

BIG SPRING

HERALD

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Big Sky — Big Heart — Big Spring

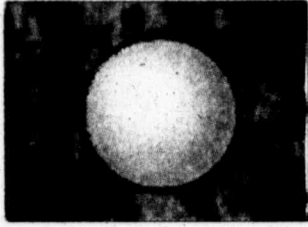
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

THURSDAY

March 10, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 42°-44° TOMORROW 67°-69°

BRIEFLY

Time draws close for benefit BBQ

A benefit barbecue cook-off for the Forsan band trip to Washington D.C. is set for Saturday at 703 W. Third. Categories are brisket, pork ribs, chicken halves, sausage and jackpot beans.

Cooking will begin early that morning and judging will be at 1 p.m. Dining begins at 1 p.m. also.

Registration is \$10 per category and plates are \$5 per person. Cooks may register now by calling 263-6862.

The event is sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 3188, the American legion Post 506, the Permian Basin Chapter of the Cossacks MC and the Big Spring Bass Club.

COMING

THIS WEEKEND



Town Spotlight: For centuries, American Indians have mined Catlinite, a soft red stone, from quarries in Pipestone, Minn., (pop. 4,280) to make pipes for smoking tobacco during religious rituals and social ceremonies. The quarry and stone remain sacred for many native people.

INDEX

Classified	4-5B
Comics	6B
Features	5-6A
Obituaries	2A
Opinion	4A
Sports	1-2B

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House OKs school finance overhaul

Rep. Laney says no to bill, which passes 76-71

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Big Spring's state representative joined with his fellow Democrats and quite a few Republicans in opposing a sweeping plan to restructure education in Texas that won tentative approval in the Texas House on Wednesday.

Rep. Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, said the bill passed by the House, which calls for \$3

billion in new money for education, falls short of addressing problems faced by school districts in his area.

"It wasn't anything schools in my district were in support of," said Laney. "It doesn't help taxpayers all that much, and does nothing to enhance public education."

Laney joined other opponents who said the money won't keep up with inflation or cover new requirements schools would face under the plan.

"It doesn't help taxpayers all that much, and does nothing to enhance public education."

— State Rep. Pete Laney, D-Hale Center



During two day of debate on the measure — the top priority of the current legislative session — the House leadership approved a

See FINANCE, Page 3A

1 dead in I-20 rollover

3 others said to be in serious condition

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — One person was killed and three others seriously injured as a result of a one-car rollover east of here Wednesday afternoon.

Alma Gamez Valdes, 30, of Houston, died as a result of injuries sustained in the accident, which occurred when a Chevrolet Tahoe that she and eight other family members were traveling in flipped several times about 1 1/2 miles east of Coahoma.

Emergency response units from the Big Spring Fire Department, Howard County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Public Safety converged on the scene within minutes of the first dispatch call at about 2:30 p.m.

When they arrived, they found a horrendous scene: Valdes and three others in the Tahoe had been ejected from the vehicle, which laid upright in a twisted mass of metal. Others seriously injured were Valdes' 5-year-old daughter and two sons, ages 9 and 13. The children's names have not been released as of today.

The girl, who received critical injuries, was airlifted to a Lubbock hospital. The 13-year-old boy was airlifted to San Angelo, while the others were transported via Big Spring Emergency Medical Service ambulance to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Department of Public Safety Trooper Kneel Stallings said driver fatigue was the likely cause of the accident. The family had apparently departed Houston at about 4 a.m. Wednesday en route

See WRECK, Page 3A



One person was killed and three were seriously injured Wednesday afternoon when the driver of this Chevrolet Tahoe, above, lost control of the vehicle at about 2:30 p.m. Tuesday east of Coahoma. Reports state the vehicle flipped numerous times before coming to rest on the north service road of the interstate. At left, emergency personnel load one of the victims of a one-car rollover into a Critical Air helicopter for transport to the hospital.

HERALD photos/Steve Reagan

'CBS Evening News' Dan Rather signs off

NEW YORK (AP) — Dan Rather echoed a word he once briefly used to sign off the "CBS Evening News" — courage — in anchoring the program for the final time after 24 years on Wednesday.

In a brief statement at the end of the broadcast, Rather paid tribute to Sept. 11 terrorist victims, tsunami survivors, American military forces, the oppressed, those in failing health and fellow journalists in dangerous places.

"And, to each of you," he said. "Courage."

He seemed to savor each word of his signoff: "For the 'CBS Evening News,' Dan Rather reporting. Good night."

See RATHER, Page 3A



Dan Rather, 'CBS Evening News' anchor for 24 years, signed off for the final time Wednesday.

Big Spring State Hospital makes plans to celebrate National Social Worker Month

Special to the Herald

Big Spring State Hospital will celebrate National Social Worker Month with a March 23 workshop and the naming of the hospital's Social Worker of the Month.

The theme of the month's celebration is "Social Workers — Compassion in Action."

The workshop will be held in the Allred building auditorium on the Big Spring State Hospital campus. For more information, call 267-8216.

About 600,000 social workers in the United States help people of all ages, religions and nationalities gain access to adequate

resources and services. Social workers can be found in hospitals, clinics, homes, and community action programs.

March was officially designated National Social Work Month in 1984 by the White House. Each year, Big Spring State Hospital and the National Association of Social Workers recognize the dedicated efforts and work of America's professional social workers.

Big Spring State Hospital serves people with psychiatric illnesses in a 56-county area in West Texas and the Texas Panhandle.

More than 550 workers are employed at the hospital.

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Two Stanton men jailed for aggravated robbery

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Two Stanton men were arrested Saturday afternoon after back-to-back robberies at two Big Spring convenience stores. Anthony Hinojos Jr., 22, and Andres Castillo, 18, both of Stanton, were arrested Saturday afternoon and each charged with two counts of aggravated robbery after attacking customers at the Town & Country located at Highway 87 and Interstate High 20 and the 7-Eleven at 902 Willia.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, the men began their brief crime spree at the Town & Country when they attacked a customer who was pumping gas. "They approached the victim and asked to borrow a car jack," said Everett. "The victim

gave them his car jack, at which time the suspects attacked him with it. They took his money and fled the scene on foot." Everett said the two men soon turned up at the 7-Eleven convenience store, attempting the same scam. "They asked the customer at 7-Eleven if they could borrow a jack as well," said Everett. "After that, they attacked him. Some of the victim's friends

were inside the store and ran out to help him." Everett said the jack wasn't used as a weapon in the second attack, which is still being treated as aggravated robbery because of the threat of a weapon. "One of the suspects yelled to the other one and told him to get his gun," said Everett. "Even the threat of a weapon in this type of crime makes it an aggravated robbery."

"Because of the report of the first robbery, there were already police officers in the area searching for the suspects, so they were able to respond to the scene very quickly. Both suspects were arrested near the scene of the crime on Willia." Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

FINANCE

Continued from page 1A

teacher salary increase and additional funding for the mileage costs of busing students to school. The chamber narrowly approved the bill by a 76-71 vote, with two members abstaining. No Democrats voted for the bill. The bill, which would add about \$1.5 billion a year to public schools over the next two years, has been opposed by every major education group in Texas. Each of the more than 1,030 school districts in Texas would get an average of a 5 percent increase in funds, under the proposal. Although Laney conceded that some portions of the bill were acceptable, he could not support the plan as a whole. "There's some good concepts in the bill, but you don't pass some segments of the bill, you have to pass all of it," he said. "I didn't have one school in my district that supported the bill." Republican Rep. Kent Grusendorf, who authored the legislation,

called the measure "the most important vote of the legislative session." He has hailed the bill as an opportunity to give parents and taxpayers transparency and school officials accountability in how billions of tax dollars are being spent on Texas' 4.3 million K-12 students. Republicans swatted down dozens of amendments, including some that would increase funding for students at risk of dropping out, bilingual students and gifted and talented programs. One amendment, which would have studied the efficiency of consolidating small school districts, was approved but later withdrawn after rural legislators bristled. Critics argued that a Republican-proposed teacher pay raise would be difficult for some schools in Texas to deliver and doesn't quite add up to the promised increase. "There's no new money flowing into that pay raise," said Democratic Rep. Scott Hochberg of Houston, who worked on the committee that considered the legislation. The proposal, adopted late Tuesday night, would be about a \$3,000 increase

in the average teacher salary in each district. But, a restored \$1,000 teacher health care stipend, which lawmakers cut in half last session, would be rolled into the salary increase, leaving teachers with about \$2,000. "There's significant problems with the pay raise, which is a sham," said Rob D'Amico, a spokesman for the Texas Federation of Teachers. "First of all, no one knows where the money is coming from. I don't think anyone on the House floor really understood where this money is coming from." Another provision would put a 35 percent cap on the amount of money that could be taken from property wealthy districts to be redistributed to the rest of the state. The House narrowly approved an amendment to eliminate the cap from the bill, but after several moments of persuasion on the House floor, another vote was taken and the cap remained in place. The wealth-sharing measure has given the system its Robin Hood nickname and is among the most contentious aspects of the

current system. Critics argue that allowing the "super-wealthy" school districts to retain most of their property tax revenue, the gap between the haves and the have-nots is increased. "I believe that it is fundamentally wrong. It is morally wrong to create two classes of Texas kids, and that's what (this bill) does," said Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine. A final vote will likely be taken Thursday. The measure still must be approved by the Senate, before members from both chambers join to work out the differences between the two versions of the bill. Laney said he expects major changes to the bill before a final version is approved. "From conversations I've had with several senators, their concept (of the bill) is very different from the House," he said. "When the Senate is through with it, I don't think it will even resemble what passed in the House last night." The House will next take up a second part of the school finance package — a \$10 billion tax bill intended to replace slashed school property

taxes with an array of other taxes, such as a snack tax and an increased and expanded sales tax. Debate on that bill is set for Thursday morning. Gov. Rick Perry has not endorsed any particular tax, but he said he was urging members to get it out of the House so it can be kept alive. "I ask them to move the process forward. That's very important in this process," he said. On Tuesday, the Legislative Budget Board released an analysis stating that only Texans making more than \$100,000 a year would receive a net tax cut under the tax bill. The board analysis stated that the poorest 1.7 million households — those making less than \$23,000 a year — would see their tax burden increase more than 5 percent under the bill. Lawmakers are proposing adding a penny to the state sales tax rate and sharply boosting taxes on cigarettes and snacks. The richest 840,000 households — those making more than \$140,000 a year — would see their taxes cut nearly 3 percent, according to the legislative agency.

Revising the state's system for paying for public schools has been a top priority for many lawmakers this session. Lawmakers are under pressure after a judge last year ruled Texas' school finance system unconstitutional, calling the \$30 billion system "financially inefficient, inadequate and unsuitable." The state appealed the ruling to the Texas Supreme Court, but a final decision is not expected until after the current legislative session. The Associated Press contributed to this report. Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

WRECK

Continued from Page 1A

to Midland. Stallings said the driver of the

vehicle, 25-year old Estaban Florencio, was traveling in the left lane when the vehicle entered the east-west divider. Florencio apparently overcorrected, sending the Tahoe back across the westbound lane and

into the service road median, where it flipped after striking a steep embankment, before coming to rest upright on the north service road. Stallings noted that, apparently, none of the passengers were

wearing seatbelts at the time of the accident. Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

RATHER

Continued from Page 1A

Rather's reporting career spanned the Kennedy assassination to this winter's tsunami, and he's been the public face of CBS's legendary news division since replacing Walter Cronkite on March 9, 1981. His first newscast included a story about English girls imitating the hairstyle of Prince Charles' bride-to-be, Diana. On Wednesday, the lead story was oil prices causing a bad day on Wall Street.

He's the second of the three men who dominated network news for more than two decades to step down in four months. NBC's Tom Brokaw exited in November, leaving ABC's Peter Jennings remaining at "World News Tonight." Bob Schieffer is Rather's temporary replacement starting Thursday. CBS expects to name a permanent anchor team to succeed Rather in the coming months. Rather, 73, is returning to full-time reporting for CBS's "60 Minutes" broadcasts. He flashed a steadfast

defiance in reminding viewers of the phrase "courage." He was mocked by some for using the word to end his broadcasts for a week in September 1986 before giving up on the idea. For its first 20 minutes, Rather's final broadcast was all business. No one — Rather or correspondents John Roberts and Anthony Mason — acknowledged it was a special night. Rather wore a dark blue pinstriped suit and striped red tie. His voice was hoarse. His exit comes at a low ebb in his career. Rather

took much of the public blame for a discredited "60 Minutes" story last fall about President Bush's military service, and he's a distant third in the ratings behind NBC's Brian Williams and Jennings. He has been a target for decades of conservatives who accuse the media of bias, since his coverage of the Nixon White House during the Watergate era, and many have exulted in his recent misfortunes. But he had his supporters, too. Marian MacNeil of Windsor, Calif., said she watched Rather regularly

and admired him. "I feel terrible the way he's being treated now," MacNeil said. "I think they're smearing a good reputation and overshadowing his 50 years. I hope he's able to rise above this." Both Jennings and Williams paid tribute to Rather at the end of their broadcasts. Williams called him a "very tough competitor" and a friend of nearly 20 years.

Chris LeDoux dies of complications from liver cancer

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Chris LeDoux, a world champion bareback rider who parlayed songs about cowboys he knew on the rodeo circuit into a successful country music career, died Wednesday from complications of liver cancer. He was 56. LeDoux died Wednesday in Casper, according to Judy McDonough, spokeswoman for Capitol Nashville, LeDoux's recording company. He had checked into the hospital this week following complications from his cancer and was with family and friends at the time of his death. Among his best known songs

were "Whatcha Gonna Do With a Cowboy," with Garth Brooks, "Cadillac Ranch," "Hooked On An 8-Second Ride," "Copenhagen," "Under This Old Hat" and "Riding For a Fall." He had undergone a liver transplant in 2000 after a lengthy illness. LeDoux, who was born in Mississippi and grew up in Austin, described his music as a combination of "Western soul, sagebrush blues, cowboy folk and rodeo rock 'n' roll." By 1989, LeDoux had released 22 albums which he sold at concerts



LeDoux

and rodeos. He had a loyal, if limited, fan base. That changed that year when Garth Brooks had a hit with "Much Too Young (To Feel This Damn Old)," which included the line: "A worn-out tape of Chris LeDoux, lonely women and bad booze seem to be the only friends I've left at all." LeDoux soon became a country star and recorded songs about cowboys, the ups and downs of the rodeo circuit and his adopted home of Wyoming. In 2003, he released the album "Horsepower" and celebrated career sales of more than 5 million albums.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288

Ruby Greenhill, 83, died Friday. Funeral Services will be at 4:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Rica Hilario, 80, died Friday. Funeral Mass will be at 12 Noon Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Raymond Karnes, 82, died Monday. Graveside Services will be at 10:00 AM Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Odie Sanchez, 87, died Thursday. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Friday at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Mary L. Ward, 80, died Wednesday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Saturday at the College Park Church of God with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 8:00 PM at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Susanne Reed
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
Managing EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Cook-off offers good food for a great cause

What are your plans for the weekend? Well, four local organizations — the Fraternal Order of the Eagles Aerie No. 3188, American Legion Post 506, the Permian Basin Chapter of the Cossacks Motorcycle Club and the Big Spring Bass Club — have something to consider for Saturday.

They will be staging a benefit barbecue cook-off to raise funds for the Forsan High School Band's trip to Washington, D.C.

The cook-off will be staged at the Eagles Lodge, located at 703 W. Third St. and competition will be held in five categories — brisket, pork ribs, chicken halves, sausage and jackpot beans.

Cooking will begin early that morning and judging is set for 1 p.m.

And the best part for most of us also gets under way at 1 p.m. That's when, for \$5 per plate, we get to partake of the barbecue the cooks prepare.

If you happen to think you're one of the best barbecue cooks around, there's still time to register to compete. Registration is \$10 per category. Just call 263-6862 to get entered.

We encourage our readers to make plans to stop by the Eagles Lodge Saturday and help support the Forsan band.

You'll not only be helping a deserving group of Howard County youngsters take part in an experience they'll remember all their lives, but enjoy a fine barbecue meal in the process.

That's what we call a win, win situation.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

Inside report: Social Security crossroads

Sen. Robert Bennett, the chief deputy majority whip and one of the wisest Republican heads in Washington, has quietly entered the Social Security maelstrom with a thoughtful compromise that puts his party at a crossroads. The GOP faces this choice: pass a bill that is a pallid version of the original proposal, or concede defeat and fight out the battle in the 2006 campaign.

Bennett's plan would attack the unmistakable Social Security funding deficit by cutting benefits, graduated to hit hardest in upper income brackets. There would be no tax increase. President Bush's proposed voluntary personal accounts as part of Social Security would be written into law but would not go into effect for five years, when George W. Bush would no longer be president.

Hardly a month ago, it was inconceivable that Bush would accept such a watered-down proposal. But now, it is probably the most that can be hoped for. Whether the Republicans declare victory, such a proposal will shape partisan politics into the future.

Bob Bennett is in his 13th year as a senator from Utah, and his experience on Capitol Hill as a staffer for his father, Sen. Wallace Bennett, goes back four decades. A successful independent businessman, Bennett has the rare ability to understand and articulate complicated issues. As chairman of the Joint Economic Committee

last year, he thoroughly studied the Social Security puzzle.

Typically, Bennett has been working behind the scenes to solve that puzzle and went public only when details began to leak out. He starts from the premise that Social Security will not be in trouble some time in the distant future but in 2008, when the first "baby boomers" retire and initiate a worsening strain on the system. Bennett's plan realizes two facts of life in dealing with this developing crisis.

First, the plan by Sen. Lindsey Graham, raising the present \$90,000 cap on annual income subject to the payroll tax financing Social Security, is a dead letter with conservatives. Some 30 congressmen who belong to the Republican Study Committee, invited to Dick Cheney's home last week, told the vice president they could not tolerate any tax increase.

Second, Democrats have definitively ruled out any form of personal accounts. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, by nature a dealmaker, is under intense pressure from his caucus not even to discuss the Bush proposal. With Sen. John Kerry accusing Reid of being too soft, the new leader rejected any negotiation.

Democrats, reeling from a succession of election defeats, want to humiliate Bush at the start of his second term. In the Senate, Paul Begala (my co-host on CNN's "Crossfire") is described as threatening a jihad against any Democrat who dares negotiate.

Bennett tackles the coming Social Security shortfall by making an overdue change — long advocated by the late Democratic Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan —

of pegging Social Security to prices instead of wages. That requires a cut in future benefits. But Bennett would "blend" that cut — deeper for the rich than the poor. This constitutes a non-partisan compromise. Significantly, Bennett does not raise taxes.

The Bennett plan tries to sidestep the furor over personal accounts by establishing an individual savings account outside of the Social Security system. Many Democrats are proposing similar plans, and nobody really thinks they would impel workers to save appreciably more than they do today. However, Bennett would write into law, effective five years from now, the option for wage earners to commit a portion of their payroll taxes to future accounts.

That probably will not assuage the wrath of Democrats who vow that any of their senators who support personal accounts, even Joe Lieberman, face primary election challenges. But it may be a reasonable enough alternative to chip away at a few brave Democrats.

Will the president buy it? The guess on Capitol Hill is that it will look better than nothing, in the eyes of the White House. But there is a temptation among many Republicans to match Democratic intransigence and go to the public in the mid-term election. The Republicans stand at the crossroads, about to make a decision that will affect much more than Social Security.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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ROBERT NOVAK



Bloggers' reaction to Byrd speech far off the mark

In the magical upside-down world of right-wing blogs, it is now an accepted article of faith that Sen. Robert Byrd compared George W. Bush to Hitler last week. Republicans are demanding an apology, many have taken to high dudgeon, and another pointless flapette is on.

Actually Byrd, a noted scholar of the Senate and its procedures, made an interesting speech opposing the "nuclear option" of cutting off Senate debate on judicial nominees. "Rumor has it there is a plot afoot in the Senate to curtail the right of extended debate in this hallowed chamber, not in accordance with its rules, mind you, but by fiat from the chair," said the elderly Byrd. He is also famed for his magniloquent speaking style, a splendid old-fashioned oratory known to older Americans who had to study rhetoric. Byrd tangentially mentioned Hitler, quoting historian Alan Bullock to make the following point:

"Hitler's originality lay in his realization that effective revolutions, in modern conditions, are carried out with, and not against, the power of the state: The correct order of events was first to

secure access to that power and then begin his revolution. Hitler never abandoned the cloak of legality; he recognized the enormous psychological value of having the law on his side. Instead, he turned the law inside out and made illegality legal."

A point worth pausing over. Byrd went on to suggest the "nuclear option" ploy is similar in that it involves the same premise: If you can't win under the rules, you change the rules. Certainly a case of rhetorical overreach, but then, that is a hazard of public speaking.

The blogger Wonkette posted an amusing collection of Republican politicians comparing this, that and the other to Nazi Germany — a ruling on abortion, stem cell research, even the Kyoto protocol. In 2002, former Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas managed to find a tax bill like something "right out of Nazi Germany. I don't understand ... why all of a sudden we are passing laws that sound as if they are right out of Nazi Germany." Rhetorical overreach plagues many: George W. Bush once managed to invoke the tragic memory of 9-11 in aid of a capital gains tax cut.

Byrd's really quite thoughtful speech should appeal to conservatives with its emphasis on historical precedent, constitutional responsibilities, and the sys-

tem of checks and balances. Byrd also made a spirited attack on Franklin D. Roosevelt for his misbegotten plan to "pack" the Supreme Court.

All of this was about Bush's decision to renominate 20 of his choices for the federal bench who never got a vote in his first term because of threatened filibusters. For some reason, Republicans have chosen to treat these rebuffs as though they were World War III, accusing Democrats of the dread "obstructionism." Their own record during the Clinton years of knocking off dozens of President Clinton's judicial nominees gives not the slightest pause.

The 20 retrials include some real dogs. One of these prizes is William G. Myers III, nominated for a lifetime seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. His qualifications consist of having spent most of his adult life as a lobbyist for Western mining, timber and oil companies. Bush named him top lawyer in the Interior Department in 2001, apparently on the grounds that Myers once compared the federal government's management of federal lands to the tyranny of King George III.

Another gem is Janice Rogers Brown of California, nominated for the D.C. Court of Appeals, who described the New Deal as "the triumph of our socialist revolution" and praised an

infamous line of Supreme Court cases from 1905 to 1937 striking down worker health and safety laws as infringing on the rights of business. (Of course your employer has a right to kill you — what are you, out of the mainstream?)

Still another prize in this package is Claude A. Allen, who believes abortion rights are causing genocide of black people. A supporter of abstinence education, Allen backed the administration's decision to remove information about condoms from the Web site of the Centers for Disease Control.

My personal fave is Priscilla Owen of the Texas Supreme Court, who is so far out that Alberto Gonzales once denounced one of her decisions as "an unconscionable act of judicial activism."

Then there's William Haynes, principal author and defender of the administration's dubious handling of several torture issues.

All in all, a lovely bunch of coconuts, with a collective record showing opposition to human rights, civil rights, abortion rights — pretty much everything but property rights.

Go, Byrd. To find out more about Molly Ivins and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.



MOLLY IVINS

A
Hu
H2 SU
in attBy JIM MATEJA
Chicago Tribune

Hummer own unique breed — some, scorned. People look to for their wealth at them for co greater portion earth's petrol plies than de table.

Whether frie give Humme credit. They ca or out witho noticed even if ed to in a vehi as it is tall, a that at first gl closely resemb cature of a s vehicle.

And now the addition to the attract even m ers into the finds comfort i ing the bigge money can buy wheels — a H pickup truck. (H1 with a box i no tailgate, so loaded from the

Yup, first the Hummer H1, should hav required to hav as standard. T the Hummer H what smaller, the H1 craft version of the v ularized by th General Moto the H2 once it b the Hummer fa Now comes th H2 SUT, basic with a pickup than a sport hold.

Maybe not cute.

Not a vehicle one, but ne Hyundai Acc

The H2 SUT who need to folks in the ca fer holding the five folks need cabin.

But, if you only two adul lumber, shr ladders or ar that won't f that's only 35 the H2 SUT w dle the challe

The bed is wide, 35 inch 20 inches enough for lu bags or, if a athlete, gold rings and re bling.

Like the Avalanche pi SUT come midgate, or v arates the ca bed.

Flip and f

A cute Hummer

H2 SUT wraps utility in attractive package

By JIM MATEJA
Chicago Tribune

Hummer owners are a unique breed — envied by some, scorned by others.

People look up to them for their wealth or down at them for consuming a greater portion of the earth's petroleum supplies than deemed equitable.

Whether friend or foe, give Hummer owners credit. They can't slip in or out without being noticed even if they wanted to in a vehicle as wide as it is tall, a machine that at first glance more closely resembles a caricature of a sport-utility vehicle.

And now there's a new addition to the lineup to attract even more followers into the camp that finds comfort in purchasing the biggest vehicle money can buy without 18 wheels — a Hummer H2 pickup truck. (There is an H1 with a box in back but no tailgate, so it has to be loaded from the top.)

Yup, first there was the Hummer H1, so big it should have been required to have life rafts as standard. Then came the Hummer H2, a somewhat smaller version of the H1 craft, a civilian version of the vehicle popularized by the military. General Motors created the H2 once it bought into the Hummer family.

Now comes the Hummer H2 SUT, basically an H2 with a pickup bed rather than a sport-ute cargo hold.

Maybe not cuddly, but cute.

Not a vehicle for everyone, but neither is a Hyundai Accent.

The H2 SUT is for those who need to hold five folks in the cabin and prefer holding the stuff those five folks need outside the cabin.

But, if you need to hold only two adults yet lots of lumber, shrubs, bricks, ladders or anything else that won't fit in a bed that's only 35 inches long, the H2 SUT will still handle the challenge.

The bed is 47 inches wide, 35 inches deep and 20 inches high, large enough for luggage, duffel bags or, if a professional athlete, gold chains, earrings and related bling-bling.

Like the Chevrolet Avalanche pickup, the H2 SUT comes with a midgate, or wall that separates the cabin from the bed.

Flip and fold the rear

seats forward, press a dash button to power the rear window into the midgate, press the buttons to lower the metal midgate and extend the bed 3 feet by borrowing from the passenger cabin. Lower the midgate and tailgate, and you can haul items 8 feet long.

You can leave the bed exposed; or opt for the \$950 locking tonneau cover that secures items inside. The cover is strong enough to support 250 pounds should you decide to stand on it or spread out a blanket on it to soak up some rays while adventuring into the great outdoors.

We tested the '05 H2 SUT but didn't stand on the cover because even with the tailgate down, you'd need a ladder to get onto the top.

What's surprising about the SUT is that it delivers such a smooth, pleasant, hassle-free ride. Road blemishes go virtually unnoticed. Can't say that about too many SUVs, much less too many pickups.

Handling, well, handling is about what you'd expect in a vehicle that stands about 81 inches high and 81 inches wide. You sit high and see down the road without anything getting in your way. Thanks to the 81-inch width you sit in comfort with more than ample wiggle room.

Of course, when 81 inches high and 81 inches wide, there are a few nuisances you don't have to put up with in a roughly 55-inch-high and 75-inch-wide family sedan.

Corners are best taken at reduced speed. Yes it's wide, but it's also more than a tad heavy and you always feel more in control in keeping the bulk moving forward rather than at any lateral angle.

Also, you feel like you've filled the lane on the road and don't dare wander an inch or two either way.

And when you pull into the mall lot, you park in the hinterland because you don't always fit easily between the other visitors.

Consumers complain about trying to see what's coming when backing out of the lot when nestled between two big SUVs.

Hummer owners have their gripes, too. While they easily can see what's coming, the problem is having to squeeze into or out of that spot when other vehicles are along



The 2005 Hummer H2 SUT

side, and squeezing out of their Hummer when a vehicle is parked alongside — not to mention squeezing back in again.

Thankfully the test vehicle came with optional \$425 tubular side steps. Getting into or out of the SUT without them would have been a chore because it stands so high to allow for off-road clearance.

The 6-liter, 325-horsepower V-8 does a more than admirable job in getting the size and weight in motion — and doing so quietly.

However, while tree-huggers may detest you, filling-station owners roll out the red carpet. The tank holds 32 gallons of gas that gives you about 310 miles of driving range. The government doesn't require a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 8,500 pounds or more to list its city and highway mileage figures. But without doing the math, it's safe to say the SUT doesn't obtain 20 m.p.g.

If it's mileage you want in a Hummer, you'll have to wait for the H3 sport-ute that joins the lineup in the middle of next year. It will deliver roughly 14 to 16 m.p.g. city and 19 to 20 m.p.g. highway.

The H3, expected to start at about \$35,000, is derived from the midsize Chevy Colorado pickup platform and will be powered by the same 5-cylinder engine. Of note, the H3 was unveiled as a Hummer H3 SUT concept a year ago.

The Hummer H2 SUT starts at \$51,995, though it finishes a lot higher after the typical owner does a little personalizing.

Nice touches include push-button AWD with four-wheel-high and low settings; five power plugs front and rear, or one more plug than cuphold-

er; a front-seat air bag on/off switch; heated rear seats; four-wheel anti-lock brakes with traction control; rear-seat audio controls with headsets; power sunroof; power heated/folding side mirrors; 17-inch, all-terrain radial tires; and power operated just about everything.

The test vehicle added \$2,780 for an adventure group with such features as air springs, brush guards, tubular taillamp protectors to prevent off-road damage, as well as a first-aid kit/tool kit/flashlight package.

The truck bed cover (\$950) and tubular assist steps (\$425) inflate the price even more, though the bed cover is nice to have and the steps are a must.

2005 Hummer H2 SUT

Wheelbase: 122.8 inches
Length: 203.5 inches
Engine: 6-liter, 325-h.p. V-8
Transmission: 4-speed automatic
Fuel economy: 310-mile range from 32-gallon tank
Base price: \$51,995
Price as tested: \$56,600.
Includes \$2,780 for Adventure group with air springs, air compressor, brush guard, rubber floor mats, AM/FM six-disc in-dash CD changer, first-aid/tool kit/flashlight, tubular taillamp

protectors and crossbar roof rack: \$950 for locking tonneau truck-bed cover; \$450 for chrome package with chrome door handles and mirror caps; and \$425 for tubular assist steps. Add \$850 for freight.

Pluses: A Hummer pickup truck with the take-no-prisoners design. Smooth, quiet, comfortable ride for such a big vehicle. Sit high (81.2 inches tall) for great down-the-road visibility. Room for five adults in cabin. Truck bed for when you need to haul stuff and foldable midgate with power window to extend bed into cabin when you have to haul longer stuff.

Minuses: 310 miles of driving range from 32 gallons of gas. SUT is 8 inches wider (81.2 inches, as wide as it is tall) than a Buick LeSabre, a dimension that comes into play when you try slipping between the painted lines in the mall lot.

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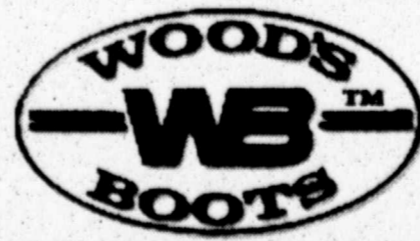
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Don't let age stop fashion fun

By Lisa Jones Townsel
(KRT)

ST. LOUIS — Flowers bloomed, colors burst into brilliance and silhouettes hugged and flared on runways for spring.

You liked them, or at least a part of what you saw, but you aren't sure if your body can — or will — cooperate.

It's a well-known fact that most of the poppy spring looks are geared toward the '30-and-under crowd. But that doesn't mean a mature woman has to wear dusters and tunics the rest of her life.

Relax. Be realistic, then pick and choose.

Carol Moellenhoff, a sales associate for Cache at West County Center in St. Louis, says she often hears reticent customers wondering if they should purchase certain pieces — mostly due to their age.

"They'll say, 'I'm too old' and 'I don't want to look like I'm trying to dress like my daughter,'" Moellenhoff says.

But she works with them and gingerly offers suggestions if something doesn't quite work.

Moellenhoff, who personifies cool at age 66, says shopping for clothing is all about one's sensibilities.

"If you're young at heart, you're going to shop here," she says, adding that quite a few of her clients are 60 and older.

But age isn't the only barrier that keeps many older women from plucking some stylish looks from the racks. Many stores carry only smaller sizes, which in some part, is the case for Cache.

"We stop at a size 12," Moellenhoff says.

So, the woman who does shop there, she says, wants to be trendy and fashion-forward.

"You work hard to keep it, so you're going to want to dress it nice," she reasons.

Mary Beth Barutio, who is sixtysomething, used to

be professional model. Today, she is the admissions director for Barbizon Modeling Center in Clayton, Mo. But she doesn't mind rekindling the modeling flame to help women see how they can add a bit of realism to what they see on the runways.

She also has very strong opinions about her clothing.

"I don't like low-riders," says Barutio, who prefers to wear pants with a natural or high waist. She doesn't do sleeveless, either. "I refuse to wear that," she says emphatically. "You get all of this underarm jiggle."

And while she's not adverse to color, she prefers to wear black and "accessorize with bright colors."

Barutio worked with us to translate three designer looks into more wearable ensembles for the mature crowd. One outfit, a skirted ensemble from the Luca Luca Spring 2005 collection, brought an immediate reaction.

"I like the skirt, but I wouldn't wear the top," she says. "Maybe I'd wear a black tank top with the sweater, but I wouldn't wear strapless. I like things more covered."

Nikki Douglas, co-manager of the J.Jill store at West County Center, advises women like Barutio and others not to dismiss a style completely.

"Look at it and take pieces out of it that you like and adapt it for your own," she suggests.

This might mean pairing a trendy top with a bottom that is more modest but better suited for your body type, she says.

One of the store's pieces that has been particularly popular is a short, red-and-white tweed jacket with oversize buttons.

"I have gals in their 20s, 60s, 70s (wear it). It's one of those pieces you can wear with dress slacks or with jeans," she adds. "There are always different ways to wear things."

Nancy Nix-Rice, personal fashion adviser for Lord & Taylor at West County Center, agrees. She says most people are hyper-critical about themselves.

"They're camouflaging things they don't have to," she contends.

"Exposure of the upper arms has taken over from hips and thighs as the No. 1 thing that we hear women complaining about their bodies."

After considering one's own size and sensibilities, Nix-Rice says there are practical concerns for the mature woman to factor in when shopping.

"People's coloring softens with age," she says.

"Our eye color becomes less intense. Our skin becomes paler, and the overall brightness and contrast becomes more subdued."

Thus, Nix-Rice says some high-contrast color combinations can be "too overpowering" for the mature woman.

"If colors get too bright and strong, it's unflattering," she says, suggesting that instead of the brightest turquoise, older women might want to mix softer aquas and other muted colors into their wardrobes.

Body changes impact choices, too. As we age, Nix-Rice says, "our spine compacts, and it diminishes the distance between the waistline and the shoulder line. We become more short-waisted."

This can be remedied a bit, she says, by paying closer attention to posture and selecting clothing that isn't too closely fitted.

A good bra, she says, is also critical.

"It's really important to keep the bustline higher. By doing this, you take pounds and years off," she says.

Nix-Rice, who owns her own image consulting business First Impressions, is also a huge advocate of removable shoulder pads.

"As we mature, everything is being pulled downward," she says. But



KRT Photo/Teak Phillips

Mary Beth Barutio sports a pink cardigan with snaps (\$118), matching tank (\$68) and black-and-white floral print pants (\$118), all from Cache.



KRT Photo/Teak Phillips

Mary Beth Barutio rests easy in an all-in-one bra cami in rhubarb (\$24) and Go Lightly tweed jacket (\$148) paired with a long denim skirt (\$78) accented with a vintage lace scarf (\$48), all from J.Jill.

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B.S. Girl's Association signups in

The Big Spring Softball Association will be holding its registration for the upcoming 2005 season.

The league is open for girls ages four and up.

Signups will be held throughout the month of March from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Spring Mall. Signups will be accepted at the Sports, located at East 11th Street.

There is a \$5.00 registration fee of \$5.00 discount will be given to a second year player.

Tryouts for the league will be held on April 2 and 3. For more information, call Roy at 432-213-3747.

Howard rodeo sets crawl

The Howard rodeo team is preparing for its annual rodeo which will be held at the H.C. F. during the week of March 14-18.

The cost of the rodeo, which includes meals and lodging, is \$100. For more information, contact the rodeo coordinator, Kernick at 812-213-3747.

Baseball camp for middle schoolers

The Middle School Baseball Camp will be held at the National League Field, located on Highway 87, from March 14-18.

The camp will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Each session will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Each session will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

One session will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

The camp will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Each session will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

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Howard Region V

The Howard Region V will be held at the Howard Region V.

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The Howard Region V will be held at the Howard Region V.

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Troy Hyde at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

IN BRIEF

B.S. Girl's Softball Association holding signups in March

The Big Spring Girl's Softball Association will be holding signups to register for the upcoming 2005 season. The league is open for girls and women ages four and above. Signups will occur every Saturday throughout the month of March from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall. However, signups will also be accepted at All District Sports, located at 1005 East 11th Place.

There is a registration fee of \$30, but a \$5 discount will be given to a second child.

Tryouts for the league will take place April 2 and the league begins play April 25.

For more information, call Ron Shafer at 432-213-3747.

Howard rodeo team sets crawfish boil

The Howard College rodeo team will hold its annual crawfish boil April 16 at 2 p.m. at the H.C. Rodeo Bowl during Howard College's annual rodeo.

The cost is \$15, which includes ticket into rodeo.

For more information, contact Howard rodeo coach Greg Kernick at 816-9477.

Baseball camp set for middle of March

The Mickey Owen Baseball School will take place Saturday, March 19, at the National League Little League Field on Driver Road off South Highway 87.

The camp is broken into two sessions as the first one takes place from 9:30 a.m. to noon and the second one goes from 12:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Each session is broken down into instruction, practice and play.

One session costs \$40, but participants can get both camps for \$60. Participants can save \$10 if registered by March 10.

The first session will cover general instruction on hitting, fielding and throwing, while session two is position instruction involving catchers, pitchers, infielders and outfielders.

The camp is for anyone ages six through 12.

The camp advises athletes to bring their own glove, cap, baseball pants, baseball shoes and gym shoes.

For more information, contact the Mickey Owen Baseball School at 1-800-999-8369.

Howard to play in Region V Tourney

The Howard College men's basketball team — after finishing second in the WJCAC Conference — will travel to Lubbock for the Region V Tournament this weekend.

Howard (25-5, 11-3) will play Friday at 12:30 p.m. against Grayson.

The tournament will take place at the Rip Griffin Center. The winner of regionals advances to nationals.

Howard meets 'identical twin' in Region V opener

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Two similar squads will face off against each other in the first round of the Region V Tournament Friday as Howard battles Grayson at 12:30 p.m. at the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock.

"We have a lot of similarities on both sides of the ball," said Howard coach Mark Adams.

Both teams have balanced offensive attacks, are well-coached and very



structured.

"Grayson won't beat themselves on the offensive end of the floor," said Adams. "They all know their roles and don't take many bad shots."

Grayson is led offensively by Chris Session and has better 3-point shooters than Howard,

said Adams. They finished third this season in the Northern Junior College Athletic Conference, behind second-placed McLennan and third-ranked Temple.

The winner between the Hawks and Grayson will take on the winner between Temple and South Plains Saturday at 12:30 p.m. McLennan will challenge Midland and

See HOWARD, Page 2B

NJCAA Region V men's basketball tournament in Lubbock

Friday's quarterfinal games

Game One: Howard vs. Grayson, 12:30 p.m.
Game Two: No. 3 Temple vs. South Plains, 2:30 p.m.
Game Three: McLennan vs. Midland, 5 p.m.
Game Four: Frank Phillips vs. Weatherford, 7 p.m.

Saturday's semi-final games

Game Five: Howard or Grayson vs. No. 3 Temple or South Plains, 12:30 p.m.
Game Six: McLennan or Midland vs. Frank Phillips or Weatherford, 2:30 p.m.

Sunday's championship game

The Region V Tournament championship game will begin at 2 p.m.

*All games will be played at the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock

BSTA hires tennis pro to help Big Spring team

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The Big Spring Tennis Association has officially hired a tennis pro to assist with the program at Big Spring high school.

Ted Olesen, 25, was hired Monday and will now officially be in charge of local tournaments, camps and leagues. He will also hold private lessons to any one person or group that wants to better his or her game on the tennis court.

"I want to help improve each player's game and hopefully get a chance to work with every player in a one on one capacity," said Olesen.

Big Spring head tennis Sarah Corse said the opportunity the players will now have can do nothing but help the Steer program.

"It is going to help the program a lot," said Corse. "Now we have someone else to help expand the development of these kids. We have limitations as to what we can do as coaches and he will help out with that. The opportunity for private lessons is now more convenient and I hope the players take full advantage of this. I know the interest is there, though."

Olesen graduated from West Texas A&M (WT) last year with degrees in Computer Information Systems and Management. He played a total of three and a half years of tennis at the collegiate level, including two and a half at WT. He played the other year at Collin County Community College in Plano and was ranked No. 11 nationally in doubles that year.

He came to Texas by way of California when he was 15-years-old and graduated from Tascosa High School in Amarillo.

"I benefited from playing on a good tennis team with a good coach," said Olesen. "We won the state championship my junior year there."

Olesen and his family — which has five other tennis professionals — moved around a lot when he was younger. Olesen's father was in the Air Force and was actually stationed in Big Spring before he was born.

Besides working as a tennis pro in Big Spring, Olesen is also working towards a United States Professional Tennis Association Certificate and a master's degree in business administration. He is currently taking courses for the master's degree online through

See OLESEN, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Ted Olesen practices with members of the Big Spring tennis team Wednesday afternoon at Comanche Trail Park. Olesen is a tennis professional hired by the Big Spring Tennis Association Monday. Olesen is required to work with local tennis players five hours per week and is also holding private lessons and will be running various camps and leagues in town.

Big Spring varsity track results Big Country Relays at ACU's Elmer Gray Stadium March 4

Steers
800 meter run: Daniel Garza, second — 2:02
1,600 meter run: Michael Rodriguez, fifth — 4:50
Chris Salazar, sixth — 4:52
Rodriguez, second — 10:16
3,200 meter run: Sanazar, fourth — 10:33
Discus: Angel Salazar, 10th — 104-08
4x100 relay: Big Spring, 8th — 45.31
4x200 relay: Big Spring, 8th — 1:34.17

Team Standings

1. North Crowley — 140
2. Copperas Cove — 137
3. Abilene Cooper — 75
4. Odessa High — 66
4. Abilene High — 66
6. San Angelo Central — 43
7. Odessa Permian — 30
8. Brownwood — 27
9. Big Spring — 23
10. Strawn — 8
11. San Angelo Lake View — 5

Lady Steers
200 meter dash: Carmen Lewis, 1st — :26.34
800 meter run: Esther Tobar, 2nd — 2:30.82
100 meter hurdles: Raegan Ritchey, 10th — :17.80
300 meter hurdles: Elida Rodriguez, 6th — :51.34
Long jump: Britni Rodriguez, 7th — 15-04.75
Triple jump: Whitney Lewis, 10th — 31-05.50
Shot put: Amisha Vanderbilt, 1st — 35-06.25
Discus: Vanderbilt, 2nd — 119-02
4x100 relay: Big Spring, 9th — 52.82
4x200 relay: Big Spring, 7th — 1:50.59
4x400 relay: Big Spring, 3rd — 4:14.41

Team Standings

1. North Crowley — 151
2. San Angelo Central — 100.33
3. Odessa High — 74
4. Odessa Permian — 65
5. Abilene Cooper — 51.67
6. Big Spring — 50
7. San Angelo Lake View — 47
8. Abilene High — 39
9. Brownwood — 24
10. Perryton — 18

Suns take out Spurs in battle of West elite

• Hardly playoff preview with Duncan, Ginobili out of lineup

By MEL REISNER

AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Amare Stoudemire scored 44 points and the Phoenix Suns beat San Antonio 107-101 Wednesday night for their first win over the Spurs this season.

The Spurs played without injured All-Stars Tim Duncan (ankle) and Manu Ginobili (groin), so it was no preview of a possible playoff meeting between teams battling for the NBA's best record.

But it was satisfying to the Suns, who snapped their longest current losing streak to one team.

The coveted victory wasn't locked up until Stoudemire dunked for a 105-98 lead with 1:19 to go on a play that began with Steve Nash missing a short jumper. Stoudemire had 13 points in the fourth quarter.

Shawn Marion deflected the ball to Joe Johnson, who shoveled it to Stoudemire underneath.

Marion had 18 points and 17 rebounds and Nash had 11 points and 15 assists. Leandro Barbosa scored 15 points off the bench and Johnson finished with 12.

The Suns earned their fourth straight win and snapped San Antonio's five-game winning streak, despite a season-high 30 points from Tony Parker.

Duncan, who turned his right ankle Sunday, played 30 minutes Tuesday against New Jersey but decided to rest it on the second half of a back-to-back. Ginobili, who scored a career-high 48 points in San Antonio's come-from-behind 128-123 overtime win in Phoenix on Jan. 21, did not dress.

This time, Phoenix barely had a lead to protect after Parker's buzzer-beating jumper cut their lead to 83-80.

Barbosa made a 3-pointer and Stoudemire had a three-point play in the first minute of the fourth, but Stoudemire also picked up his fifth foul with 9:34 left and sat out more than 4 minutes.

The Spurs, down 54-44 at halftime, roared back behind Parker, who had 10 points halfway through the third quarter. Bruce Bowen capped a 22-12 run with a free throw that tied it at 66.

Stoudemire thrived without Duncan, scoring 11 of Phoenix's first 15 points

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HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

Frank Phillips will play Weatherford in the other two quarterfinal (first round) matches.

Howard (25-5, 11-3) is led by freshman guard Charles Burgess, who is coming off a strong effort in the regular season finale against rival Midland. He scored 21 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in leading the Hawks to a 14-point win at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Sophomore Munir Shakir and freshmen Rashad Mintz, James Barrett and Brandon Sampay round out Howard's five starters. Guards Dezmon Harris and I m a n



ADAMS

Shokvohizadeh and center Dwayne Abraham will also see action off the bench.

"There is not a lot of things we can do different

offensively at this point in the season," said Adams. "We have to just keep doing what we have been doing all year.

"The key in the game will be for us to be well informed of their offensive sets and try to read those sets."

The Hawks have won six straight games entering the Region V Tournament. The winner of the eight-team regional tournament will advance to the National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kan., later this month.

To pitch or not to pitch, that is question for Texas veteran

• Rangers cut pitcher Thompson, offer him coaching position

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Justin Thompson was glad to hear the Texas Rangers would like him to stay with the organization as a pitching instructor, but he said Wednesday he's not quite ready to give up on his comeback.

"I was dumbfounded when they made the offer, that they think that highly of me, but I still think I can pitch," said Thompson, the 35-year-old left-hander who was the first cut from major league camp this spring. "I'm going to try it in the minors and see how it goes."

"It's nice to know I have that opportunity, but I really want to be able to look in the mirror and tell myself I did everything I could."

Thompson, an All-Star in 1997 with the Detroit Tigers, hasn't pitched in a

major league game since being injured on Aug. 15, 1999, against Anaheim. He was part of an eight-player trade later that year that sent two-time American League MVP Juan Gonzalez to the Tigers.

Thompson has since had four operations on his shoulder. He never pitched a major league game for the Rangers.

"He wasn't going to make the club," manager Buck Showalter said. "His velocity just wasn't there, but we'd love to have him work with our young pitchers. It's his decision to make."

Thompson made his reputation as a power pitcher, but the injuries have forced him to make adjustments to his game.

"I'm trying to be more of a sinkerball pitcher, be more crafty in placing my pitches like a Kenny

Rogers," Thompson said, referring to the Rangers left-hander who won 18 games last season. "It's been a difficult transition because I've always had the injuries to deal with, too. I have soreness every day, but I feel better this spring."

Thompson was 3-2 in 23 relief appearances with Double-A Frisco in 2004. He went 2-4 in 10 games in the Puerto Rican Winter League.

Cactus League Spring Training Scores from Wednesday

Kansas City 6, Seattle 0
Oakland 5, S.F. 1
Texas 6, Chicago Cubs 5
Colorado 6, Milwaukee 3
Chicago Sox 7, *S.D. 3
*L.A. Angels 2, *S.D. 1
*L.A. Angels 16, Arizona 2

* denotes team used split squads and each squad played one game.



KRT photo/John Sleezer, Kansas City Star
Royals' starting pitcher Jose Lima pumps his fist after completing three scoreless innings against the Mariners during their spring training game Wednesday at Surprise, Arizona.

Johnson to coach Dallas in three upcoming games

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mavericks coach Don Nelson is once again turning the team over to assistant coach Avery Johnson, this time to be with his wife while she recovers from surgery.

Joy Nelson's husband, the second-winningest coach in NBA history, will miss Thursday night's game at home against the Los Angeles Lakers then a road trip to Milwaukee and Minnesota. He's expect-

ed to return for Tuesday night's home game against the Timberwolves.

Johnson is being groomed to become Nelson's successor. He's run most practices this season and has coached several games, sometimes with Nelson serving as an assistant. Johnson also had a 10-game stint in charge while Nelson had shoulder surgery and the Mavs went 7-3 in that span.

OLESEN

Continued from Page 1B

WT. "The certification will help with running leagues here and it will teach me new drills and allow me to learn from the best," said Olesen.

While starting up leagues, running camps and holding some tournaments locally is important to Olesen, he says the biggest part of his job will come through the private lessons.

"I want to be able to help people out with their game and just be available for assistance," said Olesen.

Olesen gives lessons for \$22/hour and the lessons can be for more than one person at a time, as well.

"I want to hold twin lessons, lessons with three or four or even six to eight people at a time," said Olesen. "And obviously the more people you have in one lesson the cheaper it is per person."

Olesen's \$22/hour rate is significantly cheaper than other area tennis professionals.

"The average per hour around the area is \$35," said Corse.

Olesen will spend most of his time at the junior high and high school courts and invites anyone who is interested in lessons to attend a practice and see first hand what he can offer.



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<p>Cemetery Lots 2 PLOTS at Trinity Memorial Park, Garden of Memories. Will take \$1,900.00 for both. Call (918)664-9445.</p>	<p>Garage Sales ESTATE SALE: 2510 North Birdwell Lane, Sat. 9:00 till ? Everything must go.</p>	<p>Help Wanted BEST HOME Care continues to grow and need to fill RN case manager position. Great working hours and family oriented atmosphere. Competitive salary and good benefits. Please apply at 111 East 7th, Suite C.</p>	<p>Help Wanted DO YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH PEOPLE? If, so, Citizens Federal Credit Union may have a job for you! We have a career opportunity for a full-time Teller. We're looking for an enthusiastic, highly motivated individual to be part of our team. Excellent communication skills are a must, a financial background plus. Starting salary based on experience. We offer a broad range of benefits. Send your resume to Citizen FCU Personnel Dept. P.O. Box 425, Big Spring, TX 79721. You may also pick up an application in our lobby at 701 E. FM 700, Big Spring, Texas, 79720. Citizens is an Equal Opportunity Employer.</p>	<p>Help Wanted DRIVER WANTED: Bob Tail Transport Driver. Excellent starting pay. All benefits - Medical & Retirement. Must have Class A CDL & good driving record. Call for appointment (432)263-0033.</p>	<p>Help Wanted DUNCAN DISPOSAL - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Please come by the Duncan Disposal office/yard at 1104 N.W. Broadway, Coahoma, Tx - Monday-Thursday 2p-4p and on Fridays 1p-3p to apply in person. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. No phone calls please. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon.-Fri.; with some Sat. mornings. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Equal Opportunity Employer.</p>
<p>Garage Sales 2 FAMILY SALE: Saturday-8:00am, 2711 Rebecca. Decorative items, bedding, baseball equipment, furniture, stove, toys, collectible dolls, clothes boys, girls, juniors, ladies, mens. Too much to list.</p>	<p>Garage Sale, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 8:00-6:00. 706 N.W. 10th. Mechanic tools, refrigerator, transmission, clothes, shoes, furniture, and lots of miscellaneous.</p>	<p>Help Wanted SUMMER EMPLOYMENT Fun Valley Family Resort in South Fork, Colorado. Needs Retirees with own RV for all types of jobs. Office, housekeeping, cooks, maintenance and RV parks. For information and application write Personal Director, 9010 Ravenswood, Granbury, Tx. 76049.</p>	<p>Help Wanted DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Quality 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.</p>	<p>Help Wanted MARTIN COUNTY Home Health (Stanton) Full time Director. Contact Norma RN @ (432)756-3259 Fax resume to: (432)756-4510.</p>	<p>TRUCK DRIVER, 2 yrs. experience and must have clean CDL. Inquire @ Lone Star Auto 1505 W. 4th.. No phone calls.</p>
<p>BACKYARD SALE, 604 Boykin Rd. 8:00-12:00. Friday & Saturday. Camper shell, coffee & end tables, lamps, portable dishwasher, lots of clothes, PC monitors, printers and lots of miscellaneous.</p>	<p>Help Wanted SUMMER EMPLOYMENT Fun Valley Family Resort in South Fork, Colorado. Needs students to work all types of jobs. Housekeeping, dining room, horse wrangler, kitchen and maintenance. Salary, room, board & bonus. For information and application write Personal Director, 9010 Ravenswood, Granbury, Tx. 76049.</p>	<p>COVENANT HOME Health in Big Spring looking for full time field RN. Experience preferred. (432)263-6816, 8:00-5:00 M-F. Fax resume to (432)263-5909.</p>	<p>Help Wanted Delivery \$ EARN EXTRA MONEY \$ Independent Contractors (must be at least 18) needed to deliver the Western Plains Area Wide Phone Book in Big Spring & surrounding areas. 1-888-606-8900.</p>	<p>Help Wanted RN CASE Manager Use your creative nursing skills to assist our clients to live at home independently. Home care offers flexibility, variety and autonomy. FT position coordinating case management as part of an interdisciplinary Medicare team. Prior experience preferred but will train the right person. TX RN license required. Call 432-522-1793 or fax resume to 432-699-2353.</p>	<p>AMERICAN TRUCK & Equipment Painting is looking for experienced Painters, Sand blasters, coaters and Body Men. Call (432)756-3388 or apply in person at 3262 East I-20, Stanton, Tx.</p>
<p>ESTATE SALE, Friday & Saturday, 1310 Derrick Rd. Furniture, household items & vehicles.</p>	<p>Help Wanted ATTN: Computer Help Wanted Earn \$25-\$75/hr PT/FT Training Provided 888-458-8666 or GPEworldwide.com</p>	<p>Help Wanted GIANT MOVING Backyard Sale: 2409 Cheyenne (Watson Addition), Saturday & Sunday 8:00-?, Monday 11:00-2:00 and 4:00-?. Desk, microwave and too much to list.</p>	<p>Help Wanted MARSHALL Estate Auction, Saturday March 19th. Complete list to follow. View at www.springcityauction.com</p>	<p>Help Wanted INSIDE SALE, 2509 Ann. Saturday only! 8:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Every room is full including the garage! Everything Must Go!</p>	<p>Help Wanted NANA FAYE'S Thrift Shop is now open in a new location with more hours. Tues.-Thurs. 1:00-5:00. Friday & Saturday 10:00-5:00. 1903 Gregg Street. Parking in back of store.</p>

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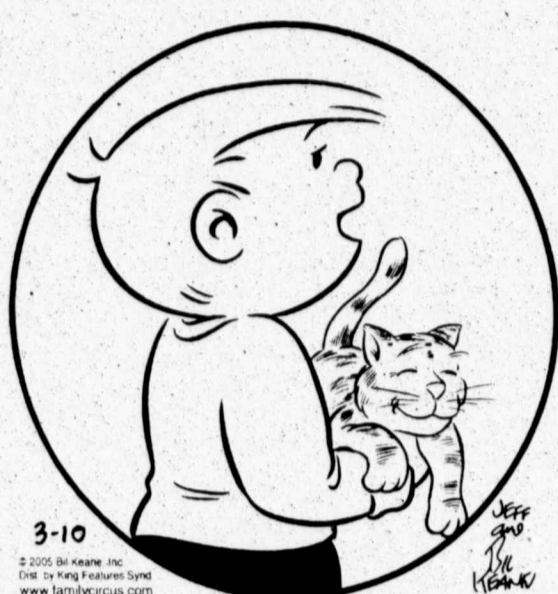
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6	News (CC)	News	La Mujer de Madera	Maicolm-Mid. Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Anita No Te Rajes	News Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond	Joe McGee John Hagee	News-Lehrer	American Chopper	Classics	Spike TV	NBA Basketball	Live BET Style	That's-Raven	College Basketball	College Basketball	
7	Extreme Makeover	Billy Graham (CC)	Apuesta por un Amor	The O.C. (CC)	Survivor: Palau	La Mujer en el Espejo	Will & Grace Committed	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	West Tex Jmi TX Mthly Tak	Totally Out of Control	Movie: Rocky V	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn	Minnesota Timberwolves	The Parkers Girlfriends	Movie: The Even Stevens	Big East Quarterfinal	ACC Tourm -- Teams TBA	Movie: Fargo
8	Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	Amor Real	Point Pleasant (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn	Gitanas	The Apprentice (CC)	What's the Worst That	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	DateLine: Terror	MXC	MXC	NBA	Soul Food (CC)	Movie (CC)	College Basketball	Tilt (CC)	45 Movie:
9	PrimeTime Live	PrimeTime Live	Aqui y Ahora	Maicolm-Mid. 70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	Te Voy a Enseñar a Querer	The Contender (CC)	Could Happen?		Talgrass Pr.	American Casino	MXC	MXC	Basketball: Lakers at	Club Comic View	Sister Sister Even Stevens	Big East Quarterfinal--	Tilt (CC)	Mortal: Troughs
10	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ	70s Show	News Late Show: Raymond	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	What's the Worst That	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Totally Out of Control	MXC	MXC	Mavericks	Nightly News: BET Style	That's-Raven	Teams TBA Gamemight	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie:
11	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC)	La Hora Derbez	Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo	Late Night: Conan O'Brien Fraser (CC)	Could Happen?	Sam Peak Jesse Lee Pe	Sign Off	DateLine: Terror	Movie: Rocky IV	Wildest Police Videos	Inside the NBA (CC)	Midnight Love	Proud Family Kim Possible	College Basketball	Tilt (CC)	Absolute Power
12	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Alma Rebelde	Spin City Dharma-Greg	Show The Insider	Maria Celeste Programa	12-10 Movie: House Arrest	Update/Israel Faye Hardin		American Casino	Blind Date Shipmates	Movie: The Peacemaker	Club Comic View	Boy World Lizzie McGuire	Mountain West Quarterfinal	SportsCenter (CC)	35 Movie:		

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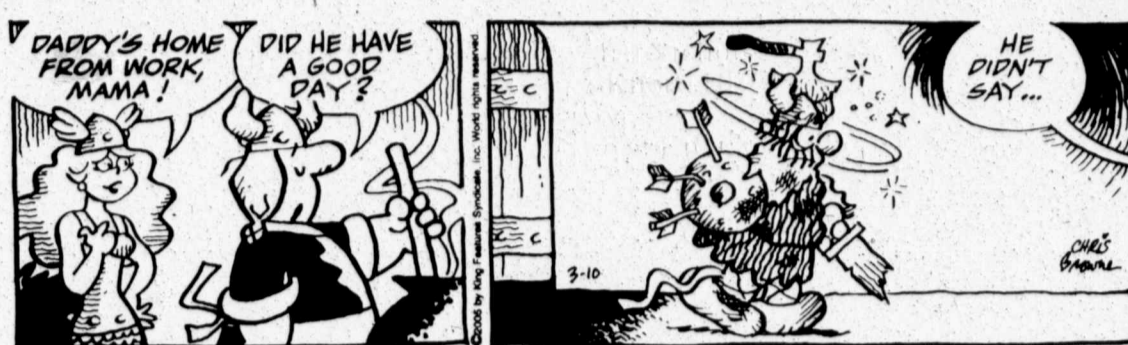
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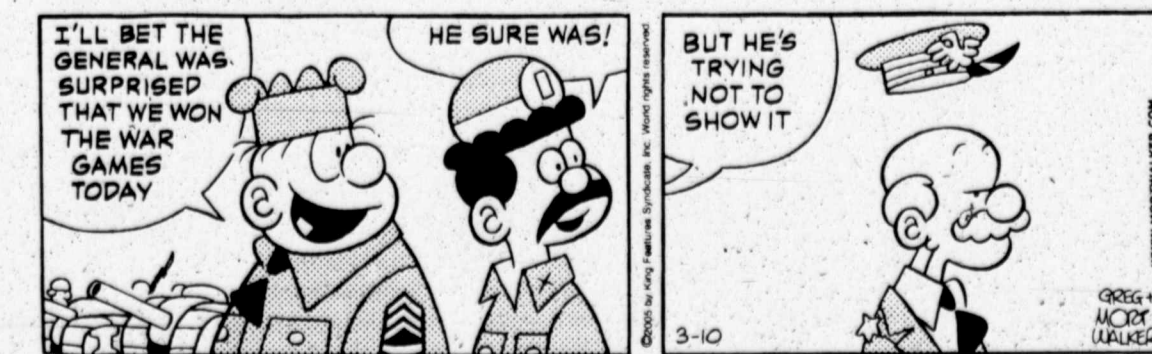
THE OTHER COAST



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This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 10, the 69th day of 2005. There are 296 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 10, 1876, the first successful voice transmission over Alexander Graham Bell's telephone took place in Boston as his assistant heard Bell say, "Mr. Watson, come here. I want you."

On this date:

In 1629, England's King Charles I dissolved Parliament; he did not call it back for 11 years.

In 1785, Thomas Jefferson was appointed minister to France, succeeding Benjamin Franklin.

In 1848, the Senate ratified the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the war with Mexico.

In 1864, Ulysses S. Grant became commander of the Union armies in the Civil War.

In 1880, the Salvation Army arrived in the United States from England.

In 1949, Nazi wartime broadcaster Mildred E. Gillars, also known as "Axis Sally," was convicted in Washington, D.C., of treason. (She served 12 years in prison.)

In 1965, Neil Simon's play, "The Odd Couple," starring Walter Matthau and Art Carney, opened on Broadway.

In 1969, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in Memphis, Tenn., to the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. (Ray later repudiated that plea, maintaining his innocence until his death.)

In 1980, "Scarsdale Diet" author Dr. Herman Tarnower was shot to death in Purchase, N.Y. (Jean Harris, convicted of murder, served nearly 12 years in prison before being released in January 1993.)

In 1985, Konstantin U.

Chernenko, Soviet leader for just 13 months, died at age 73.

Today's Birthdays: Talk show host Ralph Emery is 72. Bluegrass/country singer-musician Norman Blake is 67. Actor Chuck Norris is 65. Playwright David Rabe is 65. Singer Dean Torrence (Jan and Dean) is 65. Actress Katharine Houghton is 60. Rock musician Tom Scholz (Boston) is 58. Actress Shannon Tweed is 48. Actress Sharon Stone is 47. Rock musician Gail Greenwood is 45. Rock musician Jeff Ament (Pearl Jam) is 42. Britain's Prince Edward is 41.

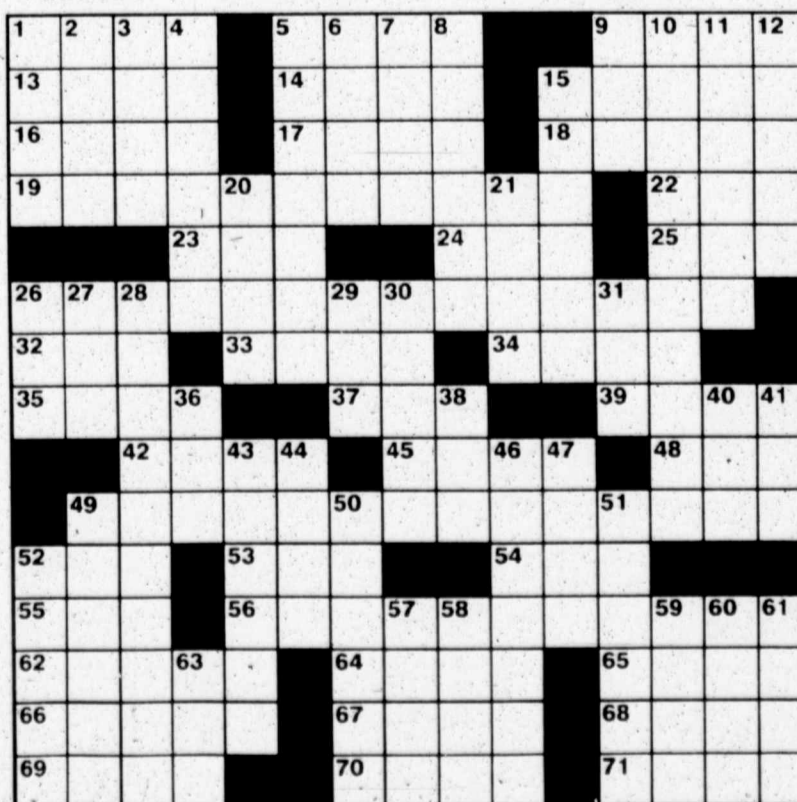
Answer to previous puzzle

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Newsday Crossword

STUFFED by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Doe's beau
- 5 Courteous address
- 9 PIN requesters
- 13 "Don't Walk" symbol
- 14 Up to the task
- 15 Teapot part
- 16 James of jazz
- 17 Carrot, for one
- 18 Real-estate listing
- 19 Sweetheart
- 22 So-so grade
- 23 Old French coin
- 24 "___ the ramparts..."
- 25 Paul Newman film
- 26 Bread spread
- 32 Olympics chant
- 33 Letter opener
- 34 Lena of Havana
- 35 Department that sells ties
- 37 Holster contents
- 39 Apt. listing abbr.
- 42 Keep ___ on (watch)
- 45 Football gear
- 48 Gloppy stuff
- 49 Average Joe
- 52 WWW address
- 53 Epoch
- 54 Shoe front
- 55 Lea sound
- 56 Cutting-board item
- 62 Popeye's nemesis
- 64 Cannon of film
- 65 High school subj.
- 66 Grow to maturity
- 67 Pre-Easter period
- 68 Model-train track shape
- 69 Scored 100% on
- 70 Upper hand
- 71 Leafy vegetable
- DOWN
- 1 Son of Noah
- 2 "Toodle-oo!"
- 3 Opposed to
- 4 Polish seaport
- 5 Spot for a title
- 6 "___ Ben Adhem"
- 7 Soothing additive
- 8 Crater creator
- 9 Military address
- 10 Precarious
- 11 Cultural attraction
- 12 War horse
- 15 Musical Crow
- 20 Auctioned off
- 21 Nil
- 26 Run smoothly
- 27 Take advantage of
- 28 Breakfast fruit
- 29 Pocketbook
- 30 Blow one's top
- 31 Bowsprit attachment
- 36 Anatomical pouch
- 38 Slangy denial
- 40 Spreadsheet line
- 41 Stylish in the '60s
- 43 Guiding light
- 44 Audible exhale
- 46 Cold War thaw
- 47 Garbage hauler
- 49 Have a ball
- 50 Compass component
- 51 Nike rival
- 52 Eclipse shadow
- 57 Looked over
- 58 Did a number
- 59 La Scala star
- 60 Hamm score
- 61 Fashion magazine
- 63 Media mogul Turner



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That's Racin'

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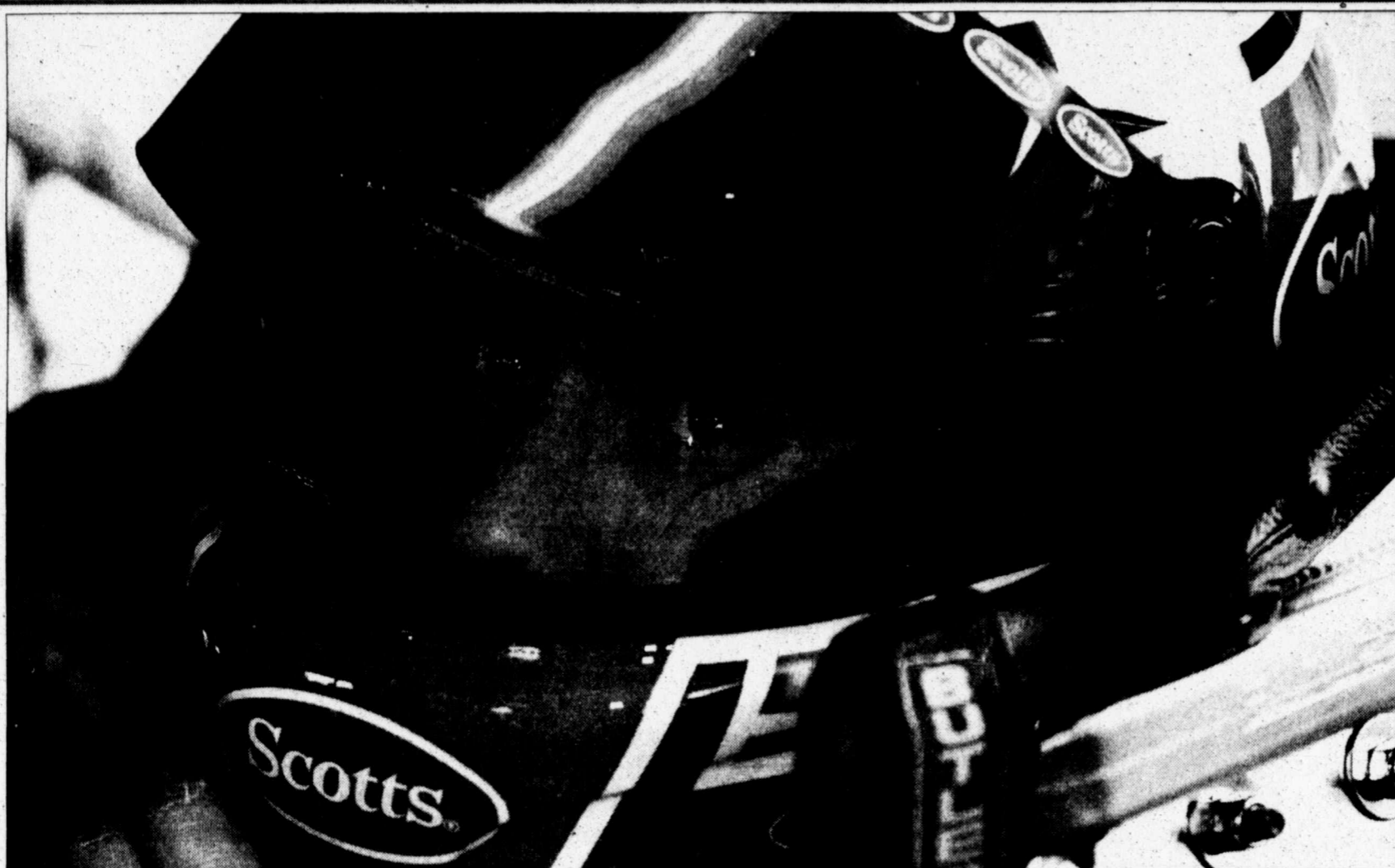
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Go online and check out www.thatracin.com for the latest information and news on stock-car racing, updated daily.



Carl Edwards has finished 12th and fifth in his first two races of the 2005 Nextel Cup season, putting him in fourth place in the points standings.

Job fulfillment

For Carl Edwards, racing in the Nextel Cup is a dream come true

By DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Carl Edwards remembers watching a Busch Series race at Atlanta Motor Speedway. "Scott Wimmer was running and he was leading the race," Edwards said. "The announcers were saying, 'Who is this guy?' and 'Where did he come from?'"

"I was watching it on TV, and I was thinking what a great opportunity he was getting to show the whole world he could drive a race car. I was thinking how great that was — and about how it would never happen to me."

Edwards underestimated himself. Last fall, at the same track where he saw Wimmer taste success, Edwards led 15 laps in the Bass Pro Shops 500 and finished an eye-opening third.

Now, two races into the 2005 Nextel Cup season and coming off a fifth-place finish at California Speedway, Edwards finds himself fourth in the standings heading into this week's Chrysler 400 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

"It felt kind of normal," Edwards said about his first tastes of success in the Cup series. "Like it's what I was supposed to be doing. I just haven't gotten a perspective on it, I don't guess."

"I try not to think about it too hard. If it were as simple as one day you woke up and you were leading the race, you might look at it differently. But the reality is that it's a slow, steady progression when you've been there for all of the steps along the way and all of the work."

Edwards, 25, stepped in to drive the No. 99 Fords for Roush Racing last year and made 13 starts. He's back in that role full-time for 2005, and the fact that he doesn't feel the least bit out of place as a product of the road he's taken to make it to the Cup series.

"From the first time I got to drive a race car, I thought, 'This is the coolest thing in the world,'" Edwards said. "It was never like the act of racing was work. I had as much fun racing at a local half-mile. When they dropped the flag on the Daytona 500, that was the coolest thing in the world. It was awesome. But that's how I've felt every week about racing. The racing part has always been so neat."

Edwards' father owned a Volkswagen repair shop and drove, among other things,



FAST FACTS

Birthdate
Aug. 15, 1979

Career highlights
Won 18 mini-sprint series races on tracks around Missouri and Illinois from 1993 to 1996

Won rookie-of-the-year honors in the IMCA modified division in 1998

In 2003, won three races and had 15 top-10 finishes en route to winning NASCAR Trucks Series rookie-of-the-year honors

four-cylinder air-cooled Volkswagens. Carl started racing at age 14 and ran short races on short tracks for several years.

Ken Schrader and Edwards' father are cousins, and when Carl was 17 he spent a summer working in Schrader's race shop.

"That kind of turned it into a reality," Edwards said. "I was mowing the grass at the shop, going to the races and helping out and I realized they were all just guys who go racing every week, just at a different level. I went home and decided it was time to get going, to learn how to race."

From that point on, Edwards got serious about racing. He moved up from dirt modifieds to the U.S. Auto Club Silver Crown Series and, eventually, in a Roush Racing entry in the NASCAR Truck Series.

"As soon as you figure out how to do something it's time to go on to something else, try something harder," said Edwards, who finished third in last year's NASCAR Trucks Series standings. "I am nervous about moving to Cup, but that's what keeps me motivated. I like challenges."

As he was trying to get his racing career started in his hometown of Columbia, Mo., Edwards worked as a substitute school teacher and took classes at the University of Missouri. He's heavily into working out as well, much to his surprise.

"I used to make fun of people who trained and all of that," he said. "Why would anyone go out and specifically exercise? I can't remember when I started, but I started to work out a little bit and now I am addicted to it. I work out every day and I don't feel right if I don't do it. So I've become the guy I used to make fun of."

"I used to sit there in class and say that when I grew up all I was going to do is party and go race cars. And I've become boring."

He's certainly staying busy. In addition to the full Cup schedule, Edwards is also driving a Roush-owned Ford in the Busch Series.

And loving every minute of it. "I really love to drive race cars," Edwards said. "I go to sleep every night and think, 'Man, this is the greatest thing in the world.'"



So who gained from the experiment in Mexico?

So NASCAR has now successfully staged a Busch Series race in Mexico City.

Great. But as bad as the Glen is, I wouldn't even trade the Cup date there for one in Mexico City — or for one in Montreal, either, for that matter.

Who got helped by Sunday's race? Busch beer isn't sold in Mexico, so it wasn't the

title sponsor of the series. It seemed like more than half of the cars entered by NASCAR teams had sponsors other than their normal primary sponsors on their cars for this race. How does that help the sponsors?

The teams lost money, big time, in making the trip. Television? Nope, the broadcast lost track position in the overnight ratings to the Tiger Woods-Phil Mickelson final-round duel at Doral and the North Carolina Duke college basketball game.

Who got helped? NASCAR, of course. And don't start with me about what's good for the whole sport being good for the people in it. That argument might work if NASCAR's entire business plan wasn't to hoard as many slices of the financial pie as possible without worrying about how big the pie is.



DAVID POOLE



Only 95,000 people attended the Telcel-Motorola Mexico 200 in Mexico City, short of the expected crowd of 150,000.

The racing Sunday was awful, but that's a given on road courses.

It's nice that everyone who went had a good time and that nobody got kidnapped or anything, but it's only when you answer "Who got helped?" that you really get down to understanding why the cars went to Mexico to start with.

And, probably, why they'll go again next year.

THIS WEEK'S RACE

UAW-DAIMLERCHRYSLER 400
Where: Las Vegas Motor Speedway, a 1.5-mile mostly flat tri-oval located in Las Vegas.
When: Sunday at 3 p.m. (all times ET).
Qualifying is 6:10 p.m. Friday.
TV: Fox.
Radio: Performance Racing Network.
Purse: \$6,131,958.
Last year's winner: Matt Kenseth.
Also this week: Reigning NASCAR Busch Series champion Martin Truex Jr. earned his first win of the 2005 season last weekend in Mexico City and looks for two in a row in Saturday's race at Las Vegas.
Worth mentioning: Roush Racing has won five of the seven races at Las Vegas.
Ken Schrader is the only driver who has competed in all seven races at Las Vegas but has never led there.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION
What is it going to take to win this week's Nextel Cup race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway?
Cast your vote at: www.thatracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION
NASCAR debuted in Mexico last weekend. Where else should it consider racing?
Number of votes: 4,690

Response	No. of votes	Percent
Keep it in the United States	3,415	72.8%
Canada	1,110	23.7%
Japan	87	1.9%
Europe	78	1.6%

STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT
The guy most of the media loves to underestimate, **Kurt Busch**, heads into Las Vegas with the Nextel Cup points lead. Sure it doesn't mean much now, but how many people thought he would be in this position already?
Sure he puked a motor at California, but **Jeff Gordon** was running up front for the second consecutive race. Don't be surprised to see him there again this week.
Mark Martin already has two top-10 finishes in the first two races. Considering that one was a restrictor-plate race, that's a fabulous start to his final full season.

WHO'S NOT
Everham Motorsports is waiting to get the monkey off its back this season. After two races, drivers **Jeremy Mayfield** and **Kasey Kahne** are 26th and 34th, respectively, in points.
Two recent Nextel Cup champions, **Bobby Labonte** and **Matt Kenseth**, find themselves 31st or lower in points after two races. Ouch.
Dale Earnhardt Jr. is returning to the track where he ran perhaps his worst race of 2004. He can't perform any worse than he did two weeks ago at California, right?
— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS
The top-40 drivers as of Feb. 27:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Kurt Busch	340	21. Jeff Green	202
2. Jimmie Johnson	335	22. Travis Kvapil	197
3. Mark Martin	301	23. Jeff Burton	187
4. Carl Edwards	287	24. Joe Nemecek	185
5. Greg Biffle	273	25. Scott Wimmer	184
6. Elliott Sadler	272	26. Jeremy Mayfield	183
7. Tony Stewart	268	27. Dave Blaney	182
8. Rusty Wallace	268	28. Casey Mears	182
9. Sterling Marlin	260	29. Ken Schrader	167
10. Jeff Gordon	258	30. Bobby Hamilton Jr.	161
11. Dale Jarrett	248	31. Bobby Labonte	158
12. Ryan Newman	246	32. Kyle Busch	148
13. Kevin Harvick	239	33. John Andretti	146
14. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	237	34. Kasey Kahne	140
15. Mike Bliss	236	35. Mike Wallace	128
16. Kyle Petty	231	36. Matt Kenseth	127
17. Jamie McMurray	227	37. Jason Leffler	107
18. Scott Riggs	224	38. Ricky Rudd	106
19. Kevin Lepage	208	39. Michael Waltrip	106
20. Brian Vickers	205	40. Boris Said	82

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS
The top-20 drivers as of March 6:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Kevin Harvick	515	11. Denny Hamlin	291
2. Carl Edwards	454	12. Tim Fedewa	291
3. Clint Bowyer	433	13. Stacy Compton	288
4. Martin Truex Jr.	423	14. David Stremme	282
5. Reed Sorenson	414	15. Paul Menard	281
6. Ashton Lewis	397	16. Tony Stewart	271
7. Shane Hmiel	376	17. Johnny Sauter	266
8. Kenny Wallace	318	18. David Green	264
9. Justin Labonte	303	19. Jon Wood	264
10. Jason Keller	294	20. Stanton Barrett	251

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Sam's Town 300, Las Vegas

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS
The top-10 drivers as of Feb. 27:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Bobby Hamilton	355	6. Steve Park	279
2. Ricky Craven	330	7. Johnny Benson	271
3. Jimmy Spencer	321	8. David Reutimann	256
4. Ted Musgrave	310	9. Dennis Setzer	254
5. Matt Crafton	280	10. Casey Atwood	251

NEXT RACE: Friday, March 18, World Financial Group 200, Hampton, Ga.