



GUIDELIVE

## Rhythm nations

Dance Africa Festival, presented by Dallas Black Dance Theatre, brought together five troupes that seemed bent on outdoing one another. 5G

Kindergarten teacher Cheri Johnson monitors students waiting to be picked up after school at Rockenbaugh Elementary School in Southlake. The district has asked parents to get off their cellphones when picking up or dropping off their children.



BRIAN HARKIN/Special Contributor

# Car pool has a new line: Get off the cell

Schools asking parents to hang up their phones for safety's sake

By LAURIE FOX  
Staff Writer

SOUTHLAKE — As the line of hulking sport utility vehicles snaked around Rockenbaugh Elementary, parents holstered their electronic gear when children approached.

They appear to be getting the

message: If you're picking up or dropping off your child, hang up the phone.

The Carroll school district began asking parents a few weeks ago to stop using cellphones when driving in school drop-off and pickup lines.

They plan to post signs to that effect soon.

Several Highland Park schools often remind parents that cellphones and car pools don't mix.

Some local private schools have

banned them in the pickup lines altogether.

The effort is part of a growing concern among school leaders that in today's technologically advanced world, it's tempting to keep talking when waiting on the kids.

But safety and etiquette are among two of the strongest reasons that educators and experts are pushing for a ban on cellphones while operating a vehicle near schools.

See **SCHOOL** Page 3B

IN THE CLASSROOM



### Universities bringing in the big bucks

Over two recent weeks, four universities announced fundraising campaigns totaling \$14.3 billion. Where does all that money go? Higher education reporter Holly K. Hacker questions the quest for bigger and bigger campaigns. 2B

PAGE 1A

### Raising awareness of hot-car deaths

Mika Terry was 6 months old when she died in the back seat of her father's truck on a warm June day. Such deaths occur with dismaying frequency, with more than 40 Texas children dying from hyperthermia in unattended vehicles since 1998. Nationwide, an average of about 35 have died each year during that same period.

### Candidates list crime solutions

As Election Day nears, the candidates for governor are polishing their "tough on crime" credentials by calling for harsher punishments for sex offenders who prey on young children — some even going so far as to call for the death penalty.

INSIDE

### Missing lawyer found after crash

A Fort Worth lawyer last seen Friday evening as he was leaving the Wise County Jail in Decatur after visiting an inmate was found Sunday. Police say Jerry Wood



spent two nights in an embankment after his car plunged off a road in Palo Pinto County. 2B

BUSINESS

### Seniors face second Medicare sign-up

As the Medicare drug benefit's second annual enrollment period approaches, consumer advocates predict that several million seniors will switch plans to reduce their out-of-pocket costs. ID

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MELANIE BURFORD/Staff Photographer

From left: Emily Stone, 9, Colin Stone, 11, and Sarah Stone, 7, of Dallas sampled Fried Coke on Friday at the State Fair. Just weeks after Abel Gonzales Jr. introduced the confection, it's been adopted by fairs in North Carolina and Arizona.

DigitalEXTRA

• **Blog:** Get daily updates and insight on Our Fair Lady.

• **Food:** Fried and true favorites are discussed.

• **People:** Meet the fair folk who work behind the scenes.

• **Photos:** See our daily images and regular photo galleries, and upload your photos.

• **Rides:** Which is best? Send us your reviews.

• **Tips:** Where's the shortest line for corny dogs? How about the best diaper-changing station?

• **Video:** Check early and often for the latest clips from the fair.

• **Resources:** Complete schedule, ticket information, maps and more are a click away.

DallasNews.com/statefair

# They'd like to fry the world a Coke

State Fair treat becomes sensation far beyond Texas

By KATIE MENZER  
Staff Writer

Fair schedule, 6B

Imitation might be flattering, but Fried Coke is fattening anywhere you eat it.

That's what the nation has found out now that Texas' own cola confectionery has been released to the masses.

Fried Coke, which was introduced by concessionaire Abel Gonzales Jr. to the State Fair of Texas only weeks ago, already has been adopted by the North Carolina State Fair and the Arizona Exposition & State Fair. Both fairs opened Friday.

"We've been getting calls

from everywhere since we introduced it," said Elizabeth Martin, a spokeswoman for the North Carolina fair. "Everyone wants to know where they can get it."

Mr. Gonzales garnered national attention when he won the "most creative" title for his deep-fried Coke batter nuggets topped with cola syrup at the Big Tex Choice Awards Contest on Labor Day.

He appeared with his creation on NBC's *Today* show and in countless newspaper and

television stories nationwide.

And that's how a North Carolina fair concessionaire got the idea, Ms. Martin said.

"He read about it and tinkered around with it to come up with his own recipe," she said.

Mr. Gonzales sold 16,000 cups of Fried Coke in the first two weeks of the fair and is poised to surpass his breakout hit at last year's fair — the Fried Peanut Butter, Jelly and Banana Sandwich. He sold 20,000 of those during the entire 2005 fair.

See **APPARENTLY** Page 6B



JAMES RAGLAND

Metro columnist's blog at DallasNews.com/boldtypes

# An exit he won't explain

The dust hasn't settled.

But the two sides agreed to part ways.

So I thought Mike Harris might be able to shed some light on what went wrong in Roysse City ISD: how he went from getting a new contract and a raise as superintendent a few months ago to being chased off before the year was over.

The feud apparently was fueled by ... fuel.

About \$600 worth of district gasoline was reported missing last fall, and police identified Mr. Harris as the suspect, although charges were never filed.

"I did not get gas, period," Mr. Harris said Friday in a telephone interview. "I would dispute the pictures and anything else from now on. There are things that go with that that I don't want to get into."

The pictures? Oh, yeah, the school district apparently had some pictures of someone resembling the superintendent getting the gas.

So why, I asked, did Mr. Harris not stay and fight this thing tooth and nail? Well, he said, he just didn't want to be where it was clear he was no longer wanted.

"We went through the hearing," he said, referring to a Sept. 15 hearing before a Texas Education Agency examiner, "and after the hearing, I decided that it didn't



Mike Harris

See **CLOUD** Page 7B

# For generous pair, a time to receive

Plano: Friends, family on hand as TV show presents new home

By STELLA M. CHAVEZ  
Staff Writer

PLANO — Todd and Cindy Davis have given back to family, friends and even strangers countless times.

Whether it was opening their doors to a troubled teenager, persuading gang members to leave the streets or mowing a friend's yard, the Davises have always put others first.

But on Sunday, it was their friends' and family members' turn to put the couple first — and in the

national spotlight.

With some help, a crew from the syndicated TV show *HomeTeam* surprised the Davises with a new home in Plano. Their 19-year-old son, Ben, a Marine stationed in Florida, flew in for the occasion after getting special permission from the military.

Since Thursday, he and dozens of other volunteers have spent day and night with the show's crew remodeling and furnishing the three-bedroom, two-bathroom home, which was built in 1983 and has 1,741 square feet.

The one-story brick home is decked out with a slate-covered entryway and fireplace, granite

See **FOR COUPLE** Page 7B



MEI-CHUN JAU/Staff Photographer

As Todd and Cindy Davis get used to their new bedroom, cameraman Tom Bottom captures the moment. The family that opened their home to so many now has a new one to call its own.



MELANIE BURFORD/Staff Photographer

Payton Haydel, 2, of Plano gets a taste of Fried Coke. The confection has proved popular. For fairgoer Carol Boultinghouse, it's a logical choice: "This makes more sense to me than a Fried Twinkie. I don't know why."

# Apparently, at nation's fairs this year, Fried Coke is it

Continued from Page 1B

But while Mr. Gonzales has inspired others to fried greatness nationwide, he's been doing some tinkering of his own at home. Just days after the State Fair opened Sept. 29, the carbo-crazed concessionaire decided to change his original Fried Coke formula. He said he wanted to make the dough less cakey and more spongy to soak up the cola syrup. So he reworked the recipe, threw out the pre-made batter and retrained his employees. Hence, the new Fried Coke. (Not to be confused with the New Coke.) "They were good before, but they are even better now," Mr. Gonzales said. "I wanted it to be the best product out there."

Fairgoer Carol Boultinghouse tasted the new formula Thursday. "It's good. It's got a little bit of Coke flavor to it, but it tastes like my mom's homemade doughnuts," the Dallas resident said. "This makes more sense to me than a Fried Twinkie. I don't know why." But not everyone's effervesced over the flavor. "This is Texas. Shouldn't it be Fried Dr Pepper?" asked Keller resident Jennifer Laboda. Fred Tarpley, a retired English professor from Commerce, decided to take the middle ground. "If you like doughnut holes with a Coke flavor, then you'll like it," he said. "It's something everyone should try once."

E-mail kmnzen@dallasnews.com



Days after the fair opened, Abel Gonzales Jr. reworked his recipe to make the Fried Coke spongier, thereby boosting its cola syrup-retention properties. He threw out the pre-made batter and retrained his employees.

## STATE FAIR SCHEDULE

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** Call 214-565-9931 or visit the fair's Web site at [www.bigtex.com](http://www.bigtex.com).

**DATES:** Through Oct. 22.

**HOURS:** Exhibit buildings are open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Museum hours vary.

**ADMISSION:** General admission is \$13; seniors older than 60 and children ages 3 and older who are up to 48 inches tall pay \$9. Admission tickets and food and ride coupons may be purchased online. A season pass may be purchased for \$29.95 online at [www.bigtex.com](http://www.bigtex.com) or at any Kroger. Kroger has advance general admission tickets for \$11.50.

**PARKING:** \$10 in lots operated by the State Fair of Texas. Look for "Official State Fair Parking" signs. Valet parking offered at Grand Gate (daily) or Haskell/Parry (Saturdays/Sundays & Columbus Day) for \$20.

**TRANSPORTATION:** DART's State Fair shuttles will run every 10 minutes from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sunday through Oct. 22 from Pearl Station. A shuttle roundtrip costs \$2 (cash only, exact change required). Call 214-979-1111 with DART-related questions.

**SHOWS:**

- Cardstacker, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., African American Museum
- Chinese Acrobats, 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m., East Park Plaza
- Top Flight K9s, 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 1:30, 3:30 and 4:30 p.m., TXU Energy Arena
- African Acrobats, noon, 1, 2 and 3 p.m., First Avenue and Auto Show
- Buford Buzzard Show, noon, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 p.m., Kidway
- Marilyn Monroe Impersonator, noon, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 p.m., Women's Museum
- Pee Wee Stampede, noon, 1:30 and 4 p.m., Ranch Arena
- World on a String, noon, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 p.m., Showplace Theatre
- Chef Sergio the Italian Juggler, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 and 4:30 p.m., Lagoon
- Midway Barker, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30 and 5:30 p.m., Midway
- Schepps Backyard Circus, 1, 3, 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., Hall of State Lawn
- Kroger Birds of the World, \*1, 2:30, 4:30 and 6 p.m., Band Shell
- BMX Bike Stunt Show, 2, 4 and

- 6 p.m., Sweet Baby Ray's Thrillway
- Texas Lottery Show, 2, 4, 6 and 8 p.m., Texas Lottery Exhibit
- Cybertron Command Center, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 p.m., Budweiser True Music Stage
- Pig Races, \*3:30, 4:15 and 5 p.m., TXU Energy Arena
- Sheep Dog Shows, 5:45, 6:45 and 7:45 p.m., TXU Energy Arena
- Midway Lights, 7, 8, 9 and 10 p.m., Midway
- Kitchen Craft Starlight Parade, 7:15 p.m., Parade Route
- LIVE MUSIC:**
- Jolie Holliday & the True Texas Band, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 7:45 p.m., Chevy Truck Stage
- Shelley Laine Show, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 p.m., Bud Light True Music Stage
- Brave Combo, 3 p.m., Toyota Truck Zone
- Thomas Martinez, 4, 5:45 and 8 p.m., Chevrolet Main Stage
- SPECIAL EVENTS:**
- Kid Fish, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Toyota Truck Zone
- Parade Tent Tour, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Parade Tent

- NASCAR Pit Crew Challenge, noon to 8 p.m., Dodge/Automobile Building
- The Payload Challenge, 1 to 7 p.m., Ford Truck Zone
- Commander Climbing Wall, 2 to 9 p.m., Jeep Show
- Frame Game Challenge, 2 to 7 p.m., Ford Truck Zone
- CREATIVE ARTS:**
- Hidden Valley Ranch Contest, 10:30 a.m., Contest Kitchen
- Tricks with Mix Contest, 10:30 a.m., Contest Kitchen
- Chefs Bandfield & Svalesen/Sage, 12:30 p.m., IKEA Celebrity Kitchen
- Chef Dunia Borga/LaDuni, 2:30 p.m., IKEA Celebrity Kitchen
- Chef Tim Byers/Standard, 4:30 p.m., IKEA Celebrity Kitchen
- Chef Rafael DeLoa/Savor the Moment, 6 p.m., IKEA Celebrity Kitchen
- LIVESTOCK:**
- Barn Tours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (departs every 15 min), MLK and Nimitz
- Milking Parlor Demo, 11 a.m., noon, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 p.m., Cattle Barn I
- Animal Facts, 1, 3 and 5 p.m., PanAm Horse Barn
- Spirit of the Horse, 1, 2, 3 and 5 p.m., Ranch Arena
- FOOD & FIBER PAVILION:**
- Aquatic Life Displays & Images, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Texas Shrimp
- Beef, Cotton, Wheat Displays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Texas Farm Bureau
- Dairy Diner Biscuit Sampling, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Southwest Dairy Farmers
- GO TEXAN General Store & Mercantile, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Pavilion Stores
- GO TEXAN Samplings, 10 to 11:45 a.m. and 2 to 3:45 p.m., Burlison's Sampling Kiosks
- Historical & Cultural Travel

- Guides, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Texas Historical Commission
- Kitchen Craft Cooking Demos, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Kitchen Craft
- Meet Elsie & Beauregard, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Elsie's Place
- Rural Development Info/Giveaways, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., USDA Rural Development
- Square Meals, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Dallas Farmers Market
- Texas Honey & Live Bees, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Texas Beekeepers
- Ultimate Backyard Grilling Demos, noon to 5 p.m., Texas Beef Council
- Cowtown Opry, noon to 2 and 4 to 6 p.m., Dr Pepper Gazebo Stage
- MUNDO LATINO:**
- Pobody Montes-Mariachi Singer, 4 p.m., Mundo Latino Stage
- MUSEUMS:**
- Kid's First Film: *Dora the Explorer*, 11 a.m., Women's Museum
- Michael Cook/Textile Artist, 11 a.m., Texas Discovery Gardens
- George Washington Video, 11:30 a.m., DAR
- Scholastic Reading Corner, noon, Women's Museum
- American Revolution Video, 1:30 p.m., DAR
- Dallas County Master Gardener, 2 p.m., Texas Discovery Gardens
- Boston's Freedom Trail Video, 3:30 p.m., DAR
- Kid's First Film: *Miss Spider Special*, 3:30 p.m., Women's Museum
- Be a Model Texas Girl, 5:45 and 6:15 p.m., Women's Museum
- Kid's First Film: *Princess Princessa*, 6 p.m., Women's Museum
- PAID ATTRACTIONS:**
- Phantom's Great Scare, 1 p.m. to close, Coliseum
- \*Interpreted for the hearing impaired.

## EAGLE SCOUTS

Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. To earn the honor, Scouts must complete a service project and other requirements. These youths have earned the honor.

**Christopher P. Beasley**

Christopher, 16, organized a youth job fair at Hamilton Park United Methodist Church. He is a member of Troop 118, a junior at Richardson High School and the son of Robin and Peter Beasley of Dallas.



**Matthew Bareis**

Matthew, 17, planned and supervised the construction of a sand volleyball court for First Christian Church of Carrollton. He is a member of Troop 874, a senior at Science and Engineering Magnet High School and the son of Margaret and Edward Bareis of Farmers Branch.



**William N. Collins**

William, 19, constructed part of the boardwalk for the new trail across the wetlands at the Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney. He is a member of Troop 285, a chemical engineering freshman at Oklahoma State University and the son of Paula and Kevin Collins of Plano.



**Tyler Reid Terry**

Tyler, 16, planned and supervised the refurbishing of the landscape for the SPCA of Texas in McKinney. He is a member of Troop 406, a junior at McKinney Boyd High School and the son of Debbie and Ronny Terry of McKinney.



News about Eagle Scout or Gold Award recipients should be sent to Ty A. Allison at *The Dallas Morning News*, Communications Center, P.O. Box 655237, Dallas, Texas, 75265. Please include the student's name, age and birth date, troop number, school and grade, a brief description of the project, parents' names, a mailing address, day and evening phone numbers, and a nonreturnable photo. Announcements appear in the order received, and all information is verified by phone before publication.

## THE QUIZ

THE QUIZ IS PART OF THIS NEWSPAPER'S NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION PROGRAM

**NEWSPLACE**

(10 points for correct answer)



Recently, this Asian nation reportedly tested a nuclear weapon. Not many details about this test are known, but some experts think this weapon was detonated in the shaft of an abandoned coal mine. Some experts say that this weapon may have been nearly as large as the nuclear weapons dropped on Japan during World War II. Governments around the world, including this country's longtime allies, China and Russia, have condemned this test. The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to impose strict sanctions. Name this country.

**PEOPLE/SPORTS/ ENTERTAINMENT**

(5 points for each correct answer)

- 1) The ..?.. were ousted from the playoffs by the Oakland A's.
- 2) Pop star ..?.. pledged \$3 million to help orphans in the African country of Malawi.
- 3) *The Departed*, the new movie from director ..?.., was bumped to the No. 2 box-office spot by the horror sequel *The Grudge 2*.
- 4) The new NHL season began; last year's champions, the ..?.. Hurricanes, hope to win the title again.
- 5) Buck O'Neil, a former baseball star in the ..?.. with the Kansas City Monarchs and other teams, died at 94.

**WORLDSCOPE**

(10 points for each correct answer)

- 1) Six people from one nation, ..?.., won Nobel Prizes recently.
- 2) More than 17,000 people were evacuated after an explosion in Apex, ..?..
- 3) South Korean official Ban Ki-Moon has been elected to succeed ..?.. as the secretary-general of the U.N.
- 4) A memorial service was held for victims of the recent schoolhouse murders in Pennsylvania's ..?.. community.
- 5) A massive rally against Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez was held in ..?.., the country's capital.

**NEWSNAME**

(15 points for correct answer)



I am the U.S. Representative for the 14th District of Illinois. Since 1999, I have also been the speaker of the House, the third-highest elective position in the U.S. government. This is because the Republican Party, to which I belong, has controlled the House since then. But my political career is now in jeopardy. Many are saying that I had prior knowledge of the page scandal involving former Rep. Mark Foley and failed to do anything to stop it. Who am I?

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**YOUR SCORE:**

91 to 100 points <i>TOP SCORE!</i>	71 to 80 points <i>Good</i>
81 to 90 points <i>Excellent</i>	61 to 70 points <i>Fair</i>

## QUIZ ANSWERS

**NEWSPLACE:** North Korea  
**SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT:** 1-Minnesota Twins; 2-Madonna; 3-Martin Scorsese; 4-Carolina; 5-Negro

Leagues  
**WORLDSCOPE:** 1-the U.S.; 2-North Carolina; 3-Kofi Annan; 4-Amish; 5-Caracus  
**NEWSNAME:** Dennis Hastert

