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TODAY IN SPORTS



Friday, Jan. 6, 2012

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Volume 107 • No. 226

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Inside: Home How-To
Make a home wheelchair accessible | p5

2011 recap: PHS volleyball
District dominance continued last year | p9

Pampa saw slight uptick in crime during 2011

Burglaries, identity theft see biggest increases

MOLLIE BRYANT
mbryant@thepampanews.com

Crime rose slightly in Pampa during 2011 from the previous year, with the most striking increases in burglaries, assaults and identity theft.

During 2011, there were an estimated 161 residential and business burglaries, compared with 136 in 2010. Crime Prevention Officer Stormy McCullar said that these crimes are sometimes an act of oppor-

tunity, particularly if people leave their homes unlocked while they are away. Burglaries have been scattered around town this year, meaning any home or business could be vulnerable to this crime, especially without keeping property secure. Using a porch light, motion detector lights, alarm systems and having a dog are all good precautions to take. Avoid leaving windows and blinds open, which can draw burglars to your home.



McCullar

"You want to deter a predator from even looking at your property, and how you do that is through your lighting and things like that," said McCullar. "You don't want to give them a good place to hide. When officers

There are probably many factors. It could be job loss. Some people have stressors in their lives more than others.

— Stormy McCullar
Pampa PD Crime Prevention Officer on the causes of the increase in assaults in Pampa over the past year

are patrolling the streets, if you have a tree that's huge and it's never been trimmed, it's a good hiding place for a suspect, so you want to make sure you trim your trees and shrubbery. Don't have things on your porch where (suspects) can hide."

Assaults, including simple, aggravated and sexual **CRIMES** cont. on page 12

Top O' Texas Stock Show tomorrow

ARNIE AURELLANO
editor@thepampanews.com

The Top O' Texas Livestock Association is set to start the new year running, welcoming competitors from all over the Texas Panhandle into Pampa for the 2012 Top O' Texas Livestock Show tomorrow.

Competition starts in the morning with the barrow show at 8 a.m. at the Clyde Carruth Pavilion at the rodeo grounds, and will continue through Sunday with the lambs, goats and steers categories.

The show, like the upcoming Gray County Livestock Show later this month, is for school-aged entrants, but is open to a larger pool of contestants and serves as a fundraiser for the Top O' Texas Livestock Association, said association representative Charla Shults.

"This one is a jackpot show, and anyone in the top 26 counties in the Texas Panhandle can participate in this jackpot show as long as they're a FFA or 4-H member," Shults said. "(The Gray County Livestock Show) is specifically for Gray County kids.

"The money that we make in the **SHOW** cont. on page 12

BACK TO SCHOOL



staff photo by Mollie Bryant

Johnny Salazar (from left), Brant Hill and Lane McKinney play with blocks in Patience Ball's kindergarten class at Austin Elementary on Thursday morning. Classrooms around Pampa filled back up this week as Pampa Independent School District classes resumed on Wednesday.

Over 5,000 families helped by Good Samaritan's last year

Rising food prices, though, affected organization's operations in 2011

MOLLIE BRYANT
mbryant@thepampanews.com

During 2011, Good Samaritan Christian Services has dealt with growing food prices and a holiday break-in, but the organization has managed to help over 5,522 families for the year.

The organization received food from several food drives, including the Postal Carriers Food Drive and the Boy Scouts food drive.

"Every drive helps, and there are 22 churches that help," said Joy Bivens, Volunteer Executive Director of the organization. "Some of them are really good about bringing food."

Good Samaritan's also typically gets food from High Plains Food Bank, which had some setbacks last year.

"They lost some federal funding, where they used to get so much surplus stuff," said Bivens. "And now they get quite a few things donated, like we got oranges

this time, and they say they're really good oranges. We get a lot of stuff that's essentially outdated, like sacks of lettuce, but before you can give it away, it (goes bad)."

"The food bank works really hard at it, and they do a good job with what they have.

When the High Plains Food Bank doesn't have food available, we have to buy it locally," she added. "We can only buy it when it goes on sale."

Rising food prices has affected what Good Samaritan's can provide to its clients.

"Food prices, especially on canned vegetables, have gone up," said Bivens. "Well, everything has gone up. Rice has

gone up a bunch, and the food bank isn't able to get rice any more or cereal. They did get peanut butter back."

Higher prices have affected the organization's tradition of giving away turkeys and ham during the holidays, but it didn't stop them.

"Last year, they had a sale on turkeys, and they were 37 cents a pound," said Bivens. "This year, most of them were 99 cents a pound. That's a big difference. Last year, we could get the boxes of mashed potatoes and stuffing really cheap, because I bought it by the cases. That stuffing, some of it's \$1.79 a box. And the food bank (gave us 30) turkeys this year."

SAMARITAN cont. on page 12

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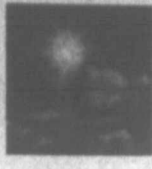


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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 51 Low 27	High 48 Low 26	High 47 Low 27

Today:
Mostly sunny, with a high near 51. Wind chill values between 24 and 34 early. North northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tonight:
Partly cloudy, with a low around 27. North northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday:
Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night:
Partly cloudy, with a low around 26. East south-east wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday:
Partly sunny, with a high near 47. East wind 5 to 15 mph becoming north.

Sunday Night:
Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. North northwest wind around 10 mph.

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Police detain 20 in Mexico prison riot

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican authorities have detained 20 inmates for alleged involvement in a prison riot that killed 31 in a state bordering Texas and are investigating whether prison staff was also responsible.

No prison officials had been dismissed so far over the fight in which one cell block invaded another Wednesday afternoon, causing a brawl among prisoners armed with makeshift knives, clubs and stones, said Morelos Canseco, interior secretary of Tamaulipas state.

The fight at a penitentiary in the Gulf coast city of Altamira also injured 13 people.

Canseco told reporters Thursday the bloodshed had nothing to do with prison overcrowding. He said the facility, with a capacity of 1,626 prisoners, housed 1,058 inmates at the time of the brawl.

He said state police moved in to control the riot.

The area near the border with the state of Veracruz has seen a spike in drug violence in the last two months from warring cartels.

The Gulf Cartel, based in Tam-

aulipas, is battling its former allies, the Zetas, who have controlled Veracruz, over territory and smuggling around the port of Altamira, said a Mexican navy official in Veracruz whose name couldn't be used for security reasons.

In late December, five gunmen attacked three buses in Veracruz, killing seven passengers, including three U.S. citizens, and four others in separate attacks. Twenty-three bodies were found along the border between the two states in the following days.

Deadly fights also happen periodically in Mexican prisons as gangs and drug cartels stage jail breaks and battle for control of penitentiaries, often with the involvement of officials.

Another bloody fight in a prison in the Tamaulipas border city of Matamoros in October killed 20 inmates and injured 12.

In July, a riot at a prison in the border city of Juarez killed 17 inmates. Mexican authorities detained the director and four guards over that fight, where a surveillance video showed two inmates

opening doors to let armed prisoners into a room where the slain victims were reportedly holding a party.

In one of the worst cases of corruption, guards and officials at a prison in Gomez Palacio, in the northern Mexican state of Durango, allegedly let inmates out in 2010, lent them guns and sent them off in official vehicles to carry out drug-related killings, including the massacre of 17 people.

A riot at the same facility in 2009 killed 19 people. Twenty-three people were killed in a separate prison riot in Durango city in 2010.

Some 29 inmates were killed in two incidents on the same day in 2010 in Mazatlan in western Sinaloa state, home of the powerful cartel of the same name.

Another Tamaulipas prison riot killed 21 in Reynosa in 2008, while two prison riots in Tijuana that year killed a total of 23.

Canseco said Tamaulipas has been trying to professionalize its prison employees in an effort that predates Wednesday's deadly clash.

Obituaries

Iva Lee Overstreet Thomas, 106

Iva Lee Overstreet Thomas, 106, passed away in her home on January 4, 2012, in Pampa.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 7, 2012, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Nick Matthews, associate pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Iva Lee was born November 11, 1905, in Indian Territory. She was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Overstreet, a pioneer family who moved to White Deer over Oklahoma in a covered wagon when Iva Lee was four years old. She married Dwight Upham in May of 1933, in Sayre, Okla. He preceded her in death in 1958. She was a beautician for several years, retiring in 1970. In 1978, Iva Lee married Ralph Thomas, who preceded her in death in 1990. She helped serve the Pampa Lions Club luncheons as long as Ralph was an active member. She was a member of First United Methodist Church where she served as secretary of the Friendship Sunday School Class for seventeen years, and was a member of the Crusader's Sunday School Class since 2001. Iva Lee attended church faithfully—having not missed a single Sunday during 2011, until August. She turned 106 on November 11, 2011, and celebrated with friends and family over her favorite indulgence, chocolate ice cream.

Survivors include several great nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1981, Pampa, TX 79066-1981.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whitley.com.



Thomas

Johnnie Mae (Black) Bonner, 77

BALKO, Okla.—Johnnie Mae (Black) Bonner, 77, died January 1, 2012, in Grapevine.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, January 7, 2012, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel in Pampa.

Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery in Pampa, under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Bonner was born April 1, 1934, in Countyline, Okla. to John F. and Cleda Mae Black. She was reared in Pampa and was a member of Pampa High School class of 1952. She married Frank N. Bonner, Jr., in 1951. He preceded her in death in 1995. Johnnie lived in Fort Worth until 1960 when the family moved to California. They returned in 1981 and settled in Bryans Corner, Okla. where she lived the remainder of her life. She was a devout Christian and was very active in all activities of the Balko School District, especially basketball and 4-H. She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Charlie (Black) Holiman; and a grandson, Jackie Bonner, III.

Survivors include two sons, Dr. Jackie Bonner, and wife Laura of Grapevine and John Bonner of Booker; two granddaughters, Jennifer Bonner of Ardmore, Okla. and Tiffany (Bonner) Fox and husband Andy of Broken Arrow, Okla.; nephew, Steven Holiman of Pico Rivera, Calif.; niece, Terry (Holiman) Locke and husband Jeff of Ramona, Calif.; aunt, Bette Norton of Hurst; numerous cousins and close friends who she truly cherished.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whitley.com.



Bonner

For the record

cont. from Thursday

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24 hour period ending Wednesday, January 4 at 7 a.m.

Tuesday, January 3
Joshua Rivas, 20, was arrested by police for assault causing bodily injury.

Dee Anna Music, 39, was arrested by police for assault causing bodily injury.

Aaron Fought, 30, was arrested by deputies for capias pro fines times 12.

Christopher Perez, 40, was arrested by deputies for capias pro fines.

Wednesday, January 4

Caleb Hart, 22, was arrested by deputies for an animal at large.

...

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Thursday, January 5 at 7 a.m.

Pampa PD reported 18 traffic related incidents.

Pampa EMS and the Pampa Fire Department responded to 10 medical calls.

Animal Control agents reported four animal related incidents.

Wednesday, January 4

A theft was reported. Criminal trespassing was reported.

A stolen vehicle was reported at the 300 block of North West.

A theft was reported at the 900 block of North Gray.

Harassment was reported.

ported.

A suspicious person was reported at 17th and Dogwood.

Fraud was reported at the 2200 block of North Chestnut and the 300 block of East Brown.

A burglary occurred at the 700 block of North Nelson.

A suspicious person was reported at the 1200 block of East Francis.

Harassment was reported.

Suspicious persons were reported at the 900 block of South Wells and the intersection of Jordan and Hazel.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 1200 block of East Francis.

A suspicious person was reported at the 900 block of East Browning.

A threat was reported. Suspicious persons were reported at the intersection of 23rd and Dogwood and the intersection of Foster and Russell.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 600 block of North Somerville.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at Somerville and Hobart.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 300 block of North Davis.

Thursday, January 5

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 1200 block of North Duncan.

Suspicious persons were reported at the 1300 block of North Coffee and the 600 block of North Dwight.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24 hour period ending Thursday, January 5 at 7 a.m.

Wednesday, January 4

Michael Ray Waldrip, 21, was arrested by deputies for theft of property over \$50 and under \$500.

Thursday, January 5
Justin Dale Smith, 26, was arrested by police on charges of possession of a controlled substance, public intoxication and failure to appear in court.



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Pileup involves 50 vehicles

PORT ARTHUR (AP) — A mass pileup involving at least 50 vehicles left dozens of people injured, four critically, as fog and smoke washed over a Southeast Texas highway early Thursday, officials said.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Department Deputy Rod Carroll said two cars caught fire but that nobody died in the chain-reaction collisions around 5:45 a.m. on Highway 73 just west of Port Arthur.

"Thank God it was before the school buses started running," Carroll said. He said early morning fog combined with smoke from recent wildfires may have contributed to the crashes.

"Those two mixed to make zero visibility," Carroll said by phone as he surveyed the scene. Authorities closed a stretch of the highway about 80 miles east of Houston following the pileup.

Up to 40 people were treated for injuries including broken bones, abrasions and trauma, and one man suffered a heart attack, Carroll said.

Hazardous materials crews were helping with cleanup at the scene, Carroll said.

Counselors help after shooting

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Counselors have been made available to students and staff of a South Texas school where police fatally shot an armed eighth-grade boy.

Cummings Middle School in Brownsville is closed to students until Friday as police continue investigating events surrounding the death of 15-year-old Jaime (HY-may) Gonzalez.

District spokeswoman Drue Brown says about 200 students and staff showed up Thursday morning for classes at a nearby recently completed, but unoccupied, elementary school. Brown says more than a dozen counselors were available and that the mood was "subdued."

Brownsville police shot and killed Gonzalez on Wednesday morning after they say he refused to lower what turned out to be a pellet gun that closely resembled a handgun. Cummings, with about 750 students, was locked down for nearly two hours.

[Editor's Note: More on the Brownsville shooting on page 12.]

Ecstasy ring leader sentenced

HOUSTON (AP) — Prosecutors say a Houston man who led a ring that supplied more than 300,000 Ecstasy pills to undercover agents has been sentenced to 16 years in prison.

A federal judge in Houston on Wednesday sentenced 52-year-old Long Vo.

Vo last May pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess and distribute Ecstasy in a case going back to 2008. He was indicted in 2010.

Prosecutors say Vo's drug smuggling operations had ties to Vietnam and Canada. Further details on the international investigation were not immediately available.

Assault trials to begin in March

LIBERTY (AP) — The first trials for more than a dozen men accused in a series of sexual assaults on an 11-year-old Southeast Texas girl may happen in March.

Eleven of the men appeared Thursday in state court in Liberty for status updates in a case that has divided and horrified the town of Cleveland. Their cases were reset for Feb. 6, but prosecutor Joe Warren says the first trials could be in March.

The men, along with six juvenile boys, face assault and abuse charges over the alleged 2010 incidents that happened over a period of months in Cleveland, about 45 miles northeast of Houston.

Four of the juveniles and one of the adult men have previously pleaded guilty in the case.

Psychiatrist protests firing

AUSTIN (AP) — A former Austin State Hospital psychiatrist under investigation over sexual abuse allegations has protested his 2011 firing.

The Austin American-Statesman reported Wednesday that Dr. Charles Fischer has filed an official grievance over his Nov. 14 dismissal.

Fischer has also notified the Texas Medical Board that he intends to fight for the return of his medical license. The agency on Nov. 22 suspended Fischer's physician privileges, citing nine instances, going back to the 1990s, in which the psychiatrist allegedly had abused young patients.

Fischer has not been charged with a crime and he denies the allegations.

Fischer lawyer Antonio Cobos told the newspaper that credibility questions have been raised about some alleged victims.

A spokeswoman says the Texas Department of State Health Services stands by its decision to fire Fischer.

Oil trader sentenced to 7 years

HOUSTON (AP) — An ex-LyondellBasell Industries manager in Texas has been sentenced to seven years in prison and ordered to repay \$82 million over a kickbacks scheme.

A federal judge in Houston on Wednesday sentenced Jonathan Paul Barnes of Bellaire. Prosecutors say Barnes did marine chartering for Netherlands-based LyondellBasell, which cooperated in the investigation of overcharges for the cost of shipping oil.

Barnes last March pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud, making a false statement in a passport application, bulk cash smuggling and conspiracy to engage in international money laundering.

Conservatives urge rally around 'not Romney'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prominent conservative leaders want their rank and file to quickly get behind a single presidential candidate — Rick Santorum now seems the likeliest — fearful that persistent splits will help Mitt Romney win the Republican nomination.

"While no political candidate, or human being for that matter, is perfect, Rick Santorum's baggage contains his clothes," CatholicVote.org president Brian Burch said Thursday, after Santorum's virtual tie with Romney in Iowa won the support of the 600,000-member online organization.

"Republicans hoping to win back the White House in November must unite behind the candidate most dedicated to the foundational issues of faith, family and freedom."

Romney narrowly won the Iowa caucuses when conservative voters split their support among several challengers, and the worry is that the same thing will happen in South

Carolina, Florida and beyond if Rick Santorum, Newt Gingrich and Rick Perry all stay in the race.

"Conservatives are still divided among a number of different candidates, but the field is winnowing," said former Republican presidential candidate Gary Bauer. And, he said: "I certainly think that Senator Santorum is in a good position to inherit a lot of that support."

In the afterglow of Santorum's unexpectedly narrow loss to Romney in Iowa, leaders on the right who have been scarcely engaged in the rollicking Republican contest began buzzing about the prospect of endorsing the former Pennsylvania senator with the solid conservative credentials — or someone else such as Gingrich who has deep conservative roots.

To discuss how to proceed, some of those leaders have set up meetings from Washington to Texas before the Jan. 21 South Carolina primary. That vote could prove pivotal, given that the Republicans

who have won the state for decades have eventually become the party's nominees.

"There is movement, even members of Congress who are weighing this now who are looking to make a move," said Family Research Council President Tony Perkins, who said he's spoken with more than eight leaders with conservative constituencies, including lawmakers. He declined to name them but added: "I do think you'll see growing momentum toward Rick Santorum."

Indeed, interviews with a number of leaders, many of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity to be candid, indicated that Santorum was emerging as the preferred alternative to Romney, though a few still are watching Gingrich. Not one mentioned Perry, who announced he would reassert his campaign in light of a fifth-place showing in Iowa only to say a day later he would press on in South Carolina.

Michele Bachmann, the Minnesota congresswoman

an who is a favorite of evangelicals and the tea party, took the opposite route, abandoning her bid after coming in last in Iowa. That's left her backers up for grabs and looking for someone to rally behind.

It's unlikely to be Romney.

Many conservatives have long viewed him skeptically. These voters complain that he's reversed himself on a series of social issues. **RALLY** cont. on page 5

Romney plan would raise tax on poor

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Mitt Romney's tax plan would increase taxes on low-income families while cutting taxes for the middle-class and the rich, according to an independent study released Thursday.

On average, households making less than \$20,000 would see their taxes increase by more than 60 percent, said the Tax Policy Center, a Washington research group that studied the Romney plan.

Households making between \$50,000 and \$75,000 would get small tax cuts, averaging 2.2 percent, or about \$250, the study said. People making more than \$1 million would get tax cuts averaging 15 percent, or about \$146,000.

"Virtually everybody with a big income is getting a tax cut," said Roberton Williams, a senior fellow at the Tax Policy Center.

Overall, Romney's plan would reduce tax revenues by \$180 billion in 2015, adding to the federal budget deficit, the study said. Romney's campaign disputes the estimate, saying tax cuts in the plan would help improve the economy, leading to more revenue.

Fresh off a slim victory in the Iowa caucuses, Romney is the front-runner for the GOP nomination for president. His tax plan is less sweeping than those proposed by some of his rivals. He says he will push for "a fundamental redesign of our system." But initially, his plan maintains the current tax rates while cutting corporate taxes and reducing taxes on investments.

Romney's plan would cut the top corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent, eliminate investment taxes for the middle class and make permanent a massive package of tax cuts first enacted under President George W. Bush.

Romney would also repeal tax increases on the wealthy that were enacted as part of President Barack Obama's health care package. His plan, however, would allow some tax cuts

enacted under Obama to expire.

The Obama tax cuts, first enacted as part of the massive economic stimulus package passed in 2009, targeted low-income families with children, including many people who don't make enough money to pay any federal income taxes. They included an expanded tax credit for college students, a more generous Earned Income Tax Credit for families with three or more children, and a more generous child tax credit for low-income families.

Like the Bush tax cuts, the Obama tax cuts are scheduled to expire at the end of the year. Romney's campaign says letting the Obama tax cuts expire doesn't amount to a tax increase.

"Mitt Romney has not proposed raising taxes. In fact, he laid out a blueprint for governing that includes dramatic spending cuts to reduce the deficit and pro-growth tax policies that permanently extend the Bush tax cuts, dramatically cut the corporate tax rate to create jobs, and deliver real tax relief to middle-income taxpayers," campaign spokeswoman Andrea Saul said.

Other GOP candidates have called for more sweeping tax plans. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Texas Gov. Rick Perry have both called for versions of the flat tax, in which all income is taxed at the same rate. Former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania has called for reducing the number of tax brackets from six to two.

Previous studies by the Tax Policy Center have found that plans by Gingrich and Perry would result in big tax cuts for the wealthy, reducing tax revenue by billions each year. The center has not yet done a comprehensive analysis of Santorum's plan, though Williams said one is planned.

The Tax Policy Center is a research group formed by two Washington think tanks, the Urban Institute and the Brookings Institution. Its research-

ers regularly testify before Congress on tax policy and its analyses during the 2008 presidential campaign were widely circulated.

Cinema 4

Movies Showing
Friday, January 6 through
Thursday, January 12

Mission Impossible 3 (PG-13)
Fri 7:15 9:45
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:15 9:45
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:15
Mon/Thu 7:15

Chipwrecked (G)
Fri 7:00 9:30
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00
Mon/Thu 7:00

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13)
Fri 7:30 10:00
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30
Mon/Thu 7:30

We Bought A Zoo (PG)
Fri 7:15 9:45
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:15 9:45
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, Jan. 6, the sixth day of 2012. There are 360 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 6, 1912, New Mexico became the 47th state.

On this date:

In 1412, tradition holds that Joan of Arc was born this day in Domremy.

In 1540, England's King Henry VIII married his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves. (The marriage lasted about six months.)

In 1759, George Washington and Martha Dandridge Custis were married in New Kent County, Va.

In 1838, Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail gave the first successful public demonstration of their telegraph, in Morristown, N.J.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, outlined a goal of "Four Freedoms" - Freedom of speech and expression; the freedom of people to worship God in their own way; freedom from want; freedom from fear.

In 1942, the Pan American Airways Pacific Clipper, a flying boat built by Boeing, arrived in New York more than a month after leaving California and following a westward route.

In 1982, truck driver William G. Bonin was convicted in Los Angeles of 10 of the "Freeway Killer" slayings of young men and boys. (Bonin was later convicted of four other killings; he was executed in 1996.)

In 1994, figure skater Nancy Kerrigan was clubbed on the leg by an assailant at Detroit's Cobo Arena; four men, including the ex-husband of Kerrigan's rival, Tonya Harding, went to prison for their roles in the attack. (Harding, who denied knowing about plans for the attack, received probation after pleading guilty to conspiracy to hinder prosecution.)

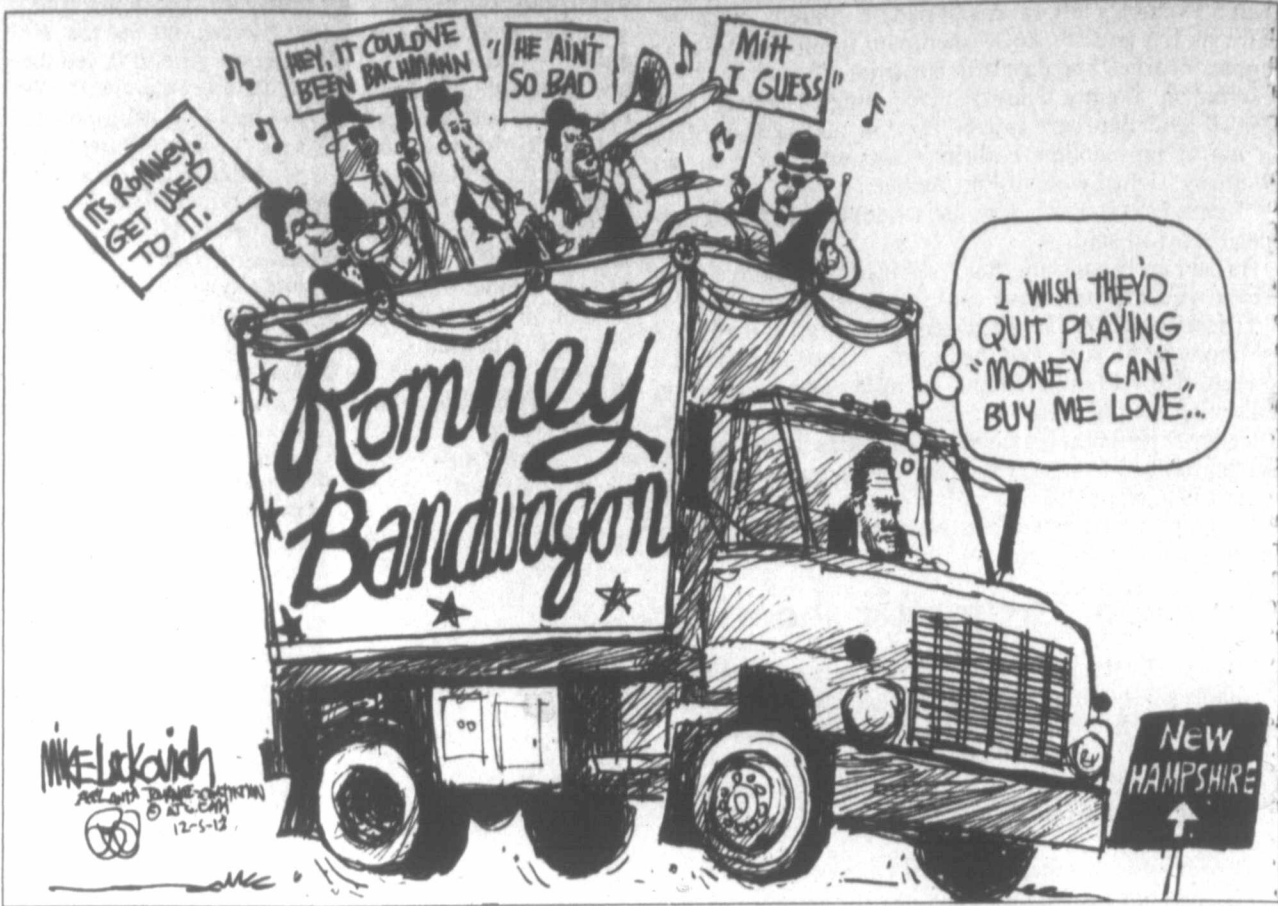
Ten years ago: Argentina announced the devaluation of its peso, ending a decade-long policy pegging the currency one-to-one with the U.S. dollar. (In the year that followed, the peso lost 70 percent of its value against the dollar.)

Five years ago: At a Baptist church in Fort Worth, Texas, the Denver Broncos filed past the open casket of Darrent Williams, the promising cornerback who had been gunned down in a drive-by shooting on New Year's Day.

One year ago: U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced he would cut \$78 billion from the Defense Department budget over the next five years, an effort to trim fat in light of the nation's ballooning deficit.

Today's Birthdays: Pollster Louis Harris is 91. Bluegrass performer Earl Scruggs is 88. Author E.L. Doctorow is 81. Actress Bonnie Franklin is 68. Country musician Joey, the CowPolka King (Riders in the Sky) is 63. Rock singer-musician Kim Wilson (The Fabulous Thunderbirds) is 61. Singer Jett Williams is 59. Rock musician Malcolm Young (AC-DC) is 59. Actor-comedian Rowan Atkinson is 57. Rhythm-and-blues singer Eric Williams is 52. Movie composer A.R. Rahman is 46. Movie director John Singleton is 44. Actor Danny Pintauro ("Who's the Boss?") is 36. Actress Rinko Kikuchi is 31. Rock singer Alex Turner (Arctic Monkeys) is 26.

Thought for Today: "A little learning is not a dangerous thing to one who does not mistake it for a great deal." - William Allen White, American newspaper editor (1868-1944).



Iowa win helps Romney, but lacks luster

CHARLES BABINGTON
AP - Analysis

WASHINGTON (AP) - Mitt Romney's whisker-thin Iowa caucus victory was underwhelming in scope and anti-climactic in its finality. But it moves him closer to the Republican presidential nomination chiefly because of who finished fourth and fifth.

The former Massachusetts governor will gladly tout his win over Rick Santorum, who could have reversed the results with one more carload of supporters. More important to Romney, however, was the thumping suffered by former House speaker Newt Gingrich and Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

GOP strategists had seen them as having the best backgrounds to sustain a long-term threat to Romney, who remains unable to push his support beyond one-quarter of Republican voters. Now it's unclear whether Perry and Gingrich can maintain viable campaigns.

Romney's closest competitors in Iowa were Santorum, practically an afterthought as little as two weeks ago, and libertarian-leaning Rep. Ron Paul of Texas.

Santorum now must show whether he can build on his remarkable Iowa sprint to become the long-sought conservative alternative to Romney. It won't

be easy.

Santorum, 53, badly lost his 2006 bid for a third Senate term from Pennsylvania. He has modest fundraising and ground-game operations, and he's largely unknown beyond circles that closely follow politics.

Paul, 76, is seen more as a libertarian crusader than a potential president. He recently said he doesn't envision himself as president.

"Romney did what he had to do, but not much more," said GOP strategist Terry Holt.

On the upside, Romney can argue that he not only won Iowa, but he beat expectations. He said from the start that Iowa was a bad political fit for him, and he focused his early campaign efforts on New Hampshire. He made a big Iowa push at the end, when it was clear that no rival had consolidated the anti-Romney vote.

He now heads to the friendly turf of New Hampshire, where he owns a home. The state's primary is next Tuesday.

But it's also easy to paint Romney's Iowa finish as unimpressive. He drew one-fourth of the vote. That's precisely the lack-luster level he has pulled month after month, in poll after poll of Republicans.

It's also the same percentage Romney got when he finished a deeply disappointing second in the 2008 Iowa caucus.

Campaign veterans say Romney must find a way to excite more conservatives if he is to beat President Barack Obama in November.

"If Romney was unable to move the needle even an inch from four years ago," despite heavy spending on his behalf, "it is hard to argue he has brought new people in or expanded the base of support," said former Obama campaign and White House aide Jen Psaki.

Some Republican consultants, however, see the glass as half full for Romney.

"Romney is in the driver's seat in New Hampshire," said Terry Nelson, who advised Tim Pawlenty before he left the presidential race. "Iowa produced no serious candidate to derail him."

Nelson said it "will be very hard" for Santorum to raise the money and build the organization he will need to compete in New Hampshire, South Carolina, Florida and beyond.

Democrats were less impressed. Matt Bennett of the group Third Way called it a mixed bag for Romney. Santorum and Paul, he said, "are the two demonstrably least-electable candidates in this field since Donald Trump fired himself."

But Romney's inability to build a big plurality is a problem, Bennett said. "Challengers to incum-

bent presidents cannot get merely polite applause or grudging support from their own base if they hope to win general elections," he said.

Nonetheless, Romney is poised to do something no Republican has done in recent times: follow a contested Iowa caucus victory with a primary win in New Hampshire. New Hampshire voters have shown contrarian streaks before. But a Romney loss there would rank as a huge upset.

Even if he carries New Hampshire, Romney won't be home free. His Mormonism could hurt him in South Carolina, whose primary is Jan. 21. But with Perry and Gingrich wounded, it's unclear who can take full advantage.

Romney might be able to endure a poor finish in South Carolina and move on strongly to Florida, which votes on Jan. 31. It's a sprawling, diverse and expensive state for candidates. Romney has proven to be the best fundraiser, organizer and strategist thus far.

Democrats were hoping for a slow and difficult start for Romney. They want to see him battered and bled of money, for as long as possible before the summer nominating conventions.

Iowa's results leave both parties with plenty of disappointments.

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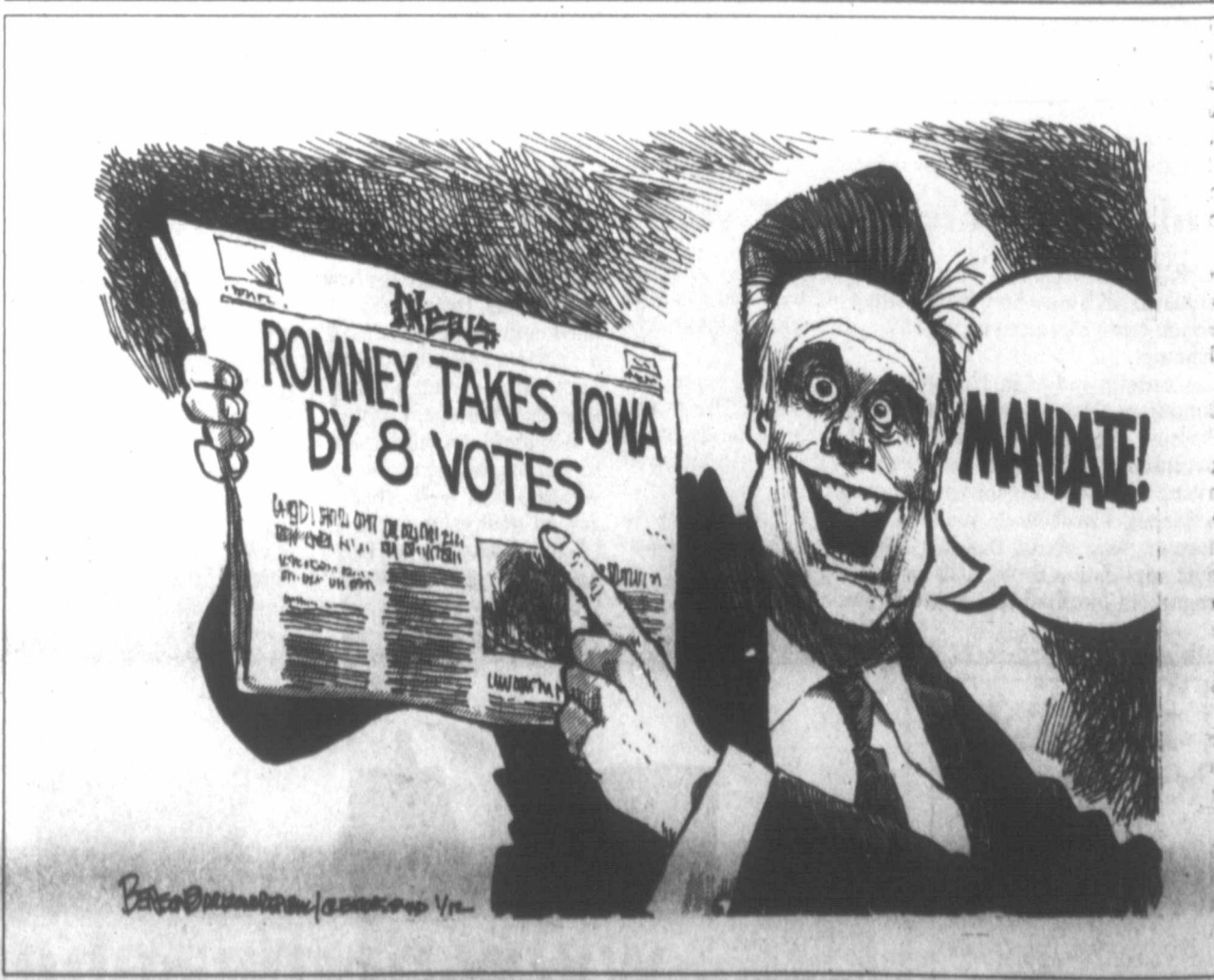
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Authorities investigate deportation of Dallas teen to Colombia

EL PASO (AP) — The grandmother of a Dallas teen who was deported to Colombia is hoping the 15-year-old can come back soon and says U.S. officials should have done more to identify the girl after she gave a fake name and claimed to be an adult.

U.S. immigration officials say they're investigating the circumstances of the case involving Jakadrien Lorece Turner, but that they followed procedure and found nothing to indicate she wasn't who she claimed to be — an illegal immigrant from Colombia.

The girl, who ran away from home more than a year ago, was recently found in Bogota, Colombia, by the Dallas Police Department with help from Colombian and U.S. officials.

The Colombian government said the U.S. embassy on Thursday submitted the necessary documents for Jakadrien to return, but it wasn't clear exactly when she might be back in the U.S.

U.S. immigration officials deferred questions about when the teen might return to the State Department, which said it was aware of the case but declined to comment further, citing privacy reasons.

According to the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the girl was enrolled in the country's "Welcome Home" program after she arrived there. She was given shelter, psychological assistance and a job at a call center, a statement from the agency said. When the Colombian government discovered she was a U.S. citizen, it put her under the care of a welfare program, the statement said.

Her grandmother, Dallas hairstylist Lorene Turner, called the deportation a "big mistake somebody made" and said U.S. officials need to do better.

"She looks like a kid, she acts like a kid. How could they think she wasn't a kid?" Lorene Turner asked on Thursday.

Jakadrien's family says she left home in November 2010. Houston police said the girl was arrested on April 2, 2011, for misdemeanor theft in that city and claimed to be Tika Lanay Cortez, a Colombian woman born in 1990.

An Immigration and Customs Enforcement official told The Associated Press on Thursday that the teen claimed to be Cortez throughout the criminal proceedings in Houston and the ensuing deportation process in which an immigration judge ultimately ordered her back to Colombia.

The ICE official, speaking on condition of anonymity due to not being authorized to discuss additional details of the case, said the teenager was interviewed by a representative from the Colombian consulate and that country's government issued her a travel document to enter Colombia. The ICE official said standard procedure before any deportation is to coordinate with the other country in order to establish

that person is from there.

The girl was given Colombian citizenship upon arriving there, the ICE official said.

The Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Jakadrien was issued travel documents at the request of the U.S. National Security Agency and with information submitted by U.S. officials. Colombian officials are investigating what kind of verification was conducted by its Houston consulate to issue the temporary passport.

It was not clear if the teen might be charged upon her return for falsifying her identity in a criminal process.

Dallas Police detective C'mon Wingo, the detective in

charge of the case, explained that in August she was contacted by the girl's grandmother, who said Jakadrien had posted "kind of disturbing" messages on a Facebook account where she goes by yet another name.

Wingo said the girl was located in early November through her use of a computer to log into Facebook. Relatives were then put into contact with the U.S. embassy in Bogota to provide pictures and documents to prove Jakadrien's identity.

Lorene Turner said she has spent a lot of time tracking down Jakadrien, whose family nickname is Kay-Kay.

"In between customers I'd get on the computer looking for Kay-Kay, I was obsessed."

Make new home wheelchair accessible

Dear Pat: I am going to build a house for myself, my two children and my elderly mother. She sometimes needs a wheelchair. What specific design features should we keep in mind so she has easy access? — Jennifer N.

Dear Jennifer: It is wise for you to think of access to the house entrances at the initial design phase of your new home. Providing proper access can have quite an impact on the design of the entire home and the construction materials used. With today's aging baby boomers, making your home wheelchair accessible can increase its resale value years from now.

The two primary factors when considering easy wheelchair access are the slopes to enter and leave the home and the open area near doors in which to maneuver the wheelchair. Since your mother is elderly, she most likely does not have a lot of upper-body strength to negotiate a steep slope.

Ideally, you should design the house to have the first floor entrance doors at nearly the same elevation as the driveway and walkways. This is not always possible because the ground usually is sloped away from the house to provide for drainage. You may be able to route the walkway leading from the driveway such that it is level with the door opening without blocking the drainage.

A concrete slab-on-grade floor is the easiest to work with because drainage is not a significant problem. A wood framed house with a basement is at the other extreme, with drainage being a major concern. With this construction, even without a basement, the entrance is usually above the ground level to maintain a gap between the ground and the lumber framing.

You have several options for making the door accessible. A gently sloped walkway is probably the easiest and least expensive method if you have the space for it. The maximum steepness someone can comfortably and safely handle is about a 5 percent grade. Make the curves a large radius, and make it extra wide.

A straight ramp is another option. It is typically raised up from the ground for drainage, but it can also be filled in beneath with drainage

HOME HOW-TO

tiles. Since the ramp will be much shorter than a long walk, a slightly steeper slope is sometimes acceptable depending on the person's strength.

A third option is a longer, gently sloped raised bridge along the front of the house. This can also double as a porch if you make a level section midway along the sloped bridge. This will maintain the proper distance from the ground level to the wood framing. If you use this method, design the house with the door near one end to allow length for the gradual slope.

area for her to stop, and unlock and open the door. A 5-foot-square access area usually provides adequate clearance for someone in a wheelchair.

Building codes often require a step up from the garage floor into the house. This is to prevent gasoline leaking out of a car from flowing into the house. Talk to the inspectors, and you may be able to get a variance to make the garage floor level with the house floor. If not, you will have to add several feet to the garage width and pour a ramp up to the door.

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

Rally

cont. from page 1

They also don't like his record of support for government health care and exceptions to abortion restrictions. And, with conservatives making up the base of the party, the skepticism has kept his support under 25 percent in most national surveys and in some early primary states despite his front-runner status, strong organization and big bank account.

"You'll eventually come down to one conservative and Governor Romney," Gingrich, the former speaker of the House, predicted Thursday in New Hampshire. "And he'll continue to get 25 percent. By definition at some point in that game somebody is going to start getting a lot more votes than Governor Romney."

The hand-wringing on the right over Romney as the nominee has produced a deeply unsettled nomination fight.

Conservative voters have spent much of the year flitting from Bachmann to Perry to Gingrich in search of someone to back.

In Iowa, they finally ended up rallying behind Santorum, making him the latest candidate to emerge as the more conservative alternative to Romney.

"We're the folks that people are getting excited about," Santorum said after an appearance Thursday in Manchester.

His near victory in Iowa — Romney by eight votes — is prompting new calls to reach a consensus.

"It's time for the conservatives to get off the sidelines and get into the arena, and make our choice known," said Richard Viguerie, a longtime GOP fundraiser, who after much searching said he has picked a candidate. "There was Rick Santorum, in plain sight, all along."

And Burch, the president of CatholicVote.org, also is suggesting that supporters take a second look at Santorum.

"Until the last two weeks, it wasn't clear whether Santorum would get the traction he needed to compete," Burch wrote to backers after Santorum's Iowa finish, saying: "He put these doubts firmly to rest."

Both Santorum and Gingrich are Catholic. Romney is a Mormon.

Just days before a pair of weekend debates and the New Hampshire primary, Santorum has significant vulnerabilities including some that irk conservatives: He's made some provocative remarks about gay marriage and abortion that have put conservative leaders in awkward spots. And during 18 years in Congress, he voted for federal budgets that included funding for Planned Parenthood, and for George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind education law.

Some seem willing to look past those, saying that Santorum could be appealing to Midwesterners, Catholics and swing voters.

They see an ardent family man of faith with a consistent record on abortion, gun control and other legal issues. He's as able a debater as Romney, they say, and probably would be a more passionate advocate for conservative values against Obama.

As for past remarks likening abortion to slavery and gay marriage to polygamy and the coupling of men and dogs?

"It's a price worth paying" for a conservative presidential candidate, said Curt Levey of Judicial Watch, who says Santorum helped pave the way for the confirmations of conservative Supreme Court Justices John Roberts and Samuel Alito. Levey's group hasn't endorsed a candidate, but he offers this comparison of Santorum and Romney: "Romney's strength is also his weakness. He never says anything controversial."

For tea party activists, Santorum's appeal lies in his populist, working-class persona.

"They know he's a hard worker, and they like that," said Jenny Beth Martin, co-founder of Tea Party Patriots. "But they are concerned because in his past record, he spent more (federal) money than what needs to happen right now."

Many conservative leaders will have a chance to discuss how to proceed face-to-face next week at a meeting in Texas hosted by Bauer, among others. He said the meeting was planned weeks ago and emphasized that the goal is not to promote Santorum.

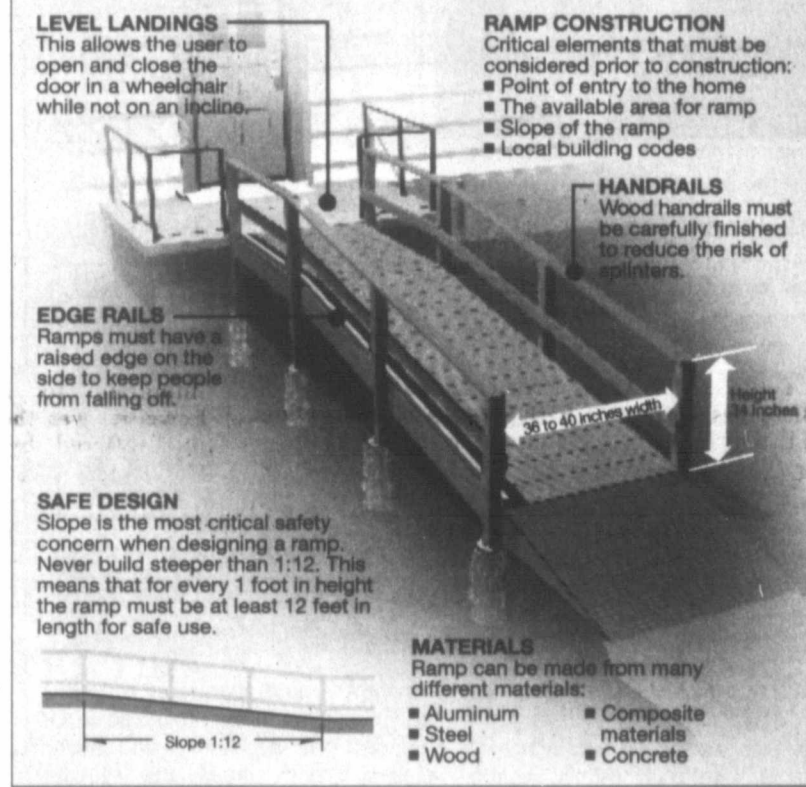
He added: "Nor is it a stop-Romney meeting."

Even so, that may be the impact.

HOME HOW-TO

Wheelchair Ramp

Wheelchair ramps offer wheelchair users freedom — if constructed properly. The American With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) gives construction specifications for wheelchair ramps.



Source: www.wikihow.com

Creators.com/Bob Kast

Once your mother gets to the door, there will have to be an

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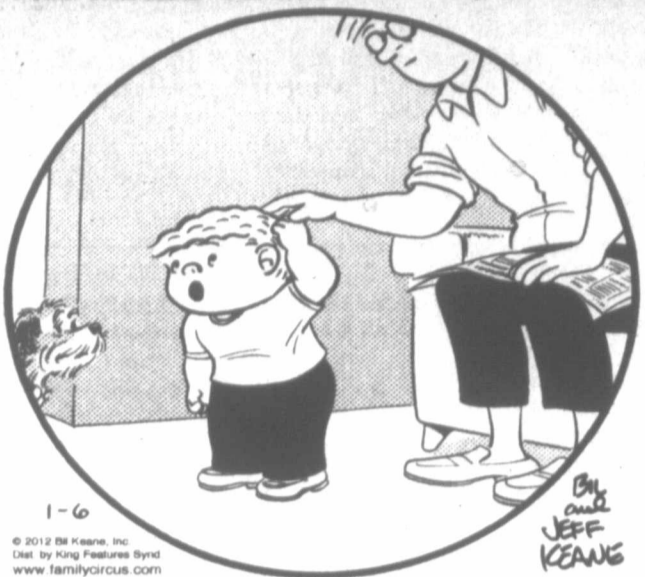
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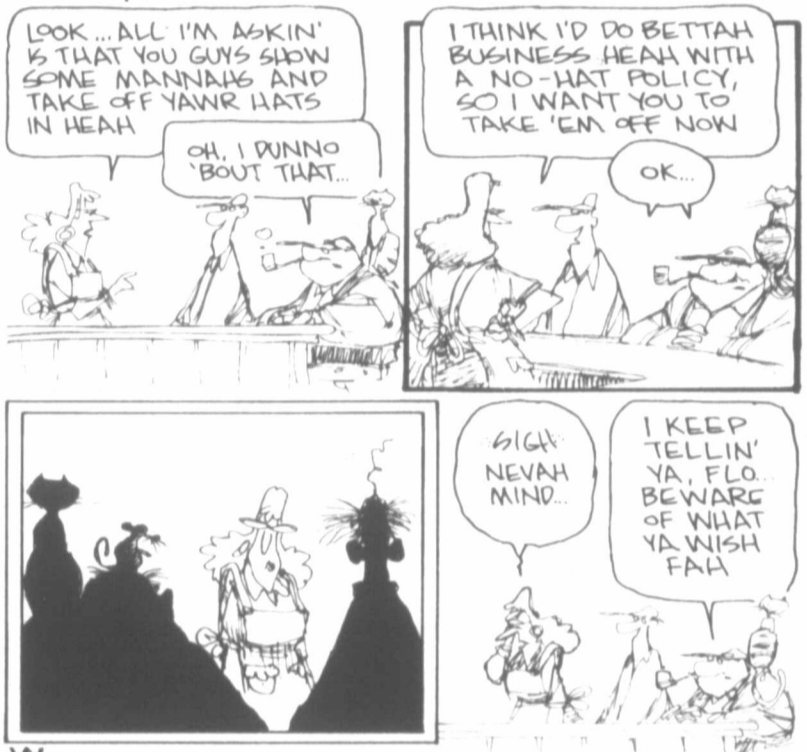
comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"I bumped my head. Feel how much it hurts."

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012:

This year you can be intellectual yet emotional. Use your instincts with a financial matter. Sometimes you over-think or worry too much. Clarify issues within a relationship if you are attached, though your partner might be vested in keeping the status quo. If you are single, you easily could find yourself trying to make a decision about your status. You could meet someone significant this year. **CANCER** can be challenging.

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)
 ★★★★★ Get a load off your chest. You are doing this exercise for you. The other party might need to do the same exercise. Seriousness is replaced by imaginative flights of fancy. Count on your creativity. Tonight: At home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★ You can juggle your finances only so much. The most evolved form of taking from Peter to pay Paul won't work in the long run. Later in the day, you relax and enjoy company. Someone's attitude startles not just you but also others. Tonight: Hang out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Use the early part of the day if you have an important mission on your mind. With all your energy, you could be mistaken for a superhero! That, too, passes in the afternoon, when you chill out. Tonight: Have a good time!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ Remember, you are the Moon Child, who is like a pendulum. No matter how low you get, you can get equally as high. Smile at that thought. You will be in a new mood by late afternoon, ready to enjoy yourself. Tonight: Recognize that others are affected by you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Get going early, when you are likely to enjoy yourself to the max. Others could be serious, but you are on cruise control and hard to stop. Be sure to listen to someone who might need you. An appropriate response is needed, or else you will be unhappy with yourself. Tonight: Take a break from the hectic pace.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ A must appearance is necessary to make headway through an issue that needs your special touch and understanding. Though you might be hung up too long for your taste, once you leave, you throw yourself into a fun few days. Tonight: Let the good times in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Toss your present environment, and go for something new. This doesn't necessarily mean painting your house. Hop in the car and meet a distant friend halfway. In a different environment, you'll relax, smile and recharge. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

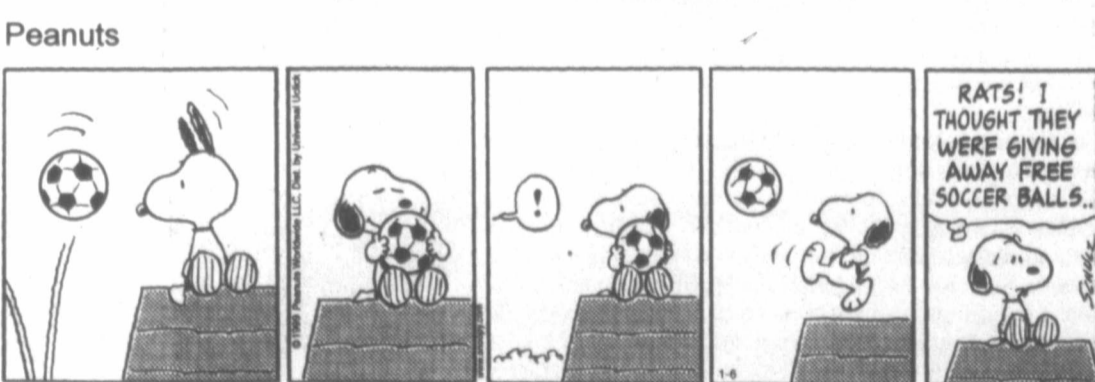
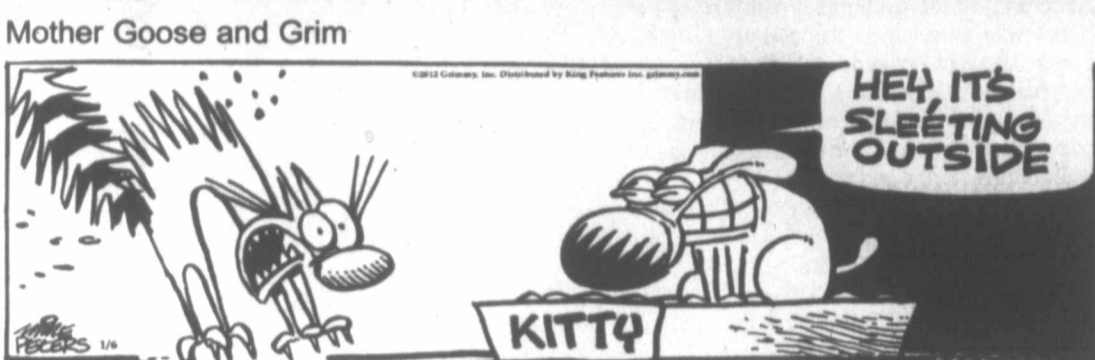
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Relate directly to someone you have a message for. If you ask for that message to be passed on, it probably won't get there, even with family. Take the opportunity to visit that same person and catch up on his or her news. If he or she isn't free, make time for your next admirer. Tonight: Only where there is music.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ You might want to open up a new portal. Be careful with decision-making in the earlier part of the day. You might need to revisit that same place in a while. Postpone finalizing anything. Tonight: Dinner with a loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★ Clear out whatever is holding you back so that you can kick back and enjoy yourself. Others want your company and seek you out en masse. Don't feel pressured by a situation. Make choices that make you happy. Tonight: Certainly not alone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ Stop and help a loved one work through a debilitating issue. Your imagination knows no limits. Understand that what is happening for this person is upsetting, even if it isn't for you. Don't allow anyone to pressure you. Tonight: Slow down if you are tired.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★ Be aware of what is happening on the home front. Your sense of humor plays into a changing situation. Be open to possibilities rather than being comfortable with the status quo. Your imagination opens up with a risk or change. Tonight: Choose something romantic.



Kansas Boeing jobs headed to Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - The closure of a major Boeing Co. complex in Wichita, Kan., will bring about 1,000 jobs to Oklahoma City.

Boeing announced Wednesday that about engineering and management 900 jobs from Wichita and another 100 from Puget Sound, Wash., will move to the capital city. In 2010, Boeing moved 550 jobs to Oklahoma City from Long Beach, Calif.

Including jobs already in place before the moves, Oklahoma City could have 2,300 Boeing employees by the time the Wichita plant is shuttered at the end of 2013.

Oklahoma economic development officials welcome the move but the reaction was muted out of sympathy for the impact the job losses will have in Wichita.

Gov. Mary Fallin says she wants current Boeing employees to be able to move their families to Oklahoma City.

Natural gas, oil boom spurs sand mining

STEVE KARNOWSKI
Associated Press

CHIPPEWA FALLS, Wis. (AP) - The rolling hills and scenic bluffs of western Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota hide a valuable resource that has sparked what's been called a modern-day gold rush.

The object of desire is not gold but a soft sandstone needed by drilling companies to unlock underground natural gas and oil supplies in a controversial practice called hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

Largely overlooked in the national debate over fracking is the emerging fight in the U.S. heartland over mining "frac sand," which has grains of ideal size, shape, strength and purity. Mining companies say the work provides good jobs in rural areas, but some residents fear the increase in mining could harm human health and the environment.

"More and more people are waking up to the fact that there are difficulties with this massive explosion," said Pat Popple, a retired school teacher and principal and anti-sand mining activist.

U.S. frac sand producers sold or used more than 6.5 million metric tons of sand worth \$319 million in 2009, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The tonnage likely will have doubled when 2010 data is released, said Thomas Dolley, a USGS mineral commodity specialist who follows the silica mining industry.

"It's huge," Dolley said. "I've never seen anything like it, the growth. It makes my head spin."

Nearly three-fourths of frac sand comes from the Midwest. It's shipped by rail hundreds of miles to the oil and gas fields of Texas, Pennsylvania and North Dakota, where drillers mix it with water and chemicals, then force it deep underground to fracture shale deposits that hold gas and oil that couldn't be tapped conventionally. Critics say the process can diminish water quality and even cause earthquakes.

John Felmy, chief economist with the American Petroleum Institute, said opponents of hydraulic fracturing are "fundamentally misguided" and the environmental fears are unwarranted. The surge in sand mining has extended the domestic energy boom to portions of the country that don't produce much fuel, bringing jobs and economic development, he said.

Frac sand mining has had a foothold in Wisconsin's Chippewa County since 2008. The most visible

sign is the huge new EOG Resources Inc. plant in Chippewa Falls, where a steady parade of shiny new trucks delivers a load of orange sand from a nearby mine every few minutes.

The plant, which is still in the start-up phase, will bring 40 to 50 full-time jobs to the community, while mining contractors now employ about 25 people and the trucking company that delivers the sand has added over 70 jobs, company spokeswoman K Leonard said. About 90 percent of the 38 employees EOG has hired so far are from the area, she said.

But not everyone is excited about

for Wisconsin and other frac sand states to follow the leads of states like Texas and California in setting environmental silica standards, he said.

Houston-based EOG Resources, a Fortune 500 oil and natural gas company, says it has worked to address local concerns about dust, safety and the environment at its mines and sand processing plant in Chippewa Falls.

The main mine serving the plant is surrounded by berms, with vegetation to improve aesthetics, Leonard said. Most of the plant's equipment is enclosed and the conveyor

U.S. frac sand producers sold or used more than 6.5 million metric tons of sand worth \$319 million in 2009, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The tonnage likely will have doubled when 2010 data is released.

NM on pace to be more urban, Hispanic

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) - New Mexico's Hispanic population over the next 100 years will grow to be the majority ethnic group, regardless of federal immigration policy, a local researcher and pollster predicts.

At the same time, the number of senior citizens in the state who depend on government services will increase, as budgets for programs to help them will shrink.

And, more residents will move to urban areas looking for jobs, while others will work from home to avoid congested roads, said Brian Sanderoff, head of Research and Polling in Albuquerque.

Sanderoff said all of those changes will come against a backdrop of a state budget that is heavily dependent on oil and gas revenues - something that will wither as alternative energy sources become more common and fewer people use the fossil fuels that help the state pay its bills.

That means New Mexico needs to prudently manage its permanent funds, money that is set aside for future economic crises.

"As I think 100 years down the road, I think about the fact that as we diminish or eliminate the nation's dependency on carbon-based fuels, that will have a tremendous impact on the state and our economy and means of providing services to the public," Sanderoff said.

He added that New Mexico will become a more attractive place to live as people in other parts of the country tire of cold weather, expensive cities and small places to call home.

"People want a place with good climate and good air quality, lots of room to grow. And New Mexico has all those things. Over the next 100 years, we will continue to grow at a pace that is greater than the nationwide rate."

The ratio of the number of people tapping into social benefits compared to the number working and paying into the system will also change dramatically, Sanderoff suggested. "That is something we will have to grapple with," he said.

The state also will have to consider what it can offer to attract working-age residents. Jeffrey Mitchell, a senior research scientist at the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at The University of New Mexico, said that he predicts the state, like the rest of the country, will see a rise in people who work with information more than material goods.

"As we transition from a material-producing economy to much more of an idea-based economy, the jobs are going to be in creating, managing and distributing idea and information rather than stuff," he said. "What that appears to mean is that a relatively small portion of the workforce is well-skilled to offer a great deal of productivity, and (those workers) tend to get paid much more. ... You're going to see an increasing amount of jobs in the information area, and increased polarization in terms of the few who are able to produce ideas earning more, and the other people earning less."

Those types of jobs tend to be clustered around urban areas, and in New Mexico's case, along the Rio Grande, Mitchell said.

"Place does matter, and those places tend to be urban and tend to be the places associated with rich intellectual infrastructure or that are otherwise culturally unique."

While the state's urban areas are predicted to grow, the state overall in the last 100 years blossomed beyond the Rio Grande.

A century ago, fewer than 400,000 people lived here. Now, the state's overall population is 2.06 million.

Projections by the UNM bureau show the state's total population is expected to top 3 million by 2035 with almost 1.7 million people in Bernalillo County, 309,279 in Dona Ana and 176,612 in Santa Fe County.

Jack Baker, a senior research scientist at the bureau, said there are few surprises when it comes to predicting the state's population growth, as it generally tends to follow historical trends.

"The long-term picture is the growth in the Hispanic population and graying population and urban growth," he said.

According to the 2010 census, 46.3 percent of people reported that they were Hispanic, up from 42.1 percent in 2000.

One interesting bit of data that came out of the most recent census showed that the state added 4,559 people from other countries, Baker said.

"That can change the state in a more rapid way than people being born and dying," he said.

While the Hispanic population will increase over the next 100 years, some minority populations also will grow, Baker said, but not by large percentages.

Asians, for example, "will grow numerically, but I don't (expect) the percent of population as a whole to change much."

Ohio well owner undertakes study after earthquakes

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - An energy company that agreed to shut down operations of a northeastern Ohio brine injection well last week after earthquakes in the vicinity says it's commissioning a geologic study of the area.

A spokesman for D&L Energy

Group told The Associated Press on Thursday that everyone involved wants to "figure out what's going on." D&L's financing of the research was first reported by The Vindicator of Youngstown.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich imposed a moratorium Saturday within five

miles of the well operated by D&L affiliate Northstar Disposal Services LLC after a 4.0 magnitude quake brought the total for 2011 to 11.

Officials from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, which regulates the well, met privately with the company Wednesday.

AAA: Gasoline prices up 6 cents this week in Texas

HOUSTON (AP) - The first AAA Texas retail gasoline survey of 2012 finds that prices statewide have jumped an average 6 cents this week. The association on Thursday reported the average price statewide is \$3.15 per gallon.

Gasoline prices have also edged

up nationally, adding 7 cents this week to reach an average \$3.32 per gallon.

Texarkana had the most expensive gasoline this week across Texas, at an average \$3.19 a gallon.

The least expensive gasoline in the survey was found in El Paso, at \$3.02 per gallon.


Analysts say the growing global economy is expected to demand more crude oil, which generally pushes prices higher, along with the possibility of future disruptions to global supply. The association says concerns have been raised about increasing tensions between Iran and the U.S.

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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

► Why is the silence so deafening regarding driver David Reutimann, who remains out of a job after being released from Michael Waltrip Racing, where he won twice at the Sprint Cup level?

► There's light at the end of the tunnel, kids. NASCAR's top drivers will be testing at Daytona International Speedway on Jan. 11-14.

► New boss James Finch made the following remarks regarding his hiring of Kurt Busch: "He lost a job and he's lost several million dollars, and so I think that's been a wake-up call. I told him, 'Kurt it's about winning racing. You need to watch your temper and your mouth.' I hired him for his foot and not his mouth. Hopefully, we can get him controlled. He's got a long way to come. He's got to show people he's going to be a driver. And show NASCAR that he's a driver, and he's going to do what's expected as a driver."

► Finch's Phoenix Racing team will continue to get considerable assistance from Hendrick Motorsports. At the Sprint Cup level, the team has won only once, that being Brad Keselowski's upset victory at Talladega Superspeedway on April 26, 2009.

► Kurt Busch is unlikely to make the Chase or win with any degree of frequency with Finch's team, and his move there must be viewed in the context of it presumably being his best option.

► A series of incidents, brought to a head by Busch's poor behavior in an exchange with television reporter Jerry Punch, led to Busch's dismissal by Roger Penske. Busch won what was then the Nextel Cup championship while driving for Jack Roush in 2004.

► Brian Vickers' 2012 plans remain unformed, at least publicly.

► Tuesday's Sugar Bowl featured a side bet involving Martinsville Speedway, on behalf of Virginia Tech, and Michigan International Speedway, siding predictably with Michigan. Along with an allotment of ribbing and humiliating costumes, a Hokies victory meant MIS president Roger Curtis would have to serve Martinsville hot dogs to the media there, or a Wolverines win would put Martinsville's Clay Campbell at the serving table of Coney dogs when the circuit reaches the Brooklyn, Mich., track.

► If Kasey Kahne had been in the supermarket without his cell phone, he probably wouldn't have made a scene about a woman breastfeeding. Without access to Twitter, Kahne almost surely would've done no more than whispered. The world is changing, and celebrities aren't the only ones susceptible to controversy in this ever more electronic age.

LEGENDS AND LORE

Foley Was First, Eh?

Dick Foley of Montreal, Quebec, the first Canadian driver to compete in the Daytona 500, was named as one of seven inductees into the Canadian Motorsport Hall of Fame. The ceremonies will be held in Toronto, Ont., in April. Foley also raced on the old Daytona Beach-Road Course and made occasional NASCAR appearances in 1957 through 1960. Other inductees are Rudy Bartling, Robin Edwards, Paul Manson, Ben Dooktor, Norm Ellefson and Greg Sewart.



WHO'S HOT AND WHO'S NOT

► **Who's hot:** Denny Hamlin is looking forward to working with new crew chief Darrian Grubb, who is a champion in his own right. ... Wonder if the Greg Zipadelli move to Stewart-Haas is ... somehow related?

► **Who's not:** David Reutimann has won two Sprint Cup races and yet his availability seems overlooked. ... And where is Brian Vickers? Climbing Mt. Everest? It might be time to lose the Red Bull lifestyle.



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 rdutton@gastongazette.com. You can also send your NASCAR questions to Monte on Facebook at [Facebook.com/monte-dutton](https://www.facebook.com/monte-dutton) and at [Twitter.com/MonteDutton](https://twitter.com/MonteDutton). Please specify you are submitting them for the NASCAR This Week page.

2012 LOOK AHEAD



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 from 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).



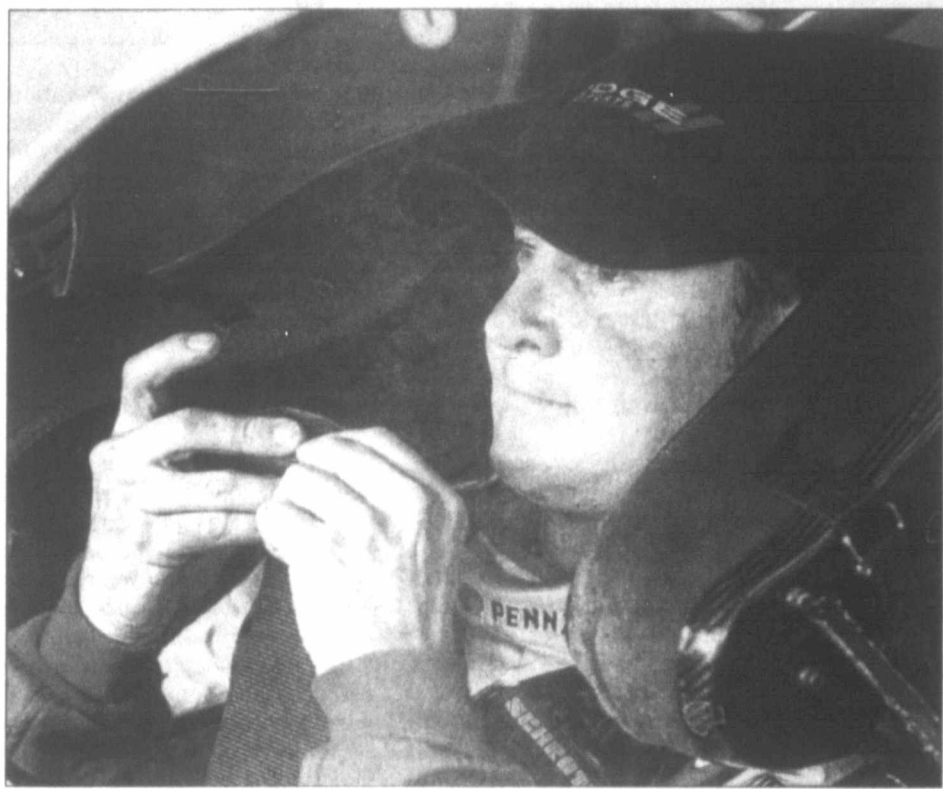
NATIONWIDE SERIES
For many years, Daytona hosted a National Sportsman race known as the Permatex 300 on the day before the 500, but this race's lineage officially began when what is now the Nationwide Series was founded in 1982. Dale Earnhardt won the first one and later captured five in a row from 1990-94.
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. (2002-04), 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 Ford's win four and Dodge's 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. Petes (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 No. 51 RYDEX/THANK A TEACHER CHEVROLET



Kurt Busch is starting over with Phoenix Racing next season. The elder of the Busch brothers has plenty of time to rebuild his racing career at age 33.

Down A Few Pegs

Kurt Busch now out to make best of his situation

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

What a difference a year makes for Kurt Busch. A year ago he was driving a yellow Dodge from the legendary stable of Roger Penske and getting ready to win the Budweiser Shootout.

Now he's stuck trying to make the best with the middling team of James Finch. Finch's Phoenix Racing has had its moments — such as Brad Keselowski's upset victory at Talladega in 2009 — but it's not a place Busch could possibly have planned to be.

Busch's wounds, by his own admission, were self-inflicted, but they had nothing to do with his driving prowess, which is considerable.

The Las Vegas native, whose career races his brother Kyle in terms of both success and controversy, benched his crew chief and others via in-car radio. He had spat with writers. But what brought him down was an amateur video of his profane and snarky confrontation with beloved ESPN reporter Jerry Punch in the garage area of Homestead-Miami Speedway.

It went "viral" on YouTube, and Kurt Busch learned the negative version of that particular cliché.

Who would've believed that a talent as prodigious as Kurt Busch could be undermined mainly by words and not deeds? NASCAR is part of the sporting mainstream now, and with it comes unexpected consequences. Corporate image holds much more sway now than it did in, say, 1980, when the late Tim Richmond was in his prime. Nowadays a driver must be not only successful but also marketable.

Kurt Busch now says he has learned lessons he failed to learn earlier in his career. Corporate NASCAR's response? "Prove it." When Busch needed friends, he found he didn't have many.

Now he has to start over from somewhere near square one. He has to rebuild a career. At age 33, he still has plenty of time. If he can somehow lift Phoenix Racing's performance in a tangible way, it will impress his detractors even if it doesn't convert them.

FEUD OF THE WEEK



TONY STEWART VS. CARL EDWARDS

Of course, it's quiet now, but there's no way two men who raced so valiantly and so competitively for the championship are just going to stop being associated, whether on the track or not. They both had 2,403 points last year, and their performances will continue to be compared when the new season commences.

NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton gives his take: "Edwards wants to put the bridesmaid reputation behind him. He's finished second twice and third (same number as second) another time. Stewart, on the other hand, has little to prove."

Know Your NASCAR

1. Who was the most recent Ford driver to win the Cup championship?
2. Who was the first driver to win four Cup championships?
3. Who was the last driver to win a championship in a Pontiac?
4. Who starred in "The Last American Hero"?
5. Who played Richard Petty in "43 — The Petty Story"?
6. Who was the star of "Winning"?
7. Who directed "Red Line 7000"?
8. How many times has Jimmie Johnson finished second in the Chase?
9. What presidential candidate was a close friend of NASCAR founder William H.G. France?
10. Who was the first driver killed at Daytona International Speedway?
11. What did PDA stand for?
12. What does ARCA stand for?

1. Kurt Busch (2004)
2. Richard Petty, who wound up with seven
3. Tony Stewart (2002)
4. Jeff Bridges
5. Richard Petty
6. Paul Newman
7. Howard Hawks
8. Ono (2004)
9. George Wallace
10. Marshall LeGuerre
11. Professional Drivers Association
12. Automobile Racing Club of America



NASCAR's musical chairs are fast shifting already

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

Normally Kasey Kahne is among NASCAR's least controversial drivers.

But what happened last week was hardly normal. Kahne inadvertently touched off something of a social-networking storm when, while shopping in a supermarket, he "tweeted" about his disgust seeing a woman breastfeeding a child in public. He wrote that he found it "naughty" and that he didn't "feel like shopping any more or eating."

In turn, the tweet set off an animated change on Twitter between Kahne and another party who took offense at his tweet. The exchange further complicated matters.

Kahne apologized for expressing his opinions in such a manner. He deleted the offending posts and, via Facebook, announced that it wasn't his intention "to offend any mother who chooses to breastfeed her child, or, for that matter, anyone who supports breastfeeding children. I want to make that clear." He further conceded that his comments were "offensive to some people" and apologized.

The wait goes on — As of Monday morning, Richard Petty Motorsports had announced no successor for A.J. Allmendinger, who will replace Kurt Busch at Penske Racing this year.

Alc Miróla, previously noted mainly for his participation in NASCAR's Nationwide Series, is widely believed to be the frontrunner for the ride, although Petty has apparently had discussions with David

NUTS AND BOLTS

Ragan, Reed Sorenson and Cole Whitte, as well.

The boat goes on — Tony Stewart hopped in a Midget car and swept the Rumble in Fort Wayne (Ind.) for the seventh time. The weekend event was held at the Memorial Coliseum Expo Center. Stewart swept the events for the second time. Next up? The Chili Bowl, which begins on Jan. 10 at QuikTrip Center in Tulsa, Okla. Among other competitors is Nationwide Series champion Ricky Stenhouse, Jr.

Rally fatality — Jorge Boero, a motorcycle rider, died after a fall on New Year's Day at the Dakar Rally, the two-week, nearly 6,000-mile race that traverses Argentina, Chile and Peru. As has frequently been the case, NASCAR driver Robby Gordon is in the field and was fifth after the race's first stage.

Dismissed — Scott Speed has settled his lawsuit with Team Red Bull, which released him at the end of 2010. No details were released. The settlement grew out of a meeting between the parties on Nov. 30 and dismissal documents were filed by Speed on Dec. 19.

Celebrated coin-flipper — Dale Earnhardt Jr. flipped the coin during the opening toss for the Jan. 2. TaxSlayer.com Gator Bowl between the college football teams of Florida and Ohio State.

On his own — Ramsey Poston, who managed NASCAR's communications operation after joining the governing body in 2004, has opened his own strategic communications firm, Tuckahoe Strategies, and will handle accounts that include NASCAR.



John Clark/NASCAR This Week
After a quick stop in the Rumble in Fort Wayne (Ind.), two-time Sprint Cup champion Tony Stewart heads to the Chili Bowl.

FAN TIPS

NASCAR Preview Coming

At least 50 drivers from the three major touring series will be on hand on Jan. 21 at the NASCAR Preview 2012 at the Charlotte Convention Center. The fan preview is part of Acceleration Weekend, which includes NASCAR Hall of Fame inductions on Jan. 20 and unveiling of the displays honoring the inductees on Jan. 22. Preview tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, and may be purchased at ticketmaster.com or by calling 1-800-745-3000. The new class of Hall of Fame inductees consists of Richie Evans, Dale Inman, Darrell Waltrip, Glen Wood and Cale Yarborough.

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Sports

Lady Harvesters in position for run in district play

The Pampa Lady Harvesters enter district-play with their best record under head coach Gene Valentine at 10-10. After missing the postseason last year, Pampa has a chance to make noise this year.

Pampa has improved its transition game. Senior Caitlin Sieck and Hayley Burnett have beat the defense for the layups in the last few games. As a result Pampa's scoring has increased. In the last five games, the Lady Harvesters are averaging 49 points per game, which is an increase of eight points from their previous five games. This has allowed the Lady Harvesters to score points quickly. For opponents its made it difficult for them to get back in the game or pull away. This could be key in district, especially if Pampa can beat the other team's post players down the floor.

The Lady Harvesters have developed



ANDREW GLOVER

a home-court advantage. Pampa has won its last three games at McNeely after losing 12 straight. This could be an advantage considering, Pampa is at home for five of its nine district games. If the Lady Harvesters are able to continue their success at McNeely then they will have

a great chance to compete for a playoff spot or district title.

The majority of Pampa's losses have been to ranked opponents with four being ranked in the top ten. The Lady Harvesters won't see that competition in District 1-3A. Perryton is the best team at 15-4. The Lady Harvesters should be

able to compete in all nine district games if not win most of them.

In non-district, Pampa had some issues that they need to avoid in district. The Lady Harvesters have to avoid slow starts. In most of their games this season, Pampa has found itself facing a deficit including games they won. If this happens in district, the Lady Harvesters would have to consider themselves fortunate to still be in the game. Much like the Denver Broncos have learned the past few weeks, Pampa can't rely on coming back in the fourth quarter.

Next, the Lady Harvesters need to find quality shots. Too many times in non-district they have gotten bogged down in passing around the perimeter or taking quick jumpers before setting up the offense. As we know, there is no shot clock in high school basketball. Pampa can use as much time as it needs to

find that look and hit it. Missed shots especially from long range can allow the opponent to get to the offensive end before the defense sets up.

Pampa has to win the battle on the boards and earn itself second chances and limit the oppositions. For the Lady Harvesters, size isn't very abundant. Going against bigger girls, Pampa has to have better technique and box out instead of chasing after the ball. It will be difficult to get stops if the opponent is getting second and third chances at a basket.

The Lady Harvesters have accomplished a lot in non-district. The important thing is for them to finish in district. If Pampa is able to continue to play strong we should see games beyond February 7.

Andrew Glover is The Pampa News' sports reporter. He can be reached online at aglover@thepampanews.com.

PHS volleyball continued success; tough year for football



The Pampa News File Photo

Senior Ramie Hutto serves in a district game. Hutto was one of seven seniors that helped Pampa won back-to-back district titles.

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Lady Harvesters' volleyball team continued where it left off. Pampa was ranked all season and was ranked as high as ninth. The Lady Harvesters finished 30-10 and went 9-0 to repeat as district champions. Pampa won the consolation bracket in the Randall Tournament and won the River Road Tournament. The Lady Harvesters' season came to an abrupt end when they were eliminated by Monahans in the area round. Pampa finished the year ranked 19th.

Senior Kailyn Troxell was district MVP, senior Alanna Stephens was Offensive player of the year and junior Maddie Fatheree was Setter of the Year. Seniors Kirsten Kuhn, Ramie Hutto and Caitlin Sieck were selected first-team All-District. Seniors Stephanie Allen and McKinlee Stokes were selected to the second team. Junior Calli Brewer was named as an honorable mention. Troxell and Stephens were named athletes of the month by the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce. Hutto, Stephens, Troxell and Sieck were selected to play in the Golden Spread All-Star Game in Canyon in January 2012. Troxell will play in the Texas Girls Coaches Association All-Star Game in Arlington.


The 2011 football season started well

for the Pampa Harvesters as they started 3-2. The season didn't finish well as Pampa dropped four straight and missed the playoffs for the third time in five seasons. It was also the sixth straight losing season for the Harvesters. During the season, Pampa had three players suffer season ending injuries. Junior Tyler Powell broke his collar bone in the second scrimmage. Sophomore running back Freddy Jackson broke his leg against Vernon September 23. Senior Trace Carter also hurt injured his knee.


The Harvesters landed several on the all-district football teams. Senior quarterback Reid Miller and senior wide receiver Latigo Collins earned unanimous first-team all district selections. Senior kicker Colten Adams and junior running back Samuel Smith also earned first team selections. Seniors Sam Cain, Ryne Richardson and juniors Chris Rivera, Kyler Allen and Andrew Jimenez earned second team selections.

The Harvester and Lady Harvester cross country teams were represented at state. Senior Trent McAnear and junior Terra Truitt advanced with a tenth and ninth place finish respectively. Truitt finished 23rd and McNear finished 57th at state. Elizabeth Gill, J'Cee Holmes, Ysenia Soria and Jessie Dixon advanced to regionals.


PAMPA NEWS
athletes



Delaney Clendening
Pampa High School



of the week



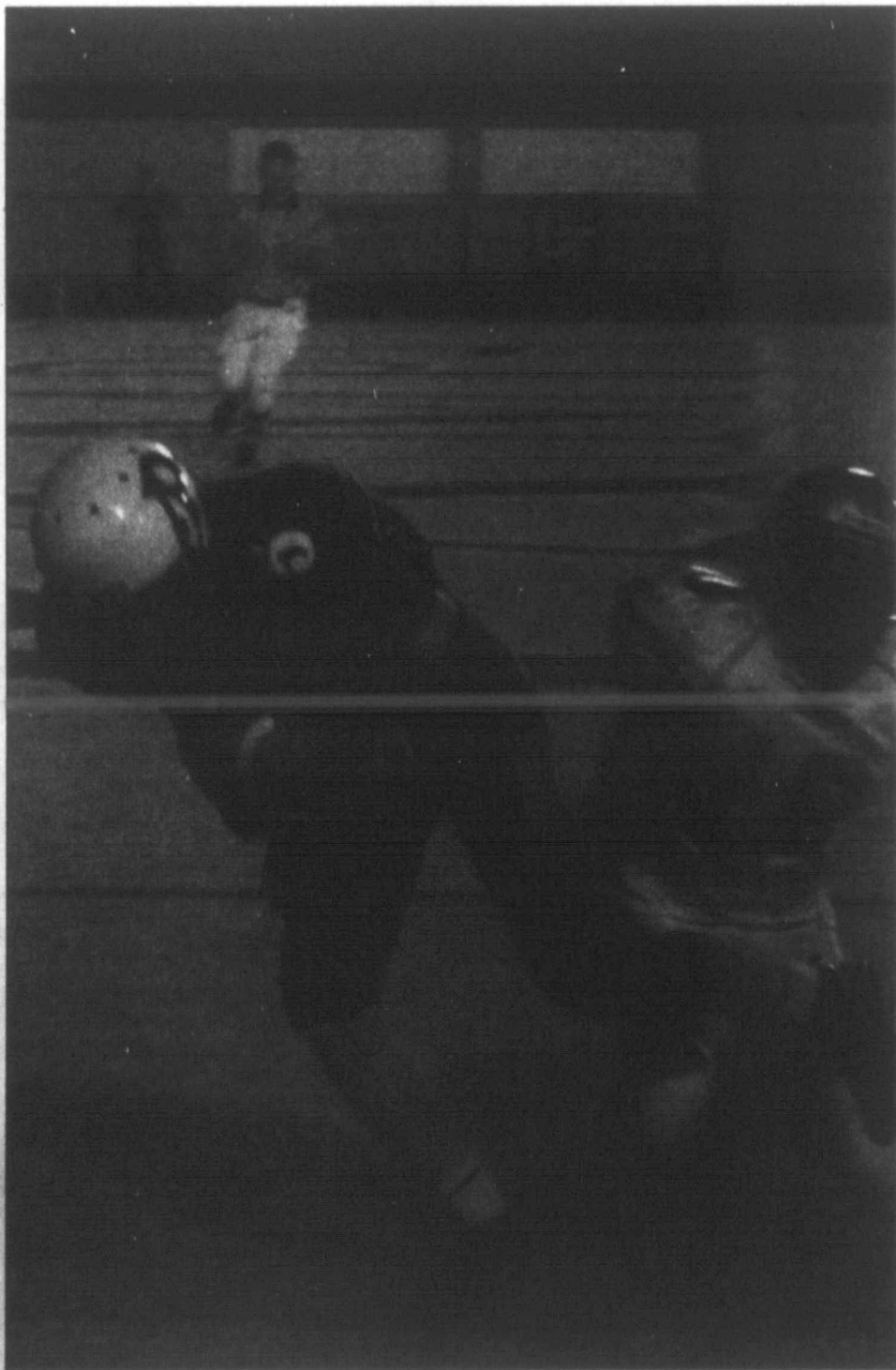
Latigo Collins
Pampa High School

Pampa High School senior basketball player **Delaney Clendening** is *The Pampa News* Female Athlete of the Week. Clendening averaged 18 points in four games at the Fibermax Caprock Classic Dec. 28-30. Clendening helped Pampa to a consolation title.

Pampa High School senior basketball player **Latigo Collins** is *The Pampa News* Male Athlete of the Week. Collins led the Harvesters in scoring during the Fibermax Caprock Classic. Collins' scoring helped Pampa to a fifth place finish. This is Collins second athlete of the week honor in 2011-12 and third overall.

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The Pampa News File Photo

Senior Latigo Collins scores a touchdown in a September game against Randall. The Harvesters won four games but missed the playoffs for third time in five seasons.

Sports

Rangers hire Hamilton's father-in-law

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Texas Rangers have hired Josh Hamilton's father-in-law as a staff special assistant.

General manager Jon Daniels said Thursday that Michael Dean Chadwick will fill a support role as an accountability partner for the slugger that was left vacant when Johnny Naron left in November to become Milwaukee's hitting coach.

Naron joined the Rangers when Hamilton was acquired four years ago in a trade from Cincinnati. His primary role was to support Hamilton, the former No. 1 overall draft pick who rebounded from substance abuse problems to become the 2010 AL MVP and a four-time All-Star.

Last season, Naron added the title of major league assistant hitting coach. The two-time defending American League champion Rangers don't plan to hire anyone to fill that role.

"When we traded for Josh, we felt that Johnny was a key hire and it turns out he was," Daniels said. "There was a little bit more

unknown when he was traded. He had never played here before, never been on the stage in the same regard. We look at this more as it's a support system more than a necessity. ... Josh is in a very different position today than he was when we acquired him, both personally and professionally."

Chadwick has been CEO of his home-building and development company in North Carolina. Through the nonprofit Mike Chadwick Ministries, he has shared his Christian faith and the story of his own substance abuse issues he had earlier in life.

Chadwick will travel with the team, though Daniels said his presence may not be as prominent as Naron's without additional duties as a coach. Chadwick was one of two people recommended by Naron to replace him.

After Naron got the job with Milwaukee, where his brother is the bench coach and in the organization where he worked in the minor leagues, Daniels and assistant GM Thad Levine met with Hamilton

and his wife, Katie. When Daniels and Levine brought up Chadwick's name, they found out that the Hamiltons were prepared to suggest him as well.

Notes: Daniels would not discuss the state of contract negotiations with Japanese pitcher Yu Darvish, who has returned home after his first visit to Texas this week. The Rangers bid a record \$51.7 million for the right to negotiate with Darvish during a 30-day window that ends Jan. 18. "With the uniqueness of this process, it's best-served to hold off on really getting into any specifics until we get a resolution," Daniels said. "We're not hiding the fact that he was here." ... Neftali Feliz, the closer expected to switch to the starting rotation, will work out in Arlington and be there for the start of a Ranger pitching camp later this month. ... Reliever Mike Adams had surgery Wednesday to repair a hernia. Daniels said Adams is doing well after the procedure and should be ready for the start of the season, even if he is a little behind when spring training opens.

Bengals, Texans seek playoff victories

HOUSTON (AP) — Andy Dalton and T.J. Yates weren't around for any of the miserable seasons the Bengals and Texans have had over the past two decades.

And that's quite a few. The rookie quarterbacks now control which of the long-suffering franchises gets a milestone victory when the teams open the playoffs on Saturday. They'll make some NFL history no matter who wins — it's the first time two rookie starters will face off in a postseason game.

"It shows how much the game has changed in these days," said Yates, who'll make his sixth career start. "My situation is obviously a lot different than Andy's. He was drafted there to be the starter and unfortunate circumstances here in Houston led to me being the one playing."

"But you've just got to take advantage of every

opportunity you get," he said, "and it's pretty cool to be a part of it."

The Bengals (9-7) are back in the postseason for the third time in seven seasons, but they haven't advanced in 20 years. The 10-year-old Texans (10-6) are making their postseason debut, and will end the longest playoff drought of any expansion team from its inception into the league.

"This game can't come soon enough," Houston linebacker Brian Cushing said. "The atmosphere is going to be wild, so we're just extremely thrilled about this opportunity."

Cincinnati's last playoff victory came against Houston, albeit the Oilers, a 41-14 victory at Riverfront Stadium. The Bengals lost to the L.A. Raiders the following week, and they've lost two playoff games at home since, after the 2005 and '09 seasons.

The current players haven't given a second thought to the past failures.

"We don't really think about it," said left tackle Andrew Whitworth, finishing his sixth season. "We have some young guys on this team. I promise you some of them have no clue about that."

At least Cincinnati has some playoff history.

The city of Houston has waited 18 years to even see the local team play in a postseason game. The Oilers' last playoff appearance followed the 1993 season, a loss to Joe Montana and the Kansas City Chiefs. The land where Reliant Stadium now stands was just a parking lot back then, Houston coach Gary Kubiak was an assistant at Texas A&M and Yates was 6 years old.

"Just to think of how far we've come and to be working this week,"

Kubiak said, "be putting in a game plan and going in those meetings and getting ready to line up, that's what we came here to do, so let's go do it. We're looking forward to it."

Andre Johnson may be as eager as anyone.

The star receiver and face of the Houston franchise has languished through the litany of losses since the team drafted him third overall in 2003.

BANANAGRAMS!

Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. To get you started, a few tiles from the bunch have been placed and the BANANA BITES provide hints. Reuse the 15 tiles in the bunch for each grid.

LEVEL

Z B G L E T E A
F E T E N E I A

		I		
	E			
A				

 BANANA BITE: One word means "sudden attack."

		A		
				E
	N			

 BANANA BITE: One word means "big fire."

Yesterday's Answer: REBOOT, FINITE, HERESY, JIGSAW, ENGAGE, ENGINE

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

4	3	6	5	8	7	2	9	1
8	1	2	3	9	4	5	7	6
9	7	5	6	1	2	3	4	8
3	8	7	9	4	5	6	1	2
5	9	1	2	6	8	4	3	7
6	2	4	7	3	1	8	5	9
2	4	8	1	7	3	9	6	5
1	5	9	4	2	6	7	8	3
7	6	3	8	5	9	1	2	4

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				9				1
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	7				9			2
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						4	3	
				4	5		1	

Level: Arvanard

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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- 38 Vegas machines
 - 1 Moist
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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR READERS: Yesterday I printed letters from adults in response to a letter from "Emotionally Abused in California" (Nov. 2), the 15-year-old who felt her mother was treating her unfairly. Today we'll hear from teenage readers:

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 14-year-old girl. My mom showed me the letter from "Emotionally Abused" and I almost died! Her mom sounds just like mine. I am not allowed to wear clothing that shows too much skin or get into a car with a teenage boy. I don't have cable TV. I have to do my own laundry, clean my room, cook dinner and hem my own jeans.

Every night our entire family sits down for dinner. My parents always know my plans when I'm out with my friends, and I go to church every Sunday — with the occasional groan. I'm not the perfect daughter, but I'm glad I'm being raised with integrity, responsibility and a whole lot of chores. — COOPERATING TEEN IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR ABBY: From one teen to another: I have heard your same story from friends a thousand times. You're not being treated like a criminal. Your mom is doing you a huge favor. She's preparing you for the real world by making you pay for your own things. She's got high expectations if she thinks you can get through college.

And about your friends, she just wants to know who they are. She's not telling you no, right? She's a single mom, and she's trying to protect you.

You need to be easier on her and try to see things through her eyes. Not everything she does is an attack on you — in fact, it's the opposite. — FELLOW CALIFORNIA TEEN

DEAR ABBY: I'm an 18-year-old girl and I have never been in trouble. I attend a private school where modesty is the dress code policy. To pay for tuition to this school, I work every afternoon during the school year and full-time during the summer. I'm expected to pay for my own clothes, cellphone bill and haircuts out of my allowance. If I can't afford something, I don't buy it.

As long as I live with my parents, I will abide by their rules. My parents love me very much and have my best interests at heart. "Emotionally Abused" should have respect for her mother and be thankful for the many things she has. — MONTANA TEEN

DEAR ABBY: I'm also a 15-year-old Catholic girl. "Emotionally Abused" should be grateful she can attend church because it means we have religious freedom in our country. She is going to private school, which means her mother loves her enough to put her daughter's needs

ahead of her own. She needs to rethink who is being unreasonable. — TEEN IN FLORIDA

DEAR ABBY: After we read the letter from "Emotionally Abused," my brother and I were laughing to the point of tears! I would like to say the following to her: Our mom makes my brother (who's also 15) and me go to church every Sunday AND Wednesday. Mom homeschools us, thus making her teacher, principal and mother all in one. I'll be 17 in January and I still can't date.

Mom checks my computer regularly, and I'm not allowed to go to chat rooms. My brother and I have to set the table and eat with her every night. As for visiting Dad, I wish we could see ours every week. Unfortunately, he's deployed overseas.

In conclusion: DEAL WITH IT! Your mom isn't being unreasonable; she's looking out for you. Mothers like yours are few and far between. What hurts you, hurts her. If she didn't love you, she wouldn't act the way she does. Abby's right when she says one day you'll look back and thank her. My brother and I already thank ours. — LAUGHING SIBS IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR READERS: To read a longer version of this column, go to DearAbby.com.



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1-6 CRYPTOQUOTE

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O F E K L E E F I P C J Q A B E V I N Y
Y F G A . D A K N L E A F H ' E E V
D V B F I P . — O N I F A Y

B N O K Y F G G A
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: EFFORT IS ONLY EFFORT WHEN IT BEGINS TO HURT. — JOSE ORTEGA Y GASSET

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Samaritan

cont. from page 1

The group was able to continue giving out turkeys with donations from local churches. During Christmas, they also helped 83 families with Christmas toys.

"Some things you feel like you make a difference on, and that was one of them," said Bivens.

During a break-in the occurred shortly before the holidays, the Good Samaritan's office was broken into, and \$830 in cash and a money order were stolen. Since then, the group has made up the difference.

"We did get donations," said Bivens. "We made up for it, but we spend a ton of money in December, too, because we have more people. But we did get back what we lost."

During 2011, the group also received \$1,000 to go towards a new storage building.

"I'll be able to keep toys and seasonal stuff that I have no place for," said Bivens. "They're still working on it. They don't have the bottom of it sealed."

She says that the group needs kitchen items at the moment, as well as electric heaters.

Despite the year's setbacks, Good Samaritan's continues to help people in Pampa, with the assistance of around 40 volunteers.

"We're always looking for volunteers," said Bivens. "We believe in this place. We think we have good services. We appreciate the people of Pampa. We could not do this without all of the donations. They are so good about clothes and shoes and blankets, but there's some things that when there's such a high demand, you've just

Show

cont. from page 1

jackpot show (through entrance fees and concessions) goes back into the association, and that helps keep our livestock shows going each year."

The Top O' Texas Livestock Show has been a Gray County tradition for over 60 years, Shults said, and it serves as a good show to kick the year off right for the youth involved.

"It's a good starter show to get the kids and animals in the rings and get them fired up for the majors down the road," she said. "I like it because it's a local show and it brings a lot of the local kids and families together, especially to start the year, and it supports our local programs."

A former show participant who has also watched her daughter grow up raising livestock, Shults said that it was important for her to help steward six-plus decades of tradition, especially with the values that the contests instill into Pampa's kids.

"I truly believe that there are a lot of life lessons learned whenever your kids are raising their projects," she said. "It teaches them responsibility and hard work ethic, and it just teaches them to put someone before themselves because you have an animal to take care of. ... I think it's very important because the type of kids these programs form are the type of kids we want going into the workplace and being our future."

Crimes

cont. from page 1

assaults, increased about 26 percent during 2011, with an estimated 437 assaults in Pampa.

"There are probably many factors," said McCullar of the increase. "It could be job loss. Some people have stressors in their lives more than others."

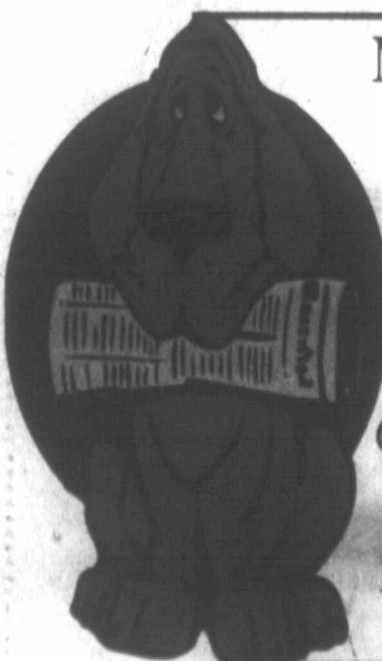
She said that simple assaults outnumber aggravated, and typically victims drop charges against the other person involved.

In 2011, incidents of identity theft nearly doubled from the year before, with 26 reported cases. McCullar believes that this increase can be attributed to people's growing awareness of the crime.

"I think that people are getting more knowledge about it, and I think they're just starting to report it more," she said. "I don't think it's really going up any more than it has in the past."

Obtaining your credit report to keep an eye on activity associated with your name is one way to limit your exposure to this crime. TransUnion, Equifax and Experian each offer credit reports for free, and McCullar recommends requesting the information from all three companies the first time you check your credit history. The next year, you can call a different agency every four months, so that you are checking your credit history three times a year.

"I haven't seen it here in Pampa, but one thing that is going up is identity theft on kids, so it's really important for parents to keep an eye on that, because with a child's identity being stolen, you have 16 or 17 years, depending on when it's stolen, before it's even looked at," said McCullar. "So it wouldn't be a bad idea to run your kids, and (the report) should be blank."



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The Pampa News

Questions loom after school shooting

Brownsville wonders if fatality could have been prevented

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — On a doorstep outside a family home, a father wondered why police had to shoot his son in the hall of the boy's middle school. In an office across town, a police chief insisted that his officers had no choice.

And scores of others in this Texas border city wondered: Could the death of 15-year-old Jaime Gonzalez have been prevented?

A day after police fatally shot an eighth-grader who was brandishing a realistic-looking pellet gun, his anguished parents pleaded for answers, demanding to know why police didn't try a Taser or beanbag gun before resorting to deadly force.

In front of the family home, the father lamented his loss and called on authorities to explain their actions.

"Why three shots? Why one in the back of the head?" asked Jaime Gonzalez Sr.

Some standoffs with police last three or four hours, he said. This one "took not even half an hour."

But Brownsville interim Police Chief Orlando Rodriguez said the preliminary autopsy report showed the boy was not shot in the back of the head.

There was broad agreement among law enforcement experts: If a suspect raises a weapon and refuses to put it down, officers are justified in taking his life. The shooting also raised questions about whether pellet guns should be marked in a way that would easily distinguish them from real handguns.

Rodriguez defended his officers, saying the younger Gonzalez pointed the pellet gun at police and repeatedly defied their commands to put it on the floor.

He said the boy was shot twice in the torso. Asked about the parents' suggestion that there had been a shot to the back of the head, Rodriguez said, "It's a laceration as a result of the fall."

The Brownsville Herald, which reviewed the report, confirmed the preliminary finding that the boy died of two gunshot wounds, one to the chest and one to the abdomen. The report, signed by pathologist Elizabeth J. Miller, noted Gonzalez had a laceration to the right side of the head consistent with a fall.

Officers spoke with the boy's parents Thursday and exchanged information with them, Rodriguez said.

Authorities also released a 911 recording from Cummings Middle School. The assistant principal on

the phone first says a student in the hall has a gun, then reports that he is drawing the weapon and finally that he is running down the hall.

On the recording, police can be heard yelling: "Put the gun down! Put it on the floor!" In the background, someone else yells, "He's saying that he is willing to die."

Before police arrived, school administrators had urged Jaime to give up the gun. When officers got to the school, the boy was waiting for them, Rodriguez said.

Moments before he was killed, Jaime began to run down a hallway, but again faced officers. Police fired down the hallway — a distance that made a stun gun or other methods impractical, Rodriguez said.

If the situation had involved hostages or a gunman barricaded in a room, police might have tried negotiations. But instead, Rodriguez stressed, this was an armed student roaming the halls of a school.

The two officers who fired have been placed on administrative leave — standard procedure in police shootings. Rodriguez expected them back at work soon.

Under federal law, pellet or BB guns must be sold with an orange band around the tip of the barrel so they can be distinguished from real weapons. But law enforcement experts say users often remove the bands, and the coloring can sometimes be hard to see.

Gonzalez's gun had no markings, according to Rodriguez.

Cary Young, a program coordinator at Sam Houston State University's Law Enforcement Management Institute, said pellet guns are often painted black so the orange tip no longer shows up. An officer dealing with someone holding such a gun has no choice but to consider it a deadly weapon, he said.

"If a reasonable officer believes it's a deadly weapon, he has the right to protect himself and others," said Young, a police officer in Texas for 20 years.

California considered legislation last year that would have made the state the first to require that BB and pellet guns to be made entirely with bright colors, but lawmakers did not approve the measure.

The bill was proposed after a Los Angeles police officer shot a 13-year-old boy carrying a pellet gun in a park. The boy was paralyzed.

Although the gun — a replica of a Beretta handgun — had an orange

tip, it could not be seen because the incident occurred at night, police said.

Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck said the Brownsville shooting appears to be another in a series of incidents that might have been prevented if pellet and BB guns looked different from other weapons.

"Nobody can give me a legitimate downside to this," said Beck, who testified in support of the failed California legislation. "Does it hurt the sport? No. For me, this is just another way to keep folks safer."

The Brownsville shooting unfolded quickly Wednesday just as students were beginning their first-period classes. The boy walked into one room and randomly punched a classmate in the nose.

School staff saw the gun in his crotch and called police. The building was swiftly locked down, and the shots were heard a short time later.

Gonzalez said his son was not a bad kid, an assessment supported by the district superintendent.

The teen was a drum major whose band instructors had recently praised his achievements to his parents, his stepmother, Noralva Gonzalez, said.

She showed off a photo on her phone of a beaming Jaime in his drum major uniform standing with his band instructors. Then she flipped through three close-up photos she took of bullet wounds in her son's body.

Jaime's father said he didn't know where Jaime got the gun. Police believed it was a gift, and a friend of the boy's, Star Rodriguez, said Jaime told her that. But she didn't know who gave it to him.

His parents said they would never give him a gun.

Later Thursday, a long line of mourners filed past an open casket containing Jaime's body at a church a block from the boy's home. His stepmother sobbed as she embraced each visitor.

The school was closed Thursday while police finished their crime-scene investigation. Students were bused instead to a new elementary school that was recently completed on the outskirts of Brownsville but had not yet been used.

District spokeswoman Drue Brown said 17 counselors were working with students and staff. Cummings has a student body of about 750, but only 200 students came to classes Thursday.

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