at NW Arkansas	6:05 p.m.
April 17	at NW Arkansas	7:05 p.m.
April 18	at NW Arkansas	6:05 p.m.
April 19	at Arkansas	6:10 p.m.
April 20	at Arkansas	7:10 p.m.
April 21	at Arkansas	7:10 p.m.
April 23	San Antonio	7 p.m.
April 24	San Antonio	7 p.m.
April 25	San Antonio	7 p.m.
April 26	San Antonio	2 p.m.
April 27	Corpus Christi	6:30 p.m.
April 28	Corpus Christi	11:00 a.m.
April 29	Corpus Christi	6:30 p.m.
April 30	Corpus Christi	7 p.m.
May 1	at San Antonio	7:05 p.m.
May 2	at San Antonio	7:05 p.m.
May 3	at San Antonio	2:05 p.m.
May 4	at San Antonio	11:05 a.m.
May 5	at Corpus Christi	7:05 p.m.
May 6	at Corpus Christi	7:05 p.m.
May 7	at Corpus Christi	7:05 p.m.
May 8	at Corpus Christi	7:05 p.m.
May 9	Frisco	7 p.m.
May 10	Frisco	2 p.m.
May 11	Open	6:30 p.m.
May 12	Frisco	11:00 a.m.
May 14	San Antonio	7 p.m.
May 15	San Antonio	7 p.m.
May 16	San Antonio	7 p.m.
May 17	San Antonio	2 p.m.
May 18	at Frisco	7:05 p.m.
May 19	at Frisco	7:05 p.m.
May 20	at Frisco	11:05 a.m.
May 21	at Frisco	7:05 p.m.
May 22	at Corpus Christi	7:05 p.m.
May 23	at Corpus Christi	7:05 p.m.
May 24	at Corpus Christi	6:05 p.m.
May 25	at Corpus Christi	2:05 p.m.
May 26	Tulsa	6:30 p.m.
May 27	Tulsa	6:30 p.m.
May 28	Tulsa	7 p.m.
May 29	Springfield	7 p.m.
May 30	Springfield	7 p.m.
May 31	Springfield	2 p.m.
June 2	at Tulsa	7:05 p.m.
June 3	at Tulsa	12:05 p.m.
June 4	at Tulsa	7:05 p.m.
June 5	at Springfield	7:10 p.m.
June 6	at Springfield	6:10 p.m.
June 7	at Springfield	2:10 p.m.
June 9	Corpus Christi	6:30 p.m.
June 10	Corpus Christi	6:30 p.m.
June 11	Corpus Christi	7 p.m.
June 12	Corpus Christi	7 p.m.
June 13	Frisco	7 p.m.
June 14	Frisco	6 p.m.
June 15	Frisco	6:30 p.m.
June 16	Frisco	6:30 p.m.
June 17	at San Antonio	7:05 p.m.
June 18	at San Antonio	7:05 p.m.
June 19	at San Antonio	7:05 p.m.
June 20	at San Antonio	7:05 p.m.
June 21	at Frisco	6:05 p.m.
June 22	at Frisco	7:05 p.m.
June 23	at Frisco	7:05 p.m.
June 24	at Frisco	11:05 a.m.
June 25	at San Antonio	7:05 p.m.
June 26	at San Antonio	7:05 p.m.
June 27	at San Antonio	7:05 p.m.
June 28	at San Antonio	2:05 p.m.
July 2	Arkansas	7 p.m.
July 3	Arkansas	7 p.m.
July 4	Arkansas	7 p.m.
July 5	NW Arkansas	6 p.m.
July 6	NW Arkansas	6:30 p.m.
July 7	NW Arkansas	6:30 p.m.
July 8	at Arkansas	7:10 p.m.
July 9	at Arkansas	7:10 p.m.
July 10	at Arkansas	7:10 p.m.
July 11	at NW Arkansas	6:05 p.m.
July 12	at NW Arkansas	6:05 p.m.
July 13	at NW Arkansas	7:05 p.m.
July 15	San Antonio	6:30 p.m.
July 16	San Antonio	7 p.m.
July 17	San Antonio	7 p.m.
July 18	San Antonio	7 p.m.
July 19	at Corpus Christi	6:05 p.m.
July 20	at Corpus Christi	7:05 p.m.
July 21	at Corpus Christi	7:05 p.m.
July 22	at Corpus Christi	7:05 p.m.
July 23	San Antonio	7 p.m.
July 24	San Antonio	7 p.m.
July 25	San Antonio	7 p.m.
July 26	San Antonio	6 p.m.
July 27	at Frisco	7:05 p.m.
July 28	at Frisco	7:05 p.m.
July 29	at Frisco	7:05 p.m.
July 30	Corpus Christi	7 p.m.
July 31	Corpus Christi	7 p.m.
Aug. 1	Corpus Christi	7 p.m.
Aug. 2	Corpus Christi	2 p.m.
Aug. 3	Frisco	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 4	Frisco	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 5	Frisco	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 6	at Corpus Christi	7:05 p.m.
Aug. 7	at Corpus Christi	7:05 p.m.
Aug. 8	at Corpus Christi	7:05 p.m.
Aug. 9	at Corpus Christi	6:05 p.m.
Aug. 11	Springfield	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 12	Springfield	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 13	Springfield	7 p.m.
Aug. 14	Tulsa	7 p.m.
Aug. 15	Tulsa	7 p.m.
Aug. 16	Tulsa	2 p.m.
Aug. 18	at Springfield	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 19	at Springfield	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 20	at Springfield	7:10 p.m.
Aug. 21	at Tulsa	7:05 p.m.
Aug. 22	at Tulsa	7:05 p.m.
Aug. 23	at Tulsa	7:05 p.m.
Aug. 25	Corpus Christi	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 26	Corpus Christi	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 27	Corpus Christi	7 p.m.
Aug. 28	Corpus Christi	7 p.m.
Aug. 29	Frisco	7 p.m.
Aug. 30	Frisco	2 p.m.
Aug. 31	Frisco	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 1	at San Antonio	7:05 p.m.
Sept. 2	at San Antonio	7:05 p.m.
Sept. 3	at San Antonio	7:05 p.m.
Sept. 4	at San Antonio	7:05 p.m.
Sept. 5	at Frisco	7:05 p.m.
Sept. 6	at Frisco	6:05 p.m.
Sept. 7	at Frisco	6:05 p.m.

2015 ROCKHOUNDS ROSTER

Pitchers

No	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Bats-Throws	Age	Residence
11	Ryan Dull	5-10	175	R-R	25	Winston-Salem, N.C.
14	Jake Sanchez	6-1	206	R-R	25	Brawley, Calif.
15	Tanner Peters	6-0	175	R-R	24	Simi Valley, Calif.
19	Jim Fuller	5-10	190	L-L	27	Marlborough, Mass.
23	Tucker Healy	6-1	210	L-R	24	*Needham, Mass.
24	Chris Lamb	6-1	205	S-L	24	Berkeley, Calif.
28	Bobby Wahl	6-3	210	R-R	23	Springfield, Va.
33	Zach Neal	6-3	220	R-R	26	Flower Mound, Texas
43	Kris Hall	6-4	200	R-R	23	Strongsville, Ohio
45	Seth Frankoff	6-5	210	R-R	26	Apex, N.C.
46	Nate Long	6-2	210	R-R	29	Bedford, Texas
49	Ryan Doolittle	6-2	200	R-R	27	Phoenix, Ariz.

Catchers

No	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Bats-Throws	Age	Residence
13	Bruce Maxwell	6-2	245	L-R	24	Scottsdale, Ariz.
18	Phil Pohl	5-11	215	R-R	24	Cooperstown, N.Y.
22	Carson Blair	6-2	215	R-R	25	Argyle, Texas

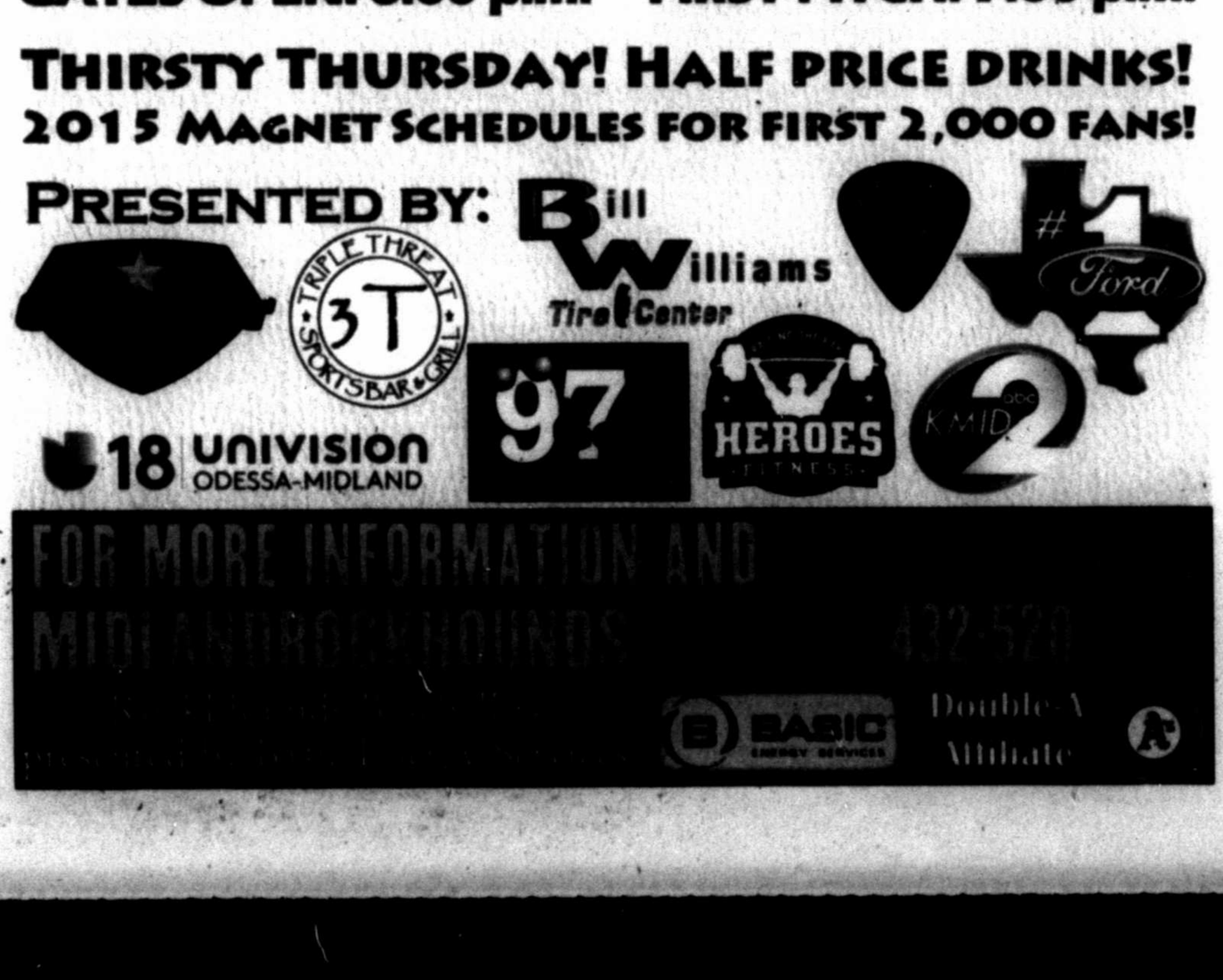
Infielders

No	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Bats-Throws	Age	Residence
6	Collin Walsh	6-0	200	S-R	25	San Diego, Calif.
10	Chad Pinder	6-2	190	R-R	23	Charleston, S.C.
16	Wade Kirkland	5-11	200	R-R	26	Lakeland, Fla.
21	Matt Olson	6-5	230	L-R	21	Lilburn, Ga.
25	Ryon Healy	6-5	225	R-R	23	West Hills, Calif.

Outfielders

No	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Bats-Throws	Age	Residence
5	Chad Oberacker	6-0	195	L-L	26	Erie, Pa.
9	Jaycob Brugman	6-0	195	L-L	23	Orem, Utah
17	Ryan Matthews	6-3	205	R-R	25	Orlando, Fla.
27	Bobby Crocker	6-3	225	R-R	24	Santa Cruz, Calif.

Manager: Ryan Christenson
Pitching Coach: John Wasdin
Hitting Coach: Eric Martins
Athletic Trainer: Justin Whitehouse
Strength & Conditioning Coach: A.J. Seeliger



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THURSDAY PRIME TIME — APRIL 9, 2015

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	Grey's Anatomy "A Hard Day's Night"		Grey's Anatomy "Crazy Love" (N)		American Crime "Episode Six" (N)		KMID News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7 News	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory	Couple (N)	Big Bang Theory	Mom (N)	Elementary (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) Masters 7(:50) David Letterman		(:50) J.Corden
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S* H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Hogan's Heroes	Twilight Zone	Welcome Kotter	Welcome Kotter	Carol Burnett	P. Mason "The Case of the Sleepy Slayer"		McCloud
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Bones "The Baker in the Bits" (N)		Backstrom (N)		Modern Family	Modern Family	Hot in Cleveland	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	Dr. Rik Wadge	Rocks/M-anuscripts	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.		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Agent Provacateur"		The Blacklist "The Scimitar"		Dateline NBC (N)		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Tracks Ahead	Daytripper TV	Ancient Roads "The Great Missionary"		Jewel in Crown "A Division of the Spoils"		Charlie Rose (N)		Tavis Smiley (N)	Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	La sombra del pasado		Ambres con trampa		Hasta el fin del mundo		Que te perdone Dios... Yo no		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Fam.Feud	Million..	Mental. "Red Moon"		The Mentalist		My News	Million..	Anger M.	M&M	Office	Access H.
FLIX	340	65		165		(5:00) Mighty Joe...		★★ Yours, Mine and Ours		★ Adventures in Babysitting				(:15) ★★★ Big Business Bette Midler.			
HBO	300	68	14	14		(5:15) Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire		★ The Fault in Our Stars Shailene Woodley.						(:15) Real Sex		(:05) Vice	Movie
HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	Movie	(:45) ★ Fast and Furious 6 ('13, Act) Vin Diesel.					Game of Thrones		Game of Thrones		Sinatra	
HBOS	304	70	16	102		(5:45) ★★ The Interpreter Nicole Kidman.				Bill Maher		LastWeek	★ The Best Man Holiday Monica Calhoun.				Movie
MAX	380	71	47	120	24	(5:25) ★★★ Full Metal Jacket				★★★ Bad Words		★ The Purge: Anarchy				(:45) ★ Sexy Warriors ('14, Adult)	
MAX2	382	72	18	122		★ The Rite ('11, Dra) Colin O'Donoghue.				★★★ Jarhead ('05, Act) Jake Gyllenhaal.		Femme		(:40) ★ Runner Runner			
PLEX			96			(5:10) ★ Falling in Lo...		★ Hannah and Her Sisters				(:50) ★★★ The Court Jester Danny Kaye.		(:35) ★★ Married Life			
SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	(5:15) ★ The Double		★ Inside Llewyn Davis Carey Mulligan.				Shameless		SEX With	★★★ Seven Psychopaths		
TMC	336	67	22	155	26	(5:30) ★ Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom				★★★ The Butler Forest Whitaker.				(:15) ★ Blue Caprice Isaiah Washington.			
A&E	27	32	28	35	47	First 48 "Calling For A Killer/ Boiling Point"		The First 48		The First 48 (N)		8 Minutes (N)		8 Minutes		The First 48	
AMC	40	21	23	42	51	(5:00) ★ Jurassic Pa...		★★★★ Jaws ('75, Hor) Richard Dreyfuss, Roy Scheider.						★★★★ Jaws ('75, Hor) Roy Scheider.			
BET	58	26		40		(4:30) ★ To Be Ann...		Being Mary Jane		Being Mary Jane		KeyshiaC	KeyshiaC	Being Mary Jane		Wendy Williams	
BRAVO	65	63		41		Beverly Hills		Wives "The B is Back"		Real Melbourne (N)		Beverly Hills		Watch (N)	TBA	Wives of Melbourne	
CNBC	46	45		39	72	American Greed		Shark Tank		American Greed		American Greed		American Greed		American Greed	
CNN	43	24	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Somebody's Gotta		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360		Somebody's Gotta	
DISC	50	20	31	24	42	Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier	
DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	Liv/Mad	★ Judy Moody & the Not Bum...			(:10) Austin	Liv/Mad	DogBlog	I Didn't	Jessie	A.N.T.	GoodLuck	GoodLuck
ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	(2:00) Golf	SportsC.	Golf Masters Tournament Round 1 Site: Augusta National Golf Club						SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	Hockey	SportsNat.	SportNat	NCAA Hockey	Division I Tournament Site: TD Garden (L)				NFL Live		Baseball Tonight (L)	
FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	★★ Alorig Came Polly	Ben Stiller			★★★ Bruce Almighty	Jim Carrey.			The 700 Club		Boy MW	Boy MW
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 Canada (N)		BeatFlay	Beat Flay	Cutthroat Kitchen		Chopped Canada	
FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	The Beat Tex A&M	SportsDay OnAir (N)	MLB Baseball Texas Rangers at Oakland Athletics Site: O.co Coliseum (Oakland, Calif						Inside TCU (N)	Outdoor SW (N)	WPT Poker Bounty Scramble	
FX	31	31	59	64	69	Movie	★★★ Ted ('12, Com) Mila Kunis, Mark Wahlberg.					Comedian	Louie (N)	Comedian	Louie	Louie 2/3	Louie 3/3
HALLMARK	54	49	58		34	Waltons "The Hawk"		Waltons "The Stray"		Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	Renovation		Fixer Upper		Rehab (N)	Rehab	H.Hunter	House	H.Hunt	House	Rehab	Rehab
HISTORY	71	62	29	50	43	Pawn S.	Pawn Star	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Vikings (N)		(:05) Vikings		Pawn S.	Pawn S.
LIFETIME	28	25	25	28	48	Celeb Wife "Jenna von Oy/ Jill Zarin"		Celebrity Wife Swap		Celeb Wife "Judy Gold/ Penn Jillette"		Terra's Family	Terra's Family	Little Women: NY "Burlesque Brawl"		Celebrity Wife Swap	
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				NHL Live! (L)		NHL Hockey Chicago Blackhawks at St. Louis Blues (L)					Overtime	NASCAR		Mec.um "Houston" (N)	
NICK	55	34	39	34	37	MakePop	Sam & Cat	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	Friends	(:10) Lopez	(:55) Lopez
SPIKE	30	22	55	53	58	Movie	★★★ The Expendables 2 ('12, Act) Sylvester Stallone.					Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Bar Rescue		Lip Sync
SYFY	66	64	41	57	67	(4:30) ★★ 1408		WWE Smackdown! (N)				Olympus (N)		12 Monk. "Paradox"		Olympus "Daedalus"	
TBS	25	11	44	66	41	Sein. "The Note"	Seinfeld "The Truth"	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan Amy Schumer, Kenny Smith		The Office	Conan
TCM	41	61	24	63	66	(5:30) ★ Return Fr...		★★ My Blood Runs Cold Troy Donahue.				★★★ Rome Adventure Troy Donahue.				(:15) ★ A Distant T...	
TELE	20	8	10	20		Caso cerrado		Avenida Brasil		Tierra de reyes		Dueños del paraiso		Al rojo	(:35) Titular	Tierra de reyes	
TLC	51	33	32	38	52	My Big Fat American Gypsy Wedding		My Big Fat American Gypsy Wedding (N)		My Big Fat American Gypsy Wedding (N)		Myrtle Manor "Trailer Park Birthday" (N)		My Big Fat American Gypsy Wedding		Myrtle Manor "Trailer Park Birthday"	
TNT	24	23	40	26	50	Castle "Ghosts"		NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at Miami Heat Site: American Airlines Arena - Miami, Fla. (L)					NBA Basketball Portland Trail Blazers at Golden State Warriors Site: The Oracle - Oakland, Calif. (L)				
TVLAND	49	48	35	54	35	Home Videos		Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens	Friends	Friends
USA	26	30	42	27	49	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Secrets Exhumed"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Betrayal's Climax"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Reasonable Doubt"		DIG "The Well of Souls" (N)		DIG "The Well of Souls"		DIG "Emma Wilson's Father"	
WGN	19	18				America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Mother "Hooked"	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Rules of Engage.	Rules of Engage.

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MASTERS

From 1C

Spieth has won, finished second and lost in a playoff his last three starts.

The question for Spieth is whether he already paid his major dues.

A year ago, he was on the verge at age 20 of becoming the youngest Masters champion when he had a two-shot lead with 11 holes to play. Two bogeys put behind going into the back nine, and he never caught up to Watson.

"How much value do I take out of losing? A lot," Spieth said. "But I'm not one of those people who believe it was better for me not to win. I don't think I would have handled it the wrong way. I don't think Rory would have if he had won. He was saying he didn't feel ready to close that out and found out what he was doing wrong.

"I take a lot out of what happened, but I don't necessarily think it was better for me."

Padraig Harrington is another major champion who lost before he could win.

"The best preparation for winning is contending," Harrington said.

The Irishman made bogey on the final hole at the 2002 British Open that cost him a spot in the playoff at Muirfield. He finished with three straight bogeys at Winged Foot in 2006 and finished two shots behind in the U.S. Open. A year later, he won the first of his three majors, going back-to-back at the end of 2008.

"You do need to be in that situation a couple of times to be comfortable," Harrington said. "That's not true for everyone. But for most players, you have to lose a few before you can win a few."

Maybe that explains why no Masters rookie has won a green jacket since Fuzzy Zoeller in 1979. Or why the Masters has the fewest number of first-time champions compared with the other three majors over the last 20 years.

McIlroy paid a steep price four years ago and found redemption in other majors right away. Still missing, however, is the green jacket.



Associated Press

Rory McIlroy walks past spectators on the seventh hole during a practice round for the Masters golf tournament on Wednesday in Augusta, Ga.

MASTERS TEE TIMES

At Augusta National Golf Club
Augusta, Ga.
a-amateur
Today-Friday

6:45 a.m.-9:52 a.m. — Charley Hoffman, Brian Hyman
6:56 a.m.-10:03 a.m. — Larry Mize, Danny Willett, a-Byron Meth
7:07 a.m.-10:14 a.m. — Tom Watson, Gary Woodland, Camilo Villegas
7:18 a.m.-10:25 a.m. — Mike Weir, Ben Crane, a-Corey Conners
7:29 a.m.-10:36 a.m. — Vijay Singh, Russell Henley, Darren Clarke
7:40 a.m.-10:47 a.m. — Jose Maria Olazabal, Brendon Todd, Kevin Na
7:51 a.m.-11:09 a.m. — Jonas Blixt, Kevin Streelman, Stephen Gallacher
8:02 a.m.-11:20 a.m. — Patrick Reed, Keegan Bradley, Ian Poulter
8:13 a.m.-11:31 a.m. — Miguel Angel Jimenez, Lee Westwood, Anirban Lahiri
8:24 a.m.-11:42 a.m. — Bubba Watson, Justin Rose, a-Gunn Yang
8:35 a.m.-11:53 a.m. — Adam Scott, Dustin Johnson, a-Antonio Murdaca
8:57 a.m.-12:04 p.m. — Morgan Hoffmann, Steve Stricker, Matt Every
9:08 a.m.-12:15 p.m. — Ben Crenshaw, Bill Haas, Jason Dufner
9:19 a.m.-12:26 p.m. — Webb Simpson, Hideki Matsuyama, Paul Casey
9:30 a.m.-12:37 p.m. — Charl Schwartzel, Joost Luiten, Sangmoon Bae
9:41 a.m.-12:48 p.m. — Phil Mickelson, Rory McIlroy, Ryan Moore
9:52 a.m.-12:58 p.m. — J.B. Holmes, Martin Kaymer, Brandt Snedeker
10:03 a.m.-6:45 a.m. — Ian Woosnam, Erik Compton, Marc Leishman
10:14 a.m.-6:56 a.m. — Trevor Immelman, Kevin Stadler, a-Scott Harvey
10:25 a.m.-7:07 a.m. — Ben Martin, Robert Streb, Cameron Tringale
10:36 a.m.-7:18 a.m. — Sandy Lyle, Seung-Yul Noh, a-Bradley Neil
10:47 a.m.-7:29 a.m. — Bernhard Langer, Bernd Wiesberger, Geoff Ogilvy
11:09 a.m.-7:40 a.m. — Zach Johnson, Jim Furyk, Ernie Els
11:20 a.m.-7:51 a.m. — Angel Cabrera, Louis Oosthuizen, a-Matias Dominguez
11:31 a.m.-8:02 a.m. — Mark O'Meara, Chris Kirk, Shane Lowry
11:42 a.m.-8:13 a.m. — Padraig Harrington, Ryan Palmer, Thomas Bjorn
11:53 p.m.-8:24 a.m. — James Hahn, Miklo Ikonen, Hunter Mahan
12:04 p.m.-8:35 a.m. — Matt Kuchar, Brooks Koepka, Graeme McDowell
12:15 p.m.-8:57 a.m. — Jordan Spieth, Henrik Stenson, Billy Horschel
12:26 p.m.-9:08 a.m. — Fred Couples, Brandon Grace, Thongchai Jaidee
12:37 p.m.-9:19 a.m. — Luke Donald, Victor Dubuisson, John Senden
12:48 p.m.-9:30 a.m. — Tiger Woods, Jamie Donaldson, Jimmy Walker
12:59 p.m.-9:41 a.m. — Jason Day, Sergio Garcia, Rickie Fowler

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. The BANANA BITES provide hints. Reuse the tiles for each grid.

C D E E G H I L L O P T U V Y

BANANA BITE:
One word means "throat sound."

BANANA BITE:
One word means "reveal."

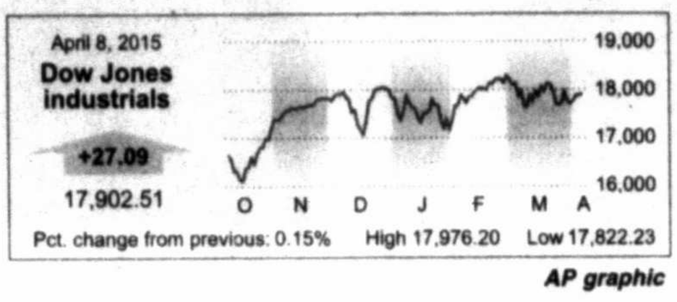
Yesterday's Answer: KEEPER, PIECE, TABLE

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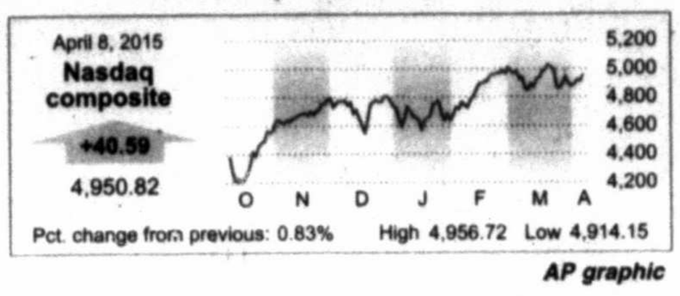
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BUSINESS & OIL

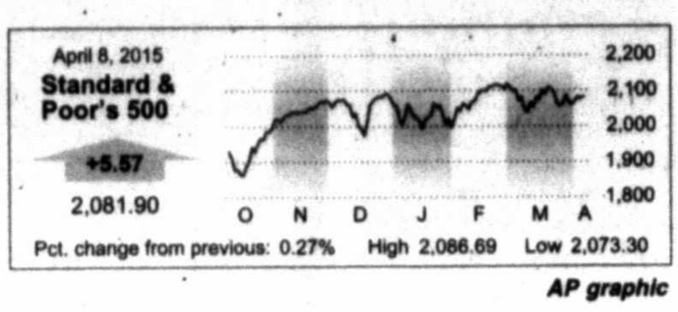
A DAY ON WALL STREET



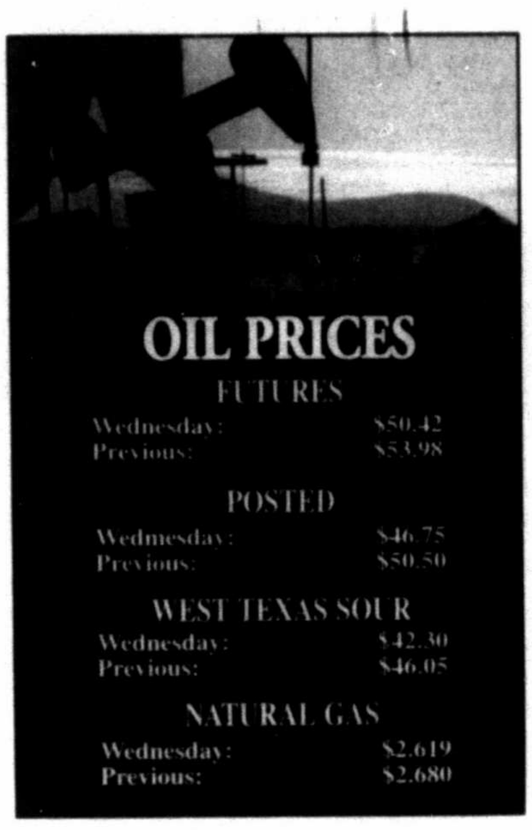
AP graphic



AP graphic



AP graphic



NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
S&P500ETF	803806	207.98	+ .70
CSVLgCrde	758510	2.61	-.48
BkofAm	706851	15.61	+ .15
RiteAid	654520	8.87	+ .18
iShEMkts	575198	42.43	- .87

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
YanzhouC	11.86	+2.25	+23.4
Zep	20.37	+3.28	+19.2
Perrigo	195.00	+30.29	+18.4
YoukuTud	15.93	+2.02	+14.5
SemiMfg	5.70	+ .69	+13.8

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
DrxChiBear	6.23	-1.42	-18.6
CSVLgCrde	2.61	-.48	-15.5
PUShCh50	28.74	-4.03	-12.3
MillerE pfC	10.63	-1.26	-10.6
CrestwdEq	5.35	-.63	-10.5

DIARY

Advanced	1,880
Declined	1,219
Unchanged	114
Total issues	3,213
New Highs	126
New Lows	7
Volume	3,193,851,667

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	%Chg
BarcGSOil	58562	10.81	-.66	-5.8
Organovo	52483	4.33	+ .41	+10.5
Globalstar	41136	2.96	-.17	-5.4
GranTrrsg	35333	2.47		
YwGold g	33528	3.51	- .14	-3.8

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
ActinumP	3.12	+ .31	+11.0
Organovo	4.33	+ .41	+10.5
Inuvo	2.80	+ .25	+9.8
Daxor	6.43	+ .55	+9.4
Protalix	2.00	+ .16	+8.7

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
TrangPer	5.17	-.58	-9.7
Hc2 Hldgs	7.06	-.83	-8.4
NthnO&G	8.36	-.57	-6.4
Adcare pfA	26.25	-1.75	-6.3
Trilun	4.12	-.27	-6.2

DIARY

Advanced	200
Declined	189
Unchanged	36
Total issues	425
New Highs	4
New Lows	7
Volume	90,681,154

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Mylan NV	505923	68.36	-8.79
Apple Inc s	363817	125.60	-.41
SiriusXM	336768	3.96	-.13
PwShs QQQ	249267	106.64	+.84
Microsoft	240977	47.42	-.11

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
KingtoneW	6.19	+3.07	+98.4
AirMedia	2.84	+ .79	+38.5
QKL Strs	2.55	+ .70	+37.8
SpanBrdc	5.00	+1.00	+25.0
ChinaYida	2.74	+ .53	+24.0

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
PrstBrck s	19.61	-.54	-2.7
FlamelT	16.64	-2.24	-11.9
Approach	7.62	-.77	-9.2
Caprop	6.77	-.62	-8.4
AuxoraPh	3.83	-.34	-8.1

DIARY

Advanced	1,734
Declined	972
Unchanged	169
Total issues	2,875
New Highs	95
New Lows	30
Volume	1,641,975,294

Shell's $70 billion takeover could herald wave of mergers

Associated Press

LONDON — Oil and gas company Shell has agreed to buy British rival BG Group for 47 billion pounds ($69.7 billion), in a deal that may signal a new wave of mega-mergers as the energy industry tries to adapt to lower prices.

Royal Dutch Shell said Wednesday it will pay the equivalent of 13.67 pounds in cash and stock for each share of BG Group, 50 percent more than Tuesday's closing price. The deal will boost Shell's oil and gas reserves by 25 percent, including offshore projects in Australia and Brazil, and give it a bigger presence in the fast-growing liquefied natural gas market, Shell said.

Other energy giants may follow suit as they look to boost growth through acquisitions after increased production in the U.S. helped trigger a plunge in oil prices. The last wave of oil mergers took place in the 1990s after new production from the North Sea, Alaska and Mexico led to excess global capacity and companies linked up to protect themselves, or bought weaker rivals at lower prices.

"Will this be the opening shot in a new wave of mega-mergers like the 1990s?" asked Christian Stadler, associate professor of strategic management at Warwick Business School in Britain. "Quite a few oil companies are under cost pressure with no sense of the oil price recovering. Companies had got used to $100 a barrel, and many need $40 to $60 to break even so we could see more of these deals."

The international price of crude oil has plunged from over $115 a barrel last summer to a low around $45 before recovering somewhat in recent weeks to trade at $58 a barrel on Wednesday. Global natural gas prices have also dropped, because most of the natural gas traded internationally is linked to the price of oil.

Analysts at Wood Mackenzie said low prices have prompted most major oil companies to weigh acquisitions, though only a few have the size and resources to pull off a mega-merger. "If you're looking to the next big deal, ExxonMobil stands out as most likely to pull the trigger," they wrote in a research note.

Exxon made the last giant oil and gas acquisition when it agreed to buy the U.S. shale driller XTO Energy for $31 billion in 2009.

The takeover of BG Group allows Shell to replace reserves at a time when exploration budgets are being cut and after its attempts to join the U.S. shale boom did not amount to much, Stadler said.

Wood Mackenzie said BG's large position in the deep waters off of Brazil were likely the most attractive target for Shell. "It's all about the deepwater oil," analysts wrote.

The merger also combines the two largest investor-owned sellers of liquefied natural gas in the world. As new projects come on line in the coming years, the combined company will become the world's biggest seller of liquefied natural gas by 2018, Wood Mackenzie said.

The boards of both companies recommended that shareholders approve the deal, which they said will create a more competitive, stronger company amid the volatility in oil prices.

Shareholders seemed to think that Shell did not get much of a discount for BG, however, despite the low oil and gas prices. Shares in Shell were down about 7 percent Wednesday while those in BG Group soared 32 percent.

BG shareholders will own about 19 percent of Shell after the deal is complete.

Combining the two companies will produce savings of about 2.5 billion pounds a year, Shell said.

"This an incredibly exciting moment for Shell," Chief Executive Ben van Beurden told reporters. "It is bold and strategic moves that shape our industry."

Fed officials split widely on rate hike timing

Associated Press

Fed officials disagreed widely when they met last month on when they would be ready to lift interest rates from record lows.

Minutes of the March 17-18 meeting released Wednesday reveal that several policymakers predicted a rate hike in June, while others concerned about low inflation didn't think a rate hike would be warranted until later this year. Still others said the economy wouldn't be strong enough for an increase until 2016.

The Fed's benchmark interest rate has been near zero since December 2008.

In the statement the Fed issued after the meeting, it signaled it was moving closer to a rate increase by dropping language it had been using since December that it would be "patient" before starting to raise its benchmark rate.

The minutes stated that "almost all" the policymakers agreed on the wording change.

With the economy improving, "they preferred language that would provide the committee with the flexibility to subsequently adjust the target range for the federal funds rate on a meeting-by-meeting basis," the minutes said.

But the minutes, which were released after the customary wait of three weeks, showed the group was split over the exact timing of the first rate hike. The Fed said in its policy statement that it wanted to see more improvement in the job market and needed to be "reasonably confident" that inflation would move toward its 2 percent goal.

Stocks edge higher

Deal news gave the stock market a lift Wednesday.

Health care stocks rose after generic drugmaker Mylan bid $29 billion for rival Perrigo. That offset a slump in energy stocks prompted by a big drop in oil prices.

In Europe, oil company Royal Dutch Shell agreed to buy BG Group for $69.7 billion in cash and stock.

Corporations worldwide are seeking to increase growth through acquisitions and have announced almost $1 trillion or deals so far this year, according to data provider Dealogic. That's giving a boost to stock markets as the acquiring companies typically offer a premium for their targets.

"There's obviously the big debate about whether (deals are) value-creating or value-destroying," said Dan Morris, Global Investment Strategist at investment company TIAA-CREF. "But in the short term it is generally good for markets."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 5.57 points, or 0.3 percent, at 2,081.90. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 27.09 points at 17,902.51. The Nasdaq composite gained 40.59 points, or 0.8 percent, to 4,950.82.

Investors were also parsing the minutes from the latest Federal Reserve meeting for clues about the timing of a possible interest rate increase and waiting for companies to start reporting their first-quarter earnings.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $53.51 Down 2.37

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $119.75 Down 1.25

Dawson Operating (DWSN)
Closing Price $5.02 Up 0.04

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $78.06 Down 1.90

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $11.03 Up 0.14

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $5.52 Up 0.05

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $21.67 Up 0.47

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $27.07 Down 1.00

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $11.37 Down 0.25

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $18.45 Down 0.16

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.88	27	32.65	-.04	-2.8
Abraxas		6	3.57	.10	+21.4
AdamsEx	1.18e		13.96	+ .01	+2.0
AirMedia			2.84	+ .79	+10.9
Alcoa	.12	72	13.67	- .24	-13.4
Alibaba n			85.39	+3.18	-17.8
AlonUSA	.40a	29	16.14	.16	+27.4
Ambev	.24e		6.36	+ .13	+3.1
Amgen	3.16	24	160.33	+3.05	+.7
Anadarko	1.08		86.12	+ .68	+4.4
Apache	1.00		65.25	- .19	+4.1
Apple Inc s	1.88	17	125.60	-.41	+13.6
ApldMatl	.40	23	22.38	+ .40	-10.2
ATMOS	1.56	18	55.39	- .15	-.6
AutoData	1.96	29	86.57	+ .72	+3.8
BP PLC	2.40	34	40.77	+ .52	+7.0
BabsCCInv	1.20		15.75		-.9
BakrHu	.68	16	64.22	- .11	+14.5
BkofAm	.20	45	15.61	+ .15	-12.7
BPPrlaST			23.97	- .48	-23.9
BasicEnSv			8.12	- .20	+15.8
BerkHa A		1721	482800	-672.00	-4.9
BlkHillsCp	1.62f	18	51.73	+ .07	-2.5
BrMySq	1.48	53	63.52	+ .52	+7.6
BrownFA	1.26	29	92.81	+ .12	+5.8
BrownFB	1.26	29	92.21	- .41	+5.0
CVS Health	1.40	26	102.93	.20	+6.9
Cameron		12	46.07	.20	-7.8
Catamaran		34	59.16	- .04	+14.3
Caterpillar	2.80	14	80.44	- .10	-12.1
Celestic g		13	11.65	+ .08	-.8
Cemex	.52t		9.90	- .26	-2.8
CntryLink	2.16	26	35.50	+ .09	-10.3
ChesiEng	.35	8	15.10	- .25	-22.8
Chevron	4.28	11	106.66	-1.88	-4.9
Chicos	.31f		17.68	+ .02	+9.1
Cimarex	.64	21	122.12	-2.05	+15.2
Cisco	.84f	17	27.55	+ .16	-.3
Citigroup	.04	24	51.89	+ .37	-4.1
ClayEng		15	53.51	-2.37	-16.1
CocaCola	1.32f	26	40.89	- .12	-3.2
ColgPalm	1.52f	30	69.90	+ .19	+1.0
Comcast	1.00f	19	59.18	+ .87	+2.0
ConAgra	1.00		37.92	- .04	+4.5

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
ConchoRes		25	119.75	-1.25	+20.1
ConocoPhil	2.92	12	64.81	- .98	-6.2
CrackerB	4.00	24	149.00	+1.39	+5.9
CSVLgNGs			2.19	- .12	-45.0
CSVLgCrde			2.61	- .48	-46.6
CSVellVST			36.91	+ .70	+18.5
CSVixSht			1.50	.05	-45.7
CrosTim	2.52e	7	19.81	- .54	+14.4
DCP Mid	3.12f	14	37.98	+ .23	-16.4
DTE	2.76	16	81.81	- .34	-5.3
Dataram h			2.43	+ .30	+42.9
DeltaAir	.36	18	43.29	+1.65	-12.0
DenburyR	.25	4	8.52	- .20	+4.8
DBXEafeEq	1.37e		30.78	+ .12	+14.0
DevonE	.96	16	63.04	- .29	+3.0
DrxGldBull			10.63	- .19	-4.7
DrxSCBear			9.85	- .24	-17.9
Disney	1.15f	24	106.36	+.93	+12.9
DowChm	1.68	17	48.37	- .15	+6.1
EMC Cp	.46	20	26.23	+ .05	-11.8
EOG Resrc	.67	18	94.04	- .23	+2.1
EmpDist	1.04	16	24.72	- .18	-16.9
Energen	.08	28	66.44	-1.65	+4.2
EngyTsfr	3.98f	34	56.45	+ .06	-13.2
EnPro	.80	79	67.52	- .02	+7.5
EntPrdPt s	1.48f	23	33.39	+ .05	-7.6
Ericsson	.46e		12.72	- .09	+5.1
ExterranH	.50	24	33.80	- .39	+3.7
ExxonMbl	2.76	11	84.06	-1.69	-9.1
Facebook		75	82.28	- .05	+5.5
FordM	.60f	20	15.98	+ .08	+3.1
FrptMcM	.20m		18.82	- .16	-19.4
GATX	1.52f	13	59.45	- .03	+3.3
GabMultT	1.06e		9.39	+ .02	-6.2
GAInv	3.50e		34.94	- .02	-.2
GenElec	.92	17	25.01	- .01	-1.0
GeinMotors	1.20	22	36.11	+ .38	+3.4
GtPlainEn	.96	17	26.88	- .25	-5.4
HalconRes			1.82	- .19	+2.2
Hallibrtn	.72	10	44.22	- .30	+12.4
HewlettP	.64	12	31.52	+ .10	-21.5
iShBrazil	1.39e		34.27	+ .77	-6.3
iShJapan	.15e		12.92	+ .02	+14.9
iShChinaLC	1.04e		49.22	+2.85	+18.3

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
iShEMkts	.88e		42.43	- .87	+8.0
iS Eafe	2.26e		66.04	+ .28	+8.5
iShR2K	1.59e		125.47	+1.07	+4.9
IntegrysE	2.72	21	72.07	- .19	-7.4
Intel	.96	13	31.31	+ .05	-13.7
InterDig	.80		51.60	+ .78	-2.5
ItauUnibH	.41e		12.22	+ .38	-6.0
JD.com n			32.66	+1.66	+41.1
JPMorgCh	1.60	12	61.05	+ .20	-1.8
JohnJn	2.80	18	100.16	+ .06	-4.2
KimbClk	3.52f	27	107.16	+ .20	-7.3
LegacyRes	2.44		11.03	+ .14	-3.5
Lubys			5.43		+19.3
MGM Rsts			21.59	+ .48	+1.0
MktVGold	.12e		19.09	- .10	+3.9
MktVRus	.64e		19.07	+ .23	+30.3
McDnlds	3.40	20	96.85	+ .50	+3.4
Merck	1.80	14	57.15	- .28	+.6
MeritMed		36	19.20	+ .16	+10.8
MexcoEn			5.52	+ .05	+1.7
MicronT		8	27.13	+ .26	-22.5
Microsoft	1.24	17	41.42	- .11	-10.8
Mylan NV		29	68.36	+8.79	+21.3
Nabors	.24	12	14.21	- .67	+9.5
NatGrid	3.48e		66.14	- .12	-6.4
NOilVarco	1.84	9	52.74	- .03	-19.5
NwResd rs	1.52	6	15.96	+ .13	+25.0
NokiaCp	.51e		7.74		-1.5
NvMAd	.79e		13.70	- .03	+.3
NvPAll	.82a		13.82	+ .01	-1.1
NuvPI	.82a		13.93	+ .01	+.5
NSTFI3	.59a		14.79	+ .03	+3.8
NTXQI	.65a		14.31	- .03	-1.0
OcciPet	2.88	13	76.60	- .21	-5.0
ParTech			4.24	+ .01	-31.1
ParkDri		12	3.88		+26.4
PattUTI	.40	17	19.29	- .91	+16.3
PennaRE	.84f		22.49	- .16	-4.1
Pfmian	.87e	8	8.40	+.42	-12.0
Perrigo	.50f	60	195.00	+30.29	+16.7
PetrbrsA	.85e		6.92		-6.7
Petrobras	.46e		6.99	+ .02	-5.2
Pfizer	1.12f	24	34.84	+ .10	+11.2
PioNtrl	.08	27	170.45	-1.41	+14.5
PlainsAAP	2.74f	22	49.39	- .31	-3.8

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
PwShs QQQ	1.49e		106.64	+ .84	+3.3
Praxair	2.86f	22	122.36	- .41	-5.6
PrmEgy		6	53.50		-26.5
PUltVixST			13.19	- .53	-47.6
PUltCrude			7.73	- .89	-25.5
ProctGam	2.57	25	82.77	+ .38	-9.1
Qualcom	1.92f	14	67.26	- .06	-9.5
RangeRs	.16	22	55.24	-1.03	+3.3
RegionsFn	.20	12	9.63	+ .01	-8.8
RiteAid		4	8.87	+ .18	+18.0
Rowan	.40		19.43	- .13	-16.7
RoyDShllA	3.76	12	59.83	-2.12	-10.6
SpdrDJIA	3.55e		178.75	+ .33	+ .5
S&P500ETF	3.94e		207.98	+ .70	+1.2
SabnR	4.12e	10	39.82	- .41	+11.3
SanderFm	.88e	6	77.68	- .05	-7.6
SandRidge		4	1.82	- .26	
Schlmbrg	2.00f	21	86.12	- .15	+ .8
SigmaAld	.92	33	138.57	+ .12	+ .9
SiriusXM		43	3.90	- .01	+11.4
Smucker	2.56	21	115.55	- .32	+14.4
SouFun	1.20e	13	7.39	+ .77	
SP HlthC	.90e		72.88	+ .61	+6.6
SP Engy	1.94e		78.53	- .64	- .8
SPDR Fncl	.41e		24.21	+ .09	-2.1
SunocoLs	1.60f	75	41.73	- .09	- .1

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
TelefEsp	.97e		14.30	- .07	+.6
Tesoro	1.70f	13	85.53	- .03	+15.0
TevaPhrm	1.35e	21	66.52	+2.27	+15.7
3M Co	4.10f	22	166.27	+ .06	+1.2
Torchmrk s	.54f	14	55.58	+ .52	+2.6
TriContl	.78e		21.78	+ .05	+1.7
21stCFoxA	.30	8	34.13	- .12	-11.1
Twitter			52.30	- .57	+45.8
TylerTech		70	124.39	+1.55	+13.7
UBWV	1.28	19	37.24	- .11	-.5
US OilFd			18.07	- .99	-11.2
Vale SA	.60e		6.10	+ .03	-25.4
Vale SA pf	.60e		5.10	- .01	-29.8
ValeroE	1.60f	9	58.62	+ .03	+18.4
VangEmg	1.13e		43.33	+ .86	+8.3
VerizonCm	2.20	20	49.13	+ .41	+5.0
VulcanM	.40f	52	83.20	- .03	+26.6
WalgBoots	1.35	41	87.68	+ .40	+15.1
WstnRefin	1.20	9	44.83	- .14	+18.7
WhitingPet		9	34.30	- .39	+3.9
WmsCos	2.32f	76	50.29	- .24	+11.9
XcelEngy	1.28f	17	34.43	- .08	-4.1
Xerox	.28f	16	13.10	+ .14	-5.5
Yahoo		6	45.17	+1.56	-10.6
Zynga			2.90	+ .10	+9.0

Can't find your favorite stocks or mutual funds listed?
Send your favorite to sdoreen@mrt.com or mmcewen@mrt.com.
We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
18,288.63	15,855.12	Dow Jones Industrials	17,902.51	+27.09	+ .15	+ .45	+8.91
9,310.22	7,346.24	Dow Jones Transportation	8,668.58	+60.90	+ .71	- 5.16	+14.20
657.17	524.82	Dow Jones Utilities	589.44	-1.96	- .33	- 4.93	+9.89
11,142.56	9,886.08	NYSE Composite	11,032.99	+19.75	+ .18	+1.79	+4.53
5,042.14	3,946.03	Nasdaq Composite	4,950.82	+40.59	+ .83	+4.53	+18.33
2,119.59	1,814.36	S&P 500	2,081.90	+5.57	+ .27	+1.12	+11.20
1,542.16	1,269.45	S&P Midcap	1,531.29	+6.67	+ .44	+5.43	+12.17
22,388.10	19,160.13	Wilshire 5000	22,100.57	+74.00	+ .34	+1.99	+10.71
1,268.16	1,040.47	Russell 2000	1,262.71	+9.35	+ .75	+4.82	+8.86

TODAY: Sunny	FRIDAY: Mostly sunny	SATURDAY: Mostly sunny	SUNDAY: Sunny	MONDAY: Partly sunny	TUESDAY: Sunny
High: 83 Low: 53	High: 72 Low: 60	High: 79 Low: 62	High: 80 Low: 57	High: 80 Low: 57	High: 84 Low: 61

Local forecast

After sunny and clear skies today and tonight, expect a 20-30 percent chance of showers Friday through Sunday, according to the National Weather Service.

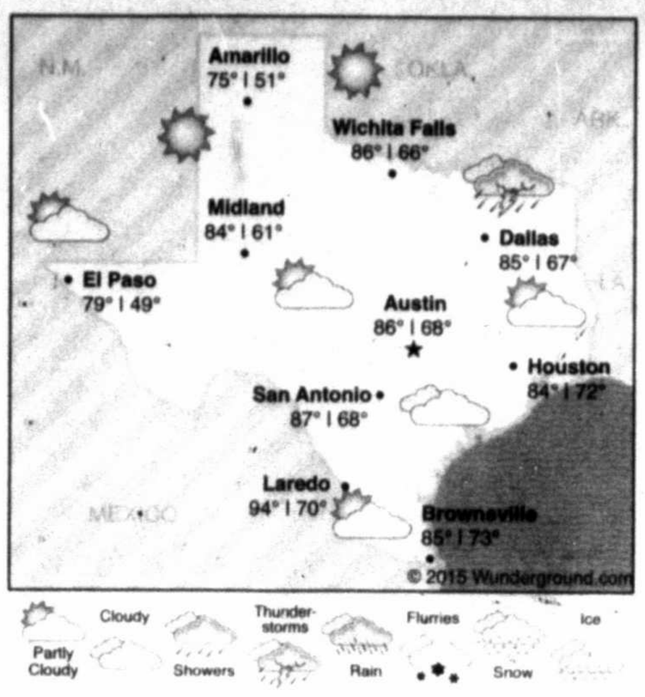
Today's forecasted high is 83 and low is 53. On Friday, expect mostly sunny skies and a high of 72 and mostly cloudy skies and a low of 60 at night.

The high on Wednesday reached 89, while the low dropped to 65. The record high for April 8 is 95 set in 1995. The record low is 27 set in 2010.

National forecast

The risk of severe thunderstorms will extend over a broad area of the Central States today. Storms capable of producing damaging winds, large hail, lightning and flash flooding will extend from northeastern Texas to the southern parts of Wisconsin and the lower Michigan peninsula. Isolated tornadoes may occur within this zone, especially over the Midwest.

North of the severe storm threat, rain will drench areas from Nebraska to northern Michigan, upstate New York and northern Pennsylvania.



Precipitation

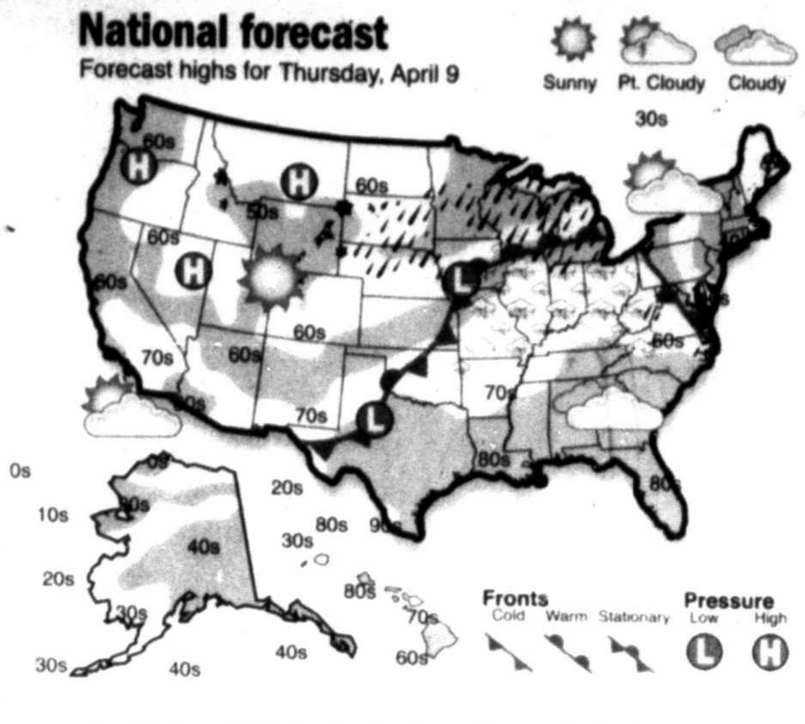
Tuesday	0.00 in.
Wenesday	0.04 in.
Month total	0.04 in.
Year total	4.38 in.
Normal total (year to date)	2.05 in.

Wednesday's temperatures

High	89
Low	65
Normal high	77
Normal low	47
Sunrise	7:27 a.m.
Sunset	8:14 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Thursday, April 9



Favorite uncle reveals himself with a shocking sext message

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 heartbroken. I have an uncle "Tony" I'm close to, who is like my best friend. I was sending him pictures of a football game and he sent me back a very inappropriate picture of himself. He said it was a "mistake," that it was supposed to go to his wife, but the text message he sent with it showed different.

I don't want to be around him. I'm disgusted and hurt over this. I need advice. What do I do? — HEARTBROKEN IN GEORGIA

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Share the photo and texts with your parents and ask what they think about them. Then ask if they think you should forward the picture and text message to your aunt with a note explaining Uncle Tony said they were meant for her, and you didn't want her to miss them.

Because he makes you uncomfortable, listen to your intuition and keep your distance because what he did was appalling.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a female working full-time in an office with all men. Yesterday afternoon, I ate a salad that contained several varieties of beans. I was standing outside my boss's office, laughing at a joke one of the salesmen was telling when the beans got the best of me and I passed gas.

I was mortified and wanted to sink through the floor! I patted the salesman on the arm and said, "I guess that's what I think of the joke," and walked back into my office. I didn't know what else to say or do. Today I can't look either of them in the face.

Since this seems to be something that happens to older people (I'm 69), and it's something we often don't have total control over — please tell me how to "recover." If this should happen again, what on earth does one say or do? — BEANS, THE MUSICAL FRUIT

DEAR B.T.M.F.: Stop beating yourself up over this. Expelling gas is normal. According to the National Institutes of Health, the average person passes gas about 14 times a day — although probably not as spectacularly as you did.

If it happens again, don't try to be funny. Just say, "Excuse me," and if the "toot" is a fragrant one, distance yourself. I'm positive that would be appreciated.

DEAR ABBY: We are planning to give a joint baby shower next month for two sisters-in-law who are expecting their babies three weeks apart. The joint shower is a necessity because some of the relatives will need to travel quite a distance to attend.

Most of the guests know both girls, but some will know only one of them. Is there a way we can word the invitation so these guests won't feel obligated to "gift" both babies? Any suggestions will be gratefully appreciated because we are stumped. — STUMPED IN OHIO

DEAR STUMPED: Put nothing on the invitations themselves mentioning gifts. However, it is acceptable to include an INSERT along with the invitation that states gifts for both babies are not expected. If the shower is going to be a large one, you could email the guests to relay the information. However, if it will be relatively small, pick up the phone and call.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Bidding is better

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 9 7 4
♥ A Q 4 2
♦ 8 5
♣ Q J 10

WEST
♠ Void
♥ J 10 9 6
♦ A 9 7 2
♣ 9 8 7 5 4

EAST
♠ K J 3
♥ K 7 5 3
♦ 6 5 4
♣ 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A 10 8 6 5 2
♥ 8
♦ K Q J 10
♣ A K

The bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦**	Pass
5♠	All pass		

*Limit raise, 16-11 points
**One key card

Opening lead: Jack of ♥

Forty years ago, maybe even 30 years ago, most players would have bid to six spades on a hand like this. Blackwood would have shown they were only missing one ace and a slam would have been bid. There are still some excellent rubber bridge players clinging to older methods, but duplicate players today would avoid this slam. (Is it right to call it a slam if you don't take 12 tricks?) Key Card Blackwood treats the king of trumps as equally important to the four aces. All five cards are treated as "key cards."

The five-diamond response told South that the partnership was missing two key cards — they might both have been aces for all he knew — so he signed off in five spades.

A player in a duplicate pair game might well fail to make five spades. A rubber bridge player, or a duplicate player in a team game, where overtricks don't matter, should always bring it home. There is a routine safety play available in the spade suit. South should win the opening heart lead in dummy and lead a trump, just covering whatever card East plays. Should this play lose to the jack, that would mean that the trumps were splitting 2-1 and the ace on the next round would draw the last trump. Of course, if East shows out on the first trump, declarer will rise with his ace and lead another trump towards dummy's queen. There would be only one trump loser on any lie of the cards.

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, April 9, 2015:

This year you will go with the flow more easily than in years past. Others want to hear your ideas; they respect your intelligence and abilities. You appear to be walking down the path of success. Your creativity keeps surging, and it appears to be never-ending. If you are single, your personality plus your love of good times attracts many wannabe sweeties. You really will have your pick, but don't settle. If you are attached, romance is intense, and seems to build to a new high as the two of you bond on an even deeper level. You nearly always have a great time together. SAGITTARIUS can entice you to join him or her on some wild adventures.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ Express your sense of humor, and others naturally will gravitate toward you. You have so many ideas, and now you have an audience to share them with. You know how to take control in a way that has others feeling as though they are actively participating. Tonight: Meet a friend.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ One-on-one relating helps you head in the direction you want. Express your thoughts to a trusted partner and get feedback. This person might seem unusually agreeable, perhaps because you are grounded and know what you are doing. Tonight: Where you want to be.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Defer to someone else, and worry less about this person's reactions. You can't always get others to be on the same page as you, but this person knows how to take your ideas and run with them. Express your confidence in his or her approach. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★ Your ability to organize and delegate will determine your ability to clear out a project that might be a high priority. An older relative might keep interfering without realizing it. Politely let this person know that you need him or her to back down some. Tonight: Off to the gym.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ It might seem as if a muse has suddenly appeared, as you can't stop creating. Romance could be enhanced by a conversation involving a trip or vacation. You might be surprised by how excited a loved one becomes at the idea of getting away. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ You might feel happiest at home. You can accomplish a lot in this setting, and as a result, you'll have more time for a friend or relative. You'll find this person to be extremely verbal. Sometimes, you even could feel overwhelmed by him or her. Tonight: Togetherness works.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Reach out to someone whom you care a lot about. Sometimes you might feel overwhelmed when this person is around. Schedule time to visit with him or her, but also know when to say "no." Establishing strong boundaries will help you. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ Be aware of the financial implications of a new idea or business venture; otherwise, you could encounter a problem with your budget. Someone you admire will be quite pleased when observing your chosen direction. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ You might be impossible to stop, as you'll be full of great ideas and have the energy to make them realities. Your creativity soars, but you also will appreciate feedback from friends. Tonight: Be a flirt if you want, but know that you could cause some jealousy!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ You sense a lot of activity around you, but some information seems to be hidden or withheld. A partner or dear friend will fill you in when he or she can. Meanwhile, don't worry so much. Schedule a fun lunch with a loved one. Tonight: Be near good music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ Focus on what you want, and be aware of the role of a friendship in achieving this goal. Conversations might have you busy by just having to answer and return calls. Don't lose your focus — you're heading down the right track. Tonight: Be where the crowds are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ Stay on top of a situation that demands your guidance. Remain sure of yourself. Money could play a role in making decisions, but you might need to have a conversation first with someone else involved in this matter. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

BORN TODAY

Publisher Hugh Hefner (1926), fashion designer Marc Jacobs (1963), actress Cynthia Nixon (1966)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 "That's terrible!"
5 Like some stockings
9 Guck
14 Windfall
15 "The Salt-N-Pepa Show"
16 Trojan War figure
17 Roman god of the sky
18 Genre that often includes a ballet
20 Utopias
22 Excited, with "up"
23 TV teaser before the first commercial
26 Côte d'Azur sight
29 Lean-
30 Nasser's confed.
31 Harsh
33 Swamp
36 Bone-dry
37 James Bond and others
42 Open org.
43 Second book in Clavell's "Asian Saga"
44 Fanatic
47 One-up
48 Time zone word: Abbr.
51 Buddhist branch
52 "Great" 1975 Redford role
56 Free-for-all
57 Savanna heavyweight
58 Skinny, so to speak, or what's hidden in 18-, 23-, 37- and 52-Across
63 Lined up, with "in"
64 Movers' challenge
65 Degree holder
66 Without
67 Choose to join
68 Ages and ages
69 Choice word

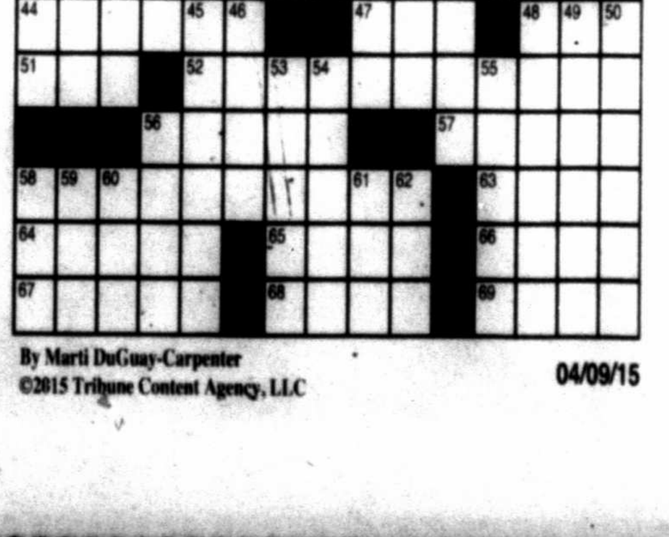
DOWN

1 Protest
2 Jinx
3 King output
4 Upright
5 EPA sticker stat
6 Adverb in odes
7 Produce
8 Capital NE of Vientiane
9 Quick learner
10 "Dragnet" force, briefly
11 Rage
12 Orbiter for 15 years
13 Spanish "that"
19 Pressures for payment
21 Ting or ping
24 When doubled, a South Pacific capital
25 Blow
26 First name in game shows
27 Iroquoian people
28 Cabs and syrahs
32 "You're So ___": 1973 #1 hit
33 Carrier that doesn't fly on the Sabbath
34 Where to hear maas and baas
35 Popular chip
37 ___ bass
38 Words of understanding
39 Eddie ___, detective involved in the actual "French Connection"
40 Each
41 Slender candle
45 Was in debt regarding
46 Yarn
48 Fusilli shape
49 Mortise partners
50 Nod
53 Pigeon's place
54 Golden ___ Guadalajara
55 Full moon, e.g.
56 Thigh-high attire
58 2010 GM financial event
59 Little bite
60 Did nothing
61 One might keep you from seeing the show
62 Magazine VIPs

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

P	R	I	M		O	N	T	A	P		A	S	I	A
D	O	D	O		S	H	A	R	I		B	E	L	L
F	U	L	L	N	E	L	S	O	N		E	X	I	T
S	E	E	T	O			T	A	U	T		S	K	A
			S	O	C	C	E	R	P	L	A	Y	E	R
D	A	B		S	H	O		S	C	U	M			
E	C	O		E	A	R	N	S		T	B	A	R	
B	A	B	E	S	I	N	T	H	E	W	O	O	D	S
T	I	N	Y			S	H	A	M	E		L	I	V
		E	R	A	S			R	I	B		S	A	P
P	O	W	E	R	C	O	U	P	L	E	S			
A	S	H		M	O	C	S			R	A	B	B	I
S	C	A	M		T	H	E	M	A	S	T	E	R	S
T	A	R	A		C	O	R	A	L		A	S	A	P
A	R	T	S		H	A	S	T	E		N	O	S	Y

xwordeditor@aol.com 04/09/15



By Martí DeGuay-Carpenter
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Tribute to Selena®



Music City Mall
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OTHER JOBS



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

Starting pay $10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be $11.00 per hour

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

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE



Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person

Starting pay $10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be $11.00 per hour

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

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Executive Assistant

The successful candidate for this full time position will be a dependable and conscientious self-starter. Strong people skills and experience in the financial services industry are essential. Proficiencies with office equipment, computers, the Microsoft Office suite of programs, as well as the willingness to learn task specific software, are a major plus While this position is being offered on a contract labor basis, the prospects for career growth are real. Initial compensation is at a competitive hourly rate. If you are looking for a special opportunity, with a professional but cordial environment and where you can, and will, make a difference, please forward your resume and references to FinancialPosition2015@gmail.com.

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Secretarial Assistant

Needed energetic, Secretarial Assistant for fast paced office. Send resume to: PO Box 923, Midland, Tx 79702.

CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES

Carpenter, DryWall Finisher & Maintenance

Immediate opening at Barbed Cross Construction.
Commercial/ Residential Carpenter, Drywall Finisher & Maintenance.
Great pay and benefit package.
Call 432-262-4405 and fax resume to 432-262-4403.

SALES JOBS

MRT MEDIA GROUP mrt.com
Midland Reporter-Telegram

YOU can have a rewarding career in ADVERTISING!

Do you have excellent communication skills?
Are you detail oriented?
Do you have an assertive, positive attitude?
Are you a self-starter?
Do you excel in time management and organization?
If so, then we will train you to SUCCEED!

The MRT Media Group, a Hearst Corporation company, is looking for full-time Inside and Outside Sales Multi-Media Account Executive. Duties will include selling print and digital advertising into the Midland Reporter-Telegram, mrt.com, MRT Weekly, and a variety of custom publications.

The Hearst Corporation is one of the largest, diversified communications companies, with major interests in magazine, newspaper and business publishing, cable networks, television and radio broadcasting, internet businesses and more. As an associate of the MRT Media Group, you will join more than 20,000 in the Hearst family.

$1,000 SIGN ON BONUS!

We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months, mileage and cell phone allowances, and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you are ready to SUCCEED, please send a resume to:

Jeri Houston, Advertising Sales Manager
MRT Media Group
201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701
jhouston@mrt.com

Equal Opportunity Employer

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Insurance Customer Service Sales Rep

CONFIDENTIAL
MIDLAND, TX
Position available for a Customer Service Representative with excellent communication skills who is enthusiastic, organized and a fast learner with a great personality. This position requires an individual who is bilingual with basic computer skills and who will be assisting current customers with their policies. Complete training is provided with the necessary materials to obtain your Texas Insurance License Certification. A guaranteed salary plus bonus is provided. Please e-mail resumes to ncrivera@allstate.com.



Coming Soon!

Big Boys' Toys

2015

April 11
Midland County Horseshoe Pavillion

Featured Entertainment...

Vince Gill
A Country Music Icon!

Call NOW to reserve a table!
Jean at MARC (695-9901) or by email at jjones@marctexas.org



mrt★com/jobs

Employment Opportunities

ENERGY & UTILITIES

MIDLAND, TEXAS - Downtown office location

GEOLOGIST/GEO.TECH - Entry Level Geologist position with Geotech experience a plus. Geotech experience working with Petra, ArcMap, Drilling Info., etc. mapping, log analysis, OOIP calcs, competitive analysis are all key tasks. Delaware Basin experience, both Texas and New Mexico required. Full or part time (flexible hours) considered. Competitive salary and benefits. Equity shares available for the right combination of skills and experience.

DRILLING ENGINEER- 2-3 years' experience horizontal drilling in the Delaware Basin, 5-8+ years' experience in drilling a plus. Must be able to design casing, horizontal wells, manage interaction with the drilling rig foreman, manage the permitting process, and be able to monitor AFE vs. actual costs. Some onsite work required for casing points and other technical aspects. Competitive salary, benefits, vehicle allowance, 40% cash bonus and equity shares in company. Must be able to do drilling engineering in house, not through service companies. Experience with Landmark Drilling software a plus. Experience with extended laterals (7500 ft+ in the Bone Spring, Wolfcamp, Delaware a plus). Best Drilling Engineer job in the Basin.

DRILLING SUPERINTENDENT /MANAGER- 5+ years' experience horizontal drilling in the Delaware Basin, 10-15 years' experience in drilling a plus. Must be able to manage interaction with the drilling contractors, Service companies, drilling rig foreman, the permitting process, and be responsible for AFE vs. actual costs. Some onsite work required for rig inspections, casing points and other technical aspects. Competitive salary, benefits, vehicle allowance, 40% cash bonus and equity shares in company. Experience with extended laterals (7500 ft+ in the Bone Spring, Wolfcamp, Delaware required). Capable of scaling operation from a 2 rig to a 5 rig continuous drilling program. Work closely with Completion Superintendent and VP of Operations. Reports to VP of Operations.

ENGINEERING TECH - Experienced engineering tech to assist with economics and Federal Permitting with PHDwin and Drilling software (Landmark) experience a plus. Log analysis, OOIP calcs and competitive analysis are all key tasks. Delaware Basin experience in both Texas and New Mexico required. Full or part time (flexible hours) considered.

SENIOR LANDMAN - 5+ years of Texas and New Mexico experience. Interpret and negotiate various contracts including Joint Operating Agreements, Oil and Gas Leases, Surface Use Agreements, Right of Way Agreements, etc. Clear title for drilling locations. Conduct due diligence in connection with acquisitions of producing and non-producing properties. Setup/maintenance of JIB/Revenue decks. CPL is a plus. Competitive salary, benefits, vehicle allowance, 40% cash bonus and equity shares in company for right level of skills and experience.

FACILITIES SUPERINTENDENT- 5-10 years Texas and New Mexico experience managing field operations: design and construction of tank batteries, SWD stations, and managing construction of drilling location, lease roads, and frac ponds. Experience working with BLM on right of ways a big plus. Competitive salary, benefits, vehicle allowance, 30% cash bonus and equity shares in company for right level of skills and experience. SE Lea Cty, NM work area. Location is flexible.

COMPANY PUMPERS - 5-10 years overall experience, 2-3 years experience with horizontal wells, flow back, tank battery operations, working with higher pressure wells. Competitive hourly wage, benefits, company vehicle, vacation time. Operations are between Kermit, Andrews and Jal, New Mexico. Location is flexible. Schedule is flexible.

HUMAN RESOURCES GENERALIST/MANAGER -PHR or SPHR preferred; oil and gas industry experience a plus. Position can be located in Midland or Dallas.

Send resume to leslie@enduranceresourcesllc.com

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Accounting Assistant

Master Tubulars, Inc. is now accepting resumes for an Accounting Assistant. The ideal candidate for this position should display strong attention to detail and be a motivated self-starter. Excellent computer skills are required.

Summary of Duties:
- Maintain inventory records, both manually and electronically.
- Assist management with inventory inquiries.
- Reconcile and document tallies, both manually and electronically.
- Process well returns accurately and timely.
- Assist Controller with month-end inventory reconciliations.
- Other duties as assigned by management.

Summary of Desired Qualifications:
- Preference given to candidates with OCTG - Bookkeeping experience.
- Computer skills, including Excel, Word, Outlook.

Interested candidates should email their resume to: humanresources@mastertubulars.com. Please include your salary expectations.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Daycare Teachers

St Lukes Child Development Program.....We are currently hiring for full and part time positions, must be 18 years of age with a high school diploma or its equivalency. We offer vacation, sick and personal time/ 401k/ Health plan/ paid holidays for full time positions. Apply in person at 3011 W. Kansas, Midland, TX.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Electrician, Mechanic and I&C

Ector County Energy Center (TX) - Invenergy LLC

Invenergy LLC is currently constructing the Ector County Energy Center, a natural gas fired power generation plant, located in Goldsmith, TX.

O & M Technician candidates must possess a minimum of 3 years directly related experience in either electrical instruments and controls, or mechanical industrial background. Candidates must be willing and capable of becoming multi-skilled and be part of a work team in a team environment. Each employee will perform both operations and maintenance. Invenergy will train extensively in the operations area to complement your skills. To apply, please visit www.invenergyllc.com and click on "Career Opportunities."

Invenergy LLC is a developer, owner, and operator of renewable and clean energy generation facilities in North America and Europe. Invenergy is a highly experienced leader in innovative clean energy solutions.

LAND / ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Midland oil and gas producer seeking highly motivated **land assistant** with division order experience for full-time position. Individual must be a self-starter who has experience with division order, lease, and file maintenance. The ability to multitask, handle routine clerical tasks, and utilize computer technology such as Microsoft Office is essential. This individual will assist the land manager in preparation of agreements and leases as well as all forms of land contracts. Candidates must have a minimum of 3 years' experience in land related matters, and possess strong organizational, verbal, and written communication skills. Competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with experience. Principals only send resume with job history, references and salary requirements to: **P-127 c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701**

Pulling Unit & Hot Oil Truck Pusher/Salesman

Well Servicing Inc has an opening for a Pulling Unit & Hot Oil Truck Pusher/Sales for the Permian Basin area. Must have proven history of sales, management & safety knowledge. Competitive salary & benefits. Call for an interview 432-570-6440.

HEALTHCARE

Dental Front Desk Receptionist

Thomas Campagna, DMD

We are looking for an exceptional, experienced, reliable, **Dental Front Desk Receptionist**, experience with Eaglesoft required, Spanish a plus, to join our team at Midland's premier dental practice. Please email **info@smilemidland.com**, fax: **(432) 520-0720** or bring resume to **3722 W. Loop 250 North, Midland, TX**

LCDC

LCDC/LPC/Intern needed for Addiction medical clinic part time Monday-Friday, 6am-10:30am. Tx planning, case mgmt and therapy. Paid holidays, paid sick days, no health benefits. Midland/Odessa positions. Please send resume to 800-671-8364.

Optometric Tech

Now Hiring Optometric Tech. Experience preferred, excellent benefits. Send resumes to texascountryeyecare@gmail.com

Physician

Physician needed for Addiction Medicine Clinic, Odessa or Midland positions available. 2-3 days per week 6:30am-8:30am. Paid by hourly contract rate. Physical exams, medication adjustments, assist counseling staff with treatment planning. Any medical specialty acceptable, will train. No hospital association, no insurance billing. Texas licensure must be in good standing. Fax cover letter and CV to Dr. Garcia, 214-732-1622

RN for Su Casa Home Health

In need of full time RN. Bilingual a plus. Full benefits package. Serious Inquiries Only! $5,000 SIGN ON BONUS. Call 432-520-2556 or apply online at www.sucasehomehealth.com.

HEALTHCARE

Registered Dental Hygienist

Thomas Campagna, DMD **PT**

We are looking for an exceptional, experienced, **Registered Dental Hygienist**, full/ part time to join our team, at Midland's premier dental practice. Recent graduates encouraged to apply. Please email: **info@smilemidland.com**, fax: **(432) 520-0720** or bring resume to: **3722 W. Loop 250 North, Midland, TX.**

OTHER JOBS

Consultant Dietitians

Midland Market Street is looking for Consultant Dietitians to do Dietitian Store Tours in the Midland Market Street location. Must be Registered Dietitian to apply. 5-10 hours per month. Please, send resumes to Rhawkins@unitedtexas.com.

Crossfire LLC

is currently hiring for the following positions:

Pecos, Texas Office:
- Project Estimator
- Administrative Assistant
- Data Entry Clerk
- Field & Shop Mechanic(s)

Midland, Texas Office:
- A/R Administrator
- Data Entry Clerk
- Field Safety Coordinator
- Safety Instructor/Trainer
- Field & Shop Mechanic(s)

Send resumes to recruiting@crossfire-llc.com

Driver, Receptionist, and Sales Position

Full-time driver and part-time receptionist needed. Driver must have 2 years of experience. We also have a sales position open. Must have construction experience. Call 806-773-2520 for more information.

Field Hands & Supervisors

Field hands and supervisors needed at oil field water transfer company. Previous experience required. Please contact tingram@bcoperating.com for more details. Thank you.

FIELD SERVICE TECHNICIAN

CPI MIDLAND IS HIRING!

We are looking for a dynamic Field Service Technician who will be responsible for installation and service of compressor lubrication systems.

Candidates are required to be **Safety Conscience** and must have prior experience in the following:

- Compressor/Lubrication experience. Heavy mechanical experience considered or basic understanding of hydraulic systems in lieu of compressor industry experience.
- Must have strong commitment to safety.
- Effective written & verbal communication.
- Must be able to work independently with interpersonal skills to work in a collaborative environment that includes shared responsibilities.
- Must be able to set job priorities & possess a sense of urgency in completion.
- Will be in direct contact with the customer so professional appearance and attitude is paramount.

Additional Requirements:
- High School diploma or equivalent.
- Trade School Certification.
- Must have valid driver's license & have demonstrated safe driving habits.
- Basic knowledge of MS Office/Email.

CPI offers competitive salary and benefits along with a challenging growth environment. Must be able to pass background check, drug screen and physical.

Please send resumes to pat.cartmell@c-p-i.com or fax 432-520-6707

Housekeeper

Looking for a housekeeper to work 15 hours per week. Hours are 8am to 1pm on Monday, Weds. and Friday. Must be reliable with own transportation and attention to detail is a must. Pays $16.00 per hour. Call 432-631-2466 for info.

Janitorial & Custodial Positions

Nights and Weekends, part-time. Pay DOE. Background check required. Call 432-413-3850 Leave a message

Multiple Positions Available

Midland County has the following positions available:

***Network Administrator * Maintenance Helper *Investigator *Administrative Assistant (PT/FT) *Juvenile Detention Officer *Juvenile Probation Officer *Deputy Clerk *Paid Student Intern (PT)**

Please see our website: www.co.midland.tx.us/departments/hr/pages/Employment for more details and applications. To be consider you must send a completed application with job reference numbers to Midland County Human Resources Office, **500 N. Loraine St., Ste. 100 Midland, TX 79701** or hr@co.midland.tx.us

CARTER'S

Office
2101 W. Wadley #6

Full-Time
Midland, TX 79705

Full-time office employee needed, must be able to multi task. QuickBooks is a plus, but is not required. Must be willing to work Saturdays. Apply in person and drop off your resume.

Representatives

Now Hiring - Full Time and Part Time Representatives. Year round positions available with Frontline Promotions in the Midland area.

$10 per hour guaranteed, plus commissions. Frontline Reps earn up to $30 per hour. Paid weekly. Previous sales experience is good, but not necessary. Flexible schedule! Good people! GREAT pay! Must have reliable transportation to work.

Call Andy at (432) 242-7151 for an immediate opportunity.

WAREHOUSE WORKER

Griffin Oil Company, 3910 S. FM 1788, Midland, TX. 79706. Duties include pulling orders, stocking, taking inventory, and making local deliveries. Must have forklift experience and Class C license with good driving record. Excellent Pay & Full Benefits package. Applications can be completed on site. For additional information or directions, call 432-563-9991 or 866-350-4897.

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

Kitchen Staff

Steak 42 now hiring kitchen staff, great hours & pay. Apply in person at 911 S. Big Spring Street between 11am-2pm & 5pm-9pm.

Lead Cook

Lead Cook - Corporate Dining Aramark (Midland) Compensation: Circa $15.00 $17.00 based on experience. Great culinary skills, organized, Monday - Thursday daytime hours, 40 hours per week, new kitchen, lunch only, great customers, first class equipment, EEO, background checked. Please apply in person: Aramark @ Pioneer Natural Resources, 3617 N. Big Spring St. Midland, TX. 79705

RETAIL JOBS

RDA Beauty Supply

RDA Beauty Supply needs F/T & P/T help. Cosmetology background a plus but not required...if you like hair products, this is your place. Must be available some Saturdays 9-2. Please apply in person, 3303 N Midkiff #185 Midland.

SALES JOBS

Field Service Representative

WSI Enterprises, Inc. is looking for ambitious Field Sales Representative for the Permian Basin in Southern New Mexico. Successful candidate will be responsible for growing sales by cultivating current customers and recruiting new customers. Responsibilities include promoting products, providing technical support and ensuring customer satisfaction. Wellhead and rig experience preferred. Excellent Benefit Package to include: Medical, Dental, Vision, 401k, Company Paid Life, Short Term and Long Term Disability, 401k Match and Profit Sharing. Send resume to reports@wsienterprises.com

SALES JOBS

Salesperson

Basin Engine and Pump

Experienced pump salesperson needed. Excellent compensation and benefit plans provided. Email resume to Todd@basinengine.com.

SKILLED TRADES

2- Journeyman Plumbers

2-Journeyman Plumbers needed for new commercial. Join our growing company. Please call Superior Plumbing 432-687-5905 License # M39721

API 510, 570 Inspectors

Experience - Min 3yrs performing inspections in Gas Plant/Refinery. Certifications in Risk Based Insp. & Damage Mechanisms. Minimum Certifications - API 510 / 570. Prefer Level II MT, PT, UT. Level II on MT, PT, UT with knowledge of advanced NDT Techniques. Position local to Midland - 40-50 hours/wk. SafeLand & H2S training required. Pay DOE. Must pass Drug Screen and Background. Resumes to kbutler@permianndt.com

Finish Blade Operator

Heavy highway & TXDOT experience preferred, valid driver's license required. Comprehensive benefit package. Competitive salary EOE. Allen Butler Construction, Lubbock, TX. 806-745-7486

Mechanic

Reliant Transportation Ltd. currently seeking qualified light and heavy truck mechanic for immediate openings. Own tools required and CDL preferred but not required. Overtime pay and weekend work. We offer full-time positions, great 401k plan, medical, dental, and vision benefits. Call Bobby Arvelo @ 432-617-3689 for more information.

Mechanic/Shop Manager

Wanted: Experienced Mechanic Shop Manager and Deisel Mechanic for Oilfield Service Company. Must have Experience with Caterpillar & Cumins Diesel Engines-John Deero Diesel Experience is a plus. Competitive salary and benefits. Contact #432-400-2250

Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc.

Now hiring commercial construction project superintendents. Competitive pay plus excellent benefits. Experience in commercial construction a must. Please send resumes to 5206 W. Wadley, Midland, TX 79707 or email them to Billy Mays at billy@midtexofmidland.com. You may also fax your resume to 432-694-9627

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

CDL and non-CDL Drivers

Total Logistics/Lone Star Delivery is hiring drivers. CDL and non-CDL positions available. Weekly pay, home every night, paid health insurance, competitive wages. Please call 432-561-8850 for more info and address to apply.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

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

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



mrt★com/jobs

Beats standing on the street corner!

mrt classifieds

432.682.6999 432.682.6222 mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

Events and Notices

General Announcements

BETTER READ Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ.

Lost & Found

FOUND SMALL: Tan, part chihuahua female dog w/collar, no tags in vacinity of A Street & Neely. Call 432-685-1227 or 432-631-1173

Business Center

Business Opportunity

BILL SEARS, former Athletic Coach at MHS, is active as a Petroleum Land Man in the Mountain Area. Contact him by mail: Bill Sears, PO Box 6331, Longmont, CO 80501 email sears37@msn.com or 720-494-7626 fax

SNOW CONE HUT for sale (The one by Ski Skeller) Freezer, Machines, flavors, everything you need included $12,500 432-697-0427 10am-6pm

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

BUICK 2007 LaCrosse CXL, black, V6 leather, good condition 65K miles $8,000 432-694-2770

CHEVROLET 2001 Impala 4 door $3,500 432-631-0983 or 432-577-9942

Fax Your Classified Ad In Today! 682-6999

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF **DAN J. LEIKER, JR.** DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that on the 19th day of March, 2015, Letters Testamentary were issued to **Joyce M. Leiker** as Independent Executrix in proceedings in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, in Probate, styled "In the Matter of the Estate of Dan J. Leiker, Jr., Deceased," being Cause No. P-18192 in that Court, and which proceedings are still pending. All persons having claims against the Estate are hereby required to present the same to Joyce M. Leiker, c/o Alan H. Meyers, Law Offices of Alan H. Meyers, P.C., 505 N. Big Spring, Suite 104, Midland, Texas 79701, within the time prescribed by law.

Passenger Cars

FORD 2003 Taurus light gray, low mileage, rebuilt transmission installed. Must see! Asking $5,000. Comes with warranty. 432-349-0041

FORD 2010 Mustang Coupe, V6, 43K miles, leather & power seats, super clean, $14,500 OBO. Call Kevin @ 432-631-2510

LINCOLN, 2004 Town car Signature. Silver, one owner, extremely clean, very well maintained, used mainly in town, excellent car. Asking below blue book value at $7000. 92K miles. 432-238-8598

MERCEDES 2011 C300 Benz sport sedan (red) 65,000 miles $18,000. Call 432-889-6828

MERCEDES CLASSIC 1975 Benz 450SL Best Offer 303-818-0923

OLDSMOBILE 1998 Aurora V8 chrome wheels $3500 See to appreciate at 1502 Seaboard

SENIOR FEMALE Owned 2005 Buick LaCrosse 45K leather, new Michelins, new brakes. Garage kept, records and bill sheets. Champagne gold $8800 OBO Call 432-559-4536

WANTED! Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs FREE pick up 432-685-4078

Antique & Vintage

FORD 1965 Mustang. Newly Restored. 351 Windsor motor with less that 200 miles, automatic transmission disc brakes, new tires, new interior, fresh paint. Lots of extras. $17,500. Call 432-213-3284

Pickup Trucks

GMC 2008 Sierra SLT 4 dr Z71, red w/black leather, 81k miles. Garage kept. Reduced price. No owner finance 432-557-7386

4WD & SUV

LINCOLN 2008 Navigator, highway miles. Great condition $17,000 OBO 432-528-7332

4WD & SUV

NEW TODAY!

TOYOTA 2002 Sequoia, good condition V8, 127K miles, leather interior, sunroof. Well maintained. Asking $9,000 OBO. 432-853-5305

Motorcycles

HARLEY DAVIDSON 2010, Street Glide, Screaming Eagle, new rubber. $15,000. 972-955-7419 Big Spring, TX area

HARLEY DAVIDSON 2013 Street Bob, 9500 miles, $9,000. Call 432-352-7470

RVs

2014 34' Wilderness Fiberglass, superslide out, 2 Bedroom, electric awning, AC, microwave, fully self-contained, 4 Season. More Options Like New. View local $22,500 OBO 406-231-5683

2014 40' travel trailer 2 slides, 2 bedrooms, 2 air conditions, washer & dryer, fully self contained, many extras, too many to list. Must sell $26,000 OBO. Please call 254-383-1469

$21,500 OBO '16 Bumper pull Travel Trailer, 2 ACs, W/D, super slide, rear bed, queen Park model, house-size fridge, 2 doors. Includes delivery. 682-465-6584

NEW TODAY!

42ft 5th wheel, 2bed, 3 slide outs, sleeps 8, 2 A/Cs, washer, dryer, many extras, like new. $30,700 Locally located 806-429-2399

RV SPACES for rent Northeast Midland, quiet & clean area, $500 monthly. Utilities furnished. 50 amp hookup. 432-894-8234

Recreational Vehicles

2012 KEYSTONE Cougar bumper pull RV, like brand new. Pop out, hardly ever used. Asking $22,000 price negotiable. Call 432-301-5827 or 432-301-5337

KAWASAKI 2006 Vulcan 1600 Classic. Warm weather is almost here! This bike is a must see! Beautiful red/black, 1 female owner, very low mileage at 10,092. Genuine Kawasaki OEM tall windshield w/lower, hard leather saddle bags, Utopia backrest, new engine guards not yet installed. Perfect condition, meticulously maintained, garage kept. Runs perfect. Call Midland 432-250-4524. $5,825

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

KEYSTONE, 2008, Cougar RLS. Great condition. 302X8, 2 slides, asking $11,000. One owner, nonsmoker, no pets, low milage. Numerous features. For pics or more info, call or message 325-513-6998

REDUCED! HONDA 2011 Big Red ATV. $6,500. Call Mike 432-638-3378

Merchandise

Free Stuff

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!

Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

Miscellaneous for Sale

NEW TODAY!

25" TV for $25, queen bedding set $20. Call 432-813-9211

FAST TREES grow 8ft-10ft yearly. $17-$22 delivered. View brochure online at www.fasttrees.com or call 509-447-4181

TRUCK BED tool box, extra heavy duty, $50.00. 55 gallon metal barrels open top $7.00. 30 gallon poly plastic barrels sealed top $7.00. 432-352-8419

Sporting Goods

2011 BASS TRACKER 175WT FOR SALE 115 hp Mercury trolling motor, depth finder, stereo, 5 folding swivel seats, fishing gear for ten, life jackets, large tackle box full, and 10 individual clear boxes full of lures. Can be seen at 1502 Seaboard

* * GUN SHOW * * Midland Horseshoe Pavilion April 18 (9-6) April 19 (10-4) Kim 806-252-6933 midlandgunshow.com

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Appliances

We buy broken appliances w/ free removal. Also we repair appliances. 432-570-8278

Miscellaneous for Sale

KEN'S RV SALES

LARGEST SELECTION OF USED TRAILERS IN THE BASIN

TRY US ONCE YOU'LL BE BACK

TOY HAULERS FIFTH WHEEL GO RVing BUMPER PULLS MOTORHOMES

8:30-5:30 Mon.-Fri. • 9-3 Sat.

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GARAGE SALES

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Estate Sales

★★ ESTATE SALE ★★
★★ by PATRICIA & TEAM ★★
2515 GODDARD
Thursday, April 9th , 8:30am-3pm
Friday, April 10th, 8:30am-3pm
Saturday, April 11th, 8:30am-12:00pm

This house has Towle sterling Rambler Rose silverware, Harmony house, Heinrich Rosalinda and Syracuse China, household item, vintage clothes, Southwest conference, frosted glasses and cars, antique buffet, antique radio, table with six chairs, table with four chairs, linens, books, chest of drawers, dresser, Beautiful wedding dress with Shaw veil and Garter, vintage toys, recliner's couch and loveseat

Go to EstateSales.net to view pictures.
Cash, Visa, MC, & Discover accepted. No checks please.

Estate Sales

Estate Sale
4404 St. Andrews
Thurs & Fri 9-2 Sat 9-12

Oriental art and decor. Oriental nesting tables, sofa, curio cabinet, occasional chairs, lamps, tables, mirrors, sofa table, animal figures, costume jewelry, books, games, sewing machine, sewing notions, office supplies, flatware, Franconia Hawthorne pots & pans, ceramic vegetable ware, lingerie chest, full bed, roll top desk, quilts, bookshelves, linens, vacuums, clothing, holiday decor, records, covered butter collection, pitcher collection, American Fostoria, Fransican apple dishes, Corningware, Pyrex, china hutch, cookbooks, kitchen table & 4 chairs, walkers, table saw, chest of drawers, yard art, gazing balls, windchimes, shop vac, rocks, yard tools, bird bath, house and garage full

Services by Wall St Antiques Estate Sale Services
View full details at EstateSales.NET
http://www.EstateSales.NET/estate-sales/TX/Midland/79705/850038

Estate Sales

ESTATE SALE BY JOSEPH AND TEAM
2807 E. 21st (Odessa)
Thursday, Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
This home is PACKED with collectible and useable items including. For pictures go to http://www.estatesales.net/estate-sales/TX/Odessa/79761/850134

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Yard & Garage Sales

79703

1814 ROOSEVELT Friday 12-6pm Saturday 10am-6pm Furniture, TVs, Freezer, Clothes, and lots of household items Cash Only

703 SANDLEWOOD Drive Friday & Saturday 8am-noon Garage Yard sale Tools beads jewelry collectibles pottery McCoy Hull & Shawnee, milkglass, pressed glass ceramics, Hallmark Christmas decorations tackle box with lures Cash only!

Yard & Garage Sales

79705

2308 APPERSON Dr Friday 4-10 and Saturday 4-11 from 7:30am-3:00pm Huge moving estate sale! Everything must go!

79707

3306 NEELY Ave Saturday Only 8am-? THIRD ANNUAL mission trip fund raiser garage sale! Lots of donated stuff, new bowling balls and accessories

4105 BAYBROOK in the alley. Friday only from 8am-4pm. One Day Garage sale. Decorator items, compressor, antiques, 4-wheeler, leather love seat, clothes, you name it! Great variety for the savvy shopper!

Yard & Garage Sales

79707

ESTATE SALE 4011 Lehigh Thurs & Fri 9am-6pm Saturday 9am-noon 3 Door Kenmore Elite refrigerator, desk, kitchen table & chairs, barstools, sofas, tables, Christmas items, lawn furniture, rugs, and lots of decorative items

Classified CAN 682-6222

Animals & Pets

Pets

CHIHUAHUA Pups for sale reasonably priced. One Male, 2 Females. Just Weaned 432-694-8834

LAB PUPPIES AKC & started dogs. Hips/eyes guaranteed. Training available. Pooles Labs www.pooleslabs.com Call (806) 633-4364

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

	8		4		5			6
								5
2		9	8		1			7
9		2				7		1
7	3				6			8
3			1		6	4		9
5								
4			9		2		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

7	1	2	9	8	6	3	5	4
3	8	6	5	1	4	9	2	7
5	9	4	7	3	2	8	6	1
8	2	3	4	6	9	7	1	5
1	6	5	8	7	3	4	9	2
9	4	7	1	2	5	6	8	3
6	7	9	3	5	1	2	4	8
2	3	1	6	4	8	5	7	9
4	5	8	2	9	7	1	3	6

4/9/15

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52 FACES

OF COMMUNITY

PRESENTED BY CHEVRON AND THE MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

Do you know an outstanding Midlander?

Nominate them for 52 Faces of Community

The 52 Faces of Community campaign allows Chevron and the Midland Reporter-Telegram to honor Midland's unsung heroes and volunteers. We all know those who go the extra mile to help the community – help us share their stories.

LOOKING FOR PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN:

Health & Human Services, Veterans Affairs, Kids & Family Services, Senior Health & Support, Pets and Animal Care, Corporate Citizenship, Arts, Environment, Education, Diversity, Corporate Partnership and Religious Organizations.

To nominate a Face of Community, please visit mrt.com/52Faces.

Have questions? Email us at news@mrt.com.

Human Energy
Fuels Our Community

Chevron supports Midland.

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WANTED: OFFICES. In Midland or Odessa, 5 rooms & 2 bathrooms $50 each time. Will also clean houses, and Mobile Homes Reasonable prices. Lang's Cleaning Service. 432-352-6610

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CLEARAWAY FOR all your REMOVAL needs and light construction, trash, & tree limbs, residential & commercial cleanout. Tired of higher prices? Give us a call for affordable prices. 432-235-9999

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APPLIANCE REPAIR REPAIR SERVICES and Parts for Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, Washers & Dryers. Free Service Call with Repair. 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

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INSTALLS & Repairs Carpet, Tile, Wood, Paint, Electrical, Plumbing and Much More. 432-924-3660.

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CONCRETE WORK Doing concrete work in Midland for over 40 years. Call 683-5504

FOR ALL your concrete needs, driveways, sidewalks, new slabs house or garage additions. Call Danny @ 432-894-0702

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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Home Services & Home Improvement

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QUIROZ COMPANY STAMP CONCRETE All types of concrete work. Choose your pattern. All types of remodeling. References. Doing business in Midland for over 50 years. Felix @ 631-6734 or Matt @ 631-2475.

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FAX YOUR AD 24/7 682-6999

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BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+ 2014 SILVER

Landscape & Tree Maintenance

Lawn & Garden

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SPACIOUS 1600 + - sq ft. Patio apartment 2 bedroom 2 bath, garage. $1695 monthly No pets 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

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In A Hurry? E-Mail Your Ad Today! It's Quick & Easy mrtclassified@mrt.com

Residential Rentals

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Houses for Rent Unfurnished

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Residential Sales

Condos/ Townhouses

BY OWNER - Wallace Townhouse 1000 Neely, 3BR, 2.5BA, 2379sf, $265K Call 432-528-6466 or 432-967-4049 Open house every Sat 1-3pm until sold

Homes for Sale

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3307 MA MAR $469.5K Fabulous custom home, over 4800 sf. 6 bd/ 4.5 ba/ 3 living, 2 pools Open Sun. 1p-3p **UP Group 889-2934**

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Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

4904 LOS Alamitos Drive FSBO IMMACULATE 4/3/2 in Saddle Club south updated!! Wood/tile/ carpet flooring, Plantation shutters. 3083 sq. ft. $397,000. Call 432-686-8896 or 432-553-9786

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IN NW Midland, Brick 3BR/2B/2CG, ceramic & carpet, water softener, RO system, yard sprinkler system, corner lot, large storage building, security system. $178,000. Call 432-557-9378

WE BUY HOMES, LAND & BLDGS! Fair prices, quick cash! Call 432-266-1212, 432-631-8100.

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BEAUTIFUL 4 bedroom/ 2.5 bath home on Lake Nasworthy in San Angelo, TX. 1926 sq. ft.; sold fully furnished, landscaped and boat dock. $479,000!! Contact Leslig Lasater - Van Winkle & Womack Real Estate 325-656-5409.

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Fax It- 682-6999

Residential Sales

Vacation & Resort Property

LAKE FRONT LOTS now available at LAKE NASWORTHY for more information visit www.seethepalms.com

Lots & Land

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Hunting Leases

PREMIER TURNKEY Hunting Ranch for Sale. 6000sft lodge, 200 inch B&C Deer, Quail, Equipment, Blinds, Feeders, Furniture, Minerals and very strong underground water. 2 hours from Midland Area. Call Anthony Simpson LREB 210-854-6365

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NOW LEASING Office/Warehouse Small Office Suites Fenced Yards Various locations. Call 432-661-4057.

Commercial

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"MAN CAVE" New storage on 1788, 1500-4500 square ft starting at $650 RV's/cars/industrial ask for Don 352-2067.

SUITE AVAILABLE in the Zircon Building, 3001 N. Big Spring, 1433 sq. ft. includes common area which is a conference room & breakroom plus 6 offices. Janitoral & utilities paid 432-683-8030

NEW CONSTRUCTION 5/10/20/50 acres +/- yard with 5,000 or 10,000 sq. ft. building with Bridge Cranes/ wash bays. Ask for Don 563-1610 or 352-2067.

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READY-RANCH WWW.READY-RANCH.COM

Ranches for Sale in Texas & Oklahoma

- Kent County: *11,155 ac. ft. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. mtn., creek, lakes, whitetail deer, mule deer and quail $795/ac
- 4,212 ac, Maverick Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $625/ac
- 1,771 ac, windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great whitetail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $650/ac
- Nolan County: 1040 ac, over 1 mile SOLD ed creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak-motte $3,550/ac
- 565 ac, Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres planted for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $1,150/ac
- Haskell County: *842 ac, canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oaks/elevation $750/ac
- 150 ac, big canyons, cedar/mesquite, oaks, deer, turkey, js- SOLD $400/ac
- Garza County: *139 ac, Sulphur Springs SOLD deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, metal storage $1,150/ac

(432) 884-7764 or (432) 884-7777 No Realtors - Buy Direct!!! Deal with Landowners that know the Country!!! *Owner Financing Available***

YOU DON'T WANT THEM RESPONDING TO YOUR TEXT.

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LIONS:

KINGS...OR NOT?

Since ancient times, the size and strength of lions have so impressed people that these big cats became known as the "king of the jungle." But lions don't live in the jungle. They live on the grasslands of Africa known as ***savannahs***.

Big Cats

Lions are one of the world's largest cats. A full-grown male lion can weigh from ◆◆◆ to ◆◆◆ pounds. The average human male weighs about ◆◆◆ pounds.

Meet the Family

A lion family group, called a **pride**, can have 4 to 10 female lions, their young and one adult male. Young lions are called ◆◆◆.

A Grrrrreat Roar!

Male lions roar to tell other lions to stay out of their territory. A pride doesn't like strange lions in its territory. A lion's roar can be heard as afr as ◆ miles (◆km) away!

Use the lion code to find the missing numbers and letters above.

LION CODE

◆ = 0	◆ = 8
◆ = 1	◆ = B
◆ = 3	◆ = C
◆ = 5	◆ = S
◆ = 6	◆ = U

Male lions have long hair on their heads called a **mane**.

Can you find your way through the Mane Maze?

Start

Finish



Lion's Tail Detector

After reaching each statement about lions below, do each math problem. If your answer is an even number, that statement is TRUE. If the answer is an odd number, the statement is FALSE.

Lion cubs have spots.
12 + 4 =

In the wild, lions can go a week without eating.
9 + 9 =

Lions have five legs.
5 + 8 =

Lions are herbivores.
17 - 6 =

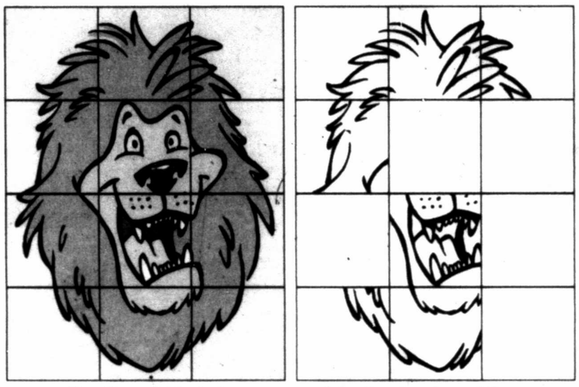
A full-grown lion can eat 75 pounds of meat at one time.
14 + 6 =

How many paw prints can you find on this page?

Open Wide

A lion's teeth are made for eating meat. They have four pointed canine teeth that they use to kill prey and to tear off bites to eat. They have no molars or teeth for chewing. They swallow bites of food whole!

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have different structures that serve different functions in growth



Use the grid to help you complete the drawing of the lion above. Then color it!

Extra! Extra!

Word Family Pride

Groups of one-syllable words that have the same vowel sound can be called a ***word family***. For example, **at**, **cat**, **bat**, **fat**, **hat** and **sat** would be a word family.

Look through the newspaper for words in a word family. Use letters to spell words you can't find. Put the words in ABC order.

Standards Link: Vocabulary Development: Change target sounds to change words; Spelling: Arrange words in alphabetic order.

Hide and Seek

Lion cubs are easy prey for other carnivores. A special camouflage helps to keep them safe. The golden tan of the cub's fur and the dark brown of the spots blend in with the light and shadow of the grassy savannah.

How many lion cubs can you find hiding in the grass?



Standards Link: Grammar: Recognize verbs in writing; differentiate between parts of speech.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

PRIDE
ROAR
LIONS
CANINE
WHOLE
SAVANNAH
MEAT
TERRITORY
GRASSY
BITES
MANE
PREY
FEMALE
WILD
TEETH

Y	M	T	B	L	T	F	Z	W	U
R	G	P	E	I	L	E	T	H	Q
O	W	R	N	O	F	J	A	O	E
T	I	C	A	N	I	N	E	L	L
I	L	T	M	S	N	H	M	E	A
R	D	A	E	A	S	Y	V	D	M
R	W	C	V	E	O	Y	E	I	E
E	R	A	O	R	T	K	J	R	F
T	S	E	T	I	B	H	L	P	P

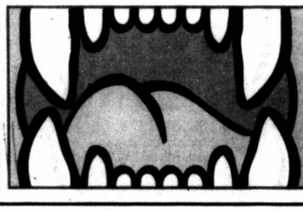
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognizing identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Lion Language

Look through the newspaper and find 10 or more words that describe lions. Write a paragraph or a poem about lions using these words.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write descriptions that use details to write uniform impressions of things.



Why do lions eat raw meat?

ANSWER: Because they don't know how to cook!

Weekly Writing Corner

Lion's Tale

There was once a lion that lived on the Plains of Africa. Lion was hated and feared by all the animals. But that made him sad because he didn't understand why everyone was afraid of him. He tried being extremely nice to the other animals, but they ran away and hid. Then, one day Lion saved a giraffe from a pack of hyenas. Then everyone saw he wasn't bad. They all became friends.

Jack Baker,
6th grade, Hillander

I would like to tell you a story about a brave lion. The brave lion was not scared of anything so the other animals tried to find something he would be afraid of. They tried almost everything including snakes, bats, and scorpions. They were running out of ideas until one animal suggested, "How about a mouse!" So, they found a mouse and the brave lion ran out of the forest. All in all, this shows the lion was not so brave after all.

Jackson Bayless,
4th grade, St Ann's

One day, a new lion named Little was brought into the zoo. Little had no friends. One day a huge lion named Hugo came up to him. Little was scared and went to hide. Hugo went up to him and said, "Why are you hiding from me?" Little answered, "I don't know. I was scared!" They talked and became the best of friends.

Molly Warren,
6th grade, Hillander

Once upon a time, there was brave lion name Spartan. He was the bravest lion in the world even Jupiter. He would go to a brave lions test every month. But one day, the brave lion Spartan went to Jupiter and died. He died because a Jupiter lion knocked off Spartan's space helmet and the air killed him. So his family waited and waited for him to come home. Finally, a Jupiter lion came to Earth and said another lion killed their son. Spartan will be remembered forever for his bravery.

Aiden Jones,
4th grade, St Ann's

One hot summer afternoon a lion name Richard was the only brave lion in his pack. All the other lions were cowards, but Richard had a task and that was to save his pride from predators. When the guardians of the pride were called out against the hyenas, they were scared and ran back. After this, Richard stood against the hyenas. The hyenas stared at the big muscular, brave lion and retreated.

Dalton Martel,
6th grade, Hillander

Write On!

Best Book of the Summer

Tell other kids about a book you think they should read this summer. Have fun describing the details, but don't give away the ending!

Deadline: May 3
Published: Week of May 31
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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