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Expert: Teen pregnancy will take more than sex education to curb

■ MISD reports 132 pregnancies this year.

By Kathleen Thurber
Staff Writer

Of the 132 pregnancies reported at Midland Independent School District so far this year, six happened among girls who already are teenage moms, MISD's pregnancy coordinator said Wednesday.

Thirteen students have been confirmed as pregnant within the last month, said Pat Snyder, pregnancy related services coordinator, speaking during Wednesday's meeting of the School Health Advisory Committee.

Combating the issue that continues to grow in Midland is something she and other members of the committee said will take more than just implementing a curriculum in schools.

"There are so many components to kids having kids. Sex ed is one component," Chairman Mike Mills said, speaking after the meeting. "There is no silver bullet."

Having recommended the abstinence plus "It's Your Game, Keep it Real" curriculum following its December meeting, Superintendent Ryder Warren now is considering the issue and hopes to have a program in place by the fall. The committee, Mills said, has no power in getting any certain program in schools but

Please see PREGNANCY/4A

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

HEALTH REPORT Pat Snyder, left, gives her report Thursday at the School Health Advisory Committee meeting.

DELAYCONCERNS

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland school children make their way to class two hours later than normal Wednesday morning as MISD called for a late start again because of cold weather.

'With as many kids as we have to pick up, we're just going to be very cautious with them having to be waiting out in the elements.'

— Dr. Ryder Warren, MISD superintendent

Some question MISD delaying start times during cold weather

By Audrie Palmer
Staff Writer

While many parents may have questioned the Midland Independent School District's two-hour delay for starting classes Wednesday because of the cold weather, Superintendent Ryder Warren said he made the decision for the safety of students.

"With as many kids as we have to pick up, we're just going to be very cautious with them having to be waiting out in the elements," he said.

MISD transports more than 6,000 children each day using 350 different bus routes around the city. The children wait in a common place, and Warren said that when he made the decision at 4:45 a.m., the temperatures with the wind chill weren't even getting into the positive numbers and were staying under the zero degree mark.

Warren said he learned from meteorologists the area would be out of the negative wind chill advisory after 9 a.m.

A record low was recorded by the National Weather Service for 11 degrees at 8:14 a.m., and Midland only warmed up to the freezing mark of 32 degrees by 3:47 p.m. after a cold front blew through the region late Tuesday.

Ector County ISD Communications Director Mike Adkins said the district's procedures differ from MISD in that they are based on the conditions of the streets.

"When the roads are dry and there's no hazard of traveling, we'll be open on time and conduct school," he said.

The bitter cold temps are something officials do take into consideration, but Adkins added they base their policy to delay or close campuses by considering if buses and parents can get children to school safely.

Other local Midland schools though, including Midland College, Midland Christian and Trinity School of Midland, said they follow MISD's lead when delaying or canceling classes.

MC Dean of Public Information Rebecca Bell said the college has the early college high school program that some MISD students attend and many of their employees and students also have children who attend MISD schools.

"We have found that it really works out better for everyone if we follow MISD's lead," she said.

Midland Christian staff said it's their policy to also follow MISD's lead with delays and closures because some of their students may have siblings who attend public schools.

Adrianne Clifton, Trinity admissions and marketing director, said they chose to delay opening by two hours, because Trinity students, from age 2 to 18, have to walk and commute outdoors between buildings for some classes.

"We anticipated sub-zero temperatures and we just felt like instead of asking parents and families to get their kids to school in -1 degree weather, we would start a little bit later and take advantage of the warmest part of the day without losing a day of instruction," she said.

Some businesses owners though, questioned the closure when they got out on the roads.

Wee Care Learning Center Director Helen Price said she usually follows MISD policy as a safety precaution because she knows school officials are out driving in the early morning and monitor conditions of the streets.

Price chose to open her daycare center at 9:30 a.m. to accommodate those needing to drop off children before the 10 a.m. start.

Please see MISD/4A

INSIDE

■ What's being said by readers on mywesttexas.com about the delays.

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Ag commissioner applauds eminent domain reform

By James Cannon
Staff Writer

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples spoke to the Midland County Republican Women on Wednesday about the need to reform Texas' eminent domain rules.

Staples

During the presentation, he broke out with good news to loud applause from the Republican women: The Senate had passed reform measures under Senate Bill 18.

"Eminent domain reform is on its way to Texas," Staples said a mere minutes before news broke of the Senate's passage of the reform bill. "I would have never thought Texas would have this problem, in other states maybe, but not in Texas."

SB 18 takes aim at the state and other agencies that have land grabbing power, and reforms rules concerning the use of the seized property and the compensation level. Staples said it was a good thing for Texas' residents as it now prevents agencies from "low balling" property owners.

"In Texas, our home is our castle," he said to a wide range of applause. "We should be able to be secure in our property."

Gov. Rick Perry also said Wednesday afternoon that he was pleased with the Senate for passing, what he called, much-needed reform.

"I commend the Texas Senate for passing SB 18 as we continue the effort to strengthen private property rights in our state," Perry said in a statement shortly after the bill's passage. "Property ownership remains an essential freedom for Texans, and we must strengthen our eminent domain laws to further protect property owners."

He also urged the House to act quickly on the bill, so that Texans can begin to see the benefits.

"It recognizes the importance of private property rights," Sen. Kel Seliger said, of the bill he co-authored that passed unanimously. "People are always concerned when property is being condemned."

He said talks about the Trans-Texas Corridor in recent years brought the issue back into the forefront but that eminent domain has long been a concern of property owners.

"That particularly irritated people because it was such a broad use," he said.

Also during the luncheon, Staples talked about Texas' future and the budget issues.

"Texas needs to keep the welcome mat of opportunity out," Staples said.

He added that to continue Texas' economic growth, the government needs to keep business in mind. He said his department was a role model, as it always has a balanced budget and usually comes in under budget.

He also said that Texas' upcoming redistricting only had good and better news for residents.

"Texas will be gaining four new seats in Congress, that will reflect the value of Texans," he said. "That was the good

Please see REFORM/4A

INSIDE

Texas Senate passes bill to extend property rights.

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Read Ed Todd Profile on 1B

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Berlusconi scandal

Premier Silvio Berlusconi faced the most serious challenge yet to his grip on power 8A

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Senate passes bill to extend property rights

By Sommer Ingram
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas property owners would have stronger protections when the government wants to take their land under a measure approved Wednesday by the state Senate.

Property could be seized under a process called "eminent domain" only if it would be put toward public use, and landowners could buy it back if the project is not started within 10 years.

The government would also be required to make a "bona fide" offer to buy the property.

The changes force the government to deal fairly with "good faith negotiations and just compensation," said bill author Sen. Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls.

Lawmakers have been tinkering with the state's eminent domain law for years as concern mounted about governments abusing their power to seize private land. In 2009, a similar bill won unanimous support in the Senate but ultimately died in the House.

Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican, has designated the eminent domain bill a legislative emergency.

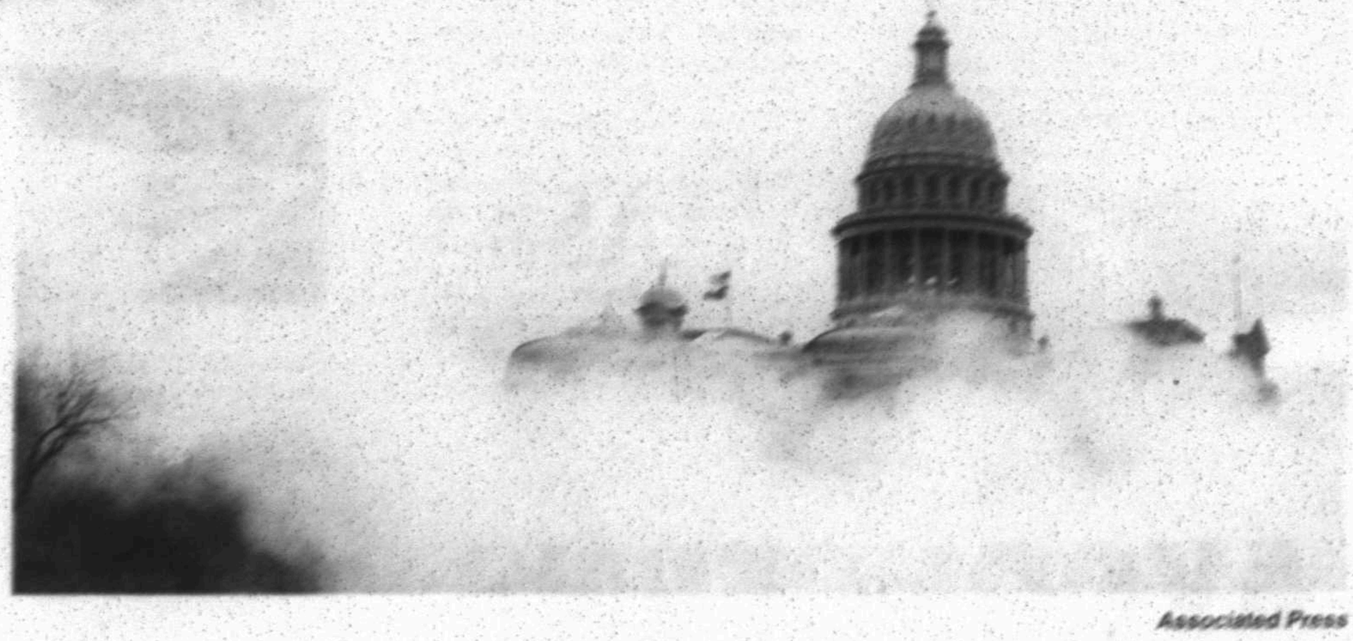
Perry vetoed a similar bill in 2007, a move that angered farmers and private property rights advocates. In 2009, he supported a state constitutional amendment to ban governments from taking land for private development.

The Senate unanimously approved the bill, which was supported by a broad range of interest groups including the Texas Farm Bureau, pipeline companies, utility companies and private landowner groups.

Sen. Eddie Lucio, D-Brownsville, supported the bill but expressed concern that it doesn't help landowners along the Mexico border whose property has been encroached upon by the border wall running through their fields and orchards.

"This is land they've held in their families since before Texas was founded as a republic," Lucio said. "I hope this body can do something for those border family members."

COLD CAPITOL



Associated Press

The capitol in Austin is obscured by rising steam from a nearby chilling station Wednesday. The temperature was in the low 20s as a cold front moved through the state.

Senate committee adds new abortion rules

By Chris Tomlin
Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Texas Senate Affairs Committee approved a bill Wednesday that would require doctors to perform a sonogram on women seeking an abortion and describe whether the fetus has arms, legs or other internal organs before completing the procedure, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Supporters of Senate Bill 16 argued that women need the information before receiving an abortion. Opponents said the law would put the government between doctors and patients.

The bill requires doctors to describe what they see while performing the sonograms in explicit detail. If passed, the law would also require doctors to offer patients the opportunity to see the sonogram and to listen to the fetal heartbeat. The only exceptions are for abortions that are a result of emergencies, sexual assault, incest of fetal abnormalities.

The bill's author, state Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, said the law is necessary to guarantee that women have the information.

The doctor "is required to perform the sonogram, explain it as he is doing the sonogram so that she has an informed consent as to what is happening," Patrick told the committee. "This is a strong bill and a prudent bill."

Opponents complained, however, that the bill would be the first time lawmakers have required when and how a doctor performs a test, and what they tell their patients when.

Patrick insisted the bill was not about curtailing abortions, but that if it did, it was a result he would welcome. He said the purpose of the bill was to make sure the patient was fully informed before consenting to an abortion.

Several doctors complained, though, that the bill was contrary to accepted medical practices and interfered with their relationship with their patients.

"This bill not only tells me what to do, but how to do it," said Dr. Matt Romberg, a private practice doctor who does not perform elective abortions. "This bill tells me what word choices to use."

Performing a sonogram to see the development of a fetus and to check on the health of woman's uterus is standard procedure before conducting a non-emergency abortion. Supporters said the bill is necessary because some doctors were denying women the chance to see the sonogram before the abortion was performed.

Dr. Joe Spear, the medical director of the Planned Parenthood Clinic in Austin, said his organization always offers patients the chance to see the sonogram and to take home a printout of they wish. He said the bill did not constitute informed consent.

"The verbal description of the sonogram image beyond presence of a heartbeat and the length of gestation would not offer most women any additional information with which to make an informed decision and instead smacks of coercion," Spear said.

A similar bill was passed by the committee in 2009 but failed to become law. The bill must now be approved by the entire Senate and the state House of Representatives.

Straus makes committee assignments

■ Craddick on Energy Affairs, State Resources.

From staff reports

Rep. Tom Craddick was appointed Wednesday to the Energy Affairs and State Resources Committees as part of Speaker Joe Straus' House assignments.

"It's exactly what I asked for," said Craddick, R-Midland. "Energy of course is key to our area and community. State Affairs hears all (of) the immigration stuff, all the right to life, all the utilities, it's one of the major committees."

Craddick served on both the Energy Affairs and State Resources committees during the 2009 legislative session, as well.

He also was named the officially designated dean of the House Wednesday, a position that goes to a senior member.

"I think it gives us good representation," he said.

Rep. Tryon Lewis, R-Odessa, was appointed vice chairman of the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee and also will serve on the Higher Education Committee.

Of the chairs appointed, just more than 70 percent are Republican. Urban areas had chairs appointed to 23 committees while rural districts saw 15 chairs appointed, according to Straus' office.

"One of the most important roles of the speaker of the House is making committee assignments," Straus said, in a release. "I have tried to apply the interests and expertise of individual members to our state's challenges, and to make sure the geographic and demographic diversity of Texas is fairly represented."

CAPITOL ALMANAC

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Senators warned budget cuts could hurt higher ed

Deep budget cuts proposed for Texas universities will hurt students, teachers and important research projects, college presidents warned state senators.

Texas is facing a shortfall of at least $15 billion and early budget drafts would slash more than $700 million in state money to higher education.

Francisco Cigarroa, chancellor of the University of Texas System and several campus presidents testified before the Senate Finance Committee. They said the cuts would make it hard to attract top-quality teachers and researchers and hurt the ability of lower-income students to attend college.

Sen. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, chairman of the finance committee, tried to ease some of the concerns, saying he's confident that "before it's over, we're going to have more money to put into higher education."

Arts, historical leaders fear cuts

Proposed cuts in funding for state-supported arts and historical commissions could be disastrous for the groups, their supporters contend.

Gov. Rick Perry on Tuesday proposed eliminating state funding for the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas Commission on the Arts as a way to help deal with the state's projected $15 billion shortfall in the next two-year budget period.

The arts agency's current budget is $14.8 million, with 9 percent from the state's general revenue fund. The Texas Historical Commission's budget tops $100 million, with 20 percent from the general revenue fund, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

"We recognize that some cuts are necessary statewide and that this agency will be affected," said Mark Wolfe, executive director of the Historical Commission. "We welcome the opportunity to do our part in assisting legislative leaders in prioritizing the state's needs as they apply to this agency. Our historic resources are a vital part of our future and can contribute a solution to the state's economic difficulties."

Quote of the day

"2011 is (Gov.) Rick Perry's Madoff moment: The Ponzi scheme is up."
— Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-San Antonio, criticizing the Republican Perry's budget ideas as the state faces a $15 billion shortfall.

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PROMISES, PROMISES: 'Widows' tax' lingers

By Kimberly Hefling
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tens of thousands of the nation's war widows find it perplexing and downright disrespectful to their late military husbands: In order to fully collect on insurance their husbands bought for them when alive, they must marry another man.

And to qualify, the widows must remarry when they are 57 or older. Those who remarry earlier miss out, as do widows who never remarry.

At the heart of the issue is a government policy known as the "widows' tax." It says a military spouse whose loved one dies from a service-related cause can't collect both survivor's benefits and the full annuity benefits from insurance the couple bought from the Defense Department at retirement. Instead, the amount of the annuity payment is reduced by the amount of the monthly survivor benefit.

Time after time, members of Congress have promised to help the 55,000 affected widows, but laws passed to help them have only created a more complicated system that's left many of them confused and angry.

So, what's remarriage got to do with it? Very little, as it turns out. The marriage condition was stuck into the law by Congress as it attempted to help the survivors retain certain benefits if they remarried late in life, as is the case with other similar federal annuities. Because Congress hasn't been able to come up with the money to help all the widows, relief has been limited to that group. The result is an all but incomprehensible mess.

"I've never even wanted to date, much less remarry," said Nichole Haycock, a mother of three teenagers in Lawton, Okla., whose 38-year-old military husband died in 2002. "I already married the love of my life. Why would you bring that as a factor?"

And there's yet another wrinkle that leaves even some of those who benefit from the system — women 57 and over who have found love a second time and remarried — not completely happy.

For war widows who were denied the full benefits of their military insurance, the government sought to help by giving them back the premiums their spouses had paid for the policies. But if a widow then remarries at age 57 or older, becoming eligible for the benefit, she can only get it by repaying the insurance premiums the government had refunded to her.

Freda Schroeppel Green, 74, whose late husband served in Vietnam and died of a service-connected disability after 30 years in the Air Force, said she was surprised after remarrying last year to receive a bill from the government to repay more than $41,000 in insurance premiums. Those premiums had been refunded to her after his 2003 death because at that time she wasn't able to receive the full benefit of the annuity.

"It doesn't make any sense to me," said Green, of Brooksville, Fla. "Why did they send the premiums that he paid and now they want it back?"

It also doesn't make sense to Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., and 10 other senators who last week filed legislation to help the widows.

"This has always been an issue of the military doing the right thing and living up to its promises," Nelson said in a statement. "These policies were bought by servicemen and women to make sure their loved ones would be taken care of following their deaths. Not only is it a promise the government hasn't kept, but now it's sending bills to survivors. That's just outrageous."

Among the widows, Green and the approximately 700 who have remarried after age 57 are considered the lucky ones because at least they no longer have one benefit subtracted from the other.

Other surviving spouses — most of whom lose about $1,000 a month because of the current setup — have fought for years on Capitol Hill.

The Gold Star Wives of America Inc., a congressionally chartered group of military widows, supports legislation backed by the senators and Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., that would eliminate the offset and not require widows to pay back premiums previously refunded. They argue the survivors have spent years living without the benefit of the annuity and it is cheaper for the government to forgo the premiums than manually calculate what's owed.

The main hurdle to eliminating the benefit offset is cash. It would cost the government an estimated $6.7 billion over a decade to allow the widows to collect both benefits in full.

The Defense Department has long said there was never an expectation that both programs would be provided at the same time. Clifford Stanley, the defense undersecretary for personnel, told Congress last year that eliminating the offset would create inequities in its benefits programs.

The widows disagree. Most of the affected survivors' spouses paid on average 6.5 percent of their retirement pay — or about $100 a month or more — for the annuity. The service members died thinking their spouses would benefit from it, the widows say, just as if they had bought a private life insurance policy. The idea that insurance benefits would be reduced if the husband died from a service-related cause and the widow was receiving survivor benefits was never explained to them, they say.

"Nobody could see the train wrecking," said Vivianne Wersel, chair of government relations at Gold Star Wives, whose husband died in 2005 days after returning from a second tour in Iraq. "They had no idea. It wasn't until a death they realized they weren't getting what their husbands thought they'd be getting."

For the past several years, a measure to eliminate the offset has passed in the Senate only to be dropped when House and Senate negotiators got together in private to hash out defense spending.

Instead, Congress in recent years has given the surviving spouses small legislative victories that in retrospect only seem to have created new inequities, said Steve Strobridge, a retired Air Force colonel who is director of government relations at the Military Officers Association of America.

One of those victories was the 57-and-older remarriage rule, which at first the Defense Department did not recognize. Three of the widows later successfully sued, and in 2009 the Defense Department issued new guidance saying those surviving spouses 57 and older who remarry wouldn't be subjected to the offset.

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Recent comments on mywesttexas.com regarding school closures and delays:

Think of the crosswalk guards who would have been out there in the dark waiting to walk children safely across the street. Kids out waiting for buses as the wind rips through them. You assume that when it's cold, parents drive their kids to school. It's not the case for everyone.
— Peabody (Feb. 9)

Unfortunately, my 3-year-old is at work with me right now until 9:30...how frustrating!
— stoney69ss (Feb. 9)

This is a tad ridiculous and is really making us look like we can not handle the cold. Sure if it is too cold for the buses to start, I can see that there could be delay on buses but then it needs to be up to the parents to get their kids to school, it's embarassing to see how people use school as a day care now.
— Cross313 (Feb. 9)

Delaying school because it is cold makes no sense! It makes parents that have to work, scramble to find somewhere for their children to go until school starts!
— mac018 (Feb. 9)

How warm do you really think it is going to be in (extra) 2 hours?
— sourlemon (Feb. 9)

If the school system is given money by the state based on the number of rear ends in seats, wouldn't it make more sense to have a few days of closure and add a few days onto the end of the term, or take a few off spring break? Many people I am sure kept their kids at home because they felt the wind chill and the drive was too dangerous. They would have had better attendance by postponing school to a later date.
— BeeBee (Feb. 4)

MISD and all others should close, it's easier to send kids on a make up day than in this mess.
— grneyesnmidlandtx (Feb. 3)

No child's life is worth an accident where many drivers and pedestrians just do not have a firm grasp on how to handle snow and ice, no matter how small. I grew up in much colder climates and had my chance at 'on the road' learning, as a teen and young adult, how to maneuver out of sudden slips and spins. I don't trust that the other guy in Midland has had the same 'training.'
— Aesop007 (Feb. 1)

MISD

From 1A

Yet, Wednesday morning when she got out to drive to work and noticed the streets were clear, she didn't know why the school delayed opening.

Still, Price said she takes extra precautions in opening her business because of the wintry weather. Two years ago, one of her employees was involved in a serious car accident trying to get work.

"I'm always just concerned about the safety of everyone," she said.

Staff at Village School and Child Care said they were also delayed by two hours because many of their employees have children who attend MISD schools and could not come to work earlier to accept children at the daycare.

Delaying or closing MISD schools is a decision Warren says he probably spends the most time worrying about.

With the spring semester, students are preparing for state testing and need instructional time in the classroom. Still he said he is always going to make a decision on what is safest for the students.

When asked if he anticipated delaying school openings today, he said it depends on the weather conditions.

"If it dips down from five degrees or below, I will definitely take a look at it," he said.

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PREGNANCY

From 1A

decided last school year to study the issue and make a recommendation because teen pregnancy is such an epidemic in Midland.

Of the adults who participated in the survey, the majority supported some type of age-appropriate abstinence plus education, which is why they made the recommendation they did, MISD Health Services Supervisor Tracey Dees.

Several, though, have disagreed with the proposal and instead support an abstinence-only based curriculum.

Regardless of what's decided on, Mills and Dees said they all know it's a multi-faceted issue and one they're simply glad people are talking about in recent months.

"It's a subject people are uncomfortable with," Dees said, explaining part of why she thinks Midland's pregnancy rates have been so high. "This is a community that turns its head the other way."

For the past several years, MISD has not had a formal sex education program. The Life Center and Midland-Odessa Area AIDS support do make presentations at some campuses.

Snyder said for girls who've had children before, they've been told about abstinence, the risks of intercourse and about safe sex.

"It's a education issue," she said, speaking after the meeting. "You just keep drilling it in."

However, Snyder said, often teens don't care and other times they say they didn't have access to birth control at the time they were having sex. Not having sex is unfortunately a behavior that some of their teens don't seem to see as an option, she said.

At 24 percent, Texas has the highest repeat teen birth rate in the country, according to a 2007 report released from Child Trends.

Dees said in Midland those girls could have access to health care or birth control but choose not to research their options or simply don't take advantage of it. She said some students think they won't be able to afford birth control when they become un-enrolled from Medicaid after giving birth the first time and others say they didn't use birth control because they didn't have the transportation needed to obtain it.

Mills briefed the committee on a mentoring program he hopes Communities in Schools will be able to implement. Known as XY-Zone, the program would pair at-risk male students with mentors that would teach them about responsibility, respect, community service and other skills.

Targeting males, he said, is just as important as talking to young girls since teaching boys to abstain from sex would play a large role in getting the teen pregnancy rate down.

"If you've got a young man saying, 'no' then we're making a difference," Mills said.

Dees said seeing shifts also will require breaking into cycles of poverty and teen parenthood that many of their students come from. She and Snyder agreed mentors could help because some teens don't have typical two-parent homes or don't have a steady place they go home to each night.

"Unless good behavior is modeled to them how will they know the right direction to take?" she said.

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

Lawmakers oppose federal bailout for states

By Alan Fram
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The new Republican-led House is showing no appetite for making federal taxpayers help state and local governments cope with widespread budget problems. Even some Democrats are wary, underscoring the impact of Washington's crushing budget deficits.

"The era of the bailout is over," Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., told a House hearing on the debt problems facing scores of states and municipalities around the country.

At the same hearing, Rep. Mike Quigley, D-Ill., said states need to erase their deficits and face up to their long-term obligations such as pensions for government workers on their own. He also criticized a proposal some conservatives have made that Congress pass a law allowing states to reorganize their debts by declaring bankruptcy, an idea that opponents say would send state borrowing costs soaring.

"I don't think either one of those options can work or are optimal," Quigley said.

McHenry chairs a subcommittee of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee that oversees federal bailouts, which was holding a hearing on the issue. Quigley is the top Democrat on that panel.

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., has also said there will be no federal bailout for fiscally ailing states.

Washington has pumped billions of dollars to state and local governments during the past two years from President Barack Obama's $814 billion economic stimulus program. But that aid is ending, and states and municipalities face huge projected deficits for this year and next.

For the coming fiscal year, the 50 states face combined expected deficits of $125 billion, according to the liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Unlike the federal government, nearly all states are required by their constitutions to balance their budgets.

> Besides Illinois, some other states facing especially tough budget problems include New York, New Jersey, California and Texas.

Despite bipartisan agreement that Washington's budget problems mean that governors can't expect help from federal taxpayers, the two parties used the hearing to blame different culprits for the states' problems.

Republicans said the stimulus program let states postpone making their budgets healthier and cited state workers' pensions and health benefits. Democrats said the stimulus let states preserve valuable services and defended public employees, and said most states' budget imbalances are largely due to the huge bite that the weak economy took out of tax collections.

Citing worries that state workers could see their pensions cut, Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., said, "One of my concerns is when the storm is over, then these folks have been locked out of a lot of money they were due."

McHenry blamed the wide-ranging budget problems chiefly on states' huge pension obligations, citing "the looming burden of paying out trillions of dollars in lucrative public sector union pension and health care benefits that come at the expense of taxpayers."

He said public employees on average have better salaries and benefits than private workers and said, "Public sector employees and private sector employees are living in two different economies."

He also blamed excessive spending and falling tax revenues caused by the economic downturn, adding, "Reckless spending fueled by bottomless borrowing and guaranteed by endless bailouts is an unsustainable course."

Quigley, the Democrat, said long-term budget imbalances are faced by only six to eight states, including his own state of Illinois. He said those states face major problems caused by rising health care costs and underfinanced pension plans.

"This is why a one-size-fits-all approach, like bankruptcy for states, could do more harm than good," Quigley said.

Besides Illinois, some other states facing especially tough budget problems include New York, New Jersey, California and Texas.

Children escape burning home on South Lamesa Road

From staff reports

A mobile home caught fire early Wednesday morning, leaving four children trapped inside before they exited through a bedroom window.

The home located on the 1700 block of South Lamesa Road was set ablaze by a kitchen stove that was being used to heat the home, because the furnace was out of order, firefighters said.

The fire started as a result of radiant heat from the electric kitchen stovetop which ignited nearby combustibles, accoding to city of Midland Public Information Officer Tasa Watts, and fire spread upwards and outwards to surrounding walls and cabinets. Fire crews quickly extinguished the flames with a hose line, she said.

Direct fire damage was confined to the kitchen, but officials said smoke damage was noted throughout the home.

No injuries were reported.

The Red Cross was notified to assist the family with temporary housing and other needs.

The Midland Fire Department wants to remind citizens to always maintain working smoke detectors. Smoke detectors are required by law for all rental properties. Using kitchen appliances for heating is prohibited by the city of Midland Minimum Housing Code and is a leading cause of city residential fires during cold temperatures.

Water line breaks near Doug Russell Pool

From staff reports

A water line feeding to the Doug Russell Pool that broke Wednesday morning was attributed to the low temperatures.

City of Midland's Director of Utilities Stuart Purvis said the line fed only into the pool and because the pool currently is closed, it had no moving water through it to keep it from freezing.

Midland ISD officials had planned to relocate both Alamo Junior High School and Bonham Elementary School students to Lee High School and Rusk Elementary if city workers had to cut off water service to either of the two campuses while fixing the line.

Purvis said service was not interrupted to either school Tuesday.

REFORM

From 1A

news, the better news is that California, New Jersey and Massachusetts will all be losing seats."

Staples would not comment on the possibility that the lieutenant governor's seat might become vacant should David Dewhurst run for the U.S. Senate. However, he did say he was excited about the future and will wait for the appropriate time to make any announcement.

Kathleen Thurber contributed to this report.

James Cannon can be reached at jcannon@mrt.com.

TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

■ Special West Texas Preview Event "Freedom Riders," 7 p.m., UTPB's Library Lecture Center 001.

■ Aphasia Center presents Chocolate Decadence, 7 p.m., Midland Center. For more information, call 699-1261.

Nonprofit/support group meetings

■ Midland Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. today at 702 W. Dengar. Megan O'Hearn will discuss the use of census records.

5K Sweetheart Run

The city of Midland Parks and Recreation Division is hosting a 5K Sweetheart Run at 9 a.m. Saturday.

The race will be held at Beal Park, 5200 W. Wall St.

Registration is $5, and participants can register at the Parks and Recreation Office, 2701 W. Elizabeth St.

The City Championship Series Race includes men's and women's age groups (13 & under, 14-17, 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 and older). The course will be a flat, cross-country course on mixed surfaces.

Bring your sweetheart and share the path to health and wellness this year, one race at a time.

For more information, call 685-7379.

Radio talk show schedules

KCRS (AM 550)
6-9 a.m. The Morning Drive with Robert Hallmark and Kurt Verlei
9-11 a.m. Lynn Woolley
11 a.m.-2 p.m. Rush Limbaugh
2-5 p.m. Dave Ramsey
5-6 p.m. Local News reports
6-9 p.m. Roger Hedgecock
9-midnight Hugh Hewitt
Midnight-6 a.m. Coast to Coast with George Noory
Web: http://www.newstalkkcrs.com/

KWEL (AM 1070)
6-10 a.m. The Morning Show with Craig Anderson
10 a.m.-noon Laura Ingraham
Noon-2 p.m. Glenn Beck
2-5 p.m. Sean Hannity
5-6 p.m. Jason Moore
6-9 p.m. Michael Savage
Web: http://www.kwel.com

Sports Talk
KMND (AM 1510)
6-9 a.m. Mike and Mike in the Morning
9 a.m.-noon The Herd with Colin Cowherd
Noon-3 p.m. The Dan Patrick Show
3-6 p.m. The Doug Gottlieb Show

The Reporter-Telegram on radio
■ Editor Stewart Doreen discusses local news at 9:35 a.m. Thursdays on KWEL (AM 1070).

Lottery

Pick 3 day: 2-9-4
Pick 3 night: 8-1-2
Daily 4 day: 8-8-5-6
Daily 4 night: 8-0-3-2
Cash Five: 17-18-23-29-37
Lotto Texas: 2-19-21-31-35-41
Powerball: 7-11-39-42-51
PB: 30
Power Play: 4

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 10, the 41st day of 2011. There are 324 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history:

On Feb. 10, 1949, Arthur Miller's play "Death of a Salesman" opened at Broadway's Morosco Theater with Lee J. Cobb as Willy Loman.

On this date:

In 1763, Britain, Spain and France signed the Treaty of Paris, ending the Seven Years' War.

In 1959, a major tornado tore through the St. Louis area; killing 21 people and causing heavy damage.

In 1962, the Soviet Union exchanged captured American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Rudolf Abel, a Soviet spy held by the United States.

In 1968, U.S. figure skater Peggy Fleming won America's only gold medal of the Winter Olympic Games in Grenoble, France.

In 1981, eight people were killed when a fire set by a busboy broke out at the Las Vegas Hilton hotel-casino.

In 2005, playwright Arthur Miller died in Roxbury, Conn., at age 89 on the 56th anniversary of the Broadway opening of his "Death of a Salesman."

Ten years ago: The space shuttle Atlantis' astronauts installed the $1.4 billion Destiny laboratory on the international space station.

Five years ago: Former federal disaster chief Michael Brown told a Senate committee he had alerted the White House to how bad things were in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and agreed with senators who said he'd been made a scapegoat for government failures.

One year ago: Former Texas Congressman Charlie Wilson, whose funding of Afghanistan's resistance to the Soviet Union was chronicled in the movie and book "Charlie Wilson's War," died in Dallas at age 76.

Today's birthdays: Actor Robert Wagner is 81. Olympic gold-medal swimmer Mark Spitz is 61. World Golf Hall of Famer Greg Norman is 56. Political commentator Glenn Beck is 47. Actress Laura Dern is 44. Actress Emma Roberts is 20.

Thought for Today: "Morality is moral only when it is voluntary." — Lincoln Steffens, American journalist (1866-1936).

Source: AP

Republicans grill Bernanke over inflation threat

By Jeannine Aversa
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Members of Congress sharply questioned Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke Wednesday over whether the Fed's policies are raising the risk of higher inflation in the months ahead.

House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said he is concerned that the Fed won't be able to detect inflation until "the cow is out of the barn" and inflation is already spreading dangerously through the economy.

Bernanke acknowledged that inflation is surging in emerging economies. But he downplayed the risks to the U.S. economy, even as lawmakers expressed concerns about rising gasoline and food prices.

Inflation in the United States remains "quite low," Bernanke said. He blamed higher prices on strong demand from fast-growing countries such as China— not the Fed's policies to stimulate the economy, including buying $600 billion worth of Treasury debt.

Bernanke's remarks suggest the Fed will stick with the bond-buying plan through June, as scheduled. The program is aimed at invigorating the economy by lowering rates on loans and boosting prices on stocks.

Ryan worries that the Fed's stimulus policies, including the debt purchases, could trigger inflation or fuel speculative buying of stocks or other assets.

"Many of us fear monetary policy is on a difficult track," Ryan said.

Rep. Todd Rokita, R-Ind., seemed skeptical of the Fed's ability to fend off inflation before it gets out of hand. In the Fed's history, when did the Fed "get it right?" Rokita asked.

Bernanke said former Fed Chairman Paul Volcker brought down double-digit inflation during the 1980s by pushing up interest rates to levels not seen since the Civil War.

The Fed chief said he was confident the Fed has the political will to boost interest rates and snuff out inflationary forces before they take hold.

Bernanke also defended the bond-purchase program, saying it is needed to ease high unemployment. He credited all the Fed's stimulus policies with creating or saving 3 million jobs over the past several years.

The unemployment rate was 9 percent in January after the fastest two-month decline in 53 years. Bernanke said the drop is encouraging but cautioned that it will take several years for hiring to return to normal. He said the economic recovery won't be assured until companies step up hiring on a consistent basis.

Bernanke is making his first appearance before the House since Republicans took control last month. He faced some tough questions from them, despite being a member of the party.

Ryan and Bernanke agreed that Congress and the White House must have a plan to reduce the government's $1 trillion-plus deficits.

Global warming fix heats up hearing with EPA chief

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional Republicans vowed Wednesday to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from reducing the pollution that contributes to global warming, underscoring the threat with a proposed deep cut to the agency's budget.

"Congress intends to reassert itself in the statutory and regulatory process at EPA and specifically the Clean Air Act," said Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., chair of a House subcommittee on energy and power at the start of a hearing Wednesday on a draft bill that would block the EPA from using the act to control heat-trapping pollution.

During more than two hours of testimony, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson told the panel that the legislation "would eliminate portions of the landmark law that all American children and adults rely on to protect them from harmful air pollution." The Obama administration contends the law and compelling scientific evidence on global warming compel the EPA to act.

House Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton, R-Mich., the author of the measure along with Whitfield, denied that it would weaken the law or limit the federal government's ability to monitor and reduce health-damaging pollution.

At the same time, Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers, R-Ky., proposed a sweeping $1.9 billion cut — about 18 percent — to the amount requested for EPA this year by President Barack Obama. Rogers' proposal would also shave millions from EPA programs to boost energy efficiency in household appliances and to collect data on greenhouse gas emissions.

Having failed last year to enact new legislation to curb global warming, the administration is left to use existing law — the Clean Air Act — to fight global warming.

That, Republicans contend, will penalize industries that otherwise could be creating new jobs and raise electricity prices, and they've made the agency a central target of their anti-regulatory agenda.

The agency has been caught before in shifting political winds. But in the 40 years since Republican President Richard Nixon created the federal agency charged with protecting the public from pollution, and Congress nearly unanimously passed laws that have cleaned up the air and water, longtime observers say the atmosphere for the agency has never been more toxic than it is now.

"It's really been quite extreme," said William Ruckelshaus, who was the first EPA administrator under Nixon and later ran the agency under President Ronald Reagan, of the rhetoric being aimed at the agency this time around. "What are they supposed to do? Sit there and do nothing?"

The latest and perhaps most draconian attack came from former House speaker and possible 2012 GOP presidential candidate Newt Gingrich, who called for abolishing the EPA and replacing it with an organization more friendly to business.

That followed Democrat Sen. Joe Manchin's use of a rifle to blast a hole through legislation limiting the gases blamed for global warming in a campaign commercial. The stunt helped him win West Virginia's open Senate seat.

ACROSS THE NATION

FROM WIRE REPORTS

LOS ANGELES

Diet soda tied to stroke risk, but reasons unclear

It's far from definitive proof, but new research raises concern about diet soda, finding higher risks for stroke and heart attack among people who drink it every day versus those who drink no soda at all.

The beverage findings should be "a wakeup call to pay attention to diet sodas," said Dr. Steven Greenberg. He is a Harvard Medical School neurologist and vice chairman of the International Stroke Conference in California, where the research was presented on Wednesday.

A simple solution, health experts say, is to drink water instead.

PHOENIX

Rep. Giffords speaks for first time since shooting

Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords spoke for the first time since she was shot in the forehead, her spokesman said Wednesday, yet another significant milestone in her recovery from a traumatic brain injury.

Giffords first spoke within the past few days and is speaking "more and more," spokesman C.J. Karamargin said Wednesday. He didn't know what her first words were, but said that at breakfast one morning she asked for toast.

Six people, including a 9-year-old girl and a federal judge, were killed in the attack outside a grocery store where Giffords was meeting with constituents. Thirteen people, including Giffords, were injured.

LOS ANGELES

Lohan pleads not guilty to felony theft charge

Lindsay Lohan pleaded not guilty Wednesday to felony grand theft of a $2,500 necklace — the most serious charge yet filed against the troubled starlet who has wrestled with drug and alcohol abuse for years.

"You're in a different situation now that a felony has been filed," Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz scolded Lohan after she entered the plea through her attorney. "Everybody else has to follow the law. You're no different than anyone else. So please, don't push your luck."

Saying it appeared Lohan had violated her probation in a 2007 drunken driving case, Schwartz set bail at $40,000 and warned that if she was accused of breaking the law while free, he would have her held without bail.

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opinion

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A businessman's budget mantra: Difficult but doable

■ Legislature can make strategic cuts without sacrificing priorities.

BILL HAMMOND
Texas Association of Business president/CEO

There's something to be said for leaders in the Texas House sticking to their guns and releasing a state budget that keeps spending within existing revenues.

My budget mantra this session is: "It's difficult, but doable."

State leaders must continue to fight to ensure we implement cost-saving reforms that reflect Texas' commitment to prosperity and to economic growth.

The state has $72.2 billion available for general-purpose spending during the 2012-13 biennium, leaving a $15 billion gap from the current general revenue spending of $87 billion.

How do we close that gap?

It will take grit and courage to address the shortfall without raising taxes, creating new fees or increasing existing ones.

Difficult? Yes.

Doable? Absolutely.

First, let's hold the line on general revenue spending at its current level of $87 billion for the biennium.

And, while the sky isn't falling, it sure is raining. So, let's have the courage to tap the Rainy Day Fund for $6 billion.

To control health care costs, one simple fix is to expand Medicaid managed care statewide, resulting in $1.2 billion in savings.

Our current budget shortfall isn't a time, however, to be penny-wise-and-pound-foolish.

We need efficiencies in government, including education where smart budgeting and reforms will offer a significant return on our investment by way of an educated, skilled workforce.

To that end, we must use the Available School Fund for its constitutionally intended purpose — student textbooks. Budget writers should prioritize $550 million of the fund for new digital and print materials for pre-kindergarten, English as a second language, writing and science, due to classrooms this fall.

We also could use more of the $1.9 billion Available School Fund to restore programs eliminated in the base budget that directly support Texas classrooms. Among these strategic investments are:

■ $270.9 million technology allotment;

■ $223.3 million for pre-kindergarten programs that provide a solid foundation for our youngest students;

■ $385.1 million for incentive pay for our school's most outstanding teachers;

■ $51 million for a high school completion initiative aimed at improving post-secondary readiness and graduation rates; and

■ $20.3 million for the virtual school network.

There's plenty more opportunity to make strategic cuts, accounting tweaks and reforms to get us to the $87 billion budget target.

Let's go ahead and delay the date of payments by the state by one day into the next fiscal year. This simple action could save the state $3 billion to $4 billion alone.

While we don't have to expand the gambling footprint, we can and should pass legislation to allow slot machines at existing Texas horse and dog racetracks and Native American Indian reservations. These machines would generate as much as $850 million in direct state tax revenue during the current biennium and nearly $1 billion per year at full implementation.

Legislation requiring probation with mandatory treatment for first-time, low-level drug possession offenders with no prior violent, sex, property, or drug delivery crimes would provide an estimated $500 million savings by 2012.

And, it's reasonable to consider some of the thoughtful recommendations laid out in recent days by organizations like Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and conservative think tanks to bridge the remaining $2.5 billion.

There's a case to be made for fully funding effective, efficient state programs in education that are critical to our state's long-term competitiveness and prosperity.

I'd argue for the Texas Grants program to be kept at current spending levels while making reforms to ensure greater productivity. We must graduate more students with degrees or post-secondary credentials, and a priority-based Texas Grants program that remains fully funded, will help us get there.

Higher education funding should be kept level, too, but let's demand better performance by requiring 10 percent of higher education funding to be based on completion rates.

What I have set forth could best be summed up as a rational proposal for budgeting. Let's make strategic cuts and responsible investments that will ensure our state's continued prosperity.

OUR VIEW

Can Texans live with Perry's version of what Texas should be

Rick Perry's State of the State message Tuesday was exactly what we have come to expect from the Texas governor: bold and brash, but full of self-serving messages of "can-do" without giving specific details of all the hurts and sacrifices Texans will have to endure.

Perry boldly declares there are "no sacred cows" in the Texas budget but doesn't want to cut his pet projects such as the Texas Enterprise Fund and the Emerging Technology Fund. He wants to solve Texas' $30 billion tax shortfall without raising taxes. That is also the message Texas voters want to hear, but then they don't like what it sounds like when it cuts jobs, strips Texas education to below minimal standards and cuts state services.

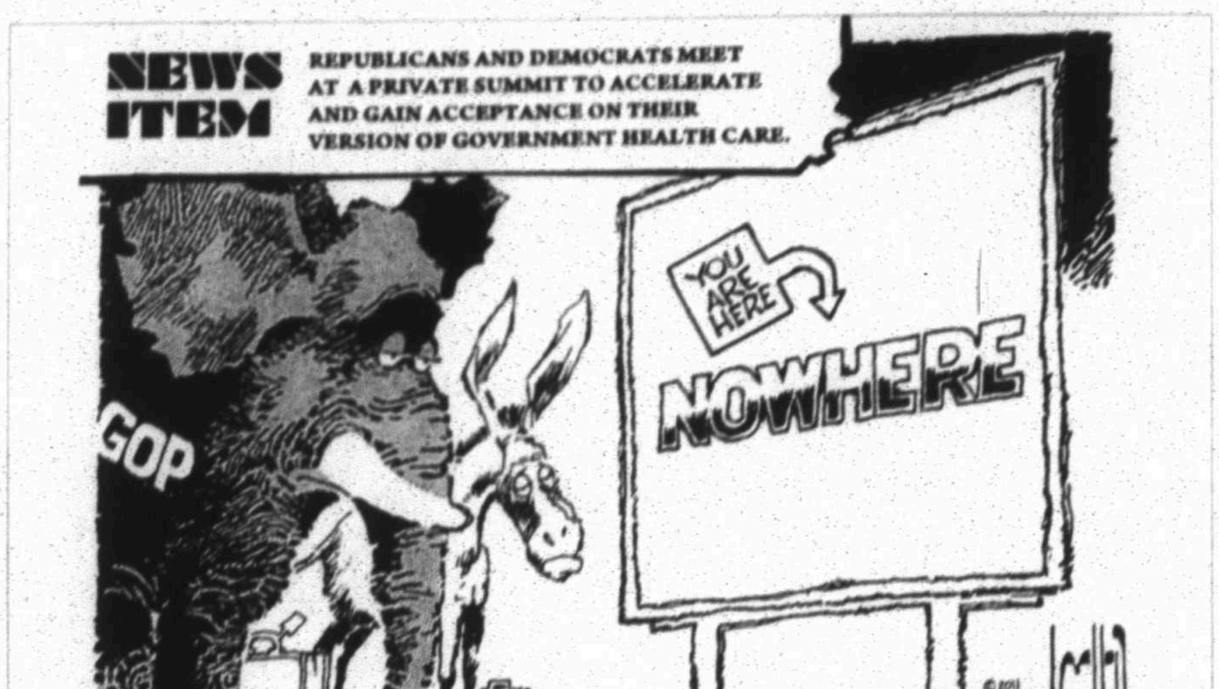
Without adding new revenue sources, Perry wants to slash billions of dollars from public schools and state-provided health care, prisons, environmental protection and regulatory agencies.

The governor made bold moves right out of left field, proposing the funding elimination of four agencies, including the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas Commission on the Arts. We think these are questionable moves. Texas has a rich historical heritage, and it concerns us that the state will let our historical treasures rot, leaving discovery and the saving of historical artifacts to mere chance and private work. Also, the loss of the Arts Commission sends an immediate message to the rest of the world that Texas deserves its redneck, hillbilly image and takes no interest in the betterment of the state culture.

There was one Perry proposal, however, we would like to investigate more thoroughly. Perry challenged higher education institutions to develop bachelor's degrees that cost no more than $10,000, including textbooks, by making education more affordable by using web-based instruction. We don't know at this point if that is a reasonable expectation, but it is an idea that should be studied in depth.

Perry also reiterated a call for a four-year tuition freeze, which he proposed in his 2009 State of the State address. On the surface, that sounds great, especially for cash-strapped families having a hard time meeting ever-rising college expenses, but we wonder how that might actually impact college campuses. That, too, could end up being a job-cutter.

In short, Texas voters may just get what they wanted from Perry, but we still wonder if the voters can end up living with what they voted for.



Days of multiculturalism are over

■ Britain's prime minister has the political courage to say what people in America should already know.

CAL THOMAS
Tribune Media Services

One of liberalism's many problems is that once an idea or program is proved wrong and unworkable, liberals rarely acknowledge their mistake and examine the root cause of their error so they don't repeat it.

Take multiculturalism ... please!

In a speech to a security conference in Munich, British Prime Minister David Cameron declared state multiculturalism a failure. For good measure, Cameron said Britain also must get tougher on Islamic extremists. Predictably, this has angered Islamic extremists.

A genuinely liberal country, he said, "believes in certain values and actively promotes them. ... Freedom of speech. Freedom of worship. Democracy. The rule of law, equal rights, regardless of race, sex or sexuality."

Cameron said in Britain different cultures have been encouraged to live separate lives: "We have failed to provide a vision of society to which they feel they want to belong." Here I would take issue with an otherwise excellent speech. It isn't that Britain has failed to provide such a society. Rather, many of those coming to Britain (and increasingly France, Germany and the U.S.) don't want to become a part of those cultures, which they regard as corrupt and anti-God.

Britain's policy should be to require — yes, require — immigrants to become part of a melting pot and not individual vegetables floating around in a multicultural stew. Otherwise, they should not be admitted.

When critics of multiculturalism and unbridled immigration warned of the inevitability of a loss of nationhood and national identity, they were denounced as alarmists, even racists.

The late British parliamentarian Enoch Powell suffered such attacks (and earned many kudos) when he repeatedly warned about the dangers of open-ended immigration without assimilation. In a controversial speech to a Conservative Party conference in 1968, Powell began his address, known as "Rivers of Blood," with what ought to be an obvious statement: "The supreme function of statesmanship is to provide against preventable evils. In seeking to do so, it encounters obstacles, which are deeply rooted in human nature."

Powell argued that when it comes to multiculturalism and immigration, Britain had failed in that mandate. Looking into the future, Powell accurately predicted what has come to pass from mass and uncontrolled immigration: "Of course, it will not be evenly distributed from Margate to Aberystwyth and from Penzance to Aberdeen. Whole areas, towns and parts of towns across England will be occupied by sections of the immigrant and immigrant-descended population."

Powell wasn't so much railing against immigrants, though his critics read it in those terms, but against Britain's refusal to integrate them into British culture.

And then Powell let the timid class have it with this line: "There could be no grosser misconception of the realities than is entertained by those who vociferously demand legislation as they call it 'against discrimination,' whether they be leader-writers of the-same kidney and sometimes on the same newspapers which year after year in the 1930s tried to blind this country to the rising peril which confronted it, or archbishops who live in palaces, faring delicately with the bedclothes pulled right up over their heads. They have got it exactly and diametrically wrong."

In 1968, Britain still had time to reverse course, but because its leaders didn't want to be called "racists" and immigrants were doing jobs British citizens were increasingly reluctant to do (sound familiar?) the floodgates were left open. It may be too late for Britain, as it may be too late for France and Germany.

It isn't too late for the United States, though it is getting close. Too many American leaders suffer from the same weak-kneed syndrome that has gripped Britain. Who will tell immigrants to America that the days of multiculturalism are over and if they want to come to America, they must do so legally and expect to become Americans with no hyphens, no allegiance to another country, and no agenda other than the improvement of the United States?

Enoch Powell was right four decades ago. David Cameron is right today. If British leaders had listened to Powell then, Cameron would not have needed to make his Munich speech.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

weekdays

Community support did exist for local business

I was disappointed to read, in an article spotlighting the upcoming Black Business Expo, that Sweet Soul Dessert Bar closed its doors because of lack of community support. If the staff writer (Audrie Palmer) had contacted me or my siblings to verify this information, she would have been informed that nothing could be further from the truth.

This community, as well as surrounding communities, embraced our vision with tremendous love and support. This proved evident in a previous letter to the editor by Lynda Lane. In the 2 1/2 years we were open, we were blessed to be included in occasions ranging from a simple pick-me-up treat to the joining of two people in matrimony. We participated in many community fundraisers, such as "The Gourmet Gala" benefiting Meals on Wheels, and consider our customers to be a part of our family. We even have a monthly dinner at the Hog Pit Pub & Grub for any of our "family" who want to get together and keep in touch.

Ironically, community support was so overwhelming the physical demand of the business began to take a toll on my health and that is why we closed our doors. It was a very difficult decision. We could never thank our community enough for your loving support, and we sincerely apologize for the misinformation.

Candi Cooper-Gordon

Reader appreciates paper's delivery in difficult conditions

Looking out at the snow this morning (last week) and feeling the coolness in my house, I did not expect a paper delivery today or yesterday. But just by chance I looked out over the driveway and sure enough, there it was, laying snuggled in its paper wrapping waiting for me.

I get up daily at 6 a.m. to greet the day and get my paper and start my day. My wife says it's my military training. I do not know the name of the person who delivers my paper. I just want them to know how appreciative I am. Thanks a bunch.

Ramon Ritter

Letters to the editor run Sundays on 11A and Wednesdays and Thursdays on 6A in the Reporter-Telegram. Submit letters via e-mail to letters@mrt.com or via fax to 570-7650. Letters must include name, phone number and address and are limited to 350 words.

DOONESBURY — By Garry Trudeau

AROUND THE GLOBE

FROM WIRE REPORTS

AFGHANISTAN

US says customs officer killed

KABUL — A U.S. customs employee and two NATO service members have died in insurgent attacks in southern Afghanistan where violence persists despite a winter lull in fighting across the nation.

A suicide bomber killed a retired U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer and wounded three other American customs workers Monday in Kandahar, which remains a hotbed of Taliban activity despite an influx of U.S. troops over the past year.

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said in a statement released late Tuesday in Washington that David Hillman, a retired customs officer who had worked for the U.S. government for 30 years, died in the blast at the Inland Customs Warehouse in Kandahar.

PARIS

Sarkozy to ministers: Take vacations in France

President Nicolas Sarkozy is awkwardly trying to stamp out a controversy over his ministers taking sun-and-sea holidays paid for by the Egyptian government and a Tunisian businessman.

Some top French politicians have made a habit of planning vacations around the largesse of foreign governments or influential tycoons. But the long-standing practice has come under scrutiny following revelations the prime minister's family Christmas holiday was funded by Egypt's government, and the foreign minister vacationed in Tunisia, hitching a ride on a businessman's jet to avoid violent anti-government protests there.

French media had a field day Wednesday, running front-page photos of Prime Minister Francois Fillon and Foreign Minister Michele Alliot-Marie with headlines such as "Fillon Government Experiencing Heavy Turbulence."

RUSSIA

Moscow airport bomber named, his siblings arrested

ROSTOV-ON-DON — Russian authorities have named the suspected suicide bomber of Moscow's airport and arrested his teenage brother and sister, officials said Wednesday.

The Jan. 24 bombing of Domodedovo airport was conducted by 20-year-old Magomed Yevloyev, said an official working with Russia's top investigative agency in the province of Ingushetia. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the issue.

Officials have previously said that the bomber was a 20-year-old man from the Caucasus, but didn't give his name.

Chechen rebel warlord Doku Umarov has claimed responsibility for the attack that killed 36 and injured more than 180.

Strikes in Egypt add to pressure from protests

Associated Press

CAIRO — Thousands of state workers and impoverished Egyptians went on strike Wednesday after weeks of anti-government protests cast a spotlight on corruption and the wealth amassed by those in power in a country where almost half the people live near the poverty line.

The protests calling for President Hosni Mubarak's ouster have been spreading since Tuesday outside of Cairo's Tahrir Square, where they have been concentrated for the past week. On Wednesday, demonstrators also gathered at parliament, the Cabinet and the Health Ministry buildings, all a few blocks from the square. Prime Minister Ahmed Shafiq was working out of the Civil Aviation Ministry on the other side of the city because his office was blocked by protesters.

For the first time, protesters were forcefully urging labor strikes despite a warning by Vice President Omar Suleiman that calls for civil disobedience are "very dangerous for society and we can't put up with this at all." His warnings Tuesday were taken by protesters as a thinly veiled threat of another crackdown.

Strikes erupted in a breadth of sectors — among railway and bus workers, state electricity staff and service technicians at the Suez Canal, in factories manufacturing textiles, steel and beverages and at least one hospital.

"They were motivated to strike when they heard about how many billions the Mubarak family was worth," said Kamal Abbas, a labor leader. "They said: 'How much longer should we be silent?'"

Egyptians have been infuriated by newspaper reports that the Mubarak family has amassed billions, and perhaps tens of billions of dollars in wealth while, according to the World Bank, about 40 percent of the country's 80 million people live below or near the poverty line of $2 a day. The family's true net worth is not known.

"O Mubarak, tell us where you get $70 billion dollars," dozens of protesters chanted in front of the Health Ministry.

Growing labor unrest is adding a new dimension to the pressures for Mubarak to step down. The protesters filling streets of Cairo and other cities for the past 16 days have already posed the greatest challenge to the president's authoritarian rule since he came to power 30 years ago. They have wrought promises of sweeping concessions and reforms, a new Cabinet and a purge of the ruling party leadership.

The strikes broke out across Egypt as many companies reopened for the first time since night curfews were imposed almost two weeks ago. Not all the strikers were responding directly to the protesters' calls. But the movement's success and its denunciations of the increasing poverty under Mubarak's rule resonated and reignited labor discontent that has broken out frequently in recent years.

In one of the flashpoints of unrest Wednesday, some 8,000 protesters, mainly farmers, set barricades of flaming palm trees in the southern province of Assiut. They blocked the main highway and railway to Cairo to complain of bread shortages. They then drove off the governor by pelting his van with stones.

Hundreds of slum dwellers in the Suez Canal city of Port Said set fire to part of the governor's headquarters in anger over lack of housing.

The farmers in Assiut voiced their support for the Tahrir movement, witnesses said, as did the Port Said protesters, who set up a tent camp in the city's main Martyrs Square similar to the Cairo camp.

In Cairo, hundreds of state electricity workers stood in front of the South Cairo Electricity company, demanding the ouster of its director. Public transport workers at five of the city's roughly 17 garages also called strikes, demanding Mubarak's overthrow, and vowed that buses would be halted Thursday.

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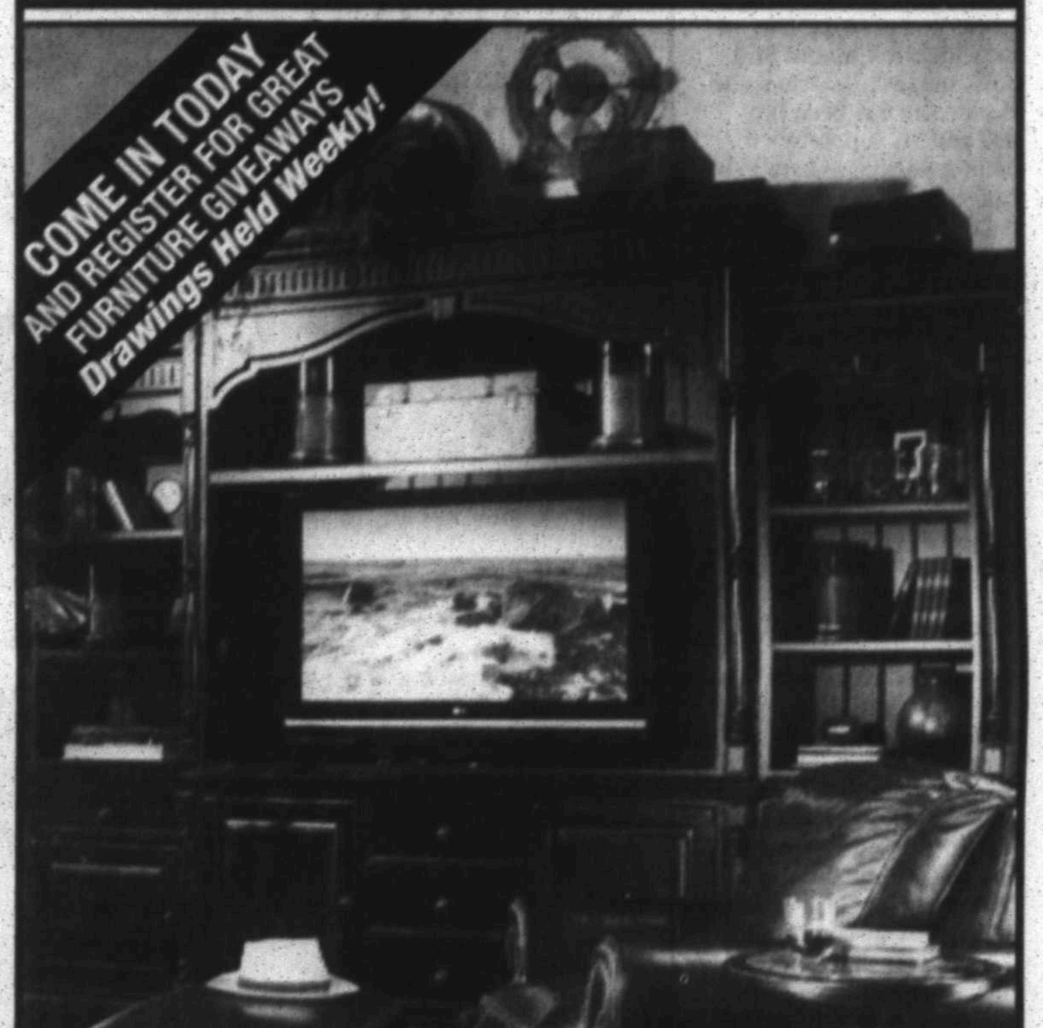

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Berlusconi: Sex probe aims to discredit my government

By Colleen Barry and Allessandra Rizzo
Associated Press

MILAN — Premier Silvio Berlusconi faced the most serious challenge yet to his grip on power as Italian prosecutors sought to put him on trial in a seamy prostitution scandal involving a 17-year-old Moroccan girl that has both titillated and divided the nation.

The prosecutors filed a request Wednesday for Berlusconi to be tried quickly in Milan, on charges the 74-year-old leader had sex with the girl and then tried to cover it up by using his power.

Moments later, speaking in Rome, Berlusconi accused them of seeking to topple his government, saying they had "offended the dignity of the country" with a smear campaign and groundless allegations.

Though Berlusconi is no stranger to legal cases, this is the first judicial action against the three-time premier and media billionaire to impugn his personal conduct, rather than his business dealings. The case raises questions about Berlusconi's ability to govern effectively under mounting legal pressure, and comes at a time when he has been weakened by a fight with an ex-ally.

The scandal has splashed salacious details and allegations of wild, sex-fueled parties at his villas across newspaper front pages for weeks and drawn the ire of the Catholic Church. Still, polls suggest the damage to Berlusconi has been limited and his supporters remain as devout as ever in a sign of Italy's political polarization.

"His popularity is down, but not out," said political analyst Roberto D'Alimonte, a professor of political science at Rome's LUISS university. "One of the main reasons is a lack of clear alternative. On the other side, there is not a single credible coalition, there is not a single credible leader and not a single credible program."

A judge now must decide whether to dismiss the prosecutors' request or go ahead with a trial — which would add to the premier's already substantial legal worries. A decision is expected within two weeks, just as two unrelated trials and one preliminary legal hearing are about to resume in Milan. These corruption trials are resuming after Italy's Constitutional Court watered down a law that had briefly shielded the premier.

The prosecutors assert that Berlusconi paid for sex with the girl, nicknamed Ruby, who has since turned 18, then used his influence to get her out of police custody when she was detained for the unrelated suspected theft of $4,103. They say Berlusconi allegedly feared her relationship to him would be revealed.

Ruby was released into the custody of a Berlusconi aide, who also is under investigation with two other confidantes.

Paying for sex with a prostitute is not a crime in Italy, but it is if the prostitute is younger than 18. The age limit was raised up from 16 in 2006 during a campaign against underage prostitution by a previous Berlusconi government.

Prosecutors are seeking an immediate trial — a sped-up procedure that would skip the preliminary hearing — because they believe they have sufficient evidence against the premier. The have forwarded a 782-page document to Judge Christina Di Censo to back up their indictment request.

A defiant Berlusconi held a press conference Wednesday to announce new measures aimed at boosting Italy's moribund economy but also answered a question about the prostitution case.

"It's shameful, really," Berlusconi said of the prosecutors' move. "It's shameful and disgusting."

"I wonder who's going to pay for these activities, which, in my humble view, only have a subversive aim," Berlusconi added, lamenting that the case had "offended the dignity of the country."

Berlusconi said prosecutors had smeared not his name but that of Italy's before the world's public opinion. He insisted he has only been at the service of his nation.

Both Ruby and Berlusconi have denied having sexual relations, although she has said Berlusconi gave her $9,550 on their first meeting.

The child prostitution charge carries a possible sentence of six months to three years; the abuse of influence charge, which experts say is more dangerous for Berlusconi, carries a possible sentence of four to 12 years.

In response to that charge, the premier's supporters say he made the call to Milan police only to avert a diplomatic incident because Berlusconi believed at the time that the girl was the niece of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. His defense maintains the case should be handled not by the Milan prosecutors but by a special tribunal set up to deal with alleged offenses committed by public officials.

"I have intervened as prime minister, because I was worried that there could be an international diplomatic incident," Berlusconi told reporters Wednesday.

Parliament, in which Berlusconi controls a slim majority, attempted to derail the investigation by saying Milan prosecutors don't have jurisdiction and refusing their request to search Berlusconi's properties for evidence. Chief Milan Prosecutor Edmondo Bruti Liberati, however, said the crime was not committed in the exercise of Berlusconi's duties.

"This is not an act that can be ascribed to his office," he told reporters.

He said prosecutors will not seek to use as evidence a handful of wiretaps of phone calls involving Berlusconi, which would require parliamentary approval, saying they ultimately were "not relevant."

Ruby herself is under investigation for allegedly having misidentifying herself when she was held by police for pickpocketing, Bruti Liberati told reporters.

The documents now in the hands of the Di Censo, the judge, include hundreds of pages of wiretaps of conversations among women at Berlusconi's parties that have been previously leaked to the press.

In some purported conversations, Berlusconi's mansion is described as a brothel with topless girls dancing around; the premier himself is described as a "caricature" by one guest and as having gained weight and having become ugly by another. Other published wiretaps have a woman identified as Ruby saying that Berlusconi was willing to pay for her silence.

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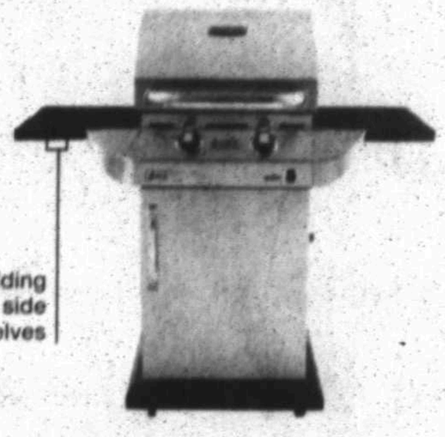
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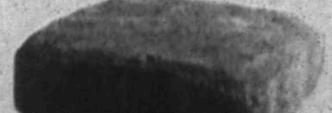
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Midland County Utility District awaits legislation

City Council appoints two members to ensure city's interests protected

By Kathleen Thurber
Staff Writer

Having agreed to make provisions for the city, proponents of the Midland County Utility District now are waiting for legislation to be drafted so residents can vote on the district's creation.

Dr. Shelton Viney, who is spearheading the effort to create a water district that would serve Midland County residents, said they hope to have the issue on the May ballot if a bill makes it through the Legislature in the coming months.

Before a final bill can be drafted, though, Rep. Tom Craddick, R-Midland, said they plan to meet with city of Midland officials to ensure interests of both the city and the water district's supporters will be covered.

Viney has met with the city and representatives from both groups said they think they've found parameters all agree to.

"I just think it's real positive for us to all be together," Craddick said. "We'll have a bill drafted."

The City Council this week approved a resolution authorizing Vicky Hailey, councilwoman for District 2, Michael Trost, councilman for District 4, and City Attorney Keith Stretcher to work with state officials in drafting the legislation. They plan to meet with officials in Austin next week.

Hailey said she supports water being supplied to county residents, particularly in south and east Midland County where she's pushed for development, but said they also want to be sure the city's interests are protected.

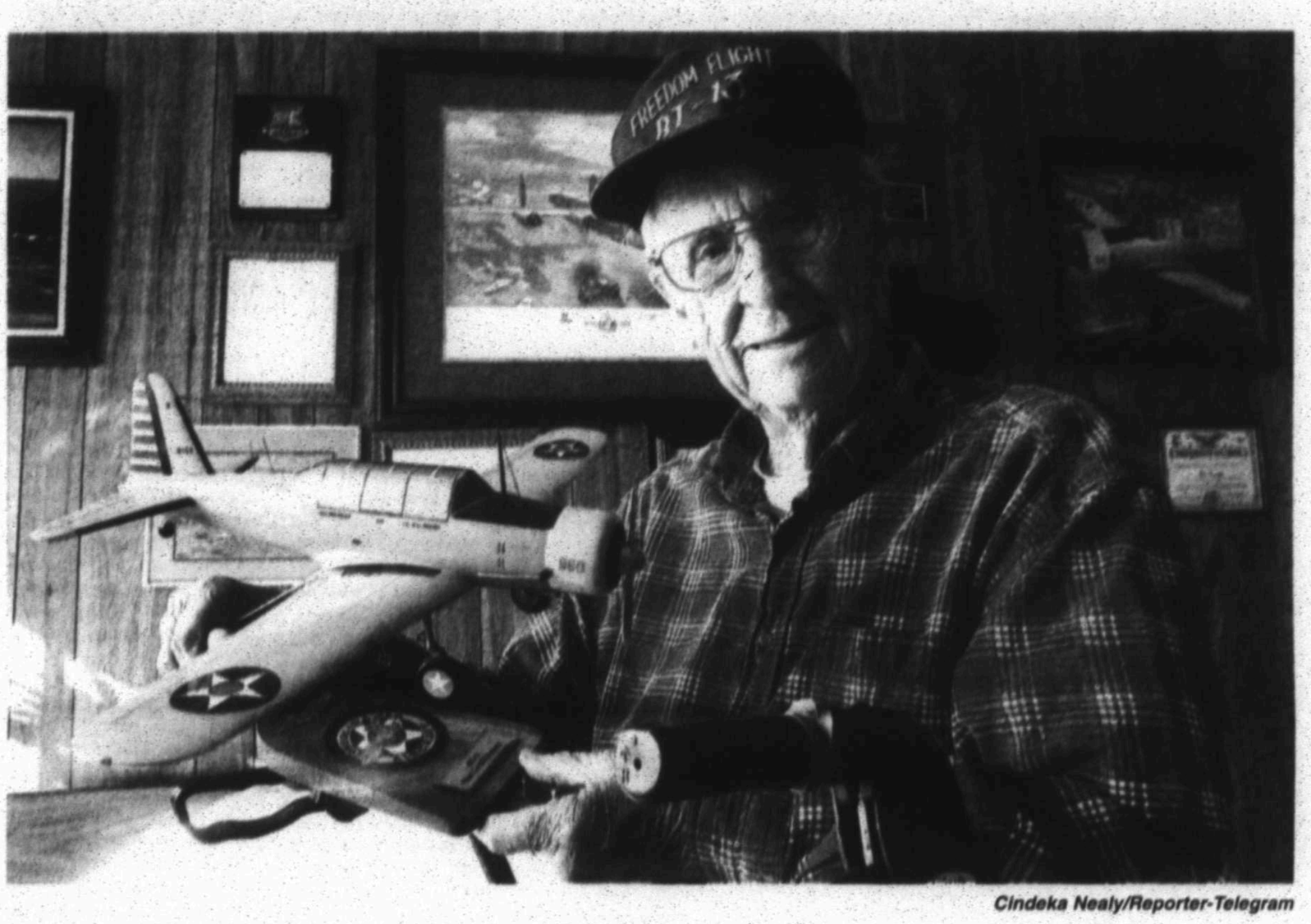
"I just want to make sure there's an open line of communication so everyone can know what's happening, so everyone can have some feedback," she said.

City officials have composed a list of six items they'd like to have considered as part of the legislation being crafted, according to a memorandum provided by Stretcher.

Among them, the city wants to have the ability to annex land

Please see **COUNTY**/4B

A STORY OF YEARNING



Cindeka Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

World War II Navy veteran Bill Pounds trained in the Vaultee BT-13 Valiant at the end of the war and since then he has flown the trainer for the Commemorative Air Force.

Country boy leaves farm to work, for the joy of flying

ED TODD PROFILE

The Bill Pounds view of the aviator's "wild blue yonder" must share a kinship, however remote, with the World War I American soldiers' remembrance of the romance, beauty and gaiety of Paris even in wartime Europe.

The dreamily jazzy image is enlivened in the popular 1918 lyrics: "How Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Down on the Farm After They've Seen Paree?"

Perhaps you don't, not always. Pounds left the farm, not for Paris, but for other adventures, including work and, years later, flight.

Now into his 85th year and ever longing to fly again since he last handled the flight controls in his mid-70s, Pounds was raised on a farm near Eastland on the far side of Abilene and dreamt of flying in his boyhood and youth.

"I miss flying," he sighed in retirement.

"A pretty day doesn't go by that he doesn't say, 'We ought to be up flying,' " said Peggy Vaught, his "dearest friend" for the last 40 years. "I know that," she said. "He's mine, too."

Flying has been his quest since his boyhood in the 1930s and into his teenage years going into the late 1930s and early 1940s. Back then, practically every boy and many a girl, too, who had looked skyward longingly in Aviation's Golden Age, dreamt of flying. Perhaps they recalled American aviator Charles A. Lindbergh's 1927 historic transatlantic solo flight from New York to Paris in the Spirit of St. Louis monoplane or the adventuresome American aviatrix Amelia Earhart who 10 years later disappeared into the Pacific Ocean in her quest to fly around the world in her twin-engine Lockheed Model 10 Electra.

Some wanted the adventure of the high seas. Others took to the rigors of the caissons and the imaged glory of fighting a war.

Simply, Pounds wanted to fly

"Airplanes came over our farmhouse all the time when I was a kid. When I could see one coming, I didn't care what I was doing, I shut it down, and I watched it until it went clear out of sight."

However, his father, Hubert Pounds, must have reckoned that flying was for fools, for the carefree, for the invincible fellows who didn't fear death by falling out of the sky.

Once out of rural Morton Valley High School in his mid-teens, Bill Pounds, born in 1925, enrolled at nearby Ranger Junior College. He signed up for the United States Navy's V-5 ground-school program for young fellows who wanted to be aviation cadets, wanted to fly and wished to win their Navy gold wings.

"I wanted to fly, too," Pounds said, "but I never did tell Dad that I was going to Ranger, learning to fly, either. Apart from

Please see **FLYING**/3B

Former prisoner testifies in abuse case

■ Alleged victim says he was abused by principal.

By Betsy Blaney
Associated Press

LUBBOCK — A young man once held at a West Texas juvenile prison testified Wednesday that he was sexually abused by the facility's school principal, whom he said offered him snacks and soda after their first encounter in a closet.

The alleged victim, who is now 23, appeared nervous as he spoke during the sexual abuse trial of John Paul Hernandez. He told jurors that his pants were pulled down by Hernandez, and after he told the principal he was nervous, "he told me to do him a favor and he'd bring me a sandwich."

Hernandez again asked if the teen was uncomfortable. "I said 'no,' and he reached over and pulled down my underwear," the alleged victim testified. He said Hernandez then began fondling him and gave him oral sex.

Hernandez, 45, is on trial in Lubbock on 11 counts, including one count of sexual assault, for alleged incidents that occurred in 2004 and 2005 at the West Texas State School in Pyote.

Prosecutors said Hernandez and another former school administrator gave inmates special treatment, candy and promises of financial aid before sexually abusing them in closets and classrooms. Authorities allege more than a dozen boys were abused.

Hernandez's defense attorney contends the boys made up allegations of assault so they would be moved from the school.

The school was closed last summer in the wake of the sex abuse scandal that led to accusations of a cover-up and to reports exposing lax medical care and beatings. Lawmakers eventually ordered an overhaul of the system.

The young man who testified Wednesday said his situation at the prison improved after the first alleged encounter with Hernandez, who began giving the teen sodas and snacks. The alleged victim said Hernandez abused him about four times, including in women's restrooms or lounges at the prison.

When asked by Prosecutor Lisa Tanner why he didn't tell Hernandez to stop, the young man said: "I didn't want it to affect me going home."

He said he didn't tell anyone at the prison about the alleged abuse because he was embarrassed. After leaving the prison in November 2004, the teen told a Texas Ranger who was investigating sexual abuse at the prison.

Earlier Wednesday, a former teacher at the prison's school, Bobby Jarrett, told jurors that Hernandez would stroll into his classroom daily for months, get a student and leave for the entire class period. Jarrett said other students grew aggravated by what they thought was preferential treatment.

Jarrett said it was "very unusual" for Hernandez or any administrator to regularly remove a student from class.

"He was being pulled by the principal almost every day," Jarrett said. "He would just walk in and get him and leave."

Mary Helen Urias, who formerly gave tests to students at the prison, also testified for prosecu-

Please see **CASE**/4B

City posts largest sales tax collection

■ Busy Christmas season helps tax collection top $3.1 million.

From staff reports

A Christmas season for the record books helped the city of Midland to a record sales tax collection.

Bob McNaughton, director of finance, reported the $3.1 million collection this month was the largest for one month in the city's history, topping $3.076 million in February 2009. Sales tax revenue is generated by sales tax income from two months previously, meaning February's collection is based on December sales.

The $3,102,898 also reflects a 25.46 percent (or $629,746) increase from February 2010.

Fiscal year-to-date sales tax revenue is $11,839,539, a 26.45 percent (or $2,476,132) increase from last year's total at this time. The year-to-date total, however, still lags behind the same month in fiscal year 2009 when the city collected $12.19 million.

The city through February has recorded 10 straight positive sales tax collections.

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Sprinklers coat a lawn in ice Wednesday morning as temperatures started the day in the teens.

Obituaries

Arturo Pena

Arturo Pena, age 53, passed away Monday, February 7, 2011 at Christopher House in Austin, Texas.

He was born December 9, 1957. Services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, February 12, 2011 at St. John Catholic Church in Monahans with Father John Lucido officiating. Burial will follow at Monahans Memorial Cemetery. A rosary is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, February 11, 2011 at Harkey Funeral Home Chapel. Services are under the direction of Harkey Funeral Home.

Survivors include his wife, Gloria Pena; a son, Gabriel Pena; and daughter, Raquel Pena.

Billie G. Ruppe

Billie G. Ruppe passed away on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 after a valiant battle with cancer. Billie was born in Talco, TX on February 5, 1930 to Murtis Thomas and Bernard Gieger. She met Joseph Bosch Ruppe in 1954 in Midland, TX. They were married in 1955 and had four children.

Billie was an active member of St. Stephen's Catholic Church. Her strong faith sustained her throughout her life. She was very proud of her career as a registered nurse. She graduated from Sisters of St. Josephs School of Nursing in Ponca City, OK. In 1951 she began working at Midland Memorial Hospital. Billie was past President of The Women's Hospital Auxiliary. She was a volunteer for the American Red Cross, a member of the advisory board for the LVN School of Nursing at Midland College, Co-founder and CEO of We Care Home Health Agency and past board member of The Allison Bridge Center. In 1981 she traveled to Saudi Arabia to open new hospitals as the head of nursing.

Billie was preceded in death by her daughter Veronica Steele, her son Patrick Joseph Ruppe, her sister Odeatha Anderson and grandson James Albert Robinson.

She is survived by her daughters Coletta Ruppe Ivy and husband Grady of Dubuque, IA and Katchen Ruppe Benak and husband Mark of Kerrville, TX, grandchildren Katie Ruppe and Clint Ivy, two brother-in-laws James Ruppe and Philip Ruppe, one sister, Chokeetah Tully, two great grandchildren, two nieces and one nephew.

Family suggests memorials be given to Midland College for nursing scholarships, or Hospice of Midland.

Prayer service will be at 7:00 PM, Thursday, February 10, 2011 at St. Stephen's Catholic Church, visitation will follow. Funeral mass has been scheduled for 3:00 PM at St. Stephen's Catholic Church with Monsignor James Bridges officiating. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home. Condolences may be offered at www.ellisfunerals.com.

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-5555

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

Eugene M. Garza III

On February 7, 2011 Eugene M. Garza III went to be with our Lord in heaven.

Memorial services will be held at 10:00 am, Friday, February 11, 2011 at True Lite Christian Fellowship with Pastor Roy Smith, officiating.

Eugene M. Garza III was born May 31, 1959 to his proud parents Consuelo M. Garza of San Angelo. He was a beloved brother by Jesus Garza of Denton, Ruben Garza Ramiro Garza and Marisella Gutierrez, all of San Angelo. He was born and resided in San Angelo his 51 years of life. He was employed by Ivy Construction Company, which later became Garza Construction Company.

On July 29, 1978 he married Virginia Lopez of San Angelo. He became a proud father in January 1979 to Eugene M. Garza IV of Midland and later in April 1980 became a proud father once again to his daughter Jennifer R. Garza of Midland.

Gene was well known in the community and had many many friends. He was a loving father and a devoted son. He enjoyed fellowship of his family and friends. Those who knew him will forever remember his contagious laugh, growing smile and comic behavior.

God blessed him once again with his two loving grandchildren, Jordyn K. Garza and Nathaniel L Granados.

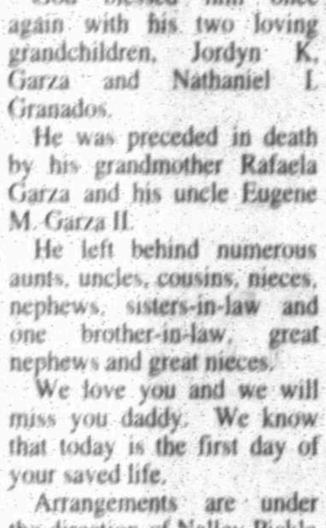
He was preceded in death by his grandmother Rafaela Garza and his uncle Eugene M. Garza II.

He left behind numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, sisters-in-law and one brother-in-law, great nephews and great nieces.

We love you and we will miss you daddy. We know that today is the first day of your saved life.

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

Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory (432) 550-5800



Felipe O. Rodriguez

Felipe Rodriguez of Midland passed away February 6, 2011. He was born on August 23, 1912 in Lamesa, TX to Alvino and Gregoria Rodriguez. He served proudly during World War II until he was honorably discharged from the United States Army.

He is preceded in death by his parents Alvino and Gregoria Rodriguez, his wife Manuela C. Rodriguez. Three sons, Enrique, Leonardo, and Arnulfo Rodriguez; one grandson Alvino Rodriguez; four brothers, Nicolas, Paulino, Epimeno, and Roque Rodriguez; and three sisters, Felipa Maldonado, Patricia Lerma, and Chencha Diaz.

He is survived by his daughter, Oliva Velarde, three sons, Felipe Rodriguez and Henry Rodriguez of Midland, TX and Manuel Rodriguez of Baldwin Park, CA; three sisters, Francisca "KiKa" Gutierrez, Isidra Benavidez, and Marcelina Lopez. He also leaves behind twenty grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren, and several great-great grandchildren.

Rosary will be held at 7:00 PM Wednesday February 9, 2011 at Ellis Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral Mass has been scheduled at 1:00 PM Thursday, February 10, 2011 at St. Ann's Catholic Church with Monsignor Larry Droll officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home. Condolences may be offered at www.ellisfunerals.com.

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-5555

Floyd Kenneth Williams

The keys fell silent on Saturday, February 5, 2011 as Amateur Radio Operator Floyd Kenneth Williams (K5JOG) passed away at his home in Midland, Texas. He was born January 17, 1931 in Hale Center, Texas to Floyd Rodney Williams and Eddy Flanigan Williams. After attending school in Corsicana, Texas, he joined the United States Air Force in 1949 and started his training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Afterwards, he was assigned to Anderson Air Base in Guam.

He met and married Anna Lee Moffat of Seminole, Texas in 1952 and started work at Southwestern Bell (SWB) Telephone Company in January of 1953. They were transferred to Alpine, Weatherford, and Breckenridge, Texas where his daughter was born in September of 1953. In March of 1954, they moved to Quanah, Texas where he worked as Installer/Repairman for SWB and in August of 1956, they had a son. Later in 1957, they moved to Kermit, Texas where he worked as Step-by-Step Switchman until 1977. In 1976, he and his wife, Anne, bought a small track of land south of Midland and began clearing land in order to build their new home. Once the home was completed in 1977, they transferred with SWB where he started work as a PBX Repairman.

In June 1994, Floyd lost his wife, Anne, after a year long struggle with ovarian cancer. Kenneth retired from Southwestern Bell in 1995 and started rebuilding a 1949 Chevrolet. He joined West Texas Cruisers and was very pleased when he won a few First Place trophies with his car.

His lifelong passion was communication and he strived to stay abreast of the latest communication devices. He was a member of the Telephone Pioneers, as well as, a member of the Midland Amateur Radio Club and the American Radio League. He was instrumental in having the last Step-by-Step telephone office moved from Pyote, Texas to the Million Barrel Museum in Monahans, Texas.

Floyd was a fixture at a local restaurant where he shared coffee with his friends at the "liars table".

He is preceded in death by his parents, Floyd and Eddy Williams; his sister, Bobby Sue Williams; and his wife, Anna Lee Williams.

He is survived by his daughter, Leanna and spouse Michael Trost; son, Kenneth Carrol and spouse Karla Williams; five grandchildren, Ken Preston and spouse Bethany Valencia, Heather Preston, Amber Preston, Brandi and spouse Kevin Frederick, Chandler Trost; three step-grandchildren, Jed, Chenei, Fate Sicard; his great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 10, 2011, at Ellis Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 11, 2011, at Ellis Funeral Home with interment at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home. Condolences may be offered at www.ellisfunerals.com.

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-5555

Jackie Virginia Grayum Barrett

On February 7, 2011 heaven welcomed its newest angel, Jackie Virginia Grayum Barrett of Pampa, Texas. She was born March 23, 1923 to Jack and Naomi Grayum in Wynona, Oklahoma. Jackie spent her childhood in Oklahoma and Arizona. She moved to Pampa in the early 1940's to be close to her beloved brother Charlie. For many years Jackie was the owner and operator of Jackie's House of Beauty and devoted her time to making Lefors and Pampa pretty. Jackie's talents and interest varied from painting to crafts to home repairs and construction. This sassy little lady could do anything she decided to do. The focus of Jackie's life was serving the Lord and loving her family and friends... She attended Mary Ellen Harvester Church of Christ since 1956 where she was actively involved in many phases of the Lord's work... from serving at Black Mesa Bible Camp, to the clothing room ministry, to Senior Christians to opening her own home to 11 foster children throughout the years. She blessed the community for many years as a Meals on Wheels volunteer and through both her and Foy's pet project "Foy's Toys". Her life was changed when she met and later married Foy Barrett August 5, 1944 in Tillman Oklahoma. She was proceed in death by her husband of 59 years Foy, her brother Charlie and their parents and much-loved Aunt Ida Mae Milner.

She was survived by her greatest accomplishments, daughter, Carolyn Arnold and her husband Ken of Midland, Texas and her daughter Lou Waggoner and husband David of Pampa. Her Grandchildren, Cheryl Proctor of Midland Clif Coleman and wife Anna of Midland Jonathan Waggoner and wife Lori of Pampa, Justin Waggoner and wife Lauren of Dalhart, Jennie Waggoner and finance Ron Hailes of Amarillo Her Step Grandchildren Jason & Elizabeth Arnold of Wallingford, CT Amanda Arnold of Odessa, Texas Great Grandchildren , Amber Proctor and finance Bradley Grissom of Denton, Ashley Proctor of Denton, Alli Proctor of Midland, Chandler and Colbie Coleman of Midland Jarrett and Jaxton Waggoner of Pampa, Grant Waggoner of Dalhart Nieces, Cynthia Mann and husband Willie, Cathy Reed and husband Joe Karen Lake and husband Robert.

Jackie Virginia Grayum Barrett of Pampa, Texas was a classy, hard working, God fearing lady whose life touched and changed countless lives. She was a treasure that will be greatly missed.

The family will receive friends at the home of Lou and David Waggoner, 1007 Sierra.

Viewing will be held at 10:00 a.m. at Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ with Funeral services at 11:00 a.m. Friday, at the church as well. Interment will follow Fairview Cemetery on 1500 N. Duncan Street.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Cancer Association or Hospice Midland 911 W. Texas, Midland, Texas 79701.

Services are under the direction of Thomas Funeral Home.

Thomas Funeral Home

Kay Hendon

Kay Beth Musgrave Hendon, 72, of Midland passed away on February 8, 2011. She was born October 22, 1938 in Wichita Falls, Texas.

She attended schools in Wichita Falls and attended the University of Oklahoma. She married William E. Hendon, Jr. in 1957, and they moved to Midland in 1966. She is a long-time member of Memorial Christian Church in Midland.

She is survived by her loving husband of 53 years, Bill Hendon; daughter, DeLynn Hendon Woodside of Edmond, OK; son, Dennis Hendon of Houston, TX; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services will be held on Friday, February 11th at 11:00 a.m. at Memorial Christian Church with Rev. Terry Rothermich officiating.

Kay was active in many community service activities throughout her life, including Meals on Wheels, teaching CPR for the American Heart Association, Christmas in April, Food Pantry, Disciples Women's Outreach, Casa de Amigos, and was past President of the Midland College Chaparrals Booster Club. She had a passion for painting and needlework and loved making Christmas ornaments. She enjoyed taking painting classes for many years with some of her closest friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to the Memorial Christian Church Food Pantry, 1001 Andrews Highway, Midland, TX 79701.

Meredith Russell Stipp

Meredith Russell Stipp was born September 19, 1923 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the third son of James A. and Blanche B. Stipp, turn-of-the-century settlers of northern Texas and southern Oklahoma. He was educated in Tulsa public schools where his mother was employed as a teacher, graduating from Tulsa Central High School in 1940 at the age of sixteen. He attended the engineering school of the University of Tulsa for two years, then enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force as a meteorology cadet.

Appointed as an officer in the U.S. Air Force after obtaining a Certificate of Meteorology from U.C.L.A., in 1943, he participated as a Weather Officer in the Long Range Research Unit at the California Institute of Technology and served as an instructor of meteorology in basic and advanced Air Force flying schools in Kansas and Texas. Later, he was a member of the Office of Strategic Services until it disbanded at the end of World War II. Returning to the University of Tulsa after discharge from the armed forces, Russell received a degree in geology in 1948 and was employed by Standard Oil Company of Texas (later Chevron Oil Co.), his initial assignment being in Midland, Texas. When Standard organized a District Office in Abilene, Texas, Russell was transferred to that location, where he became acquainted with a legal secretary by the name of Eloise Grant. They were married in Midland's First Methodist Church on September 30, 1950. Following two years of seismic work, Russell returned to Midland as a District Exploration Geologist. In 1957, he organized a new district office in Roswell, New Mexico, where he and Eloise resided for five years, then returned to Midland. In early 1969, Russell resigned from Standard to become an independent geologist and consultant.

Russell's professional affiliations included the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists and the West Texas Geological Society, from whom he received a Pioneer Award in 2004. He was a past president of the Midland Community Concert Association, a member of the Midland Genealogical Society and an active participant in the informal Midland Exploration Society.

Russell enjoyed a variety of activities during leisure hours, relishing the challenge of golf, hunting and fishing. He made many trips to Lake Novillo, Mexico with his brother, Robert. A voracious reader, he also conducted extensive correspondence with old friends and numerous relatives, particularly German cousins, with whom he and Eloise often exchanged visits.

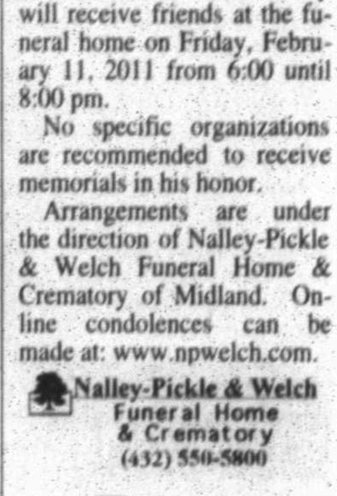
Left behind to mourn Russell's departure are his wife, Eloise Grant Stipp; daughters, Diana Mathis of Midland, TX, Susan Stipp of Berkeley, CA, Elaine Smith and husband, Steve, of Midland, TX, and Vanessa Leong and husband, Jack, of Hilton Head Island, SC. The seven Stipp grandchildren are; Kian Stipp, Melinda Mathis, Jennifer Mathis, Alexis Smith, James Blake Smith, Shelby Leong and Kamryn Leong. Two nieces also survive, being Marilynn Justice of Hobbs, NM and Nancy Pierce of Lewisville, TX and one great-grandson Greyson James Smith.

At his request, Russell's departure will be marked with only a brief graveside service at 1:00 pm on Saturday, February 12, 2011 at Resthaven Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Friday, February 11, 2011 from 6:00 until 8:00 pm.

No specific organizations are recommended to receive memorials in his honor.

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

Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory (432) 550-5800



Myrtle Jean Butler Kerr

Myrtle Jean Butler Kerr, 88, of Paris died Monday

Virginia's first black chief justice dies

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Virginia Supreme Court Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell Sr., the state's first black chief justice, died Wednesday. He was 55.

The court disclosed his death in a Richmond hospital in a brief statement. The cause of death was not immediately released.

George Martin, a friend designated as a family spokesman, declined to divulge the nature of Hassell's illness. He said a funeral will be held at noon Saturday at Faith Landmarks Ministries in Richmond, but burial arrangements were not yet complete.

Gov. Bob McDonnell ordered flags flown at half-staff on all government buildings and grounds in Virginia. Hassell will lie in state in the state Capitol Rotunda from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Martin said.

Hassell was appointed to the Supreme Court by then-Gov. Gerald L. Baliles, a Democrat, in 1989. In 2003 he became the court's first black chief justice and the 24th overall. He held the post until the end of last month.

Hassell did not participate in a week of Supreme Court hearings in January because he was recovering from a hospital stay.

Obituaries

February 7, 2011. She was born November 27, 1922 in Midland, Texas. Burial will be at Resthaven Memorial Cemetery in Midland next to her mother and father, Margaret Wright Butler who died in 1981 and William Henry Butler who died in 1973. She married Miles Robert Kerr in 1961 and he died in 1991.

She was preceded in death by a brother John Frederick Mitchell who died in 1996.

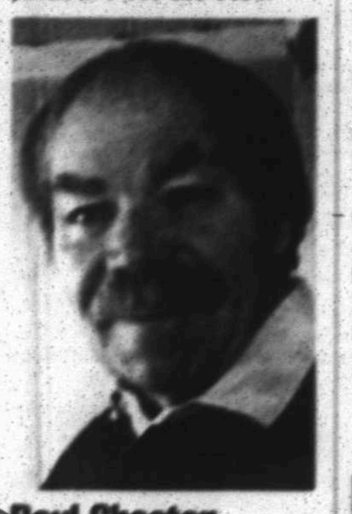
Survivors include a son Robert A. (Bob) Metzger and wife Deborah of Paris; "Daughter" Missy Kerr, her little schnauzer who was her lap pal and bed buddy; granddaughter Laura Jane Metzger Bond and husband Brad of Midland; grandson James R. Metzger and wife Melinda of Paris; granddaughter Jennifer Irene Metzger of Portales, N.M.; grandson William Butler Metzger of Paris; great grandchildren Braden and Allison Bond of Midland; great granddaughter Annaleigh Rogers of Portales, N.M.; nephews Richard Mitchell of Palestine and Carl Mitchell of Deport and her caretakers, Cindy Harding and Tessa Enbodeh of Paris who were especially loving and afforded her the best possible care during the last year of her life.

She grew up in Midland, Texas, on Butler Street, the shortest street in the city both then and now. Her maternal great grandfather, Henry Rohlfing and his wife Margaret were among the earliest settlers in Midland and he was a well known shopkeeper and photographer. Her paternal grandmother, Mary Card Butler was also an early Midland resident and a very accomplished artist, being known as the "Grandma Moses of Midland". Jean graduated from Midland High School in 1940. In 1959 she moved to Soper, Oklahoma and married Miles Kerr in 1961. They moved to Antlers, Oklahoma and subsequently to Hugo, Oklahoma where they owned and operated a sawmill and ran cattle on the family farm. She later lived in Paris, Texas from 1996 until the time of her death.

She was a member of the Methodist Church in Hugo, Oklahoma, but special thanks to Reverend John Kelley of Faith Presbyterian Church in Paris who visited her often during her last years.

She was a wonderful cook and seamstress, winning many competitions with her recipes and sewing during her younger days. Most everyone who knew her still talks about her chocolate, strawberry and apple pies and her "Sunday Roast Beef Dinners". Sunday lunches with the grandkids were always a big event for her.

The will be no formal services. The family will have a private memorial service at a later date. Jean especially loved little children and she faithfully supported St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. If you wish to make a memorial gift please contact St. Jude at www.stjude.org or by phone at 1-800-805-5856.



Paul Chester

Paul Chester, 63, of Midland, passed away on Monday, February 7, 2011, at Midland Memorial Hospital.

The family will receive visitors at the funeral home on Thursday, February 10, 2011, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. Funeral services have been scheduled for Friday, February 11, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church with Msgr. Larry Droll officiating.

Paul was born to Payton and Mildred Duncan Chester on January 16, 1948, in San Pedro, California. He grew up in McPherson, Kansas, and attended college at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. After serving in the Vietnam War, he entered the oil and gas pipeline transportation industry. This eventually landed Paul in Texas, and he often stated, "I might not have been born here, but I got here as fast as I could!" He met the love of his life in early 1980 and together he and his wife Vickie shared the next 31 years of love. Paul's exuberance for his children spilled over into his free time. He enthusiastically supported Ben at his baseball and football games, and Katy's softball career stretching from MUGS softball all the way through college. He was involved in Tower Little League as both a coach and president, and also coached MUGS softball. Paul enjoyed spending time at Possum Kingdom Lake with his family, friends, and his cast of characters of dogs, as well as working on his boats and jet skis.

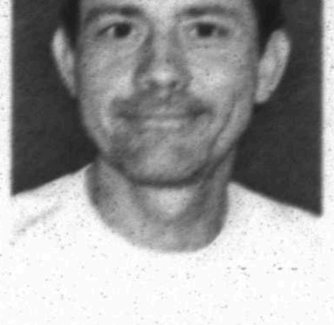
He is survived by his wife, Vickie Chester of Midland; son Ben Chester of Midland; and daughter Katy Pierce and husband Travis of Kennedale, TX; daughter Malissia Chitwood and husband Chris of Coranado, CA; and sister Linda Bieser of Toluca Lake, CA.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals at 4200 N. Fairgrounds Rd., Midland, TX 79705.

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

Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory (432) 550-5800



Randy James Holman

Randy James Holman, 43, of Midland, went to be with the Lord on February 5, 2011, at his home.

Randy was born on November 9, 1967, in Odessa, Texas, to James Holman, Jr. and Kae Holman. He attended schools in Houston, Texas; Blytheville, Arkansas; and Midland, Texas.

Randy loved to listen to music and to play his guitar. He loved to read and to laugh and work with computers. More than anything else, he loved spending time with his family, especially his daughter Katie and his Pappy.

Randy is survived by his loving daughter, Katie, his parents, James Holman, Jr. and Kae Holman; his grandparents, James Holman, Sr. and Evelyn Holman; all of Midland, Texas; and several aunts, uncles and cousins as well as many friends.

Thomas Funeral Home

Vickie Hernandez

Vickie Hernandez, 82 of Midland, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at her residence. She was born on October 17, 1928 in Pecos, Texas to the late Clemente and Serapia Chavez. She was raised and educated in Pecos, Texas and later moved to Midland in 1944.

Vickie later met and married Genaro (G.U.) Hernandez in February of 1945. She was employed with MISD as a Liaison for over 20 years. Vickie enjoyed dancing, traveling but most of all loved being with her family. She was an active member of the Guadalupanas and Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church.

Vickie was preceded in death by her parents, Clemente and Sarapia Chavez and her brother, Tomas Chavez. She is survived by her loving family; husband, G. U. Hernandez of Midland; three sons, Danny Hernandez, Paul Hernandez and wife Erolinda and Victor Hernandez all of Midland; three daughters, Rachel Portas and husband Gonzalo of Tucson Arizona and Gloria Hernandez and Stella Garcia and husband Julio all of Midland; two sisters, Sarah Salgado of Midland and Ernesta Flores of Pecos; Numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nephews, nieces and cousins.

A rosary will be held Thursday, February 10, 2011 at 7:00 pm at Heavenly Gate Chapel, 405 N. Terrell St. A funeral mass is set for Friday, February 11, 2011 at 1:00pm at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church with Father Edward de Leon, OMI officiating. Interment will follow at Fairview Cemetery. Pallbearers for the service will be her grandchildren; Carlos Lozano, Abel Lozano, Julian Garcia, Andy Hernandez, Austin Salinas and Carlos Castro. Honorary pallbearers are Thomas Hernandez, Rey Carrillo and Abel Lozano Jr.

Funeral services are under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to: pipkin@ntx-online.net.

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home

Death Notices

Chesley Walker

Chesley Walker, 71 of Midland, died on Tuesday Feb. 8.

Service will be on Saturday Feb. 12, at 4:00 p.m. at West Kentucky Baptist Church. Family will be receiving friends Friday, Feb. 11, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin funeral home.

Survived by wife, Kay Walker; daughters, Missy Adams, Misty Moore (Jake); sisters, Reta Vannoy and Brenda Wallace; six grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews. Funeral services are under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home.

Norma Kelley

Norma Nell Kelley, 85, of Big Spring died on Sunday, Feb. 6.

Services will be at 2:00 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Survived by son, Gary Kelley (Tancie); daughter, Dru Heinatz (Jeff); three grandchildren; two great granddaughters; and one niece.

Ola Pipkin

Ola Belle Pipkin, 83, of Giddings, died on Tuesday, Feb. 8, in Austin.

Services will be 10:00 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, at McKinney Acres Baptist Church in Andrews. Burial will be in Andrews West Cemetery under the direction of McNett Funeral Home.

Survived by daughter, Delores Wilkerson (John); brother, Otis Foltz; seven grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

Petra Reyes

Petra M. Reyes, 80, of Big Spring died on Monday Feb. 7.

Services will be at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Service will be at 11:00 a.m. Friday at Temple Belen. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Survived by sons, Juan Casterio, Eliodoro Reyes, Ernesto Reyes, Enrique Reyes, Mike Reyes; daughters, Emerlinda Gutierrez, Erlinda Juarez; sister, Jesusa Torrez; 17 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Robert Hand, Sr.

Robert (Bob) Hand, Sr., 91, of Flower Mound, died on Tuesday, Feb. 8, in Flower Mound.

Services are pending with Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home.

SFC George Ferguson

SFC George Ferguson, 70, of Big Spring died on Saturday, Feb. 5.

Services with Military Honors will be at 10:00 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Survived by sons, Sean Ferguson and Patrick Ferguson; step-son, Joe Benford; step-daughter, Teresa Benford; sister, Bonnie Eubanks; and six grandchildren.

mywesttexas.com

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

FLYING

From 1B

the college's V-5 program, he quietly took up flying the Piper J-3 Cub but didn't then earn his pilot's license. He dared not tell his father, who was averse to flying.

"The J-3 Cub was a dang good airplane," Pounds said of the eminently popular light airplane, a high-wing taildragger, a beauty of simplicity. "If it wasn't going fast enough, you could get out and walk."

His father reasoned that "If God had intended men to fly, he would have put wings on them," Pounds recalled. Furthermore, "Anybody who got higher than the top of a ladder is stupid."

The son's farm chores, outside of hoeing and picking cotton and tending to the cattle and chickens, also included working on windmills.

"Any climbing, from the time I was a kid, I had to do it, fixing everything on top of that tin roof" of the family's twin-chimney farmhouse, Bill Pounds said with a bit of amusement. "If you fall down," his father told him, "we haven't lost too much."

It was late into the war when the Navy cancelled the V-5 program. "So, they gave me a choice of sea duty or discharge, and I just got out of it."

"I was madder than hell," Pounds said. He wanted to fly in the Navy.

So, he headed west, hitchhiking, pocketing the $7 his parents gave him in case he had to catch a bus ride to Odessa. He got hired on with National Supply Company, an oilfield supplier.

Years passed.

At age 30, he earned his private pilot's license in Midland and got checked out in the high-performance, retractable-landing gear Mooney aircraft.

His flying years took flight especially when he purchased a World War II basic trainer, the Consolidated Vultee BT-13 Valiant, which was flown by the Army Air Corps and, later, the U.S. Army Air Forces and by the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard as the SNV.

Pounds joined the Confederate Air Force, now the Commemorative Air Force, became leader of the CAF's Desert Squadron in Odessa and the Wing Texas Wing in Midland, became an accomplished formation-flying pilot with the "Flight of Four" Valiant aircraft piloted by Pounds, George Steding, Jim Tilson and Bobby Halford.

"In one (air show) season," Peggy Vaught said, "we went to 27 air shows," mostly in the Southwest, in their BT-13 named Li'l Dumplin'.

In August of 1995, Pounds, closing in on 70, piloted the airplane in the transcontinental Freedom Flight America tour of vintage warbirds (trainers, fighters, bombers and transports) to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Joining the flight at Midland International Airport, Pounds flew east and then north, making landings for re-fueling and rest stops along the way in the two-week tour, and commanded a flight that circled the Statue of Liberty.

"I will never forget that flight," he said.

Midland's George Coombes, a World War II Navy F-6-F Hellcat carrier-based aviator, his pilot-son, Bill Coombes, and George Coombes's brother, Jim Coombes, also participated in the flight in the SNJ advanced Navy trainer.

"This flight may be a start of a rebirth of patriotism and love of country," Pounds said in August 1995. "This will be, really, to honor the people who fought the battles and those who lost their lives, so we would have ... freedom."

Pounds's dearest friend, Peggy Vaught, one of 14 children in a Minnesota family, had three brothers who served in World War II: Charles "Chuck" Borchert, who was a waist-gunner in the famed B-17 Flying Fortress "Shoo Shoo Baby" over Europe and a CAF volunteer; David Borchert, a B-17 bombardier-navigator; and Edward "Ed" Borchert, an aircraft mechanic.

Partial to the BT-13 Valiant, which pilots called the "Vibrator" because of the screaming rumbling of its radial engine turning a two-bladed propeller, Pounds described the Valiant as "a true airplane. It would do what you asked it to do. It had no quirks at all. The only time the plane will do anything bad is when you had a bad pilot."

While the BT-13 was "not a speed demon" and "you did not outrun anybody," Pounds said that "The only way you could outrun somebody was by diving."

Whenever he and Peggy Vaught flew over to Eastland to spend weekends with his parents on their farm, Pounds would "buzz" the farmhouse to let his parents know they were coming in for a visit.

The downdraft created by the airplane buzzing the twin-chimney farmhouse would funnel down through the chimneys.

"Don't you ever do that no more," the father admonished the son, "because you blew all of my dominoes over."

"There was a time or two I thought he was going to land on the roof," Peggy Vaught said.

Only once did Pounds's father take flight with his son and that, his only flight, was to find a black Angus calf that the father, driving the pickup truck over the 300-acre back pasture, could not locate. He had spotted the mother cow but not the calf.

"And if he's out there, we can find him," the son told the father. "Hell, no," said the father. "You're just wasting time and gasoline. I will not get up in that (airplane). It will fall out (of the sky). I'm too young."

"Well, I'm going out there," the son said. "I will just go with you," conceded the father.

"I flew very carefully everywhere I went, no spectacular stunts or nothing," Bill Pounds said, "just up and out, over the highway, around the farm, and he was amazed how nice everything looked from the air. And he really liked it, but he was scared to death of flying."

Flying low and slow and banking for better views, Bill Pounds sighted the calf in a grove of trees near the lake where mother cows often took their calves, especially in the wintertime.

The pilot-son spotted the calf within a grove near the dam that formed the lake.

However, the father did not then see the calf.

"My God, it is not there," the father insisted. "Let me get out."

"Wait a minute," the son said. "I've got to go back down" to land the airplane.

Father and son quickly returned to the grove in the pickup.

"I will be damned," said the amazed father after seeing the calf. "I would have never believed it."

The father decided that "flying was all right," but he never again boarded an airplane.

"We had a lot of fun times," Bill Pounds said of his flying years over the farm, in air shows, in formation-flying, in flying leisurely. "That's the guy," he said, referring to an artist's rendering of Jesus Christ in their home, "that flew with us most of the time. We met a lot of good people. It makes you want to think about those good old things" — those good old yesteryears.

Ed Todd is a writer for the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

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DAILY PROMISE BROUGHT TO YOU BY

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Psalm 51:12-17

12 Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
13 Then I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to thee.
14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of thy deliverance.
15 O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.
16 For thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burst offering, thou wouldst not be pleased.
17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou will not despise.

TEXAS ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

HOUSTON

Missing plant worker was in area of fire

A contract worker who remains missing a day after a gas pipeline explosion at a Houston-area petroleum plant was near where the fire is thought to have happened, a company spokesman said Wednesday.

Rick Shaw was working in the area where the Tuesday fire is thought to have occurred at the Enterprise Products storage plant in Mont Belvieu, said Mike Phelps, a spokesman for Baton Rouge, La.-based plant contractor Turner Industries.

"We're still listing him as missing and unaccounted for," Phelps said Wednesday.

Relatives of Shaw told the Houston Chronicle they feared the worst after not hearing from him since the fire.

"It's not looking good," said Shaw's brother, Mark Shaw, of Baytown. "One of the workers that was working with him said he was in the middle of the gas cloud when it happened, so I don't really think he got out. It was a big fire."

ATHENS

Church arsonists get another life term

Two men already sentenced to life in prison over five church fires in East Texas have pleaded guilty to more blazes.

A judge in Athens sentenced 21-year-old Jason Robert Bourque and 23-year-old Daniel George McAllister to additional life terms, to be served concurrently.

Bourque on Jan. 11 was indicted on three arson counts, while McAllister was charged with two arson counts. Both pleaded guilty Tuesday in a plea agreement that resolved three church fires last year in Henderson County.

The men last month were sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty related to five church fires in Smith County. They're expected in court Friday over two church fires in Van Zandt County.

Nobody was hurt in the 10 church fires in January and February of 2010.

CORPUS CHRISTI

City leaders want slots at racetracks

Slot machines could mean additional revenue for one South Texas city.

The Corpus Christi City Council has endorsed a resolution urging Texas lawmakers to allow slot machines at racetracks.

Councilman John Marez said he's tired of people from Corpus Christi having to travel to other states "to spend money they could spend here."

The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reports the resolution includes tribal lands and racetracks such as Corpus Christi's Gulf Coast Racing, for greyhounds.

HOUSTON

ATF defends efforts to stop flow of guns to Mexico

The federal agency leading the fight to stop the smuggling of firearms to drug cartels in Mexico defended its efforts Wednesday after recent criticism that it's only focusing on small-time gun runners and not the larger groups behind them.

The No. 2 official with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives was in Houston to announce the local return of a campaign to reduce the illegal sale of firearms that often end up in the hands of Mexican drug cartels. The campaign, called "Don't Lie for the Other Guy," is trying to stop "straw purchases," where people buy guns for others.

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CASE

From 1B

tors Wednesday, saying she thought Hernandez and one student did not have a principal-student relationship. She said the student walked up to Hernandez during his graduation and straightened the principal's tie.

"I thought that was very strange because none of us even approach him in that manner," Urias said. "I was concerned they were too close."

On cross examination, defense attorney Albert Villalez asked Urias if the student was just practicing "an act of kindness" toward Hernandez because the principal had helped him study and graduate.

"No," she answered. "It was very inappropriate."

The case, which was first investigated by the Texas Rangers in 2005, has prompted the resignation or firings over the past six years of several top state officials responsible for jailing the state's juvenile criminals.

Former assistant Superintendent Ray Edward Brookins, the only other official at the youth prison charged in the case, was sentenced last April to 10 years in prison.

COUNTY

From 1B

within the district without having to annex the entire district. Typically when districts are created, a city can annex the whole district or none of it.

The city also wants to ensure the district doesn't have the power of eminent domain when it comes to city limits and that it can't provide services inside the city limits as drawn when legislation is drafted, according to the memorandum.

If the city were to annex land from the district, the city wants to ensure it does not assume any of the district's debt. The district also would not have the right to contest any annexation proceedings by the city if its proposals are included in the bill, according to the memorandum.

Trost said the city simply is trying to protect its interests in maintaining annexation rights and ensuring it doesn't take on any debt incurred by the proposed district.

"We've got too much at stake," Trost said.

If established, the district would encompass more than 50,000 acres in Midland County. The proposal would have to be approved by voters in that area. If given the go-ahead by voters, it would become a taxing entity with the ability to issue bonds.

Bonds would be used to build any necessary infrastructure and to purchase water.

Water lines would be implemented in the county in phases with the area affected by chromium contamination taking priority and other neighborhoods being addressed from there, Viney said previously.

The cost of such a district still is being determined by a financial consultant, said Bill Bane, who is acting as comptroller for the group. Engineer John Landgraf, with Landgraf, Crutcher & Associates, said at an October meeting that it could be in the neighborhood of $53 million, though the group also could be eligible for state and federal funding in some areas.

Viney said the addition of a reliable source of water for county residents would be beneficial to health, property values and future development.

Hailey said any development that results from a water source would be an asset to the overall area.

"It's good to see development in that particular area of town," she said. "It's great we can all work together in that part of town."

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

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Maggie is a female Chihuahua. She is approximately 2 to 3 years old and was found at a truck stop. She is spayed and up to date on all of her vaccinations. Maggie is a 5 LB X lb. She gets along great with other small dogs, but has to be IN CONTROL around larger dogs. She is a sweet girl and is looking for a great home.

Maggie
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TODAY Sunny high 42 low 19

FRIDAY Sunny high 56 low 25

SATURDAY Sunny high 63 low 26

Expect sunny skies today with a high around 42 and south winds between 5 and 10 mph. Tonight's forecast calls for mostly clear conditions with a low around 19 and south winds between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday, look for sunny skies with a high around 56, a low around 25 and southwest winds around between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday, look for sunny skies with a high around 63 and a low around 26.

The high on Wednesday reached 32 while the low dropped to 11. The record high for Feb. 9 is 88 set in 1932. The record low is 11 set in 2011.

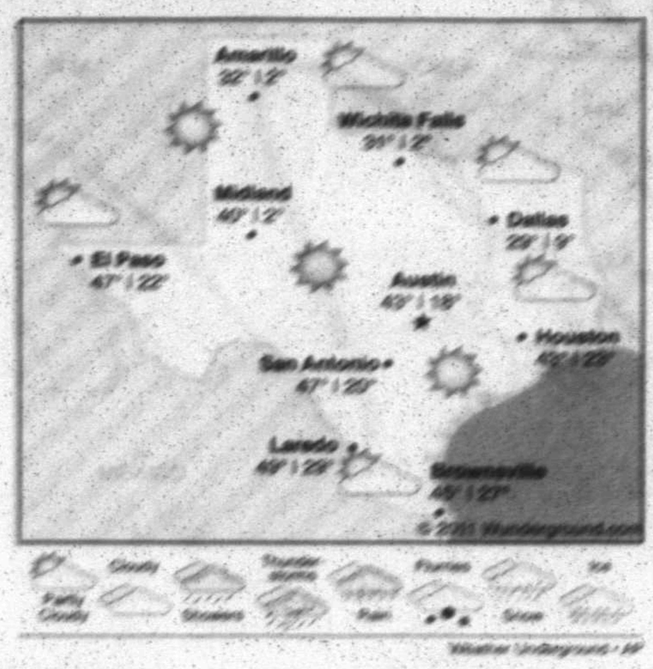
***

Another powerful blizzard howled through the nation's midsection Wednesday, piling up to 2 feet of new snow on parts of Oklahoma and Arkansas still struggling to clean up from last week's epic storm.

The blowing snow brought traffic to a halt, and the National Guard was summoned to rescue stranded motorists. Subzero wind chills forced ranchers to work desperately to protect their herds.

As the storm barreled out of the Plains, it took aim at the Deep South, which was expected to get up to five inches of snow. At least two traffic deaths were blamed on the system.

About 200 truck drivers sought shelter at a truck stop at the intersection of Interstate 44 and U.S. Highway 69, about 60 miles northeast of Tulsa.



Precipitation

Rainfall Tuesday	.0.00 in.
Rainfall Wednesday	.0.00 in.
Total for month	.0.07 in.
Total for year	.0.07 in.
Normal total (year to date)	.0.71 in.

Wednesday's temperatures

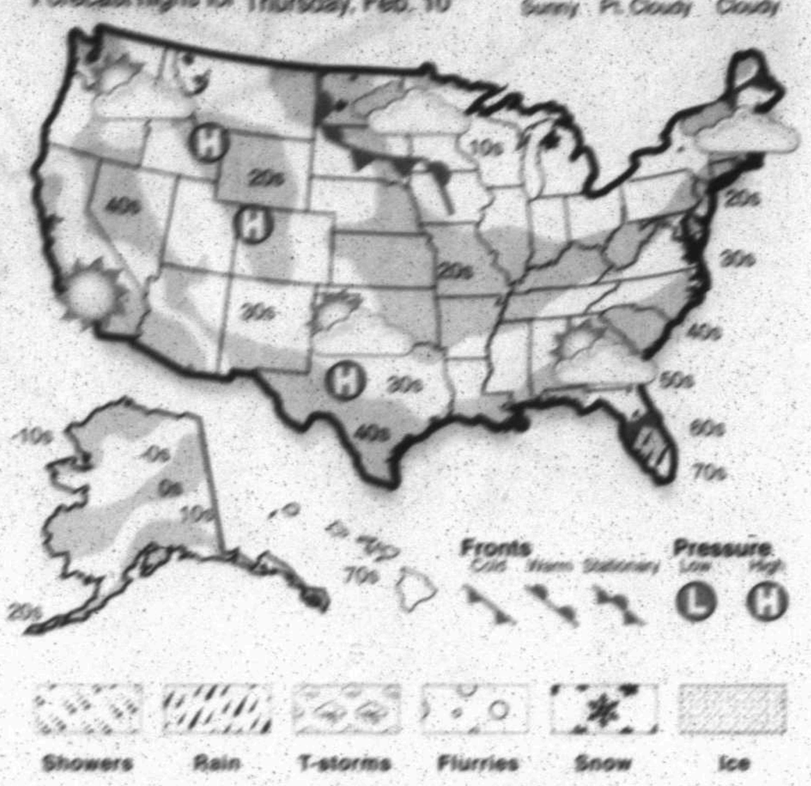
High	32
Low	11
Normal high	62
Normal low	33

Sunrise ... 7:36 a.m.
Sunset ... 6:31 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Thursday, Feb. 10

Sunny Pt. Cloudy Cloudy



Man on the wagon nags friend to join him

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: You assured "Overwhelmed in Ohio" (Dec. 18) that fellow student "Dan" will "move on and start building a life" after high school is over. On what base might he build? Because "Overwhelmed" says Dan is an "outcast" whom everyone treats as invisible, and he has attached himself to the one person who has befriended him. it appears he has completely missed the normal teen social-learning process. How, then, is he supposed to have acquired the social skills necessary for building connections later in life?

There's a difference between being unpopular and being ostracized. An unpopular kid can participate in social situations with similar kids. A kid who is shunned cannot. Unfortunately, Dan may be on a path toward lifelong social illiteracy and isolation.

What needs to happen before "Overwhelmed" pulls away is for the adults in charge of this school to figure out why Dan has been ostracized, and develop an effective remedy for the situation — one that gets Dan into normal relationships with other people. And there should also be lessons about empathy provided to the students who are shunning him. — KNOWS FROM EXPERIENCE

DEAR KNOWS: Thank you for your insight. You are by no means the only reader who felt compelled to chime in on this sad situation. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: High school can be a cruel time for many young people, especially those deemed "outcasts" by their peers. I had a friend in high school who truly suffered. I made it my mission to make sure he felt he had a friend and wasn't completely alone. I hung out with him at lunch, at the library on weekends, and tried to include him in activities I was involved in. I defended him to those who called him names, and although I was younger than he, I felt like his protector.

Now, eight years later and living in different states, we are still friends. He told me recently that I was the only reason he didn't attempt suicide in high school. He said I had saved his life by just taking a few moments out of my day to say hello or hang out with him. At the time I didn't realize the lifeline I was extending. — LUCY IN OAKLAND, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: My teenage son was similarly "invisible" to most of his classmates and it led to deep depression and anxiety. He is now at a school with other kids who have social learning disorders — a broad class that includes Asperger's syndrome and a general failure to observe and respond to social cues.

If Dan falls into this category, he needs the help of both the adults and teens in his life. There is also effective therapy available for social learning disorders, and a decent school counselor should be able to help Dan and his parents find it. — MOM OF A FORMERLY INVISIBLE TEEN

DEAR ABBY: Dan might be autistic, which could explain his behavior. I have an autistic son who is high functioning. His social skills seem immature and he appears "geeky." People have shunned and teased him because of it.

After managing to develop some friendships in band (which, by the way, has some of the best geeky kids who accept others) and a church high school group, his social skills improved. But he needs those kids who overlook his quirkiness and befriend him to help him build confidence. They do exist; you just have to sometimes search for them. If Dan starts feeling more accepted by others, it may lessen his dependence on "Overwhelmed." — JANN IN TEXAS

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Modern Confusion

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠Q 8 7
♥ 9
♦ K 8 3
♣A K J 9 3 2

WEST
♠J 10 9
♥A K J 10 5 3
♦ 4
♣7 6 5

EAST
♠K 4 3 2
♥ 8 6 2
♦ A J 10 6 2
♣ 4

SOUTH
♠A 6 5
♥ Q 7 4
♦ Q 9 7 5
♣Q 10 8

The bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♥	3♣	3♥	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: Four of ♥

In the good old days, a first-seat vulnerable pre-empt showed at least a decent seven-card suit. Today, it promises a six-card suit perhaps without a single high honor. That can make defense a trifle difficult, as this deal from an international tournament proves.

East's three diamonds was to try to be helpful. However, partner might have done better had he started with the king of hearts and then shifted to his singleton diamond. East would win with the ace and return a heart, and the defenders would collect the first seven tricks.

Here, East thought his partner was not interested in trying to set up the heart suit and, thinking his partner was leading from a diamond honor, inserted the 10.

Declarer won, rattled off the clubs and then ran the spade queen, covered by the king and ace. A low spade now endplayed West to force a heart return for the fulfilling trick.

Today's Crossword Puzzle brought to you by Quiroz Custom Home Builders

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DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

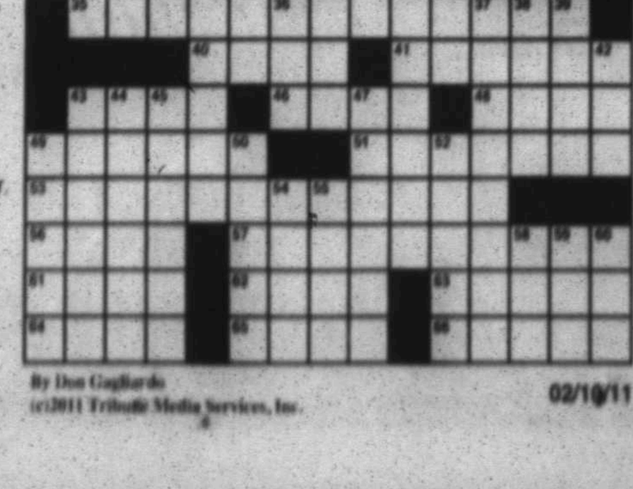
ACROSS
1 Get used to it
6 PBS moderator Bill
10 Go for
14 Martinez with three Cy Young Awards
15 By __ from memory
16 Sale modifier
17 Delta location
19 Actor Sitka who appeared in numerous Three Stooges films
20 Source of showroom shock?
22 Healthy routine
25 "Catcher in the Wry" author
26 Make __ dash for
27 Hershiser with a Cy Young Award
30 Wind instrument vibrator
31 Send
33 Battle go
35 Standing by for an on-air appearance
40 Bauble
41 Citi Field org.
43 Central Chinese city
46 Jazzman Stan
48 Some are named for music genres
49 Carrying limit
51 Fit for consumption
53 Risk calculation
56 Beard-preventing brand
57 Its components are hidden at the ends of 17-, 20-, 35- and 53-Across
61 Forest denizens
62 Capri, e.g.
63 Quilt filler
64 Used too much
65 USNA part: Abbr.
66 Puts in a hold

DOWN
1 Mortgage no.
2 "De Civitate __": "The City of God," St. Augustine work
3 -ly word, usually: Abbr.
4 Spanish fort
5 Rich dessert
6 Food merchant
7 "The Caine Mutiny" novelist
8 Cigar tip?
9 Early Indian leader
10 Strong-arm
11 Wired for sound
12 Did a deli job
13 "Total Eclipse of the Heart" singer Bonnie
18 Camera company that merged with Konica
21 With some sauce
22 One of many jobs, in metaphor
23 Jewish social org.
24 Things to wear
28 Wear away
29 Relay runner's assignment
32 Wheel securer
34 Spokane university
36 Play with a dog toy, maybe
37 Response to "You were kidding, right?"
38 Word of action
39 And friends, facetiously
42 Capt.'s heading
43 Like DVDs in a restricted room
44 "We can talk now"
45 Terrified, to the bard
47 Designated
49 South American grilled meat dish
50 Croesus' kingdom
52 Exhausts
54 "Happy Days" mom, to the Fonz
55 Auel heroine
58 Altar promise
59 Fresh
60 Letters seen in many forms

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

I	D	E	A	L		V	C	H	I	P		H	O	W
N	O	T	S	O		W	H	O	M	E		A	L	I
P	L	A	T	A		S	I	M	B	A		Z	E	D
U	P	P	I	N	G		B	U	T	W	A	I	T	
T	H	E	R	E	S	M	O	R	E		A	R	C	H
			D	E	U	C	E		O	L	D			
R	A	G	S		V	I	E		K	E	E	P	I	T
O	U	R	O	P	E	R	A	T	O	R	S	A	R	E
I	F	I	C	A	N		N	O	M		A	Y	E	S
		Z	I	T		A	I	R	O	N				
I	T	Z	A		S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G	B	Y
C	A	L	L	N	O	W			O	T	E	L	L	O
O	U	I		E	B	O	O	K		W	R	E	A	K
N	N	E		V	E	R	V	E		I	D	A	R	E
S	T	S		A	R	K	I	N		T	Y	M	E	S

xwordeditor@aol.com 02/10/11



By Don Gagliardo
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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-dynamic; 4-positive; 3-average; 2-so-so; 1-difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011:

This year, you are on top of many issues. Stop and take personal inventory more often. Your feelings could be building up, making you perhaps accident-prone or sick. You have the ability to mobilize a lot of energy and frustration into exercise, work or any physical outlet. If you are single, you might be uncomfortable with a fast pace, which on another level you like. Your potential suitors pick up on this ambivalence. If you are attached, your clarity will be instrumental to the well-being of your relationship. TAURUS often cannot or does not participate in your wild moments.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ Curb going overboard. In a meeting, others seem to want a group commitment. You might be evaluating the true costs. Make other suggestions and/or decide to go on your own path. A negative loved one or friend could rain on your parade. Tonight: Join a friend. Go to a game.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ You are strong, but dealing with another person's difficult mood could be less than pleasant. Authority figures are irritated at best. Let their words go. Expect a change in attitude. Tonight: Pushed to the max, choose a stress-buster.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ You have a lot more to say. Stretch and seek new information. Someone might not have given you the big picture. Anger builds around a person at a distance. Know when to walk away from someone, at least for a little while. Tonight: See the big picture.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ Work with individuals. You might suddenly find yourself in the position of leader, whether titled or not. Can you take action and move in a new direction? Knowing what you want could make a big difference. Tonight: Try to stay calm with a frustrated person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ Others make demands. You deliver time after time. A partner, associate and/or friend could test your limits inadvertently. Don't hesitate to say "enough." Resist pushing someone who has a short fuse across the line. Tonight: Could be late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Seek out solutions, especially as others seem to be chasing their tail. Be logical and direct in your dealings. Your funds might not stretch as far as you would like. Curb a tendency to over-indulge someone close to you. Tonight: Treat your mind to a stress-buster.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Deal with a key person in your life. Listen to what this person says, but also understand why you might be triggered. Use this situation to clear up an emotional issue but also to creatively sleuth out a solution. You could feel out of sync with what is happening. Tonight: Talk to a trusted friend. Gain a new perspective.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ Others create an environment in which they push for what they want without worrying about others. Getting the support of others could be more important than you realize. In a meeting, battle out the pluses and minuses. Tonight: Where the gang is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Pace yourself. A difficult situation could evolve into a confrontation if you aren't careful. Remember, everyone has a different style of clearing out a problem. Emotions tend to go to the extreme; many people seem to overindulge and go overboard. Tonight: Squeeze in a walk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ You could walk into a firestorm and know that everything is OK. You know how to quell the flames and you trust your innate creativity to find a solution. Use care with spending. You easily could go overboard. Tonight: Start your weekend early.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Process your thoughts or discharge them with a quiet talk with the person involved. Otherwise, you could be involved in quite an angry confrontation. Use care with a real estate or emotional matter. Try to separate work from your personal life. Tonight: Head home.

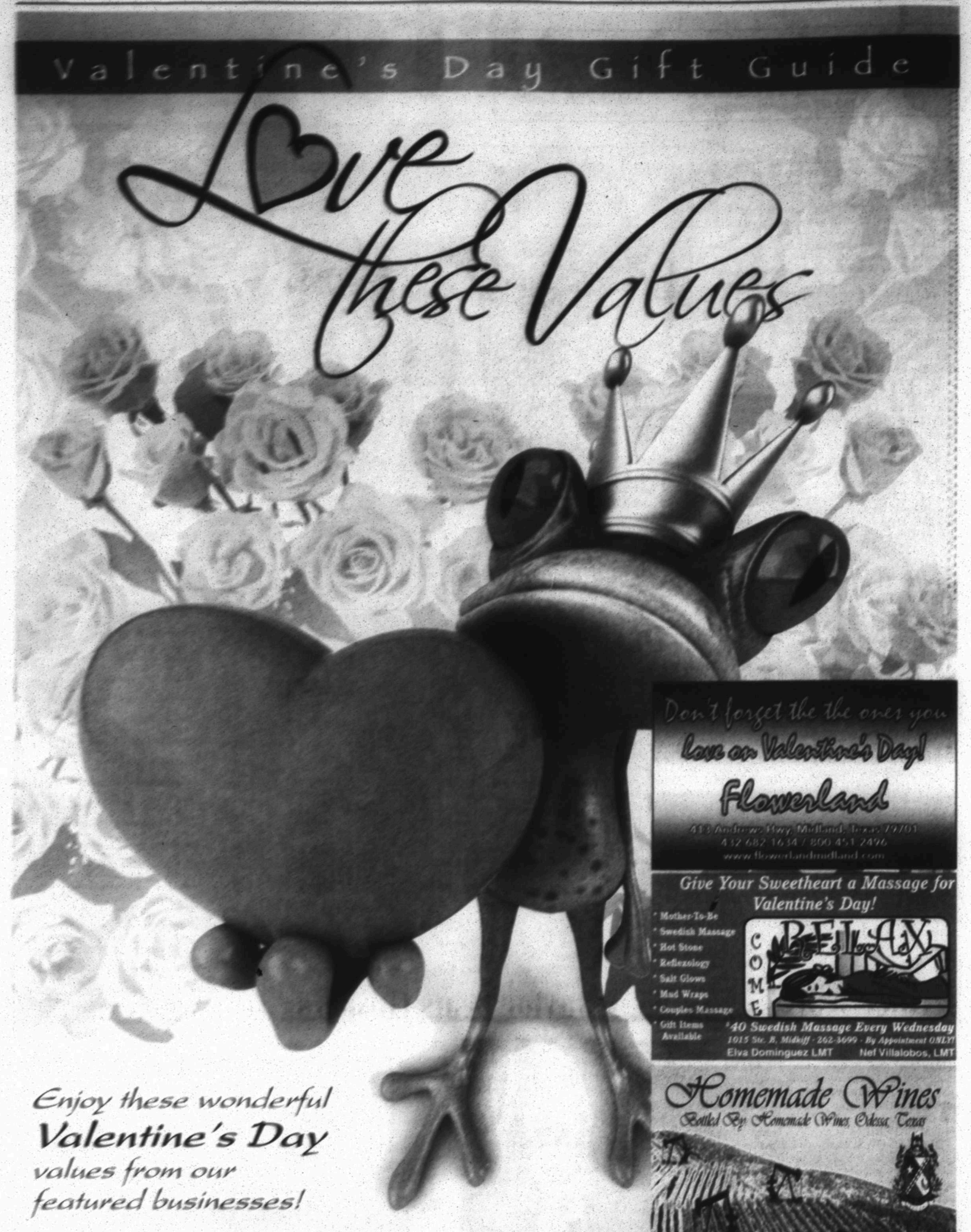
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Keep talks active and open. The biggest problem would be to close down a person, who will then not share his or her feelings. Flow with opportunities. Don't let a lucky break fall away. Tonight: Hang out with a pal.

***

BORN TODAY

Talk-show host Glenn Beck (1964), singer Roberta Flack (1937), novelist Boris Pasternak (1890)

Valentine's Day Gift Guide



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sports

LONGHORNS DOMINATE

No 3. Texas rolls past Oklahoma

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Jordan Hamilton scored 20 points, Gary Johnson added 14 and No. 3 Texas continued its perfect run through Big 12 play by beating Oklahoma 68-52 on Wednesday.

The Longhorns (21-3) are off to a 9-0 start in league play for the first time since doing it in the Southwest Conference 23 years ago. All nine of the wins have been by double figures, the first time Texas has been so dominant to start conference play since the 1921-22 season.

Dogus Balbay had 12 points to help the Longhorns take control from the start, and Tristan Thompson and Cory Joseph scored 11 apiece.

Longhorns	68
Sooners	52

Texas used its usual stiff defense to limit the Sooners (12-11, 4-5) to 32 percent shooting.

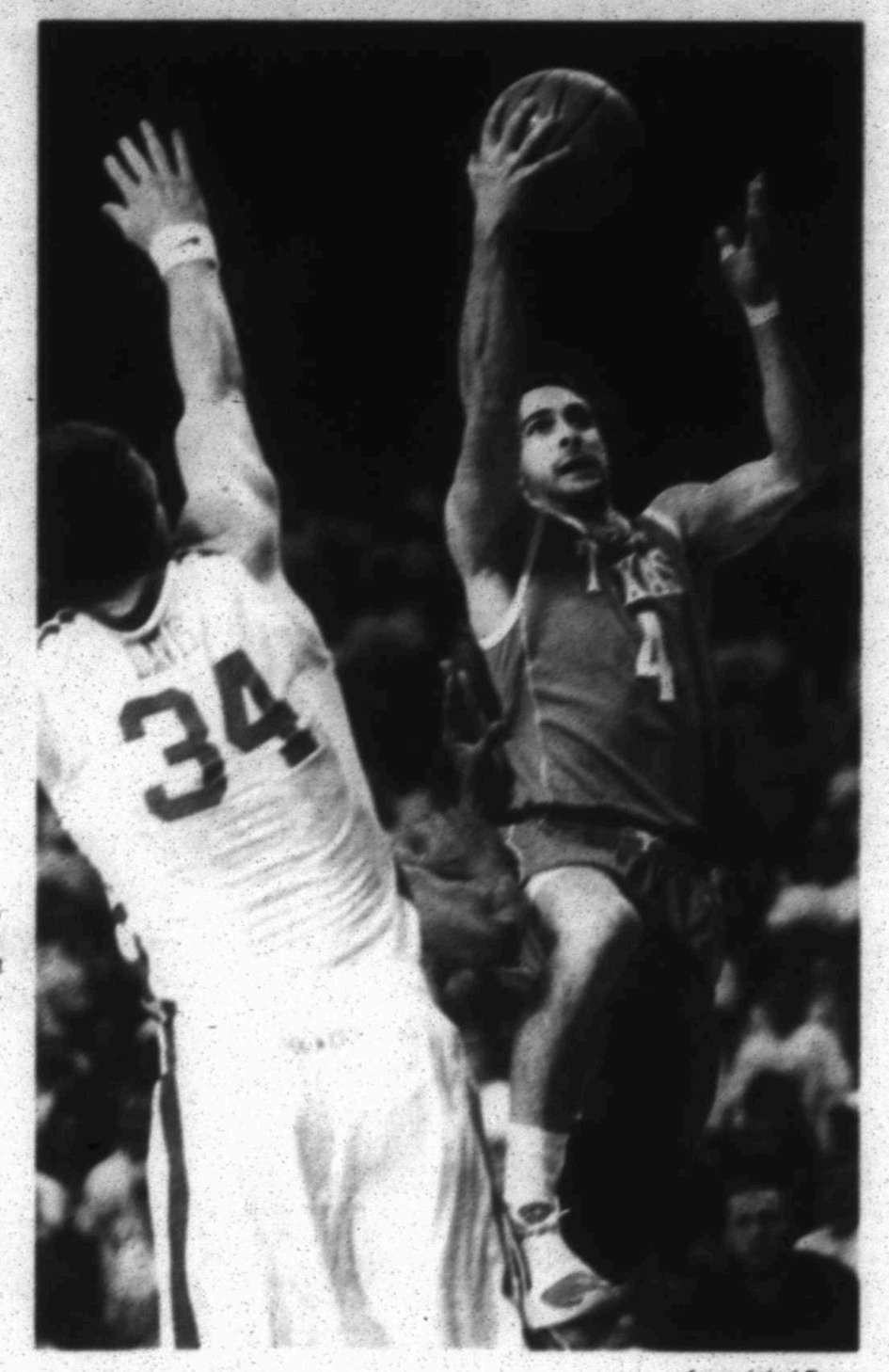
Andrew Fitzgerald led Oklahoma with 16 points, and Steven Pledger scored 13.

There was plenty of star power around for the rematch of Texas' 66-46 blowout win in the first installment of the Red River Rivalry this season.

Oklahoma honored 2008 Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford at halftime, and his courtside seat was two spots down from country singer Toby Keith. Kevin Durant, the former Longhorns star who's now the NBA's scoring leader, sat behind the Texas bench.

There was hardly any drama from the start, though.

Balbay rushed down for an easy transition layup after Pledger started the game with a miss for Oklahoma, and Texas scored the first six points of the game. By the time Thompson's two-handed dunk on an alley-oop made it 14-4, the Longhorns had largely neutralized a packed Lloyd Noble Center on a night when the Sooners offered free admission to boost attendance with a couple inches of snow on the ground.



Associated Press

FOR TWO Texas guard Dogus Balbay shoots in front of Oklahoma guard Cade Davis in the first half of their game in Norman, Okla., on Wednesday.

Griner scores 23 as No. 1 Baylor beats Huskers

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Like most of its other opponents, top-ranked Baylor left Nebraska badly beaten yet mighty impressed.

Brittney Griner scored 23 points to lead three Baylor players in double figures and the Lady Bears won their 19th straight game with a 69-45 victory Wednesday night.

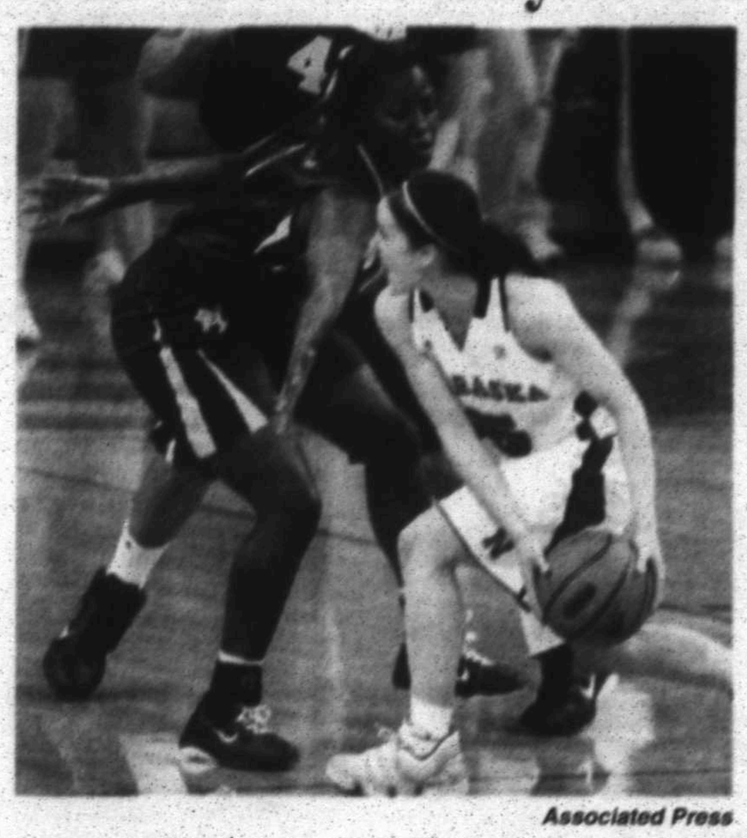
Odyssey Sims had 14 points and Brooklyn Pope added 12 while Destiny Williams had nine rebounds.

"They're as good as advertised," Nebraska's Lindsey Moore said. "They just have so many weapons that can hurt you. It's hard to pick something that's going to affect them."

Baylor (22-1, 9-0 Big 12) came in outscoring opponents by an average of 30 points a game, and only one team has played the Lady Bears closer than 10 points during their win streak. They had a double-digit lead in just over 4 minutes against the Huskers and led by as many as 26 points.

"I just think we're competitive," Pope said. "It doesn't matter how big the lead is. We still want to be better than our opponent at all times. We just keep going and going."

Nebraska (12-7, 2-7), which has lost five of six games, had only nine players in uniform because of injuries. It didn't help that they all looked nervous at the start against the first No. 1 team to visit the Devaney Sports Center.



Associated Press

TIGHT DEFENSE Nebraska's Jordan Hooper, right, tries to overcome the defense of Baylor's Kimetria Hayden during the first half of their game in Lincoln, Neb., on Wednesday.

Lady Bears	69
Cornhuskers	45

The Huskers missed their first nine shots, including a couple of air balls and three other bad misses, before Lindsey Moore made the first of her four 3-pointers 6:08 into the game. Moore finished with 18 points and Jordan Hooper had 14.

"It would have been interesting if maybe we had hit some shots early, if we could have hung," Nebraska coach Connie Yori said before cutting herself off.

Nebraska shot 28 percent from the field, making it the 11th straight Baylor opponent held under 30 percent.

"I hope people, when they watch us play, enjoy watching how hard we play on the defensive end of the floor as much as what we do offensively," Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said. "We work at that. The players will tell you they probably get sick of doing defense each day. There's not a day that goes by that we don't do four-on-four, five-on-five and half-court defending. While we're not there yet, we are getting better defensively."

Adams puts up 30 points in A&M women's win

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION — Danielle Adams shook off early foul trouble to finish with 30 points and 13 rebounds as No. 6 Texas A&M rolled to an easy 92-71 win over No. 14 Oklahoma on Wednesday night.

The Aggies (20-2, 8-1 Big 12) never trailed and had built a 19-point lead with nine minutes left in the first half.

Adams sat out most of the first half after picking up two quick fouls, but played almost the entire second half, scoring 21 of her points.

Texas A&M led by 22 points with about four minutes remaining before Oklahoma scored eight straight points to cut the lead to 84-70 with about 2 1/2 minutes left. The Aggies ended the run by scoring four quick points and coach Gary Blair took out his starters soon after that.

Aggies	92
Sooners	71

Danielle Robinson scored 24 points to lead Oklahoma (17-6, 7-3), which couldn't overcome poor shooting by the rest of the team.

The Aggies, who got a 2-point win in Norman two weeks ago, retain sole possession of second place in the Big 12 with the victory.

Texas A&M shot almost 52 percent from the field and 50 percent on 3-pointers. The Aggies made nine 3-pointers, including two in a row from Adams early in the second half. The nine 3-pointers were just one off Texas A&M's season high.

Oklahoma shot under 34 percent overall and just 20 percent from long range as the Sooners dropped their second game in three outings.

The Aggies got 17 points from Sydney Carter and a season-high tying 15 points and 10 rebounds from Adaora Elonu as they won their fourth straight over Oklahoma.

The Sooners cut the lead to 14 points with about 12 minutes remaining, but Texas A&M used a 14-1 spurt over the next three minutes to push the lead to 76-49.

Greed is root cause of Super Bowl seating debacle

By Tim Dahlberg
Associated Press

Negotiations toward a new NFL labor contract resumed Wednesday in the nation's capital in what had to be a good sign for players fearful of losing their fat paychecks.

There was no immediate word on how much progress was made in the second bargaining session in five days. But the players' union might have been tempted to lock the doors, order takeout, and refuse to leave until a new deal is done.

Because the NFL is suddenly in a giving mood.

OK, so far its generosity is limited to quelling a public relations debacle sparked by the all-consuming greed exhibited at the Jerry Jones Super Bowl. Imagine, though, if the league bargained with players as it did with the 400 fans whose seats were pulled out from under them at the game.

No more looming lockout. No uncertainty over whether Green Bay's win over Pittsburgh will be the last NFL game we'll see this year.

Instead, in a bid to make players happy, the NFL will guarantee their contracts. There will be no mandatory off-season workouts, no 18-game schedule.

Did I mention triple salaries for all?

Won't happen, of course, because the NFL is determined to snatch back some of the money it pays its players, not give them more. It's the same tactic the league uses with its fans, who are subjected to never- ending demands for cash in the form of higher ticket prices, personal seat licenses and exorbitant parking fees.

A microcosm of that was on display in Arlington, Texas, where Jones aimed to break the Super Bowl attendance record while asking the most expensive Super Bowl ticket prices to date. With the blessing of his fellow owners, he crammed temporary seats into Cowboys Stadium and the league collected $800 apiece from the rubes who were delighted to sit there.

Problem was, the hastily installed seats were determined to be unsafe. They were erected so late the fire marshal didn't have time to inspect them and, rather than risk injuries or even deaths that could have really ruined America's unofficial holiday, they weren't allowed to be occupied.

That hardly mattered to the estimated 111 million people who made the Super Bowl the most watched American television program ever. It didn't even matter to the 100,000 or so other people who were perfectly happy with their seating arrangements.

And it certainly didn't matter to the only people who really mattered — the 31 other NFL owners who will be voting when Jones tries to land, say, Super Bowl 50 for his personal shrine. They partied away in their suites while anger grew among the 1,250 fans who were displaced — 400 of whom never got seats at all.

Please see **DAHLBERG**/4C

MC

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
NO. 17 MIDLAND COLLEGE
AT NEW MEXICO JUNIOR COLLEGE
6:45 p.m. (CST), Caster Activity Center, Hobbs, N.M.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
NO. 5 MIDLAND COLLEGE
AT NEW MEXICO JUNIOR COLLEGE
8:45 p.m. (CST), Caster Activity Center, Hobbs, N.M.

Read more on page 2C

NASCAR PAGE 8C

MIDLAND COLLEGE BASKETBALL TODAY

Women

NO. 17 MIDLAND COLLEGE AT NEW MEXICO JUNIOR COLLEGE

When/where: 6:45 p.m. (CST), Caster Activity Center, Hobbs, N.M.

Records: Midland College 21-5, 6-2 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; New Mexico JC 18-6, 4-3

Last game: Midland College 74, South Plains 61; Howard College 71, New Mexico JC 61

Notes & Quotes: Midland College won its second straight game on Monday and that helped the Lady Chaparrals get some separation from the rest of the WJCAC pack. MC has a 1/2 game lead over Odessa College and a 1 game lead over both Howard College and South Plains College. NMJC is 1 1/2 games back of the leader. ...The Lady Chaps shrugged off a shaky first half against South Plains College with a strong second half. A key was cutting down on turnovers as 17 turnovers in the first half contributed to the Lady Texans taking a 30-26 lead at the half. MC coach Ron Jones said he was also pleased with his team's defense and added that he thought his team was in a much better rhythm throughout the entire game. ...Offensively, sophomore point guard Tanica Anderson had 17 points and seven rebounds. Lindsay Ansley had 13 points and eight boards, while Danesha Long added 11 points for MC. ...Jones said the way his team played on the offensive end in the second half is hopefully a sign of things to come. "We've tweaked with the offense the past couple of weeks and we're working on getting good possessions," Jones said. "We just got to get to where we're comfortable with what we're doing and not thinking too much when we're on the court." ...This is a big game for the Lady Thunderbirds ... who are coming off a loss to Howard and need a win to keep their postseason hopes alive. This will also be the third meeting between the two teams. ... MC defeated the Lady T-birds 72-67 in the preconference tournament in December and then 79-62 in the first WJCAC meeting on Jan. 17. Both of those meetings were at Chaparral Center. "They're going to be more comfortable this time because they're at home and they have a little more urgency to win this game," Jones said. "They've got a couple of really good offensive players and good shooters. We need to try to defend them the best way possible and limit their good possessions." ...NMJC has three players averaging in double figures, led by 5-foot-5 guard Jackie Edwards with 16.2 ppg. Teonna Campbell, a 5-10 forward, is averaging 15.2 ppg, while 5-4 guard Angel Reyes is averaging 12.0 ppg.

Next: Howard College at Midland College, 5:45 p.m. Monday; New Mexico JC at Western Texas College, 5:45 p.m. Monday

Midland College Women's Statistics (21-5, 6-2)

Player	GP	FG	FT	FTA	Pts.	Avg.	Reb.	RPG
Danesha Long	25	104	51	75	283	11.3	131	5.2
Jessi Cowder	25	82	36	48	229	10.2	114	3.0
Kely Sousa	25	35	58	87	248	9.9	115	4.6
Lindsay Ansley	25	77	61	106	239	9.6	156	6.3
Tanica Anderson	25	92	104	126	294	9.0	136	5.4
Morgan Schwartz	25	59	37	54	161	6.4	114	4.6
Anissa Shults	25	43	20	23	106	5.4	29	1.2
Ornela Bacotmi	25	47	43	56	138	5.5	138	5.5
Tierra Simmond	25	37	13	20	104	4.2	119	4.7
Deniesa Brazzle	23	12	18	28	44	1.9	40	1.8
Traci Terrance	23	4	7	11	15	0.7	33	1.5
Totals	25	614	466	641	1,855	74.2	1,232	49.3

3-point goals (150) — Cowden 56, Shultis 30, Long 24, Simmons 17, Anderson 16, Schwartz 6, Ansley 4, Deniesa 3, Brazzle 2, Bacotmi 1

Women's WJCAC standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Midland College	6	2	21	5
Odessa College	5	2	15	9
Howard College	5	3	19	6
South Plains	5	3	15	7
New Mexico JC	4	3	18	6
Western Texas	2	6	12	14
Frank Phillips	0	8	4	20

Today's Games

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

Men

NO. 5 MIDLAND COLLEGE AT NEW MEXICO JUNIOR COLLEGE

When/where: 8:45 p.m. (CST), Caster Activity Center, Hobbs, N.M.

Records: Midland College 23-2, 9-0 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; New Mexico Junior College 18-5, 5-4

Last game: Midland College 75, South Plains 55; Howard College 62, New Mexico JC 57

Notes & Quotes: Midland College won its 14th consecutive game on Monday behind a big second half. MC coach Ross Hodge thought his team came out flat against South Plains in the first half, as the Chaparrals only had a 33-27 lead at the half. But a 12-0 run to begin the second half helped pave the way for a big period. MC out-scored the Texans 42-28 and held SPC to just 32 percent shooting for the game. ...During that winning streak, defense has been a big factor as the Chaps have held their opponents to 60 points or fewer in 11 of those 14 games. "I thought we defended well for the most part against South Plains," Hodge said. "I just would have liked to have rebounded the ball a little better." ...Offensively against the Texans, Rodney Milum had 17 points, while Ty Nurse added 13 in a winning effort. ...NMJC is coming off a a tough loss to Howard in which the Thunderbirds led at the half. ...This is a big game for the T-birds as they are currently in fourth place in the WJCAC standings and the top four teams qualify for next month's regional tournament. ...The Chaps blew out NMJC 74-52 at Chaparral Center on Jan. 17. ...The Thunderbirds are led by 6-foot-7 forward Dequan Hicks with 11.3 ppg while 5-9 guard Marc Little is averaging 11.1 ppg. ...Hodge said he expects a tough test tonight. "I'm sure (the Thunderbirds) are going to approach it like a must-win," Hodge said. "The key is to win your home games and steal a few on the road. They're right in the think of it for the regional tournament and I'm sure they're thinking this is one they need to get at home. They play really hard, they're athletic and they do a good job of rebounding the basketball."

Next: Howard College at Midland College, 7:45 p.m. Monday; New Mexico JC at Western Texas College, 7:45 p.m. Monday

Midland College Men's Statistics (17-7, 3-0)

Player	GP	FG	FT	FTA	Pts.	Avg.	Reb.	RPG
Dwayne Davis	26	127	71	96	345	13.3	111	4.3
Ty Nurse	26	83	48	86	256	10.0	56	2.1
Guy Landry	22	71	40	64	216	9.8	147	6.7
Rodney Milum	23	76	19	27	220	9.6	52	2.3
Harvey Johnson	9	31	4	9	68	8.2	37	4.3
Jordan Weber	26	87	56	84	230	8.8	116	4.5
Dwight Miller	26	95	31	42	225	8.7	137	5.3
Jamael Trice	26	78	32	57	218	8.4	77	3.0
Darren White	15	46	14	31	112	5.9	45	2.4
Malek Mack	26	47	32	62	126	4.8	107	4.1
Bobby Hitchell	20	23	24	35	74	0.7	46	2.3
C.J. Johnson	14	10	7	11	27	1.9	22	1.6
Xavier Jones	22	9	11	18	32	1.5	40	1.8
Marcel Campos	17	5	2	3	14	0.8	14	0.8
Totals	25	760	394	596	2,092	83.7	1,078	43.1

3-point goals (178) — Milum 59, Nurse 45, Trice 30, Landry 22, Davis 20, White 6, Hitchell 4, Miller 4, Jones 3, Campos 2, K. Johnson 2

* no longer with team

Men's WJCAC standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Midland College	9	0	23	2
Howard College	7	2	17	6
Odessa College	6	3	20	5
New Mexico JC	5	4	18	5
Frank Phillips	3	6	11	14
South Plains	3	6	14	10
Western Texas	2	7	16	8
New Mexico Military	1	8	9	14

Monday's Scores

Midland College 75, South Plains 55; Howard College 62, New Mexico JC 57; Frank Phillips 56, Western Texas 47; Odessa College 75, New Mexico Military Institute 57

Today's Games

Midland College at New Mexico JC; New Mexico Military Institute at Howard College; Western Texas at South Plains; Odessa College at Frank Phillips

Compiled by Oscar LeRoy

YOUTH SPORTS

Courtesy photo

MUSTANGS TAKE SILVER DIVISION The Midland Mustangs 14 volleyball team won the Silver division of the Monahans Sandhills Tournament. Back row from left to right, Bailey Wright, Megan McClendon, Carleigh Moore, coach White, Megan May. Front row from left to right, Annie Brown, Lindsey Mills, Annie Fisher, Catherine Hammond, Caroline Hammond.

Courtesy photo

WT BLACKOUT BLACKS OUT COMPETITION The West Texas Blackout volleyball team won the Gold division at the Monahans Sandhills Tournament. Back row from left to right, coach Melissa Reddout, Stephanie Brewer, Emily Shuler, Cassidy Ryan, Maddy Green, Haley Blackstock. Front row from left to right, Rebecca Brewer, Meagan Worrell, Harley Bass

LOCAL SPORTS

MC baseball cancels opener

The Midland College baseball team has canceled its home opener scheduled for today against Grayson County College.

Because of icy conditions in North Texas, Grayson can't safely travel to Midland.

The doubleheader will be rescheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 16 at noon at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene.

MC to host softball tourney

Because of the cancellation of the Cowtown Tournament in Fort Worth this weekend, Midland College, Odessa College and eight other teams will play an abbreviated tournament at the Freddie Ezell Softball Complex this weekend.

The tournament schedule has not yet been finalized but should be by Friday's edition of the Reporter-Telegram.

Going away event for ballplayers

Extra Innings will play host to a going away event for local professional baseball players at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17.

Logan Parker, Cole White, Raynor Campbell and Justin Dowdy will be at Extra Innings signing autographs, taking pictures and talking baseball with kids.

For more info 432-617-4487.

Smith named to pre-season team

Texas State junior and Midland Christian grad Carson Smith was ranked among the top 40 players in the nation by College Baseball Daily.

Smith appeared in 24 games for the Bobcats last season, compiling a 10-4 record with three saves and a 3.10 earned run average. He also had 94 strikeouts in 104 2/3 innings pitched.

Late HS boys basketball box

GRADY 71, BORDEN COUNTY 41

Grady (25-3, 12-0 in District 9-A Division II) — Shane Teague 16, Zane Clay 7, Branson Richards 11, Johan Winter 9, Carston Russell 2, Briley Pinkerton 8, Jacob Rodriguez 14, Zane Robinson 2

Borden County (10-4 in District 9-A Division II) — Smith 2, Schaefer 8, C. Tedrick 2, Taylor 3, Tyler 4, Richey 8, Z. Tedrick 14, Grady . . . . . 20 19 18 14 — 71

BC . . . . . 12 8 9 11 — 41

Free throws — Grady 4-7, BC 8-17. 3-point goals — Grady 3 (Teague 3, Clay, Richards, Winter, Rodriguez), BC 4 (Taylor, Z. Tedrick 3). Total fouls — Grady 17, BC 9. Fouled out — None.

Next: Class A, Division II bi-district playoff, Grady vs. TBA

JACKALOPES HOCKEY THIS WEEK

ODESSA AT LAREDO
ODESSA AT ALLEN

When/where: vs. Laredo, 11 a.m. today, Laredo Entertainment Center; vs. Allen, 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Allen Entertainment Center

On the air: KFZX (102.1 FM)

Records: Odessa 19-21-5 (43 points), Laredo 16-22-6 (38 points), Allen 32-8-1 (65 points)

Jacks' last game: Colorado 5, Odessa 1 on Saturday

Notes: The Jackalopes take a six-game losing streak on the road today as they have not tallied a point in the standings since beating Arizona on Jan. 22. Since that victory on the road, Odessa lost all six games at home, including three one-goal games. ... The recent six-game losing streak is the longest since the 2006-07 season. ... Even with the recent woes, the Jacks received some good news on Tuesday as former goaltender Joel Martin was called up to the National Hockey League's New York Islanders on Tuesday. He was recalled to the Islanders on an emergency basis from Bridgeport, which is the Islanders' American Hockey League affiliate. ... Two weeks ago, the Jacks looked to be a good position in the Berry Conference standings but are now in sixth place, two points ahead of seventh place Arizona and five ahead of today's opponent, Laredo. Eight teams out of each conference qualify for the playoffs. ... Odessa is 3-2 against the Bucks this season and have scored 18 goals in those five games. The last meeting between the two teams was on Dec. 17 in Odessa, which the Jacks won 7-4. ... Jacks goaltender David McKee returned to the net on Saturday after sitting out three games. McKee has split time in goal with Michel Robinson the last 10 games and the two have a combined 4.00 goals against average. ... Allen is not only the top team in the Berry Conference with 65 points, but that number also has them at the top of the league in points. The Americans are 15 points ahead of second-place Tulsa in the conference standings. Colorado and Rapid City lead the Turner Conference with 58 points each.

Next: Odessa at Arizona, 7:05 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15

Compiled by Len Hayward

NBA ROUNDUP

SPURS 111, RAPTORS 100: At Toronto, DeJuan Blair matched a career high by scoring 14 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, George Hill had 18 points and San Antonio won its fourth straight game.

Tony Parker and Tim Duncan each had 16 points and Manu Ginobili 12 as San Antonio won for the 15th time in 17 games.

Blair also had 11 rebounds for the Spurs, whose 44-8 record is the best in the NBA. His previous best was 22 points, set in a Jan. 19 home win over Toronto. He also scored 28 against Oklahoma City on Jan. 13, 2010.

Andrea Bargnani scored 29 points and DeMar DeRozan had 25 for the Raptors, who have lost 15 of 16.

PISTONS 103, CAVALIERS 94: At Cleveland, Forget the NBA record, the Cavaliers are officially as bad as any team in any pro sport.

Cleveland's losing streak reached 26, matching the 1976-77 Tampa Bay Buccaneers' record for consecutive incompetence on Wednesday night with a 103-94 loss to the Detroit Pistons, who were supposedly a beatable opponent for the bottom-dwelling Cavs.

Instead, Cleveland's season slipped further into shame.

The Cavs (8-45) remain winless since Dec. 18 and have now dropped 36 of 37. Their next chance to end the unimaginable slide will be on Friday against the Los Angeles Clippers. After that comes a home game against the road-winless Washington Wizards on Sunday.

Rodney Stuckey scored 22 to pace the Pistons, who didn't want to be remembered as the team that let the Cavs get off the mat.

The Cavs and their fans had hoped this was the night the streak stopped.

Cleveland had played well in its previous four games, losing by a combined 21 points and actually came into the matchup favored to beat Detroit, which was playing its second straight after hosting the league-leading San Antonio Spurs on Tuesday.

NETS 103, HORNETS 101, OT: At Newark, Brook Lopez hit two go-ahead free throws with 24.3 seconds to play in overtime and New Jersey snapped a three-game losing streak and extended New Orleans' slide to four.

Sasha Vujacic scored a career-high 25 for the Nets.

The Hornets had three chances to either tie or win the game in the closing seconds but Chris Paul turned the ball over with 19 seconds left and Willie Green missed a jumper with about 5 seconds to go.

Kris Humphries got the rebound after the Green miss and was fouled but he missed two free throws, giving New Orleans one final chance, and it went to Paul.

His 3-pointer at the buzzer went halfway down and came out, allowing New Jersey a chance to celebrate.

Lopez finished with 20, Humphries had 14 points and 15 rebounds and the Nets hit a season-high 12 3-pointers.

David West led the Hornets with 32 points and 15 rebounds.

WIZARDS 100, BUCKS 85: At Washington Nick Young scored a flashy 26 points, JaVale McGee had 16 points and 17 rebounds, and Washington broke an eight-game losing streak.

Young had a flying one-handed baseline dunk in the first half and scored 11 points in the 16-4 run that gave the Wizards a 20-point lead early in the third quarter. Among the highlights: Young picked off a pass, tossed the ball to John Wall, then received an alley-opp pass back from the rookie to finish off the fast break with another one-handed jam.

Brandon Jennings scored 20 points to lead the Bucks, who have lost five of six and fell 2½ games behind the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

CLIPPERS 116, KNICKS 108: At New York, Randy Foye scored 17 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, Blake Griffin added 21 and Los Angeles snapped a seven-game road losing streak.

Baron Davis had 16 points and a season-high 16 assists for the Clippers, who had dropped four straight overall, including the first three on their eight-game, 14-day trip. But a night after a 101-85 loss in Orlando, they had far more energy than the Knicks, building a 20-point lead in the third quarter and holding on down the stretch behind huge plays from Foye.

Ryan Gomes scored 18 points, DeAndre Jordan 17 and Eric Bledsoe 16 for the Clippers, who didn't even need Griffin to be spectacular.

Held to a season-low 10 points Tuesday in Orlando, he grabbed only six rebounds, ending his latest double-double streak at 10 games.

Amare Stoudemire scored 23 points for the Knicks.

MAGIC 99, 76ERS 95: At Philadelphia, Dwight Howard had 30 points and 17 rebounds. J.J. Redick came off the bench to score 13 points and Orlando won in Philadelphia for the fifth straight time.

The Magic have won 14 of last 16 against the Sixers.

Lou Williams got 16 of his 23 in the fourth quarter, nearly rallying the Sixers to a comeback win himself. Andre Iguodala scored 21 and Jodie Meeks had 17 for the Sixers.

The Magic have won two in a row after losing three of four. They're tied with Atlanta for fourth place in the East, 5 1/2 games behind conference-leading Boston.

PACERS 104, BOBCATS 103: At Indianapolis, Roy Hibbert scored 29 points and the Indiana Pacers held off the Charlotte Bobcats to win 104-103 Wednesday night.

Danny Granger had 25 points and Darren Collison added 15 points for Indiana, which won for the fifth time in six games since Frank Vogel took over as coach for Jim O'Brien a week and a half ago.

Stephen Jackson had 27 for the Bobcats. He drew contact from Collison as he went up for a 30-footer in the final second, but no foul was called.

The Bobcats lost for the fifth time in seven games. Josh McRoberts' tip-in with 1:21 remaining gave Indiana a 104-102 lead.

Hibbert, who has played well since Vogel took over after struggling the previous two months, also added 10 rebounds and blocked two shots.

The victory moved Indiana (22-28) into eighth place in the Eastern Conference standings, just ahead of Charlotte (22-30). Indiana also won the season series against the Bobcats.

Associated Press

Vrbata's overtime goal lifts Coyotes over Stars

Associated Press

DALLAS — Radim Vrbata scored a power-play goal at 1:13 of overtime to lift the Phoenix Coyotes to a 3-2 victory over the Stars on Wednesday night, extending Dallas' losing streak to a season-high four games.

Dallas' Jamie Langenbrunner was penalized for tripping with 19 seconds left in regulation, and Vrbata capitalized on the 4-on-3 advantage in the extra period with a wrist shot from low in the right circle.

Michal Rozsival had a power-play goal, Mikkel Boedker scored the tying goal in the third period, and Ilya Bryzgalov made 16 saves as the Coyotes won their third in a row.

Brad Richards had to wait a few anxious minutes before his 22nd goal of the season was confirmed on video review, and Kari Lehtonen stopped 32 shots for Dallas.

Steve Ott also scored for the Stars, 1-5-1 in their past seven.

Bryzgalov was coming off two consecutive shutouts for the first time in his career, but the Stars broke that streak when Ott fired into the upper right corner of the net from low in the left circle at 10:48 of the first period.

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WESTERN BEVERAGES LIQUORS

NBA D League

East Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Iowa	23	9	.719	—
Reno	21	9	.700	1
Fort Wayne	14	17	.452	8 1/2
Maine	12	20	.375	11
Dakota	11	21	.344	12
Springfield	9	21	.300	13
Sioux Falls	5	22	.185	15 1/2

West Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tulsa	23	6	.742	—
Rio Grande Valley	22	9	.710	1
Reno	20	12	.625	3 1/2
Bakersfield	18	12	.600	4 1/2
Utah	16	15	.516	7
Idaho	14	16	.467	8
New Mexico	14	18	.438	9 1/2
Austin	12	17	.414	10
Idaho	11	19	.367	11 1/2

Wednesday's Games

No games scheduled

Today's Games

Maine at Springfield, 6 p.m.
New Mexico at Erie, 6 p.m.
Rio Grande Valley at Austin, 7:30 p.m.

Auto Racing

Glance
NASCAR
SPRINT CUP
Budweiser Shootout
Site: Daytona Beach, Fla.
Schedule: Friday, practice (Speed, 5-6 p.m., 5:30-6:30 p.m.); draw party (Speed, 7:30-9 p.m.). Saturday, race, 7 p.m. ET (FOX, 7:16 p.m.).
Track: Daytona International Speedway (tri-oval, 2.5 miles).
Race distance: 187.5 miles, 75 laps (25- and 50-lap segments, with 10-minute pit stop).
Fast facts: Five-time defending series champion Jimmie Johnson and the other 11 Chase qualifiers top the field. ... The track was repaved for the first time since 1979, a five-month, $65 million job. A pothole swarmed the Daytona 500 last year. ... Daytona 500 front-row qualifying is Sunday.
Next race: Daytona 500, Feb. 20.
Online: http://www.nascar.com

OTHER RACE
ARCA RE/MAX SERIES: Lucas Oil Slick Mist 200, Saturday (Speed, 3:30-5:30 p.m.); Daytona International Speedway, Daytona Beach Fla. Online: http://www.arcaracing.com

CHL

TURNER CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	58	28	16	2	58	172	138
Rapid City	48	27	17	4	58	157	155
Quad City	44	25	19	1	51	130	120
Bloomington	47	24	18	4	52	118	128
Wichita	43	23	16	4	50	167	149
Missouri	43	22	17	4	48	127	122
Dubuque	43	21	17	4	46	127	128
Fort Wayne	42	19	18	5	43	122	130
Evansville	43	15	23	5	35	125	161

SERRY CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Allen	41	32	8	1	65	180	128
Topeka	46	24	20	2	50	145	151
Bossier-Shreve	43	23	19	2	48	154	158
Texas	41	21	15	5	47	136	131
Mississippi	46	22	22	2	46	140	147
Oklahoma	45	19	21	5	43	122	130
Arizona	46	18	23	5	41	139	176
Laredo	44	16	22	6	38	137	154
Rio Grande Valley	45	17	24	4	38	132	158

NOTE: Two points are awarded for a win, one point for an overtime or shootout loss. Overtime or shootout losses are only recorded in the OL column, not the loss column.

Wednesday's Score
Fort Wayne 5, Bloomington 1

Today's Game
Odessa at Laredo, 11 a.m.

Ski Report

New Mexico

Angel Fire — Wed 6-14 am 18 new powder machine groomed 20-50 base 63 of 75 trails 74% open, 5 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri 9a-4p; Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Pajarito — Reopen TBA Fri 9a-4p; Sat/Sun 9a-4p Open Fri-Sun.

Red River — Wed 6-57 am 14 new powder machine groomed 30-35 base 46 of 57 trails 80% open, 6 of 7 lifts, am Mon-Fri, 9a-4p; Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Sandia Peak — Wed 10-57 am packed powder machine groomed 44-44 base 28 of 30 trails 100% open, 4 of 5 lifts, Wed-Fri 9a-4p; Sat/Sun 9a-4p Open Sat/Sun.

Sipapu — Wed 5-51 am 12 new powder machine groomed 36-44 base 37 of 41 trails 91% open, 5 of 5 lifts, Mon-Fri 9a-4p; Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Ski Apache — Wed 2-46 am packed powder machine groomed 37-40 base 54 of 55 trails 95% open, 7 of 10 lifts, am Mon-Fri 9a-4p; Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Ski Santa Fe — Wed 4-40 am 4 new packed powder machine groomed 40-60 base 71 of 72 trails 96% open, 6 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri 9:30a-4:30p; Sat/Sun 9:30a-4:30p

Taos — Wed 7-30 am 12 new powder machine groomed 50-55 base 95 of 110 trails 95% open, 13 of 13 lifts, Mon-Fri 9a-4p; Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Enchanted Forest XC — Wed 7-59 pm 4 new packed powder machine groomed 20-24 base 40 of 40 trails, 35 miles Mon-Fri 9a-4:30p; Sat/Sun 9a-4:30p

Colorado

Arapahoe Basin — Reopen TBA Fri 9a-4p; Sat/Sun 8:30a-4p

Aspen Highlands — Wed 4-57 am 3 new powder 57-81 base 119 of 124 trails, 100% open, 1926 acres, 5 of 5 lifts, Mon-Fri 9a-3:30p; Sat/Sun 9a-3:30p

Aspen Mountain — Wed 8-08 am 6 new powder 50-54 base 76 of 76 trails, 100% open, 673 acres, 6 of 8 lifts, Mon-Fri 9a-3:30p; Sat/Sun 9a-3:30p

Beaver Creek — Wed 7-14 am 4 new powder machine groomed 60-65 base 149 of 149 trails, 100% open, 1815 acres, 25 of 26 lifts, Mon-Fri 8:30a-3:30p; Sat/Sun 8:30a-3:30p

NBA

DETROIT (105): Prince 4-13 0-0 10, Wallace 4-5 0-0 8, Monroe 4-10 1-2 9, McGrady 2-5 3-4 7, Gordon 6-11 0-0 8, Stuckey 6-14 0-0 12, Daye 1-5 0-0 3, Bynum 6-10 4-4 17, Villanueva 5-8 0-0 13, Wilcox 3-7 0-2 6. Totals 39-85 8-12 105				
CLEVELAND (94): Eyenga 4-9 0-0 8, Jamison 9-18 9-9 32, Hickson 8-12 2-4 18, Sessions 7-11 5-8 20, Hinrich 3-6 1-2 8, Gee 3-6 2-4 9, Gibson 4-9 0-0 12, Hollins 1-1 0-0 2, Moon 1-5 0-0 3, Harris 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 37-72 12-19 94				
Detroit	**25**	**39**	**26**	**22 — 105**
Cleveland	**16**	**27**	**27**	**24 — 94**

3-Point Goals—Detroit 9-19 (Villanueva 3-5, Prince 2-5, McGrady 2-4, Daye 1-3, Bynum 1-3, Gordon 0-2, Stuckey 0-2, Wallace 0-2, Monroe 0-3, Wilcox 0-3), Cleveland 8-19 (Gibson 4-7, Parker 2-4, Jamison 1-5, Moon 1-3, Eyenga 0-1, Harris 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Detroit 54 (Wallace 9), Cleveland 45 (Hickson 11). Assists—Detroit 27 (Bynum 7), Cleveland 27 (Sessions 12). Total Fouls—Detroit 21, Cleveland 17. Technicals—McGrady, Hollins. A—19,475. (20,562).

PACERS 104, BOBCATS 103				
CHARLOTTE (103): Wallace 9-15 4-6 22, Diaw 4-9 0-0 8, Mohammed 4-9 1-2 9, Augustin 4-13 5-6 14, Jackson 9-25 5-6 27, Henderson 3-7 3-4 9, Livingston 2-5 2-2 6, Collins 1-3 0-0 2, McGuire 0-0 0-0 0, Najera 3-4 1-1 8. Totals 36-82 21-27 103.				
INDIANA (104): Granger 9-17 4-4 25, McRoberts 4-4 4-5 12, Hibbert 10-19 5-7 25, Collison 7-14 0-0 15, Dunleavy 1-4 2-2 5, George 3-11 1-1 7, Hansbrough 1-5 0-1 2, Foster 3-8 0-0 6, Barbosa 0-3 2-2 2. Price 2-5 3-4 7. Totals 39-92 21-26 104.				
Charlotte	**28**	**26**	**22**	**33 — 103**
Indiana	**29**	**29**	**23**	**23 — 104**

3-Point Goals—Charlotte 6-17 (Jackson 4-8, Najera 1-2, Augustin 1-3, Collins 0-1, Diaw 0-3), Indiana 5-11 (Granger 3-3, Collison 1-1, Dunleavy 1-2, George 0-2, Price 0-2, Barbosa 0-1). Out—None. Rebounds—Charlotte 52 (Wallace 9), Indiana 46 (Hibbert 10). Assists—Charlotte 14 (Wallace 6), Indiana 23 (McRoberts 7). Total Fouls—Charlotte 23, Indiana 19. A—10,268 (18,165).

MAGIC 96, 76ERS 95				
ORLANDO (99): Turkoglu 4-7 0-0 10, Anderson 4-9 0-0 12, Howard 8-13 14-19 30, Nelson 5-13 2-4 12, J.Richardson 4-13 2-2 12, Arenas 1-7 0-0 2, Redick 5-10 1-1 13, Clark 4-7 0-0 8. Totals 35-78 19-26 99.				
PHILADELPHIA (95): Iguodala 9-17 2-4 21, Brand 5-13 2-3 12, Hawes 2-6 2-2 6, Holiday 5-12 3-3 15, Meeks 5-13 5-6 17, Battie 2-6 0-0 4, Turner 1-4 0-0 2, Williams 5-15 2-4 23, Young 3-9 1-2 7. Totals 37-88 15-22 95.				
Orlando	**18**	**31**	**25**	**25 — 99**
Philadelphia	**27**	**20**	**22**	**26 — 95**

3-Point Goals—Orlando 10-26 (Anderson 4-6, Turkoglu 2-6, Redick 2-6, Nelson 1-3, Arenas 1-4, J.Richardson 0-1), Philadelphia 6-19 (Williams 3-5, Meeks 2-9, Iguodala 1-3, Holiday 0-1, Young 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Orlando 49 (Howard 17), Philadelphia 57 (Hawes 10). Assists—Orlando 25 (Nelson 8), Philadelphia 22 (Iguodala 6). Total Fouls—Orlando 16, Philadelphia 21. Technicals—Orlando defensive three second, Brand, Fragrant Fouls—Howard. A—12,091 (20,318).

NETS 103, HORNETS 101, OT				
NEW ORLEANS (101): Paulsen 0-2 0-0 0, West 13-23 6-7 32, Gray 4-7 2-4 10, Paul 4-15 0-0 9, Green 8-14 1-2 19, Jack 4-9 3-3 12. Totals 33-74 12-16 101.				
NEW JERSEY (103): Outlaw 4-9 1-1 11, Favors 1-5 2-2 4, Lopez 6-15 8-10 20, Harris 1-3 0-2 2, Morrow 8-15 0-0 16, Ivey 2-5 0-0 5, Farmar 3-9 0-0 8, Humphries 6-8 2-2 14, Ross 0-1 0-0 0, Petro 2-2 0-0 4. Totals 36-81 15-19 103.				
New Orleans	**27**	**15**	**29**	**25 — 101**
New Jersey	**23**	**23**	**22**	**13 — 103**

2-Point Goals—Nashville C.Wilson 13 (Smithson, Ward) 1:03. 4-Nashville Kostsyuv 15 (Hromadka, Ward) 12:26. 5-E.Detroit Sale 1 (Zetterberg, Cleary) 16:02.

Third Period—None.

Shots on goal—Nashville 9-13-8—30. Detroit 8-14-13—35.

Goalies—Nashville, Pinne. Detroit, Howard, MacDonald. A—20,066 (20,066). T—2:21.

BRUINS 8, CANADIENS 6				
Montreal	**1**	**0**	**4**	**2 — 6**
Boston	**2**	**4**	**2**	**— 8**

First Period—1. Boston, Marchand 15 (Bergeron, Recchi) 13:16. 2. Boston Seidenberg 6 (Horton) 13:28.

Second Period—3. Montreal, Gionta 20 (Pleknevs, Wisniewski) 2:45. 4. Montreal, Subban 7 (Gionta, Pleknevs) 8:30 (pp). 5. Boston, McQuaid 1 (Horton, Lucic) 9:48. 6. Montreal Weaver 1 (Gerbe, Pacioretty) 12:26 (pp). 7. Boston, Whitney 5 (Whitney, Horton) 15:37 (pp). 8. Boston, Lucic 22 (Krejci, Horton) 14:49 (sh).

Third Period—11. Montreal, Pacioretty 8 (Desharnais, Weber) 19:46 (pp).

Shots on Goal—Montreal 8-16-9—33. Boston 16-11-5—34.

Goalies—Montreal, Price. Boston, Thomas. A—17,565 (17,565). T—2:51.

WILD 3, AVALANCHE 2				
Colorado	**1**	**0**	**1**	**— 2**
Minnesota	**2**	**1**	**0**	**— 3**

First Period—1. Minnesota, Mathieu 10 (Coyle, Cullen) 15:00 (pp). 2. Colorado, Stastny 17 (Duchene) 15:11. 3. Minnesota, Havlat 15 (Brodziak, Clutterbuck) 15:51.

Second Period—None.

Third Period—4. Minnesota, Madden 8 (Cullen, Spurgeon) 10:42.

Third Period—5. Colorado, Jones 18 (Hejduk) :23.

Shots on Goal—Colorado 10-10-5—25. Minnesota 14-4-6—24.

Goalies—Colorado, Anderson. Buba, Minnesota. Backstrom. A—18,194 (18,064). T—2:26.

NHL

Phoenix	**3**	**0**	**1**	**— 4**
Dallas	**1**	**1**	**0**	**— 2**

First Period—1. Phoenix, Bradley 1 (Whitney) 1:33 (pp).

Second Period—None.

Third Period—2. Phoenix, Vrbata 14 (Hendricks, Whitney) 1:13 (pp).

Overtime—3. Phoenix, Vrbata 15 (Hendricks, Whitney) 1:13 (pp).

Shots on Goal—Phoenix 14-7-10-4—35. Dallas 7-7-4-0—18.

Goalies—Phoenix, Bryzgalov 22, 14-6, 18 shots, 16 saves. Dallas, Lehtonen 22, 11-6 (35-32) A—11,468 (18,532) T—2:27

SHARKS 3, BLUE JACKETS 2				
San Jose	**0**	**2**	**1**	**— 3**
Columbus	**2**	**0**	**0**	**— 2**

First Period—1. Columbus, Huselius 12 (Stralman, Umberger) 9:55 (pp). 2. Columbus, Clitsome 3 (Tyutin, Boesveld) 19:51 (pp).

Second Period—3. San Jose, Huskins 1 (Pavelski, Marleau) 1:56. 4. San Jose, Wellwood 2 (Clowe, Couture) 13:39.

Third Period—5. San Jose, Marleau 20 (Pavelski) 15:09.

Shots on Goal—San Jose 5-17-9—32. Columbus 16-12-16—44.

Goalies—San Jose, Niemi. Columbus, Mason. A—11,906 (18,144). T—2:19.

PREDATORS 4, RED WINGS 1				
Nashville	**2**	**2**	**0**	**— 4**
Detroit	**1**	**0**	**0**	**— 1**

First Period—2. Nashville, Erat 8 (Kostitsyn), 3:09. 2. Nashville, Legwand 8 (Suter), 14:13.

Tennis

ATP World Tour
SAP Open
Wednesday
At HP Pavilion
San Jose, Calif.
Purse: $550,000 (WT250)
Surface: Hard-indoor
Singles
First Round

Ivo Karlovic, Croatia, def. Ryan Sweeting, United States, 6-4, 6-4.

Robert Kendrick, United States, def. Igor Kunitsyn, Russia, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4. Second Round

Michael Russell, Gibraltar, def. Donald Young, United States, 6-4, 5-7, 7-5.

Milos Raonic, Canada, def. James Blake, United States, 6-2, 7-6 (4).

Doubles
First Round

Mark Knowles, Bahamas, and Michal Mertinak (1), Slovakia, def. Benjamin Becker and Michael Kohlmann, Germany, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 10-4 tiebreak.

Juan Martin del Potro, Argentina, and Somdev Devvarman, United States, def. Christopher Kas, Germany, and Alexander Peya, Austria, 6-3, 7-6 (5).

Quarterfinals

Santiago Gonzalez, Mexico, and Philipp Marx (4), Germany, def. Richard Berankis, Lithuania, and Kei Nishikori, Japan, 6-2, 6-2.

Brasil Open
Wednesday
At The Costa do Sauipe Tennis Center
Costa do Sauipe, Brazil
Purse: $527,750 (WT250)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Second Round

Alexandr Dolgopolov (4), Ukraine, def. Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo, Spain, 7-5, 6-4.

Pablo Starace (7), Italy, def. Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, 6-4, 7-6 (9).

Rui Machado, Portugal, def. Filippo Volandri, Italy, 6-2, 6-1.

Ricardo Mello, Brazil, def. Albert Montanes (2), Spain, 6-3, 6-3.

Juan Ignacio Chela (5), Argentina, def. Lukasz Kubot, Poland, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Thomaz Bellucci (3), Brazil, def. Carlos Berlocq, Argentina, 6-4, 7-5.

Pablo Andujar, Spain, def. Tommy Robredo (6), Spain, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.

Nicolas Almagro (1), Spain, def. Joao Sousa, Brazil, 6-2, 6-2.

Doubles
First Round

Rogerio Dutra Da Silva and Julio Silva, Brazil, def. Daniele Bracciali and Potito Starace (3), Italy, 6-4, 6-3.

Marcelo Melo and Bruno Soares (2), Brazil, def. Frantisek Cermak and Lesa Pavel, Czech Republic, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 13-11 tiebreak.

Igor Andreev, Russia, and Alexander Dolgopolov, Ukraine, def. Santiago Giraldo, Colombia, and Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, 6-4, 6-4.

Fabio Fognini, Italy, and David Marrero, Spain, def. Victor Hanescu, Romania, and Filippo Volandri, Italy, 6-3, 6-4.

WTA Tour
Open Gaz de France SUEZ
Wednesday
At Stade Pierre de Coubertin
Paris
Purse: $618,000 (Premier)
Surface: Hard-indoor
Singles
First Round

Andrea Petkovic (6), Germany, def. Angelique Kerber, Germany, 7-5, 3-6, 6-2.

Yanina Wickmayer (7), Belgium, def. Elena Vesnina, Russia, 6-1, 6-2.

Sofia Arvidsson, Sweden, def. Alize Cornet, France, 6-2, 7-6 (5).

Nadia Petrova (5), Russia, def. Virginie Razzano, France, 6-1, 6-3.

Second Round

Kim Clijsters (1), Belgium, def. Kristina Barrois, Germany, 4-6, 6-2, 6-0.

Dominika Cibulkova (8), Slovakia, def. Melanie Oudin, United States, 6-4, 7-6 (5).

Doubles
First Round

Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Meghann Shaughnessy (3), United States, def. Tatiana Poutchek, Belarus, and Jasmin Woehr, Germany, 6-2, 7-5.

Stephanie Cohen-Aloro, France, and Serena Sttr. Tunapa, def. Raquel Kops-Jones and Abigail Spears, United States, 6-3, 7-6 (7).

Margarita Chakhnashvili, Georgia, and Emma Laine, Finland, def. Petra Kvitova and Lucie Safarova, Czech Republic, walkover.

Quarterfinals

Vera Dushevina and Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, def. Sandra Klemenschits, Austria, and Irena Pavlovic, France, 2-6, 6-4, 10-5 tiebreak.

NLL

East Division				
	W	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Toronto	4	2	.667	—
Buffalo	3	2	.600	1/2
Rochester	3	2	.600	1/2
Boston	3	3	.571	1/2
Philadelphia	3	3	.500	1
West Division				
	W	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Calgary	4	2	.667	—
Minnesota	3	2	.600	1/2
Washington	3	3	.500	1
Colorado	1	4	.200	2 1/2
Edmonton	0	5	.000	3 1/2

Friday's Game
Washington at Edmonton, 8 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Calgary at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Buffalo at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Colorado at Boston, 6:30 p.m.

ON THE AIR

What's on TV

GOLF
European PGA Tour, Dubai Desert Classic, first round (same-day tape), 8:30 a.m., TGC
PGA Tour, Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, first round, 2 p.m., TGC
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Connecticut at St. John's, 6 p.m., ESPN
Florida St. at Georgia Tech, 6 p.m., ESPN2
Illinois at Minnesota, 8 p.m., ESPN
Alabama at Vanderbilt, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Gonzaga at Loyola Mary-mount, 10 p.m., ESPN2
Oregon St. at Southern Cal, 10 p.m., FSS
NBA
L.A. Lakers at Boston, 7 p.m., TNT
Dallas at Denver, 9:30 p.m., TNT
NBA DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE
Rio Grande at Austin, 7:30 p.m., FSS
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Florida at Tennessee, 6 p.m., FSS Plus

What's on Radio

Odessa at Laredo, 11 a.m., KZFX (102.1 FM)

WHAT'S ON DECK

CENTRAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
Odessa at Laredo, 11 a.m.
JUNIOR COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Midland College at New Mexico Junior College, 6:45 p.m.
JUNIOR COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL
Midland College at New Mexico Junior College, 8:45 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
Midland Christian at Fort Worth Christian, 6 p.m.
Lubbock Christian at Midland Classical, 5:30 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL
Midland Christian at Fort Worth Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Lubbock Christian at Midland Classical, 7 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League

BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with RHP Alfredo Aceves on a one-year contract and RHP Matt Albers on a minor league contract. Designated RHP Robert Coello for assignment.

NEW YORK YANKEES—Agreed to terms with RHP Luis Ayala on a minor league contract.

Texas League

New York-Penn League

STATEN ISLAND YANKEES—Named Tom Slater manager.

American Association

FORT WORTH CATS—Signed OF/1B Marcos Rodriguez and OF Jeremy Saucedo.

SIOUX FALLS PHEASANTS—Signed RHP Sam Wells and C Stephen Torres.

WICHITA WINGNUTS—Acquired C DJ Dixon and RHP Reyes Dorado from Laredo (United) for cash. Signed LHP Josh Berry. Traded INF Mike Bell and cash to Chico (North American) for RHP Josh Dew.

WINNIPEG GOLDEYES—Signed RHP Barry Fowler. Atlantic League

LONG ISLAND DUCKS—Signed C J.R. House. Frontier League

JOLIET SLAMMERS—Acquired OF Jon Flores from Sioux City Explorers (AA) for a player to be named.

FOOTBALL
National Football League

ARIZONA CARDINALS—Named Ray Horton defensive coordinator.

ATLANTA FALCONS—Released S Erik Coleman. Re-signed LB Coy Wire to a two-year contract.

CLEVELAND BROWNS—Terminated the contracts of NT Shaun Rogers, LB Eric Barton, LB David Bowens, DL Kenyon Coleman, TE Robert Royal and OL John St. Clair.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Named David Walker running backs coach and Dwon Fitzsimmons coaching assistant.

NEW YORK JETS—Signed LB Brandon Long, LB Garrett McIntyre and K Nick Novak to reserve/futures contracts.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Signed DT Barrett Moon.

TENNESSEE TITANS—Named Bruce Matthews offensive line coach.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League

NHL—Suspended Pittsburgh F Matt Cooke four games and announced he will forfeit $83,333 in salary for elbowing Columbus D Fedor Tyutin during Tuesday's game. Suspended New Jersey D Anton Volchenkov three games and announced he will forfeit $66,548.38 for delivering a blow to the head of Carolina F Zach Boychuk during Tuesday's game.

CAROLINA HURRICANES—Recalled D Brett Carson from Charlotte (AHL) on an emergency basis.

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Acquired F Michael Frolik and G Alexander Salak from Florida for G Jaks Skille. F Hugh Jessiman and F David Pacan.

DALLAS STARS—Activated C Tom Wandell from injured reserve.

NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Placed G Rick DiPietro on injured reserve. Recalled F Jesse Joensuu from Bridgeport (AHL). Assigned G Al Montoya to Bridgeport (AHL).

OTTAWA SENATORS—Recalled F Bobby Butler and F Jim O'Brien from Binghamton (AHL).

PHOENIX COYOTES—Acquired a 2011 sixth-round draft choice from the NY Islanders for G Al Montoya. Announced San Antonio (AHL) recalled G Joe Fallon from Las Vegas (ECHL).

SAN JOSE SHARKS—Acquired RW Patrick Davis and G Mike Swift from New Jersey for C Steve Zalewski and G Jay Leach.

ECHL

READING ROYALS—Loaned G Darcy MacMillan to Wheeling (AHL) and G Jared Rosa to Peoria (AHL).

VICTORIA SALMON KINGS—Signed D Ed Sovinsky. Central Hockey League

BLOOMINGTON PRAIRIETHUNDER—Waived D David Brown.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY BUCKS—Waived D Chris Porites. Signed D David Inman.

RAPID CITY RUSH—Waived F Andrew Martin. Signed D Chris Eade. ECAC-Eastern National Lacrosse League

COLORADO MAMMOTH—Traded F Jamie Shewchuk and a 2012 fourth-round draft pick to Minnesota for F Tim Campanaro and a 2011 second-round draft pick. SOCCER.Major League Soccer

CHICAGO FIRE—Re-signed MF Eli Gutierrez and D Andrew Boyens.

PHILADELPHIA UNION—Waived D Cristian Arango.

SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES—Signed F Chris Wondolowski.

VANCOUVER WHITECAPS—Signed M Nizar Nizar Khalifah and M Gershon Koffie. TENNIS.World Team Tennis

NEWPORT BEACH BREAKERS—Announced coach Trevor Kronemann will return next season.

TRIATHLON

USA TRIATHLON—Named Rob Urbach chief executive officer and Tim Yount chief operating officer.

COLLEGE

FURMAN—Named Adam Vrotsi assistant baseball coach.

LA SALLE—Named Jim Lathrop director of strength and conditioning.

MIAMI—Announced QB Tate Forcier has been suspended indefinitely.

MOUNT ST. VINCENT—Named Michael Scala softball coach.

NORTH CAROLINA—Announced offensive line coach Brian Baker is leaving to take the same position with the Dallas Cowboys.

OKLAHOMA STATE—Named Todd Monken offensive coordinator.

SAM HOUSTON STATE—Announced the retirement of baseball coach Mark Johnson, effective at the end of the 2011 season.

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI—Promoted offensive graduate assistant football coach Walt Bell to receivers coach and volunteer administrative assistant Robert Matthews to tight ends/assistant offensive line coach and recruiting coordinator. Reassigned assistant football coach Barney Farrar to director of high school relations and player development.

FISHING REPORT

WEST-

ALAN HENRY: No reports available.

ARROWHEAD: Water semi-turbid. 41-43 degrees. 3.46' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Blue catfish are good on cut or live shad.

COLORADO CITY: No reports available.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear. 41-43 degrees. 2.85' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on live minnows. White bass are fair on slabs. Catfish are fair on prepared bait and nightcrawlers.

LAKEWOOD: Water clear. 42-47 degrees. 9.5' low. No reports available.

NASWORTHY: No reports available.

OAK CREEK: No reports available.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained. 42-45 degrees. 27.16' low. Black bass are fair on jigs. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Catfish are fair on prepared bait.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained. 43-46 degrees. 1.51' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on live minnows. White bass are fair on slabs. Striped bass are fair on live shad. No report on catfish.

SPENCE: 69.47' low. No reports available.

STAMFORD: 41-44 degrees. 2.7' high. No reports available.

SWEETWATER: No reports available.

WHITE RIVER: No reports available.

PANHANDLE

GREENBELT: No reports available.

MACKENZIE: No reports available.

MEREDITH: No reports available.

PALO DURO: No reports available.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear. 48 - 54 degrees; 0.17' high. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits, crankbaits, jigs, and soft plastics. Striped bass are good on deep running crankbaits and jigging spoons. White bass are good on deep running crankbaits and jigging spoons. Catfish are good on cheese-bait over baited holes in 90 - 120 feet. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines and throwlines baited with live perch. Everyone in a boat must have a Mexico fishing license (if fishing the Mexico side) whether fishing or not.

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear. Black bass are good on chartreuse crankbaits, spinnerbaits, and jigs. Crappie are good on minnows over brush piles. Channel and blue catfish are fair on stinkbait and shrimp. Yellow catfish are slow.

BELTON: Water clear. 47 degrees; 3.05' low. Black bass are good on light colored spinnerbaits in coves. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are good on light blue jigs. Crappie are good on minnows under lights at night. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs and stinkbait. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines baited with live perch.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear. 45 degrees; 9.64' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse crankbaits, spinnerbaits, creekfish colored soft plastics, and black/blue Rat-L-Traps in 2 - 7 feet. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are good on LP lures and cut bait in 10 - 20 feet. Crappie are fair on LP lures and minnows over brush piles in 10 - 20 feet. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow catfish are slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 45 degrees; 10.62' low. Black bass are fair on drop shot rigs and crankbaits. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are good on minnows and white grubs in 25 - 35 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are good on minnows and white grubs. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are fair on cut bait and minnows in 30 - 40 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear. 48 degrees; 1.36' low. Black bass are good on green pumpkin Brush Hogs. Texas rigged red shad worms, and watermelon tubes on sightseers along bluffs. Striped bass are fair on LP lures and rolling worms and Shad Raps in 30 - 40 feet. White bass are fair on crankbaits and spinnerbaits along main lake bluffs. Smallmouth bass are good on white drop shot worms and watermelon red tubes on jigheads along main lake points and bluffs. Crappie are slow. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

COLEMAN: Water clear. 50 degrees; 10.81' low. Black bass are fair on green pumpkin soft plastics, spinnerbaits, and crankbaits. Hybrid striper are fair on minnows and green tube jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and green tube jigs. Channel catfish are fair on cut bait and liver. Yellow catfish are slow.

COLORADO RIVER: (At Colorado Bend State Park) No report available.

FAYETTE: Water clear. 54 degrees. Black bass are slow. JUNKFISH colored crankbaits, spinnerbaits, and Rat-L-Traps in shallows. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

GRANBURY: Water clear. 47 degrees; 0.68' low. Black bass are fair on green pumpkin and chartreuse soft plastics and Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are fair on frozen shrimp and stinkbait.

HORDS CREEK: No report available.

JIM CHAPMAN LAKE: Water murky. 45 degrees; 0.36' low. Black bass are slow. White bass are fair on white roadrunners from Comanche Bluff to Dickerson's. Crappie are fair on minnows from Fox Bottom to the primitive launch under lights at night. Blue catfish are good on prepared bait and shad. Yellow catfish are slow.

LBJ: Water fairly clear. 50 degrees; 0.12' low. Black bass are good on pumpkinseed worms and black/blue Curtis jigs off docks. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair to good on LT Fishes and silver Pork Minnows near the power plant. Crappie are good on minnows over brush piles. Channel catfish are fair on shrimp and liver near the dam. Yellow catfish are slow.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water stained. 43 degrees; 0.27' high. Black bass are fair on small crankbaits near the dam. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows over brush piles in 10 - 15 feet. Channel and blue catfish are fair on shrimp and liver near the dam. Yellow catfish are slow.

PROCTOR: Water stained. 45 degrees; 5.91' low. Black bass are fair slow rolling spinnerbaits. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are fair on juglines and limblines. Yellow catfish are slow.

TRAVIS: Water stained. 52 degrees; 13.52' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse jigs, pumpkinseed worms, and white grubs in 25 - 35 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are good on minnows and white grubs. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are fair on cut bait and minnows in 30 - 40 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

WALTER E. LONG: Water stained. 51 degrees. Black bass are fair on pumpkinseed soft plastics. Hybrid striper are fair on minnows near the hot water outlet. White bass are fair on minnows and LT Fishes. Crappie are good on chartreuse tube jigs and minnows. Channel and blue catfish are fair on LT Fishes and rolling worms and Shad Raps in 30 - 40 feet. White bass are fair on crankbaits and spinnerbaits along main lake bluffs. Smallmouth bass are good on white drop shot worms and watermelon red tubes on jigheads along main lake points and bluffs. Crappie are slow. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

WHITNEY: Water stained. 9.64' low. Black bass are good on watermelon spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are fair on minnows. White bass are fair on minnows. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are good on shrimp and nightcrawlers.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men

**Top 25 Fared W

No. 22 Texas A&M rallies for overtime win over Colorado

Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — Nathan Walkup scored 18 points and B.J. Holmes added 13, including a 3-pointer with 1.9 seconds remaining to send the game into overtime, as No. 22 Texas A&M rallied for a 73-70 victory over Colorado on Wednesday night.

The Aggies (18-5, 5-4 Big 12) snapped a three-game skid.

The biggest shot of the night belonged to Holmes, who stepped back and connected on a long 3-pointer after the Aggies called timeout to set up a play.

Once in overtime, Texas A&M took control early, scoring the first six points. The Buffaloes (15-10, 4-6) worked their way back into the game, trailing 73-70 with 8 seconds remaining.

But Levi Knutson's shot at the buzzer came up short as the Buffs lost their eighth straight to Texas A&M.

Alec Burks led Colorado in scoring with 24 points and Cory Higgins added 19.

Texas A&M outrebounded Colorado by a 40-29 margin, with David Loubeau grabbing nine.

Clinging to a 58-57 lead, Burks missed a jumper with 32 seconds left in regulation and Loubeau grabbed the rebound.

The Aggies called timeout to diagram a play for leading scorer Khris Middleton, who drove down the lane, spun and tossed up a shot that bounced off the rim.

Burks grabbed the rebound with 10.6 seconds remaining and was immediately fouled. He made both free throws, extending the lead to 60-57.

After another quick timeout by Texas A&M, Walkup delivered a pass to Holmes, who launched his 3-pointer.

With 5:28 left in regulation, the Buffs reclaimed the lead on a trip down the floor that resulted in seven points, turning a one-point deficit into a 54-48 advantage.

Burks was fouled by Middleton on his way to the basket and then given an elbow from Kourtney Roberson as well, resulting in a technical foul on Roberson. Burks converted two free throws and Cory Higgins nailed a pair on the technical.

After getting the ball on the side, Higgins drained a 3-pointer.

It was Texas A&M's second technical foul of the night.

Earlier in the second half, Aggies coach Mark Turgeon, incensed over a no call, was assessed a technical.

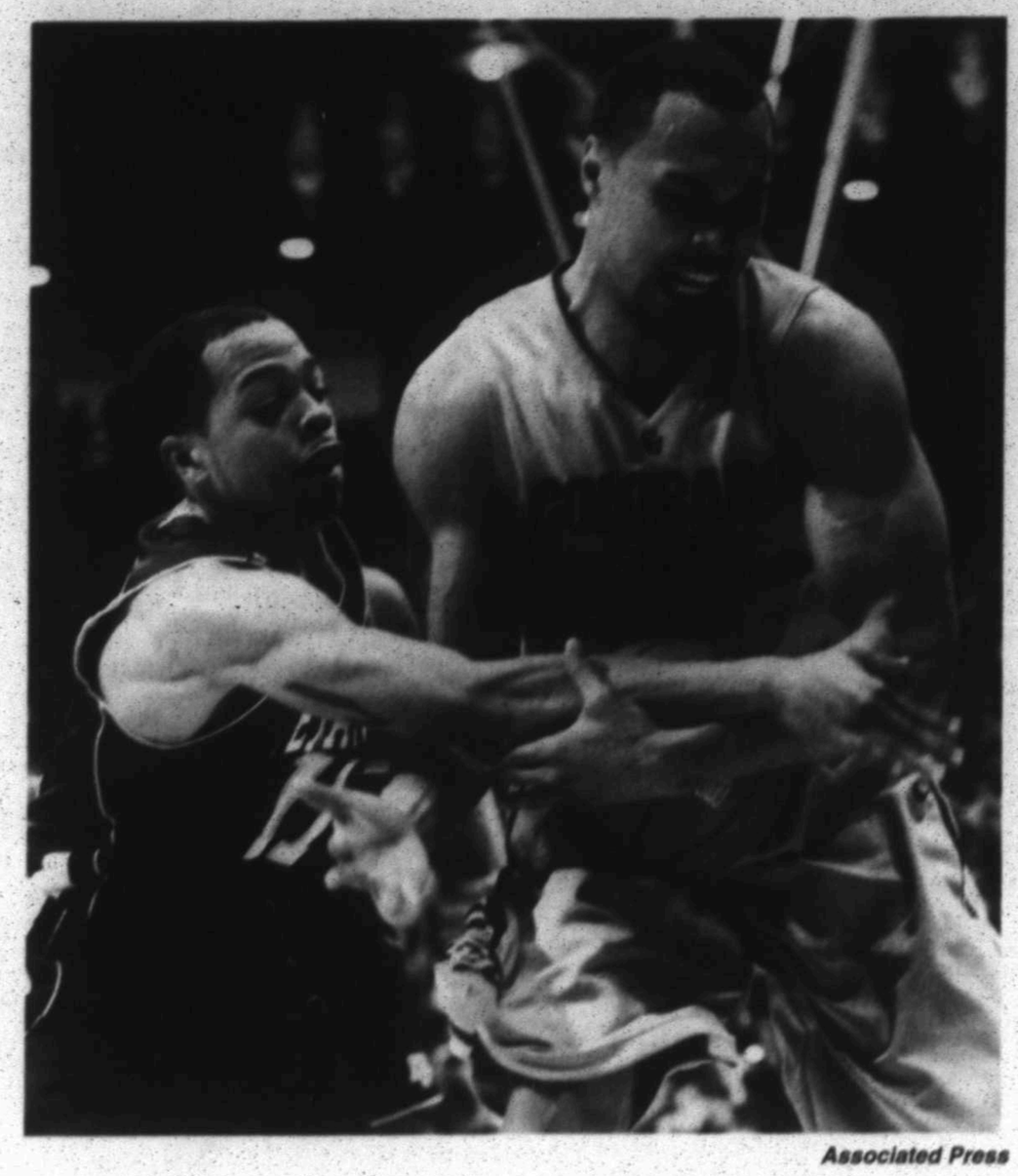
Higgins hit two free throws and Austin Dufault connected on a jumper in the lane to increase the lead to seven. The Buffs appeared to be taking control of this back-and-forth contest.

But Turgeon's outburst lit a fire under the Aggies, who stormed back with a 10-2 run to take a 48-47 lead on Walkup's runner.

With a soft shot 3 minutes into the second half, Burks became the 27th player in team history to reach 1,000 points. The talented sophomore needed 55 games to achieve the milestone, the same number as former Buffaloes great Chauncey Billups, who finished with 1,020 points during his two seasons in Boulder.

Colorado guard Nate Tomlinson didn't play after spraining his ankle against Missouri on Saturday. His minutes predominantly went to Knutson, who finished with five points.

This was the first meeting between close friends Tad Boyle and Turgeon, who forged a bond while playing for the Kansas Jayhawks in the 1980s.



Associated Press

BALL BATTLE Texas A&M guard B.J. Holmes (11) and Colorado forward Marcus Relphorde (5) struggle for the ball during the first half of their game Wednesday in Boulder, Colo.

TEXAS MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN 64, NICHOLLS STATE 57: At Thibodaux, La., Jereal Scott scored 20 points and had 10 rebounds to lead Stephen F. Austin to a 64-57 victory over Nicholls State on Wednesday night.

The Lumberjacks (14-7, 5-4 Southland Conference), who entered leading the nation in points allowed per game (53.8), withstood a late rally to win their second consecutive game.

They led by seven until Dantrell Thomas hit two free throws and Ben Martin made a 3-pointer to pull Nicholls State (11-10, 5-5) to within 54-52 with 2:26 left.

Scott hit two free throws to push the lead to 56-52 with 1:37 to go and Eddie Williams' layup gave Stephen F. Austin a 60-54 advantage with 46 seconds left.

BAYLOR 74, NEBRASKA 60: At Waco, LaceDarius Dunn scored 20 of his 24 points after halftime to help Baylor beat Nebraska 74-70 on Wednesday night.

Dunn scored Baylor's first seven points after halftime, capping it with a 3-pointer that broke a 36-all tie and put the Bears (16-7, 6-4 Big 12) ahead to stay. Right after that, Baylor's A.J. Walton had a steal and a breakaway layup.

Nebraska (15-8, 3-6) failed to take advantage of a turnover by Dunn in the final minute. The Bears converted when Dunn made an over-the-shoulder layup for a 71-67 lead.

SMU 66, TULANE 61: At Dallas, Papa Dia had 24 points and 11 rebounds to lead SMU to its fifth straight win, 66-61 over Tulane on Wednesday night.

Robert Nyakundi scored 13 points and Jeremiah Samarrippas scored 12 for the Mustangs (15-8, 6-3 Conference USA), who shot 64 percent from the field. It's the longest conference winning streak for the Mustangs since 1999-2000, when they were in the Western Athletic Conference.

Dia was 9 for 10 from the field and posted his 10th double-double of the season. The 6-foot-9 senior also blocked three shots.

Jordan Callahan and Johnny Mayhane scored 16 points apiece for Tulane (12-11, 2-8). Kris Richard scored 13 points and Kendall Timmons had 10 points, eight rebounds and five assists for the Green Wave.

UNVL 94, TCU 79: At Fort Worth, Chace Stanback scored a game-high 24 points and Quintrell Thomas snagged a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds to help UNLV beat TCU 94-79 on Wednesday night.

The Rebels (18-6, 6-4 Mountain West) dominated most of the game and led by as many as 20 points in the second half. They shot 61.4 percent from the field and made 11 of 17 tries from 3-point range.

The Horned Frogs (10-15, 1-9) began the game with a 9-0 lead, but fell behind midway through the first half and never recovered. They shot 50.9 percent from the field.

SAM HOUSTON 78, UTA, 74: At Arlington, Josten Crow scored 20 points and Sam Houston State held off Texas-Arlington 78-74 Wednesday night.

Gilberto Clavell added 19 points to reach 1,000 in less than two full seasons with the Bearkats (12-10, 5-4 Southland), and Lance Pevehouse had 12.

Cameron Catlett had a career-high 23 points while Armani Williams scored 11 for the Mavericks (11-11, 5-4).

Sam Houston State led 56-43 with 8:52 remaining before Texas-Arlington whittled away the lead, getting as close as four on five occasions. The Bearkats didn't allow the Mavericks to get any closer and sealed the win by hitting 11-of-14 free throws in the final 1:52.

TEXAS STATE 85, CENTRAL ARKANSAS 61: At Conway, Ark., Tony Bishop scored 22 points to lead Texas State to its first conference road win, 85-61 over Central Arkansas on Wednesday night.

Eddie Rios added 19 points and Brooks Ybarra had 10 for the Bobcats (11-12, 6-3 Southland), who turned this one into a blowout early in the second half with an 18-5 run.

Imad Qahwash led the Bears (5-18, 1-9) with 15 points and 10 rebounds. Tadre Sheppard had 12 points.

Texas State led 31-22 at halftime then expanded its advantage to 49-27 6? minutes into second half. The Bobcats led by at least 20 the rest of the way. Rios capped the run with one of his five 3-pointers and hit another with 5:24 remaining to give Texas State its largest lead, 75-48.

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA 79, UTSA 73: At Hammond, La., Brandon Fortenberry had 22 points and 10 rebounds and Trent Hutchin scored 21 points as Southeastern Louisiana defeated Texas-San Antonio 79-73 Wednesday night in a Southland Conference game.

Fortenberry, who also had nine assists, scored nine points in a span of 2:32 when the Lions (11-10, 5-4) widened a 61-60 lead into a 72-61 advantage with 7 minutes remaining.

Devin Gibson, who scored 19 of his 25 points in the second half, helped bring the Roadrunners back within three, 76-73, at the 2:06 mark, but a jumper by David Ndoumba with 1:32 to play and a free throw by Hutchin gave the Lions their final margin.

Associated Press

DAHLBERG

From 1C

The league started out by offering fans $2,400, or triple the face value of the ticket, for their trouble. When that didn't work, it upped the ante to include a ticket to next year's Super Bowl. Finally, two days later, the league said it would give the fans a ticket to any future Super Bowl, along with round-trip airfare and hotel accommodations.

Generous, indeed. But even that didn't satisfy some ticket holders, who filed suit Wednesday in Dallas against Jones, the NFL and the Dallas Cowboys, alleging breach of contract, fraud and deceptive sales practices.

They're not just asking for future Super Bowl tickets. They want $5 million for their troubles.

If it sounds like too much, it is. But don't forget that some of these fans traveled a long way to get to Texas only to miss what, for some, may have been the game of their lives.

The box score will reflect that Jones never got his record, with the announced attendance of 103,219 falling just short of the record 103,985 who watched the title game at the Rose Bowl in 1980. Even adding 15,000 temporary seats and counting everyone from ticket takers to popcorn makers in the crowd couldn't push the game over the top.

It capped a week of disappointments for Jones, who brought the Super Bowl to the Dallas area only to have it vexed by some of the worst winter weather in the city's history. The game itself was great, but everything else seemed to turn sour, from people being injured by melting snow falling from the roof of the stadium, to Christina Aguilera's mangling of the national anthem, to an unimpressive halftime show by the Black Eyed Peas.

True, Jones can't control the weather, and Cowboys fans will tell you he's not much of a judge of talent — the player kind.

But it was sheer greed that cost hundreds of fans their seats at the game.

And Jones and the NFL can share the blame for that.

Suit filed in Dallas over Super Bowl seat problems

Associated Press

DALLAS — Ticket-holding football fans who ended up with no seats or what they considered bad views of the Super Bowl have filed a class-action lawsuit against the NFL, the Dallas Cowboys and team owner Jerry Jones.

The federal lawsuit filed Tuesday in Dallas — just two days after the big game — alleges breach of contract, fraud and deceptive sales practices on behalf of people who ended up watching the game on TV at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, or had seats the lawsuit labeled "illegitimate."

The NFL had announced just hours before the Green Bay Packers played the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday that about 1,250 temporary seats were deemed unsafe, and the league scrambled to find new seats for about 850 people. The remaining 400 were forced to watch from standing-room locations around the stadium.

One plaintiff is a Steelers fan from Pennsylvania who was among the 400 with a ticket but no seat. The other is a Cowboys season ticket holder who claims many of Jones' biggest-spending fans were stuck in metal folding chairs without a view of the stadium's giant video board.

Spokesmen for the Cowboys and the NFL had no comment Wednesday.

Los Angeles-based attorney Michael J. Avenatti said he expects the suit to cover about 1,000 people.

Mike Dolabi, the Cowboys season ticket holder in the lawsuit, is among a group called "Founders" who paid $100,000 per seat just for the right to buy tickets. Those so-called personal seat licenses resulted in more than $100 million in revenue for Jones, according to the lawsuit, which seeks $5 million in damages.

League, union meet in Washington

Asssociated Press

WASHINGTON — The NFL and players union representatives met for much of the afternoon in Washington to discuss a new collective bargaining agreement.

It was the second session in five days, the previous negotiations taking place in Dallas on Saturday. Another session is set for today.

Neither side would comment on what was discussed or how fruitful the talks were.

Team owners opted out of the CBA in 2008 and the current contract expires March 3. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell heavily emphasized the need to get a deal done soon during his Super Bowl news conference last week.

NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith has said he expects the owners to lock out the players after the CBA expires.

Team owners want a bigger cut of the revenues, which are roughly $9 billion, as well as a rookie wage scale and to increase the regular season by two games to 18, dropping two preseason games.

The players think those two extra games will cause a rise in injuries, although that issue appears more negotiable than giving back any percentage of the revenue pool.

The NFL has had labor peace since a 1987 players strike that led to three games with replacement players.

Johnson has title to defend, point to prove

Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Dustin Johnson returns to Pebble Beach with conflicting emotions.

Rare is a defending champion who is looking for redemption.

Johnson has a chance to make history as the first player to win three successive years at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am since this iconic event began in 1937.

Forgotten is how he built a four-shot lead in 2009 and was declared the winner when rain cut the tournament short to 54 holes. Or how he smashed one last drive to set up an easy birdie from the bunker on the final hole last year for a one-shot victory.

No, the lasting image of Johnson at Pebble Beach comes from the U.S. Open last summer.

He had a three-shot lead going into the final round when he took two chips from the rough — one of them left-handed — and took a triple bogey on the second hole. Then came an aggressive play with the driver on No. 3 that he hooked into the bushes for a lost ball. His tee shot on the fourth went into the ocean.

It added to a colossal collapse in his first chance to win a major. Johnson closed with an 82, the highest final round by a 54-hole leader at the U.S. Open in nearly 100 years.

He had yet to get out to Pebble Beach by Wednesday, and planned to play only a couple of holes before sneaking over to Cypress Point. Johnson has moved into the celebrity rotation, meaning he will play Monterey Peninsula on Thursday and Spyglass Hill on Friday before he gets his first crack at Pebble Beach.

Which memories will come back?

"Neither," Johnson said. "I'm just coming out to play the golf course. It's still good, even though the last time I played it I struggled a little bit. But I'm still excited to get back out there and play. I'm always going to love this golf course, no matter what. I'm just ready to get back out and play."

But then he paused, and offered a slight smile.

"Get a little redemption for the last round of the Open," he said.

KILL THE GOLDEN GOOSE?

FACT: Our Oil & Gas Industry Sends Almost $2.5 Million Dollars A DAY to Austin 365 Days a Year.
Approximately **$900 Million Per Year** (Including Christmas Day)

FACT: Coming From Just 10 Counties in the Midland-Odessa Trade Area*:
This is Over and Above What We (and all Texans) Send Them in Sales Tax, Ad Valorem Tax, Property Tax, Liquor Tax, Margin Tax...So forth. And so on.

FACT: No Other Area in Texas Pays Nearly This Much in Oil & Gas Severance Taxes.

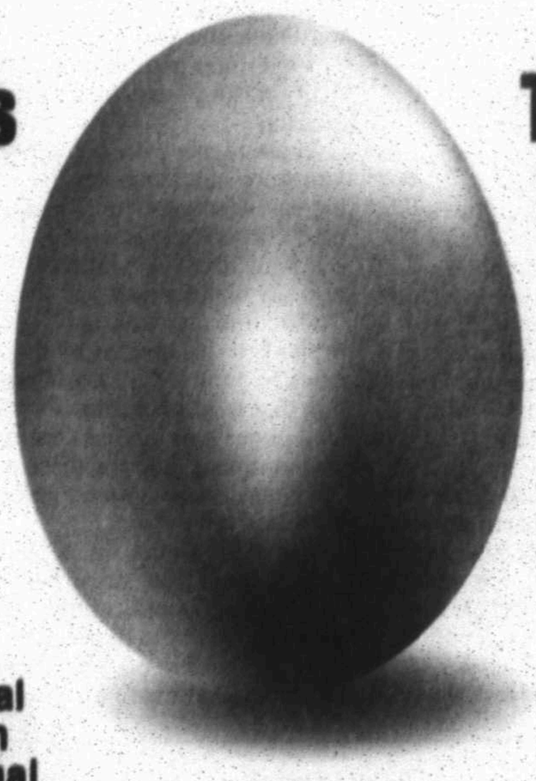
What Does the Texas House Propose to Give Back to Us?
FUNDING REDUCTIONS AND CUTS!

	Amount Cut	# of Days Severance Tax Sent to Austin
Midl College	$3.9 Million	1.56 Days
UTPB	$10.0 Million	4.00 Days
Od College	$8.0 Million	3.20 Days
ALL FUNDS CUT-OFF!		
Total Cuts	$21.9 Million	8.76 Days

WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?
We're Asking Austin to Only Give Us BACK 9 DAYS of the Money We Send to Them!

So Our Colleges Can Provide Training for Jobs Vital to Our Industry!

Engineering • Geology
Welding • Machining
Computer Systems
Instrumentation • Industrial
Engineer & Transportation
Maintenance • Occupational
Safety & Health Technology
Truck Driving • Drafting • Electrical & Electronics • Training for Business Management and much more!



This Trained Workforce Provides the $2.5 Million PER DAY of GOLDEN EGGS for the Rest of the State!

We Should All Be Very Proud to Help the Rest of the State. But We Must Stay Well-Trained and Educated so We CAN Continue to Help Others.

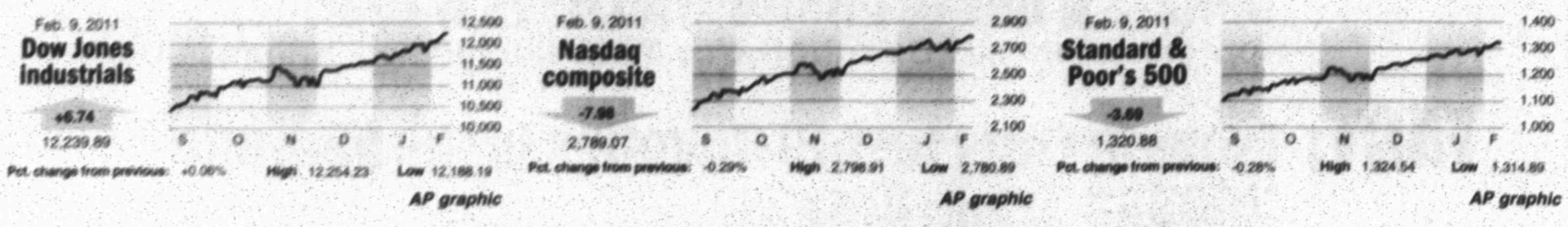
Act Now! Our local lawmakers can only do so much. Help them help us by your calling anyone of influence in the Texas House or Senate and let your thoughts be known. The Appropriations Committee headed by Representative Jim Pitts has made these proposed cutbacks. Call 512-463-0516 or write P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768 jim.pitts@house.state.tx.us

* Latest Report from the Texas R.R. Commission for Oil & Gas Production Month of November 2010
Oil taxes- $60,937,066. • Gas taxes- $12,630,108. = $73,567,174. total for month= $2,452,239. per day from the following ten counties: Gaines, Andrews, Ector, Yoakum, Upton, Hockley, Midland, Scurry, Martin, and Pecos.

This ad made possible by Investment Corporation of America (ICA)

business &oil

A DAY ON WALL STREET



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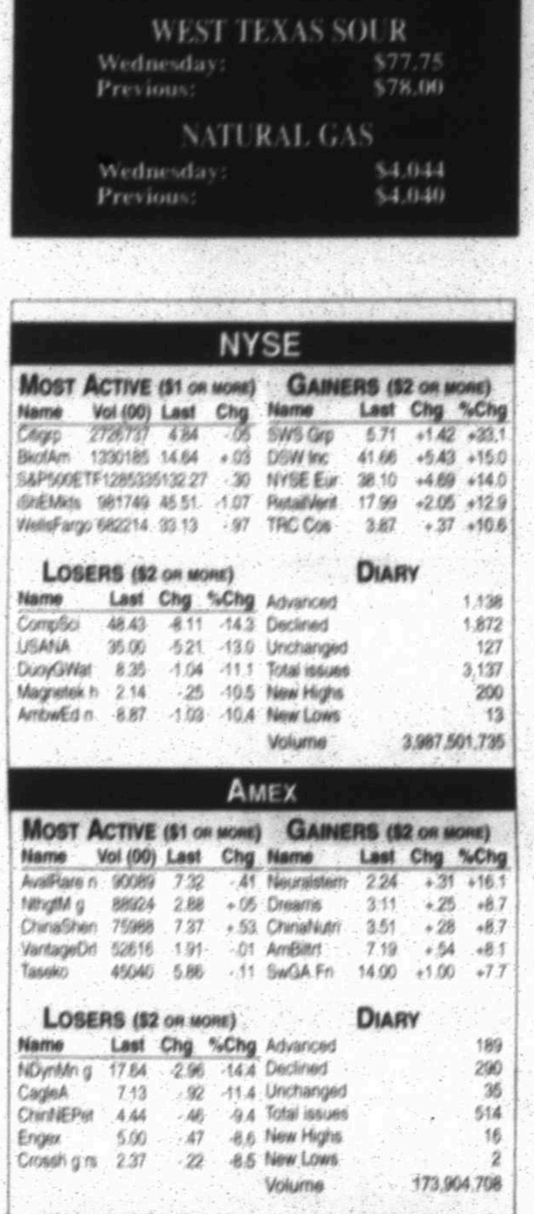

Associated Press

CORN RISING Central Illinois farmer Adam Wallace unloads harvested corn from his truck at Archer Daniels Midland Curran Grain Elevator near Curran, Ill. on Oct. 13, 2010. U.S. reserves of corn have hit their lowest level in more than 15 years, reflecting tighter supplies that will lead to higher food prices in 2011. Increasing demand for corn from the ethanol industry is a major reason for the decline.

Dollar drops

The dollar lost ground Wednesday after a speech by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke suggested that the central bank will keep interest rates at record lows and continue its $600 billion bond purchases.

The euro rose to $1.3724 late Wednesday from $1.3627 Tuesday.

In other trading Wednesday, the British pound rose to $1.6098 from $1.6057, while the dollar edged up to 82.39 Japanese yen from 82.38 yen. The dollar dipped to 99.47 Canadian cents from 99.60 Canadian cents, and rose to 0.9577 Swiss franc from 0.9634 Swiss franc.

April gold added $1.40 to settle at $1,365.50 an ounce.

Oil prices fall

Oil prices fell Wednesday after the government reported crude oil supplies rose last week, and new data showed OPEC production was the highest in more than two years.

Supplies of oil and gasoline in the U.S. are rising, while demand for energy products remains weak. The economy is getting stronger, but businesses have been slow to increase hiring. The employment rate remains high which means fewer commuters on the road to buy gasoline.

The price of oil has also been affected by signs that Saudi Arabia and other OPEC nations are raising production to keep the price from going too high and slowing the global economic recovery. According to a new report from Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Co., OPEC crude oil production last month averaged 29.57 million barrels per day. That's the highest level in two years.

The Energy Department said Wednesday that U.S. crude oil supplies increased last week by 1.9 million barrels to 345.1 million barrels. That was below the 2.4 million barrels rise that analysts expected, according to Platts.

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Citigrp	2726737	4.84	-.05
BkofAm	1393185	14.64	+.03
S&P500ETF	1285335	132.27	-.30
iShEMkts	981749	45.51	-1.07
WellsFargo	662214	33.13	-.97

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
SWS Grp	5.71	+1.42	+33.1
DSW Inc	41.66	+5.43	+15.0
NYSE Eur	38.10	+4.69	+14.0
RetailMerI	17.99	+2.05	+12.9
TRC Cos	3.87	+.37	+10.6

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
CompSci	48.43	-8.11	-14.3
USANA	35.00	-5.21	-13.0
QuoxyGWat	8.35	-1.04	-11.1
Magnetek h	2.14	-.25	-10.5
AmbwEd n	8.87	-1.03	-10.4

DIARY

Advanced	1,138
Declined	1,872
Unchanged	127
Total issues	3,137
New Highs	200
New Lows	13
Volume	3,987,501,735

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
AvalRare n	90089	7.32	-.41
NthgtM g	89624	2.88	+.05
ChinaShen	75998	7.37	+.53
VantageDrl	52616	1.91	-.01
Taseko	49046	5.86	-.11

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
NeuralStem	2.24	+.31	+16.1
Dreams	3.11	+.25	+8.7
ChinaNutri	3.51	+.28	+8.7
AmBiltrt	7.19	+.54	+8.1
SwGA Fn	14.00	+1.00	+7.7

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
NDynMn g	17.64	-2.96	-14.4
CagleA	7.13	-.92	-11.4
ChnNEPet	4.44	-.46	-9.4
Engex	5.00	-.47	-8.6
Crossh g rs	2.37	-.22	-8.5

DIARY

Advanced	189
Declined	290
Unchanged	35
Total issues	514
New Highs	16
New Lows	2
Volume	173,964,708

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Cisco	911051	22.04	+.05
PwShs QQQ	594685	57.90	-.10
Microsoft	523205	27.97	-.31
MicronT	487956	11.25	-.18
Intel	405988	21.46	-.18

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
XetaTech	5.40	+1.56	+40.6
VitlBkSTr	3.85	+.90	+30.5
PeopEduc	2.06	+.34	+19.8
LeadglB grs	3.60	+.59	+19.6
Web.com	11.75	+1.88	+19.0

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
SmithMicro	8.50	-4.56	-34.9
SierraWr	11.45	-4.05	-26.1
Mdrcity h	16.36	-5.66	-25.7
MediaMd n	13.38	-2.56	-16.1
NovtlWrls	6.31	-1.08	-14.6

DIARY

Advanced	964
Declined	1,679
Unchanged	118
Total issues	2,761
New Highs	161
New Lows	21
Volume	1,900,883,309

Low corn reserves will lead to higher food prices

By Christopher Leonard and Sarah Skidmore
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — U.S. reserves of corn have hit their lowest level in more than 15 years, reflecting tighter supplies that will lead to higher food prices in 2011. Increasing demand for corn from the ethanol industry is a major reason for the decline.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported Wednesday that the ethanol industry's projected orders this year rose 8.4 percent, to 13.01 billion bushels, after record-high production in December and January.

That means the United States will have about 675 million bushels of corn left over in late August when this year's harvest begins. That's roughly 5 percent of all corn that will be consumed, the lowest surplus level since 1996.

The USDA report, which measures global supply and demand for grains, oilseeds and other crops, said its projections for wheat and soybean stocks remained unchanged at historical low levels for reserves.

The price of corn affects most food products in supermarkets. It's used to feed the cattle, hogs and chickens that fill the meat case, and it is the main ingredient in Cap'n Crunch in the cereal aisle and Doritos in the snack aisle. Turned into corn syrup, it sweetens most soft drinks.

The decline in reserves caused corn futures to surge. Corn for March delivery rose 24.25 cents, or 3.6 percent, to settle at $6.98 a bushel. Corn prices already have doubled in the last six months, rising from $3.50 a bushel to nearly $7 a bushel. Analysts expect the price increases to continue in coming months.

"I think we have a chance to test the all-time high" price of $7.65 a bushel, said Telvent DTN analyst John Sanow. The tight level of reserves leaves little margin for error if there are production problems this year, which could send prices higher quickly, he said.

Major food makers and some restaurants already have said they'll be raising prices this year because they're paying more for corn, wheat, sugar, coffee and chocolate, all of which are at historically high prices. Weather has affected many crops this year.

A severe drought in China, the world's largest wheat grower, could force prices even higher. The U.N.'s food agency has warned that the drought is driving up the country's wheat prices, and now the focus is on whether China will buy more from the global market, where prices have already risen about 35 percent since mid-November.

Some food makers already began selectively raising prices within the past few quarters.

Those higher prices have begun filtering into stores. Supermarkets have resisted price increases for some time, hoping to hold onto their cost-conscious customers in the tough economy. But chains such as Kroger now also say higher prices are coming.

Cereal maker Kellogg Co. said last week it plans to raise prices by three to four percentage points. Sara Lee Corp. said Tuesday that it will continue its price increases as it copes with higher commodity costs. The company said the price it pays for coffee beans alone is up 60 percent compared with last year.

And J.M. Smucker Co. said Tuesday that it would raise prices again on Folgers and Dunkin Donuts coffee for the third time this year, by 10 percent on average. A large can of Folgers already is going for around $12 at many markets.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Basic Energy Services (BAS)
Closing Price $18.36 Down 0.65

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $90.69 Up 0.05

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $97.32 Up 0.23

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $37.66 Down 0.44

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $29.03 Down 0.15

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $8.30 Up 0.03

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $18.10 Down 0.13

PERMIAN BASIN STOCKS

How stocks of local interest fared

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.72f	8	27.97	+.06	-4.8
Abraxas	...	...	**4.53**	**-.05**	**-.9**
AdamsEx	.51e	...	**11.53**	**-.01**	**+7.4**
AMD		13	8.23	-.01	+.6
AlcatelLuc		...	3.56	-.01	+20.3
Alcoa	.12	75	17.16	-.24	+11.5
AlonUSA	.16	...	9.57	-.06	+60.0
Amgen	...	**11**	**54.43**	**-.52**	**-.9**
Anadarko	**.36**	**51**	**77.37**	**-1.32**	**+1.6**
Apache	**.60**	**14**	**116.15**	**-1.35**	**-2.6**
Apple Inc	...	20	358.16	+2.96	+11.0
ApldMatl	**.28**	**23**	**15.87**	**-.29**	**+12.9**
Atmel	...	18	16.10	+1.44	+30.7
ATMOS	**1.36**	**15**	**33.38**	**-.11**	**+7.0**
AutoData	1.44	20	49.18	-.34	+6.3
BP PLC	**.42e**	...	**45.83**	**-.54**	**+3.8**
BakrHu	.60	33	66.67	-1.07	+16.6
BkofAm	.04	22	14.64	+.03	+9.7
Bar iPVix rs			28.51	+.09	-24.2
BasicEnSv	...	...	18.36	-.65	+11.4
BerkHa A	...	**1**	**112583**.00	**-607.00**	**+4.5**
BerryPet	**.30**	**20**	**44.32**	**-.58**	**+1.9**
BlkHillsCp	**1.46f**	**17**	**30.30**	**+.05**	**+1.0**
BrMySq	**1.32f**	**14**	**25.72**	**-.03**	**-2.9**
BrideCm	...	22	5.82	-.22	+10.0
BrownFA	**1.28e**	**22**	**66.92**	**-.33**	**-3.6**
BrownFB	**1.28e**	**22**	**66.63**	**-.23**	**-4.3**
CVS Care	.50f	13	33.32	+.02	-4.2
Cameron	...	24	56.25	-.25	+10.9
Caterpillar	1.76	24	99.79	-.82	+6.5
Celestic g	...	14	11.73	+.42	+20.9
CitrixLink	2.90	12	44.50	...	-3.6
ChesEng	.30	21	30.87	-.67	+19.1
Chevron	**2.88**	**10**	**96.24**	**-1.50**	**+5.5**
Chicos	.16	19	12.10	+.15	+.6
Cimarex	.32	16	106.29	+.46	+20.1
Cisco	...	16	22.04	+.05	+8.9
Citigrp	...	14	4.84	-.05	+2.3
Citigp wtA			1.00	+.01	+5.3
ClayEng	...	...	**90.69**	**+.05**	**+8.0**
CocaCl	**1.76**	**19**	**63.15**	**+.28**	**-4.0**
ColgPal	**2.12**	**16**	**78.32**	**-.24**	**-2.6**
CompPrdS	...	24	35.60	-.36	13.4
ConAgra	**.92**	**15**	**22.90**	**+.20**	**+1.4**
ConchoRes	...	...	**97.32**	**+.23**	**+11.0**
ConocPhil	**2.20**	**11**	**70.86**	**-1.34**	**+3.8**
CrackerB	.88	14	52.68	+.17	-3.8
CrosTim	**2.62e**	**17**	**45.34**	**+.58**	**+13.7**
DCP Mid	2.47f	61	41.98	-.12	+12.2
DTE	2.24	14	46.98	+.53	+3.7
Dataram h	...	...	2.32	+.06	+47.8
Dawson	...	...	**37.66**	**-.44**	**+18.1**
DeltaAir	...	12	11.74	-.12	-6.8
DevonE	**.64**	**8**	**86.87**	**-.79**	**+9.4**
DrSCBear rs	...	...	13.80	+.19	+11.6
DirFrBear			7.87	+.14	-16.7
DrxFBull s	...	...	32.39	-.57	+16.3
Disney	**.40f**	**19**	**43.36**	**+2.18**	**+15.6**
DowChm	**.60**	**21**	**37.46**	**-.48**	**+9.7**
EMC Cp	...	31	27.08	+.92	+18.3
EOG Res	**.62**	**52**	**103.95**	**-.81**	**+13.7**
EmpDist	**1.28**	**17**	**21.57**	**+.02**	**-2.8**
Energen	.54f	14	58.04	-.57	+20.3
EngyTsfr	3.58	37	52.99	-.07	+2.3
EnPro	...	**37**	**42.30**	**-.21**	**+1.8**
EnPrPt	2.36f	21	42.69	+.04	+2.6
EricsnTel	.28e	...	12.60	-.19	+9.3
ExterranH	...	**4**	**24.40**	**-.36**	**+1.9**
ExxonMbl	**1.76**	**13**	**82.55**	**-.43**	**+12.9**
FifthThird	.04	24	15.07	-.32	+2.7
FordM	...	8	16.09	-.15	-4.2
ForestOil	...	23	37.55	-1.21	-1.1
FMCG s	1.00a	12	53.89	-1.75	-10.3
FrasKabi rt			.08	-.02	+87.8
FrozenFd	...	...	**4.12**	**+.07**	**-6.8**
GATX	**1.16f**	**20**	**34.99**	**+.34**	**-.8**
GabGloM	**.80**	...	**8.67**	**-.01**	**+5.6**
GAInv	**.43e**	...	**28.13**	**-.06**	**+4.9**
GenElec	**.56f**	**22**	**21.31**	**+.03**	**+16.5**
Goltsmith			4.05	+.20	+67.4
Goodrich	**1.16f**	**21**	**93.00**	**-.06**	**+5.8**
GtPlainEn	**.83**	**12**	**19.89**	**-.04**	**+2.5**
Hallibrtn	**.36**	**22**	**43.95**	**-1.02**	**+7.6**
Heinz	**1.80**	**17**	**48.36**	**+.17**	**-2.2**
HewlettP	.32	15	48.94	+.80	+16.2
Hitachi	...	...	**58.62**	**-1.82**	**+9.9**
HuntBnk	.04	39	7.37	-.03	+7.3
iShBraz	2.53e		70.38	-1.96	-9.1
iShJapn	.14e	...	11.33	-.06	+3.8
iShSilver	...	...	29.52	-.12	-2.2
iShChina25	.63e	...	41.50	-1.08	-3.7
iShEMkts	.64e	...	45.51	-1.07	-4.5
iS Eafe	1.42e	...	61.20	-.18	+5.1
iShR2K	.89e	...	80.87	-.36	+3.4
IntegrysE	2.72	29	48.74	+.08	+.5
Intel	**.72f**	**11**	**21.46**	**-.19**	**+2.0**
InterDig	.40	16	56.25	+1.43	+35.1
JDS Uniph	...	...	24.42	+1.56	+66.6
JPMorgCh	.20	11	45.11	-.63	+6.3
JohnJn	**2.16**	**13**	**60.88**	**-.06**	**-1.5**
KimbClk	**2.80f**	**14**	**65.08**	**+.01**	**+3.2**
KindME	4.52f	36	72.15	+.60	+2.7
KindMM	4.52f	83	64.55	-.05	-3.5
LVSands	...	92	46.21	-.15	+.6
LegacyRes	2.10f	...	29.03	-.15	+1.1
Level3		...	1.25	+.01	+27.6
Lubys	...	...	**5.70**	**-.05**	**-9.1**
MGM Rsts		...	15.70	+.01	+5.7
MassCp	**2.16**	...	**30.89**	**+.37**	**+1.1**
McDnlds	2.44	17	75.93	+.57	-1.1
Merck	1.52	16	33.09	-.18	-8.2
MerltMed	...	**33**	**15.44**	**+.37**	**-2.5**
MexcoEn	...	40	8.30	+.03	+8.5
MicronT		6	11.26	-.16	+40.4
Microsoft	.64	7	27.97	-.31	+.2
NYSE Eur	1.20	18	38.10	+4.69	+27.1
Nabors	...	...	25.09	-.52	+6.9
NasdOMX	...	13	27.58	+1.74	+16.2
NetGrid	**7.04e**	...	**45.64**	**+.83**	**+2.8**
NOilVarco	.44f	19	76.80	-.57	+14.2
NewsCpA	.15	16	16.91	-.00	+16.1
NokiaCp	.55e	...	11.73	+.45	+13.7
NvMAd	**.99**	...	**12.84**	**-.05**	**-1.8**
NvPMI	**.97**	...	**12.79**	**-.10**	**-2.0**
NuvPt	**.92**	...	**12.70**	**+.03**	**-.9**
NSTFI3	**.84**	...	**13.04**	**+.04**	**-.5**
NTXGI	**.96**	...	**15.32**	**+.03**	**+2.7**
Nvidia	...	65	23.29	-.56	+51.2
OcciPet	**1.52**	**17**	**97.25**	**+.51**	**-.9**
Oracle	.20	25	32.69	-.14	+5.1
PerTech	...	**32**	**5.80**	**-.03**	**+1.6**
ParkDrl	...	...	**4.51**	**-.06**	**-1.3**
PattUTi	**.20**	**34**	**25.68**	**+.15**	**+19.2**
PenRE	**.60**	...	**15.18**	**+.44**	**+4.5**
Prmian	1.38e	15	20.71	-.04	-8.6
Petrobras	1.20e	...	35.95	-.97	-5.0
Pfizer	**.80f**	**19**	**19.05**	**-.11**	**+8.8**
PioNtrl	.06	18	94.28	+.31	+8.6
PlainsAA	**3.83f**	**28**	**63.81**	**-.05**	**+1.6**
Popular	...	...	3.45	-.05	+9.9
PwShs QQQ	.33e	...	57.93	-.10	+6.4
Praxair	**2.00f**	**24**	**94.77**	**-.41**	**-.7**
PrmEgy	...	...	**23.50**	**+1.84**	**+21.5**
PrUltSP	...	...	21.43	+.11	-9.8
ProUltSht	...	...	40.57	-.67	+9.5
ProctGam	**1.93**	**17**	**64.39**	**-.25**	**+.1**
RAM Engy	...	53	1.60	...	-13.0
RangeRs	.16	...	47.84	-1.79	+6.4
Rowan	...	**15**	**37.65**	**+.14**	**+7.8**
RoyDShllA	3.36	21	69.30	+.02	+3.8
SpdrDJIA	2.92e	...	122.28	+.14	+6.8
S&P500ETF	2.37e	...	132.27	-.30	+5.2
SabnR	3.78e	18	63.07	+.66	+5.9
SanderFm	**.68f**	**7**	**41.75**	**-.56**	**+6.6**
SandRidge	...	**8**	**8.20**	**+.11**	**+12.0**
Sapient	**.36e**	**17**	**12.85**	**-.08**	**+8.2**
Schlmbrg	1.00f	26	88.49	-.57	+6.0
SigmaAld	**.72f**	**20**	**61.57**	**-3.87**	**-7.5**
SiriusXM	...	89	1.77	-.01	+8.6
Smucker	1.76f	15	62.97	-.26	-4.1
SprintNex	...	...	4.35	+.04	+2.8
SPDR Fncl	.16e	...	16.85	-.12	+5.6
SummitH n	...	...	9.69	...	...
SunocoLg	4.72f	9	85.51	+.14	+2.3
TelefEsp s	**1.75e**	...	**25.56**	**+.05**	**+12.1**
Tesoro	...	10	20.97	-.47	+13.1
3M Co	2.20f	16	90.78	+1.31	+5.2
Trchmrk	**.64**	**11**	**64.55**	**+.06**	**+8.1**
TriContl	**.25e**	...	**14.51**	**-.03**	**+5.4**
TylerTech	...	**31**	**21.04**	**-.40**	**+1.3**
UBWV	**1.20**	**17**	**28.43**	**-.16**	**-2.6**
US NGsFd	...	...	5.53	+.04	-7.7
Vale SA	.76e	...	33.50	-.89	-3.1
ValeroE	.20	58	27.35	-.65	+18.3
VangEmg	.82e	...	45.89	-.91	-4.7
VulcanM	**1.00**	...	**44.08**	**-.58**	**-.6**
Walgrn	**.70**	**19**	**42.66**	**-.12**	**+9.5**
WellsFargo	.20	15	33.13	-.97	+6.9
WstnRefin	...	...	14.59	-1.38	+37.9
WhitingPet	...	35	123.61	-1.56	+5.5
WmsCos	.50	38	27.25	-.49	+10.2
XcelEngy	**1.01**	**15**	**23.81**	**+.03**	**+1.1**
Xerox	**.17**	**15**	**10.89**	**+.04**	**-5.5**
Yahoo	...	18	16.43	-.17	-1.2

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	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
12,238.79	9,614.32	Dow Jones Industrials	12,239.89	+6.74	+.06	+5.72	+21.93	
5,256.80	3,781.29	Dow Jones Transportation	5,096.19	+11.12	+.22	-.21	+32.16	
416.47	346.95	Dow Jones Utilities	413.56	-.22	-.05	+2.12	+12.55	
8,380.66	6,355.83	NYSE Composite	8,343.99	-35.86	-.43	+4.77	+22.36	
2,286.37	1,689.19	Amex Index	2,255.91	-11.84	-.52	+2.15	+26.29	
2,797.05	2,061.14	Nasdaq Composite	2,789.07	-7.98	-.29	+5.13	+29.85	
1,324.87	1,010.91	S&P 500	1,320.88	-3.69	-.28	+5.03	+23.86	
14,040.10	10,596.20	Wilshire 5000	13,995.83	-63.54	-.31	+4.76	+26.27	
813.69	586.37	Russell 2000	809.27	-4.42	-.54	+3.27	+35.82	

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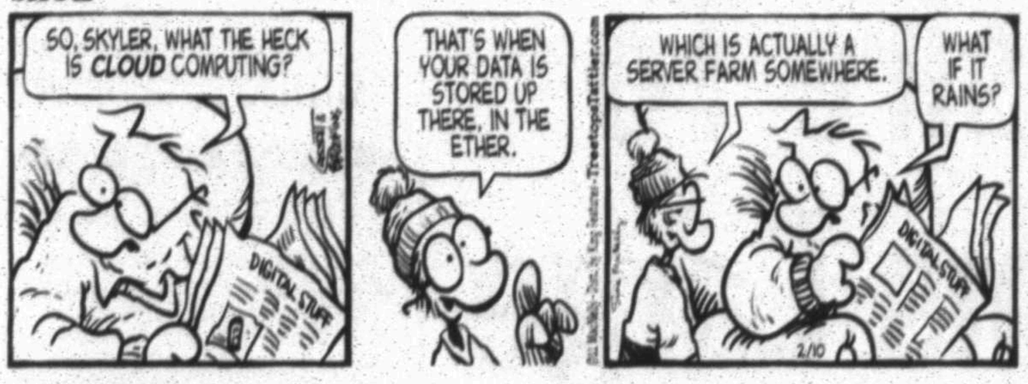
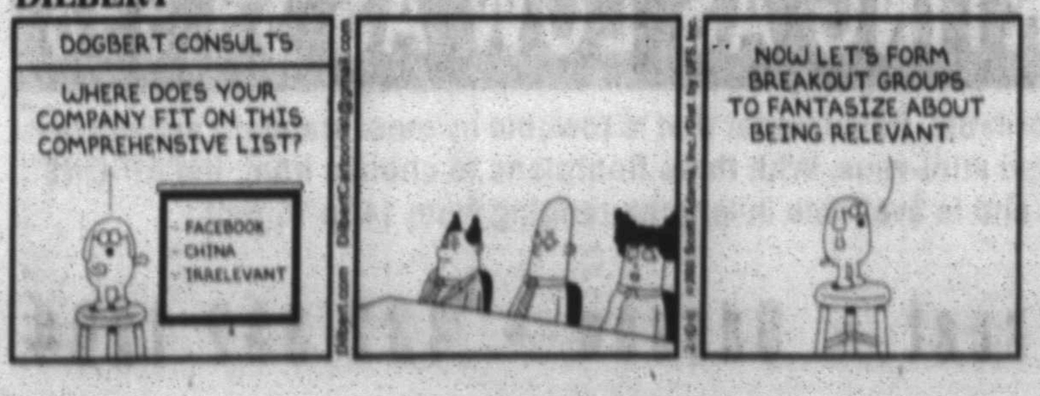


GARFIELD

DUSTIN

WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

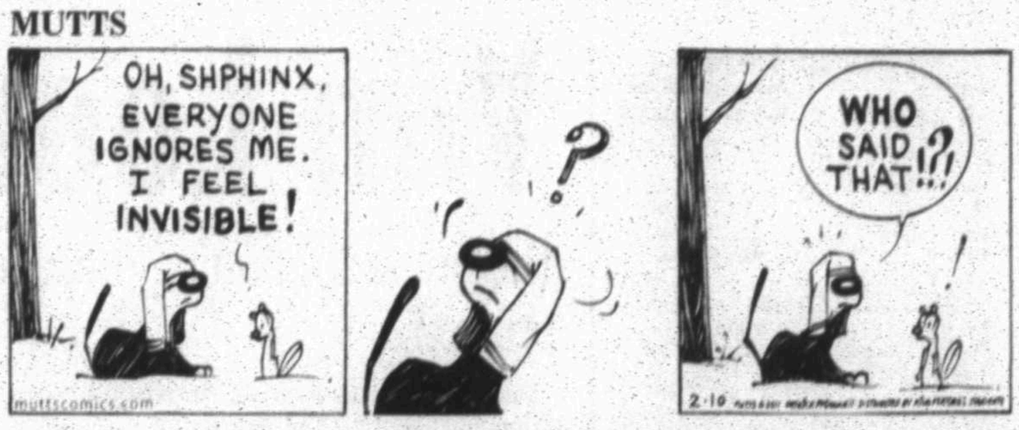
LUANN

MARY WORTH

ZITS

BABY BLUES

MUTTS



CLOSE TO HOME

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I'M BUILDIN' A SNOW-MARGARET SO I CAN WATCH HER MELT."

LOCKHORNS

"I'M CALLING IN SICK, AND THIS TIME I'M TELLING THE TRUTH."

FAMILY CIRCUS

"...I think I'll decide to be sick on Thursday."

NASCAR THIS WEEK

If you have a question or comment, write: NASCAR This Week, c/o The Gaston Gazette, P.O. Box 1538, Gastonia, NC 28053 or send an e-mail to mdutton@gastongazette.com

ON THE TUBE

All times Eastern

Sprint Cup
Exhibition, Bud Shootout, 8 p.m., Saturday — FOX

Nationwide Series
Drive4COPD 300, 1:15 p.m., Feb. 19 — ESPN 2

Truck Series
NextEra Energy Resources 250, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 18 — SPEED

BURNING ISSUES

Kenseth

Kvapil

▶ Matt Kenseth ... and Travis Kvapil are among the happy Green Bay Packers fans. Their affection for the Pack isn't contrived.

▶ Since comparing the women's basketball program at the University of Connecticut to the UCLA men's teams of the 1960s and '70s is fashionable, why not throw Jimmie Johnson's five straight Sprint Cup titles into the mix?

▶ There is no truth to the rumor that Christina Aguilera has been named the Official National Anthem Singer of NASCAR.

▶ Once the Super Bowl is over, young men's (and women's) thoughts often turn to NASCAR.

Budweiser Shootout

▶ What the Budweiser Shootout lacks is a niche. Once a showcase of pole winners from the previous season, the race is now little more than an inferior version of the Sprint All-Star Race. Opening the season helps, though.

▶ Having something known as an "all-star race" before the season starts is, however, kind of absurd.

▶ In each of the two, 150-mile, Gatorade Duels, only two spots in the Daytona 500 are on the line. Not much of a duel. More like a lottery.

▶ The Daytona 500 winner rarely goes on to win the championship in the same year as his victory. Last three times it's happened: Jimmie Johnson (2006), Jeff Gordon (1997) and Richard Petty (1979).

▶ Given the influx of Cup drivers, the odds are even longer in the Nationwide Series opener at Daytona.

▶ The pavement at Daytona may now be as smooth as Talladega, but what hasn't changed is that the racing surface at Daytona is much narrower. "Three wide" at Talladega approximates "two wide" at Daytona.

2011 SPRINT CUP SCHEDULE

Feb. 12	Bud Shootout
Feb. 17	Gatorade Duel
Feb. 20	Daytona
Feb. 27	Phoenix
March 6	Las Vegas
March 20	Bristol
March 27	Fontana
April 3	Martinsville
April 9	Texas
April 17	Talladega
April 30	Richmond
May 7	Darlington
May 15	Dover
May 21	All-Star Race
May 29	Charlotte
June 5	Kansas
June 12	Pocono
June 19	Michigan
June 26	Sonoma
July 2	Daytona
July 9	Kentucky
July 17	Loudon
July 31	Indianapolis
Aug. 7	Pocono
Aug. 14	Watkins Glen
Aug. 21	Michigan
Aug. 27	Bristol
Sept. 4	Atlanta
Sept. 10	Richmond
Sept. 18	Chicago
Sept. 25	Loudon
Oct. 2	Dover
Oct. 9	Kansas
Oct. 15	Charlotte
Oct. 23	Talladega
Oct. 30	Martinsville
Nov. 6	Texas
Nov. 13	Phoenix
Nov. 20	Homestead

WHAT'S UP NEXT

SPRINT CUP

Race: Budweiser Shootout
Where: Daytona (Beach, Fla.) International Speedway (2.5 mi.), 75 laps/2 segments (25, 50)/187.5 miles.
When: Saturday, Feb. 12.
Requirements: Once a race primarily for pole winners, the Shootout is now much more inclusive. This year's invitations go to: (a.) the 12 drivers who qualified for the 2010 Chase; (b.) past Sprint Cup champions; (c.) past Budweiser Shootout winners; (d.) past winners of either the Daytona 500 or Coke Zero 400; and (e.) winners of Rookie of the Year, 2001-10.
Eligible to compete: Jimmie Johnson, Denny Hamlin, Kevin Harvick, Carl Edwards, Matt Kenseth, Greg Biffle, Tony Stewart, Kyle Busch, Jeff Gordon, Clint Bowyer, Kurt Busch, Jeff Burton, John Andretti, Geoff Bodine, Kevin Conway, Dertke Cope, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Bill Elliott, Kasey Kahne, Bobby Labonte, Terry Labonte, Joey Logano, Sterling Marlin, Mark Martin, Jamie McMurray, Juan Pablo Montoya, Ryan Newman, Ken Schrader, Regan Smith and Michael Waltrip.
Notably excluded: David Reutimann, who did not qualify despite winning a race in 2010.
Last year's winner: Kevin Harvick, Chevy.
Last race: Edwards carries a two-race win streak into the new season. Edwards won the final two races of 2010, the latter being Homestead-Miami Speedway's Ford 400.

NATIONWIDE

Race: Drive4COPD 300
Where: Daytona (Beach, Fla.) International Speedway (2.5 mi.), 120 laps/300 miles.
When: Saturday, Feb. 19.
Last year's winner: Tony Stewart, Chevy.
Last race: Kyle Busch, in a Toyota, won the final 2010 race at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

Race: NextEra Energy Resources 250
Where: Daytona (Beach, Fla.) International Speedway (2.5 mi.), 100 laps/250 miles.
When: Friday, Feb. 18.
Last year's winner: Timothy Peters, Toyota
Last race: Kyle Busch, in a Toyota, won the final 2010 race at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

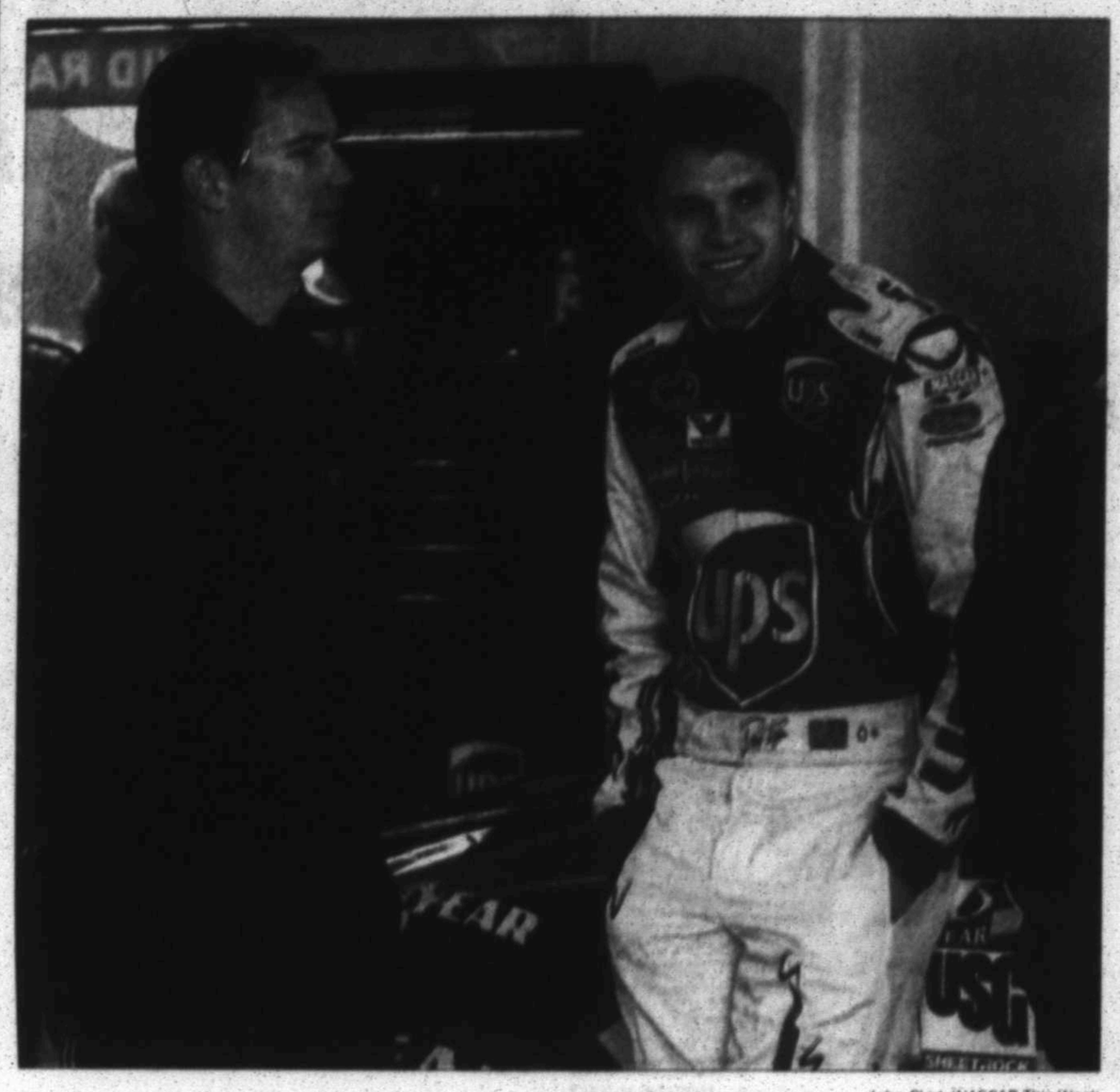
DAYTONA DATA

Distance:.....2.5 mile oval
Length of frontstretch:....3,800 ft.
Length of backstretch:....3,000 ft.
Miles/Laps:... 187.5 mi. = 75 laps

Starting in Stands — Starting in Turns 3-4

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

DAVID RAGAN — SPRINT CUP SERIES — No. 6 UPS FORD FUSION



John Clark/NASCAR This Week

At 25, David Ragan has two Nationwide Series race wins, but no Sprint Cup victories. Ragan and his team know that 2011 is an important year, and the driver said he's 'got to run a lot of mistake-free races' for Roush Fenway Racing.

The Desire To Win Looms Large

Ragan, team putting pressure on selves to get Cup victory

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

David Ragan needs a solid year. His job is likely riding on the outcome of the 2011 season.

The Unadilla, Ga., native is only 25 years old. A year ago he finished 24th in the Sprint Cup points standings. The problem is that his No. 6 UPS Ford is a part of the Roush Fenway Racing stable, and his teammates — Carl Edwards, Matt Kenseth and Greg Biffle — all finished sixth or better.

"We have a lot of expectations for this year," said Ragan. "The last couple years we have been real inconsistent, with a few runs here and there, but we could never get in a rhythm where we knocked off top-5 and top-10 finishes. That is what gets you in the Chase and gets the most points.

"We have got to run a lot of mistake-free races. The biggest thing is that we have our race cars really fast at Roush Fenway racing. I think the engine department is really prepared more so today than they have been in a couple of years. Our race cars are very nice and lightweight and seem to be very fast. That gives us a lot of confidence going into the year, and that is a good thing."

David's father, Ken Ragan, competed in 50 major NASCAR races in a career that spanned from 1983 through 1990.

"We all put pressure on ourselves because this is an important year for us and for our team," said David. "We want to get Ford back into victory lane and get UPS into victory lane. I want to win a Cup race very badly."

To date, the highlight of the junior Ragan's career was two Nationwide Series victories in 2009, both occurring at iconic tracks. He won at Talladega, Ala., and Bristol, Tenn. Ragan gave the offseason paving project, which cost Daytona International Speedway more than $20 million, a rave review.

"In years past here at Daytona, you would get everyone really tight together for a few laps, and then, once the tires started to wear out, the cars would bounce around. ... Now all the cars are going to handle so well that everyone is going to be three by three, on top of each other, all day long. It will be a different Daytona 500 than you have seen in the past, and the last 20 or 30 laps will be totally insane," he said.

FEUD OF THE WEEK

Childress

VERSUS

Petty

RICHARD CHILDRESS VS. RICHARD PETTY

Wait! It's not really a rivalry. The two owners are just in the business of lining up automatic spots for teams. Petty is now listed as owner of the No. 71 Chevy – his actual team has two Fords – so that Andy Lally can make the Daytona 500 field. And Thomas Pumpelly, an associate of actual Lally owner Kevin Buckler, is listed as owner of Childress' No. 27, driven by Paul Menard.

NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton gives his take: "In a sense, owner points mean everything. In another, not so much."

YOUR TURN
LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Freedom of Speech in a Free Country

This Week welcomes letters to the editor, but please be aware that we have room for only a few each week. We'll do our best to select the best, but individual replies are impossible due to the bulk of mail received. Please do not send stamped and self-addressed envelopes with your letters, which should be addressed to: NASCAR This Week, The Gaston Gazette, P.O. Box 1538, Gastonia, N.C. 28053.

Dear NASCAR This Week,

You'd better be careful ... or Larry McScreech (McReynolds), a nice guy but a terrible TV broadcaster, will reprimand you for daring to question that silly way points are transferred. Your points about that are well taken, but Larry and NASCAR may view things differently. Take care, and keep up the (good work). ...

Wayne Vesely
Litchfield, N.H.

Guess we should be happy, as always, that we live in a free country where we can make our opinions known. Even NASCAR has to live with that.

FAN TIPS

Remembering No. 3

The NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte is offering, along with AIM Tours, a special reflection on the career of Dale Earnhardt, who lost his life on Feb. 18, 2001, in the Daytona 500. The two-day, motor-coach tour gives guests a tour of the Hall, a chance to meet Martha Earnhardt (the seven-time champion's mother), lunch at the RCR Museum, a candlelight vigil at Dale Earnhardt Inc. and visits to other Earnhardt-specific attractions on Feb. 17-18. Tickets are $179 per person and include two days of lunch, transportation and attraction admissions. The Dale Tour is limited to 50 guests. To learn more, call 704-938-7390 or visit www.NASCARHall.com.

LEGENDS AND LORE

Shepherd's Last Cup Win was Ford's 400th

The fourth race of the 1993 season had been scheduled for March 14, but a snowstorm blanked the Atlanta area, and the Motorcraft Quality Parts wasn't run until March 20. Conover, N.C.'s Morgan Shepherd, driving for the Wood Brothers, gave Ford its 400th victory in NASCAR's top series, then known as Winston Cup. It would be the last of Shepherd's four career victories. Three of them occurred at Atlanta Motor Speedway. Shepherd, who turns 70 on Oct. 12, competed in 27 Nationwide Series races ... last year.

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To ensure the integrity of our newspaper, for the benefit of our readers and advertisers, the Midland Reporter-Telegram reserves the right to revise, reclassify, edit or refuse any advertising. We also reserve the right to convert all advertising into digital and/or print formats within our other products and services.

Please check your ad the first day it appears, and, if you find a mistake, please call our office at 682-6222 so we can correct the error immediately. This will ensure that your ad is exactly what you want readers to see. If an error does occur, you can choose to rerun your ad once for free, or we'll gladly refund the cost of the portion of the ad affected by the error. If an ad is inadvertently omitted, we will assume liability up to the cost of the ad itself – consequently, we will publish your ad in our next available edition or refund the price you have paid.

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PUBLISHES ON:	DEADLINE IS:
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Thursday	3p.m. Tuesday
Friday, Saturday	3p.m. Wednesday
Sunday, Monday	3p.m. Thursday
Tuesday	3p.m. Friday

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Legal & Public Notices

Pursuant to Texas Property Code H and H Storage, 3020 SCR 1225, Midland, TX 432-520-4599 will seize and sell unknown contents for past due rents.
#23 - Anthony Jackson $480
#63&64 - Jayme Cheshire $ 425
Units will be sold as lots for cash only. 12 noon, Saturday February 26, 2011

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Gloria Frison-Brown, Deceased, were issued on January 4, 2011, in Cause No. P16474, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to: CARLA ELIZABETH FRISON.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: L. Shane Stokes

DATED the 4th day of January, 2011.

/s/ L. Shane Stokes
Attorney for Applicant
State Bar No.: 19273500
300 North Marienfeld, Suite 700
Midland, TX 79701
Telephone: (432) 683-3351
Facsimile: (432) 683-8346

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF CHAVES

No. DM-2010-451
Judge: Freddie J. Romero

DONNIE HAWTHORNE,
Petitioner,
vs.
CRYSTAL ADKISSON,
Respondent.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

To: Crystal Adkisson

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT Petitioner has filed a **PETITION TO ESTABLISH CUSTODY, VISITATION AND CHILD SUPPORT** whereby Petitioner seeks the following relief:

1. That the Petitioner be granted sole legal custody of the minor child of the parties.
2. That the Petitioner be granted primary physical custody of the minor child of the parties.
3. That the Respondent be granted reasonable visitation with the minor child.
4. That the Respondent should pay child support to Petitioner in accordance with the Child Support guidelines.
5. That the Petitioner and Respondent each be responsible for 1/2 of all medical and dental bills incurred for the benefit of the minor child not covered by insurance.
6. That the Petitioner be granted use of the minor child as a dependent for Federal and State tax purposes.
7. Any other relief that this Court deems necessary.

Petitioner's address is:

Donnie Hawthorne
1324 Hoagland
Roswell, NM 88203
(432) 208-5242

If you do not respond to this Petition within thirty (30) days from the date of the last publication of this notice, a default judgment may be entered against you.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Seal of said Court this 21st day of January, 2011.

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT
By: /s/ Maureen J. Nelson
Deputy

(SEAL)

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Donnie Hawthorne
1324 Hoagland
Roswell, NM 88203
(432) 208-5242

Lost & Found

CHOCOLATE LAB (male) in Briarwood subdivision. (432) 699-8181.

LOST BLOODHOUND Liver/ tan with orange collar, 1 1/2 years old, 80 lbs. 432-212-2577

LOST GOLDEN Lab female, under a year old, orange collar, ID chip, name is Daisy, near Gardendale. Call 432-266-0162.

FOUND MALE Boston Terrier. Found around 3400 Story St. Please call 432-528-6247

LOST CAT, long haired female, white with gray points on tails & ears, blue eyes. Answers "Chellini". Vincinity of Durant & Ward. 638-3690.

FOUND SMALL male dog. Vicinity of Louisiana / Crestview. Call to identify. 230-7326

LOST FEMALE Calico Cat multi-colored white legs & tummy. Last seen Tuesday 2/7 Andrews HWY & Godfrey. Reward. Call 432-296-2997.

FOUND WIRE hair Terrier, on Jan. 31, near SCR 1140. Call 432-599-9369.

ATTN READERS Re: Advertising

It is against Ordinance to attach any notice or advertising matter to any utility pole. Please contact City of Midland Code Enforcement Office 685-7410 for additional information

Legal & Public Notices

Notice of Application for Commercial Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit

CJ Energy, LLC, P.O. Box 2812, Midland, TX 79702 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas.

The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the San Andres and Grayburg Formations, Spraberry SWD Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed disposal well is located 18 miles SE of Midland in the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, in Midland County. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3840 to 5150 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended; Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

Notice Of Application For Fluid Injection Well Permit

XTO Energy, Inc., Opr. No. 945936, 200 N. Loraine Street, Suite 800, Midland, Texas 79701 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas to amend existing injection permits to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. XTO will be expanding the injection intervals.

The applicant proposes to dispose of these fluids into the Clear Fork Formation in the Goldsmith C. A., Et al Lease well numbers: 500W and 517W. These wells are located approximately 5 miles South from the city of Goldsmith in the Goldsmith Clear Fork Field, in Ector County, TX. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 4969 to 7867 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Request for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792).

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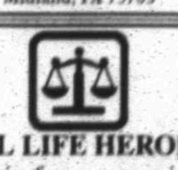

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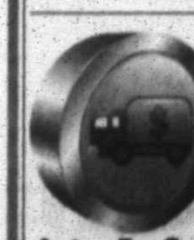
GET YOUR real estate license quickly. SW College, 697-7277.

SMALL BUSINESS for Sale: Ice Delight-Shaved Ice/ConcessionTrailer $8,000 (432-208-1569)



Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

2006 MAZDA6, Burgundy, 4dr, V6, 80K, $9,500. 218-9941

2009 MERCEDES Benz 450 GL, 9,700 miles, silver w/tan leather interior, original owner, non smoker, pristine condition, fully loaded, too many features to list, garage kept, still smells new. 432-210-8787 message

Passenger Cars

BMW 1998 Z3 convertable, standard, silver/black, 1 owner, loaded, 113K miles, $6995 OBO 432-249-1343.

BMW 2001 525i 150K rebuilt transmission with warranty, very reliable, nice condition. $6,900. 288-1631

BMW 2001 740i Excellent condition, 133k miles, $7,500 OBO. 432-689-3842

BMW 2003 Z4 74k, manual, premium, power top, very nice. $11,900. 288-1631

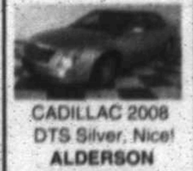
BMW 2007 328i hard top convertible, silver, 20K miles, beautiful, $29,900. 528-8828

BMW 2008 535i, 32k miles, Nav. **ALDERSON 432-699-7993**

BMW 2008 X5 AWD, 3rd Seat. **ALDERSON 432-699-7993**

BUICK LACROSSE 2009, CX, 45K miles, very good condition, well maintained. Asking $15,000. Call 432-230-1359.

CADILLAC 2007 CTS, 1 owner, black int/ext, 60K, $19,000 OBO exc. cond., 755-9477.



CADILLAC 2008 DTS Silver. Nice! **ALDERSON 432-699-7993**

CHEVROLET 2009 CORVETTE convetible, black, 7800 mi, $41,000, excellent condition, 432-230-9417.

CHEVY 2008 HHR LT, dark metallic gray, lots of extras sporty & economical. Asking $9000 obo. 432-230-2008, 432-366-0666.

CHRYSLER 2006 PT Cruiser, 4 door, auto, AC, Power Lock, Power window, CD, 48k miles, $7,995. Bad Credit wanted. BK's Repo's. No DL. Dwn Pymnt + J9D + Approved Call Keith 432-889-6510

DODGE 2004 Stratus #112, we finance W.A.C. B&B Auto Sales 683-6222.

DODGE 2007 CALIBER silver, new tires, clean, 53k mi, $9500, 699-8287

DODGE 2007 Magnum leather seats, 44,000 miles. B&B Auto Sales 683-6222

Passenger Cars

FORD 2005 Mustang, Convertible, 46,000 miles, like new in/out, tan leather interior white with black racing stripes. $14,000 obo. 661-5301

FORD 2007 Focus #56, 11, 315 miles, 4DR, auto, B&B Auto Sales. 683-6222.

JAGUAR 1979 XJ12L Chevy 350 engine. $4,000 obo. Call 432-349-1765

BMW of the Permian Basin
3115 Andrews Hwy. • Midland
432 227 5900

2006 Mercedes Benz ML350
White/Beige Leather Nav., Moonroof, AWD 59K Miles
$24,900

2008 TOYOTA FJ CRUISER
15,600 Miles, 2 Tone Beige, Lift Kit, 4x4
$27,500

2009 BMW 535i
Silver/Gray, Prem. Sport Pkg., Nav., Heated Seats, 19k Miles
$38,900

2005 MERCURY PREMIER
Blk/Tan, 58K Miles, Heated Seats
$14,900

2010 FORD EXPLORER
Eddie Bauer, Black/Tan, 3rd Row Seat, Radio, 4x4, 16K Miles
$28,800

2004 BMW 525i
Silver/Gray Leather, Premium Package
$14,900

2007 HUMMER H3
White/Beige, 4x4 41K Miles
$22,900

2005 FORD MUSTANG GT
White/Red Leather, Red Stripes, 9K Miles

2007 TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5
Gray/Gray Leather, Rear Ent/Tailmount, 2WD, 56K Miles
$19,900

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QUALITY MATTRESSES AND FURNITURE
Brand New • 30-60% Below Retail • Name Brands With Warranties!
MATTRESSES • SOFAS & SECTIONALS • FIREPLACES
HOME THEATERS • WASHERS/DRYERS
BEDROOM SETS • DINETTE SETS
Call 432-664-8980 Today!
www.directadvantagefurniture.com

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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**

	5				7		3	
8				1	2			4
1								7
			2	3				5
	9						8	
7				6	9			
5						7		6
		1	6					9
	7			8			5	

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

4	5	9	8	6	3	2	1	7
8	2	3	7	1	4	6	9	5
7	6	1	5	9	2	3	8	4
5	3	6	1	2	9	4	7	8
2	9	8	4	3	7	5	6	1
1	4	7	6	5	8	9	3	2
6	7	5	3	4	1	8	2	9
9	8	4	2	7	6	1	5	3
3	1	2	9	8	5	7	4	6

2/10/11

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mywesttexas jobs

Midland Reporter-Telegram in partnership with monster

http://www.mywesttexas.com/jobs

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Billing Clerk
Confidential — Fulltime
Billing clerk to perform a variety of functions in billing and accounts receivable. Must be pro-active, detail-oriented and able to organize and prioritize. Send resume to: P.O. Box 2988, Midland, Texas 79702.

Bookkeeper/Admin
Confidential — FT
Full charge bookkeeper/ admin position available. Qualified candidates must have a minimum of 5 years experience. Applicants must be well experienced with Peachtree Accounting and Microsoft Office. Need to be bondable for notary public. Looking for self motivated, dependable and able to meet deadlines on time. Salary DOE. Monday- Friday, 8am-5pm. Mail resume to: P.O. Box 50310, Midland TX, 79710.

Joint Interest Billing Assistant
Confidential — FT
Joint Interest Billing specialist and assistant to CFO & Controller needed for established Midland independent oil operator. Candidates should have 3+ years of experience processing JIBs on an automated system. Basic PC skills including Microsoft Word and Excel, along with a high school diploma or GED required. Experience using Avatar Systems JIB and accounting modules, as well as processing ad valorem taxes a plus. Non-smoking workplace. Company offers competitive salary and benefits package. Send resume with job history, references, and salary requirements to: P- 139, c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois Midland, TX 79701.

Junior Staff Accountant
Confidential — FT
Oil and Gas Co. seeks individual for F/T accounting position. Variety of duties include financial entries, account analysis, accounts payable, joint interest billing, assisting w/ monthly closing process and production/regulatory reporting. College degree in acctg required with minimum of 1 yr exp in oil/gas industry and RRC reports. Email resume to tmcomic@sbcglobal.net

AUTOMOTIVE

ALL AMERICAN
CHRYSLER-JEEP-DODGE OF MIDLAND
NOW HIRING!
SALES REPRESENTATIVES
* No Experience Necessary, Will Train
* $2,500/Mo., First 6 Months
* Includes Full Benefits
* 401K Options
* Paid Vacation
Interested? Please Call
George Magallanes at 432-664-1543

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Customer Service Representatives
Confidential
Customer Service Representatives needed. High school diploma or GED required. Must pass 7 year background check. Bilingual a plus. 11am-8pm. No weekends. $12 an hour. Interviewing this week! Call now! 432-520-1571.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

All Positions
K & G Rental Service
Midland, TX 79701
Looking for experienced Blade, Dozer Operator, Gang Pushers, Gang Hands, Welders. Salesman with experience in the Permian Basin. These positions will be paid top pay. They will make anywhere from 50-70 hours per week. Apply in person: 4310 South Hwy 349, Midland, Tx

Backhoe Operator ⟳!
Confidential — FT
Midland, TX 79702
Must have Class A CDL License and experience. Must be able to operate dump truck. Apply in person at 3601 East Highway 158, Midland, TX. 79706.

Directional Drillers & MWD Engineers
Leam Drilling Systems
Now hiring experienced Directional Drillers & MWD Engineers. Drillers 2 plus years experience preferred. Email resumes to: agotcher@leam.net

GEOLOGIST

Independent oil company seeks a Geologist w/15+ years of experience working in the county areas of Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Nolan, Runnels, Taylor and Stonewall. The ideal candidate will be proficient with Vest 3D Pak, SynPak, Petra Workstation platforms, and MS Office Suite. Work in a fast paced environment with an active exploration program. Salary commensurate with experience plus equity position, relocation allowance available. EOE

Principals Only send résume to:
Geologist
LCS Production Company
P.O. Box 6663
Abilene, Texas 79608
Or e-mail resumé to:
butchr@lcsproduction.com

Power Line Foreman
Big Lake Electric
Experienced Power Line Foreman to build power line & supervise line crew. Must have valid Drivers License & pass drug screen. Excellent pay & benefits. Send resumes to: Big Lake Electric. PO Box 444, Big Lake, Tx 76932.

Rig Hands
Wireline Company — FT
Call 432-894-6712 — Excellent Opportunity
Midland, TX
Wireline company in need of Rig hands. Must have CDL license. Haz-Mat a plus. Must pass drug screen & background check.

Berry Petroleum Company

SENIOR GEOLOGIC TECHNICIAN

Berry Petroleum Company has an immediate opening for a Sr. Geologic Technician in our Midland, TX. office.

Qualified candidates must have:
(1) extensive knowledge of Petra and PI Dwights/ IHS ENERDEQ production data.
(2) knowledge of subsurface libraries
(3) a good background in petroleum exploration and production geology
(4) a general knowledge of wireline, sample, and mud logs
(5) five years of applicable work history (a BS degree in geology or a similar technical discipline a plus)
(6) ability to work in a team environment, manage assignment deadlines and assume broad job responsibilities are key selection criteria.

Berry Petroleum Company offers a highly competitive salary and bonus plan with a complete benefits package. Salary and bonus commensurate with experience and ability.

Please send resume to: rq@bry.com or mail to:
Berry Petroleum Company
Geological Department
200 N. Loraine Ste 400
Midland, Tx. 79701

Berry Petroleum Company is an Equal Opportunity employer

mywesttexas.com
wtxgardening.ning.com
Green or Purple Thumbs Welcome!

PRODUCTION ENGINEER
LCS Production Company, an established company with a very active E&P program, seeks a highly qualified individual with expert knowledge of all phases of Operations, including Drilling, Log Analysis, Completion, Stimulation, Chemical Programs, and planning & installation of water flood systems. The candidate must have 15+ yrs of experience in the West Texas area and be a strong team leader willing and capable of addressing all issues of this Company's fast-paced environment. Candidate must be familiar with all standard software programs. Relocation to Abilene is required. Relocation allowance is available. Principals Only send resumes to:
Engineer Search
LCS Production Company
P.O. Box 6663
Abilene, TX 79608
Or e-mail resumes to:
butchr@lcsproduction.com

HEALTHCARE

Dental Hygienist
Dr. J H Miller DDS Pediatric Dentist — PT
Dental Hygienist for a pediatric dental office needed for Wednesday and Thursday from 8 - 4:30pm. Please send resume including references to Dr. James H. Miller DDS Pediatric Dentist, 2461 East 11th, Odessa, TX. 79761.

LVN
Confidential — Part-time
LVN with minimum 5 years experience is needed for busy medical office. Must have excellent communication skills. Competitive salary and some benifits offered. Respond to: PO BOX 50850, Midland, TX 79701.

LVN/Office Nurse/Scrub Tech
Midland Surgical Association, P.A. — FT
Midland Surgical Associates, P.A. is seeking an experienced **LVN /OFFICE NURSE/SCRUB TECH** to join our team. Candidate must be able to work independently and possess both communication and patient skills. Sterile technique, surgical assistant skills, colonoscopy experience and computer knowledge desired. Full Time M-F 8:30-5:30 Benefit package includes Medical, Life & AFLAC Insurance Coverages, PTO and 401-K Retirement Plan. Send résume to: P- 128 c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois Midland, TX 79701.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Needing an experienced Medical Assistant for busy physician's office. 6 months medical experience will be required for this position (ORTH-5001). Please mail or fax your resume to: PO Box 5293 Midland, TX 79704 or fax to 432-682-2284 Attn:Alesha McCoy

RN
Needing an experienced RN for Orthopaedic Clinic. Must have 2 years experience (ORTH-5003). Competitive salary and wonderful work environment. Please mail or fax your resume to: PO Box 5293 Midland, TX 79704 or fax to 432-682-2284, Attn: Alesha McCoy

X-Ray/Bone Density Technician
Doctor's office seeking X-Ray/Bone Density Technician. Apply at Arthritis & Osteroporosis center, 2301 W. Michigan Ave, Midland 79701.

HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

All Positions
Midtown Hotel & The Velvet Room — PT
Midtown Hotel & The Velvet Room are now accepting applications for front desk, bartender and wait staff. Apply in person at: 3100 West Wall. 432-699-4144.

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

Immediate Opening ⟳!
Confidential — FT
Full-time position for responsible person. Needed to run low voltage wiring on sound systems and intercoms. Also installing garage doors and openers. Serious inquiries please call 452-528-9600.

Midland's Premier Country Club has openings for:
Golf Cart Mechanic / Maintenance
Needs to have experience in small engines and light building maintenance. Position is full time, and in addition to competitive wages we offer paid medical and 401k. Please apply in person: Midland Country Club, 6101 N. Hwy 349, Midland, TX 79705.

INTERNET

Computer Programmer
National franchising company with headquarters in Odessa, TX. has immediate opening for computer programmer with .net experience. Salary & benefits based upon verifiable experience. Send resume to: Business Investment & Development Corp., 312 E. 2nd St., Odessa, TX, or email to: jimgolden@americanlenders.com.

MANAGEMENT & EXECUTIVE

MCU MARKETING
MARKET MANAGER
Area: SW Texas, SE New Mexico
Manage Accounts, Personnel, Sales
Average Income 60k
Resume to: mkelley@mcumarketing.com

Office Manager
Confidential — Full-time
Office Manager for busy medical practice. College degree preferred, good people skills, ability to multi-task, some basic accounting skills helpful. Prior medical office manager experience very helpful. Please fax resume to: 432-684-7003.

Store Manager
Prime Communications — Full-time
Wireless authorized agent looking for Store Manager at Midland Mall location. Send resume to rachel at: rjames@primecomms.com.

OTHER JOBS

All Positions
Are you energetic, a people person, with professional work ethics and would like a job with a future? We need personnel to fill all shifts. You must be able to pass a drug screen and background check. We offer vacations, 401K and health insurance for full time employees. Qualified applicants apply at Jacks 1, 1000 Andrews Hwy, Midland,Tx. No phone calls please. EOE.

Delivery Driver
Carter's Furniture — Full-time
2101 W Wadley #6 — Midland, TX 79705
Delivery driver needed. Must have good driving record, heavy lifting required. Apply in person.

Do you have what it takes?
Fax Resume (432) 570-9501 — PT
or email to: domingd1@nationwide.com
We are looking for associates to assist in selling Insurance products by greeting customers, preparing quotes, recommending coverage, answering customer questions and doing outside sales and marketing. Requires a Property & Casualty License or must obtain within 90 days of employment.

Front Desk
Carolina Skin Centre — FT
Looking for a dynamic, outgoing associate to join our team full time. Call 432-230-5647 or 432-262-5885. 3303 N Midkiff Rd. Suite 114. Midland, TX.

Hair Stylist
Pro Snips — FT
Pro Snips has immediate opening for a hair stylist. Apply in person at: 5109 West Wadley.

Housekeeping
Confidential — PT
Part-time Janitors needed 5:30pm - 9:30pm, Monday - Friday. $8.00 a hour, church environment. Background check required. Call 432-770-6227

OTHER JOBS

Immediate Openings
Kelly Services- Immediate Openings ● Receptionist - must have strong Excel skills ● Part-time office clerk- 20 hours per week, $9.00 hr. ● Admin Asst. - work week is Thursday - Monday, must have 10 yrs. experience, $20.00 hr. ● General Laborers - $10.00 hr. ● Project requiring experience reading and understanding basic contract language, oil and gas experience preferred - strong Excel skills. Apply in person at: 6 Desta Drive, Ste. 1260. Never an applicant fee, an equal opportunity employer.

Maintenance/Make Ready Tech
The Lakes Apartments — FT
Midland, TX 79703
Please apply at: The Lakes Apartments, 516 North Loop 250 West.

NOW HIRING DELIVER DRIVERS
Domino's Pizza needs YOU! • We need drivers now • Make cash everyday • Great part time & full time shifts! Starting wage - $7.25 an hour (no tip wage here) plus delivery reimbursement, plus tips • We more than reimburse for high gas prices • Got experience? • Work for Papa or the Hut? ...Come on over! • Senior citizens and stay at home Moms always welcome. Apply at any Domino's Pizza. 604 N. Big Spring St., 5902 W. Illinois, 4519 N. Garfield, 2411 S. Rankin Hwy.

Shop Hand
Dean's Machine — FT
Shop help wanted. Looking for dependable person willing to work. Will train. Apply in person at: 1906 Rhode Island, Midland, TX. 79702 between Monday-Friday 8am-4pm.

NEWSPAPER CARRIERS NEEDED
EARN EXTRA MONEY
Do You:
Need help paying monthly bills and enjoy early Morning hours
Call Tony Gonzalez (432) 687-9002
*Must have vehicle, insurance, & valid driver's license

Truck Treater ⟳!
Catalyst Oilfield Services — FT
Experienced Truck Treater with CDL and Hazmat. Great pay with bonus and benefits. Contact Roman at 432-894-1416.

Cleaning Service Helper
Confidential — FT
Taking applications now. Please call 432-520-3707

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Stay Together Consultant
High Sky Childrens Ranch. Immediate opening in Midland. Bachelor's Degree in a related field and one year experience working with children or families required. One year of related experience may be substituted for one year of college. Reimbursed travel within a 13 county area serving families in their home, evenings hours are required. $2,191 p/mo. E.O.E. Call for application 432-699-1466, or print from website @ www.highsky.org.

REAL ESTATE

Maintenance Tech
Midland, TX 79707 — Full time
Maintenance Tech needed. Must have own tools and reliable transportation. Pick-up applications at Santa Fe Apts. Call 432-694-1349.

RETAIL JOBS

Sales
Wood's Boots — FT/PT
FIND A JOB YOU'LL LOVE just in time for Valentine's. Wood's Boots has Full & Part-time positions available, 812 West I-20, Midland. Western wear required. Must be outgoing and hardworking. No phone calls please.

SALES JOBS

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The Midland Reporter-Telegram Advertising Department is looking for an Outside Sales Representative. The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of personal sales success, preferably in a newspaper/media environment. Some knowledge of the advertising industry would be helpful, but not required.

Duties for this position will include, but is not limited to selling advertising in all print publications of the Midland Reporter-Telegram and all online products, including mywesttexas.com.

The right individual will enjoy an excellent compensation and full benefits package. If you are the one we are looking for, please send current resume to:

We're Raising the Bar!

Desirable Qualifications & Skills:
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, deadline oriented environment
- Excellent customer service and time management skills
- Highly organized with the ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- Detail-oriented with good communication, spelling and math skills

Midland Reporter-Telegram

Brandi Price, Advertising Director
Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois Avenue, Midland, TX 79701
or email to: bprice@mrt.com

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER / NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Sales Agent
Texas State Low Cost Insurance — FT
WANT TO WORK IN A RECESSION-PROOF INDUSTRY? SALES AGENT for fast paced auto insurance agency needed yesterday! Full time positions available. Sales experience a plus, but willing to train the right self-motivated quick learner! Great benefits pkg including health, dntl, 401k. Email resumes: newcareer@txlowcost.com or fax: at 512-458-9457

Sales
Confidential — FT
Local trucking and forklift servicecompany looking for highly motivated sales person. Must be result orientated. Base plus commission and company vehicle. Email resume to: mike@lafoyppe.com

Sales
Tracker Boating Center — FT
1920 North Loop 250 W.
Midland, TX 79707
Boat sales position available. No experience necessary. Apply in person to Jackie or Bob. Call 432-697-3261.

mywesttexas jobs

http://www.mywesttexas.com/jobs

Midland Reporter-Telegram in partnership with monster

SALES JOBS

Wireless Sales Consultant
Cleartalk FT
Strong communication, customer service, and sales skills. Attention to detail and goal oriented is a must. Competitive compensation and attractive benefit plan. Please email resume to: mrichter@fatwireless.com. Cleartalk is an EOE.

SKILLED LABOR

Backhoe Operator
Ramco Roustabout
Needed immediately. Must have CDL. Experience preferred. Pay based on experience. Call Humberto at 325-450-0968.

Building Maintenance Engineer
ConfidentIal Full-time
Building Maintenance Engineer to manage 70,000 sq. ft. office space & 15,000 sq. ft. residential. Call Larry Amador 432-617-4677.

Carpet Cleaning Tech
Chemdry of Midland/Odessa FT
Prior experience in carpet a plus but not required. IICRC certifications are a plus. We will train the right candidate. The number one priority is a great attitude, and to be available daily. We are 24/7/365 cleaning company, those who are successful and willing can climb to the top of our pay scales quickly, improve your income and seek to grow with the company. Commissions up and above the hourly pay are available to the candidate with the right customer service skills. We are an established company with over 23 years of providing quality service to our customer. Fax resume to (432) 699-0530 or call to schedule an appointment (432) 634-0402 Darin or (432) 634-6146 Mike.

Drywall Helpers
Rose's Drywall is looking for Drywall helpers. Experience a plus but not necessary. Must pass Drug test/background check, have own transportation. Apply in person: 2510 W Front Ave. 79701 Between 8am-10am Monday-Thursday.

General Laborers
3524 E. HWY 158 **Midland, Tx 79706**
Growing Company seeks dependable General Laborers to assist with various duties around shop and in field. Great pay and benefits including paid vacation, medical and 401k. Must have a valid Class C Drivers' License, clean driving record, no felonies and must pass background and drug screen. Apply in person.

Green Occupations
Permian Basin Reg. Planning Commission FT
The PBRPC Has received funding to provide vocational training for green occupations. Training is available in HVAC, Wind Technology, and Home Building Performance. Classes will begin soon and 100% of all fees are paid. Apply at http://popnet.macrointernational.com/permianpreqscreen.cfm or call 432-561-9645 to see if you qualify. E-mail questions to canderson@pbrpc.org. EEO Employer, auxiliary aides available.

HVAC Installers
TMI Mechanical FT
HVAC Duct Installers and Experienced Helpers needed for work on local job. Salary depending on experience. Call 432-686-0992 for interview.

Express
ENERGY SERVICES

is Currently Seeking:
Pit Lining Crews, Transfer Pump Hands,
Water Line Hands, Rathole Machine Operator
& Rathole Driller

401K Employer Match
BCBS Medical and Dental
Competitive Compensation Based on Experience
We are a Drug Free Company- Zero Tolerance
Background Check & Hair Follicle Drug Screen

Please apply in person at:
2258 N. Mercury
Odessa, TX 79763

No Phone Calls Please - EOE

Lineman
A.R.C. Powerline Construction FT
Experienced lineman wanted for Artesia area. Call 575-365-6601 or email arcpowerline@yahoo.com

SKILLED LABOR

Lube Tech
4 C Construction FT
12100 W. Interstate 20
Midland, TX 79703
Night shift Lube Tech needed. Experienced. Apply in person. 12100 West Interstate 20, East Service Rd. Between Midland Intern'l Airport and Big Tex Trailers; from 8-5. No phone calls.

MATTLOCK DRILLING
HIRING NEW FACES

TOOLPUSHERS
DRILLERS
DERRICKHANDS
MOTORHANDS
LEADTONGS

EXPERIENCE ONLY
TAKING APPLICATIONS
9-11:00 A.M - 1-4 P.M. ONLY
NO PHONE CALLS OR FAXES
VALID GOVERNMENT ISSUED ID
AND SOCIAL SECURITY CARD
DRUG AND ALCOHOL TEST REQUIRED
12505 WCR 125 ODESSA, TEXAS
E.O.E

Pushers, Hands & CDL Backhoe Operators
Midland Roustabout FT
5805 East I-20
Midland, Tx 79706
1 year experience necessary. Clean driving record and U/A a must. Insurance, 401K and uniforms after 90 days. Apply in person or call 432-682-5017.

Service Techs and Helpers
Greens Energy Group FT
Now hiring Service Techs and Helpers. To apply come by 2713 SCR 1206, Midland, Tx 79706 or call 432-218-7613.

Shophand
Needed for local oil and gas company. Must have valid Class C license, clean background, and be able to pass a drug test. Will be responsible for maintaining yard, warehouse, and office area. Monday-Friday 8am-5pm; Saturday 8am-12pm. Interested applicants apply at 3524 E. Hwy 158, Midland, TX 79706.

Transport Drivers
Needed for local oil and gas company. Must have good driving record, valid Class A CDL, Tanker and Hazmat, no felonies, and be able to pass a drug test. Driver will make local runs from Midland to Odessa daily Monday-Friday 8am-6pm, Saturday 8am-12pm. Interested applicants apply at 3524 E. Hwy 158, Midland, TX 79706.

Valve Repair Tech
Confidential FT
Valve repair technician needed. expericed a plus. Fax resume to 432-561-8414.

TECHNOLOGY

IT Helpdesk/Network Technician
West Texas National Bank FT
WTNB is seeking an IT Helpdesk/Network Technician. The ideal candidate will have a knowledge of Windows XP/7, Exchange 2003, Active Directory, a working knowledge of network topology. Good communication skills, a desire to solve problems and work in a collaborative environment are critical. Send resumes to cparsley@wtnb.com.

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

CDL Drivers
Apply at 3524 E. Hwy 158 FT
Midland, TX 79706 Experienced
Attention CDL Drivers. Home every night? Growing company seeks dependable Class A or B CDL drivers with HAZMAT & Tanker. Great pay and benefits, including paid vacation, medical and 401K. Apply in person.

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

AGRI- EMPRESA

Now hiring
Class A CDL Drivers
pulling Flatbeds

•2 years experience
•Hazmat endorsement a plus
but not required

Regional Carriers
Run Texas and adjoining states.
Flatbed, hauling dry mud & chemicals

Please call 432-694-0778

Crude Oil Transport Drivers
Confidential FT
Crude Oil Transport Drivers needed. Excellent pay & benefits. Must have Class A CDL with Hazmat endorsement. Experienced driving a Tanker a plus. Day shifts available. Call 432-620-0055 between 8-5.

STAR TRANSPORTATION
NOW HIRING!

Star Transportation is now accepting applications for drivers in the Midland / Odessa area.

Go online to
WWW.STARTRANSPORTATIONLLC.COM
Or call 1-888-798-0505 for details and
ONE TIME SIGN ON BONUS!!!

Truck Drivers/ Forklift Operators
Confidential FT
Truck drivers and or forklift operators needed. 2-4 years of verifiable flat bed experience both local and OCR travel. Must have clean class A CDL. Drug testing and background check required. Contact Carmen at: 432-488-6184.

LEGAL

Oil & Gas Attorneys
Cotton Bledsoe Tighe & Dawson, PC FT/PT
OIL AND GAS ATTORNEYS: Cotton, Bledsoe, Tighe & Dawson, PC, in Midland, Texas, has an immediate need for several oil and gas title and transaction attorneys. Candidates should have at least 2 years experience in oil and gas title or transaction work. Both associate and shareholder level attorneys considered. No portable work necessary. Please forward resumes to Michael Hall at Cotton, Bledsoe at mhall@cbtd.com or P. O. Box 2776, Midland, Texas 79702-2776.

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Marty's Marketplace

... leading you to the best bargains in the Permian Basin

Merchandise

Antiques

SUNFLOWER ANTIQUES. Best prices paid for antiques, vintage items & collectibles. Tuesday-Saturday 10-5:30. 3416 Thomason. 282-6778 989-5294.

Appliances

19" GE Color TV. $40 432-218-7586. Leave message if out.

26 CUBIC FT Maytag refrigerator with top freezer. $900. Call 599-0040.

30 MINUTE FREE APPLIANCE PICKUP! CALL 432-978-5247.

AAA APPLIANCES picked up in one hour. 238-9735/528-3646.

WASHER & dryer set $250 and refrigerator $150. 432-312-7566.

Appliances

AAA- Free service call with repair and free removal. M & M Appliances. 432-570-6278.

ACE APPLIANCE sales & service. 4915 W. Illinois. 686-2906. PRICES TO FIT YOUR BUDGET!

Electronics

CASSETTE DECK. Excellent condition. $35. 694-8230.

PROSCAN VCR. With remote. $35. 694-8230.

Free Stuff

5 YEAR old female Heeler, free to good home. Needs room to run. 432-638-2990.

AWESOME KITTY box trained, spayed and declawed. Call 432-687-4744.

FREE FEMALE Blue Heeler Siberian Husky, 9 months, shots, loveable. 556-2642.

FREE OLDER hospital bed. No side rails. 432-682-5996.

Free Stuff

Free to good home Brindle Female Boxer. All shots. Good with kids. 561-9077.

FREE TO good home. Neutered male, black white Shih Tzu, 3-5 years. Call 230-7326.

FREE TO good home, small female Yorkie Terrier. Call 599-9369.

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!

Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

LOOKING FOR good home, free Lab & Blue Heeler mix, female, 1 year, shots, 661-1110.

Furniture

BRAND NEW Queen Pillow Top Mattress Set in plastic $165. New King Set $255. 432-664-6960.

Furniture

NEVER Used New Dark Brown Leather Sofa Only $399. 432-664-6960.

NEW Full Canopy bed with Rails $195. Have Queen also for $150. 432-664-6960.

REAL Wood Sol Sleeper Sofa Brand NEW $250. 432-664-6960.

Jewelry & Watches

Diamond wedding ring set. $900. Paid $2000 at Kay's Jewelry. 432-557-9078.

ROLEX PRESIDENTIAL daydate, white gold. Quick set, hidden clasp. Excellent condition. $9,500 Call 505-629-6796.

WILLIAMS JEWELRY Buyers. Many thousands of satisfied sellers since 1984 can't be wrong. Wadley and Midland Dr. 10-6pm, Mon-Fri. 432-689-2300.

Miscellaneous for Sale

2 NEW dies LT22575 #17. $200. Alvarez acoustic electric guitar with case. Super new stand. $600. Call 432-352-6419.

BARN - 16X32. Portable. Financing-Free local delCall Mary 402-203-1802.

MORGAN PORTABLE BLDGS & SPAS. Come see us-Show Prices. The Midland Boat Show 2/10-2/13.

Miscellaneous for Sale

KEN'S RV SALES
5904 W. HWY. 80
Midland, TX
432-697-6447
Sun-Mon-Fri 1:30-5:30
Sat 9:00-5:00
Thank you for your support in 2010!
We are celebrating our website presence, serving buyers across the globe!
PRO PANS!
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See Vehicles Online At
KENSRVSALES.COM

Miscellaneous for Sale

LARGE DOG crate $95. Large Dog Loo $65. Acoustic guitar $45 (2) small camping crates $25 ea. Black Sentron 7 5/8 rail $45. Pool table with ping pong top conversion slicks & pastries $350. Custom Cheetah Chaise with table $700. 296-1782.

METAL TRAILER ramp. 13'X6', $90. Call 352-9419.

SOFA SLEEPER $100. Double kitchen sink & faucets / base cabinet $195. 432-661-6775.

SPA 7x7-Trade in $3000 - Good Condition-Will Deliver. Call Mary 432-925-1802.

STORAGE UNITS for rent. 10X20. $75 a month! Call 682-7827.

VALENTINE PLUSH animals and etc. $5-$30. each. 432-332-7492. leave phone #.

Animals & Pets

Livestock & Feed

MAHINDRA 2006 tractor, 27hp, front bucket 55 hours. $9,500 obo 432-352-6216.

Pets

BORDER COLLIE puppies, 1st shots $200. 432-528-1515.

CKC REGISTERED Yorkie Puppies $500 1st shots. 432-213-2136. 432-816-4216.

FEMALE ENGLISH bull dog, 6 months, $900. Call 432-260-1464.

FREE TO good home Border Collie mixes & 2 puppies. 432-264-2286.

Pets

GERMAN SHEPARD puppies ready in 2 weeks. $200. Call 935-6984, 556-6971.

GORGEOUS FRENCH Mastiff Puppies. 3 months old, registered $1500. 432-4997.

LAB PUPPIES AKC & started dogs. Hips eyes guaranteed. Training available. Project calls are welcome. www.performancek9.com Call (806) 620-4364.

LAB RETRIEVER pups for sale born on christmas day. NOW READY! Call 432-661-5922 For pics & info labrieauits.tripod.com.

MALTESE PUPPIES 6 weeks old. Call 432-528-1516.

MINI DACHSHUNDS ready to go, 8 weeks old, $300. Call 432-312-8256.

PETS AT Peace now providing cremations and burials. Pre-need 12 months, 0% interest. 520-8677.

SHIH TZU puppies. 8 weeks. $995 each. Call 432-288-8172.

Pets

READY FOR Valentine's Day (Mini Schnauzer-champion bloodline). 1 very rare liver colored. Call 631-9589, 575-687-5906.

VALENTINE CUTIES CKC Shih Tzu puppies $350-$300. 432-345-2260, 290-7516.

WEST HIGHLAND Terrier Bam (2/24/10) registered 2 males, 1 female. Ready 2/4/11. 432-934-5273 or 685-6669.

WHITE FEMALE lopeard, Pit Bull, 1 year old. Do not like cats. 432-213-2286.

YORKIE AKC- Males & females. 7 weeks old photo. $400 and up. 432-556-2758.

KEITH REASBERRY Jr. Auctioneer
It is against Law for someone to attempt any auction without a license or after suspension. Please contact C of Midland Code Enforcement Officer, 685-7316, for additional information.

Heavy Equipment

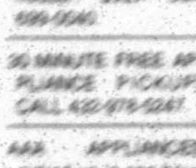
DRILLING RIG FOR SALE BY OWNER WAS OTHER INTERESTED ALL SERIOUS OFFERS CONSIDERED

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 936-755-1220 EMAIL: melcurt@suddenlinkmail.com

TRIPLE DERRICK WITH RESULT SUS (CAPABLE OF DRILLING TO APPX. 9000') EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO DRILL OIL AND GAS WELLS. INCLUDES DRILL PIPE AND COLLARS (POSSIBLY TOOL PUSHER & CREWS AVAILABLE)

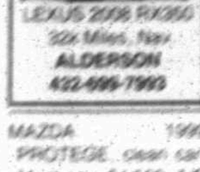
SEE IT IN OPERATION - CURRENTLY WORKING IN WEST TEXAS. RECENTLY REFURBISHED & PRICED UNDER APPRAISED VALUE.

Passenger Cars



LEXUS 2007 LS460 28k Miles, DVD **ALDERSON 432-699-7993**

LEXUS 2008 ES350 14k miles, Roof **ALDERSON 432-699-7993**



LEXUS 2008 GX470 Travel In Luxury **ALDERSON 432-699-7993**

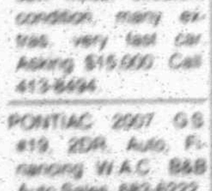
LEXUS 2008 RX350 32k Miles, Nav **ALDERSON 432-699-7993**

MAZDA 1999 PROTEGE clean title. Must see. $4,500. A/C & heater. 349-0041.

MAZDA3 2010 iTouring 11K miles 4 door automatic transmission. White with tan clothe. Lots of options. $16,550 o.b.o. Call 432-349-6637.

MERCEDES 2006 R350. Silver with black leather interior, loaded, 69K miles. $21,900. 934-7777.

MERCEDES 2008 CLK350. Red, brand new, only 8500 miles, fully loaded. $27,000 call 432-682-1824.



MERCEDES 2010 ML 350, 7k Miles **ALDERSON 432-699-7993**

MERCEDES-BENZ 2000 430E, obsidian black, 120k mi, 1 owner and driver, excellent condition, $9000 obo. 432-559-6765/699-1336.

MINI COOPER S 2009 Clubman Civil red with red leather/carbon black interior. Turbo charged, topped manual, premium package, only 4600 miles. $21,500. 349-6288.

PONTIAC 2005 GTO, 62K miles, excellent condition, many extras, very fast car. Asking $15,000. Call 413-8494.

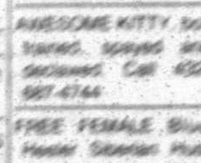
PONTIAC 2007 G6 #19, 2DR, Auto, Financing W.A.C. B&B Auto Sales. 683-6222.

PONTIAC 2008 G6 GXP. Street edition. 31.5k. Clean. $16,500. 432-212-4712.

TOYOTA 2003 Avalon XLS, 4dr, black, exc cond., fully loaded, $10,000. 559-1310.

TOYOTA 2009 Venza, Local Trade, Nice **ALDERSON 432-699-7993**

Passenger Cars



VOLVO 2008 XC90 Luxury SUV **ALDERSON 432-699-7993**

WANTED! We buy wrecked & unwanted cars & pickups. 685-4078.

Exotic Cars

FORD 2008 Shelby GT500, Navigation, 9500 miles, loaded, $36,000. 432-689-5464.

MERCEDES 2006 SL 500 Convertible black, charcoal leather, AMG Sport package, Bose sound, w/CD changer. Navigation, only 34k miles. $43,900. 953-5288.

PONTIAC 2002 Trans Am, 37k milage, WS6 Collector Edition package, Yellow, black interior, leather, 6 speed, Some mods. $17,990 OBO. 432-349-5102.

Antique & Vintage

FORD 1966 Thunderbird Perfect condition, blue with dark blue seats. 10,200 miles. REDUCED PRICE $14,000 obo. Please call 432-694-1429.

Pickup Trucks

CHEVY 2000 3500 LS Crew Cab, long bed, 1 owner, clean, always maintained, bedliner tow package (not an offroad truck), 190k mi. $6400. 770-7215.

CHEVY 2004 Silverado, good condition, 4dr 3/4 ton short bed $8000 OBO 695-4313.

DODGE 2005 Ram 2500 SLT, Cummins diesel, 2 WD, short bed, 122k miles, $15,900. Last time oil change included. 432-853-7580.

DODGE 2007 MEGA Cab Ram 3500 4X4, manual 6 speed transmission. 118,000k miles. $24000 OBO, call 817-240-2100.

DODGE 2007 SLT Red, 4 door with hemi, loaded, gray interior, 67k miles, excellent condition, asking $18,000. 935-4322.

NEW TODAY!

FORD 1965 WINCH pickup truck.$1000. 432-208-1569.

FORD 1996 Ranger XLT. Regularly maintained, 5 speed. $3,200. OBO 563-3215 or 553-9816.

FORD 2004 F150 Super Crew, 4X4 Lariat, finance W.A.C. B&B Auto Sales 683-6222.

FORD 2005 F250 Power stroke, 121k miles, white, 4 door, long bed, K&N cold air intake, all power, tow package and bedliner, $16,500. 432-553-7029.

FORD 2009 F350, King Ranch Dually, 33K clean and loaded $38,500 432-561-5860.

FORD 2011 F450 4x4 crew cab, Dally, rear guard, tool box & bed liner, 12,300 mi, excellent condition, $53,995 556-8680.

GMC 2006 Sierra 1500 Great starter truck with tow mileage. Call 432-269-9007.

Pickup Trucks

MAZDA 2000 SE V6, White, standard, 79k miles. Excellent condition. $4900. 682-5157.

TOYOTA 2003 Tacoma extra cab, pre-runner, 2 owned, excellent condition. 72K. 432-296-0400.

TOYOTA 2007 Tacoma PU #123 V6, Engering W.A.C. B&B Auto Sales. 683-6222.

TOYOTA 2009 PRERUNNER Double Cab $24900, make offer 575-885-5406. Seen at 2814 Marmon Ln.

Vans & Minivans

DODGE 2002 Grand Caravan fair condition, runs good, new brakes, good tires, $3,500. 230-6169.

FORD 2004 Freestar Limited, 92K miles, dvd, back up censor, Blacksilver $4800. Call 432-935-3013.

HONDA 2001 Odyssey EX DVD, 158k miles, excellent condition. $6,400. 432-553-2172.

HONDA 2005 Odyssey Touring, fully loaded, DVD, Nav, 107K miles, perfect condition $14,900 528-4492.

HONDA 2007 Odyssey EX-L, 59K miles, exceptionally clean, $21,500. Call 432-218-5741.

TOYOTA 2001 Sienna LE 122,000 miles. Excellent condition new tires, leather interior. $5800 obo 432-218-7228. after 4pm 817-308-0099 daytime.

4WD & SUV

2006 Chevy Trailblazer for sale in Mint condition gold 89K miles, gold/black interior, very clean, tires like new Must sell $ 9,500 obo. 806-317-7668.

CHEVY 2006 Tahoe LT #58, 59,000 miles, $16,950. B&B Auto Sales. 683-6222.

DODGE 2001 Grand Caravan Wheelchair accessible minivan. Side power door, power door folding ramp, auto wheel. Great shape, low mileage, $17,000. 425-8171. Weldon.

DODGE 2003 Durango, 74k miles, tow package, 3rd row seat. Excellent condition. $7,500. 432-557-4222.

DODGE 2005 Durango Limited, 92k, like new rear DVD, 3rd row $11,400. 288-1631.

FORD 2001 Explorer XLT, red, 42K miles, auto, power windows, locks and seats. $6,000. 432-813-0666.

FORD 2006 Explorer, leather, 3rd row seat, B&B Auto Sales. 683-6222.

FORD 2010 Expedition EL, King Ranch, black/tan, fully loaded, 10k miles, $45,500 OBO. 432-758-0861.

GMC 1999 Suburban, 4WD, leather, after market rims, excellent condition. Can text you pictures. $3900. 556-1168 218-7097.

GMC 2004 YUKON black w/tan interior, 119k mi, 1 owner $9,750. 432-294-2054.

GMC 2005 Yukon White, excellent condition, tow package, 3rd row seat, garaged, non smoker, 1 owner, 90k miles, $16,500. 432-413-9701.

GMC 2006 Sierra crew cab SLT, 4X4 Z-71 #178 B&B Auto Sales 682-222.

HUMMER 2006 H3 41K miles, 4WD with luxury package. $23,000. 296-1819.

4WD & SUV

JEEP 2004 Grand Cherokee Overland 4x4. Excellent condition, fully loaded, leather interior, chrome wheels, 51k miles, asking $15,000 obo. 432-349-2755.

JEEP 2007 Wrangler Sahara. Black, 2 door, removable hard top, 4WD, power windows locks, keyless entry. Excellent condition, 28,575 miles. $21,500. 634-0129.

KIA 1999 Sportage, all power, cd, tilt, a/c, new tires, timing belt, standard, great gas mileage, looks runs drives great $3150 432-260-6791.

MERCEDES-BENZ 2008 ML350 Sunroof, backup camera, navigation, black with black leather interior, 17,600 miles, immaculate! Always garaged. $32K. 432-230-2599.

MITSUBISHI 2007 ENDEAVOR XLS. 1 owner, black, 49k mi, $13,000. 520-5835.

NISSAN 2003 Murano, 120k miles, service history, good condition, blue, Runs great. $6000. 432-575-8505.

NISSAN 2006 Murano, 13,999, We finance W.A.C. B&B Auto Sales 683-6222.

TOYOTA 2002 SEQUOIA excellent condition, leather winch bumper, tow mi., $12,000. 432-889-5494.

TOYOTA 2008 Sequoia Limited 31K miles, white/beige, excellent condition. $39,000. 894-7494.

VOLVO 2005 XC90 Suv, Cyl. 2.5 i Turbocharged, auto, 89k miles. $13,900 OBO 432-238-0519.

Commercial Vehicles

Tractors & Trailors

10-GR DUMP Trailer Hauls 5 yards a load. Must sell, call Johnny 432-934-2175.

FREIGHTLINER 2002 FL70, Roustabout Truck, 15 bed with rolling tail, Putnek winch Caterpillar engine, 6 speed transmission. Dual fuel tanks, air compressor, generator, 111R22.5 tires. Nice, clean truck $36,550. Can be seen at 5293 W. Industrial, Midland or call 432-557-8456.

Specialty Vehicles

2 HOBBY STOCK race cars. Both runs good, plus 1 donor car- extra parts, tires and wheels. $6000 for all. 432-238-5405.

Recreational Vehicles

Motorcycles

COBRA 1992 Trike, 350 Chevy motor, auto transmission. $20,000 obo 432-352-6216.

HARLEY DAVIDSON 2006 Roadking Classic, 61390 and 2008 Sportster Nightster $8500 Call 556-1407.

HONDA 2005 Goldwing, low miles, great shape. Garage kept. 325-728-2482.

SUZUKI 2004 DR200 runs great, low miles, great condition. $2400. 432-556-8607.

Motorcycles

KAWASAKI 2008 TERRYX 4WD camo, 120 miles, few hours, garage kept, 2 seater, dump bed with 4 wheel drive. $7000 firm. 422-238-5405.

YAMAHA 2004 250 Virago. Except cond. Chrome, saddlebags, windshield. 683-2156.

RVs

2002 COACHMAN 28 5th Wheel. 1 slide, 30 amp service. Very clean, new tires and microwave. $11,500. Call 432-425-5940.

NEW TODAY!

2006 Bass Cat Sabre DC, Mercury 150, tandem axle trailer, Lowrance LCX 113CHD GPS, excellent cond. Must sell new boat on the way $19,500! (432) 967-9837.

32FT 1978 Winnebago. $3000. Please call 432-215-4924.

29' 2001 Forest River Salem RLS. 15 living & dining area slide out Bumper pull. $7500 Call 432-636-9596 or 432-247-1034 for details. If no answer leave message.

FLEETWOOD 2007 Excursion 39V. 2 slides, 350 diesel, 19k miles. $129,000. Call 432-686-7949.

PALOMINA PUMA 2009 18' DB $19,300. Great half ton towable RV. excellent condition. 528-9469.

RAGEN 2008 Toy Hauler 25R, bumper pull, fully contained. $26,000 520-9012.

WILDERNESS 2004 285 RKS. 5th wheel, 29 FT. 1 slide, excellent condition. $15,000. Call 432-528-2034.

WILDWOOD 2008 32 foot, bumper pulled, loaded laminate wood floors, slideout, large bathroom. $26,000. 664-4502.

Watercraft

2005 AIR NAUTIQUE Team Edition 226, all options, with cover. $40,000. Call 432-661-2132.

NEWMAN 1973 15 Fiberglass tri-hull, 65HP Evinrude, with trailer, all in good condition. $1700. 432-638-5917.

TAHOE 2009 216, 190 horse power GPS system, custom cover. Used 2 times. $24,995. 556-8686.

Aircraft

1993 BELLANCA Super Viking, 0 Engine, 0 prop. $150,000 or will trade. 361-438-9943.

Utility Trailers

2007 BIG Tex 20 Gooseneck utility trailer model 12GP $3,800. 413-5157.

CM TRAILER, cargo mate, double axle, 6 x12 $4,500. 432-352-6775.

Auto Services and Parts

(575) 390-1686 Custom Dungeon Tuning Midland,Texas Tunes are custom rearwheelhorsepower tunes setup on DSPS Switch 90-200 HP We offer fuel mileage/towing tunes and great pricing on performance parts. Custom tunes $425 50-$500 00 Contact Todd.

BUYING/Hauling off junk or unwanted vehicles. Savage Recycling & Services. 432-352-5931.

DIESEL ENGINES Ford 7.3, GM 6.6 and Cummins 5.9, remanufactured with warranty. We deliver. Call 713-818-5811.

Real Estate Rentals & Sales

Residential Rentals

Apartments for Rent Unfurnished

2 BEDROOM SPECIAL 432-697-6039 Convenient Midland drive location Se Habla Espanol

GREAT PLACE TO CALL HOME Now leasing one and two bedroom apartments and townhomes. Spacious rooms, large closets. Water paid. Washer/dryer connection in select units. Covered parking at no extra charge. $440-$695. Please call 694-5950 for an appointment.

MOVE IN special $200 off. 1, 2 & 3 bedrooms available. Renaissance Apartments, Midland Dr. and Neely. 520-3238.

SPACIOUS 1, 2, & 3 Bedroom Apartments. Call 432-687-4514.

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

2617 ROOSEVELT Duplex 1 br 1 ba, remodeled. No pets. Background check. $700/ $600. 432-694-2736.

Residential Rentals

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

2 BR/1Ba duplex. Central location. Adults only. $750/mo $750/dep or 6 mo lease. Lease req'd. 432-561-5982.

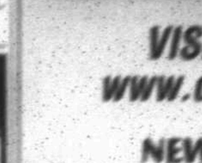
3 BD, 2 BA, 2 car, fireplace & vaulted ceiling, new appliances, new carpet, covered patio, shade trees. $1600/ mo. + deposit, no pets, no smoking. Call 432-294-3296.

EXECUTIVE HOME Trinity Area. 432-459. 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 4 car garage, 1 year lease. $3,500 per month plus deposit. 432-520-9569 or 432-638-5937.

NEW HOUSE for rent near Briarwood Ave. Built in 2009. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, sprinkler system and alarm system. $1760/month. bills not included. Call 432-557-5676.

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Open Houses



This beautiful home is located in "Old Midland". It has 3 bdrms, 2 baths. Spacious backyard with a shop. Ready to move in. 1005 W Cuthbert $136,900 432-349-2656

Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

1905 WARD. Enjoy sunny days in the pool in this 2 story, 3,546 sq. ft. brick home in Fannin area. Has 4 bdr., 3 ba., family rm. off captivating great rm. w/ gas fp, custom kitchen w/appl. incl. And if the mild days of fall reward her w/ the separate tr quarters. Has 1 bdr., 1 ba. w/kitchenette. Great for your college kid. $214,000. 352-1598.

BRAND NEW! Just Finished-Ready for immediate occupancy! NW Midland-INSIDE the loop. 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage, 1 year warranty. Great floor plan. Priced at $194,000. Drive by 3404 Sagemont Dr. or call KEY HOMES at 432-528-9846 for showing! Open House-Saturday or Sunday, 1pm-5pm, or anytime by appointment.

OWNER FINANCED Nice homes & neighborhoods! Fair prices! Poor credit? We understand! 432-209-1212, 432-631-8100.

Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

FOR SALE by Owner 3905 Greenlee Ave. SPACIOUS 4 bed, 4 bath, 3 living, pool, roof 1yr old, 2,900 sq. ft. Quiet cul-de-sat. Priced below appraisal to sell fast. $242,000. 432-425-1996.

GRASSLANDS 5BR/3BA 2856 Sundance Place 2856 sq ft, 4/3/3, 2 living, lots of upgrades. Recently updated. Must See! MOVE IN READY $232,900. 599-4199.

HICKORY & Tyler. House with 2 lots, close to downtown, $85,000. Call 432-978-4991.

UPDATED 3BR/2BA walking distance to schools. 2403 Goddard Dr. 685-3251.

WE BUY HOMES! Fair prices, quick cash! 432-266-1212, 432-631-8100.

WE BUY houses! Any area, any condition! Can pay cash! Call Joe, 664-4333.

WE LOVE VETERANS Key Homes Inc. 432-520-9648 www.keyhomesinc.com

Homes for Sale

OWNER FINANCING TOUGH CREDIT OK MIDLAND, ODESSA, BIG SPRING HOMES FROM $99,900-$159,900 4/5 LITTLE AS 6% DOWN CALL 432-687-2696 INFO@KATPAST.COM WWW.KATPAST.COM

Homes for Sale

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697-0500

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NEW & RECENT LISTINGS

Eastgate Beauty 4/2.1 car garage, recent roof, fence & exterior paint, formal living & dining areas. $202,000 EASGAT
Evergreen Custom 4/2, granite kitchen w/stainless appliances, 2 car garage, 2,346 sq ft, built in 2008. $299,900 EVEGRE
Lots of New 3/2, 1,571 sq ft, 2 car garage, fresh paint, new carpeting, new cooking and oven. $134,900 LOTSOF
Need More Room? Spacious 5/4, corner lot, 3,281 sq ft, formal living/dining areas, storage building. $234,900 NEEMOR
Great Bargain! 3/2, 2 car garage, shelters 1,288 sq ft, built in 1975, all appliances remain. $124,900 LIMEA
Homebuyer's Dream! 3/2 formal living and dining/kitchen breakfast, 1,394 sq ft. $89,900 DENE
Northgate with Pool! 3/2, 2 car garage, large yard with huge in-ground pool and hot tub, granite countertops. $175,900 LIMEA

COMMERCIAL

Industrial Warehouse! 7,200 sq ft, offices, conference room, metal for 480 and 2 phase electrical. $495,000 TIM
Efficiency! 11 acres, 40,000 sq ft, 3 buildings, 3 phase electrical, loading dock, previously machine shop. $750,000 BETTY
Efficiency! Production complex family style Diner. $750,000 BETTY
Investment Living! 3/2 and Downstairs 1/1, small restaurant/shop, 2/2 home in back, over ½ acre. $125,000 SAVE
1.5 Acres! possible owner finance, commercially zoned. $140,000 SAVE
Long 250 ft! 4 lots, 2.32 ac, across from Granite Stadium. $350,000 DENE

LOTS & LAND

2 Acres! South Midland 220/40A, no mobile homes. $14,400 TIM

FOR LEASE

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Estate Sales

★★ ESTATE SALE ★★
★★ by PATRICIA GARNER & TEAM ★★
2311 A Haynes
(off of Garfield by Midland College)
Friday, February 11th, 8:30am - 3:00pm
Saturday, February 12th, 8:30am - 2:00pm

This home will take you back with great retro style furniture, dressers, china hutch, dining room table in excellent condition. Sealy electric bed, vintage singer sewing machine, freezer, beautiful Amana refrigerator, size 7 designer shoes, Ferragamo, Bruno Magli, Pappagallo, handbags, quilts, washer, dryer, Noritake dishes, lots of Tupperware, Sakura dishes, linens, leather coats, glassware, end tables, art work, televisions, lots of kitchen items and more. Too much to list.

ESTATE SALE
BY
JOSEPH and Team
Estate of Bill and Roxanne Thams
906 Pecan Court
(Midland)
Thursday & Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
PLEASE NO CHILDREN
Please be courteous and DO NOT block the neighbors' drives
This wonderful home is filled with beautiful, quality furniture and glassware. Items in the sale include: Ashley bedroom/entertainment center/French tufted chair, Pulaski French writing desk, Oriental style furniture, Heritage bedroom set, Sligh-Lowry desk, Henredon dining set, Weiman Heritage, Antique clock, Vintage doll house, Sèvres Porcelain, Nymphenburg, Dresden, Old Paris Porcelain,Meissen figures/dinnerwares/candelabras, Royal Doulton figures/dinner ware, Waterford lamps, Antique Waterford chandelier, Lusters, Grand Baroque Sterling, Silver Plate, Lalique, Satsuma, Gobel, Hummel's, Ming Rose china, Artwork, Kitchen items, much much more...

Misc. Sales

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The Bottom Line

As household income, education levels and job responsibility increases, so does readership.

Midland Reporter-Telegram
Delivering the news every day

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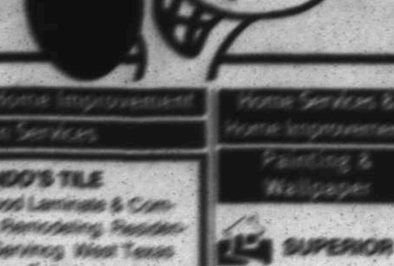

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  - 160 ac. Pecan Grove, approx 200 acres cleared for coffee blinds/feeders, windmill $1,750/ac
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  - 640 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oil/field traffic $750/ac
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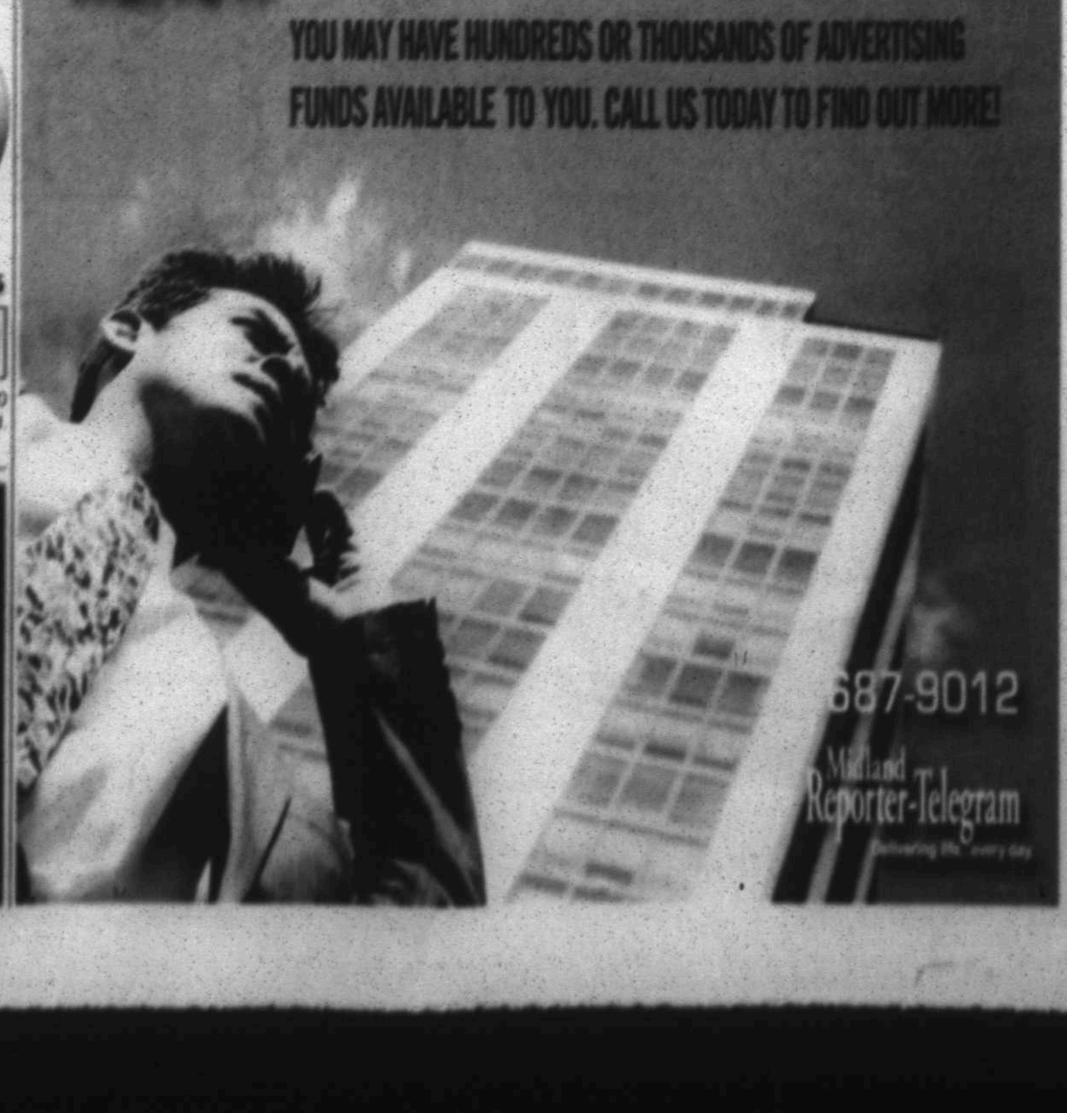

687-9012
Midland Reporter-Telegram

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Puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more at: www.kidscoop.com

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Lovebirds

Lovebirds are a playful and affectionate type of small parrot. They are only about five inches in length and are sometimes called pint-sized bundles of joy.

Put this sentence back together to find out why they're called lovebirds.

time snuggling close together when

These little African parrots are

pairs, they spend long periods of

sleeping or resting.

called lovebirds because, if kept in

Lovebirds are little clowns and they love to play for hours at a time. They hang upside down, spin toys and dance on shoulders.

How many hearts can you find on this page?

Where do lovebirds come from?

Read about which parts of Africa are home to each of the nine varieties of lovebirds. Then use different colors to show where each kind can be found on the map of Africa.

Madagascar Lovebird is found on the island of Madagascar.

Red-Faced Lovebird is found in equatorial Africa, ranging from Sierra Leone to Uganda.

Abyssinian Lovebird is found in central and eastern Ethiopia and southern Eritrea.

Swindern's Lovebird is found in Liberia, Cameroon and Democratic Republic of Congo.

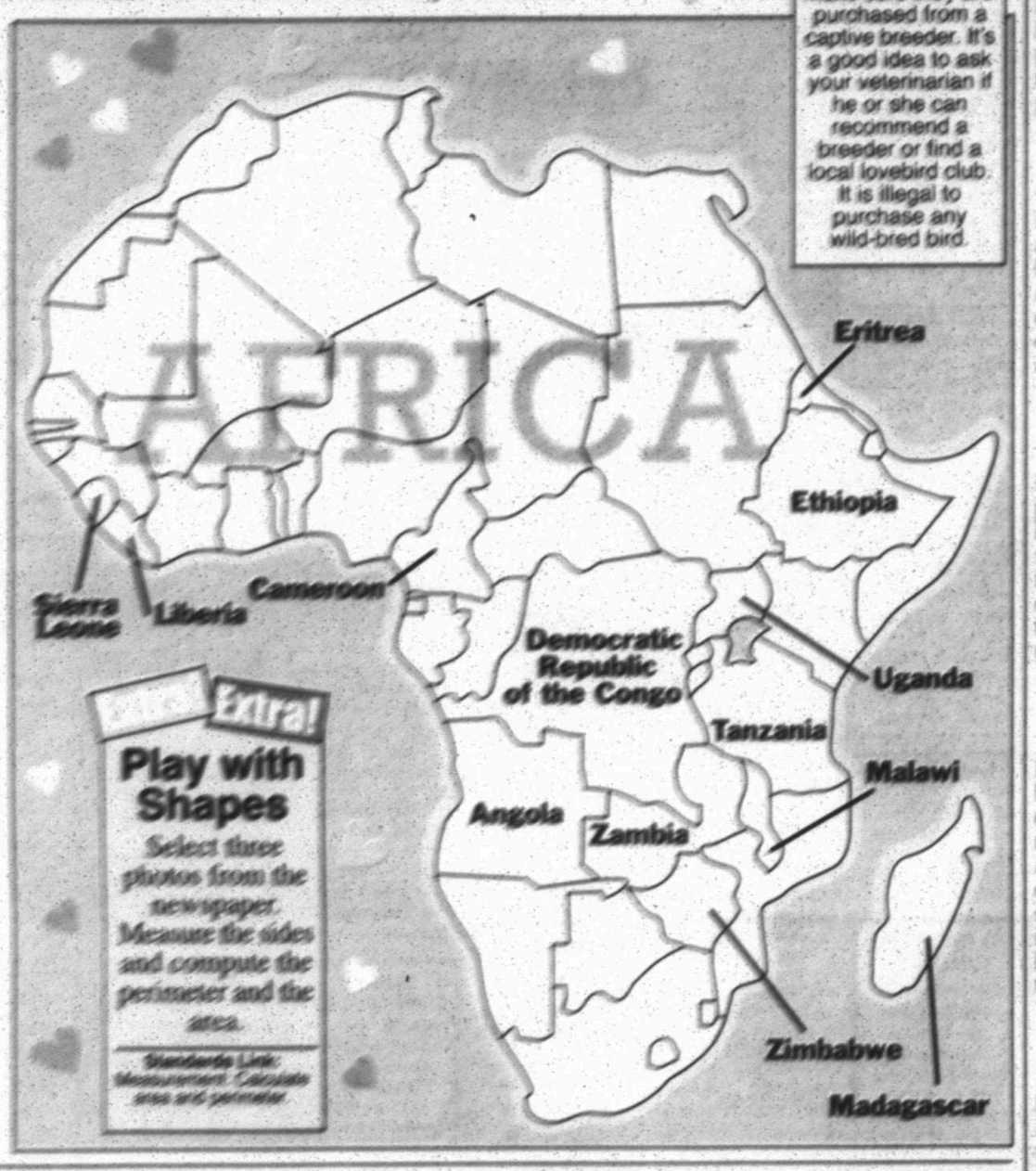
Peach-Faced Lovebird is found in Angola.

Nyasa Lovebird is found in parts of Zambia and Malawi.

Black-Checked Lovebird is found in Zimbabwe.

Fischer's Lovebird is found in northwestern Tanzania.

Masked Lovebird is found in northeastern Tanzania.



If you are considering lovebirds as pets, make sure they are purchased from a captive breeder. It's a good idea to ask your veterinarian if he or she can recommend a breeder or find a local lovebird club. It is illegal to purchase any wild-bred bird.

Math Extra!

Play with Shapes

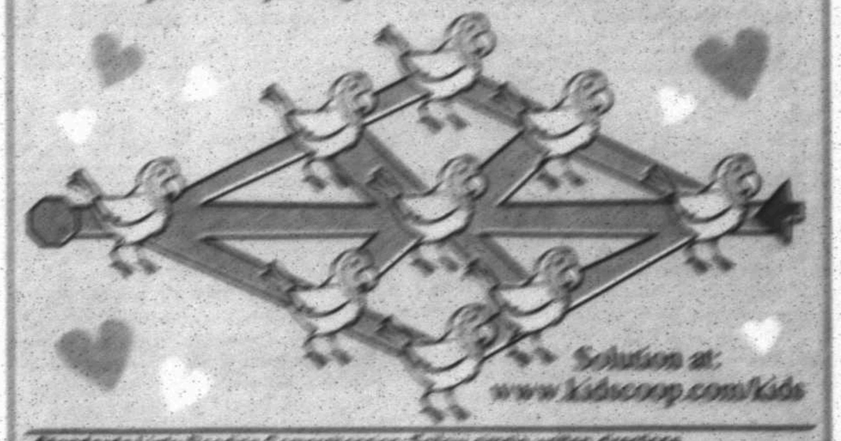
Select three photos from the newspaper. Measure the sides and compute the perimeter and the area.

Standards Link: Measurement: Calculate area and perimeter.

Standards Link: Geography: Use map skills to locate places.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Draw a line through every lovebird without lifting your pencil or passing over the same bird twice.



Solution at: www.kidscoop.com/kids

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

The Online Scoop

Kid Scoop cartoonist Jeff Schinkel shows you how to draw a pair of lovebirds in a new video at: www.kidscoop.com/kids

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

LOVEBIRDS
PERIMETER
PLAYFUL
CLOWNS
MASKED
AFRICA
PARROT
ISLAND
LITTLE
PEACH
NYASA
DANCE
CONGO
HANG
SPIN

E	C	N	A	D	N	A	L	S	I
P	N	I	P	S	B	U	D	N	N
H	A	D	D	L	A	R	H	W	L
E	C	R	E	E	I	Y	A	O	U
L	O	A	R	B	K	S	N	L	F
T	N	O	E	O	F	S	G	C	Y
T	G	V	J	P	T	O	A	Y	A
I	O	A	C	I	R	F	A	M	L
L	R	E	T	E	M	I	R	E	P

Standards Link: Letter Sequencing: Recognize identical words; skim and scan reading; recall spelling patterns.

Weekly Writing Corner

If You Were a Bird

If you were a bird, what kind of bird would you be? Why?

If I were a bird I would be a Swan. I've always wondered how swans figured out how to lay their eggs, how they know what to do. I think they already know what to do. The reason I'm talking about this is because why I would be a swan. The reason why is because swans are very nice and peaceful around you. They have beautiful colors on them. I love them because there is one called a Trumpeter swan that sounds like a trumpet. That's why I would like to be one.

Kelsey Harrington
St. Ann's School

If I were a bird, I would like to be a parrot because they are bright, beautifully colored birds with long gorgeous wings and feathers. I would also like to be a parrot because they live in warm climates like Hawaii.

Megan Warren, 6th Grader
Hillander School

If I were a bird I would want to be a penguin. I would want to be a penguin because they are black and white and black and white reminds me of zebra print. I also like penguins because I think they walk funny. They get to play in the snow all day.

Kelly Hernandez
St. Ann's School

If I were a bird I would like to be a Red Tailed Hawk. I would like to be one because they're swift and strong and good looking. They're deadly with one strike, and they fly extremely fast. Red Tailed Hawks are cool birds.

Grant Wood, 6th Grade
Hillander School

If I could be a bird, I would be a parakeet because you can teach them how to talk. Another good reason why I would want to be a parakeet is because of their bright, beautiful colors and stripes. The last reason is that I think they are one of the most unique birds.

Shannon Hickey
St. Ann's School

If I were a bird, I would be a coo coo bird. I would be hard to find, and I could let some other bird take care of my eggs. I also could live in South America with no trouble at all, and I could fly around trees. I would be a small, chubby bird with a weird call instead of tweet-tweet. I also would have a type of clock named after my type of bird.

Will Sparks, 6th Grade
Hillander School

If I were a bird I would be a peacock. I would like to be a peacock because they have beautiful feathers. I like their feathers because they pop out. I would like to be a peacock because they are blue and yellow. I like those two colors. They can't fly, but they are really pretty.

Michaela Molinar
St. Ann's School

If I were a bird, I would want to be a parrot because I would want to have feathers of different colors like pink, blue, green, yellow, red, purple and orange. I would also want to be a parrot so I could talk and annoy people. I love parrots because they can sit on your shoulder or finger and go wherever you go.

Landry Wright, 6th Grade
Hillander School

Write On!

National Park

Write a paragraph about a national park you have visited.

Deadline: March 6
Published: Week of April 3
Send your story to:

Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
tgillean@mrt.com

Please include your school and grade.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY www.kidscoop.com

Lovebirds in the News

Find an article about people in love in today's newspaper or newspaper website. Identify who the article is about as well as the **what, when, where, why** and **how**.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Identify main idea and supporting details.

What is a bird after it is nine days old?

ANSWER: Ten days old.

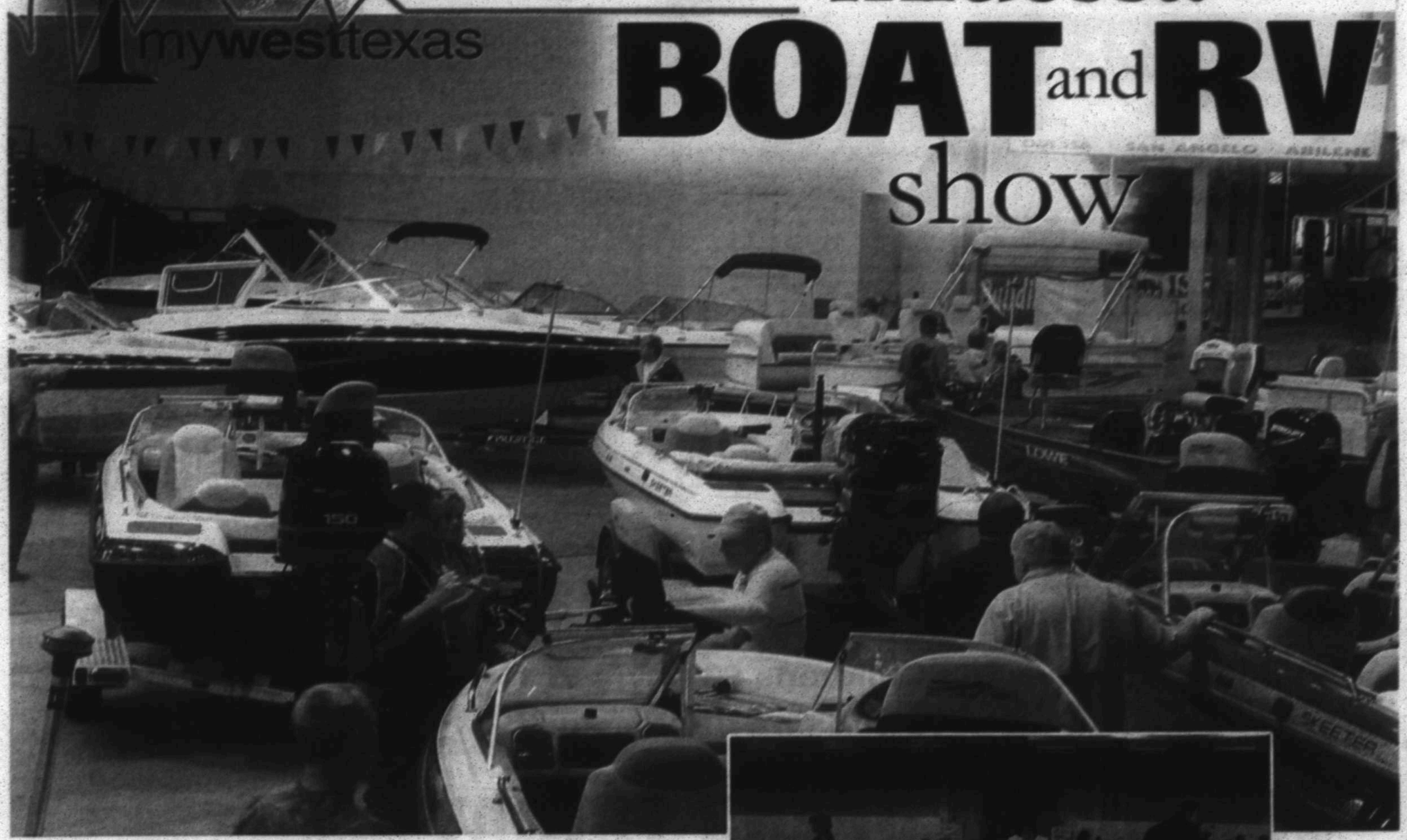
Chevron
OXY Permian
ATMOS energy
YARBOROUGH INVESTMENTS, L.P.
i'm lovin' it®
Thanks For Your Support Of The Midland Reporter-Telegram's Newspaper In Education Program.

Midland
Reporter-Telegram
February 10, 2011

pulse

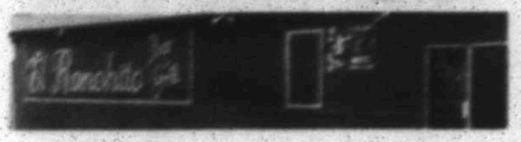
mywesttexas

midessa BOAT and RV show



west texas kennel club DOG SHOW

find out what's going on...



In the limelight 5-6
Graham Dixon reviews "Oklahoma!" and the African Children's Choir performance

Live and in concert 4, 9
Robert Earl Keen plays Don Amigos and the Gibson Brothers perform at Midland High School Auditorium

Events 7-8
Dog show at Horseshoe; Boat, RV and Gun show at Ector County Coliseum

Restaurant review 10
Joan Huff finds juicy, tender fajitas and more at Fajitas Bravo

Also
This week 3
Dining guide 11-12
On screen/DVDiva 13-14
What's coming 15

Welcome to Pulse, a guide to things to do and places to go in our area. To have your event listed here, e-mail gtemple@mrt.com or sdoreen@mrt.com. To be listed in Live Wire, e-mail nadamson@mrt.com. Please do so as soon as your organization, club or venue has a firm date.

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To buy the city's most exciting and effective advertising call Brandi Price at 687-8813

Midessa Boat, RV, Sport & Gun Show

Thursday, Feb. 10th
All Tickets $3.00
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Ladies Free
Friday 11th
from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

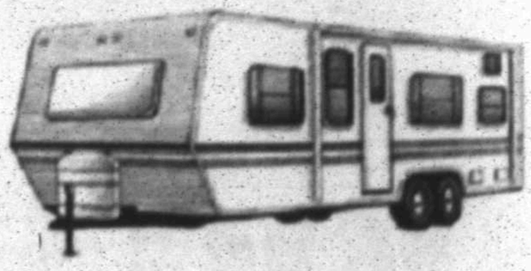
Adults $6 • Seniors $5 • Childrens $3 (3 yrs to 11 yrs)

Free Parking • Best Buys of the Season • Special Financing

Thursday, February 10 • 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

GUN SHOW OPENS FRIDAY

Friday, February 11 • 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday, February 12 • 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. | Sunday, February 13 • 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Ector County Coliseum
42nd & Andrews Hwy • Odessa, TX

Sponsored by Leisure Promotions & Odessa Chamber of Commerce

thisweek

LAST CHANCE:

DINNER THEATER CLOSING WEEKEND FRIDAY & SATURDAY @ THE BARN DOOR, ODESSA

When: 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Where: The Barn Door Steakhouse, 2140 N. Andrews Highway

Curtain is at 7 p.m. for Mark 10 Theatricals "Ye Gods!," written by Bill Kirkley and Sean Frith. "Ye Gods!" is the company's third production.

"It turns Mt. Olympus on its ear, emerging as riotous sex farce of Olympian proportions with all the gods trying to get into each others' togas," said Director Mark Tenniswood. "You might want to leave the kids at home because of the suggestive situations, but there is no naughty language."

Tenniswood directed a murder mystery for the Barn Door last August, and an Old West melodrama last April. Tenniswood said he chose to do this script before the recent hype that surrounded Rick Riordan's children's books and the Olympus-themed movie. "This ain't Percy Jackson's Olympus," said Tenniswood. "Mistaken identity, love potions, sleeping powders, infidelity, true love, and all manner of hi-jinx keep the action racing along."

Reserve tickets: on line at www.mark10theatricals.com. $20 show-only, $15 show with dinner reservations paid separately a la carte. (Wednesday was the deadline for dinner reservations.) Rated PG for comic adult situations.

OPERA 101

When: Thursdays

Where: Midland College Continuing Education, part of the Personal Enrichment Series.

Info: 10-week survey course tracing the history of opera from the early 17th century to the late 19th century. Taught by Sharon Humphreys, president of Midland Opera Theater. MOT has partnered with MC.

Signup: MC online www.midland.edu/cpce/regustration. Course number 9357102Q.

Cost: $30.

COMIC ILLUSTRATION CLASS

When: Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Midland County Public Library, 301 Missouri Ave.

Info: Designed for anyone who has picked up a pencil and wanted to learn to draw comics. Ages 14 and up.

STUDIO 3600 SERIES: WARREN TAYLOR

When: now-March 25

Where: McCormick Gallery, Allison Fine Arts Building, Midland College campus

Info: "Past & Present," current and collected works of Warren Taylor

MIDESSA BOAT & RV SHOW

When: Thursday-Sunday

Where: Ector County Coliseum

MUSICAL "OKLAHOMA"

When: Weekends through March 5

Where: Cole Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave.

Tickets: Visit the box office at 2000 W Wadley, call the box office at 570-4111 or go to www.mct-midland.org. Non-member ticket prices are $18 adults, $15 seniors, $12 children. Memberships are on sale.

Info: Midland Community Theatre's opening production of the 2011 season. The Reach Out and Pay What You Can Performance is set for 2 p.m. Sunday.

The last time MCT produced "Oklahoma" was in 1976.

MIDLAND DOWNTOWN FARMERS' MARKET ONCE-A-MONTHER

When: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday and March 5. Weekly markets start March 26.

Where: 501 W Texas Ave., under the green. to stock up on the best in local goodies.

LIVE ON STAGE PERMIAN BASIN: THE GIBSON BROTHERS

When: 7 p.m. Saturday

Where: Midland High School Auditorium, downtown.

Tickets: individual admission $30. Memberships available. Call 789-1249.

Info: Five-piece ensemble. Bluegrass.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

When: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday

Where: AMF Midland Park Lanes

Info: Form teams of five. Call 687-0195 or e-mail info@bbbsmidland.org.

WEST TEXAS KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW

When: Feb. 12 and 13

Where: Horseshoe

FREE FISHING CONTEST

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 12

Where: Comanche Trail Lake, Big Spring

Registration: 12:30 p.m.

Info: 4,000 rainbow trout have been stocked in the lake since mid-December.

AUDITIONS FOR "HARVEY"

When: 2:30-5:30 Sunday, 7-9:30 p.m. Monday

Where: Permian Playhouse, 310 W. 42nd St., Odessa

Info: Show runs April 1-17. Director: Carl Beery Moore. Roles available for 6 men and six women.

CHESS CLUB

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday

Where: Barnes and Noble Booksellers.

EASY BRIDGE

When: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Where: Allison Bridge Center, 911 W. Wadley Ave.

Cost: Free Tuesdays through Feb. 8. $7 for weeks 5 through 17.

Info: Sponsored by the American Contract Bridge League. The class in Midland is being taught by Deborah Brookins. In Odessa, the class is being taught on Mondays by Mercedes Barker. For more information, go to www.easybridgepermianbasin.com or call 978-4085.

CLASSIC MOVIE CLUB

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday, "Follow the Fleet"

Where: Cigar Frog's

TUESDAY NIGHT DANCE CLUB

When: 7:30 p.m.

Where: 4601 N. FM 1788, Knights of Columbus Bldg.

Info: Live country music

Admission: $7 members, $8 guests

Kids Zone

MY TOWN AND DINO DIG

Where: Children's Museum, Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave.

When: 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 2-5 p.m. Sundays

Cost: $3 per person. Free for members.

Info: New exhibit goes up Feb. 14

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

(At Midland County Public Library)

■ Wednesday children's storytime, 10 a.m., Thursday storytime for birth through 18 months, 9:30 a.m.; children's storytime, 10 a.m., Midland County Library

(at Barnes & Noble Booksellers)

■ Wednesday storytime (various themes on most Wednesdays), 10:30 a.m., Barnes & Noble Booksellers

Children's event, American Girl, 4 p.m., Friday, Barnes and Noble Booksellers

Valentine's Storytime, 11 a.m. Saturday, Barnes and Noble Booksellers

Children's event, Super Hero Tuesday, 4 p.m., Feb. 15, Barnes and Noble Booksellers

Road Trip

Mescalaro, N.M.

Wynonna – Wednesday, 8 p.m. Inn of the Mountain Gods. Tickets start at $31.75 and can be purchased at www.InnOfTheMountainGods.com.

live and in concert

BEST BET:

ROBERT EARL KEEN FRIDAY @ DOS AMIGOS

Robert Earl Keen's latest album "The Rose Hotel" and the single of the same name reached No. 1 on the Americana charts this past winter. It was also named the No. 6 album of 2010 on The Americana Music Association Top 100 albums list. Keen is featured in the 2011 St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Texas Music Calendar (also featuring, Miranda Lambert, Richie McDonald, Clay Walker, LeAnn Rimes, Clint Black, Jewel, Pat Green and others.) The calendar is part of Country Fans Care for St. Jude Kids fundraising efforts, and proceeds from the sales benefit St. Jude's. This is the ninth edition of the Country Cares calendar, which have collectively, to date, raised more than $500,000 for the children of St. Jude.

Music

Betty's Place
103 S. "A" St.
Phone: 432-682-7092

Cabana Sports Bar
3113 W. Industrial Ave.
Phone: 432-688-3993

Cigar Frogs
216 N. Main St.
Phone: 432-687-1671
Web: www.cigar-frogs.com

Courtyard Marriott
1505 Tradewinds
Phone: 432-689-9400

Dos Amigos
4700 Golder Ave., Suite D46
Phone: 682-0401

Sedona Mexican Grill & Cantina
2101 W. Wadley
Phone: 432-570-9600

Shack in the Back
11520 W Highway 80 E, Odessa
Phone: 432-561-5105
Web site: www.shackintheback.com

The Bar
606 W. Missouri Ave
Phone: 432-685-1757
Web site: www.the-barmidland.com

The Detour
1708 Rankin Hwy
Phone: 432-685-1011

The Ground Floor
203 W. Wall St.
Phone: 432-683-4433

The Hemmingway
2200 W Wadley Ave, #2
Phone: 432-570-5333

The Hog Pit Pub & Grub
7400 W County Road 116
Phone: 432-561-9301

The New Blue Max
7409 W. Industrial Ave.

The Pine Box Collective
510 S. Big Spring

The Stardust
6300 Andrews Hwy., Odessa
Phone: 349-9879

The Velvet Room
The Midtown Hotel, 3100 W. Wall St.
Web: www.inthevelvetroom.com

Woofers and Tweeters
3303 N Midkiff Rd, No. 160
Phone: 432-522-2111

Your Place
3704 W. Wall St.
Phone: 432-262-3367

Dos Amigos
4700 Golder Ave., Odessa
Phone: 432-368-7556
Web: www.dosamigoscantina.com/

Escape Lounge
Quality Inn & Suites, Odessa
3001 East Business Loop 20
Phone: 432-333-3931

Graham Central Station
4240 Preston Road, Odessa
Phone: 432-552-0552
Web: www.graham-centralstation-odessa.com

Harrigans Grill & Bar
2701 John Ben Shepperd, Odessa
Phone: 432-617-8301
Web site: www.harrigansdining.com/

Hot Shots
615 W. Wall St.
Phone: 432-687-3582

Ice House
2 Meta Drive
Phone: 432-683-5770.

Kroc's
2215 N Midland Drive # 2A
Phone: 432-262-5858
Web: www.krocs-bar.com/

La Playa de Colores
2101 E. 8th St., Odessa
Phone: 432-580-4200

Martini Glass Grill
106 "A" St.
Phone: 432-218-9417
Web: www.myspace.com/martiniglassgrill

Miami Nights
1600 North Farm-to-Market 1936, Odessa

Ogi's
4555 E. University, Odessa
Phone: 432-362-0300

Riley's Bar & Grill
3421 W. Wall St.
Phone: 432-520-0006.

Rockin' Rodeo
4400 N. Big Spring

Live Wire

Midland/Odessa

Today
DJ Albert @ Sedona Bar & Grill
James Love @ Cigar Frog's

Friday, Feb. 11
Brian Milson @ Outer Limits
Cory Yeager @ Buffalo Wild Wings (Midland)
DJ Rob & Albert @ Sedona Bar & Grill
Jerry Nelson Band @ The Star Lite Saloon1
No Dry County @ Outer Limits
Sarah Satain and Scott Jones @ Cigar Frog's
Shane Rogers Band @ The Detour

Friday, Feb. 11, and Saturday, Feb. 12
Darren Welch Group @ The Bar
Road Kings @ Your Place
Thumping Puppies @ Riley's
3 Lit Pigz @ Hot Shots

Saturday, Feb. 12
Alberto Madrid @ Cigar Frog's
Cory Yeager @ Zucchi's
DJ Robert Sharp @ The Star Lite Saloon
DJ Scrambled Eggs and the Hash @ The Detour
Jerome Loera @ Sedona Bar & Grill
The Gibson Brothers @ MHS auditorium

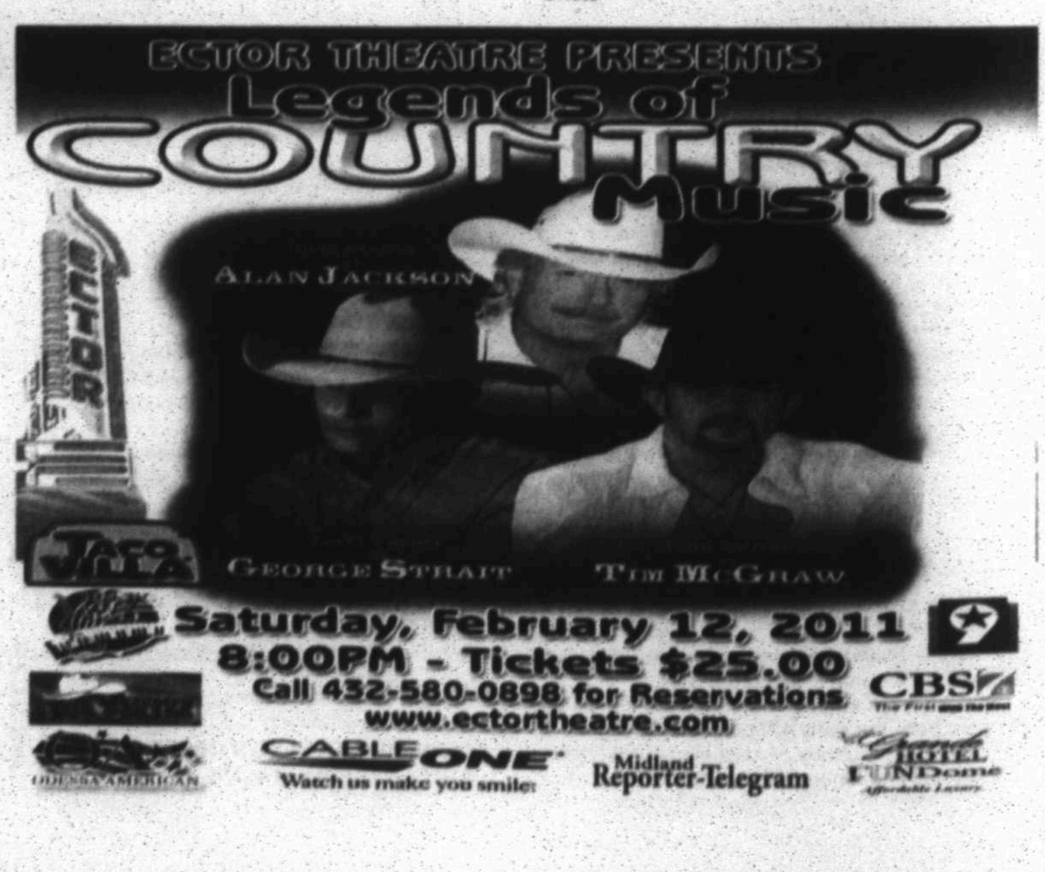
Tuesday, Feb. 15
Robert Sharp & Dusty Roads Band @ The Star Lite Saloon

Wenesday, Feb. 16
Brian Milson @ Escape Lounge
DJ Rob @ Sedona Bar & Grill

Lubbock

Friday, Feb. 11
Haste the Day, The Chariot, MyChildren MyBride, A Plea For Purging @ Jake's

Saturday, Feb. 12
Korn, Disturbed, Sevendust, In This Moment @ Fair Park Coliseum



By G

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In the limelight
African Children's Choir

Graham Dixon

By Graham Dixon

After several hundred reviews over the last three years it is difficult to find an evening that genuinely stands out as different from all the others — but last Saturday's visit by the African Children's Choir at Trinity Presbyterian Church was the exception that proves the rule. The individual elements — music, dance, singing — are common to most entertainment, but they are rarely brought together with such vitality and urgency.

The oldest members of this group – all of whom come from Uganda — are only 11, but they bring a lively professionalism to all they do. The flow from quiet songs of praise to spirited drumming and dancing occurs within seconds. It was the drumming that was particularly impressive. Small boys — one of whom was barely bigger than the drum he was playing — produced rhythms that were often of startling complexity. The sheer volume was riveting, and it was a wonder those apparently fragile hands could withstand the pounding.

But no worries — the same drum players would move a few feet to their right and start singing the most angelic modern Christian pieces, only to return to their drums once again within minutes. It was this swing between music that predates Western religions by millennia and very up-to-date worshipping that lent the evening an intriguing, if occasionally surreal atmosphere.

So a song including the words, "come to me you who are weary — and I will give you rest" was followed by a song in Swahili and then another that espoused the fact that "it takes a whole village" for a society to succeed in raising children. Here was the main theme of the evening — the desperate need for resources for countries that have been decimated by war, famine and disease — especially AIDS. The emcee and conductor for the evening, a young man who said he had lost his parents as a teenager, mentioned that Uganda had miraculously managed to survive the terrors of the despot Idi Amin. It is also one of the only African countries to have successfully combated AIDS — mainly through the open dissemination of information and honesty regarding behavior.

It was this sense of openness and optimism that suffused the concert. A soloist sang "Light of the World" as her fellows swayed slowly with eyes closed. Near the end a Ugandan wedding song and dance introduced a riotous wonder of movement and sound — one that reminded me of the open physicality of the Dances from the Islands that we had recently enjoyed. Here in the traditional dances that are a dying breed — traditional Ugandan religions are practiced by less than one percent of the population while Christians make up more than 80 percent — could be found total involvement at its purest.

The African Children's Choir has the mission of "helping Africa's most vulnerable children today, so they can help Africa tomorrow" — and the spirit of self-empowerment ran through their performance.

There was a poignant moment when the children announced none of their number was up for adoption because "we want to go back there and help." But many of these young people have been blessed with natural talents that will enable them to be professional entertainers if they want to be when they grow up.

As they made their way out of the church I wondered how many would stay in their home country once a whole world had been opened up by their talent. If history and current trends are anything to go by, very few will, but perhaps organizations like this one — born of a positive interpretation of their past, a celebration of the present and optimism for their future — means that this so beautiful, so fraught part of the world can find brighter years ahead.

For details on the African Children's Choir, including details on how to donate or volunteer, go to www.africanchildrenschoir.com <http://www.africanchildrenschoir.com/>

Keeping the Promise

Vet Center

"Looking For War Zone Veterans That Have Borne The Battle"

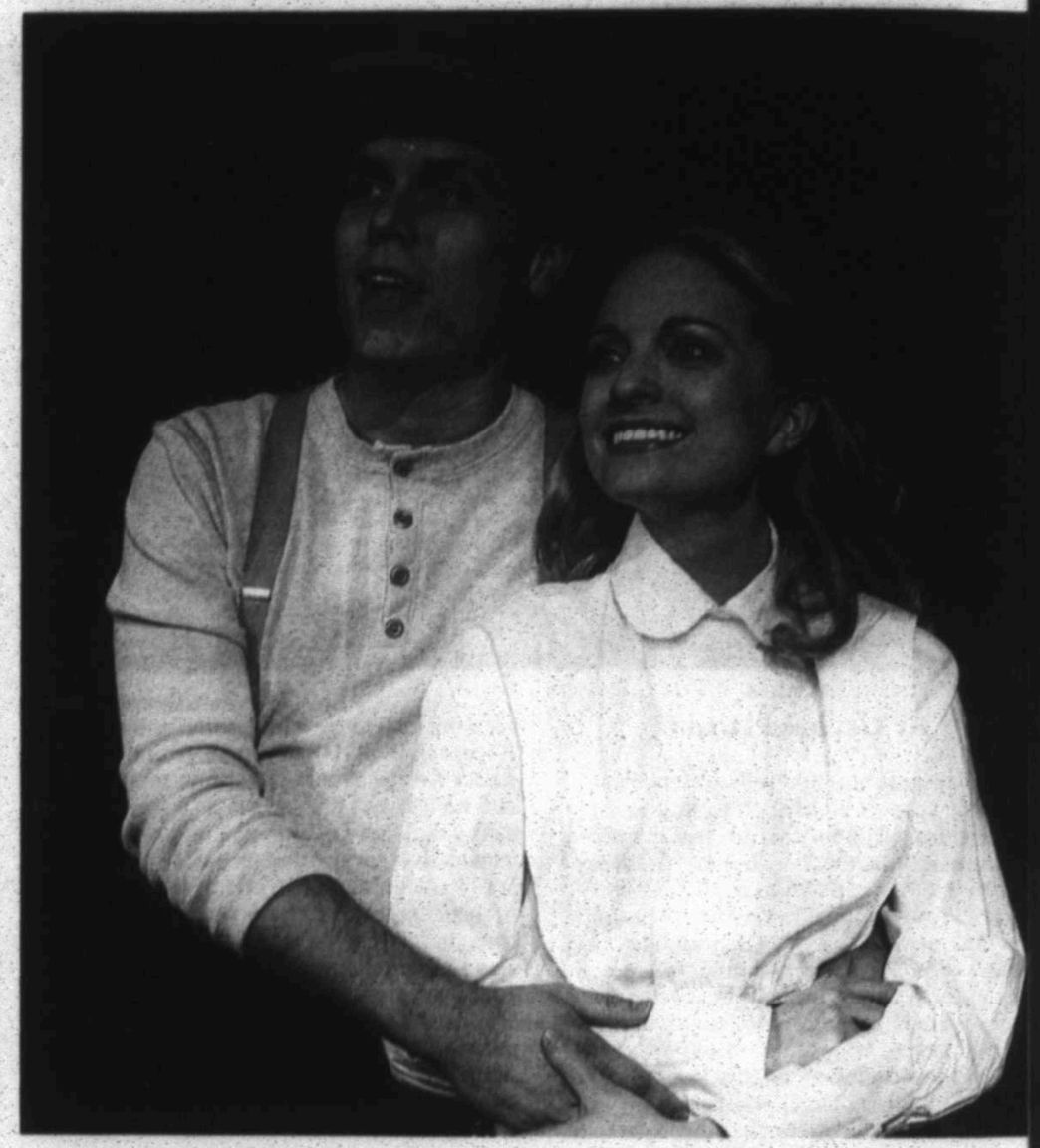
Veterans returning from combat may experience the following:

- Marriage/Relationship Problems
- Medical Issues
- Nightmare or Sleeplessness
- Lack of Structure/Motivation
- Financial Hardships
- Endless Questions from Family
- Guilt or Shame
- Feelings of Isolation
- Anger, Irritability or Rage
- Alcohol or Substance Abuse
- Depression or Anxiety Attacks

The Vet Center Can Help!

2817 W. Loop 250 N., Ste. E / 432-697-8222
1-877-WAR-VETS / VETCENTER.VA.GOV

In the limelight
Oklahoma



By Graham Dixon

"Oklahoma," the opening musical of the 2011 Midland Community Theatre season, is one of the best shows I have seen at the Davis Theatre in several years. Seamless production values, some finely-crafted performances and a host of newcomers make this a production that points toward a bright future. If one already has achieved excellence, the understandable temptation is to rest on one's laurels — but MCT is not doing that.

This Rogers and Hammerstein musical is more complex than it appears on the surface. Making her MCT debut in the leading role of Laurey, Jenness Rouse is radiant throughout the show — here is a woman you can imagine men fighting for and dying over. Rouse has a professionally trained voice that soars throughout. It might seem churlish and paradoxical — but occasionally her soprano tones sound almost too good. When not singing, her character possesses that vulnerable sensitivity and optimism of youth — but with the music comes great confidence. It is a paradox that might be worked into the characterization. As a whole, a lovely and magnetic performance.

As the irascible Ado Annie Carnes, the wonderfully fickle girl who (in)famously "cain't say no,", Jessi Willmann brought energy and mischievous suggestiveness to every scene, while her on-again-off-again beau Ali Hakim was played with jovial abandon by Brian Gravelle. As her hometown lover Will Parker, Ben Spencer was often funny in his exasperation at her changeable ways.

Drew Erwin brought an erstwhile sincerity to Curly McLain — perfectly cast as the young lover who will never give up his dream girl. He was best in the Smokehouse scene in the hilarious "Poor Jud is Dead." This song is a foreshadowing of Sondheim's deliciously dark quirkiness — and it seemed quite natural for the previously wholesome McLain to suggest his rival should commit suicide by hanging himself from a conveniently strong beam.

Playing Jud Fry, Micheal Waid brought the intensity and precision of a professional actor to the stage. I don't know whether he has acted professionally — but he could, and should. His brief first appearance brought a whole new dimension and depth. Here was a brooding, terrifying, openly animalistic man who behaved like a trapped beast throughout. His loneliness is palpable and agonizing, yet he is ready to attack at any moment. Waid was so real one child in the audience shouted out "let her go!" as he attacked Laurey during the party. One of those classic moments that can only come in live performance — and an apt tribute to how well Waid was acting.

As the villain of the piece, Fry is a fulcrum for the darker side of "Oklahoma" – the sadness of unattainable desire. Even in the most apparently light-hearted moments, such as when Annie answers the question of "which do you like best?" with "whichever one I am with!," a hint of the sadness of constant hedonism occurs. Director Tim Jebsen encapsulated this best in a telling moment during "People Will Say We're in Love." As Curly imagined his hand in Laurey's, she was only a few feet away, but a million miles distant because of a mutual lack of trust.

The ensemble was energetic and each individual had a specific character-type they maintained throughout. They excelled in the Dream Ballet sequence.

Technically, this was a smoothly run production with some gorgeous lighting and evocative sets. Particularly impressive was the sense of space engendered by the windmill in the Smokehouse scene, and the simple but effective backdrop of crops that seemed to be struggling to survive. An elegant device to show how all the inhabitants of this territory lived on edge.

"Oklahoma" is a rather strange musical because it has a finale — the song Oklahoma — before the actual ending. Jebsen did as well as any director could with the peculiarly rushed last section of the musical, although more realistic stage-fighting is needed. Jud and Curly's punches missed one another by about a foot in the final showdown. Also, the tendency for casts to burst back into song after the curtain call has occurred — while common throughout modern musical theater — leads to an awkward uncertainty in the audience. Theatre requires the willing suspension of disbelief — once the actors have gone out of character and received their deserved applause, that suspension has gone. The cast should not mysteriously go back into character — or at least back into the songs. The audience simply does not know what to do.

But overall, MCT's "Oklahoma" achieves what musicals are meant to do — as we departed into the dark, cold night we were convinced that all the struggles of life could indeed end happily — and in song. Well, at least until a large SUV in front of me ran the red light on Garfield and Wadley . . .

"Oklahoma" runs at Midland Community Theatre through March 5th. For tickets go to www.mct.org <http://www.mct.org/> or call 570-4111.

Graham Dixon, Ph.D.
www.grahamanthonyphotography.com
www.inthelimelightonline.com

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West Texas Kennel Club to host dog show at Horseshoe

By Georgia Temple
Entertainment Editor

Everything a dog owner could want can be found at the Horseshoe this weekend when the West Texas Kennel Club hosts its 2011 show.

"Our vendors sell most dog-related things, grooming supplies, all kinds of things that everybody needs who shows dogs," said Shannon Schneider, corresponding secretary for the WTKC. "A lot of times we have people who sell jewelry, decorated jackets. There's always lots of good things to buy at the dog show."

Last year's event was presented by WTKC and the Concho Kennel Club.

"We really wanted to cluster again with the San Angelo group, but those people ran out of money," Schneider said. "We hope we can do it again. All dog shows across the country are in trouble as far as money is concerned. The city of Midland has been very good to us. We really do appreciate the city of Midland. Most clubs don't get that support from their community."

The public is welcome at the show.

"They can walk around and visit with any of the people who are showing their dogs while they are grooming their dogs," said Schneider.

All of the dogs and puppies entered in the show must be AKC registered.

"This year we have close to 400 dogs entered in the show," said Schneider. "We have 384 entered each day, so each day is a stand-along show. There will be two best in shows, one on Saturday and one on Sunday."

Other activities include a just-for-fun "Puppy Match" and a raffle Saturday.

Five judges are coming from out of town and one from out of state.

"You have to get judges that are approved to judge each group," said Schneider, who has two French hunting hounds (Peti Basset Griffon Vendeen). "That's the reason you have to get so many judges. There are not many judges around that can judge all breeds. Actually they are not judging one dog against another. They are judging the standard for that breed."

ALL THE DETAILS:

What: West Texas Kennel Club Dog Show
When: Begins at 8:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.
Where: Horseshoe
Tickets: Free to the public.
Info: AKC-sanctioned dog show. Stand alone shows with a best in show determined each day.

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MCT
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The 2011
Opening Musical:
OKLAHOMA
February 4th - March 5th, 2011
Davis Theatre I
2000 W. Wadley Midland, TX 79705
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*Non-Member Ticket Prices: $18 Adult, $15 Senior, $12 Children
*Additional ticket processing fees applied for all non-member ticket purchases.
Box Office: 432-570-4111 or www.mctmidland.org

Midessa Boat, RV, Sport & Gun Show

Show caters to fishermen, hunters, outdoor enthusiasts

By Georgia Temple
Entertainment Editor

The avid fisherman or fisherwoman is not detered by living some distance from a fishing hole, a.k.a. a lake or river. From the folks with oars and a tin bottom boat to those with the latest high-powered fishing craft, interest is high in knowing the latest fishing news and being able to talk with authority about the most effective lures, baits and fishing aids on the market.

The 29th annual Midessa Boat, RV, Sport & Gun Show running today through Sunday inside and on the grounds of Ector County Coliseum offers just such a marketplace, not only for those who fish but also for the hunter as well as any outdoor enthusiast.

"We'll have about 10,000 people come through over the four days," said promoter Johnny Ramsey, who has been organizing this show for decades.

In addition to the expected products on the grounds, the show also includes some surprises.

"There are seven buildings on the Ector County Coliseum grounds, and they will all be full," Ransey said. "We will have boats on the coliseum floor. In the annex of the coliseum we have Morgan buildings and spas, family power sports, jewelry booths and craft booths — several different types of booths in that area. We have three bass clubs. Building A is the gun show. And we have RVs."

Building E is designed for the young and features the Royal White Tigers, pony rides and the Speleo cave.

"The 'Royal White Tiger Discovery' program is a special designed, hands-on, interactive conservation education program whose goal is to promote and excite people to the many conservation issues involving the last five remaining species of tigers in the wild," said Ramsey. "Currently there are only about 40 Royal White Tigers on exhibit in zoos throughout the United States, and less than 400 in the world, and none left in the wild. We are proud to be able to bring and share these magnificent adult Royal White Tigers to the general public. So we have a couple of things to interest the kids."

ALL THE DETAILS:

What: 2011 Midessa Boat, RV, Sport & Gun Show
When: 5-9 p.m. today, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday
Where: Ector County Coliseum Complex, 42nd & Andrews Highway, Odessa
Coliseum: Boats
Coliseum annex: miscellaneous vendors
Building A: Gun Show (Opens Friday)
Building B, C & D: Recreational Vehicles
Building E: Royal White Tigers. Towing vehicles: Dodge, Toyota, Nissan, Ford & Chevrolet.
Building G: Resorts, fishing guides, spas, archery equipment, decorations, motorcycles, etc.
Outside on the grounds: Used RVs, Boats, ATVs, Watercraft.
Admission: $6 adult; $5 seniors; $3 ages 3-11.
Specials: Today all tickets $3. Friday women free 5-9 p.m. Register to win door prizes from various vendors.
Contact: Johnny Ramsey, 432-381-3324; Cell 432-770-5165; e-mail / jramseynrg@aol.com; Website www.midessaboatshow.com.

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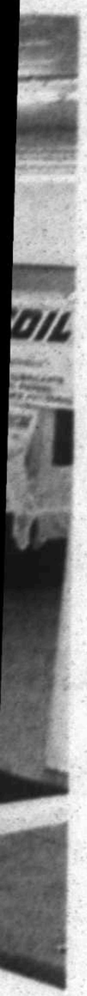

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The Gibson Brothers next up for Live on Stage!

The Live on Stage! Series returns this month with a performance by the Gibson Brothers at 7 p.m. Saturday at Midland High School auditorium.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch calls the brothers — Eric and Leigh Gibson, who grew up on a dairy farm outside of Ellenburg Depot, N.Y., in the shadow of the Adirondack Mountains — "the real deal."

"My parents loved music but they didn't play," said Eric Gibson. "My father, I think, always wanted to play but he worked like mad from the time he was 9 years old. He was a dairy farmer. He'd go to an auction and come back with a fiddle, and they ordered a guitar and a banjo through the Sears Roebuck Catalog so we had instruments around the house but nobody knew how to play them.

"When I was 12 and Leigh was 11, we came home from school and Dad said, 'There's a guy giving lessons at Dick's Country Store, and I'd like one of you to play the banjo and one to play the guitar."

Eric chose banjo and Leigh, guitar. The brothers took lessons on their instruments and began singing at the suggestion of their minister.

"We progressed at the same rate," Eric said. "We grew up listening to the same people and seemed to agree about what type of songs we wanted to play and our direction. We never really argued about that. If I like a song, Leigh will like it, too."

They caught the Bluegrass bug after their teacher introduced them to the music of Flatt and Scruggs, but still they never intended to actually make it as musicians.

"I was just as much into baseball, if not more so, than music," Eric laughs. "I either wanted to pitch at Yankee Stadium or play at the Grand Ole Opry, and I've gotten to do one of those. I always had monstrous dreams. But each year we'd get more and more serious about music."

ALL THE DETAILS:

THE GIBSON BROTHERS
When: 7 p.m. Saturday
Where: Midland High School Auditorium
Admission is by membership or single admission tickets, which are $30. Still to go in the Live On Stage! (formerly Midland Community Concerts) series are performances by Quartetto Gelato and Jim Witter, The Piano Man. Call 789-1249 or go to www.liveonstage-pb.com.

Info on the Gibson Brothers: In 1998 the brothers won the 1998 IBMA Emerging Artist of the Year award. In 2005, the brothers signed with Sugar Hill and subsequently released four albums: Bona Fide (which went to #1 on the Bluegrass Unlimited chart), Long Way Back Home, Red Letter Day, and 2008's Iron and Diamonds, which is a reference to their hometown's two claims to fame — iron ore mining and baseball. The Gibson Brothers' debut release on Compass Records, Ring the Bell, was available in 2009.

Source: www.liveonstage.biz

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Fajitas Bravo serves juicy, tender fajitas and more

By Joan Huff

Ok, be honest. Sometimes you judge a restaurant by the way the building looks and pass it by. If you passed on Fajitas Bravo, you missed out on some of the best fajitas I have ever tasted.

The restaurant is located in a gray brick building at 409 E. Scharbauer Drive — next to the site of the senior center's Texas Size Garage Sale building — on the corner of Lamesa Road and Scharbauer Drive. There is no number on the building and a sign on the front says El Ranchito Bar and Grill. A sign on the side of the building lets diners know Fajitas Bravo is located inside.

Those who have been to Sorehead Trade Days in Stanton, the Permian Basin Fair or Celebration of the Arts already may be familiar with Fajitas Bravo, which has had a booth at each of these events, serving up fajitas and burritos to hungry patrons. Now, customers have the opportunity to enjoy the food for lunch and dinner Monday through Friday at the Scharbauer Drive location.

Inside of the restaurant one side of the room is designated for dining and the other side features pool tables, a dance floor and a bar where diners also may choose to sit. My friend and I sat at a booth and a basket of chips and homemade salsa was delivered quickly to our table and drink orders were taken. A large menu hangs on the wall and orders are taken at the tables.

Fajita plates are $7 and include rice, beans, two tortillas and a choice of beef or chicken. A combination plate with both chicken and beef fajitas is available for $9.

Owner Jonathan Lopez offered us a sample of the beef fajita meat. We were so impressed with the flavor and tenderness of the meat, some of the best-seasoned meat we had ever tasted. I would describe it as tender, juicy and perfect.

We ordered one fajita burrito with chicken and one with beef. Each burrito included guacamole, lettuce, tomato and cheese. Unlike fajitas at other restaurants that use big chunks of meat, bite-sized pieces of tender beef or chicken help keep the contents inside the tortilla.

FAJITAS BRAVO

409 E. Scharbauer Drive

682-6848

Payment Accepted: cash, credit cards
Entrée price range: $3-$16 for family packs
Hours: Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-2 p.m; 6 p.m.-midnight
Meals served: lunch, dinner
Kid's menu? Kid-friendly menu items

Parking? Ample parking lot
Outdoor seating? No
Private dining room for parties? No
Take out? Yes
Catering? Yes

Fajitas Bravo also offers barbecue including a rib plate with three ribs, potato salad, beans and a tortilla. Quesadillas, grilled chicken breasts, grilled chicken salad, nachos, old-fashioned hamburgers and fries also are on the menu.

Family packs to go allow customers to take food home. The packs include your choice of meat, rice, beans and guacamole.

Fajitas Bravo holds pool tournaments Thursday evenings until closing. The establishment has a 7-9 p.m. daily happy hour.

For people hosting a luncheon, business meeting or seminar, Fajitas Bravo will deliver food to the location. Several people I know already have dropped in to taste the food and see if it would meet their catering needs. They were just as impressed as I was. Lopez can help plan a delicious and affordable menu.

Don't judge this restaurant by its cover. Open the door and find delicious food waiting to satisfy your hunger.

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diningguide

Restaurant Guide: Pulse publishes a portion of the Restaurant Guide each week. Restaurants are listed in broad categories according to the type of food they serve. Additionally, they are classified as order at counter (OAC) then sit down, or sit down (SD) and be waited on. Several are listed as cafeteria or buffet style, a few are carry out.

Mexican

Ajuua's Mexican Restaurant and Drive-Thru (SD)
3205 W. Cuthbert Ave.
694-4116

Serving authentic Tex-Mex cuisine for lunch and dinner, Ajuua's offers an expansive menu with traditional favorites such as enchiladas, tacos, burritos and combination plates. The seafood menu features dishes with catfish, shrimp and oysters. Fajitas with beef, chicken, pork, shrimp or fish are available for $7.99 daily. Menudo is available Saturday and Sunday.
Entrée Price Range: $5.99 - $31.95
Hours: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Casa Lopez Cafe (SD)
4411 W. Illinois
699-7373

Extensive menu featuring all types of Mexican food specialties. Appetizers include items such as nachos, chile con queso, bacon wrapped shrimp and stuffed jalapenos. Variety of fajitas, combination plates, enchiladas, salads, steaks and a kid's menu. Sports bar in separate room with large TV. Delicious food and friendly service. Catering.Payment Accepted: all major credit cards, cash, checks.
Entrée price range: $5.99-$13.99 Lunch specials, Monday-Friday for $5.99-11 a.m.- 2 p.m. dine-in only.
Hours: Monday-Wednesday 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday-Friday 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday-9 a.m.- 10 p.m.. Sunday 9 a.m.- 9 p.m..
Meals served: lunch, dinner on Monday-Friday. Breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday, Sunday. Drive in window for take-out orders.

El Banquete (SD)
1802 Rankin Highway
620-0123

Popular Mexican food establishment featuring daily specials. Appetizers such as chili con queso, guacamole, nachos and quesadillas. Taco salads, numerous burritos, beef or chicken fajita salads as well as various enchiladas plates are also on the menu. Beef tacos as well as soft pork tacos and T-bone steaks are also offered. Breakfast burritos served daily. Kid's menu available. Payment types accepted: all major credit cards, checks.
Entrée Price Range: $6.50-$10.49, T-bone dinner $15.99.
Hours: Monday -Friday 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Jorge's Café (SD)
3323 N. Midland Drive (Fairmont Shopping Center near Miss Cayce's)
Second location - 4400 N. Big Spring
689-0032 (Midland Drive)
683-6303 (N. Big Spring)

Voted top Mexican food restaurant and best salsa in town by readers of the Midland Reporter-Telegram. Lunch specials from 11 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Quick service and nice atmosphere. Appetizers, salads, Mexican specialties, combination plates, fajitas, and steaks. Breakfast served on Saturday and Sunday. Full service bar with happy hour Monday-Friday 3-6 p.m, televisions in bar tuned to sports. Room for party. Catering available. Payment Accepted: all major credit cards, cash, no checks.
Entrée price range: $4.99-$11.49. Hours: Monday 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-10 p.m., and Sunday 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Cancun Grill (SD)
223 W. Wall
618-0390

Located inside the Midland Tower Building across from the courthouse, this Mexican restaurant offers everything. Colorful dining room and décor. Full service bar. Large menu offering traditional Mexican dishes as well as numerous specialties and seafood, chicken and salads. Food is beautifully displayed on the serving dishes. Tres Leches cake is delicious. Cancun Grill is perfect for those working downtown. Catering and kid's menu available.
Entrée Price Range: Lunch, $6.50-$11.95; Dinner, $7.75-$19.95.
Hours: Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 5:30-9 p.m.; Saturday 5:30-9 p.m.

Casa del Sol Restaurante y Cantina (SD)
523 East Illinois
686-1118

No reservations required, but handy when you have a group of six arriving at lunch. The inside is reminiscent of a Mexican cantina. Numerous appetizer selections, Mexican specialties and combination plates, Mexican stir-fry, West Texas specialties including country-fried steak, shrimp, grilled or fried catfish. Kid's menu available. Payment Accepted: all major credit cards, cash, checks.
Entrée price range: $5.75-$12.50.
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Charlas Restaurante & Bar (SD)
3330 W. Illinois
699-2440

Enjoy delicious Mexican food while enjoying an informal and relaxed dining experience. Full service bar. Appetizers, enchiladas, tacos, shrimp nachos, tortilla soup, taco and tropical salad. Large choice of steaks, fajitas, burgers, seafood and chicken dishes as well. Delicious chips and salsa. Combination meals available as well as daily lunch specials. Kid's menu.
Entrée Price Range: $4.99-$14.99.
Hours: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

Garcia's Downtown Cafe (SD)
100 E. Texas
432-684-3833
2nd location:
Garcia's Burritos
1306 N. Lamesa Road
432-684-4383

Downtown location perfect for those that want to grab a fast lunch without the crowd and noise of a big restaurant. Located on the corner of Texas and Main and parking is on the street. Appetizers such as shrimp cocktail, chips and salsa or queso and guacamole, tortilla soup as well as shrimp cocktail are on the menu. Also listed are a variety of burritos including beef, chicken or asado. Fajita plates include beans, rice, guacamole and sour cream with two tortillas. Menudo on Friday and can be purchased by the pint or quart. Drinks include soft drinks, tea, coffee, milk and orange juice. Pick up a breakfast burrito- open early each day at 7:30 and serve breakfast until 10 Monday-Friday. Breakfast burritos such as bacon and egg, sausage and egg, steak and chile or steak and potato are all on the menu and are a mere $2 each. They also have a small coffee bar where you can get a cup of coffee. Payment accepted: credit cards, cash, and checks. Open Monday-Friday 7:30-1:30.

Rosa's Café & Tortilla Factory (OAC)
903 Andrews Highway 520-2358
2501 N. Big Spring 620-0634
4301 N. Midland Drive 520-0489

Winner of the Midland Reporter Telegram's Top 100 for the "best fast food restaurant" and "best queso," this restaurant has a large menu of tacos, burritos, nachos and salads and a la carte items. Offering Mexican platters such as a beef burrito plate, cheese enchilada plate, deluxe Mexican plate and chicken or beef fajita plates in addition to a tamale dinner. Most of these "plates" come with rice and beans on the side and a small salad. Family sized portions available (try the fajita fiesta) as well as catering. Great atmosphere and quick service. Watch as they make fresh tortillas daily. Kid's menu available.
Entree price range: $1.19-$8.99
Hours: Sunday-Thursday 10:30 a.m.-11 p.m.
Friday-Saturday 10:30 a.m.-midnight

Caramba's Spanish Inn (SD)
3116 W. Front
520-9724 or 520-9525

Bustling Mexican restaurant with a wide variety of Mexican foods. Menu features appetizers, lite plates offering ten different choices, a "customer favorites" section, Mexican specialties and combination plates, burritos, burgers, steaks and seafood. Several rooms available for parties. Payment Accepted: cash, local checks, major credit cards.
Entrée price range: $4.95-$10.95.
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 5-9 p.m.

Dos Compadres (SD)
2200 W. Wadley
#1 Oak Ridge Square
684-7239
www.Doscompadres.net

Mexican restaurant offering various rooms for seating. Appetizers offered include a variety of nachos and quesadillas as well as chile con queso. There are 15 house specials to choose from as well as a large selection of combination plates. Also on the menu are steaks, seafood, and fajitas. Kid's menu available. Catering. Full service bar. Daily specials. Friendly service and family atmosphere. Payment Accepted: major credit cards, checks, cash.
Entrée price range: $5.25-$16.95 for a 12-ounce ribeye.
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Gerardo's Casita (SD)
2407 N. Big Spring
570-6012
www.gerardoscasita.net

Mexican food restaurant offering an extensive menu with a wide variety of appetizers such as fajita and Tejano nacho and quesadillas. Mexican entrees, tacos, enchiladas and burritos, grilled specials including burgers, fajitas, steaks, taco salad and delicious tortilla soup. Daily specials, kid's menu and several rooms for meetings or parties. Full service bar. Catering available. Payment Accepted: checks, credit cards, cash.
Entrée price range: $5.99-$12.99. Lunch Specials: Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

La Herradura Mexican Cuisine (SD)
1422 Rankin Highway
687-3000

Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, La Herradura offers diners numerous choices on their expansive menu. Breakfast plates including huevos rancheros, omelettes, pancakes, French toast and other options with potatoes, beans and tortillas are served from 6 -11 a.m. Lunch and dinner options include tacos, quesadillas, tostadas, fajitas, steaks, carne asada, enchiladas, flautas and burritos as well as hamburgers and other sandwiches. The restaurant serves menudo, caldo de res and cabrito en salsa verde on the weekends and a daily lunch buffet from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. Kids menu offers a variety of options for under $5.
Payment accepted: cash, major credit cards
Entree price range: $2-$14.99
Hours: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. daily

La Mision (SD)
1008 S. Big Spring
682-0320

Festive Mexican atmosphere with colorful décor and lights. Delicious chips and salsa with your meal. Large menu with large selection of appetizers, main dishes such as cheese enchiladas, carne guisada, hamburgers and fries, and chicken fried steak, fajitas, chili rellenos, grilled specialties. There is something for everyone on this

dininguide *cont.*

menu. Try the sopapillas with ice cream for a delicious ending to your meal. Full service bar and outdoor seating available. Kid's menu. All major credit cards, checks and cash accepted.
Average Entrée Price Range: $8.
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Dona Anita's (SD)
305 W. Florida Ave.
563-6727

Serving traditional Tex-Mex entrees such as tacos, burritos, enchiladas, chile rellenos and combination plates. Dona Anita's is located near downtown and offers weekday lunch specials. The menu also includes fajitas with chicken, steak or shrimp, flautas, salads, quesadillas and other Tex-Mex specialties as well as American dishes such as hamburgers, a catfish platter and chicken fried steak. On Sundays, customers may order specials such as huevos con chorizo, menudo, huevos rancheros and migas.
Entree price range: $6.95-$14.95.
Hours: Lunch: Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dinner: Monday-Saturday 5-9 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

La Bodega Mexican Restaurant and Bar (SD)
2706 N. Big Spring St.
684-5594

Opened in 1972, La Bodega serves a variety of traditional and unique Mexican dishes. Popular dishes include the chile relleno — stuffed with beef, chicken, cheese or shrimp, deep-fried and topped with red sauce, sour cream, pecans and raisins — and the nuelo which is described on the menu as a Mexican pizza. Traditional Tex-Mex entrees include fajitas, enchiladas, nachos, tacos, burritos and flautas. A variety of salads, seafood dishes and Southwest-inspired plates also are available. La Bodega has several dining rooms, including an enclosed patio room. The bar is located upstairs and is accessible from both inside and outside the building. The bar keeps later hours than the restaurant.
Entree price range: $4.55 - $15.50
Hours: 11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. daily

Romie's Mexican Restaurante (SD)
701 S. Marienfield
432-682-5344

Mexican dining establishment offering daily specials, most at $6.99. Large selection of appetizers including, stuffed jalapenos and flautas, nachos and homemade salsa. Choose your favorite Mexican dish such as chalupas, tacos, enchiladas, quesadillas, burritos and pick from the variety in each category. Steak, catfish and burgers are also on the menu as well as a kid's menu. Friendly and speedy service. The perfect place to go for those working downtown and anyone looking for a delicious Mexican meal. Catering and take out available. Hours: Monday-Friday 11-2:00 p.m. Payment types accepted: checks, credit cards and cash.

Sabores Mexican Grill & Cantina (SD)
2101 W. Wadley, #45
570-9600

Sit out on the patio and enjoy traditional Mexican food dishes. Start your meal off with delicious chile con carne queso. Enchiladas, quesadillas, burritos, carne guizada and tacos are all on the menu. All Mexican dinners are served with rice, beans, guacamole, and two flour tortillas. Assorted selection of soups, taco salads and sandwiches, burgers and salads, seafood and steaks also offered. Daily specials and catering available. Payment types accepted: all major credit cards, checks, cash.
Entrée Price Range: Mexican dishes, $6.99-8.99, fish & steak dishes, $9.99-24.99.
Hours: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily for restaurant, bar is open until midnight daily.

Tampico Spanish Inn (SD)
2411 W. Wall Street
682-5676

Go early to get a table at this popular Midland eatery. Wide variety of appetizers including jalapeno chips, queso, chile con queso, guacamole, avocado salad, stuffed jalapenos and a selection of quesadillas and nachos (available in whole and half orders). Lunch specials are offered and change daily. Traditional Mexican selections in addition to burgers, chicken fried steak, pork chops and salads. Kid's menu and catering available. Payment Accepted: major credit cards, cash, and checks.
Entrée price range: $4.99-$14.99.
Hours: Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; 5-9:45 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m.-9:45 p.m., Sunday 8-11 a.m. (breakfast), 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (lunch).

Javi's Mexicano Restaurante (SD)
1511 Rankin Highway
684-4898

Serving breakfast and lunch. Also features a bakery offering all types of baked goods as well as a tortilla and tamale factory — all located right beside the restaurant. Menu includes a wide choice of burritos such as combination, steak with potatoes, chile relleno, great fajitas of chicken and beef or carne guisada. Nachos including bean, beef, chicken and beef fajita or combination. Single entrees can be ordered with a side of rice, beans and two flour tortillas for $5.99. For those who love hamburgers, Javi's menu offers several different types of burgers with a side of fries. Breakfast burritos with ham, chorizo, beans, potatoes or bacon are on the menu as well as plates such as two eggs and bacon or sausage or eggs with pork chops or short ribs in addition to Huevos rancheros. Plates include beans, potatoes and two flour tortillas. Breakfast dishes can be ordered throughout the day. Entree price range: breakfast $2.69-$7.99; lunch $2-$7.99. Payment Accepted: major credit cards, checks, cash. Hours: Monday-Friday 6 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Garcia's Burritos
1306 N. Lamesa Road
684-4383

Appetizers such as shrimp cocktail, chips and salsa or queso and guacamole, tortilla soup as well as shrimp cocktail are on the menu. Also listed are a variety of burritos including beef, chicken or asado. Fajita plates include beans, rice, guacamole and sour cream with two tortillas. Menudo is offerend on Friday and can be purchased by the pint or quart. Drinks include soft drinks, tea, coffee, milk and orange juice. Pick up a breakfast burrito when Garcia's opens at 7:30 a.m. daily. Breakfast is served until 10 a.m. Monday-Friday. Breakfast burritos such as bacon and egg, sausage and egg, steak and chile or steak and potato are all on the menu and cost $2 each. They also have a small coffee bar. Payment accepted: credit cards, cash, and checks. Open Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

DVDIVA'S
pick of the week

Pick of the week —

NEVER LET ME GO (R) The murky trailer for this film simply didn't do it justice. The again, it's hard to describe without giving too much away. It is a breathtaking, haunting movie that will have you talking about its themes long after you've watched it. A

BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA 2 (G) Thoroughly unnecessary and almost offensively bad sequel may find fans with the super young, say those in utero, but everyone else will find nothing of note except for some extremely cute puppies and one funny joke about the legendary chupacabra. C

CHAIN LETTER (R) Violent, gory and unbelievably cool scenes of demise set this film apart from this year's pack of torture porn films. Fans of the "Saw" series or the "Final Destination" franchise should add this to their queue. B

CONVICTION (R) Amazing true story of woman who went to law school to try to overturn her brother's murder conviction. Hillary Swank and Sam Rockwell shine, but where it fails is in omitting the true end of the story. B+

HATCHET II (R) A mindless sequel to the mindless original doesn't seem to care about whether its torture porn sequences look realistic. When the gore is the only thing going for your film, you might want to do your viewers the courtesy of getting it right. F

LET ME IN (R) Remake of Swedish film about vampire child has an odd Eastern European look to it yet it was filmed in Albuquerque, N.M. All that aside, the buildup of suspense is quite effective and the performances by its two young stars is impressive. Its only flaw is the cheesy CGI in the attack sequences. That alone kept it from Pick of the Week status. A-

MEAN GIRLS 2 (PG-13) Lindsay Lohan didn't make many right decisions last year, but staying out of the sequel to the film that made her a star was probably one of them. Tim Meadows made one huge mistake: He did return for this film, which actually is more of a retelling than a sequel. Had this been marketed under a different name and taken the punishment for ripping off "Mean Girls," this film probably would have fared better. It wasn't that bad. It just didn't have a chance of success with that title and none of the elements, noticeably a Tina Fey script, that would have found an audience. B-

MONSTERS (R) Kind of a "Cloverfield" meets "District 9" without coming close to the level of those two films, but not by much. There are segments that create monumental boredom and segments that create edge-of-your-seat curiosity. That unevenness leaves a bit to be desired. B-

THE TILLMAN STORY (R) Documentary about NFL star who gave up lucrative football career to enlist in the Army only to be killed by friendly fire in Afghanistan still leaves questions unanswered, but does a fine job of deconstructing and lambasting the cover-up perpetrated shortly after his death. B+

WELCOME TO THE RILEYS (R) This movie will probably be more remembered as a novelty film as much as anything else, thanks to its departure performance by "Twilight's" Kristen Stewart as a runaway teen prostitute. But it's better than that. James Gandolfini, Melissa Leo and Stewart make this character study compelling and deserving of an audience willing to watch for more than a view of Stewart's naked backside. B+

DVDs are provided courtesy of the Blockbuster Video store located at 4311 Andrews Highway.

Nancy Adamson can be reached at nadamson@mrt.com. Follow her at Twitter — DVDiva@Twitter.com.

BARGAIN BIN PICK OF THE WEEK This feature looks at some of the overstock and going out of print titles you can find around town, usually for around five bucks. Spotted this week:

BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID (PG) As much as I am compelled to punish this film for not only helping pioneer the dreaded music montage — and doing it badly — everything else about this movie is just delightful. Oh, well, except for its controversial ending. And did I mention that music montage is built around the worst best song winner Regardless, forget Gibson and Glover, Wilder and Pryor and Thelma and Louise, the chemistry between Paul Newman and Robert Redford made this one of the best buddy movies of modern cinema.

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onscreen

"Sanctum"

"The Mechanic"

"SANCTUM" — In this 3-D cave-diving adventure, a little bit of rain causes a lot of death — by accident, murder and a bizarre amount of assisted suicide. Who needs those chipper Chilean miners, anyway? Eschewing such heartwarming tales, "Sanctum," directed by Australian Alister Grierson and produced by 3-D guru James Cameron, is more interested in the savage realities of survival. A large expedition headed by grizzled Aussie explorer Frank McGuire (Richard Roxburgh) is in the midst of mapping a mile-deep cave in Papua New Guinea (although the film was shot in Australia). Frank's less ambitious 17-year-old son, Josh (Rhys Wakefield), along with the team's financier daredevil, Carl (Ioan Gruffudd), and his equally gung-ho girlfriend, Victoria (Alice Parkinson), arrive shortly before a cyclone traps them underground. They're sent scurrying through a labyrinth of cavernous chambers and underwater crevices as tight as those in "127 Hours." Leading them with gruff determinism, Frank almost too eagerly dispatches the wounded. As a showcase for 3-D, the film is a failure. But as an anti-assisted living testament, it's weirdly bracing. R for language, some violence and disturbing images. 109 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

— Jake Coyle, AP Entertainment Writer

"THE MECHANIC" — It's probably blasphemy to even think this, much less say it out loud, but here goes: This remake starring Jason Statham is better than the 1972 original starring Charles Bronson — and Statham is better in the lead role than Bronson was. Now, "The Mechanic" may not have been one of Bronson's stronger films during this era but it has achieved a certain following among genre fans. In retrospect it was a bit languid, it meandered here and there with its groovy vibe — although it did feature a breathtakingly wordless, 15-minute opening as Bronson's assassin character laid out the works for an elaborate kill in a seedy, downtown Los Angeles apartment building. That's the whole point of both films: The hit men at the center of them pull off assassinations that don't look like assassinations. Both function in a world where morals and rules don't seem to apply, where law enforcement is practically nonexistent and the relationship between a hit man and his mentor is meant to seem as touching as the one between a father and son. Director Simon West ("Con Air") and screenwriter Richard Wenk have taken those core concepts from Lewis John Carlino's original script, moved the action to steamy New Orleans and pumped out a movie that's slicker and sleeker, leaner and meaner — not in an idiotic way, but rather to reflect the actor and the times. R for strong brutal violence throughout, language, some sexual content and nudity. Running time: 92 minutes. Three stars out of four.

— Christy Lemire, AP Movie Critic

"THE RITE" — Anthony Hopkins classes this up, as you can imagine he would in almost every situation. But even his otherworldly powers can only make this overly familiar demonic possession thriller engaging for so long. Despite the ads that would suggest otherwise, Hopkins is a supporting player here. The center of the film is Colin O'Donoghue, making his confident, impressive feature debut as Michael Kovak, an aspiring Catholic priest suffering a spiritual crisis. Following his mother's death, Michael joined his father (Rutger Hauer) in the family mortuary business. Swedish director Mikael Hafstrom ("Evil," "1408") details the painstaking process of cleaning and preparing a body for a funeral with precise, clear-eyed detail, which makes it seem even creepier. Still, Michael is obviously a caring and conscientious young man, and it makes sense that he'd be interested in tending to others through the church. Trouble is, he's not sure what he believes. Michael Petroni's script, "suggested by" a novel that was "inspired by" actual events, is surprisingly reasonable and even-tempered with its discussions about the nature of faith. For a while, it is neither hyperbolic nor preachy, but open to all possibilities and levels of devotion — or lack thereof. All of this intelligent setup, as well as the moody, atmospheric way Hafstrom takes advantage of locations in Rome and Budapest, make the over-the-top climax feel like even more of a letdown. PG-13 for disturbing thematic material, violence, frightening images and language including sexual references. Running time: 113 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

— Christy Lemire, AP Movie Critic

Other reviews from McClatchy-Tribune Information Services

RATINGS: 4 stars: Excellent; 3 stars: Good; 2 stars: Fair; 1 star: Poor

NO STRINGS ATTACHED 3 stars. Affable comedy with Ashton Kutcher and Natalie Portman as friends with benefits. She'd like to keep the arrangement strictly physical, but his emotions keep getting in the way. 1 hr. 48 R (sexual content, profanity, drugs) — Carrie Rickey

THE DILEMMA 1 1/2 stars. Vince Vaughn and Kevin James are best buds, Jennifer Connelly and Winona Ryder the respective girlfriend and wife, in this Ron Howard-directed infidelity comedy distinguished by its resounding unfunniness and emotional dishonesty. 1 hr. 58. PG-13 (profanity, violence, adult themes) — Steven Rea

THE FIGHTER 3 1/2 stars. Based on the real-life career, and comeback, of welterweight champ "Irish" Micky Ward and the relationship with his wacko half-brother, erstwhile prizefighter Dicky Eklund, this roiling, colorful film is great in the ring, and great outside the ring, too. Mark Wahlberg and Christian Bale are the pugilist sibs, Melissa Leo their mom, Amy Adams is Micky's bareknuckle barkeep girlfriend. 1 hr. 5 R (violence, profanity, drugs, sex, adult themes) — Steven Rea

THE GREEN HORNET 1 1/2 stars. Seth Rogen co-wrote and co-stars in this superhero spoof that aims for irreverence and settles for irrelevance. Director Michel Gondry fails to put his surrealist stamp on the material. Only Jay Chou, as the Hornet's sidekick who is really his superior, emerges with any personality. PG-13 — Carrie Rickey

THE KING'S SPEECH 4 stars. Colin Firth and Geoffrey Rush star in this rousing Odd Couple comedy, drawn from real life, about King George VI, a stutterer, and his speech therapist. 1 hr. 51 R (profanity, but otherwise family-friendly for those 12 and over) — Carrie Rickey

TRON: LEGACY 2 stars. With its Zen jargon, martial-arts moves and neon glow, the sequel to the 1982 cult picture that explored the inner life of videogames demonstrates that you can teach an old dog new Matrix. But for the hipster ravings of Jeff Bridges the sequel would otherwise be merely a gaudy Nintendo prototype. 2 hrs. 06 PG (lots of flashing lights and loud noise) — Carrie Rickey

Last showing today at Tall City 14: "Little Fockers," "Country Strong," "Tangled" & "Black Swan."

Opening Friday at Tall City 14: "Justin Bieber Never Say Never in 3D," "The Eagle," "Just Go With It" and "Gnomeo and Juliet in 3D."

Saturday at Tall City 14:Metropolitan Opera production live of "Nixon in China," noon. Tickets $24 for adults, $22 for seniors, $18 for children. This film will be shown instead of the 1:25 and 4:10 showings of "The Dilemma."

Feb. 17: "Rise," 7 p.m. Tickets: $15 all ages. This film will be shown instead of the 6:35 and 9:15 showings of "True Grit."

Last showing today at Big Sky Drive-In: "The Mechanic," "The Dilemma" and "True Grit."

Opening Friday at Big Sky Drive-in: the animated film "Gnomeo and Juliet," "Just Go With It" and bringing back "Tron: Legacy."

what'scoming

LECTURE BY REALISM ARTIST PHILIP PEARLSTEIN
When: 5:30 p.m. Feb. 17
Where: UTPB's CEED Building auditorium, Hwy. 191 and FM 1288.
Admission: Free.
Info: Rescheduled from earlier in the month due to weather. Pearlstein lives and works in New York City and is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus from Brooklyn College where he taught for 25 years. From 2003-2006, the octogenarian artist served as president of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

HOUSTON GRAND OPERA: OPERA TO GO PRESENTS "THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA"
When: 7 p.m. Feb. 18
Where: Memorial Christian Church, andrews Highway at Cuthbert Avenue
Admission: Donations accepted. Reception follows.
Info: School performances are planned Feb. 16-18.

"SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL"
When: Feb. 18, 19, 20, 26, 27 and March 4-6
Where: The Permian Playhouse, 310 W. 42nd St.
Curtain: 8 p.m. Fridays, 2:30 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays. There will be no show Feb. 25.
Tickets: $14 for adults, $12 for seniors and students and $7 for children under 12. They can be purchased at the box office, or online at permianplayhouse.com, or by calling 550-5456 in the afternoon. Season memberships are available.
Info: Presented by the Kaleidoscope Company

MIDESSA MOTORCYCLE SHOW
When: Feb. 19
Where: Horseshoe Main Arena

Road Trip

Lubbock

The 3rd annual Rock & Worship Roadshow: Mercyme, Jars of Clay, Thousand Foot Kruth, Matt Maher and The Afters to City Bank Coliseum Feb. 26. Also hip-hop artist LeCrae. Admission: $10 at the door. VIP admission is $100 and includes early admission. For more information call 1-800-965-9324 or go to www.rockandworshiproadshow.com.

Kids Zone

Thomas' Snowsuit and Other Munsch stories, 10:30 a.m., Feb. 26, Barnes and Noble Booksellers

Josefina Javelina: Hairy Tale, 10:30 a.m., March 7, Barnes and Noble Booksellers

Thursday, February 10th

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Arts Assembly of Midland
P.O. Box 3494
Telephone: 432-687-1149
Info: Umbrella organization for the arts in Midland. Presents Celebration of the Arts in May. Sub-grants to arts organizations. Also has outdoor display of art.

Art in the Park: An exhibition of four selected sculptures for 2010 opened earlier this month. The works are by Ed Wilson of Houston; Tim Glover of Houston; Joe Barrington of Throckmorton and Steven Neves of Abilene. Windlands Park, 1001 W. Dengar, during park hours. Free. Call: 687-1149.

American Airpower Heritage Museum
Commemorative Air Force
9600 Wright Drive, Midland International Airport
Midland, Texas 79701
432-563-1000
Info: Located at Midland International Airport, the museum is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is $10 for adults, $9 for seniors and teenagers, $7 for children ages 6-12 and free for those under 6. Discounts available for AAA and CAA members with ID as well as CAF Colonels and Cadets with ID, Texas Association of Museums, American Association of Museums, and National Historical Society Members.

Ellen Noel Art Museum
4909 E. University, Odessa
Telephone: 550-5456
Exhibition: "The Art of Devotion: Latin American Religious Art" from the collection of the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts through April 3 and William Schickel: Spirit Made Manifest through March 27 (see above). Regular museum gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

George W. Bush Childhood Home
1412 W. Ohio
Midland, Texas
Telephone: 432-685-1112
Info: Tours and gift shop hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Restored to the 1950's period when the Bush family lived in Midland.

Haley Memorial Library and History Center
1805 W. Indiana Ave.
Midland, Texas
Telephone: 682-5785
Info: A premiere research library that contains saddles from pioneer ranching families, firearms that helped settle the Southwestern frontier, fine art, bronzes, vintage photographs and an antiquarian library and archives that depict the expansion of the Southwestern frontier. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. No admission charged.

Midland College: McCormick Gallery
Allison Fine Arts Building
3600 N. Garfield St.
Current exhibition: The Studio 3600 Series presents "Past & Present," current and collected works of Warren Taylor through March 25.

Midland County Historical Museum
301 W. Missouri Ave.
Midland, Texas
Telephone: 688-2931 or 688-8947
Hours: Friday, Monday and Wednesday: 2-5 p.m. Free.

Museum of the Southwest
1705 W. Missouri Ave.
Midland, Texas
Telephone: 683-2882
Facilities in the museum complex:
Museum of the Southwest: Paul Folwell , Contemporary Series 2011, through March 27 in the Here and Now Gallery.
Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum: Permanent exhibits include "My Town," "Beach Babies" and "Touch of Sound." Admission charged to nonmembers. Hours at both museums: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Blakemore Planetarium: Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission $3 per person to see permanent exhibitions. Full dome, high definition digital video with surround sound, utilizing the new Spitz SciDome HD Projector. Sky show admission: $6 adults, $4 children 12 years old and younger, free for babies a year old and younger. Call: 683-2882 for times.

Permian Basin Petroleum Museum
1500 W. Interstate 20
Midland, Texas
Telephone: 432-683-4403
Info: The Museum's 60,000 square-foot facility houses photographic wall murals depicting early life in the oilfields, a West Texas boomtown, a unique marine diorama allowing visitors to travel back some 230 million years ago, taped interviews with pioneers who died many years ago, oil patch equipment now called "antique" that was necessary to oil men 80 years ago as computers are to business men today, the largest permanent collection of original paintings by Prix de West Gold Medal artist Tom Lovell and six of Jim Hall's world renowned Chaparrals and his 1980 Indy 500 Champion Yellow Submarine.
Temporary Exhibit:: "Westward for Wealth" features maps of exploration, territorial expansion and the quest for prosperity in the Americas. These maps, part of the Yana and Marty Davis Collection at the Museum of the Big Bend, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, help document and tell the story of this new pattern of exploration and expansion. In so doing, they tell stories of adventure and intrigue, murder and war, success and failure, and of people, both good and not-so-good.
Hours: 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission: adults $8, ages 12-17 and seniors 65 & above: $6, children (6-11) $5, children under 6 free.

Scarborough-Linebery House
802 S. Main St.
Midland, Texas
Telephone: 685-7368
Hours: Historic home open by appointment.

University of Texas of the Permian Basin
Nancy Fyfe Cardozier Gallery, Visual Arts Studios, UTPB campus
Upcoming: Solo exhibition of works by Marfa resident Rachel Manera, through Feb. 27.
Hours: Monday- Thursday 9 a.m-9 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 2-5 p.m. Call 432-552-2806.
Admission: Free and open to the public.

White-Pool House Museum
112 E. Murphy
Odessa, Texas
Telephone: 432-333-4072
On display: Quilt Exhibition through March 12
Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday
Info: Features over 30 quilts courtesy of local quilters. No admission charged. Donations accepted.

BEST BET:

WILLIAM SCHICKEL: SPIRIT MADE MANIFEST @ THE ELLEN NOEL ART MUSEUM, ODESSA

For more than six decades William Schickel (1919-2009) searched for beauty and expressed it in a variety of artistic media, including painting and sculpture. He also designed sacred and secular architectural spaces. Schickel embraced both abstraction and a personal stylization in his work, focusing not only on "what things look like, but what they mean."

During his career, he turned his talent to painting, drawing, printmaking, stained glass, furniture design, and sculpture. "I have no favorite medium," he said. "It's about shapes in space. You can't do sculpture with a brush or a painting with a chisel."

Although prolific as an artist, Schickel is also well known as a designer. In fact, he saw "no difference in the fine arts and design. They are different forms of the same thing."

Among his notable architectural design projects was transforming a dairy barn into an oratory (1962) at Grailville, a Catholic lay community dedicated to integrating the spiritual with daily life near Loveland in southwestern Ohio.

He also renovated the Abbey of Gethsemani, a Trappist-Cistercian monastery near Bardstown, KY. The abbey is well known through the writings of Father Louis, known to the public as Thomas Merton. He wrote to Schickel telling him "what a splendid job I think you have done in our Abbey Church and the Cloister. I particularly like the interior of the church—bright, simple, clear-cut, no nonsense and perfectly in accord with the spirit of our life."