

LEE HIGH VS.  
ABILENE HIGH

7:30 p.m. today  
at Grande



MHS at  
Abilene Cooper

Monahans at  
Greenwood

Read more in  
Sports/1C

# Midland Reporter-Telegram

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## AN INVESTMENT IN MIDLAND'S FUTURE

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Scott Sheffield, chairman and CEO of Pioneer Natural Resources, lends his support to the upcoming MISD bond issue Thursday afternoon during a Chamber of Commerce event at Centennial Plaza.

## Business, oil leaders promote \$163M bond

By Meredith Moriak  
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If Midland voters approve Midland ISD's \$163.1 million elementary school bond proposal on Nov. 6, Pioneer Natural Resources will see its tax bill increase by more than \$500,000 annually.

It's an increase Pioneer CEO and Chairman Scott Sheffield said his company is willing pay because having a quality education system in Midland is "very, very important to our 1,000 employees and the company."

Sheffield was one of four business leaders who spoke in support of MISD's \$163 million elementary school bond initiative Thursday in Centennial Plaza.

The Midland Chamber of Commerce and Midland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce have both voiced support of the bond that would improve facilities at 24 elementaries and build three new campuses to allow for enrollment growth.

InWest Retirement Solutions owner Paul Cain said he wants to see the public schools become a crown jewel of the community.

### Who will vote?

#### Who will vote on MISD's \$163 million bond proposition?

All eligible Midland County residents except those who live in precinct 202, which is Greenwood ISD, pay taxes to Midland ISD and can vote for or against the bond proposition.

#### COMING SUNDAY:

Oil executives believe long-range education planning is needed as drilling will continue for decades.

"Right now I don't take anyone by our public schools when I'm showing a visitor through town," said Cain, who does show them Midland Memorial Hospital, Midland College, Midland International Airport and the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. "(The schools) don't relay what we believe in as a community or act as a testament to what our community values are."

After thorough investigation of MISD's four-pronged plan, which

includes staff recruitment and retention, pursuing academic excellence, taking legislative action and creating a facilities masterplan, Cain said he decided to support the bond.

"I'm a fiscally conservative person, but there's a difference between spending money and investing money," Cain said. "This is an investment in our schools and in our future."

Cynthia Morales Maes, a Lee High School graduate, returned to Midland after college to work as a third- and fourth-grade teacher. She also worked as a district bilingual specialist before becoming president of Morales & Maes Insurance Services. Her current involvement with the districts is as mother of a third-grade MISD student.

"When my brothers and I went to the schools in the late 70s and early 80s our teachers could do a good job because they were able to give us personal attention. We didn't have portables and classroom student-teacher ratios were perfect," Maes said. "Now it's a different era, generation and time with a need for

Please see MISD/4A

## Conaway: Medicare's fate won't be determined any time soon

■ The congressman meets with senior care providers and talks about the program's future.

By Sara Higgins  
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Congressman Mike Conaway admits he doesn't have a lot of answers right now about what will happen with Medicare and Medicaid in the coming year.

In fact, Conaway can only respond with another question as to who will be in office after the November elections.

In the meantime, Conaway said he believes Congress will be able to block future cuts of 30 percent from Medicare reimbursements to physicians during the lame duck session, but he didn't expect much else in terms of Medicare or Medicaid to happen at that time.

"The elections are about who's supposed to make decisions, and if we change the White House, then the American people have said we want someone else to be making these big decisions and we won't have much to do during lame duck."

Conaway met Thursday with administrators and health care specialists at Senior Care & Rehabilitation, located near the intersection of Mockingbird Lane and North Midkiff Road. The center, which opened in 2007, offers nursing and long-term care to patients and is one of 36 such centers in the state.

"Our corporate management team has encouraged us to invite our political people in to let them know what we do with our patients — how we can serve them — in hopes that they see what seniors need so they don't cut Medicare and Medicaid any further," said Starla Russell, director of business development.

Conaway long has supported a plan for Medicare that would allow people over the age of 55 maintain their current benefits and replace the existing program for those currently under the age of 55, who would be presented with an array of private sector plans to choose from as part of a "premium support" program, which has also been called a "voucher" program by Democrats.

This demographic would share their premium costs with federal taxpayers but ultimately would be paying a higher proportion of their own health care costs than their parents or grandparents, he said.

"It has to be a different, new Medicare promise," he said. "We cannot afford the current promise for everybody over their lives; it's unaffordable. Nobody disagrees

Please see CONAWAY/4A

## An aggressive Biden calms jittery Democrats

By Richard S. Dunham  
Hearst Newspapers

### ■ Analysis

WASHINGTON — Democratic diehards were horrified a week ago when President Obama didn't mention Mitt Romney's "47 percent" remark, Bain Capital or offshore assets during the first presidential debate.

If nothing else, Vice President Joe Biden's relentlessly aggressive performance in Thursday night's vice presidential debate in Danville, Ky., will calm Democratic nerves and move the presidential campaign beyond the one-sided presidential debate in Denver.

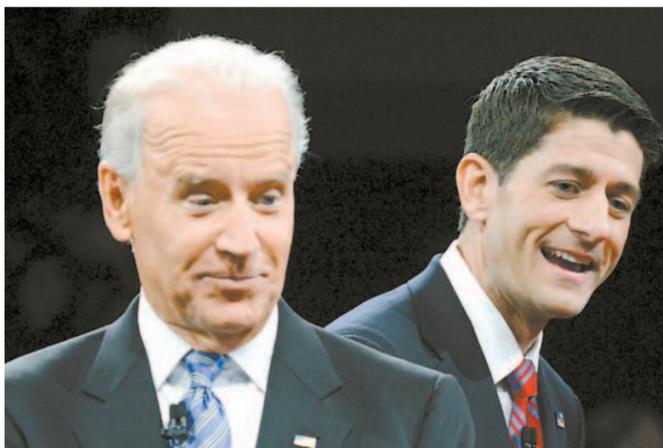
"He energized the Democratic base, which was disillusioned after President Obama's debate performance last week," said Aaron Kall, director of debate at

the University of Michigan. "At the very worst for him, the debate was a draw."

Both sides claimed victory after the 90-minute encounter at Centre College — and, indeed, both tickets have reason to be pleased. Neither candidate committed a headline-grabbing gaffe and both nominees spoke in carefully modulated sound bites that will appeal to their parties' core supporters.

"Traditionally, vice presidential debates don't have too much of an impact on the overall shape of the race," said David Lanoue, a political scientist at Columbus State University in Georgia. "And this one probably won't either."

Please see DEBATE/5A



Vice President Joe Biden and Republican vice presidential nominee Rep. Paul Ryan, of Wisconsin, gesture after the vice presidential debate at Centre College on Thursday in Danville, Ky.

Associated Press



### Weather

Mostly cloudy  
85/65  
Get your complete forecast on 6C.

### Energy prices

WTI Futures \$97.07 ▲ \$0.82  
WTI Posted \$88.50 ▲ \$0.75  
WTS Posted \$82.80 ▲ \$0.75  
Natural Gas \$3.604 ▲ \$0.129  
Gasoline \$3.661 ▼ \$0.009

### Water usage

On Wednesday, Midland used  
13.4 million gallons  
Learn more on the city's water usage and when you can water on 4A

### Inside

Man dies in one-car accident on Highway 349. Page 4A  
Today in Religion  
Churches invite pets for St. Francis Day. Page 1B



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## TODAY IN MIDLAND

### Things to do

■ Comedy night at the Velvet Room, Midtown Hotel, 3100 W. Wall St. Tickets: \$10.

■ Frankenstein, 8 p.m., Yucca Theatre, 208 N. Colorado Ave. For tickets, call 570-4111.

### Gas prices in Midland

Have you noticed how much more expensive regular unleaded gasoline is in Midland? As of Thursday, the cheapest gas in Midland (\$3.61) was 14 cents more than the cheapest gas in Odessa, according to TexasGasPrices.com.

In fact, there were more than 20 gas stations in Odessa with gasoline cheaper than \$3.61.

The cheapest gas in Midland also trailed Lubbock (\$3.36), Abilene (\$3.49) and San Angelo (\$3.50).

**Cheapest gas in Midland:** \$3.61 (Texaco, Midkiff Road/Wadley Avenue; H-E-B, Wadley Avenue/Midkiff Road; Texaco, Briarwood Avenue/Northcrest Drive; Stripes, Briarwood Avenue/Midland Drive; Murphy USA, Midland Drive/Briarwood Avenue; Alon, Midland Drive/Raleigh Court)

**Most expensive gas:** \$3.86 (Garden City Highway/Fairgrounds Road)

**Most common price:** \$3.69

**Cheapest gas in West Texas:** Lubbock \$3.36, Odessa \$3.47, Abilene \$3.49, San Angelo \$3.50, Midland \$3.61

	Mid-Odessa	Texas
Thursday	\$3.664	\$3.529
Last week	\$3.676	\$3.507
Last month	\$3.691	\$3.647
Last year	\$3.434	\$3.206

Source: TexasGasPrices.com

### This date in Midland history

**Oct. 12, 2002:** Former Midlander Jake Young was among the seven Americans and 202 total people killed when al-Qaida-linked militants bombed a nightclub on the Indonesian island of Bali. Young was a former all-American at the University of Nebraska and has since been inducted to the Lee High School Wall of Honor and Midland ISD's athletic hall of fame.

### Community calendar

■ A lecture about education in Texas by John Fitzpatrick, executive director of the Texas High School Project and Educate Texas, will be at 2 p.m. today in the UTPB Library Lecture Center, 4901 E. University Blvd. in Odessa.

The Texas High School Project is a public-private partnership aimed at creating model high schools for low-income students by focusing on high need schools and districts. It provides teacher recruitment and training, principal certification and redesigns low performance schools.

■ Coleman High School students will hold a garage sale from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday in the school's cafeteria, 1600 E. Golf Course Road.

Students are holding the garage sale to raise money for senior class shirts.

■ A benefit for cancer patient Joe L. Fuentes Sr. is planned for 1 p.m. Saturday at 943 N. Dallas Ave. Brisket plates will be available for \$10, burritos for \$3 and menudo for \$10.

There will be a washer tournament with trophies and other prizes. The entry fee is \$40 per team. For more information, call David Olgin at 556-2871.

■ The ABLE Center will be building a wheelchair ramp Saturday at a home in the 2400 block of East California Avenue.

The Odessa non-profit agency is building the ramp in partnership with the Texas Ramp Project, which provides wheelchair ramps for low-income elderly and disabled residents. For more information, call 580-3439.

■ The annual Texas-size Garage Sale, for the benefit of Meals-on-Wheels, is Oct. 19-21 at 407 E. Scharbauer Drive. Hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 19, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 20 and 2-4 p.m. Oct. 21.

There is a \$3 admission fee on Oct. 19; the other two days are free. A shuttle will run from the Super Mercado parking lot on Oct. 19-20. For more information, call 689-6693.

### Correction

Midlander Jason Dax Creek was convicted only of DWI. The headline that accompanied a story in Friday's edition was incorrect.

The Reporter-Telegram regrets the error.

### Water worries

Based on limits set by the Colorado River Municipal Water District and the amount the city can take from the Paul Davis water fields, city officials expect water delivery to be limited to 18.5 million gallons. Using more than that figure consistently could result in the city halting outdoor watering.

**Wednesday's total:** 13,439,000 gallons (CRMWD 10,123,000, Paul Davis fields 3,316,000)

### Lottery

**Pick 3 day:** 7-0-2  
**Pick 3 night:** 7-1-2  
**Daily 4 day:** 2-0-2-7  
**Daily 4 night:** 6-9-7-3  
**Cash Five:** 3-4-18-23-31  
**Texas Two Step:** 2-5-12-22  
 BB: 13  
**All or Nothing (morning):** 2-4-9-10-11-15-16-17-19-20-21-24  
**All or Nothing (day):** 1-2-3-4-6-7-9-12-13-21-23-24  
**All or Nothing (evening):** 1-5-6-10-11-12-18-19-20-21-22-24  
**All or Nothing (night):** 2-3-5-6-9-10-13-16-17-21-23-24

### Today in history

Today is Friday, Oct. 12, the 286th day of 2012. There are 80 days left in the year.

**On this date:**  
 In 1997, singer John Denver was killed in the crash of his privately built aircraft in Monterey Bay, Calif.; he was 53.

Associated Press

# Man dies in one-car accident on Highway 349

By Tyler White  
 twhite@mrt.com

One man died Thursday night from injuries sustained from a one-car accident on State Highway 349.

According to Midland police, the cause of the eighth vehicle fatality in Midland this year is currently unknown. Special Operations Lt. Ray Leible said he does not believe speeding or alcohol was involved in the crash.

At 6:20 p.m., Midland police responded to the accident at the 6400 block of Highway 349, where Donald Gene Rowan, 61, was found to be deceased at the scene. Rowan was driving south on Highway 349 when he lost control of his

car and struck a pipe fence, causing his 2001 Chevrolet Blazer to roll over one time, according to police.

Rowan was wearing his safety belt, according to a press release by Ryan Stout, interim public information officer for the city.

Helicopters were on the scene taking aerial photographs of the accident.

"It's sad," Leible said. "Any fatality is one too many."

Kendall Ross, a truck driver at the scene of the accident, said he saw a large cloud of dust after the crash occurred.

When the dust settled, Ross said he could see the driver was not moving.

The accident investigation is ongoing and the next of kin have been notified, officials said.



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland public safety officials investigate a fatal single-vehicle accident on Highway 349 north of the Loop 250 on Thursday.

## Committee approves permit for drilling in north Midland

■ The City Council still must vote on the three proposals.

By Sara Higgins  
 shiggins@mrt.com

Two companies were given unanimous approval Thursday to move forward with drilling permit requests made for areas in north Midland.

The Oil & Gas Advisory Committee voted unanimously to move applications onto the Midland City Council from Linn Operating, Inc. and Endeavor Energy Resources.

Linn Operating, Inc. first applied in September for a well site about 1 mile west of Holiday Hill Road and just east of Avalon. The committee asked for Linn to add contact information for a Midland office on its application and unanimously deferred the application until Thursday's meeting.

The company returned with two requests for variances, one permitting the well to be drilled 495 feet, which is 5 less than the ordinance allows, from a nearby office. The other

was for the company to office out of an existing location in Odessa.

"We already have well over 25 employees in that office," said Linn Operating regulatory specialist Cynthia Pinel. "We also have a lot of involvement with the city of Midland."

The city's oil and gas ordinance requires those drilling within the city to have an office within the city that can be contacted, board members said.

The permit will move forward to the council with recommendations from the committee to grant the variances.

Endeavor Energy Resources also received a deferment in September on its application for a drilling site located near North Midkiff Road and Passage Way. The committee had cited the absence of information about sufficient insurance for the proposed well in its decision. Endeavor representatives had fulfilled the proper ordinances upon return.

Endeavor also introduced a new permit for a drill site next to the one in its previous application. A couple properties are lo-

cated within 500 feet of the proposed well but do not have occupied structures. Representatives said during the meeting that they chose the locations almost four years ago and would prefer not to change the location.

Oil & Gas Advisory Committee member Don Eubank, who said Thursday would be his last meeting before his term expired, said the board must take a hard look at future variances on the placement of wells as Midland continues to grow and develop outward.

Negotiations continue to take place between surface owners and Endeavor for both drill sites, and representatives said they were hopeful about the possibility of reaching an agreement before the council meeting. Board members asked the company to consider a broader range on its sudden and accidental insurance in advance of the council meeting.

After the two companies bring their applications before the City Council for a public hearing, the council will wait 30 days before taking a vote on the proposals.

## Odessa man sentenced to 15 years for distributing child pornography

By Tyler White  
 twhite@mrt.com

An Odessa man was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison by Judge Robert A. Junell for distributing child pornography over the Internet from his residence, according to a press release sent out Thursday from the Department of Justice.

Ramon Hilario, 59, pleaded guilty July 19 to one count of distribution of material involving the depiction of minors engaged in sexually explicit content. Assistant U.S. Attorney Austin M. Berry prosecuted the case, while the FBI and New Zealand police conducted the investigation.

By pleading guilty, Hilario admitted that on Feb. 17, an undercover detective with the New Zealand police used a publicly available peer-to-peer file sharing program to access and download approximately 30 child pornography images that Hilario made available from his computer, according to the press release.

Hilario also admitted to having more than 600 images of child pornography on his computer, some of which involved images of a sadistic or masochistic nature, according to the press release.

Junell also ordered that Hilario be placed under supervised release for a period of 15 years after completing his prison time.

## MISD

### From 1A

more technology and space, but much of the district is still stuck in that time."

Restoring the school buildings and providing technology upgrades is something Mitch Mamoulides, Chevron Permian South Area manager, also believes in.

"We haven't done much since the 1960s and 1970s and we have a duty to provide schools for kids today and the future," Mamoulides said.

Chevron, he said, regularly brings new employees to the Permian Basin and the schools need to be a positive recruitment tool.

"A community is enriched with a good education system. The better the education system, the more valuable your home is and that's something our employees are

looking for. They want good schools and homes with good values," Mamoulides said.

Both Mamoulides and Sheffield shared expectations that production will remain strong in the Permian Basin for decades.

Chevron and Pioneer are among the companies that have committed hundreds of millions of dollars for building projects in Midland. Sheffield again commented on the city's future growth that he said could push 150,000 to 200,000 in the next eight to 10 years.

When it comes to the condition of Midland's schools Cain said that falls solely on the citizens and voters.

"The public school facilities are all on us. We can't point blame at Austin," Cain said.

## FELONY ARRESTS

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

**Frederico Gomez**, 37, of Midland, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of prohibited substance in a corrections facility.

**Shea L. Hall**, 22, of Midland, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of violation of probation.

**John D. Hollowell**, 33, of Midland, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.

**Nathen L. McDaniel**, 18, of Midland, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of evading arrest.

**Mike H. Ortega III**, 21, of Midland, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of aggravated perjury.

**Jose J. Reyes**, 24, of Midland, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.

**Clarence P. Sauer**, 59, of Stanton, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.

**John M. Vasquez**, 26, of Stanton, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of a bench warrant.

**Carolyn A. Williams**, 56, of Midland, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of burglary of a building.

Midland County Sheriff's Office

## Seminar offers advice on troubled youths

By Tyler White  
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BCA Permian Basin hosted a seminar Thursday to inform attendees on the risk factors of suicide and depression.

The seminar attracted about 100 people, including educators, social workers and parents, who were interested in learning more on suicide prevention. A presentation by Elizabeth Garza, educational consultant with Region 18 of the Educational Service Center, offered statistics on national suicide rates, factors that could lead to suicide and resources for further information.

Community members from Midland requested the seminar after four suicides occurred within 90 days of each other during the 2011-12 school year, said Sheila Hunt, BCA Permian Basin director of business development.

Garza said she felt compelled to engage Midlanders with this important information.

"It made me feel that we needed to have something in place that was really educating our educators on what risk factors to look for, what warning signs to look for," Garza said.

Suicide risk factors include a family history of suicide, a stressful life event or loss and past history of abuse, she said, but having these factors does not mean suicide will occur.

Meanwhile, warning signs of suicide can range from depression to sudden

changes in personality or an inability to concentrate or think clearly, Garza said.

Teachers and administrators need to understand the signs associated with suicide, Garza said, and that by making a referral for students and personally reaching out to them, they may be able to help a student in need.

Suicide Prevention Coalition President Thomas Schmidt said teenagers and young adults are not the only people dealing with suicide and depression. The number of deaths by suicide in active duty military and veterans is rising, and no one is talking about it, he said.

"We are losing more veterans to suicide than we are to combat," Schmidt said.

Suzanne Bingham, a social worker for the Department of State Health Services, said the concept of "masked" depression, where someone channels their depression into other potentially hazardous activities, was new information to her. She said it is crucial for educators to act as the first line of support at schools for students at risk.

"It seems like it's happening too often," Bingham said.

Parents and teachers can find more information and resources for assistance with at-risk youths at the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's website, www.sprc.org, or by visiting the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

## CONAWAY

### From 1A

with that."

The premium support plan, Conaway said, would allow more of an open market in health insurance to drive costs down as much as possible and slow consistent growth in premiums.

"Health care is not getting cheaper," he said. "Nothing that we're talking about really addresses the core issue of what do we do to limit the amount of health care dollars needed for any one individual body. Right now we're chasing an ever-expanding pool of costs with finite resources. At some point in time you have to reconcile that difference."

Conaway said he's not able to tell what new pending legislation could happen until after the elections, but he knew one thing for certain: "By 2024, Medicare is done. It goes into a cash flow wreck. Anyone who benefits at that point in time will be affected."

The state of Texas is about to get jammed up with Obamacare extending Medicaid to a larger population without an equivalent ramp up in resources."

Conaway's intention is to make what he believes to be necessary changes long before the 2024 deadline so that younger individuals have the ability to plan for higher health care costs later in life, he said.

"It's unequitable, it's unfair, but it's reality," he said. "The truth is, you'll

pay more."

Senior Care administrator Jackie Lowe said she often hears questions about how the Affordable Care Act will affect the center's patients, but she's still left with too many questions of her own to answer.

"Our families, not necessarily the residents themselves ... have concerns about the direction that Medicare and Medicaid might go in as far as paying for their parents' stay or how much is going to come out of their pocket," said administrator Jackie Lowe. "They don't understand a lot of the rhetoric coming out of this campaign season ... and we don't always have the answers to assure them."

The discussion about health care probably will remain confusing for some time in terms of how to address the dilemma Congress will face in 2024.

"The country's still pretty polarized," he said, expressing his frustration with President Barack Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and accusing them of refusing to "engage in the conversation."

"If there's a better plan than one we've put forth, I'll vote for that," he said. "This fix to Medicare isn't about being Republican or Democrat."

It's about putting a promise in place that makes sense and you can count on and rely on over that time frame."