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The PAMPA NEWS

TODAY IN SPORTS



Friday, Jan. 20, 2012

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Volume 107 • No. 237

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Home How-to
Avoid common wallpapering problems | p5

Final tune-up
PHS wrestling to take on district foes in dual | p8

Executive director Weaver resigns from Pampa Chamber

■ *Cites differing goals with Chamber at large, will remain in post until February*

MOLLIE BRYANT
mbryant@thepampanews.com

Joe Weaver turned in his resignation from the the position of executive director of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, tendering the resignation

during the Chamber's board meeting that morning and announcing it to chamber members in an email.

Weaver will remain at the chamber until February 15, and attributed his decision to differing goals between himself and the chamber.

"In an age of rapidly changing technology, communication, and culture, I have sought to effect progress and change," said Weaver in a letter to the board. "I have sought to increase the visibility of the Chamber in this community, and to share the positive aspects of Pampa with the larger world."

"It has become ever more apparent that the chamber - maybe the community at large - does not desire this. Thus, my goals are inconsistent with the practices of the organization, and I cannot in good

conscience remain."

During Weaver's time with the Chamber, the organization, among other things, reinstated the Business of the Year and established the Pampa Young Professionals, a group which reflected Weaver's larger goal of recruiting new and younger people to become active with the Chamber.

"I have really tried to get younger people involved, in the belief that if we don't, we need to just close the doors,"

WEAVER cont. on page 3

CITY CLEANUP



staff photo by Mollie Bryant

Autumn Schaub, Recreation Coordinator of the City of Pampa, paints over graffiti at the skate park. Schaub noted a recent surge of vandalism around city facilities as of late.

United Way at 87 percent of fund goal

ARNIE AURELLANO
editor@thepampanews.com

The Pampa United Way campaign, which had been extended into the new year after the group couldn't meet its fundraising goal by the end of 2011, is 87 percent of the way to its target, said Katrina Bigham, executive administrator of the United Way, on Thursday.

The United Way has raised \$268,432, or \$41,568 short of its \$310,000. That includes large recent donations from the Gray Pampa Foundation (\$10,000) and first-time givers Specialty Welding (\$10,000 from the company and another \$5,800 from employees). For the first time, Bigham said, the Toyota corporate office has also agreed to match a \$5,000 donation from Culberson Stowers, Inc.

"We've had some big gifts come in," Bigham said. "We're not there yet, but (the contributions) are starting to come in."

Bigham said that there are still two local companies that will have United Way funding drives internally, and others have told her that they would send a pledge if they knew the goal was not met.

SHORTAGE cont. on page 3

FSA program sign-ups Monday

■ *Programs act as safety nets when commodity prices dip below market value*

ARNIE AURELLANO
editor@thepampanews.com

Sign-ups for a pair of the United States Department of Agriculture's financial assistance programs for farmers will begin next week, said Matthew Street, executive director of the Gray County USDA Farm Service Agency.

Interested producers can sign up for the 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program on

Monday.

Producers are eligible to participate in the DCP if they grow any of a list of eligible commodities decided by the USDA, including wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long- and medium-grain rice, soybeans, oilseeds and peanuts. They must also annually report the use of the farm's cropland acreage and satisfy planting flexibility requirements, as well as comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements on all of

FSA cont. on page 3

Perry withdraws from GOP race

■ *Texas governor throws support behind Gingrich after ending flagging campaign*

N O R T H CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry on Thursday dropped out of the race for the Republican presidential nomination and endorsed Newt Gingrich, adding a fresh layer of unpredictability to the campaign two days before the South Carolina primary.

"Newt's not perfect, but

who among us is?" Perry said. He called the former House speaker a "conservative visionary" best suited to replace Barack Obama in the White House.

While the ultimate impact of Perry's decision was unclear, it reduced the number of conservative challengers to Mitt Romney. The decision

also reinforced the perception that Gingrich is the candidate on the move in the final hours of the South Carolina campaign, and that front-runner Romney is struggling to hold onto his lead there.

Perry had scarcely finished speaking when Gingrich issued a statement welcoming the

PERRY cont. on page 3

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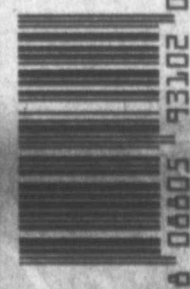
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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 59 Low 26	High 53 Low 36	High 57 Low 31

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59. Wind chill values between 27, and 37 early. West wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 36. Breezy, with a south wind 20 to 25 mph becoming west. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57. Breezy, with a northwest wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 31. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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Have you made yours yet?
 The Executive Board of Pampa Chamber of Commerce is extending the deadline for nominations for **Pampa's Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year to Feb 1st.**
 Nomination forms at the Chamber Office, 200 N. Ballard
Pampa Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet March 1
 Tickets available at Chamber

Canada mulls alternatives to nixed pipeline

TORONTO (AP) — Canada is looking at alternatives for exporting its oil since U.S. President Barack Obama announced he was blocking a pipeline from Alberta to Texas.

A pipeline executive said Thursday that the company was weighing whether to build a segment of the line — from Oklahoma to Texas — that wouldn't require U.S. State Department approval. And government officials said Canada would push harder for a pipeline to the Pacific Coast, where oil could be shipped to China.

At the same time, Canadian officials said, they are hopeful the 1,700-mile (2,740-kilometer) Keystone XL pipeline will be built.

Alberta Premier Alison Redford, the leader of the Canadian province that has the world's third-largest reserves of oil, said that while Canada is disappointed at Obama's decision, the government believes Obama has made it clear the U.S. would consider a new Keystone XL pipeline application with a new routing.

Obama called Prime Minister Stephen Harper to explain that the decision on Wednesday was not on the merits of the pipeline but rather on the "arbitrary nature" of a Feb. 21 deadline set by Republican legislators as part of a tax measure he signed, Harper's office said.

"The fact that the president has said that the decision was not based on the merits we take as a signal that there is an opportunity to make a decision that is in the national interest that allows the project to go ahead," Redford told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Calgary-based TransCanada

Corp., which proposed the pipeline, said Thursday it was considering building the pipeline in segments, with the first connecting an existing pipeline in Oklahoma to refineries in Texas.

The Obama administration had suggested development of an Oklahoma-to-Texas line to alleviate an oil glut at a Cushing, Oklahoma, storage hub.

"If our shippers are interested in building that portion of the pipeline (first), we would look at that," TransCanada President and CEO Russ Girling told The Associated Press in an interview.

Obama's rejection of Keystone XL "clearly gives flexibility to do that," Girling said. He emphasized that the company had made no decisions.

U.S. officials have said that building the pipeline in sections could speed up the process since the U.S. State Department would not be involved if the pipeline does not cross the U.S.-Canada border.

Girling's remarks were in contrast to a statement TransCanada issued on Wednesday declaring it would reapply for a presidential permit to build the full pipeline. Girling said the company still expects to reapply, but "will take our time for how to refile it."

He said a new route that avoids environmentally sensitive areas of Nebraska should be made public in a matter of weeks.

In Washington, the proposed \$7 billion pipeline has become a political hot potato.

Republicans — who earlier put the president in the awkward posi-

tion of having to make a decision on it before Feb. 21 — now hope to force Obama to deal with it yet again before next November's presidential election. He wants to put it off beyond that.

Republicans are looking to drive a wedge between Obama and two key Democratic constituencies. Some labor unions support the pipeline as a job creator, while environmentalists fear it could lead to an oil spill disaster.

The Alberta-to-Texas pipeline proposed by TransCanada would carry 800,000 barrels of oil a day from Alberta across six U.S. states to the Texas Gulf Coast, which has numerous refineries.

Natural Resource Minister Joe Oliver said it's clear the process is not yet over and said Canada is hopeful the pipeline will be accepted on its merits.

Redford said Obama's decision adds urgency to Enbridge's proposed pipeline to the Pacific Coast of British Columbia that would allow Canadian oil to be shipped to Asia for the first time.

The project is undergoing a regulatory review in Canada.

"Asian markets are a very viable alternative. I say alternative, I probably shouldn't. It's not an either or situation. There's an opportunity here for us to grow our markets in both directions and we'd like to be able to do that," Redford said.

Canadian officials see the pipeline to the Pacific coast as critical as Canada seeks to diversify its energy customer base beyond the United States, which Canada relies on for **PIPELINE** cont. on page 5

Obituaries

Leona M. Sanders, 95

Leona M. Sanders, 95, died January 19, 2012, in Pampa.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, January 21, 2012, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Norman Rushing, pastor of Central Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, January 21, 2012, at Erick Cemetery in Erick, Okla., with Bro. Charlie Floyd, pastor of Texola Baptist Church in Texola, Okla., officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Sanders was born March 14, 1916, in Erick, Okla. As a young woman, she worked for West Oak Industries in Erick for over 20 years. She had been a resident of Erick for 76 years, moving to Pampa in 1992. Leona was a former member of First Baptist Church of Erick where she played the piano and organ for over 50 years. She was a current member of Central Baptist Church of Pampa. In her spare time, Leona enjoyed working in her garden and raising irises. She will be remembered as a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and her last words before her death were, "I want to soar to glory land."

Survivors include a daughter, Darla Lowrance and husband Monte of Pampa; a son, Gail Sanders and wife Dianna of McKinney; three granddaughters, Sandra Dean and husband Steve of Germany, Sharon Kirkpatrick of Watonga, Okla., and Stephanie Blakley and husband Lance of McKinney; a grandson, Steve Sanders and wife Tonya of Coppel; nine great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Leona was preceded in death



Sanders

by her parents; and a sister, Reba Mann.

Memorials may be made to Central Baptist Church, 513 E. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065, or First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1243, Erick, OK 73645.

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

Idella Giblin, 90

Idella Giblin, 90, died January 18, 2012, in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Giblin was born January 23, 1921, in Stonington, Colo. She married Glenn Giblin on September 1, 1942, in Perry, Okla. He preceded her in death on April 9, 1993. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1962. She was a member of Hobart Baptist Church and Pampa Senior Citizens Center. Idella was an Avon representative, a member of the Home Demonstration Club and a homemaker. She loved gardening, fishing and camping.

Survivors include two daughters, Marilyn Keating of Pampa and Lynnett Giblin and partner Kaye Morgan of Baltimore, Md.; two sisters, Juanita Jarboe of Winfield, Kan. and Mamie Cole of Cedar Vale, Kan.; a brother, Norman Russell of Kansas City, Mo., a grandson, Glenn Keating and fiancée Gail Barrett of Pampa. Idella was preceded in death by a brother, Lawrence Russell.

Memorials may be made to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

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



Giblin

For the record

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24 hour period ending Thursday, January 19 at 7 a.m.

Wednesday, January 18

Rudy Angel Rodriguez, 17, was arrested by police on charges of possession or delivery of drug paraphernalia, evading arrest, possession of marijuana, failure to attend school and failure to appear in court.

Michael Seth Heiskell, 34, was arrested by police for injury to a child, disabled, or elderly person.

Marvin Monrow Finney III, 36, was arrested by police for capias pro fine times one.

Dale Andrew Rasmussen, 31, was arrested by DPS officers for theft by check.

Thursday, January 19
 Paige Hope Willingham, 20, was arrested by police for driving under the influence.

Derek Paul Kindle, 21, was arrested by police for disorderly conduct involving language and public intoxication.

Joshua Powell Wheeler, 47, was arrested by police for public intoxication.

Gray County Livestock Show & Sale

The show starts Saturday, January 21st at 8:00 am at the Clyde Carruth.

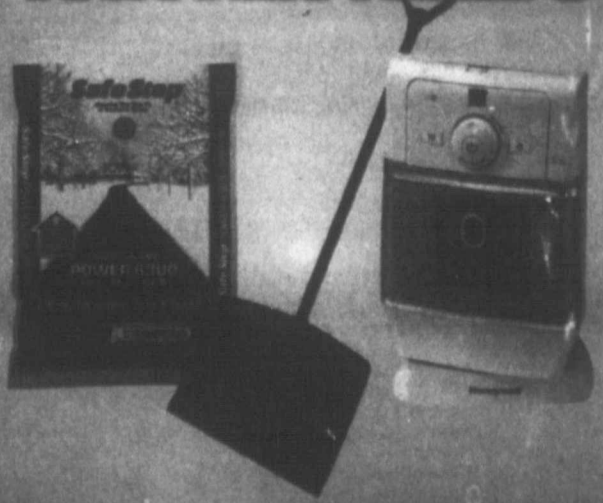
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Voting Rights Act appeal heard

WASHINGTON (AP) - Appeals court judges are showing concern about whether to overrule Congress' determination that southern states still need federal election monitoring to protect minority voting rights.

Alabama's Shelby County is appealing a lower court decision. The court said governments with a history of discrimination need federal approval to change even minor election procedures under the federal Voting Rights Act.

An attorney for the county argues the South has changed and says extraordinary oversight is no longer needed.

But two of three judges on the appellate panel asked why they shouldn't defer to Congress. They point out Congress renewed that provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act in 2006, after finding that discrimination still exists, which the district judge endorsed.

The arguments came Thursday in federal appeals court in Washington.

Cielo selling planned wind farm

VEGA (AP) - An Austin company has agreed to sell its more than \$320 million Texas Panhandle wind farm project to a California company.

EnXco and Cielo Wind Power LP on Wednesday announced the deal for the Spinning Spur wind farm in Oldham County, near Vega. Construction on the 70-turbine complex, about 30 miles west of Amarillo, is scheduled to begin in June. The plant is projected to begin operating by December.

The Amarillo Globe-News reports that terms of the sale are private, but construction costs should be about \$2 million per megawatt, or \$322 million.

The generated electricity will be sold to Southwestern Public Service Co., a subsidiary of Xcel Energy.

San Diego-based enXco is a unit of a French company, EDF Energies Nouvelles.

Man gets life for 1989 assault

DALLAS (AP) - A North Texas jury has sentenced a man to life in prison over an aggravated sexual assault committed 23 years ago.

Robert Watterfield was sentenced Thursday, a day after his conviction in the sexual assault of a 7-year-old girl in 1989. He's also charged in the assault of a 9-year-old girl that year.

Watterfield was implicated in the crimes after DNA tests led to the exoneration of another man in a separate sexual assault case. Stephen Brodie had served 10 years in prison before his release in 2010.

Investigators tested DNA from other cases related to the so-called "North Dallas Rapist" and linked Watterfield to two of them.

4 indicted on hate crime charges

HOUSTON (AP) - A federal grand jury in Houston has indicted four men on hate crime charges over the August beating of a black man at a bus stop.

The Justice Department on Thursday announced the indictment of Charles Cannon, Michael McLaughlin, Brian Kerstetter and Joseph Staggs.

All are charged with violating the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Investigators say three of the men have white supremacist gang tattoos.

The indictment says the victim was punched and kicked while waiting for a bus, while being taunted by racial slurs.

The four suspects were arrested at the scene following a 911 call. If convicted, each could face up to 10 years in prison.

Further details on the defendants, including whether they have attorneys, were not immediately released.

Guilty plea for ex-union leader

HOUSTON (AP) - A former leader of an engineering organization in Houston has pleading guilty to spending union money on luxury trips and to remodel his house.

Prosecutors in Houston say 65-year-old Ronald Witt of Galveston pleaded guilty Thursday to conspiracy to embezzle union funds.

Sentencing has been set for April 23 for Witt, who faces up to five years in prison.

Investigators say Witt forged records while business manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 450, serving as the group's primary officer. The amount of embezzled money was not immediately released.

The investigation was prompted by the International Union of Operating Engineers, which took over the Houston local when Witt resigned in 2009.

Local 450, funded mainly by dues, represents about 1,000 members of the crane rigging and hoisting industry.

Texas school cancels sports

PREMONT (AP) - An academically struggling South Texas school district has decided to cancel student sports and use the money for improving education.

Trustees of the Premont Independent School District last week signed an agreement with the Texas Education Agency allowing the underperforming district to stay open through December.

Premont is a town of nearly 2,700, located 65 miles southwest of Corpus Christi. The district has about 700 students.

The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported Wednesday that Premont in 2011 earned the state's lowest rating, of unacceptable, for the second time in three years.

Perry

endorsement. "I ask the supporters of Governor Perry to look at my record of balancing the budget, cutting spending, reforming welfare, and enacting pro-growth policies to create millions of new jobs and humbly ask for their vote," Gingrich said.

Romney reacted by praising Perry for running "a campaign based upon love of country and conservative principles" and saying he "has earned a place of prominence as a leader in our party."

Perry said he decided to suspend his campaign after concluding "there is no viable path forward for me."

Spokesman Ray Sullivan said money was also a factor: "We have spent the bulk of our funds." Perry chose to drop out before Saturday's primary because he wanted to "respect" the state's voters by giving them a choice among other candidates, Sullivan said.

Perry made his decision Wednesday night and began telling staff and supporters, spokesman Ray Sullivan said. The Texas governor called Gingrich with the news Thursday morning to inform the former House speaker of his endorsement.

Sullivan wouldn't say whether

Perry intended to hurt Romney but noted that Perry and Gingrich have a long-standing relationship and said Perry is enthusiastic about the possibility of a Gingrich presidency. But Perry will support the candidate who wins the Republican nomination, Sullivan said.

Perry's exit marked the end of a campaign that began with soaring expectations but quickly faded. He shot to the head of the public opinion polls when he announced his candidacy last summer, but a string of poor debate performances and campaign flubs soon led to a decline in support.

Weaver

he said. "In the past 12 months, we have lost... good, solid citizens. That's going to continue to happen in an aging society. We've got to recruit younger people."

The Chamber also has hosted more seminars for local businesses.

"We got into a little bit more of a business oriented workshop program," said Weaver. "We had an informative seminar on (how to deal with) counterfeit (currency). We had a Lunch and Learn about employment legalities with Underwood Law Firm. We talked about Leadership Pampa, and I hope that's going to keep going."

Weaver also worked towards promoting Pampa, both through the Chamber's website,

pampachamber.com, and through the organization's newcomer packets.

"One thing I'm excited about that we've done in the last twelve months is the Pampa (Chamber of Commerce) website," he said. "It's really a nice looking website. Members can go in and change their own information if they want to. The calendar is much easier to use, and we hope people will go in and post their events on the calendar. There are ways to advertise on the web."

"It's still a work in progress, as any good one is," he added. "We're still working on some things. If people get in and see something they think it ought to have, give us a call or an email, and we'll try to get it changed."

Weaver also expressed his pride in the Chamber's promotion of the city during his tenure. People considering a move to Pampa can now pick up a newcomer packet from the Chamber that includes the "Destination Pampa" visitor's publication, a restaurant guide and a medical services guide, among other helpful information about the town.

"I think one of the most notable things we've done is, thanks to the tourism committee, promoted Pampa a little stronger," said Weaver. "We have done a lot of printing of brochures so that they can be put in newcomer's packets, with community facts, the Woody Guthrie walk, the sculpture trail, antiques and collectable

shops and that sort of thing."

The Chamber also now offers health insurance discounts for businesses.

"One of the things I'm excited about is through the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce and United Health Care, we're able to offer discounted health insurance for businesses," said Weaver. "They've got to be a member here and an associate member in Amarillo."

Weaver said that one of his favorite parts of working with the Chamber has been visiting local businesses.

"It's been the rare business that has not been warm and welcoming," he said. "I've tried to do that, and a lot of them have given me tours. It's been a lot of fun."

Campaign

will receive the full amount of the campaign," Bigham said.

The United Way's annual fundraising campaign supports 18 agencies around Gray County that tender to needy people of all ages, from the Boy Scouts to area senior citizens centers. The United Way board had initially decided to pay out only a percentage of its allocations to donor agencies relative to the amount it had received by Dec. 31 of last year. At that time, the United Way had reached 70.5 percent of its fundraising goal, so

Bigham cut its allocations by 30 percent, she said.

If the organization continues to receive money and reach its target, the original allocations will be paid out in full.

"I'd like to thank all of the employees and companies and individuals who have donated their time and energy to raise funds," said Kenny Rigoulot, current United Way campaign chair, in light of the recent surge of donations. "(I'd also like to thank) all those who have given to support these 18 local agencies that make a pro-

found difference in our community and make it a great place to live. They make it a place where people help each other and help those in need, whether it be helping young people grow and better themselves or helping take care of people when they're getting later in life and everywhere in between.

"The United Way is here to support 18 different agencies through one donation, and people are really starting to come together," he continued. "When they heard that the campaign was coming in slow, they picked up the pace and really tried to close out the campaign and make the goal. We're excited to be at 87 percent and look forward to the time when we can say we're at 100 percent."

FSA

their land and protect all base acres from erosion.

DCP participants can elect to receive either a direct payment and/or a counter-cyclical payment. Direct payments are guaranteed and established by statute regardless of market prices, while counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices and are only issued if the prices of crops drop below a certain rate.

ACRE, on the other hand, protects farmers from the decline of market revenues when certain conditions are met for a commodity at both the state and farm level. Farms that are already enrolled in the DCP for a crop year may switch to ACRE before the end of sign-up.

Street urged Gray County producers to visit the FSA office to take advantage of the available programs, saying that the

two programs act as vital fallbacks for farmers during hard times.

"I encourage producers to make an appointment with our office to sign up for program benefits," Street said. "I would say probably 97 to 98 percent of our producers participate. It is a safety net for producers if market prices really drop. With the drought the way it was last summer and the possibility of the drought extending into this year, it provides a benefit to producers."

Participants in both DCP and ACRE must sign annual contracts to be eligible for benefits. All signatures of producers who get payments must be on file by June 1.

For more detailed information on the two programs, contact the Gray County FSA office at 806-665-6561, or visit the Texas FSA on the Web at www.fas.usda.gov/tx.

cont. from page 1

cont. from page 1

Cinema 4

Showing Friday!
Friday, January 20 through
Thursday, January 26

- 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
- The Darkest Hour (PG-13)**
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 Sat 7:30 9:45
 Sun 7:30
 Mon/Thur 7:30
- War Horse (PG-13)**
 Fri 7:00 9:45
 Sat 2:00 7:00 9:45
 Sun 2:00 7:00
 Mon/Thur 7:00
- We Bought A Zoo (PG)**
 Fri No Showings
 Sat 2:00 4:30
 Sun 2:00 4:30
 Mon/Thur No Showings

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, Jan. 20, the 20th day of 2012. There are 346 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 20, 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first chief executive to be inaugurated on Jan. 20 instead of March 4.

On this date:

In 1265, England's first representative Parliament, which included officials from districts, cities and boroughs, met for the first time.

In 1649, King Charles I of England went on trial, accused of high treason (he was found guilty and executed by month's end).

In 1887, the U.S. Senate approved an agreement to lease Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as a naval base.

In 1936, Britain's King George V died; he was succeeded by Edward VIII.

In 1942, Nazi officials held the notorious Wannsee conference, during which they arrived at their "final solution" that called for exterminating Jews.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Vice President Richard Nixon were sworn in for their second terms of office in a private Sunday ceremony (a public ceremony was held the next day).

In 1961, John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th president of the United States.

In 1981, Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

In 1986, the United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In 2001, George Walker Bush became America's 43rd president after one of the most turbulent elections in U.S. history.

In 2009, Barack Obama was sworn in as the nation's 44th, as well as first African-American, president.

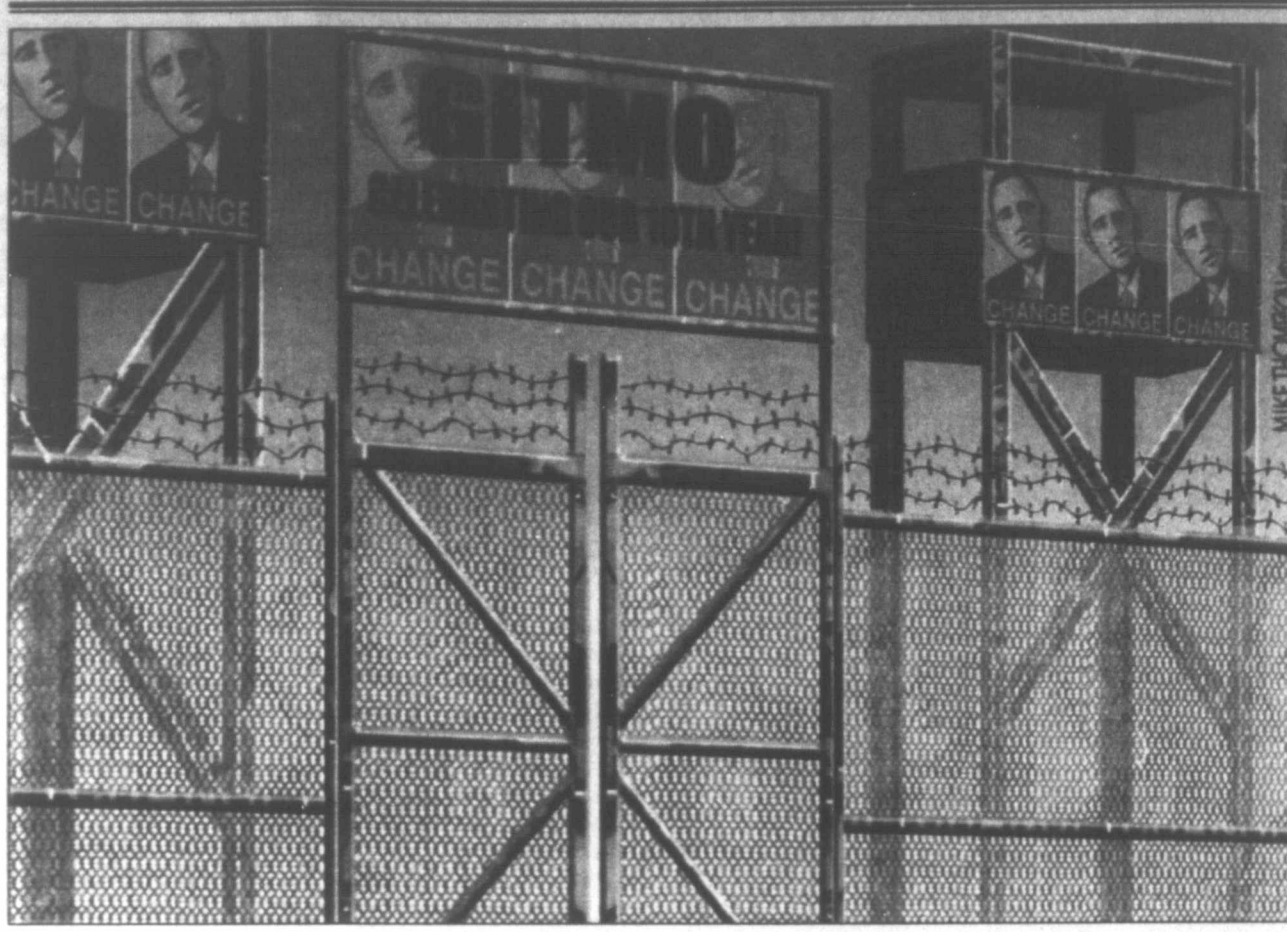
Ten years ago: Two Marines were killed, five injured when a U.S. military helicopter crashed in Afghanistan.

Five years ago: Twenty-five U.S. troops were killed in Iraq, including 12 in a helicopter crash in Baghdad and five in a sophisticated sneak attack in Karbala.

One year ago: In a luncheon speech to American business executives in Washington, Chinese President Hu Jintao denied his country was a military threat despite its arms buildup and pressed the U.S. for closer cooperation between the global powers.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Slim Whitman is 88. Comedian Arte Johnson is 83. Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin is 82. Singer Eric Stewart is 67. Movie director David Lynch is 66. Country-rock musician George Grantham (Poco) is 65. Actor Daniel Benzali is 62. Rock musician Paul Stanley (KISS) is 60. Rock musician Ian Hill (Judas Priest) is 60. Comedian Bill Maher is 56. Actor Lorenzo Lamas is 54. Actor James Denton is 49. Country singer John Michael Montgomery is 47. Actor Rainn Wilson is 45. Actress Stacey Dash is 45. TV personality Melissa Rivers is 44. Actor Reno Wilson is 43. Singer Edwyn McCain is 42. Actor Skeet Ulrich is 42. Rock musician Rob Bourdon (Linkin Park) is 33. Actor Evan Peters is 25.

Thought for Today: "Whatever people in general do not understand, they are always prepared to dislike; the incomprehensible is always the obnoxious."



Ex-wife, Perry exit roil GOP race

CHARLES BABINGTON
Analysis - Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - For months, the big question in the GOP presidential race was whether Mitt Romney would falter if one rival could consolidate the anti-Romney feelings of many hard-core conservatives.

The answer seemed a step closer Thursday in South Carolina, when Texas Gov. Rick Perry quit the race and endorsed Newt Gingrich, who already was thought to be rising. Also helping Gingrich are Rick Santorum's apparent troubles here, partly fueled by harsh TV attack ads aired by yet another candidate, Ron Paul.

But the political fates were equally cruel and kind Thursday, leaving Saturday's primary in as much doubt as ever.

Just when Gingrich, the former House speaker, was accepting Perry's nod, ABC News aired portions of an interview with his second wife, Marianne. She said Gingrich had asked for "an open marriage" so he could continue his affair with a House staffer, now his third wife, Callista.

The comments aren't likely to go down well with South Carolina's evangelical voters, who made up 60

percent of the GOP electorate here four years ago.

Santorum, the former senator from Pennsylvania, has been trying to woo those voters. Even with last week's embrace by a national group of social conservative leaders, however, he has shown modest progress, on the surface, at least.

Meanwhile, just when Romney seemed poised to coast into Saturday's election with a badly fractured opposition, he got two doses of bad news along with Perry's endorsement of Gingrich.

One was minor: It's possible that the former Massachusetts governor narrowly lost the Jan. 3 Iowa caucus to Santorum rather than having won it by eight votes. The true outcome may never be known.

More damaging for Romney, his campaign acknowledged that some of his enormous personal wealth is invested in the Cayman Islands, a popular tax shelter. Aides said Romney didn't use the islands for that purpose. But the admission is certain to raise more questions about a touchy subject for Romney: his personal fortune and frequent tone-deafness on money matters.

He has acknowledged that he pays an effective tax rate of about 15 percent, lower than what he would pay if he earned a regular paycheck

like many Americans. He once challenged Perry to a \$10,000 bet over a disputed detail during a televised debate. And Romney has said he earned "not very much" by making speeches, although the total was \$373,327 over 12 months.

Romney has grudgingly said he will release his tax returns in April. The Cayman hubbub will add to the pressure.

A number of veteran GOP campaign strategists say the campaign's increased confusion and disarray doesn't change Romney's front-runner status, even if he might need more time, and more states, than he had hoped to lock up the nomination.

"All of this really just still points to a Romney nomination," said long-time Republican adviser Terry Holt. South Carolina will be close, he said. But in the long run, "Newt is unelectable," Holt said.

Gingrich's fans will argue with that. But other unaligned GOP strategists agree Romney still has the edge.

"I still think it's advantage Romney, given that Santorum and Gingrich will split some votes and Romney can take the rest," said Brian Nick, who has lived in South Carolina and is monitoring the race. **RACE** cont. on page 5A

S.C. hoping to pick the next President

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. -- The crowd at the Fox News/Wall Street Journal debate in Myrtle Beach was feisty, with whoops and cheers for Newt Gingrich, Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum and Rick Perry, though not so much for Ron Paul.

But it wasn't nearly as feisty as the crowd that forced the shutdown of the 1860 Democratic National Convention in Charleston before it could choose a nominee, after which the party split into two conventions elsewhere and nominated Northern and Southern candidates.

South Carolina bet wrong when it seceded from the Union in 1860 and fired on Fort Sumter in 1861 -- the hall where the 1860 convention was held was burned down by Union troops in 1865 -- and ever since South Carolina has not wanted to bet wrong again.

In that spirit Strom Thurmond, who waged a third-party candidacy against Harry Truman in 1948, two decades later backed Richard Nixon against Ronald Reagan at the 1968 Republican National Convention. Nixon and other Republicans won five of the next six presidential elections.

Two decades after that convention, Thurmond aide Lee Atwater got South Carolina to establish an early Republican presidential primary, and it has been crucial in selecting the Republican nominee ever since. Many South Carolinians hope they will do that again in the primary Saturday.

"South Carolina picks presidents," said Republican state Chairman Chad Connelly in a video aired amid the Fox News/WSJ/SCGOP debate Monday night. "The winner Saturday night," said Faith and Freedom Coalition head Ralph Reed at its jammed tent meeting the afternoon before the debate, "will be standing on the West Front of the Capitol taking the oath of office." All of which tends to favor Mitt

Romney. He got louder cheers than Santorum or Paul, and Gingrich got boos when he attacked Romney at the Faith and Freedom tent and at the debate. Romney has been leading in South Carolina polls this month, with Gingrich gaining only slightly and Santorum surging after Iowa and then falling back a bit after New Hampshire.

Both Santorum and Gingrich depict themselves as bold conservative alternatives to Romney. Santorum says he's stronger because he beat Gingrich in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Gingrich says he is because he's polling better in South Carolina, where most voters remember his stint as speaker of the House and where Santorum has not done the intensive campaigning that impressed Iowans.

But neither has found a wedge issue that undermines the front-runner. In Monday's debate Gingrich edged away from his attacks on Romney's business record. Santorum took the alpha male role over Romney in one heated interchange, but in support of a proposal -- voting rights for released felons -- not popular with South Carolina Republicans.

Romney has been the target of negative ads run on behalf of Gingrich, Santorum and Perry, and the pro-Romney super PAC has been running negative ads, as well. Santorum has been hit as a "big government conservative" in ads run Paul, who repeated his charge in the debate.

The debate moderators spoke of negative ads in disapproving tones, but South Carolina voters don't seem

mind. As South Carolina-born Irew Jackson taught, if you believe in a cause, you should be willing to fight for it.

This can be carried too far. Perry, making a defensible point in the debate about federal intrusion on state issues, said South Carolina was "at war" with the federal government, which was once true but hasn't been since 1865.

Santorum more interestingly pointed to a Brookings Institution study that showed that almost everyone who graduates from high school, gets a job, and marries before having children stays out of poverty -- but that the Obama administration prohibits programs for at-risk girls from teaching abstinence or promoting marriage.

But this, like Gingrich's spirited and convincing defense of his proposal for janitorial work for high schoolers, did little to distinguish his policies from Romney's. The fact is that all three of these candidates, and Perry and Paul as well, have blemishes on their records from the perspective of tea party conservatives.

Except for Paul, they also have this in common: In opposing the Obama administration, they explicitly invoke the words and principles of the Founding Fathers. The debate rift that got a standing ovation was when Gingrich talked of "the pursuit of happiness."

That history evidently still resonates. In the Revolutionary War, unlike the 1860s, South Carolinians bet on the winner. They seem likely to do so again next Saturday.



MICHAEL BARONE

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Race

cont. from page 4

from nearby Charlotte, N.C. Looking beyond South Carolina, he said, "the path to victory definitely favors Romney in places like Florida, Nevada and Michigan."

Florida, which votes Jan. 31, is a big, expensive state. Romney's superior money and organization might overwhelm anything that Gingrich or Santorum can bring to bear. Paul, the Texas congressman, rarely crops up in such conversations, because his loyal, libertarian-leaning fans are essentially a separate and limited constituency that's not up for grabs.

Nevada has many Mormons, a boon for Romney, who is Mormon. And his father, George Romney, was governor of Michigan.

If Gingrich is closing the gap on Romney in South Carolina, as some think, then small intangibles might make a difference. Rain is forecast for Saturday, and Romney's heftier get-out-the-vote operation could possibly give him a slight edge.

On the other hand, another debate was scheduled for Thursday night, in Charleston, and Gingrich has often seen bumps in his polls after such forums.

Gingrich apparently gained little traction earlier this month by attacking Romney's record at Bain Capital, a private equity firm with a record of both adding and subtracting jobs in companies it reorganized. A pro-Gingrich super PAC has essentially stopped airing its TV attack ad based on Bain.

But Gingrich may have struck a nerve in last Monday's debate when he said, "more people have been put on food stamps by Barack Obama than any president in American history." He also vowed to "help poor people learn how to get a job."

Some, including former President Jimmy Carter, said the comments were meant to strike racial chords among white conservative voters. Gingrich denied the charge, and put the debate clips in a TV ad running heavily on South Carolina stations.

It's possible that Thursday's dramas will have little impact on Saturday's voting. Holly Gatling, a former news reporter and current anti-abortion activist in the state, said she believes most voters have already made up their minds.

"I'm not sure we're going to see a big surge for anybody," she said.

As for the highly negative ads on TV, and Gingrich's ex-wife's comments, Gatling said many voters might shrug them off as nothing new. "Politics are rough and tumble in this state," she said.

By Sunday morning, the attack ads will be over, and the political and media circus will have moved on to Florida.

Pipeline

cont. from page 3

97 percent of its energy exports.

Alberta has more than 170 billion barrels of oil reserves. Daily production of 1.5 million barrels from the oil sands is expected to increase to 3.7 million in 2025. Only Saudi Arabia and Venezuela have more reserves.

Sinopec, a Chinese state-controlled oil company, has a stake in Enbridge's proposed \$5.5 billion Northern Gateway Pipeline. Chinese state-owned companies also have invested more than \$16 billion in the oil sands in the last two years.

Tens of billions more are expected to be invested in Canada's oil sands if the Pacific pipeline is built.

There is fierce environmental and aboriginal opposition to the Pacific pipeline, but Harper's government has called it a nation-building project that is crucial to the country's goal of becoming an energy super power.

Avoid common wallpapering problems

HOME HOW-TO

Dear Pat: We just moved into an older house and hung wallpaper in the kitchen. It looked good for about a month, but now it has bubbles and is coming loose at the edges? Did we perhaps get bad wallpaper? — Sheila R.

Dear Sheila: If the problems occurred in only one small area, it may have been a bad roll of wallpaper. If it is happening in many spots and along many edges, the possibility of having gotten many bad rolls of wallpaper is not likely.

The salesman and sales literature makes hanging wallpaper sound like a simpler task than it actually is. It is extremely important to follow all the manufacturer's installation instructions to the most minute detail. The first time you hang wallpaper, don't expect it to look like a professional installation.

The kitchen is a particularly difficult room to wallpaper. Kitchens generally have varying levels of humidity. When cooking a large meal, tremendous amounts of moisture are given off into the air. Also, there may be a light film of grease on the walls from years of cooking. This can be difficult to clean off thoroughly before hanging the wallpaper.

A very common error many homeowners make is selecting the wallpaper they prefer and then buying the most inexpensive adhesive on sale. It may be excellent quality adhesive, but some types of wallpaper materials and finishes require specific types of adhesive. Read the wallpaper manufacturer's instructions carefully before buying the adhesive.

The bubbles under the wallpaper may have been caused by several problems, which you should be able to avoid if and when you redo it. The most probable cause is not allowing the wallpaper to relax adequately before hanging it on the walls. The installation instructions usually indicate a specific time period to allow the wallpaper to rest between wetting it with adhesive and hanging it.

When the wallpaper first gets wet from the adhesive, it expands (relaxes) for several minutes. This is typical for most wallpaper materials. If you put it up on the wall too soon,

it will continue to relax after you think you have it flat and taut. This continued expansion, even though slight, is enough to create bubbles.

Be sure not to let it relax for too long a time period. If the wallpaper rests in that very wet condition for too long, its layers may begin to delaminate. This will not be noticeable until the wallpaper is up for a long while and it is washed. The top layer may pull loose.

Improper surface preparation may also have contributed to your problems. It is important for the wallpaper to have a clean, smooth surface to adhere to. Kitchen walls need

to be washed down thoroughly to remove any grease film. If you fixed any bad drywall joints, vacuum and wash off all drywall compound dust. An ammonia solution is a good final cleaner.

When the wall is clean and thoroughly dry, paint it with primer or sizing. Sizing is similar to a primer, and it also seals the wall surface. This makes the adhesive dry more uniformly. It also makes it much easier to clean off the old adhesive if you choose to remove the wallpaper in the future.

Tools and material required: ladder, straight edge, scissors, razor knife, water pail, brushes, squeegee, primer, cleaner, adhesive, wallpaper.

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

HOME HOW-TO

Wallpapering

Removing wallpaper is always tedious work. Some wallpapers can be stripped dry, while others will need a removal solution. Here are a few guidelines.

REMOVAL

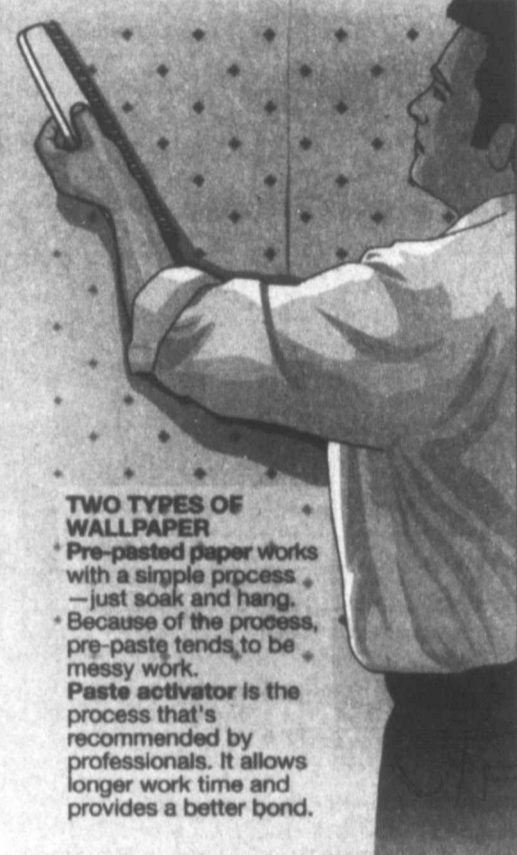
- Loosen the glue underneath the wallpaper by using a scoring tool to break through the plastic film that covers the paper.
- After perforating the wallpaper, apply the water or the paper-remover solution and let it soak for 15 minutes as the remover works.

PREPARATION

- Scrape the paper off with a broad knife. Repeat soaking and scraping.
- Remove as much of the glue residue as possible with the paper scraper, then wipe down the walls with a damp sponge.
- Rinse the walls with a neutralizing solution or with a mixture of 1 cup white vinegar mixed in 1 gallon of water.
- Paint the wall with primer before hanging wallpaper.

TWO TYPES OF WALLPAPER

- Pre-pasted paper works with a simple process — just soak and hang.
- Because of the process, pre-paste tends to be messy work. Paste activator is the process that's recommended by professionals. It allows longer work time and provides a better bond.

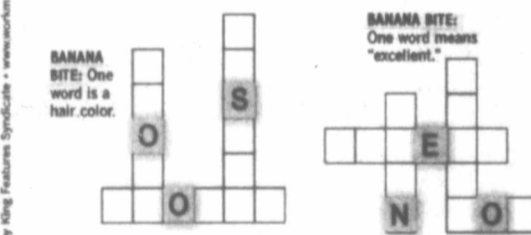


Source: www.diynetwork.com

Creators.com/Bob Kast

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.



Yesterday's Answer: VICTIM, SWATCH, LEGEND, RETAKE, TALCUM, AVATAR

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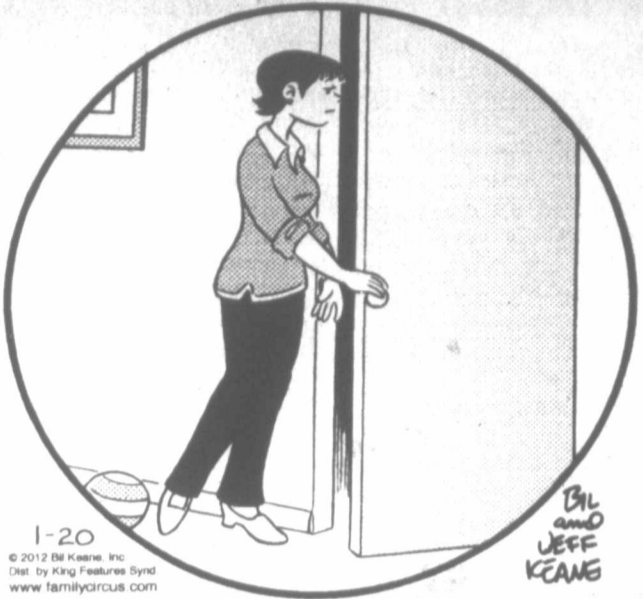
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

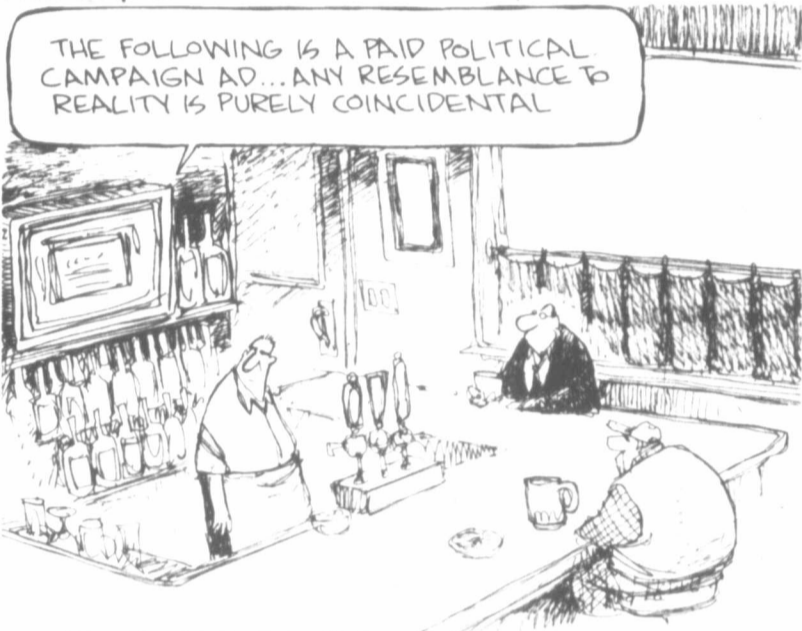


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and
JEFF
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"Don't worry, we're asleep!"

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012:
This year you greet many positive events. You often can be found cocooning emotionally, holding your feelings in. Others don't always know how to relate to you. Take the lead and get past a semi-introverted stance. Events often surprise you, pushing you into the limelight. You are known for your flexibility. If you are single, you might inadvertently choose someone who is emotionally unavailable. Careful! If you are attached, the two of you gain from weekends together without others. Re-create your honeymoon. **CAPRICORN** can be your best friend or your worst enemy.
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)
★★★★ Totally revamp your schedule, if need be. As a result, you and a loved one will be much happier. An element of the unexpected marks your new plans. Flex. You are on an adventure with twists and turns. Tonight: What starts out as a treat could become a lot more.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your efforts to see beyond the obvious help. Relaxing your mind and not overthinking could be just as important. A rested mind can get a new perspective more easily. Surround yourself with elements that help you relax. Tonight: Follow the music.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your instincts guide you in areas of uncertainty. Trust yourself. An element of the unexpected comes forward that allows greater give-and-take. A partner helps drag out this intuitive, non-intellectual part of you. Be open to the process. Tonight: Add more sparkle to a relationship.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ As a friend or partner visualizes and starts to create much more of what he or she wants, you might take a lesson from him or her. Focus on an event involving your friends. You will enjoy being surrounded by these special people. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Defer and let others make plans. You also might need to spend more time on a project, or simply catch up on sleep. The effusive Leo also can get tired and need downtime. News from a distance could be provocative at first. Tonight: Play it by ear.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You add spunk to even the most boring of tasks. No wonder people are seeking you out. Follow through on what you must do before joining others. Your sense of organization demands thoroughness, even when you are about to let go. Tonight: Let the fun begin.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ To feel as good as possible, spend more time at home. A loved one or dear friend is happy to join you wherever you are. Caring emotes if you just relax. Open up a pathway for communication between you and an erratic associate. Tonight: Add romance as only you can.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Tension mounts around a domestic issue. Clearly not everyone thinks like you do. Your availability and willingness to proceed on a different route emerges. You can be quite rigid. A discussion helps understanding grow as you gain insight into another person's motives. Tonight: Join friends at a favorite spot.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your instinct is to speak your mind. You probably shouldn't hold back, yet there is no guarantee as to how someone will respond. Whatever occurs will merge insight and creativity. Take the risk if you can handle the unexpected. Tonight: Treat time.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ The Force is with you, though you might be hesitant to act as you feel. Let go of what no longer works and proceed with confidence. Lady Luck is nearby. You will land on your feet with a reasonable risk. A child or special friend demonstrates his or her caring. Tonight: All smiles. Why not?
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ The Sun in your sign signals a period with increased magnetism and vigor. If you're not feeling as good as possible, please step back some from plans. A little care and rest will go a long way. Someone approaches you with a secret. Can you keep it? Tonight: You first.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ What you say and what you hear could have a weird disconnect. Take a cue from this type of exchange. You might need some time to resolve your mind to what is happening. Reflect and speak to a trusted adviser who rarely is wrong. Tonight: Out and about.

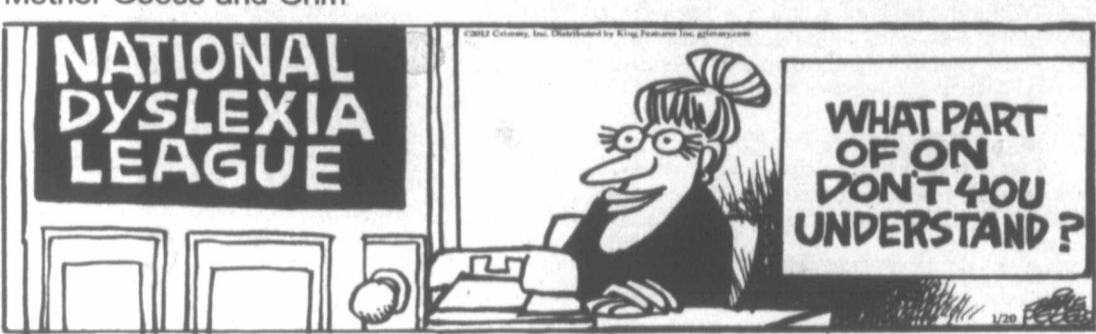
Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



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
NextEra Energy Resources 250,
Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.

BURNING ISSUES

► Daytona testing may have benefited NASCAR more than its teams. Officials experimented with a variety of setups and configurations.

► A priority for NASCAR was minimizing the incidence of tag-team drafting. The verdict from most drivers is that it may be lessened but it won't go away.

► Kevin Swindell won the Chili Bowl Nationals for Midget cars in Tulsa, Okla. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. finished ninth and Tony Stewart 10th in the feature.

► A Chili Bowl tragedy occurred away from the track when Broken Arrow, Okla., driver Donnie Ray Crawford was shot and killed in an apparent domestic dispute at his home.

► Only 32 cars participated in Daytona testing, but NASCAR President Mike Helton said he was confident that there would be enough entries to fill 43-car fields during the coming season.

► On the first day of testing, many cars sped over 200 mph at Daytona Beach with Kurt Busch posting the fastest lap of the day (206.058 mph). The Phoenix Racing driver got a little help from Regan Smith that day.

► Why didn't Richard Petty Motorsports sign Busch? "Sponsorships," Petty was quoted as saying at Daytona. "Nobody at the time wanted to pay the bill for him. That's how simple it was."

► Geoff Bodine still hopes to be in the Daytona 500 starting field. He has some sponsorship, from Luke & Associates, but no team to match it with ... yet.

► Petty has a 15-race sponsorship from Smithfield Foods for Aric Almirola in his team's No. 43 Ford. Marcos Ambrose drives the team's No. 9.

► One of the intriguing possibilities in preseason championship predictions is Brad Keselowski. When he made the Chase for the first time, he looked like someone who had been there before.

LEGENDS AND LORE

Glen Wood's Final Race

One of the five 2012 inductees into the NASCAR Hall of Fame, Glen Wood, competed as a driver for the final time on Aug. 23, 1984, at Starkey Speedway near Roanoke, Va. He won the pole but had to settle for a third-place finish in the quarter-mile dirt track. The top four finishers — Junior Johnson, Ned Jarrett, Wood and David Pearson — are all Hall of Famers. A fifth Hall of Famer was in the field, too. Richard Petty finished 15th.



WHO'S HOT AND WHO'S NOT

► **Who's hot:** David Ragan has a ride at Front Row Motorsports. ... Robby Gordon finished a creditable — and controversial — fifth in the Dakar Rally.

► **Who's not:** Jeff Burton crashed twice in as many days during Daytona testing. ... After seven years, Carl Edwards has decided not to compete in the Nationwide Series this year.



If you have a question or comment, write: NASCAR This Week, c/o The Gaston Gazette, P.O. Box 1536, Gastonia, NC 28053 or send an e-mail to mduiton@gastongazette.com. You can also send your NASCAR questions to Monte on Facebook at Facebook.com/monte-dutton and at Twitter.com/MonteDutton. Please specify you are submitting them for the NASCAR This Week page.

2012 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, '06), Tony Stewart (2001-02, '07), Denny Hamlin (2006), Jimmie Johnson (2006), 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 Laloe (1999, 2001), Matt Kenseth (2000).



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: NextEra Energy Resources 250, Daytona Int'l Speedway (2.5 mi.), 100 laps/250 miles, Daytona Beach, Fla., Feb. 24.
Last year's winner: Michael Waltrip, Toyota.
Previous winners: Waltrip (2011), T. Peters (2010), T. Bodine (2008-09), J. Sprague (2007), M. Martin (2006), B. Hamilton (2005), C. Edwards (2004), R. Crawford (2003), R. Pressley (2002), Joe Ruttman (2001), M. Wallace (2000).

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ARIC ALMIROLA

SPRINT CUP SERIES

No. 43 SMITHFIELD FOODS FORD



Aric Almirola goes from Nationwide racing and a Chevy car to Sprint Cup racing and a Ford car for 2012. The young driver knows the move will be a challenge.

Aric Is A-OK For '12

Almirola knows Cup racing will be challenging

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

Aric Almirola has a shot to compete full time at stock car racing's highest level, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series. At age 27, he has a shot to prove he can make it in Cup after distinguishing himself in the Nationwide and Camping World Truck series.

Almirola, who is of Cuban descent and from Tampa, Fla., hasn't competed in Cup since the final race of the 2010 season, when he surprisingly finished fourth in Homestead, Fla. His Cup career consists of 35 races: nine in 2010, eight in '09, 12 in '08 and six in '07. Last year he finished fourth in the Nationwide Series standings, competing in Chevys fielded by JR Motorsports.

Now Almirola moves from Nationwide to Cup, from JR to Richard Petty Motorsports and from Chevy to Ford. "Dale (Earnhardt Jr.) said the main reason for him having a Nationwide team was to get guys in the Nationwide car at his shop and to give them an opportunity to go and make a career out of racing in NASCAR," Almirola said.

"He gave me a great opportunity to go there and drive the '88' car, and that's led to this opportunity at RPM."

Almirola finished second in the Truck standings in 2010, winning twice. He was credited with a Nationwide victory in 2007, though it was Denny Hamlin who took the checkered flag after Almirola started the race.

Making the move to Cup will be challenging. "Obviously, it's going to be my first year running full time in Cup, so there will be some growing pains," Almirola said. "I realize that I've got a lot of learning to do."

"I don't expect to just go out there and win six races and run for the championship, but I do expect to be competitive. I do expect to run really well on a regular basis."

The team recently picked up sponsorship from Smithfield Foods. Last year AJ. Allmendinger piloted the No. 43, finishing 15th in the Cup standings. Allmendinger had 10 finishes in the top 10, one of them in the top five.

Almirola's Cup teammate is Marcos Ambrose, who won at Watkins Glen, N.Y.

FEUD OF THE WEEK



TONY STEWART VS. DENNY HAMLIN

Since Stewart's discarded crew chief, Darlan Grubb, now works with Hamlin, performances of the two will undoubtedly be compared. Stewart and Grubb are still friendly, albeit friendly rivals. Hamlin's stock fell in 2011 after he nearly won a championship in 2010. His crew chief won one last year. Stewart's crew chief, Steve Addington, worked with Kurt Busch last year.

NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton gives his take: "There are supposedly no hard feelings between Stewart and Grubb, but don't think for a moment that Grubb won't take some pleasure in having his current driver, Hamlin, outperform the reigning champion."



John Clark/NASCAR This Week
Recent Cup champion crew chief Darlan Grubb was fired by Tony Stewart and ended up with Denny Hamlin.

Know Your NASCAR

1. How many (now) Sprint Cup championships did Bobby Allison win?
2. Who won the final Cup race at North Wilkesboro Speedway in 1996?
3. Who won the first Cup race at (now) New Hampshire Motor Speedway in 1993?
4. Who won the first Cup race at (now) Infineon Raceway in 1989?
5. Where did Jeff Gordon win his first Cup race in 1994?
6. What were the years of Tony Labonte's two Cup championships?
7. Who finished second to Johnny Mantz in the first Southern 500 in 1950?
8. What drivers won championships in cars owned by Carl Kiekhafer?
9. What NASCAR champion died in a crash on Jan. 19, 1964?
10. How many times has Mark Martin finished second in the Cup points?
11. What was Ryan Newman's academic major at Purdue University?
12. Who is NASCAR's managing event director?

Jeff Gordon says tandem racing is here to stay

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

No matter how hard NASCAR officials try to undermine it, tag-team drafting is going to continue at Daytona and Talladega.

Or so said Jeff Gordon and many others during test sessions at Daytona International Speedway that concluded on Jan. 14.

Gordon said, "These days the shuffling just goes back and forth, back and forth, and it just seems like the passing and getting passed is ... it's kind of easy in some ways, and it's really as much about timing and luck as it is about planning it and ... strategy ..."

"I mean, I think we're always going to draft in tandems) now that we know that we can push and as long as the bumpers are lined up," he said. "If we had known this 10, 15, 20 years ago, we would have done it then, too, or figured out how to do it. Now that it's here, it's always going to be here."

Not a quick fix — Chip Ganassi has changed a lot of personnel to boost the performance of drivers Jamie McMurray and Juan Pablo Montoya, both of whom were major flops in 2011.

"The frustrating part is that we won races with the guys that were there before, won some really big races," McMurray said, "but I think the morale in

NUTS AND BOLTS



McMurray

the shop got way down, and everyone — you know, you start criticizing everybody — and Chip needed to make a change to get everybody pumped back up.

"I don't think you're going to see immediate results because it's going to take a little time, and our speedway (i.e., Daytona) cars don't seem to be just where they need to be yet. ... We lost a little bit last year because we were changing our car so much. It was something different every week."



Edwards

Takes an effort — The second-place finisher in last year's Chase has one fewer teammate. Lack of sponsorship has forced Roush Fenway Racing to cut back from four to three Fords.

"I think it makes all of us realize we have to do the best we can all the time, not just on the race track," Carl Edwards said. "We have to be the best we can with our sponsors and teams and the fans, and do everything we can to make the business of this sport work."

"We have all experienced it. When it comes down to it, you can't take anything for granted." You think? "I've always been guilty of doing things the hard way," Kurt Busch conceded, "and working hard instead of smart, I guess, is my mentality."



John Clark/NASCAR This Week
Juan Pablo Montoya will look to rebound from a disappointing season in 2011 for owner Chip Ganassi.

FAN TIPS

Coca-Cola Wants To Make You A VIP at AMS

The Coca-Cola VIP Race Giveaway Sweepstakes offers two grand prizes consisting of trips for two to the Advocate 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Labor Day weekend. The contest ends on Feb. 12 and potential winners will be notified on or around March 5. For complete contest rules and how to enter, visit Coca-Cola.Promo.com.



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Sports

PHS wrestling tests district competition Saturday

ANDREW GLOVER
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After the Pampa wrestling program was on the brink of being cut last year, the Harvesters are aiming for the top in 2011-12. Saturday at Boys Ranch, Pampa will see where it stands when it competes in the district duals.

"We've beat everyone in our district in a dual except for Dumas," senior Trent McAnear said. "We will get our chance this Saturday."

Pampa will be facing Boys Ranch, Bushland, River Road, Borger and Dumas. Junior Quaid Chennault said he thinks the team is standing pretty good in district.

"We should do really good," Chennault said. "We should have four or five make it to regionals. We should finish in the top two."

Assistant coach Marissa Willis said the team is peaking at the right time.

"I know my kids that are here every day are putting in the work," Willis said.

"They want to be here. I have no worries about them. I think they will perform to the best of their abilities."

Pampa enters the district duals off their performances in Hereford and Vernon that had six and seven wrestlers place, respectively. McAnear said the team's confidence has improved tremendously.

"We've gotten a lot of mat time," McAnear said. "We got a lot of wins under our belt and have examples of what we need to work on."

The Harvesters' main competition is Dumas, who has won 13 straight district five titles. Willis said the team's heads are where they need to be.

"We are going to continue to do well," Willis said.

Chennault said he thinks the team has a good chance to come out on top.

"We have a lot of wrestlers that are seeded ahead of Dumas," Chennault said.

The Harvesters will compete in the district tournament at Borger February 4.



photo courtesy of Leah Pearson

Junior Quaid Chennault spars with his opponent in the Vernon Tournament. Chennault thinks the Harvesters will fare well in District 5. Pampa will compete in district February 4.



photo courtesy of Leah Pearson

Freshman Miranda Foreman battles a Boys Ranch wrestler in the Vernon Tournament. Pampa wrestling will compete in the district duals at Boys Ranch 1 p.m. Saturday.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I caught my 16-year-old daughter, "Krista," smoking marijuana. I punished her for it, but never told my wife because I was afraid she'd force me to make a decision that I don't want to make.

I have been married to my second wife for three years. For much of that time, Krista has been a nightmare. When she goes to school, more often than not she's in the principal's office for bad behavior. At home she's worse. She doesn't listen to anyone. We have tried every type of punishment we can think of and nothing has worked.

Recently, my wife brought up the idea of sending Krista to a boarding school for troubled teens. At first, the suggestion made me angry, but after the marijuana incident I am more receptive to it. I am wracked with guilt. Sending my daughter away makes me feel like a failure as a father. But there may be no other choice. How does a parent know when enough is enough? — **FED-UP FATHER IN MINNESOTA**

DEAR FATHER: Do not send your daughter away to a boarding school for "troubled teens" without first having a psychologist identify what is troubling her. If you do what your wife is suggesting, your daughter could return home with more problems than she left with. Sending

her away should be a **LAST resort. Some family counseling should be tried first.**

DEAR ABBY: A friend has been confiding in me, telling me her husband abuses her. She says it has gone on the entire 12 years they have been together. He does it in front of the kids, sometimes even while she's nursing or holding their youngest. He also threatens to shoot her. I'm afraid for her safety.

She left him once, but went back after he promised to change and temporarily became the charming man she wishes him to be. She knows she needs to leave again, and I have told her I'll help her in any way I can to make it happen. She's trying to hold out until she finishes her degree and can financially support the kids on her own. I'm afraid she won't make it that long.

I feel so helpless. I worry that by standing by and not taking some kind of action, I'll be partly responsible for anything that may happen to the kids. On the other hand, she tells me these things in confidence. What can I do to help? — **TERRIFIED FOR MY FRIEND**

DEAR TERRIFIED: Continue encouraging your friend to leave. A man who abuses, terrorizes and threatens to shoot his wife — in front of the children, yet — would have no hesitation about hurting all of

them.

By now she should have realized that her abuser will never be the man she imagined him to be. The time to leave is while things are calm — before his next outburst. In order for him to control her, he needs to keep her dependent. If he senses that she's nearing a point where she can support herself and the children without him, he could explode.

Make sure she knows how to contact the **National Domestic Violence Hotline. The toll-free number is 800-799-7233. The experts there can help her formulate a safe escape plan as possible.**

DEAR ABBY: I am currently in a relationship that has become a roller coaster ride for the last few months. My significant other is always accusing me of cheating. He also starts arguments for no reason. Sometimes I wonder if he is having an affair and trying to throw the blame on me for his guilt issues. What do you think? — **ARGUED OUT IN INDIANA**

DEAR ARGUED OUT: That's very possible. Another reason might be that he's no longer interested in you and wants to break up. Rather than tolerate his emotional abuse, take the bull by the horns and ask him.



Spread the news faster than your teenager on a cell phone! Advertise here. Call RedDonn or Sue @ 669-2525 to advertise in The Pampa News.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

1	2	7	9	4	6	5	8	3
9	5	8	3	2	1	7	6	4
6	3	4	7	5	8	2	9	1
3	7	9	4	6	5	8	1	2
2	1	5	8	9	7	4	3	6
4	8	6	1	3	2	9	7	5
7	9	3	5	1	4	6	2	8
5	6	1	2	8	9	3	4	7
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Level: Advanced

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Art inspirers
- 6 Like some messages
- 11 Tangential comment
- 12 Battery end
- 13 Scope
- 14 Stamp groups
- 15 Effortless
- 17 Moist
- 18 Cracked
- 20 Malevolent
- 22 Passing craze
- 23 Accelerate
- 26 Take as one's own
- 28 Put away
- 29 New enlistee
- 31 Purr producer
- 32 Sty cry
- 33 Planted agent
- 34 Travel stops
- 36 Writer Hunter
- 38 Talked and talked
- 40 Ball's husband
- 43 Make amends
- 44 Get a touch-down
- 45 Like Thor and Odin
- 46 Crowd count

A	D	A	M	S	L	A	T	E	S
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A	V	A	T	A	R		A	G	R
P	A	T	E	N	T		K	N	O

Yesterday's answer

- 18 Miles off
- 19 Green shade
- 21 Suit piece
- 23 Astonish
- 24 Russian river
- 25 Rose of baseball
- 27 Con containers
- 30 Mamie's man
- 33 Procession
- 34 Hormuz's nation
- 35 Peace-keeping org.
- 37 Immense
- 39 Once called
- 41 Common verb
- 42 Last letter

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
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43							44			
45							46			



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2006 Chevrolet Malibu Sport	Red Metallic	Stock#: p3063	\$11,995.00	2004 Cadillac SRX	Silver Smoke	Stock#: P3012	\$18,995.00
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2003 Ford F-150	Red	Stock#: P2827	\$11,995.00	2006 Jeep Commander	Bright Silver Metallic	Stock#: p3189b	\$19,995.00
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