

OVER THE PASS



"For more families to get along. I'm a hairdresser and I hear so many stories of families not speaking to each other. They don't get together for holidays. They're by themselves, and I'm by myself, too."

— Jenny Perez, owner, Jenny's Cut & Curl, Trinidad



"I've been an art teacher for about nine years now. People don't understand or support education enough. It's the path to betterment for the individual, and for the individual to create the future that we can't foresee. Working one on one, you can see the potential in each student. We need to give students and educators the resources they need."

— Ily Reiling, art teacher and artist, Thornton, Colorado



"A return to civil discourse in politics, let's call it that. It doesn't have to be just in politics, though that seems to be the flash point right now."

— Sean Sammons, co-owner, Sammons Plumbing & Heating, Trinidad

TIM KELLER'S CONNECTIONS

"What change would you like to see?"

— *Editor's note: Today's Over the Pass feature marks the end of an adventure. It is the final edition in what has been a brief commentary on the life and people who live in and pass through the Trinidad and Raton area. Thank you, Tim Keller, for taking the time to offer us a glimpse into the lives of others. We wish you well in retirement and your future endeavors.*

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



"People start getting along a little bit better. We live in a revenge society now. We don't talk about it or work it out: We get back. We have terrible communications. In politics, both sides are really ignorant. We need to learn to listen and compromise. That's what makes us human."

— Bill Joines, stonecutter, Trinidad

BASEBALL

Health and bullpen willing, Rockies primed for playoff run

PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — The Ian-Desmond-to-first-base experiment was going along better than anticipated — until he broke his hand.

Just the way spring training has gone for the Colorado Rockies.

Better now than later for a team that's trying to make the postseason for the first time since 2009. Still, it's been a trying March for a team that may finally have a starting rotation and bullpen to back a powerful lineup.

A quick review of the setbacks:

— Desmond had surgery on his broken left hand suffered when he was hit by a pitch. He will miss several weeks.

— Outfielder David Dahl is dealing with injured ribs.

— Catcher Tom Murphy could miss a month with a hairline fracture in his right forearm.

— Righty Chad Bettis stepped away from baseball to undergo chemotherapy after discovering that his testicular cancer had spread. There is no timetable for his return.

Should Colorado weather the early onslaught of injuries, the team could be a factor in the NL West. The Rockies have brought in manager Bud Black, whose pitching background should come in handy at Coors Field. They've added more thump to an already potent lineup by signing Desmond, who's quickly picking up the ins and outs of playing first base after being a career shortstop/outfielder. Even more, they have a healthy Trevor Story again after he was sidelined in late July when he tore a ligament in his left thumb. He's eager to prove his 27 homers in 97 games were no fluke.

In addition, slugger Nolan Arenado is loaded with confidence after helping Team

USA win the World Baseball Classic.

And then there's this: They've repaired a shaky bullpen by adding lefty Mike Dunn and righty Greg Holland, with the hope that Holland can return to the form that made him the lights-out closer in Kansas City before missing last season after undergoing reconstructive elbow surgery.

"Just going out and getting those guys says a lot about how the front office and the players are on the same page," hard-throwing righty Jon Gray said. "We all have the same goal in mind. It's a good thing to see."

Here are things to know heading into the season:

NEW LOOK: No doubt, Dunn, Holland and Desmond are big, big additions. But the move that flew under the radar — until recently, anyway — was bringing back first baseman Mark Reynolds on a minor-league deal. With Desmond's broken hand, he could be the first baseman when the season opens. The 33-year-old Reynolds hit a career-best .282 in 2016 with 14 home runs and 53 RBIs. Reynolds was limited to 32 at-bats after Aug. 11 due to breaking the hamate bone in his left hand and then breaking his left wrist.

NEWCOMERS TO WATCH: Lefty Kyle Freeland and righty Antonio Senzatela have made strong cases to fill the last two spots in the rotation. Freeland was the eighth overall pick in the 2014 draft and grew up in Denver. Signed as a non-drafted international free agent in 2011, Senzatela spent last season with Double-A Hartford, where he went 4-1 with a 1.82 ERA in a season marred by shoulder issues.

GRAY SKIES TO BLUE: After a solid 10-10 campaign, Gray wanted to take it to the next level. So, he tried Pilates, just like 2015 NL Cy Young winner Jake Arrieta. "I definitely feel different in a good way," Gray said. "I feel a lot healthier, like nothing is holding me back."

GETTING FIRST DOWN: Desmond has been watching Kansas City's Eric Hosmer, the Chicago Cubs' Anthony Rizzo and Reynolds this spring, just to see how they play first. He realized that he doesn't have to rush over to cover the bag on grounders. "They glide," Desmond said.

RELIABLE INFIELD: The Rockies boast quite a groundball-stuffing infield with third baseman Arenado, Story and second baseman DJ LeMahieu. Arenado is a four-time Gold Glove, while LeMahieu earned one in 2014. Story could be in the running at some point, too. "It's a lot of fun to watch, too, even when you're not pitching and on the bench," Gray said. "They're amazing, defensively."

DEAR ABBY

MOM VISITING DAD IN MEXICO SHOULD LEAVE BABY AT HOME

DEAR ABBY: My 21-year-old daughter has a 6-month-old child. The father is a 36-year-old man who was recently deported to Mexico. He continues to contact her and wants her to travel to Mexico to visit him. I am terrified of all the things that could happen to her if she goes.

I don't trust him. I keep thinking, will he try to keep the baby? Will he try to keep them both or entice her to do something illegal? (He had an earlier felony conviction.) Am I overreacting? How can I get her to recognize that these types of things happen all the time? — MOTHER IN ILLINOIS

DEAR MOTHER: The most important thing you can do right now is calm down. Your daughter is an adult, and you need to treat her like one. You are within your rights to express your concern, but if she wants to go, you cannot stop her.

If I were her mother, I'd approach it this way: Offer to take care of your grandchild while she visits the baby's daddy. That way she can get a look at how he's living and what he is doing. Suggest she take lots of photos with her. But unless she is absolutely sure that the environment is safe for her child, the little one should stay north of the border.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend's friend "Keira" moved back here to help take care of his mom. He has known her for more than 10 years. They didn't have an intimate relationship; it was more of a friendship than anything. He's very loving toward me and treats me like gold. The problem I've been having is, he doesn't understand how some things bother me.

For instance, when the three of us went to dinner, they were sharing food by feeding each other. I'm sure people probably thought they were a couple. When I asked him why he didn't put some food on a plate and give it to her, he didn't have an answer. Also, they watch TV in bed together. He thinks these are normal "friend things" to do.

I'm not a jealous person, but I have my limits. We don't live close, so we see each other only a few times a week. Keira doesn't pay anything to live there. He said she has nowhere to go, and it was his agreement with her that if she came home with him she would always have a place to stay.

I like her, but sometimes feel like I'm

dating both of them. He's clueless. They are dependent on each other. She fixes things around the house, and he lets her borrow his car for work. Am I just being petty? — THIRD WHEEL IN THE EAST

DEAR THIRD WHEEL: Forgive me if this seems negative, but your boyfriend's primary relationship seems to be with the girl who is living with him 24/7 and watching television in his bed rather than with you.

Step back and look at it rationally: Keira's living with him, taking care of the house and his mother, spending time in his bed, hand-feeding him, and the few times a week you see him, she's coming along. He may treat you like gold, but it looks more like fool's gold to me.

DEAR ABBY: The daughter of a friend of more than 20 years is getting married next year. They live 1,400 miles away. She told me yesterday that I am invited to the wedding, but my live-in boyfriend is not. Her explanation is she has to control the costs. She told me a mutual friend's husband isn't invited, either.

Including the price of a gift, it would cost me around \$900 to attend the wedding. She had implied that wedding gifts should be in the range of \$200 to cover the expense of the food and drink.

I have decided to decline the invitation because my boyfriend can't come. What would an appropriate gift be? — STAYING PUT IN WISCONSIN

DEAR STAYING PUT: According to the rules of etiquette, because you don't plan to attend the wedding, no gift is required. However, in light of your more than 20-year friendship, consider sending a token gift to the daughter — the price range is up to you.

Readers, there is a common misconception that the price of wedding gifts must be in line with what the hosts spend on the food and beverages at the reception. According to Emily Post, that is a "modern myth," and "the amount you spend is strictly a matter of your budget."

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