MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2014 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

RANGER ADDITION

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CRUZ-IN' USA

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MPD: Murder-suicide occurs at officer's home

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland police respond to the scene of a domestic dispute Monday evening in the 400 block of Crenshaw Drive where MPD confirmed a murder-suicide.

Officer-involved event rocks neighborhood

By Joseph Basco
jbasco@mrt.com

A murder-suicide involving a Midland police officer rattled a north Midland neighborhood Monday night.

Midland Police Department Chief Price Robinson confirmed a male officer was found dead in his home in the 400 block of Crenshaw Drive near Lamesa Road. A woman suffering life-threatening gunshot injuries died at the hospital, Robinson said at the scene.

Authorities didn't officially release any names as of presstime, but a neighbor confirmed the house belonged to Midland Police Department officer Chad Simpson. Midland Central Appraisal District records confirm a house in the 400 block of Crenshaw Drive belongs to Chad D. Simpson.

Jerry Gonzales, who has lived in his home on Crenshaw Drive for the past 15 years, told the Reporter-Telegram that Simpson lived in the home with his wife and two young children. The family was regularly seen walking around the neighborhood with their dogs, he said, noting Simpson had lived there for about five years.

Gonzales said a handful of police cars responded Monday night to Simpson's home and he saw two kids were escorted immediately out to a police vehicle.

Gonzales never expected something like this to happen in the neighborhood that is home to several police officers, he said. He could not recall any other incidents to happen in the neighborhood for the 15 years he has lived in it.

"There's really nothing that goes on here," Gonzales said. "He (Simpson) is always the one that's protecting our streets because he's always patrolling it. This is shocking."

"A lot of questions need to be answered, but we're still conducting the investigation. This is a very tough time for us and the employees, but we'll get through it.

Midland Police Department Chief Price Robinson

Police cars with their lights flashing blocked off streets while onlookers stayed in the southwest corner of Crenshaw Drive and Trevino Street.

Multiple agencies, including the Texas Rangers and Odessa Police Department crime scene unit, assisted in the investigation, Robinson said in a statement.

He declined to answer further questions and didn't offer additional details on the murder-suicide as of presstime. Sara Bustilloz, city public information officer, said more information will be released once next of kin has been notified.

"A lot of questions need to be answered, but we're still conducting the investigation," a teary-eyed Robinson said. "This is a very tough time for us and the employees, but we'll get through."

In April, a Midland firefighter died following a shooting that led to a five-hour-long armed standoff and suicide in south Midland, according to a previous Reporter-Telegram report.

Public safety officials had found Henry "Trey" Rodriquez III, 35, with life-threatening gunshot wounds when they arrived at a residence in the 2200 block of South Baird Street. He was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital, where he died shortly after.

The armed suspect, Nestor Castro Jr., 35, barricaded himself in the house. Police officers later found Castro's body inside the home.

Back on Crenshaw Drive, police were still investigating well after media and neighbors dispersed at 10 p.m. By that point, a police vehicle and another vehicle were towed out of the Simpson home driveway, and German shepherds that neighbors say are the Simpsons' kept barking through the night.

"I think this was crazy," said Crystal Alexander, one of the final onlookers.

5 things: why the price of oil is down by half

By Jonathan Fahey
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The price of oil has fallen by nearly half in just six months, a surprising and steep plunge that has consumers cheering, producers howling and economists wringing their hands over whether this is a good or bad thing.

The price of a barrel of oil is just under $56, down from a summer high of $107, and lower than at any time since the U.S. was still in recession in the spring of 2009.

So what's going on? A global imbalance of supply and demand that is rippling across the world economy, for better and worse.

Supplies go boom

Years of high oil prices, interrupted briefly by the recession, inspired drillers around the world to scour the earth's crust for more oil.

They found it.

Please see **5 THINGS**/2A

P&Z commission recommends billboard ordinance

By Rye Druzin
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In a 5-0 decision, the city of Midland's Planning and Zoning Commission recommended to City Council that it approves amending Title XI Chapter 7A of the Midland City Code.

Development Services Director Chuck Harrington presented the changes to the commission, which include a "protection zone" within the corporate limits of the city. This would be located north of Interstate 20, south of Loop 250 North, west of Loop 250 East and east of Loop 250 North. It would also include the Big Spring Street/ State Highway 349 corridor along the city limit and State Highway 191, according to Harrington.

The amendment also introduces a cap-and-replace program within the protection zone, which would allow a

Please see **P&Z**/2A

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Energy prices

WTI Futures	$55.91	▼ $1.90
WTI Posted	$52.50	▼ $1.75
WTS Posted	$49.90	▼ $1.75
Natural Gas	$3.719	▼ $0.075
Gasoline	$2.445	▼ $0.061

The big number
Economic output is reduced by
1% for each degree
Fahrenheit above 90 degrees, according to a new study. Page 6C

Today in Culture
CAF offers night rides to see Christmas lights. Page 1B

Coming Wednesday
Campus anxiety up as crude price drops.

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NOTICE: The Thanksgiving Day edition is delivered with every subscription delivery frequency and will be charged at the prevailing Sunday-only home delivery rate. This will result in an adjustment to the subscription expiration date.

Rescue on the scene

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

A two-vehicle accident at Cuthbert Avenue and Pecos Street sent one driver to the hospital Monday afternoon after the collision caused one SUV to rollover.

South Texas family lockup will be nation's largest

By Will Weissert
Associated Press

DILLEY — The Obama administration on Monday unveiled a former oil field workers' camp in rural South Texas that's being converted into the nation's largest family immigration detention center, as federal authorities brace for the possibility that mothers and children may again come pouring across the U.S.-Mexico border illegally.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson visited the 50-acre compound featuring 80 tan, two-bedroom, one-bathroom cottages connected by dirt roads and newly laid grass sod in Dilley, about 70 miles southwest of San Antonio.

The first wave of about 30 immigrants will begin arriving in coming weeks and the cabins will eventually hold up to 480 people. Housing being constructed nearby will push capacity to 2,400 by around May.

Advocates say immigrant families are often fleeing drug or gang violence in Central America and should be released to relatives already in the U.S., rather than being locked up. The daily cost of family detention is about $296 per person, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, nearly double the average cost of holding adults as estimated by the National Immigration Forum advocacy group.

Women and children at Dilley will remain until they are deported, released on bond or begin immigration court proceedings that could allow them to stay in the United States. ICE says 70 percent of immigrant families released into the U.S. never showed up for follow-up appointments — part of the reason the agency is adding detention capacity.

Dilly's cottages include bunk beds and cribs that can sleep up to eight, a flat-screen TV and a kitchen — though cooking is prohibited to prevent fires. The cafeteria is open 12 hours daily and snacks can be had around the clock.

There's medical care and counselors, trailer classrooms, library and email access and a basketball court and playgrounds — all meant to showcase the softer side of immigration detention. Yet Johnson stressed that despite President Barack Obama's recently announced executive actions on immigration, anyone who crossed illegally into the U.S. this year remains a priority for deportation.

"This must be clear: Our borders are not open to illegal migration," he said.

Dilley opens as officials are closing a temporary family immigration detention center that, at its height, held about 700 people on the grounds of a law enforcement training center in Artesia, New Mexico. It opened in June, at the height of a crush of families at the border, while Dilley begins during a lull.

But Royce Bernstein Murray, director of policy for the National Immigrant Justice Center, said patterns are seasonal and advocates and federal officials alike expect crossings to increase again in the spring.

Once Dilley is fully operational, federal authorities will be able to house about 3,000 immigrant women and children nationwide.

GISD trailer park rates to be approved in January

■ Elliott: Lot improvements being made

By Tessa Duvall
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The Greenwood ISD-owned trailer park on Farm-to-Market Road 307 is becoming more homey.

GISD Superintendent Ariel Elliott said at a board of trustees meeting Monday evening the district has made progress cleaning up the property and has made updates to the septic and water systems, noting that the work done isn't too major or expensive.

GISD finalized its purchase of the 5.89-acre trailer park in November as a way of providing affordable housing for its employees and recruiting new teachers. The district is not supplying trailers — just the lots.

The rates for renting a lot at the trailer park will be brought to the board in January for approval, Elliott said. GISD is currently working to finalize the contracts and prices for the lot rental, but the price will be affordable for its employees and the district isn't looking to make money off its tenants.

Elliott said he anticipates to have about 10 district employees living at the trailer park by the end of February.

The trailer park has already shown its potential to be a recruiting too. A teaching candidate moving to Midland due to her husband's job transfer told the district the lot appealed to her as a more affordable option, Elliott said.

"It has been a good investment," he said.

5 THINGS

From 1A

Since 2008, oil companies in the U.S., for example, have increased production by 70 percent, or 3.5 million barrels of oil per day. To put that in perspective, that increase alone is more than the production of any OPEC member other than Saudi Arabia.

As U.S. production was ramping up, turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa reduced supplies from Libya, Iran and elsewhere. A balance was struck: Increasing supplies from outside of OPEC and from Iraq's recovering oil industry helped meet rising demand around the world as other OPEC supplies waivered.

But now those OPEC supplies look more certain despite continuing turmoil, and those non-OPEC supplies have swamped the market. OPEC estimated last week that the world would need 28.9 million barrels of its oil per day next year, the lowest in more than a decade. At the same time, OPEC countries plan to produce 30 million barrels of oil per day next year. That supply surplus is sending global prices lower.

Demand goes bust

Global demand is still expected to grow next year, but by far less than many thought earlier this year. The economies of China, Japan and Western Europe — the top oil consumers after the United States — all appear to be weakening. Oil demand falls when economic growth stalls.

The U.S. is still the world's largest consumer, but more fuel-efficient cars and changing demographics mean demand for oil and gasoline is not increasing. The Energy Department predicts a slight decrease in gasoline demand next year even though the price is expected to be sharply lower and the economy is expected to grow.

The happy consumers

For drivers, shippers, airlines and other consumers of fuel, there's nothing not to like about the drop in oil prices.

The national average gasoline price has fallen for 81 straight days to $2.55 a gallon, its lowest level since October of 2009, according to AAA. It's $1.15 a gallon cheaper than its high for the year, saving U.S. households $100 a month as they shop for holiday presents. "Any time gas prices go down that is a good thing," said Randy Daniels, 30, who was shopping recently at the Lenox Square Mall in Atlanta. "An extra 20 or 30 bucks in my pocket goes far."

Diesel and jet fuel prices have also plunged, helping boost the profits and share prices of airlines and shippers.

The worried economists

Falling fuel prices act like a tax cut and help boost consumer spending, which in turn accounts for 70 percent of the U.S. economy. But economists are growing concerned that there are other, more troublesome forces at play.

The depth of oil's plunge could be a signal that the global economy is struggling even more than economists think. A weak global economy could hurt the U.S. economy by reducing exports, employment and spending, which together could outweigh the economic benefits of cheaper fuel.

The producers' pain

For oil companies, oil-producing states, and oil-exporting countries, the oil price collapse is painful.

Oil companies generally keep producing oil from wells they've already drilled, but lower prices sharply reduce revenue and force them to cut back spending on new exploration projects. BP announced last week it would try to trim $1 billion in spending next year in a move that analysts say could result in thousands of job cuts.

States that rely on taxes from energy production such as Alaska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Texas will see lower revenues and some have already had to trim budgets.

Major oil exporters such as Iran, Iraq, Russia and Venezuela rely heavily on revenues from state-owned oil companies to run their governments and are struggling under major budget shortfalls. Current prices are now $47 below last year's average, putting the country on pace for a $36 billion reduction in revenue.

P&Z

From 1A

one-to-one replacement for non-electronic boards, and a two-to-one replacement for electronic billboards. The cap-and-replace program will allow signs to only be replaced once, with Harrington saying that this would allow the city to move toward reducing the number of signs within city limits.

The City Council will review and decide on the ordinance change at its meeting today.

Other Planning & Zoning news:

■ The apartment site plan for the second phase of the Tradewinds apartments, located north of West Business I-20, was approved unanimously by the commission. The new phase, which will be integrated into the first phase of 214 apartment units, will add an additional 90 units in four buildings to the complex.

■ A 12 building apartment complex located southwest of the intersection of Cholla Road and Antelope Trail was unanimously approved by the commission. The new buildings will contain 200 apartment units, with one building set aside to be a dedicated clubhouse for residents.

The clubhouse will be more than 5,500 square feet in size and feature a fireplace, billiards room, lounge, coffee area and a covered patio. It also will have an outdoor pool.

During the meeting commission members voiced concern that there were not enough amenities for the density of the development and its remoteness at the edge of town.

Development manager Granger MacDonald of MacDonald Companies verbally agreed with the commission that he would add a children's play structure and an enclosed dog park within the complex.

When asked by the commission if he was concerned at all by the fall in oil prices, MacDonald said that the falling prices were "not giving him pause" and that he believed that the demand curve in Midland is still a long way from being filled.

■ Hacienda Viejo, which is taking over the space previously occupied by Way Out West, applied for a specific use permit with term for the sale of all alcoholic beverages for the hours of 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday thru Thursday and 11 a.m.-midnight Friday and Saturday.

A resident who owns a rental property near the restaurant, which has yet to open, voiced concern that the alcohol permit would produce unseemly crowds and mess. The commission agreed to pass the permit but with the condition that the restaurant limit their hours of operation to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

CRIMEBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Intoxicated man allegedly commits four crimes in one morning

One intoxicated Midland man's early Saturday morning journey allegedly consisted of entering a home unwanted, sideswiping a vehicle and fleeing the scene, possessing synthetic marijuana, jumping and breaking a fence, passing out in a backyard, borrowing a cellphone and then fleeing to a bowling alley.

Edward Jose Orona, 21, was charged on Saturday with four crimes, including burglary of a habitation, a second-degree felony, for which he was being held Monday on a $50,000 bond.

Orona

Midland police officers responded to a burglary at 3 a.m. Saturday in the 4600 block of Erie Drive and noticed a 2012 Dodge Charger running with the driver's door open.

Officers met with the female tenant, who said Orona entered the house shirtless and was intoxicated, according to the arrest affidavit. The woman said she pushed Orona several times to get him out.

After Orona left, he allegedly jumped a wooden fence and broke the gate.

The officers noticed scratches on the right side of the pickup and more scratches on the left side of a nearby 1996 Nissan.

The officers found synthetic marijuana in the pickup and called the owner of the pickup, who is a member of Orona's family.

When officers responded to another call on South Bentwood Drive, the complainant said a man — who matched Orona's description — had passed out in his backyard. Orona woke up and then tried to enter the home, so the man confronted Orona with a knife, according to the affidavit.

Then at 6:30 a.m., a tenant at Newport Apartments on Loop 250 flagged down an officer and said a man — who matched Orona's description — had borrowed his cellphone to let someone know he was in trouble. The tenant told the officer Orona made his way to the neighboring bowling alley.

Officers found Orona at the bowling alley and arrested him. Orona told the officers he did not know what was going on but did confirm he was driving the pickup, according to the affidavit.

If convicted of the felony charge, Orona's faces up to 20 years in prison and a fine up to $10,000.

He also was charged with three misdemeanors — criminal mischief, possession of a controlled substance and duty upon striking an unauthorized vehicle (for not leaving information after hitting the parked car) — each with a $500 bond, according to the affidavit.

Man defends self with garden hoe

A Midland man resorted to a garden hoe for defense after he was allegedly assaulted in his home by a parolee, according to court documents.

Oscar Franco, 48, was arrested and charged Sunday with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, a second-degree felony. He was being held Monday on a $50,000 bond.

Franco

When a Midland County sheriff's deputy responded to a disturbance at the 2700 block of South County Road 1223, the alleged victim said that Franco entered his house by using a copied key, according to the arrest affidavit.

The man said that, although Franco does not live at his residence, his belongings are there. Additionally, the alleged victim told the deputy that Franco was in prison for 20 years and is currently on parole, according to the affidavit.

The alleged victim said he found Franco sleeping at his home and told him to leave. The two began to fight inside and continued to fight on the back patio.

Franco allegedly swung a board at the victim, which caused a knot and cut on the right side of the man's head. After being hit with the board, the alleged victim grabbed a garden hoe and hit Franco's hand and finger, according to the affidavit.

Franco then jumped a fence and left, according to the affidavit.

Franco told the deputy that he did not hit the man in the face, but he was the one assaulted.

If convicted, Franco faces up to 20 years in prison and a fine up to $10,000.

Fort Worth woman charged with cocaine possession, intent to deliver

A Fort Worth woman faces federal charges following a month-long investigation by the Midland Police Department narcotics unit.

Juanita Williams-Baker, 35, was arrested Dec. 11 at a residence in the 1100 block of East Pennsylvania Avenue and charged with possession with intent to deliver crack cocaine over 280 grams, according to a press release from the city's spokeswoman.

During their search, detectives found 13 ounces of crack cocaine with an estimated street value of $37,000, according to the release.

Williams-Baker, who is in the custody of the U.S. marshals, is believed to have been a large distributor of cocaine within the community, according to the release.

STATECRIME

FROM WIRE REPORTS

SAN ANTONIO

3rd person arrested in human trafficking case

San Antonio police have arrested a man who they say prostituted a 16-year-old girl before selling her to a couple.

The San Antonio Express-News reported the 27-year-old suspect faces a charge of child trafficking. Police said the girl ran away from home in October before ending up with the man. They said he eventually sold the girl to the couple for $50 after he said she owned him that much for a drug debt.

The man and woman who police say bought the girl were charged with human trafficking after their arrests in November. Police said they arrested the pair after they prostituted the girl online.

The couple previously told reporters they didn't know the girl was underage and were trying to help her.

LUFKIN

Trial to begin for parents in baby's death

The trial for an East Texas man and woman accused in the starvation death of their 2-month-old son is set to begin.

The Lufkin Daily News reported the joint trial of 19-year-old DeQuisha Jackson and 20-year-old Isaiah Tolliver is set to begin Monday. Both are charged with murder in the death of their son, Imauri Jackson.

In October 2013, someone at the home where the two were staying with a relative called 911 to report that the baby wasn't breathing. The infant was pronounced dead at a Lufkin hospital.

According to an arrest affidavit, the baby was delivered at term and weighed 6.7 pounds. At the time of death, he weighed 5.6 pounds. An autopsy ruled the baby's death a homicide caused by malnutrition and dehydration.

HOUSTON

Medical student's killer loses appeal

The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to review an appeal from a 34-year-old Houston man sent to death row for abducting and killing a medical student who was returning a movie to a video store 14 years ago.

Without comment, the high court Monday ruled in the case of Perry Williams. His lawyers had argued in lower courts he had deficient legal help at his trial for the slaying of 22-year-old Matthew Carter.

Williams testified at his trial that Carter begged for his life before he shot the victim in the head near Houston's Texas Medical Center where Carter was a first-year student at Baylor College of Medicine. Court documents show Williams contended the September 2000 slaying was accidental.

Evidence showed Williams and three accomplices split $40 taken from Carter.

ARLINGTON

3 injured after shots fired outside of bar

Arlington police are investigating after three people were injured when witnesses say someone opened fire outside the bar.

Police said the officers who arrived after the early Monday morning shooting found three victims — two men and a woman — inside the bar. They were taken to area hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries.

Police said that, before the shooting, there had been a fight inside the bar and one person was escorted outside by a bouncer. The shootings occurred a short time later. Police said it's too soon to said whether that incident was a factor in the shooting but it's a possibility they are looking into.

Punishment phase resumes for convicted ex-official

Associated Press

ROCKWALL — Testimony is continuing in the punishment phase in the trial of a former North Texas public official convicted of capital murder in a revenge plot against prosecutors.

Proceedings resumed Monday. Eric Williams was convicted of fatally shooting Cynthia McLelland, found dead last year with her husband, Kaufman County District Attorney Mike McLelland, in their home near Dallas. Williams, accused of killing Mike McLelland, is also accused in the slaying two months prior to the couple's deaths of an assistant prosecutor.

Defense attorneys Friday portrayed 47-year-old Williams in a sympathetic light in an effort to spare him the death penalty, calling on childhood friends who described the former justice of the peace as considerate.

Prosecutors said Williams plotted revenge after being convicted of stealing county equipment.

GUILTYPLEAS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Man pleads guilty to indecency with a child

A 28-year-old Midland man pleaded guilty Monday to three charges of indecency with a child by exposure, according to a press release from the Midland County District Attorney's Office.

Christopher Ryan Howard was scheduled to be tried in the 142nd District Court, but before the trial started, he pleaded guilty and accepted the state's offer of 15 years in prison, according to the release.

Punishment ranges from two to 10 years were possible, but, because of Howard's previous burglary conviction, the punishment was enhanced to a two- to 20-year range.

Howard was found to have committed indecency by exposing and touching himself in front of three girls 5 to 16, according to the release. He has several previous convictions for misdemeanor indecent exposure from 2010 to 2012.

Judge Jody Gilles presided over the proceedings. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Cannon Jones; Howard was defended by Wayne Frost.

FELONYARRESTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Samuel D. Mouton, 35, of Dallas was charged Saturday with burglary of a habitation.

Edward J. Orona, 21, of Midland was charged Saturday with burglary of a habitation.

Jessie M. Palacios Jr., 37, of Midland was charged Saturday with fraudulent use or possession of identifying information.

Chevar L. Seddler, 26, of Midland was charged Saturday with evading arrest or detention with a previous conviction.

Jesus K. Aguilar, 29, was charged Sunday with possession of a controlled substance of less than one gram

George Almager, 49, of Midland was charged Sunday with possession of a prohibited substance or item in a correctional facility and evading arrest or detention in a vehicle.

James R. Coan, 27, of Odessa was charged Sunday with obstruction or retaliation.

Oscar D. Franco Jr., 48, of Midland was charged Sunday with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Johnny C. Mancha, 42, of Midland was charged Sunday with aggravated assault of a date/family member/house member with a weapon.

Jose Santiago-Feria, 36, of Hobbs, New Mexico was charged Sunday with possession of a prohibited substance or item in a correctional facility.

Joseph A. Tapia, 34, was charged Sunday with unauthorized use of a vehicle.

Source: Midland County Sheriff's Office

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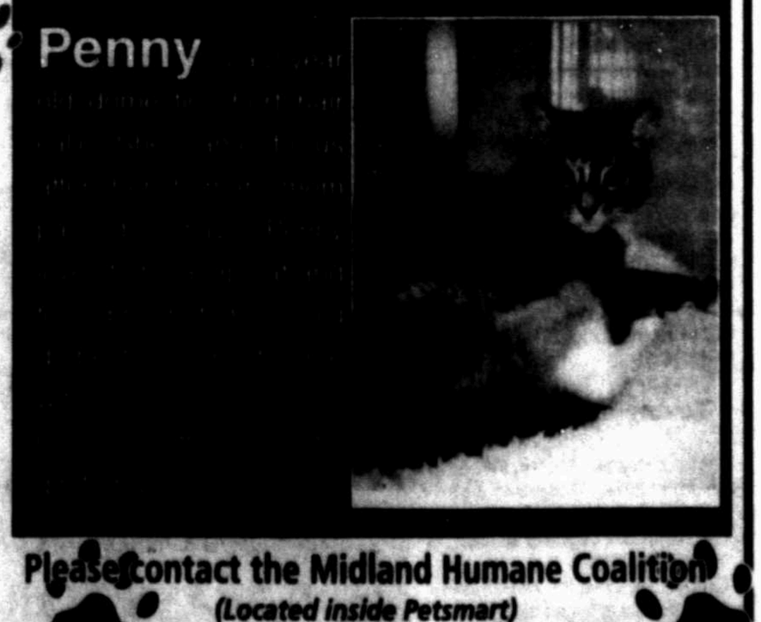

Please contact the Midland Humane Coalition (Located inside Petsmart) for more information 432.520.3134

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Today in Midland history

On Dec. 16, 2000, Lee defeated Austin Westlake, 33-21, in Austin's Royal/Memorial Stadium to claim its third-straight Class 5A state football championship.

Hanukkah begins at sundown

Many Jewish communities in the United States observe the first day of Hanukkah, which marks the start of Hanukkah, also known as Chanukah or Festival of Lights. Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish observance that remembers the Jewish people's struggle for religious freedom.

Source: http://www.timeanddate.com

Things to do

■ Spanish Storytime and Tesoro Playgroup, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. www.co.midland.tx.us.
■ Christmas luncheon at Christmas at the Mansion, noon, Museum of the Southwest. museumsw.org.
■ "A Christmas Carol," 7:30 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Meetings
City Council
10 a.m.
Council Chambers City Hall
300 N. Loraine Ave.

Note: To make corrections to this listing, submit information to news@mrt.com.

Support groups, club meetings today

■ Survivors of sexual abuse; interactive Bible study to help deal with the consequences of sexual abuse meets Tuesdays. Child care available; House of Hope, 570 5935.
■ The Helping Hand Metastatic Cancer Support Group meets noon, Texas Tech Physicians of the Permian Basin Clinic, Room 210B. Lunch will be served. To RSVP, call Amber Chavez at 620-1023.
■ Midland Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church (Koinonoa Room); Judith Craig, 683-3648.
■ A confidential peer-to-peer support gathering for combat veterans, first, third and fifth Tuesdays at Midland College Cogdell Center, 201 Florida Ave.; Steve Cree, 770-7469.
■ Peer to Peer support group for veterans, active duty, guard, reserves and their families, 6 p.m., Permian Basin Community Center, 401 E. Illinois Ave., Suite 403; Wil Hoggard, 213-5342, william.hoggard@wtcmhmr.org.
■ Classic Movie Club, 7 p.m., Cigar Frog's, 216 N. Main St.; 687-1671.
■ Permian Basin Dance Club, 7:30 p.m., St. Stephen's Catholic Church; cost is $5 for members, $6 for non-members; 520-4343.
■ Midland Optimist Club, noon, Abuelo's, 4610 N. Garfield St.; 685-7486.
■ Sons of Confederate Veterans, Dunn-Holt-Mid-kiff Camp No. 1441, 7 p.m., Fairmont Park Church of Christ Activities Annex; Tom Owens, tmowens44@juno.com or 697-6955.
■ American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 19, 6:30 p.m., 501 Veterans Airpark Lane; 682-5511.
■ Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1303 E. Taylor, bingo games 7 p.m.
■ National Active & Retired Federal Employees meet 6 p.m., Jack E. Brown Dining Hall at Midland College. For information, call 634-7826.
■ Pop-Up Toasters Toastmasters Club., 6:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church's Family Life Center - Room 228, 800 W. Texas Ave.; 432-242-2061 or popuptoasters@gmail.com.

Mailing on Christmas

Domestic mail-by dates for expected delivery by Dec. 24:
■ First-Class Mail & Priority Mail, Dec. 20
■ Priority Mail Express, Dec. 23

Source: www.usps.com/holiday

When it's open

U.S. Postal Service
■ Downtown, 100 E. Wall St.
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
■ Village, 2315 W Louisiana Ave.
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
■ Graves, 3304 W Wadley Ave.
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday
■ ClayDesta, 612 Veterans Airpark Lane, and GMF Midland, 1000 Loop 40
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 4-2-9
Pick 3 day: 6-4-4
Pick 3 evening: 9-9-2
Pick 3 night: 3-4-2
Daily 4 morning: 7-5-8-2
Daily 4 day: 4-1-4-2
Daily 4 evening: 9-3-0-5
Daily 4 night: 3-2-4-1
Cash Five: 11-28-32-34-36
Texas Two Step: 12-22-28-32 BB: 18
All or Nothing morning: 1-4-6-7-8-9-16-19-21-22-23-24
All or Nothing day: 2-3-4-8-10-11-13-15-17-19-21-24
All or Nothing evening: 1-2-3-7-8-11-15-17-19-20-23-24
All or Nothing night: 1-2-3-4-7-8-9-11-15-16-17-20

Today in history

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 16, the 350th day of 2014. There are 15 days left in the year. The Jewish Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, begins at sunset.

Today's highlight:
On Dec. 16, 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched a surprise attack against Allied forces through the Ardennes Forest in Belgium and Luxembourg (the Allies were eventually able to turn the Germans back).

Image from marathon shows brothers' bond

Associated Press

Associated Press

Trace Greer, right, carries his brother Judson Greer after they crossed the finish line together in the half marathon during the MetroPCS Dallas Marathon on Sunday in Dallas.

DALLAS — While crossing the finish line during a half-marathon in Dallas, sixth-grader Judson Greer began to stumble. That's when his brother Trace, a high school senior, picked him up and carried him.

Photographer Gerry "G.J." McCarthy of the Dallas Morning News captured the moment Sunday and it has gotten attention on the Internet.

Judson and Trace are both competitive runners, but had never run a race together. So the boys from Melissa, northeast of Dallas, decided to compete in the Metro PCS Dallas Marathon before Trace left for college.

Judson told KXAS-TV of Fort Worth and Dallas that he started struggling about halfway through, but was able to continue on with his brother's encouragement.

"I'm really glad he chose to run with me and stay with me," Judson said. "I was afraid he would bolt off. But he stayed with me all the way and pushed me through to the end."

Trace said Judson was averaging 6:45 per mile and at the end was nearly down to 6:20.

"Coming down that final shoot I'm yelling my head off. He's just running as hard as he could and it was crazy!" Trace said.

The two sprinted across the finish line and that's when Judson began to stumble.

"I ran up to him and I hugged him and he was going, he was falling. And it was like, here you go," Trace said.

Trace then picked up his younger brother.

"Basically at the end, after I'd just sprinted, I couldn't really hold myself up and I wasn't feeling very good," Judson said. "So he scooped me up and walked away."

Texas to set up program to guide young athletes

By Jim Vertuno
Associated Press

AUSTIN — With recent incidents of domestic and sexual violence grabbing headlines in sports, the University of Texas on Monday launched a program to aid character development in young athletes and help them be positive role models.

The Center for Sports Leadership and Innovation will work with high school coaches on a training program to help detect and intervene at signs of troubling behavior. It will also develop a program to help athletes and other college student make sound financial decisions.

Texas football coach Charlie Strong has been noted nationally for the core values he has stated for his team: honesty, treating women with respect, no stealing, no guns and no drugs.

Strong dismissed or suspended several players this year for disciplinary reasons, including two Longhorns players who were arrested on sexual assault charges. He also met with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell in September to discuss his core values concept. The program will also partner with the Austin-based National Domestic Violence Hotline, which Goodell visited the same weekend he met with Strong.

"These are things that ought to start on the playground in the third grade. (But) we can't use that a reason to say there's nothing we can do. There's a lot we can do to help our student athletes, all our students," Texas President Bill Powers said.

The program will create a certification program for high school coaches of both male and female athletes. Texas officials said they believe the program is the first of its kind in the country.

National Domestic Violence Hotline spokeswoman Cameka Crawford called the program an example of how colleges and athletes can help "change our culture's perception of dating violence and sexual assault, particularly on college campuses."

Justices reject Arizona bid over abortion drugs

By Astrid Galvan
Associated Press

> *"The court did the right thing today, but this dangerous and misguided law should never have passed in the first place."*
>
> **Cecile Richards,** president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Supreme Court is refusing to allow Arizona to enforce stringent restrictions on drug-induced abortions while a challenge to those rules plays out in lower courts.

The justices on Monday left in place a lower court ruling that blocked regulations that control where and how women can take medications that cause abortions. The rules also would prohibit use of the drugs after the seventh week of pregnancy instead of the ninth.

Stephanie Grisham, spokeswoman for Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne, said it would have been extremely rare for the high court to grant the state's request to enforce the restrictions.

"We're disappointed, of course, but at this point there is nothing more that we can do," Grisham said.

Planned Parenthood is among the abortion providers challenging the rules in federal court.

"The court did the right thing today, but this dangerous and misguided law should never have passed in the first place," Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said in a statement.

The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in April issued an injunction blocking the rules while the case against them plays out in federal court in Tucson. A federal judge initially denied Planned Parenthood's request for an injunction. The appeals court overturned his ruling.

Planned Parenthood Arizona has said about 800 women would have had to get surgical abortions in 2012 if the rules were in effect then.

The state Legislature approved the restrictions in 2012. Arizona argues they protect women's health by mandating a federally approved protocol.

Similar laws are in effect in North Dakota, Ohio and Texas. The Oklahoma Supreme Court struck down the restrictions in that state.

The rules ban women from taking the most common abortion-inducing drug, mifepristone, after the seventh week of pregnancy.

In 2000, the Food and Drug Administration approved the medication's use through the first seven weeks of pregnancy. Mifepristone is prescribed with a second drug, misoprostol.

Since the FDA approval, medical researchers and clinical trials have shown mifepristone is effective in much smaller doses and for two weeks longer in a pregnancy, the challengers said. The second drug may be taken at home.

Arizona's rules would require the drugs be taken only at the FDA-approved doses and only at clinics.

Planned Parenthood says medication-induced abortions account for more than 40 percent of abortions at its clinics.

To justify the restrictions, Arizona and the other states have pointed to the deaths of at least eight women who took the drugs. But the 9th Circuit said the FDA investigated those deaths and found no causal connection between them and the use of mifespristone or misoprostol.

Man accidentally shot with officer's stray bullet

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A police officer's gun accidentally went off as he crept through a broken window during a burglary investigation, wounding a man in an apartment below, officials said Monday.

Police emphasized the shooting was accidental, but it occurred in an agency under intense scrutiny for a series of shootings over the past several years.

The latest incident happened early Sunday while police were investigating a break-in at a second-floor apartment, Albuquerque Police spokesman Simon Drobik said.

The officer involved was climbing through one of the unit's windows when his gun accidentally went off.

The stray bullet shot through the floor and into the apartment below, where it struck a man in the back, Drobik said.

Officers said they found the injured man on his couch complaining of pain. He was hospitalized in stable condition at University of New Mexico Hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening, Drobik said.

"I want to emphasize this was an accidental shooting," Drobik said. "The officer involved in this is just torn up."

Drobik said the shooting occurred after officers took another man into custody.

The officer has been placed on administrative leave, officials said.

The shooting comes after Albuquerque officials recently signed an agreement with the U.S. Justice Department following a harsh report over police use of excess force.

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For Brian and Laura Lyons Sales, 2014 has been a great year of helping people all over town buy and sell homes—and providing lots of other related services. Brian, Laura and their staff are grateful for the opportunities they've had to be of service.

Did you know that they put their knowledge and network to work for you in many other ways besides just buying and selling?

For example, if your home needs maintenance, call Brian and Laura for a referral to a trusted professional. The nature of their profession has allowed the Sales Team to build working relationships with the best tradespeople in town, and they will be glad to connect you with them.

And because they have their fingers on the pulse of the local real estate market, the Sales Team is who to call if you're wondering about the market value of your home. If you're thinking of selling your home, they can answer questions and do a market analysis of your property.

If that sale involves moving out of the area, the thought of finding the right real estate professional in another city can be worrisome. But with the Sales Team, you can relax—they're part of a network of real estate professionals who will take care of you and provide you with the same high level of service you've come to expect. That will be one less thing for you to worry about in the transition.

So if 2015 is going to be a move year for you—whether in town, over the state or across the nation—call on the Sales Team to help you get the right home, the right price and the right services to ease the transition.

Do you have a friend or family member ready to make a move? You can trust the Sales Team with your referral. They will be take great care of them!

And for those of you whom they've had the privilege to help in 2014, Brian and Laura Sales say, "Thank you, and have a great new year."

Call The Sales Team at 618-1818.

Brian and Laura Lyons Sales of The Sales Team are ready to provide all the services you need for buying or selling a home in Midland. Call them at (432) 618-1818.

Call City Wide for electrical projects

In this economy, many Midlanders are remodeling or adding on to their homes, which involves new wiring and possibly new service to the house. For 43 years Joe and Linda Fussell have owned City Wide and have made sure homeowners get the electrical work they need.

If you're remodeling a home that was built in the 1960s or earlier, this would be a good time to have Joe and his staff upgrade your wiring to current standards.

If you have an out building that needs wiring, call City Wide. It is always best to use a professional for wiring, to make sure everything is safe and up to code.

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For lighting—inside and outside—Joe recommends changing to LED bulbs. They are even more efficient than compact fluorescents, and they last years in most applications.

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Is it possible to be optimistic about tax reform?

■ Though Ways and Means committee chair says yes, it would be hard to be optimistic

GEORGE WILL
Washington Post Writers Group

"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen nineteen and six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery."
— Mr. Micawber in "David Copperfield"

If America's long-term economic growth were 3.5 percent, the result would be the restoration of cheerfulness. If long-term growth is closer to 2 percent, the result will be continuing social disappointment and political crankiness.

Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, did his considerable best to deliver the indispensable igniter of sustained growth — tax reform. As he leaves Congress after 12 terms, passing the gavel to an equally able reformer, Paul Ryan, Camp remains confident that it can be done. Such serenity is strange in today's Washington, where even events that cause cheerfulness are for that reason depressing.

The euphoria occasioned by the economy adding 321,000 jobs in November indicates that we have defined success down. In the 1960s, there were nine months in which more than 300,000 jobs were added, the last being June 1969, *when there were about 117 million fewer Americans than there are now*. In the 1980s, job growth exceeded 300,000 in 23 months, the last being November 1988, *when there were about 75 million fewer Americans than today*.

To demonstrate how young people "are not getting the kind of start others got," Camp offers a graph charting the "fraction of young adults living with older family members." Beginning in the middle of the last decade, the line goes almost straight up, to almost 46 percent. For those 25 to 34, median household income plunged 8.9 percent between June 2009 and June 2012, *the first three years of the recovery*.

Surely it is time to give earners on the lower rungs of the ladder of upward mobility a boost by cutting their payroll taxes. This can be paid for by ending the nonsense of taxing at the low capital gains rate the income that fabulously wealthy hedge fund managers call "carried interest."

There is consensus about the broad contours of tax reform: Lowering rates and recouping lost revenue by closing loopholes; and by improved economic growth, justify "dynamic scoring." This means estimating the revenue and growth effects of tax changes that improve incentives to work, invest and consume. And save: The median savings of households 10 years from retirement is a paltry $12,000; nearly one-third of those 55-64 have *no* savings.

Consensus abruptly ends when dealing with details begins. Suppose the deductibility of mortgage interest were capped at a $500,000 mortgage level (involving less than 5 percent of houses on the market). But all 435 congressional districts have this in common: They all have real estate interests (bankers, brokers, builders) who will object. But, says Camp, if tax reform delivers faster growth, housing prices will rise because more people will be working and in the housing market.

Charitable giving, too, is highly correlated with economic growth. Were the deductibility of charitable contributions limited *in a context of improved economic growth*, charitable giving would increase: People give more when they are prospering. Such giving surged after Ronald Reagan reduced the top tax rate from 50 percent to 28 percent in 1986. Although this rate reduction also lowered the value of the charitable deduction, it ignited growth, hence cheerfulness, hence largess.

Camp would prefer to have just two tax brackets (10 percent and 25 percent) but thinks that, for political reasons, a third is necessary "because of the Derek Jeters of the world." There are so many high-earning athletes and entertainers, and corporate CEOs earning so much more than in the 1980s, that a 35 percent bracket for income over $400,000 (less than 1 percent of taxpayers) is needed to serve the optics of equity.

One prerequisite for tax reform, Camp says, is presidential engagement. Of today's president, Camp says: "I haven't really seen why he is there."

Because comprehensive tax reform inevitably would leave no faction unscathed, Camp's optimism might seem misplaced. But optimism comes easily to a man two years into remission from lymphoma, the treatment for which cost him much of his hair. Said his son, with the savoir-faire for which the young are known: "Don't worry, Dad, it was going anyway." Camp is going from Congress with the knowledge that he advanced the cause of reform, and hence of American revival, and that, as Jefferson said, "The ground of liberty is to be gained by inches."

OUR VIEW

Don't expect consensus on who Midlanders support in 2016 primary

Today we offer the question: Who would Midland back in a Republican primary for president?

It's not a silly question because potential candidates might come to Midland to grab a check and support. Even in a downturn, we expect political contributions still will be abundant.

Our guess is, right now there is no perfect choice. Ask 10 Midland Republicans who they prefer, and you could get five or six answers. What we expect is that contenders will begin to separate themselves from the pretenders.

We also acknowledge that nearly every potential front-runner carries some baggage.

■ Ted Cruz. Texas' junior senator will have support from the most conservative among us, and deservedly so. But it's hard to see Cruz as anything more than a primary contender. While Republicans ran the table in 2014, not all of them were like Cruz, and it is hard to see the electoral math adding up for Cruz in a general election.

■ Jeb Bush. All signs indicate that George W.'s brother is making a run. ABC news reported Sunday that he is releasing years' worth of emails and is writing an ebook. The Washington Post reported he is telling potential Republican backers to keep their powder dry and expect an announcement. He's a very popular former governor of Florida (a key political state), but his candidacy would be a test whether Americans are ready for another Bush in the White House.

■ Chris Christie. We can hear Midlanders complaining already. Despite being brash and tough, he's also not the most conservative of candidates. Republicans felt like they had to hold their noses in 2008 (John McCain) and 2012 (Mitt Romney). We imagine many would feel the same about Christie.

■ Rand Paul. He likely will be the king of straw polls in 2015 and will likely benefit from the Libertarian streak running through the party at this time. Can the Republican electorate trust him, especially on foreign policy? It's tough to say.

There are others. Romney is again polling well, but we put him in there with Rick Perry and Rick Santorum as men who had their chance four years ago.

Then there will be the governor watch. Indiana's Mike Pence, Wisconsin's Scott Walker and New Mexico's Susana Martinez will lead the charge of Republicans with solid records as chief executives. Of course, they currently don't have name recognition.

Then, there are the commentators such as Mike Huckabee and Dr. Ben Carson. It's much safer to be critical of Washington from afar. Putting yourself out there as a candidate is a different world, and we are not sure how either would match up in a primary with little recent record to run on.

The good news for Midlanders is there will be a lot of time to figure who's in and who to support.

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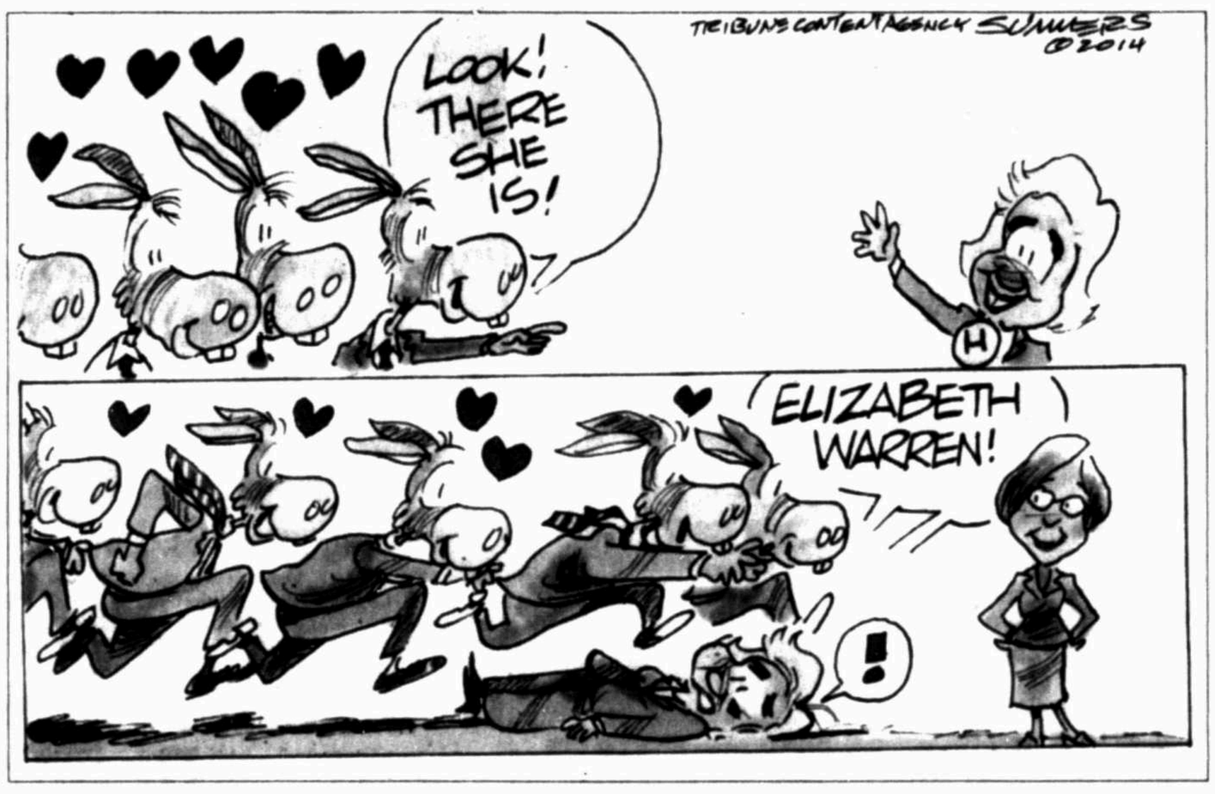


America needs a politics of repair

■ Tapping into populism to just identify a problem isn't the same thing as solving a problem

MICHAEL GERSON
Washington Post Writers Group

The just-ending 113th Congress was not, by most measures, productive. But its endgame was at least instructive.

As a trillion-dollar omnibus spending bill trundled into law, the populist wings of both political parties declared themselves both revolted and in revolt. The bill, complained Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, "does nothing, absolutely nothing to stop President Obama's illegal and unconstitutional amnesty." "Who does Congress work for?" asked Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass. "Does it work for the millionaires, the billionaires, the giant companies with their armies of lobbyists and lawyers?"

While this unexpected alliance of outrage did not prevail, it managed to preview some of the most important debates leading up to the 2016 election.

The challenge from the populist right is now familiar, but it is far from spent. Conservatives offended by the omnibus — and even more offended by Obama's immigration executive order — wanted to do something. This is often the whole substance of conservative strategy: "do something." After blowing up the Senate process and disrupting the travel plans of their colleagues, Cruz and company demanded a point-of-order vote on whether Obama's executive order was constitutional. Only 22 senators supported it.

With all the charm and appeal of nails scratching on a chalkboard, of screeching children on an airplane, of dogs yelping endlessly in the night, Senate conservatives forced a symbolic vote that ended up symbolizing their broad repudiation. But at least "something" was done.

The open revolt of the populist left is more novel. In this case, it was a rebellion against a sitting Democratic president, joined by former Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, forcing the White House to conduct a last-minute scramble for votes. The main provision at issue was the swaps "push-out" rule of the Dodd-Frank financial services reform bill. But Warren used the occasion to throw a large rock into the Democratic pond. The ripples radiate.

There is an element of progressive populism that is looking for a leader — and it is not Hillary Clinton. In 2008, Clinton was beaten by a primary opponent (Obama) from the anti-war left. There may be a similar market, this time around, for a candidate from the anti-Wall-Street left. MoveOn.org is circulating a draft-Warren petition.

Clinton will be forever associated with former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and an overwhelming desire to please the bond markets. Some baggage can never be checked. And some of us find her past association with economic sanity to be reassuring. But it means that Clinton's attempts at Occupy Wall Street rhetoric are laughable. Witness: "Don't let anybody tell you that, you know, it's corporations and businesses that create jobs." This is the Democratic equivalent of Mitt Romney trying to sound "severely conservative." The maneuver is not just awkward; it is the reduction of politics to a game of pretend.

This is the current challenge to both parties, raising some of the largest questions in our politics: Can establishment figures restore the tarnished legitimacy of governing institutions? Will Clinton or, say, Jeb Bush be able to constructively channel populist anger, or will they be overwhelmed by it?

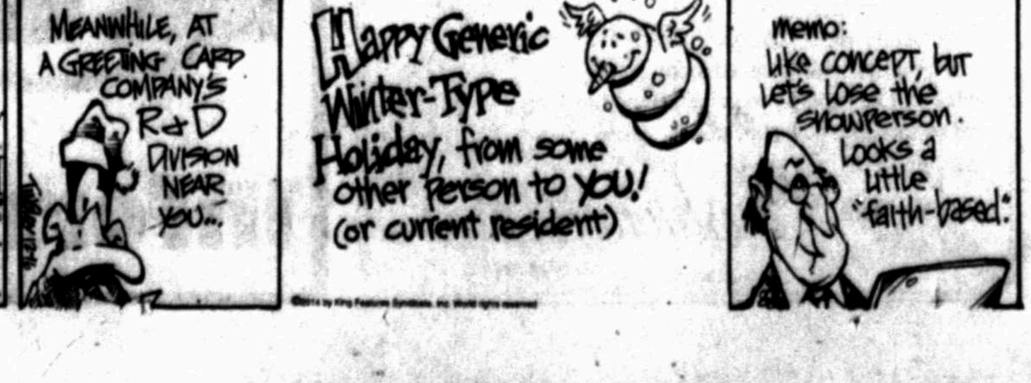
Many American institutions — starting with the House and Senate, and extending to the manner in which we tax ourselves, fight poverty, care for the old and educate the young — are in disrepair. This must be recognized and confronted.

But some populists thrive on further delegitimizing institutions. They use Congress as a stage for their anger, not as an instrument of reform. They set unattainable goals that encourage political alienation. They adopt a conspiratorial mindset, in which systems are not just broken but rigged by scheming opponents. They demand to do "something," but end up doing things that serve narrow political and fundraising goals.

America is in desperate need of a politics of repair, not a politics of demolition and rebuilding. We need leaders who take populist discontent seriously, but direct it toward projects of practical reform. America's distrust of institutions is a fact. But it is a problem, not a goal. The proper response is the renovation of institutions that allow us to live a decent, compassionate, orderly life together. This is the dignity and importance of the political profession.

From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Republicans blame Cruz for year-end confirmations

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Unhappy Republicans say Sen. Ted Cruz has given President Barack Obama a present this holiday season — a gift certificate good for confirmation of 12 judicial appointments, not long after the voters had delivered the Democrats a lump of coal in midterm elections.

Cruz, a tea party favorite and potential 2016 presidential contender, disputed the claim through his spokesman on Monday.

But there was no dissent that Democrats, who must turn over power to Republicans in January, were in position to confirm not only the judges, but 11 other appointees before the Senate wraps up work for the year.

Among them are nominees that Republicans have sought to block for two relatively high-profile posts. They are Vivek Murthy, confirmed late in the day as surgeon general, and Sarah Saldana to head Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the agency that will oversee the new administration policy on immigration that Cruz wants to defund.

At the root of the dispute lay a combination of the Senate's all-but-indecipherable rules, Cruz's attempt to use their murky corners to his advantage, and a bipartisan desire of many lawmakers to finish work for the year and return home for the holidays.

"My concern about the strategy he employed is that it has a result he didn't intend," Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said of Cruz' maneuverings on Friday night, when he sought to force a vote on Obama's immigration policy. Among the consequences, she said, would be confirmation of a number of appointees who are controversial, including some to "lifetime judicial" posts.

Some officials said Cruz was personally informed by GOP aides that Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid was primed to take advantage if he went ahead.

Under the Senate's rules, Cruz's maneuver allowed Reid to begin the time-consuming process of confirming nominations on Saturday at noon — when lawmakers had been scheduled to be home for the weekend.

Had Cruz not made his move when he did, according to officials in both parties, Reid would have had to wait until Monday night — more than 48 hours later. Disgruntled Republicans said they felt confident that Reid's rank and file would not have been willing to remain in Washington in that case, and only four or five nominees would be confirmed instead of 23.

Other Republican lawmakers were far more forceful than Collins in their judgment of Cruz on Monday. They declined to speak on the record, possibly feeling they had already done so enough during the unplanned, 12-hour Senate session on Saturday.

"You should have an end goal in sight if you're going to do these types of things, and I don't see an end goal other than irritating a lot of people," Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah said then.

Cruz leads right flank on Obama immigration order

By Lisa Hagen
Hearst Newspapers

WASHINGTON — As pressure mounts to fund the government before the Dec. 11 deadline, Sen. Ted Cruz continued on Wednesday to rail at President Obama's executive order on immigration and encourage House Republicans to oppose any spending bill that funds it.

Cruz joined several House GOP members at a Capitol Hill news conference Wednesday, urging them to defund federal agencies that enforce Obama's immigration action, which grants temporary relief from deportation for more than four million illegal immigrants.

A group of spectators held signs condemning Obama as a dictator. They waved American flags and dressed in colonial-era attire.

"Congress should stand up and use the power of the purse to say 'we will fund the government but we will not allocate taxpayer dollars to lawless and illegal amnesty,'" said Cruz, who is a possible 2016 presidential contender.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, proposed a spending bill today that would fund most government agencies until next September. But the plan would finance the Department of Homeland Security only through early next year, allowing the GOP-controlled 114th Congress to put added pressure on the White House.

If Cruz's conservative cohorts refuse to support Boehner's omnibus bill, the speaker may need help from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

"The simple thing I would urge to every Republican who spent the last year campaigning across this country saying 'if you elect me, we will stop President Obama's amnesty,' do what you promised," Cruz said.

Cruz also urged incoming Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., to block confirmation of Obama's executive and judicial nominees — with the exception of national security positions — if the president proceeds with his action.

Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, lauded Cruz's "fearless" role in this debate, saying after the news conference that "he has an ability to crystallize the thoughts and opinions of people around the table."

But other House Republicans were perplexed by Cruz's appearance at the House rally. Rep. Renee Ellmers, R-N.C., said "Senator Cruz needs to stay in the Senate," according to CNN.

King dismissed talk of a government shutdown, but said he still would not support a continuing resolution that funds the entire government until January.

He also urged inserting language into an omnibus appropriations bill or short-term continuing resolution that will strip funding from DHS, the main enforcer of the nation's immigration laws.

"Let's negotiate the best way to do this and get this thing done," King said.

Rep. Randy Weber, R-Friendswood, echoed Cruz's stance that members shouldn't vote on a budget that includes funding Obama's immigration action.

"Congress should do everything in its power to defund this," Weber said. "If I get my way, this will be the session of the 'lame ducktator.'"

Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Tyler, who also attended the news conference, reiterated the need for strengthening border security and urged Obama to build a fence along the Southwestern border.

"If the president wants to be consistent, he either needs to build a wall where a wall is capable of being built on our border or Mr. President, tear down your fence," Gohmert said. "If (the White House fence) is somewhat of a deterrent just down the street, it should be on our border."

King along with outgoing Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., announced a petition signed by 167,000 people urging legislators to defund Obama's executive order.

"We're not here to shut down the government," Bachmann said. "What we are here to do is to uphold the American people and uphold the Constitution and uphold what they've asked us to do."

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Survey finds teens trending toward e-cigarettes

By Lauran Neergaard
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More teens are trying out e-cigarettes than the real thing, according to the government's annual drug use survey.

Researchers were surprised at how many 8th, 10th and 12th graders reported using electronic cigarettes this year, even as regular smoking by teens dropped to new lows.

Nearly 9 percent of 8th graders said they'd used an e-cigarette in the previous month, while just 4 percent reported smoking a traditional cigarette, said the report being released Tuesday by the National Institutes of Health.

Use increased with age: Some 16 percent of 10th graders had tried an e-cigarette in the past month, and 17 percent of high school seniors. Regular smoking continued inching down, to 7 percent of 10th graders and 14 percent of 12th graders.

AP file photo

A man uses an e-cigarette in Chicago on April 23. More teens are trying out e-cigarettes than the real thing, according to the government's annual drug use survey. Researchers were surprised at how many 8th, 10th and 12th graders reported using electronic cigarettes this year, even as regular smoking by teens dropped to new lows.

"I worry that the tremendous progress that we've made over the last almost two decades in smoking could be reversed on us by the introduction of e-cigarettes," said University of Michigan professor Lloyd Johnston, who leads the annual Monitoring the Future survey of more than 41,000 students.

The survey didn't ask about repeat use, or if teens were just experimenting with something new. But between 4 percent and 7 percent of students who tried e-cigarettes said they'd never smoked a tobacco cigarette, noted University of Michigan professor Richard Miech, a study senior investigator.

"They must think that e-cigarettes are fundamentally different," he said.

E-cigarettes often are described as a less dangerous alternative for regular smokers who can't or don't want to kick the habit. The battery-powered devices produce vapor infused with potentially addictive nicotine, but without the same chemicals and tar of tobacco cigarettes.

E-cigarettes began to appear in the U.S. in 2006, but this was the first year that the Monitoring the Future survey asked teens about them. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated that during 2013, 4.5 percent of high school students had tried e-cigarettes during the prior month, a tripling since 2011.

The CDC reported last week that 10 states permit the sale of e-cigarettes to minors. The Food and Drug Administration has proposed regulating e-cigarettes, including banning sales to minors; there is no timetable for final rules.

Other findings from the survey, funded by NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse:

- Marijuana use appeared to level off after recent increases, with 6.5 percent of 8th graders reporting past-month use, 17 percent of 10th graders and 21 percent of 12th graders. Nearly 6 percent of 12th graders reported daily use.
- Fewer teens are trying synthetic marijuana, highly dangerous drugs known by such names as K2 and Spice. About 6 percent of seniors said they had used fake pot this year, down from 8 percent last year and 11 percent in 2012.

Colorado resort towns worry over pot perception

By Kristen Wyatt
Associated Press

BRECKENRIDGE, Colo. — Business is booming in Colorado's mountain resorts, and the addition of recreational marijuana stores this year has attracted customers curious about legalized pot. But there's mounting anxiety that ski towns have embraced stoner culture a little too much, potentially damaging the state's tourism brand.

That worry flared up in two resort towns last week. In Breckenridge, residents voted overwhelmingly to force downtown's lone dispensary off Main Street to a less-visible location. And just up the road in Granby, town officials used a property annex to prevent the first dispensary from opening there.

The fear is that some families — a mainstay of the ski tourism industry — will stop vacationing here.

"It's not a morality issue, or that we think marijuana is bad," said Breckenridge councilman Gary Gallagher, who supported legal marijuana but also voted to force the Breckenridge Cannabis Club out of downtown. "Marijuana, it is not in this country's DNA yet. It's a little bit too early."

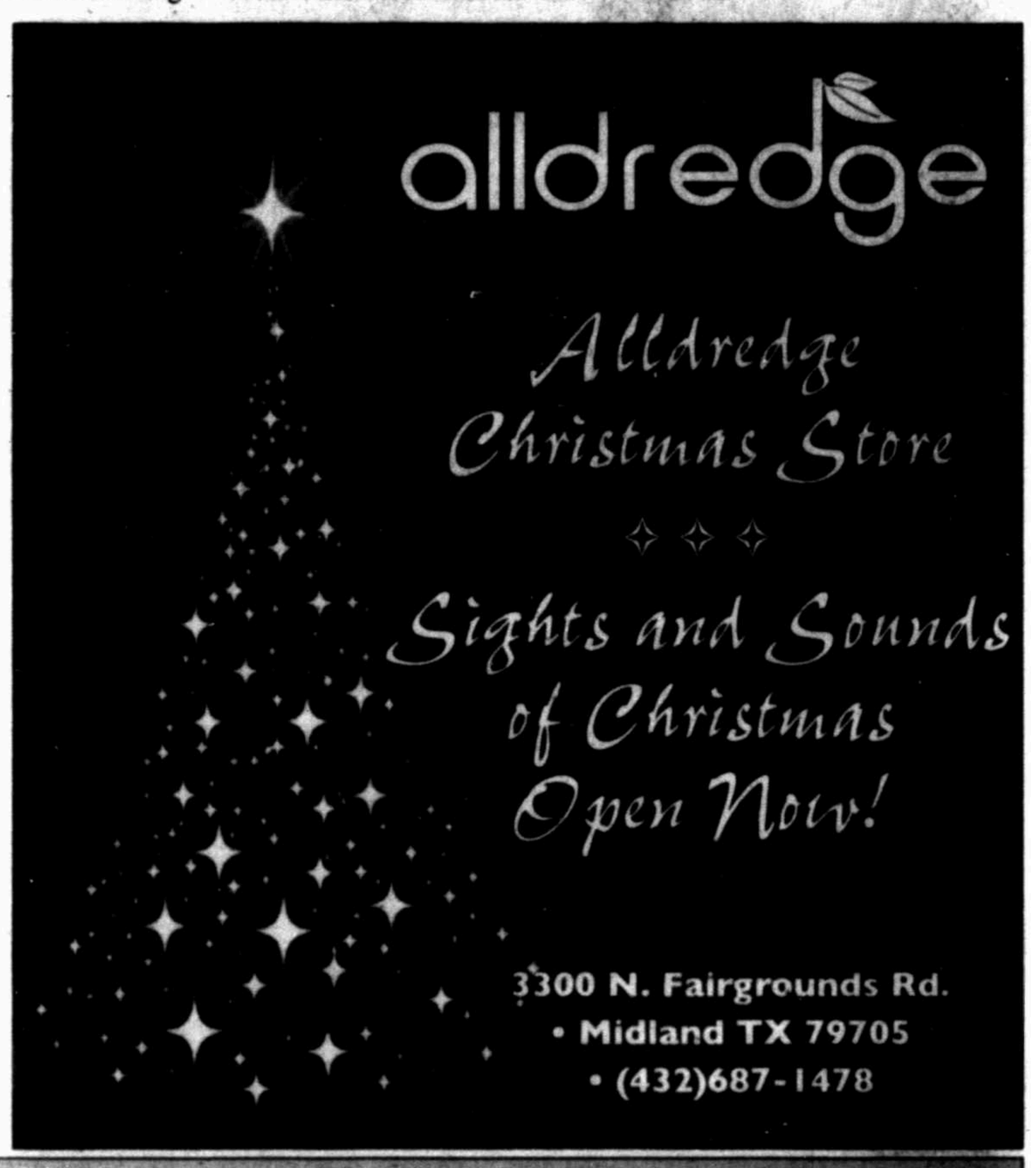
So far, there's no indication that legal pot has damaged tourism, Colorado's No. 2 industry. The state notched a record $17.3 billion in tourism spending the year after legalization, with a record 64.6 million visitors, and state tourism officials say 2014 is poised to top last year's record.

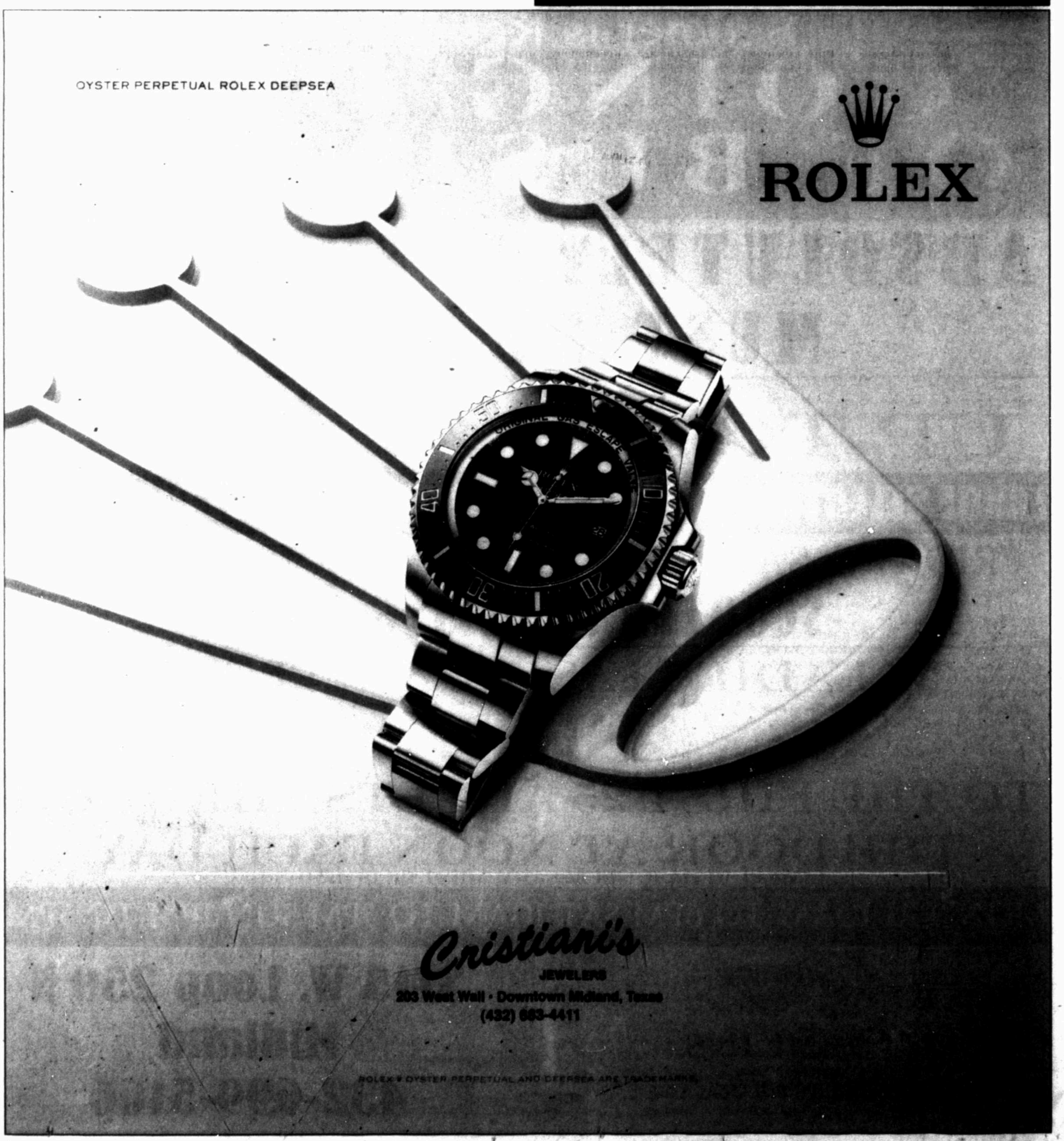
But it's an open question whether pot has anything to do with it. Officials cite the improving economy and the weather, with healthy snow totals historically being the most significant driver for mountain visits.

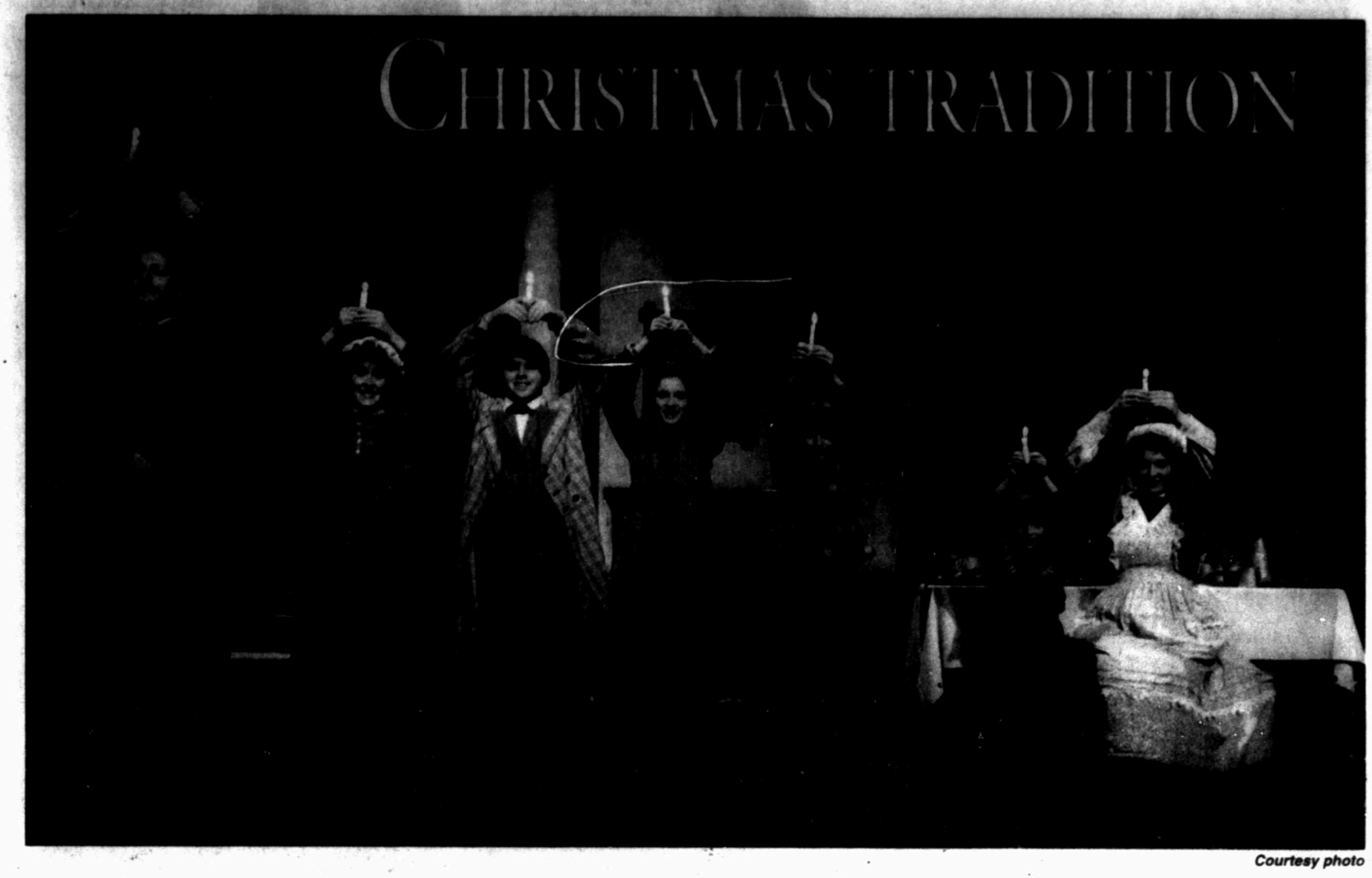
The state and its marijuana industry are barred by law from advertising weed out of state, and the head of the Colorado Tourism Office says the state isn't tracking the role of marijuana in tourist behavior.

"It's all anecdotal," Al White said. "I have heard from some angry parents who said they'll never come back to Colorado because of marijuana. And I've also heard from people who say they came to Colorado just to see the marijuana.

"At the end of the day, it may be having a modest effect, but it's not huge either way."







Courtesy photo

The cast of "A Christmas Carol" is shown. The touring Nebraska Theatre Caravan musical production comes to the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center today.

Actor reminds of Cratchit's humanity in 'A Christmas Carol'

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Chevalier

Bob Cratchit is a familiar name this time of year as the employee of Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." While he's an iconic fictional character, he's also a representation of many of today's working class: underpaid, overworked, uninsured.

And this isn't lost on Dan Chevalier, who has played Cratchit for the past three years in the touring Nebraska Theatre Caravan musical production that comes to the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center today.

"There's a line where Cratchit says he can't afford a doctor and I think that's something a lot of people can relate to," the actor said from the tour's stop in St. Louis. "I think that's probably at the front of people's minds at this time: pinching pennies and keeping a pleasant outer self while struggling internally. The notion of working really hard, but still unable to afford basic things can be tough."

Chevalier makes an interesting point about Cratchit that also leads to his approach.

In the show, Cratchit experiences emotional extremes which, to Chevalier, make him relatable and obviously sympathetic.

"You see him embody that happiest moment with his family and then the lowest when (Editor's note: spoiler alert) Tiny Tim dies," Chevalier said. "As an acting challenge, that's why I love this role. I get to explore that spectrum because he's sometimes a silly character and other times, he's holding back the tears."

Playing Cratchit three years in a row for NTC, Chevalier tries to bring new ideas to the stage with the character. And he has to wait for the cast list.

"It's natural for me to approach him differently but it also depends on the actors I'm around. Paul Kerr plays Scrooge different than any before and Lisa Wipperling brings her own take to Mrs. Cratchit. So yeah, I'm always looking at the role in little bits of different ways," he said.

Spending time with the character for so long, Chevalier has definitely come to relate to Bob Cratchit — which is good for his Christmas spirit.

"He works as a clerk in Scrooge's counting house, but that's not who he is," Chevalier said. "He's a family man. I spend a month with this show reminding how important my family is and when the show ends it's back to Omaha to be with them."

Nebraska Theatre Caravan's "A Christmas Carol" at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 North Farm-to-Market Road 1788, 7:30 p.m. today. $24-$44. Wagnernoel.com.

CAF offers night flights to view holiday lights

By Steve Kuhlmann
skuhlmann@mrt.com

The CAF has a special treat for the community this holiday season. For the three evenings leading up to Christmas Eve, the CAF will be offering night-time rides to view the community's Christmas lights.

The flights will be made in a World War II-era C45 "Expeditor" airplane, a plane CAF High Sky Wing member Bill Coombes said has historical ties to the Midland-Odessa area.

"It's a World War II, vintage utility airplane," Coombes said. "It's the kind of airplane that was based in Midland-Odessa during the war, so it has some historical significance."

Coombes said they are expecting to do four to six rides each night with a maximum of five passengers on each flight.

"We're going to see where the best lights are," Coombes said. "You can actually just fly around the city and the city is spectacular. It really is pretty, any place is good to look at the Christmas lights."

To boost the Christmas atmosphere, CAF staff will also be serving complimentary hot chocolate and Christmas cookies.

"We're going to have hot chocolate and cookies and everyone is going to be wearing their Santa hat," Coombes said. "We're going to have things all decorated up for Christmas (and) we'll even have (decorations) in the airplane."

Children ages 5 and older will be allowed to take part in the ride, as long as they are accompanied by a parent.

"The CAF has rules about kids flying in airplanes, so we got it amended for this event," Coombes said. "It's kind of a family deal and we figured that the kids would really like to see the Christmas lights."

While the CAF currently is only offering the rides on the three nights leading up to Christmas Eve, Coombes said, extra dates may be added.

"If we fill up all three nights then we're going to add a night after Christmas," Coombes said. "We're just trying to see if there's that much interest in doing it, and I think there is because we've already sold about half the seats."

Tickets will be $75 for one of the four passenger seats and $145 to sit in the co-pilot seat. Rides are scheduled to depart every 45 minutes, and each one will last roughly 30 minutes.

As the CAF was looking for a new fundraiser, Coombes said the idea for the night rides came from a recent trip he made.

"We were flying back from Houston at night the other day and (the city) looked really pretty," Coombes said. "This was even before people had put out their Christmas lights and I just said, 'gee, this place would be spectacular when everyone gets their Christmas lights up.'"

To purchase tickets for one of the rides email the CAF's High Sky Wing at rides@highskywing.org or call Gena Linebarger at 528-0997 or Patti Collins at 631-7072 and leave a message.

Create Christmas memories with cookies

KNIFE & FORK

This week's columnist is Megan Lea Buck. mbuck@mrt.com

The countdown is on — Christmas is only nine days away. Some of my favorite Christmas memories take place in my parents' kitchen, baking cookies or cooking Christmas Eve dinner with my mom, aunt and sister.

As a mom, I hope I can create similar Christmas memories for my kids. So, this weekend, I will take a break from trying to accomplish the million things on my to-do list and spend some time decorating Christmas cookies with my daughter. Even if we just use store-bought cookie dough, she'll have a ball getting to use the Christmas cookie cutters, icing and sprinkles. Here's a recipe for those moms, sisters and aunts (or dads, brothers and uncles) who have time to make cookies from scratch.

Perfect-for-decorating Sugar Cookies

3 cups flour
3/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 sticks unsalted butter
1 cup sugar
1 large egg
1 tablespoon milk
2 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon lemon or almond extract

Combine flour, baking powder and salt and set aside. In a large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until fluffy. Beat in egg, milk and extracts until very smooth. Gradually mix in flour mixture until dough is smooth and slightly stiff. Let stand 5 minutes.

Divide dough in half. Place each half between two large sheets of wax paper and roll until it's about 1/4-inch thick. Refrigerate for 45 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease baking sheets. Remove dough from fridge and form cookies with cookie cutters. Bake for 8-11 minutes, watching closely.

Transfer to a wire rack to cool before decorating.

Courtesy photo

Create a lasting Christmas tradition by baking and decorating your own sugar cookies.

Santa's beard is real in Hudspeth County

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Big Spring storyteller

I don't know how old Tom Neely is, but he gets around like a spring chicken. He lives on a ranch in the mountains 10 miles west of Sierra Blanca. He's had about four careers involving everything from owning a grocery store to being a court bailiff. He's involved in every historical group west of the Pecos. He writes a weekly newspaper column and is a lay minister in his church. He's an amazing storyteller and plays Santa Claus to kids in Hudspeth County. We'll take the seasonal topic here.

"I have a real beard that I start growing in July," said Tom. "And believe it or not, the kids know that. In fact, one time out at Dell City, I was walking toward the school and a bunch of little ones came out to see me. One little boy looked at me, turned around and said, 'It's the real Santa. He has a real beard.'"

Tom started playing Santa 10 years ago at the request of the newly elected sheriff, who was once a student in a school where Tom's wife was a teacher.

"He decided to start gathering up money from wherever he could all year so he could go buy presents for all the kids from Headstart through the fifth grade. He approached me to be Santa Claus and hand out the presents."

Tom has worn out one Santa suit and has just acquired a new one. He'll use it for the first time this year.

"That first year, I borrowed one from somebody. Then I bought one and used it until last

Please see SMITH/2B

Recipe of the week: Baked Peppery Dill Beets

Addie Broyles

Addie Broyles is the food writer for the Austin American-Statesman. Her column is distributed by Cox Newspapers

AUSTIN

Was 2014 the year you tried kale chips?

I'm not a big fan of the commercially prepared kale chips, but homemade crisps made from leafy greens aren't the worst way to work through the bounty of kale (or broccoli, mustard or collard greens) in your garden or CSA.

But why stop at greens? Chris Bryant published a cookbook this year called "Chips: Reinventing a Favorite Food" (Lark Books, $14.95) that covers everything from traditional potato chips to crisps made out of salami, squash, pears or even tofu.

In this recipe, he uses thinly sliced red or purple beets that are baked between two baking sheets to keep them flat and maintain their color. (Yellow or orange beets will brown unattractively, he reports.)

Bryant likes to serve these chips with deviled egg dip — deviled eggs that have been mashed together instead of meticulously filled.

Baked Peppery Dill Beets

To get vibrantly colored chips that are uniformly crunchy, sandwich the beet slices between matching baking sheets for the first 20 minutes of cooking. You can skip this step, turning the chips instead midway through baking, and they'll still be delicious, but the chips will come out a bit darker and not quite as crunchy.

If you don't have perfectly matched baking sheets, don't fret — simply improvise with any pair of pans that can be pressed snuggly together. If you can pull together enough pan sets, go ahead and bake two batches of beet chips at a time.

3 to 4 large red beets, about 1 1/2 to 2 lb.
2 Tbsp. oil
1 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
1 tsp. dried dill weed, or 2 tsp. fresh dill, finely chopped
1/2 tsp. kosher salt

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees, with the racks positioned in the upper and lower thirds. Line one of the two matching baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats. (You can bake more per batch if you have enough pans.)

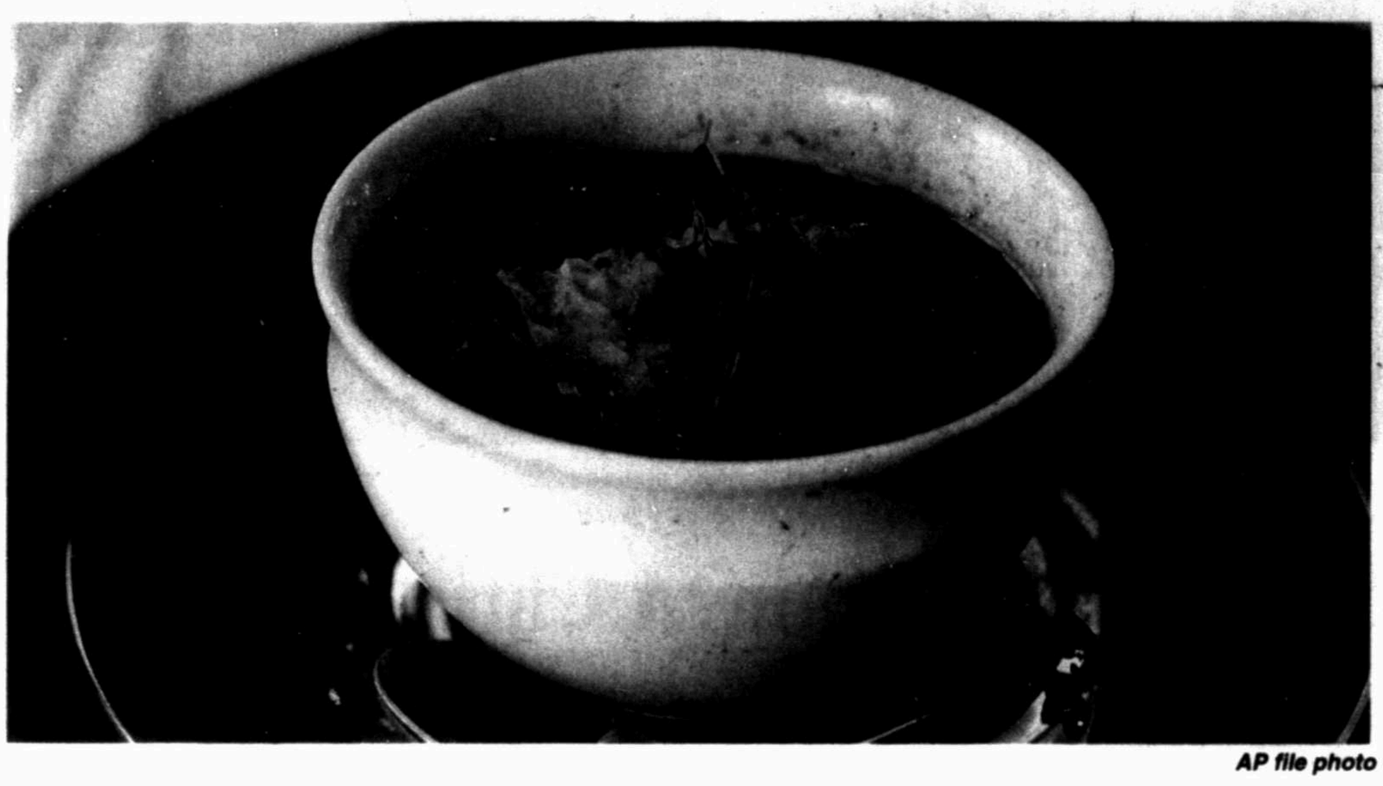
Prepare the beets by removing the root and stem ends. Cut the beets into even 1/16-inch-thick slices — about as thick as a quarter. A mandoline or food processor will help you make uniform slices.

Transfer the beet slices to a mixing bowl, add the oil, pepper, dill, and salt, and then toss to coat. Arrange the beet slices in a single layer on the baking sheet with their edges just touching. Stack the matching baking sheet on top.

Bake for 20 minutes, then remove the top baking sheet. The edges of the chips should look dry. Return the chips to the oven uncovered, turning the baking sheet in the opposite direction. Bake them for another 10 to 20 minutes, checking for doneness. The beets will curl and become lighter in color.

Note: The beet chips become crisper as they cool. If you like, sprinkle the chips with more salt when they come out of the oven. Then transfer them to a wide bowl or tray to cool. Serves 6 as an appetizer.

From "Chips: Reinventing a Favorite Food," (Lark Books, $14.95) by Chris Bryant.



AP file photo

This Dec. 1 photo shows slow cooker onion soup in Concord, N.H. The humble onion is one the most common aromatic vegetables, popping up in so many ways across so many cuisines.

Take comfort in an almost effortless onion soup

Melissa d'Arabian

Food Network star Melissa d'Arabian is an expert on healthy eating on a budget.

Talk about a vegetable that's everywhere. The humble onion is one the most common aromatic vegetables, popping up in so many ways across so many cuisines.

And it's not just for taste. The onion also happens to be a terrifically healthy ingredient. If nothing else, it's a delicious way to add bulk to a dish without adding many calories or any fat. Thing is, Americans typically use onions in such small quantities that they serve more to highlight the other items in a dish, rather than strut their own stuff.

The exception? A warm and satisfying bowl of onion soup.

The genesis of onion soup is unclear, but some attribute the version we know today to a French king. Even in modern France, onion soup is slurped up by late-night revelers taking a break in the party to revitalize their bodies with warm oniony broth before continuing the fete into the morning hours.

While I tend to sip my onion soup at a more reasonable hour, I find it equally comforting. There is nothing as soothing as the luscious sweetness of a cooked onion, particularly one from which a caramel color and flavor have been coaxed unhurried over hours. Add a rich broth and a bit of cheese, and you have a delicious luxury.

The secret is in not rushing the caramelizing of the onions. And that's a fine way to put your slow cooker to work. It conveniently caramelizes the onions overnight with no effort from you. And my recipe for slow cooker onion soup walks you through the whole (very easy) thing.

And if you want, you can stop right there — with caramelized onions! Put them in a small jar in the refrigerator and use as a spread or topping for just about anything. Or continue on and make the whole soup, which is guaranteed to nourish both body and soul.

Slow Cooker Onion Soup

Start to finish: 10 hours (plus 20 minutes active)
Servings: 6

For the caramelized onions:
5 cups sliced yellow onions, (about 4 large onions)
2 shallots, peeled and sliced
1 clove garlic, minced
1 tablespoon olive oil
Salt and ground black pepper

For the soup:
1 teaspoon all-purpose flour
1/4 cup dry sherry
1 teaspoon dry thyme
Small sprig fresh rosemary
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
2 cups low-sodium beef broth
1 cup water
1 tablespoon lemon juice
6 thin slices baguette, toasted until golden and quite dry
1/2 cup grated Gruyere cheese

Coat a 4-quart or larger slow cooker with cooking spray. Add the onions, shallots, garlic and oil. Toss well, then season with a bit of salt and pepper. Cover and cook on low until the onions are richly colored and sweet, 8 to 10 hours. (The onions at this point can be removed and used for other recipes if not making the soup.)

Once the onions are ready, sprinkle them with the flour and stir until well-combined. Add the sherry, thyme, rosemary, Worcestershire sauce, both broths and the water, then cover and cook for another 4 hours on low or 2 hours on high. Once soup is done, stir in the lemon juice and adjust the seasoning.

When ready to eat, set the broiler on high. Ladle the soup into broiler-safe serving crocks. Top each crock with a thin slice of the toasted baguette and a heaping tablespoon of Gruyere. Place the filled crocks on a rimmed baking sheet and broil just until cheese is golden, 1 to 2 minutes. Do not leave the crocks unattended as they will burn quickly.

Nutrition information per serving: 240 calories; 60 calories from fat (25 percent of total calories); 6 g fat (2.5 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 15 mg cholesterol; 34 g carbohydrate; 3 g fiber; 8 g sugar; 10 g protein; 570 mg sodium.

Bake a chocolatey rich coconut cream pie for Christmas

By Elizabeth Karmel
Associated Press

Coconut is my family's must-have sweet during the holidays. Usually we have a fresh coconut cake, but my mom has been known to sneak a Mounds bar — her favorite candy — when the urge strikes.

So this Christmas season, I decided to tie it all together with this recipe for chocolate coconut pie. And I wanted it to be more than just another coconut pie. I wanted it to taste more like a candy bar. So I made the crust from sweetened dried coconut and butter, similar to how I would make a graham cracker crust.

The coconut is processed with a bit of butter to help bind and brown it. It then is pressed into a pie plate and baked before the custard filling is added. But you know what? The crust worked out so nicely, I'd consider using it for all sorts of pie fillings.

For this pie, I upped the coconut volume even more by sprinkling a layer of additional sweetened coconut over the baked crust before adding the custard.

Once the custard filling is baked and cooled, it gets topped with a chocolate glaze. I usually make my glaze — a ganache, really — by heating the cream on the stove, but I found it was just as easy to do in the microwave. If you want to try it, just microwave the heavy cream until nearly boiling, then proceed with the recipe as directed.

After two hours of chilling, the pie was perfect to serve. This is a simple but sublimely rich pie. And it is perfect for the holidays!

Coconut cream pie

If you'd like to make this recipe gluten-free, substitute 1/2 tablespoon of cornstarch for the all-purpose flour called for in the custard.

Start to finish: 4 hours (30 minutes active)
Servings: 8

For the coconut crust:
4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, softened
14-ounce bag sweetened shredded coconut, divided
Pinch of salt

For the custard:
3 large egg yolks
1 cup heavy cream
1/4 cup coconut milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup sugar
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
Pinch salt
Pinch fresh nutmeg

For the chocolate glaze:
1/2 cup heavy cream
8 ounces (1 1/3 cups) semi-sweet chocolate chips
Pinch salt
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Heat the oven to 350 F.

To prepare the crust, in a food processor combine the butter, all but 1 cup of the coconut, and the salt. Pulse until the mixture begins to come together but before it forms a ball, about 40 pulses. Transfer the mixture to a 9-inch pie plate. Press the coconut mixture evenly over the bottom and up sides of the pan to form crust.

Set the pie plate on a baking sheet. Bake for 15 minutes, or until the edges begin to brown. Transfer the pie plate to a wire rack to cool completely. Leave the oven on.

Meanwhile, prepare the custard filling. In a large bowl, mix together the egg yolks, cream, coconut milk and vanilla. In a small bowl, whisk together the sugar, flour, salt and nutmeg, then add to the liquid ingredients. Mix well and set aside.

When the coconut crust is cool, sprinkle the bottom with the remaining 1 cup of coconut and pour the custard over it. Bake until set, 30 to 40 minutes. Remove from oven, set on a cooling rack and let cool.

While the pie cools, prepare the chocolate glaze.

In a small saucepan over medium heat, bring the heavy cream to a boil. Place the chocolate in a medium bowl, then pour the hot cream over it. Let sit for 1 to 2 minutes, then stir until the chocolate is completely melted. Stir in the vanilla and salt until the mixture is glossy.

When the pie has cooled, but is still just warm to the touch, pour the chocolate glaze over it, spreading it evenly all the way to the edge of the crust. Refrigerate, uncovered, until the filling is set, about 2 hours. Cover the pie and keep refrigerated until ready to serve.

Obituaries

Joe S. Nunez

Joe S. Nunez, 68, of Midland, passed away on Sunday, December 14, 2014.

Rosary will be on Monday December 15, 2014 at 7:00PM at the Pecos Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral Services will start at 10:00AM at the Pecos Funeral Home Chapel, and burial will follow at Mount Evergreen Cemetery.

Joe was born in Pecos, TX to Francisco and Nora Nunez on April 13, 1946. Joe graduated from Pecos High School in 1964. He went on to Saint Marries University of San Antonio and graduated with an Associate Degree. Joe married Angelica Bernal on July 24, 2004. Joe was an entrepreneur and for 30 years and owned his own company Midland Geophysical. Joe's second great love was his 1971 Chevelle race car.

Joe is preceded in death by his parents Francisco and Nora Nunez and his son Marcos Nunez.

Joe is survived by his wife Angelica, his sons; Ben Nunez, Javier Diaz, and Martin Diaz. His Daughters Nancy Nunez Compton and Elizabeth Diaz, and five grandchildren.

To leave the family a message or to sign the guest book please log on to pecosfuneralhome.com.

Maria Jesus Cordero

Maria Jesus Cordero, 92, of Midland passed away on December 12, 2014. A rosary will be held on Monday, December 15, 2014 at 7:00 PM at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel. Her mass will begin at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at St. Stephen's Catholic Church of Midland. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Maria was born on August 8, 1922 in Marfa, Texas to Mauricio and Francesca Vasquez. She was a long time church member of Santa Rosa de lima Catholic Church in Pecos, Texas until she moved to Midland in 2001 where she attended St. Stephen's Catholic Church. She was an amazing lady with a heart of gold. She had a beautiful heart, with amazing strength, courage, and love of life, God, her family, and everyone that came across her path.

She is survived by her daughter, Frances Brown of Midland, her sister, Adela Cook, 8 grandchildren,(Lee Roy Brown, Yvette Brown-Valdez, Annette Dillman, Aimee Ortiz, Abby Mejia, Joseph Cordero, Jacob Cordero and Joel Cordero), 18 great grandchildren, (Crystal Quiroz, Lee Roy Brown, Johnny Brown, Hailey Brown, Zachary Brown, Jalyssa. Moore, Brittany Farmer, Kayla Farmer, Jared Valdez, Justin Valdez, Danny Dillman, Alex Dillman, Meagan Dillman, Nikolais Gonzales, Amiley Ortiz, Giovanni Mejia, Neal Mejia, and Jeremiah Cordero), and 9 great-great grandchildren, (Eric Jr. Quiroz, Alana Quiroz, Ian Brown, DJ Brown, Jayden Brown, Jazlynn Brown, Journee Wilks, Ahlia Gutierrez and Avangalean Dillman.

Maria is preceded in death by her loving husband, Juan M. Cordero, her son, Johnny Vasquez Cordero, 3 sisters, Margarita Lujan, Teresa Matta, Micaela Mendias, 4 brothers, Pedro Vasquez, Fermin Vasquez, Alberto Vasquez, Jose Vasquez, and her great great granddaughter, Jaleigh Addison Wilks.

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

Death Notices

Billie F. Hightower

Billie F. Hightower, 86, of Midland passed away on Sunday, December 14, 2014.

Memorial services will be Saturday, December 20, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at First Christian Church of Midland.

Smith

From 1B

year. This new one is really nice," he said.

His arrivals at schools are spectacular. "The sheriff's office coordinates with the DPS. When the weather permits and if the helicopter is not involved in a chase somewhere they come pick us up in the DPS helicopter. We fly to Fort Hancock and land behind the school. Little kids are out there jumping up and down, screaming and holiering and we're blowing dust all over them as we land. Then we go in the building and pass out the presents. Then we get back in the helicopter and go to Sierra Blanca and land on the football field. Sometimes we pass out the presents in the stadium and sometimes if the weather is bad we go inside. Then we fly up to Dell City, which is 70 miles north and do the same thing up there. Usually we get all of that done in one day. Everything is coordinated with the schools."

Tom's wife, Winnie, plays Mrs. Claus and is on hand to help pass out the gifts, which are age and gender appropriate. And he has other helpers. "Ladies who work in the sheriff's office dress up in elf costumes and help out, doing anything they can. I've got the best gig in the world. Everybody else does all the work and I get to have all the fun. All I do is talk to the kids, give the a present and wish them a merry Christmas."

Tom plans to play Santa for a long time. "It's a lot of fun. We get a big kick out of it."

Tumbleweed Smith is a folklorist, humorist and oral historian who lives in Big Spring with his wife, Susan. Contact him at ts@tumbleweedsmith.com.

Atari's 'E.T.' game joins Smithsonian collection

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — One of the "E.T." Atari game cartridges unearthed this year from a heap of garbage buried deep in the New Mexico desert has been added to the video game history collection at the Smithsonian.

Museum specialist Drew Robarge made the announcement Monday in a blog post. He included a photograph of the crinkled cartridge along with the official serial number assigned to the game by the city of Alamogordo, New Mexico.

The game was one of hundreds recovered at the city's landfill last spring as a team of documentary filmmakers investigated a decades-old urban legend that centered on Atari secretly dumping the cartridges. The "E.T." game had the reputation of being the worst game ever and contributed to the demise of the company.

Robarge said the Smithsonian has some amazing artifacts that represent big moments in video game history, including Ralph Baer's "Brown Box" prototype for the first video game console and a Pong arcade cabinet.

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TUESDAY PRIME TIME — DECEMBER 16, 2014

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	A Charlie Brown Christmas		Prop and Landing	Prop and Landing 2	Forever "Sneak Preview"		KMID News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7	7 News	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "House Rules" (N)		NCIS: New Orleans "Stolen Valor" (N)		Person of Interest "The Cold War" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) David Letterman		(:35) Late Late (N)
KWWT CW	5	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A Griffith	A Griffith	Hogan's Heroes	Gilligan's Island	CHIPS "Christmas Watch"		Cheers	Mason "The Case of the Injured Innocent"		Dragnet "Robery"
KPEJ FOX	8	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Masterchef Junior "The Finale" (SF) (N)		New Girl	Mindy Project	Modern Family	Modern Family	Hot in Cleveland	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	Joe McGee	HaYesod	Update News	BAS Presents	Light of the Southwest		Exploring Scholars	With the Ministerios Nueva Vida
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 at 6 p.m.		Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas (N)		The Voice "Live Finale" The winner of this season's competition is revealed. (SF) (N)		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) Jimmy Fallon (:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Sacred Journeys "Lourdes" (N)		Sacred Journeys "Shikoku" (N)	A Chef's Life Holiday Special (N)	Charlie Rose (N)	Tavis Smiley (N) Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	La Gata		Mi corazón es Tuyo		Hasta el fin del mundo	La Malquerida	Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu. La Que No Podia Amar
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Fam.Feud	Million..	Law:Cl "Love on Ice"		Law & O: CI "Traffic"	My News	Million..	Anger M. M&M Access H. Insider
FLIX	340	65		165		(5:05) Possession		Jet Lag Juliette Binoche.		Next Stop Wonderland		(:10) ★★ Hideous Kinky Kate Winslet.	
HBO	300	68	14	14		(5:15) Blue Streak ::		47 Ronin (13, Act) Keanu Reeves.		Real Sports		Tapia (N)	Comeback Newsroom
HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	(5:40) ★★★ The Book Thief Sophie Nélisse.		Bullet to the Head			(:35)	Hello Ladies: The Movie	WBC Boxing
HBOS	304	70	16	102		Movie (:25) Austin Powers: Internat...		Comeback Looking		(:05) ★★ The Interpreter Nicole Kidman.			(:15) GetOn Movie
MAX	360	71	17	120	24	(5:00) The 40-Yea...		★★★ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey			(:50)	★★★ The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug	
MAX2	382	72	18	122		(:15) ★ Catwoman ('04, Act) Halle Berry.		★★★ Kick-Ass 2			(:45)	Sin City Diaries "Inside Out"	Movie
PLEX			96			(5:15) The Meteor...		★ I'll Do Anything ('94, Com) Nick Nolte.				Dracula: Dead and Loving It	(:25) The Philadelphia Expe...
SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	Homeland		The Affair		Inside the IIFL	Homeland	Inside the NFL	The To Do List
TMC	336	67	22	155	26	(5:30) The New Daughter		Scary MoVie Ashley Tisdale.			★★★ Rushmore		(:35) ★★ Waiting
A&E	27	32	28	35	47	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars Storage Wars
AMC	40	21	23	42	51	(4:30) ★★★ Splash		★★★ Miracle on 34th Street				★★★ Miracle on 34th Street	
BET	58	26		40		★ The Family That		Preys ('08, Com) Sanaa Lathan, Alfre Woodard.			Nellyville (N)	Nellyville	Wendy Williams
BRAVO	65	63		41		Girlfriends' Guide		Beverly Hills		Beverly Hills (N)	Girlfriends' Guide (N)	Watch (N) Girlfriends'	Guide Beverly
CNBC	46	45		39	72	The Profit		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		The Profit (N)	Shark Tank Shark Tank
CNN	43	24	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Extra. People (N)		CNN Tonight	A. Cooper 360 Extraordinary People
DISC	50	20	31	24	42	Moonshiners		Moonshiners (N)		Moonshiners (N)		Moonshiners	Gags to Riches
DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	(5:30) To Be Ann...		To Be Announced		Austin	Dog Blog	GoodLuck	I Didn't Jessie GoodLuck GoodLuck
ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	(5:00) SportC	Count	NBA Basketball Golden State vs Memphis (L)				NBA Basketball Oklahoma vs Sacramento (L)	
ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball UNC/UNC-G (L)				NCAA Basketball Ala./Wich. (L)		SportsCenter	SportsCenter
FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	(5:30) ★★★ The Polar Express		★★★ Home Alone ('90, Com) Macaulay Culkin.				The 700 Club	Santa Baby 2: C...
FNC	45	58	53	23	55	On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity	The O'Reilly Factor The Kelly File
FOOD	64	59	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped (N)	Chopped Chopped
FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	Stars Inside (N)	Maves Live Pregam (L)	NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at New York Knicks Site: Madison Square Garden -- New York City, N.Y. (L)				Maverick-ks Live (L)	Spotlight Cowbo-ysLeg (N) WPT Poker L.A. Classic
FX	31	31	59	64	69	M&M	M&M	★★★ Total Recall ('12, Act) Colin Farrell.				★★★ Total Recall ('12, Act) Colin Farrell.	
HALLMARK	54	49	58		34	(5:00) Debbie Ma...		★ Christmas in Conway Mandy Moore.				★ Christmas at Cartwright's Alicia Witt.	★ Annie Claus is ...
HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop FlipFlop	FlipFlop FlipFlop		House (N)	House	Fixer Upper FlipFlop FlipFlop
HISTORY	71	62	29	50	43	Curse of Oak Island		Curse of Oak Island		Curse/Oak Island (N)	(:05) Pawn	(:35) Pawn	(:05) Alaska Warr. Curse of Oak Island
LIFETIME	28	25	25	28	48	To Be Announced		★ To Be Announced			The Sisterhood "Too Pretty to Be Nuns" (N)	The Sisterhood "Revelations" (N)	★ To Be Announced
MSNBC	47	51		49	73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow	The Last Word	All in With C. Hayes	Rachel Maddow
NBCSN	38	39				Luge				Auctions America "Auburn"		EPL Soccer	
NICK	55	34	39	34	37	H.Danger	Max	News (N)	F.House	F.House	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends Friends Mother Mother
SPIKE	30	22	55	53	58	Ink Master		Ink Master		Ink Master		Ink Master	Ink Tattoo Ink Master
SYFY	66	64	41	57	67	Movie	Ascension	"Night One" 1/3		Ascension "Night Two"	2/3 cont'd Dec 17 (N)	Ascension "Night Two"	2/3 cont'd Dec 17
TBS	25	11	44	66	41	Seinfeld "The Pie"	Seinf. "The Stand-In"	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Ground Floor (N)	Big Bang Theory Conan Dick Van Dyke, Jenny Slate, Vance Joy Ground Floor Conan
TCM	41	61	24	63	66	(5:00) Cass Timber...		★★★ The Poseidon Adventure				(:15) ★★★★ A Night to Remember Kenneth More.	Movie
TELE	20	8	10	20		Caso cerrado		Los miserables		Tierra de reyes		Señora acero	Al rojo (:35) Titular. Tierra de reyes
TLC	51	33	32	38	52	The Little Couple "Have a Little Faith"		The Little Couple "Device Free Day" (N)		The Little Couple (N)	Risking It All "Home Sweet Home?"	The Little Couple	Risking It All "Home Sweet Home?"
TNT	24	23	40	26	50	Bones "The Patriot in Purgatory"		Bones "The Bod in the Pod"		Bones "The But in the Joke"	CSI: NY "Necrophilia Americana"	CSI: NY "Live or Let Die"	CSI: NY "Super Men"
TVLAND	49	48	35	54	35	Walker, Texas Ranger		(:20) Family Feud		Fam.Feud Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens Queens Friends Friends
USA	26	30	42	27	49	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Caged"		WWE Smackdown! "Super Smackdown" (N)			Chrisley Knows (N)	Benched (N)	Chrisley Knows Benched (:05) Modern (:35) Modern
WGN	19	18				America's Funniest Home Videos		★★ The Wedding Date (2005, Comedy) Dermot Mulroney, Amy Adams, Debra Messing.			Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Rules of Engage. Rules of Engage. Parks and Rec Parks and Rec

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Heart surgeon gets pope's help for Italian girl

By Kyrie O'Connor
Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON — This is a story about signs and miracles. Oh, it's about science, too, but there's one little girl who would like you to see the story through her eyes.

Annamaria Di Tonto, 8, who lives in Naples, Italy, was born with a heart valve that didn't work. She had her first surgery at the age of one month and her second when she was 3, to give her an artificial pulmonary valve to allow blood to flow properly to her lungs.

Then last June, said her parents, Marco Di Tonto and Francesca Piroli Torelli, Italian doctors recommended another valve replacement. That would mean another risky open-heart surgery, more build-up of scar tissue, another month bedridden. "That was a bad moment," said Marco Di Tonto through an interpreter. "It's very invasive and the recovery is intense."

Every surgery makes the next one riskier, so Annamaria's parents began casting about for something, anything, to keep her from going through that, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Meanwhile, Annamaria's grandfather, Mauritzio Di Tonto, arranged for Annamaria to meet Pope Francis. At the meeting, the pope gave the little girl a rosary he had blessed. He told her it would be her protection. "This one is special," Mauritzio told the pope, speaking of his granddaughter. And with that, Pope Francis kissed Annamaria.

And that, the parents said, is when things started to happen.

Mauritzio sought help from his friend Mauro Ferrari, president and CEO of the Houston Methodist Research Institute, who had a Skype conference with the parents. Ferrari contacted Dr. Huie Lin, who specializes in treating adults with congenital heart defects. Lin talked to Dr. John P. Breinholt, pediatric cardiology chief at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital and UT Health.

Brienholt, too, video-conferenced with the parents. He said Annamaria didn't need open-heart surgery. In fact, she didn't even need a valve. The problem, he said, was a narrowing of the blood vessels to the lungs, which could be corrected with a minimally invasive procedure.

"All I can tell you is this is what I think she needs," he told them.

They were convinced. Breinholt cleared a spot on his calendar and within two days, the family was on a plane to Houston. Annamaria brought two important possessions with her: a stuffed giraffe she's had from birth and, of course, the rosary.

Francesca Torelli said she was immediately impressed by "the warmth and support and great humanity" of the people she met, especially Ferrari. "We felt not alone. We felt adopted."

Annamaria checked into the hospital and was given a stuffed version of Children's Memorial Hermann's mascot, Topper — a giraffe.

On Dec. 1, Annamaria went for her procedure, carrying the rosary for protection. She kept it with her.

Breinholt threaded a catheter through a blood vessel in her leg. He reopened some vessels from her legs, fixed a problem with a stent already in place and used a balloon angioplasty to open up the pulmonary artery.

Annamaria will need a new valve in a few years, Breinholt said, but that, too, can be done with a catheter. (Valves need to be replaced because children grow and artificial valves don't.) She will also need one when she reaches adulthood.

But for now, Annamaria, with her inquisitive mind and infectious giggle, is fine. Up and running around, in fact. She spent Dec. 4 at the research institute with Ferrari and the translator, Ennio Tasciotti ("It's not often you get a scientist as an interpreter," he said) doing experiments and looking in microscopes.

"Her prognosis is excellent. I expect her to have a normal life," said Breinholt.

And the rosary? Annamaria left it at the hospital, so that it could protect other children. Breinholt said they will put it in a frame, along with a picture of the little girl being kissed by a pope.

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

For each of the word groups below, change one letter in the top word to one of the letters that appears in the bottom word, then rearrange the tiles as needed to form a new common word. Do the same with each new word until you arrive at the bottom word. For example, one path from BARK to PLUM is BARK, MARK, RAMP, RUMP, PLUM.

HATH MUCH

COOK OGLE

Yesterday's Answer: DOWN, GOAL, FOUL

12.16

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Neil Sperry

Neil Sperry's "Plant Talk Texas" and "Texas Lawn and Garden Hour" can be heard on radio stations across the state. Email him at mailbag@sperrygardens.com.

Oak, pecan leaves work in compost

Dear Neil: Am I remembering a recent column correctly? Did you advise against using oak leaves in compost?

Answer: Not at all. I merely mentioned that there are people out there who think the tannins (oils) in oak and pecan leaves would inhibit growth of other plants. That is not the case, and I cited my own experiences of having lived in an oak/pecan forest for almost 40 years. I mentioned that I've had very good success with their decaying leaves as a mulch and in the preparation of my gardens' soil.

Dear Neil: I have several Texas mountain laurels that are up to 8 or 10 feet tall. At least three of them have started to turn yellow and look diseased. One has died. I've not seen webworms or any signs of insects of any kind. What can I do?

Answer: "Yellowed" isn't a really strong clue, as it merely suggests that the plant is weakening — from whatever the cause. There is a vascular disease of the trunks that I personally saw take one of my mountain laurels after 15 years. You might want to send a sample to the Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Texas A&M, College Station 77843. Look the lab up online before sending that sample. Their website will identify applicable charges for you. Look especially for any part of the trunks that has a small mushroom growing out of its wood. That's what I saw on my own plant, and that's what you would want to send to the lab for analysis. Good luck with it!

Dear Neil: I live atop a rocky outcropping, and I've been unable to get flowers of any kind to grow. Zinnias and vincas have done well for a while, but they die away. Some of my skullcaps have died, as well.

Answer: When you start discussing a large collection of unrelated plants, the odds of a disease or insect pest being the causes of their failures drop dramatically. Pests are typically much more specific than that. I'd pin it back to bed preparation and upkeep. You'll want 8 to 12 inches of well-prepared garden soil. Start with 5 or 6 inches of sandy loam topsoil. Incorporate 2 inches of sphagnum peat moss, 1 inch each of compost, rotted manure and finely ground pine bark mulch. Add 1 inch of expanded shale if you're trying to amend a clay soil. Rototill all of that together thoroughly, and re-till it before spring plantings begin.

Dear Neil: How can I stop my 6-foot pear tree from sending up sprouts from its base?

Answer: There is a thing called "apical dominance" in trees. The buds at the growing tips produce a hormone that sends a message down through the tree that all growth will occur at the top and outer branches. When there is some kind of problem in the trunk or branches of the tree, apical dominance is lost, and the tree will begin sending out sprouts.

Your tree sounds like it has been severely weakened. If some of these shoots are above the graft union, you could let one of them grow into a new trunk. It sounds to me like you're going to lose the top of the tree.

Re-Leaf by Debbie Frost

Tools, especially good pruning tools, are always a great gift idea for the gardener. A tool gardeners will use year around is an excellent pair of hand pruners. These are used to trim and shape plants, train young trees, deadhead, prune out dead or damaged foliage and small branches, cut back perennials and many other practices. The best are designed with curved, high quality steel by-pass blades. They can easily cut stems up to 1/2-inch diameter, and some can cut 1-inch stems. Other features include a locking mechanism, rotating handle, ergonomic design and even designs for left-handed gardeners. Some brands can be taken apart for adjusting, cleaning, sharpening and repairing or replacement parts. Some have leather or nylon scabbards that can be worn on your belt.

Loppers are designed to cut up to 2-inch diameter stems and allow for an extended reach and more leverage because of the length of the handles. They also are available with steel, curved, by-pass blades. They include some of the same features such as replacement blades, bumper pads and ergonomic handles. The handles can be made out of wood or light weight aluminum as well as some have telescoping handles. Handle length ranges from 15 to 32 inches and longer. There are designs that include ratchet, compound action and geared cutting mechanisms to make cutting easier, but these also make the tool thicker and heavier. Weight of the tool is an important consideration when selecting a lopper that is often held above shoulder height.

Pruning saws are very useful for gardeners with many trees and shrubs. Pruning saws are used to make clean, easy, precision cuts on green wood stems too large for hand pruners or loppers. These are great for shade and fruit trees, as well as large stems on shrubs and roses. They are designed to cut on the pull with super sharp teeth, so be careful. They come in folding styles which are very handy or straight, fixed blade forms.

Debbie Frost is a local horticulturist specializing in regionally appropriate horticulture. Email her at garden.frost@gmail.com.

Holiday wreaths carry historical, religious symbolism

Jeff Floyd

Jeff Floyd is a horticulturist with Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Email him at jeff.floyd@ag.tamu.edu.

Chances are good this holiday season that you'll be welcomed by a wreath or two while visiting businesses and homes of your friends and neighbors. It's not by accident that the traditional wreath is displayed during Christmas. The significance behind the display of wreaths dates back to ancient Rome.

The supreme honor granted by the Roman Senate to returning victors was the Corona Triumphalis; a wreath composed of laurel leaves. The practice was born from the Greek custom of presenting laurel wreaths to Roman monarchs with presumed powers over earthly and heavenly elements.

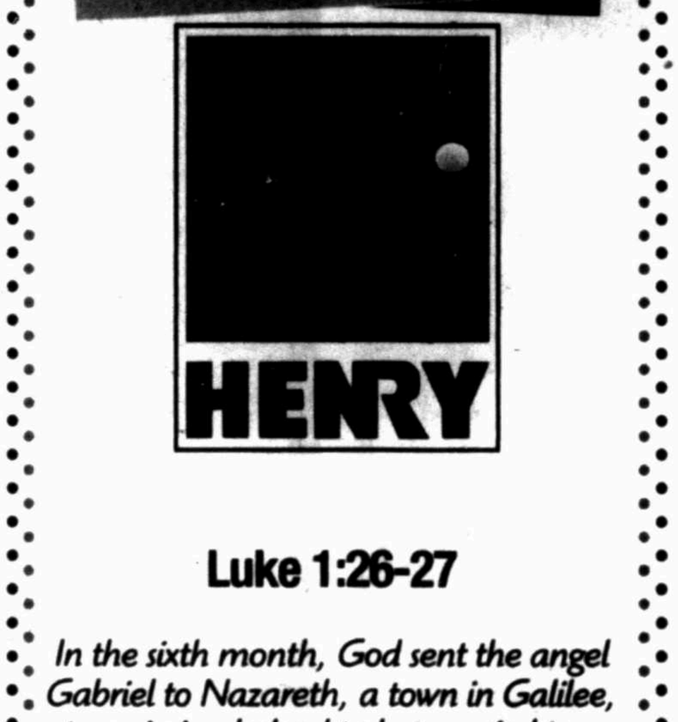
Wreaths depicted in religious art have been suggested as a symbol of Christ's triumph over death (crown of thorns) and a transition into eternity. The circular continuity of the wreath highlights its eternal symbolism in religious art. Roman wreaths were made of more than just laurels. Wreaths are known to have been made of palm, myrtle, oak, olive, ivy, grape, pine and many different herb species.

Over time, the use of wreaths as a decorative element found its way into the customs of the common citizenry. Today, the most common living wreaths found during the holidays are often made from the branches of cut Christmas trees.

Wreaths of the grand fir are dark green and shiny with a delicate and springy texture. Douglas fir wreaths have soft blue-green flat needles that produce a very slight citrusy fragrance. A sturdy wreath can be made from the fraser fir with its stiff branches and short silvery-green needles. Fraser fir wreaths produce the holiday scent so characteristically associated with a cut Christmas tree. Wreaths made from Scotch pine have needles that are up to 3 inches in length, creating a light and airy texture.

If you plan to light up a living wreath, use low-wattage LED bulbs to reduce any potential fire hazard. It may not be a safe practice to allow Christmas lights to run all night when wrapped around a wreath. Freshly cut tree branches are particularly prone to drying out. Some low-wattage bulbs may produce enough heat to accelerate the drying of your living wreath.

Give yourself or a loved one the perfect Christmas gift. Apply to become a Certified Texas Master Gardener in 2015. Orientation for Permian Basin Master Gardener training will be held 9 a.m.-noon Jan. 10 at the Ector County Extension office, 1010 E. 8th St. in Odessa. Master Gardener training classes will be held on Saturdays in 2015 to accommodate both retired and working people. The cost to enroll in the program is $250, which covers the Texas Master Gardener training manual, speaker fees and printing of class material. For more information, call 686-4700 or email jeff.floyd@ag.tamu.edu.



Luke 1:26-27

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

Babies of 2014

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will publish a special baby section dedicated to all the special people born in 2014. Our "Cover Baby" will be chosen at random. All babies appearing in the Babies of 2014 section will be eligible to be our "Cover baby".

Now is your chance to show everyone how cute your baby is! If a baby was born in your family in 2014, complete this form and return it with a photo and payment to our office by Sunday, January 11, 2015 to get your baby published in a 2.46 " x 5" profile in our Babies of 2014 special section! *Please note that this special section will be printed in black & white with the exception of the cover and back page.

Printed Photo Requirements
- Color print*
- Minimum size: 2"x3"
- Vertical pose preferred
- One baby per photo
- Twins require double spot
- Include baby's name on back of photo

Please complete this form and return with photo and a $25.00 payment by Friday, January 9, 2015.
Pictures will not be returned.

Digital Photo Requirements
- Color Image*
- Minimum 3.5"x5" @ 200 dots per inch resolution
- .jpg format preferred

Please send your digital photo and the submission form to rellis@mrt.com.
You will be contacted for credit card payment.

Christopher Zay Buck

Birthdate: August 22
Parents: Megan Lea Buck and Christopher L. Buck
Grandparents: Luke and Kathy Lea, Natalie Rice, Mark and Mary Buck
Favorite Food: Milk
Likes: His big sister, Kaitlyn
Dislikes: His car seat

Actual Size

Babies of 2014

Baby's Information

Name _____
Birthdate _____, 2014
Parents _____
Grandparents _____
Favorite Food _____
Likes _____
Dislikes _____

Your Information

Parent's Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

☐ *Ok to receive emails from us with contest information, news and special offers about local Midland businesses?*

To Submit Your Form Online Go To: mrt.com/babies2014
Publishes Sunday, 1/25/15

201 E. Illinois • Midland, Tx 79701
Attn: Advertising, Babies of 2014, Rachel Ellis

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com

TODAY: Sunny	WEDNESDAY: Mostly sunny	THURSDAY: Partly sunny	FRIDAY: Mostly sunny	SATURDAY: Sunny	SUNDAY: Mostly sunny
High: 57 Low: 41	High: 60 Low: 40	High: 63 Low: 40	High: 63 Low: 31	High: 66 Low: 34	High: 65 Low: 37

Local forecast

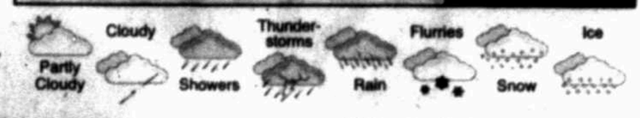
A chance for showers is expected Thursday night (40 percent), Friday (slight) and Sunday night (slight). Otherwise expect high temperatures near normal today and Wednesday and low temperatures above normal for this time of year through Thursday night.

The high on Monday reached 65, while the low dropped to 38. The record high for Dec. 15 is 81 set in 2010. The record low is 11 set in 1987.

Weather why

Q: We keep hearing about a "nor'easter" that might hit. What is it?

A: A nor'easter is an intense low pressure storm, also called a cyclone, that occurs along the East Coast between October and April, said Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "The storms generally form off the coast of Florida or the Carolinas in the warm Gulf Stream current. As the system moves northward along the East Coast and gathers strength, winds can approach and even exceed hurricane force. The intensification of the cyclone is driven by very cold air from Canada colliding with the moist air from the Atlantic. When these two very different air masses meet, a very intense storm can form."



Precipitation

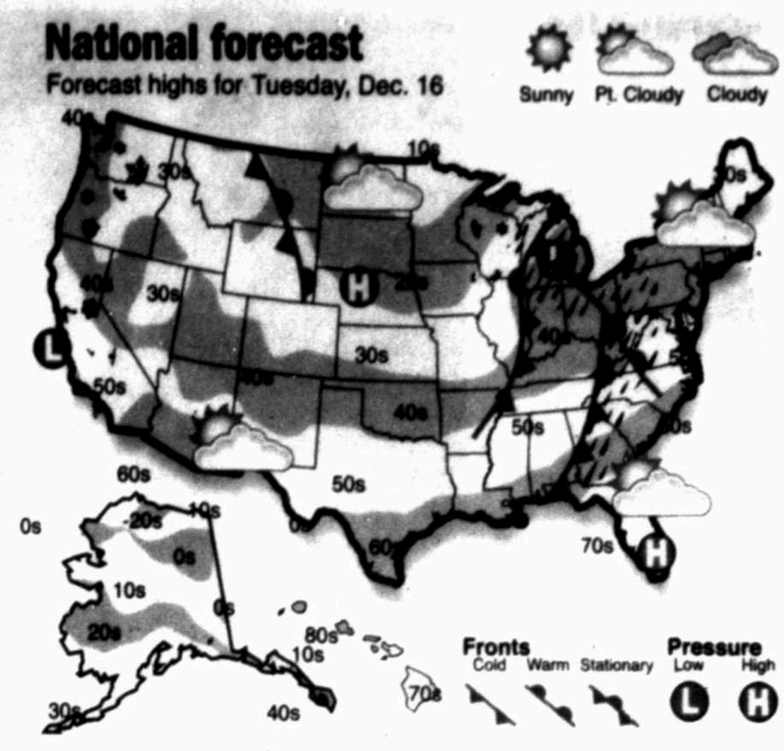
Sunday	0.00 in.
Monday	0.00 in.
Month total	0.01 in.
Year total	7.46 in.
Normal total (year to date)	14.30 in.

Monday's temperatures

High	65
Low	38
Normal high	58
Normal low	31
Sunrise	7:42 a.m.
Sunset	5:47 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Tuesday, Dec. 16



Vigilant mom devastated by news of son's molestation

DEAR ABBY

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Her column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.

DEAR ABBY: I'm so upset. I just found out my son was molested by one of his older cousins. "Ryan" didn't want me to know because he was afraid of how I would react. Ryan is 19 and a very private person. I want to confront the person who did this to him and press charges.

What's upsetting is I tried hard to protect my children. I thought I was doing everything right by having my boys let their friends come and spend the night at my home instead of letting them stay at their friends' homes.

I want Ryan to go to counseling to understand he did nothing wrong, that it wasn't his fault. Please help me to help my son. I partly blame myself for not knowing.

How did I let this happen? I am their mother. I am supposed to keep them safe. Please tell me what to do. — CONFUSED MOTHER IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR MOTHER: Stay calm and understand that you have done nothing wrong. This is no reflection upon you as a parent. While many people still believe that child molesters are creepy strangers who prey on little kids, the truth is the majority turn out to be family members or close friends one would never suspect.

Your son may be embarrassed or blame himself for what his cousin did. Reassure him that when someone older acts out against a younger one as his cousin did, that is "coercion" — an imbalance of power and experience. Explain that it would be beneficial for him to talk to a therapist. It might also benefit the cousin to do so because he may need to learn about boundaries.

Whether the cousin can be arrested or prosecuted may depend upon how long ago this occurred, and how old the kids were at the time it happened.

DEAR ABBY: I feel like I am not appreciated at my husband's family's holiday gatherings. Everyone brings a dish, while I get assigned the "leftover" — which is usually a salad. I told my husband I wanted to bring the dessert one year, so I made a homemade pie. His sister proceeded to bring two store-bought pies in addition to her dish. No one ate any of my pie except for my husband and me. Even when I bring the salad, no one eats it, either.

I may not be not the best cook, but I am a good one and my pie was perfect. Because this has happened more than once, I feel discouraged about contributing, and I have told that to my husband. Do you have any advice about how I can contribute without feeling left out? — NO NAME, PLEASE, IN MISSOURI

DEAR NO NAME: Yes. Understand that when families gather for holiday dinners year after year, they often want particular foods prepared in the way to which they are accustomed. While you may want to contribute, you may not be able to do that unless you are hosting the party.

From now on, unless you are asked to do otherwise, bring with you only a smile, your appetite, and flowers or a bottle of wine. If you do, there will be fewer hurt feelings and you'll save yourself some work.

TO MY JEWISH READERS: The eight days of Hanukkah begin at sundown. Happy Hanukkah, everyone! May we all enjoy a joyous festival of lights.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Save the day

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 7
♥ K 2
♦ K J 10 3
♣ A 10 9 8 2

WEST
♠ K Q J 9 6 3
♥ Void
♦ A 8 5
♣ K 6 5 4

EAST
♠ 8 4 2
♥ Q J 10 5
♦ 7 6 2
♣ J 7 3

SOUTH
♠ A 5
♥ A 9 8 7 6 4 3
♦ Q 9 4
♣ Q

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♣	Pass	1	1♠
Pass	Pass	4	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: King of ♣

Many an excellent contract has crashed on the rocks of distribution. This deal looked to be another one.

South won the opening spade lead with the ace and saw that his contract was cold as long as trumps split no worse than 3-1. He tested the trumps by cashing his ace at trick two. Curses! Declarer was now faced with four losers and the only hope lay in the club suit.

In theory, South could establish a long club trick by ruffing three times in hand as long as the clubs split 4-3, the percentage split. This plan was hopeless on this deal as dummy had an appalling lack of entries. As soon as South tried to force an entry in diamonds, the defense would win and cash their spade trick. Declarer went to "Plan B" — he led the queen of clubs, intending to run it if West played low. West, however, covered with the king and dummy won with the ace. Next came the 10 of clubs. Had East not covered, South would have discarded his losing spade. East covered, South ruffed and then crossed back to dummy with the king of hearts to discard his spade loser on the nine of clubs. Well done!

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014:

This year you have good luck gracing your thoughts and actions. You naturally seem to follow the correct path. You will seek new knowledge and understanding. You are likely to give a personal testimonial about your desire to grow. If you are single, you will be attracted to someone from a different culture. This person could be quite significant to your life's history. If you are attached, be open to the possibility of a faraway vacation, where you both can enjoy an exotic setting and a different culture. LIBRA might want more than a friendship with you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ Unexpected developments could point to a different response. Someone who considers him- or herself to be more important than you could become quite controlling. Be creative and optimistic, and find a way to ignore this person. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ Pace yourself, as you could have a lot of ground to cover. You won't hesitate to let others know when you have had enough. You might come off as erratic to some, but to the right person, you will be seen as exciting. Tonight: Note what is not being said.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ You might discover that a friend is not as stable as you previously had thought. Tap into your sense of humor to deal with this person. Meanwhile, an important person in your life could let you know how much you are appreciated. Tonight: Have an important discussion with a loved one.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ You wouldn't be as in demand as you are if you did not excel in a certain area. You might want to spend more time at home if you are feeling overwhelmed. If a loved one becomes controlling, know that it is just reflecting his or her insecurity. Tonight: Happy at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ You have a way of drawing people to you and identifying with them. This sense of understanding creates more give-and-take. A co-worker who is fun to work with will add to the moment. Make and return calls. Tonight: Your treat.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Your instincts will be right-on with a money matter. Your creativity with taking risks might work well on paper, but it won't play out the way you would like it to. You could have a hard time understanding why this is. Ask a loved one for feedback. Tonight: Indulge a friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You could see that a situation seems to be taking on a new twist. Ask questions and listen well to the answer. What you think is going on and what is actually happening might be two different things. Avoid projecting your issues onto the situation. Tonight: Go for what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ You will want to keep your own counsel for now. A hunch you have about someone else could pay off. You might be ready to add depth to this relationship. Try not to insert any biased judgments into the discussion. Stay open-minded. Tonight: Follow your instincts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ You might be in the mood to do some shopping, especially for a very special loved one. What you choose could delight this person to no end. Don't forget about a dear friend or relative at a distance. Make plans to visit soon. Tonight: Where your friends are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ You have an endearing quality about you that draws many people toward you. You might decide to become even more verbal in the next few weeks. Choose your words with your customary precision, and your message will be well-received. Tonight: Out and about.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ You are prone to do research rather than take anyone's advice. You trust hard facts more than opinions. A lovable friend or associate might add a lot of laughter and fun when he or she appears. Take a break when you see this person. Tonight: Choose your company with care.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ You could see a personal matter much differently from how another party sees it. Why not just respect the differences in your experiences? Understand that you might need to discuss alternative ways of handling problems of this nature in the future. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

BORN TODAY

Novelist Jane Austen (1775), actor Benjamin Bratt (1963), musician Billy Gibbons (1949)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 __ excuse for: hardly the best example of
6 Largest city in Belarus
11 Reg.
14 "__ Rae"
15 Political convention setting
16 Golfer's peg
17 *Actor Sydney of "Casablanca"
19 Crazy way to go
20 "Dallas" matriarch Miss __
21 Brought up
23 Boiling mad
27 Takes advantage of
28 Shower offering
31 Waiter's carrying aid
32 Get on in years
33 Pioneering ISP
34 Break down, as a sentence
35 "It's the __ I can do"
38 Hidden loot
40 Superman's symbol
41 Bug in a program, say
42 Tomato concentrate
43 Kitchen appliance
45 Activist Guevara
46 Hem and __
47 Ripped
48 Word with horse or track
49 Tender-hearted
51 Slander
53 Throbbed
55 Things that shouldn't be done
58 DDE's WWII command
59 Understand (and a hint to both parts of this puzzle's answers to starred clues)
64 Bustle
65 Like a fifth tire
66 Youngest Jetson
67 Curtain holder
68 Furry swimmer
69 Trickles (through)

DOWN

1 Zambia neighbor: Abbr.
2 Tiny skin opening
3 Sports analyst Hershiser
4 Folded eggs dish
5 Took to jail
6 Gym cushion
7 Like some outlet store mdse.
8 Maiden name indicator
9 Dummy Mortimer
10 "Kiss Me, __"
11 *Talent show hosted by Ed McMahon
12 Conical dwelling
13 Homeowners' documents
18 Sealy rival
22 Hole-boring tool
24 Takes to jail
25 *Break for fuel
26 Dilapidated building, e.g.
28 Quick intake of breath
29 Greek "I"
30 *Danger after a heavy rainfall
32 Protected, at sea
34 "That was close!"
36 Arty NYC locale
37 Shade provider
39 Sports page numbers
44 Jules who created Captain Nemo
48 Forgetful, maybe
49 Asparagus serving
50 Perform better than
51 Handy
52 Boot bottoms
54 Exxon, previously
56 Folklore monster
57 Go for groceries
60 Consume
61 Three, in Bologna
62 Ship's pronoun
63 TV host Pennington and Hall of Famer Cobb

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com 12/16/14

By Jerry Edelstein
©2014 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
12/16/14

NEIL SPERRY

Neil Sperry's "Plant Talk Texas" and "Texas Lawn and Garden Hour" can be heard on radio stations across the state. Email him at mailbag@sperrygardens.com.

Oak, pecan leaves work in compost

Dear Neil: Am I remembering a recent column correctly? Did you advise against using oak leaves in compost?

Answer: Not at all. I merely mentioned that there are people out there who think the tannins (oils) in oak and pecan leaves would inhibit growth of other plants. That is not the case, and I cited my own experiences of having lived in an oak/pecan forest for almost 40 years. I mentioned that I've had very good success with their decaying leaves as a mulch and in the preparation of my gardens' soil.

Dear Neil: I have several Texas mountain laurels that are up to 8 or 10 feet tall. At least three of them have started to turn yellow and look diseased. One has died. I've not seen webworms or any signs of insects of any kind. What can I do?

Answer: "Yellowed" isn't a really strong clue, as it merely suggests that the plant is weakening — from whatever the cause. There is a vascular disease of the trunks that I personally saw take one of my mountain laurels after 15 years. You might want to send a sample to the Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Texas A&M, College Station 77843. Look the lab up online before sending that sample. Their website will identify applicable charges for you. Look especially for any part of the trunks that has a small mushroom growing out of its wood. That's what I saw on my own plant, and that's what you would want to send to the lab for analysis. Good luck with it!

Dear Neil: I live atop a rocky outcropping, and I've been unable to get flowers of any kind to grow. Zinnias and vincas have done well for a while, but they die away. Some of my skullcaps have died, as well.

Answer: When you start discussing a large collection of unrelated plants, the odds of a disease or insect pest being the causes of their failures drop dramatically. Pests are typically much more specific than that. I'd pin it back to bed preparation and upkeep. You'll want 8 to 12 inches of well-prepared garden soil. Start with 5 or 6 inches of sandy loam topsoil. Incorporate 2 inches of sphagnum peat moss, 1 inch each of compost, rotted manure and finely ground pine bark mulch. Add 1 inch of expanded shale if you're trying to amend a clay soil. Rototill all of that together thoroughly, and re-till it before spring plantings begin.

Dear Neil: How can I stop my 6-foot pear tree from sending up sprouts from its base?

Answer: There is a thing called "apical dominance" in trees. The buds at the growing tips produce a hormone that sends a message down through the tree that all growth will occur at the top and outer branches. When there is some kind of problem in the trunk or branches of the tree, apical dominance is lost, and the tree will begin sending out sprouts.

Your tree sounds like it has been severely weakened. If some of these shoots are above the graft union, you could let one of them grow into a new trunk. It sounds to me like you're going to lose the top of the tree.

RE-LEAF BY DEBBIE FROST

Tools, especially good pruning tools, are always a great gift idea for the gardener. A tool gardeners will use year around is an excellent pair of hand pruners. These are used to trim and shape plants, train young trees, deadhead, prune out dead or damaged foliage and small branches, cut back perennials and many other practices. The best are designed with curved, high quality steel by-pass blades. They can easily cut stems up to 1/2-inch diameter, and some can cut 1-inch stems. Other features include a locking mechanism, rotating handle, ergonomic design and even designs for left-handed gardeners. Some brands can be taken apart for adjusting, cleaning, sharpening and repairing or replacement parts. Some have leather or nylon scabbards that can be worn on your belt.

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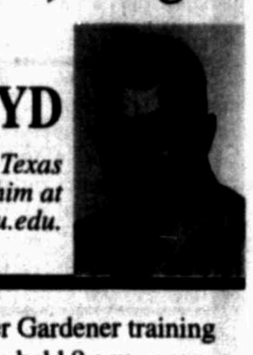
Holiday wreaths carry historical, religious symbolism

JEFF FLOYD



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The supreme honor granted by the Roman Senate to returning victors was the Corona Triumphalis; a wreath composed of laurel leaves. The practice was born from the Greek custom of presenting laurel wreaths to Roman monarchs with presumed powers over earthly and heavenly elements.

Wreaths depicted in religious art have been suggested as a symbol of Christ's triumph over death (crown of thorns) and a transition into eternity. The circular continuity of the wreath highlights its eternal symbolism in religious art. Roman wreaths were made of more than just laurels. Wreaths are known to have been made of palm, myrtle, oak, olive, ivy, grape, pine and many different herb species.

Over time, the use of wreaths as a decorative element found its way into the customs of the common citizenry. Today, the most common living wreaths found during the holidays are often made from the branches of cut Christmas trees.

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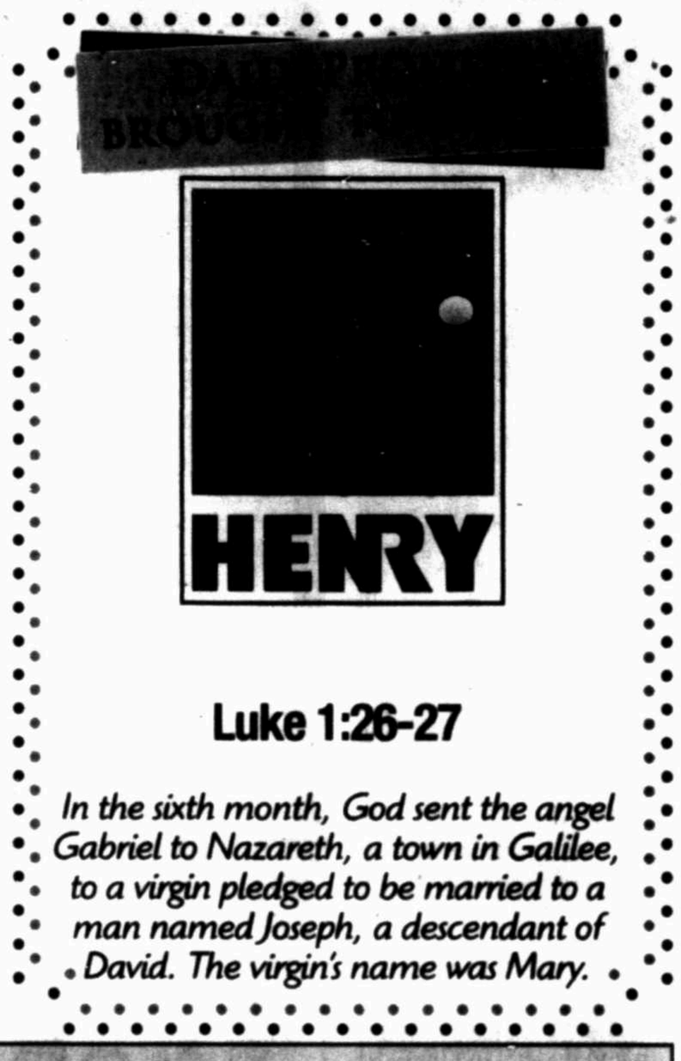
If you plan to light up a living wreath, use low-wattage LED bulbs to reduce any potential fire hazard. It may not be a safe practice to allow Christmas lights to run all night when wrapped around a wreath. Freshly cut tree branches are particularly prone to drying out. Some low-wattage bulbs may produce enough heat to accelerate the drying of your living wreath.

Give yourself or a loved one the perfect Christmas gift. Apply to become a Certified Texas Master Gardener in 2015. Orientation for Permian Basin Master Gardener training will be held 9 a.m.-noon Jan. 10 at the Ector County Extension office, 1010 E. 8th St. in Odessa. Master Gardener training classes will be held on Saturdays in 2015 to accommodate both retired and working people. The cost to enroll in the program is $250, which covers the Texas Master Gardener training manual, speaker fees and printing of class material. For more information, call 686-4700 or email jeff.floyd@ag.tamu.edu.



Babies of 2014

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will publish a special baby section dedicated to all the special people born in 2014. Our "Cover Baby" will be chosen at random. All babies appearing in the Babies of 2014 section will be eligible to be our "Cover baby".

Now is your chance to show everyone how cute your baby is! If a baby was born in your family in 2014, complete this form and return it with a photo and payment to our office by Sunday, January 11, 2015 to get your baby published in a 2.46 " x 5" profile in our Babies of 2014 special section! *Please note that this special section will be printed in black & white with the exception of the cover and back page.

Printed Photo Requirements
- Color print*
- Minimum size: 2"x3"
- Vertical pose preferred
- One baby per photo
- Twins require double spot
- Include baby's name on back of photo

Please complete this form and return with photo and a $25.00 payment by Friday, January 9, 2015. *Pictures will not be returned.*

Digital Photo Requirements
- Color Image*
- Minimum 3.5"x5" @ 200 dots per inch resolution
- .jpg format preferred

Please send your digital photo and the submission form to rellis@mrt.com. *You will be contacted for credit card payment.*

Christopher Zay Buck

Birthdate: August 22
Parents: Megan Lea Buck and Christopher L. Buck
Grandparents: Luke and Kathy Lea, Natalie Rice, Mark and Mary Buck
Favorite Food: Milk
Likes: His big sister, Kaitlyn
Dislikes: His car seat

Actual Size

Babies of 2014

Baby's Information

Name _____
Birthdate _____, 2014
Parents _____
Grandparents _____
Favorite Food _____
Likes _____
Dislikes _____

Your Information

Parent's Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

☐ *Ok to receive emails from us with contest information, news and special offers about local Midland businesses?*

To Submit Your Form Online Go To: mrt.com/babies2014
Publishes Sunday, 1/25/15

201 E. Illinois • Midland, Tx 79701
Attn: Advertising, Babies of 2014, Rachel Ellis

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt...

TODAY: Sunny — High: 57 Low: 41
WEDNESDAY: Mostly sunny — High: 60 Low: 40
THURSDAY: Partly sunny — High: 63 Low: 40
FRIDAY: Mostly sunny — High: 63 Low: 31
SATURDAY: Sunny — High: 56 Low: 34
SUNDAY: Mostly sunny — High: 55 Low: 37

Local forecast

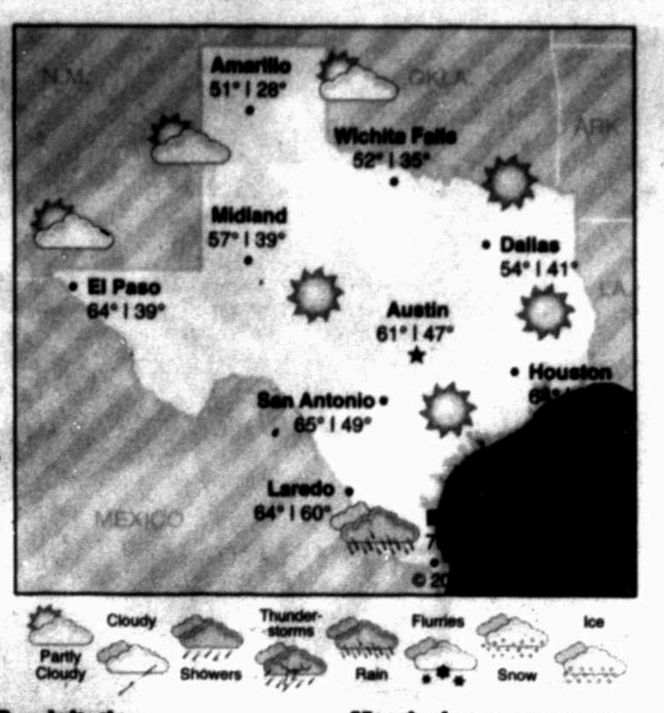
A chance for showers is expected Thursday night (40 percent), Friday (slight) and Sunday night (slight). Otherwise expect high temperatures near normal today and Wednesday and low temperatures above normal for this time of year through Thursday night.

The high on Monday reached 65, while the low dropped to 38. The record high for Dec. 15 is 81 set in 2010. The record low is 11 set in 1987.

Weather why

Q: We keep hearing about a "nor'easter" that might hit. What is it?

A: A nor'easter is an intense low pressure storm, also called a cyclone, that occurs along the East Coast between October and April, said Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "The storms generally form off the coast of Florida or the Carolinas in the warm Gulf Stream current. As the system moves northward along the East Coast and gathers strength, winds can approach and even exceed hurricane force. The intensification of the cyclone is driven by very cold air from Canada colliding with the moist air from the Atlantic. When these two very different air masses meet, a very intense storm can form."



Precipitation

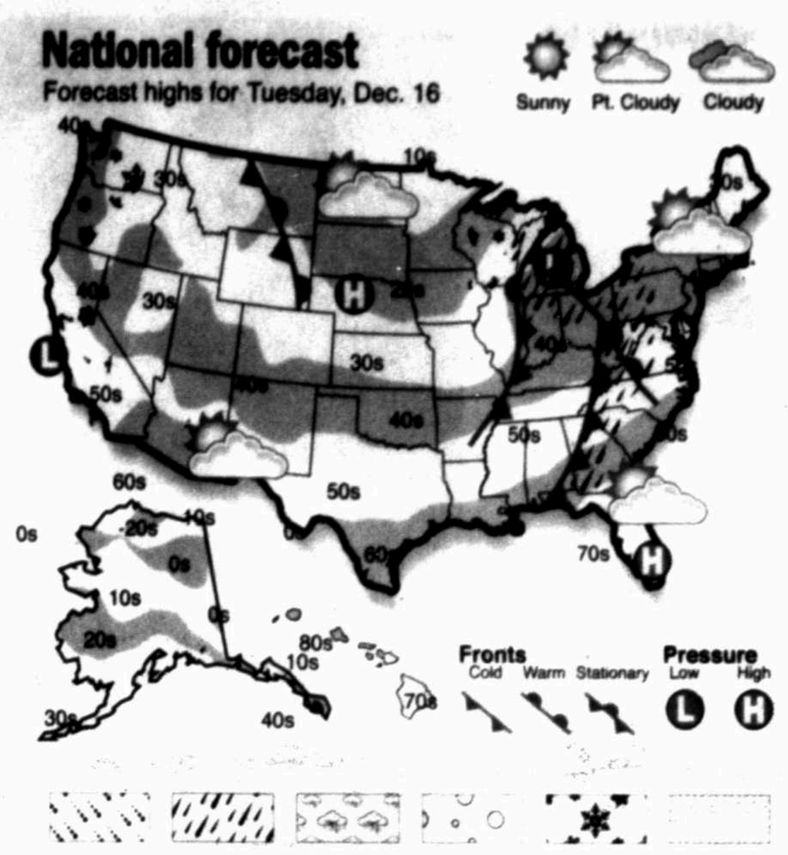
Sunday	0.00 in.
Monday	0.00 in.
Month total	0.01 in.
Year total	7.46 in.
Normal total (year to date)	14.30 in.

Monday's temperatures

High	65
Low	38
Normal high	58
Normal low	31
Sunrise	7:42 a.m.
Sunset	5:47 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Tuesday, Dec. 16



Vigilant mom devastated by news of son's molestation

DEAR ABBY

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Her column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.

DEAR ABBY: I'm so upset. I just found out my son was molested by one of his older cousins. "Ryan" didn't want me to know because he was afraid of how I would react. Ryan is 19 and a very private person. I want to confront the person who did this to him and press charges.

What's upsetting is I tried hard to protect my children. I thought I was doing everything right by having my boys let their friends come and spend the night at my home instead of letting them stay at their friends' homes.

I want Ryan to go to counseling to understand he did nothing wrong, that it wasn't his fault. Please help me to help my son. I partly blame myself for not knowing.

How did I let this happen? I am their mother. I am supposed to keep them safe. Please tell me what to do. — CONFUSED MOTHER IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR MOTHER: Stay calm and understand that you have done nothing wrong. This is no reflection upon you as a parent. While many people still believe that child molesters are creepy strangers who prey on little kids, the truth is the majority turn out to be family members or close friends one would never suspect.

Your son may be embarrassed or blame himself for what his cousin did. Reassure him that when someone older acts out against a younger one as his cousin did, that is "coercion" — an imbalance of power and experience. Explain that it would be beneficial for him to talk to a therapist. It might also benefit the cousin to do so because he may need to learn about boundaries.

Whether the cousin can be arrested or prosecuted may depend upon how long ago this occurred, and how old the kids were at the time it happened.

DEAR ABBY: I feel like I am not appreciated at my husband's family's holiday gatherings. Everyone brings a dish, while I get assigned the "leftover" — which is usually a salad. I told my husband I wanted to bring the dessert one year, so I made a homemade pie. His sister proceeded to bring two store-bought pies in addition to her dish. No one ate any of my pie except for my husband and me. Even when I bring the salad, no one eats it, either.

I may not be not the best cook, but I am a good one and my pie was perfect. Because this has happened more than once, I feel discouraged about contributing, and I have told that to my husband. Do you have any advice about how I can contribute without feeling left out? — NO NAME, PLEASE, IN MISSOURI

DEAR NO NAME: Yes. Understand that when families gather for holiday dinners year after year, they often want particular foods prepared in the way to which they are accustomed. While you may want to contribute, you may not be able to do that unless you are hosting the party.

From now on, unless you are asked to do otherwise, bring with you only a smile, your appetite, and flowers or a bottle of wine. If you do, there will be fewer hurt feelings and you'll save yourself some work.

TO MY JEWISH READERS: The eight days of Hanukkah begin at sundown. Happy Hanukkah, everyone! May we all enjoy a joyous festival of lights.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Save the day

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 7
♥ K 2
♦ K J 10 3
♣ A 10 9 8 2

WEST
♠ K Q J 9 6 3
♥ Void
♦ A 8 5
♣ K 6 5 4

EAST
♠ 8 4 2
♥ Q J 10 5
♦ 7 6 2
♣ J 7 3

SOUTH
♠ A 5
♥ A 9 8 7 6 4 3
♦ Q 9 4
♣ Q

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♠	Pass	1	1♠
Pass	Pass	4	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: King of ♠

Many an excellent contract has crashed on the rocks of distribution. This deal looked to be another one.

South won the opening spade lead with the ace and saw that his contract was cold as long as trumps split no worse than 3-1. He tested the trumps by cashing his ace at trick two. Curses! Declarer was now faced with four losers and the only hope lay in the club suit.

In theory, South could establish a long club trick by ruffing three times in hand as long as the clubs split 4-3, the percentage split. This plan was hopeless on this deal as dummy had an appalling lack of entries. As soon as South tried to force an entry in diamonds, the defense would win and cash their spade trick. Declarer went to "Plan B" — he led the queen of clubs, intending to run it if West played low. West, however, covered with the king and dummy won with the ace. Next came the 10 of clubs. Had East not covered, South would have discarded his losing spade. East covered. South ruffed and then crossed back to dummy with the king of hearts to discard his spade loser on the nine of clubs. Well done!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 __ excuse for: hardly the best example of
6 Largest city in Belarus
11 Reg.
14 "__ Rae"
15 Political convention setting
16 Golfer's peg
17 *Actor Sydney of "Casablanca"
19 Crazy way to go
20 "Dallas" matriarch Miss __
21 Brought up
23 Boiling mad
27 Takes advantage of
28 Shower offering
31 Waiter's carrying aid
32 Get on in years
33 Pioneering ISP
34 Break down, as a sentence
35 "It's the __ I can do"
38 Hidden loot
40 Superman's symbol
41 Bug in a program, say
42 Tomato concentrate
43 Kitchen appliance
45 Activist Guevara
46 Hem and __
47 Ripped
48 Word with horse or track
49 Tender-hearted
51 Slander
53 Throbbed
55 Things that shouldn't be done
58 DDE's WWII command
59 Understand (and a hint to both parts of this puzzle's answers to starred clues)
64 Bustle
65 Like a fifth tire
66 Youngest Jetson
67 Curtain holder
68 Furry swimmer
69 Trickles (through)

DOWN

1 Zambia neighbor: Abbr.
2 Tiny skin opening
3 Sports analyst Hershiser
4 Folded eggs dish
5 Took to jail
6 Gym cushion
7 Like some outlet store mdse.
8 Maiden name indicator
9 Dummy Mortimer
10 "Kiss Me, __"
11 *Talent show hosted by Ed McMahon
12 Conical dwelling
13 Homeowners documents
18 Sealy rival
22 Hole-boring tool
24 Takes to jail
25 *Break for fuel
26 Dilapidated building, e.g.
28 Quick intake of breath
29 Greek "i"
30 *Danger after a heavy rainfall
32 Protected, at sea
34 "That was close!"
36 Arty NYC locale
37 Shade provider
39 Sports page numbers
44 Jules who created Captain Nemo
48 Forgetful, maybe
49 Asparagus serving
50 Perform better than
51 Handy
52 Boot bottoms
54 Exxon, previously
56 Folklore monster
57 Go for groceries
60 Consume
61 Three, in Bologna
62 Ship's pronoun
63 TV host Pennington and Hall of Famer Cobb

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com 12/16/14

By Jerry Edelstein
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12/16/14

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014:

This year you have good luck gracing your thoughts and actions. You naturally seem to follow the correct path. You will seek new knowledge and understanding. You are likely to give a personal testimonial about your desire to grow. If you are single, you will be attracted to someone from a different culture. This person could be quite significant to your life's history. If you are attached, be open to the possibility of a faraway vacation, where you both can enjoy an exotic setting and a different culture. LIBRA might want more than a friendship with you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ Unexpected developments could point to a different response. Someone who considers him- or herself to be more important than you could become quite controlling. Be creative and optimistic, and find a way to ignore this person. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ Pace yourself, as you could have a lot of ground to cover. You won't hesitate to let others know when you have had enough. You might come off as erratic to some, but to the right person, you will be seen as exciting. Tonight: Note what is not being said.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ You might discover that a friend is not as stable as you previously had thought. Tap into your sense of humor to deal with this person. Meanwhile, an important person in your life could let you know how much you are appreciated. Tonight: Have an important discussion with a loved one.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ You wouldn't be as in demand as you are if you did not excel in a certain area. You might want to spend more time at home if you are feeling overwhelmed. If a loved one becomes controlling, know that it is just reflecting his or her insecurity. Tonight: Happy at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ You have a way of drawing people to you and identifying with them. This sense of understanding creates more give-and-take. A co-worker who is fun to work with will add to the moment. Make and return calls. Tonight: Your treat.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Your instincts will be right-on with a money matter. Your creativity with taking risks might work well on paper, but it won't play out the way you would like it to. You could have a hard time understanding why this is. Ask a loved one for feedback. Tonight: Indulge a friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You could see that a situation seems to be taking on a new twist. Ask questions and listen well to the answer. What you think is going on and what is actually happening might be two different things. Avoid projecting your issues onto the situation. Tonight: Go for what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ You will want to keep your own counsel for now. A hunch you have about someone else could pay off. You might be ready to add depth to this relationship. Try not to insert any biased judgments into the discussion. Stay open-minded. Tonight: Follow your instincts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ You might be in the mood to do some shopping, especially for a very special loved one. What you choose could delight this person to no end. Don't forget about a dear friend or relative at a distance. Make plans to visit soon. Tonight: Where your friends are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ You have an endearing quality about you that draws many people toward you. You might decide to become even more verbal in the next few weeks. Choose your words with your customary precision, and your message will be well-received. Tonight: Out and about.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ You are prone to do research rather than take anyone's advice. You trust hard facts more than opinions. A lovable friend or associate might add a lot of laughter and fun when he or she appears. Take a break when you see this person. Tonight: Choose your company with care.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ You could see a personal matter much differently from how another party sees it. Why not just respect the differences in your experiences? Understand that you might need to discuss alternative ways of handling problems of this nature in the future. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

BORN TODAY

Novelist Jane Austen (1775), actor Benjamin Bratt (1963), musician Billy Gibbons (1949)

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SOUNDBITES

Reviews of recent releases

NICKI MINAJ
"The Pinkprint"

Those who have followed Nicki Minaj's often-thrilling ascent to hip-hop superstardom have been hoping for another straight-up rap album for years. After annihilating virtually all takers on mixtapes and guest verses starting in 2007, the 32-year-old began gunning for the pop charts, pouring forth two albums, "Pink Friday" (2010) and "Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded" (2012). Both often paired her charismatic wit and style with of-the-moment dance floor bangers and big-umbrella commercial sounds, along with a teasing dose of hard-edged hip-hop.

Minaj teased this new work with a promise that it would be hip-hop-centered, which had many of us slobbering and wondering about the possibilities — the could-be producers and collaborators, the themes, the approach.

Life, however, had other ideas, to the benefit of "The Pinkprint." Rather than fully keep her promise, the artist on "The Pinkprint" focuses on behind-the-curtain heartbreak ballads before moving into that unfiltered swagger. Enduring the end of a long-term love affair in her personal life, Minaj channels her emotions into as many slow-rolling explorations of love and regret as boasts about prowess, bank balance and flow.

She does so with help from prominent collaborators including label mates Drake and Lil Wayne, Meek Mill, Beyonce, Ariana Grande and Chris Brown. Prominent producers such as Mike Will Made It, Dr. Luke, Hit-Boy and Alex Da Kid prove their status. The record's most striking and innovative track, "Four Door Aventador," glistens through the work of rising British beat-maker Parker Ighile.

Throughout "The Pinkprint," Minaj sounds equal parts wounded (opening "All Things Go," the slow-rolling rap track "The Crying Game") and relieved over the end of a once-overpowering affair. "If it was a record, it would have been classic," she raps on "I Lied," of the love and its unraveling. Elsewhere, she's a creative and sexual powerhouse. "Trini Dem Girls," a strange blend of reggaeton and hip-hop, is immediately memorable and featuring a breakout hook from a virtual unknown singer with the moniker Lunchmoney Lewis.

"The Pinkprint" lags near the end, even if for resolution's sake these songs need to be there. The final song on the album (excluding the six bonus tracks on the deluxe version), "Grand Piano," is also the most bland. A weepy piano ballad, it strives to be the epic bookend but instead sounds like a subpar Celine Dion recording.

Those deluxe-version extras are tough to ignore, especially the set-closing "Truffle Butter" (featuring Drake & Lil Wayne), a beat-heavy house track that lives in the thin green line separating art and entertainment.

If the late-add dance track confuses things, it's hard to fault Minaj. Throughout "The Pinkprint," she's intent on channeling her talent to explore and document her many moods. The combination is often, if not always, intoxicating.

Randall Roberts
Los Angeles Times

Trans-Siberian Orchestra freshens its traveling spectacle

By Scott Mervis
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Paul O'Neill, the creator, lyricist and composer behind the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, sees the group as having a little in common with Charles Dickens.

"We never intended to do 'Christmas Eve and Other Stories' for 13 years in a row. It just kind of happened," he said in a recent teleconference. "William Morris is like, 'Paul, it's not broken. Don't fix it.' We really didn't have a lot to guide us. The closest thing we had was Dickens, who wrote five books about Christmas, and he made his biggest money in his life by reading them live, but he always had to read 'A Christmas Carol.' They would never let him do 'The Cricket on the Hearth' or any of the other ones."

Two years ago, O'Neill decided to fix what wasn't broken and also break the Dickens syndrome by switching it up and taking "The Lost Christmas Eve," the last album of the Christmas trilogy, on tour.

The logical progression, also prompted by fan mail, was to move on to 1998's "The Christmas Attic," the middle piece in the trilogy, which had never been performed live.

"Musicians love writing albums, love recording them," he said. "Of course, you love watching them go platinum, but it's not real until you play it in front of a live audience, and you feel the energy of the audience back. It basically creates an energy tape loop. It just takes music to a level you simply couldn't do listening to it alone, on your stereo."

The TSO, a hard-rock holiday institution for the past 15 years, is once again dividing itself in two and playing more than 120 shows in 71 cities across North America, including upcoming shows in Austin, San Antonio, Houston and Dallas. The first half features the unplayed rock opera followed by a second set of TSO classics and fan favorites, such as "Wizards in Winter," "Requiem" and "Christmas Eve/ Sarajevo 12/24."

It is all presented amid what is arguably the flashiest, most bombastic spectacle in the industry complete with a visual assault of fireworks, pyro, lasers, snow and eye-popping light show. O'Neill, a New York native who founded TSO in 1996 with Jon Oliva and Al Pitrelli (both members of Savatage) and keyboardist and co-producer Robert Kinkel, will be the first to tell you that he takes some inspiration from Pink Floyd.

Along with writing rock operas, he has a talent for answering simple questions with long essay-type answers filled with historical references, ranging from Aristotle to Ozzy. The transcript of his print media teleconference hit 250 inches. Here is a condensed version:

On the TSO's successful association with Christmas

I'd love to say that we planned this. We didn't plan it at all. It was an accident. It just shocked everybody that it took on a life of its own, and then the other side thing that came out of it was when that gentleman, Carson Williams, lit his house to 50,000 lights, and then somebody else the next year did 100,000, and then somebody else did 200,000, and the last house I saw was 2 million lights, all going off to TSO music.

When you go to Disney World or MGM, all the lights are all going off to Trans-Siberian Orchestra music. I think we're No. 1 for fireworks displays. I could never have planned it. I just think it was all those prayers my mother said when I told her I wasn't going to college. She was like, "Please don't let this kid starve. Please don't let this kid starve." So far, so good.

On doing 'The Christmas Attic'

"The Christmas Attic" was simply staring us in the face. Like all my rock operas, it has a happy ending. If you want sad endings, you don't need me. Just read the paper. Especially because what the world's going through right now.

It's about a kid who goes into an attic where people have been throwing things for decades, if not centuries, and anyone who has been in an old house with an attic knows it's filled with all kinds of treasures. She discovers a trunk where she reads all these letters from the past, distant glimpses of how the holidays affected people decades and centuries ago, and a glimpse into the future. Of all the rock operas I've written, it's probably the lightest. People need escapism, and so we just wanted to give them a great escape story.

On how they continue to up the ante of the visual feast

A deep-seated fear of having to get a real job.

We've just been lucky in that technology has zoomed ahead so quickly in the last 10 years that we have our own division of Nightcaps Management, which handles Trans-Siberian Orchestra. It's our own company. There's a division of young kids whose only job is to come up with new special effects. We always tell them all the same thing: Make believe you're working for NASA.

On whether he's amazed they get grandmas to come see a metal show

We were kind of stunned at the beginning, the diversity of the audience. Around 2004, I got a call in the middle of the night from one of our promoters, who's a demographic nut.

He said, "You've got every economic class, from the extremely poor to the super rich." He goes, "Here's the weird part. Your average age is 21."

I said, "That's impossible."

He goes, "Nope. You're like the 'Lord of the Rings' movies. There's 7-, 8-, 9-year-olds, cancel out 60. 10, 11, 12, cancel out the 50."

On what he hopes the audience takes away from this show

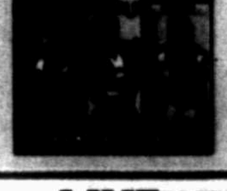
Basically, we want it to be just like an emotional rollercoaster ride. You come to the show, and again, if you're having a great life, come, add another great night to your life. If you're having some speed bumps in life, leave your problems in the trunk of your car. No one's going to steal them, I promise.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Today's releases

Take That 'III'

The Kinks 'The Anthology'


Starbomb 'Super Select'

Original cast recording 'Peter Pan Live'

Charli XCX 'Sucker'

LIVEWIRE

MIDLAND/ODESSA/ BIG SPRING/ANDREWS

December

16 **Johnny & Susie Band** @ Permian Basin Dance Club
17 **Michael Martin Murphey** @ Wagner Noel
17 **Tyler Gregory** @ Blue Max
17 **William Clark Green, Randy Rogers, Sean McConnell** @ Graham Central Station
18 **Showdown** @ West Texas Dance Club
18 **Aaron Watson** @ Rockin Rodeo
18 **The Midnight Ghost Train** @ Blue Max
19 **Blue Cats** @ The Detour
18 **Burnett choir** @ Music City Mall
19 **Nick Verzosa and the Noble Union, Randall King** @ Lone Star Bar
19 **Philip Coggins** @ 10 Sports Bar
19 **FBC Hand-Bells Choir** @ Music City Mall
19 **Bob Schneider, Alpha Rev** @ Yucca Theatre
19 **GODSWAYONLINE, M.O.P. AKA HENRY.Z, Big Perk** @ Cornerstone CFC
19 **Snow Glow** @ 20/20
19-20 **Mister Happy** @ The Bar
20 **The Shane Rogers Band** @ Lone Star Bar
20 **Richard Acuna, Ty Miller, Mike Leonard, Martha Elliott** @ Music City Mall
21 **Plumb** @ First United Methodist Church
21 **Goodtimers, Padlock** @ Music City Mall
23 **Mark McKinney** @ Lone Star Bar
26 **Wade Bowen, John Baumann** @ Graham Central Station
26 **Chris Brazeal Band** @ Lone Star Bar
26 **Tech Jazz** @ Music City Mall
27 **Shane Rogers Band** @ Redneck's
27 **Hammer Down** @ 10 Sports Bar
26-27 **The Unsweet T's** @ Your Place
26-27 **Freeride** @ The Bar
27 **All Stars, Mike Leonard** @ Music City Mall
28 **Samuel Zachary, Tech Jazz, Tucker Binkley** @ Music City Mall
28 **Steve Hamende** @ Lone Star Bar
29 **Lou Shields** @ Blue Max
31 **Tommy, Jean, Jerry & Co.** @ West Texas Dance Club
31 **Bone Thugs-n-Harmony** @ Eden Ultra Lounge
31 **Groove Twenty4** @ The Bar
31 **DJ Frank** @ DoubleTree by Hilton

January

1 **Flashback** @ The Detour
1 **Judson Cole Band** @ Rockin Rodeo
2 **Fusion** @ The Roadhouse
2 **Joe Koenig, Frankie Ballard** @ Graham Central Station
2 **Buggaboos** @ 10 Sports Bar
2-3 **Darren Welch Group** @ The Bar
3 **Snake Skin Prison** @ Blue Max
3 **DdotElles** @ KamiPost Gallery
4 **The Heroine** @ Blue Max
9 **Cody Johnson Band** @ Graham Central Station
9-10 **Electric Gypsies** @ The Bar
9-10 **Jake Hooker** @ Sandhills Rodeo
10 **Lorrie Morgan, Pam Tillis** @ Wagner Noel
11 **Next 2 the Tracks** @ Riley's
14 **Next 2 the Tracks** @ Riley's
15 **Engelbert Humperdinck, Christine Nelson** @ Wagner Noel
15 **In the Whale** @ Blue Max
16 **Leonhardt, Junkyard Amy, Kiel Grove** @ Blue Max
16-17 **Blue Cats** @ The Bar
20 **Urban Pioneers, The Rock Botton String Band, Armadillo Creek** @ Blue Max
22 **JB and the Moonshine Band** @ Rockin Rodeo
23 **Loco Motive** @ The Detour
23 **Mark McKinney** @ Lone Star Bar
23 **Meredith Andrews** @ Stonegate Fellowship
23-24 **Mister Happy** @ The Bar
24 **MOSC Masterworks III: There's a Good Chance You'll Love Strauss** @ Wagner Noel
24 **Aaron Elnhouse** @ Lone Star Bar
24 **Hammer Down** @ Redneck's
26 **Oak Ridge Boys** @ Wagner Noel
28 **Loretta Lynn** @ Wagner Noel
29 **Chance Anderson** @ Lone Star Bar
30 **Sunny Sweeney, Judson Cole Band** @ Graham Central Station

LUBBOCK

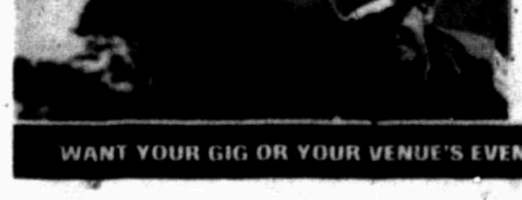
February

5 **Adam Crabb** @ City Bank Colisium
6 **Enrique Iglesias, Pitbull, J Balvin** @ United Supermarkets Arena
11 **Excision, Protohype, Minnesota** @ Fair Park Coliseum
12 **10 Years, Otherwise. The Glorious Sons, Luminoth** @ Jake's Sports Cafe & Backroom

DALLAS-FORT WORTH AREA

December

17 **Train , Daughtry, O.A.R., Ingrid Michaelson , Blue October** @ South Side Balleoom
19 **Tye Tribbett ,Ingrid Rosario** @ Verizon Theatre At Grand Prairie
21 **Arash** @ Verizon Theatre at Grand Prairie
22 **Trans-Siberian Orchestra** @ American Airlines Center
27 **Alejandro Escovedo** @ Gas Monkey Bar & Grill
31 **Hellyeah, Drowning Pool** @ South Side Ballroom
31 **Spoon, I Love You But I've Chosen Darkness** @ House Of Blues
31 **Mingo Fishtrap** @ Live Oak Music Hall & Lounge


Dec. 27 Michael Martin Murphey

Bone Thugs-n-Harmony

WANT YOUR GIG OR YOUR VENUE'S EVENT LISTED IN LIVE WIRE? EMAIL NADAMSON@MRT.COM WITH THE DETAILS. ALL LISTINGS ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Former MHS coach McColloch takes over at Greenwood

By Len Hayward
lhayward@mrt.com

Terri McColloch is returning to the volleyball sidelines.

McColloch, who coached at Midland High for 18 years, will take over the job as volleyball coach at Greenwood High School this January.

McColloch retired after the 2012 volleyball season from Midland High, ending a career at the school that included six district titles and a 466-210 record.

McColloch said when she retired from MHS two years ago, her family situation was much different. Her oldest son A.J., who has two children, was living in Lubbock, while her youngest son Blake was playing football at Texas State.

McColloch said that not being able to see Blake play and missing out on time with her grand kids motivated her to retire when she did. But both sons are now living in Midland, and she admitted she was getting a little bored in retirement.

At the time of her retirement, McColloch had coached for 31 years, beginning her career in Ozona.

"Those were the driving factors in retiring from Midland High," McColloch said on Monday. "I loved my job, loved my kids and loved, my coaches. But I didn't want to miss those two things, and now my circumstances are different."

McColloch's connection with Greenwood is strong as both of her sons attended the school, and her husband, David, is an administrator with the district.

For nearly 20 years, McColloch made the drive from Greenwood into Midland High and now will be going the other way. She said they are building a home in Midland.

"Even though I coached at Midland High all those years, I always was a Bulldog and a Ranger because my kids played out there," McColloch said. "It was just never the right time to consider coming out here before, and I loved what I was doing in town."

McColloch will take over a program that faced some turmoil this past season.

First-year coach Pamela Schelhouse resigned from her position in mid-October, and longtime assistant Shelia Smith took over to finish the season. The team finished with a 2-30 record, going winless in District 4-4A.

"I think my (strength), honestly, is organizing practices and preparing kids during practice for a game situation," McColloch said. "I'm excited about the challenge."

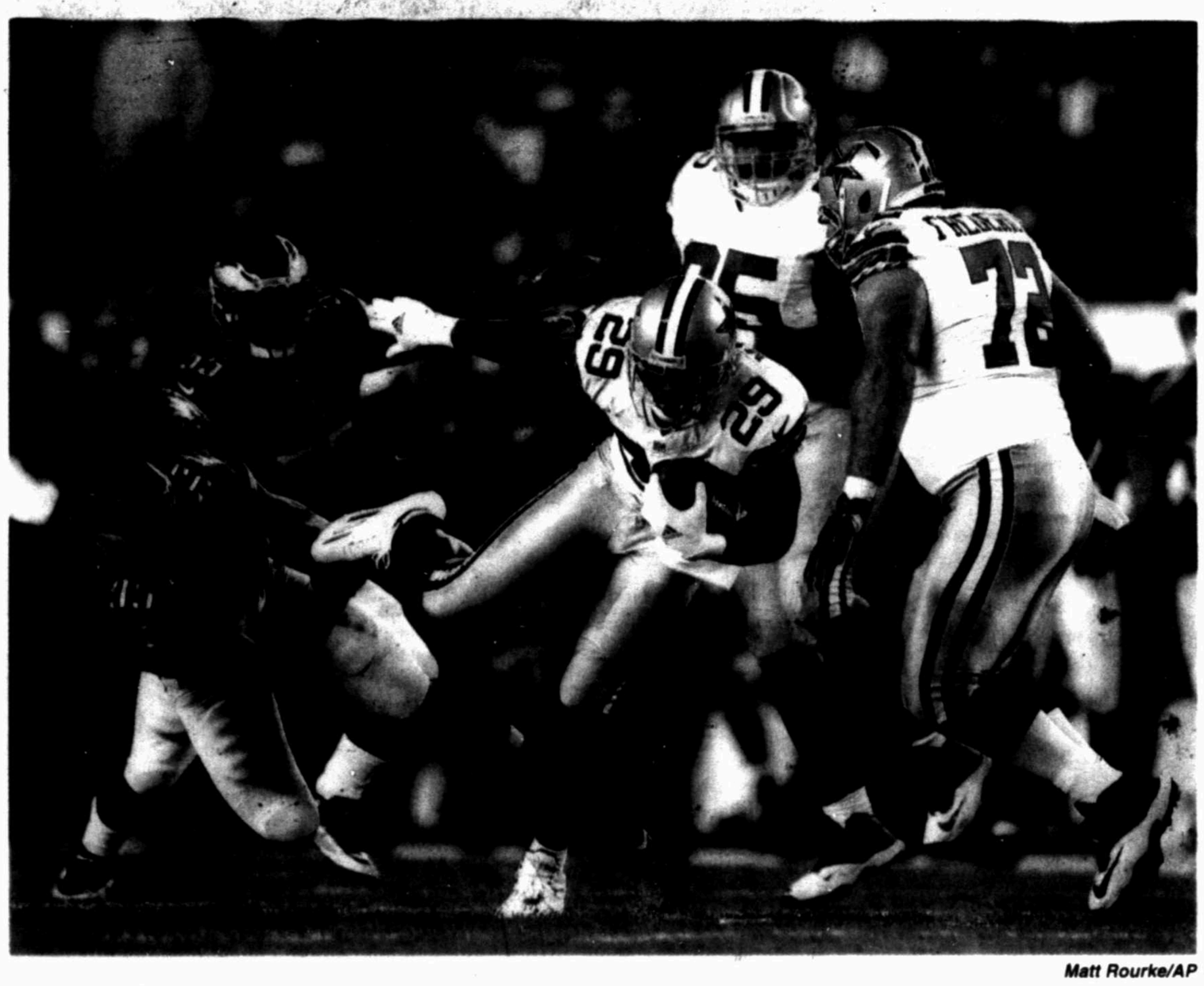
Greenwood ISD superintendent Ariel Elliott said that earlier this fall he talked with McColloch more in a "consultant role" about the volleyball program. Elliott added that when the

Please see **MCCOLLOCH**/4C

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Terri McColloch, seen here as Midland High's volleyball coach during an Oct. 7, 2011 match, has been named Greenwood's next volleyball coach.

Facing big injuries



Matt Rourke/AP

Dallas' DeMarco Murray rushes during Sunday's game against the Philadelphia Eagles in Philadelphia. Murray has a broken left hand and might not play for the Cowboys on Sunday against Indianapolis.

Rushing leader DeMarco Murray has broken hand

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

IRVING — NFL rushing leader DeMarco Murray has a broken left hand in what could be a damaging blow to the playoff hopes of the Dallas Cowboys.

Murray was set for surgery Monday and might be sidelined Sunday at home against Indianapolis, already a playoff qualifier. Even though the Cowboys just beat Philadelphia to take the NFC East lead, they might have to win both of their remaining games to end a four-year postseason drought.

If the Eagles beat division also-rans Washington and the New York Giants in their final two games, Dallas (10-4) could be knocked out by a loss to the Colts even with a win against the Redskins in the regular-season finale.

Cowboys executive vice president Stephen Jones said on his radio show Monday that it was "probably a tough expectation" that Murray would play against Indianapolis (10-4), though he wouldn't rule it out. Neither would coach Jason Garrett.

"The biggest question we have to ask ourselves is, is he functional to do his job," Garrett said. "Can he hold the football, can he carry it under duress, can he block, can he do the things necessary to play the position. He's as strong-willed and determined an individual as I've ever been around. If anybody has a chance to come back, he does."

Murray has 1,687 yards rushing and needs 87 yards to break all-time NFL rushing leader Emmitt Smith's franchise record of 1,773 yards. The fourth-year back is 409 yards ahead of Pittsburgh's Le'Veon Bell in the race for the rushing title.

Lance Dunbar and Joseph Randle split carries as Murray's backup in Sunday's 38-27 win over Philadelphia. Murray was injured near the end of the game. Television footage showed him leaving the field while wincing in pain.

The Cowboys have had Ryan Williams on their practice squad all season. He was taken 33 picks ahead of Murray by Arizona in the 2011 draft. The Cardinals released him after three mostly injury-plagued seasons. Randle, a fifth-round pick last year, has 34 carries for 237 yards and two touchdowns, including a 17-yarder on his only carry against Chicago two weeks ago.

Dunbar has 26 carries for 91 yards but has done most of his damage as a receiver with 16 catches for 207 yards. He doesn't

Please see **MURRAY**/3C

Texans scramble for QB for Ravens game

By Darrell Lovell
Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Texans are scrambling to find a quarterback.

Coach Bill O'Brien confirmed Monday that Ryan Fitzpatrick suffered a broken leg in Sunday's loss to the Colts and will miss the rest of the season. He also said rookie backup Tom Savage suffered an undisclosed injury of his own and will miss at least this Sunday's game against Baltimore.

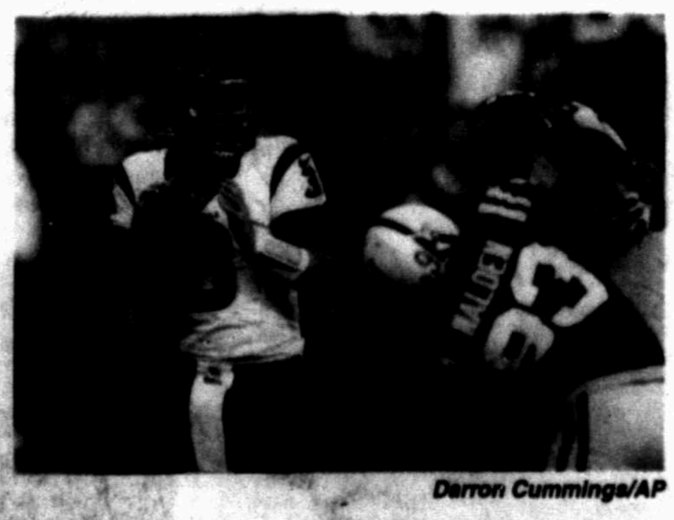
The Texans have lost all three quarterbacks who were on the opening day roster since Ryan Mallet went down last month with a torn pectoral muscle after his second start replacing Fitzpatrick.

"No, I haven't," O'Brien said when asked if he has been through a situation like this. "That's the NFL. Injuries happen. The next guy has to step up whether the guys in the building at the time or is not in the building. The next guy has to step up and be ready to go."

With Savage ruled out, O'Brien has a choice to make at quarterback between Thaddeus Lewis and Case Keenum, who was signed on Monday.

Lewis was signed last month. As a starter in Buffalo, he was 2-3 in 2013 and at least has that experience to lean on despite learning a new system.

Please see **TEXANS**/3C



Darron Cummings/AP

Houston Texans quarterback Tom Savage drops back to throw Sunday against the Indianapolis Colts in Indianapolis. Savage replace Ryan Fitzpatrick who was injured. Savage was also injured in Sunday's game and will be out at least one game.

No. 3 MCA holds on to beat Permian

No. 3 Lady Knights	**40**
Lady Panthers	37

By Len Hayward
lhayward@mrt.com

Kristen Johnson's follow-up shot late in the fourth quarter was possibly the biggest bucket the Midland Classical Academy girls basketball team made all night.

The Lady Knights had gone five minutes without making a field goal in the fourth quarter, and Odessa Permian had cut the lead down to two. But Johnson's bucket sparked a late scoring rally for the No. 3-ranked Lady Knights who held on to beat the Lady Panthers, 40-37, at Midland Classical on Monday night.

Johnson

Johnson not only made the bucket but was also fouled on the shot, and in one play the Lady Knights' lead went from three to six with 1:22 remaining in the game.

"I was really happy it went in," said Johnson, who scored eight points on

Please see **LADY KNIGHTS**/2C

Paul Beaty/AP

Pitcher Jon Lester puts on a Chicago Cubs jersey and hat after being introduced Monday during a news conference in Chicago. Lester agreed to a $155 million, six-year contract with the Cubs.

Lester hopes to end Cubs' century-plus drought

By Andrew Seligman
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jon Lester says he believes in the Chicago Cubs' plan and is ready to try to help bring them their first championship since 1908.

Lester says "we fully buy in."

A three-time All-Star who won two World Series with Boston, he was introduced at a news conference on Monday and presented Kerry Wood's old No. 34.

Lester agreed to a $155 million, six-year contract with the Cubs at the winter meetings last week that set baseball records for largest signing bonus and biggest upfront payment.

Chicago President of Baseball Operations Theo Epstein says this "really marks the start of a transition for the Cubs."

Lester gets a record $30 million signing bonus, of which $15 million is due by April 1, $2.5 million each

Please see **LESTER**/4C

DAILYRUNDOWN
FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

TODAY
WHAT'S ON TV
BASEBALL
Australia League All-Star Game, 2:30 a.m., MLB
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
North Carolina at UNC Greensboro, 6 p.m., ESPN2
Oral Roberts at Oklahoma, 6 p.m., ESPNU
Belmont at VCU, 6 p.m., SNY
Lipscomb at Texas, 7 p.m., LHN
Alabama at Wichita State, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Middle Tennessee at Oklahoma State, 8 p.m., ESPNU
Arizona State at Marquette, 8 p.m., FS1
Western Carolina at Vanderbilt, 8 p.m., SEC
Oakland at Arizona, 8 p.m., P12
MEN'S SOCCER
Copa del Rey, Round of 32, Leg 2: Rayo Vallecano at Valencia, 12:55 p.m., beIN2
Bundesliga: Freiburg at Bayern Munich, 1 p.m., GolTV
FIFA Club World Cup, Semifinal: Cruz Azul vs. Real Madrid, 1:30 p.m., FS1/FOX-DEP
FA Cup Rd2 Replay: Barnsley at Chester, 1:30 p.m., FOXSOCP
English League Cup, Quarterfinal: Chelsea at Derby County, 1:30 p.m., beIN
Copa del Rey, Round of 32, Leg 2: Huesca at Barcelona, 2:55 p.m., beIN2
MIXED MARTIAL ARTS
King of the Cage: Battle for the Belt, Part 1, 6 p.m.; MAVTV
NBA
Golden State at Memphis, 7 p.m., ESPN/ESPNDEP
Dallas at New York, 7 p.m., FSSW
Oklahoma City at Sacramento, 9:30 p.m., ESPN/ESPNDEP
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wichita State at Tennessee, 6 p.m., SEC

WHAT'S ON DECK

TODAY
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
Stanton at O'Donnell, 5:30 p.m.
Big Spring at Greenwood, 6 p.m.
Midland Christian at Lubbock Cooper, 6 p.m.
Garden City at Sterling City, 6:15 p.m.
Lazbuddie at Grady, 6:30 p.m.
Coahoma at Hermleigh, 6:30 p.m.
Midland Classical at Garden City, 6:30 p.m.
Andrews at Kermit, 6:30 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL
Stanton at Clyde, 6:30 p.m.
Big Spring at Greenwood, 7:30 p.m.
Midland Christian at Seminole, 7:30 p.m.
Hale Center at Grady, 7:30 p.m.
Coahoma at Hermleigh, 8 p.m.
Midland Classical at Garden City, 8 p.m.

HS BASKETBALL

TABC RANKINGS
BOYS
Class 6A
1. Humble Atascocita, 13-0; 2. Plano West, 8-1; 3. DeSoto, 11-2; 4. Killeen Harker Heights, 10-2; 5. Duncanville, 13-3; 6. Schertz Clemens, 12-1; 7. Converse Judson, 16-4; 8. Galena Park North Shore, 10-5; 9. Amarillo, 12-2; 10. Lewisville, 7-4; 11. Cypress Lakes, 9-3; 12. Cypress Woods, 7-3; 13. Lewisville Hebron, 9-3; 14. Richardson, 10-3; 15. Houston Clear Lake, 12-1; 16. SA Northside Brennan, 11-1; 17. Lake Travis, 14-2; 18. League City Clear Creek, 10-2; 19. Plano East, 9-1; 20. Cedar Hill, 12-0; 21. Klein Forest, 11-2; 22. Fort Bend Travis, 12-2; 23. Pearland Dawson, 12-3; 24. North Crowley, 8-4; 25. SA Northside Brandeis, 13-2.
Class 5A
1. Beaumont Central, 13-2; 2. Lancaster, 7-4; 3. Dallas South Oak Cliff, 12-2; 4. Beaumont Ozen, 11-1; 5. EP Bel Air, 12-0; 6. EP Andress, 11-1; 7. Dallas Wilson, 8-2; 8. Dallas Kimball, 8-4; 9. Fort Bend Elkins, 12-1; 10. FW Arlington Heights, 9-3; 11. Mansfield Summit, 9-2; 12. Fort Bend Bush, 7-5; 13. Frisco Heritage, 6-3; 14. Austin LBJ, 5-6; 15. Houston Yates, 6-4; 16. Houston Madison, 5-5; 17. FW Dunbar, 4-6; 18. Fort Bend Marshall, 10-5; 19. Frisco Liberty, 12-1; 20. Pflugerville Connally, 10-3; 21. Houston King, 9-2; 22. SA Alamo Heights, 9-4; 23. Rockwall Heath, 12-0; 24. Mission Memorial, 11-0; 25. Edinburg Vela, 15-3.
Class 4A
1. Dallas Triple A Academy, 9-3; 2. Dallas Madison, 6-2; 3. Houston Wheatley, 8-1; 4. Dallas Lincoln, 2-8; 5. Lubbock Estacado, 8-5; 6. Navasota, 0-0; 7. Liberty Hill, 12-0; 8. Houston Sterling, 5-4; 9. Abilene Wylie, 7-3; 10. Wilmer-Hutchins, 5-3; 11. Mexia, 8-2; 12. Wharton, 10-2; 13. Kennedale, 10-3; 14. Silsbee, 8-2; 15. West Columbia, 9-1; 16. Bridgeport, 9-3; 17. Waco La Vega, 6-6; 18. CC West Oso, 5-4; 19. Bandera, 4-5; 20. Hidalgo, 4-2; 21. Decatur, 7-5; 22. Mineral Wells, 7-5; 23. Argyle, 7-6; 24. Cleveland, 4-2; 25. Tatum, 7-4.
Class 3A
1. Brock, 12-0; 2. Ponder, 9-5; 3. Kountze, 9-4; 4. Shallowater, 0-0; 5. Brownfield, 5-2; 6. Peaster, 7-2; 7. Rockdale, 8-3; 8. Buna, 7-6; 9. Aransas Pass, 13-3; 10. Dallas Faith Family, 11-4; 11. Jarrell, 6-5; 12. Whitesboro, 9-2; 13. Van Alstyne, 4-4; 14. Kermit, 13-2; 15. Hallettsville, 4-2; 16. Crockett, 5-5; 17. Waskom, 0-0; 18. Whitewright, 6-2; 19. Nacogdoches Central Heights, 9-5; 20. Bowie, 8-2; 21. Hooks, 14-1; 22. Glen Rose, 10-2; 23. Denver City, 4-2; 24. Randolph, 9-1; 25. Vanderbilt Industrial, 13-2.
Class 2A
1. Dallardsville Big Sandy, 13-2; 2. Muenster, 10-1; 3. Martins Mill, 8-1; 4. Clarksville, 2-2; 5. Mumford, 11-2; 6. Port Aransas, 10-2; 7. Smyer, 8-2; 8. Olney, 9-3; 9. La Rue La Poynor, 8-2; 10. San Augustine, 2-6; 11. Canadian, 5-1; 12. Blue Ridge, 11-0; 13. Gruver, 4-4; 14. Kerens, 4-8; 15. Stratford, 0-0; 16. Schulenburg, 2-2; 17. Wellington, 5-2; 18. Merit Bland, 9-2; 19. Thorndale, 8-2; 20. Shamrock, 6-0; 21. New Summerfield, 9-2; 22. Kenedy, 7-3; 23. Centerville, 0-0; 24. Poolville, 7-8; 25. Snook, 3-9.
Class A
1. Texline, 8-0; 2. Laneville, 8-2; 3. Crowell, 1-0; **4. Grady, 7-2;** 5. Graford, 11-0; 6. Coolidge, 7-1; 7. Throckmorton, 0-0; 8. Calvert, 1-0; 9. Eula, 9-1; 10. Nazareth, 9-3; 11. Huckabay, 5-5; 12. Jayton, 5-2; 13. Moulton, 7-4; 14. Waelder, 9-2; 15. Turkey Valley, 0-0; 16. Ira, 1-0; 17. Meadow, 6-0; 18. Borden County, 7-3; 19. Paducah, 2-4; 20. Cumby Miller Grove, 9-5; 21. Douglass, 12-4; 22. Avinger, 7-3; 23. Lingleville, 11-2; 24. Ackerly Sands, 4-1; 25. Mount Enterprise, 8-3.
Large Private Schools
1. Plano Prestonwood Christian, 9-1; 2. Addison Trinity Christian, 13-2; 3. Houston Westbury Christian, 18-5; 4. Bellaire Episcopal, 11-3; 5. Tomball Concordia Lutheran, 14-5; 6. Tyler All Saints, 17-1; 7. FW Southwest Christian, 13-0; 8. Dallas St. Mark's, 7-4; 9. Austin St. Stephen's, 8-4; 10. Lubbock Trinity Christian, 8-6; 11. SA St. Mary's Hall, 11-4; 12. Houston St. Thomas, 14-6; 13. Dallas Episcopal, 6-3; 14. Dallas Bishop Lynch, 10-6; 15. Houston St. Pius X, 6-4; 16. Fort Bend Christian, 11-3; 17. Irving Cistercian, 7-7; 18. Plano John Paul II, 8-5; 19. SA Antonian, 13-6; 20. Houston Lutheran South, 10-5; 21. SA Christian, 13-4; 22. Dallas Parish Episcopal, 7-5; 23. Dallas Bishop Dunne, 3-6; 24. Austin St. Andrew's, 5-9; 25. Dallas Greenhill, 5-6.
Small Private Schools
1. Cedar Hill Trinity Christian, 10-1; 2. Houston St. Thomas Episcopal, 9-7; 3. Lubbock Christian, 7-3; 4. Waco Vanguard College Preparatory, 10-1; 5. League City Bay Area Christian, 3-1; 6. FW Bethesda Christian, 7-1; 7. Austin Waldorf, 11-3; 8. Abilene Christian, 8-3; 9. Arlington Grace Prep, 9-4; 10. FW Lake Country Christian, 8-3; 11. Christian Academy of San Antonio, 9-1; 12. Cambridge School of Dallas, 7-1; 13. Dallas Yavneh, 7-3; 14. Geneva School of Boerne, 12-6; 15. Baytown Christian, 10-1; 16. Bryan Brazos Christian, 2-2; 17. The Woodlands Christian, 11-5; **18. Midland Classical, 9-1;** 19. De Soto The Canterbury Episcopal, 4-1; 20. Dallas Tyler Street Christian, 3-0; 21. Victoria Faith Academy, 15-3; 22. Bryan Allen Academy, 7-2; 23. Kingwood Northeast Christian, 11-5; 24. Beaumont Legacy Christian, 4-6; 25. Universal City First Baptist, 11-5.

GIRLS
Class 6A
1. Cypress Woods, 15-1; 2. Round Rock Cedar Ridge, 15-1; 3. Galena Park North Shore, 15-2; 4. Plano West, 10-2; 5. Amarillo, 15-0; 6. Austin Bowie, 15-2; 7. Duncanville, 14-4; 8. Cedar Hill, 12-2; 9. Dallas Skyline, 8-3; 10. Round Rock Westwood, 14-2; 11. Spring DeKaney, 12-2; 12. SA Northside Clark, 17-1; 13. Weslaco, 13-1; 14. Schertz Clemens, 17-3; 15. DeSoto, 12-4; 16. Richardson, 12-3; 17. Cypress Fairbanks, 9-6; 18. Lewisville Marcus, 11-4; 19. Arlington Bowie, 12-4; 20. Fort Bend Hightower, 12-3; 21. Humble Atascocita, 11-3; 22. Euless Trinity, 13-1; 23. Southlake Carroll, 10-6; 24. CC Carroll, 15-2; 25. Houston Westside, 15-1.
Class 5A
1. Cedar Park Vista Ridge, 16-0; 2. Canyon, 11-1; 3. Georgetown, 16-1; 4. Barbers Hill, 10-1; 5. Frisco Liberty, 12-2; 6. WF Rider, 10-2; 7. McKinney North, 9-4; 8. Dallas Adams, 9-3; 9. Plainview, 10-5; 10. Cedar Park, 13-6; 11. EP Burges, 11-2; 12. FW Trimble Tech, 14-2; 13. Azle, 10-1; 14. Tyler, 14-3; 15. Grapevine, 14-2; 16. Frisco Centennial, 12-3; 17. A&M Consolidated, 14-2; 18. Bryan Rudder, 13-3; 19. San Marcos, 16-5; 20. San Angelo Lake View, 15-2; 21. Arlington Seguin, 12-3; 22. Tomball Memorial, 10-2; 23. Crowley, 10-2; 24. Fort Bend Bush, 8-3; 25. Dripping Springs, 11-5.
Class 4A
1. Argyle, 15-1; 2. Abilene Wylie, 12-3; 3. Waco La Vega, 14-2; 4. Celina, 13-2; 5. Liberty Hill, 16-0; 6. Melissa, 14-2; 7. Devine, 14-1; 8. Hondo, 13-2; 9. Madisonville, 10-1; 10. Kennedale, 14-4; 11. Stephenville, 10-2; 12. Brownwood, 10-4; 13. Levelland, 15-2; 14. Godley, 13-1; 15. Tatum, 13-1; 16. Bullard, 15-4; 17. Decatur, 10-2; 18. Dallas Lincoln, 10-6; 19. Robinson, 8-5; 20. Needville, 12-4; 21. Mexia, 10-4; 22. Seminole, 9-3; 23. Navasota, 13-3; 24. Texarkana Pleasant Grove, 10-2; 25. Burnet, 11-2.
Class 3A
1. Shallowater, 10-0; 2. Wall, 9-4; 3. Sunnyvale, 10-2; 4. Brock, 8-6; 5. Life Oak Cliff, 11-1; 6. Hallettsville, 9-1; 7. Cisco, 10-3; 8. Tuscola Jim Ned, 11-3; 9. Jarrell, 14-1; 10. Grandview, 11-3; 11. SA Cole, 15-2; 12. Winnsboro, 12-3; 13. Buffalo, 9-4; 14. Idalou, 9-3; 15. Mathis, 21-0; 16. Peaster, 6-3; 17. Alba-Golden, 12-2; 18. Brady, 10-4; 19. Bowie, 10-4; 20. Nacogdoches Central Heights, 12-4; 21. Woodville, 11-1; 22. Denver City, 12-1; 23. Rogers, 9-5; 24. Paradise, 12-2; 25. Manor, 9-6.
Class 2A
1. Plains, 15-1; 2. Wellington, 12-0; 3. Christoval, 15-0; 4. Port Aransas, 12-0; 5. La Rue La Poynor, 15-1; 6. Canadian, 8-3; 7. Weimar, 11-2; 8. Gruver, 12-2; 9. Santo, 11-5; 10. Falls City, 10-6; 11. Sudan, 9-4; 12. Smyer, 10-3; 13. San Saba, 10-2; 14. Trenton, 12-1; 15. Martins Mill, 9-4; 16. Windthorst, 9-4; 17. Wortham, 12-0; 18. Frost, 9-1; 19. Clarendon, 8-2; 20. Hico, 10-4; 21. Gladewater Union Grove, 12-3; 22. Hubbard, 11-3; 23. Lovelady, 13-4; 24. Muenster, 9-4; 25. Lindsay, 12-5.
Class A
1. Nazareth, 10-2; 2. Lipan, 12-2; 3. Follett, 8-3; 4. Strawn, 16-1; 5. Roscoe Highland, 10-4; 6. Turkey Valley, 12-3; 7. Eula, 10-4; 8. Saltillo, 4-3; 9. Lorenzo, 12-2; 10. Ira, 12-4; 11. Chireno, 10-1; 12. Leggett, 10-3; **13. Garden City, 9-4;** 14. Richland Springs, 13-0; 15. Coolidge, 13-0; 16. Goodrich, 8-6; 17. Dodd City, 11-2; 18. Slidell, 12-3; 19. Rochelle, 15-2; 20. Petersburg, 9-1; 21. Kennard, 10-6; 22. Austwell-Tivoli, 10-1; 23. Huckabay, 8-2; 24. Era, 9-3; 25. North Zulch, 10-4.
Large Private Schools
1. Argyle Liberty, 15-1; 2. Plano Prestonwood, 11-2; 3. Houston Westbury Christian, 13-5; 4. Dallas Greenhill, 8-3; 5. Tomball Concordia Lutheran, 9-5; 6. SA Antonian, 10-5; 7. Houston Kinkaid, 11-5; 8. Houston Lutheran South, 14-2; 9. Austin Regents, 16-7; 10. Dallas Christian, 13-1; 11. Dallas Bishop Lynch, 6-7; 12. Houston Bellaire Episcopal, 14-5; **13. Midland Christian, 12-2;** 14. Houston Christian, 10-8; 15. San Antonio IWA, 11-5; 16. Dallas Parish Episcopal, 10-1; 17. Houston Duchesne, 8-4; 18. Victoria St. Josephs, 15-5; 19. SA Christian, 16-4; 20. Austin St. Stephens, 9-7; 21. Corpus Christi IWA, 11-5; 22. Houston St. Agnes, 8-11; 23. Austin St. Dominic Savio, 6-11; 24. Houston Second Baptist, 5-6; 25. Plano John Paul II, 4-6.
Small Private Schools
1. Houston Lutheran North, 18-0; 2. Marble Falls Faith, 15-3; **3. Midland Classical, 9-2;** 4. Beaumont Legacy Christian, 14-5; 5. FW Lake Country Christian, 14-6; 6. Lubbock Christian, 11-4; 7. Austin Brentwood Christian, 11-5; 8. McKinney Christian, 8-3; 9. Sherman Texoma Christian, 12-5; 10. Boerne Geneva, 9-3; 11. Granbury North Central Texas, 8-2; 12. League City Bay Area Christian, 8-2; 13. Muenster Sacred Heart, 7-3; 14. Cedar Hill Trinity Christian, 8-4; 15. Schertz John Paul II, 7-3; 16. Waco Vanguard, 9-3; 17. San Antonio St. Gerard Catholic, 10-6; 18. Austin Waldorff, 11-4; 19. SA Christian, 9-2; 20. SA Gateway, 11-5; 21. Lubbock Christ The King Cathedral, 12-3; 22. Tomball Rosehill Christian, 10-3; 23. Spring Providence Classical, 7-3; 24. Denton Calvary, 8-4; 25. Austin Texas School for Deaf, 13-4.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Named Kristen Hudak director of public relations.
BOSTON RED SOX — Acquired SS Marco Hernandez from the Chicago Cubs to complete an earlier trade and assigned him to Portland (EL).
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with Cs Brett Hayes and Adam Moore, OF Destin Hood and 1B/OF Jerry Sands on minor league contracts.
HOUSTON ASTROS — Agreed to terms with SS Jed Lowrie on a three-year contract.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Yohan Pino on a one-year contract. Designated RHP Casey Coleman for assignment.
NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with 3B Chase Headley on a four-year contract.
National League
ATLANTA BRAVES — Agreed to terms with INF Alberto Callaspo on a one-year contract. Designated RHP Anthony Varvaro for assignment.
CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with LHP Jon Lester on a six-year contract.
NEW YORK METS — Designated RHP Gonzalez Germen for assignment. Agreed to terms with OF John Mayberry Jr. on a one-year contract.
American Association
WICHITA WINGNUTS — Traded RHP Matt Robertson to Florence (Frontier) for future considerations.
Frontier League
LAKE ERIE CRUSHERS — Signed RHP Brad Duffy to a contract extension and OF Jordan Coffey and RHP Jose Rada.
NORMAL CORNBELTERS — Signed RHP Jason Postill to a contract extension.
RIVER CITY RASCALS — Signed RHPs Tommy Lawrence and Zeb Sneed.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
MIAMI HEAT — Recalled G Shabazz Napier and C Hassan Whiteside from Sioux Falls (NBADL).
PHILADELPHIA 76ERS — Signed F/C Furkan Aldemir.
SACRAMENTO KINGS — Fired coach Michael Malone. Promoted assistant coach Tyrone Corbin to interim coach.
NBA Development League
RIO GRANDE VALLEY VIPERS — Signed F Chris Johnson.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Released LB Kion Wilson from the practice squad. Signed QB Jeff Mathews to the practice squad.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Released OT Andrew McDonald. Signed CB Sheldon Price from the practice squad.
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS — Placed LB Donald Butler on injured reserve. Signed CB Greg Ducre from the practice roster. Re-signed QB Brad Sorensen to the practice roster.
Canadian Football League
MONTREAL ALOUETTES — Named Anthony Valvillo offensive coach.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Placed F Andrej Nestrasil on injured reserve. Recalled F Justin Shugg from Charlotte (AHL).
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Recalled F Joakim Nordstrom from Rockford (AHL).
EDMONTON OILERS — Fired coach Dallas Eakins. Announced general manager Craig MacTavish will coach the team for the remainder of the season.
MINNESOTA WILD — Placed D Keith Ballard and F Ryan Carter on injured reserve. Recalled F Brett Sutter from Iowa (AHL).
MONTREAL CANADIENS — Recalled F Eric Tangradi from Hamilton (AHL).
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Assigned F Patrick Cehlin from Milwaukee (AHL) to Cincinnati (ECHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Activated C Travis Zajac from injured reserve. Assigned F Mike Sislo to Albany (AHL). Recalled F Tim Sestito from Albany.
American Hockey League
CHICAGO WOLVES — Signed D Matthew Register to a professional tryout agreement. Recalled F Nathan Longpre from Kalamazoo (ECHL).
GRAND RAPIDS GRIFFINS — Assigned D Scott Czarnowczan to Toledo (ECHL).
OKLAHOMA CITY BARONS — Recalled D C.J. Ludwig from Bakersfield (ECHL).
UTICA COMETS — Assigned F Mitch Holmberg to Elmira (ECHL).
WILKES-BARRE/SCRANTON PENGUINS — Recalled D Clark Seymour from Wheeling (ECHL).
ECHL
ELMIRA JACKALS — Sent F Kellan Tochkin to Rapid City to complete an earlier trade.
FLORIDA EVERBLADES — Loaned F Gabriel Desjardins to Charlotte (AHL).
GREENVILLE ROAD WARRIORS — Added G Brent Troyan as emergency backup.
WHEELING NAILERS — Loaned F Shane Bakker to Hamilton (AHL).
LACROSSE
National Lacrosse League
EDMONTON RUSH — Announced general manager and coach Derek Keenan is taking a leave of absence.
SOCCER
Major League Soccer
NEW YORK RED BULLS — Announced sporting director Andy Roxburgh will not return next season.

Iden, Walton make 3A All-State team

From staff and wire reports

Iden

Walton

Two Coahoma football players were honorable mention selections on the 2014 Texas Associated Press Sports Editors Class 3A all-state team released on Monday.

Senior defensive back Braxton Iden was named to the list for the second straight year, while senior offensive lineman Zac Walton also was an honorable mention selection.

The 2014 Texas Associated Press Sports Editors Class 3A all-state high school football team, released Monday. Voting based on regular-season performance. Players are listed in alphabetical order at each position.

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE
Linemen
AUSTIN ANDERSON, Mineola, Jr. — 93 percent grade, 52 pancakes, no sacks allowed, district's lineman of year
COREY BRISTER, New London West Rusk, Jr. — 94 percent grade, 78 pancakes, no sacks allowed
BAILY EDWARDS, Cisco, Sr. — 90 percent grade, 52 knockdowns, no sacks allowed
MATT HENDERSON, Wall, Sr. — 95 percent grade, 21 pancakes
ETHAN PATLAN, Sonora, Sr. — 92 percent grade, 129 knockdowns, 31 pancakes
Receivers/ends
COLE BRUNETT, Whitney, Sr. — 71-1,597, 18 TDs receiving
TYLER FAUVER, Grandview, Sr. — 96-1,632, 20 TDs receiving
Quarterback
BRETT GILCHRIST, Whitney, Sr. — 191-278-3,606, 41 TDs passing, 5 INTs; 6 TDs rushing
Running backs
BEAU BROWN, Spearman, Sr. — 1,676 yards rushing, 24 TDs
BRODY MALOVETS, Rogers, Sr. — 246-1,923, 21 TDs rushing
DEVIN SHAW, Lone Oak, Sr. — 294-2,231, 22 TDs rushing
Kicker
KYLER ELLIS, Blooming Grove, Sr. — 12-12 FGs, long of 52, 47-49 PATs, 27 touchbacks
Offensive Player of the Year: Brent Gilchrist, Whitney

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE
Linemen
D'ANDRE ADAMS, Cameron Yoe, Jr. — 115 tackles, 9 TFL, 3 FF, 5 blocked kicks
TRISTAN JONES, Cooper, Jr. — 58 tackles, 14 sacks, 32 TFL, 1 defensive TD, 3 safeties
HUNTER THEDFORD, Comanche, Sr. — 52 tackles, 11 sacks, 14 TFL, 11 blocked passes, 6 PBU, 2 FF
PHILLIP ZUNIGA, Banquete, Sr. — 139 tackles, 14 sacks, 14 TFL, 6 FF
Linebackers
ALEX PARSONS, McGregor, Soph. — 102 tackles, 3 INTs, INT return for TD, 3 FR, fumble return for TD, 5 TFL, 4 sacks, 3 FF
LAYNE PFANNENSTIEL, Jewett Leon, Sr. — 177 tackles, 21 TFL, 7 sacks, 4 FF, 3 int, INT return for TD
SWADE SMITH, White Oak, Sr. — 117 tackles, 25 TFL, 2 sacks, 2 FF, 3 FR, 2 INTs, defensive TD
Defensive backs
RONEY ELAM, Newton, Sr. — 66 tackles, 5 INTs (2 returned for TD) 3 FF, 2 FR, 4 blocked FGs
JIMARIO GROUNDS, Hallettsville, Sr. — 7 INTs, 1 INT return for TD, 71 tackles
DEONTAE JONES, Edna, Sr. — 6 INTs, 1 INT return for TD, 10 pass deflections, 129 tackles, 5 TFL
MATTHEW TIGERT, Holliday, Sr. — 31 tackles, 8 INTs, 2 INTs returned for TDs
Punter
AUSTIN MARSHALL, Kountze, Sr. — 24 punts, 42.0 Avg. yard average, 8 inside the 20
Defensive Player of the Year: Layne Pfannenstiel, Jewett Leon

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE
Linemen
Brandon Bruce, Rogers, Sr.; Zane Hughes, Spearman, Sr.; Tyler Martin, Kirbyville, Jr.; Brandon Smith, Spearman, Jr.; Dustin Smith, Muleshoe, Sr.
Receivers/ends
Lawson Ayo, Sunnyvale, Jr.; Aaron Sims, Cameron Yoe, Sr.
Quarterback
Austin Skinner, Teague, Sr.
Running backs
Chris Akpley, Rice, Sr.; Cooper Ogle, Shallowater, Soph.; Traion Smith, Cameron Yoe, Jr.
Kicker
Aron Lopez, Post, Jr.

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE
Linemen
Jeremy Bullock, Tulia, Sr.; Paul Hill, Van Vleck, Sr.; Trevor Keener, Mineola, Sr.; Lane Oliver, Wall, Sr.
Linebackers
Chan Amie, Waskom, Jr.; Gary Flores, Brady, Sr.; Austin Irwin, Tulia, Sr.
Defensive backs
Corey Cauley, Kirbyville, Sr.; Kotie Hoover, Cisco, Sr.; Josh Ince, Whitney, Sr.; Jake Pullen, White Oak, Sr.
Punter
Andres Acevedo, Sonora, Sr.

HONORABLE MENTION OFFENSE
LINEMEN: Brandon Barrios, Coleman; Jarrod Brooks, Kirbyville; Alex Broomfield, Pattonville Prairiland; Wade Cookston, Sunnyvale; Lionel DeLeon, Sonora; Hunter Flanigan, Newton; Ramon Flores, Crane; C.J. Hibbetts, Farmersville; Lyle Hibbetts, Farmersville; Mason Holcomb, Childress; Reece Jordan, Boyd; Gino Juarez, Brownfield; Ronnie Killen, WF City View; Cason Mayo, Breckenridge; Ryan Mitchell, Teague; Josh Monkres, Bowie; Dakota Oliver, Brownfield; Jarred Parker, Littlefield; Dylan Pelton, Leonard; Ricardo Perez, Kingsville Santa Gertrudis; James Phillips, Crane; Jaybren Rodriguez, Post; Taylor Robinson, McGregor; Charley Rowden, Troup; Joseph Villarreal, Lubbock Roosevelt; Desmond Wagner, Hempstead; **Zac Walton, Coahoma;** Kendell Wimberly, Whitney.
RECEIVERS/ENDS: DaCoven Bailey, Pilot Point; Adam Banks, Hempstead; Justice Bean, Frankston; Jordan Demps, Brownfield; Tyler Folles, Paris Chisum; Christian Lara, Rockdale; Pearce Loth, Rockdale; Trenton McGee, Hallettsville; Desmond Perry, Goliad; A.J. Phillips, Crockett; Kendrick Rogers, Frankston; D'Lance Sharp, Commerce; Levi Shetler, Paris Chisum; Timothy Thornton, Amarillo Highland Park; Caleb Twyford, Farmersville.
QUARTERBACKS: Tanner Baird, Spearman; Nate Kowalik, Goliad; Reid Nickerson, Cameron Yoe; Daniel Rojo, Alpine; Zach Smith, Grandview; Will Smith, Hempstead; Nick Tisdell, Paris Chisum.
RUNNING BACKS: Morgan Brewer, Franklin; Marquis Broussard, Edna; Montrell Brown, Van Vleck; Charles Chapman, East Bernard; Colton Elrod, Blanco; Calum Foster, Newton; Jaquan Hemphill, Coleman; Kevin Johnson, Waskom; Deon'Tray Jordan, WF City View; Paul Kinney, Karnes City; Landen Lewis, Cisco; Josh Lopez, Muleshoe; Kelton Mansfield, Whitney; Dylan Monck, Leonard; Da'Madrick Moore, Littlefield; Darrin Pennington, Farmersville; Brandt Schilling, Idalou; Jace Thomas, Newton.
KICKERS: Isaac Campos, Dublin; Adolfo Chavira, Rockdale; Corey Crenshaw, Sunnyvale.

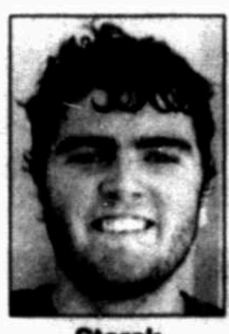
HONORABLE MENTION DEFENSE
LINEMEN: Kyle Boyet, Coleman; Josh Breed, Kirbyville; Caden Bruton, Frankston; Seth Burge, San Angelo Grape Creek; Joshua Carroll, Stockdale; Logan Carter, Henrietta; Dylan Crawford, Teague; Preston Ehler, Rockdale; Irwin Franklin, Goliad; Tracy Gilliam, McGregor; Tyrone Hunt, Arp; Alex Juarez, Blanco; Dave Lewis, Newton; Ethan Patlan, Sonora; Matt Perez, Amarillo Highland Park; Cody Peters, Rogers; Tyler Prazak, Rockdale; Chauncey Rich, Red Oak Life; Skylar Simpson, New Diana; Clayton Stuart, Newton.
LINEBACKERS: Jorge Alanis, Wall; Sid Anderson, Sonora; Zaccheaus Bell, Teague; Clay Bradert, Wall; Bailey Broyles, Holliday; Brenton Burgett, Shallowater; Clay Carper, Eastland; Ryan Cullen, Cameron Yoe,; Austin Dooley, Breckenridge; Aikman Elrod, Blanco; JT Estes, Whitney; Elias Estrada, Karnes City; Nick Forde, Red Oak Life; Courtney Gravely, Amarillo Highland Park; Royce Harris, Coleman; Tanner Holmes, Newton; Robert Jackson, Commerce; Mason Lansford, Florence; Cash Mankin, Comanche; Mason Marinek, Rogers; Zeek Morin, Brownfield; Alejo Rodriguez, Post; Justin Stone, Alpine; Juan Vargas, Mineola; Ryder White, Muleshoe.
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Tony Brown, Jarrell; Matthew Chavez, Alpine; Christian Eubanks, Clyde; Kris Gutierrez, Wall; Jalen Hill, Aransas Pass; Caleb Honea, Eastland; **Braxton Iden, Coahoma;** Tevin Samuel, Kirbyville; Noah Sneed, Mineola; Eric Villarreal, El Maton Tidehaven; John Washington, Cameron Yoe; Nick Weigant, Whitney; Ian Wilks, Lubbock Roosevelt; Cameron Wolf, Spearman.
PUNTER: Keaton Potts, Commerce.

Webb

Samuels

Selvera

Brown


Starck

Lanier

Balano

Seven Chargers named all-district, 4 to all state

From staff reports

A total of seven players from Trinity earned first team honors on this year's TAPPS Six-Man Division I, District 1 All-District team, which was announced recently.

Of those seven players, four received first-team honors on the TAPPS Six-Man Division I All-State team.

Jacyree Webb was a first all-district and all-state selection as a defensive lineman, and senior Ethan Samuels received first-team honors on both teams as a defensive back. Senior Boomer Selvera was a first-team selection on both the all-district team and the all-state team as a linebacker, and sophomore Will Brown was a first team wide receiver on both teams.

Other Trinity players to earn first team all-district honors were senior Jonah Starck at center, senior Landon Lanier as a kicker and junior Vincent Baiano as a defensive back. Starck and Baiano also earned honorable mention on the all-state team.

TAPPS SIX-MAN DIVISION I
DISTRICT 1 ALL-DISTRICT TEAM
First Team
Offense
Lineman — Jon Crisp, Jr., Abilene Christian
Receiver — **Will Brown, So., Trinity;** Nicholas Bubany, Jr., Watauga Harvest; Jake Bowman, Jr., Watauga Harvest
Center — Jonah Starck, Sr., Trinity
Quarterback — Chandon Wright, Sr., Watauga Harvest
Running Back — Colin Westmoreland, Sr., Rockwall Heritage; Michael Avila, Sr., Abilene Christian
Utility Back — Bradley Ruiz, Jr., Watauga Harvest
Kicker — Landon Lanier, Sr., Trinity
Special Teams — Kaleb Beck, Sr., Watauga Harvest
Tight End — Marcelain Derek, Sr., Abilene Christian; Timothy Wright, Sr., Dallas The Covenant
Defense
Lineman — **Jacyree Webb, Jr., Trinity;** Chad McCowan, Sr., Watauga Harvest; Isaiah Smith, Sr., Red Oak Ovilla Christian
Linebacker — **Boomer Selvera, Sr., Trinity;** Jake Bowman, Jr., Watauga Harvest; Michael Avila, Sr., Abilene Christian
Defensive Back — **Ethan Samuels, Sr., Trinity;** Bradly Ruiz, Jr., Watauga Harvest; Brendan Schroepfer, Rockwall Heritage Christian; **Vincent Baiano, Jr., Trinity**
Punter — Cade Allbright, Fr., Red Oak Ovilla Christian
Second Team
Offense
Lineman — Tyler Ruby, Jr., Rockwall Heritage
Receiver — **Peyton Harrington, Jr., Trinity;** Austin Thorn, Sr., Red Oak Ovilla Christian; Brendan Schroepfer, So., Rockwall Heritage
Center — Isaac Wright, Jr., Watauga Harvest
Running Back — Gunner Teaster, Sr., Dallas The Covenant; Kaleb Beck, Sr., Watauga Harvest
Spread Back — Aaron Morales, Jr., Red Oak Ovilla Christian
Utility Back — Kenneth Fleetwood, Sr., Rockwall Heritage Christian
Kicker — Philip Hawthorne, So., Rockwall Heritage
Special Teams — Austin Thorn, Sr., Red Oak Ovilla Christian
Tight End — Daniel Robertson, Jr., Rockwall Heritage; Isaiah Smith, Sr., Red Oak Ovilla Christian
Defense
Lineman — **Gage Morrow, Sr., Trinity;** Josh Beck, Jr., Watauga Harvest; Sam Jones, Rockwall Heritage
Linebacker — Daniel Robertson, Jr., Rockwall Heritage; Austin Thorn, Sr., Red Oak Ovilla Christian; Kaleb Beck, Sr., Watauga Harvest
Defensive Back — Aaron Morales, Jr., Red Oak Ovilla Christian; Thomas Tannehill, Sr., Rockwall Heritage; Nicholas Bubany, Jr., Watauga Harvest; Hayden Hood, Jr., Abilene Christian
Punter — **Ethan Samuels, Sr., Trinity**
Honorable Mention
Trinity players listed only
Defensive Lineman — Christopher Picciano, So.
Defensive Back — Peyton Harrington, Jr.
Receiver — Gage Morrow, Sr.; Peter Rodenko, Jr.
Special Teams — Treydan Seay, Fr.

HSFOOTBALLPAIRINGS
FROM WIRE REPORTS

CLASS 6A DIVISION I
State Championship
Allen (15-0) vs. Cypress Ranch (13-2), 8 p.m. Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 6A DIVISION II
State Championship
Cedar Hill (13-2) vs. Katy (14-1), 4 p.m. Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 5A DIVISION I
State Championship
Aledo (14-1) vs. Temple (13-1), noon Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 5A DIVISION II
State Championship
Ennis (13-2) vs. Cedar Park (12-3), 8 p.m. Friday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION I
State Championship
Argyle (15-0) vs. Navasota (15-0), 4 p.m. Friday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION II
State Championship
Gilmer (15-0) vs. West Orange-Stark (13-2), noon Friday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 3A DIVISION I
State Championship
Mineola (12-3) vs. Cameron Yoe (11-4), 8 p.m. Thursday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 3A DIVISION II
State Championship
Waskom (14-1) vs. Newton (12-3), 5 p.m. Thursday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 2A DIVISION I
State Championship
Canadian (14-0) vs. Mason (14-0), 1 p.m. Thursday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 2A DIVISION II
State Championship
Albany (14-0) vs. Bremond (14-0), 10 a.m. Thursday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

LADY KNIGHTS
From 1C

the night. "It was a good momentum builder for our team."

Before Johnson's shot, the Lady Knights (9-2) were struggling to stretch out their lead against Permian. Both teams were employing a pressure defense all over the court, and the game took on a physical nature.

Plus, the Lady Knights went long stretches of both the third and fourth quarters without hitting a field goal.

Midland Classical went nearly six minutes without a bucket in the third quarter but ended the quarter with a nine-point scoring burst that helped it retake the lead at 28-25.

In the fourth quarter, after Alissa Beattie hit a lay-up with 6:30 remaining in the game, the Lady Knights didn't hit another field goal until Johnson's shot at the 1:22 mark.

In between, Midland Classical hit five of eight free throws and were able to keep Permian at bay. But at the 2:55 mark of the fourth quarter, Permian's Maliyah Comer hit a layup to cut the lead to 35-33.

About a minute later, though, MCA had a four-point scoring burst as Johnson converted her three-point play and Delanie Griffin knocked down a free throw, giving MCA a 39-33 lead.

"Kristen is a great rebounder, and she had 23 rebounds last week at the Andrews tournament in one game," Midland Classical co-head coach Carla Cuneen said. "She did a nice job following the shot and putting it back in."

After Johnson's shot, the Panthers (6-8) scored two late buckets but Midland Classical was able to control the ball enough to keep Permian from staging a late rally.

Griffin, who spent much of the fourth quarter on the bench with four fouls, led Midland Classical with a game-high 11 points, while Alissa Beattie added eight.

"We know you have to be strong with the ball, and the refs weren't calling everything. But you control what you can," Johnson said. "We needed to control the ball and our attitudes and we work on our play that kept them running on defense."

Follow Len on Twitter: @Len_Hayward_MRT

NO. 3 MIDLAND CLASSCIAL ACADEMY 40
ODESSA PERMIAN 37
Odessa Permian (6-8) — Rhianna Jones 2, Tatanesha Fleming 5, Kalle Lewis 1, Latasha Griffin 3, Arianna Gonzales 6, Nikole Meth 3, Katy Claxton 4, Ariel Brown 4, Maliyah Comer 9
Midland Classical (9-2) — Alissa Beattie 8, Kristen Johnson 8, Delanie Griffin 11, Elleri Haest 6, Morgen Jones 2, Makenna Beattie 5

Permian	8	11	6	12	—37
MCA	10	8	10	12	—40

Free throws — Permian 6-13, MCA 12-21. 3-point goals — Permian 1 (Meth), MCA 1 (M. Beattie). Total fouls — Permian 22, MCA 18. Fouled out — Permian, Jones, Fleming.
Next: Midland Classical at Lee, 6 p.m. Friday, Lee High School; Permian at Caprock Tournament, Dec. 29, Lubbock

McCOLLOCH
From 1C

season was over McColloch had shown some interest in coaching at the school.

"She's going to be a great fit for us," Elliott said Monday. "She's got more experience than anybody in West Texas and she's run a successful program. She's going to be a great asset to help us get back on track."

McColloch said the best part of returning to coaching will be working with players again.

"Obviously there's a little bit of nervousness because I've not started a new coaching job since 1994," McColloch said. "I'm sure it's going to be very different in some aspects than Midland High was. But volleyball is volleyball, and the kids want to get better."

Follow Len on Twitter: @Len_Hayward_MRT

NHLSTANDINGS
FROM WIRE REPORTS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	31	17	7	7	41	92	79
Tampa Bay	32	19	10	3	41	107	86
Montreal	31	19	10	2	40	83	79
Toronto	30	18	9	3	39	103	85
Florida	28	12	8	8	32	64	74
Boston	30	15	13	2	32	76	78
Ottawa	30	12	12	6	30	80	86
Buffalo	31	13	16	2	28	61	95

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	30	20	6	4	44	98	71
N.Y. Islanders	31	21	10	0	42	99	89
Washington	29	14	10	5	33	85	79
N.Y. Rangers	28	14	10	4	32	84	77
New Jersey	32	11	15	6	28	74	94
Philadelphia	29	11	13	5	27	79	87
Columbus	29	12	15	2	26	71	95
Carolina	29	8	18	3	19	61	83

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	31	21	9	1	43	95	61
St. Louis	30	20	8	2	42	89	70
Nashville	29	19	8	2	40	78	57
Winnipeg	31	15	10	6	36	73	74
Minnesota	28	16	11	1	33	81	70
Dallas	29	11	13	5	27	85	103
Colorado	30	10	13	7	27	78	99

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	32	21	6	5	47	95	83
Vancouver	30	18	10	2	38	89	86
San Jose	32	17	11	4	38	90	82
Los Angeles	31	15	10	6	36	82	73
Calgary	32	17	13	2	36	95	85
Arizona	30	10	16	4	24	70	99
Edmonton	31	7	19	5	19	65	104

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for

Monday's Scores
Buffalo 5, Ottawa 4, SO
N.Y. Islanders 3, New Jersey 2, SO
Pittsburgh 4, Tampa Bay 2
Today's Games
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Anaheim at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.
Carolina at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.
Columbus at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Washington at Florida, 6:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Boston at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Calgary, 8 p.m.
Edmonton at Arizona, 8 p.m.

AD Howey hired at San Antonio ISD

From staff reports

Midland ISD Executive Director of Athletics Todd Howey confirmed late Monday night that he has been approved as the next athletic director at San Antonio Independent School District.

Howey's name was given to the San Antonio ISD Board of Trustees on Monday night and he was approved, Howey confirmed through a text message late Monday night.

Howey

Howey will take over for San Antonio ISD interim AD Frank Arnold, who has been in the job since July. San Antonio ISD has been looking for a permanent athletic director since the summer when Gil Garza took the same position with Dallas ISD.

Howey, who previously worked as an assistant athletic director in Canyon ISD, has been in Midland since the spring of 2008 when he took over for interim athletic director Tim Whalen.

Howey will be reunited, at least for a short time, with San Antonio ISD Superintendent Sylvester Perez. Perez was the superintendent at Midland ISD when Howey was hired. Perez plans to retire from his current post next spring.

When Howey will start in San Antonio and when he will officially leave Midland ISD has yet to be determined.

Union takes NFL to court over Adrian Peterson

By Dave Campbell
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Troy Vincent said he visited Adrian Peterson at his Texas home, held one of his sons on his lap and offered guidance to open the door toward getting the former NFL MVP back on track and on the field after resolving child abuse charges.

But things spiraled out of control and now the NFL's executive vice president for football operations finds his interactions with the Minnesota Vikings star at the center of a legal dispute between the NFL Players Association, the league and Peterson after their backchannel, informal conversations became public.

Peterson and the union argued unsuccessfully during an arbitration hearing that Vincent promised the running back would be suspended two additional games beyond those he missed. The arbiter ruled no promises were made and Vincent says he was simply trying to give Peterson information so he could make smarter decisions.

Peterson

"I visited Adrian, not from my position or title, but to talk about how he was doing, how his children were, whether he was getting the help he needed," Vincent told The Associated Press on Monday. "My Christian faith tells me that when I see someone in need and it's within my ability to reach out and lend a helping hand, I should do so. I felt like in speaking to Adrian, I might be able to help him get through this. I needed to touch him and look in his eyes and tell him we can get through this together."

Vincent, a former All-Pro cornerback and union president, said he sat down with Peterson at his home on Nov. 10, eight days before Commissioner Roger Goodell suspended him without pay for the last six games of this season and through at least April 15.

Peterson pleaded no contest in Texas to misdemeanor reckless assault Nov. 4 for physically disciplining his 4-year-old son with a wooden switch. Peterson received probation time, community service and a small fine as part of a deal that will remove the misdemeanor from his record if he completes the requirements without incident.

An arbiter upheld the suspension Friday. The NFLPA filed a federal lawsuit Monday for Peterson, asking the court to dismiss that ruling.

"We obviously filed a lawsuit because those conversations were explicitly inconsistent with the discipline," NFLPA spokesman George Atallah told the AP. Peterson couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

In the petition, 10 of the 74 pages are devoted to recorded conversations between Vincent and Peterson. Vincent said those conversations occurred on Nov. 12 and he didn't know Peterson recorded them.

"I don't want to see this young man ruin his life," Vincent said. "I would never lead him down the wrong path."

Vincent, who told Peterson he wouldn't disclose their conversations without his permission, said he didn't tell anyone at the league office they were talking.

Based on transcripts of the phone call, which were used in Peterson's appeal and obtained by The Associated Press, Vincent and Peterson clearly had different motivations during their conversation.

Saints beat Bears to grab NFC South lead

By Andrew Seligman
Associated Press

Saints	**31**
Bears	15

CHICAGO — Drew Brees and the Saints found a cure for their problems — playing the Bears.

Brees threw for 375 yards and three touchdowns, and New Orleans beat Chicago 31-15 on Monday night to grab the NFC South lead.

The Saints (6-8) moved into first place ahead of Carolina (5-8-1) and Atlanta (5-9) after losing four of their previous five games. They also rebounded from a 41-10 loss to the Panthers.

Brees completed 29 of 36 passes and reached the 4,000-yard mark for the ninth straight year. He threw two touchdown passes to Josh Hill and another to Marques Colston.

Pierre Thomas had five catches for 83 yards. David Hawthorne had three of New Orleans' seven sacks and the Saints intercepted three of Jay Cutler's passes to bring his NFL-leading turnover total to 24.

For the Bears (5-9), the loss comes after a week in which they were again engulfed in controversy. Offensive coordinator Aaron Kromer admitted he was a source behind a critical report by the NFL Network about Cutler, owning up to it in public Friday after earlier asking players and coaches for forgiveness.

Cutler completed 17 of 31 passes for 194 yards, and the Bears couldn't get anything going. They managed only 278 yards against one of the league's worst defenses on a soggy night in which thousands of seats went unused.

There were 10,749 no-shows, and that might not have been a bad thing for the Bears, the way they played.

The Saints went ahead in the second quarter after wasting several opportunities in the opening period. Bears cornerback Kyle Fuller was called for a 17-yard pass-interference penalty trying to defend Jimmy Graham, setting up New Orleans with a first down at the 8.

NFL STANDINGS AND BOX

STANDINGS
AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	11	3	0	.786	442	280
Buffalo	8	6	0	.571	302	254
Miami	7	7	0	.500	327	301
N.Y. Jets	3	11	0	.214	230	360

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Indianapolis	10	4	0	.714	424	317
Houston	7	7	0	.500	324	277
Tennessee	2	12	0	.143	231	390
Jacksonville	2	12	0	.143	211	376

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Cincinnati	9	4	1	.679	311	289
Pittsburgh	9	5	0	.643	389	339
Baltimore	9	5	0	.643	376	267
Cleveland	7	7	0	.500	276	300

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Denver	11	3	0	.786	407	303
Kansas City	8	6	0	.571	322	254
San Diego	8	6	0	.571	303	294
Oakland	2	12	0	.143	213	381

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	10	4	0	.714	381	328
Philadelphia	9	5	0	.643	416	347
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	.357	317	339
Washington	3	11	0	.214	257	370

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	6	8	0	.429	364	374
Carolina	5	8	1	.393	288	358
Atlanta	5	9	0	.357	348	369
Tampa Bay	2	12	0	.143	254	367

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	10	4	0	.714	281	238
Green Bay	10	4	0	.714	436	325
Minnesota	6	8	0	.429	277	297
Chicago	5	9	0	.357	296	409

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Arizona	11	3	0	.786	287	244
Seattle	10	4	0	.714	339	242
San Francisco	7	7	0	.500	251	285
St. Louis	6	8	0	.429	291	297

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Thursday's Score
Arizona 12, St. Louis 6

Sunday's Scores
Kansas City 31, Oakland 13
Pittsburgh 27, Atlanta 20
N.Y. Giants 24, Washington 13
New England 41, Miami 13
Indianapolis 17, Houston 10
Baltimore 20, Jacksonville 12
Buffalo 21, Green Bay 13
Carolina 19, Tampa Bay 17
Cincinnati 30, Cleveland 0
Denver 22, San Diego 10
N.Y. Jets 16, Tennessee 11
Seattle 17, San Francisco 7
Detroit 16, Minnesota 14
Dallas 38, Philadelphia 27

Monday's Score
New Orleans 31, Chicago 15

Thursday, Dec. 18
Tennessee at Jacksonville, 7:25 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20
Philadelphia at Washington, 3:30 p.m.
San Diego at San Francisco, 7:25 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 21
Baltimore at Houston, Noon
Detroit at Chicago, Noon
Atlanta at New Orleans, Noon
Minnesota at Miami, Noon
Cleveland at Carolina, Noon
Green Bay at Tampa Bay, Noon
Kansas City at Pittsburgh, Noon
New England at N.Y. Jets, Noon
N.Y. Giants at St. Louis, 3:05 p.m.
Buffalo at Oakland, 3:25 p.m.
Indianapolis at Dallas, 3:25 p.m.
Seattle at Arizona, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 22
Denver at Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m.

SAINTS 31, BEARS 15

	1	2	3	4	F
New Orleans	0	14	10	7	31
Chicago	0	0	0	15	15

Second Quarter
NO—Hill 8 pass from Brees (S.Graham kick), 14:52.
NO—Colston 9 pass from Brees (S.Graham kick), :32.

Third Quarter
NO—Hill 7 pass from Brees (S.Graham kick), 8:35.
NO—FG S.Graham 25, :16.

Fourth Quarter
Chi—Wilson 1 pass from Cutler (Bennett pass from Cutler), 12:47.
NO—Ingram 15 run (S.Graham kick), 1:47.
Chi—Jeffery 7 pass from Cutler (Feely kick), :30.
A—60,996.

	NO	Chi
First downs	25	16
Total Net Yards	443	278
Rushes-yards	26-83	20-125
Passing	360	153
Comp-Att-Int	29-36-0	17-31-3
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-15	7-41
Punts	5-43.4	6-49.8
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-0
Penalties-Yards	3-25	9-74
Time of Possession	33:31	26:29

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—New Orleans, Ingram 17-59, Thomas 2-11, K.Robinson 3-10, Brees 3-2, Long 1-1. Chicago, Forte 16-78, Morgan 1-21, Cutler 1-20, Carey 1-4, McCray 1-2.

PASSING—New Orleans, Brees 29-36-0-375. Chicago, Cutler 17-31-3-194.

RECEIVING—New Orleans, J.Graham 5-87, Thomas 5-83, Stills 5-67, Colston 5-65, Toon 4-43, Hill 2-15, K.Robinson 2-10, Watson 1-5. Chicago, Jeffery 4-78, Bennett 4-36, Carey 3-39, Wilson 3-16, Forte 2-21, Rosario 1-4.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—New Orleans, S.Graham 51 (SH).

TEXANS

From 1C

"A lot better than I was when I first got here," Lewis responded when asked about his grasp of the offense after just three weeks. "It's part of the job so you make sure you can understand as much as you can understand and the things you're not comfortable with you just let them know so you can work toward your strengths. I know I can get out there and operate and be efficient."

Keenum re-joins the team after spending the first 14 weeks of the season on the St. Louis Rams' practice squad. He was cut by the Texans in preseason but is now back to bolster their depth chart and possibly start. Keenum took over for Matt Schaub in 2013 but went 0-8 down the stretch.

"I think there's a definite advantage to him having been with us," O'Brien said of Keenum. "He was with us for a good amount of time. He was with us when we installed the offense and was with us in training camp. I think there's a definite advantage there."

O'Brien said the decision on the starter will be made early this week but was clear that regardless of the choice the game plan will have to be altered saying the team "would not overload" the new quarterback.

Fitzpatrick had an up-and-down season after starting the first nine games and leading the team to a 4-5 record. He was replaced by Mallett, who went 1-1 before being lost for the season. Savage hits the injury list without getting to start a game.

The result leaves the team on the outside looking in at the AFC wild card race and preparing to play with its third starting quarterback of the season.

"It's the nature of the game, nature of the beast. It's something that around here we've been through in the past," center Chris Myers said. "We've just got to move on and its next man up. That's the way it is at every position and unfortunately this year it's been at the quarterback position."

MURRAY

From 1C

have any touchdowns. An undrafted free agent in his third season, Dunbar had a breakout game on Thanksgiving last year with a team-high 82 yards before sustaining a knee injury in that game against Oakland, knocking him out for the rest of the season.

"Lance has done a number of different things for us on third down as a receiver, split out," Garrett said. "Joseph has been a guy that we've brought into games just to give him the ball and he's done a real nice job with that. I have a lot of confidence in both of those guys."

Murray has a league-high 351 carries, so the question of a No. 2 back has never really been an issue for the Cowboys. Murray has yet to make it through a full season without missing at least two games because of injuries that included a broken ankle, a sprained foot and a sprained knee.

Emmitt Smith sustained a similar injury for Dallas in 1999, had surgery and missed one game. He had 127 yards rushing in his first game back.

"We'll take the surgery first," Garrett said. "We'll see how he feels coming out of the surgery and make our next best decisions."

NOTES: RT Doug Free had an MRI for what Garrett said was a left foot and ankle injury. He came out of the Eagles game in the third quarter and didn't return. Free missed three games earlier this season after breaking his right foot against Seattle. ... RG Zack Martin played through a sprained right ankle against the Eagles. Garrett said neither Free nor Martin had high ankle sprains.

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

CAVALIERS 97
HORNETS 88

CLEVELAND — LeBron James scored 27 points with 13 assists, Kevin Love added 22 points and 18 rebounds, and the Cleveland Cavaliers defeated the Charlotte Hornets 97-88 on Monday night.

The Cavaliers jumped to a 21-0 lead, but the Hornets regrouped and got within two points early in the third quarter before the Cavaliers pulled away. Charlotte trailed 59-57, but Cleveland regained control and pushed the lead back to double figures.

The Cavaliers ended the third on a 21-9 run. James scored seven points while Tristan Thompson added seven, including two dunks on assists from Kyrie Irving. Love hit a 3-pointer late in the quarter and Charlotte got no closer than eight points.

Irving scored 16 points for the Cavaliers, who were coming off consecutive road losses to Oklahoma City and New Orleans after winning eight in a row.

Kemba Walker led Charlotte with 24 points and Al Jefferson added 14.

In information provided by the Cavaliers from Elias Sports Bureau, the 21-0 lead to start a game is the largest to start a game since Portland scored the first 22 points against Boston in 2004.

PACERS 110
LAKERS 91

INDIANAPOLIS — Rodney Stuckey got his second consecutive double-double, scoring 20 points and grabbing 10 rebounds to lead Indiana over the Los Angeles Lakers 110-91 on Monday night. Los Angeles shot 33 percent from the floor and trailed by 39 points during the game.

The Lakers made 3 of 20 shots, shooting 15 percent in the first quarter, when Indiana pulled away. The Pacers led 34-15 at the end of the quarter. Los Angeles scored eight of its 15 points in the first quarter from the foul line. Indiana stretched its lead over Los Angeles to 33 at halftime, 60-27. The Lakers shot 16 percent from the floor for the entire first half.

CJ Miles scored 20, Roy Hibbert added 10 points, David West and C.J. Watson each scored 12, and Donald Sloan scored 17 points for Indiana. Kobe Bryant led all Lakers in scoring with 21 points, shooting 8 of 26 from the floor.

CELTICS 105
76ERS 87

PHILADELPHIA — Kelly Olynyk scored a career-high 30 points, leading the Boston Celtics to a 105-87 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday night.

Avery Bradley had 15 points, and Brandon Bass and Jeff Green added 14 apiece for Boston (8-14), which snapped a three-game skid.

Rookie Nerlens Noel had a career-high 19 points for the 76ers (2-22), who dropped to 0-13 at home this season. Philadelphia moved closer to the NBA mark for worst home start to a season, set in the 1993-94 season when the Mavericks began 0-19.

HAWKS 93
BULLS 86

ATLANTA — Al Horford scored 21 points, including a huge jumper with just under a minute remaining, and the streaking Atlanta Hawks won for the 10th time in 11 games with a 93-86 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Monday night.

The Hawks led most of the way, but never by more than 10 points. After Taj Gibson's dunk with 1:13 remaining brought the Bulls to 87-84, Horford got loose for a 19-footer on the wing and knocked it down.

Pau Gasol followed his own miss to make it 89-86 with 23.7 seconds left, giving the Bulls one more chance. But the Hawks grabbed possession on a jump ball and sealed the victory at the foul line, ending Chicago's three-game winning streak.

RAPTORS 95
MAGIC 82

TORONTO — Lou Williams scored 18 points, Kyle Lowry had 17 and the Toronto Raptors won their 10th straight game over the Orlando Magic, 95-82 Monday night.

Amir Johnson scored 11 points and Patrick Patterson had 10 for the Raptors, who improved to 11-1 this season against opponents with losing records. This was Toronto's third of six straight games against teams below .500.

Tobias Harris scored 18 points, Ben Gordon had 16, Nikola Vucevic had 13 and Victor Oladipo 12 for the Magic, who have not won in Toronto since March, 26, 2012.

BUCKS 96
SUNS 94

PHOENIX — Khris Middleton hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer, giving the Milwaukee Bucks a 96-94 win over the Phoenix Suns Monday night.

Middleton's shot bounced off the backboard and curled into the net for the game winner. It was the biggest three points of the 14 he scored on the night. The Bucks trailed 94-93 after Markieff Morris knocked down a 14-foot jumper from inside the free-throw line with 3.9 seconds left.

Morris led the Suns with 25 points, including two buckets in the last 24 seconds of a back-and-forth final five minutes.

NBA STANDINGS AND BOXES

STANDINGS
EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	19	6	.760	—
Brooklyn	10	12	.455	7½
Boston	8	14	.364	9½
New York	5	21	.192	14½
Philadelphia	2	22	.083	16½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	17	6	.739	—
Atlanta	17	7	.708	½
Miami	11	13	.458	6½
Orlando	10	17	.370	9
Charlotte	6	18	.250	11½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	15	9	.625	—
Cleveland	14	9	.609	½
Milwaukee	13	12	.520	2½
Indiana	8	17	.320	7½
Detroit	5	19	.208	10

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	19	4	.826	—
Houston	18	5	.783	1
San Antonio	17	7	.708	2½
Dallas	17	8	.680	3
New Orleans	11	12	.478	8

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	18	6	.750	—
Oklahoma City	11	13	.458	7
Denver	10	14	.417	8
Utah	6	18	.250	12
Minnesota	5	18	.217	12½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	21	2	.913	—
L.A. Clippers	16	7	.696	5
Phoenix	12	14	.462	10½
Sacramento	11	13	.458	10½
L.A. Lakers	8	17	.320	14

Monday's Scores
Boston 105, Philadelphia 87
Indiana 110, L.A. Lakers 91
Cleveland 97, Charlotte 88
Atlanta 93, Chicago 86
Toronto 95, Orlando 82
Milwaukee 96, Phoenix 94
San Antonio at Portland, late
Detroit at L.A. Clippers, late

Today's Games
Minnesota at Washington, 6 p.m.
Miami at Brooklyn, 6:30 p.m.
Utah at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Dallas at New York, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Sacramento, 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY'S BOXES

CAVALIERS 97, HORNETS 88

CHARLOTTE (88): Kidd-Gilchrist 0-4 1-2 1, Zeller 1-4 2-2 4, Jefferson 7-13 0-0 14, Walker 11-20 1-2 24, Stephenson 4-12 0-2 8, Henderson 4-7 0-0 8, Neal 3-10 1-2 8, Williams 4-6 0-0 10, Biyombo 1-1 2-4 4, Roberts 3-6 0-0 7. Totals 38-83 7-14 88.

CLEVELAND (97): James 11-19 3-4 27, Love 7-14 4-5 22, Varejao 4-12 0-0 8, Irving 6-14 3-4 16, Marion 2-4 0-0 4, Waiters 3-10 0-0 7, Thompson 4-6 2-4 10, Dellavedova 0-2 0-0 0, Harris 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 38-83 12-17 97.

Charlotte	17	28	23	20	— 88
Cleveland	34	20	26	17	— 97

3-Point Goals—Charlotte 5-16 (Williams 2-4, Roberts 1-2, Walker 1-2, Neal 1-5, Stephenson 0-3), Cleveland 9-24 (Love 4-9, James 2-3, Harris 1-2, Irving 1-4, Waiters 1-5, Dellavedova 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Charlotte 45 (Jefferson 8), Cleveland 57 (Love 18). Assists—Charlotte 22 (Neal 6), Cleveland 28 (James 13). Total Fouls—Charlotte 14, Cleveland 14. Technicals—Henderson. A—20,562 (20,562).

PACERS 110, LAKERS 91

L.A. LAKERS (91): Johnson 4-7 2-2 13, Davis 0-5 0-0 0, J.Hill 2-7 2-2 6, Price 2-5 0-0 5, Bryant 8-26 3-3 21, Boozer 3-8 7-10 13, Lin 0-6 2-2 2, Sacre 0-2 1-2 1, Young 6-12 4-4 18, Ellington 3-5 0-0 7, Clarkson 1-5 2-4 5. Totals 29-88 23-29 91.

INDIANA (110): S.Hill 1-4 2-2 4, West 5-9 2-2 12, Hibbert 5-10 0-0 10, Watson 3-3 6-7 12, Stuckey 6-14 8-10 20, Allen 3-5 0-0 6, Miles 8-16 1-2 20, Scola 2-6 4-4 9, Sloan 7-12 0-0 17, Rudez 0-3 0-0 0, Copeland 0-0 0-0 0, Whittington 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 40-83 23-27 110.

L.A. Lakers	15	12	31	33	— 91
Indiana	34	26	29	21	— 110

3-Point Goals—L.A. Lakers 10-26 (Johnson 3-5, Young 2-6, Bryant 2-8, Price 1-2, Clarkson 1-2, Ellington 1-2, Lin 0-1), Indiana 7-17 (Sloan 3-4, Miles 3-8, Scola 1-1, S.Hill 0-1, Rudez 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—L.A. Lakers 48 (Boozer 10), Indiana 64 (Stuckey 10). Assists—L.A. Lakers 14 (Bryant 3), Indiana 21 (Stuckey 7). Total Fouls—L.A. Lakers 20, Indiana 20. Technicals—Bryant. A—15,261 (18,165).

CELTICS 105, 76ERS 87

BOSTON (105): Green 4-8 5-8 14, Sullinger 2-10 0-2 5, Zeller 1-6 3-4 5, Rondo 2-3 1-2 5, Bradley 6-20 2-3 15, Olynyk 12-17 3-3 30, Turner 5-10 2-2 12, Bass 6-9 2-5 14, Wallace 0-0 0-0 0, Pressey 0-3 4-4 4, Powell 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 38-86 23-35 105.

PHILADELPHIA (87): Covington 4-15 3-3 13, Mbah a Moute 4-10 1-2 9, Noel 9-12 1-1 19, Carter-Williams 5-12 2-4 13, Thompson 1-3 0-0 2, McDaniels 2-10 2-2 6, Sims 1-8 3-4 5, Wroten 0-3 0-0 0, Grant 1-6 0-0 2, Shved 3-8 3-3 10, Aldemir 1-3 0-0 2, Sampson 2-3 2-2 6. Totals 33-93 17-21 87.

Boston	30	27	31	17	— 105
Philadelphia	25	13	26	23	— 87

3-Point Goals—Boston 6-25 (Olynyk 3-5, Green 1-3, Sullinger 1-3, Bradley 1-11, Turner 0-1, Pressey 0-2), Philadelphia 4-28 (Covington 2-8, Shved 1-2, Carter-Williams 1-5, Thompson 0-1, Grant 0-1, Sampson 0-1, Sims 0-1, Wroten 0-2, Mbah a Moute 0-3, McDaniels 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Boston 63 (Sullinger 11), Philadelphia 61 (Noel 8). Assists—Boston 26 (Rondo 7), Philadelphia 19 (Carter-Williams 6). Total Fouls—Boston 23, Philadelphia 28. A—12,903 (20,318).

HAWKS 93, BULLS 86

CHICAGO (86): Dunleavy 4-9 1-2 11, Gibson 7-11 1-1 15, Gasol 6-15 1-2 13, Rose 6-21 2-3 14, Butler 8-17 3-3 22, Hinrich 0-7 0-0 0, Mirotic 1-7 1-2 3, Brooks 3-6 1-1 8. Totals 35-93 10-14 86.

ATLANTA (93): Carroll 3-5 0-0 7, Millsap 6-16 4-6 17, Horford 10-19 1-2 21, Teague 5-12 2-2 12, Korver 4-9 0-0 12, Sefolosha 0-1 2-2 2, Brand 3-5 2-2 8, Schroder 2-6 0-0 4, Scott 2-5 0-0 5, Bazemore 1-5 3-3 5. Totals 36-83 14-17 93.

Chicago	22	22	20	22	— 86
Atlanta	28	22	23	20	— 93

3-Point Goals—Chicago 6-29 (Butler 3-5, Dunleavy 2-5, Brooks 1-4, Hinrich 0-4, Mirotic 0-4, Rose 0-7), Atlanta 7-21 (Korver 4-8, Millsap 1-2, Carroll 1-2, Scott 1-3, Schroder 0-1, Horford 0-1, Bazemore 0-2, Teague 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 68 (Gibson 17), Atlanta 44 (Horford 10). Assists—Chicago 18 (Rose 8), Atlanta 26 (Teague 7). Total Fouls—Chicago 17, Atlanta 17. Technicals—Carroll. A—16,805 (18,729).

RAPTORS 95, MAGIC 82

ORLANDO (82): Harris 8-15 2-2 18, Frye 1-6 0-0 3, Vucevic 6-13 1-3 13, Oladipo 6-12 0-0 12, Fournier 4-10 2-2 11, B.Gordon 7-11 0-0 16, Payton 2-3 0-0 4, Harkless 1-3 1-1 3, O'Quinn 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 36-74 6-8 82.

TORONTO (95): Ross 3-11 0-0 9, A.Johnson 5-8 1-2 11, Valanciunas 2-6 2-2 6, Lowry 6-12 1-2 17, Fields 3-6 1-2 8, J.Johnson 4-5 0-0 8, Patterson 4-6 0-0 10, Williams 6-14 5-7 18, Vasquez 2-9 0-0 4, Hansbrough 2-6 0-0 4. Totals 37-83 10-15 95.

Orlando	25	27	13	17	— 82
Toronto	28	16	27	24	— 95

3-Point Goals—Orlando 4-15 (B.Gordon 2-4, Fournier 1-3, Frye 1-4, Oladipo 0-2, Harris 0-2), Toronto 11-30 (Lowry 4-6, Ross 3-7, Patterson 2-4, Fields 1-1, Williams 1-5, J.Johnson 0-1, Hansbrough 0-1, Vasquez 0-5). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Orlando 43 (Vucevic 9), Toronto 48 (Valanciunas 8). Assists—Orlando 13 (Oladipo 4), Toronto 25 (Lowry 8). Total Fouls—Orlando 19, Toronto 14. A—19,800 (19,800).

BUCKS 96, SUNS 94

MILWAUKEE (96): Antetokounmpo 2-7 2-3 6, Parker 3-7 2-2 8, Sanders 0-2 0-0 0, Knight 7-18 6-6 20, Mayo 3-4 4-4 12, Bayless 4-8 2-2 11, Marshall 1-2 0-0 2, Dudley 3-7 1-2 10, Pachulia 6-9 1-3 13, Middleton 6-9 0-0 14. Totals 35-73 18-22 96.

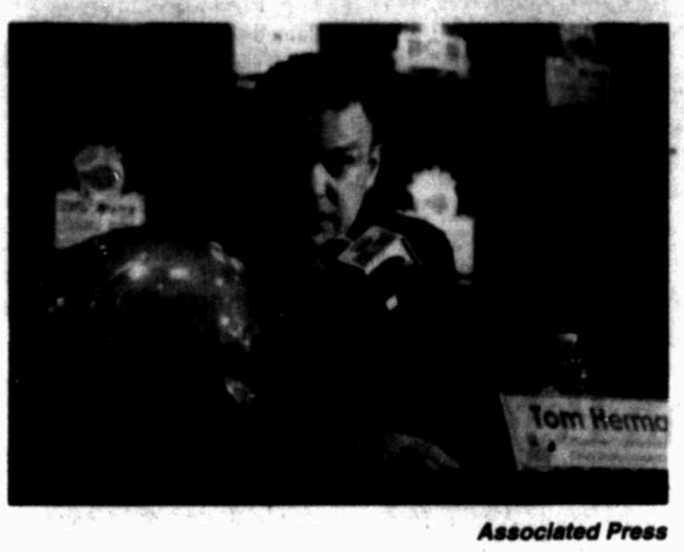
PHOENIX (94): Tucker 2-6 0-0 6, Mark.Morris 9-13 5-5 25, Len 2-7 2-3 6, Bledsoe 4-9 3-4 11, Green 3-18 4-4 12, Thomas 6-12 4-5 20, Plumlee 1-1 2-4 4, Marc.Morris 2-6 0-0 5, Tolliver 1-3 0-0 3, Warren 0-0 2-2 2. Totals 30-75 22-27 94.

Milwaukee	14	30	23	29	— 96
Phoenix	26	27	19	22	— 94

3-Point Goals—Milwaukee 8-16 (Dudley 3-5, Mayo 2-3, Middleton 2-3, Bayless 1-1, Marshall 0-1, Knight 0-3), Phoenix 12-38 (Thomas 4-7, Mark.Morris 2-3, Tucker 2-4, Green 2-15, Tolliver 1-3, Marc.Morris 1-4, Bledsoe 0-2). Fouled Out—Len. Rebounds—Milwaukee 43 (Antetokounmpo 8), Phoenix 49 (Green 8). Assists—Milwaukee 23 (Pachulia, Dudley 5), Phoenix 17 (Tucker, Bledsoe 4). Total Fouls—Milwaukee 27, Phoenix 24. Flagrant Fouls—Mayo, Len. A—17,327 (18,055).

Houston hires Ohio State's Herman to be head coach

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press



Associated Press

In this Jan. 3, 2014, file photo, Ohio State offensive coordinator Tom Herman talks to the media during a news conference in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

HOUSTON — Houston is negotiating with Ohio State offensive coordinator Tom Herman to be its new head coach, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

The person spoke Monday on condition of anonymity because a deal hadn't been completed.

Houston fired coach Tony Levine last week.

Fox Sports first reported Herman was expected to be Houston's next coach.

The 39-year-old Herman, a Cincinnati native, spent the first 10 years of his career coaching in the state of Texas before becoming offensive coordinator at Iowa State (2009-11).

He has been quarterbacks coach and play-caller for Ohio State teams that have gone 36-3 the past three seasons. The Buckeyes rank fifth in the nation in yards per play this season and finished fifth in yards per play last season.

Fourth-seeded Ohio State plays No. 1 Alabama on Jan. 1 in the College Football Playoff.

Under Herman, Buckeyes quarterback Braxton Miller was Big Ten player of the year in 2012 and '13. Redshirt freshman quarterback J.T. Barrett stepped in this season after Miller was injured in the preseason, and Herman helped developed him into Heisman Trophy contender. Barrett set a conference record for touchdowns responsible for this season before going down with a season-ending injury against Michigan.

The next week Ohio State won the Big Ten championship game and locked up a playoff spot with a 59-0 victory against Wisconsin with backup quarterback Cardale Jones leading the offense.

Last week, Herman won the Broyles Award as the top assistant coach in college football.

The Cougars were 21-17 under Levine, including bowl appearances the past two seasons. They finished 7-5 this season and will play in the Armed Forces Bowl against Pittsburgh at Fort Worth, Texas.

But with a new on-campus stadium and a roster that seemed to be one of the most talented in the American Athletic Conference, more was expected from the Cougars.

BASEBALLROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

LOWRIE, ASTROS AGREE TO $23 MILLION, 3-YEAR DEAL

HOUSTON — Infielder Jed Lowrie and the Houston Astros have agreed to a $23 million, three-year contract.

The agreement, announced Monday, includes a 2018 club option.

Lowrie was acquired by the Astros from Boston for pitcher Mark Melancon in December 2011 in Jeff Luhnow's first trade as general manager and was Houston's shortstop in 2012. He was dealt to Oakland in February 2013 in that trade that brought Chris Carter to the Astros.

A switch-hitter, Lowrie had 35 home runs and 155 RBI over the last three seasons.

HARPER, NATS AGREE AT $7.5M, 2 YEARS

WASHINGTON — A person familiar with the agreement says Bryce Harper and the Washington Nationals have come to terms on a $7.5 million, two-year contract, avoiding a grievance hearing.

Harper gets a $2.5 million salary in 2015, and $5 million in 2016.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Monday because the deal had not been announced.

Harper, the 2012 NL Rookie of the Year, had been scheduled to have a $1 million salary in 2015, along with the chance to earn up to $500,000 in roster bonuses. But the Major League Baseball Players Association filed a grievance on his behalf over whether he could void the final season of the $9.9 million, five-year contract he signed when he was drafted.

HEADLEY AND YANKEES AGREE TO $52M, 4-YEAR DEAL

NEW YORK — Chase Headley is staying with the Yankees, agreeing to a $52 million, four-year contract that signals New York is not counting on Alex Rodriguez to play third base regularly.

Coming off a season-long suspension for violations of baseball's drug agreement and labor contract, Rodriguez is owed $61 million over the final three seasons of his $275 million, 10-year deal. The agreement with Headley on Monday is a sign New York plans to shift A-Rod to designated hitter, relegate him to a backup role or perhaps even seek trade offers.

The 30-year-old Headley was acquired from San Diego in July. The 2012 NL Gold Glove winner at third, he hit .262 with six homers and 17 RBI in 191 at-bats for the Yankees.

RIOS, ROYALS AGREE TO $11 MILLION DEAL

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A person with knowledge of the negotiations says outfielder Alex Rios and the Kansas City Royals have agreed to an $11 million, one-year contract.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Monday because the deal was subject to Rios passing a physical.

Rios will take over in right field from Nori Aoki, who became a free agent after helping the Royals win their first AL pennant since 1985.

Rios, who turns 34 in February, had been with Texas since August 2013 and hit .280 this year with four homers and 54 RBIs. He set career highs with the Chicago White Sox in 2012 with 25 homers and 91 RBI.

His agreement was first reported by CBS.

WHITE SOX REACH $42M DEAL WITH CABRERA

CHICAGO — A person with direct knowledge of the deal says the Chicago White Sox have finalized a $42 million, three-year contract with free-agent outfielder Melky Cabrera.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on Monday on condition of anonymity because the team had not announced the agreement. The busy White Sox scheduled a news conference for Tuesday to introduce offseason acquisitions Jeff Samardzija and David Robertson, and the team could announce Cabrera's deal at the same time.

White Sox outfielder Adam Eaton welcomed Cabrera in a tweet on Saturday night, and then Cabrera retweeted the message — signaling a deal was imminent. WSCR-AM 670 was the first to report the agreement.

The 30-year-old Cabrera could slot in quite nicely behind Eaton in the No. 2 spot in the lineup. He hit .301 with 16 homers and 73 RBIs with Toronto last season.

LESTER

From 1C

by Dec. 31 in 2018 and 2019, and a final $10 million installment by Sept. 15, 2020.

He gets salaries of $15 million next year, $20 million each in 2016 and 2017, $22.5 apiece in 2018 and 2019 and $15 million in 2020. There is a $25 million mutual option for 2021 with a $10 million buyout, and the option would become guaranteed if Lester pitches 200 or more innings in 2020 or 400 or more in 2020-21 combined.

Lester gets a hotel suite on the road, a provision that he can't be traded without his consent and the right to 25 hours of private-plane use for him and his family annually.

A total of 1,686 players have appeared for the Cubs since Orval Overall retired Detroit's Boss Schmidt for the final out of the 1908 World Series, according to STATS, and all have failed to bring another title to the North Side.

Lester hopes he and a promising core of young players can end the slide along with manager Joe Maddon, who left Tampa Bay for a $25 million, five-year contract with the Cubs.

Lester, who turns 31 next month, was dealt by the Red Sox to Oakland at the trade deadline in July and helped the A's reach the playoffs for the third straight year before a 9-8, 12-inning loss to Kansas City in the AL wild-card game. He went 16-11 with a career-best 2.46 ERA and 220 strikeouts last season and is 116-67 with a 3.58 ERA in nine big league seasons.

He also had been sought by the Red Sox, World Series champion San Francisco and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

NCAA head, state officials may take stand at trial

By Mark Scolforo
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The head of the NCAA, Penn State's former president and former FBI director Louis Freeh are among those who could take the stand in three weeks when a lawsuit brought by two Pennsylvania officials goes to trial.

A joint pretrial statement filed Friday said the Commonwealth Court trial in Harrisburg, scheduled for January, should last about five days and could involve dozens of witnesses.

State Sen. Jake Corman and state Treasurer Rob McCord, who brought the lawsuit, described the issues at stake as whether the NCAA followed its own rules when it entered into a consent decree with Penn State two years ago, whether that decree is valid and whether the NCAA acted in good faith.

The NCAA put it more narrowly, saying the issue was simply the consent decree's validity.

The 2012 consent decree, imposed over Penn State's handling of the Jerry Sandusky child molestation scandal, included a four-year bowl ban, a loss of football scholarships, the elimination of 112 football team wins and a $60 million fine.

Corman and McCord sued to enforce a 2013 state law that requires the $60 million be spent within Pennsylvania, and although the NCAA has agreed to that, the lawsuit has since morphed into a challenge to the validity of the consent decree.

Commonwealth Court ordered in April that Penn State be included as a party to the lawsuit and said more information was needed about whether Penn State and the NCAA acted lawfully when they signed the consent decree. In a lone dissent, Judge Dan Pellegrini wrote that no one had disputed the legality of the consent decree.

Last month, the state Supreme Court turned down an effort by the NCAA to avoid the January trial, but Justice Max Baer echoed Pellegrini, saying the NCAA "has presented ... a colorable argument that the Commonwealth Court ... inserted an undisputed issue into an otherwise moot case."

COLLEGEBASKETBALL

FROM WIRE REPORTS

SCORES, SCHEDULES AND POLLS

Men

MONDAY'S SCORES

SOUTHWEST

Lamar 128, Champion Baptist 54
Oral Roberts 80, Missouri St. 61
UTSA 73, Texas A&M-CC 60

SOUTH

Austin Peay 73, Troy 70
Duke 75, Elon 52
Georgia Southern 68, South Florida 63
Georgia Tech 70, Appalachian St. 57
Howard 57, IUPUI 47
Memphis 81, NC Central 47
Norfolk St. 88, Virginia-Wise 49
Tennessee Tech 82, North Florida 80

MIDWEST

Cleveland St. 86, Mount Vernon Nazarene 40
Drake 76, Jackson St. 66
UT-Martin 81, Ill.-Chicago 78, OT

FAR WEST

Gonzaga 94, Texas Southern 54

EAST

Wilmington (Del.) 99, Mercy 69

TODAY'S GAMES

SOUTHWEST

Oral Roberts at Oklahoma, 6 p.m.
E. Washington at Sam Houston St., 6:30 p.m.
Houston Baptist at Houston, 7 p.m.
Lipscomb at Texas, 7 p.m.
Middle Tennessee at Oklahoma St., 8 p.m.
SE Louisiana at UTEP, 8 p.m.

SOUTH

N. Kentucky at Chattanooga, 6 p.m.
ETSU at E. Kentucky, 6 p.m.
Stetson at FAU, 6 p.m.
King (Tenn.) at Marshall, 6 p.m.
Dartmouth at Mercer, 6 p.m.
UC Irvine at Morgan St., 6 p.m.
Samford at Presbyterian, 6 p.m.
Johnson & Wales (NC) at Radford, 6 p.m.
North Carolina at UNC Greensboro, 6 p.m.
Belmont at VCU, 6 p.m.
Ark.-Monticello at Nicholls St., 6:30 p.m.
Coll. of Charleston at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
UNC Asheville at Jacksonville St., 7 p.m.
Central Baptist at Louisiana-Monroe, 7 p.m.
Champion Baptist at Southern U., 7 p.m.
Savannah St. at Tulane, 7 p.m.
W. Carolina at Vanderbilt, 8 p.m.

MIDWEST

Truman St. at Indiana St., 6:05 p.m.
Akron at N. Dakota St., 7 p.m.
MVSU at N. Illinois, 7 p.m.
Tennessee St. at S. Illinois, 7:05 p.m.
Arizona St. at Marquette, 8 p.m.
Alabama at Wichita St., 8 p.m.

FAR WEST

Oakland at Arizona, 8 p.m.
N. Arizona at Saint Mary's (Cal.), 9 p.m.

EAST

Drexel at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
American U. at La Salle, 6 p.m.
Susquehanna at Lafayette, 6 p.m.

POLLS
AP TOP 25

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. Kentucky (29)	11-0	773	1
2. Duke (1)	8-0	736	2
3. Arizona (1)	10-0	721	3
4. Louisville	9-0	658	4
5. Virginia	9-0	633	5
6. Wisconsin	10-1	619	6
7. Villanova	10-0	592	7
8. Gonzaga	9-1	556	8
9. Texas	8-1	539	9
10. Kansas	8-1	519	10
11. Wichita State	7-1	439	11
12. Ohio State	8-1	417	12
13. Iowa State	8-1	373	13
14. Utah	7-2	300	14
15. Oklahoma	6-2	295	15
16. Washington	8-0	287	17
17. San Diego State	7-2	246	16
18. Maryland	10-1	214	20
19. Miami	9-1	164	21
20. West Virginia	9-1	159	21
21. Notre Dame	10-1	155	—
22. Michigan State	7-3	122	23
23. St. John's	8-1	114	—
24. North Carolina	6-3	86	18
25. Butler	8-2	85	19

Others receiving votes: Baylor 49, Northern Iowa 40, Colorado State 29, Georgetown 28, California 26, TCU 26, Seton Hall 19, Illinois 13, Arkansas 12, Oklahoma State 9, Old Dominion 7, Florida 4, LSU 4, Iowa 3, Minnesota 1, Penn State 1, Saint Mary's 1, VCU 1.

USA TODAY TOP 25

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Kentucky (65)	11-0	1,625	1
2. Duke	8-0	1,545	2
3. Arizona	10-0	1,505	3
4. Louisville	9-0	1,349	4
5. Wisconsin	10-1	1,331	5
6. Virginia	9-0	1,294	6
7. Villanova	10-0	1,215	7
8. Gonzaga	9-1	1,175	9
9. Texas	8-1	1,154	8
10. Kansas	8-1	1,102	10
11. Wichita St	7-1	959	11
12. Ohio St	8-1	838	12
13. Iowa St	8-1	772	14
14. Utah	7-2	670	13
15. Oklahoma	6-2	647	16
16. Washington	8-0	598	17
17. Maryland	10-1	512	19
18. Miami	9-1	426	20
19. San Diego St	7-2	424	18
20. St. John's	8-1	353	24
21. Notre Dame	10-1	351	25
22. West Virginia	9-1	333	22
23. Butler	8-2	259	15
24. North Carolina	6-3	122	21
25. Michigan St	7-3	116	—

Others receiving votes: Baylor 97, TCU 80, Colorado St. 75, N. Iowa 65, Georgetown 41, California 37, Arkansas 19, Seton Hall 14, VCU 6, LSU 4, Oklahoma St. 4, Old Dominion 4, Penn St 3, Davidson 1.

Women

MONDAY'S SCORES

SOUTHWEST

Abilene Christian 100, SW Christian 52
Mid-Am Christian 58, McMurry 54
Oklahoma St. 84, New Orleans 33
Tennessee St. 72, Texas A&M-CC 61
Texas-Permian Basin 82, Wayland Baptist 69
Xavier (NO) 64, Faulkner 49

SOUTH

Akron 81, Bethune-Cookman 63
Alabama St. 82, Bluefield St. 73
Clinton-Newman 61, King (Tenn.) 48
Catawba 84, Tusculum 74
Chowan 68, UNC Pembroke 48
Coker 62, GRU Augusta 44
Kentucky Wesleyan 66, Oakland City 52
Lander 67, Fayetteville St. 58
Lewis 98, Trevecca Nazarene 71
Lincoln Memorial 86, Newberry 76
Lindsey Wilson 84, Brescia 62
Louisville 100, Old Dominion 46
Mississippi St. 104, MVSU 41
Spring Hill 81, Tougaloo 70
St. Augustine's 68, Wilson Peace 65

MIDWEST

Ball St. 76, Charlotte 66
Concordia (Wis.) 82, Maranatha Baptist 34
James Madison 67, Ohio 60
N. Kentucky 77, Marquette 68
Northwestern 62, Gonzaga 45
Oakland 109, Concordia (Mich.) 62
Olivet 83, Marygrove 56
S. Dakota St. 65, Middle Tennessee 61
Wayne (Mich.) 69, N. Michigan 57

EAST

Buffalo 51, St. Bonaventure 44
Caldwell 80, American International 74
Dist. of Columbia 79, Virginia Union 61
George Washington 83, Memphis 44
Mount St. Vincent 75, Albertus Magnus 70
Quinnipiac 66, Albany (NY) 62
Susquehanna 71, Marywood 42

TOURNAMENT

Rollins Invitational
First Round

Indianapolis 57, Tarleton St. 5

TODAY'S GAMES

EAST

Princeton at Delaware, 6 p.m.
Lamar at Ohio Valley, 6 p.m.
Canisius at Syracuse, 6 p.m.

SOUTH

Ark.-Pine Bluff at Alabama, 11 a.m.
Montreat at Charleston Southern, 4 p.m.
Kennesaw St. at Mercer, 4 p.m.
Marshall at Norfolk St., 5 p.m.
Oregon St. at North Carolina, 5 p.m.
Jacksonville St. at S.C. State, 5 p.m.
LSU-Alexandria at Louisiana-Monroe, 5:15 p.m.
W. Kentucky at Austin Peay, 6 p.m.
North Florida at Florida St., 6 p.m.
Wichita St. at Tennessee, 6 p.m.
South Alabama at Tennessee Tech, 6 p.m.
Longwood at Virginia, 6 p.m.
Jackson St. at Lipscomb, 6:30 p.m.

MIDWEST

Delaware St. at Cent. Michigan, 11 a.m.
Murray St. at S. Illinois, 12:05 p.m.
Belmont at Cleveland St., 1 p.m.
Alcorn St. at Michigan St., 6 p.m.
Chicago St. at Ill.-Chicago, 7 p.m.
Arizona St. at Illinois St., 7 p.m.
Maryville St.,at North Dakota, 7 p.m.

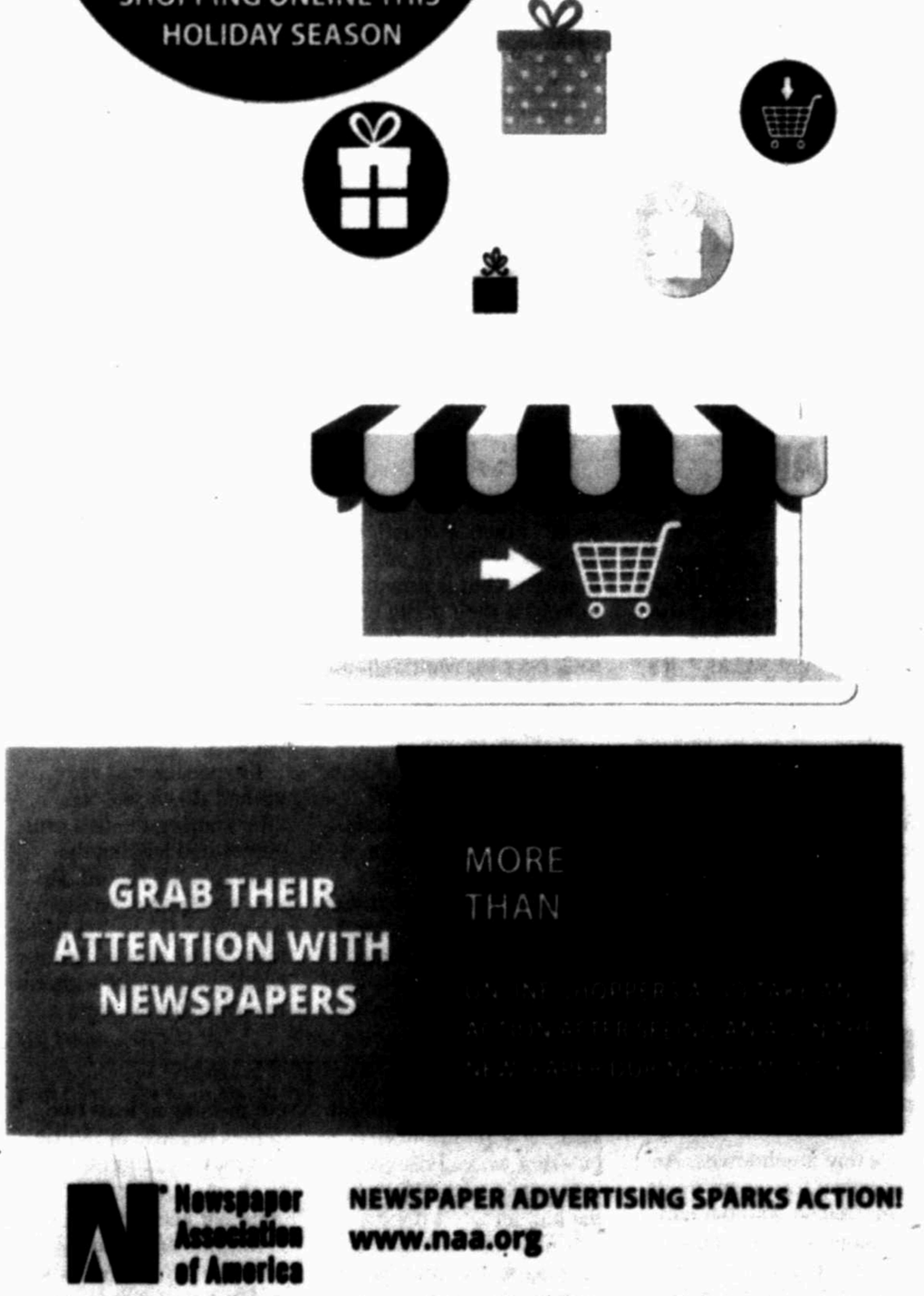
FAR WEST

Pepperdine at N. Arizona, 1 p.m.
Cal Poly at New Mexico St., 8 p.m.
Westminster (Utah) at S. Utah, 8 p.m.
LSU at Long Beach St., 9 p.m.
Utah St. at Pacific, 9 p.m.
CS Bakersfield at UC Irvine, 9 p.m.

POLL
AP TOP 25

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. South Carolina (25)	9-0	865	1
2. UConn (6)	6-1	828	2
3. Texas (4)	9-0	795	3
4. Texas A&M	11-0	788	4
5. Notre Dame	10-1	741	5
6. North Carolina	9-0	709	6
7. Stanford	6-2	636	7
8. Kentucky	10-1	609	8
9. Baylor	8-1	579	9
10. Louisville	9-1	553	10
11. Tennessee	7-2	518	11
12. Nebraska	9-1	437	12
13. Duke	5-3	423	13
14. Maryland	8-2	409	14
15. Georgia	10-0	378	16
16. Oregon St.	7-0	364	15
17. Rutgers	6-2	283	17
18. Michigan St.	6-2	251	19
19. Oklahoma St.	6-1	225	20
20. Syracuse	7-1*	225	20
21. Mississippi St.	10-0	*224	22
22. West Virginia	8-1	150	23
23. Iowa	8-2	90	24
24. California	7-0	80	18
25. DePaul	6-3	71	25

Others receiving votes: Green Bay 43, Northwestern 19, Arizona St. 18, St. John's 17, Princeton 15, Oregon 14, Washington 8, James Madison 7, W. Kentucky 7, Oklahoma 5, Washington St. 5, Florida St. 4, Arkansas 2.



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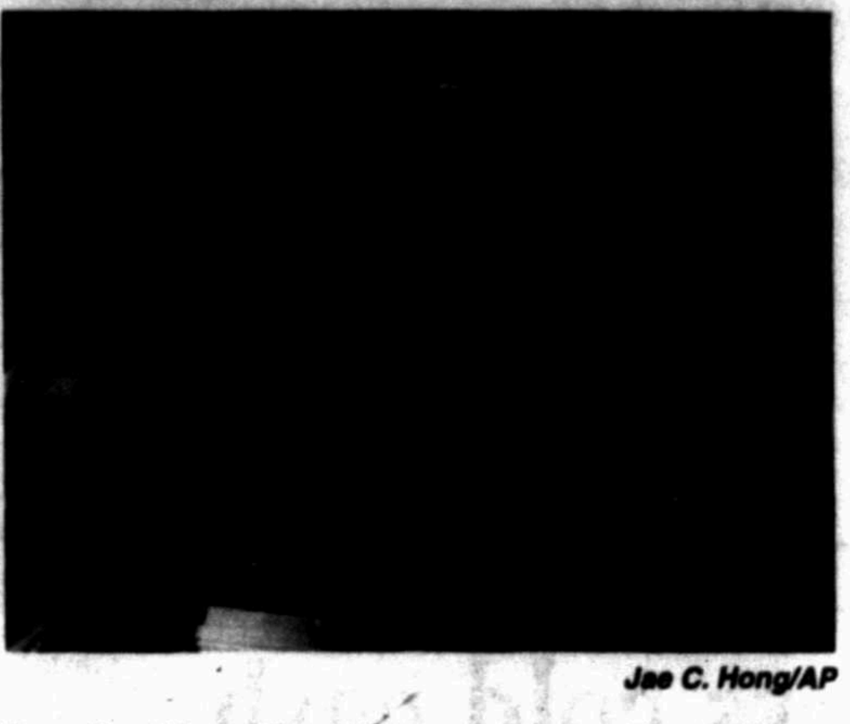
Mayweather must fight Pacquiao next

TIM DAHLBERG
Associated Press


Jae C. Hong/AP
Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. talks on the phone while watching a game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Sacramento Kings on Dec. 9 in Los Angeles.

LAS VEGAS — Floyd Mayweather Jr. built a career — and made a fortune — by using deception to confuse and outwit his opponents.

Playing the same game outside the ring has also paid off for Money May. Mayweather has, for the most part, been able to fight who he wants, where he wants and when he wants. He sells enough pay-per-views that he has been able to avoid a fight with Manny Pacquiao that should have taken place five years ago.

But the game has gotten old, even if Mayweather's many yes men haven't had the courage to let him know. His latest attempt to twist the story line about a possible fight next year with Pacquiao was so dated and absurd that even the sycophants in his sizeable entourage had to be rolling their eyes.

The wizard of defense has finally been boxed into a corner. The charade is over, whether Mayweather realizes it or not.

He must fight Pacquiao next, if his career is to have any legitimacy. And he must to do it on terms that reflect he won't be the only superstar in the ring.

Mayweather didn't seem to grasp that the other day when he broke his silence and tried to make it seem as if he were challenging Pacquiao to a fight, not the other way around. In an "interview" with the Showtime network that employs him, Mayweather not only declared he wanted Pacquiao, but set a May 2 date for the fight.

Lest long suffering boxing fans get too excited, though, the conditions quickly followed. Mayweather not only wants to pick the date but to set the purse to his liking and have Showtime be the broadcaster. He regurgitated old arguments about blood testing that didn't make sense five years ago when he first started spouting them and make absolutely no sense now.

Luckily, the interview ringside in San Antonio didn't last long. If it had, Mayweather might have demanded Pacquiao be allowed to train only one week for the fight, have his blood taken in the locker room just before he goes into the ring and not be able to use his right hand for the first eight rounds.

That may be laughable. But so, too, is this:

"Manny Pacquiao, (promoter) Bob Arum, you guys have been ducking us for years," Mayweather said. "We're tired of you guys fooling the public, fooling the critics. Before we tried to make the fight happen and you guys didn't want to take random blood and urine testing. So that's why the fight didn't happen. Then I offered you $40 million and you didn't want to make the fight happen. Then you lost twice and now you're coming back begging for the same money. That's not going to happen."

Maybe Mayweather doesn't read the papers. If he had, he would know Pacquiao had no problem with unannounced blood tests for his fight with Chris Algieri last month. He would know that Pacquiao and Arum would almost surely accept a smaller purse as long as the money split wasn't lopsided.

He would know that the free ride is over for the most part and Showtime won't keep paying him $20 million to $30 million to fight the Marcos Maidanas of the world.

The fact of the matter is pay-per-view buys are slowing for both Pacquiao and Mayweather. Pacquiao's fight last month with Algieri in Macau wasn't a big seller, and both of Mayweather's fights last year with Maidana underperformed. Both HBO and Showtime are charging premium rates, but not showing premium fights.

Put Mayweather and Pacquiao in the ring together and that would change. Though both fighters have slowed some in recent years, the matchup is still one fans desperately want and are willing to pay for. It would be the richest fight in history, and it wouldn't be close.

Frankly, it's hard to see why Mayweather hasn't already signed on the dotted line. He would easily make $100 million, maybe more. Assuming he wins — and Vegas oddsmakers have already put up lines favoring him by as much as 3-1 — he would cement his legacy and bolster his claim to being one of the great fighters of all time.

But if the fight has an expiration date, so do the negotiations. For a fight as big as this, they would likely need to be wrapped up by the end of the year to allow time for the promotion to begin.

It's taken five years to even get Mayweather to say he wants the fight.

Now it's time for him to step up and show he really means it.

Rome 2024 Olympic bid could also involve Vatican

By Andrew Dampf
Associated Press

ROME — Sailing in Sardinia. Boxing in Florence. Basketball in Milan. Water polo in Naples.

And how about badminton or archery in St. Peter's Square?

Italian Premier Matteo Renzi announced Monday that Rome will propose a cost-conscious bid to host the 2024 Olympics that will take advantage of IOC President Thomas Bach's newly approved reforms allowing events to be held outside the host city.

The decision comes two years after Italy scrapped plans to bid for the 2020 Games because of financial concerns.

"The Italian government, together with CONI, is ready to do its part for a project that isn't based on great infrastructures or big dreams but rather great people," Premier Matteo Renzi said at Italian Olympic Committee headquarters. "We will be at the vanguard for all the spending controls."

Italy, which hosted the 1960 Olympics, launched a bid for the 2020 Games but dropped out after then-premier Mario Monti refused to provide financial backing at a time of economic crisis.

The new bid comes with Italy's economy still stagnant and amid a widening corruption scandal in Rome.

"Our country too often seems hesitant," Renzi said. "It's unacceptable not to try."

Rome is considering a budget of 6 billion euros ($7.5 billion) — $2 billion of which would be covered by the IOC — or roughly half of what London spent in 2012.

"I don't want to get into details but that's a fairly realistic number," CONI president Giovanni Malago said. "My dream is to have a bid supported with private money."

Italy is the second country to declare its intention to bid. Germany has already announced that it will submit a bid from either Berlin or Hamburg, with the choice to be made in March.

France is likely to approve a Paris bid next year, and the U.S. Olympic Committee will make a decision Tuesday on whether to bid. Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington are vying to be the U.S. candidate.

Other possible contenders include Doha, Qatar; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Baku, Azerbaijan; Istanbul, Turkey; Budapest, Hungary; and a city or province in South Africa.

The Rome bid is expected to include many of the venues used for the 1960 Games — notably the Foro Italico complex that includes the athletics and football stadium, plus swimming, diving and tennis facilities.

The 2024 host will be chosen by the International Olympic Committee in 2017. The deadline for submission of bids to the IOC is September 2015.

Rome could also propose holding several events outside the capital, including preliminary basketball and volleyball competition in cities up and down the peninsula.

'Super bacteria' found in Rio's Olympic waters

By Jenny Barchfield
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — A drug-resistant "super bacteria" that's normally found in hospitals and is notoriously difficult to treat has been discovered in the waters where Rio de Janeiro's Olympic sailing events will be held, scientists said Monday.

The Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Brazil's most respected health research institute, said it has discovered bacteria that produce an enzyme that make it resistant to most forms of treatment in water samples taken from various spots along the Carioca River. Among the spots is where the river flows into the city's Guanabara Bay, site of the 2016 sailing and wind surfing events.

Bacteria with the so-called KPC enzyme are difficult to treat. The institute said no instances of infection resulting from the contaminated water have yet been detected but warned of possible danger to swimmers.

"The illnesses caused by these microorganisms are the same as those caused by common bacteria, but they require stronger antibiotics and, sometimes, can require hospitalization," the study's coordinator, Ana Paula D'Alincourt Carvalho Assef, wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "Since the super bacteria are resistant to the most modern medications, doctors need to rely on drugs that are rarely used because they are toxic to the organism."

Even if they don't immediately fall ill, those who come into contact with the bacteria run the risk of becoming carriers of the microorganism, the institute said in its statement.

"Carriers can take these resistant bacteria back to their own environments and to other people, resulting in a cycle of dissemination," said the institute, which is affiliated with Brazil's Health Ministry.

With some 70 percent of sewage in this city of 12 million going untreated — and flowing, raw, into rivers, onto beaches and into the Guanabara Bay — the state of water quality has been a major worry ahead of the 2016 summer games. In their Olympic bid, organizers pledged to slash by 80 percent the amount of sewage and garbage that's pumped into the bay daily, but critics insist little has been done.

Water quality tests still show sky-high levels of fecal matter throughout much of the bay, and authorities have a near-blanket standing recommendation against swimming on any of its beaches. Flamengo beach, where the super bacteria was discovered, is among the Guanabara Bay beaches considered unfit for swimming.

The beach, which is adjacent to the Gloria Marina, the starting point for the Olympic sailing events, is also to be the viewing area for the events.

Ben Remocker, a former member of Canada's Olympic sailing team who represents athletes in two sailing disciplines, called the findings "serious for our athletes."

"We're going to be troubled by this," he said by telephone, adding he didn't think the possible health risks would dissuade sailors from taking part in the games. "I think the sailors are probably going to cross their fingers they aren't going to get sick."

WESTTEXASSPORTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

To submit an item for West Texas Sports, please either fax, bring in, mail or email your information in hard-copy form to the Reporter-Telegram sports department.

Please make your submission as detailed as possible, including dates of events, deadlines, fees, age groups, etc.

To bring your item to the MRT, come to 201 E Illinois Ave. in Midland. To mail your information, send it to Reporter-Telegram, c/o Sports Department, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701.

To fax your information, send to 570-7650

Baseball

GCM Baseball Academy
What: Professional private baseball lessons & clinics covering pitching, fielding, catching and hitting provided by three former professional players.
For: Ages 5 & up.
Cost: Individual lessons $65 an hour or $40 for 30 minutes. Bulk purchases & group lesson rates available at discount.
For more info: Call (432) 425-6108

Private batting and pitching instruction
For more info: Call Danny Jordan at 230-0096 for instruction on mechanics and pitch selection in a one-on-one setting

Private hitting and catching instruction
For more info: Call Scott Chapman at 967-2364 for instruction in a one-on-one environment.

Pitching, hitting and fielding lessons
For more info: Call Midland High baseball coach Barry Russell at 296-2438

Private Baseball/Softball lessons
For more info: Contact Extra Innings Midland/Odessa at (432) 617-4487 or visit www.extrainnings-midlandodessa.com

Midland Little League Umpires Needed
For more info: Contact 889-6080

WTX Baseball
What: Instruction for players 5 and up
For more info: wtxbaseball.com; facebook.com/wtxbaseballmidland; 413-0329

Midland College Baseball Texas Pro Scouts Winter Showcase
Instructors include: Chris Smith (L.A. Dodgers), David Crowson (Miami Marlins), Gerald Turner (Atlanta Braves), Kyle Van Hook (Cleveland Indians) and Ray Hayward (Texas Tech)
For: Any players from 9-12th grade
When/where: Jan. 10-11, Christensen Stadium
Sessions: Session I (Jan. 10) is hitting from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.; Session II (Jan. 11) are for pitchers, catchers and position players from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Cost: $125 for each session or $200 for both sessions
For more info: Call Hector Rodriguez at 432-685-5562 or go to http://collegebasecamps.com/chaps to register

Basketball

Permian Basketball Association needs officials
For more info: Jim Cox, 685-4143 or 553-3714

YMCA needs basketball referees
For more info: 682-2551

Midland Hoops 32 Basketball Skills Training
Cost: $25 per session, one to two people; $15 for groups of three or more
For more info: Contact Eddie Venzant at 254-6894 or go to midlandhoops32.com; venzanteddie@yahoo.com

Bowling

Tuesday Night Petroleum Men's League
When: Meets at 6:45 p.m.
For more info: Melton Post 684-5176 or Cactus Lanes 694-0177

Edith McElmore Three-Person League
When: 10 a.m. Wednesdays
Where: AMF Lanes
For more info: Call AMF Lanes at 689-9725

Camps/Clinics

Ten Star All Star Camp
For whom: Boys and girls ages 10-19
For more info: Call (704) 373-0873 for a brochure

COM Aquatic Camps
What: Swimming, diving, snorkeling
Ages: Preschool and grade school
For more info: Call 684-7755

Beginner tennis clinics
Where: Midland High School tennis courts
When: Monday-Thursday from 8:30 to 10 a.m. or 7 to 8:30 p.m.
For: Kindergarten-12th grade, community-based organizations, parents and adults
Deadline: Two weeks before week wanting to attend
For more info: Call Luis Valdez at 570-6245, Brandi at 687-7059 or Elizabeth at 699-6058

Cycling

Permian Basin Bicycle Association Meetings
When: 7 p.m., third Monday of every month
Where: Beak Park Ranch House, 5200 W. Wall Street, Midland
Dues: $25/$30 for a family
For more info: Peyton's Bikes 699-1718 or go to www.pbbatx.com.

Dodgeball

Sticks and Kicks Leagues
Who: Kids, adults, co-ed players
Cost: $35 per player (8 game season)
Where: Register at Sticks and Kicks, 3918 W. Wall
For more info: Call 520-6633

Flag Football

YMCA Officials Needed
What: The YMCA needs officials for Youth Flag Football games Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
For more info: Call 682-2551

Football

Permian Basin Officials Chapter seeks officials
Note: Education and training will be provided
For more info: Call Terrell Pierce at 559-5004 or Don Orren at 631-2395

Martial Arts

Aikido
When: Monday-Friday, 7 to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 12:30 p.m.
Note: Specializing in traditional Hombu style Aikido
For more info: Call John Riggs, 684-7008 or 770-3155

Private Martial Art/Self-Defense Lessons
Ages: Men-Women-Children
What: Learn Basic Skills to Advanced Techniques
Note: Private, Semi-Private and Group Lessons are available
For more info: Call Master Oscar Jimenez 432-559-5009, Ojimenez3@att.net

Women's Self Defense Class
When: Monday and Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.
Where: Jimenez Tae Kwon-Do Studio, 4400 N. Midland Dr.
For more info: Call 697-8554

Private Tae Kwon-Do lessons
Where: Jimenez Tae Kwon-Do Studio, 4400 N. Midland Dr.
For more info: Call 697-8554

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
When: 6-8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 2-3 p.m. Saturdays
Where: Perez Martial Arts Academy, 350 N. Midland Dr., Suite A
For more info: Call 634-9621 or (469) 248-8472

Matthews Martial Arts
When: Monday through Thursday, 5-8 p.m.
What: Karate-Judo-Jujitsu-Kempo-KungFu
For: Ages 3 and up
Where: 3205 Cuthbert
For more info: Contact Jason Matthews at 488-7467 or 689-8444

Miscellaneous

Student-Athlete Sports Consultant
For: Assisting high school student athletes with academic-athletic scholarships.
For more info: Call Jacob Santillano at (915) 240-1030

Poker

Lone Star Poker League
What: Free to play Texas Hold 'em Poker tournaments.
For: Beginners to experienced players. Ages 21 and up.
When/where: 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at Woofers & Tweeters; 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday at Rednecks Drafthouse. Players must be signed in by 6:15 p.m. each night.
For more info: Go to www.lonestarpokertour.net

Professional Wrestling

Old School Wrestling School
What: Professional wrestling school for all ages.
Where: 404 E. 61st St., Odessa
When: 7-10 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 2-6 p.m. Sunday
Cost: $50 down; $35 a month.
For more info: Call Fred, 770-7001, or Sam, 349-3055

Rugby

Mad Dog Rugby Football Club
Practices: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. at Reyes-Mashburn Park (north field)
For more info call: 432-697-6418

Running

Permian Basin Running Club
Cost: $20 per year for individual membership; $30 for per year for family membership
For more info: Go to www.pbrunningclub.com or email Shawn Hailey; president at haileyshawn@pbrunningclub.com

Gazelles Training Group
When: 6 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
For more info: Call Popcorn Leonard at 512-762-1020 or 682-0988

Shooting

Comanche Trail Shootists
What: Single Action Shooting Society affiliated club in Midland
When: Monthly shoots first Saturday and third Sunday of each month, first Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.; Third Sunday from 1 p.m. (Mandatory safety meeting at 12:30 p.m.) Also shoot on fifth Sunday on months that have them (begin at 1 p.m. and are no cost to the shooter); Mandatory safety meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Where: Timberline Ranch adjacent to Jake's Clays
For more info: Go to comanchetrailshootists.org or call Hoodoo Brown 682-1422.

Midland Shooters Association
What: All types of shooting practice and competition, featuring archery, benchrest rifle, bulls-eye rifle, high power rifle, pistol silhouette, rimfire silhouette, 3 gun, practical pistol, skeet, trap 5 stand and sporting clays.
When: Members can access rifle and pistol ranges from sunrise to sunset seven days a week. Shotgun ranges open 11 a.m. until dusk Wednesday to Sunday.
For more info: Go to www.midlandshooters.com

Soccer

Permian Basin Soccer Association
What: Registration for women's spring/summer season
Where: Dunagan Park, located at corner of Gist and Terrell
When: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
For more info: Contact Jesus Chavez at 557-7032 anytime or Josh Chavez at 238-6947 after 6:30 p.m.

Midland Soccer Association
For: Youth Recreational League Ages 4-18
When: Spring/Fall Games
Note: Also information on becoming a certified referee
For more info: Register online at www.midlandsoccer.com and go to 432-684-5425

Softball

Midland Softball Association Tournament Schedule
Now available at www.midlandsoftball.com.
For more info: call Tommy Hawkins at 520-9100

Midland Men's Woodbat Fastpitch Association
What: Men's fastpitch softball
For more info: Call 634-6474 or visit www.facebook.com/pages/Midland-Texas-Mens-Fastpitch or wyofastpitch@gmail.com

Swimming

COM Pre-competitive swimming
Where: Mabee Aquatic Center
Cost: $49 per month
Prerequisite: Must be able to swim 25 yards or freestyle or backstroke
For more info: 684-7755

COM Water Aerobics Classes
When: All times, Monday through Saturday
Who: All skill levels
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Learn to Swim
Ages: All ages
Note: Private, semi-private and group lessons are available
For more info: 684-7755

COM Masters Swimming
What: Competitive or non-competitive program for adults of all skill levels
When: 5-6 a.m., 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Cost: $40 per month (includes cardio training)
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Diving Instruction
Who: All ages and levels invited
For more info: 684-7755

COM Learn to Dive
What: Learn basic skills for beginners then advance to pre-competitive and competitive diving that emphasize skilled diving techniques and participation in diving meets
Ages: 4 and up
For more info: 684-7755

COM Competitive Dive Team
Who: Try out for Bronze, Silver, Gold Prep or Gold levels of COM Dive Team.
What: Emphasizes is on diving techniques and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: 684-7755

COM Elite Dive Team
What: Highest level of COM diving. Concentrates on perfecting Olympic level skills, national and international travel
For more info: 684-7755

COM Competitive Swim Team
Who: Try out for COM Swim Team, tryouts available by appointment
What: Emphasizes stroke correction and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: 684-7755

COM Adult Conditioning
What: Allows adult participation use of top quality lap pools and fitness room during specified hours
For more info: 684-7755

COM Water Walking Class
What: Unstructured, self-paced class
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Senior Fitness Class
Who: Senior citizens that need help with physical conditions resulting from injury, disease, chronic conditions, advanced age, etc.
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

Central YMCA Water Aerobics Classes
When: Early morning, morning and evening
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Arthritis Water Exercise Classes
When: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Swimming Lessons
Who: All ages and ability
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Synchronized Swimming
For: Ages 6 and up
For more information: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Tennis

West Texas Tennis Association
What: West Texas Tennis Association, a non-profit community tennis association, promotes and oversees USTA leagues, programs and events in the area.
For more info: Call 432-563-1333 or www.westtexastennis.com for more information

Bush Tennis Center Clinics
What: Balloon Tennis 34 (ages 3-4); Redball 58 (ages 5-8); Orange and Green Ball 910 (ages 9-10); Junior Development (6th-8th grade freshman-JV); Junior Select (varsity); RSR Adults (adult beginners); Intermediate Adults, 4.0-5.0 Adults (advanced adults). Also Junior Team Tennis registration now open
Where: Bush Tennis Center
For more info: Visit www.bushtenniscenter.com and or call, 620-8180

USTA Team Tennis Adult Leagues
When: Leagues run May through November
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: Sherry 620-8610 or Email www.midlandtennis@aol.com

Midland College tennis classes
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 to 1:50 p.m.
Where: Midland College
For more info: Call 686-4266

Youth Clinics
When: For children 4-8 years of age (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 to 4 p.m.) and 9-15 years of age (Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: 686-4266

Midland Women's Tennis Association fall league
For more info: 889-4340

Midland Tennis Club
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
Annual dues: Adults $65; youth $30; families $140
For more info: Call 686-4266 or email midlandtennisclub@yahoo.com

Walking

Midland Walkabout AVA Club Meetings
When: Fun Walks, 10K, 3rd Saturday morning of the month; Monthly meeting 3rd Sunday at 5 p.m.
Where: Fun Walks, vary; meetings in Room 227, First Presbyterian Church, 800 W. Texas Ave.
Who: All ages
For more info: Call Alex Rose 687-2588 or go to www.midlandwalkabout.org

Houston hires Ohio State's Herman to be head coach

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

Associated Press

In this Jan. 3, 2014, file photo, Ohio State offensive coordinator Tom Herman talks to the media during a news conference in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

HOUSTON — Houston is negotiating with Ohio State offensive coordinator Tom Herman to be its new head coach, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

The person spoke Monday on condition of anonymity because a deal hadn't been completed.

Houston fired coach Tony Levine last week.

Fox Sports first reported Herman was expected to be Houston's next coach.

The 39-year-old Herman, a Cincinnati native, spent the first 10 years of his career coaching in the state of Texas before becoming offensive coordinator at Iowa State (2009-11).

He has been quarterbacks coach and play-caller for Ohio State teams that have gone 36-3 the past three seasons. The Buckeyes rank fifth in the nation in yards per play this season and finished fifth in yards per play last season.

Fourth-seeded Ohio State plays No. 1 Alabama on Jan. 1 in the College Football Playoff.

Under Herman, Buckeyes quarterback Braxton Miller was Big Ten player of the year in 2012 and '13. Redshirt freshman quarterback J.T. Barrett stepped in this season after Miller was injured in the preseason, and Herman helped developed him into Heisman Trophy contender. Barrett set a conference record for touchdowns responsible for this season before going down with a season-ending injury against Michigan.

The next week Ohio State won the Big Ten championship game and locked up a playoff spot with a 59-0 victory against Wisconsin with backup quarterback Cardale Jones leading the offense.

Last week, Herman won the Broyles Award as the top assistant coach in college football.

The Cougars were 21-17 under Levine, including bowl appearances the past two seasons. They finished 7-5 this season and will play in the Armed Forces Bowl against Pittsburgh at Fort Worth, Texas.

But with a new on-campus stadium and a roster that seemed to be one of the most talented in the American Athletic Conference, more was expected from the Cougars.

BASEBALLROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

LOWRIE, ASTROS AGREE TO $23 MILLION, 3-YEAR DEAL

HOUSTON — Infielder Jed Lowrie and the Houston Astros have agreed to a $23 million, three-year contract.

The agreement, announced Monday, includes a 2018 club option.

Lowrie was acquired by the Astros from Boston for pitcher Mark Melancon in December 2011 in Jeff Luhnow's first trade as general manager and was Houston's shortstop in 2012. He was dealt to Oakland in February 2013 in that trade that brought Chris Carter to the Astros.

A switch-hitter, Lowrie had 35 home runs and 155 RBI over the last three seasons.

HARPER, NATS AGREE AT $7.5M, 2 YEARS

WASHINGTON — A person familiar with the agreement says Bryce Harper and the Washington Nationals have come to terms on a $7.5 million, two-year contract, avoiding a grievance hearing.

Harper gets a $2.5 million salary in 2015, and $5 million in 2016.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Monday because the deal had not been announced.

Harper, the 2012 NL Rookie of the Year, had been scheduled to have a $1 million salary in 2015, along with the chance to earn up to $500,000 in roster bonuses. But the Major League Baseball Players Association filed a grievance on his behalf over whether he could void the final season of the $9.9 million, five-year contract he signed when he was drafted.

HEADLEY AND YANKEES AGREE TO $52M, 4-YEAR DEAL

NEW YORK — Chase Headley is staying with the Yankees, agreeing to a $52 million, four-year contract that signals New York is not counting on Alex Rodriguez to play third base regularly.

Coming off a season-long suspension for violations of baseball's drug agreement and labor contract, Rodriguez is owed $61 million over the final three seasons of his $275 million, 10-year deal. The agreement with Headley on Monday is a sign New York plans to shift A-Rod to designated hitter, relegate him to a backup role or perhaps even seek trade offers.

The 30-year-old Headley was acquired from San Diego in July. The 2012 NL Gold Glove winner at third, he hit .262 with six homers and 17 RBI in 191 at-bats for the Yankees.

RIOS, ROYALS AGREE TO $11 MILLION DEAL

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A person with knowledge of the negotiations says outfielder Alex Rios and the Kansas City Royals have agreed to an $11 million, one-year contract.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Monday because the deal was subject to Rios passing a physical.

Rios will take over in right field from Nori Aoki, who became a free agent after helping the Royals win their first AL pennant since 1985.

Rios, who turns 34 in February, had been with Texas since August 2013 and hit .280 this year with four homers and 54 RBIs. He set career highs with the Chicago White Sox in 2012 with 25 homers and 91 RBI.

His agreement was first reported by CBS.

WHITE SOX REACH $42M DEAL WITH CABRERA

CHICAGO — A person with direct knowledge of the deal says the Chicago White Sox have finalized a $42 million, three-year contract with free-agent outfielder Melky Cabrera.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on Monday on condition of anonymity because the team had not announced the agreement. The busy White Sox scheduled a news conference for Tuesday to introduce offseason acquisitions Jeff Samardzija and David Robertson, and the team could announce Cabrera's deal at the same time.

White Sox outfielder Adam Eaton welcomed Cabrera in a tweet on Saturday night, and then Cabrera retweeted the message — signaling a deal was imminent. WSCR-AM 670 was the first to report the agreement.

The 30-year-old Cabrera could slot in quite nicely behind Eaton in the No. 2 spot in the lineup. He hit .301 with 16 homers and 73 RBIs with Toronto last season.

LESTER

From 1C

by Dec. 31 in 2018 and 2019, and a final $10 million installment by Sept. 15, 2020.

He gets salaries of $15 million next year, $20 million each in 2016 and 2017, $22.5 apiece in 2018 and 2019 and $15 million in 2020. There is a $25 million mutual option for 2021 with a $10 million buyout, and the option would become guaranteed if Lester pitches 200 or more innings in 2020 or 400 or more in 2020-21 combined.

Lester gets a hotel suite on the road, a provision that he can't be traded without his consent and the right to 25 hours of private-plane use for him and his family annually.

A total of 1,686 players have appeared for the Cubs since Orval Overall retired Detroit's Boss Schmidt for the final out of the 1908 World Series, according to STATS, and all have failed to bring another title to the North Side.

Lester hopes he and a promising core of young players can end the slide along with manager Joe Maddon, who left Tampa Bay for a $25 million, five-year contract with the Cubs.

Lester, who turns 31 next month, was dealt by the Red Sox to Oakland at the trade deadline in July and helped the A's reach the playoffs for the third straight year before a 9-8, 12-inning loss to Kansas City in the AL wild-card game. He went 16-11 with a career-best 2.46 ERA and 220 strikeouts last season and is 116-67 with a 3.58 ERA in nine big league seasons.

He also had been sought by the Red Sox, World Series champion San Francisco and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

NCAA head, state officials may take stand at trial

By Mark Scolforo
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The head of the NCAA, Penn State's former president and former FBI director Louis Freeh are among those who could take the stand in three weeks when a lawsuit brought by two Pennsylvania officials goes to trial.

A joint pretrial statement filed Friday said the Commonwealth Court trial in Harrisburg, scheduled for January, should last about five days and could involve dozens of witnesses.

State Sen. Jake Corman and state Treasurer Rob McCord, who brought the lawsuit, described the issues at stake as whether the NCAA followed its own rules when it entered into a consent decree with Penn State two years ago, whether that decree is valid and whether the NCAA acted in good faith.

The NCAA put it more narrowly, saying the issue was simply the consent decree's validity.

The 2012 consent decree, imposed over Penn State's handling of the Jerry Sandusky child molestation scandal, included a four-year bowl ban, a loss of football scholarships, the elimination of 112 football team wins and a $60 million fine.

Corman and McCord sued to enforce a 2013 state law that requires the $60 million be spent within Pennsylvania, and although the NCAA has agreed to that, the lawsuit has since morphed into a challenge to the validity of the consent decree.

Commonwealth Court ordered in April that Penn State be included as a party to the lawsuit and said more information was needed about whether Penn State and the NCAA acted lawfully when they signed the consent decree. In a lone dissent, Judge Dan Pellegrini wrote that no one had disputed the legality of the consent decree.

Last month, the state Supreme Court turned down an effort by the NCAA to avoid the January trial, but Justice Max Baer echoed Pellegrini, saying the NCAA "has presented ... a colorable argument that the Commonwealth Court ... inserted an undisputed issue into an otherwise moot case."

COLLEGEBASKETBALL

FROM WIRE REPORTS

SCORES, SCHEDULES AND POLLS

Men

MONDAY'S SCORES
SOUTHWEST
Lamar 128, Champion Baptist 54
Oral Roberts 80, Missouri St 61
UTSA 73, Texas A&M-CC 60
SOUTH
Austin Peay 73, Troy 70
Duke 75, Elon 62
Georgia Southern 68, South Florida 63
Georgia Tech 70, Appalachian St 57
Howard 57, UPU 47
Memphis 81, NC Central 47
Norfolk St. 88, Virginia-Wise 49
Tennessee Tech 82, North Florida 80
MIDWEST
Cleveland St. 86, Mount Vernon Nazarene 40
Drake 76, Jackson St. 66
UT-Martin 81, Ill.-Chicago 78, OT
FAR WEST
Gonzaga 94, Texas Southern 54
EAST
Wilmington (Del.) 99, Mercy 69

TODAY'S GAMES
SOUTHWEST
Oral Roberts at Oklahoma, 6 p.m.
E. Washington at Sam Houston St., 6:30 p.m.
Houston Baptist at Houston, 7 p.m.
Lipscomb at Texas, 7 p.m.
Middle Tennessee at Oklahoma St., 8 p.m.
SE Louisiana at UTEP, 8 p.m.
SOUTH
N. Kentucky at Chattanooga, 6 p.m.
ETSU at E. Kentucky, 6 p.m.
Stetson at FAU, 6 p.m.
King (Tenn.) at Marshall, 6 p.m.
Dartmouth at Mercer, 6 p.m.
UC Irvine at Morgan St., 6 p.m.
Samford at Presbyterian, 6 p.m.
Johnson & Wales (NC) at Radford, 6 p.m.
North Carolina at UNC Greensboro, 6 p.m.
Belmont at VCU, 6 p.m.
Ark.-Monticello at Nicholls St., 6:30 p.m.
Coll. of Charleston at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
UNC Asheville at Jacksonville St., 7 p.m.
Central Baptist at Louisiana-Monroe, 7 p.m.
Champion Baptist at Southern U., 7 p.m.
Savannah St. at Tulane, 7 p.m.
W. Carolina at Vanderbilt, 8 p.m.
MIDWEST
Truman St. at Indiana St., 6:05 p.m.
Akron at N. Dakota St., 7 p.m.
MVSU at N. Illinois, 7 p.m.
Tennessee St. at S. Illinois, 7:05 p.m.
Arizona St. at Marquette, 8 p.m.
Alabama at Wichita St., 8 p.m.
FAR WEST
Oakland at Arizona, 8 p.m.
N. Arizona at Saint Mary's (Cal.), 9 p.m.
EAST
Drexel at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
American U. at La Salle, 6 p.m.
Susquehanna at Lafayette, 6 p.m.

POLLS
AP TOP 25

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. Kentucky (29)	11-0	773	1
2. Duke (1)	8-0	736	2
3. Arizona (1)	10-0	721	3
4. Louisville	9-0	658	4
5. Virginia	9-0	633	5
6. Wisconsin	10-1	619	6
7. Villanova	10-0	592	7
8. Gonzaga	9-1	556	8
9. Texas	8-1	539	9
10. Kansas	8-1	519	10
11. Wichita State	7-1	439	11
12. Ohio State	8-1	417	12
13. Iowa State	8-1	373	13
14. Utah	7-2	300	14
15. Oklahoma	8-2	295	15
16. Washington	8-0	287	17
17. San Diego State	7-2	246	16
18. Maryland	10-1	214	20
19. Miami	9-1	164	21
20. West Virginia	9-1	159	21
21. Notre Dame	10-1	155	—
22. Michigan State	7-3	122	23
23. St. John's	8-1	114	—
24. North Carolina	6-3	86	18
25. Butler	8-2	85	19

Others receiving votes: Baylor 49, Northern Iowa 40, Colorado State 29, Georgetown 28, California 26, TCU 26, Seton Hall 19, Illinois 13, Arkansas 12, Oklahoma State 9, Old Dominion 7, Florida 4, LSU 4, Iowa 3, Minnesota 1, Penn State 1, Saint Mary's 1, VCU 1.

USA TODAY TOP 25

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Kentucky (65)	11-0	1,625	1
2. Duke	8-0	1,545	2
3. Arizona	10-0	1,505	3
4. Louisville	9-0	1,349	4
5. Wisconsin	10-1	1,331	5
6. Virginia	9-0	1,294	6
7. Villanova	10-0	1,215	7
8. Gonzaga	9-1	1,175	9
9. Texas	8-1	1,154	8
10. Kansas	8-1	1,102	10
11. Wichita St.	7-1	959	11
12. Ohio St.	8-1	838	12
13. Iowa St.	8-1	772	14
14. Utah	7-2	670	13
15. Oklahoma	8-2	647	16
16. Washington	8-0	598	17
17. Maryland	10-1	512	19
18. Miami	9-1	426	20
19. San Diego St	7-2	424	18
20. St. John's	8-1	353	24
21. Notre Dame	10-1	351	25
22. West Virginia	9-1	333	22
23. Butler	8-2	259	15
24. North Carolina	6-3	122	21
25. Michigan St.	7-3	116	—

Others receiving votes: Baylor 97, TCU 80, Colorado St. 75, N. Iowa 65, Georgetown 41, California 37, Arkansas 19, Seton Hall 14, VCU 8, LSU 4, Oklahoma St. 4, Old Dominion 4, Penn St 3, Davidson 1.

Women

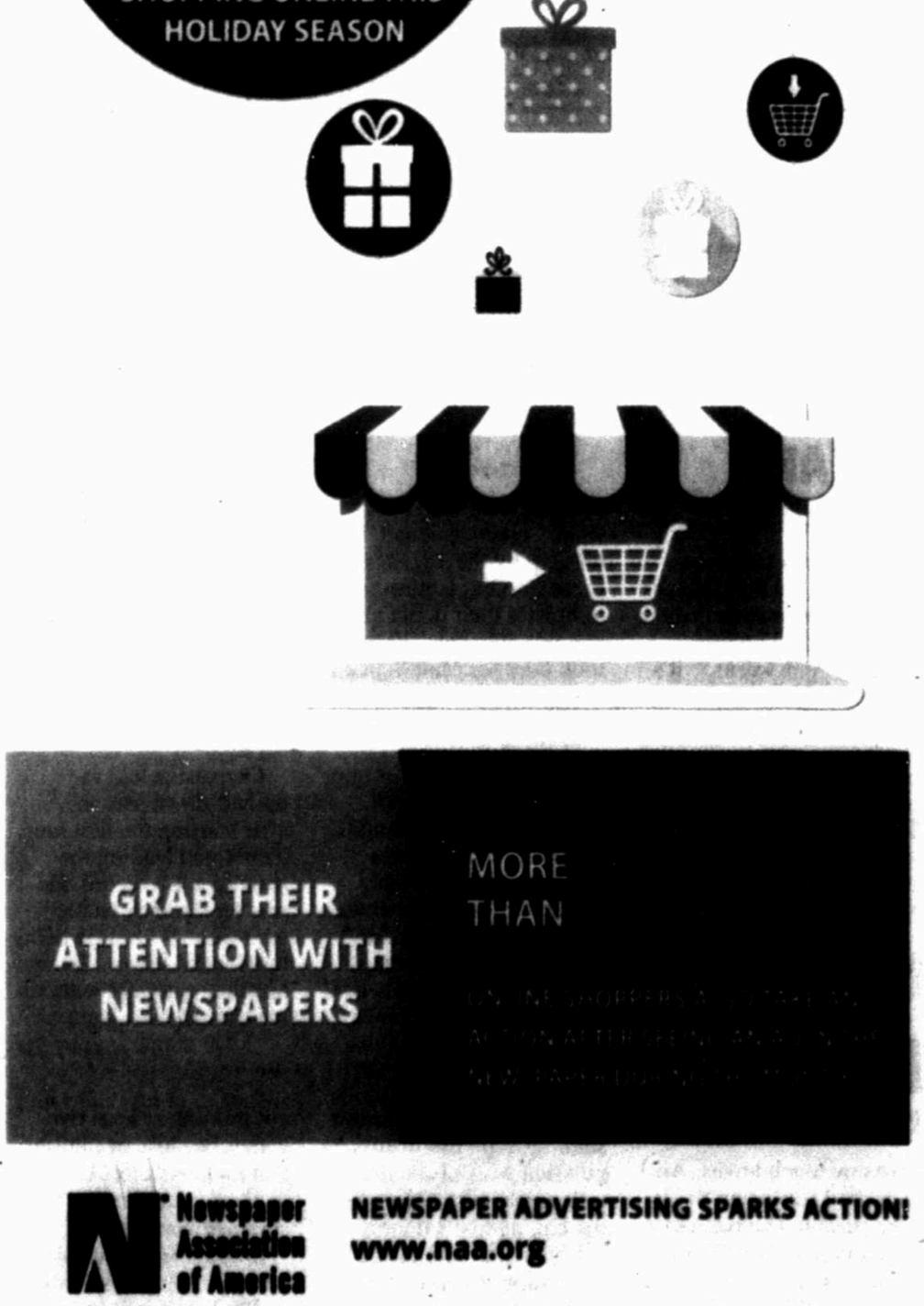
MONDAY'S SCORES
SOUTHWEST
Abilene Christian 100, SW Christian 52
Mid-Am Christian 58, McMurry 54
Oklahoma St. 84, New Orleans 33
Tennessee St. 72, Texas A&M-CC 61
Texas-Permian Basin 82, Wayland Baptist 69
Xavier (NO) 64, Faulkner 49
SOUTH
Akron 81, Bethune-Cookman 63
Alabama St. 82, Bluefield St. 73
Carolina-Newman 61, King (Tenn.) 48
Catawba 84, Tusculum 74
Chowan 69, UNC Pembroke 48
Coker 62, GPU Augusta 44
Kentucky Wesleyan 65, Oakland City 52
Lander 67, Fayetteville St. 58
Lewis 96, Trevecca Nazarene 71
Lincoln Memorial 86, Newberry 76
Lindsey Wilson 94, Brescia 82
Louisville 100, Old Dominion 46
Mississippi St. 104, MVSU 41
Spring Hill 81, Tougaloo 70
St. Augustine's 58, William Peace 65
MIDWEST
Ball St. 76, Charlotte 66
Concordia (Wis.) 82, Maranatha Baptist 34
James Madison 67, Ohio 60
N. Kentucky 77, Marquette 68
Northwestern 62, Gonzaga 43
Oakland 109, Concordia (Mich.) 82
Oliver 85, Marygrove 58
S. Dakota St. 65, Middle Tennessee 61
Wayne (Mich.) 69, N. Michigan 57
EAST
Buffalo 51, St. Bonaventure 44
Caldwell 80, American International 74
Dist. of Columbia 79, Virginia Union 61
George Washington 63, Memphis 44
Mount St. Vincent 75, Albertus Magnus 70
Quinnipiac 66, Albany (NY) 62
Susquehanna 71, Marywood 42
TOURNAMENT
Rollins Invitational
First Round
Indianapolis 57, Tarleton St. 5

TODAY'S GAMES
EAST
Princeton at Delaware, 6 p.m.
Lamar at Ohio Valley, 6 p.m.
Canisius at Syracuse, 6 p.m.
SOUTH
Ark.-Pine Bluff at Alabama, 11 a.m.
Montreat at Charleston Southern, 4 p.m.
Kennesaw St. at Mercer, 4 p.m.
Marshall at Norfolk St., 5 p.m.
Oregon St. at North Carolina, 5 p.m.
Jacksonville St. at S.C. State, 5 p.m.
LSU-Alexandria at Louisiana-Monroe, 5:15 p.m.
W. Kentucky at Austin Peay, 6 p.m.
North Florida at Florida St., 6 p.m.
Wichita St. at Tennessee, 6 p.m.
South Alabama at Tennessee Tech, 6 p.m.
Longwood at Virginia, 6 p.m.
Jackson St. at Lipscomb, 6:30 p.m.
MIDWEST
Delaware St. at Cent. Michigan, 11 a.m.
Murray St. at S. Illinois, 12:05 p.m.
Belmont at Cleveland St., 1 p.m.
Alcorn St. at Michigan St., 6 p.m.
Chicago St. at Ill.-Chicago, 7 p.m.
Arizona St. at Illinois St., 7 p.m.
Mayville St. at North Dakota, 7 p.m.
FAR WEST
Pepperdine at N. Arizona, 1 p.m.
Cal Poly at New Mexico St., 8 p.m.
Westminster (Utah) at S. Utah, 8 p.m.
LSU at Long Beach St., 9 p.m.
Utah St. at Pacific, 9 p.m.
CS Bakersfield at UC Irvine, 9 p.m.

POLL
AP TOP 25

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. South Carolina (25)	9-0	865	1
2. UConn (6)	6-1	828	2
3. Texas (4)	8-0	795	3
4. Texas A&M	11-0	788	4
5. Notre Dame	10-1	741	5
6. North Carolina	9-0	706	6
7. Stanford	6-2	636	7
8. Kentucky	10-1	609	8
9. Baylor	9-1	579	9
10. Louisville	8-1	553	10
11. Tennessee	7-2	518	11
12. Nebraska	9-1	437	12
13. Duke	5-3	423	13
14. Maryland	8-2	409	14
15. Georgia	10-0	378	16
16. Oregon St.	7-0	364	15
17. Rutgers	8-2	283	17
18. Michigan St.	6-2	251	19
19. Oklahoma St.	6-1	225	20
19. Syracuse	7-1	225	20
21. Mississippi St.	10-0	224	22
22. West Virginia	8-1	150	23
23. Iowa	8-2	90	24
24. California	7-2	80	18
25. DePaul	6-3	71	25

Others receiving votes: Green Bay 43, Northwestern 19, Arizona St. 18, St. John's 17, Princeton 15, Oregon 14, Washington 8, James Madison 7, W. Kentucky 7, Oklahoma 5, Washington St. 5, Florida St. 4, Arkansas 2.



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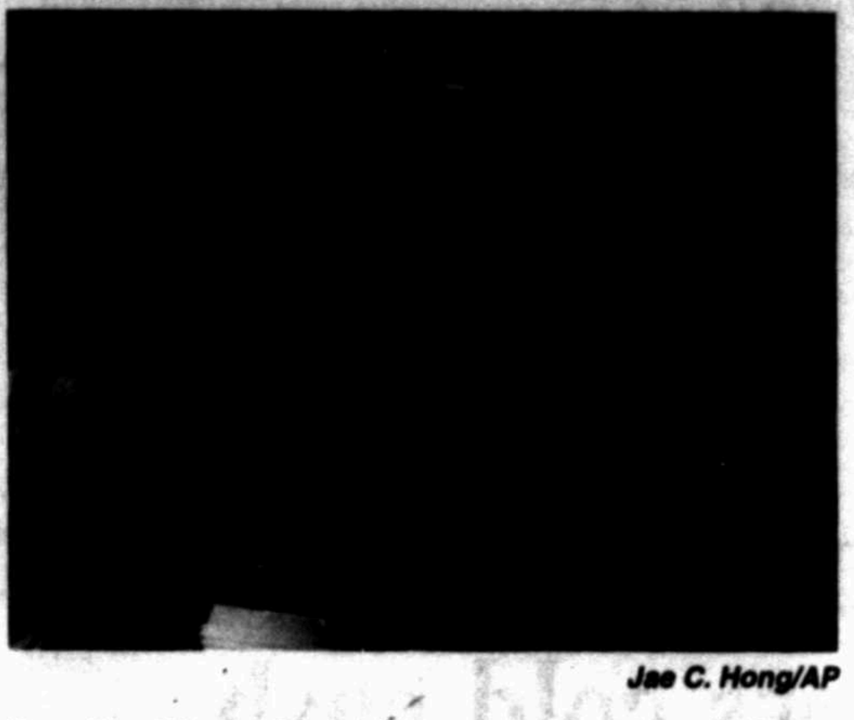
Mayweather must fight Pacquiao next

TIM DAHLBERG
Associated Press



Jae C. Hong/AP

Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. talks on the phone while watching a game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Sacramento Kings on Dec. 9 in Los Angeles.

LAS VEGAS — Floyd Mayweather Jr. built a career — and made a fortune — by using deception to confuse and outwit his opponents.

Playing the same game outside the ring has also paid off for Money May. Mayweather has, for the most part, been able to fight who he wants, where he wants and when he wants. He sells enough pay-per-views that he has been able to avoid a fight with Manny Pacquiao that should have taken place five years ago.

But the game has gotten old, even if Mayweather's many yes men haven't had the courage to let him know. His latest attempt to twist the story line about a possible fight next year with Pacquiao was so dated and absurd that even the sycophants in his sizeable entourage had to be rolling their eyes.

The wizard of defense has finally been boxed into a corner. The charade is over, whether Mayweather realizes it or not.

He must fight Pacquiao next, if his career is to have any legitimacy. And he must to do it on terms that reflect he won't be the only superstar in the ring.

Mayweather didn't seem to grasp that the other day when he broke his silence and tried to make it seem as if he were challenging Pacquiao to a fight, not the other way around. In an "interview" with the Showtime network that employs him, Mayweather not only declared he wanted Pacquiao, but set a May 2 date for the fight.

Lest long suffering boxing fans get too excited, though, the conditions quickly followed. Mayweather not only wants to pick the date but to set the purse to his liking and have Showtime be the broadcaster. He regurgitated old arguments about blood testing that didn't make sense five years ago when he first started spouting them and make absolutely no sense now.

Luckily, the interview ringside in San Antonio didn't last long. If it had, Mayweather might have demanded Pacquiao be allowed to train only one week for the fight, have his blood taken in the locker room just before he goes into the ring and not be able to use his right hand for the first eight rounds.

That may be laughable. But so, too, is this:

"Manny Pacquiao, (promoter) Bob Arum, you guys have been ducking us for years," Mayweather said. "We're tired of you guys fooling the public, fooling the critics. Before we tried to make the fight happen and you guys didn't want to take random blood and urine testing. So that's why the fight didn't happen. Then I offered you $40 million and you didn't want to make the fight happen. Then you lost twice and now you're coming back begging for the same money. That's not going to happen."

Maybe Mayweather doesn't read the papers. If he had, he would know Pacquiao had no problem with unannounced blood tests for his fight with Chris Algieri last month. He would know that Pacquiao and Arum would almost surely accept a smaller purse as long as the money split wasn't lopsided.

He would know that the free ride is over for the most part and Showtime won't keep paying him $20 million to $30 million to fight the Marcos Maidanas of the world.

The fact of the matter is pay-per-view buys are slowing for both Pacquiao and Mayweather. Pacquiao's fight last month with Algieri in Macau wasn't a big seller, and both of Mayweather's fights last year with Maidana underperformed. Both HBO and Showtime are charging premium rates, but not showing premium fights.

Put Mayweather and Pacquiao in the ring together and that would change. Though both fighters have slowed some in recent years, the matchup is still one fans desperately want and are willing to pay for. It would be the richest fight in history, and it wouldn't be close.

Frankly, it's hard to see why Mayweather hasn't already signed on the dotted line. He would easily make $100 million, maybe more. Assuming he wins — and Vegas oddsmakers have already put up lines favoring him by as much as 3-1 — he would cement his legacy and bolster his claim to being one of the great fighters of all time.

But if the fight has an expiration date, so do the negotiations. For a fight as big as this, they would likely need to be wrapped up by the end of the year to allow time for the promotion to begin.

It's taken five years to even get Mayweather to say he wants the fight.

Now it's time for him to step up and show he really means it.

Rome 2024 Olympic bid could also involve Vatican

By Andrew Dampf
Associated Press

ROME — Sailing in Sardinia. Boxing in Florence. Basketball in Milan. Water polo in Naples.

And how about badminton or archery in St. Peter's Square?

Italian Premier Matteo Renzi announced Monday that Rome will propose a cost-conscious bid to host the 2024 Olympics that will take advantage of IOC President Thomas Bach's newly approved reforms allowing events to be held outside the host city.

The decision comes two years after Italy scrapped plans to bid for the 2020 Games because of financial concerns.

"The Italian government, together with CONI, is ready to do its part for a project that isn't based on great infrastructures or big dreams but rather great people," Premier Matteo Renzi said at Italian Olympic Committee headquarters. "We will be at the vanguard for all the spending controls."

Italy, which hosted the 1960 Olympics, launched a bid for the 2020 Games but dropped out after then-premier Mario Monti refused to provide financial backing at a time of economic crisis.

The new bid comes with Italy's economy still stagnant and amid a widening corruption scandal in Rome.

"Our country too often seems hesitant," Renzi said. "It's unacceptable not to try."

Rome is considering a budget of 6 billion euros ($7.5 billion) — $2 billion of which would be covered by the IOC — or roughly half of what London spent in 2012.

"I don't want to get into details but that's a fairly realistic number," CONI president Giovanni Malago said. "My dream is to have a bid supported with private money."

Italy is the second country to declare its intention to bid. Germany has already announced that it will submit a bid from either Berlin or Hamburg, with the choice to be made in March.

France is likely to approve a Paris bid next year, and the U.S. Olympic Committee will make a decision Tuesday on whether to bid. Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington are vying to be the U.S. candidate.

Other possible contenders include Doha, Qatar; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Baku, Azerbaijan; Istanbul, Turkey; Budapest, Hungary; and a city or province in South Africa.

The Rome bid is expected to include many of the venues used for the 1960 Games — notably the Foro Italico complex that includes the athletics and football stadium, plus swimming, diving and tennis facilities.

The 2024 host will be chosen by the International Olympic Committee in 2017. The deadline for submission of bids to the IOC is September 2015.

Rome could also propose holding several events outside the capital, including preliminary basketball and volleyball competition in cities up and down the peninsula.

'Super bacteria' found in Rio's Olympic waters

By Jenny Barchfield
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — A drug-resistant "super bacteria" that's normally found in hospitals and is notoriously difficult to treat has been discovered in the waters where Rio de Janeiro's Olympic sailing events will be held, scientists said Monday.

The Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Brazil's most respected health research institute, said it has discovered bacteria that produce an enzyme that make it resistant to most forms of treatment in water samples taken from various spots along the Carioca River. Among the spots is where the river flows into the city's Guanabara Bay, site of the 2016 sailing and wind surfing events.

Bacteria with the so-called KPC enzyme are difficult to treat. The institute said no instances of infection resulting from the contaminated water have yet been detected but warned of possible danger to swimmers.

"The illnesses caused by these microorganisms are the same as those caused by common bacteria, but they require stronger antibiotics and, sometimes, can require hospitalization," the study's coordinator, Ana Paula D'Alincourt Carvalho Assef, wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "Since the super bacteria are resistant to the most modern medications, doctors need to rely on drugs that are rarely used because they are toxic to the organism."

Even if they don't immediately fall ill, those who come into contact with the bacteria run the risk of becoming carriers of the microorganism, the institute said in its statement.

"Carriers can take these resistant bacteria back to their own environments and to other people, resulting in a cycle of dissemination," said the institute, which is affiliated with Brazil's Health Ministry.

With some 70 percent of sewage in this city of 12 million going untreated — and flowing, raw, into rivers, onto beaches and into the Guanabara Bay — the state of water quality has been a major worry ahead of the 2016 summer games. In their Olympic bid, organizers pledged to slash by 80 percent the amount of sewage and garbage that's pumped into the bay daily, but critics insist little has been done.

Water quality tests still show sky-high levels of fecal matter throughout much of the bay, and authorities have a near-blanket standing recommendation against swimming on any of its beaches. Flamengo beach, where the super bacteria was discovered, is among the Guanabara Bay beaches considered unfit for swimming.

The beach, which is adjacent to the Gloria Marina, the starting point for the Olympic sailing events, is also to be the viewing area for the events.

Ben Remocker, a former member of Canada's Olympic sailing team who represents athletes in two sailing disciplines, called the findings "serious for our athletes."

"We're going to be troubled by this," he said by telephone, adding he didn't think the possible health risks would dissuade sailors from taking part in the games. "I think the sailors are probably going to cross their fingers they aren't going to get sick."

WESTTEXASSPORTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

To submit an item for West Texas Sports, please either fax, bring in, mail or email your information in hard-copy form to the Reporter-Telegram sports department.

Please make your submission as detailed as possible, including dates of events, deadlines, fees, age groups, etc.

To bring your item to the MRT, come to 201 E. Illinois Ave. in Midland. To mail your information, send it to Reporter-Telegram, c/o Sports Department, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701.

To fax your information, send to 570-7650.

Baseball

GCM Baseball Academy
What: Professional private baseball lessons & clinics covering pitching, fielding, catching and hitting provided by three former professional players.
For: Ages 5 & up.
Cost: Individual lessons $65 an hour or $40 for 30 minutes. Bulk purchases & group lesson rates available at discount.
For more info: Call (432) 425-6108

Private batting and pitching instruction
For more info: Call Danny Jordan at 230-0096 for instruction on mechanics and pitch selection in a one-on-one setting

Private hitting and catching instruction
For more info: Call Scott Chapman at 967-2364 for instruction in a one-on-one environment.

Pitching, hitting and fielding lessons
For more info: Call Midland High baseball coach Barry Russell at 296-2438

Private Baseball/Softball lessons
For more info: Contact Extra Innings Midland/Odessa at (432) 617-4487 or visit www.extrainnings-midlandodessa.com

Midland Little League Umpires Needed
For more info: Contact 889-6080

WTX Baseball
What: Instruction for players 5 and up
For more info: wtxbaseball.com; facebook.com/wtxbaseballmidland; 413-0329

Midland College Baseball Texas Pro Scouts Winter Showcase
Instructors include: Chris Smith (L.A. Dodgers), David Crownson (Miami Marlins), Gerald Turner (Atlanta Braves), Kyle Van Hook (Cleveland Indians) and Ray Hayward (Texas Tech)
For: Any players from 9-12th grade
When/where: Jan. 10-11, Christensen Stadium
Sessions: Session I (Jan. 10) is hitting from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.; Session II (Jan. 11) are for pitchers, catchers and position players from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Cost: $125 for each session or $200 for both sessions
For more info: Call Hector Rodriguez at 432-685-5562 or go to http://collegebasecamps.com/chaps to register

Basketball

Permian Basketball Association needs officials
For more info: Jim Cox, 685-4143 or 553-3714

YMCA needs basketball referees
For more info: 682-2551

Midland Hoops 32 Basketball Skills Training
Cost: $25 per session, one to two people; $15 for groups of three or more
For more info: Contact Eddie Venzant at 254-6894 or go to midlandhoops32.com; venzanteddie@yahoo.com

Bowling

Tuesday Night Petroleum Men's League
When: Meets at 6:45 p.m.
For more info: Melton Post 684-5176 or Cactus Lanes 694-0177

Edith McElmore Three-Person League
When: 10 a.m. Wednesdays
Where: AMF Lanes
For more info: Call AMF Lanes at 689-9725

Camps/Clinics

Ten Star All Star Camp
For whom: Boys and girls ages 10-19
For more info: Call (704) 373-0873 for a brochure

COM Aquatic Camps
What: Swimming, diving, snorkeling
Ages: Preschool and grade school
For more info: Call 684-7755

Beginner tennis clinics
Where: Midland High School tennis courts
When: Monday-Thursday from 8:30 to 10 a.m. or 7 to 8:30 p.m.
For: Kindergarten-12th grade, community-based organizations, parents and adults
Deadline: Two weeks before week wanting to attend
For more info: Call Luis Valdez at 570-6245, Brandi at 687-7059 or Elizabeth at 699-6058

Cycling

Permian Basin Bicycle Association Meetings
When: 7 p.m., third Monday of every month
Where: Beak Park Ranch House, 5200 W. Wall Street, Midland
Dues: $25/$30 for a family
For more info: Peyton's Bikes 699-1718 or go to www.pbbatx.com.

Dodgeball

Sticks and Kicks Leagues
Who: Kids, adults, co-ed players
Cost: $35 per player (8 game season)
Where: Register at Sticks and Kicks, 3918 W. Wall
For more info: Call 520-6633

Flag Football

YMCA Officials Needed
What: The YMCA needs officials for Youth Flag Football games Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
For more info: Call 682-2551

Football

Permian Basin Officials Chapter seeks officials
Note: Education and training will be provided
For more info: Call Terrell Pierce at 559-5004 or Don Orren at 631-2395

Martial Arts

Aikido
When: Monday-Friday, 7 to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 12:30 p.m.
Note: Specializing in traditional Hombu style Aikido
For more info: Call John Riggs, 684-7008 or 770-3155

Private Martial Art/Self-Defense Lessons
Ages: Men-Women-Children
What: Learn Basic Skills to Advanced Techniques
Note: Private, Semi-Private and Group Lessons are available
For more info: Call Master Oscar Jimenez 432-559-5009, Ojimenez3@att.net

Women's Self Defense Class
When: Monday and Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Friday, 6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.
Where: Jimenez Tae Kwon-Do Studio, 4400 N. Midland Dr.
For more info: Call 697-8554

Private Tae Kwon-Do lessons
Where: Jimenez Tae Kwon-Do Studio, 4400 N. Midland Dr.
For more info: Call 697-8554

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
When: 6-8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 2-3 p.m. Saturdays
Where: Perez Martial Arts Academy, 350 N. Midland Dr., Suite A
For more info: Call 634-9621 or (469) 248-8472

Matthews Martial Arts
When: Monday through Thursday, 5-8 p.m.
What: Karate-Judo-Jujitsu-Kempo-KungFu
For: Ages 3 and up
Where: 3205 Cuthbert
For more info: Contact Jason Matthews at 488-7467 or 889-8444

Miscellaneous

Student-Athlete Sports Consultant
For: Assisting high school student athletes with academic-athletic scholarships.
For more info: Call Jacob Santillano at (915) 240-1030

Poker

Lone Star Poker League
What: Free to play Texas Hold 'em Poker tournaments.
For: Beginners to experienced players. Ages 21 and up.
When/where: 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at Woofers & Tweeters; 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday at Rednecks Drafthouse. Players must be signed in by 6:15 p.m. each night.
For more info: Go to www.lonestarpokertour.net

Professional Wrestling

Old School Wrestling School
What: Professional wrestling school for all ages.
Where: 404 E. 61st St., Odessa
When: 7-10 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 2-6 p.m. Sunday
Cost: $50 down; $35 a month.
For more info: Call Fred, 770-7001, or Sam, 349-3055

Rugby

Mad Dog Rugby Football Club
Practices: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. at Reyes-Mashburn Park (north field)
For more info call: 432-697-6418

Running

Permian Basin Running Club
Cost: $20 per year for individual membership, $30 for per year for family membership
For more info: Go to www.pbrunningclub.com or email Shawn Hailey, president at haileyshawn@pbrunningclub.com

Gazelles Training Group
When: 6 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
For more info: Call Popcorn Leonard at 512-762-1020 or 682-0988

Shooting

Comanche Trail Shootists
What: Single Action Shooting Society affiliated club in Midland
When: Monthly shoots first Saturday and third Sunday of each month, first Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.; Third Sunday from 1 p.m. (Mandatory safety meeting at 12:30 p.m.) Also shoot on fifth Sunday on months that have them (begin at 1 p.m. and are no cost to the shooter); Mandatory safety meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Where: Timberline Ranch adjacent to Jake's Clays
For more info: Go to comanchetrailshootists.org or call Hoodoo Brown 682-1422.

Midland Shooters Association
What: All types of shooting practice and competition, featuring archery, benchrest rifle, bulls-eye rifle, high power rifle, pistol silhouette, rimfire silhouette, 3 gun, practical pistol, skeet, trap 5 stand and sporting clays.
When: Members can access rifle and pistol ranges from sunrise to sunset seven days a week. Shotgun ranges open 11 a.m. until dusk Wednesday to Sunday.
For more info: Go to www.midlandshooters.com

Soccer

Permian Basin Soccer Association
What: Registration for women's spring/summer season
Where: Dunagan Park, located at corner of Gist and Terrell
When: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
For more info: Contact Jesus Chavez at 557-7032 anytime or Josh Chavez at 238-6947 after 6:30 p.m.

Midland Soccer Association
For: Youth Recreational League Ages 4-18
When: Spring/Fall Games
Note: Also information on becoming a certified referee
For more info: Register online at www.midlandsoccer.com and go to 432-684-5425

Softball

Midland Softball Association Tournament Schedule
Now available at www.midlandsoftball.com.
For more info: call Tommy Hawkins at 520-9100

Midland Men's Woodbat Fastpitch Association
What: Men's fastpitch softball
For more info: Call 634-6474 or visit www.facebook.com/pages/Midland-Texas-Mens-Fastpitch or wyofastpitch@gmail.com

Swimming

COM Pre-competitive swimming
Where: Mabee Aquatic Center
Cost: $49 per month
Prerequisite: Must be able to swim 25 yards or freestyle or backstroke
For more info: 684-7755

COM Water Aerobics Classes
When: All times, Monday through Saturday
Who: All skill levels
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Learn to Swim
Ages: All ages
Note: Private, semi-private and group lessons are available
For more info: 684-7755

COM Masters Swimming
What: Competitive or non-competitive program for adults of all skill levels
When: 5-6 a.m., 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Cost: $40 per month (includes cardio training)
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Diving Instruction
Who: All ages and levels invited
For more info: 684-7755

COM Learn to Dive
What: Learn basic skills for beginners then advance to pre-competitive and competitive diving that emphasize skilled diving techniques and participation in diving meets
Ages: 4 and up
For more info: 684-7755

COM Competitive Dive Team
Who: Try out for Bronze, Silver, Gold Prep or Gold levels of COM Dive Team.
What: Emphasizes is on diving techniques and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: 684-7755

COM Elite Dive Team
What: Highest level of COM diving. Concentrates on perfecting Olympic level skills, national and international travel
For more info: 684-7755

COM Competitive Swim Team
Who: Try out for COM Swim Team, tryouts available by appointment
What: Emphasizes stroke correction and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: 684-7755

COM Adult Conditioning
What: Allows adult participation use of top quality lap pools and fitness room during specified hours
For more info: 684-7755

COM Water Walking Class
What: Unstructured, self-paced class
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Senior Fitness Class
Who: Senior citizens that need help with physical conditions resulting from injury, disease, chronic conditions, advanced age, etc.
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

Central YMCA Water Aerobics Classes
When: Early morning, morning and evening
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Arthritis Water Exercise Classes
When: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Swimming Lessons
Who: All ages and ability
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Synchronized Swimming
For: Ages 6 and up
For more information: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Tennis

West Texas Tennis Association
What: West Texas Tennis Association, a non-profit community tennis association, promotes and oversees USTA leagues, programs and events in the area
For more info: Call 432-563-1333 or www.westtexastennis.com for more information

Bush Tennis Center Clinics
What: Balloon Tennis 34 (ages 3-4); Redball 58 (ages 5-8); Orange and Green Ball 910 (ages 9-10); Junior Development (6th-8th grade freshman-JV); Junior Select (varsity); RSR Adults (adult beginners); Intermediate Adults, 4.0-5.0 Adults (advanced adults). Also Junior Team Tennis registration now open
Where: Bush Tennis Center
For more info: Visit www.bushtenniscenter.com and or call, 620-8180

USTA Team Tennis Adult Leagues
When: Leagues run May through November
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: Sherry 620-8610 or Email www.midlandtennis@aol.com

Midland College tennis classes
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 to 1:50 p.m.
Where: Midland College
For more info: Call 686-4266

Youth Clinics
When: For children 4-8 years of age (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 to 4 p.m.) and 9-15 years of age (Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: 686-4266

Midland Women's Tennis Association fall league
For more info: 689-4340

Midland Tennis Club
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
Annual dues: Adults $65; youth $30; families $140
For more info: Call 686-4266 or email midlandtennisclub@yahoo.com

Walking

Midland Walkabout AVA Club Meetings
When: Fun Walks, 10K, 3rd Saturday morning of the month; Monthly meeting 3rd Sunday at 5 p.m.
Where: Fun Walks, vary; meetings in Room 227, First Presbyterian Church, 800 W. Texas Ave.
Who: All ages
For more info: Call Alex Rose 687-2588 or go to www.midlandwalkabout.org

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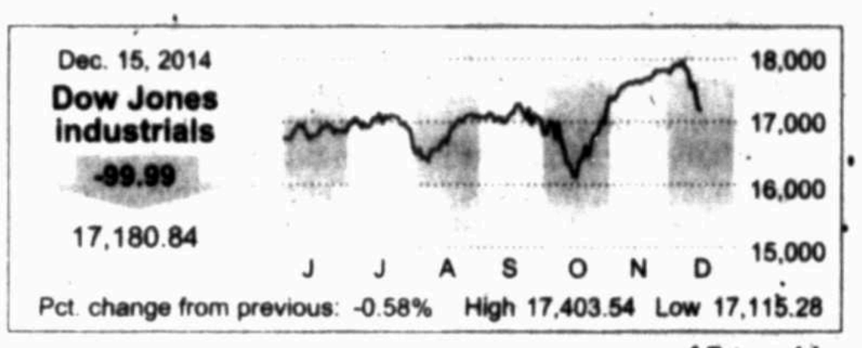

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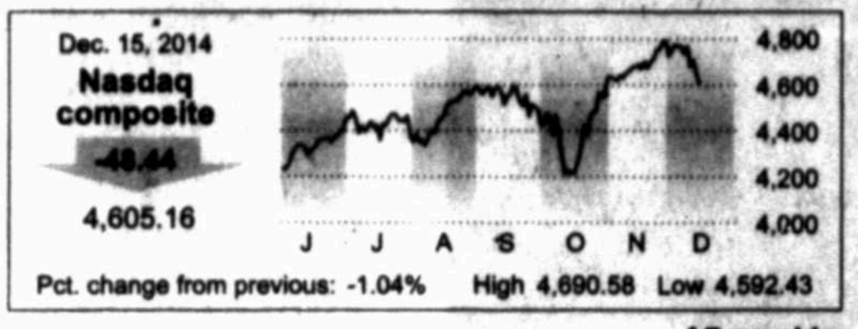

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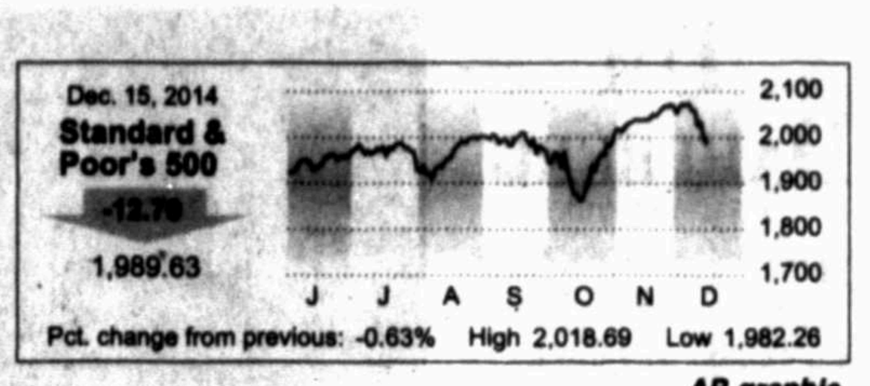

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Monday	$49.90
Previous	$51.65

NATURAL GAS

Monday	$3.719
Previous	$3.795

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
S&P500ETF	1773236	199.51	-1.38
B iPVixST	943491	33.05	-.84
BkofAm	921235	16.85	-.28
iShEMkts	904274	37.79	-.55
MktVGold	698363	17.34	-1.31

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Frontline	2.87	+.62	+27.6
TalismE g	5.12	+.83	+19.3
BrasilAgro	3.48	+.56	+19.2
Danaos	5.90	+.65	+12.4
Imation	3.58	+.36	+11.2

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
DxRssaBull	2.39	-1.28	-34.9
CGG	6.11	-2.41	-28.3
MillerE pfD	8.00	-2.60	-24.5
DirGMnBull	2.02	-.64	-24.1
MillerE pfC	9.24	-2.92	-24.0

DIARY

Advanced	770
Declined	2,396
Unchanged	84
Total issues	3,250
New Highs	33
New Lows	362
Volume	4,275,132,258

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
NovaGld g	60684	2.73	+.05
ChenereEn	57967	82.45	2.43
B2gold g	55779	1.52	-.21
BarcGSOil	50995	13.04	-.67
BiP Cmdty	49672	31.47	-.43

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Medgen wt	2.02	+.26	+14.8
Tofutti	6.01	+.71	+13.4
OnonEngy	5.01	+.54	+12.1
Barnwell	2.58	+.18	+7.5
EnerJex rs	2.25	+.15	+7.1

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
SwLgCap22	22.75	-15.95	-41.2
GreenH pfC	12.45	-1.94	-13.5
GastarExp	2.23	-.32	-12.5
GoldResrc	2.88	-.39	-11.9
Richmnt g	2.91	-.35	-10.7

DIARY

Advanced	120
Declined	292
Unchanged	21
Total issues	433
New Highs	4
New Lows	68
Volume	148,557,752

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Apple Inc s	663440	108.23	-1.51
SiriusXM	606837	3.34	-.07
PwShs QQQ	511179	101.61	-1.06
ARltCapP rf	337701	8.23	-.77
Intel	304465	35.92	-.31

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
6D GlbT rs	8.46	+2.11	+33.2
SorrentoTh	7.30	+1.50	+25.9
ChinaHGS	5.57	+1.09	+24.3
Microfncl	10.19	+1.89	+22.8
Cirrus	22.96	+4.12	+21.9

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
ATA Inc	2.63	-.85	-24.4
Ardelyx n	23.06	-7.29	-24.0
VestRMI rs	3.64	-1.08	-22.9
LimeEngy	2.20	-.51	-18.8
LinnEngy	9.83	-2.18	-18.2

DIARY

Advanced	784
Declined	1,961
Unchanged	122
Total issues	2,867
New Highs	45
New Lows	217
Volume	2,103,300,336

Study: Hotter days in US mean less cold cash

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hotter days mean less cold cash for Americans, according to a new study matching 40 years of temperatures to economics.

Days that averaged about 77 degrees ended up reducing people's income by about $5 a day when compared with days that were about 20 degrees cooler. A county's average economic productivity decreases by nearly 1 percent for every degree Fahrenheit that the average daily temperature is above 59, says a National Bureau of Economic Research working paper released Monday.

And, the study's authors predict, if the world continues on its current path of greenhouse gas emissions, even warmer temperatures later this century will squeeze the U.S. economy by tens of billions of dollars each year.

This is not from storms, drought or other weather disasters — just the sweat of daily heat.

The paper by a pair of economists at the University of Illinois and University of California, Berkeley, has not yet been peer-reviewed but is part of work done for the nonpartisan economics research center that is widely cited for determining when the country is in and out of recessions. In comments from other researchers, the new study was criticized for its methods and conclusions by some economists and policy experts but praised by others as groundbreaking.

The study tries to find common ground between the hard physical science of meteorology and the softer science of economics. In doing so, the researchers used new complex statistical techniques crunching more than 76,000 data points, including daily temperatures and yearly economic data in counties across America, said co-author Solomon Hsiang of the University of California, Berkeley.

The numbers were clear, the researchers said.

"Hot temperatures are very bad for the economy," said study co-author Tatyana Deryugina, a professor of finance at the University of Illinois.

This has been seen in other studies in hotter, less developed areas such as India. But scientists and economists often assumed it wouldn't be the case for richer countries with air conditioning, like the United States, said Hsiang, who teaches public policy. But America's economy doesn't adapt as experts thought, said Hsiang, who examined all U.S. counties' daily temperature and yearly economic data going back to 1970.

Hsiang said the "sweet spot" where productivity is maximized — a daily average temperature between 54 and 59 degrees — at first seemed cooler than expected, but that's an average 24-hour temperature. Daily highs can be 11 degrees warmer and lows 11 degrees cooler. So these are days when the afternoon is around 70.

While most people work indoors in climate-controlled settings they still go outside a lot, and hot weather elevates body temperature for a while, affecting how people work, Hsiang said.

"These are little things that add up," Hsiang said. "It's not like a hurricane. ... This is more like a story of deaths by a thousand cuts."

Carnegie Institute scientist Chris Field, who heads a United Nations climate change science panel that looks at the effects of global warming, praised the study as "creative and powerful."

"It may take some time for the community to reflect on the methods to decide if they are as effective as they seem, but my first impression is that this study provides unique insights into the big-picture consequences of temperature variation for income," Field said.

University of Sussex economist Richard Tol criticized the study, saying that people tend to work harder and make up productivity losses in following days. He said not taking this into account makes the authors overestimate the heat effects.

But if the losses were made up within days, the way the economic data is annualized, the study authors wouldn't have noticed any difference because they would have equaled out, Hsiang said. Further, he said, more analysis showed that there was a "make up" effect but it was in the year after a hot year and only accounted for half the losses.

Doug Handler, chief North American economist of IHS Economics, said it is hard enough to measure economic productivity accurately on annual basis, let alone come up with precise daily numbers that correlate to temperatures. He said, "the margin of error in the published statistics is too great to allow for a believable micro-assessment of this type."

John Sterman, a management professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and John Reilly, an energy economist who heads MIT's Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, both said the paper's analysis made sense to them. Reilly said other economists will want to test and evaluate the data themselves.

The study uses 44 climate computer simulations to project temperatures near the end of the century rising by about 9 degrees on average. That, it says, will reduce the nation's economic growth by 0.12 percentage points a year. Reilly said that may sound small, but it is trillions of dollars over a century.

Stocks fall

Falling oil prices pushed U.S. stocks down broadly on Monday, extending losses into a second week.

European stocks also fell, and the Russian ruble plunged to a record low against the dollar as the continuing collapse in the price of oil reverberated through global financial markets.

A brief rally after trading opened in the U.S. vanished as crude oil continued a six-month slide that has slashed its price nearly in half. Global demand for oil has been waning just as supplies are becoming more abundant.

The stock losses in the U.S. were modest, but markets in Germany and France fell more than 2 percent. The Russian ruble plunged, sending stocks sharply lower there, too.

The Standard & Poor's 500 fell 12.70 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,989.63. All 10 industry sectors in the index dropped. The losses followed a 3.5 percent drop in the S&P 500 last week, its biggest decline since May 2012.

A solid report on U.S. manufacturers and some merger news helped jolt markets higher after the open, but the gains evaporated after an hour as crude prices fell. The oil slump is worrying investors because it hammers the profits of drillers and other oil companies that are big components in stock indexes. Investors also fear it may signal the global economic slowdown is deeper than expected.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $51.14 Down 0.31

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $83.01 Down 2.35

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $10.49 Down 0.27

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $53.40 Up 0.93

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $10.55 Down 1.59

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $5.75 Down 0.30

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $21.41 Down 0.49

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $20.28 Down 0.75

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $8.18 Down 0.43

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $15.34 Up 0.33

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.84	10	32.25	+.09	-8.3
Abraxas	...	9	2.56	-.07	-21.5
AdamsEx	1.18e	...	13.26	-.07	+1.5
AMD		41	2.47	-.05	-36.2
Alcoa	.12	24	14.93	+.06	+40.5
Alibaba n			104.70	-.41	+11.5
AlonUSA	.40a	50	11.98	-.48	-27.6
ARltCapP rf	1.00		8.23	-.77	-36.0
Amgen	2.44	25	159.60	-4.93	+39.9
Anadarko	1.08	...	72.01	-1.33	-9.2
Apache	1.00	...	55.20	-1.24	-35.8
Apple Inc s	1.88	17	108.23	-1.51	+35.0
ApldMatl	.40	26	23.39	-.27	+32.3
ATMOS	1.56f	17	52.57	-.56	+15.7
AutoData	1.96f	27	82.78	+.28	+16.8
BP PLC	2.40f	6	34.94	-1.30	-28.1
BabsCCInv	1.20		15.73	+.08	+5.3
BakrHu	.68	17	54.93	-.06	-.6
BkofAm	.20	16	16.85	-.28	+8.2
B iPVixST			33.05	-.84	-22.3
BarrickG	.20	25	10.45	-1.02	-40.7
BasicEnSv		77	5.36	+.14	-66.0
BerkHa A	...	17	219073.00	+73.00	+23.1
BlkHillsCp	1.56	20	50.61	-1.07	-3.6
BlackBerry			9.43	-.41	+26.7
BostonSci		61	12.80	-.20	+6.5
BrMySq	1.48f	36	58.55	-.20	+10.2
BrownFA	1.26f	28	86.07	-.51	+16.7
BrownFB	1.26f	28	86.62	+.06	+14.6
CVS Health	1.10	23	89.87	-.07	+25.6
Cameron		12	45.33	-.29	-23.9
Caterpillar	2.80	15	89.75	-.75	-1.2
Celestic g		14	11.11	-.10	+6.8
Cemex	.52t	...	9.98	-.07	-12.3
CntryLink	2.16	27	37.78	+.20	+18.6
ChesEng	.35	19	17.22	-.02	-32.9
Chevron	4.28	9	100.86	-1.92	-19.3
Chicos	.30	25	15.80	+.20	-16.1
Cimarex	.64	16	97.77	-.73	-6.8
Cisco	.76	18	26.68	-.18	+19.9
Citigroup	.04	13	52.79	-.61	+1.3
ClayEng	...	11	51.14	-.31	-37.6
CocaCola	1.22	22	40.57	-.34	-1.8
ColgPalm	1.44	30	67.95	-.62	+4.2

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
ConAgra	1.00	46	36.66	-.07	+8.8
ConchoRes	...	18	83.01	-2.35	-23.1
ConocoPhil	2.92	10	61.69	-.76	-12.7
CrackerB	4.00	23	131.52	-.99	+19.5
CSVelIVST			30.87	+.76	-10.2
CSVixSht			3.15	-.17	-58.0
CrosTim	2.66e	7	18.17	-2.11	-38.2
DCP Mid	3.08f	32	41.18	-.91	-18.2
DTE	2.76	19	81.54	-.35	+22.8
Dataram			2.31	-.01	-11.2
Dawson	.32	...	10.49	-.27	-69.0
DenburyR	.25	7	6.34	-.06	-61.4
DevonE	.96	10	52.66	-.35	-14.9
DxGldBull			9.56	-2.44	-65.1
DrxSCBear			14.35	+.43	-15.4
DirGMnBull	.11e		2.02	-.64	-87.1
Disney	1.15f	21	90.90	-.59	+19.0
DowChm	1.68f	14	43.45	+.10	-2.1
EOG Res s	.67f	15	85.34	-1.03	+1.7
EmpDist	1.04f	17	28.03	-.16	+23.5
Energen	.08m	21	55.49	-.85	-21.6
EngyTsfr	3.90f	...	59.32	-1.24	+3.6
EnPro	...	52	60.33	-1.01	+4.6
EntPrdPt s	1.46f	21	32.36	-.82	-2.4
Ericsson	.46e	...	11.79	-.26	-3.7
ExterranH	.60	21	31.39	-.40	-8.2
ExxonMbl	2.76	11	86.90	+.30	-14.1
Facebook	...	73	76.99	-.84	+40.9
FordM	.50	9	14.28	-.71	-7.5
ForestOil	...	...	.34	-.02	-90.5
FrptMcM	1.25	9	21.03	-.75	-44.2
GATX	1.32	12	53.51	+.82	+2.6
GabMultT	1.05e	...	9.67	-.06	-22.1
GAInv	3.50e	...	33.51	-.36	-4.8
GenElec	.92f	17	24.59	-.30	-12.3
GileadSci	...	18	103.16	-.97	+37.4
GtPlainEn	.98f	17	26.38	-.17	+8.8
HalconRes	...	...	1.80	-.21	-53.4
Hallibrtn	.72f	10	37.82	-.11	-25.5
IAMGld g	...	...	2.33	-.24	-30.0
iShBrazil	1.55e	...	34.35	-1.30	-23.1
iShEMU	.94e	...	35.95	-.73	-13.1
iShJapan	.17e	...	11.14	-.22	-8.2
iShChinaLC	.71e	..	39.45	-.11	+2.8

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
iShEMkts	.71e	...	37.79	-.55	-9.6
iS Eafe	2.23e	...	59.97	-1.01	-10.6
iShR2K	1.50e	...	113.55	-1.16	-1.6
IntegrysE	2.72	19	74.34	+.08	+36.6
Intel	.96f	17	35.92	-.31	+38.4
InterDig	.80		51.96	+.20	+76.2
ItauUnibH	.54e	..	12.17	-.45	-1.3
JPMorgCh	1.60	11	59.16	-.88	+1.8
JohnJn	2.80	17	103.96	-.47	+13.5
KimbClk	3.36	20	112.35	-.33	+12.2
KindMorg	1.76f	31	38.28	-.89	+6.3
LegacyRes	2.44	...	10.55	-1.59	-62.5
Lubys	...	...	4.75	-.14	-38.5
MVJrGold			22.06	-1.98	-29.0
MktVGold	.19e	...	17.34	-1.31	-17.9
MktVRus	.74e	...	13.93	-1.87	-51.7
McDnlds	3.40f	17	88.46	-2.16	-8.8
Merck	1.80f	31	56.95	-.77	+13.8
MeritMed	...	33	16.19	-.22	+2.9
MexcoEn	...	64	5.75	-.30	-16.7
MicronT	...	13	33.36	-.65	+53.4
Microsoft	1.24	18	46.67	-.28	+24.8
Nabors	.24	8	10.28	+.28	-39.5
NatGrid	3.48e	...	67.48	-1.44	+3.3
NOilVarco	1.84	10	61.93	+.38	-13.6
NvMAd	.80a	...	13.65	...	+12.3
NvPMI	.86a	...	13.81	-.07	+11.6
NuvPI	.82a	...	13.77	+.04	+11.7
NSTFI3	.61a	...	14.08	+.01	+9.3
NTXQI	.65a	...	14.72	-.12	+14.6
OcciPet	2.88	10	73.16	-1.06	-19.8
OI SA	...	...	.42	-.01	-73.3
Oracle	.48	17	41.11	+1.16	+7.4
ParTech	...	...	5.63	-.02	+3.3
ParkDrl	...	7	2.62	+.04	-67.8
PattUTI	.40	17	14.33	-.03	-43.4
PennaRE	.80	...	22.68	-.09	+19.5
Prmian	1.05e	8	9.26	-.01	-28.0
PetrbrsA	.85e	...	6.66	-.91	-54.7
Petrobras	.46e	...	6.26	-.85	-54.6
Pfizer	1.12f	16	30.86	-.09	+.8
PioNtrl	.08	...	132.17	+.92	-28.2
PlainsAAP	2.64f	19	45.38	-1.77	-12.3
PwShs QQQ	1.34e	...	101.61	-1.06	+15.5
Praxair	2.60	20	123.91	+.19	-4.7

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
PrmEgy	...	11	64.00	-.18	+26.7
PUVixST rs	...	...	28.79	-1.29	-57.1
ProctGam	2.57	24	89.20	-.35	+9.6
RangeRs	.16	24	55.40	+1.22	-34.3
RiteAid	...	21	5.66	-.03	+11.9
RiverbedT	...	...	20.31	+1.57	+12.3
Rowan	.40	12	20.10	+.11	-43.2
RoyDShllA	3.76	12	60.93	-1.39	-14.5
SpdrDJIA	3.61e	...	171.79	-1.21	+3.8
S&P500ETF	3.68e	...	199.51	-1.38	+8.0
SpdrLehHY	2.85e	...	37.74	+.11	-7.0
SabnR	4.09e	9	36.05	-2.19	-28.7
SanderFm	.88f	10	86.58	+.25	+19.7
SandRdge	...	...	1.64	-.15	-73.0
Sapient	...	39	24.83	...	+43.0
Schlmbrg	1.60	15	79.90	-.10	-11.3
SeadrillLtd	...	1	10.66	-.40	-74.1
SigmaAld	.92	33	135.91	-.09	+44.6
SiriusXM	...	48	3.34	-.07	-4.3
Smucker	2.56	17	98.29	-.87	-5.1
Sprint	...	...	4.05	-.03	-62.3
SP HlthC	.87e	...	68.15	-.63	+22.9
SP Engy	1.77e	...	73.36	-.66	-17.1
SPDR Fncl	.37e	...	23.92	-.22	+9.4
SP Inds	.98e	...	54.64	-.18	+4.6
Staples	.48	28	16.86	+.39	+6.1

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
SunocoL s	1.53f	24	40.85	-1.24	+8.2
TalismE g	.27	14	5.12	+.83	-56.1
TelefEsp	1.03e	...	14.95	-.40	-8.5
Tesoro	1.20	14	75.45	+1.04	+29.0
3M Co	3.42	21	156.85	-.27	+11.8
Torchmrk s	.51	13	51.72	-.42	-.7
TriContl	.75e	...	20.58	-.18	+3.0
Twitter	...	...	36.85	-.25	-42.1
TylerTech	...	71	108.81	-4.24	+6.5
UBWV	1.28	19	34.82	-.36	+10.7
US OilFd	...	...	21.06	-.87	-40.4
Vale SA	.55e	...	6.86	-.33	-55.0
ValeroE	1.10	7	46.11	-.16	-8.5
VangEmg	1.21e	...	38.06	-.78	-7.5
VerizonCm	2.20	10	45.42	-.16	-7.6
VulcanM	.24	45	61.51	-.88	+3.5
Walgrn	1.35	37	73.44	-1.06	+27.9
WellsFargo	1.40	13	53.19	-.51	+17.2
WstnRefin	1.20f	10	37.02	...	-12.7
WhitingPet	...	6	25.04	-2.57	-59.5
WmsCos	2.28f	59	42.14	-.62	+9.3
XcelEngy	1.20	18	34.25	-.38	+22.6
Xerox	.25	14	13.34	-.09	+9.6
Yahoo	...	7	49.82	-.42	+23.2
Zynga	...	...	2.44	-.06	-35.8

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We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
17,991.19	15,340.69	Dow Jones Industrials	17,180.84	-99.99	-.58	+3.64	+8.16
9,310.22	7,009.98	Dow Jones Transportation	8,857.12	+20.24	+.23	+19.68	+23.86
609.72	476.05	Dow Jones Utilities	592.61	-4.95	-.83	+20.80	+23.19
11,334.65	9,732.47	NYSE Composite	10,411.18	-89.33	-.85	+.10	+3.85
4,810.86	3,946.03	Nasdaq Composite	4,605.16	-48.44	-1.04	+10.26	+14.29
2,079.47	1,737.92	S&P 500	1,989.63	-12.70	-.63	+7.64	+11.37
1,458.79	1,264.57	S&P Midcap	1,392.27	-10.09	-.72	+3.70	+7.13
21,850.63	18,575.20	Wilshire 5000	20,858.44	-151.39	-.72	+5.85	+9.70
1,213.55	1,040.47	Russell 2000	1,140.29	-12.16	-1.05	-2.01	+1.83

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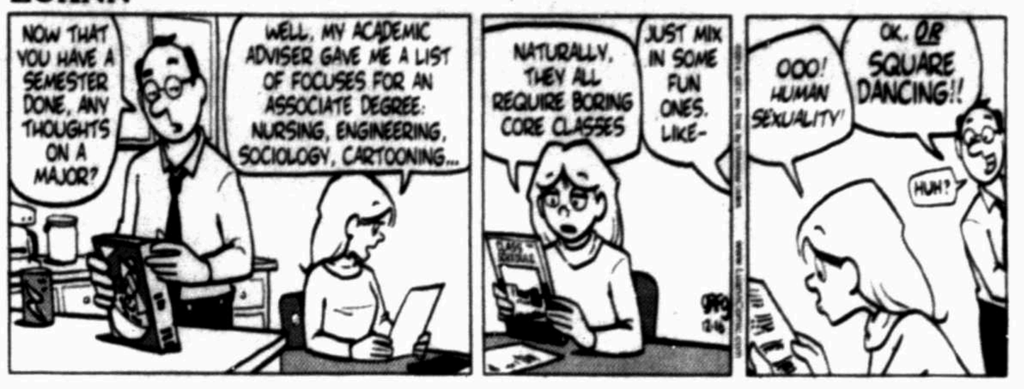
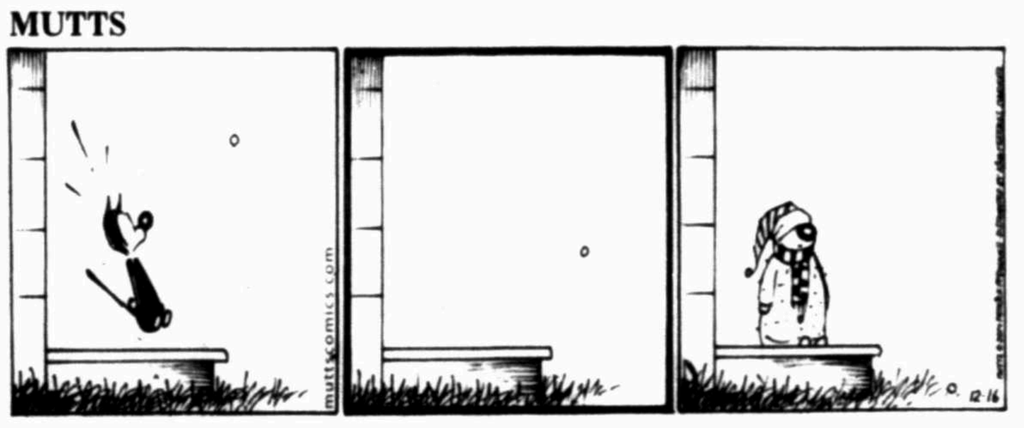


MARY WORTH

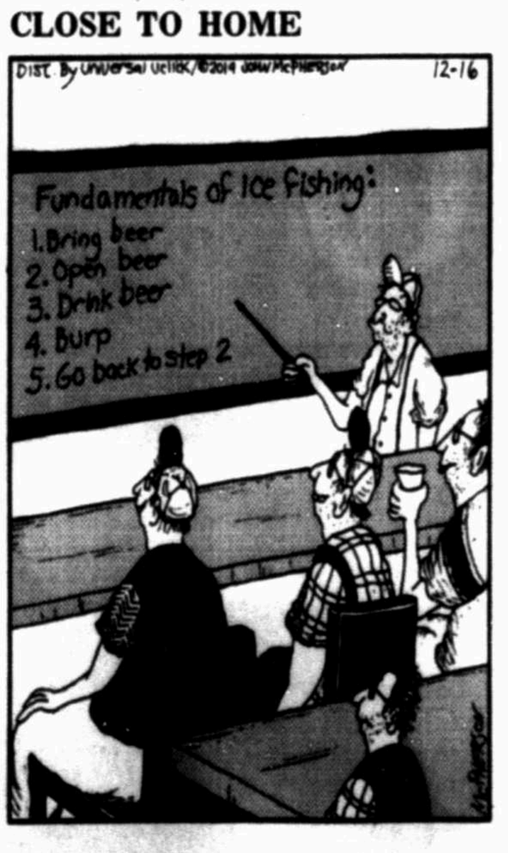
ZITS

BABY BLUES

MUTTS



CLOSE TO HOME



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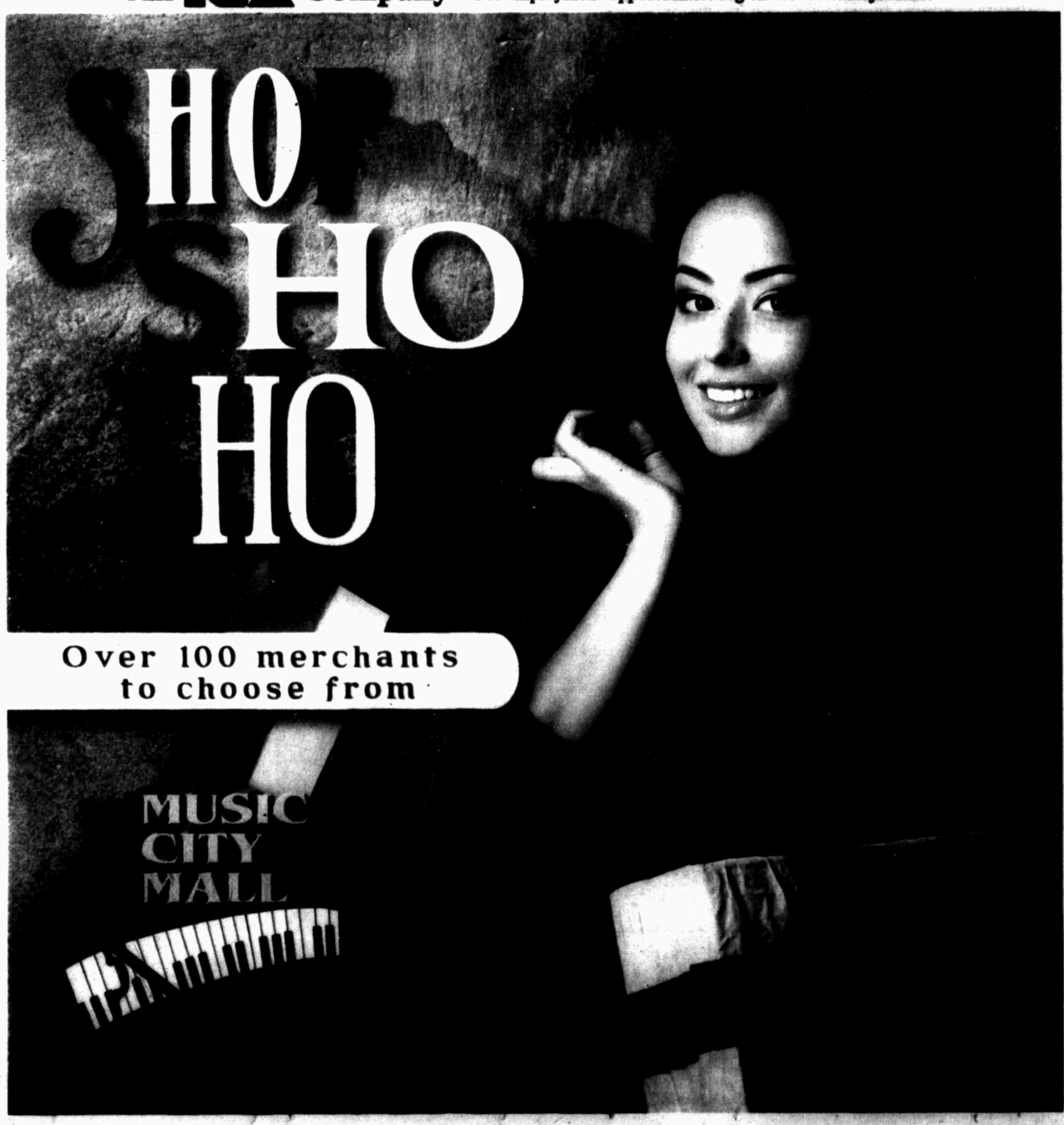

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GENERAL INFO

To ensure the integrity of our newspaper, for the benefit of our readers and advertisers, the Midland Reporter-Telegram reserves the right to revise, reclassify, edit or refuse any advertising. We also reserve the right to convert all advertising into digital and/or print formats within our other products and services.

Please check your ad the first day it appears, and, if you find a mistake, please call our office at 682-6222 so we can correct the error immediately. This will ensure that your ad is exactly what you want readers to see. If an error does occur, you can choose to rerun your ad once for free, or we'll gladly refund the cost of the portion of the ad affected by the error. If an ad is inadvertently omitted, we will assume liability up to the cost of the ad itself – consequently, we will publish your ad in our next available edition or refund the price you have paid.

Rate charges are determined at the time of placement. All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. Some classifications require payment in advance. Credit applications are required for business accounts.

We welcome suggestions or comments. Please call: Jeri Houston, Advertising Sales Manager, 687-8894.

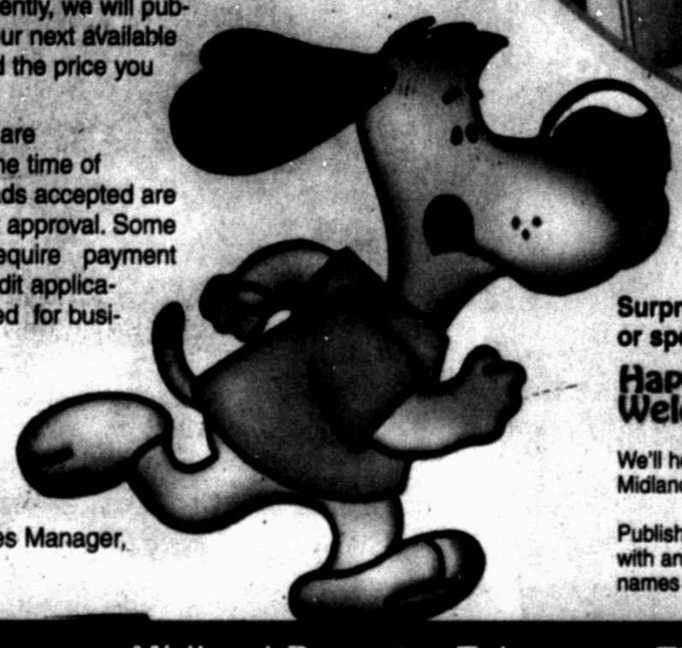
DEADLINES:

WORD ADS:

PUBLISHES ON:	DEADLINE IS:
Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri	5p.m. Prior Day
Saturday	12p.m. Friday
Sunday	5p.m. Friday
Monday	5p.m. Friday

DISPLAY ADS:

PUBLISHES ON:	DEADLINE IS:
Wednesday	3p.m. Monday
Thursday	3p.m. Tuesday
Friday, Saturday	3p.m. Wednesday
Sunday, Monday	3p.m. Thursday
Tuesday	3p.m. Friday



HAPPY ADS

Surprise your child, parent, or special friend with a Happy Ad!

Happy Birthday! Congratulations! Welcome Home! Graduation Day!

We'll help you design something unique and publish it in the Midland Reporter-Telegram Classifieds...whatever the occasion!

Publish a special memorial to mark the passing of a loved one with an "In Memory Of" ad. Include a poem, prayer, and/or the names of all who care. Also, express your appreciation to everyone who brought food, sent flowers, or was there for you, when you needed them most with a "Card of Thanks." We'll help you design a respectful, thoughtful ad.

Ads containing art or photos need to be in our office 2 working days before the ad is to be published and we ask that you pay in advance.

Midland Reporter-Telegram • The People To People Marketplace • 201 E. Illinois

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE:

Notice of public sale of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale is at 11:00 am, Tuesday December 30th, 2014 at 4011 N Midland Dr, Midland, TX 79707. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Cleanup and removal deposit may be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from the sale. Property includes contents of spaces of following tenants:

Unit 516: Eric Schuff - Dresser w/mirror, large heavy duty tote, 2 sofas, set of tires, misc items.

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE FOR BIDS

The School Land Board, the Boards for Lease of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. and the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice, and the General Land Office (GLO) will hold a sealed bid Oil, Gas, and Other Minerals Lease Sale at the General Land Office in Austin, Texas on January 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. For a list of lands call (512) 475-1512, write to Mineral Leasing, Rm. 640, 1700 N. Congress, Austin, Texas 78701, or visit www.glo.texas.gov.

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert Bryan McCleery, Deceased, were issued on December 9, 2014, in Cause No. P18100, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to: DEBBIE McCLEERY.

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: **Brent A. Morgan**
Attorney at Law
1902 W. Illinois Ave.
Midland, Texas 79701

DATED the 9th day of December 2014.

Brent A. Morgan
Attorney for DEBBIE McCLEERY
State Bar No.: 24051084
1902 W. Illinois Ave.
Midland, Texas 79701
Telephone: (432) 683-2703
Facsimile: (432)684-7314
E-mail: mandvc@tomsmorgan.com

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Sandra Hightower Owens, Deceased, were issued on November 10, 2014, in Cause No. 21983-14, pending in the County Court of Ector County, Texas, to: PATRICIA WETMORE.

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: **Brent A. Morgan**
Attorney at Law
1902 W. Illinois Ave.
Midland, Texas 79701

DATED the 12th day of November 2014.

Brent A. Morgan
Attorney for PATRICIA WETMORE
State Bar No.: 24051084
1902 W. Illinois Ave.
Midland, Texas 79701
Telephone: (432) 683-2703
Facsimile: (432)684-7314
E-mail: mandvc@tomsmorgan.com

Legal & Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 8 — Rule 37/38 Case No. 0294147
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Nov 18, 2014 — Status/Permit No. 800108
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Dec 23, 2014
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.STATE.TX.US

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC. (RRC Operator No. 665748) has made application for a density exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 38 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the DENSITY requirement of the field rules for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 10, Blk., 37 T4S, T&P RR CO/BOYKIN, H F Survey, A-853, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC Field, MIDLAND County, being 21.5 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512) 463-6848.**

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY DEC 23, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO FILE A PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below.

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC

Lease/Unit Name:	SHACKELFORD 10B	
Lease/Unit Well No.:	1002H	
Lease/Unit Acres:	798.6	
Nearest Lease Line (ft):	1.0	
Nearest Well on Lease (ft):	382.0	
Lease Lines:	1191.0 F WEST L	370.0 F SOUTH L
Survey Lines:	2270.0 F NORTH L	1191.0 F WEST L

Wellbore Profile(s): Horizontal

Lateral: TH1
Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 1191.0 F WEST L, 370.0 F SOUTH L

Terminus Location
BH County: MIDLAND
Section: 3 Block: 37 T4S Abstract: 478
Survey: T&P RR CO
Lease Lines: 1192.0 F WEST L, 100.0 F NORTH L
Survey Lines: 1192.0 F WEST L, 100.0 F NORTH L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : R 40 EXC. Special Rules 467/0, 80.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 10950 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, LAURA WALLACE, at (972) 969-1742.

Legal & Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 8 — Rule 37/38 Case No. 0294260
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Nov 20, 2014 — Status/Permit No. 800109
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Dec 29, 2014
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.STATE.TX.US

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC. (RRC Operator No. 665748) has made application for a density exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 38 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the DENSITY requirement of the field rules for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 10, Blk., 37 T4S, T&P RR CO/BOYKIN, H F Survey, A-853, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC Field, MIDLAND County, being 21.5 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512) 463-6848.**

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY DEC 29, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO FILE A PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION.

The location and identity of the well is as shown below.

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC

Lease/Unit Name:	SHACKELFORD 10C	
Lease/Unit Well No.:	1003H	
Lease/Unit Acres:	798.6	
Nearest Lease Line (ft):	1.0	
Nearest Well on Lease (ft):	7.0	
Lease Lines:	415.0 F SOUTH L	1193.0 F WEST L
Survey Lines:	2225.0 F NORTH L	1193.0 F WEST L

Wellbore Profile(s): Horizontal

Lateral: TH1
Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 415.0 F SOUTH L, 1192.0 F WEST L

Terminus Location
BH County: MIDLAND
Section: 3 Block: 37 T4S Abstract: 478
Survey: T&P RR CO
Lease Lines: 100.0 F WEST L, 1917.0 F NORTH L
Survey Lines: 100.0 F WEST L, 1917.0 F NORTH L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : R 40 EXC. Special Rules 467/0, 80.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 10950 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, LAURA WALLACE, at (972) 969-1742.

Numbers don't lie.

Lost & Found

VERY LOVABLE young female cat was found lying in the street near 2504 Neely. She was not hurt, however, she apparently had water thrown on her and was very wet and cold. She is very lovable and we know that whoever had her must have loved her very much and has spent a lot of time with her. Very affectionate! If you or someone you know has a missing tabby and is heartbroken, please share or call. We may be contacted at 432-620-9882, and if we do not answer, please leave your name and number and we will return the call as soon as possible.

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Jesus Vela [also known as Jesus Vela Talmantes), Deceased, were issued on December 9, 2014, in Cause No. P-18099, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas [Sitting in Probate), to-. Ana Maria Padron Soto.

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.

Estate of Jesus Vela
c/o: Ana Padron Soto
Law Offices of R. Shane Seaton, PLLC
P.O. Box 2211, Big Spring, Texas 79720

DATED the 11th day of December. 2014.

Shonda K. Folsom
Attorney for Ana Padron Soto, Independent Administrator for the Estate of Jesus Vela
State Bar No.: 24066591
P.O. Box 2211
Big Spring, Texas 79721
Telephone: (432) 264-1800
Facsimile: (432) 264-0785

Legal & Public Notices

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about January 2, 2015 the City of Midland, Texas (City) will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following:

Environmental Assessment
Cloverdale Road Sidewalks ($150,000 CDBG)
Sidewalk improvements along the north side of the 1700 to 2200 blocks of Cloverdale Road

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City Community Development Office, Room 410, City Hall, 300 N. Loraine and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the City's Community Development Office. All comments received by December 31, 2014 will be considered by the City prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenter should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City certifies to HUD that Jerry F. Morales, in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City certification received by January 21, 2015 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City approved by HUD; (b) the (RE) has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to HUD at 801 Cherry St., Unit #45, Ste. 2500, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Jerry F. Morales
Mayor

Legal & Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 8 — Rule 37/38 Case No. 0294120
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Nov 20, 2014 — Status/Permit No. 800104
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Dec 29, 2014
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P.O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.STATE.TX.US

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., [RRC Operator No. 665748] has made application for a density exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 38 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the DENSITY requirement of the field rules for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 10, Bk. 37 T4S, T&P RR CO/BOYKIN, H.F. Survey, A-853, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC Field, MIDLAND County, being 21.5 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512) 463-6848**.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY DEC 29, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO FILE A PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) R 40 EXC

Lease/Unit Name: SHACKELFORD 10A
Lease/Unit Well No: 1001H
Lease/Unit Acres: 798.6
Nearest Lease Line (ft): 1.0
Nearest Well on Lease (ft): 194.0

Lease Lines: 460.0 F SOUTH L, 1193.0 F WEST L
Survey Lines: 2180.0 F NORTH L, 1193.0 F WEST L

Wellbore Profile(s): Horizontal

Lateral: TH1
Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 1193.0 F WEST L
460.0 F SOUTH L

Terminus Location
BH County: MIDLAND
Section: 3 — Block: 37 T4S — Abstract: 478
Survey: T&P RR CO
Lease Lines: 467.0 F WEST L
100.0 F NORTH L
Survey Lines: 467.0 F WEST L
100.0 F NORTH L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : R 40 EXC: Special Rules 467/0, 80.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 10950 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, LAURA WALLACE, at (972) 969-1742.

Business Opportunity

Premier Branded Dealership For Sale
Protected Territory several West Texas Markets, Huge Margins, Growing Base of Recurring Revenue, $490,000 Discretionary Earnings, Purchase Price $1,350,000. Won't last long. Minimum $500,000 capital required to secure opportunity.
Call 210-313-1003

LUCRATIVE CONSTRUCTION company for sale, Heath issues force sale. Equipment, trailers, tools, One- ton 2013 Dodge Dually. 830-459-5922

Events and Notices

General Announcements

BETTER READ
Mark Berryhill.com
Ministering for Christ.

ATTN: READERS

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

PONITAC 2000 Trans Am WS6, black, black leather interior, good condition. 77K miles $9500. Call 432-528-6498

SPECIAL OFFER! Chevy 1974 Impala 4dr, runs good $4000 OBO. 432-704-1141

SPEDIAL OFFER! OLDSMOBILE 1982 Delta 350CID, 4 dr, runs good $3800 OBO Call 432-704-1141

TOYOTA 2007 Carolla CE. 155K hwy miles. All power, tinted windows, runs great. $5100 OBO. 432-488-8930

WANTED!
Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. FREE pick-up. 432-685-4078

Exotic Cars

PORSCHE 2008 Cayman, Tiptronic, ruby red metallic. Full leather, Bose, 45k miles, perfect. Full maintenance records. $28K. Call 432-978-4087

Antique & Vintage

CHEVY 1952 Pickup Collectors????? Call 432-682-5983

Pickup Trucks

BEAUTIFUL FORD 2012 F150 extended cab. 36K miles, only $24,500. Senior Citizen. 915-525-6965

DODGE 2000 Ram 2500HD quad cab Laramie SLT, 5.9L cummins diesel, white, 2WD, automatic, air, all power, running boards, grille guard, towing pkg, trunk tool box. Michelin tires, great condition, 52k miles, $18,500. Call 432-210-4435

FORD 2008 F 250 4x4, single cab. Loan value $12,500 will sell for $8,000. 432-894-9177

► NEW TODAY! ◄

FORD 2011 F250, 4x4, diesel, 6.7 liter, 75,300 miles. $35,000. 432-235-9796 or 432-853-2753.

Pickup Trucks

GMC 1976 Sprint. Limited production, Cadillac of pickups. Vinyl Strato upholstery with swivel seats. New factory V8 engine, professionally installed. New HD 6-ply tires. Excellent condition, always garaged, no rust. Ready for years of dependable service. A beauty to admire. Gentleman owner downsizing, $18,000. Call 432-695-4467 Midland.

GMC 2008 Diesel, 180k miles, nice work horse. $8500. Call 432-413-2744

Vans & Minivans

DODGE 2006 Caravan 130k miles, nice inside and out, $3000 OBO. Call 432-413-2744

4WD & SUV

2013 EXPEDITION XLT 4x2, 16K miles, like new, $31.5K (432) 853-4647 or stevejones@cforesource.net

BMW 2003 X5, black with tan interior in good condition $10,500 OBO. For more information call 432-770-1068

► NEW TODAY! ◄

CHEVROLET 2005 Suburban Z71, 4x4, black, fully loaded, leather, NAV, SAT radio, DVD & E pkg., Bose premium sound, tow pkg, tilt/cruise, S-roof, running boards, luggage rack. Asking $8,000. 432-687-0304

GMC 2006 YUKON, 240K miles, $6500 Call 432-250-0675

GMC 2007 YUKON SLT model. Excellent condition. White exterior, tan leather interior, 107K miles, $18,500 OBO. Call Stephen 432-559-9932

INFINITY 2006 QX56 SUV, extra clean inside and out, garaged, runs like new, 1 owner. 97,000 miles, pearl color, beautiful vehicle. Reduced price, $17,400 Firm. Call 432-425-8963.

LINCOLN 2009 Black Navigator, 4X4, All power including running boards, third row seats, sunroof, liftgate, Sirius and Bluetooth connectivity. 54K miles New Michelin tires. Extended warranty. Excellent condition $23,200 684-4407 or 260-0010

Motorcycles

HARLEY 2013 Dyna, 9000 miles, $9000. Call 432-352-7470.

HARLEY DAVIDSON 2007 Softail Custom, low mileage, $10,000 Firm. Call 432-599-3259

RVs

1999 JAYCO Eagle, 5th wheel travel trailer, 28'. Excellent condition. $6500. Pictures upon request. Call 254-745-7574.

2013 5TH WHEEL, 40', 4 slide outs, front living room, 2 ACs, W/D, electric awning, shower, king bed. Too many options to list. A must-see! $31,700 OBO. 817-807-5991

2015 ROCKWOOD Roo Model 21SSL. $13K of upgrades. 8ft square deck w/ built in rails for 4wheelers or motorcycle. Slide out to 15ft wide. Sleeps 8 and is 31.1ft long. Value $35K in camper $29,000 firm, no trades. 817-266-4454

40C FLEETWOOD Revolution motorhome. 350 Cummins, Onan diesel generator, 2 slides. 2003 perfect condition. $82,000 806-457-1010

FORD 2003 Gulfstream Independence, class C motor home. 34', 1 slide out, separate detached shower, master has 2 split closets, 42K miles. Asking $26,995. 432-697-6447.

Marty's Marketplace

... leading you to the best bargains in the Permian Basin

Merchandise

Appliances

AAA Appliance 15 minute pickup. 432-556-0104 / 432-528-3046

Free Stuff

FREE 1yr, gray & white male cat, neutered, declawed, playful and sweet. 432-634-4618

FREE TO good home in time for Christmas! 6wk old kittens! Litter box trained. 235-3950

In A Hurry?
E-Mail Your Ad Today!
It's Quick & Easy
mrtclassified@mrt.com

Free Stuff

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!
Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

Jewelry & Watches

ROLEX WATCH for sale President day date 18k with hidden clasp, diamond dial (baguette on 6 and 9 o'clock & 8 diamond) Black face in mint condition. Box, papers and tags. Comes with 2 year warranty from Rolex and letter of Evaluation dated Sept 17, 2014. Replacement cost $34,350, will sell for $22,000. contact Ed @ 432-978-9964

Appliances

We buy broken appliances w/ free removal. Also we repair appliances. 432-570-8278

Musical Instruments

TAKAMINE, OVATION Stella Harmony WWII Acoustic guitars. $150 to $250. Rare Seville, Espanola Classical guitars. $150 to $300. (1) Mandolin $100. 432-894-9177

Sporting Goods

IMAGE 15.0R Treadmill. Like new. Adjustable incline, fan, 2.5hp motor, heart rate monitor, space saver design. $275. Call or text 432-661-1493

SW 686 Deluxe 357 Magnum worth $1,000. Call Jay 432-386-7105 make offer.

FIREWOOD FOR sale $85 half cord MIXED. Call 432-296-9040

OAK, PECAN, mesquite, pinon, 432-209-0416, 325-762-4262.

Animals & Pets

Pets

► NEW TODAY! ◄

AKC REGISTERED Labs $250. Call 432-557-7255

FREE 1yr old, gray & white male cat, neutered, declawed, litter box trained, playful and sweet. Please call 432-634-4618.

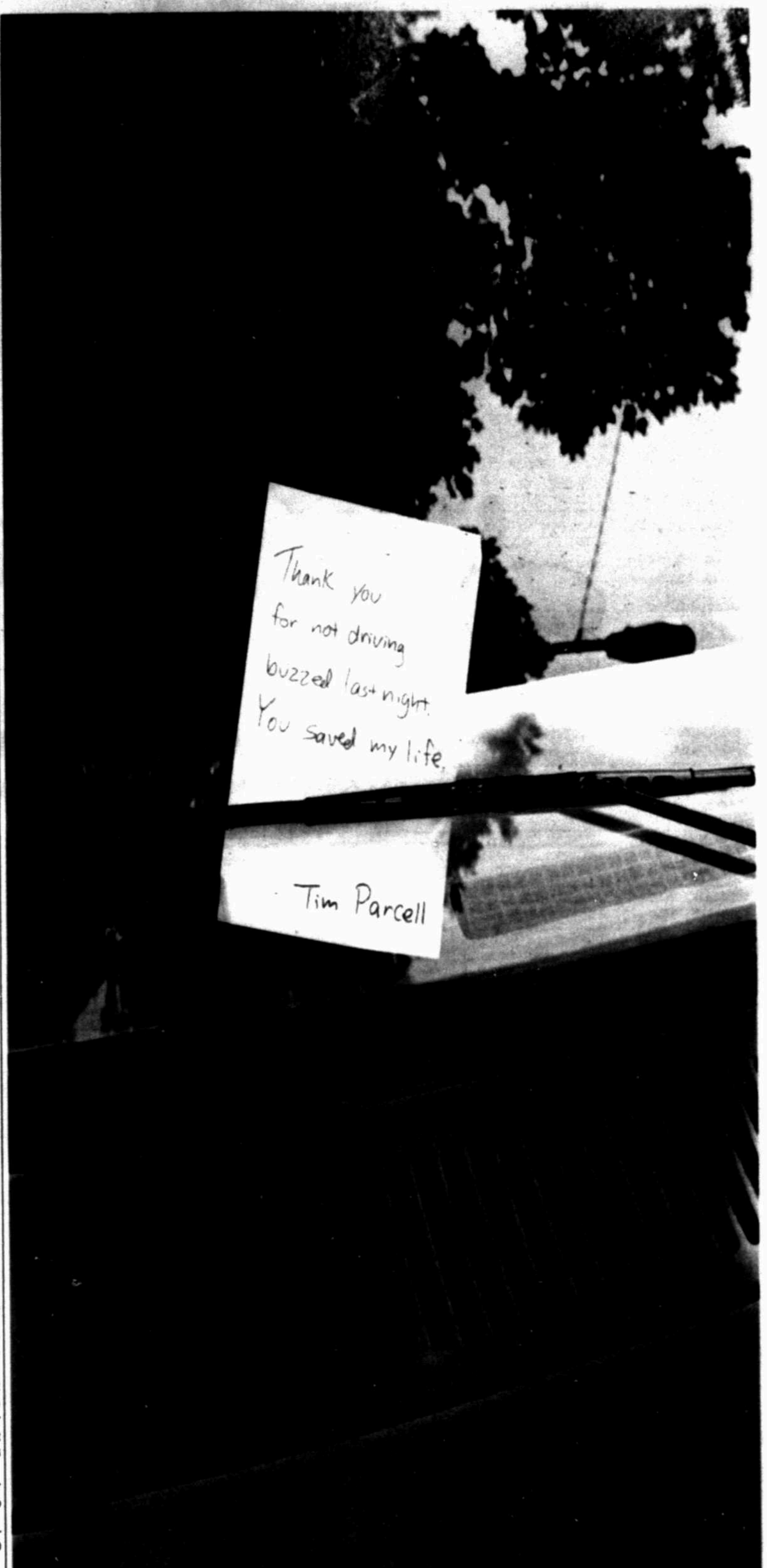
Pets

AKC WEST Highland, white terrier male puppies born Aug. 4. Toilet trained, all shots, champion pedigree, $550. Call 432-694-0258

CHRISTMAS PUPS! AKC, Toy, Black and White Parti Schnauzers will be ready 12/23. $700. One boy left. For pics: snazzyschnauzers.com. 432-296-2316

FREE TO THE RIGHT HOME Loving, energetic 4-yr old male dog needs a new home. Owner passed away, family unable to meet the dog's needs. A loving owner with room to run is desired. Please save this mostly Border Collie. 432-556-3229.

YORKIE PUPPIES, 2 males. 11 weeks old, first round of shots. 7 month old female. Call/Txt 432-413-7059



SAVE A LIFE. DON'T DRIVE HOME BUZZED.
BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING.
Ad Council
U.S. Department of Transportation

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

	8		6	1			4	2
			2		7			1
		1						9
				2			9	3
4	5			9				6
6						8		
7			4		3			
9	2			7	8		6	

12/16/14

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk**

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

8	7	1	9	3	6	4	5	2
6	4	2	7	5	1	8	3	9
9	5	3	8	4	2	1	6	7
2	1	7	3	6	9	5	8	4
4	9	5	1	2	8	3	7	6
3	6	8	5	7	4	2	9	1
5	3	6	2	1	7	9	4	8
7	2	9	4	8	5	6	1	3
1	8	4	6	9	3	7	2	5

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RVs

HOLIDAY RAMBLER 2006 Alumascape 31ft 5th wheel, triple slide out, queen bed, built-in satellite, loaded, suggested retail $28,900, asking $25,000. Call 432-556-2475.

Recreational Vehicles

2011 WELL Cargo Road Force model RF7122-V, tandem chrome wheels, axle 5100 lbs. Electric brakes, clean, $3,800. 432-664-1243.

Classified CAN
682-6222

mrt★com/jobs

Church Accountant
Immediate full time opportunity at North Midland church to work with Senior Pastor, Board and Staff to ensure accurate financial accounting & reporting; accounts payable/receivable; payroll, insurance & employee benefits; financial statements & reports. Competitive salary & excellent benefits package. Qualified applicants submit resume & salary requirements to info@ccanglican.com.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT & PUBLISHING

Editorial
The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for help with coverage of events happening in Midland. If you are interested in coming in on a daily or regular basis, taking care of local reports and learning the business, please contact **Editor Stewart Doreen at 687-8856 or sdoreen@mrt.com**. Writing samples are required. Interested candidates should have their own transportation and could work as many as 25 hours a week.

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Receptionist
Receptionist needed for busy Land Surveying office. Duties include answering phones, filing, upkeep of storage area, and other duties as assigned. Also, job entails running errands using personal vehicle. Mileage reimbursement based on IRS's standard mileage rate. Salary based on experience and is negotiable. Email jwomack@windearthwater.com.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

OPERATIONS MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
The Colorado River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for following position: **Operations Maintenance Technician** - Responsible for maintaining the District's raw water pipelines, pump stations, and wells. Entry to intermediate level position. For additional information visit www.crmwd.org.

HEALTHCARE

Available Positions
Desert Gardens Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
3203 Sage Street
Midland, TX 79705
Desert Gardens located in Midland, Texas is currently seeking staff to fill the following Positions:
• 10pm-6am Nurse • 2pm-10pm CNA • Weekend double shift CNA
• Housekeeping • Dietary Aide
Full benefits
$1,000 SIGN ON BONUS
Apply in person.

LVN/Medical Assistant
Full time LVN/Medical Assistant for a physician's office. Must have good oral/written communications skills, dependable, organized, team player. Computer skills a must, experience in medical office environment is a plus. Competitive salary. Email resume to michiganprofessionals@aol.com.

Pharmacy Technicians or Cashier
Super Mercado Pharmacy, an independent retail pharmacy is looking to hire full time registered technicians or cashier. We offer competitive hourly pay, medical, benefits, and holidays. Hours are Monday-Friday 9am-7pm and Saturday 9am-1pm. Please contact Eric or Sokkan at **432-682-9501**.

HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

HOUSEKEEPERS
Home2 Suites by Hilton Midland is now hiring housekeepers! Part time and full time positions are available. Start work today! You may apply online at **www.tmihospitality.com/ecc** or in person at **1401 Catalina Drive, Midland, TX 79706**. Ask for Tiffany. Positions pay $11-14 based on experience. Excellent benefits for full time. **Call 918-991-5325 for questions.**

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

Maintenance Tech
Sibley Nature Center is seeking a part-time Campus Maintenance Technician. 20-25 hours per week, flexible schedule. To apply email resume to autumn@sibleynaturecenter.org.

MAINTENANCE
Villa Chateau Apartments Full time Maintenance needed. Must have own tools. Drug screen/Background check done. Apply in person at: Villa Chateau Apts., 1603 N. Midkiff Rd, Midland, TX 79701. No phone calls please.

MANAGEMENT & EXECUTIVE

Environmental Crew Foreman
Must have: Class A CDL (required with good record),1 year leadership Exp. and Be able to work in adverse weather conditions. Applicants can fax a resume to 432-682-4182 or come by 2400 S. Loop 250w Midland, TX 79703

Store Manager
ClearTalk Wireless is hiring a Store Manager for our Midland location. Position is responsible for the successful management, sales performance, and revenue attainment of retail store and kiosk operations. Candidates must have a minimum of 1-2 years proven retail management experience, ideally in the wireless industry. Excellent interpersonal, communication, and organizational skills are required. Salary depends on experience; competitive performance incentives and great benefits. Send your resume to: kburrus@flatwireless.com

CLEARTALK wireless

OTHER JOBS

CARETAKER
Caretaker for small ranch and animals/dogs, horses. Salary and housing provided. Non-smokers and no drinking. References required. Call **432-413-2861**

Cleaning Staff
Lucio's Janitorial Services is now hiring for a Floor Man and Cleaning Ladies. $10/hr, M-F, 5pm-9pm. Call Esmeralda Lucio 432-894-9310

Earn $220 for Your Opinion
Think Group has a paid focus group study. We are looking to speak to men and women (21-65). The study will be held on Dec 17th .For your time & opinions you be paid $220.If interested, please email mail@thinkgroupaustin.com or call us at 512.637.6690.

Employment Specialist, Resident Guard & Cooks
Looking for a second retirement? Company funded, 100% vested in as little as 6 years. Please apply online at www.dismas.com or in person at 24 W Industrial Loop, Midland, TX. Residential re-entry center wants Cooks, Guard 1, and Employment Specialist.

Immediate Openings
Available in Midland & Odessa area grocery and retial stores.

Now hiring qualified applicants for newspaper subscription sales in our growing company. We offer flexible schedule, Paid Training, excellent work environment, and stable work all year round to our Sales Representatives. Applicants must be Friendly, Professional, Organized and Reliable. Must be 18 years old with valid drivers license and cell phone. Previous sales or marketing experience is preferred, but not required. Position starts at $10/Hr with Bonuses and Commissions that can surpass $50/Hr for above average Sales Reps working part time. Paid Training provided to new new reps. Professionally sell promotional subscriptions at one of our several Kiosk locations in the Midland area. www.FrontlinePromotion.com

For an immediate opportunity, email your resume to . Dustin@FrontlinePromotion.com or call 810-875-6301 to join our team.

Multiple Positions Available
Midland County has the following positions available:
***Network Administrator *Detention Officers *PT Administrative Assistant *Caretaker *Division Librarian *Receptionist *Scanning Clerk.**
Please see our website:
www.co.midland.tx.us/departments/hr/pages/Employment for more details and applications. To be considered you must send a completed application with job reference number to Midland County Human Resources Office, **500 N. Loraine St., Ste. 100 Midland, TX 79701** or **hr@co.midland.tx.us**.

Warehouse
Robert Madden Industries has an immediate opening for a full time warehouse worker in our Midland store. Job duties include receiving, stocking, and shipping equipment and supplies. Job requirements include the ability to lift and carry 50lbs or more, the ability to safely operate a forklift, basic math, reading and writing skills, class C drivers license and good driving record. Apply in person at 3000 N FM 1788 or send resume to HR at 6021 43rd St, Lubbock, TX 79407

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

West Texas Food Bank Development Assistant
Immediate opening for full time development assistant. Responsibilities include data entry and management of donor database. Will design and implement database queries in response to requests for information providing timely and accurate records, reports, and lists. Will serve as the primary liaison between the Development Office and the accounting department. Will aassist Development Director in special events and other duties as assigned. Must be detailed oriented, proficient in data base management, have excellent skills in word processing and spreadsheets, Please send resume to West Texas Food Bank, attn: Development Director, 1008 East 2nd Street, Odessa, TX, 79761,

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

All Positions
Schlotzsky's Deli hiring for all positions. Full and part time, day and evening shifts. Fun, grease free environment and opportunity for advancement. Apply at 5211 W. Wadley or 1109 Andrews Hwy.

BARTENDER
VFW Post 7208 needs experienced part time **BARTENDER**. TABC required for private club. Saturdays a must, 23 nights per week. Contact **432-684-6079** to schedule an interview.

Host Staff, Cooks and Dishwashers
The Garlic Press is hiring Host Staff, Cooks and Dishwashers. Flexible hours. Great work environment and benefits. Apply in person at The Garlic Press in Oak Ridge Square at Wadley and Garfield. 11am-2pm only.

Line Cooks & Dishwashers
Ranchland Hills Golf Club now hiring experienced Line Cooks & Dishwashers & Line-Cooks. Apply at 1600 E. Wadley Midland, TX. 79705. No phone calls, please.

RETAIL JOBS

Cashiers
Smoker's Outlet is looking for **Cashiers** in the Midland area. We offer competitive wages and a good work environment. Paid weekly. Go by your nearest **Smoker's Outlet** to apply.

SALES JOBS

Sales Associates
DuraSeal Coatings Company LLC is looking for sales associates in the protective coatings industry for the downhole oil and gas market. Duraseal is technology driven and expanding rapidly.

- Must have a minimum of 5 yrs prior sales experience in the O&G Industry
- Demonstrated ability of closing & growing sales.
- Must have excellent oral and verbal communication skills.
- Must be computer and internet literate.
- Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering, Industrial Distribution, Petroleum Engineering or a related field is preferred
- Coatings knowledge is a plus, but not required.

Please send your resume to jobs@durasealcoatings.com

Sales Person
Local drilling contractor seeking energetic salesperson with at least 5 years experience in Oil and gas sales. Applicant must have excellent communication skills, be self-motivated, able to work independently, willing to travel and be reliable. This is a salaried position with bonuses and benefits including paid insurance, company vehicle, 401k, expenses and paid vacation. Applicant must pass a complete background check, drug test and have a clean driving record. Please submit resumes either via email to info@hwdrillers.com or in person at 2915 State Hwy 74 South Purcell, OK 405-527-1232.

SKILLED LABOR

Electrician
TTG Company Inc. is looking for an Electrician. Please call Felix Montoya at 254-535-3143

Field Mechanic
Basin Engine and Pump
Field Mechanics needed for Industrial Oilfield Shop. Uniforms provided. Experience is required. Furnish your own tools. Benefits package includes vacation, health insurance and retirement match savings. Salary depends on experience. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email to shawn@basinengine.com. Applications may be filled out at 1914 S. County Rd. 1083, Midland, TX.

Field Techs
TorcSill Foundations, LLC is hiring Field Techs. Must have CDL and pass pre-employment screenings. Email resumes to asmith@torcsill.com or apply in person at 1300 Dayton Rd, Midland

Housekeeping Personal
The Hilliard Companies needs a full time (benefits included) Housekeeping Personal. Perform any combination of cleaning duties to maintain private households and commercial establishment's in a clean and orderly manner. Please call Sterling Hilliard at 432-683-9100 for more details
(Espanol) The Hilliard Companies necesitan una persona de tiempo completo (incluye beneficios) para limpiesa de oficinas y casas. Para mas informacion comunicarse con Sterling Hilliard 432-683-9100

Licensed Commercial Plumbers & Exp. Helpers
TMI Mechanical currently hiring **Licensed Commercial Plumbers** and **experienced Helpers** for local jobsites. We offer top pay **(up to $30/hr. DOE)** 100% employer paid medical, paid vacations and holidays. Must have good driving record. **Please call 432-686-0002 for interview.**

Maintenance/Construction
The Hilliard Companies has an opening for maintenance/construction personnel. Person should be knowledgeable in all areas of general commercial building, residential, automobile and other common maintenance/construction duties. Please send resume to: careers@mmbo.com or call 432-683-9100 for more information. Office at 3001 W. Loop 250 N. Ste. E-127, Midland, Tx

PRESSMAN
The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an immediate opening in its Production Department for the position of: PRESSMAN for our Harris N 1650 Printing presses.
This 5-6 day per week, fast paced, deadline oriented position, requires: night shift/weekend work, with a strong emphasis on safety. The Midland Reporter-Telegram offers a full package of company benefits including 401K program. Salary DOE.
Send resume and salary requirements to:
John Maddox, Director of Production/Facilities
c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram 201 E. Illinois St., Midland, TX 79701. E-mail:jmaddox@hearstnp.com
Midland Reporter-Telegram is part of Hearst Corporation
NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE

Technicians
Diesel Testers Inc. is hiring for Fuel Techs,Turbo Techs,and Engine Techs. Will Train but a Mechanical Background and Tools would be required. Call DT @ 432-368-4232

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

CDL Drivers
Horizon Transportation FT
Now hiring Class A CDL Drivers, clean driving record is required. Must pass a criminal background check and DOT drug test. Please call **432-699-4468**.

Class A CDL Truck Drivers
Prefer drivers with Pneumatic Tanker experience. Benefits include: medical, life and dental insurance, and paid vacation. Applicants having experience hauling sand and/or dry cement helpful. Good driving record, DOT, drug & alcohol testing required. Apply in person, call 432-563-1894 for interview or online @ www.rockwaterenergy.com

Hot Oil and Pump Truck Operators
SOC Industries, LLC now hiring experienced Hot Oil and Pump Truck operators. Must have at least 1 year experience and be able to pass DOT, MVR and drug test. Must be able to effectively communicate in English. You will earn top wages and performance/safety bonuses. Benefits include: paid health insurance, paid vacations, paid holidays and furnished uniforms. Apply in person at **2324 FM 715, Midland Texas 79706, fax resumes to 423-620-0035 or email resumes to: timgreer@socind.net. No phone calls please.**

Vacuum Truck Operators
SOC Industries, LLC now hiring experienced drivers/operators. Must have at least 6 months experience and be able to pass DOT, MVR and drug test. Must be able to effectively communicate in English. You will earn top wages and performance/safety bonuses. Benefits include: paid health insurance, paid vacations, paid holidays and furnished uniforms. Apply in person at **2324 FM 715, Midland Texas 79706, fax resumes to 423-620-0035 or email resumes to: timgreer@socind.net. No phone calls please.**

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

General

NEWSPAPER STREET CORNER SALES

Selling Newspapers On The Street Corners
(avg. income $50.00 - $100.00/day)
MUST BE AT LEAST 14 YEARS OLD
SUNDAYS ONLY
IF INTERESTED CALL
TOMMY 967-2267

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone??

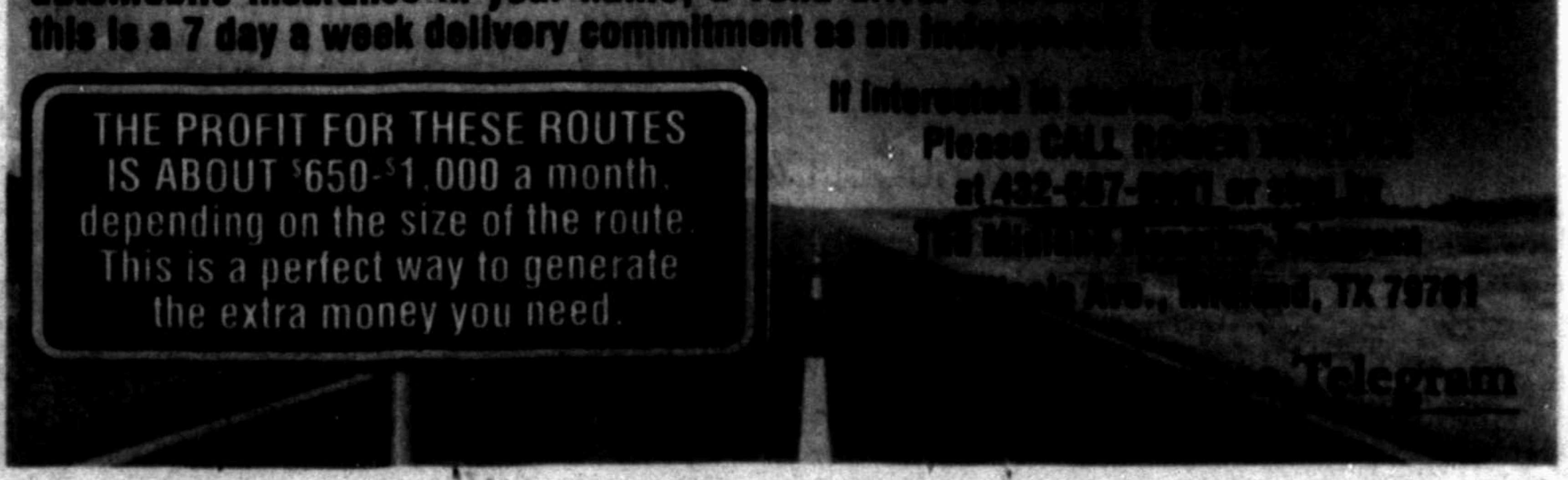
Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

Contact: Linda 687-8807

mrt★com/jobs

Beats standing on the street corner!

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY



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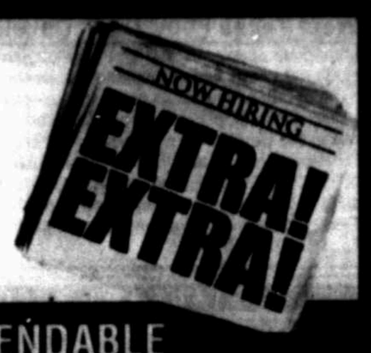
Midland Reporter-Telegram
HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN IT'S DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE



Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be from later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person.

Starting pay $10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be $11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at [illegible]

Midland Reporter-Telegram
HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN IT'S DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm - 4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person.

Starting pay $10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be $11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at [illegible]
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

MRT MEDIA GROUP mrt.com
Midland Reporter-Telegram

YOU can have a rewarding career in ADVERTISING!

Do you have excellent communication skills?
Are you detail oriented?
Do you have an assertive, positive attitude?
Are you a self-starter?
Do you excel in time management and organization?
If so, then we will train you to SUCCEED!

The MRT Media Group, a Hearst Corporation company, is looking for full-time Inside and Outside Sales Multi-Media Account Executive. Duties will include selling print and digital advertising into the Midland Reporter-Telegram, mrt.com, MRT Weekly, and a variety of custom publications.

The Hearst Corporation is one of the largest, diversified communications companies, with major interests in magazine, newspaper and business publishing, cable networks, television and radio broadcasting, internet businesses and more. As an associate of the MRT Media Group, you will join more than 20,000 in the Hearst family.

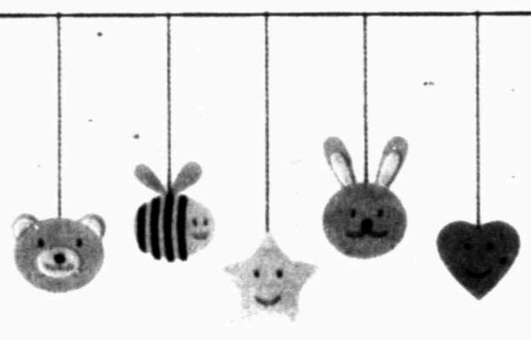
$1,000 SIGN ON BONUS!

We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package guaranteed commission for three months, mileage and cell phone allowances, and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you are ready to SUCCEED, please send a resume to:
Jeri Houston, Advertising Sales Manager
MRT Media Group
201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701
jhouston@mrt.com

Equal Opportunity Employer

You Can Email your Classified Ad to: mrtclassified@mrt.com



Babies of 2014

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will publish a special baby section dedicated to all the special people born in 2014. Our "Cover Baby" will be chosen at random. All babies appearing in the Babies of 2014 section will be eligible to be our "Cover baby".

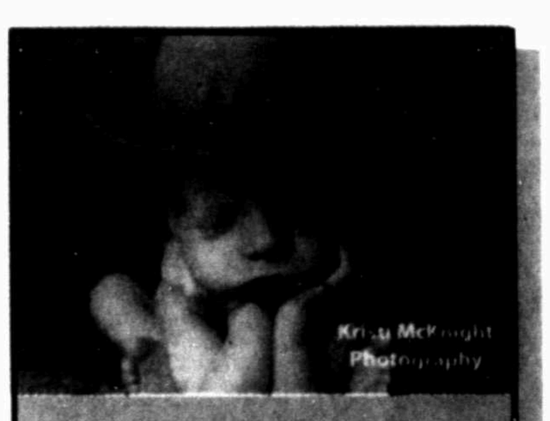
Now is your chance to show everyone how cute your baby is! If a baby was born in your family in 2014, complete this form and return it with a photo and payment to our office by Sunday, January 11, 2015 to get your baby published in a 2.46 " x 5" profile in our Babies of 2014 special section! *Please note that this special section will be printed in black & white with the exception of the cover and back page.

Printed Photo Requirements
- Color print*
- Minimum size: 2"x3"
- Vertical pose preferred
- One baby per photo
- Twins require double spot
- Include baby's name on back of photo

Please complete this form and return with photo and a $25.00 payment by Friday, January 9, 2015.
Pictures will not be returned.

Digital Photo Requirements
- Color Image*
- Minimum 3.5"x5" @ 200 dots per inch resolution
- .jpg format preferred

Please send your digital photo and the submission form to rellis@mrt.com.
You will be contacted for credit card payment.



Christopher Zay Buck

Birthdate: August 22
Parents: Megan Lea Buck and Christopher L. Buck
Grandparents: Luke and Kathy Lea, Natalie Rice, Mark and Mary Buck
Favorite Food: Milk
Likes: His big sister, Kaitlyn
Dislikes: His car seat

Actual Size

Babies of 2014

Baby's Information

Name _____
Birthdate _____ ,2014
Parents _____
Grandparents _____
Favorite Food _____
Likes _____
Dislikes _____

Your Information

Parent's Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

☐ *Ok to receive emails from us with contest information, news and special offers about local Midland businesses?*

To Submit Your Form Online Go To: mrt.com/babies2014
Publishes Sunday, 1/25/15

201 E. Illinois • Midland, Tx 79701
Attn: Advertising, Babies of 2014, Rachel Ellis

MRT MEDIA GROUP
Midland Reporter-Telegram mrt.com

Who's Who For Service

What a GREAT place to advertise your business!

Call 682-6222 for details.

Services & Professionals

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HOUSE CLEANING No job too big or small. Floors, bathroom, windows. WE DO IT ALL! 15 years experience. Call us today! Call Paty at 970-210-2354 or Perla at 432-413-0474

NATIVE MIDLANDER, cleaning services since 1950's. Weekly rates for residential and offices. 432-967-3710

TAKING NEW Clients! Professional House Cleaning. Call Maria at 432-208-0902

Computer Services

Repair & Replacement

A+ COMPUTER Tutor! Overcome Your Fear of Computers! ✔Your PLACE at Your PACE. ★Call Karen 432-553-2468 (leave msg). Gift certificates available.

COMPUTER SUPPORT SERVICES
Repairs, upgrades, troubleshooting, and installs. Virus/spyware removal. Over 20 years experience. Reasonable rates. 432-238-9664 432-694-3915

Home Services & Home Improvement

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ADVANCED BRICK DOCTOR, brick & mortar repair, All types of new construction specializing in block and brick fence. Steve Rickey. 432-853-2859.

CABALLERO MASONRY. Brick/block/stone, stucco, driveways, sidewalks, flowerbeds. Insurance. Bonded. Residential & Commercial. Free estimates. 432-631-8781

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CUSTOM KITCHEN
Cabinets, Formica Countertops, Beveled Edges. References. Work Guaranteed. Free Estimates. Call Luis, 432-664-0224.

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INSTALLS & Repairs Carpet, Tile, Wood, Paint, Electrical, Plumbing and Much More. 432-924-3260.

Appliance Repair

REPAIR SERVICES and Parts for Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, Washers & Dryers.
Free Service Call with Repair.
Full Warranty, Very Affordable Prices.
M&M Appliances
1007 N. Midkiff, Midland. Call 432-570-8278

TJ'S COMPUTER REPAIR. Repair/Upgrades. New Computer Setup. Virus and Spyware Removal. Wireless Networking. Reasonable Rates. Work on site or pickup. 432-686-0831

Home Services & Home Improvement

Concrete

CABALLERO MASONRY. Brick/block/stone, stucco, driveways, sidewalks, flowerbeds. Insurance. Bonded. Residential & Commercial. Free estimates. 432-631-8781

JS Concrete
Slabs,curbs,driveways, patios, Stamp concrete. Free Estimates. Bonded & Insured. Juan Sanchez, owner. 432-413-0924

M & M, all types of concrete work. Specializing in stamped, stained, rock & block work, 20 years experience, 432-230-3372.

QUALITY CONCRETE & METAL BUILDINGS
Work of all types. Driveways, patios, sidewalks, house/metal buildings, foundations. Call 432-816-6839 / 432-263-5272.

QUIROZ COMPANY STAMP CONCRETE
All types of concrete work. Choose your pattern. All types of remodeling. References. Felix @ 631-6734 or Matt @ 631-2475.

SUPERIOR Concrete
Metal Building Slabs, Home Slabs, Additions, Driveways, Sidewalks, Patios, Flowerbeds, Etc. For Free Estimates Call 432-349-9643.

TOTAL CONCRETE by Manny Ribera. Native Midlander. Steel buildings, patios, sidewalks, concrete stamping, qtr-inch over lay, total crack repair, total resurfacing qtr-inch. www.mRiberaConstruction.com

Doors, Siding & Windows

The Cold Weather is here, give us a call for all your **WINDOW, DOOR AND SIDING** Needs. Always FREE Estimates. 432-978-0948.

Home Services & Home Improvement

Electrical

ALL YOUR electrical needs met. Call G&S Electric. 32 Years experience. 432-685-0859. TECL # 22541

JOHNSTON ELECTRIC is now providing residential electrical service work with reasonable rates. Dependable and honest. Licensed and insured. Please call 432-279-1235 for an appointment

Fences

ABC FENCE, Native Midlander doing Professional quality work since 1979. Gates are my specialty. Repair and small jobs welcome. Call Lonnie 432-638-7950

ARMSTONG FENCE & Welding. We do all types of fencing, new or repair. We also do metal buildings. Call 432-978-8497

QUALITY WORK at best prices. Serving West Texas since 1973. Repairs or replacing, free estimates. Call Frank Wright 432-634-6888.

STABILITY FENCING & Construction. Repair or rebuild wood, sheet metal, cinder block, brick, rod iron. For any size job call 978-9990

Fireplaces & Firewood

$85 TRUCK load mixed or Oak - Pecan. Delivered. 432-967-0767.

ERIC'S FIREWOOD Oak/Mesquite or Mix 1/4-$105, 1/2 $210, Full $420. Call 432-934-6198. Thank you!

FIREWOOD by Midland Fireman. Oak, Pinon, Mesquite firewood. Full, half and quarter cords. Free delivery. Also, Tree Trimming Services. Also selling firewood racks. Call 432-557-2897.

Fax Your Classified Ad In Today! 682-6999

Home Services & Home Improvement

Fireplaces & Firewood

TERRY'S FIREWOOD- Oak - Mesquite - Pecan. Full & 1/2 cords. Free local delivery & stacking. Cheaper price if picked up. 432-488-7695.

Handyman Services

24 HR Handyman. For any type of job, big or small. Repair or rebuild, flat rate, 432-978-9990.

A TO Z Christian Handyman to all my customer's I'm the Pecos Cantaloupes man. Doing general repairs. I also do Interior/ exterior painting. Call Jimmy 432-312-6854 or 432-210-4858

HANDYMAN LIGHT & Ceiling Fan repair, leaky faucet, minor home repair, clean up, trash hauling & more. Raul 432-288-8998 Reasonable.

SAMPLE REMODELING Complete Remodels, Floors, Showers, Senior Discounts. 432-260-6699

Heating & Air Conditioning

At your service actionairplumbing.com (432) 620-8900

ELLIS & SONS Plumbing & Air Conditioning Sales & Service. Service all brands. 683-2679. TALCB005482.

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Interior/Exterior Proudly Using Sherman-Williams Paint Free Estimates 432-349-1563

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR painting and remodeling including carpentry, wall and fence repairs, window repairs, brickwork repairs, concrete shed bases, also available for contract new build painting, 25 years experience, small family run business, clean and reliable, insured and guaranteed work, please call 432-260-7119

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- New Construction & Additions
- Custom: Flooring, Cabinets & Remodels
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Insured and Bonded. References Available.
Commercial/Residential
Major Credit Cards Accepted
For Free Estimates
Call 432-557-4261
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Concrete

RUDY'S HOME IMPROVEMENT
Repair & remodeling, commercial and residential. All types of concrete work, concrete staining & stamping, brick, block, rock, stone tile, brick mortar repair, etc. Drywall, texture, and painting, interior & exterior. REASONABLE RATES quality work, free estimates, bonded Contractor Rudy 212-1122.

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Emily Berl/N.Y. Times

Matthew Cobb, 7, receives an infusion to treat an autoimmune disease while playing video games with his brother, Micah, 8.

Clinics try new techniques to calm young patients

By Jan Hoffman
N.Y. Times News Service

ORANGE, Calif. — Nick Meza, 18, recently had another five-day round of chemotherapy at the outpatient clinic here at Children's Hospital of Orange County. Usually those days drag for Nick, an Eagle Scout with a flashing grin, a hunger for conversation and acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Like most patients who get intravenous medication at a pediatric clinic, Nick typically receives treatment in a small, curtained cubicle with hospital-green walls, outdated video games that are often broken, tiny TV monitors and dividers that don't muffle hallway clatter or the wails of a child in the next cubicle.

But now Nick, whose baseball cap doesn't disguise his gleaming bald head, emerges from his cubicle, holding his IV pole. He saunters down the hall toward velvety black curtains. Parting them, he slips inside and eases into a reclining chair.

Adrenalized thumping music fills the makeshift space, called the Infusionarium. Roiling close-ups of extreme sports spring across four high-definition monitors, each 5 feet tall: skateboarding stunts, parachute-skiing, kayaking over waterfalls.

Nick is entranced. After a while, there's a beep on his IV. The infusion is finished. He is oblivious. "That's crazy!" Nick shouts at race cars careening across the monitors. "This is awesome!"

According to the National Cancer Institute, nearly 16,000 new cases of cancer will have been diagnosed this year in infants and children up to 19 years old. On any given day, thousands of these young patients are receiving chemotherapy at outpatient infusion clinics. Children are also treated with infusions for other illnesses, including Crohn's disease, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, sickle cell anemia and immune disorders.

The long-term impact can leave some patients with post-traumatic stress.

"It can be horrific," said Dr. Leonard Sender, medical director of the Hyundai Cancer Institute at the children's hospital here. "We should be doing better psychosocial work with them throughout their cancer experience, so they don't feel like victims."

Now, as five-year survival rates for some pediatric cancers climb to 90 percent, medical teams are paying more attention to making outpatient treatment less formidable and more responsive to the patient's psychological needs.

That's no small challenge when patients at a pediatric clinic range in age from newborn to 25 years old.

To calm and distract them, researchers have tried aromatherapy, teaching patients self-hypnosis, having them make music CDs and giving them candy before medication.

Some clinics are being redesigned to encourage patients, especially reclusive teenagers, to be more social. The infusion clinic at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth, now includes play areas for younger children and long tables for teenagers to do their homework and watch TV together.

If teenagers want to document their cancer treatment, the Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center gives them cameras to use. Its outpatient infusion ciinic, which reopened this fall, features a large, light-filled space with activity tables and clusters of treatment chairs.

"We want to make sure they don't lose their childhood," said Lisa Scherber, director of patient and family programs. "The teenagers can stay together, but they can also enjoy watching the 4-year-olds do silly stuff. We intended the space to help them feel, 'I'm not alone in this.'"

Treated Like Children

The Infusionarium is the Children's Hospital of Orange County's latest effort to normalize the arduous visits.

Sender had long wanted patients to have some positive associations with treatment, to feel "more complete and whole." If he ever needed chemotherapy himself, he said, he would want to lose himself in a tranquil, enjoyable environment: "Could I get my infusion in an aquarium?"

He put the question to Roger Holzberg, a former creative director and vice president at Disney Imagineering, and also a former cancer patient.

In July, Holzberg installed the Infusionarium (infusion + aquarium).

Its black curtains invite patients to peek inside, where pinlights woven into the fabric twinkle like starlight. With the communal feeling of a cozy theater, it has room for four treatment chairs and seating for visitors — an ad hoc area intended to make a permanent difference. It offers patients a menu of age-appropriate selections, allowing them to be happily distracted, engage with one another, or connect with friends and family. The treatment chairs provide access to five broadcast channels, including social media (allowing patients to Skype, check Facebook), video games and movies.

The Infusionarium, which cost about $100,000, has another transporting feature: live feeds. Recently, young patients with IV poles and their relatives crowded into the space for a talk with staff at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, some 350 miles north.

A nurse-manager, Allison Langdon, distributed questions for the children to ask aquarium guides.

"This is to help the kids get started," Langdon said. "Most of them haven't been in school for quite a while."

As sea otters gamboled on one monitor, a 6-year-old receiving chemotherapy for a kidney tumor was too shy to read her question. She handed it to Nick, who smiled and read it aloud.

Driven by Distraction

Technology is not the only way the center engages patients. Like most pediatric hospitals, it employs therapists known as "child life specialists." Christy Campo's tools include a soothing voice, as well as finger paints, crayons and Scrabble. When a sick child is having a bad day, Campo and the patient may draw an archery-style target on a whiteboard, label each circle with a complaint, and then, with water-filled syringes, take gleeful aim.

But such activities may not work for teenagers and young adults. Robert B. Noll, a psychologist who is chairman of the behavioral science committee of the Children's Oncology Group, a national consortium, noted that cancer confounds normal adolescent development, when "part of your mission is to go off and do stupid things," he said. "But instead, 'Now I need my mom and dad.'"

If technology, such as that used in the Infusionarium, can be harnessed to help teenagers express themselves, he said, he is all for it.

But like all teenagers, these patients both want to assert their individuality and long to be just like everyone else. The Infusionarium gives them a cool place to hang out with one another.

"We want to help them realize they're all struggling with the same issues," said Dr. Heather Hawthorne, an oncologist at the Orange County hospital. "If you can improve that, you can improve their whole cancer treatment."

Paradox of wu wei is essential to civilization

By John Tierney
N.Y. Times News Service

Just be yourself.

The advice is as maddening as it is inescapable. It's the default prescription for any tense situation: a blind date, a speech, a job interview, the first dinner with the potential in-laws. Relax. Act natural. Just be yourself.

But when you're nervous, how can you be yourself? How you can force yourself to relax? How can you try not to try?

It makes no sense, but the paradox is essential to civilization, according to Edward Slingerland. He has developed, quite deliberately, a theory of spontaneity based on millenniums of Asian philosophy and decades of research by psychologists and neuroscientists.

He calls it the paradox of wu wei, the Chinese term for "effortless action." Pronounced "ooo-way,"it has similarities to the concept of flow, that state of effortless performance sought by athletes, but it applies to a lot more than sports. Wu wei is integral to romance, religion, politics and commerce. It's why some leaders have charisma and why business executives insist on a drunken dinner before sealing a deal.

Slingerland, a professor of Asian studies at the University of British Columbia, argued that the quest for wu wei has been going on ever since humans began living in groups larger than hunter-gathering clans. Unable to rely on the bonds of kinship, the first urban settlements survived by developing shared values, typically through religion, that enabled people to trust one another's virtue and to cooperate for the common good.

But there was always the danger that someone was faking it and would make a perfectly rational decision to put his own interest first if he had a chance to shirk his duty. To be trusted, it wasn't enough just to be a sensible, law-abiding citizen, and it wasn't even enough to dutifully strive to be virtuous. You had to demonstrate that your virtue was so intrinsic that it came to you effortlessly.

Hence the preoccupation with wu wei, whose ancient significance has become clearer to scholars since the discovery in 1993 of bamboo strips in a tomb in the village of Guodian in central China. The texts on the bamboo, composed more than three centuries before Christ, emphasize that following rules and fulfilling obligations are not enough to maintain social order.

These texts tell aspiring politicians that they must have an instinctive sense of their duties to their superiors: "If you try to be filial, this not true filiality; if you try to be obedient, this is not true obedience. You cannot try, but you also cannot not try."

That paradox has kept philosophers and theologians busy ever since, as Slingerland deftly explained in his new book, "Trying Not to Try: The Art and Science of Spontaneity." One school has favored the Confucian approach to effortless grace, which actually requires a great deal of initial effort.

Through willpower and the rigorous adherence to rules, traditions and rituals, the Confucian "gentleman" was supposed to learn proper behavior so thoroughly that it would eventually become second nature to him. He would behave virtuously and gracefully without any conscious effort, like an orator who knows his speech so well that it seems extemporaneous.

Wearable tech is all the rage for Christmas this year

Q: Dear PropellerHeads: I have been a saint this year and am expecting some great gifts this holiday. Any recommendations for my wish list?

A: It's great to finally see that someone is more nice than naughty. So, let's jump into the Ask The PropellerHeads 2014 Holiday gift list.

We'll cover some of the coolest items we have found or coveted this year. Before you buy, you might want to search online for "buying guides" for these products. We would also recommend dropping by a Best Buy, h. h. gregg or similar store nearby to check them out. Sometimes you just need to see and touch a gadget before you can really make a decision. Note: All prices are approximate based on recent price checks.

This year, wearable tech is all the rage. The Samsung Gear set the standard a while back, but there are many nice choices to consider now. These wrist-watch-type devices communicate with your smartphone. Some of the watches are — to say the least — a bit bulky, with a certain nerd-appeal, but you may want to shop based on personal style, too. Some products have minimal displays and are basically notification devices and phone (calling) extenders. Others are colorful micro-tablets letting your run quite a bit on such a small platform. Our favorite stocking stuffers are the Android-based Pebble Steel ($200), the Moto360 ($250) and the Apple Watch ($350).

Last year we recommended you take better care of yourself by letting the Fitbit watch your walking, workouts, sleeping, and other activities. We are still very fond of it, but you should also consider the Jawbone UP24 ($125) and the Garmin Vivofit ($170).

If you are considering a laptop, as usual, you have lots of choices. If you plan to run Windows, this year might be the time to consider the Microsoft Surface Pro 3 ($800). It's a bit of a tablet-laptop blend that might work well for you.

If you have been really good, maybe there is a drone hovering in your future. For us, the DJI Phantom 2 Vision+ ($1300) beats them all. This awesome craft will satisfy the geek in anyone and spook the FAA as a bonus. Remember to pick up a few extra props and battery.

Last Christmas, I got a gift of Coin ($100). After several well-publicized delays, current plans are for a spring 2015 launch. Might just be the time for you to throw away your credit cards and carry Coin instead.

So, I know this article is all about me. But that means it's also about my dog. I really like GoProfetch ($60) for your active, movie-taking canine. If you need to leave your best friend at home during the day, consider Petcube ($200) so you can check in from time to time and watch your four legged loved-one.

Last year we talked about Roku and Chromecast. The ability to take your laptop, tablet, or phone screen and display it on your big screen TV seems like a natural. I bought one of each. Amazon's Fire TV Stick ($39) is a new entry that is worthy of a look. I won't sleep until I complete my collection.

Good luck this holiday and remember the gift you give is always better than the one you receive. So consider helping a cause greater than you. Take a look at MyPlanG.com, Kickstarter.com, Wikipedia.org, or Change.org to get inspired and help.

Happy Chanuchrismakwanzakah!

When the PropellerHeads at Data Directions aren't busy with their IT projects, they love to answer questions on business or consumer technology. Email them to questions@asktheppropellerheads.com or contact us at Data Directions, Inc. 8510 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Visit our website at www.asktheppropellerheads.com.

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