

TWISTS OF FATE



Conference title games provide pre-bowl thrills

SPORTS, SECTION C

The Daytona Beach
News-Journal
THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF VOLUSIA & FLAGLER COUNTIES

SUNDAY EDITION

DECEMBER 4, 2011

9 sections; 140 pages

TODAY'S FORECAST

Weather a salute to nature's beauty. High: Mid-70s. Low: Near 60. **PAGE 8B**

www.news-journalonline.com

FINAL EDITION

\$150

FAST LANE

Keeping you on track for today, tomorrow

Sprint signs deal to stay NASCAR title sponsor through 2016

DAYTONA BEACH — Sprint Nextel has signed an agreement to remain the title sponsor of NASCAR's premier stock-car-racing series through 2016.

The three-year extension of the wireless communications provider's sponsorship deal with NASCAR ensures that the No. 1 finisher in the sport's top series will be a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion, according to a news release issued Saturday.

Sprint Nextel's original sponsorship deal was set to expire at the end of 2013.

The extension of that agreement coincides with NASCAR's five-year industry action plan launched earlier this year to grow the sport and reach new audiences.

"Sprint has been very successful in using our sport as a platform to enhance its brand and drive their business," stated Brian France, NASCAR chairman and CEO, in the news release. "They have been a fantastic partner."

Dan Hesse, Sprint Nextel CEO, stated, "NASCAR fans are great customers who reward us with their loyalty. We're very pleased to continue to have our brand associated with the most competitive and exciting form of racing in the world."

Overland Park, Kan.-based Sprint Nextel has been title sponsor of NASCAR's top racing series since February 2004.

— Clayton Park

LOCAL

Love a parade?

Holiday parades started their march through the area. See the action from your town.

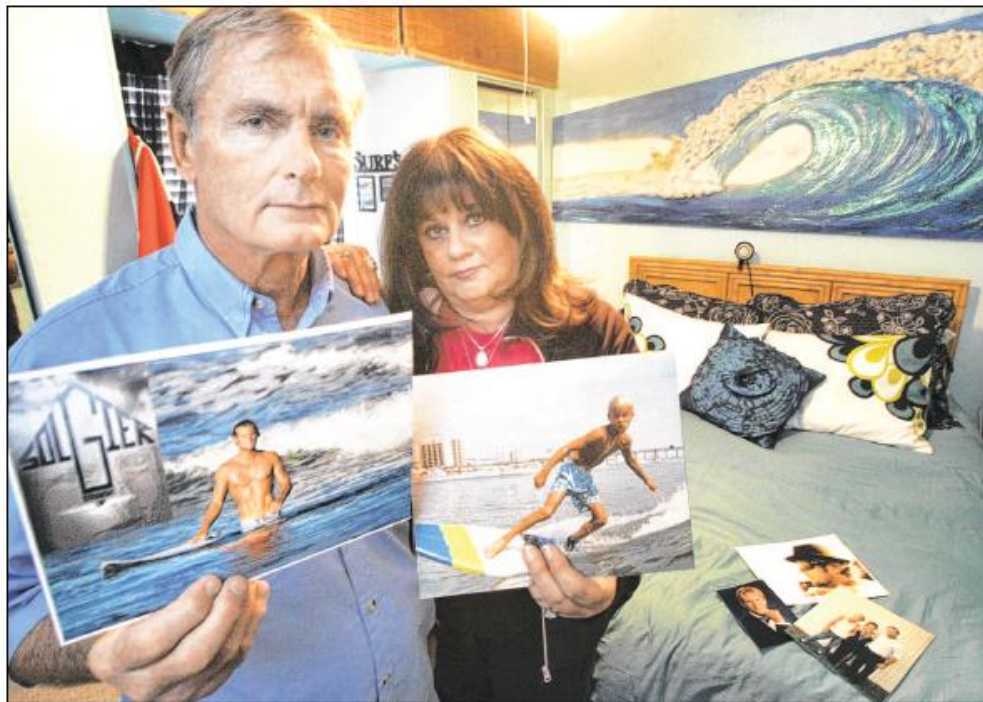
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BUSINESS

A taxing time

'BAD TOUCH'

At age 10, Matt McGuirk was the star witness in Volusia County's biggest child-sex-abuse case, helping to put away a serial pedophile for 155 years and changing laws to better protect children and victims. But Matt was never the same.



News-Journal/DAVID TUCKER

Mike and Victoria McGuirk hold photos of their late son, Matt, in the bedroom of their Port Orange home. Matt McGuirk died Oct. 8, having battled drugs for years as a way of coping with the molestation he suffered as a boy.

By **DEREK CATRON**
STAFF WRITER

The 10-year-old boy stepped to the witness stand, practically disappearing within its dimensions. His blond bangs nearly obscured his eyes, hiding whatever fear or nervousness was there as he raised his right hand and swore to tell the truth.

The lawyer was gentle but firm, asking the boy about sports and hobbies. He asked what kind of surfboard the boy rode. He asked about the difference between truth and a lie. Then, he got to the point.

"You know what the difference is between a good touch and a bad touch?"

"Yes."
Then, more questions, about good touching like handshakes and hugs from mom, about body parts like elbows and ears. Then, the lawyer asked about private

parts. The boy called them "family jewels," eliciting a few nervous giggles from the Justice Center courtroom.

"And," the lawyer paused, struggling for the first time to find the right words, "if someone, say a stranger, was to touch a little boy on his family jewels, would that be a good touch or a bad touch?"

The boy didn't hesitate.

Twenty years later, Matthew McGuirk was still feeling the effects of the "bad touch."

He sat before a computer, trying to put into words why he'd let drugs ruin his life. Matt dreamed of writing a book one day, sitting on a couch with Oprah Winfrey and explaining how he kicked the addictions he had used to forget what had happened to him as a boy.

"I don't want your sympathy or your

answers," he wrote in what would have been the introduction to his book. "I want my own world to have meaning, like the home runs I used to hit. I want my mother and father to finally see what they've given so much for ... the sacrifices they've made due to my INSANITY to finally pay off, and my story to be told by me to help kids who think things will never change."

In 2½ pages of self-flogging prose, Matt never made an excuse for his behavior. He hoped it would be therapeutic to express himself, but even in a later chapter called "The Sexual Abuse," he couldn't bring himself to write about what happened.

The longest he'd been clean since adolescence was nine months, he wrote,

SEE ABUSE, PAGE 12A

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CAMPAIGN 2012

Cain halts GOP bid

By **SHANNON McCAFFREY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — Herman Cain suspended his faltering bid for the Republican presidential nomination Saturday, throwing his staunchly conservative supporters up for grabs with just one month to go before the lead-off caucuses in Iowa.

Still sounding defiant, Cain denounced the drumbeat of sexual-misconduct allegations against him as "false and unproven" but said that they had been hurtful to his family, particularly his wife, Gloria, and were drowning out his ability to deliver his message.

"So, as of today, with a lot of prayer and soul-searching, I am suspending my presidential campaign because of the continued distractions and the continued hurt caused on me and my family," a tired-looking Cain told about a 400 supporters. His wife stood behind him on the stage, drawing chants of "Gloria!" from the crowd.

Cain's announcement provides a new twist in what has already been a volatile Republican race. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich has, so far, been the biggest beneficiary of Cain's

SEE CAIN, PAGE 10A

Abduction team finds success in 1st search



CAIN

MORE INSIDE

Herman Cain's departure from the GOP race narrows the field.

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