

County commissioners to revisit jail issue

□ 11 a.m. Friday in the county courthouse.

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Discussion on the proposed jail facility will be the one and only order of business when the Howard County Commissioners Court holds a special meeting at 11 a.m. Friday in the county courthouse.

Talk concerning the new jail

took a turn for the heated last week when Commissioner Gary Simer called for a halt to further refinement of architectural designs for the jail facility, which would house offices for both the Howard County Sheriff's Office and Big Spring Police Department.

"Last time we went through this we spent \$400,000 on the architect, and we never got a jail out of it," said Simer. "They have a ballpark figure of what

the jail is going to cost, so I'd like to shut the architect part down and take it to a vote by the public, and see what happens before we spend any more money."

Local architect Phil Furqueron, along with Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum Justice of Dallas, and Parkhill, Smith and Cooper of Lubbock, have been retained by the county to draw up plans for the new facility.

During last commissioners' meeting in May, Simer expressed his support for a second idea: A jail facility that doesn't house offices for the sheriff's office or police department.

"Someone suggested we build a jail right across the street from the courthouse, where the old Leonard's Pharmacy and part of the courthouse is," said Simer. "That way they could get to the courthouse and to the

district court. We could also leave the Sheriff's Department right where it's at."

Simer said voters should have more than one choice when they ultimately decide whether to OK a bond issue for the facility, which is expected to cost more than \$10 million under the current design plans.

"I'd like to see that idea put on the ballot, so voters have

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Two residents of Laguna Beach, Calif., evacuate their home on Wednesday after a massive landslide destroy 17 multi-million-dollar residences. No one was killed.

Running for their lives

Coastal enclave stunned as landslide crumbles streets, sends residences crashing down hill

By BEN FOX

Associated Press Writer

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Fourteen-year-old Haley Stevens was getting ready for school when her morning routine was shattered by the sounds of trees and houses being torn from the ground.

The next thing she knew, her family was rushing out the door as a massive landslide bore down on the neighborhood of hillside homes perched along one of the most picturesque sections of Southern California's coastline.

When they made it outside their Bluebird Canyon home, the ground was collapsing beneath them: "We started to feel the street move and we just started sprinting," she said.

Wednesday's landslide destroyed 17 multimillion-dollar houses as it

sent structures crashing down a hill. Residents alarmed by the sound of walls and pipes coming apart ran for their lives.

Five people suffered minor injuries, officials said. Eleven homes were damaged, and about 1,000 people in 350 other homes were evacuated as a precaution.

Miraculously, no one was killed. "We were very scared, my brother and I. We were freaking out," said Stevens, who suffered a minor injury from stepping on a cactus in her bare feet.

Karen Harvey, senior dispatcher with the Laguna Beach Police Department, said early today that there were no new landslides reported overnight.

Throughout the day Wednesday, Laguna Hills High School doubled as a Red Cross evacuation center

where residents filtered in and out of the school gym, hoping to learn when they might be allowed back into their homes to retrieve belongings and pets.

"It's just been overwhelming," said Vera Martinez, a 65-year-old retiree.

The cause of the disaster was under investigation. Ed Harp of the U.S. Geological Survey said it was almost certainly related to the winter storms that drenched Southern California. A geologist contracted by the city agreed the cause was most likely rainfall, but said more tests were needed.

Earlier this year, scientists warned that destructive landslides would be possible and they point to Laguna Beach as a wake-up call for

See SLIDES, Page 5A

SCHOOL'S OUT?

Legislature's failure to act on school bill leaves ISDs up in air

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

After months of impending legislation and talk of drastic change, it's back to the status quo ante for Texas public schools.

The Texas Legislature ended its biennial session Monday without agreeing on a school finance reform package, the number-one issue facing lawmakers when they convened in January.

State District Judge John Dietz last fall ruled the current system unconstitutional and ordered that school funding problems be fixed by October 2005, or state money for schools would cease. The ruling was appealed to the Texas Supreme Court and a



Johnson

"How it's going to play out ... I really don't know enough to give an answer. Certainly, there's no easy solution to the problem."

"Their main focus (this session) was to fix school finance, and they forgot what they were supposed to do."



Downes

July 6 hearing has been set for oral arguments in the case.

But barring a special session of the Legislature, no changes to the current system are forthcoming.

"It was such a daunting task, involving so many variables, that I'm not terribly surprised (that financing reform efforts failed)," said Forsan Independent School District Superintendent Randy Johnson. "We were warned in the past few months that it was a distinct possibility." So, after months of legislation calling for tax relief for property owners, pay raises for teachers, a change in the school year and other proposed reforms, area

See FINANCE, Page 3A

Gov. Perry expects special session before end of June

TYLER (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry believes the Texas Legislature will be back in Austin for a special session on school finance before the end of the month.

"My prediction is that after these members get home and spend some time with their constituents, they'll hear

about school finance ... and we'll come back between now and the end of June," Perry said Wednesday during a stop in Tyler to sign bills passed during the recently completed session.

The Legislature wasn't able to restructure the

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DENIM & DIAMONDS

The Denim and Diamonds Gala Barbecue and Street Dance to benefit the Big Spring State Hospital will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday at 600 Mathews and 606 Mathews.

Music for the affair will be provided by the Full House and Sulphur Draw bands.

Hosts will be Stacy and Mark Barr, Vicki and Eddie Cole, Leslie Elrod and Mary Kay and Scott McLaughlin. The Barrs are joining Doris Hulbregtse as chairpersons for the 2005 gala.

For more information, call 268-7535.

COMING SUNDAY



gathering and sharing has truly become a harvest for all. Plus, the Wiffle Ball and twice-baked potatoes.

Last year, America's young farmers and ranchers gathered 2.4 million pounds of food to help feed the hungry in this country. This

COMING FRIDAY



Gordon

A program called Registration, Enforcement, Apprehension and Prosecution (REAP), involving officials with seven city and county agencies, has been instituted with the aim of getting sex offenders in compliance with the law. "We looked at the problem and saw that there wasn't good communication and coordination," said Det. Brian Gordon. "So we decided that we needed to get our acts together and get with it."

Obituaries

Donald R. Houghton Sr.



Donald R. Houghton Sr., 67, of Big Spring died Tuesday, May 31, 2005, in a Midland hospital. No services are planned.

He was born Feb. 12, 1938, in Hood County, Kan., and married Darlene Schauf Sept. 6, 1958, in Goodland, Kan.

Mr. Houghton had lived in Big Spring since 1985 and had worked as a mechanic for Ryder Truck Rentals for 36 years, retiring in 1996. He enjoyed woodworking, fishing, mechanic work and being with his family.

He was a NASCAR fan and collected Dale Earnhart memorabilia. He was a nondenominational Christian.

Survivors include his wife, Darlene Houghton of Big Spring; one son, Donald R. Houghton of Big Spring; three daughters and sons-in-law, Robin and Irvin Frazier and Denise and Don Wilkinson, all of Abilene and Danne and Gaylon Taff of Lubbock; two sisters, Phylis Houghton and Nancy Houghton, both of Wichita, Kan.; two brothers, John Houghton and Wayne Houghton, both of Colorado Springs, Colo.; 10 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Sally Houghton.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Paid obituary

Take note

• **THE JURY PANEL FOR HOWARD COUNTY COURT FRIDAY IS CANCELED.**

• **COAHOMA LIONS CLUB ANNUAL SELL THE TOWN GARAGE SALE** is Saturday in Coahoma. Call 394-4310 for more information.

• **FISH FRY SPONSORED BY THE EAGLES LODGE, BIG SPRING BASS CLUB AND SID RICHARDSON'S EMPLOYEES/SAFETY TEAM** to benefit Alan Householder is set for 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday at the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St. Call 263-4545 for more information.

• **SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH SPRING FESTIVAL** is 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday behind the church, 508 N. Aylesford. Call 264-7010 for more information.

• **MARTIN COUNTRY RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT** begins at 7 p.m. Friday. Call Missy at 756-3316 or Sherry at 756-4158 for more information.

• **COMMUNITY ANGELS AUCTION** is set to start at 10 a.m. June 11 at the Railroad Plaza to benefit the Christmas project. For more information, contact Ellen Barefoot at 268-9070 or Vickie Dahmer at 267-5223.

• **HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS "WESTERN ART SHOW"** beginning at 4:30 p.m. June 14 with a wine and cheese reception followed by the annual Legends and Legacies dinner. Tickets to the dinner are \$15.

• **OLD SETTLERS REUNION** from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. June 18 at the Howard County Fair Barns. Call Heritage Museum for free tickets at 267-8288.

• **HOWARD COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL QUILT RECEPTION** is from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. June 18 at the Heritage Museum. Free admission.

• **REHEARSALS FOR THE BIG SPRING SYMPHONY CHORUS FOR THE POPS IN THE PARK PERFORMANCE** begins June 6 from 7 p.m. until 8:45 p.m. in the First Methodist Church choral room and continues each Monday in June. New members are welcome to participate in this annual community event.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call LaWanda Hamm at 263-7827.

• **BOOK SALE TO BENEFIT MARTIN COUNTY LIBRARY**, sponsored by the friends of the Library, is set for 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. each Thursday. Call Bud Lindsey for more information.

• **COAHOMA NON-MARCHING BRASS BAND NOW FORMING**, set to perform during the Coahoma Fourth of July parade on a float is now forming. Musicians with or without instruments and any level of experience are invited to join. For more information, contact Pam Hicks at 394-4122 or Patricia Bennett at 394-4122.

• **A MEMORIAL FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE FAMILY OF TYBO JACOBS** at the First Bank of West Texas in Coahoma and Big Spring to help with funeral costs. He died in an automobile accident March 10.

• **MEMBERS OF THE PUGA FAMILY** are searching for family members to invite to a family reunion July 2 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Contact Anna Gutierrez-Trevino at 466-1780.

• **DEREK CHURCHWELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** has been established at Howard College. Donations may be made to the Howard College Foundation in care of Jan Foresyth, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Designate the Derek Churchwell Scholarship Fund.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. today:

- **LASANDRA JACKSON**, 39, 900 N.W. Second, was arrested on local warrants.
- **BYRAN HAMMONDS**, 42, 603 Circle Dr., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **ROBERT SANCHEZ**, 40, 1018 Circle Dr., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **ERIC FLINT COX**, 26, no address given, was arrested on a Midland County warrant.
- **ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1000 block of Gregg Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1000 block of Gregg Street.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg Street (twice), the 2700 block of Wasson Road, and the 200 block of Marcy Drive.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following incidents between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. today:

- **JOSE ALFREDO GOMEZ**, 22, was arrested on a charge of violating promise to appear.
- **THURMAN LEE BATEMAN JR.**, 29, was arrested on a charge of assault.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported on the 3300 block of E. Interstate 20.
- **THEFT** was reported on the 185 mile marker of Interstate 20.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. today:

- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 100 block of N. Nolan Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported on the 1400 block of Sycamore Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 3200 block of Parkway Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported on the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported on the intersection of Highway 80 and Airbase Road. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support groups

THURSDAY

- Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m., at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30-7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m.

- The Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet the fourth Thursday of the month at noon in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center beginning in January. Call 263-8273 for more information.

- Alzheimers Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at The Texas State Veterans Home, 1809 N. Hwy 87. For more information call Orand Carroll 268-8387.

FRIDAY

- AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8-9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

- West Texas Gluten-Free Awareness Support Group meets from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. at Memorial Hospital west campus in Midland. Call Barbara at 432-520-2119 for more information.

Weather

Tonight: Scattered strong thunderstorms developing late. Low 68F. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent.

Friday: Partly to mostly cloudy skies with scattered thunderstorms mainly in the morning. A few storms may be severe. High around 85F. Winds SSE at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent.

Friday night: Clear skies. Low 64F. Winds SSE at 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday: Sunny. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 60s.

Sunday: Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 60s.

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Bulletin board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

TODAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church Spring Festival begins is 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. behind the church, 508 N. Aylesford. Call 264-7010.
- 19th annual Denim and Diamonds Gala barbecue and street dance. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and dance is set from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. 600 Mathews and 606 Mathews. Benefits the Big Spring State Hospital. Call 268-7536 or 268-7535 for more information.
- Martin County Relay for Life event begins at 7 p.m. at the Stanton High School football stadium. Call Missy at 756-3316 or Sherry at 756-4158 for more information.

SATURDAY

- Coahoma Lions Club Sell the Town Garage Sale. Maps are available by calling 394-4310.
- Railroad Museum at the corner of Second Street and Main Street is open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Free admission. Call 432-559-3409 for more information.
- Benefit fish fry at the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third, from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. to benefit Alan Householder. Call 263-4545.
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church Spring festival begins is 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. behind the church, 508 N. Aylesford. Call 264-7010.
- Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Chinese Dragon Restaurant.
- The Big Spring Cruisers club meeting at 7 p.m. in the Texas RV Park meeting room.
- District Committee Lofie Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 11-17-21-23-27
Number matching five of five: 3.
Prize per winner: \$10,334
Winning tickets sold in: Deer Park, Denton and Sanger.
Matching four of five: 220. Prize: \$63.
Matching three of five: 4,714. Prize: \$6.
Matching two of five: 38,077. Prize: \$2.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-6-16-26-32. Bonus Ball: 43.
Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
Number matching five of five: 5. Prize: \$7,798.
Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 9.
Prize: \$1,818.
Number matching four of five: 410. Prize: \$85.
Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 300.
Prize: \$104.
Number matching three of five: 13,816. Prize: \$5.
Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 3,954.
Prize: \$5.
Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 17,650. Prize: \$3.
Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$7 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-0-9

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Bush to name California lawmaker to replace Securities and Exchange Commission chair

WASHINGTON (AP) — Moving quickly to fill a high-profile regulatory vacancy, President Bush intends to nominate Rep. Christopher Cox to chair the Securities and Exchange Commission, according to Republican officials.

Cox, R-Calif., a conservative veteran of 16 years in Congress with wide-ranging policy interests, would succeed William Donaldson, who announced Wednesday he was stepping down on June 30 after a two-year tenure marked by efforts to restore investor confidence in markets shaken by corporate excess.

Donaldson was an activist who often clashed with traditional business allies. They chafed over what they perceived as an excessive regulatory zeal during his tenure.

Cox would be the second House Republican picked this spring for a top administration post. Rob Portman was an Ohio congressman before his confirmation as U.S. Trade Representative in late April.

Cox, 52, is chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, and a veteran of the Financial Services Committee. The holder of a business and a law degree, he has voted for legislation to make it easier for companies to defend against securities fraud lawsuits.

Dutch voters turn out in force to oppose EU constitution in referendum

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — European leaders may have to scrap the proposed EU constitution after Dutch voters rejected it by a massive margin, voicing their concern over dwindling national identity in a rapidly expanding union and their distrust of increasingly powerful bureaucrats.

The outcome in the Netherlands from the referendum Wednesday — three days after a similar vote in France — was likely to halt the European momentum, which had been welcomed by some as creating a new world power but disdained by others as smothering their cultures in a vast superstate.

With 99.8 percent of the ballots counted, unofficial results showed 61.6 percent voted "nee," while 38.4 percent said "ja." The level of opposition and the turnout of 63 percent exceeded all projections.

Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende conceded defeat Wednesday night and said his government would accept the will of the people.

Parliament, which has the final say on ratification because the referendum was nonbinding, meets on Thursday to debate the results.

Balkenende acknowledged the huge gap that has emerged between the politicians and the electorate.

The vote was seen by some as symbolic of an inverted attitude by the Dutch in recent years as they struggle to deal with issues such as integration, a shrinking economy and fears over Islamic radicalism.

Hundreds of Palestinian prisoners released from Israeli jails

TULKAREM, West Bank (AP) — Israel released hundreds of Palestinian prisoners on Thursday, completing a pledge made under a cease-fire agreement, hours after Israel and the Palestinians announced their leaders would soon meet for the first time since February.

The prisoner release — the final part of an Israeli pledge to free 900 prisoners as part of the Feb. 8 truce — and the summit could help the sides move toward coordinating Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip this summer. Pledges to coordinate the pullout have made little progress so far.

In neighboring Jordan, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas was released from a hospital after undergoing a heart procedure. Abbas, who has a history of heart trouble, told reporters he felt "just fine."

Doctors said Abbas underwent a coronary angiogram — a common procedure to ensure that the arteries are not clogged. Palestinian officials said Abbas' June 21 summit with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon remained on schedule.

The 398 Palestinian prisoners were released at different checkpoints Thursday in the West Bank and at the Erez crossing into Gaza, where they were warmly

welcomed by joyous relatives.

Experimental vaccine helps prevent shingles, irritating skin rash

NEW YORK (AP) — Retiree Norman Telleson didn't know much about a painful skin rash called shingles when he volunteered for a study of an experimental vaccine to prevent it.

But he soon found out when he developed a mild case a year later.

"Unless you've experienced it, you just can't imagine something itching that bad," said the 74-year-old from La Jolla, Calif.

Turns out Telleson didn't get the vaccine but a dummy shot given to half of the 38,546 people enrolled in the test. Otherwise, he might have fared better.

Researchers reported Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine that the vaccinated test group had half as many cases of shingles. Those who got it had a milder case, and there were far fewer cases of lasting excruciating nerve pain.

"We're just overjoyed that it actually worked," said Dr. Michael N. Oxman of the San Diego VA Healthcare System, who led the study of the vaccine made by Merck & Co.

The research was spearheaded by the Veterans Affairs Department along with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and Merck, which helped fund the study and is seeking approval of the vaccine in the United States and Europe.

Shingles can attack anyone who has had chickenpox, and an estimated 1 million Americans are afflicted every year. The chickenpox virus can lie dormant in nerve cells and resurface as shingles years later.

If the vaccine is approved by the federal government, it could eventually be added to the shots recommended for older Americans. Unlike traditional vaccines which prevent a new disease, the shingles shot would keep a long-ago acquired infection in check.

Subdued Michael Jackson awaits jury's deliberations

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) — A subdued Michael Jackson sat silently in court on the eve of closing arguments in his child-molestation trial, well aware that within a matter of days his future will be placed in the hands of a jury.

"It's a very difficult situation to sit in there and know your life is in the balance," Jackson spokeswoman Raymone K. Bain said Wednesday after the entertainer moved quickly and quietly past reporters on his way out of the courthouse.

Closing arguments in his case were to begin Thursday with jurors expected to get the case sometime Friday.

"He has strong faith in God and in the judicial system," Bain said of Jackson. "He knows his fate is in the hands of 12 jurors."

Jackson sat stone still in court for nearly two hours Wednesday as those jurors were repeatedly reminded of the child molestation charges against him as they were given instructions for their deliberations.

The 46-year-old singer is charged with molesting a 13-year-old cancer survivor in February or March 2003. He is accused of plying him with wine and conspiring to hold his family captive to get them to rebut damaging aspects of the documentary "Living With Michael Jackson," in which Jackson appeared holding hands with the boy as he talked of allowing children into his bed for what he said were innocent sleepovers.

New school boom: U.S. student population soars to highest level ever

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leave it to today's school kids to trump their baby boomer parents.

A total of 49.6 million children attended public and private school in 2003, beating the previous high mark of 48.7 million — set in 1970 when the baby boom generation was in school.

The growth is largely due to all the children born in the late 1940s to early 1960s, who have since become parents themselves, the Census Bureau said Wednesday. Rising immigration played a part, too.

Runaway bride pleads no contest to felony, sentenced to probation

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (AP) — With her once-jilted fiancé at her side, runaway bride Jennifer Wilbanks pleaded no contest today to a felony charge and wept as she was sentenced to probation, community service and a fine.

"I'm truly sorry for my actions and I just want to thank Gwinnett County and the city of Duluth," a crying Wilbanks told the judge as she pleaded to a charge of making a false statement.

She was sentenced to two years of probation and 120 hours of community service. The judge also ordered her to continue mental health treatment and pay the sheriff's office \$2,550.

If she successfully completes her probation, the felony will be erased from her record, Gwinnett County District Attorney Danny Porter said.

Wilbanks, whose disappearance before her wedding in April created a nationwide sensation, was wearing a black outfit and running shoes as she arrived at the Gwinnett County courthouse Thursday to make her plea. Her fiancé John Mason, whom she was to have married April 30 in a lavish ceremony, was by her side.

Wilbanks was indicted last week on charges of making a false statement and making a false police report. She could have faced up to six years in

prison and \$11,000 in fines if convicted of both charges. The misdemeanor false report charge was dropped as part of her plea deal.

Wilbanks also could also have been ordered to reimburse authorities for the cost of the search, which has been tallied at more than \$50,000. She's already agreed to pay part of the tab: On Tuesday, she said she would pay \$13,250 to the city of Duluth, Ga., to help offset the overtime costs the city incurred searching for her.

"She's done everything that we would ask of her," Wilbanks' attorney, Lydia Sartain, said Thursday morning before sentencing. "She has accepted responsibility."

Wilbanks, a nurse, disappeared from her Duluth home on April 26, four days before she was to have been married at a high-profile ceremony with 600 guests and 28 attendants. She took a bus to Las Vegas and then Albuquerque, N.M.

She initially claimed she was abducted and sexually assaulted, but later recanted and said she fled because of unspecified personal issues days before the wedding. The false statement charge under which she was sentenced stemmed from a phone call she made relaying the abduction and assault allegations from New Mexico to Georgia.

Gunman who held hostage dead

SHELBYVILLE, Ind. (AP) — A gunman who held a woman hostage in a convenience store for nearly 20 hours is dead, authorities said today, shortly after a loud bang was heard from within the building.

Shelby County Prosecutor Kent Apsley confirmed the death of the man, who entered the Bigfoot store Wednesday after a police chase on a nearby highway. The noise was heard in the store about 6:30 a.m.

Authorities gave no details on the condition of the hostage, but a woman could be seen running with police from the scene. Earlier, they had

said the hostage was uninjured and "in good spirits, under the circumstances."

Police worked overnight trying to persuade the man to give himself up.

State police Sgt. Ray Poole said the hostage-taking occurred after police in nearby Batesville began pursuing a car carrying two men, chasing them for about 35 miles along Interstate 74.

The car eventually broadsided a pickup and pulled into the Bigfoot's parking lot. Police caught one man but the other jumped out, fired at officers and entered the store.

JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

three options," said Simer. "They can vote for a joint law enforcement center, just a jail or nothing at all. I really want to see those things on the ballot."

Furqueron defended the design process, saying it was necessary to educate voters on the proposed facility.

"I think you have to educate the public on this, and part of that is giving them the graphics — the pictures and designs — to make a choice on," said Furqueron. "I think if you stop now, before you have those graphics, it could seriously hurt the chances of this bond election succeeding."

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SESSION

Continued from Page 1A

Texas tax system to pay for K-12 public education, something that was a priority in the session after a judge ordered the state to

fix funding problems. State leaders said Tuesday they'll continue working to reach agreement.

State District Judge John Dietz ordered the state to fix the problems by October 2005 or state money for schools would cease. The ruling was appealed to the Supreme Court, and a July 6

hearing has been set for oral arguments in the case.

Perry told the crowd at the bill signing that lawmakers had an agreement in principle but ran out of time.

The governor indicated he would rely on public pressure to convince lawmakers to return,

the Tyler Morning Telegraph reported in its Thursday editions.

"It's going to be an awfully hot summer," he said. "They can choose to spend it at home with their families or down in Austin with me."

FINANCE

Continued from Page 1A

school administrators find themselves back where they started.

"Very few bills were passed that will affect schools," said Big Spring Independent School District Superintendent Michael Downes. "Nothing has changed as to how schools are financed, which means we will continue to operate under current law."

Downes likened the lawmakers' failure to enact their top-priority legislation to a person who went to a grocery store and forgot what they wanted to buy once they got there.

"Their main focus (this session) was to fix school finance," he said, "and they forgot what they were supposed to do."

For Johnson, that's not necessarily a bad thing.

"I didn't see any new money coming in for us (under proposed legislation), so I can't say it would have been good for us in the long run," Johnson said. "At this time, no change is better than what we saw from this session."

Without new legislation concerning school finance, it is likely that BSISD will have to tighten its belt for the coming school year.

"The last two years have been successful in terms of student perfor-

mance, but difficult in terms of financing," Downes said.

Aside from dealing with teacher salaries, BSISD also faces the task of replenishing an aging bus fleet, as well as needed renovations to district facilities.

The district has traditionally provided for teacher raises — although not in the range of the \$3,000 raise called for in the failed state legislation — but without additional state funding, those other issues may have to be put off beyond the coming school year, Downes said.

As things stand now, for BSISD to finance the needed renovations on top of other expenses would mean a budget deficit of

between \$800,000 and \$1 million for the coming school year, he added.

And lurking in the background is Judge Dietz's order. If the state Supreme Court upholds his decision, school districts could face a cut-off of state financing in October.

"If funding from the state stops, it will be catastrophic," Downes said. "If that happens, we would be able to operate for a little more than two months ... on reserve funds."

If state funding dries up, Forsan's fund reserve would keep the district operational for about five months, Johnson said, although he doubts the situation will come to



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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
Publisher

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OUR VIEWS

Legislature's session ends as a failure

The 79th Legislature, which ended Monday, failed in its most important assignment overhauling the troubled financing structure for public schools.

Lawmakers completed their constitutionally required duty this session by approving a \$139 billion budget for 2006-07 that appears to balance. But their assignment on school finance reform collapsed at the end.

The lack of action appears in large part to have occurred because the Texas House, led by Speaker Tom Craddick, is more worried about the effect of tax increases on businesses than on ordinary citizens. A House majority was quite willing to raise sales taxes on everyone by 1 cent. The Senate insisted on a half-cent increase. Their differences on consumer and business taxation perhaps is not surprising because the House is the chamber closest to its people the business lobby.

For now, at least, the collapse means that homeowners, especially in prosperous suburbs, will get no relief from steadily rising school property taxes. Businesses will continue to slip away from paying the state's franchise tax. Sales and tobacco taxes will remain the same.

The so-called Robin Hood mechanism that takes locally raised property taxes in comparatively wealthy districts and spends it in poorer districts will continue to function. Teachers won't get an across-the-board pay raise. And public education will stumble along.

What doesn't go away, at least not yet, is the ruling by state District Judge John Dietz that the current system of financing schools is unconstitutional, primarily because it produces inadequate revenue to provide a solid education. Dietz ordered the Legislature to enact a plan by October.

The ruling has been appealed to the Texas Supreme Court, which will hear it in July. The nine justices could relieve the Legislature of taking any action if a majority overturns the ruling or greatly reduces its effect. Or they could uphold the ruling and tell the Legislature to either get moving or shut down the school system.

Gov. Rick Perry, whose own school finance plan was angrily rejected in a special session last year by the House, must decide whether to call another special session. So far he's discouraged the idea. Given the rancor between Craddick and the Senate leader, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, there doesn't seem to be much point in a special session before the Supreme Court acts. Still, Perry knows that his failure to provide school property tax relief will be a central issue used against him between now and March, which is when he might face GOP primary voters for renomination.

Legislative leaders will try to dwell on this session's achievements, including a balanced budget. But the fact is, lawmakers failed on the big one.

THE AMERICAN-STATESMAN
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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.
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- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@ccroom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

Simon says: The things I think about

In terms of pure design, nobody has ever improved upon the waffle. Anybody who answers a ringing pay phone deserves what he gets.

Nobody can be melancholy like a Frenchman.

There is a special place in hell reserved for those people who have kept pieces of the space shuttle Columbia. In my book, they are not souvenir hunters, they are looters. If I were president (a scary thought, I admit), I would have federalized the national guard in each state to protect the wreckage.

Another thing I would do if I were president: I would send all convicted spammers to prison for at least 5 years. For a second offense, I would make them eat every piece of spam they sent out on an actual piece of Spam. In other words, the penalty would be death.

I have never been any good at skipping stones.

Most problems solve themselves within 36 hours. The rest require immediate attention.

You can always tell when you are in a mob-owned restaurant: They serve broken leg of lamb.



ROGER
SIMON

Turning 45 is one of the most depressing birthdays you can have. Turning 40 or 50, on the other hand, is quite pleasant.

Sad but true: Hardly anybody plays the concertina any more.

You can never get rid of dust; you can only move it from one place to another.

Nobody has ever come up with a better candy than Milk Duds. (Though Good & Plenty runs a close second.)

And You Can Get Your Chauffeur's License When You're 10. From the front page of the Feb. 3 New York Times: "In Plainview, Texas, Tammy White's three sons — 4, 6 and 8 — were riding a four-wheel all-terrain vehicle when they came across a charred leg." We can only hope the 8-year-old was driving.

The new SUVs look so much like station wagons that it makes you wonder what all the fuss is about.

I finally broke down and got a DVD player. But now I wonder: How many times can I really watch "The Parent Trap?"

Why do so many restaurants serve halibut and so few serve grouper?

You know you're getting old when snow stops being fun.

People who say they aren't introspective really mean they've got a lot to hide.

Why do I get the sinking feeling that when the history books are being written decades from now,

the chapter on 2003 will begin, "Tragically underestimating the maliciousness of North Korea, the United States allowed itself to be distracted by Iraq."

I have never really understood the purpose of weathervanes. So you know when the wind is blowing from the southwest. What then?

I know a mother so sensible that she asks people, "Do you have guns in your house?" before she will let her child go play there.

More relationships have broken up on Valentine's Day than have ever been started on Valentine's Day.

The two saddest words in the history of modern investing may be these: fiber optics.

"Kingpin" as good as "The Sopranos"? Don't make me laugh.

Following the Columbia crash, there has been some terrific reporting done on the vulnerability of the space shuttle. Maybe someday we'll see such reporting done before a tragedy.

I don't want to change the world. I just don't want the world to change me.

Roger Simon can be e-mailed at WriteRoger@aol.com. To find out more about Roger Simon and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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LOOKS LIKE HE'S HEADED FOR THE PENSION SYSTEM.
BETTER TELL EVERYBODY IN THE WHITE HOUSE
AND THE CAPITOL TO RUN FOR IT.



She taught me how to live, and die

The first time I interviewed her, she was 101 years old. Yet her smile and friendly disposition made her seem at least 20 years younger.

In fact, it was that attitude that kept her young and alive for so long.

And since Ramona Ofelia Martinez was still mentally agile, a newspaper had sent me across the country to seek out her story. After all, through her, we could tell the story of the entire 20th century.

It was Dec. 31, 1999, and Martinez, born in Cuba on the last day of 1898, was not only celebrating her birthday, she was entering her third century.

The whole world was welcoming the new millennium, and I was in Miami interviewing a tri-centennial Cuban-American woman.

We had spoken countless other times before. But not like this, not in my reporter mode, not taking notes and asking probing questions.

After all, Martinez was my dear grandmother.

I had been given an opportunity to go home to dig out my own family roots. As a reporter, I couldn't think of a better assignment.

Everyone should have that experience. Everyone should interview their elders as if they were reporters, to dig out their heritage before death wipes it away.

The article turned out all right. I told my grandmother's life story by framing it in the context of historic events.

She was born right after the end of the Spanish-American War, in a country where most of that war was fought. She was a toddler

when Cuba was run by a U.S. military government, and she was 3 years old when U.S. forces left the island and Cubans elected their first president in 1902. She was almost 5 years old when Orville Wright took to the sky at Kitty Hawk in 1903. And that's just her first five years.

So much had occurred during my grandmother's lifetime that it was hard not to tell a good story.

Born and raised in La Salud, a small rural town in Cuba's Havana Province, she still remembered a time before cars and airplanes, before radio and television, before electric light and running water. And remarkably, she could still tell fascinating stories about her encounters with those discoveries.

But something else happened to me during that time with my dear mama — who outlived even her three daughters, including my mother: I discovered the secret of her longevity.

"Everywhere I go, when people find out how old I am, they want to know how I did it," she said. "What's the secret? I tell them I didn't do anything special, that I'm still alive because it's God's will."

But clearly, what kept her going was her God-given youthful personality, her unwithering laughter, her thirst for living.

From her, I learned that a long life is not about "doing something special." It's about being someone special.

"Make sure you write wonderful things about me," she joked as I scribbled on a notepad on the kitchen table of her "Little Havana" apartment. "Say you found me cheerful and smiling."

But she didn't have to say that. I don't remember her any other way.

Even when she came to this

country as a refugee in 1963, when she gave up a wealthy lifestyle in Havana to go work in a tomato plantation in South Florida, my grandmother never frowned.

Even in her senior years, the wrinkles of her face were few for her age. She still had the wit and sense of humor of a dynamic young woman. Her strength of character was the crutch the whole family could still lean on. Her cheerful disposition was like a sponge that absorbed all the family problems.

She was deeply religious, but she never took her faith to an extreme. I always admired that about her. She was always ready for a good party — especially if you gave her time to make herself pretty. A proud woman, she never allowed anyone to take her picture unless she was ready. That's what kept her young.

"I just dyed my hair," she said during our interview, running her fingers through her deep-red hair. "What do you think of this color?"

Last week, I went back to Miami for her funeral. She died peacefully, at 106, of nothing other than old age.

And as I mourned her loss and celebrated her wonderful life, I kept thinking that, during our interview, she had not only taught me how to live, but how to die.

"I believe that if you do good in life, if you believe in God and you are a good person, you go to heaven," she said.

"And I believe I've been good," she chuckled. "We'll see each other there someday."

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

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Highlander

Toyota's new midsize SUV joins the ranks of hybrids

MATT NAUMAN

Knight Ridder Newspapers
CARMEL VALLEY, Calif.

When Toyota put the Prius hybrid on sale in August 2000, the big question wasn't would it work, but rather, would people buy it.

They did, and still do. Continuing waiting lists and sales that are expected to double this year from last year's 50,000 prove the Prius is a success. That acceptance was fueled by great publicity, good marketing and an appealing vehicle that promised 52 mpg in city driving in an era of higher gas prices.

And a price that started at \$19,995 didn't hurt. (The 2005 model sells for \$20,875.)

Now, with many questions answered, with more rivals on the market and with an understanding that most people now know you don't need to plug in a hybrid, Toyota is releasing its follow-up to the Prius.

This one is a sport-utility, and, unlike the Prius, which is and was a distinct model, the 2006 Highlander Hybrid SUV is based on an existing vehicle.

That's the same philosophy that has brought hybrid Civics and Accords from Honda and the Escape from Ford to the market.

"We are more convinced than ever that gas-electric hybrids have arrived as a mainstream technology," said Don Esmond, the 23-year Toyota veteran recently promoted to senior vice president for automotive operations. He's now in charge of Toyota, Scion and Lexus sales in the United States, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

"Since the day the first Prius arrived in the U.S., the No. 1 question that I am asked is, 'What would

you like the next hybrid vehicle to be?' My answer is always the same — a mid-size SUV."

In fact, Esmond said in a press introduction here, if he had been the one making the decision, that first Prius would have been a Highlander.

Through late 2004, Toyota had gotten more than 100,000 requests for information about the Highlander Hybrid from so-called "hand-raisers."

With that kind of response — the company got about 60,000 similar requests before the second-generation Prius launched in 2004 — "there's no doubt we will have high demand and short supply," Esmond said.

Toyota forecasts that it will sell 20,450 Highlander Hybrids — and 106,000 of the gas-only four- and six-cylinder models — in calendar 2005. In all, U.S. buyers will get three-quarters of the 60,000 Highlander Hybrids (and similar Lexus RX 400h hybrids) that Toyota will make in its Kyushu plant this year.

"And if you're wondering if we are capable of bumping production to keep pace with demand, we're wondering the same thing," Esmond said.

The 2006 Highlander Hybrid, which goes on sale June 15, combines a 3.3-liter V-6 and two electric-drive motor-generators and sealed nickel-metal-hydrate batteries to produce a total of 268 horsepower. That's up from 230 horses in the gasoline-only V-6 Highlander. (Four-wheel-drive versions have a rear electric motor, too.)

Toyota projects the two-wheel-drive model will get 32 mpg in the city and 27 on the highway, while the four-wheel-drive version will get 30 and 26. That gives the



The new Toyota 2006 Highlander SUV

Highlander Hybrid "the acceleration of a V-8 with a combined fuel economy that is better than the EPA average for compact sedans of 27.6 mpg," said Yukihiro Okane, the vehicle's chief engineer.

Toyota dealers will sell two versions of the Highlander Hybrid. The base two- and four-wheel-drive models will come with a CD player, air conditioning, six air bags (dual front, side and side curtain), vehicle stability control and 17-inch wheels. Limited versions add a six-disc in-dash JBL stereo, leather and heated seats, a moonroof, fog lamps, wood trim and a rear spoiler.

A DVD navigation system will be the only available option on the Highlander Hybrid Limited models.

Unlike some other Toyota SUVs, such as the Land Cruiser, 4Runner and forthcoming FJ Cruiser, the Highlander is

one of those sport-utilities destined for on- (not off-) road.

"It's not necessarily an off-road vehicle by any means," said Natae Cutler, Toyota's product education and development administrator.

"Highlander Hybrid buyers will use their vehicles for commuting to and from work, transporting their children and short trips around town," Esmond said.

There will be an even split between male and female buyers, most will be from 30 to 55 years old, 68 percent will be college educated, 70 percent will be married and 47 percent will have children under 18.

Esmond predicted the MSRP would be \$4,000 to \$5,000 over a comparably equipped gas-only Highlander. The 2005 non-hybrid Highlanders sell for \$24,845 to \$32,145. The Ford Escape, a smaller hybrid SUV but the

Highlander Hybrid's nearest rival, sells for \$27,400 to \$29,025, according to Edmunds.com.

In addition to the Prius and Highlander hybrids from its mainstream Toyota division, the automaker was scheduled to put its Lexus RX 400h, a hybrid SUV, on sale in April. It also said at the recent New York Auto Show that the LX GS 450h, a hybridized rear-wheel-drive sports sedan, will hit showrooms in spring 2006.

Toyota President Fujio Cho has said the company will announce in June when and where in North America it will make future hybrid models. Right now, all are built in Japan.

As to why the Highlander Hybrid looks so much like its gas-only counterpart, Frank Sanayama, the vehicle's assistant chief engineer, said that's what Toyota's American executives

wanted.

"The engineering side was convinced that buyers wanted to make a strong statement with their hybrid vehicles that said I'm special, I'm green" and "I'm into advanced technology and forward-thinking," he said.

U.S. executives, however, used words like "subtle and somewhat understated because that's what customers have come to expect from Toyota products."

That's why only a minute "Hybrid Synergy Drive" badge is found beneath the Highlander name on the back of the vehicle. Otherwise, the gas and hybrid versions look remarkably similar, although the design of its front bumper and grille are slightly changed to allow more cooling of the hybrid system. The hybrid gets unique (a split, five-spoke design) 17-inch alloy wheels, too.

SLIDES

Continued from Page 1A

other coastal communities to be on the lookout for any slight earth movement.

"We're not out of the woods yet," geologist Randall Jibson said.

Laguna Beach has been dry since a trace of rainfall nearly a month ago, but before that, Southern California had its second-rainiest season on record. The region has gotten nearly 28 inches of rain since last July, more than double the annual average.

The daybreak landslide caught dozens of residents by surprise Wednesday in this Orange County community about 50 miles southeast of Los Angeles.

"You could hear the homes breaking. You could hear the cracking wood," said Jill Lockhart, who awakened to the noise of shattering glass and walls.

"It was like a nightmare," said Lockhart, 35. "We had to run for our lives."

She fled with her son 2-year-old son, Tyson, over her shoulder and his 4-year-old brother, Trey, stumbling along in his pajamas.

The family climbed into a neighbor's SUV, but their path was blocked by a utility pole, forcing them to flee on foot. They had to abandon the road

when it began to collapse, finally scrambling down a hillside to safety. Lockhart's two-story home was destroyed.

At the top of the hill, the foundations of several homes were left exposed, their corners jutting out with nothing underneath to support them. One road ended abruptly, with the edge of the pavement

hanging over a tangle of debris scattered downhill.

City manager Ken Frank expected about a third of the evacuees to be back in their homes in the next day or two. Others will be allowed to retrieve belongings under supervision Thursday.

Last January, a landslide crashed down into the coastal community of

La Conchita, in Ventura County northwest of Los Angeles, killing 10 people.

Laguna Beach, offering vistas of the Pacific from coastal bluffs, has been hit before by flooding, mudslides and wildfire. In 1998, a rainstorm triggered slides that damaged 300 homes, 18 of them severely, and killed two people. A fire in 1993

swept down into the city and destroyed some 400 homes. Most were rebuilt within a half-dozen years. And in October 1978, a slide in the same canyon destroyed 14 homes.

The area has some of Southern California's most desirable real estate. The damaged homes generally sell for \$2 million or more, residents said.

Recently, the community was prominently featured on the MTV show "Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County" that debuted in September.

State Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi said most residents who lost their homes probably did not have insurance coverage for landslides.

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HENRY BACKES

Seafood options for picnic recipes

Summer is here, so picnics are too!

With warm weather upon us, what better way to spend time with your family than an outdoor picnic?

Culinary expert Lena Cutler says with today's new shelf-stable seafood options, Americans can prepare quick, on-the-go, gourmet meals for their families.

"People who are looking for new picnic recipe

ideas, or to spice up existing salads or side dishes, need not look further than the canned and pouched seafood aisle," said Cutler.

"Shelf-stable seafood has expanded from traditional canned tuna to include an array of seafood from shrimp to smoked salmon."

Chicken of the Sea recently introduced a complete line of pouched seafood, including shrimp, clams, oysters, crab and imitation crab,

adding to the seafood company's growing list of pouched offerings that also include tuna and salmon in a foil pouch.

These ready-to-eat seafood options are a great opportunity for people to add variety to meals, said Cutler.

For a quick and delicious recipe, try the Tortellini Tuna Salad, or visit The Mermaid Club at www.chickenofthesea.com for additional recipes.



Tortellini Tuna Salad

Preparation Time: 20 minutes

1 (9-ounce) package refrigerated cheese tortellini, cooked according to package directions

3 cups assorted fresh cut vegetables, such as broccoli florets, yellow squash, colorful bell peppers, red onion, carrots, tomatoes, etc.

1 (15-ounce) can artichoke hearts, drained

1/4 cup chopped fresh basil leaves

2 (6-ounce) cans drained Chicken of the Sea Solid White Albacore Tuna in Spring Water

1 cup light roasted garlic and white wine dressing
Parmesan cheese (optional)

In large bowl, combine first 4 ingredients. Gently flake and fold in tuna; add and toss in dressing. Marinate 30 minutes or up to 24 hours before serving. Toss once before serving. Garnish with Parmesan cheese if desired. Makes 6 servings

Nutrition Information

Serving Size 1: Calories 279; Calories From Fat 80; Fat 9g; Saturated Fat 2g; Carbohydrates 26g; Fiber 5g; Sugars 4g; Protein 21g; Cholesterol 35mg; Sodium 1100 mg; Vitamin A 35 percent; Vitamin C 80 percent; Calcium 4 percent; Iron 8 percent.

Groom's shower: it's a guy thing

Dear Betty, My nephew is getting married, and I'd like to throw a shower for him and his buddies. Do you have any fun ideas? Bakersfield, Calif.

What an awesome idea! To jump-start your party planning, choose a theme that reflects your nephew's interests. Have fun with the table and top it with denim, bandanas, drop cloths or newspaper, then decorate.

The Tool Guy. Arrange tools such as a level, hammer and screwdrivers down the length of the table. As a take-home gift, give each guy an inexpensive addition to his own toolbox such as a mini measuring tape, nail apron or tube of super-strength glue. Serve a he-man breakfast of pancakes with an assortment of toppings, bacon, sausage, fruit salad and fresh-squeezed juice.

The Yard Guy. Hold the shower on the patio, porch or deck. Fill small clay pots with flowers and group on the table. Buy work gloves for the guests, roll them up and tie with colorful bandanas. Let the guys assemble their own steak or chicken fajitas, and

serve with Spanish rice, refried beans and a salad of greens, fresh pineapple and sliced jicama tossed with ranch dressing.

The Grilling Guy. Tuck the flatware into an oven mitt at each place. Invite the guest of honor to lend a hand doing his favorite thing — grilling! Grill juicy bacon cheeseburgers and serve with pasta salad, spinach dip and veggies, and peanut butter brownies. Send each guy home with a bottled marinade or a fun chef's apron with his name on it.

Dear Betty, I've been invited to a couples shower with a kitchen theme. Any suggestions for a gift? Brooklyn, N.Y.

I mentioned your request to my friend Art Smith, Oprah Winfrey's personal chef, and we put our heads together to come up with a few "theme" gift ideas for the happy couple.

The Entertainers. Pick out a nice cheeseboard and cheese knife or spreaders. Add several packs of cocktail napkins and matching plates and my cookbook, Betty Crocker's Entertaining Basics.

The Wine Lovers.

Ask BETTY

Buy a good wine-bottle opener, some fun bottle stoppers, a wine collar (to catch drips), two pretty wine glasses and a wine journal for recording their favorites, tastings, etc.

The Grilling Team. Choose some fun skewers, a grill basket, a meat-thermometer fork and a selection of wonderful spice rubs or bottled marinades. Top it off with "his" and "hers" aprons.

Want more ideas? www.BettyCrocker.com
Questions? 1-888-ASK BETTY BettyCrocker

Briefly

Coahoma Lions Club sells the town

Coahoma Lions Club annual citywide garage sale is Saturday. Several families in Coahoma are participating.

Visit Little Sooper Market for a map of the locations. For more information, contact Warren Wallace at 394-4310.

Benefit fish fry set

A benefit fish fry for Alan Householder, sponsored by the Eagles Lodge, the Big Spring Bass Club and Sid Richardson's Employees/Safety Team, is set for 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday at the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

Fish and all the fixins are available for dine in or carry out.

Adults and children 13 and older are \$6 per plate and children 3-12 are \$4 per plate.

Call 263-4545 for more information.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church sets festival

The annual Sacred Heart Catholic Church Spring Festival is 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday behind the church, 506 N. Aylesford.

Game booths with prizes, darts, cake walks, sno cones, baseball

throws, flowers, a duck pond and a fish pond are just some of the planned activities.

Also, an auction of items donated by various Big Spring merchants takes place at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Music begins at 8 p.m. Friday and after the auction Saturday, featuring X-Tremo.

Food available includes Indian bread, corn on the cob, nachos, carne asada, hamburgers and more.

Both hot and mild tamale orders are available by calling 264-7010.

Tickets are 50 cents and may be purchased at the ticket booth for entry into all games, food, etc.

For more information, call 264-7010.

Martin County sets Relay For Life event

The Martin County Relay For Life event begins at 7 p.m. Friday at the Stanton High School football stadium. A catered barbecue dinner begins at 7:30 p.m.

The Luminaria services starts at sunset.

Games and other fundraisers are planned, including a cruise for two to Cozamel, Mexico, cake walks, a chance to win handmade quilts and more.

For more information, contact Missy at 756-3316 or Sherry at 756-4158.

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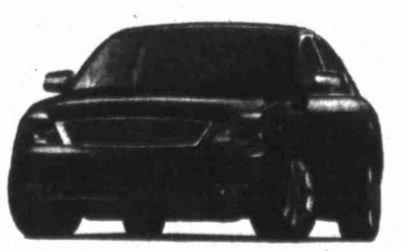
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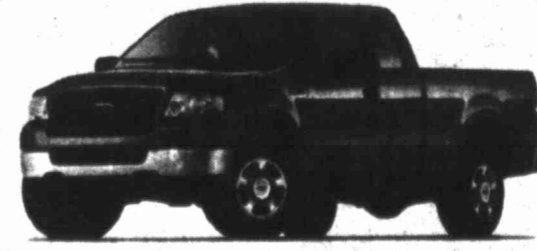
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Sports

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

Page 1B
Thursday, June 2, 2005

IN BRIEF

C.G.A. sets annual scholarship tourney

The Chicano Golf Association has announced its 15th annual scholarship golf tournament will take place Saturday, June 11, through Sunday, June 12, at the Big Spring Country Club (Saturday) and Comanche Trail Park (Sunday).

The tournament will be a two person pick your partner scramble and costs \$75 per person. Proceeds will be used to help send local high school students to college.

Players can purchase mulligans both Saturday and Sunday for \$5 each. There will be free food for the players and prizes for closest to the pin on four different holes.

Tee times for Saturday's first round can be obtained by calling the Big Spring Country Club at 267-5354.

For more information, contact Willie Mendoza at 267-7977 or Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

B.S. Country Club announces parent-child tournament

The Big Spring Country Club will host a parent-child golf tournament June 4 through June 5.

There will be a trophy division and an open division for the two person scramble. There will be a shotgun start both days as the tournament will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday and at 1 p.m. Sunday.

The entry fee is \$80 for the trophy division and \$30 for the open division plus the cost of a golf cart (private carts are welcome).

The age breakdown in the trophy division is 5-11, 12-15 and 16-18.

For more information, call 267-5354.

Bubba Franks invite scheduled for June

The fourth annual Big Spring High School Bubba Franks golf tournament will take place Saturday, June 18, at the Big Spring Country Club.

The tournament will start at 8 a.m. and will be a four-person scramble. The cost is \$60 per person and that includes a hamburger lunch and a golf cart.

For more information, contact Gene Piercefield at 267-4205 or 818-1134 or John Sparks at 263-8527.

Pitching clinic set for early June

Terri McClure will conduct a pitching clinic at the Freddie Ezell Softball Clinic in Midland June 7-9.

For more information, contact Freddie Ezell at 432-694-5508.

Mugs' annual eight game tourney set

Mugs will host its annual eight games guarantee softball tournament June 10-12 at the Freddie Ezell Softball Complex.

For more information, contact Freddie Ezell at 432-694-5508.

Abrego, Roberts to play in all-star game Sunday

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

The Coahoma Bulldogs baseball team won its first district title under coach Brad Harman this year. And that success during the year led to an honor after the year for three members of the Bulldogs team.

Seniors Lance Roberts and Adrian Abrego were recently honored as members of the all-District 4-2A team and those selections — Roberts as the league MVP and Abrego as a first team pitcher — might have been the reason each player will par-

ticipate in the Greater West Texas Coaches Association All-Star Game this Sunday in Plainview on the campus of Wayland Baptist University.

Harman is happy for his seniors and also excited to be able to coach the players in the game as he was selected to head up the South team.

"It's an honor that I had two players selected to this game," said Harman. "It means even more to me that I get to coach them in the game, as well."

Roberts and Abrego were nominated by Harman in May and then a selection committee made

the final cuts 10 days ago. The all-star game will feature two games.

Roberts and Abrego will play in the Class 1A-3A game and the other game will feature players in Class 4A and 5A. Each team consists of 20 players.

"It's a big honor to be playing in this game and for Coahoma to have two kids selected is a big deal," said Harman. "They now have a chance to increase their college looks."

Neither Roberts nor Abrego have decided on a college at this time, but Harman said they most likely will play ball at the next

level and a JUCO might be there best fit.

"There will be a lot of college representation at this game so they will definitely get looked at by several

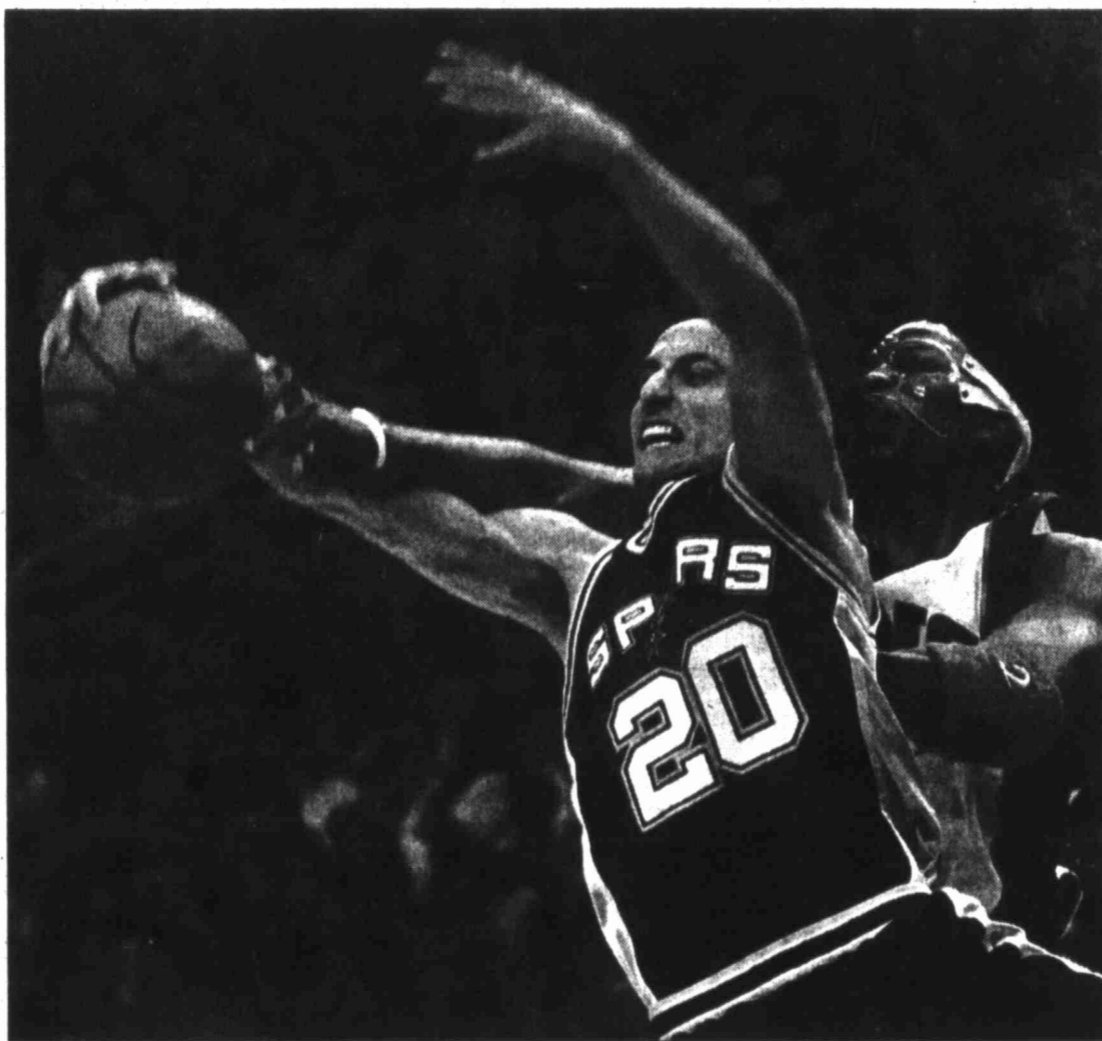
scouts," said Harman.

Abrego hit .478 with four home runs and 30 RBIs this year, while Roberts went 8-4 on the mound with 139

strikeouts. He had an ERA of 2.11.

"The guys are excited to be playing," said Harman.

The game Sunday will start at 1 p.m. and will take place at Wilder Field in Plainview.



KRT photo/Ralph Franco/East Valley Tribune
Phoenix guard Joe Johnson tries to knock the ball away from San Antonio's Manu Ginobili (20) during first half of the Spurs' 101-95 victory over the Suns to win Game 5 and the Western Conference Finals championship at America West Arena in Phoenix.

Spurs claim conference title with 101-95 victory

By BOB BAUM
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX — San Antonio had just beaten Phoenix to win the Western Conference finals when Tim Duncan sought out Amare Stoudemire.

The two-time MVP had the Spurs in the NBA Finals for the third time since 1999, and he wanted to acknowledge the awesome, still-growing talent that the 22-year-old Stoudemire displayed.

"He said I played a heck of a series," Stoudemire said after the Spurs' 101-95 victory Wednesday night. "He said there will be plenty of more times when I'll be back in that position. It was good to hear that from Tim. He's one of the marquee players in this league, so best of luck to him."

There will be more Duncan-Stoudemire showdowns, but for now,

So a series much more competitive than its 4-1 finish would indicate ended with mutual respect, and an understanding that there will be more to come.

Stoudemire, just 22 years old, averaged 37 points in the five-game series, capped by a career playoff-high 42, 16 rebounds and four blocked shots Wednesday night.

"He had an incredible, another incredible, game," Duncan said. "He's extended his game so much. He was hitting 15-, 18-footers tonight like it was nothing. And with his athleticism and his ability, just knowing that he's going to get even better, it's kind of scary."

There will be more Duncan-Stoudemire showdowns, but for now,

Duncan and the Spurs again rule the West, and will wait to see whether they will face Detroit or Miami in the finals, a series that won't start for another week.

Stoudemire scored 17 of his 42 points in the fourth quarter, several on the powerful slam dunks that have become his trademark, helping Phoenix trim a 13-point deficit to three with 2:45 left.

He finished the series with the highest scoring average for a conference finals first-timer, breaking Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's 35-year-old record by 2.8 points per game. His five straight 30-point games broke his own club playoff record and it made him the first Suns player to do that in any five games since Charles Barkley.

Tigers end Rangers' win streak

By LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT — The Texas Rangers were upset with themselves for the way their winning streak ended.

Brandon Inge's tiebreaking, two-run single in a five-run seventh inning lifted the Detroit Tigers to a 6-4 victory over Texas on Wednesday night.

The Rangers had won nine straight games, matching the second-longest streak in team history. They were trying to equal the longest streak in the majors this season, the New York Yankees' 10-game run

from last month. "It's a tough one to take home with you," David Dellucci said. "But we just have to try and start another streak."

Texas had a three-run lead that starter Ryan Drese (4-5) quickly lost in the seventh.

The Tigers' rally started with Rondell White's lead-off single. It continued with Ivan Rodriguez's single that went off Drese's glove, Craig Monroe's RBI double and Chris Shelton's RBI groundout. Tony Giarratano, making his major league debut, hit an RBI single and Nook Logan bunted directly at Drese, who

made a wild throw and was charged with an error.

Inge then followed with a single to right off Doug Brocail past a drawn-in infield.

"It seems like one little thing can cause a snowball effect," said Kevin Mench, whose two-run homer gave Texas a 3-0 lead in the fourth. "They took advantage of it."

Detroit has won four of five, with its previous victory also coming in a comeback against AL East-leading Baltimore. The Rangers fell into a first-place tie with the Los Angeles Angels in the AL West.

Bulldogettes' experience is big advantage

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

AUSTIN — Coahoma coach Robby Dickenson has been head man of the softball program at the school for seven years and has taken the Bulldogettes' powerhouse program to the state tournament four times.

And that experience may help Coahoma (25-11) this year at the state softball championship tournament, which began today at Red McCombs Field on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin.

"Anytime you have experience, whether it is in sports or life in general, you'll usually have some kind of edge," said Dickenson, whose Bulldogettes team won the state title in 1998.

This year's Coahoma team features five players who played on the last state tournament team in 2003, which took second overall after losing to Weimar in the title game. Coahoma's first opponent — Elysian Fields — is playing in its first state tournament.

Senior Ruby Garcia will make her third trip to state, while juniors Sarah Dunn, Drew Wells, Ashle New and Liz Conley all will be playing in Austin for the second time.

Garcia has been a vocal leader for Coahoma all year long, but, according to Dickenson, she also is not taking her experience for granted.

"She is just looking at this first game as just another game in the season," said Dickenson. "We are trying to not get caught up in the hype."

"The media around us the past week has been crazy, but the girls are doing a good job handling everything. We were able to practice (Wednesday) so that should help."

Junior Kali Roberts, who will start on the hill for Coahoma against semifinal opponent Elysian Fields Thursday at 2 p.m., is one of several kids to make their initial trip to Austin for Coahoma. However, the team was able to tour Red McCombs Field, the site of all tournament games, Wednesday and that should help the newcomers with any state jitters.

"It kind of takes away an unknown for the girls," said Dickenson.

This year's Coahoma team compares in many ways to the 1998 team which hoisted the championship trophy, the lone state title won by the softball program.

The 1998 team had dom-

inant pitching from freshmen Amber Bingham and Kenni Kay Buchanan in the postseason. This year's team has Roberts, who has thrown three no hitters in the postseason.

The 1998 team had a good defense, solid hitting throughout its lineup and the state's MVP in Class 2A in Tara Sterling. This year's Coahoma team has a confident defense backing up Roberts, has four hitters hitting over .300 and could possibly have the state's MVP in Roberts.

"If (Kali) has a good state tournament I think it is very possible she could be the state's MVP," said Dickenson.

The 1998 squad had a good blend of youth and experience with four freshman starters, two seniors and an abundance of talented sophomores and juniors.

This year's Coahoma team has two freshman starters and three seniors, but the abundance of talented sophomores and juniors still exist.

"Both teams are very similar from top to bottom," said Dickenson. "They have a few differences, but they have a lot of similarities."

The experience issue could play a factor in the game Thursday, but it is still not a strong enough factor for Coahoma to look past Elysian Fields.

"We have not even started to think about the other two teams because we have to get to the final game before we worry about who we are playing," said Dickenson. "It really doesn't matter to us who we play though."

The other semifinal game Thursday features Troy and Weimar. Troy enters the tournament with the best overall record in Class 2A at 22-5, while Weimar beat the Bulldogettes in the title game in 2003.

"The good thing about our game with Elysian Fields is that we play first and if we win we will be able to watch the next game and be able to see what the other teams bring to the table," said Dickenson.

And seeing what the other teams bring to the table could just make Coahoma a little more experienced in Austin.

The Bulldogettes played Elysian Fields today at 2 p.m. and the Troy and Weimar semifinal matchup followed at 4:30 p.m. The winner of the two semifinal games will meet in the championship game Saturday at 11 a.m.

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3 FAMILY Garage Sale: 2613 Rebecca, Saturday 8:00-2:00. Clothes, shoes, bags, bedspreads, odds and ends.

3 FAMILY Yard Sale: 1202 Dixie, Saturday 8:00-3:00. Washer, Dryer, kitchenware, clothes, toddler and adult, toys, work boots, odds & ends.

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4 FAMILY Garage Sale: 125 Jonesboro Rd., Saturday 8:00-?. Small appliances, books, children's books, all size clothing, baby clothes, dishes, misc., quilts, crafts, purses, shoes.

4 FAMILY Sale: Friday 7:00-5:00, Saturday 7:00-1:00. Lawn mower, chest, dressers, cedar chest, table, 8 chairs, table 4/chairs, couch, recliner, glider, pans, silverware, dishes, small appliances, lots of misc. 5612 Midway Road.

4 FAMILY: Saturday 8:00-1:00. Lots of miscellaneous. 5327 Longshore.

BIG GARAGE Sale: 2709 Carol Dr., Saturday 7:30am-?. Lots of Christmas items, lots of clothes and knick-knacks.

GARAGE SALE, 605 Saunders, (Coahoma). Friday, 4:00 p.m.-8:00p.m. & Saturday, 7:00a.m.-12:00. Antiques, cast iron, candy containers, bedroom furniture, chest freezer, TV, collectibles. (432)394-4481.

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All applicants must:
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Agency offers OJT, benefit package for all full and part-time employees. Applicants may apply at Lakeview Head Start 1107 NW 7th St. Big Spring, Tx. Applications will be taken between 9am-4pm. Job closes June 9, 2005 @ 4:00 pm. All interview will be held at the Administration Office at 206 W. 5th Odessa, Tx.

Help Wanted

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Ab-Tex Beverage Ltd. requires individual to complete a drug screen and work assessment test. Possess or able to obtain a Class A CDL. Beverage sales experience a plus. Comprehensive benefit program. Please apply in person: Ab-Tex Beverage Ltd. 3611 Hwy 87 North Big Spring, Tx 79720. EEO/AA Employer

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Miscellaneous

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3912 Parkway, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. Remodeled, Double carport and storage. Stove furnished. \$400.00 month, \$200.00 deposit. Call (432)263-0122.

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801 East 18TH- 3 Bedroom, 2904 Cherokee- 2 Bedroom. Both have CH/A. No HUD. No Pets. Call (432)263-5818 or 213-0820.

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Call Stemple
(559)355-2900

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FOR SALE, 1993 26' camper trailer, TV, microwave, electric refrigerator, all bedding and cooking utensils go with trailer. \$5,000. Call (432)263-1759

FOR SALE, 1998 Freightliner Classic 70" walk-in condo sleeper, with 1994 Great Dane Reefer. Ready to work! Both for \$38,500. Lone Star Auto Sales, (432)263-4943.



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Mars and Saturn negotiate a lesson plan. We are likely to learn something fantastic from authority figure types, although we may not fully realize the significance of it until much later. The Taurus moon awakens the senses to things of quality and cost. While out and about, you'll spend all the cash you bring, so plan accordingly.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). While physically you may be feeling a little dull, your mental function fires off lickety-split! One result: A long, probing, haphazard relationship suddenly gets right to the point. This may even involve an ultimatum.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A circle of friends becomes smaller even if its numbers stay the same. Fresh blood is required to get new ideas circulating. All told, socializing is your best bet for a beautiful experience that is rich, strange and rare.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your efforts are heroic, but it's what you choose not to do that's really impressive. Your restraint will be admired. The question tonight remains: What has occurred to irritate your partner so? Tonight features a baffling clue.

CANCER (June 22-July

22). You may feel compelled to moan about your shortcomings to anyone who will listen, but, dear Cancer, the world doesn't need any more of that sound. Be strong! Act as if you were confident, and the confidence will come. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You think you are merely exercising your creativity, but in fact, you are creating sweet memories. You'll have an inkling about the people you meet and will know based on that feeling whether it's worthwhile to pursue things further.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's difficult not to compare yourself with others (who, by the way, have been groomed from an early age to do what they do). Why not name your current project self-acceptance? It's certainly a worthy goal.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A small revelation: Perhaps a relationship is not ill-fated at all! It could be that there were extenuating circumstances that made it go to pieces shortly after it came together. And this is the perfect time to try again.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your experience is more unique than you thought. There are huge differences between you and others you come into contact with today. Therefore, the discovery of common ground is a great, welcome solace.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've been busy on your crusade, but now, take time for yourself. Your spritely tastes are featured, and there's an

opportunity to indulge them. Ask for the best price available (if you don't ask, you won't get).

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Recent relationship drama is the start of an interesting story. All stories are subject to interpretation. It's amusing just how different your interpretation is from that of your partner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You solve the problem that has the rest of the group vexed. Your idea is presented with spontaneous conviction, and therefore, is accepted immediately! Generally speaking, it's good to be you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'd rather not take part in mundane conversations or routine chores — your world has grown so much bigger than that. It seems you only have time for voyages of discovery that nobody has heard of.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I was born Jan. 4, 1940. I don't know how to drive a car. According to my date of birth, is it too late to learn how?"

Your desire to drive is not a reaction to one trigger, but is the cumulative result of a thought pattern. One too many times you've felt that you were at the mercy of someone else's timing. Being able to come and go as you please will be liberating on so many levels! As a Capricorn, you can be set in your ways, often finding it preferable to do things as you have done them before. And you must admit that you've enjoyed

having someone else drive you — it makes you feel privileged. But if you're willing to trade in that privileged feeling for greater freedom, there is no reason you shouldn't be able to learn to drive. As for your learning process, Mercury in Sagittarius says that you prefer to teach yourself, so it may be hard on your ego to take direction from an instructor. However, formal instruction with an expert is the absolute best way to go. So consciously put your personal feelings aside, and become extremely receptive and open to learning. Bon voyage!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Angelina Jolie's astrological chart has the moon, Mars and Jupiter in Aries, the sign of shock value, so there's always a part of her that wants to stir things up. Her impulsive nature promises she'll never experience a shortage of new ways to do that. This year, a love affair becomes a tabloid fixation. The most surprising part is that the outrageous claims about her activities will actually be true!

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My husband and I have friends who are getting married to each other this summer. "John" is a good friend of my husband's, and "Marie" is a longtime friend of mine. In fact, my husband and I were the ones who set them up. They were both going through rough patches in their lives, and we thought they could lean on each other.

I have never been that fond of John, and I recently asked my husband point-blank if John had ever cheated on Marie. When he didn't answer right away, I knew the truth. My husband reluctantly confirmed that John had been unfaithful to Marie on numerous occasions, but swore me to secrecy.

John told my husband about his infidelity in confidence, saying it's OK because he's "not married yet." This revelation is tearing me up inside. I think Marie should know what she's marrying. She divorced her first husband because he cheated, and it would crush her if this happened again.

I don't want to make trouble in my marriage by rattling out my husband, but wouldn't it be better if Marie knew about this before the wedding, rather than after? — Feeling Guilty in the Midwest

Dear Guilty: Even though John sounds like a skunk, we don't want you to betray your husband's trust. It's also possible that John was exaggerating when he "confessed" to your husband. Meanwhile, try to get Marie to reevaluate the relationship on her own. You can tell her you have reservations about John's character and suggest she take a little more time before finalizing her plans. If she has any doubts whatsoever, it's not too late to reconsider.

Dear Annie: A friend of mine who has been married for a number of years is finally pregnant. I'm



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

sure I will be invited to a baby shower. Just the other day, however, I received an invitation for a celebration for the mom before she has the baby. It's a "girls' night out" thing. No gift is necessary.

Why are we supposed to pamper Mom for becoming pregnant? I feel obligated to spend a certain amount at this event because we are friends. I wouldn't mind getting the mom a little something extra and including it with the shower gift, but I think the "me time" should have been well over when she decided to become pregnant.

Am I just out of the loop, or is this a little tacky? — Girlfriend

Dear Girlfriend: Actually, we think it's rather sweet to want your friend, whose life is going to be turned upside down by this new arrival, to have one last "girls' night out" before she turns into a sleep-deprived, spit-up-covered mom. If you don't want to participate, by all means, send your regrets, but it sounds like fun to us.

Dear Annie: I'd like to respond to "Fed Up in the Southwest," whose wife worked far away and didn't come home except on holidays.

It seems this poor woman is carrying the entire load — trying to make a living and keep up with her household, and she apparently has a husband who can't get in the car and spend some time

with his wife. Last time I checked, the road goes both ways.

It is exhausting to work all week and then go home just to turn around and go back again. She probably tries to do too much at home and doesn't think she can count on her husband to take care of things. He should meet her halfway — getting a motel room so they can rekindle some passion. — Sharing Spouse in Kansas

Dear Kansas: Most husbands are perfectly capable of managing the home in the wife's absence, but she must allow him the latitude to do it his own way and not stress out over it. We do agree, however, that meeting halfway for a romantic evening is an excellent idea. Thanks for suggesting it.

Dear Annie: My husband and I have two children. The oldest, "Dennis," age 31, told us last year that he is gay. We were both shocked, but I totally accepted this news and met his significant other, who is a nice person. My husband, however, was horrified and would not come out of his room for days. When he finally did, he refused to meet the partner.

Since Dennis told us this news, he and my husband have had a long-distance and limited relationship, and things are not getting any better. My husband is finally willing to reach out and meet Dennis' partner, but Dennis now reacts with indifference, saying he has been hurt and his partner would feel uncomfortable. He doesn't seem interested in fixing the relationship with his father.

Should I let this work itself out, or should I keep pushing for some kind of resolution? They each expect me to be supportive of their point of view and, frankly, they both have acted selfishly. I have gone for counseling and was told to have the family gang up on my

husband and force him to accept this completely, or else I should leave him. That upset me terribly. What do you say? — Helpless and Hopeless

Dear Helpless: We don't think too highly of your counselor's advice. Your husband is not the entire problem, and leaving him would not solve anything for you. It's understandable that your son is hurt, but the news was a shock to his father, and Dennis needed to give him more time. Shutting him out now, when Dad is willing to make an effort, is simply a way to punish him.

Yes, we think you should continue to encourage your husband to be more open-minded, and help Dennis forgive his father, so the two of them can move past this and forge a closer bond. Also, contact PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) for additional advice and assistance. The address is 1726 M Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20036 (pflag.org).

Dear Annie: I hope it's not too late to respond to the girl on the boys' baseball team. Honey, I understand how you feel. I'm the only girl on a boys' wrestling team.

I'm lucky to have a coach who won't tolerate anyone making fun of me. In fact, the one time a teammate made the mistake of doing that, the coach had the entire team attend an all-girls' tournament.

I don't hear negative sexist comments anymore. People are too impressed with what I can do. So keep your chin up. — Fellow Female

Dear Fellow Female: It always helps to hear from someone who has been there. Thanks for sharing your words of encouragement.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

THURSDAY

Table with 15 columns (WFAA, KMYD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLF, KWES, WTBS, KMLN, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISH, ESPN2, ESPN, SCI FI) and 7 rows (6-12) listing TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE comic strip panels 6-1 and 6-2. Panel 6-1: Dennis and Mr. Wilson. Panel 6-2: Dennis with a large sack. Captions: "TWELVE MORE YEARS BEFORE DENNIS GOES AWAY TO COLLEGE." "BELIEVE ME, IT'S A BURDEN WE ALL SHARE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS comic strip panel 6-2. Panel 6-2: A family in a room. Caption: "I'm going to spend all summer not missing school."

HAGAR comic strip panels 6-1 and 6-2. Panel 6-1: Hagar and a dog. Panel 6-2: Hagar at a desk. Captions: "WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN COME STROLLING IN HERE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?!" "ARE YOU AWARE THAT YOU ONLY BEAT HIM HOME BY TWENTY MINUTES?"

BLONDIE comic strip panels 6-1 and 6-2. Panel 6-1: Blondie and Dagwood. Panel 6-2: Blondie alone. Captions: "THE SQUIRREL SAID, 'IF YOU LIVED IN MY HOUSE, YOU'D EAT NUTS, TOO!'" "THAT'S THE DUMBEST JOKE I EVER HEARD!" "I CAN'T BELIEVE SOME OF THE LAME STUFF HE LAUGHS AT!"

BC comic strip panels 6-1 and 6-2. Panel 6-1: A man on a beach. Panel 6-2: A man on a beach. Captions: "MY UNCLE THE INVENTOR WAS THE ALL-TIME MASTER OF BAD TIMING." "WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?" "HE CAME UP WITH A 'BETTER MOUSE TRAP' ON THE DAY THEY PUT MICE ON THE PROTECTED SPECIES LIST."

WIZARD OF ID comic strip panels 6-1 and 6-2. Panel 6-1: A doctor and a patient. Panel 6-2: A doctor and a patient. Captions: "THE DOCTOR TOLD HIM TO EXERCISE." "WHAT DID HE DO?" "HE MOVED FROM THE RECLINER TO THE ROCKING CHAIR."

AGNES comic strip panels 6-1 and 6-2. Panel 6-1: Agnes at a computer. Panel 6-2: Agnes at a computer. Captions: "OK... I THINK THE WEB PAGE IS POUNDED IN THIS HOLE FAR ENOUGH TO LAUNCH IT." "AND NOW?" "NOW WE SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR HITS... THE MORE HITS WE GET, THE MORE MONEY WE GET... WE SHOULD BE ON EASY STREET IN FIFTEEN OR TWENTY MINUTES." "HOW DO WE GET THE MONEY?" "BETTER HUNKER DOWN... I THINK IT SHOOTS OUT THE SAME HOLE."

HI AND LOIS comic strip panels 6-1 and 6-2. Panel 6-1: Hi and Lois. Panel 6-2: Hi and Lois. Captions: "SPLASH!" "A DIRECT HIT!" "CAN I STOP BEING A TARGET NOW?"

THE OTHER COAST comic strip panels 6-1 and 6-2. Panel 6-1: A man at a computer. Panel 6-2: A man at a computer. Captions: "THIS ARTICLE WARNING ABOUT DETERIORATING WATER QUALITY IS GIVING ME AN ANXIETY ATTACK." "NEVER MIND, TO LOSE I'LL PUT THE KETTLE ON. A NICE CUP OF SLUDGE WILL HELP RELAX YOU."

SNUFFY SMITH comic strip panels 6-1 and 6-2. Panel 6-1: Snuffy Smith. Panel 6-2: Snuffy Smith. Captions: "TH' CHICKEN'S BURN'T TO A CRISP, TH' GRAVY'S FULL OF LUMPS AN' TH' BISCUITS ARE HARD AS ROCKS!!" "ATTA GIRL, MAW!!" "RECKON TH' PARSON'LL THINK TWICE NEXT TIME!!"

BEEBLE BAILEY comic strip panels 6-1 and 6-2. Panel 6-1: Beetle Bailey. Panel 6-2: Beetle Bailey. Captions: "LOOK AT THAT RAIN! I'LL BET SARGE CANCELS THE HIKE TODAY!" "I'LL BET HE DOESN'T." "YOU WIN, BEEBLE." "THANKS!"

This Date In History
By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, June 2, the 153rd day of 2005. There are 212 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On June 2, 1953, Queen Elizabeth II of Britain was crowned in Westminster Abbey, 16 months after the death of her father, King George VI.
On this date:
In 1886, President Cleveland married Frances Folsom in a White House ceremony.
In 1897, Mark Twain, 61, was quoted by the New York Journal as saying from London that "the report of my death was an exaggeration."
In 1924, Congress granted U.S. citizenship to all American Indians.
In 1941, baseball's "Iron Horse," Lou Gehrig, died in New York of a degenerative disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
In 1966, the U.S. space probe Surveyor One landed on the moon and began transmitting detailed photographs of the lunar surface.
In 1975, Vice President Nelson Rockefeller said his commission had found no widespread pattern of illegal activities at the Central Intelligence Agency.
In 1979, Pope John Paul II arrived in his native Poland on the first visit by a pope to a Communist country.
In 1997, Timothy McVeigh was convicted of murder and conspiracy in the Oklahoma City bombing. (He was executed in June 2001.)
Ten years ago: A U.S. Air Force F-16-C was shot down by a Bosnian Serb surface-to-air missile while on a NATO air patrol in northern Bosnia; the pilot, Captain Scott F. O'Grady, was rescued six days later.
One year ago: Three foreign aid workers and two Afghans were shot and killed in an ambush in northwestern Afghanistan.

Newsday Crossword
GARAGE BAND by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
ACROSS
1 Jacuzzi user
7 Date with an M.D.
11 Bowl over
14 Lawrence of Arabia star
15 Foal's father
16 Presidential nickname
17 Fairground ride
19 Zilch
20 Pine relative
21 Yo-yo, for one
22 Slipped away from
24 Poor movie rating
27 Stradivari's teacher
28 Symbol of affluence
32 Stress
35 L.A. Dodgers' league
36 Glop
37 Strong string
38 Put on TV
39 Main part
40 Eden evictee
41 It means "height"
43 Christie sleuth
45 Web surfer's aid
48 Dust specks
49 Da Vinci subject
53 NYSE alternative
55 Forum greeting
56 Door buster
57 Gone by
58 Radio talk-show intro
62 Homer Simpson's neighbor
63 First name in jeans
64 Juliet's home
65 Oklahoma city
66 Baseball Tonight channel
67 Dress styles
DOWN
1 Extremely successful
2 Used one's dining room
3 Yankee skipper
4 Opposite of vert.
5 New Haven student
6 Go back to square one
7 Pallid
8 Slapstick prop
9 Take precedence over
10 Spill the beans
11 Coming to an end
12 "___ From Muskogee"
13 Fuse metal
18 Dog-eared
23 Western Indian
25 Lose fur
26 Freight weight
27 A great distance
29 Hamburger topping
30 Word before bridge or call
31 Oxen holder
32 High cards
33 Sheltered bay
34 Fountain order
38 Trojan War participant
39 Writer Harte
41 Fit for the stage
42 They're drawn on British banks
43 Goddess of wisdom
44 Santa ___ winds
46 Reel holder
47 Was generous
50 Welle's of filmdom
51 Pine Tree State
52 Fitness centers
53 Peter Pan dog
54 Ripened
55 "... hear ___ drop"
59 NBA award
60 Voicemaster Blanc
61 Mentalist Geller
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Other news snippets on the left margin, including "e else likes you But if trade in eling for there is houldn't to drive. learning ury in that you yourself, on your ion from lower, on with absolute So con- person- le, and y recep- OFILES: stroligi- e moon, iter in of shock always a wants to r impul- promises rience a ways to r, a love i tabloid ost sur- that the ns about actually e to write s, please tors.com Write the Holiday you may rd in the ut more this and columns, Creators page at RS SYN- ed e him to letely, or ave him. terribly. say? — eless We don't of your ce. Your e entire ving him anything derstand- n is hurt, s a shock d Dennis im more him out is willing t, is sim- ish him. nk you ue to husband i-minded, s forgive e two of past this er bond. PFLAG ily and ians and dditional sistance. 1726 M ate 400, C. 20036 hope it's spond to oys' base- 'I under- feel. I'm a boys' have a t tolerate un of me. e time a the mis- that, the itire team s' tourna- negative ats any- are too what I your chin male Female: It hear from has been r sharing ncourage- xx is writ- thell and longtime n Landers

That's Racin'

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THIS WEEK'S RACE

MBNA 400
Where: Dover International Speedway, a banked 1-mile concrete oval located in Dover, Del.
When: Sunday at 1:35 p.m. (all times ET).
Qualifying is: 3:10 p.m. Friday.
TV: FX.
Radio: Motor Racing Network.
Purse: \$5,541,387.
Last year's winner: Mark Martin.
Also this week: It's a triple-header NASCAR weekend at Dover, with Ted Musgrave looking to defend his points lead in Friday's NASCAR Truck Series race and Busch Series points leader Carl Edwards looking to rebound from last weekend's poor finish at Charlotte, in Saturday's Busch race.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION
Which drivers have the most volatile relationship?
Cast your vote at:
www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION
What effect will the replacement of crew chief Pete Rondeau have on Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s team?
Number of votes: 7,083

Response	No. of votes	Percent
We'll have to wait and see.	2,597	37%
He'll be lucky to make the Chase.	2,079	29%
Not much will change.	1,509	21%
A championship is in sight.	898	13%

STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT
■ He may not have won a race this season, but **Ryan Newman** is rocketing right to the front. He has three consecutive top-five finishes and has climbed from 15th to fourth in points in that span.
■ Just when it appeared **Jimmie Johnson's** lock on the series points lead might be in jeopardy, he wins again, this time earning his third consecutive victory in the Coca-Cola 600.
■ After a three-week slump, **Carl Edwards** has now finished ninth or higher in three of his past five races.

WHO'S NOT
■ **Jason Leffler** failed to qualify for the Coca-Cola 600 and has not finished better than 25th in the five previous races.
■ Reigning Cup champion **Kurt Busch** has finished 17th or worse the past three races, including two finishes of 37th or worse.
■ Team disorder or not, **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** needs to get his performance more consistent to make the Chase for the Nextel Cup. He has three finishes of 14th or worse in his past four races.

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of May 28:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Jimmie Johnson	1747	21. Scott Riggs	1180
2. Greg Biffle	1676	22. Kyle Busch	1179
3. Elliott Sadler	1542	23. Matt Kenseth	1149
4. Ryan Newman	1530	24. Bobby Labonte	1143
5. Jeff Gordon	1516	25. Dave Blaney	1138
6. Tony Stewart	1488	26. Ken Schrader	1123
7. Kevin Harvick	1485	27. Brian Vickers	1114
8. Carl Edwards	1459	28. Casey Mears	1103
9. Jamie McMurray	1451	29. Mike Bliss	1098
10. Kurt Busch	1441	30. Kyle Petty	1095
11. Rusty Wallace	1429	31. Jeff Green	1093
12. Mark Martin	1423	32. Ricky Rudd	1049
13. Jeremy Mayfield	1417	33. Travis Kvapil	1004
14. Dale Jarrett	1406	34. Mike Wallace	968
15. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	1397	35. Scott Wimmer	964
16. Kasey Kahne	1351	36. Jason Leffler	821
17. Jeff Burton	1325	37. Bobby Hamilton Jr.	704
18. Michael Waltrip	1295	38. Kevin Lepage	638
19. Joe Nemechek	1226	39. Robby Gordon	529
20. Sterling Marlin	1214	40. Hermie Sadler	427

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of May 28:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Carl Edwards	1855	11. Jason Keller	1402
2. Clint Bowyer	1684	12. David Green	1378
3. Reed Sorenson	1681	13. Jon Wood	1327
4. Martin Truex Jr.	1625	14. Shane Hmiel	1228
5. Ashton Lewis	1577	15. Randy LaJole	1206
6. Kenny Wallace	1562	16. Johnny Sauter	1193
7. Greg Biffle	1544	17. Justin Labonte	1189
8. David Stremme	1528	18. Stanton Barrett	1157
9. Denny Hamlin	1527	19. Kasey Kahne	1151
10. Kevin Harvick	1411	20. Paul Menard	1150

NEXT RACE: Saturday, MBNA Racepoints 200, Dover, Del.

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of May 20:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Ted Musgrave	1088	6. Ron Hornaday	930
2. Bobby Hamilton	1047	7. Johnny Benson	887
3. Ricky Craven	1029	8. Matt Crafton	880
4. Jimmy Spencer	993	9. Todd Bodine	883
5. Dennis Setzer	940	10. Jack Sprague	858

NEXT RACE: Friday, MBNA Racepoints 200, Dover, Del.

Quick study

Carl Edwards furthers his education on and off the track

By BILL FLEISCHMAN
Knight Ridder Newspapers

All this racing success is making it difficult for Carl Edwards to complete his college degree. Not that he's complaining. Right now, he is focusing his learning on NASCAR racetracks.

With a third-place finish in the Coca-Cola 600, Edwards has vaulted back into the top 10 in Nextel Cup points. He is eighth, 288 behind leader Jimmie Johnson.

After his breakthrough victory at Atlanta in the season's fourth race, Edwards was third in points. However, five races later he had dropped to 14th.

Edwards, 25, is one of several appealing young drivers in the Cup series. Each brings a different story.

Edwards, who performs back flips after his race victories, is taking one course per semester at the University of Missouri over the Internet. He planned to major in engineering, but after three semesters he decided that wouldn't work. He is now majoring in interdisciplinary studies with concentrations on psychology and anthropology. He needs 32 to 36 credits to graduate.

"I didn't intend to go to college, but I got some state assistance (and) the University of Missouri is in my hometown (Columbia)," he said. Edwards recalled "almost getting in a fight" with another student who dismisses racing. Said Edwards: "I was going dirt racing and he said, 'That's stupid. Do you think you're going to race at Daytona some day?'" Memo to the U. of Missouri detractor: Edwards finished 12th in his Daytona 500 debut this year.

When Edwards started college, he said racing wasn't popular in Columbia. Now, he said it's "awesome. Since things have been going so well, I do weekly radio and television shows. NASCAR is huge in Columbia now." Included in Edwards' resume is, of all things, substitute teaching. He has taught kindergarten through 12th grade. "It was a good experience," he said. "I have a lot of respect for school teachers: it's a tough job." While racing at local dirt tracks in Missouri, Edwards started perfecting his promotional and marketing skills. He had about 2,500 business cards printed that read, "If you're looking for a driver, you're looking for me."

Edwards' mother worked at a company that had an answering service. "For about \$12



Carl Edwards, left, and crew chief Bob Osborne, right, have formed a successful partnership.

a month," he said. "I had a service that when people called an operator would say 'Carl Edwards Motorsports.' Folks thought I had an established business."

Edwards used Office Depot, his Cup team sponsor, to prepare promotional packets for potential sponsors. "I learned a lot about beating on doors and talking to people and trying to sell yourself," he said.

One summer, he worked for veteran Cup driver Ken Schrader, a fellow Missourian, in North Carolina. "Kenny said, 'If you really want to race, this is tough,'" Edwards recalled. "I figured I'd go (to North Carolina), get an ARCA ride and be on my way. Kenny said, 'You need to go home and race on dirt.' That's what we did. We bought an old modified and raced it for a couple years."

Edwards set three goals for the 2005 season: win a Cup race in the No. 99 Ford, finish in the top 10 in points and win the Busch series championship. One down, two to go. He leads the Busch series by 171 points over Clint Bowyer.

With the guidance of crew chief Bob Osborne, Edwards believes he'll place in the top 10 in Cup points after 26 races and be eligible for the Chase for the Championship.

FAST FACTS

- Birthdate:** Aug. 15, 1979
- Hometown:** Columbia, Mo.
- Resides:** Mooresville, N.C. (shares an apartment with two friends)
- Hobbies:** Riding dirt bikes, remote-control cars, weightlifting
- Nextel Cup team owner:** Jack Roush
- Cup wins:** One, Atlanta 2005
- Previous racing:**
 - Replaced Jeff Burton last year when Burton left Roush Racing to join Richard Childress Racing
 - Ran 13 Cup races in 2004; best finish: third at Atlanta
 - 2003 Craftsman Truck Series Rookie of the Year
 - In 2004, finished third in the Truck Series points standings

"If we take what we learn from the first half of the season," Edwards said, "and balance out the good and the bad, and have good solid runs, I think we'll be in the top 10. If we achieve that goal, we'll have learned enough to race hard for the championship."



RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

- Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** Endured the Coca-Cola 600 madness to get yet another Lowe's Motor Speedway win. Last week: 3.
- Greg Biffle (car No. 16):** Biffle's new contract is just one more sign of this team's rapidly emerging

strength. Last week: 1.

3. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24): Ranked this high only because of his three wins. Has most DNFs, four, of the points top 20. Last week: 2.

4. Elliott Sadler (car No. 38): You have to admire this team's tenacity even if they haven't really been close to a win yet. Last week: 5.

5. Ryan Newman (car No. 12): Anticipating a strong showing at Dover out of this team, which is

showing signs of life. Last week: 9.

6. Carl Edwards (car No. 99): He races hard every time he takes hold of the wheel and has a great time doing it. Last week: 10.

7. Mark Martin (car No. 6): Gets big credit for his all-star win and a little deduction for the 600 wreck not of his doing. Last week: 12.

8. Tony Stewart (car No. 20): Dover also could be the place where he finds the way back to Victory

Lane. Last week: 8.

9. Kasey Kahne (car No. 9): Speaking of Dover, he should have had his first victory there a year ago this weekend. Last week: 7.

10. Kevin Harvick (car No. 29): We had this team too high after Richmond, but it really is getting better, we believe. Last week: 4.

For the rest of the top-40 rankings, go online and visit www.thatstracin.com.

A good team can make things happen in 600 miles

Had Knaus, Jimmie Johnson's crew chief, said the team's victory in Sunday night's Coca-Cola 600 was really just a matter of time.

"If you put our guys in a situation where they've got time to work on a race car and Jimmie has time to learn about a track," Knaus said, "we can beat anybody out there."

The No. 48 team from Hendrick Motorsports certainly had plenty of time to figure things out before Johnson became the first to win Nextel Cup racing's longest event for a third straight time.

In a race that set a NASCAR record with 22 cautions and took just shy of 5 hours to complete, Johnson needed every second and almost every inch of 600 miles to extend his Lowe's Motor Speedway winning streak to three straight points races and get his fourth victory in five tries here.

Johnson went outside of Bobby

Labonte off the final turn coming to the checkered flag and gathered just enough momentum to get there first — 27 one-thousandths of a second before Labonte did.

The final lap was the 11th that Johnson led in the 400-lap event, but those decisive final few yards were the first he'd led in hours.

From when Hendrick teammate Brian Vickers took the lead on Lap 117 until the final heartbeats of the race, Johnson and Knaus wrestled to regain a handle on a track where last May Johnson led 334 laps in a 600 victory memorable only because of just how complete his domination was.

When the track's surface was ground earlier this year to take out

some its more pronounced bumps, however, Johnson and Knaus had to start over.

"It is a totally different track," Johnson said after earning his second Nextel Cup victory this year and the 16th of his career. "I had to learn a totally different way to drive it. I learned a lot throughout the night (and) I think after the final pit stop I finally learned how to drive it. ... It clicked in my head as to how to really get around here now."

Even when another in the unceasing stream of cautions allowed him to go around and get right behind the lead group, Johnson still had much peril between him and victory.

First, he missed a major pile-up on Lap 379 that began when Hendrick teammate Brian Vickers, who'd been leading before the caution for Kahne's tire issue, got into the back

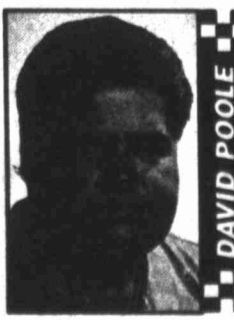
of Bill Elliott's Dodge on the Turn 1 end of the frontstretch.

Johnson was fourth on the final restart with six laps left. He passed Ryan Newman and then Edwards to get behind Labonte, and by the time they got the white flag they were nose to tail.

Johnson tried to go to low in Turns 1 and 2, but said he got so loose he thought he'd blown it. He tracked Labonte down the backstretch and swung high off the final turn.

Labonte left just enough room. "We didn't have the fastest car," Labonte said. "We were lucky to be at the right place at the right time."

Until, that is, Johnson and Knaus finally got things figured out. "Six hundred miles takes a long time," Knaus said. "We can make a lot of pit stops and a lot of adjustments. We can make a lot of cool things happen." Especially at Charlotte.



DAVID POOLE