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The PAMPA NEWS

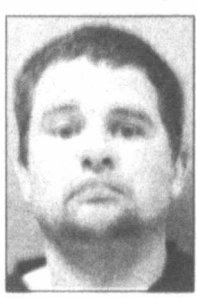
Friday, December 9, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 204 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

Lee nabbed after canyon chase, still in custody

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

Multiple law enforcement agencies collaborated Wednesday in the pursuit of a suspect through a canyon near Highway 273. James Dean Lee, 31, of Borger, was nabbed by authorities after a chase that started with a stolen vehicle.

Around 7:50 a.m., the Shamrock Police Department informed the



Lee using its internal GPS after it

had been stolen from a motel in Shamrock, but they lost they signal. A McLean deputy located the pickup on Highway 273, but an attempt to stop the vehicle resulted in a pursuit. The deputy followed the pickup from Highway 273 to a County Road, where Lee got out of the vehicle and ran on foot, evading the deputies by going into a canyon.

For five hours, the deputies, along with DPS troopers, a Texas Park and Wildlife Game Warden, a Lefors City Marshal and the Gray County Precinct 2 Constable searched for Lee. He eventually surrendered, and was arrested on the charge of evading arrest with a vehicle. Lee remains in custody at the Gray County Jail. His bail is set at \$2,500.

THE HERALD ANGELS SING



The Pampa High School choir performs during a Christmas concert at First Christian Church on Thursday evening. Choir director Fred Mays conducted the performance. staff photo by Mollie Bryant

Ten years for Fox in child porn case

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

Alex Fox, 31, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for possession of child pornography, a second degree felony. During a bench trial, Fox pled guilty of the possession, and argued for probation, according to Assistant District Attorney of the 31st District, Jeromie Oney. In January of 2010, the Pampa Police Department obtained and ran a search warrant to search Fox's home for the child pornography. They seized computers, disks and videos that contained the material, and arrested Fox. Fox bonded out of jail with specific bond conditions, such as to avoid places where children congregate, but after violating these conditions, he was sent back to jail, where he had remained since March of 2011. "I was pleased with the (outcome of the trial), because we were recommending (penitentiary) time," said Oney, who tried the case. "I think it's easy in a case where FOX cont. on page 5

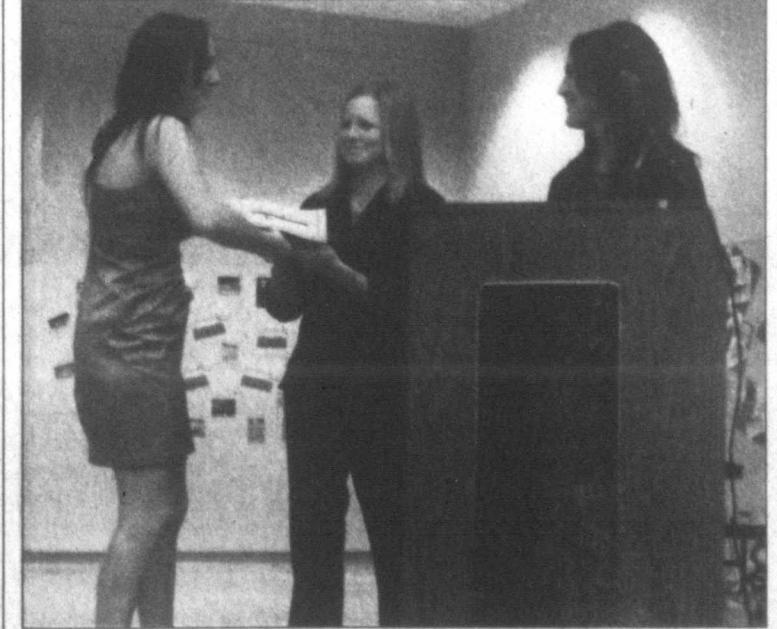
Children's Shopping Tour registration at 7:30 am Sat.

THE PAMPA NEWS

Registration for volunteers for the Children's Shopping Tour will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Pampa Optimist Youth Club gym instead of 7:15 a.m., Sue Pribble, the General Chair, announced today. "We had a mix-up on the time," Pribble said. "Volunteers who are helping with registration will come at 7:15 a.m., but those who will take the children shopping only need to be there by 8 a.m." "We have 107 children registered," Sandra McKinney, who is in charge of registration, said. "We will be benefiting 410 family members, including the children on the tour, this year." This year's tour is expected to involve members from over 40 Pampa organizations, who will take the children — all aged

between 5 and 10 years old — Christmas shopping for members of their families. "They do not buy presents for themselves," said Bob Marx, a longtime member of the Steering Committee that organizes the project. "For most of these children, it will be the first time they have ever experienced giving at Christmas." At Saturday's registration, volunteers will receive information about the kids they will assist, including the ages and sizes of every person in each child's household. The kids will be taken to Walmart for their Christmas shopping spree; the store extends the tour a 10 percent discount to stretch the shopping dollar even further for the kids. After the tour, the kids will return to the Optimist gym for TOUR cont. on page 5

JOB WELL DONE



Senior Caitlin Sieck (left) receives the Hustle Award from assistant coach Stephanie Cameron (center) as head coach Libby Garza looks on during the volleyball banquet. Other award winners can be found in SPORTS, page 12. staff photo by Andrew Glover

Chamber Luncheon
 Tuesday, December 13 • Noon • \$10/person
 200 N. Ballard • MK Brown Room
 Program: PHS Show Choir
 Catered by The Plaza
 Sponsored by Howard Compressor Services, Inc.
 RSVP to Chamber by Mon, Dec. 12 • 669-3341 or admin@pampachamber.com

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 35 Low 22	High 43 Low 24	High 46 Low 30

Today: Areas of freezing fog before 9 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 35. Wind chill values between 12 and 22. North northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 22. Wind chill values between 15 and 20. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 43. Breezy, with a south southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 24. Breezy, with a south southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 46. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. Breezy, with a south southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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LAST MINUTE ADS

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

50% OFF Christmas decor, gift wrap, lights, ribbon, gift boxes & bags etc. Red Barn, 1424 S. Barnes. Open Sat 10-5pm.

1500 CT Sheet Sets K or Q \$40. 669-6467, 663-2867 or see at Sparrow's Nest. Great Gift!!

ANGELS, ANGELS, we have Salvation Army Forgotten Angels for you to choose from on our Christmas tree! These are angels who were not chosen from the Salvation Army Angel tree. Items should be returned unwrapped with angel tag attached before Dec. 20th to the Pampa News or the Salvation Army 701 S. Cuyler, (if you have questions please call 665-7233). Come by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, pick an angel & make someone's Christmas brighter this year! We are open Mon.-Fri., 8am-3pm. Merry Christmas from The Pampa News!!

COME IN to our Unique Boutique and let us help you find that gift for your special someone! Sample our wassail & food products while you shop. Free gift wrapping. Discounts daily. The Victorian Rose, 113 W. Kingsmill, 688-5372. Open til 8pm on Thurs night.

GOSPEL SINGING, Sunday afternoon, 2-4, Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock. Everyone welcome!

MESSAGE THERAPY Gift Certificates-Christmas Special. Call Cathy Potter, Holly Albert or Brittany Shuman, 669-0013, 1224 N. Hobart Ste. #9.

CHILDREN'S SHOPPING Tour is Sat. Dec. 10th. If you're volunteering to shop with a child, be at the Optimist Youth Club, 601 E. Craven, Sat. Dec. 10 by 8am.

MINE & Yours, 301 W. Foster, Sat. Dec. 10, 1pm-3pm, Pics with Santa, Crafts & Vendors, Kids Crafts, Refreshments.

PET SPA Christmas Boutique, 301 W. Foster, Sat. 662-1801

4-H PECANS for sale-lots of extras! New Specialty items: praline pecans, choc. covered pecans, Hunter's mix & more. Good stocking stuffers! Call 4-H Office 669-8033.

CHRISTMAS OPEN House, 821 N. Gray, Dec. 10 & 11th, 6:30-10pm. Accepting Food Donations for Harvest House.

In GOP race, candidates woo evangelicals

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) — At a private gathering of pastors in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, a contrite Newt Gingrich pitched his story of personal redemption Thursday. Along South Carolina's coast, Texas Gov. Rick Perry quoted Scripture as he worked to pump life into his floundering White House bid.

With the Republican presidential campaign hurtling toward the Jan. 3 leadoff Iowa caucuses, the two candidates are courting evangelicals with vigor.

And for good reason. Christian conservatives who typically hold powerful sway in GOP primaries haven't united behind any one candidate this year, though they have generally been skeptical of Mitt Romney's Mormon faith. Thus, their support is up for grabs in the extraordinarily fluid race. And neither Gingrich, who has recently pushed past Romney in some polls, nor Perry is being shy about seeking it.

"I ask them to give me a second look," Perry told reporters in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., his first stop of a busy day of campaigning in the state filled with religious voters. "They're going to see me a lot, and they're going to get to find out a lot about me, not only about my faith but also about the economic policies we put in place in Texas."

Up and down the coast, faith was never far from his side as he worked to remind evangelicals that he's been one of them all along — the same message he's sending in two new TV ads in Iowa promoting his Christianity.

It's a contrast, unspoken for now, to the Catholic convert Gingrich, who has acknowledged two extramarital affairs and is casting himself as a sinner who has sought God's forgiveness.

That was the message he sent Thursday when he ducked into a private meeting of Renewal South Carolina that attracted pastors and other religious conservatives.

The redemption theme resonates loudly in Christian circles and, at least on this day, seemed to be working for the former Georgia congressman.

"I have been very impressed with his spiritual awakening," said Fred Godley, a Charlotte, N.C., realtor who attended. "We are all works

in progress and he has been more forthcoming about it than most."

But not everyone is persuaded. As the candidate made his pitch in South Carolina, an Iowa pastor — The Rev. Cary K. Gordon, of Sioux City's Cornerstone Church — unveiled a hip-hop satire calling Gingrich "the GOP's Kim Kardashian for his many infidelities on marriage." Gordon said he would be blasting the video out to registered Republicans and non-aligned Iowa voters by cellphone.

To be sure, Gingrich and Perry aren't the only two candidates seeking evangelical support; Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum are, too.

But, at this point, those two are languishing in the single digits in polls and also lack the money and momentum that's probably needed to break into the GOP field's top tier.

Gingrich has ridden a wave of enthusiasm to the front of the pack in recent polls, and Perry still is sitting on a pile of cash raised during the early days of his now struggling campaign.

So both are trying to leverage their advantages to emerge as the religious right's favorite. Up to this point, the economy has taken center stage nationally in this year's campaign, trumping cultural issues.

Even so, Christian conservative leaders say the path to the GOP nomination must still wind past the pulpit — especially in Iowa and South Carolina, where religious voters made up 60 percent of primary or caucus voters in the last presidential race.

In other early states, religious voters have less muscle but could still play a decisive role in a close contest.

"These are highly-motivated voters who go to the polls," said Ralph Reed, former head of the Christian Coalition who now runs the Faith and Freedom Coalition. "Anyone who wins the Republican nomination is going to do so with strong support from religious voters."

Somewhat surprisingly, the twice-divorced Gingrich, who has acknowledged having an extramarital affair with the woman who now is his wife, is showing signs of strength among religious voters.

A recent ABC News-Washington

Post poll found that 39 percent of likely Iowa caucusgoers who identified themselves as evangelicals said they were backing Gingrich. A CBS-New York Times poll found Gingrich attracting three times as much support as Romney from evangelical Christians in Iowa.

Despite those numbers, Gingrich has more work to do, such as explaining his 2009 conversion from Catholicism. Gingrich was drawn into the church by his third wife, Callista, a practicing Roman Catholic, and he said he came to believe in its teachings.

Richard Land, head of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, said that Gingrich has a gender gap and must still explain his marital indiscretions in a way that "allays the fears of evangelical women."

"You need to make it as clear as you possibly can that you deeply regret your past actions and that you do understand the anguish and the suffering they caused others, including your former spouses," Land wrote in an open letter to Gingrich.

Perry, arguably, has more credibility than Gingrich with evangelicals, given that he counts himself as one of them. In a bid to send that message before he entered the race in August, Perry hosted an evangelical gathering that drew 30,000 to Houston.

That didn't translate into automatic support when he became a candidate.

But Perry is redoubling his efforts in the new TV advertisements and on the campaign trail.

"This one reminds me of Joshua 1:9," Perry said as he rifled through greeting cards at Lulu Burgess craft store in Beaufort, S.C.

He also capped off his remarks at Blackstone's Café with, "God bless you. Keep us in your prayers."

And, later in Okatie, Perry, said that he wouldn't touch older workers' Social Security benefits; "You're set till the good Lord takes you home."

As if there were any question to where he stood, Perry also made sure to drive the point home with reporters, saying: "I'm not afraid to talk about my Christian faith. I'm not afraid to talk about the values that this country was based upon. I think we need to get back to those values."

Obituaries

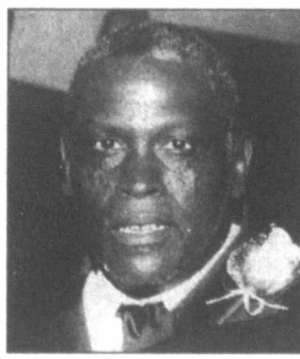
James Otis Williams, 55

James Otis Williams, 55 of Pampa, departed this life here on earth to enter his heavenly home on December 2, 2011, in Marietta, Ga.

He was born on January 19, 1956, to Leslie and Jeanette Williams in Pampa.

James attended Carver Elementary, Pampa Junior High and graduated from Pampa High School in 1974. He attended and was a faithful member of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. James was employed at Enron Corp., for many years as a supervisor. In 1994, he transferred to Orlando, Fla. Several years later he moved to Marietta, Ga., where he worked for Contour Engineering as an inspector.

James married Jocelyn Johnson in 1979. To this union



Williams

was born a daughter, Janel Elise Williams.

James was a lovable person and never met a stranger. He was a generous and giving person. James loved to play golf.

James was preceded in death by his mother, Jeanette Williams in August 1979, and his father, Leslie Williams, in October 2009.

Leaving to cherish his memories are his only daughter, Janel (Donnie) Scott of Mansfield; his wife, Jocelyn Williams of Bay City; a sister, Dorothy (Willie) Green of Pampa; a granddaughter, Eryn Scott of Mansfield; a special cousin, Patricia Wright of Pampa; a special uncle, Robert (Rosa) Banks of Jacksonville, Fla.; a special friend, Tina Carroll of Marietta, Ga.; and a host of other relatives and friends.

James will have two Homegoing Memorial Celebrations. One will be Saturday December 10, 2011, at Light House Baptist Church in Fort Worth, at 1:00 p.m. The second will be Wednesday December 14, 2011, at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Pampa at 1 p.m.

Memorials can be made to New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Pampa, Texas.

For the record

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the period starting Wednesday, December 7 and ending Thursday, December 8 at 7 a.m.

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Thursday, December 8 at 7 a.m.

Pampa PD reported nine traffic related incidents. Animal Control agents and Pampa PD reported six animal related incidents. Pampa EMS responded

to four medical calls.

Wednesday, December 7

A burglary of a motor vehicle occurred at the 200 block of South Anne.

A suicide attempt occurred at the 1100 block of Cinderella.

An accident occurred at Hobart and Kentucky.

A suspicious person was reported at the 600 block of North Russell.

A theft was reported. A suspicious person was reported at Jordan and Wynne.

A suspicious person was reported at the 500 block of

West Browning.

A burglary of a motor vehicle occurred at the 1000 block of Neel.

A burglary occurred at the 2000 block of North Christine.

Thursday, December 8

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1200 block of North Wells.

A burglary occurred at the 600 block of Powell.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24 hour period ending Thurs-

day, December 8 at 7 a.m.

Wednesday, December 7

Cameron L. Bengel, 18, was arrested by deputies for theft.

James Dean Lee, 31, was arrested by deputies for evading arrest with a vehicle.

Matthew James Jimenez, 23, was arrested by deputies for purchasing or furnishing alcohol to minors.

Bradley Lee Davis, 18, was arrested by deputies for possession of marijuana and theft of a firearm.



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MORNINGRUSH

Suit filed over Confederate plate

AUSTIN (AP) - The Sons of Confederate Veterans is suing the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles board in federal court for denying its proposed specialty license plate featuring the Confederate battle flag.

The DMV board rejected the plate 8-0 last month, after Gov. Rick Perry said on the presidential campaign trail that he opposed it.

The Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans filed a complaint Thursday in U.S. District Court in Austin against the eight DMV board members who voted.

It's arguing its First and Fourteenth Amendment rights were violated. The DMV says it has yet to see the complaint.

Nine other states have approved Sons of Confederate Veterans' specialty plates, but Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina only did so after the group sued. A similar suit is pending in Florida.

Man faces charges in hay scam

CRYSTAL SPRINGS, Miss. (AP) - A Wesson, Miss., man has been charged with selling hay over the Internet. Authorities say the problem is James Darin Hoffman had no hay.

Copiah County chief investigator Milton Twiner tells The Clarion-Ledger (<http://on.thec-l.com/tC5BaW>) that Hoffman was freed on \$50,000 shortly after his arrest on Nov. 29.

Twiner says Hoffman allegedly been selling hay to farmers in Texas through a website called The Hay Barn. The site calls itself a "classified ad site for hay, hay equipment, and having services."

The Texas area was an easy target as it is under a state of emergency because of the ongoing drought.

Hoffman is charged with four counts of false pretenses.

Man races to escape on forklift

FORT WORTH (AP) - A judge has decided a North Texas man accused of stealing a forklift and leading police on an Interstate 30 low-speed chase is not competent for trial.

A court official Wednesday said Timothy Raines of Fort Worth has been ordered to the North Texas State Hospital in Vernon for evaluation.

Fort Worth police say Raines stole the forklift from a construction site on Aug. 13. Several vehicles and patrol cars barely avoided being hit during the chase, at a top speed of 16 mph.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports Raines left the forklift in reverse when he hopped off. Police jumped on the forklift and turned it off. Nobody was hurt.

Raines is charged with assaulting a public servant, theft of property, evading arrest and driving while intoxicated.

School bus crashes into building

HOUSTON (AP) - Authorities say several children sustained minor injuries after a school bus carrying more than 30 students crashed into an empty building in north-east Houston.

Officials say the accident happened after 7:30 a.m. Thursday as the bus was taking students to a KIPP charter school in Houston. The students ranged in age from 7 to 13.

Witnesses say the privately operated bus apparently veered off the road and rammed into the building.

Authorities say one student and the bus driver were taken to a hospital with what appeared to be minor injuries. Several students were treated at the scene.

Houston police say they are investigating the cause of the accident. A call to school officials wasn't immediately returned.

NASA misplaces moon rocks

WASHINGTON (AP) - NASA's Inspector General says the space agency seems to have misplaced some pieces of the moon, meteorites and other space stuff.

NASA concedes that more than 500 pieces of space material have been stolen or been missing since 1970. That includes 218 stolen moon samples that were returned and about two dozen moon rocks and chunks of lunar soil that were reported lost last year.

NASA has loaned more than 21,500 samples to researchers, who in some cases said they never ended up using the material.

The report says NASA needs to keep better track of what's sent to researchers and museums.

Historic firearms to be shown

BROWNWOOD (AP) - Some rare firearms going back more than 200 years will be demonstrated this weekend at a museum in West Texas.

The exhibit called "Guns of the Empire: 1776-1945" will be unveiled Saturday in Brownwood at the Firearms Museum of Texas. The items are from the Marcus Ray collection of Fort Worth.

The Brownwood Bulletin reports the firearms trace certain periods in the United Kingdom, the country of Nepal and the United East India Company.

Muzzle-loaded firearms and fighting knives are part of the exhibit, which will be on display for a year at the museum.

NM sending artifact back to Peru

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) - An ancient Peruvian artifact in the form of a monkey's head given to the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe in 1995 is heading back home.

The small gold pendant measuring 1 3/4 inches high by 2 1/4 inches wide will be "repatriated" Thursday during a ceremony at Peru's embassy in Washington.

The small bead has been the subject of controversy amid allegations that it was looted from an archaeological site in Peru.

The Albuquerque Journal reports the FBI at one point seized the monkey's head and other items, but eventually the artifacts were returned to the Santa Fe museum.

The board of regents of the museum of New Mexico, the organization that oversees all of the state museums in Santa Fe, voted recently to return the bead to Peru.

Upgrade your entertainment center

Dear Pat: I am in the final stages of remodeling my house, and I am working on the entertainment center. What size and type of cabinets should I use, and how can I modify them myself inexpensively for an elegant look? — Lynn

Dear Lynn: Selecting an entertainment center is important for both its functionality and its appearance. As something new comes on the market, such as DVD players, video games, cable boxes, etc., yet you still want to keep your old CD and VCR players, the typical entertainment area can quickly become cluttered.

The least expensive method to somewhat organize your entertainment area is to build and attach shelving to the wall yourself. This may not provide as elegant an appearance as you desire, but it certainly will fit most budgets. If you plan it properly and leave some areas for future equipment, you can actually make shelving look quite nice.

When installing shelving, it is extremely important to use the proper type of anchors for the type of wall. Since audio/visual and televisions can be quite heavy, you will probably have to block or reinforce the wall attachment points. If a shelf pulls out of the wall and falls, your expensive equipment will surely be damaged.

Use some type of composite shelving board instead of solid real wood. Fiberboard is an excellent choice for this application because it is strong, inexpensive and looks good. It also is quite heavy, so it will tend not to vibrate if a set of speakers is placed on it. If you do prefer real wood, choose glued pine board shelves.

These types of shelves can be trimmed nicely with molding. There are some very attractive types of decorative molding available at most home center stores. The composite trim materials are easy to work with and resist splitting if they are nailed on to a shelf edge.

Another option is to build your own entertain center cabinets. Most home center store websites have basic do-it-yourself plans to build these. As with the shelving, always

HOME HOW-TO

leave some areas open for additional new equipment that you may not even imagine a need for today. It was not long ago that VCRs were the hot home entertainment item.

Depending upon what is in the adjacent room, it might be a good idea to install a sound-deadening board material on the back of the entertainment center. This is the same type of wall material used in commercial and home theaters. Homesote (800) 257-9491, makes some excellent and readily available wallboard that is ideal for this application.

A pyramidal-style entertain center can be very attractive and not dif-

ficult to build. The center section is the tallest and should reach the ceiling. This not only looks good, but it allows you to also anchor the entire cabinet assembly to the ceiling instead of just the wall behind it. The television should be located in the center and positioned about eye-height when you are sitting.

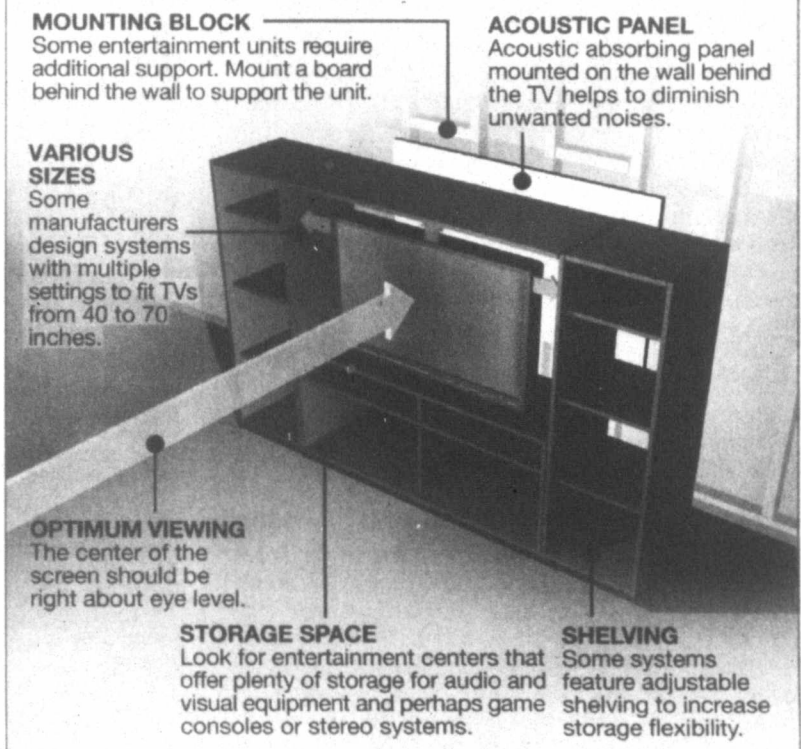
Your final option is to buy ready-made entertainment center cabinets. With the booming demand for these today, many of the high-quality kitchen and bathroom cabinet manufacturers now offer them. These cabinets, especially elegant, ornate ones, can be quite expensive, so definitely plan for your future audio and visual needs before selecting one. You may also want to install some sound-deadening wallboard first.

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

HOME HOW-TO

Entertainment Center

Entertainment centers are more than just a place to store your TV. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes, work with almost any type of TV, and can match any type of room decor.



Source: www.Overstock.com

Creators.com/Bob Kast

Pearl Harbor survivor dies on anniversary

WACO (AP) - World War II veteran Frank Curre died Wednesday, exactly 70 years after surviving the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Curre, who served in the Navy, died Wednesday morning after battling mesothelioma, a cancer caused by asbestos exposure, for more than a year.

The Waco native was 88 years old.

Curre was a mess cook aboard the USS Tennessee at Pearl Harbor when the naval base was bombarded. Curre later was assigned to the USS Petrof Bay during the war and he participated in attacks at Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

"It's like he held on for today, which is his special day," Curre's daughter, Linda Lee, said Wednesday. "He was very much a family man. He taught us family values, patriotism and love for our country."

Lee said Curre was exposed to asbestos as the ships were bombed and set ablaze, spreading the harmful chemical into the air. Lee and her sister, Peggy Hunt, had been Curre's caregivers for the past year.

After leaving the military, Curre worked as a pressman for the *Waco Times-Herald*, now the *Tribune-Herald*, for 42 years. He continued to work part time for the paper for another 18 years.

Curre was the president of the local Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. He has returned to Pearl Harbor four times with group members, most recently last year for the 69th anniversary of the attack.

"There's a lot of stuff I don't remember much in my old age. But that day? Everything that happened that day is tattooed on your soul," Curre told the *Tribune-Herald* in a November 2010 interview, a month before the

trip. "It never leaves you. You carry it with you the rest of your life."

Robert Carter is commander of the William B. Moody Memorial VFW Post 2034, where Curre was a member. Carter had been visiting Curre in recent days as his health declined. He said Curre was bedridden for about five days and by Monday could only nod or shake his head to acknowledge people.

Carter said he and Curre would visit local schools like Rapoport Academy and talk to students about World War II. Carter said Curre also loved to go to a McDonald's to drink coffee with fellow veterans and a police officer he knew.

"Frank was quite a guy," Carter said. "He loved America, and he loved his uniform, and he couldn't stand for anybody to talk bad about it. He would be the first one to tell you to shut up if you did."

Mary Duty, a history teacher at Tennyson Middle School, said Curre was a frequent guest speaker in her class. The school named their Hall of Honor after Curre last school year, and Duty's class presented him with a plaque.

Two students created posters of Curre to march in the most recent Veterans Day parade. Duty said she will

take the artwork to Curre's

two daughters to keep. "He was funny at times, but he would tell very serious stories," Duty said. "He had a gift as a storyteller, he would lean into them and talk to them in a manner that made them want to listen."

"He told kids that every day after Pearl Harbor was like a gift, because he should have died that day, and when he didn't, every day for the next 70 years was from God."

In 2009, Curre was featured in an oral history interview with the city of Waco.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, Dec. 9, the 343rd day of 2011. There are 22 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 9, 1911, an explosion inside the Cross Mountain coal mine near Briceville, Tenn., killed 84 workers. (Five were rescued.)

On this date:

In 1608, English poet John Milton was born in London.

In 1854, Alfred, Lord Tennyson's famous poem, "The Charge of the Light Brigade," was published in England.

In 1911, Academy Award-winning actor Broderick Crawford ("All the King's Men") was born in Philadelphia.

In 1940, British troops opened their first major offensive in North Africa during World War II.

In 1941, China declared war on Japan, Germany and Italy.

In 1958, the anti-communist John Birch Society was formed in Indianapolis.

In 1971, Nobel Peace laureate Ralph Bunche died in New York.

In 1984, the five-day-old hijacking of a Kuwaiti jetliner that claimed the lives of two Americans ended as Iranian security men seized control of the plane, which was parked at Tehran airport.

In 1990, Solidarity founder Lech Walesa won Poland's presidential runoff by a landslide.

Ten years ago: The United States disclosed the existence of a videotape in which Osama bin Laden said he was pleasantly surprised by the extent of damage from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Five years ago: Discovery lit up the sky in the first nighttime space shuttle launch in four years.

One year ago: In Britain's worst political violence in years, student protesters rained sticks and rocks on riot police, vandalized government buildings and attacked a car carrying Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, after lawmakers approved a controversial hike in university tuition fees. Actor Wesley Snipes began serving a three-year sentence at a federal prison in Pennsylvania for failure to file income tax returns.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Kirk Douglas is 95. Actor Dick Van Patten is 83. Actor-writer Buck Henry is 81. Actress Dame Judi Dench is 77. Actor Beau Bridges is 70. Jazz singer-musician Dan Hicks is 70. Author Joe McGinniss is 69. Actor Michael Nouri is 66. Singer Joan Armatrading is 61. Actor Michael Dorn is 59. Actor John Malkovich is 58. Country singer Sylvia is 55. Singer Donny Osmond is 54. Rock musician Nick Seymour (Crowded House) is 53. Comedian Mario Cantone is 52. Actor David Anthony Higgins is 50. Actor Joe Lando is 50. Actress Felicity Huffman is 49. Crown Princess Masako of Japan is 48. Country musician Jerry Hughes (Yankee Grey) is 46. Rock singer-musician Thomas Flowers (Oleander) is 44. Rock musician Brian Bell (Weezer) is 43. Rock singer-musician Jakob Dylan (Wallflowers) is 42. Country musician Brian Hayes (Cole Deggs and the Lonesome) is 42. Actress Allison Smith is 42. Country singer David Kersh is 41. Rock musician Tre Cool (Green Day) is 39. Rock musician Eric Zamora (Save Ferris) is 35. Rock singer Imogen Heap is 34. Actor Jesse Metcalfe is 33. Actor Simon Helberg is 31.

Thought for Today: "There are no warlike peoples - just warlike leaders." - Ralph Bunche, Nobel Peace laureate (1903-1971)



Calling me back with its mermaid song

About a year ago, I attended what I thought would be a hippie bonfire, but it turned out to be me sitting around a fire with a group of dudes talking about jailbreaking their phones. If you're not hip to the jive, "jailbreaking" means tricking out an iPhone or any Apple product with apps that aren't available on its operating system.

"Jailbreak this, suckers," I said, throwing my Nokia 1200 in the dirt. I have a bad attitude about technology, but next week, I'll get the Internet in my home after five and a half months without it. It's not like I was celebrating an extended Lent. I didn't go cold turkey, and I did use the Internet at work, the library or on my smartphone. But it's fair to say, the amount of time I spend of the world wide webiverse has gone way down.

In fact, I don't know what I'll do when the Internet comes. Should I watch countless videos of animals — any kind of animal — riding turtles? Yes. Will I look at photos of Rick Perry doing his best Rick Perry impression? Definitely. Will I bid on "Three's Company" memorabilia on eBay? OK, you caught me. That Jack is such a character.

But there are a few key reasons why I've spent the last few months away from these things.

The biggest thing was that I felt the Internet was making me feel more distracted. There have been several studies in the past few years that have looked at people's ability to multitask, and the truth is, the human brain can't really do it. And you lose time when you switch back

and forth between tasks, because your brain needs time to say, Oh yeah, what the heck was I doing? So, multitasking means you're actually less efficient.

Or, constantly distracted. Using the Internet means multitasking for many people, especially younger folks like myself who grew up on this technology. So, if you read an article while listening to talk radio, checking your Facebook and chatting online, chances are, you won't fully absorb any of these things. Chances are, you'll have moments where you say to yourself, Oh yeah, what the heck was I doing?

My second problem with technology is the kind that most people require foil hats to appreciate. See, tech companies are super ethical, at least if acquiring loads of personal data about their users falls under this category. I believe that Internet users should have a right to privacy.

So I'm not into the fact that many popular smartphone apps collect data from their users, and send that data to third parties. And I'm not big on the recent settlement with the FTC and Facebook. The FTC claimed that Facebook had shared users' personal information with advertisers and other third parties.

People my age think this is totally normal, but I'm telling you, this episode of "The Twilight Zone" would write itself. It's not normal for entities to collect data on us, down to our geographical location, and share that with whoever they like in order to make money. I



MOLLIE BRYANT

don't want any company to know about my love for "Three's Company." Or if I have kids. Or my sexual orientation. It's weird.

My third problem with the Internet. Technology obviously connects us in ways we never would have imagined. But it also estranges us in other ways.

Let's say you and I are at lunch, and we're enjoying each other's company. Then I pull out my smartphone, and check the score on a game, or look at Instagram until images of hipsters have been burned into my retinas.

Are you a little annoyed, or did you take out your smartphone, too?

This is more or less the norm, and it is a huge pet peeve for me. At the hippie bonfire, I wanted to start a drum circle, or rap about heavy things, or even sing Joan Baéz songs and feel some corny solidarity. I didn't want to sit in a circle of people staring at their phones.

Despite these problems I have with the Internet, it's called me back with its mermaid song, drawing me into those rocky waters, where I will finally return to calculating the jaunty angle of Justin Bieber's baseball cap. I'll catch up on e-mails. And I'll be able to look at hoards of puppy photos when I have a bad day.

I'm not really worried, because technology has not beat me yet. I'll don't have a TV.

Mollie Bryant is a staff writer for The Pampa News. She can be reached at mbryant@thepampanews.com.

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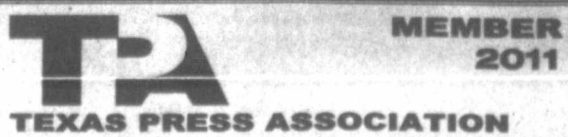
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The Pampa News (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

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Some strange names on the map of Texas

What's in a name? For some off-the-beaten-path communities in Texas, not a lot. For others, it is their primary marketing tool. For some, it pays homage to their earliest inhabitants. When San Antonio Express-News writer Roy Bragg recently took a look at some of the strangest names on the Texas map, he decided to Jot 'Em Down. And that list included Jot 'Em Down, Texas — roughly 75 miles northeast of Dallas.

Bragg found Texas town names to satisfy every appetite, like Oatmeal, Okra, Muenster, and Lollipop. He also assembled what could be a comprehensive list of baby names for expectant parents: Celina, Anna, Maud, Louise, Edna, Sarita, Alice, Donna, Mercedes, and Maybelle, or Melvin, Nolan, Seymour, and Chester.

For many of these towns, the founders put a lot of thought into their municipality's name. While its name would suggest otherwise, the early inhabitants of Nameless, Texas were thoroughly invested in the naming process. Located in northwest Travis County, just five miles northeast of Lago Vista, Nameless was settled in 1869. Residents grew cotton or produced cedar posts and rails to make a living. By 1880, these residents were ready to make their town official and applied for a U.S. post office. The postal department

rejected the names they suggested not once, but six times. Finally, in an act of frustration, the residents replied in writing, "Let the post office be nameless and be damned!" Much to their surprise, the postal department called their bluff. The post office called Nameless was established in 1880. The joke was relatively short-lived. Ten years later the post office was discontinued and mail was rerouted through Leander. Despite this setback, however, residents kept Nameless alive well into the 20th century. Though today all that remains in Nameless is a historical marker, the cemetery and an abandoned schoolhouse, this community without a name remains on state maps.

Unlike Nameless, another town profiled by Bragg was successful in securing the postmark they requested, but perhaps not the results they hoped the name would yield. In Bailey County, at the junction of State Highway 214 and Farm Road 298, sits the community of Needmore, Texas. The goal behind the naming process was simple: Promoters of the townsites wanted to

attract more settlers. But by 1940, 20 years after its founding, Needmore found itself still wanting more. With only 20 residents and two stores, the future looked bleak. Needmore peaked in 1980 with a population of 98, but by 2000 it had dropped again to 45. While Needmore remains on the map, only time will tell if the original residents' marketing ploy will ever succeed.

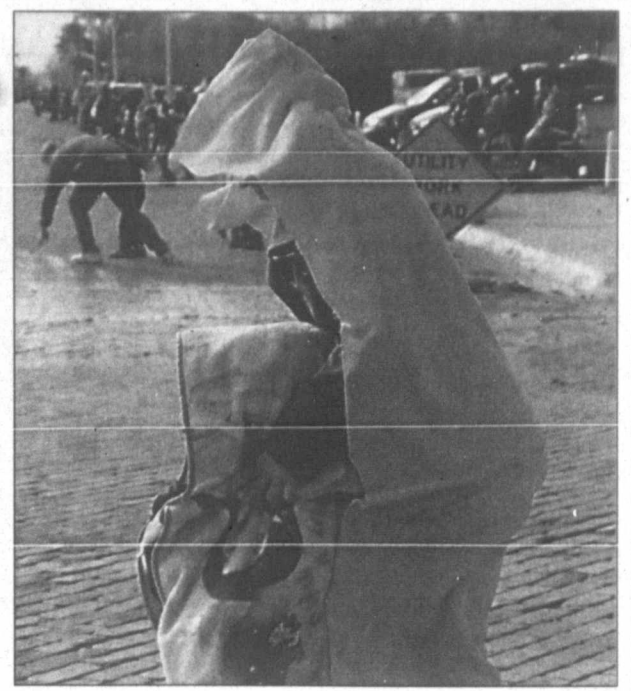
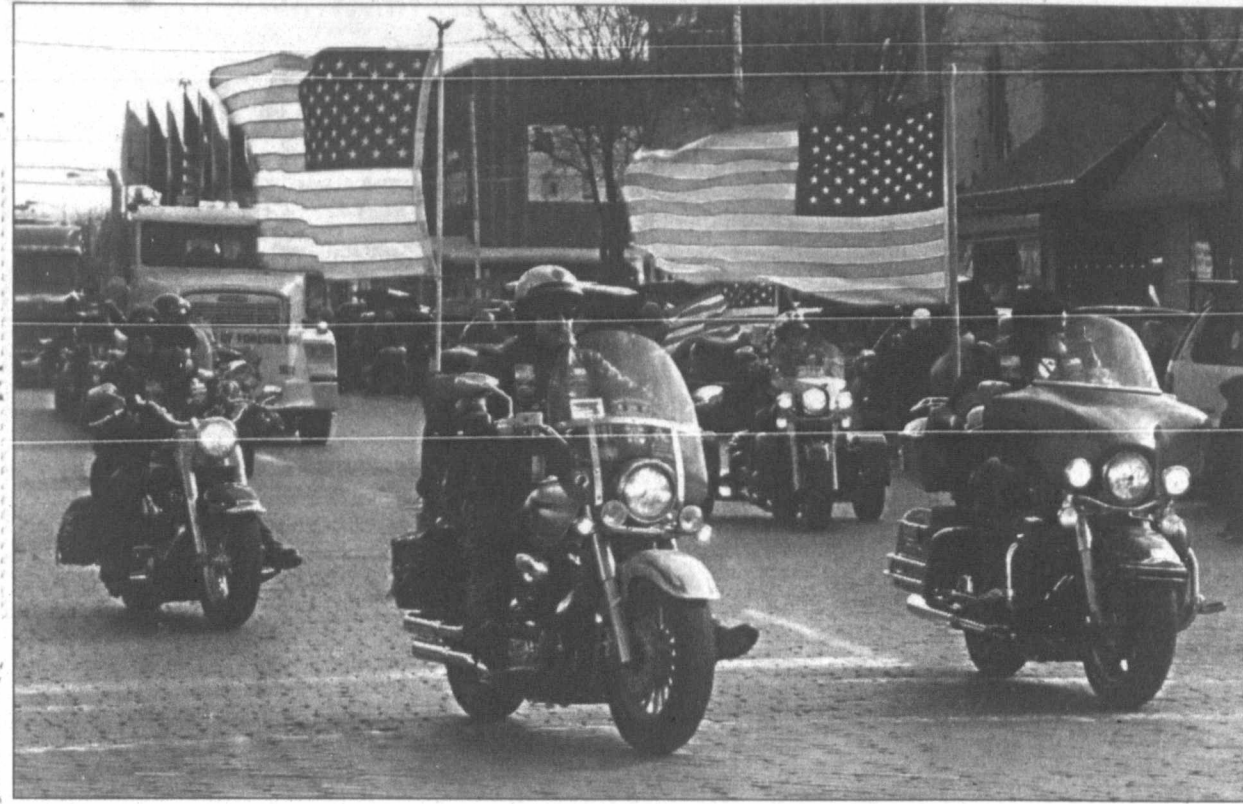
Looking across the state, Bragg found communities that give orders, like Grow, Draw and Tell. He found some that may have been named to keep others out, such as Weeping Mary or Looneyville. While some of the strangest names have left their mark on the Texas map, like Loco, Cut And Shoot, and Noodle, others' legacies were not as lasting. Take the town of Zulch, for example. While Zulch is long gone, you can rest assured knowing that North Zulch remains. While these towns may come and go, they enrich the lore of our state and remind us of how unique Texas is. So if you ever find yourself on US-67 west of San Angelo, pull over by that abandoned shack near the intersection of County Road 113. Take in the vastness of the landscape and give thanks, because you're standing in the former location of the town with the name that says it all: Best, Texas.

John Cornyn III is the junior United States Senator for Texas, serving since 2003.



JOHN CORNYN

images from **christmas on main**



photos courtesy of Della Moyer

LEFT: Irene and Paul Greendahl (from left), Ken Curtis, Danny Miller and Steve York represent Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1657 at Saturday's Christmas parade. **TOP:** Flor Morales and Nathalie Villanueva brave the cold at Christmas on Main.

Second teen shot by mom in Laredo welfare office dies

McALLEN (AP) — A 10-year-old son of a woman who shot her two children and then killed herself during a police standoff at a Texas welfare office died on Thursday, a day after his sister succumbed to her wounds.

Timothy Grimmer died Thursday evening at a San Antonio hospital after he was removed from life support, Laredo police investigator Joe Baeza said. His sister Ramie, 12, who authorities say was also shot by mother Rachelle Grimmer, died Wednesday night at the same hospital.

Their father, Dale Grimmer, spent time at his son's bedside Thursday before consulting with doctors and deciding to pull Timothy off of life support, said Mary Lee Shepherd, the children's grandmother.

"He spent hours with Ramie and finally had to let her go," Shepherd said. "He's just concentrating on saying goodbye to his children."

Their mother, 38-year-old Rachelle Grimmer, shot the children Monday and then killed herself, ending a seven-hour standoff at the Texas Department of Health and Human Services office in Laredo. Authorities say she had asked to speak to a caseworker about why her food stamps application had been reject-

ed and pulled a gun after being taken to a private room to speak.

Police say Grimmer let the roughly two dozen people in the building besides her children leave unharmed. During the standoff, she rattled off a litany of complaints about government, Baeza said.

The family had been living in a rundown trailer park, and Rachelle Grimmer had been seeking food stamps since July, shortly after they moved to Texas from Ohio.

The state Health and Human Services Commission released a timeline on Thursday of its contact with Rachelle Grimmer dating back to July 7, when Grimmer submitted an application for benefits.

At that point Grimmer was told she would not qualify for "emergency benefits," in which documentation requirements are postponed, because she said she received child support that exceeded her expenses for rent and utilities.

A caseworker interviewed Rachelle Grimmer July 22 to see if she was eligible for benefits. She was told then that she must provide documentation of her income, in this case child support.

"We closed the case on Aug. 8 because we hadn't received proof of her income," agency spokeswoman

Stephanie Goodman said in an email. "If we had that, it's quite likely she would have been eligible for benefits."

On Nov. 16, Rachelle Grimmer called the agency's ombudsman to ask that someone look into her case. On Dec. 1, an agency supervisor called Grimmer, but got no answer and the voice mailbox was full.

Dale and Rachelle Grimmer divorced six or seven years ago, Shepherd said. Dale Grimmer flew to San Antonio Wednesday with his brother and father. She described him as shocked and devastated.

Shepherd said her former daughter-in-law had a history of mental illness and Dale Grimmer tried three times to have the children removed from her custody while they were living in Anaconda, Mont., and Ohio with no results.

"Many, many times he tried to tell people what was happening and nobody would listen," Shepherd said.

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services could not immediately verify her claims on Thursday.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services reported finding two cases Wednesday involving Grimmer and her children.

In the first case, reported Sept. 15, 2010, the department received a possible neglect report after Rachelle Grimmer and her two children were found living in a tent on a South Texas beach. Investigators found no evidence of neglect and closed the case, spokesman Patrick Crimmins said.

In a report made last June, Corpus Christi police said Rachelle Grimmer had come to police headquarters with her two children and reported that she had been a domestic violence victim. Caseworkers checked on her and the children, determined the children were not at risk and took no further action, Crimmins said.

It appears Rachelle Grimmer and the children were in Ohio until at least some point in 2009.

Rachelle Grimmer was homeschooling them, but keeping the Crooksville Exempted Village School District apprised of the curriculum she was using through the 2008-2009 school year, said Vicky Nelson, administrative assistant to the district superintendent.

"There were no problems," Nelson said. The district sent a renewal application to Rachelle Grimmer for the next year, but received no response and was told the family had moved.

EPA theorizes link between fracking and groundwater pollution

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Thursday for the first time that fracking — a controversial method of improving the productivity of oil and gas wells — may be to blame for causing groundwater pollution.

The draft finding could have significant implications while states try to determine how to regulate the process. Environmentalists characterized the report as a significant development though it met immediate criticism from the oil and gas industry and a U.S. senator.

The practice is called hydraulic fracturing and involves pumping pressurized water, sand and chemicals underground to open fissures and improve the flow of oil or gas to the surface.

The EPA found that compounds likely associated with fracking chemicals had been detected in the groundwater beneath Pavillion, a small community in central Wyoming where residents say their well water reeks of chemicals. Health officials last year advised them not to drink their water after the EPA found low levels hydrocarbons in their wells.

The EPA announcement could add to the controversy over fracking, which has played a large role in opening up many gas reserves, including the Marcellus Shale in the eastern U.S. in recent years.

The industry has long contended that fracking is safe, but environmentalists and some residents who live near drilling sites say it has poisoned groundwater.

The EPA said its announcement is the first step in a process of opening up its findings for review by the public and other scientists.

"EPA's highest priority remains ensuring that Pavillion residents have access to safe drinking water," said Jim Martin, EPA regional administrator in Denver. "We look forward to having these findings in the draft report informed by a transparent and public review process."

The EPA also emphasized that the findings are specific to the Pavillion area. The agency said the fracking that occurred in Pavillion differed from fracking methods used elsewhere in regions with different geological characteristics.

The fracking occurred below the level of the drinking water aquifer and close to water wells, the EPA said. Elsewhere, drilling is more remote and fracking occurs much deeper than the level of groundwater that would normally be used.

Environmentalists welcomed the news of the EPA report, calling it an important turning point in the fracking debate.

"This is an important first indication there are potential problems with fracking that can impact domestic water wells. It's I think a clarion call to industry to make sure they take a great deal of care in their drilling practices," said Steve Jones with the Wyoming Outdoor Council.

Pavillion resident John Fenton, chairman of the group Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens, applauded the EPA for listening to the homeowners with contaminated water.

"Those of us who suffer the impacts from the unchecked development in our community are extremely happy the contamination source is being identified," Fenton said.

Calgary, Alberta-based Encana Corp. owns the Pavillion gas field. An announced \$45 million sale to Midland, Texas-based Legacy Reserves LP fell through last month amid what Encana said were Legacy's concerns about the EPA investigation.

Fox

cont. from page 1

someone just possesses child pornography, to look at it and say, Well, it's a victimless crime, because he didn't do anything to the kid. He just had pictures. But I think that the kids are victims, and that being said, that because there are victims involved, and because those victims are kids, (penitentiary) time is appropriate."

Tour

cont. from page 1

a wrapping party hosted by Whitney Davis and the Optimists Club. The club is still seeking supplies to wrap all the kids' presents, Davis said.

"We are short on boxes this year," said Whitney Davis. "If people could drop off boxes at the Optimist Gym on Friday afternoon or bring them Saturday morning, that would really help us."

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Military's sodomy law repealed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Recently passed Senate legislation would make sodomy and sex with animals legal under military law, ending long-standing prohibitions and triggering cries of perversion from conservative groups.

The bill, which the Senate passed 93-7 last week, would repeal Article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice that states any person who engages in "unnatural carnal copulation with another person of the same or opposite sex or with an animal is guilty of sodomy." Those found guilty of sodomy would be subject to court martial.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., said Thursday that the repeal was simply a legal change because it's no longer constitutional. A 2003 Supreme Court decision struck down a Texas ban on sodomy as an unconstitutional intrusion on privacy.

The committee said the changes in law were recommended by the Joint Services Committee on Military Justice and the secretary of defense.

Senate negotiators are working to reconcile their version of the bill with the House-passed measure and produce final legislation that sets policy for the Pentagon. House Republicans oppose the repeal and want to leave the provision intact.

A congressional aide close to the negotiations said late Thursday that it was unlikely the repeal would stand. The aide spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private talks.

Conservative groups angered by the end this year to the ban on gays serving openly in the military were outraged by the proposed repeal of the sodomy provision.

"Now, in its rush to accommodate the left, Congress may have inadvertently opened the door to even more perversion," Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council said in a statement. "As part of the defense authorization bill, liberals are pushing to make sodomy a legal activity under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. In its haste to make gay sex an official part of military life, the left could be unintentionally repealing the ban on bestiality too."

In an interview, Perkins said he has been talking to House lawmakers involved in the defense negotiations as they push to leave the provision intact, including House Armed Services Committee Chairman Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif.

"This blowup over bestiality shows the sloppy nature of this repeal," Perkins said.

Conviction tossed because man was jailed during time of crime

HOUSTON (AP) — The armed robbery conviction and life sentence of a Houston man was thrown out by a judge on Thursday after court officials realized the man was actually in jail when the crime occurred.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office said the man, Ladonrell Montgomery, never raised the claim he couldn't have committed the robbery because he was jailed on another charge, even when he testified during the punishment phase of his trial last month.

Montgomery's defense attorney, Ronald Ray Sr., said his client always maintained he was innocent but just couldn't remember where he was on the day of the alleged robbery.

It was Montgomery's father, in tears after his son was sentenced on Nov. 16 to life in prison, who while driving home that day first thought his son might have been in jail at the time of the robbery, Ray said. The father called Montgomery's bondsman to check on the date.

"It was just a phone call out of hope he could find some evidence and it was uncovered," Ray said.

Montgomery's father texted Ray about the discovery on Nov. 19 and by Nov. 29, the attorney had collected the records needed to file a motion for a new trial.

In the motion, Ray said Montgomery was put in the Harris County Jail on Dec. 11, 2009, on a charge of assaulting a family member and that he was not released until he posted bond on Dec. 14, 2009, a day after the alleged robbery.

"It was a complete surprise. I didn't believe it at first," Ray said.

Donna Hawkins, a spokeswoman for the DA's office, said the first time prosecutors learned Montgomery was in jail was in the motion.

"If the defense had raised the issue either prior to or during trial, the prosecutor would have

immediately investigated his claims and taken the appropriate action," she said. "Whenever there is a credible claim of alibi, we do all we can to ensure that the claim is investigated. Our duty is to seek justice, and we take that obligation very seriously."

During a court hearing Thursday, state District Judge Mark Ellis threw out Montgomery's conviction, apologized to Montgomery for what happened and criticized both prosecutors and defense attorneys, according to the *Houston Chronicle*.

"It boggles the mind that neither side knew about this during trial," Ellis said. "Both sides in this case were spectacularly incompetent."

Ray said he is grateful prosecutors joined his motion for a new trial and dropped the charge after the judge threw out the conviction. But he believes it was unfair Montgomery had to show he was innocent when the burden in the case rested with prosecutors, who had to prove he was guilty.

Montgomery, who has previously been convicted of robbery and assault, was accused of robbing a T-Mobile store.

One witness identified Montgomery as the gunman who robbed the store but a second witness couldn't make a positive identification. A video of the robbery was also shown to jurors but Ray said it didn't clearly show who the robber was and he believed jurors wouldn't convict.

"I am just very happy we were able to find out in a timely manner and get a just result," he said. "Here justice has been served."

But even with his conviction being thrown out, Montgomery, 36, will remain jailed because he is being held without bond on five other robbery charges.

After Montgomery was sentenced last month, prosecutors dismissed the five other charges against him.

But after Thursday's

court hearing, the DA's office reinstated the five charges, which are set for trial in May.

Ray said Montgomery maintains he is innocent of these five other charges. Montgomery was tried on two of these charges earlier this year and both trials ended with deadlocked juries.

Ray acknowledged Montgomery's criminal history but said his client is a "very joyful" and "God-believing person" and that he has learned his lesson and wants to have a positive impact on society.

"I hope this case would demonstrate to people that just because someone does have a criminal past, they can still be innocent of a crime," Ray said.

PAMPA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT					
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE					
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS					
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011					
DATA CONTROL CODES	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 11,128,371	\$ 3,372,005	\$ 8,283	\$ 858,852	\$ 15,367,511
5800 State Program Revenues	13,384,346	197,811	-	248,305	13,830,462
5900 Federal Program Revenues	261,312	-	-	5,750,644	6,011,956
5020 Total Revenues	24,774,029	3,569,816	8,283	6,857,801	35,209,929
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	14,112,298	-	-	2,445,781	16,558,079
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	340,453	-	-	10,542	350,995
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	511,014	-	-	588,890	1,099,904
0021 Instructional Leadership	201,539	-	-	118,577	320,116
0023 School Leadership	1,443,932	-	-	89,576	1,533,508
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	878,402	-	-	23,160	901,562
0032 Social Work Services	36,065	-	-	23,104	59,169
0033 Health Services	272,595	-	-	83,652	356,247
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	563,714	-	-	-	563,714
0035 Food Services	-	-	-	1,395,578	1,395,578
0036 Extracurricular Activities	1,137,143	-	-	86,319	1,223,462
0041 General Administration	1,262,152	-	-	2,752	1,264,904
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	2,696,610	-	-	148,718	2,845,328
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	100,136	-	-	-	100,136
0053 Data Processing Services	525,985	-	-	93,652	619,637
0061 Community Services	96,767	-	-	154,735	251,502
Debt Service:					
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	40,393	1,015,000	-	-	1,055,393
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	2,121	2,350,516	-	-	2,352,637
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	800	-	-	800
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	1,110,161	-	1,721,954	92,746	2,924,861
Intergovernmental:					
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	-	-	-	1,087,499	1,087,499
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	328,020	-	-	-	328,020
6030 Total Expenditures	25,659,500	3,366,316	1,721,954	6,445,281	37,193,051
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(885,471)	203,500	(1,713,671)	412,520	(1,983,122)
0100 Fund Balance - July 1 (Beginning)	9,043,726	2,371,385	6,326,905	543,797	18,285,813
3000 Fund Balance - June 30 (Ending)	\$ 8,158,255	\$ 2,574,885	\$ 4,613,234	\$ 956,317	\$ 16,302,691

B-30

December 9, 2011

7257

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Sports

NBA nixes three-team deal to send Paul to Lakers

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The NBA, owners of the New Orleans Hornets, refused Thursday to approve a three-team trade that would have sent Hornets All-Star guard Chris Paul to the Los Angeles Lakers.

"It's not true that the owners killed the deal, the deal was never discussed at the Board of Governors meeting and the league office declined to make the trade for basketball reasons," league spokesman Mike Bass said.

Yahoo Sports reported that NBA Commissioner David Stern killed the trade after several owners complained. Citing anonymous sources, Yahoo reported Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban was one of the most vocal owners upset about the deal, done the same day as the end of the lockout, which was supposed to restore competitive balance in the league.

The proposed deal would have sent Lamar Odom from the Lakers to New Orleans and four-time All-Star Pau Gasol from the Lakers to Houston.

After it fell through, Paul simply wrote, "WoW," on his Twitter page.

The NBA's decision sets up an awfully awkward Friday.

A person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press that Paul will report to the Hornets on Friday. And Gasol and Odom were expected to report

to the Lakers' first day of training camp under new coach Mike Brown.

Odom, too, took to Twitter to share his feelings: "When a team trades u and it doesn't go down? Now what?"

Owners and players ratified a new collective bargaining agreement Thursday, the final step to ending the five-month lockout and allowing training camps and free agency to open Friday.

There was hope in small markets like New Orleans that after the lockout it would be easier for teams to hold on to their stars. Had the deal had been approved, one of the NBA's biggest stars from the league-owned small-market Hornets would have moved to one of the NBA's largest, richest markets.

The Hornets have been owned by the NBA since last December, when the league bought the club from founder George Shinn.

A person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press that the framework for a deal had been in place earlier Thursday. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the talks were supposed to remain confidential.

The Rockets also had agreed to send forward Luis Scola, shooting guard Kevin Martin, point guard Goran Dragic and a first-round draft choice to New Orleans.

Odom, the NBA's sixth man of the year last season whose marriage to Khloe

Kardashian and E! network reality show put him at the center of Hollywood's love affair with the Lakers, sounded devastated to be leaving his adopted hometown in an interview on 710 ESPN radio earlier Thursday. Odom has spent all but one season of his NBA career with the Clippers or Lakers.

The NBA's move also quashed an attempt by the Lakers to retool their roster after their back-to-back title reign ended last spring with Dallas' second-round playoff sweep.

There is, however, still the question of Orlando's Dwight Howard.

The Lakers are widely reported to be interested in acquiring the Magic center Dwight Howard, another All-Star expected to move before signing a long-term deal. Unlike Paul, Howard has made no secret of his affection for Los Angeles.

If the Hornets are unable to figure out a trade for Paul, he would be able to opt out of his current contract after the upcoming season.

Speaking earlier Thursday, Hornets president Hugh Weber said the franchise has been preparing for months for the possibility that Paul would resist signing an extension in New Orleans, a move that would leave the Hornets with the choice of trading him or simply letting him walk in free agency at the end of the season.

"We've been preparing for this moment

for over a year, and it's not like we were surprised or caught flat-footed," Weber said. "This is not a surprise. This is not something where we've been sitting around waiting to see what would happen. We've been managing this and taking control of the situation as best we can and we're going to have a team that we believe achieves that objective of making this community proud."

Paul, 26, averaged 15.8 points and 9.8 assists last season.

Despite the lockout and uncertainty over Paul's future, fan support has been building in New Orleans, where the team has advertised their season-ticket drive as an effort to lure a permanent local buyer who is committed to keeping the team in Louisiana.

The Hornets have increased their season ticket base from a little more than 6,000 last season to 10,019 as of Thursday afternoon.

Paul was drafted by the Hornets fourth overall out of Wake Forest in 2005.

He has been selected to the Western Conference All-Star squad the past four seasons and also was a member of the United States' Olympic gold medal-winning team in Beijing in 2008.

Nowitzki wonders about Mavericks' 2011-12 supporting cast

DALLAS (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki bounced down the steps, smiling wide and greeting each media member with a handshake. He joked about his short hair, showed how his twice-wounded left middle finger is healing and enjoyed the perk of holding a news conference while teammates sweated through conditioning drills.

Hey, it's good to be the reigning NBA finals MVP. Yet as excited as Nowitzki is about trying to defend the championship he brought the Dallas Mavericks, he's also curious about who is going to defend it with him.

Tyson Chandler and J.J. Barea are free agents and probably won't be back. It's not even clear how much of a push Mavs owner Mark Cuban is making to keep them.

Chandler is the most important because he "changed the whole culture defensively for us," Nowitzki said. The problem for Dallas is that's why Chandler is among the most coveted of all available players.

Caron Butler is already off the market. He's headed to the Clippers, a person familiar with the situation has told The Associated Press. Barea has gone from saying he couldn't imagine leaving to expecting to sign elsewhere.

Cuban appears loathe to offer the long, lucrative deals needed to keep those guys. He seems to prefer freeing up salary cap space, and avoiding a huge luxury tax bill, for the first time in his tenure.

He and general manager Donnie Nelson may be making a risky tradeoff, at least in the eyes of his fan base. The swap: Giving up the chance to try repeating with the same nucleus for the chance to land Dwight

Howard, Chris Paul, Deron Williams and/or others in the next crop of free agents. Part of the gamble is that the players they want could be dealt in the next week, or any time this season, and never hit the market.

"It's not a decision I'd want to be a part of," Nowitzki said. "Donnie and Mark are obviously looking at what's best for the franchise and for the future. Obviously we all know we're old. So looking at the next three, four, five years, maybe they want to get some fresh legs."

Nowitzki recalled the heady days in June, when the Mavs rallied to beat the Miami Heat in the finals for the first championship in franchise history. They returned home for a parade and celebration 31 years in the making. During a private moment, players all said they wanted to stick together and try doing it again.

Then came the lockout. Negotiations, and anything else between players and management, were forbidden. Nowitzki said the only contact he'd had with Cuban since the lockout hit came at the ESPYs, and it was brief. ("He was sitting somewhere else," Nowitzki said, smiling as he set up his zipper to the boss: "I was sitting front row.")

Having a title makes it easier for Nowitzki to take a wait-and-see approach. Had the Mavs just been denied again, he — and probably Cuban, too — would be fretting about the dwindling number of prime years left in

the 33-year-old German's career.

"As a player, you've won it once and you'd obviously love to have the same crew back and defend our title that way," Nowitzki said. "But we understand that it's a business."


Last summer, Nowitzki went through the business end of things as a free agent for the first time in his career. When he decided to stay in Dallas, he took \$16 million less than a maximum contract so the club would have a better chance to sign a quality supporting cast.

"I guess I didn't take less enough," Nowitzki said, laughing. "I still got a decent deal out of it so maybe it wasn't enough cutback."

Another reason for Nowitzki's calm is that he's seen Cuban do this before.

Nowitzki didn't like losing good buddy Steve Nash, then Michael Finley a year later, but the Mavericks ended up going to the finals without them in 2006 and had one of the best records in league history in '07. The same front office team of Nelson and Cuban rebuilt the roster again to get Chandler, Jason Kidd and the other key players that won it all in '11.

"We know that Donnie has the knowledge and Cubes (too)," Nowitzki said. "They're going to make the right decisions for this team."



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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Dec. 9, 2011.

This year tension builds and you often feel overwhelmed. Perhaps you need to streamline your activities. You will want to be in tiptop shape, as so much could happen this year. Though your community and professional lives demand attention, you also will be focused on your personal life. Curb a tendency to express frustration and anger in a manner that distances people from you. Your popularity soars after June. Some of you might flirt with ending your single lifestyle. If you are attached, you remember why you fell in love with your sweetie. GEMINI can be as diverse as you.

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 could be close to positive someone is misunderstanding you. Try different words as you attempt to eliminate this gap. Resist getting into arguments with those who just don't get it. You don't need the flak. Tonight: Out and about.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Curb your innate tendency to be possessive. You don't want to take a risk emotionally or cause yourself an unneeded problem. Be that conservative Bull, and you will have few problems today. Tonight: Treat to your heart's content.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might feel less than great in the morning. You have a remarkable ability to pull yourself out of moods. Avoid a family member who is difficult and touchy. You might want to avoid what seems like a pending conflict. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ Listen to your inner voice when dealing with a confrontational situation. You easily could be overly sensitive and misunderstand someone. Someone you see could cause you to become sarcastic and difficult. Remember that you are in control of your moods. Tonight: Tell it like it is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Zero in on what you want. Others could be quite distracting, but you don't need to respond. Avoid a power play at all costs. Avoid any risk financially. You

will be a lot happier that way. A meeting adds a lot of interest to a situation. Tonight: Where the action is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Take charge of a situation, knowing which direction you need to go in. Someone might be pushing you too hard. Listen to news with an open mind. Your ability to come to terms with a situation needs to emerge. Tonight: Let off steam in an acceptable manner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Keep reaching out for someone at a distance. You might feel disenchanted with someone. How you let this person know could be very important. Why lose your temper for no reason? Carefully listen to what someone is sharing. Tonight: Take in new vistas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Deal with another person directly. You could be surprised by what is going on behind the scenes. Still, don't push in either direction. Realize what is going on within a friendship. You could be bewildered by this person's reaction. Tonight: Go with another person's choice.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ If there is a conflict in a key relationship, you are likely to hear about it. Your mind might not be able to handle anger bubbling up. Dealing with mixed feelings or people who provoke mixed feelings could be tough. Tonight: Go with another person's choices.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Pace yourself and get past an immediate problem. You feel as if others are unusually touchy. Detaching from the roaring crowd is nothing less than smart. Don't hesitate to change plans if need be. Tonight: Take in new vistas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Friends play a strong role in what is going on. You will discover that a partner has a short fuse. Add a little humor and/or flirtation. You also can walk away from the situation, but not in a hurtful manner. Tonight: Having fun. TGIF.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Pressure builds to a new level on the home front. Misunderstandings seem to happen. You scarcely can focus on any specific area of your life. Be careful how you handle your frustration. Tonight: Vanish. Go home.

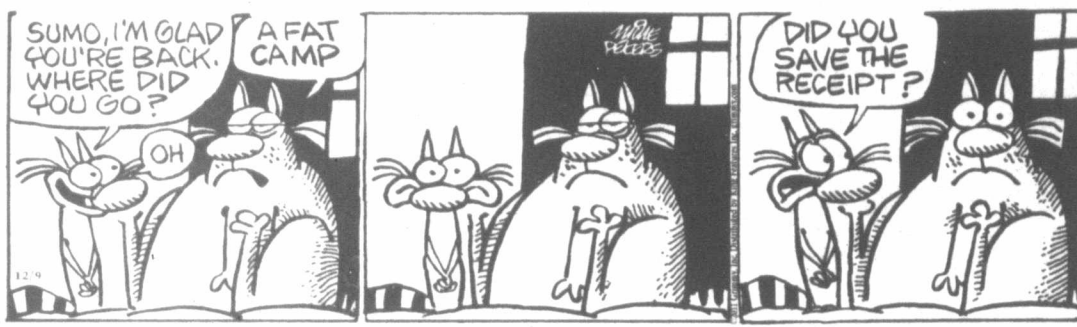
Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



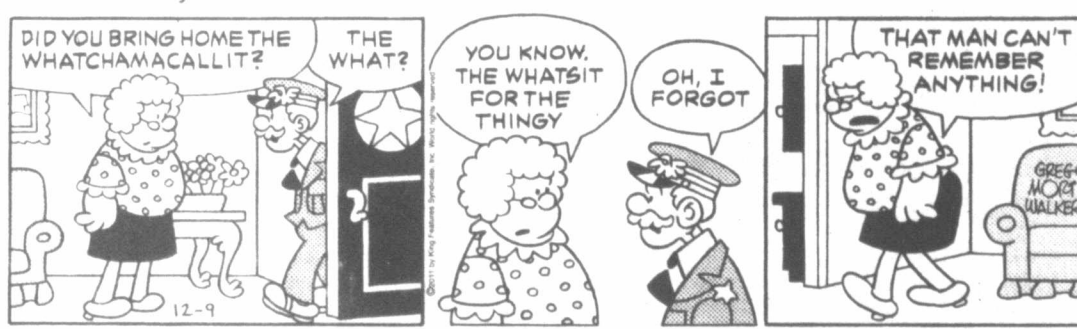
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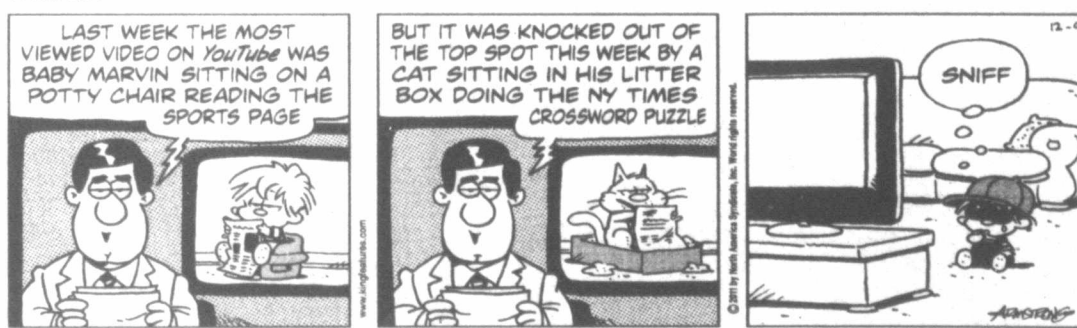
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Southern Baptists mull name change

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — What if Southern Baptists were no longer called Southern Baptists? Would more people walk through church doors? Some leaders in the nation's largest Protestant denomination say it's an idea that needs to be considered for an evangelistic faith with declining membership.

A task force asked to study that question made its recommendation to Southern Baptist Convention President Bryant Wright on Wednesday, but it won't be public until an executive committee meeting in February.

Wright wouldn't say whether new names have been proposed for the denomination of 16 million, but he has said the word "Baptist" would remain.

"The reason for doing this is simply to say: 'Do we have any unnecessary barriers in reaching people for Jesus Christ?'" Wright said.

Figures released by SBC earlier this year showed total membership declined in 2010 for the fourth straight year, despite a renewed missionary effort.

Ed Stetzer, president of SBC's Lifeway Research, said the membership decline just began recently, but the trend line is negative and trends can be hard to change. He expects it to accelerate unless SBC churches take action.

At a Wednesday meeting, the task force reviewed the results of an online poll it commissioned from Lifeway Research. Of the 2,000

Americans surveyed, 40 percent of respondents had an unfavorable view of the denomination and 44 percent of respondents said that knowing a church was Southern Baptist would negatively impact their decision to visit or join the church.

Although 53 percent of respondents overall had a favorable view of the Southern Baptists, the high negative numbers are a concern for a denomination with a major focus on evangelism and a declining membership.

"If we don't aggressively plant churches and lead people to Christ, we become increasingly irrelevant to the world around us," said Jimmy Draper, a former SBC president and former head of Lifeway Christian Resources who is chairman of the task force.

Although he would not say what the group recommended, Draper spoke positively about the idea of a change. And the task force is weighted toward people involved in planting new churches and others who likely have something to gain from a change.

The Southern Baptist Convention formed in 1845 when it split with northern Baptists over the question of whether slave owners could be missionaries, and for a long time the name was associated with white racism. That is not so much the case these days — in 2008, about 18 percent of SBC churches were composed of largely non-white members — but the denomination is associ-

ated with conservative politics.

David W. Key Sr., the director of Baptist Studies at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, said that while the SBC's stands on issues like gay rights and women in the pulpit might put off some in the public at large, there are members who worked hard to create the SBC's association with conservative causes and may not let that identity go easily.

One of those people is Wiley Drake, pastor for 24 years of the First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park, Calif., where he has vociferously opposed several past attempts to change the name.

"We're very conservative, very biblically based. We always have been known for that," he said. "To take 'Southern' out of our name would be to water down our theology ... and hide who we are as Baptists."

Drake said if a name change were approved, he would not change the name of his church but he doubts that will happen. All Southern Baptist churches are independent and can have any name they like.

In what may be a barometer of the feelings of the greater membership — or at least those likely to attend denominational meetings — the Tennessee Baptist Convention, a state affiliate of the SBC, voted last month at their annual meeting to oppose a name change.

But other church leaders see the name as a

trivial matter in the quest to save more souls. Many churches nationwide have already made their names more nondenominational.

James Merritt, the founder and senior pastor at Cross Pointe Church in Duluth, Ga., is a former president of the SBC. In explaining how he chose the name of his church, Merritt said, "I always want to do all that I can to remove any obstacle to people coming to church and hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Merritt said he's not ashamed of being a Southern Baptist, and the church identifies its affiliation in its literature, but the name can also be a barrier for people searching for a church.

"Probably two times a month, conservatively, we have people walk in and say, 'This is a Baptist church? I didn't know Baptist churches were like this,'" he said.

If Wright does propose a change at the February meeting, the proposal would have to pass a vote of the delegates to the denomination's general convention over two consecutive years.

That means the question will ultimately be decided by people like Phillip Senn, a member of the Blessed Hope Baptist Church in Troy, Tenn., who has served as a convention delegate several times over the years.

"I'm not necessarily against it, but I don't see a real need for it," he said. "Personally, I think the name does not inhibit a person from attending a church or hearing the word of Christ."

BANANAGRAMS!

Each of the four-letter groups below may be extended both on the right and the left to form an eight-letter word. Use the tiles directly above each group to fill in the blanks.

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Level: Advanced

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: I recently met a man I love dearly, but I don't agree with the toys he buys for his 10-year-old son, "Dale." The boy plays violent video games and is obsessed with guns to the point that we can't leave the house without him bringing a toy gun along. The video games he plays (unsupervised) are violent and gory and rated M (17 and over).

Dale is not mature for his age. In fact, he often whines when he doesn't get his way. He's allowed on the Internet without supervision, and I have walked in and caught him surfing naughty pictures. When I told his dad, he laughed and said, "Boys will be boys!"

Abby, I'm afraid for my 6-year-old daughter. A few weeks ago, Dale decided he wanted to play "good guys/bad guys" with her. When he grabbed my daughter in a choke hold and held a toy gun to her head, she became hysterical. I have since had nightmares that Dale will find a real gun, think it's one of his play guns and shoot my daughter.

I think Dale's obsession is unhealthy, and I don't think it's healthy for my daughter to be around him. How do I handle this with my boyfriend? I love him and would

like to spend the rest of my life with him, but I cannot marry him at the expense of my daughter. — PARANOID AND PERPLEXED

DEAR PARANOID AND PERPLEXED: How did your boyfriend handle the "good guys/bad guys" incident when you brought it to his attention? The answer to that question will provide you with insight into his ability to parent his son, and what your and your daughter's future will be like if you marry him. If his reaction wasn't to your satisfaction, then you must place your child's safety above your heart's desire, and you have assessed the situation correctly.

DEAR ABBY: I am a divorced, childless, independent and financially secure woman. I live happily in my upscale apartment.

How do I respond to family members, co-workers and friends who constantly ask, "Why don't you buy a house and quit throwing your money away paying rent?"

I don't want to buy a house and be tied to a 30-year mortgage. I'm perfectly happy the way things are. What is a proper response to those questions? Saying, "I don't want to" hasn't been enough. — HAPPY RENTER IN

HOUSTON

DEAR HAPPY RENTER: The responsibilities of home ownership aren't for everyone, and many individuals have realized it as bills for plumbers, electricians, roofers, insurance and property taxes mounted up. You might mention that to the inquirers, although your response to your well-meaning friends, relatives and co-workers should have been sufficient. A way to change the subject would be to say, "Now, let's talk about something else."

DEAR ABBY: My 22-year-old son told me he had a fight with his girlfriend. Am I allowed to ask him what it was about, or if they have resolved the problem? — CURIOUS MOM IN MONTANA

DEAR CURIOUS MOM: When your son mentioned the spat, that would have been the logical time to ask what it was about. If you start probing now — after the fact — it could be construed as nosiness. If he's still seeing the girlfriend, it's safe to assume the problem was resolved — so keep your mouth shut, your eyes open and let him solve his relationship issues without involving yourself in them.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rotisserie holders
 - 5 Surround-ed by
 - 9 Casual eateries
 - 11 Sulky puller
 - 13 Boxing venue
 - 14 Battle site of 1836
 - 15 Tall tale
 - 16 Pecan candies
 - 18 One who might ask for your hand
 - 20 Composer Francis
 - 21 Wild laughter
 - 22 Unit of force
 - 23 Assn.
 - 24 Sticky stuff
 - 25 Sleuth's find
 - 27 Leg bone
 - 29 That woman
 - 30 Like skiers' clothing
 - 32 Toronto team
 - 34 Dissenter's vote
 - 35 Utah neighbor
 - 36 Make blank
- DOWN**
- 1 Massage target
 - 2 Out-cast
 - 3 Empathetic comment
 - 4 Kayo count
 - 5 Isolated
 - 6 Fountain order
 - 7 Beatles song
 - 8 Humble
 - 10 Filling up in
 - 12 TV's O'Donnell
 - 17 Mex. neighbor
 - 19 Simple cap
 - 22 Capitol
 - 24 Yellowstone stone sight
 - 25 Rock of comedy
 - 26 Result in
 - 27 Way off
 - 28 Logic
 - 30 Un-tethered
 - 31 Fabric workers
 - 33 Yon people
 - 37 Massage

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1 Public Notice

cation, should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, PO Box 12967, Austin, TX 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792). B-12 Dec. 9, 2011

3 Personal

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BOX 17 Pampa News, Po Box 2198, Pampa, Tx 79066 or bring by 403 W. Atchison M-Fri 8am-3pm

NEW Queen Mattress Sets! Sale Price \$246 Red barn, 1424 S. Barnes, 665-2767

21 Help Wanted

COMMUNITY Coordinating Plans activities / services for community residents. Email lgplard@newlifehousing.com or call 512.258.9194

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69 Misc.

AMERICAN SELF STORAGE, 2500 N. HOBART PAMPA, TX AUCTION Wed. Dec 14th 1pm. Sell by Complete Unit Only Household & Misc. #A011 Hearon #C015 Martinez

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69a Garage Sales BIG Sale! 106 S. Price Rd. Sat. 8-4. Winter bedding, heaters, fabric at 50¢ yd, treadmill, some furni, microwave, Christmas items.

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AXYDLBAAXR
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.

12-9 CRYPTOQUOTE

DIO INASOJD GVM VU NPP YJ
DABYZH DV PVVC MTJB RIOZ
BVT'AO ZVD. — RYPPYNL

UONDIOA
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: NOTHING IS MORE MOVING THAN BEAUTY WHICH IS UNAWARE OF ITSELF, EXCEPT FOR UGLINESS WHICH IS. — ROBERT MALLETT

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NASCAR THIS WEEK

ON THE TUBE

Sprint Cup 2012
Daytona 500,
Feb. 26, Time TBA



Nationwide Series 2012
DRIVE4COPD 300,
Feb. 25, Time, TV TBA

Truck Series 2012
NextEra Energy Resources 250,
Feb. 24, Time TBA



BURNING ISSUES

► In the season just completed, Dale Earnhardt Jr. finished on the lead lap in 29 out of 36 races, his highest total since 2006. However, Earnhardt led only 52 laps, the lowest total of his career, in the entire season.

► If you're interested, even had NASCAR not changed the points format, Tony Stewart would have won the Chase. Under the allotment used prior to this year, Stewart would have edged Carl Edwards by 14 points.

► Had the current points format been used over the entire season — i.e., had there not been a Chase — Edwards would have won by 78 over Kevin Harvick, 87 over Stewart, 90 over Jimmie Johnson and 98 over Matt Kenseth.

► Before Gene Haas brought in Tony Stewart as an ownership partner, 12 drivers had combined for one top-five finish in 284 races. In the past three seasons, Stewart-Haas Racing has piled up 51 more.

► Steve Addington, Stewart's new crew chief, has won 16 Sprint Cup races: 12 with Kyle Busch (2008-09) and four with Kurt Busch (2010-11). In the Nationwide Series, Addington won nine races with Jason Keller and one with Mike Bliss.

► Given all the postseason activities — layoffs, crew chief changes, etc. — it seems a change that so little NASCAR programming is available on ESPN and Speed.

► NASCAR has no more decisive owner than Richard Childress, who doesn't hesitate to make changes when he sees the need.

FAN TIPS

Still King Of Popularity

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was named as NASCAR's Most Popular Driver for the ninth consecutive year. The all-time leader is Bill Elliott, who won it 16 times and once (1991-2000) claimed the distinction for 10 years in a row. Seven-time Cup champion Dale Earnhardt won it only once, in 2001, the year of his death. It was posthumously awarded.



A Junior fan is seen at the Oct. 16 Busch of America race.

LEGENDS AND LORE

Kurt's Been There

Kurt Busch's tenure at what is now Roush Fenway Racing also came to a bad end in 2005. After an incident involving a traffic stop near Phoenix International Raceway, Roush dismissed Busch for the final two races of the season. As a result, Busch brought up the year in the 2005 Chase standings. This year he finished 11th in a 12-driver field. In his next-to-last season with Roush, Busch won the 2004 Nextel Cup championship.



WHO'S HOT AND WHO'S NOT

► **Who's hot:** Few have enjoyed the spotlight of a championship season more than Tony Stewart. ... Carl Edwards won over many by being graceful in excruciating defeat.

► **Who's hot:** It seems incredible that a driver as talented as Kurt Busch is actually, for the time being, out of a job. ... The holidays are likely to bring much congratulations for Kyle Busch, as well.



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 mduiton@gastongazette.com. You can also send 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.

2012 LOOKAHEAD



SPRINT CUP SERIES

The first of the season's two all-star events will be run for the 34th time and for the ninth consecutive year under the lights. In the years 1979-97, it was known as the Busch Clash. It was the Bud Shootout 1998-2000 and became the Budweiser Shootout officially in 2001.

Next up: Budweiser Shootout, Daytona International Speedway (2.5 mi.), Daytona Beach, Fla., Feb. 18.

Last year's winner: Kurt Busch, Dodge.
Recent winners: Busch (2011), Kevin Harvick (2009-10), Dale Earnhardt Jr. (2003, '08), Tony Stewart (2001-02, '07), Denny Hamlin (2006), Jimmie Johnson (2005), Dale Jarrett (2000, '04).



NATIONWIDE SERIES

For many years, Daytona hosted a National Sportsman race known as the Pematals 300 on the day before the 500, but this race's lineage officially began when what is now the Nationwide Series was founded in 1982. Dale Earnhardt won the first one and later captured five in a row from 1990-94.

Next up: Drive4COPD 300, Daytona International Speedway (2.5 mi.), 120 laps/300 miles, Daytona Beach, Fla., Feb. 25.

Last year's winner: Tony Stewart, Chevy.
Recent winners: Stewart (2005-06, '08-'11), Kevin Harvick (2007), Dale Earnhardt Jr. (2002, '03, '04), Randy LaJoie (1999, 2001), Matt Kenseth (2000).



CAMPING WORLD TRUCK SERIES

Trucks never raced at Daytona until 2000, when Mike Wallace won the crash-named debut of the series on a so-called restrictor-plate track. Toyota drivers have won the past five races and, surprisingly, no driver has ever piloted a Chevy to victory. The first seven races saw Fords win four and Dodges three. A Toyota has visited victory lane in each race since.

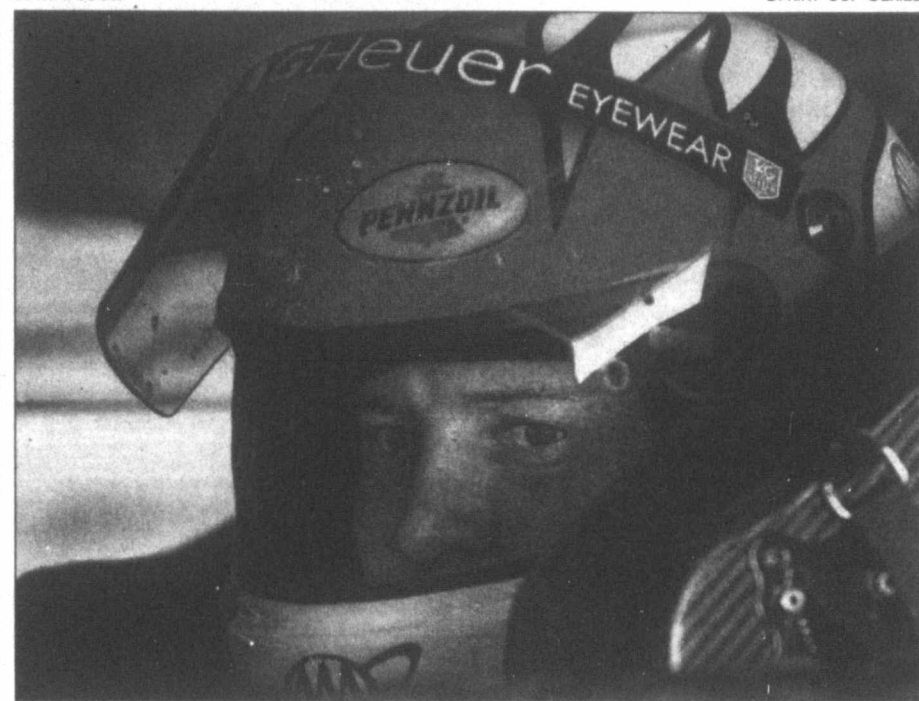
Next up: NextEra Energy Resources 250, Daytona Int'l Speedway (2.5 mi.), 100 laps/250 miles, Daytona Beach, Fla., Feb. 24.

Last year's winner: Michael Waltrip, Toyota.
Previous winners: Waltrip (2011), T. Peters (2010), T. Bodine (2008-09), J. Sprague (2007), M. Martin (2006), B. Hamilton (2005), C. Edwards (2004), R. Crawford (2003), R. Pressley (2002), Joe Ruttman (2001), M. Wallace (2000).

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

KURT BUSCH

SPRINT CUP SERIES



John Clark/NASCAR This Week

After Kurt Busch's latest episode with Dr. Jerry Punch during the last Cup race of the season, owner Roger Penske and the driver decided on a 'mutual parting of ways.' Both driver and team were gracious in their press releases.

It's A Split-22

Former Cup champion is out of a job — for now

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

If he'd only been civil — just civil — when the cameras were rolling...

In the final race of the 2011 season, a frustrated Kurt Busch, eliminated from contention at Homestead-Miami Speedway, first used a well-known gesture of derision toward NASCAR officials, then lashed out at ESPN reporter Jerry Punch, who was trying to interview Busch after he climbed out of his No. 22 Dodge.

To make a long story short, the No. 22 Dodge won't be his anymore.

This week Penske Racing announced a split with the older Busch brother, who finds himself out of a ride. It's a major development. Kurt Busch has won 24 Cup races and was the winner of the first Chase, in 2004. Since leaving Roush Fenway Racing for Penske in 2006, Busch ranks eighth in driver rating and 10th in victories, top-five and top-10 finishes.

The split was officially termed "a mutual parting of ways," which isn't uncommon. Both owner Roger Penske and Busch were gracious in statements issued on Dec. 5.

"I appreciate the victories that Kurt has brought Penske Racing and our sponsors over the past six years,"

Penske's statement said. "While I am disappointed that Kurt will not be racing for our team in the future, both Kurt and I felt that separating at this time was best for all parties, including our team and sponsors. I wish Kurt the best in his future racing endeavors."

Kurt Busch had already been fined \$50,000 by NASCAR officials for his Homestead antics.

Busch's statement read, in part: "I am grateful to Penske Racing for six very productive years... I also appreciate the lasting friendships I've made while working with our great sponsors through the years, including Miller Lite, Shell and Dodge."

"Coming to a mutual agreement to go our separate ways is a positive step for me. Over the Thanksgiving holiday I took time to reflect on what is most important to me and realized I need to find a way to put the fun back into racing. It's time for a fresh start. Leaving a great organization and a lucrative contract is not easy, but it allows me to take a deep breath and work on things that can make me a better driver and a better person."

"I recognize the passion and emotion that have helped me succeed on the track need to be better channeled off the track... I want to personally thank Roger Penske for the opportunity he gave me and for his friendship, which will continue long into the future."

That same ol' slump kicks in for Kyle Busch

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

Kurt Busch's "caught on video" tirade, directed at ESPN reporter Jerry Punch, wound up being both humiliating and expensive.

While Tony Stewart was gracefully accepting all the accolades appropriate for a driver winning his third championship, Kyle Busch was acknowledging some of his faults in Las Vegas, where he and his brother weren't officially celebrated at all.

The Busch brothers brought up the rear of the 12-driver Chase, and only the top 10 are honored at the annual Awards Ceremonies in Las Vegas.

Judged on performance, for the younger Busch brother, it was the same old story. He gave his team "an A or an A-plus" for its regular-season performance.

"But then, in the final 10, I would give ourselves probably a 'D,'" Kyle said. "We just seem to fall on it every year. It just doesn't seem to come together."

He acknowledged that he has often been his own worst enemy.

Grubb's destination — An

NUTS AND BOLTS

awkward aspect of the championship proceedings in Las Vegas was that Stewart's crew chief, Darian Grubb, is out of a job. Grubb captained the title ship while knowing his services would no longer be needed at voyage's end.

Here's no surprise. Rick Hendrick would like to hire him back.

"When he left to join Stewart-Haas Racing, in 2008, we told him we'd always have a place for him if he wanted to come back," Hendrick said. "Darian is a very smart guy. I know he's entertaining a lot of offers out there. We don't have a crew-chief role. We have an engineering role that we think Darian would be really good in."

"But... it's got to be what Darian wants to do. I know he is close to all of our people and our guys are close to him. We'd love to have him back in the organization, but I, quite honestly, don't know where he's going to end up. We would like to have him, but whether or not he's going to decide he wants to be in the role we've offered him, or he wants to do something somewhere else, I'm just not sure."



Rick Hendrick has said he's interested in bringing one agent crew chief Darian Grubb back to his team. Grubb left Hendrick for current Cup champion Tony Stewart's team in 2008.

More to come — Richard Childress continues to roll out changes in his Sprint Cup operation. Drew Blickensderfer is moving from Roush Fenway Racing to take over as Jeff Burton's crew chief. Blickensderfer was available because one of the four RFR teams is likely to be eliminated. Blickensderfer was David Ragan's crew chief this season. He replaces Luke Lambert, who served as Burton's crew chief on an interim basis as the season wound down.

Elsewhere — The Illinois General

FEUD OF THE WEEK



KURT BUSCH VS. ROGER PENSKE

The parting was graceful, anyway. Perhaps Penske, one of the more respected figures in American motor sports, just had enough. Perhaps it was the sponsor, Shell, that called the shot, but the 10th most successful driver (in wins, top-five and top-10 finishes) since 2006, when Busch joined Penske Racing, is out of a ride, at least for now.

NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton gives his take: "The alliance of Kurt Busch and Penske has always been uncomfortable. A Youtube video, showing Busch behaving badly, was apparently the final straw for the Captain."

YOUR TURN

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Those Were The Days...

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

Dear NASCAR This Week,

With all the complaints about how boring NASCAR (lack of capital letters and dollar sign intentional) races are, I feel they need to look at the product they are delivering, and consider returning to their roots.

They should fall back to the 1960s, when the cars still had stock body panels, and mostly stock frames. Engines were merely blueprinted, not built up. In fact, engines were street blocks. Tires were narrower, and aero packages didn't exist. Drivers could race with each other nose-to-tail and side-by-side without the aero effects that we see today, loosening up the guy they're racing with merely by being close to him.

I don't at all like the cookie-cutter appearance, but one cannot argue with the safety improvements that have developed over the years. Regan Smith's crash at Talladega attested to that! But those attributes could be built into a more stock car while still allowing the various manufacturers to be recognizable. Companies could then compete for aerodynamic designs that would run well, exactly as was done in the 1960s.

Sure, speeds would be slower, but I bet most fans couldn't tell the difference between 150 and 180 mph. I attended some races at Dover in the early 1970s, and I felt that 140-150 mph was spectacular! I also saw a race at Kansas in the mid-'90s and got no additional thrill from the increased speeds...

... Some engineers would lose their jobs, but imagine how much cheaper racing would be. Sponsors could actually be enticed to stick around! Least I miss the opportunity to mention doubles racing at Daytona and Talladega... YUCK! That's not racing. It's as fake as tag-team wrestling.

Bob Ernst
Gillette, Wyo.

We sympathize. The safety issue is one NASCAR officials stress in response to such complaints, but it's hard to argue that safety requires that the shape of the cars be so similar.

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Sports

Shorthanded PHS wrestling falls to PD, Tucumcari

ANDREW GLOVER
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AMARILLO — When the Pampa Harvesters took the mat against the Palo Duro Dons, they were missing several key players to injury. Despite the missing faces, Pampa gave its all but fell short to the Dons and the Tucumcari N.M. Rattlers Thursday in Palo Duro.



Slatten

"We're banged up," head coach Michael Stovall said. "These kids are fighting and can't ask for anything more."

Pampa lost to Palo Duro 60-27 and lost 49-30 to Tucumcari. Among those out for the Harvesters was senior Dustin Whinery and junior Samuel Smith. Pampa had to forfeit three matches in each of its duals, giving the opponent 18 points.

Junior Joseph Slatten said it was tough not having a full team.

"We are doing all right," Slatten said. "We just have to practice harder."

Slatten lost his first match by pin and lost his second by decision. The junior said his opponent in the second match just had more energy.

"I had him at first," Slatten said. "He just went longer than I did. I was just too tired and let him get points he shouldn't have."

Against Palo Duro, senior Joseph Radke and sophomore John Cryer won their

matches by decision. Senior Dylan Hooker won by pin.

The Rattlers jumped out on the Harvesters winning four of the first five matches by pin. Pampa finished the match strong with Hooker, senior Ryan Pearson and sophomore Isidro Estrada getting pins to close the match.

Pearson said he was beat by a more experienced wrestler in his first match and had to work to win the second.

"There's no excuses," Pearson said about his first match. "He just beat me. (Second match) was tough but I was able to get it done."

Pearson said he thought the team played well despite the injuries.

"We gave up 18 points that last match and we lost by 18," Pearson said.

The Harvesters will dual Caprock and Amarillo Tascosa 5 p.m. Tuesday. Pampa was supposed to wrestle in Carrolton today and Saturday but didn't have enough to fill a team.

Slatten said the rest will be much needed.

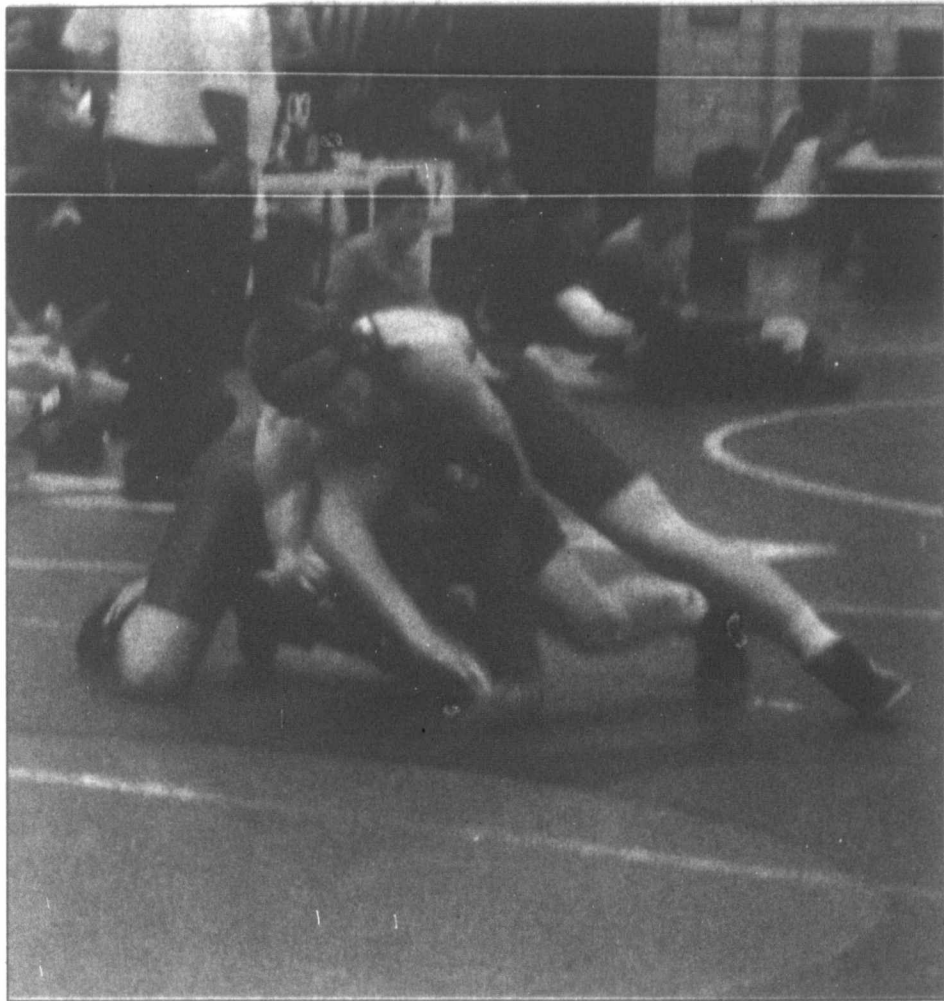
"We will have more than enough time to rejuvante," Slatten said.

Stovall said his team will get time to heal.

"These our the kids that hang tough everyday," Stovall said. "We are going to keep fighting. In about three weeks I will have everyone back from injury."



Pearson



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Sophomore Jon Cryer establishes position against a Palo Duro wrestler Thursday at Palo Duro. Cryer won his match but the Harvesters lost 60-27.

Pampa HS volleyball celebrates award-filled 2011 season

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staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Kirsten Kuhn poses with assistant coach Stephanie Cameron after receiving her first team All-District certificate at the volleyball banquet Wednesday.

After handing out the All-District awards at the 2011 PHS volleyball banquet on Wednesday evening, head coach Libby Garza had to take a little break.

"We have a lot of awards to get through," Garza said. "They are just so good."

Pampa finished 2011 with a 30-10 record and an undefeated district season. The Lady Harvesters won seven All-District Awards and one honorable mention (Junior Calli Brewer). Seniors McKinlee Stokes and Stephanie Allen made second team. Seniors Kailyn Troxell, Kirsten Kuhn, Ramie Hutto, Caitlin Sieck and Alanna Stephens and Maddie Fatheree earned first team selections. Troxell (MVP), Stephens (Offensive) and Fatheree (Setter) won district Player of the Year Awards.

The Lady Harvesters gave out seven team awards that the players vote on. Sieck won the Hustle award for the second consecutive season. Taylor Eubank won the Upcoming Freshman award. Allen and sophomore Taylor Giles won the Heart Award. Garza said both players gave their all on the court.

"They were cheerleaders," Garza said. "They were here for the right reasons. They always played from the heart."

Hutto won the offensive player of the year award. Stokes and Kuhn won the defensive player of the year award. Garza said the team wouldn't be where it's at without them.

"These ladies have put in more blood, sweat, tears and facials than anybody," Garza said.

Troxell won the most valuable player by unanimous vote. This year, the Lady Harvesters started a new award which they named after their graduating manager, Miranda Patterson, for her hard work

the last four seasons.

"She pretty much runs this program," Garza said. "She has many names. She is Mom, Mir, babysitter, manager, statistician, friend and just love her to death."

Pampa received several other honors. Hutto, Stephens, Troxell and Sieck were selected to play in the Golden Spread All-Star Game in Canyon in January 2012. Kuhn, Sieck, Troxell and Stephens will receive Academic All-State Selections.

Troxell (October) and Stephens (November) were recognized as athletes of the month by the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce. Troxell was also selected to play in the Texas Girls Coaches Association All-Star game in Arlington.

At the beginning of the banquet, Garza and assistant coaches Stephanie Cameron (JV) and Braydon Barker (freshmen) talked about their respective teams.

"These were a great group of girls," Barker said. "I had blast and I hope they did."

"This season was quite enjoyable for me," Cameron said. "I enjoyed everyone of my girls. Every single one of these ladies had something unique to contribute to our team."

"This year was an amazing year," Garza said. "It didn't end the way we wanted to but not everyone can say they won their last game. These girls worked extremely hard day in and out."

Garza spoke about her seniors, which were her first incoming freshman class to graduate.

"What these girls accomplished are beyond words," Garza said. "They have set the tone and standard here ...I appreciate everything they put in."

The senior class of Stokes, Kuhn, Hutto, Allen, Stephens, Troxell and Sieck went 95-56 in their four seasons. Pampa was ranked in the top 10 twice the last two seasons and finished this season 19th.

NBA LABOR

NBA owners, players approve new CBA, officially end lockout

NEW YORK (AP) — A better NBA is coming, Commissioner David Stern insisted Thursday.

Maybe not soon enough to calm fans in small-market New Orleans and Orlando worried about losing their superstars. But in time, Stern said, the "tortured journey" of this 161-day lockout will have been worth it.

"We think it's a very good deal, and it's going to withstand the test of time," he said of the new collective bargaining agreement owners and players ratified Thursday.

Thus ends the lockout, with training camps and free agency to open Friday. But not before one more chaotic day in this wacky offseason, with the league denying reports that owners had pressured it, as owner of the Hornets, not to go through with a trade of All-Star Chris

Paul. Instead, the league said it "declined to make the trade for basketball reasons."

Paul eventually may force his way out to the bright lights of Los Angeles or New York, so the status quo remains for now.

But together with an expanded revenue sharing program, Stern said teams and fans will see an improved league in coming years.

"It's a new beginning in a way," he said. "It's going to take a couple of years to work its way out, but we're very excited about its prospects."

The 10-year deal promises owners savings of perhaps a quarter billion dollars a year in player compensation, but largely leaves intact the soft salary cap system that the players fought hard to maintain.

Stern and Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver announced the deal during a press

conference, putting an end to nearly two years of difficult negotiations that resulted in the second shortened season in NBA history. A 66-game schedule will begin on Christmas and run through April 26, forcing every team to play on three straight nights at least once.

Owners approved the deal, which allows either side to opt out after six years, by a 25-5 vote. The players' association said 86 percent of the more than 200 players who voted electronically approved the deal.

Union executive director Billy Hunter did not attend the press conference and no union officials were quoted in their press release, issued just as Stern began speaking.

Owners also agreed to an expanded revenue sharing plan, and Stern called both agreements "a watershed moment" for the league. The plan, which will begin

in 2013-14, more than quadruples the revenue currently shared by teams, with Stern saying they could now receive in excess of \$20 million and at least six teams could pay \$50 million into the plan.

Stern said the current net transfer among teams of about \$40 million annually would exceed \$160 million. But that's of little help now to a team such as the NBA-owned Hornets, the latest small-market club to face a future without its franchise player.

The framework was in place Thursday on a three-team deal that also involved Houston and would have sent Paul to the Lakers to join Kobe Bryant in the backcourt of the league's biggest revenue team, people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press. But the deal fell through amid reports owners pressured Stern to stop it.