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Friday, November 18, 2011

Volume 107 • No. 188

TODAY IN SPORTS

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0000471 12/31/2020 HERITAGE ARCHIVES

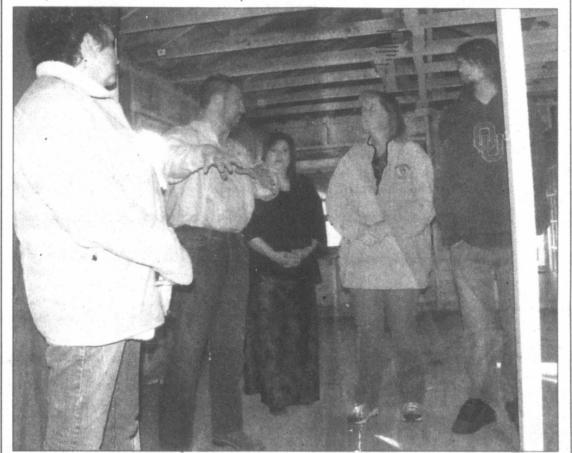
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Page 6

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75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

# **HOME SWEET HOME**



staff photo by Arnie Aurellano

Janna Sims (second from right) and son Terry (right) discuss their soon-to-be new home with Habitat for Humanity board of directors members (from left) Christy Robinson, Jason Bagwell and Robin Bailey on Thursday afternoon.

# Habitat's first Pampa family official

ARNIE AURELLANO editor@thepampanews.com

When Janna Sims' home was destroyed by a fire in August of last year, she was left with nothing.

On Thursday afternoon, thanks to Pampa's Habitat for Humanity, she beamed as she stood inside what will soon be her new home, discussing how she wanted her kitchen to look.

"We're very blessed," Sims said. "I'm excited. It's going to be a lot of work, but I'm very, very happy."

Sims and her two children, 17-year-old Terry and 4-yearold Sterling, toured their soonto-be residence with the Pampa Habitat for Humanity board of directors yesterday, shortly after signing papers making them Habitat's first local ben-

eficiaries. Sims applied for a Habitat house in July, and Habitat picked her family to be its first home recipient in September

after a lengthy selection process. She can still remember the phone call when she found out she'd been chosen.

"As soon as I got off the phone, I started telling my family," said a smiling Sims. "I felt so great."

Karen Price, head of Pampa Habitat's selection committee, said that the organization is looking forward to helping Sims rebuild after such loss.

"Because she did lose her home from fire, we feel like she is very deserving," said Price. "She met all our criteria, and she was willing to partner with Habitat. That's a very important part of it. A lot of people HABITAT cont. on page 2

# Tax receipts up for two straight years

MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

The numbers are in, and they are looking good. For the second year in a row, the city's sales tax rev

enue is on the rise. This year, the city received \$4,914,125 total. After a quarter of that, amounting to \$1,228,531 went to the Pampa Economic Development Corporation, the city was left with \$3,685,593, up from last year's sales tax revenue of \$3,303,194. For the year, the sale: tax revenue was \$242,593 higher than anticipated, or about 7 percent



Bailey

"In the year that ende in 2010, w were \$21,00 over budget and two year prior to that we were jus barely mak budge: (That year), w budgeted low because thing

were slow, and we were over bud get, but this year we increased the budget \$150,000 over the price year, and we made that and more said Robin Bailey, City of Pampa Finance Director.

"That's the highest we've bee for a while," added Bailey. "There for a few years, we were goin way up. It was increasing so much every year up until three years ago and it started leveling back off, but it looks like it's picking up again and it's going to be good.

The higher sales tax revenue may be a good sign of the times here in Pampa.

"I think (the economy is picking up)," said Bailey. "When oil prices and gas prices are higher, it seems like our economy follows that, and goes right back up with it. It was a pretty good retail year."

# Jingle Bell Walk/Run on Dec. 3, deadline Nov. 29

MOLLIE BRYANT

mbryant@thepampanews.com

During this year's Christmas on Main, get your bells ringing for the Pampa High School Cheerleaders' Jingle Bell Walk/

The event will take place at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3. The deadline to sponsor the event, which costs \$25, will come up on Monday. The deadline to register to participate is Tuesday, Nov. 29, with a \$20 entry fee that guarantees the participant a Jingle Bell Walk shirt. Late registration will also be an option and will take place on the day of the event at 10 a.m., but those who register past the deadline may not wind up with a shirt. All proceeds from the event

will go to the Optimist Club's Children's Shopping Tour.

"The Jingle Bell Walk/Run will be at the end of the day once it gets dark," said Sandee Stokes, PHS cheerleading sponsor. "We'll start at City Hall, and we have a one mile route lined up. People can walk or run, and they can do the one mile route or the 5K.

Stokes encouraged people to bring their four-legged friends along for the ride.

"People can bring their dogs, as long as they're on leashes. Last year, people put bells and reindeer antlers on their dogs, or lights on their strollers. We'll have jingle bells people can wear," she said.

This is the second year in a JINGLE cont. on page 3

Just 10 bucks and you're

# HIGH MAINTENANCE



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Bob Cook (left) and Garrett Morton of Xcel Energy connect a temporary power line to provide a power source for the Happy State Bank construction site on Hobart and Somerville Thursday.

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

Cornics ..... 5 Obituaries ..... 2 Local Record...... 2 Puzzles/Dear Abby... 6 Sports ..... 6 Afternoon Rush ..... 3 Home How-to ..... 3



#### PAMPA FORECAST



Saturday



Low 35

Low 41

Today: Sunny, with a high near 68. Wind chill values between 24 and 34 early. Windy, with a south southwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 46. Windy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. Windy, with a west southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

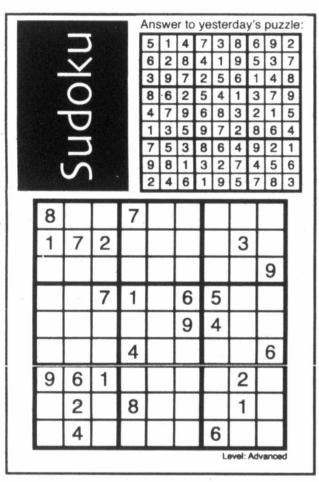
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 35. Windy, with a northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. Breezy, with a east northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

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#### LAST MINUTE ADS

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EARLY DEADLINES for Classified & Last Minute Ads. For Mon. Nov 21 deadline is Fri Nov 18 noon. For House, Sat. Nov. 16th Tues. Nov 22 deadline is Fri Nov 18 2pm. For Wed. Nov 23 deadline is Mon. Nov 21 10am. For Fri. Nov 25 deadline is Wed Nov 23 noon. No weekend edition. For Mon Nov 28 deadline is Wed Nov 23 2pm Thanks & Happy Thanksgiving! Pampa News

NEED PART-TIME Childcare? First Baptist Church Child Development Center, 669-3529 accepting 6wks-5th grade. Limited space available during school holiday breaks & Summer. Meals Provided.

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SALE-CLOTHING, Jewelry, Home Decor, Gifts, X-mas Decorations-Many Items Reduced at Carousel

TIME TO Check Your Heater! Call H.M. Hall Heating & A/C, 669-2437, Borger Hwy. TACLB 003546E.

TURKEY DINNER, Pampa Sr. Citizen's Center, Tues. Nov. 22nd, 10:45-12:45, \$6. Members & guests welcome. Carry-out orders, call Mon. or Tues. before 9am.





staff photo by Arnie Aurellano

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As sons Terry and Sterling (seated right) look on, Janna Sims (seated center, with pen) signs the paperwork making her family Pampa Habitat for Humanity's first home recipients. Also present were Habitat for Humanity board of directors members (form left) Sherri McAvit, Mother Linda Kelly, Jason Bagwell, Christy Robinson, Susan Dunigan, Patti Hudson, Paul Nachtigall and Robin Bailey. Not present were board members Karen Smith and Karen Bridges.

#### Habitat

made applications, but when they realized that there's a lot of work involved in it, they're not always willing to partner. She was very willing.'

To maintain her eligibility for the house, Sims and her family must put in 250 "sweat-equity hours," which they have already begun to accrue. That includes going to financial stability classes every Tuesday night and doing volunteer work at their church, Pampa's Church of the Nazarene. Sims said that they will also be volunteering with Meals on Wheels and the Salvation Army.

"We've been trying to find as much volunteer work as possible so we can get these (hours) going," Sims

Habitat board member Jason Bagwell said that once Sims reaches 100 sweat-equity hours and places the \$500 down payment on the house, the construction

cont. from page 1, phase can begin.

"By around January or February, we believe she'll have enough hours," Bagwell said.

"I like building houses," he added with a grin. I like fixing people's houses up. I'm not big on paperwork, so we're really excited to get that part done and to really get started."

Operating under that timetable, Bagwell said that the Sims family should be in the house before summer. Price said that Habitat is now looking for volunteers

to help during the construction process.

"We want the community to come together and help us with this, because that's what we need," Price said. "This is a community project."

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Habitat for Humanity at 806-665-0349.

## Obituaries

#### Clyde T. "Plunky" Durham Jr., 78

BORGER—Clyde 'Plunky" Durham Jr., 78, died November 13, 2011, in Amarillo.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, November 19, 2011, at St. Mark CME Church in Pampa, with Rev. Darren Willis, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church of Pampa, officiat-

Burial will be at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Durham Pampa, with military hon-

ors courtesy of U.S. Army, Fort Hood. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral

Mr. Durham was born April 29, 1933, in Pampa where he attended Pampa schools. He was employed by Hardin & Roth Service Station. He was a mechanic for Waukesha-Pearce, and later worked for Phillips Petroleum Refinery as a heavy equipment operator. He worked for the City of Pampa, retiring in 2002. He was a member of St. Mark CME Church in Pampa. Clyde enjoyed hunting rabbits and was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan.

Survivors include seven sons, Clyde Durham and Marvin Oliver, both of Oklahoma City, Jerry Norman and wife Vickey of Borger, Joe Graves of Pampa, Virgil Hunter and Ronnie Hunter, both of Denver, Colo., and Quinton Young of Fort Worth; five daughters, Kaylo Harrison and husband Clifford of Fort Worth, Regina "Reggie" Smith of Jacksonville, Ark., Janice Pitts and Evelyn Ridley, both of Oklahoma City, and Deloris Crawford of Arlington; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews; and a sister, Juanda Newell and husband Kenneth of San Antonio. He was preceded in death by his parents; and three brothers, Eddie L. Durham, James "Sonny Boy" Wilson, and Bobby J. Durham.

Memorials may be made to St. Mark CME Church, 406

Replace each of the question marks below with

one of the vowels A, E, I, O or U and then

SECURE, LOVED; EAGER, SORRY

LEVEL rearrange the letters to form a common word.

Each vowel will only be used once.

**BANANAGRAM**S!

Elm, Pampa, TX 70965.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.

#### Luther E. Hankins, 78

Luther E. Hankins, 78, died November 16, 2011, in

Pampa. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, November 19, 2011, at Fairview Cemetery, with Pastor Paul Nachtigall, Interim Hospice chaplain, officiating. Military honors are courtesy of the U.S. Navy, and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Hankins was born October 30, 1933, in Ripley, Okla., where he graduated from high school. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1950, and served during the Korean Conflict. He married Patsy Ruth Murrell on December 18, 1954, in Los Angeles, Calif. She preceded him in death on July 13, 2004. Luther worked for Cities Service and Occidental Petroleum companies for 37 years. He was a very loving husband, father and grandfather.

Survivors include a son, Jeff Hankins of Fort Worth; grandson, Jeremy Hankins of Fort Worth; granddaughter, Larissa Damron of Odessa; sister, Anita Palmer of West Plains, Mo.; two nieces, Joan Hanks and husband Alan of Dana Point, Calif. and Gayla Ludlum and husband Chris of Lakeside, Calif.; sister-in-law, Phyllis Ramsey and husband Jim of Cushing, Okla.; brother-in-law, Bobby Murrell and wife Carolyn of Joplin, Mo.; and numerous other loving family members. Luther was preceded in death by his parents, a son Bruce, two sisters and on-

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.

## Billy Joe Lynch, 76

Skellytown—Billy Joe Lynch, 76, died November 16, 2011, in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pam-

Mr. Lynch was born August 8, 1935, in Leesburg. He married Captolia Tollison on August 15, 1953, in Pampa. He worked in the Panhandle area oilfield for 38 years, and worked for the White Deer Indepen-



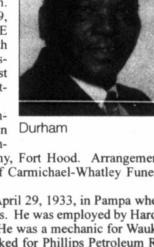
Lynch

dent School District for 9 years, retiring in 2003. Billy was a member of the First Baptist Church of Skellytown. He enjoyed working around the house and spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Captolia Lynch of the home; two daughters, Kathy Hilliard of Schulenburg, and Sarah Anson and husband Larry of Rolla, Mo.; a son, Billy Lynch and wife Miriam of White Deer; a brother, Adrian Lynch and wife Margie of Coolidge; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Billy was preceded in death by four sisters and two brothers.

Memorials may be made to High Plains Food Bank, 815 Ross, Amarillo, TX 79102, or Pampa Regional Medical Center, One Medical Plaza, Pampa, TX 79065 Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley

day's Answer: WEARY, PROUD: GLAD, SCARED;



## **MORNING***RUSH*

#### Prison sentence for smugglers

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A Brownsville man and three accomplices have been sentenced to federal prison for their roles in a drug smuggling and money laundering ring that moved cocaine from the border to Dallas and Atlanta.

The U.S. attorney's office says Arturo Gomez led the ring from his auto body repair shops in Brownsville. The 51-year-old had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine as well as money laundering. U.S. District Judge Hayden Head sentenced Gomez in Corpus Christi Thursday to 25 years in prison.

Three other members of the group were given sentences Thursday ranging from nearly six years to almost

#### US reviews deportation cases

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration has begun its promised review of backlogged deportation cases, focusing on illegal immigrants who have committed crimes or are considered public safety or national security threats.

An agency memo outlining the new approach says government lawyers will start with a pilot program to look at all new deportation cases in immigration courts.

Other illegal immigrants, including those brought to the U.S. illegally as children, probably will have their cases delayed indefinitely.

Republicans say the steps amount to "backdoor amnesty" for illegal immigrants.

#### Gas prices down four cents

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HOUSTON (AP) — Retails gasoline prices in Texas and nationwide have declined this week

AAA Texas on Thursday reported the average price at the pump statewide was \$3.22 a gallon, or 4 cents less than last week

The national average price for gasoline dropped a nickel, to settle at \$3.39 per gallon.

The association says Amarillo has the most expensive gasoline in Texas this week, topping off at \$3.26 a gallon. The least expensive gasoline statewide is in Corpus Christi, selling for \$3.11 per gallon.

AAA Texas says the current average retail gasoline price is 50 cents more than what motorists were paying a year ago.

#### Smucker recalls peanut butter

ORRVILLE, Ohio (AP) - J.M. Smucker Co. is recalling thousands of 16-ounce jars of its Smucker's Natural Peanut Butter Chunky because of possible salmonella

The Ohio-based company says the jars covered in the recall would have been purchased in the last week or so. They have "Best if Used By" dates of Aug. 3, 2012 and Aug. 4, 2012, plus the production-codes 1307004 and 1308004.

Smucker says 3,000 jars are being recalled from stores. Another 16,000 had never left warehouses.

Smucker says no illnesses have been reported. The product was distributed in: Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia.

#### PETA urges Turkey name change

URKEY (AP) — Animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is asking the town of Turkey to ditch the bird this Thanksgiving — sort of.

Through a letter sent to Turkey Mayor Pat Carson on Monday, PETA urged him to change the name of the town to "Tofurky" in time for next week's holiday.

The letter says that the birds live endure cruelty throughout their lives and that eating Tofurky, turkey's vegetarian alternative, comes without the suffering of the turkeys

PETA wrote that it will treat the whole city to a vegan holiday feast if the name is changed.

"Thanksgiving is murder on turkeys," PETA Executive Vice President Tracy Reiman told the Associated Press. "By changing its name to 'Tofurky,' Turkey would send a clear message that delicious, savory mock meat is an easy way to celebrate without causing suffering — and give a bird something to be thankful for."

## Jingle

cont. from page 1

row for Christmas on Main and for the Jingle Bell Walk.

"Last year was our first year, and everyone had a lot of fun. We had about 100 people (participating). It's a fun way to raise money and to get exercise, too," said Stokes.

#### CORRECTIONS

A photo caption in Wednesday's edition of The Pampa News stated Accolade donated that \$1,000 to the Children's Shopping Tour. Accolade actually donated \$5,000. • The Ministerial Alliance's

community service will be held at First Assembly of God, not First Baptist.

The Pampa News apologizes for the errors.



# Improve appearance of old carpet

Dear Pat: I just finished remodeling my house. I can only replace the carpet in two rooms because I ran over budget. How can I make old carpeting look better, and how should I maintain the new carpet? - Andrea R.

Dear Andrea: You certainly are not the first person to overrun a budget and have to cut back a bit on the final touches. Generally, unless your old carpeting is extremely damaged, you can use some tricks to make it look better for a year or two until you can afford to replace it.

Crushing is one of the most common and unsightly problems with old carpeting. It can be caused by the weight of furniture (usually from the feet) or by foot traffic from your family. The crushing from foot traffic is worse because those areas probably also have other types of damage

The best temporary method to improve crushing is just to hide it. Try to reposition your furniture so the heavily traveled areas are covered. The small crushed areas from the furniture feet that will be exposed can be fluffed up some. Vacuum them several times, and use a spray carpet cleaner on them. While they are still slightly damp, vacuum them again.

Depending on the type of carpet you have, pilling made have occurred in the high-traffic areas. These are small balls of fiber on the carpet surface. Take a sharp scissors and trim them off as level as you can. It may not look like new, but it will definitely look better than it did before

If you have young children, you likely have some snagged spots. This is where sharp objects, such as toys, table legs, etc., have pulled up a piece of the carpet. Cut the snag off. Never pull on it because you may just make the spot larger.

Since you are going to replace the carpet in a year or so, pull some fibers out from a spot hidden under the furniture. Glue them into the open spot, and trim them off level with the rest of the carpet. Use a hot? melt glue gun to put a small blob of adhesive on the fibers before you place them in the spot.

If you have pile carpet, sprouting is another common problem even on relatively new carpet. This is where one or several fibers stick up further than others, giving the carpet a rough appearance. Trim them off level and, again, never try to pull a long one out thinking it is just loose.

Regular vacuuming is the best method to maintain your new carpet. More than 75 percent of the dirt in carpets is loose and dry, so the vacuum will pick it up. Make sure to set the beater bar on the vacuum cleaner head to the proper

height. If it is too high, it will not adequately clean. If it is too low, it will cause excessive wear-and-tear on the fibers.

Professional cleaning should be done every two years. This deep cleaning will remove the stickytype of dirt that your vacuum leaves behind. For high-traffic areas, rent a steam carpet cleaner at the supermarket or home center store, and clean those spots each year. Also, rearrange some furniture every couple years to change the foot-traffic

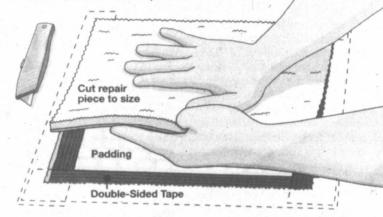
Send your questions to Here's How, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

#### **HOME** HOW-TO

#### Carpet Care

The carpeting in your house may show the results of spills, burns or damage from stains. Fortunately, you may be able extend the life of your carpet with elbow work and some proper maintenance.

#### Sometimes, no matter how hard you try, an area may be beyond repair. Find a carpet scrap that matches the damaged area from an unnoticeable place such as a closet, and use it as a patch.



VACUUMING Removing dry soil from most important and

foot traffic areas is the cost-effective way to protect your carpet from damage.

UV rays from sunlight can ruin carpet. Closing blinds or drapes before you leave for the day helps prevent damage, especially for dark carpets, which are more prone to color

fade from UV rays.

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# **liewpoints**

# Today in History

Today is Friday, Nov. 18, the 322nd day of 2011. There are 43 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 18, 1883, the United States and Canada adopted a system of Standard Time zones. On this date:

In 1910, British suffragists clashed with police outside Parliament on what became known as "Black Friday."

In 1928, Walt Disney's first sound-synchronized animated cartoon, "Steamboat Willie" starring Mickey Mouse, premiered in New York

In 1936, Germany and Italy recognized the Spanish government of Francisco Franco.

In 1958, the cargo freighter SS Carl D. Bradley sank during a storm in Lake Michigan, claiming 33 of the 35 lives on board.

In 1966, U.S. Roman Catholic bishops did away with the rule against eating meat on Fridays outside of Lent.

In 1978, U.S. Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., and four others were killed in Jonestown, Guyana, by members of the Peoples Temple; the killings were followed by a night of mass murder and suicide by more than 900 cult members.

In 1987, the congressional Iran-Contra committees issued their final report, saying President Ronald Reagan bore "ultimate responsibility" for wrongdoing by his aides.

In 1991, Shiite Muslim kidnappers in Lebanon freed Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland, the American dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut.

Ten years ago: Phillips Petroleum Co. and Conoco Inc. announced they were merging in a deal to create the third-largest U.S. oil and gas company

Five years ago: President George W. Bush, in Hanoi for a summit of Pacific Rim countries, lined up support for pressuring long-defiant North Korea to prove it was serious about dismantling its nuclear weapons program.

One year ago: President Barack Obama rallied former diplomatic and military chiefs from both parties to pressure reluctant Republican senators into ratifying a nuclear weapons deal with Russia. (The Senate ratified the treaty the following month.) General Motors stock resumed trading on Wall Street, signaling the rebirth of an American corporate icon that had collapsed into bankruptcy and was rescued with a \$50 billion infusion from taxpayers.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Brenda Vaccaro is 72. Author-poet Margaret Atwood is 72. Actress Linda Evans is 69. Actress Susan Sullivan is 69. Country singer Jacky Ward is 65. Actor Jameson Parker is 64. Actress-singer Andrea Marcovicci is 63. Rock musician Herman Rarebell is 62. Singer Graham Parker is 61. Actor Delroy Lindo is 59. Comedian Kevin Nealon is 58. Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Warren Moon is 55. Actor Oscar Nunez is 53. Actress Elizabeth Perkins is 51. Singer Kim Wilde is 51. Rock musician Kirk Hammett (Metallica) is 49. Rock singer 1 im DeLaughter is 46. Actor Romany Malco is 43. Actor Owen Wilson is 43. Singer Duncan Sheik is 42. Actor Mike Epps is 41. Actress Peta Wilson is 41. Actress Chloe Sevigny is 37. Country singer Jessi Alexander is 35. Actor Steven Pasquale is 35. Rapper Fabolous is 34. Actor Nate Parker is 32. Rapper Mike Jones is 31. Actor Danion Wayans Jr. is 29. Actor Nathan Kress is 19.

Thought for Today: "'It can't happen here' is number one on the list of famous last words." David Crosby, rock singer-musician.



# What Newt knows (that Cain doesn't)

If you take a gander at Newt Gingrich's Wikipedia page, in the personal section, you'll see quite a pile of baggage. Most of us have some. He has more than most: three marriages, messy divorces, affairs, etc. But here's the difference between Gingrich, the experienced politician, and the hopelessly inexperienced Herman Cain. Newt's baggage is all packed up -- which is what you're supposed to do with your baggage before you take off on a presidential campaign, not in the middle of it.

None of this is new. Newt's first wife, Jackie Battley, was his high school geometry teacher. He was 19 when they married; she was seven years older. The marriage lasted 18 years, until Newt took up with Marianne Ginther, whom he married in 1981. Back in 1985, Battley told The Washington Post a story that has since become apocryphal: Newt and the children went to visit her in the hospital while she was recovering from surgery for ovarian cancer, and Newt wanted to discuss the divorce. Ouch.

A little worse than Cain's fondling? Except -- nota bene --Gingrich cleaned that one up earlier this year. Not only did he dispute the account, but Jackie Gingrich Cushman, one of his two daughters from that marriage, wrote a column for Creators Syndicate (also my syndicate) titled "Setting the Record Straight" in which she insisted that it was not cancer at all, that her mother requested the divorce prior to the hospital stay, and that her father had taken them to the hospital to visit their mother and not to discuss the divorce.

Are you listening, Herman Cain? We call this damage control.

Today, both of the Gingrich daughters work with their dad. One runs Gingrich Communications, and the other is a conservative columnist and commentator who co-authored "5 Principles for a Successful Life" with her dad.

There isn't much about Ginther in Wikipedia, but another website notes that the

couple lived apart for some years before he took up with his current wife, Callista Bisek, then a House staffer.

SUSAN

**ESTRICH** 

Now this one is messy: There he was, heading the effort to impeach President Bill Clinton for his relationship with an intern while having his own affair with a congressional staffer 23 years his junior. What do you do? You give an interview before your campaign takes off, to a friendly reporter, effectively apologizing. Or as Newt told David Brody of the Christian Broadcasting Network earlier this year, "There's no question at times in my life, partially driven by how passionately I felt about this country, that I worked far too hard and things happened in my life that were not appropriate."

Now, I'm not sure how sleeping with a staffer relates to passion about this country, but the point is that Newt got it out there and did his mea culpa. He didn't stonewall (Cain's first response); he didn't deny it all (Cain's second response); he didn't send out his lawyer to threaten his accusers (Cain's third response). He put it out, apologized and turned it into old news.

Callista, according to her bio, is a devout Catholic. A devout Catholic married to a guy who's on his third marriage and has had two extramarital affairs? Yep. Turns out Newt

converted to Catholicism in 2009: "Over the course of several years, I gradually became Catholic and then decided one day to accept the faith I had already come to embrace." It was "catching a glimpse" of Pope Benedict during his 2008 visit to the United States that did it: "I was struck by the happiness and peacefulness he exuded. The joyful and radiating presence of the Holy Father was a moment of confirmation about the many things I had been thinking and experiencing for several years.

Since becoming a Catholic, he has developed a deeper appreciation of the role of faith in public life. Yes, once again, it was earlier this year that Newt said: "In America, religious belief is being challenged by a cultural elite trying to create a secularized America, in which God is driven out of public life." You hear that, Iowa (where religious conservatives dominate)?

Now that Gingrich is climbing in the polls, all of the marriages and the rest will recirculate in the political press. But unlike Cain's baggage, Gingrich's is old news packaged for public consumption and is therefore far less likely to derail his efforts.

A cynic might say Gingrich has reassembled his life story with the same political skill set that he used to come up with the Contract with America back in 1994, which led to the Republican takeover of the House and his own election as Speaker. That's probably true. But it

es precisely such a political skill to be a successful presidential candidate.

Sorry, Mr. Cain. 9-9-9 was never going to be enough. And about Libya...

Susan Estrich is a lawyer, professor, author, political operative, feminist advocate, and political commentator for Fox



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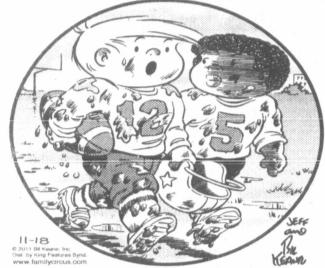
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Coach was right when he said we were the team to beat this year -'cause everybody has."

Non Sequitur



#### **Nest Heads**

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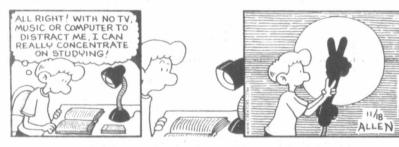
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# horoseope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Nov. 18, 2011:

You often feel a conflict between your emotional needs and your image. Don't look at these two principles as opposites; look for their similarities. Center yourself in that space. Though Scorpio is always sexy, you are even more so this year. You attract suitors left and right. If you are attached, your significant other might really enjoy your warmer style. The two of you up being critical. VIRGO is always your

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

\*\*\* You cannot sit on your creativity, as it will energize you no matter what you do or where you are. Still, you do have a certain amount of mandatory errands and meetings. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You might already be in weekend mode. Make sure you can afford to take a personal day or work from home. Are you insights, which can be a drain. Tonight: Let the good times begin.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** 

\*\*\* Your ability to communicate emerges as a necessity. You might wonder why you are doing certain things. Be a little more self-disciplined. Don't regret a statement or action. Slow down a little. Tap into your feelings more, too. Tonight: Break from your routine.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You could be a bit possessive or overwhelmed. Learn to ask for help more often. Advice from a key person at a distance only confuses your thinking more. Go for a walk or get into some other physical activity to clear your head. Tonight: Let it all happen.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

\*\*\* Use the daylight hours to the max, as you feel more empowered. When facing vagueness, ask questions. You might be surprised by what could open up. Be goal-oriented. In the afternoon, take a hard look at your finances. Can you cover all your bases? Tonight: Fun doesn't need to break the bank.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ A low-pressure attitude works. You might need to close your door to complete some important work or just to think out a new project. Avoid all assumptions. By late afternoon, you are more than ready for anything. It is the weekend! Tonight: Make hay while you can!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Your ability to visualize different situations and at the same time make them real to others comes through. People could bond even more firmly if you give flock around you to understand what you are seeing. By midafternoon, you might opt to close your door and/or screen your calls. Tonight: Take care of yourself first.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

\*\*\* You'll not only push a project to completion, you also will enjoy its success. As a result, your interactions with others bring you to a new level of comfort and security. Don't push a co-worker or a friend. You won't like the results. Tonight: Where the fun is, of course.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

\*\*\*\* You might feel as if there is no purpose in pushing so hard to get more of your thinking incorporated into a situexhausted? You also are gaining sudden ation. If you give up the pushing, delight surrounds what actually might occur. Your creativity comes out when you least expect it. Tonight: You could be like the Energizer Bunny - you go on and on.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ You relate well to individuals.

Don't push so hard to accomplish your goals. A partner gives you feedback. There are some potential gems of wisdom here. Reach out to an expert or a trusted, respect friend for feedback. Tonight: See life differently

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

\*\*\*\* Others come forward and share what is going on. You get a lot of different invitations. Network, as you note this appears to be a very social moment. You hear surprising news that might take a few minutes to internalize. Tonight: Allow another person to treat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

\*\* Clear your desk and decide to accomplish as much as you can. Somehow you run into an obstacle or two, mainly because someone isn't all that clear. Opportunities stem from a conversation. Be willing to jump on them. Schedule a meeting for late in the day. Tonight: Let it all happen.

#### Tundra



Shoe

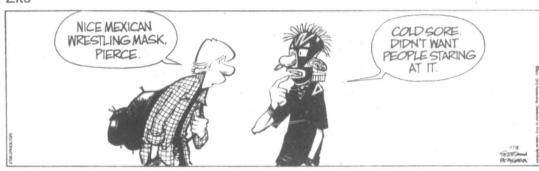




Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield

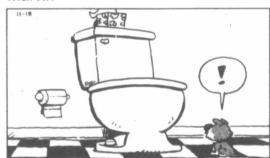


Beetle Bailey



I HAVE A DATE TONIGHT AND I HAVE TO TAKE A SHOWER

Marvin





Hagar The Horrible





#### **Peanuts**







#### Blondie





# Sports

# PHS wrestling booster club rebuilding, raising money

ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

When the 2010-11 wrestling season ended, the future of the program was in question

"Our (booster) president resigned," Dana Whinery, mother of senior Dustin Whinery said. "We lost funding.

Now, with the team back, the booster club is having to start from scratch to generate funds.

Whinery said it has been a challenge regaining funds but realizes it's helping the kids.

"The kids are pumped about this sport," Whinery said. "It's

getting the parents pumped. I'm going to help next year, even though my son will have graduated. We want to keep this pro-

Barry Superintendent Haenisch said with the budget cuts the district endured, they've had to ask all the athletic booster clubs to help with expenses.

"They were asked to pay for some of the supplies and travel expenses," Haenisch said. "Those (fundraisers) help keep the program competing at a level the coaches and booster club wanted to compete at."

Whinery said the booster club is applying for a grant given to wrestling programs.

"We are applying for the Nike grant," Whinery said. "This grant will give the team headgear, shoes and the other equipment it needs with the Nike logo.'

Head coach Michael Stovall said the booster club helps provide support for the team, and not just monetary.

"They help when they need," Stovall said. "It's parental support for these kids and that's what's important. Sometimes

it's not monetarily. Sometimes they show up to tournaments and give a pat on the back and a way to go.'

There's a selection process for the grant. The receipent will be annouced in January 2012. Whinery said some of the athletes still need equipment.

"We have four kids that don't have shoes," Whinery said. "We need compression shorts and tops for girls when they weigh in at competitions."

Whinery said the boosters are putting on a dance 7:30 p.m. December 3 at the Dennis Cavalier Activity Center and are putting together other fundrais-

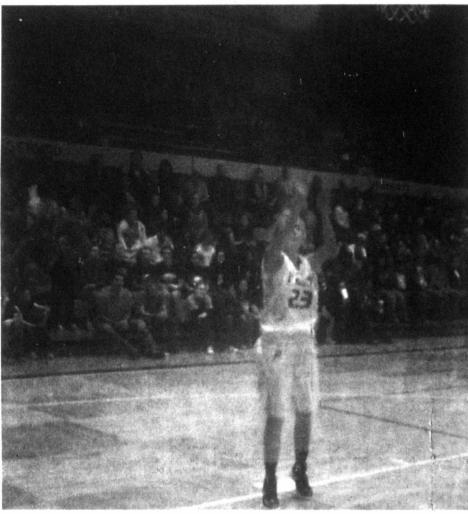
"The dance is \$5 per person," Whinery said. "We are trying to get stuff going for a t-Shirt

Stovall said the high school is hosting its first dual in three years on Tuesday.

"They will have their fundraiser there and will have the concession stand set up," Stovall

The booster club raised money by cleaning up trash during two home football games.

## BANKING IT IN



staff photo by Andrew Glover

lunior Hannah Raker shoots a jumper during Meet the Harvesters on Mon day at McNeely Fieldhouse. Baker helped the girls win by four.

#### Schedule changes

- The Pampa High school varsity and junior varsity boys basketball team will play at Stratford November 21. The junior varsity tips off at 5 and the varsity at 6:30.
- The Pampa High School wrestling team will host Boys Ranch 7 p.m. November

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My fiance, "Todd," and I have been together for four years. He proposed this summer and our wedding is planned for next year. I thought planning our wedding would be fun, but it has turned out to be a nightmare.

I want orange as our primary color, but now Todd is saying he "hates" the color orange, although he never mentioned it before. I tried to get him to agree to pair it with a color of his choice, but he refused.

Todd is being unreasonable and will not agree with me on the color. Since it mainly affects the bridal party, I feel it should be my decision. He says it isn't, and that he won't even wear an orange tie or anything like it. What is your opinion? - STUCK ON THE COLOR IN GEOR-

DEAR STUCK: This isn't just "your" wedding; it's Todd's wedding, too. If he would find standing at the altar opposite a line of bridesmaids clad in orange to be a turnoff and dislikes the color so much that he refuses to wear a tie or boutonniere that's orange then agree on some other Thank them for their hos-

many compromises that lie to share their lovely home ahead for you, so start practicing with this one.

Two DEAR ABBY: months ago, my brother and his wife asked me to move in with them. It's beautiful here, they have a lovely home and have been extremely hospitable for the most part. The problem is they fight like cats and dogs. It gets so bad sometimes that the neighbors have to call the police.

Once a week without fail, they have a huge spat about one thing or another and argue at all hours of the day and night. They break things, curse and call each other names I wouldn't call my worst enemy. If I had known they were this unhappy, I

would never have moved in. so long, this may just be their way of communicating, but I can't put up with the long days and sleepless nights. It's CONFUSED: Yes. When beginning to wear on my san-

How do I tell them I appreciate them for letting me stay, but I can no longer take the constant fighting? - THANKS, BUT NO THANKS

DEAR T., B.N.T.: color. This is only one of the pitality and for offering

with you, but that you will be moving to a place of your own. If they ask you why, tell them that you love them both, but the long days and sleepless nights when they argue are preventing you from getting the rest you need. It's the truth, and it probably won't be the first time they've heard it.

DEAR ABBY: I am a middle-aged woman who is Baptist by faith. I believe that when I die I will go to heaven. My problem is, if going to heaven means being reunited with my parents and other family members, then I don't want to go! The idea of spending eternity with them is more than I can stand, but I don't want to go to hell, They've been together for either. Any thoughts? -ETERNALLY CONFUSED

IN MISSISSIPPI DEAR ETERNALLY you reach the pearly gates, talk this over with St. Peter. Perhaps he would be willing to place you in a different wing than the one your parents and other family members are staying in. And in the meantime, discuss this with your minister...

# approves sale of Astros

MILWAUKEE (AP) - Baseball owners unanimously approved the sale of the Houston Astros from Drayton McLane to Jim Crane on Thursday, which will lead to the team moving from the NL Central to the AL West for the 2013

The decision will give each league 15 teams, baseball's first realignment since the Milwaukee Brewers switched from the AL to the NL after the 1997 season.

As part of the Astros' agreement to switch leagues, the sale price was cut from \$680 million to \$615 million, a person at Thursday's meeting told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because details weren't announced,

Major League Baseball will make up part of the \$65 million difference, paying McLane \$35 million over three years, the person said.

Commissioner Bud Selig said owners also approved two additional wild-card teams for the postseason, meaning 10 of the 30 teams make the playoffs. Selig said he hopes the expanded playoffs can start next year, but he said the specifics are being worked out. The players' association favors the move.

"You do things for a long period of time. The addition will really help us in the long run," Selig said.

Owners also approved longtime San Francisco Giants executive Larry Baer to replace Bill Neukom as the team's controlling owner.

In addition, MLB executive vice president Rob Manfred said progress was made on a new collective bargaining agreement to replace the deal that expires Dec. 11.

Selig saluted McLane, who bought the team in 1992 for about \$117 million. The Astros struggled mightily on the field last season, losing 106 games. "Drayton should have a wonderful

legacy of what he did for the Astros, got them a new ballpark and did all these things," Selig said. "He sure left a much better franchise than we he came in."

Crane founded a Houston-based logistics company in 2008. He is chairman and chief executive officer of Crane Capital, a private equity fund company.

#### CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 1 Ruler with

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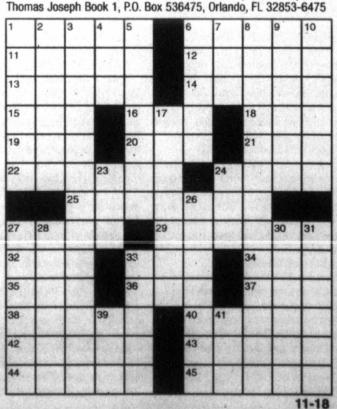
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is LONGFELLOW One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

**CRYPTOQUOTE** 

DNDFW AEXFTJXKHD XAJ TV X

JBZXFC V J D S S T M Q - V J B M D

EDXNDM. — EDMFW ZXFC

KDDAEDF

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: DON'T JUDGE EACH DAY BY THE HARVEST YOU REAP BUT BY THE SEEDS THAT YOU PLANT. - ROBERT LOUIS **STEVENSON** 

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Thanks & Happy Thanksgiving! Pampa News

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If you have a question or comment, write: NASCAR This Week, c/o The Gaston Gazette, P.O. Box 1538, Gastonia, NC 28053 or send an e-mail to mdutton@gastonge

CONSTRUCTOR All times Eastern Sprint Cup

3 p.m., Sunday

**Nationwide Series** Ford 300,

Ford 200 8 p.m., Friday

► The Chase for the Sprint Cup is stable ... for now. Carl Edwards

margin over Tony Stewart was three points coming in and three points going out. ▶ Why is Edwards still on top ... with only one victory early in the postseason? He's finished 11th

finished second in the past two. ► The Phoenix stalemate occurred because, while Edwards finished one position ahead, Stewart led the most laps.

or better in every Chase race. His average finish is now 5.22. He's

► Kasey Kahne became the season's 18th winner, matching the total of 2002. Nineteen drivers won in 1956, 1958, 1961 and 2001.

The fewest winners ever in a season? Five in 1974.

The winners of the past four Phoenix races have each ended dry spells of at least 66 races. Kahne ended a string of 81 races without a victory, dating back to Atlanta in September 2009.

▶ Jeff Burton (fourth) has finished in the top 10 in three of the past four races.

Ryan Newman's fifth-place finish was his best in the Chase to date. He improved from 12th to being tied for eighth in the standings.

▶ In last year's Ford 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway, Edwards won and Stewart was eighth.

► A.J. Allmendinger's sixth-place Homestead finish featured a pit-crew change. After David Ragan's exit, his pit crew shifted to Allmendinger, another Ford driver

#### 2011 STANDINGS

Spri	nt Cup Series	Pts.
1.	Carl Edwards	2,359
2. 3. 4. 5.	Tony Stewart	- 3
3.	Kevin Harvick	- 51
4.	Brad Keselowski	- 65
5.	Jimmie Johnson	- 68
6.	Matt Kenseth	70
7.	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	- 102
8.	Kurt Busch	- 107
	Ryan Newman	- 107
10.	Denny Hamlin	- 110
11.	Jeff Gordon	- 112
12.	Kyle Busch	- 135

#### Nationwide Series Ricky Stenhouse Jr.

2.	Elliott Sadler	- 41
3.	Justin Allgaier	- 105
4.	Aric Almirola	- 120
5.	Reed Sorenson	- 136
6.	Jason Leffler	- 183
7.	Kenny Wallace	- 227
8.	Michael Annett	- 261
9.	Brian Scott	- 267
10.	Steve Wallace	- 268

1,179

#### **Camping World Truck Series**

1.	Austin Dillon	854
2.	Johnny Sauter	- 20
3.	James Buescher	- 28
4	Ron Homaday Jr.	- 48
5.	Timothy Peters	- 58
6.	Todd Bodine	- 79
7.	Matt Crafton	- 95
8.	Joey Coulter	- 97
9.	Cole Whitt	- 112
7.0		and the same of th

#### SPRINT CUP

Race: Ford 400 Where: Homestead-Miami Speedway, Homestead, Fla. (1.5 mi.), 267 laps/400.5 miles When: Sunday, Nov. 20. Last year's winner: Carl Edwards

Qualifying record: Jamie McMurray Dodge, 181.111 mph, Nov. 14, 2003.

Place record: Tony Stewart, Pontiac, 140.335 mph, Nov. 14, 1999. Last week: Kasey Kahne, in his next-to-last race in a Toyota, collected the 12th victory of his career at Phoenix The title contenders, Carl Edwards and Tony Stewart, finished second and third, respectively

#### NATIONWIDE

Race: Ford 300 Where: Homestead-Miami Speedway, Homestead, Ra. (1.5 mi.), 200 laps/300 miles. When: Saturday, Nov. 19.

Qualifying record: Casey Mears Dodge, 177.936 mph, Nov. 18, 2004. Race record: Joe Nemechek, Chevy

132.191 mph, Nov. 11, 2001. Last week: Sam Homish Jr., competing in the series for only the 12th time this year, drove a Dodge to victory at Phoenix. It was the first NASCAR victory for Homish, who wor the Indianapolis 500 in 2006.

#### your NASCAR questions to Monte on Facebook at Facebook.com/monte-dutton and at Twitter.com/MonteDutton. Please specify you are submitting them for the NASCAR This Week page. WHAT'S UP NEXT

#### **CAMPING WORLD TRUCK**

Race: Ford 200 Where: Homestead-Miami Speedway, Homestead, Ra. (1.5 mi.), 134 laps/201 miles. When: Friday, Nov. 18 Last year's winner: Kyle Busch

Qualifying record: Jon Wood, Ford, 173.188 mph, Nov. 16, 2007.

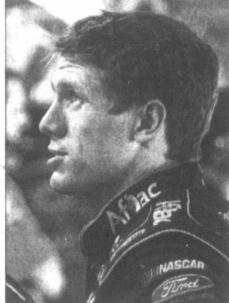
Race record: Johnny Benson Jr., Toyota, 134.513 mph, Nov. 16, 2007. Last race: In a race otherwise overshadowed by the Kyle Busch-Ron Homaday incident on the 13th lap, Kevin Harvick drove a Chevy to victory at Texas Motor Speedway. The incider resulted in Busch being "parked" for the rest of the weekend



IN THE SPOTEIGHT

ONE TO GO





The two-man contest was solidified on Sunday at Phoenix International Raceway. Now, the field will watch Tony Stewart and Carl Edwards

# **Tony And Carl's Racing Extravaganza**

Stewart, Edwards have one last battle for the Sprint Cup title

By Monte Dutton

The Sprint Cup championship is now down to two drivers who could scarcely be more dissimilar or evenly

Carl Edwards' forte is consistency. He has won only of the 35 races to date. In the Chase, which narrows the field to 12 and determines the champion, Edwards' average finish is 5.22. He leads Tony Stewart by three points entering the final race at Homestead-Miami Speedway

Edwards, 32, has never won a championship at NAS-CAR's premier level.

Stewart, 40, has won two. He is the only driver to win a championship before (2002) and after (2005) the Chase format was implemented. He once won three races in a Chase (2006) for which he wasn't qualified, and he is the only driver (2005) to win a Chase without winning any of the races in it, a distinction that Edwards could share if he captures the championship without winning the Ford 400. Stewart, from Columbus, Ind., was the last champion (2002) to drive a Pontiac, and during his career, he has divided his 43 victories among Pontiacs, Toyotas and Chevys

Edwards, from Columbia, Mo., has never driven any make but a Ford. Stewart has never driven a Ford in

With one race to go, the gamesmanship has subsided. It appears that neither contender is going succeed at

getting under the other's skin. "Well," Stewart said, "it's fun. He's (Edwards) keeping me honest. I'm keeping him honest. It's fun when we're first and second in the points and we're running

first and second on the race track. It shows why we're both in this position. "When it comes down to it." Edwards added, "both of us know we have to just go race each other. It is truly neat. ... It is fun. I'm just enjoying it. It really, truly doesn't matter what anyone says or what anyone's predictions are. It gets done on the race track, and that is

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ette.com. You can also send

BRIAN VICKERS VS. MATT KENSETH

Vickers wrecked Kenseth at Phoenix, and Kenseth said he had called his shot. "You have someone (Vickers) who has been telling everybody for four or five weeks (more likely, two) that as soon as he got a chance at a fast race track, he was going to make it hurt and wipe us out, and they (NASCAR officials) do nothing about it," Kenseth said. "It was so premeditated it just surprises me that they didn't do anything.

m disappointed, but I expected it."

NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton gives his take: "Vickers, who is trying to find a ride for 2012, has certainly been a source of controversy in the final stretch of the season. And ... he has been mainly unrepentant.

## No Fan Of Tag-Team Show

This Week welcomes letters to the editor but please be aware that we have room for only a few each week. We'll do our best to select the best, but individual replies are impossible due to the bulk of mail received. Please do not with your letters, which should be addressed to: NASCAR This Week, The Gaston Gazette, P.O. Box 1538, Gastonia, N.C. 28053. Questions can also be sent by email, Facebook and Twitter (see directions at the top of this page).

Dear NASCAR This Week, I thought NASCAR was one driver competing against another driver. When did it become the

Fords vs. Chevys, Toyotas vs. Dodges, etc.?

I think that the Talladega race was a big joke. Even my 8-year-old grandson wanted to know what the last few laps were. I was not surprised to read in my local paper that the crowd estimate (105,000) was the lowest since NASCAR began listing attendance figures. There is no way in the world that I would ever pay money to see something so ridiculous as that race or any other like it. As much as I love Daytona I would not go to that one either.

To the powers that be: No tag-team racing.
Thanks for letting me vent my frustration with this topic.

First of all, it's more obvious now because of the "tag-team" nature you decry. But the rivalry between manufacturers probably isn't as great now as it was in the 1960s. NASCAR officials didn't intentionally create tag-team racing. It was an unexpected

#### FAN TIPS **Darlington Tix Now Selling**

Tickets for the 2012 Southern 500 at Darlington (S.C.) Raceway went on sale to the general public on Nov. 11. Regan Smith got his first Sprint Cup victory in the current season's edition of NASCAR's oldest superspeedway race. Next year's race is scheduled for Saturday night, May 12. It is one of Danica Patrick's 10 scheduled appearances next year in Cup. Tickets for events at Darlington can be purchased by calling, toll-free, 866-459-RACE or going online to http://www.darlingtonraceway.com/tickets.





▶ Whe's het: Kasey Kahne won at Phoenix and has finished sixth or better in six of the last seven races ... Carl Edwards' average finish in the Chase is 5.22 ... without a victory.

▶ Who's not: Kyle Busch returned at Phoenix and was fast until his engine failed. ... Nineteenth place didn't cut it for Kevin Harvick, not with Edwards and



## Edwards' lead is three points ... and holding

when we will see.

Carl Edwards' Sprint Cup points lead is ... still three. He finished second for the second week in a row, but this time his rival. Tony Stewart, was a position behind instead of a position

The two collected the same number of points at Phoenix International Raceway because Stewart earned an extra bonus point for leading the most laps. But Denny Hamlin still thinks Edwards has the edge. Hamlin thinks Edwards will be stronger than Stewart in the final race (Homestead, Fla.).

"He (Edwards) still has the points lead, so I think he's fine, to be honest with you," Hamlin said before Phoenix. "I think he's only raced as hard as he had to up until (Texas).

Edwards finished second to Stew art at Texas Motor Speedway.

"At Homestead, he (Edwards) is going to be very strong," Hamlin added. "I think he'll be one of the guys to beat. I think this is going to be the key as far as those two guys, to see who has what. I'm kind of leaning in Carl's favor in the sense of that he's performed the best all year long and NUTS AND BOLTS

Tony (Stewart) is obviously very hot right now, but that's not going to keep going on forever.'

There's just one more week Regarding the unknown — Phoenix

International Raceway has an entirely new surface and a slightly new shape. "You hate to have to come into a situation like this where you don't know the variables," Stewart said be forehand, "but at the same time, it's the same for everybody. Who adapts

to it is going to be a big key, obviously. "I kind of liked it the way it was ... but I'm kind of old school like that, anyway. They did a really nice job with the work they've done here. It's just a matter of us trying to figure out

what we have to do to be good." Irresistible force? — Four-time champion Jeff Gordon favored Stewart in the Chase.

You just can't ever count out a great driver and champion like Tony (Stewart) and that team," Gordon said. "It's been pretty impressive, and I think it's been very surprising to Carl (Edwards). I think (Texas) surprised

"I think he expected not to do well at Martinsville and came out of there with a top-10, which he was pretty happy about, but I think that he expected to go to Texas and be the dominant car. Yet Tony was the

dominant car. I think that sent quite

How tough is it? - According to Brad Keselowski, Phoenix is perilous. "I mean, the track just keeps changing every time we run out," he said during practice. "It'll be interesting to see come race time. It just keeps

changing. "I mean, if you're driving right, you're not supposed to be all that comfortable, you know? We're supposed to be on the edge, and we're certainly on the edge." Homestead-Miami Speedway is also not the same con-

figuration as when Stewart won the first two races there in 1999 and 2000. Before the race in 2003, the 1.5-mile oval's banking was raised from six to a variable 18-20 degrees. The turns are

slightly flatter at the bottom. Edwards has also won twice at Homestead, both on the only configuration he has known. Edwards, in fact, has won two of the last three, broken only by Hamlin's win in 2009.



John Clark/NASCAR This W The streak is over. With Tony Stewart and Carl Edwards battling for the 2011 Cup title, Jime

#### Herb's History At PB

NASCAR ran seven races (1952-56) at Palm Beach Speedway in West Palm Beach, Fla., and the great Herb Thomas won four of them, three in a Hudson and one in a Chevy. The half-mile track was dirt until 1956, meaning that Thomas won three on dirt and one on pavement. In that final season, the track hosted two events. Billy Myers won the latter in a Mercury on March 4, 1956.

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