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The PAMPAN NEWS

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TODAY IN SPORTS



Friday, Jan. 27, 2012 www.thepampanews.com Volume 107 • No. 243

75¢ Home How-To Add an extra linen closet to your home | p3
\$1.50 weekend

PHS Football Banquet Harvester gridders look back at 2011 season | p11

H2O's first summer in the red, but positives remain

■ *Stokes: Revenues about \$30K short of expenditures, but effect on community visible*

ARNIE AURELLANO
editor@thepampanews.com

Shane Stokes, Pampa's assistant city manager, broke some bad news to the City Commission about the recently opened Pampa H2O Aquatic Center on Tuesday.

During its maiden summer in 2011, Stokes said, the water park had failed to break even. The park's revenues were healthy, according to Stokes, but unforeseen expenditures associated with the first year of opening and operating the park pushed its total receipts about

\$30,000 in the negative.

Elaborating about the water park's finances on Thursday morning, however, Stokes said that the number is disconcerting, but that the city is still coming out on top in the bigger picture.



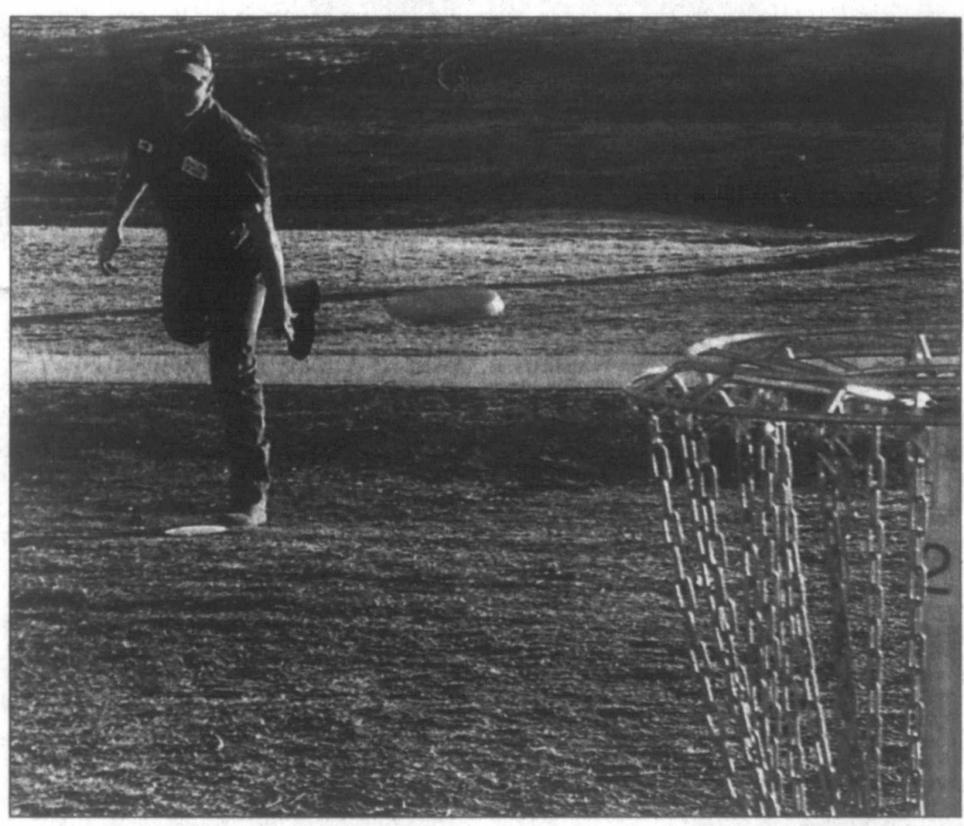
Stokes

“One restaurant told me they had the busiest three-month period in the history of their restaurant during the three months the facility was open.”

— **Shane Stokes**
Pampa assistant city manager on the effect of the Pampa H2O Aquatic Center on surrounding businesses

H2O cont. on page 3

FORE SCORE



Jeff Rash, president of the Pampa Disc Golf Association, takes advantage of the fair weather on Thursday afternoon by throwing a few holes at the city's disc golf course.

staff photo by Andrew Glover



staff photo by Arnie Aurellano

The lanes under the railroad overpass crossing State Hwy. 70 were reopened Thursday morning, with road traffic moving under the bridge and rail traffic traveling on it.

Lanes under Hobart rail bridge reopened

ARNIE AURELLANO
editor@thepampanews.com

Things are back to normal around the railway bridge over Hobart Street.

“(The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway) has finished the repairs on the (railroad) overpass on State Hwy. 70 (Hobart St.) and we now have the highway open for traffic,” said Ina Rochelle of the Texas Department of Transportation in an email on Thursday morning. The report was corroborated by TxDOT Pampa crew chief Frankie Watts, who said that the lanes under the overpass were reopened at approximately 9 a.m.

The bridge was originally damaged after an over-ROAD cont. on page 3

Xcel files for fuel cost reduction

■ *Move will save Pampans two percent on power*

ARNIE AURELLANO
editor@thepampanews.com

Pampans can expect about a two percent decrease in their residential electric bills by springtime.

Area power supplier Xcel Energy submitted plans to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) on Thursday for a revised, lower fuel cost formula. That fuel cost is a pass-through charge on customer bills, and the drop in the company's fuel costs will reduce residential bills of 1,000 kilowatt-hours by an average of \$1.83, or about 1.8 percent, beginning on April 1.

Wes Reeves, media relations representative for Xcel Energy, said that a drop

in natural gas prices over the last year has offset higher usage of the company's natural gas plants, leading to the savings being passed along to the consumer.

“We're just basically looking at the cost of fuel, and it's much cheaper than it was the last time we set our formula. ... The good news is, outside of the small savings, is that the big increase that we were really concerned about never happened. This time a couple of months ago, we were looking at a seven percent increase in residential bills, and instead what we got was this two percent reduction.”

The big increase, as Reeves called it, would have been due to the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), an EPA-

XCEL cont. on page 3

HOUSE CLEANING



staff photo by Sue Pribble

A construction crew demolishes a house near the intersection of Somerville and Albert on the south side of the city on Tuesday.

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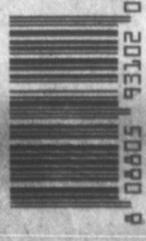
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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 53 Low 19	High 50 Low 24	High 57 Low 31

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53. Wind chill values between 22 and 32 early. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 19. North wind 15 to 20 mph becoming east 5 to 10 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50. East wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southwest. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 24. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 57. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 31. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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Road

cont. from page 1

height vehicle struck the bridge on Jan. 6. Damage to the overpass prompted a closing of State Hwy. 70 that night, and after further assessments by BNSF engineers, the road under the bridge had been closed for the last two and a half weeks. Initial projections had the road scheduled to be opened last week, but after finding more extensive damage last Wednesday, BNSF engineers had alerted TxDOT officials that repairs would take another few days.

BNSF officials could not be reached for comment regarding the specific nature of the damage to the overpass.

Xcel

cont. from page 1

mandated regulation that was stayed by a federal appeals court on Dec. 30. The rule, which sought to reduce power plant emissions that contribute to ozone and fine particle pollution, would have forced Xcel to move more of its generation load from coal plants, which are cheaper to operate but produce more emissions, to natural gas plants, which are cleaner but more expensive to run.

With enforcement of CSAPR delayed, Reeves said that the natural gas price drop was enough to warrant a new formula that saved Xcel customers money.

A federal appeals court is set to reassess CSAPR in April, Reeves said.

LAST MINUTE ADS

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

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PC DREAMS Repair & Sales is moving to 2100 N. Perryton Pkwy, (next to The Floor Store) as of Jan. 30. Normal business at old loc. until Fri. Jan 27, 4pm. Questions call 688-7817.

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Obituaries

Kaylin NeCole Pearson, 19

Kaylin NeCole Pearson, 19, died January 22, 2012, in Amarillo.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, January 28, 2012, at Macedonia Baptist Church, with Rev. Wesley Smith, pastor, officiating.

Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whalley Funeral Directors.

Kaylin was born July 8, 1992 in Pampa where she



Pearson

had lived most of her life. She was a 2010 graduate of Pampa High School. She was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church.

Survivors include her mother, Kennye Pearson of Pampa; her fiancé, Abraham Dolleh of Amarillo; her sister, Crystal Williams and husband Tommey (Ronnie) of Amarillo; her grandmother, Cleo Spencer of Pampa, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. She was preceded in death by her father, Larry Pearson.

Memorials may be made to Macedonia Baptist Church, 411 Elm, Pampa, TX 79065.

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whalley.com.

For the record

Continued from Thursday

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the five day period ending Wednesday, January 25 at 7 a.m.

Pampa PD reported 47 traffic related incidents.

Pampa EMS, Pampa PD, the Pampa Fire Department and the Lefors Volunteer EMS responded to 16 medical calls.

Animal Control agents and Pampa PD reported 38 animal related incidents.

Pampa PD had 25 ongoing investigation.

Sewer Choke was reported in the 500 block of N. Wynne Street.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 400 block of Pitts Street.

Phone harassment was reported in the 1300 block of 1300 block of N. Starkweather Street.

A suspicious person was reported in the intersection of 23rd and Hobart.

A suspicious person was reported in the 800 block of E. Campbell Avenue.

A suspicious person was reported in the 100 block of N. Somerville Street.

Phone harassment was reported in the 1300 block of N. Coffee Street.

A suspicious person was reported in the 800 block of N. Wells Street.

Sunday, January 22
Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 2000 block of Russell Street.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the intersection of 17th and Beech Street.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 600 block of N. Dwight Street.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 700 block of N. Dwight Street.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1800 block of Hobart Street.

Domestic disturbance was reported in the 1200 block of N. Wells Street.

Hit and run was reported in the 500 block of N. Carr Street.

Power lines down in the 1200 block of N. Duncan Street.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill Avenue.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of W. 30th Avenue.

Found property was reported in the 1800 block of North Beech Lane.

Suspicious vehicle was reported in the 400 block of N. Wells Street.

Burglary was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill Avenue.

Sewer choke was reported in the 1200 block of S. Faulkner Street.

Alarm was reported in the 800 block of W. Kingsmill Avenue.

911 hangup was reported in the 300 block of E. Francis Avenue.

Power lines down in the intersection of Starkweather and Browning.

Alarm was reported in the 800 block of W. Kingsmill Avenue.

Violation of protective order reported in the 2200 block of N. Williston Street.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 600 block of N. Dwight Street.

Suspicious person reported in the intersection of Browning and Sloan.

Domestic disturbance reported in the 2300 block of N. Rosewood Lane.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 400 block of Powell Street.

Violation of protective order was reported in the 2200 block of N. Williston Street.

Alarm was reported in the 300 block of W. Kingsmill Avenue.

Suspicious vehicle was reported in the 300 block of E. Brown Street.

Burglary was reported in the 600 block of E. Foster Avenue.

Runaway was reported in the 2800 block of Rosewood Lane.

911 hangup reported in the 1200 block of E. Kingsmill Avenue.

Monday, January 23
Suspicious person was reported in the 500 block of N. Christy Street.

Suspicious person was reported in the 1000 block of Christine Street.

Attempt to serve was made in the 900 block of N. Somerville Street.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 4000 block of N. Bad Cattle Company Road.

Burglary was reported in the 900 block of S. Barnes Street.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill Avenue.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of S. Christy Street.

911 hangup was reported in the 1100 block of E. Foster Avenue.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 4000 block of Bad Cattle Company Road.

Suspicious person was reported in the 900 block of East Malone Avenue.

Alarm was reported in the 800 block of S. Sumner Street.

A fire alarm was reported in the 2500 block of Beech Lane.

Domestic disturbance was reported in the 1800 block of N. Coffee Street.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill Avenue.

Welfare check was made in the 2700 block of N. Hobart Street.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of N. Starkweather Street.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of S. Graham Street.

Suspicious vehicle was reported in the intersection of Alcock and Zimmers.

An accident was reported in the intersection of Hobart and Brown.

Suspicious person was reported in the 1100 block of W. Sirroco place.

Suspicious vehicle was reported in the 2300 block of N. Duncan Street.

Alarm was reported in the 2300 block of W. Alcock Street.

Domestic Disturbance was reported in the 300 block of S. Anne Street.

Accident was reported in the 1500 block of N. Sumner Street.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 400 block of N. Starkweather Street.

Tuesday, January 24
Prowler was reported in the 1800 block of Lynn

Street.

Theft was reported in the 100 block of S. Starkweather Street.

Prowler was reported in the 2200 block of N. Beech Lane.

Suspicious person was reported in the intersection of 23rd and Evergreen.

Suspicious person was reported in the 1500 block of N. Williston Street.

Security survey was taken in the 1500 block of N. Faulkner Street.

Alarm was reported in the 1800 block of N. Dwight Street.

Accident was reported in the 1600 block of W. Kentucky Avenue.

Domestic disturbance was reported in the 900 block of E. Francis Avenue.

Harassment was reported in the 700 block of N. Dwight Street.

Burglary was reported in the 1700 block of N. Evergreen Street.

Theft was reported in the 900 block of S. Barnes Street.

Theft was reported in the 700 block of Dwight Street.

Harassment was made in the 700 block of N. Dwight Street.

Alarm was reported in the 1025 block of W. Wilks Street.

911 hangup was reported in the 2400 block of Mary Ellen Street.

Domestic disturbance was reported in the 1700 block of N. Hamilton Street.

Alarm was reported in the 2500 block of Dogwood Lane.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 4000 block of Bad Cattle Company Road.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill Avenue.

Alarm was reported in the 800 block of W. Francis Avenue.

Sewer choke was reported in the 1000 block of E. Frederic Avenue.

Burglary was reported in the 200 block of N. Nelson Street.

Threat was reported in the 900 block of E. Frederic Avenue.

Welfare check was made in the 1100 block of S. Banks Street.

Violation of protective order was reported in the 1300 block of N. Coffee Street.

Wednesday, January 25
Suspicious person was reported in the 1100 block of S. Dwight Street.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1000 block of Varnon Drive.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill Avenue.

Alarm was reported in the 500 block of N. Hazel Street.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for a week period ending Wednesday, January 25 at 7 a.m.

Thursday, January 19
Reynoldo Martinez, 35, of Pampa, was arrested by DPS troopers on a charge of violation of protective order.

Leon Daniel Phillips, 34, of Pampa was arrested by Gray County deputies on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

Friday, January 20
William Mark Reed, 43, of Pampa, was arrested by Pampa Police Officers on a charge of DWI third or more.

Micha Steward Helton, 61, of Pampa was arrested by DPS troopers on a charge of DWI third or more.

Damien Marcos Ramos, 18, of Pampa was arrested by Gray County deputies on a charge of disorderly conduct and language.

Lucinda Dawn Tollison, 34, of Pampa was arrested by DPS troopers on a charge of possession of marijuana.

Joey Kyle Johnson, 18, of Lefors, was arrested by the Lefors marshal on charges of DWI, possession of substance in correctional facility, capias pro fine times three.

Ashley Bryan Sandlin, 38, of Pampa, was arrested by DPS troopers on a charge of DWI.

Saturday, January 21
Erica Arreola, 23 of Pampa, was arrested by DPS troopers on a charge of DWI.

Rose Marie Diaz, 25 of Midland, was arrested by DPS troopers on a charge of Abandoning and endangering a child in Midland County.

Timothy Ray Davis, 21 of Pampa, was arrested by DPS Troopers on a charge of DWI.

Eddie Lee Fuqua, 59 of Pampa, was arrested by Pampa Police officers on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.

Tiffany Breann Bradford, 18, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police officers on a capias pro fine charge.

Sunday, January 22
Jennifer Renee Winegeart, 33, of Pampa, was arrested by Gray County deputies on possession of drug paraphernalia.

Timothy Joe Broadbent, 33, of Pampa, was arrested by Pampa Police officers on DWI, third offense or more and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

Kimberly Michell Young, 21, of Pampa, was arrested by DPS troopers on evading arrest with a vehicle, failure to appear, failure to maintain financial responsibility, and attempting to carry a prohibited substance in a correctional facility.

Laray Wilson, 21, of Pampa, was arrested by DPS troopers on evading arrest with a vehicle, capias pro fine - no driver's license.

Daniel Ray Holquin, 22, of Pampa, was arrested by Pampa Police officers on a warrant for theft of property greater than \$50 and less than \$500.

Guy Matthew Mabila, 36, of Pampa, was arrested by Pampa Police officers on a violation of a protective order.

Jordan Don Bradford, 20, of Lubbock, was arrested by Gray County deputies on a warrant capias pro fine failure to control speed and capias pro fine failure to appear.

(continued in the Weekend edition)

MORNINGRUSH

Ratings down after failed run

AUSTIN (AP) - A new poll shows Texas Gov. Rick Perry's approval rating in his home state at a 10-year low and more than half of Texans don't want him to run for another term as governor.

The telephone survey of 806 Texans conducted Jan. 21-24 was paid for by a group of Texas' largest newspapers.

The poll shows 40 percent of Texans approve of the job he's doing as governor, a 10-point drop from a year ago. Another 40 percent said they disapprove.

The poll found 53 percent said they don't want Perry to run for a fourth full term in 2014, and 45 percent said his failed campaign for president hurt Texas' image.

The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Guns were headed to Mexico

McALLEN (AP) - Prosecutors say a South Texas man who lied about buying guns destined for Mexico has been sentenced to more than three years in prison.

A federal judge in McAllen on Wednesday sentenced 26-year-old Jesus Rodriguez of Pharr.

Rodriguez in April was convicted of lying on a government form when he acquired 20 weapons, claiming the guns were for him.

The investigation began in November 2008. Authorities say Rodriguez also forced his wife to unlawfully buy firearms meant for Mexico.

Rodriguez remains in custody pending his transfer to a federal prison to serve a 40-month sentence.

Stolen art returned to France

WASHINGTON (AP) - Artwork stolen from a French museum in 1981 and sold in Texas has been returned to France.

A ceremony was held Wednesday in Washington to return a monotype by impressionist Camille Pissarro, called "Le Marche aux Poissons," (The Fish Market), to the French ambassador, Francois Delattre.

Investigators believe a man walked out of a museum with the artwork and sold it to a San Antonio gallery in 1985. No one has been prosecuted.

Purchaser Sharyl Davis of San Antonio in 2003 consigned the 6-by-8-inch artwork to Sotheby's in New York. A pre-auction review determined the item was reported stolen.

Davis in 2010 contested the seizure, but a jury decided the artwork should be repatriated to France.

The monotype in November was officially forfeited to the U.S., for return to France.

Offshore lease sale set for June

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - The Department of Interior says it has set a June date for the next Gulf offshore oil and natural gas lease sale.

The sale will include all available unleased areas in the Central Planning Area offshore Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

The sale will take place in New Orleans on June 20. The proposed lease sale includes approximately 7,250 unleased blocks covering nearly 38 million acres.

The blocks are located from three to about 230 miles offshore, in water depths ranging from nine to more than 11,115 feet in the central Gulf of Mexico.

Federal officials estimate the region contains close to 31 billion barrels of oil and 134 trillion cubic feet of natural gas that are currently undiscovered and technically recoverable.

Task force says okay to drill

HOUSTON (AP) - A Texas task force has determined a South Texas aquifer has enough water to support oil and gas production as well as more conventional residential and commercial uses.

Railroad Commissioner David Porter said Thursday the 26-member task force studied the Carrizo Wilcox Aquifer and "found water sourcing in South Texas is currently not an issue."

South Texas is an arid, desert-like region of the state that does not have abundant water resources. Some had been concerned there would not be enough water to support the population's current and growing needs and the oil and gas production that has boomed recently.

Drillers need millions of gallons of chemical-laced water for hydraulic fracturing, a method that allows them to crack the impermeable South Texas Eagle Ford shale formation, releasing once out-of-reach minerals.

Warden shoots armed suspect

TEXARKANA (AP) — A man who police say opened fire on officers investigating after a traffic accident is dead, fatally shot by a Texas game warden.

The incident happened about 1:30 p.m. Thursday on a side road near a federal prison on the southern outskirts of Texarkana, Texas.

Texas Parks and Wildlife spokesman Mike Cox says witnesses reported seeing the suspect driving erratically before he crashed. Game warden Shawn Hervey went to the scene to back up Bowie County sheriff's deputies when they discovered the driver was armed. Cox says the man fired at the officers, and Hervey returned fire, killing the man.

NM aims tax break for project

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) - New Mexico lawmakers are considering a set of proposed tax incentives aimed at enticing the developers of the \$1.5 billion Tres Amigas SuperStation to locate their headquarters and an associated trading exchange in the state.

The Tres Amigas project includes building a hub across 22 square miles of rangeland in eastern New Mexico to link the nation's three major electricity grids.

Construction is set to begin this summer, but Tres Amigas president and chief executive Phillip Harris says the state's tax structure is forcing the company to consider other locations in Texas for its headquarters and the exchange.

House Speaker Ben Lujan is sponsoring legislation that would offer a gross receipts tax deduction for the trading operation and an exemption of certain taxes related to the conversion and transmission of electricity.

Add a linen or extra closet to your home

Dear Pat: With another child on the way, we are going to need more storage space. I particularly would like a linen closet and an additional clothes closet. Do you have any ideas on how I can add these? — Donna C.

Dear Donna: As you are finding, with a family, a house can never have too much storage space. A linen closet with many shallow shelves or drawers makes an efficient use of space. Of course, once you convert a closet to be used for linens, you will have to replace that lost closet space somehow.

Adding sliding drawers to an existing closet is an excellent do-it-yourself method to create a functional linen closet. Just installing shelves in a closet is probably a bit easier, but installing drawers looks more professional and forces you to keep the closet better organized with everything in its place. With shelves, it is often tempting to just toss something on the most convenient open space.

Select an existing closet that is not much wider inside than the width of the door opening so less space on the sides is wasted. The drawers will extend out the door when you pull them open so their width is limited to the width of the door opening.

If the closet is considerably wider than the door opening, make the drawers narrower than the door opening and offset them to one side. This will give you easier access to the open space on the side to store tall, narrow items such as a broom, vacuum cleaner wand, etc. Also consider making the drawers shorter for better access to the side storage. Once you decide on the width and length of the drawers, begin to build them with one-half-inch lumber. A seven-inch depth is effective for most linens, but you may want to make one or two of them a little deeper. Stop them about 2 feet from the floor. This will provide room to store a rolling hamper, vacuum cleaner or other short items.

The simplest method to build the shelf supports is to nail 2x4's, two on each side, from the floor to the ceiling. Mount 1x1 maple

HOME HOW-TO

supports horizontally to the 2x4's. Space these supports a half-inch further apart than the depth of the drawers. The door bottoms will slide on these supports.

There are many methods to build an additional closet, but the easiest way is using folding doors. These will hang from the ceiling on tracks in the corner of a room. Any type of folding doors will work, and some are quite attractive.

Make triangular shelves that fit into the corner. The folding doors will be attached to the ceiling at a 45-degree angle to cover the

shelves when it is closed. For a little fancier appearance, install flexible folding doors that hang from the circular track on the ceiling. When using this design, the shelves are shaped as quarter circles for more shelf area.

Use a stud finder to make sure the shelf supports are screwed into wall studs and not just the drywall. If they are in just the drywall, they may feel secure at first, but they will eventually loosen with use.

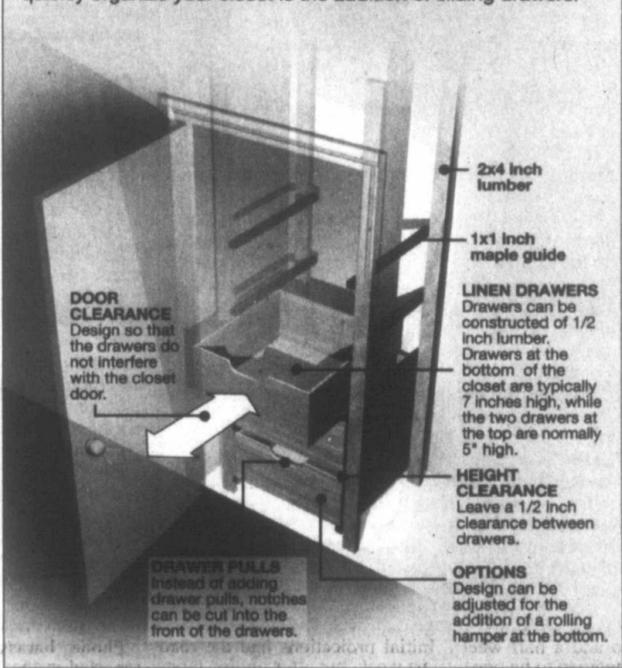
Tools and materials required: hand and power saws, hammer, screwdriver, assorted lumber, drawer pulls, wood glue, screws, nails, hinges, doors.

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

HOME HOW-TO

Linen Closet

If your closet is storing clutter and you have trouble finding items, it's probably time to reorganize. A quick-fix solution to help you quickly organize your closet is the addition of sliding drawers.



Source: <http://hardware.hardwarestore.com>

Creators.com/Bob Kast

Transport commission raises speed limit on some highways

AUSTIN (AP) - Transportation officials on Thursday signed off on a faster speed limit of 75 mph for about 1,500 miles of Texas highways.

The Texas Transportation Commission approved the change for segments of nine interstates where the current limit is 70 mph. Drivers must wait until the new limit is posted.

The longest stretch is 310 miles of Interstate 20 from near Fort Worth to a remote area of West Texas, where 80 mph zones have existed for several years.

Other long stretches include 139 miles of I-30 in East Texas; 145 miles of I-10 between San Antonio and Houston; and 143 miles of I-45 between Dallas and Houston.

Nighttime speeds also will be 75 mph on the approved interstates.

Last year, the Legislature approved the faster speed on all rural roads deemed safe. Previously it was only allowed in sparsely populated counties. With the commission's

action Thursday, the bill's passage has led to 1,618 miles of 75 mph driving.

Before the law went into effect the state had 1,445 miles of 75 mph speed limits and 521 miles of 80 mph - most of them in sparsely populated West Texas.

One transportation official said in a release that the faster limits help the economy.

"Texas' economic strength depends on the efficient and safe movement of people and goods," traffic operations division director Carol Rawson said.

The faster limit will also include I-37 between Corpus Christi and San Antonio and in the Panhandle on I-40 on either side of Amarillo from the New Mexico border to Oklahoma as well as I-27 between Lubbock and Amarillo. In addition to miles along I-30 in East Texas, I-20 drivers from just east of Dallas to the Louisiana border also can go 75 mph.

The commission late last year approved a smattering of other miles - about 101 - along interstates and highways.

Cinema 4

Movies Showing
Friday, January 27 through
Thursday, February 2

Man On A Ledge (PG-13)
Fri 7:30 9:45
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 9:45
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30
Mon/Thur 7:30

One For The Money (PG-13)
Fri 7:00 9:45
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:45
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00
Mon/Thur 7:00

The Devil Inside (R)
Fri 7:30 9:45
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 9:45
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30
Mon/Thur 7:30

Underworld 4 (R)
Fri 7:00 9:45
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:45
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00
Mon/Thur 7:00

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Inaugural Texas Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium:

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, Jan. 27, the 27th day of 2012. There are 339 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 27, 1967, astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White and Roger B. Chaffee died in a flash fire during a test aboard their Apollo spacecraft.

On this date:
In 1756, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria.

In 1880, Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric incandescent lamp.

In 1901, opera composer Giuseppe Verdi died in Milan, Italy, at age 87.

In 1943, some 50 bombers struck Wilhelmshaven in the first all-American air raid against Germany during World War II.

In 1944, the Soviet Union announced the complete end of the deadly German siege of Leningrad, which had lasted for more than two years.

In 1945, Soviet troops liberated the Nazi concentration camps Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland.

In 1951, an era of atomic testing in the Nevada desert began as an Air Force plane dropped a one-kiloton bomb on Frenchman Flat.

In 1967, more than 60 nations signed a treaty banning the orbiting of nuclear weapons.

In 1972, "Queen of Gospel" Mahalia Jackson, 60, died in Evergreen Park, Ill.

In 1973, the Vietnam peace accords were signed in Paris.

In 1977, the Vatican issued a declaration reaffirming the Roman Catholic Church's ban on female priests.

In 1984, singer Michael Jackson suffered serious burns to his scalp when pyrotechnics set his hair on fire during the filming of a Pepsi-Cola TV commercial at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

Ten years ago: Wafa Idris, a Palestinian paramedic, became the first female suicide bomber against Israel; her attack claimed the life of an 81-year-old man.

Five years ago: Tens of thousands of anti-war demonstrators marched in Washington, D.C., calling for the U.S. to get out of Iraq.

One year ago: Tens of thousands of Yemenis demanded their president step down; taking inspiration from Tunisians' revolt, they vowed to continue until their U.S.-backed government fell. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced that color-coded terror alerts would be phased out by late April 2011.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Bobby "Blue" Bland is 82. Actor James Cromwell is 72. Actor John Witherspoon is 70. Rock musician Nick Mason (Pink Floyd) is 67. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nedra Talley (The Ronettes) is 66. Ballet star Mikhail Baryshnikov is 64. Country singer Cheryl White is 57. Country singer-musician Richard Young (The Kentucky Headhunters) is 57. Actress Mimi Rogers is 56. Rock musician Janick Gers (Iron Maiden) is 55. Commentator Keith Olbermann is 53. Rock singer Margo Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 51. Rock musician Gillian Gilbert is 51. Actress Bridget Fonda is 48. Actor Alan Cumming is 47. Country singer Tracy Lawrence is 44. Rock singer Mike Patton is 44. Actor-comedian Patton Oswalt is 43. Actor Josh Randall is 40. Country singer Kevin Denney is 36.

Thought for Today: "The most beautiful thing in the world is, of course, the world itself." - Wallace Stevens, American poet and author (1879-1955)



Democrats: We are rooting for Newt

Ask any honest Democrat, and they'll tell you what I'm about to tell you: We're rooting for Newt.

The death penalty for marijuana? Replacing janitors with school kids?

Mining the moon for minerals? Go, Newt.

It's not that the former Speaker doesn't have the smarts. Quite the contrary. He may be too smart for his own good — at least his own good in politics. His mind races with ideas. His mouth moves even faster.

I've done television with Newt and speeches with Newt, and it's a blast. He's funny and gracious. He's always interesting. He knows facts that would make Sarah Palin's head swim. He understands history. He's pointed and provocative.

It's just that a substantial number of his ideas are, well, different. Nutty. Like the minerals on the moon.

That is fine if you're a professor or a professional speaker. Not fine if you are a politician.

The great columnist Walter Shapiro said in a recent interview that every time he goes to hear Newt speak, he comes away with 15 ideas for a column; whereas, every time he hears Mitt Romney, he forgets the 15 ideas he had coming in. Newt makes great copy.

If I were a Republican activist — sick and tired of the smooth and calculating moderate turned conservative-turning moderate about to be

turning conservative again Romney — I'd be walking the precincts for Newt. And I'd be having almost as good a time as I did back in 1980, when I ran phone banks for Ted Kennedy in our fight against Jimmy Carter. I'm not sure who the Republicans were rooting for back then, but I know this: They were hoping the fight would never end, and in many respects, it didn't.

And that is exactly what we Democrats are rooting for with Newt.

Do I really think the Republicans are going to nominate Newt for president? Nah. Too good to be true. Even now, the spotlight is beginning to shine pretty harshly. Eventually, the grownups in the establishment who think nominating Newt is a gift to the Democrats will probably get the upper hand — but hopefully later rather than sooner.

This has all the makings of a nice bitter fight. Newt is not about to go gently into the night. No Rick Perry he. Newt lives on debates, regardless of his own war chest. He has friends with super-PACs carrying his water. His supporters, many of them, are true believers.

The fight between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama went the distance. Even if they are, today, loyal partners, I have no doubt there was no love lost when it ended.

But it was never blood war on the ground. The people on both sides

were old friends who went back to being friends when it was over. It was liberals against liberals. Indeed, among Democrats, you can't help but notice that the big whiners about Obama aren't the Hillary supporters who joined up at the end, but the early Obama-ites who had expectations, no one could achieve.

Newt-Romney, however, is already nastier than Hillary-Obama ever was (with all of one bad ad, the red phone). Fine by me. The nastier the better. What Hillary-Obama proves is that it's not the length of the fight but the bitterness and animosity on the ground that hurts. Like in 1980. Go, Newt.

There were, and probably still are, two schools of thought about 1980. The Kennedy side believed the only hope of defeating Reagan was to defeat Carter first. The Carter side felt that Reagan won because Carter was so defeated by the process. My guess is there is a similar debate on the Republican side right now.

But the bottom line is that Reagan did win, which is why all of us who are rooting for Obama are rooting for Newt to go the distance in his attacks on Romney. If he does, win or lose, we win.



SUSAN ESTRICH

Susan Estrich is a nationally syndicated columnist.

Concentrate on government, not denunciation

You know politicians are serious when they move from campaigning to governing. Something like that may be happening on the Republican campaign trail — but, unfortunately, not at the Obama White House.

Campaigning clearly carried the day for Newt Gingrich in South Carolina, where he beat Mitt Romney by a 40 percent to 28 percent margin. It's generally agreed that Gingrich clinched the race when he reacted angrily to questions by Fox News's Juan Williams and CNN's John King.

Both times Gingrich got standing ovations. But not for how he'd govern. His platform can be summed up in a bumper sticker a Washington lawyer printed to buck up George H.W. Bush's hapless 1992 campaign: "Annoy the media — vote for Bush." It was fun but didn't win many votes.

South Carolina Republicans got a charge out of imagining how Gingrich would rebuke Barack Obama in the Lincoln-Douglas debates he's been proposing. Except of course Obama would never agree to that format.

In the Monday debate at Tampa, Fla., Romney came back hard at Gingrich, saying that he had been ousted as speaker by his own party and that he had to resign "in disgrace." Gingrich complained afterward about the ban on applause and said he might not show up for later debates with a similar ban (although it is imposed in the fall debates).

What's important here is that Romney went after Gingrich for the way he governed. Gingrich cites, with a little exaggeration, significant things he achieved as speaker — welfare reform, holding spending down, tax cuts.

But his quibbling with Romney over the timeline of his ouster as speaker misses the point. Many former colleagues, including Rick Santorum in

the last two debates, have criticized him as an erratic and unsteady leader. These conservatives are troubled by the way he governed.

And Gingrich was not helped by the interchanges on his work for Freddie Mac, which along with Fannie Mae was heavily responsible for creating the housing bubble that dragged down the economy when it burst, or by the way he defended his advocacy of the Medicare prescription drug program, an expansion of entitlements opposed by many conservatives.

Romney's critics have hit the former governor for not doing much to advance the conservative cause.

They have something of a point. But Romney was able to cite a conservative fiscal record in Massachusetts despite an 85 percent Democratic legislature. And he might have pointed out that, if he is elected president, he will likely govern with a Republican Senate and Republican House.

Romney is now burdened with an economic platform that has rightly been called timid, with only small tax cuts. But the fiscal plans of other candidates are subject to attack as leading to enormous budget deficits when scored by neutral arbiters.

Romney's vaguer call for broadening the tax base and lowering tax rates, as in the bipartisan 1986 tax reform and as advocated by the Bowles-Simpson commission, is something that could actually happen. He hasn't been specific, but neither was Ronald Reagan in the election leading up to the 1986 law. Perhaps naively, I think Romney is thinking seriously about

erning. Barack Obama isn't, and that's one thing Republican candidates might want to bring up in the next debates. Obama rejected the Bowles-Simpson recommendations out of hand, and he seems untroubled that the Democratic-majority Senate hasn't produced a budget in 1,000 days.

That's contrary to the requirements of law, as is the administration's delay in sending up its own budget three years in a row.

But this is a president who flouts one law after another. He made recess appointments when the Senate was not in recess as required by the Constitution, and to one position when a law he signed requires Senate confirmation for the appointee to act.

He vetoed the Keystone XL pipeline on environmental grounds that the law says could not be considered. His policy on whether religious organizations can require employees to share their beliefs was swatted down by a 9-0 vote of the Supreme Court.

What we see is a president in pure campaign mode and cavalier about the rule of law, with policies — higher taxes, environmental restrictions, more stimulus spending — poorly suited to current needs.

The Republican candidates are struggling fiercely with each other. But a candidate who concentrates less on denunciation and more on governing could have an advantage in the fall over an incumbent who is doing more denouncing than governing himself.



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Texas tweaks tuition rule for illegal immigrants

JIM VERTUNO
Associated Press

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas colleges must send illegal immigrants who pay in-state college tuition rates reminders that they promised to seek legal status in exchange, a tweak in state law officials unanimously approved Thursday.

The tuition break was a flashpoint issue that helped doom Republican Gov. Rick Perry's campaign for president and the rule change by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is a small step toward putting more pressure on those students to follow up on their pledge.

The change will not end the tuition break or the student's ability to qualify; only the Legislature can do that. But the board will require schools to be more active in pushing

students toward gaining legal status by sending them annual reminders and encouraging them to contact federal authorities.

Advocates for immigrants say the reminders, which students could start seeing as early as this summer, are unnecessary and could prompt students to place themselves in jeopardy of deportation if they contact authorities without first seeking legal advice.

Since 2001, Texas has allowed students who are in the U.S. illegally to qualify for cheaper, in-state tuition rates at public universities if they attend high school in Texas for at least three years before they graduate. Those students must also sign an affidavit saying they plan to seek legal status.

Perry's refusal to backtrack on his support for the law during his

campaign angered conservatives and tea party activists in the state and nationally who consider it a benefit reserved for illegal immigrants at the expense of U.S. citizens.

According to the higher education board, more than 16,000 students qualified under the law in the 2009-10 school year, the most recent year for which complete data were available. Of those, about 4,400 attended a public university and about 12,000 attended community or technical college.

The rule change requires schools to keep the affidavits on file and remind the students of their pledge every year they are enrolled and upon graduation. Students are not required to respond.

Board spokesman Dominic Chavez insisted the rule change is not because of the flare-up over immigration poli-

tics in the Republican primaries but acknowledged the issue got "white hot" when Perry was still in the race.

The issue has come up several times since the law passed in 2001, and the board began considering the change last summer, Chavez said.

Luis Figueroa of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund said advocates for immigrants are concerned universities will encourage students to contact federal agencies about their status before consulting a lawyer.

"They need legal guidance," Figueroa said.

Ainee Athar, a third-year anthropology student at the University of Texas, moved with her family to Texas from Pakistan 15 years ago and has qualified for the lower tuition rate. She said the yearly reminders about a student's

legal status are unnecessary.

"No one forgets that," she said.

Supporters of the tuition law say the thousands of students taking advantage proves its worth. Those are students who might not be able to afford a college education without it.

The average cost at a four-year university for Texas residents is about \$7,000 in tuition and fees and about \$17,000 for nonresidents. At community colleges, the average cost is about \$1,400 for residents and \$4,800 for nonresidents.

"It's not about immigration," Athar said.

"It's about education."

State Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, a San Antonio Democrat who helped write the law, considers the rule change a minor one that won't change the intent of the law or its impact on those who use it. She also said she

isn't worried that it's the first step in an effort to eventually repeal the law.

"They've been trying to repeal it every year since I passed it," Van de Putte said.

The latest effort was in 2011, when Perry was flirting with running for president but was not yet a candidate. Legislation by Sen. Brian Birdwell, a Republican from Granbury, to repeal the tuition break was defeated by a bipartisan group of lawmakers in the Republican-controlled Senate.

Birdwell called the rule change a "step in the right direction ... (but) these rules do nothing to solve the core problem of nonresidents unfairly receiving discounted tuition rates."

Education officials decry 'over-testing' in Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — State Board of Education members pressed the Texas education commissioner on Thursday about whether an abundance of high-stakes standardized testing is warping classroom teaching to ensure students spend more time preparing for the exams than actual learning.

Robert Scott, head of the Texas Education Agency, responded that having kids cram is "a perversion of what's intended" and that tests are supposed to ensure students don't fall through the cracks while holding teachers and school districts accountable. But he also acknowledged that some schools over-prepare for tests whose results have become the overwhelming standard by which education is measured statewide.

Republican board member and Dallas English teacher George Clayton complained that some schools have become little more than testing centers, offering mini-exams every two weeks to prepare for full, end-of-the-year

standardized tests.

"Perversion? It's being truthful about what's happened in many schools, that testing has taken over," Clayton said. "That's all we do is test and prepare for tests. Make an assessment, look at the data, prepare another test; from August until the end of the school year."

Scott said, "we do have many districts and many campuses that are overemphasizing testing" and noted a backlash against a perception that students are being over-tested. He pointed to unsuccessful past legislation in the Texas House that would have imposed a two-year moratorium on standardized testing.

"Parents care about kids, teachers care about kids," Scott said. "The system doesn't give a damn about kids unless you make it care and that's really what the idea of testing and accountability was about."

He said testing ensures "different subgroups of kids" are not overlooked while higher-

performing students pull up the average for a school or district that is then deemed successful overall.

But Scott added that while simply spending a year teaching for standardized tests "won't work" and doesn't improve students' scores, it's hard for state officials to legislate against such behavior, which has only been encouraged by how much credence Texas now gives to test results.

"I think testing's important, but you've reached a point now where you've created this one thing that the entire system is dependent on," he said. "It is the heart of the vampire, so to speak. All you have to do is kill that and you've killed a whole lot of things and I don't think that's healthy."

Board member Bob Craig, a Republican and Lubbock lawyer, said many districts are also afraid test results are punitive and therefore focus too much instruction time on them.

The discussion came as offi-

cial implement the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, or STAAR test, which students begin taking in March and which replaces a much-maligned previous standardized test known as TAKS. But the new test has drawn criticism from parents, school administrators and some business leaders since its results count toward 15 percent of 9th graders' grades in core subjects.

Supporters say that ensures students will take the tests seriously, but those opposed believe it could hurt children's grade point averages and make them less attractive to college admissions boards.

Scott defended STAAR, saying "we are preparing our kids for a world full of tests."

"Regardless of where a child goes," he said, "if you want to leave high school and become a police officer a firefighter, a nurse, a lawyer, a doctor an accountant, you are going to take a test."

Hostess asks judge to slash union obligations

NEW YORK (AP) - Hostess Brands Inc., the maker of Wonder Bread and Twinkies that filed for bankruptcy reorganization earlier this month, has asked a judge to slash some of its commitments to union employees, saying it's the only way it can emerge as a viable company.

The Teamsters union issued a swift rebuke on Thursday, saying Hostess was trying to "bully" its way out of obligations to its employees.

Hostess, based in Irving, Texas, filed for bankruptcy protection earlier this month, hobbled by discordant forces: Americans' professed preference for healthier snacks, and stiff competition

from other sweets makers like Entenmann's. The announcement came just three years after Hostess emerged from a previous bankruptcy restructuring.

In court papers filed this week, Hostess asked the a bankruptcy judge to trim its obligations on commitments like health care and pensions to employees of the Teamsters union and a bakers union. The company said that Hostess brands are losing market share, "fighting for their survival" and "losing hundreds of millions of dollars each year." In all, unions represent more than three-quarters of Hostess' 19,000 employees, the company said.

Hostess said its struggles were largely related to its heavy obligations to union employees and retirees. It also said its competitors don't face the same burden. Hostess said that in its previous bankruptcy reorganization, it "did not obtain any substantial relief" from its union obligations.

Hostess, which filed for bankruptcy protection in the Southern District of New York, says it has a chance of emerging from bankruptcy court as a viable company only if it's relieved of "a number of significant financial commitments and arcane work rules imposed by (the unions') collective bargaining agreements."

The Teamsters union issued a statement saying Hostess was trying to "misuse the bankruptcy process" to "bully" its way to unnecessary changes. It said Hostess employees had already "sacrificed greatly" during both bankruptcy proceedings.

"For Hostess to pin the blame on its employees is unconscionable and demonstrates how out of touch management is with its workforce," said Ken Hall, Teamsters' international vice president.

The Teamsters also added that they are still negotiating with Hostess. The company has a bankruptcy court hearing scheduled for Monday.

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No energy industry backing for the word 'fracking'

JOHATHAN FAHEY
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A different kind of F-word is stirring a linguistic and political debate as controversial as what it defines.

The word is "fracking" - as in hydraulic fracturing, a technique long used by the oil and gas industry to free oil and gas from rock.

It's not in the dictionary, the industry hates it, and President Barack Obama didn't use it in his State of the Union speech - even as he praised federal subsidies for it.

The word sounds nasty, and environmental advocates have been able to use it to generate opposition - and revulsion - to what they say is a nasty process that threatens water supplies.

"It obviously calls to mind other less socially polite terms, and folks have been able to take advantage of that," said Kate Sinding, a senior attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council who works on drilling issues.

One of the chants at an anti-drilling rally in Albany earlier this month was "No fracking way!"

Industry executives argue that the word is deliberately misspelled by environmental activists and that it has become a slur that should not be used by media outlets that strive for objectivity.

"It's a co-opted word and a co-opted spelling used to make it look as offensive as people can try to make it look," said Michael Kehs, vice president for

Strategic Affairs at Chesapeake Energy, the nation's second-largest natural gas producer.

To the surviving humans of the sci-fi TV series "Battlestar Galactica," it has nothing to do with oil and gas. It is used as a substitute for the very down-to-Earth curse word.

Michael Weiss, a professor of linguistics at Cornell University, says the word originated as simple industry jargon, but has taken on a negative meaning over time - much like the word "silly" once meant "holy."

But "frack" also happens to sound like "smack" and "whack," with more violent connotations.

"When you hear the word 'fracking,' what lights up your brain is the profanity," says Deborah Mitchell, who teaches marketing at the University of Wisconsin's School of Business. "Negative things come to mind."

President Obama did not use the word in his State of the Union address Tuesday night, when he said his administration will help ensure natural gas will be developed safely, suggesting it would support 600,000 jobs by the end of the decade.

In hydraulic fracturing, millions of gallons of water, sand and chemicals are pumped into wells to break up underground rock formations and create escape routes for the oil and gas. In recent years, the industry has learned to combine the practice with the ability to drill horizontally into beds of shale, layers of fine-grained rock that in some

cases have trapped ancient organic matter that has cooked into oil and gas.

By doing so, drillers have unlocked natural gas deposits across the East, South and Midwest that are large enough to supply the U.S. for decades. Natural gas prices have dipped to decade-low levels, reducing customer bills and prompting manufacturers who depend on the fuel to expand operations in the U.S.

Environmentalists worry that the fluid could leak into water supplies from cracked casings in wells. They are also concerned that wastewater from the process could contaminate water supplies if not properly treated or disposed of. And they worry the method allows too much methane, the main component of natural gas and an extraordinarily potent greenhouse gas, to escape.

Some want to ban the practice altogether, while others want tighter regulations.

The Environmental Protection Agency is studying the issue and may propose federal regulations. The industry prefers that states regulate the process.

Some states have banned it. A New York proposal to lift its ban drew about 40,000 public comments - an unprecedented total - inspired in part by slogans such as "Don't Frack With New York."

The drilling industry has generally spelled the word without a "K," using terms like "frac job" or "frac fluid."

Energy historian Daniel Yergin spells it "fracking" in his book, "The Quest: Energy, Security and the Remaking of the Modern World." The glossary main-

tained by the oilfield services company Schlumberger includes only "frac" and "hydraulic fracturing."

The spelling of "fracking" began appearing in the media and in oil and gas company materials long before the process became controversial. It first was used in an Associated Press story in 1981. That same year, an oil and gas company called Velvet Exploration, based in British Columbia, issued a press release that detailed its plans to complete "fracking" a well.

The word was used in trade journals throughout the 1980s. In 1990, Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher announced U.S. oil engineers would travel to the Soviet Union to share drilling technology, including fracking.

The word does not appear in The Associated Press Stylebook, a guide for news organizations. David Minthorn, deputy standards editor at the AP, says there are tentative plans to include an entry in the 2012 edition.

He said the current standard is to avoid using the word except in direct quotes, and to instead use "hydraulic fracturing."

That won't stop activists - sometimes called "fracktivists" - from repeating the word as often as possible.

"It was created by the industry, and the industry is going to have to live with it," says the NRDC's Sinding.

Dave McCurdy, CEO of the American Gas Association, agrees, much to his dismay: "It's Madison Avenue hell," he says.

Army recruiter pleads guilty to referral scam

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A U.S. Army recruiter pleaded guilty Thursday in an alleged \$190,000 sign-up scheme in which six other indicted soldiers collected referral bonuses for enlistees who had already been on track to join the military.

Sgt. 1st Class Jesus Torres-Alvarez, 31, is the third service member to plead guilty in the alleged bogus bonus conspiracy that the Justice Department said began in 2006. Four other soldiers accused of paying recruiters for the names of potential referrals are set for trial in April.

Recruiting incentives offer soldiers upward of \$2,000 for referrals who enlist. According to court records, Torres-Alvarez made at least \$10,000 selling active-duty soldiers the names and Social Security numbers of at least 15 recruits who were already on their way to signing up.

Federal prosecutors say those soldiers, who are all from South Texas, then passed off those recruits as their own referrals. In some cases, according to court documents, the soldiers made up stories of how they met the recruits and nudged them toward joining the Army.

One included Army Spcs. Xavier Aves and Paul Escobar allegedly inventing an anecdote about Escobar's grandfather, who runs a Mexican restaurant, passing along the name of a job-seeker he turned away.

"They chated (sic) for a while, my uncle didn't have any openings at his restaurant," wrote Aves and Escobar, according to court records. "He told (the recruit) to join the military, to a career and a paycheck. My uncle called me up and gave me his information to call him up."

It was not immediately clear Thursday whether Aves and Escobar, who are each charged with three counts of wire fraud and conspiracy, have entered a plea. Michael Machado, Aves' attorney, and Rochelle Acevedo, Escobar's attorney, did not immediately return phone messages.

Federal prosecutors said the scheme led to the payout of about \$190,000 in fraudulent recruiting bonuses. No recruits are named in the indictment or have been charged in the case.

The United States Army Recruiting Command began implemented its referral bonus program in 2006. Kathleen Welker, a spokeswoman for the command, said Thursday she was only now learning about the case but defended the integrity of more than 9,800 recruiters nationwide.

"The U.S. Army Recruiting Command takes allegations of recruiting impropriety very seriously," Welker said in a statement. "Everyone in recruiting is disappointed when a recruiter fails to uphold the Army Values. We will always support US law and the judgments rendered by our Nation's justice system."

Torres-Alvarez, 31, is set to be sentenced in May. He faces up to five years in prison.

The two other soldiers to plead guilty in the case are Sgt. Ernest Gonzales, 50, and former Cpl. Christopher Castro, 30. Both are still awaiting sentencing.

Former Staff Sgt. Grant Bibb, 40, and Spc. Richard Garcia, 28, are also set to be tried in April on fraud and conspiracy charges. John Carroll, Bibb's attorney, and Alfredo Villareal, Garcia's attorney, did not immediately return phone messages Thursday.

Website offers economic data for Texas

AUSTIN. — A new, online resource for Texas economic data, news and analysis has been launched, according to Texas Comptroller Susan Combs.

The new website, The Texas Economy (www.TheTexasEconomy.org), will help Texas residents, business owners and policymakers connect with economic data in a comprehensive yet easy-to-understand format.

The Texas Economy features state revenue and spending data, more than a dozen economic indicators and analysis on a wide variety of topics, including fast-growing Texas industries and jobs, the drought's effect on the state economy and the

impact of obesity on Texas businesses and taxpayers.

The Texas Economy strives to make economic information and data more available to taxpayers through the use of informational graphics, video interviews, tables and snapshots of key data.

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NASCAR THIS WEEK

ON THE TUBE

- Sprint Cup 2012**
Daytona 500, Feb. 26, 1 p.m.
- Nationwide Series 2012**
DRIVE4COPD 300, Feb. 25, 1 p.m.
- Truck Series 2012**
NewEra Energy Resources 250, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.

BURNING ISSUES

- ▶ As usual, Hall of Fame inductions were inspiring reminiscences of how NASCAR became what it is today.
- ▶ How fitting that Darrell Waltrip and Cale Yarborough were inducted on the same night. Waltrip succeeded Yarborough as driver of Junior Johnson's famed No. 14. All three men are now enshrined.
- ▶ It was Yarborough, by the way, who famously nicknamed the talkative Waltrip "Jaws."
- ▶ Dale Inman, Richard Petty's first cousin and longtime crew chief, joins The King and Lee Petty in the Hall. Maurice Petty, Richard's brother and engine builder, will probably not be too far behind.
- ▶ It's hard to separate Glen Wood from his brother Leonard. Leonard was the original driver. Leonard was the master mechanic. He, too, will make the Hall at some point.
- ▶ Richie Evans never made his name at NASCAR's top level, but he won more than 400 races in Modifieds prior to his tragic death in a crash while practicing at Martinsville in 1985.
- ▶ Though it was rainy and chilly outside, the Sprint Preview, a fan event, drew good crowds and is a staple of what NASCAR branded Acceleration Weekend.
- ▶ It's likely that many teams will still be trying to fill in the sponsorship blanks when the teams arrive in Daytona Beach, Fla., next month.
- ▶ Most teams have some sponsorship, but many lack what they would consider "a full package" of sponsorships necessary to meet their budgets for the year.
- ▶ Carl Edwards, who came so close to winning the championship, is obviously a contender, but so, too, is his teammate Matt Kenseth. Kenseth may be the long shot that comes through.



Photo courtesy of CIA Stock Photography
Could this be Carl Edwards' year? The top Roughrider finished so close last season.

LEGENDS AND LORE

Cale and Wood's Time

One of the NASCAR Hall of Fame's latest inductions, Cale Yarborough, spent a significant portion of his career competing for the Wood Brothers and Glen Wood, who was inducted on the same night. Yarborough won 13 times while competing in the team's No. 21 in 1967-70. He completed his career with 83 victories and three championships.



WHO'S HOT AND WHO'S NOT

- Who's hot:** At long last, Danica Patrick is racing in NASCAR full time. ... A move to Penske Racing gives A.J. Allmendinger his best shot ever at making the Chase.
- Who's not:** Kurt Busch faces a new season with another team, but it's not historically one of the better ones. ... Brian Vickers' plans remain unrevealed.



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

- NASCAR Sprint**
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 Budweiser Shootout. 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, '06), Tony Stewart (2001-02, '07), Denny Hamlin (2006), Jimmie Johnson (2005), Dale Jarrett (2000, '04).
- NASCAR Nationwide**
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 Laloe (1999, 2001), Matt Kenseth (2000).
- NASCAR Camping World**
CAMPING WORLD TRUCK SERIES
Trucks never raced at Daytona until 2000, when Mike Wallace won the crash-marred debut of the series on a so-called restrictor-plate track. Toyota drivers have won the past five races, and, surprisingly, no driver has ever piloted a Chevy to victory. The first seven races saw Fords win four and Dodges three. A Toyota has visited victory lane in each race since.
Next up: NewEra Energy Resources 250, Daytona Int'l Speedway (2.5 mi.), 100 laps/250 miles, Daytona Beach, Fla., Feb. 24.
Last year's winner: Michael Waltrip, Toyota.
Previous winners: Waltrip (2011), T. Peters (2010), T. Bodine (2008-09), J. Sprague (2007), M. Martin (2006), B. Hamilton (2005), C. Edwards (2004), R. Crawford (2003), R. Pressley (2002), Joe Ruttman (2001), M. Wallace (2000).

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PETTY MOTORSPORTS



NASCAR legend and owner Richard Petty was part of the first NASCAR Hall of Fame class. Now, with Dale Inman inducted recently, there is a member of the Petty family in each of the first three classes.

The King's Court

Petty clan all about NASCAR's past and present

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

CHARLOTTE — Richard Petty is, of course, the King of stock-car racing, just as Roy Acuff was considered the King of country music and Elvis Presley of rock 'n' roll. Petty, who won nearly twice as many races (200) as anyone else in NASCAR history, remains a vibrant part of the Sprint Cup scene today.

Petty was, naturally, one of the first five inductees into the NASCAR Hall of Fame, along with NASCAR founder William H.G. France, successor William C. France, Dale Earnhardt and Junior Johnson.

The Hall of Fame has now inducted three classes, each containing five honorees. So great was the role of the Petty family in the sport's history that a family member has been included in all three classes. The Petty Enterprises patriarch, Lee, was a member of the second class. His nephew — and Richard's first cousin — Dale Inman was one of the five enshrined on the night of Jan. 20.

Another Petty, Richard's brother Maurice, will

probably make the Hall of Fame soon. Inman was Richard's crew chief during most of The King's career, which ended, as a driver, in 1992. Richard Petty Motorsports, a descendant of Petty Enterprises, currently fields Fords in the Sprint Cup Series for Marcos Ambrose and Aric Almirola.

Maurice Petty built the engines that propelled his brother to most of his 200 victories and seven championships.

"When some of those records were being accumulated, we didn't think there would be a Hall of Fame," said Inman, who was inducted along with Cale Yarborough, Darrell Waltrip, Richie Evans and Glen Wood. "We really weren't running for anything other than trying to beat the other competitors, get enough money to survive and stuff like that. We didn't know it was going to grow into the great big sport that we've got now."

"We've been around a long time, you know, and to still be as active as we are in the sport, with what we've been through ... we're still surviving, and I think that's great."

FEUD OF THE WEEK



TONY STEWART VS. CARL EDWARDS
They each had 2,403 points last year. Stewart won the Sprint Cup championship because the tiebreaker was victories, and he had five to Edwards' one. There was a rivalry that originated in the Chase. The potential is there for them to fight it out again all season long.

NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton gives his take: "Stewart has won three championships but never consecutively. Edwards has been prone to slumps after each of the two previous seasons when he contended for a championship. Both have challenges to prove they can start a new season without skipping a beat from the previous one."

YOUR TURN

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Please, Pick On Kyle More

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

Dear NASCAR This Week,

I enjoy NASCAR, but I don't care for how you all cater to Kyle Busch. Why do (you) let him get away with all the (junk) he pulls? If any of the other drivers do anything, you penalize them. Why not Kyle?

Is it because he is such a ... baby? With a new year, I hope you clamp down on "Cry Baby." If not, you need not to clamp down so hard on the rest of them. Let them do some of what you let him get away with.

When they are racing, why do you stay so focused on "Baby Busch" so much instead of showing the other races?

Estelita L. Bulkeley
Trusville, Pa.

First of all, this is NASCAR This Week, a syndicated page, not NASCAR in general. We provide information about NASCAR, but we are not formally connected. Secondly, Kyle Busch has been penalized by NASCAR on several occasions. By "focused on" Busch, do you mean he is frequently shown on TV? If so, it's because he is at the center of the action, not because he is being shown at the expense of other races, but we don't have anything to do with television coverage, either.

FAN TIPS

Dream A Little Dream

"Racing Dreams," the documentary about budding race-car drivers struggling to build their careers, will air on PBS's "POV" (Point of View) at 9 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23, a few days before the Sprint Cup season opens officially with the Daytona 500. Directed by Marshall Curry, the documentary centers on go-kart racing by Annabeth Bames (11 years old at the time of the filming), Josh Hobson (12) and Brandon Warren (13) as they compete in racing sanctioned by the World Karting Association.

Quips and quotes from the NASCAR immortals

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

CHARLOTTE — The NASCAR Hall of Fame inductions, as well as the accompanying media conferences, had many highlights. Listed below are a few of them from the Jan. 20 festivities.

The Hall's third class consisted of three-time champion drivers Darrell Waltrip and Cale Yarborough, team owner and driver Glen Wood, Modified legend Richie Evans and Dale Inman, who won eight championships as a chief mechanic and crew chief.

Don't forget the brother — It seems inexplicable for Glen Wood to be in the Hall of Fame without his brother Leonard also being enshrined. The two are inseparable, both in each other's company and the annals of the sport.

"The Wood Brothers began with Glen as the driver, and he became the businessman who kept the operation prosperous. Leonard was the master mechanic.

Why should Leonard Wood also be enshrined? "He's the best, that's why," Glen said. "He knows more about a car than anybody that's ever been in NASCAR."

There are, of course, only five inductees a year. Much of the argument in behalf of Leonard Wood could also be made regarding Maurice Petty, who built most of the engines in Richard Petty's record-setting cars.

Much ado — The Wood Brothers famously

NUTS AND BOLTS

pitted Jimmy Clark during his 1965 victory in the Indianapolis 500. The NASCAR team proved it could fuel Clark's Lotus-Ford much faster than other competitors. Often overlooked is the fact that Clark drove the entire race on one set of tires.

As Leonard Wood recalled, "It was one of those times you got the most publicity in the least amount of time than anything we ever did."

Times change — Could Dale Inman, one of this year's inductees, succeed in the high-tech world of present-day NASCAR?

"Well," Inman said, "to start with I'd have to have a little better education to use some of the stuff they've got now, but I tell them the stopwatch tells it all."

"You make a change and you read the stopwatch, and if it's better, that's good. If it's worse, you go back the other way."

Stirring the pot — Darrell Waltrip defended the controversy that often accompanied his greatest years.

"I was an antagonist," he admitted. "It just seemed to work for me. A lot of people say they take the path of least resistance. I took the path I couldn't resist. You know why? There ain't nobody on it. A lot of times I was off on my own."



John Clark/NASCAR This Week
Danica Patrick, at right with owner Tony Stewart, will race for Stewart-Haas Racing on a limited schedule in 2012.

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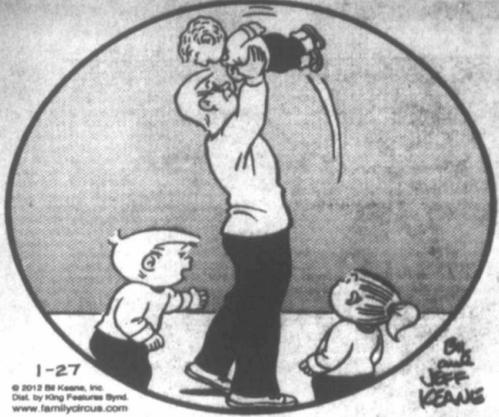
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By **Bill Keane**



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"I'm not sure whether Daddy does that 'cause he likes us or is just tryin' to build his muscles."

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012:

This year avoid power plays and conflicts. You often could be disappointed by others' reactions. Learn not to rely on this type of feedback. You have the ability to be spontaneous, quick-witted and dynamic. Don't allow others to stop you. If you are single, you could be attracted to someone who is not emotional available. Look within to decide if this is a repeating pattern. If you are attached, the two of you need to agree to disagree. Make different opinions an asset to creating better ideas. **ARIES** knows how to help you out of the doldrums.

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)
★★★★ Your ability to energize and get going marks your decisions. Others naturally want to go off with you on an adventure. Make choices that suit you. A friend comes up with an exciting idea, which you will pounce on. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Take some time off from the grueling pace. Though it might not be OK in your mind to cancel or change plans, someone else does it with ease. A certain amount of upset surrounds this situation. Stop rather than react. Tonight: Take it slow and easy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your ability to lighten up a situation takes over. An awkward moment is avoided because of your finesse. A friend plays an instrumental role in what occurs. Tonight: You are the party!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your skill and ability to get past an immediate snafu helps clear the way for a very important event or happening. You will assume the lead. Note what your sense of responsibility might be creating in your life. Check in with an older parent or friend. Tonight: The lead actor.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might have difficulty coming to terms with an associate or friend. This person might have done a total reversal, causing a problem when you least expected it. Be smart and let go; let it be the other person's issue. Tonight:

Try a movie or listen to jazz.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might want to look at a situation with new eyes. What you are hearing could surprise even you. A partner could do something so stunning that you have to catch your breath. A child or loved one could be complicating matters. Tonight: Follow another person's lead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You might not be sure of yourself. If you have an opportunity to clear out a problem with a family member, please do. Touch base with a friend, and make plans to meet halfway, if not today, then soon. Tonight: Surround yourself with music.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Clearly a little exercise hurts no one, and you could gain from making it more of a habit. Choose an activity that works with your daily life. You might not be sure which way to go with a project or a key matter. Tonight: Don't read more into someone's mood than exists.

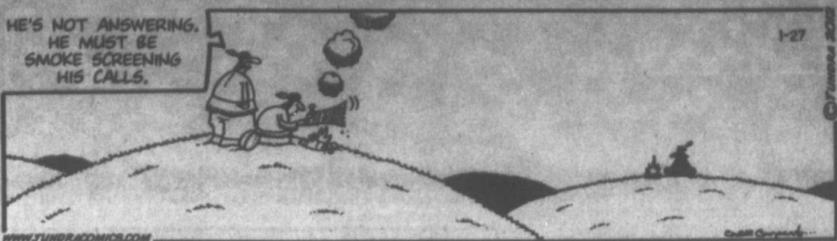
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ What you see occurring could surprise you. Rather than stand back, be willing to take a risk. You could have a ball. Use special care when dealing with your finances. A mistake could cause a big problem. Tonight: Where the fun lies.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might want to grab an opportunity and move on it. If you do, you might disappoint various people. Think about what you are doing before you leap into action. Others might be very challenging and disagreeable. Tonight: For now, stay close to home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Catch up with a close relative. He or she might have some fun news. A neighbor also might want to talk. Clear out these conversations before you make plans, as they could impact your choices. Maintain your sense of humor with others. Tonight: Join a friend for dinner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Extremes could be costly in more than the obvious way. A friend does a very strange maneuver, forcing you to look at a situation differently. He or she pressures you to agree with him or her. Give yourself space to think and decide. Tonight: Accept an invitation out.

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 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ROBERT WARD CURRY, Deceased, were issued on January 24, 2012, in Docket No. 9896 pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas to: DONALD ROBERT CURRY and JOHN STEWART CURRY. Claims are required to be presented within the time and manner prescribed by law in care of Don R. Lane, attorney for the estate's representatives, P.O. Box 1781, Pampa, TX 79066-1781. DATED the 24th day of January, 2012
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1-27 CRYPTOQUOTE

K Q P T P E P D W T O F T P Q W L

F I I P T B P B H P, J G D O G F D W J L P

H O L F C Y L F Q J U Q G Q W G G Q P

F I I P T L P N W T T F G D P W N Q J G.

— D P T P B P L N W D G P L

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Sports

Harvesters look back at 2011 season during banquet

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters entered their season opening game against Iowa Park last August as a unified team. Wednesday night at M.K. Brown Auditorium, the Harvesters united with their families, friends and supporters celebrated the team's accomplishments at the 2012 football banquet.

"The thing that I remember about you is that it would have been easy for you to fold up your tent and say that's enough," head coach Heath Parker said to his team. "None of you will forget the week after that. When none of us were very happy about that, standing out there with crazy Coach Parker in 20 degrees, wind blowing 25 miles per hour and ice pellets the size of golf balls hitting us in the face, you practiced harder and more physical that day than I've ever seen you practice."

One senior from each position group talked about their teammates and position group.

"Ryne Richardson finally scored that defensive touchdown he wanted to score for two years," senior linebacker Daniel Hulsey said. "I looked over to the sideline, there was coach (Tad) Smith jumping like a lunatic and swinging his arms like he couldn't believe what happened."

"If you are thinking that you might not want to play next year, think long and hard about it," senior Latigo Collins said. "If you don't, you will probably regret it."

Senior tight end and lineman Sam Cain presented the senior class and said despite their 4-6 record they stayed united.

"None of us talked bad about each other or wished bad seasons in the future or anything negative about the program," Cain said. "If people look at our 4-6 season and see anything or not, this 2011 senior class left a legacy. It wasn't in wins but what a team should be, and that's a pack of brothers."

Pampa entered 2011 with the motto "Believe and Become." Parker talked about how his team accomplished that in the season finale against Dalhart.

"You beat a 7-2 team that looked like they had a defense that no one could move the ball against," Parker said. "You dominated them and wore them out physically. You played the best football game in a long time. Won 32-23 as you walked off the field to end your senior year."

The coaches handed out awards starting with academic achievement. Junior Ryan Smith and Collins won Academic All-District. Smith and Collins maintained an A average in every class during football season. Collins and Cain won the Helmet award for finishing in the top 10 percent of their class.

The Harvesters have four awards that are voted on by the players. Hulsey won the Vance Bruce "Spirit of the Harvester" award for having the most positive attitude and led the team by example and actions. Senior defensive back and wide receiver Joseph Vizcaino won the Casey Trimble Persistence Award for not allowing personal adversity to hold him back and continuously improved throughout the year and career. Senior offensive lineman and linebacker Trevor Smith won the El Norma/GT Award for showing leadership. Senior lineman Schrade Thompson won the Fighting Heart Award for displaying courage, desire and determination.

Besides, the football team, the trainers, filmers and cheerleaders received recognition.

"This year we had to set up practice at three different places at once, which caused me to give the coaches dirty looks," athletic trainer Ashley Ellis said. "We figured out to make it run. It was so nice to trust them to set things up and put them in charge of situations."

"They loaded film up to huddle for students and parents to watch film at home, sometimes the night of the game," coach Byron May said of the student filmers.

"We had an awesome year at camp this year," cheerleading coach Sandee Stokes said. "We took away every award at that camp that they had. We are proud of the girls for that."

At the beginning of the banquet, the junior varsity and freshman coaches talked about their teams and season.

"The best thing for me about freshman football is our numbers," coach Matt Embry said. "One thing we enjoyed this year is when we lined up to play another team, you look at our sideline and looked at their sideline, We had double the kids they had."

"They worked hard every day," coach Dennis Doughty said of the JV football team. "They achieved some great things and made improvements all the time."



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Sam Cain speaks about his fellow senior teammates and the time they spent together as Harvesters. Cain said the seniors' legacy was being united.

Pampa swimming teams seek 13th consecutive district titles

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

On the back of senior Spencer Estes' letterman's jacket, he has three patches that show the district championships he helped the Pampa swimming team win. After Saturday, Estes hopes he will get another patch to complete his jacket as the boys and girls swim teams seek their 13th straight district title Friday and Saturday in Lubbock.

Estes said both teams are favored to win.

"All of our seniors are top seeds in each event," Estes said. "I'm top seed in the 50 free and the 100 back and the two relays I'm in. Kendle's (Ramey) top in the 500 and her two relays. J.T. (Brown) is top in the 100 breast and Morgan (Graef) is to."

Head coach Edward Garvin said he wants to make sure his team avoids silly mistakes.

"I've been telling my team to keep it safe," Garvin said. "We don't want DQ's."

This year's seniors will be the 10th straight senior class to win district all four years. Senior Kendle Ramey said

the team has talked about adding to its record.

"It's exciting," Ramey said. "I'm looking forward to showing people how hard we worked."

Garvin said his medley relays have been strong this season.

"The girls medley relay team is probably the strongest since I've been here," Garvin said. "Our guys 200 and 400 relay for the guys was at 1:41, which is nine seconds from our school record. ...I think at regionals we will be top three or four with that."

Pampa will compete against Caprock, Palo Duro, Lubbock Estacado and Seminole. Senior Karl Pfitzner said their district rivals are good.

"They are strong," Pfitzner said. "We just have to keep our lead."

Ramey said she is confident they will win.

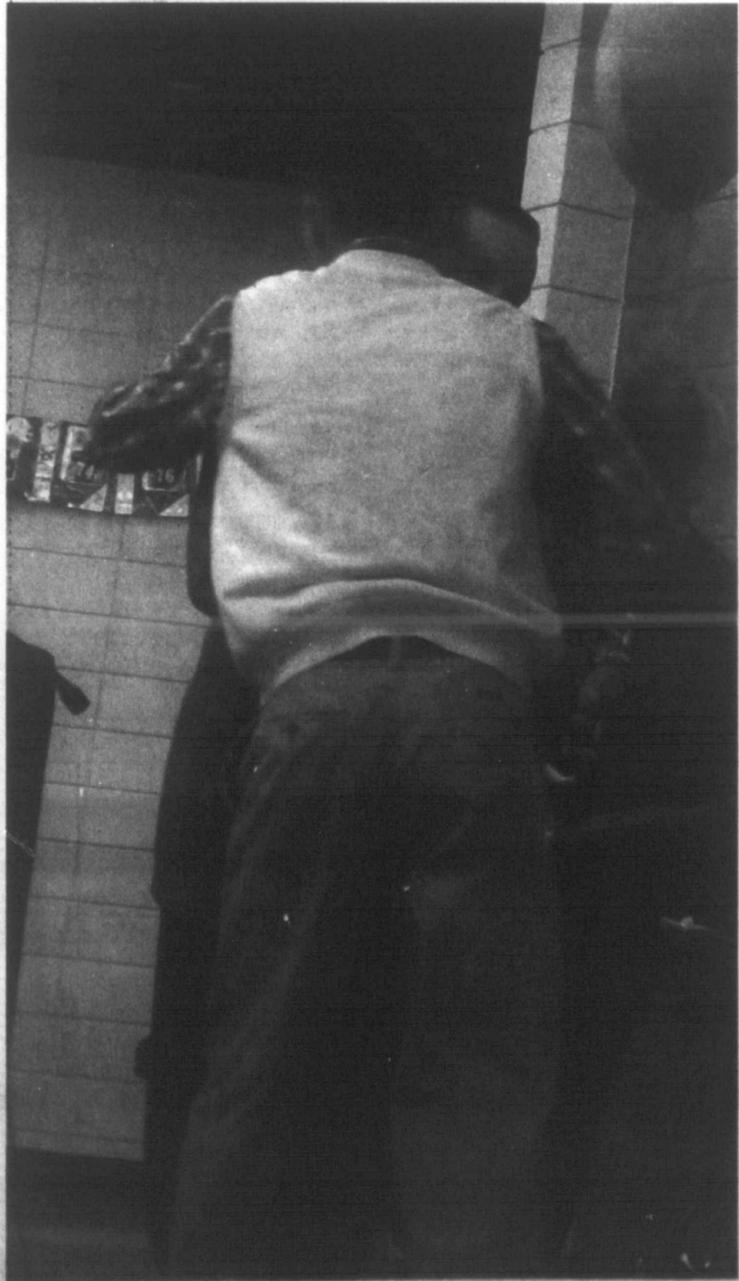
"If everything goes as planned, it will be won," Ramey said.

Garvin said he hopes the team returns successful.

"Hopefully we will come back from Lubbock with two district trophies," Garvin said.

Support the Harvesters and Lady Harvesters

Come support the Lady Harvesters and Harvesters as they take on Borger. The basketball booster club is giving away 500 free "gold-out" shirts start at 5:45. The club is holding a silent auction. The girls tip-off at 6 p.m. followed by the boys at 7:30 p.m.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Joseph Vizcaino receives a hug from head coach Heath Parker after winning the Casey Trimble Persistence Award at the football banquet.

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Sports

ANOTHER IN THE BOOKS



staff photo by Andrew Glover

TOP: Cheerleading sponsor Sandee Stokes talks about the varsity cheerleading squad during the football banquet. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Head coach Heath Parker talks about the team. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Senior Devin Coleman (right) shakes hands with defensive coordinator Stacey Alexander after presenting him a picture of the linebackers.

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