

First class conference center for Big Spring?

Moore Development director Bancroft champions building state of the art facility here

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

If Moore Development for Big Spring is ever allowed to start spending money on community improvement projects, Ben Bancroft has a big one in mind.

Bancroft championed the idea of building a conference center in Big

Spring during Wednesday's meeting of Moore Development's board of directors.

The board is currently restricted to financing projects to bring new businesses and jobs into Big Spring. Recently, directors began looking into the possibility of amending the organization's charter to allow financing of community

"I just think people feel like they'd rather spend money on ourselves, rather than on some company that might come in and flop, like a lot of them have."



Bancroft

improvement projects. Bancroft and other directors heartily approve

such action, which first must be OK'd by local voters. If that comes to pass,

though, he thinks that building a conference center should be among the group's first priorities.

Community improvement is necessary because this area has become too stagnant in recent years, Bancroft said.

"If you took a snapshot of Big Spring's skyline 50 years ago, and then today, it wouldn't look a lot dif-

ferent," Bancroft said. "I think it's time we started spending some of our money on (community improvement projects)."

And building a conference center would be a big, bold move to kick-start that effort, he added.

"We live in the middle of a million people who live within two hours dri-

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Kristen Richard, right, enjoys lunch with her mother, Patti, at Big Spring High School Wednesday. Kristen has spent the summer traveling with The Crossmen, a drum corps composed of musicians from across the country.

Big Spring's Richard motivated by beat of world class drummer

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Music and travel — the staple of many teenagers' summer.

Now multiply that by, say, a lot, and you have an idea how Kristen Richard has been spending her time recently.

Richard (pronounced ruh-SHARD), a senior-to-be at Big Spring High School, is spending her second straight summer as a member of The Crossmen, an elite drum corps that travels across the country each summer performing at various events.

The Crossmen made a stop in Big Spring Wednesday, preparing for the Thunder in the Desert drum

The Crossmen will be among seven drum and bugle corps from across the nation to perform tonight in Midland's Grande Communications Stadium. The show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$5 to \$50 at the gate.

corps competition at Grande Communications Stadium tonight in Midland.

The pit stop home gave Richard a

chance to catch up with friends and family, and reflect on what her recent summer vacations have been like — although "vacation" may be stretching the truth.

After being accepted into the group on Feb. 20 — her birthday, coincidentally — Richard left Big Spring the day after school let out in May and traveled to Monticello, N.Y. for The Crossmen's spring training camp.

Maybe "musical boot camp" would be a better descriptor.

Her days at the camp started at 7:30 a.m. and lasted until 9 each night. Hours of music, marching, more music and more marching

See RICHARD, Page 3A

School's not out for the summer

Texas lawmakers held back for another special session

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Republican Gov. Rick Perry has called lawmakers back for another special session starting today after they couldn't finalize an agreement on a school funding plan.

Perry's call came late Wednesday — the final day of a 30-day session — as lawmakers ended a failed attempt to approve a \$2.4 billion education spending plan. They had already given up this session on passage of an accompanying property tax relief bill after the House and Senate couldn't reach a compromise.

"We have a filibuster that's going to appear to run out the clock this evening," Perry said, acknowledging the end of the current session.

Shortly after midnight,



KRT photo/Huy Nguyen
Texas Gov. Rick Perry has called another special session on school finance.

both chambers adjourned. Perry said the chambers were close to agreements on both bills, and he said he hoped the next special session could end quickly. The session can end before the 30th day.

"Both the House and the

See SESSION, Page 3A

Got trash? District 3 residents getting set for large-item pick up

Herald Staff Report

Big Spring sanitation department will continue its large-item pick up program Friday, this time for residents in District 3.

The large-item pick up program is intended to assist the elderly, handicapped or people who do not have the means to haul large items to the landfill. Typical items

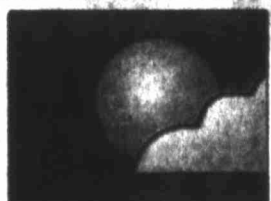
include tree branches, appliances, couches and mattresses. The city cannot pick up any hazardous waste, which includes items such as lawn chemicals, batteries, tires and things of that nature.

All items must be left by the curb, in the city's right-of-way, no sooner than 24 hours prior to the scheduled pick-up. Residents are asked not to stack items in the street.

Todd Darden, director
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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

CHILDREN IN NEED FUND

West Texas Centers for MHMR will host a chili dog, Frito pie and burrito fund-raiser from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in the Big Spring Wal-Mart parking lot. The more than 2,000 people served each month by West Texas Centers, include numerous children who are in need of school supplies, clothing, undergarments and coats.

The Children in Need fund provides extras for the children and their families who need extra items that aren't provided for through state, federal and private funding.

For more information, call (432) 268-3993.

WHEELS: HONDA S2000



The Honda S2000 debuted as a concept car in 1995, and it took the company five years to bring it to market. At launch, it had a 2.0-liter (hence the S2000 name), 240-horsepower four-cylinder engine. List price was \$32,477. There were no options offered. Five years later, we have the 2005 Honda S2000, now with a 2.2-liter four-cylinder engine. So why not call it the S2200?

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A&M CLUB AUCTION SET

Area residents will have a chance get tickets for a Rolling Stones concert as well as all kinds of autographed sports memorabilia when the county A&M Club holds its sixth annual Scholarship Auction at 5 p.m. Saturday at the Big Spring Country Club.

The club uses the auction to finance scholarships for Howard County students to attend Texas A&M University. Last year's event raised \$35,000. A week of snow skiing at Pagosa Springs, Colo. will be up for bid, as will a vacation at Treasure Island, Fla. and a dove hunt for two.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Wednesday:

- **JERMAINE MOORE**, 31, 1100 Sycamore, was arrested on three local warrants.
- **JOANIE LEDESMA**, 22, 1108 Lloyd, was arrested on three local warrants.
- **JOANNA LEDESMA**, 23, 1108 Lloyd, was arrested on six local warrants.
- **ASSAULT BY THREAT** was reported on the 600 block of Interstate 20.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING** was issued on the 400 block of Fourth and the 300 block of Fifth.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity Wednesday:

- **GLEN ALAN SCOTT**, 53, was arrested on a charge of contempt of court.
- **IRENE J. HINOJOSA**, 40, was arrested on a charge of theft.
- **ALFRED LEE MITCHELL**, 19, was arrested on a charge of aggravated robbery.
- **JOHNNY RAY TORRES**, 24, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid.
- **PHONE HARASSMENT** was reported on the 400 block of E. David Road.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following incidents Wednesday:

- **TRAUMA** was reported on the 200 block of S. Moss Lake Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 700 block of Tubb Loop Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 1400 block of W. Second. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 1300 block of Utah. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 300 block of Veterans Boulevard. One person was transported to Midland Memorial.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 1900 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 4000 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 1600 block of Martin Luther King. One person was transported to Odessa Regional.

Weather

Tonight—Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday—Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs in the upper 90s. Light and variable winds becoming southeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Friday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 70s. South winds around 10 mph.

Saturday—Increasing clouds. Highs in the upper 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s.

Sunday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s.

Sunday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s.

Monday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s.

Monday night—Partly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s.

Tuesday—Partly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 90s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 14-23-29-30-36.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$33,541.
Winning tickets sold in: Venus.
Matching four of five: 73. Prize: \$207.
Matching three of five: 2,591. Prize: \$14.
Matching two of five: 29,493. Prize: \$2.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 10-12-30-31-35. Bonus Ball: 2.
Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: none.
Number matching five of five: 5. Prize: \$4,356.
Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 11. Prize: \$1,797.
Number matching four of five: 422. Prize: \$100.
Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 341. Prize: \$110.
Number matching three of five: 16,071. Prize: \$5.
Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 4,229. Prize: \$5.
Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 19,012. Prize: \$3.
Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$26 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-9-7

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Take note

• **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM**, which delivers to the elderly and homebound, needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

• **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.

• **CLASS OF 1970 35th ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING** set for September. All classmates should send an e-mail address to Clarinda Harris Wright at richardwright@cox.net. For more information, visit www.bshsalumni.com/SiteMap/htm.

• **THE BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL OLDTIMERS** (those who graduated before 1940) are planning a reunion for the annual BSHS Homecoming Sept. 16-17. Anyone able to attend a reunion Sept. 17 should call 432-267-2900 and leave phone and address information.

• **HOWARD COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD** is seeking financial donations to provide support for children in Howard County who have been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect. Contact Patti Richard at 432-559-6953 or mail donations to HCCWB P.O. Box 3101 Big Spring, 79721.

• **LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS** is accepting appointments for 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

• **A SAVINGS ACCOUNT TO BENEFIT LOVE FROM HOME** has been established at Citizen's Federal Credit Union. Love From Home is a local effort to provide personal items needed by the soldiers serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Contact the credit union at 267-6373 to contribute funds to offset the cost of postage for the packages mailed to the soldiers.

• **THE FAR WEST BOYS HOME** is in need of donations of household, office and recreational items to benefit boys 5-17 who are unable to live with their families due to abuse or neglect. Items needed include dressers, bunk beds, mattresses, cookware, recreational and exercise equipment, and a maintenance pickup, car or car. Cash donations to purchase these items are also appreciated. Far West is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. To arrange pick up of items or for more information, call 432-353-4464.

• **CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH** is looking for infant cars seats to be given to needy families. Call Karen at 263-3517 or the church at 263-5683.

• **BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING** counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

• **SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH**, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy. Distribution is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

Around town

• **RAILROAD MUSEUM** at the corner of Second Street and Main Street is open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. every Saturday. Free admission. Call 432-559-3409 for more information.

• **POTTON HOUSE**, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into Heritage Museum, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

• **HERITAGE MUSEUM**, 510 Scurry, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

• **FRIENDS OF THE MARTIN COUNTY LIBRARY** have scheduled a used book sale from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. every Thursday in the new building across from the White Ford Motor Company, near the post office. The sale benefits the restoration of a library building. For more information contact Bud Lindsey at 756-2306.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Spring City Senior Citizens Center offers bingo beginning at 12:45 p.m.
- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Runnels.
- American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.
- Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 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 Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's Center 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.

SATURDAY

- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY

- 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.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.
- Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Spring City Senior Citizens Center offers bingo beginning at 12:45 p.m.
- The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1105 Birdwell Lane. For more information, call Tracey Pounds at 268-4948.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- 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. Call 267-6479.
- Spring City Senior Citizens Center offers bingo beginning at 12:45 p.m.

FRIDAY

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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$6.85 monthly; \$63.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere.

Free Hearing Aid Repairs This Week

You are invited to come in this week and meet Michael King, factory certified hearing aid repair technician and clinical audiologist for NewSound Hearing Aid Center. Come in and have your hearing checked at no charge, or bring in your old hearing aids and let us see if we can repair them; free of charge (parts available)! Call for your appointment.

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Emily triggers flooding further inland after hitting northeast Mexico

By JOHN RICE

Associated Press Writer

SAN FERNANDO, Mexico — A weakened Hurricane Emily triggered flooding outside Mexico's third largest city, after demolishing homes, toppling trees and sparking thousands of evacuations on the northern Gulf Coast.

After making landfall early Wednesday, Emily moved inland with torrential downpours and stiff winds that washed out roads and highways and caused flooding in Monterrey. Authorities canceled dozens of flights at the international airport and set up shelters.

There were no reports of deaths or major injuries, but the wind peeled metal roofs off houses and flooded fields. Outside of town, three corrugated metal grain silos crumbled to the ground and lay next to another one destroyed when Hurricane Gilbert tore through the area in 1988.

One of the hardest-hit areas was the fishing vil-

lage of Carbonera, where many of those who had been evacuated returned to find their homes destroyed.

"The hurricane finished us," said Javier Hernandez Galvin, a 45-year-old fisherman who, because of a shortage of clothing, was barefoot, wearing only pink shorts and an old blue T-shirt.

Galvin's home survived the storm, but a shed where he stored his fishing equipment and boat had been reduced to scraps of wood.

Emily was a Category 4 hurricane when it tore across the Yucatan Peninsula with 135 mph winds on Monday. It hit Wednesday with 125 mph winds. South Texas was battered with tropical storm-force winds.

On the Yucatan Peninsula Monday, Emily ripped roofs off resort hotels and stranded thousands of tourists along the popular Mayan Riviera, which includes Cancun. By Wednesday, tourists were returning to the beaches.



KRT photo/Michael Almsworth, Dallas Morning News
A city employee in Matamores, Mexico, cuts a downed tree near the border with Brownsville after Hurricane Emily passed through the area Wednesday.

TRASH

Continued from Page 1A

of public works, said customers need to be aware of gas, water and electricity meters and lines when they put their large items out to be picked up in an effort to protect their ser-

vices and the city employees helping with the program.

"The reason we need people to be cognizant of where those meters are is because a lot of time we have to bring in equipment to pick those large items up," he said. "If you cover the meters up, it's

hard for us to know that they are there. Using the equipment makes the pick up go quicker, and we want to make sure our employees are safe while they are picking these things up."

JoAnn Staulcup is the council member representing District 3.

Citizens who are not sure what district they reside in can find out by calling 264-2504.

For more information on the program and maps of the six city districts, visit the city of Big Spring Web site at <http://www.ci.big-spring.tx.us>.

RICHARD

Continued from Page 1A

were interrupted only by hour-long meals and the occasional snack break.

"There was a lot of what we call 'Day 10 syndrome.' Once you got past the tenth day of camp, you were OK," said Richard, who plays the French horn. "But there was always that split-second when you wondered just what you were doing there."

Richard's perseverance paid off, however, once training camp broke in June. Since then, she and her band mates have

criss-crossed the country, performing in places like New York, Denver, Indianapolis, Orlando, Fla., and Gettysburg, Pa.

During the tour, band members are treated almost like rock stars — Richard recalled being asked for her autograph after the Indianapolis show — but she said she gets a lot more out of her summer sojourns than just applause.

"I enjoy playing music, but actually, there's so much more to it than just marching and playing," Richard said. "You get to meet so many different people from so many places ... It's interesting to see how all those cul-

tures mix."

While on the road, she keeps in touch with family and friends by cell phone and e-mail, but it's understandable that her mother, Patti, enjoys the chance to see her daughter in person.

"Because of the time difference when she travels, whenever she calls, it's either really late at night or early in the morning," Patti said. "But she's so focused on her music. This is what she wants to do."

When school starts in August, Kristen will return to her spot as part of the BSHS band. The lessons she learned on the road with The Crossmen,

she said, will serve her well during the school year.

"We've had so much time during the summer to learn details about marching that will help me apply it when I'm doing it here," she said. "And I'll be able to help other students with their marching and playing."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

Benny Boyd

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CENTER

Continued from Page 1A

ving time of Big Spring," he said. "If we could get even a small percentage of those people to spend some time here, I think it would only help our economy."

And backers don't want just any conference center built here — they want a first-class, state-of-the-art facility, Bancroft said.

"I want it to be iconic, not like anything else around here," he said. "But like anything else, it's going to cost money."

Bancroft estimated cost of such a center to be between \$3 million and \$4 million, which, if financed over the course of 15 years, would cost Moore Development about \$300,000.

As for where the center would be built, three sites have been proposed —

Comanche Trail Park, atop Scenic Mountain and downtown Big Spring.

Bancroft supports building the center at the park, because the land is already owned by the city, while Board President Tommy Churchwell backs a downtown location to help spur development there.

Bancroft admits the idea has met with opposition by many in the community, who want Moore Development to continue trying to attract outside business to Big Spring. He countered by saying that the group could continue that course of action, while also helping with community development.

"I just think people feel like they'd rather spend money on ourselves, rather than on some company that might come in and flop, like a lot of them have," he said.

SESSION

Continued from Page 1A

Senate, I can't tell you how close these bills are," Perry said.

The new session will be lawmakers' fifth attempt since 2003, including three special sessions, to overhaul the state's education funding system. Previous special sessions have cost about \$1 million each.

The education measure would give districts enough money for teachers to get about \$2,000 more in 2006 and then an additional \$500 in 2007. That pay raise includes the full restoration of a \$1,000 health care stipend that was cut in half two years ago.

Teachers' groups have criticized the salary increase as insignificant. Brock Gregg, a lobbyist for the Association of Texas Professional Educators, said the health care stipend that teachers were promised four years ago eradicates most of the boost in pay.

The bill also would have overhauled the textbook adoption process, replacing textbook funding with a new allotment that could also be spent on new technology. Each local school district would be allowed to select the books and instructional materials they want to use.

Mandatory school start dates would be set for schools — the Tuesday after Labor Day — and move school board elections to November, rather than May.

The tax proposal was aimed at reducing school property taxes and replacing them with other taxes, including an increase in the sales tax, cigarette tax and closing loopholes in the business tax.

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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.

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News Editor

OUR VIEWS

A&M Club auction will be lots of fun for a good cause

It's called helping out a good cause and getting some pretty good stuff for yourself in the process. That is, of course, if you come up the highest bid for what you want at the sixth annual Howard County A&M Club Scholarship Auction.

The event, set for 5 p.m. Saturday at the Big Spring Country Club, features a list of auction items that include tickets to concerts by Paul McCartney and the Rolling Stones.

The top item at this year's auction will be the naming of an endowed scholarship at Texas A&M. If you'd like your name emblazoned on that item, the bidding will open at \$5,000, Newton said.

Opening bids of \$1,300 will be accepted for concerts in Houston featuring McCartney and the Rolling Stones. The package includes air fare from Midland and motel accommodations for two.

A week of snow skiing at Pagosa Springs, Colo., will be up for bid, as will a vacation at Treasure Island. There will be plenty of autographed items for auction at the event, including framed photographs of John David Crow, Leroy Jordan, Tom Landry, Gene Stallings and Bobby Knight.

The popular music enthusiast will also find something to bid on. Autographed albums by ZZ Top, Chicago and Aerosmith will be for sale.

Texas Tech fans won't be left out; ticket packages to Red Raider football games this autumn will be up for bid.

And there will be many more items for bid and door prizes.

The club uses the auction to finance scholarships for Howard County students to attend Texas A&M University. Last year's event raised \$35,000.

Obviously, organizers would like to surpass that figure this year, and we hope our readers will as well.

So, make plans to drive out to the country club Saturday evening and get in on the fun. And don't worry, even if you find yourself being outbid for the item or items you'd like to have in the auction, the A&M Club will gladly accept a simple donation to the scholarship fund.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

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- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

Flag amendment's time may be now

You might think the U.S. Senate would be a tad busy these days, what with having to get ready for a Supreme Court vacancy and considering Social Security reform (remember Social Security reform?). But the Senate is never too busy to deal with a piece of legislation that has become a political gut-check: a Constitutional amendment to ban flag desecration.

The amendment, which was adopted by the House of Representatives last month, has come before Congress in one wording or another six times in the last 10 years, but has always failed in the Senate. Both the Senate and House must pass the amendment by two-thirds votes before it can go to the states for ratification.

While both proponents and opponents generally agree there has not been a rash of flag burnings in this country recently, the amendment energizes conservatives because it is seen as protecting a sacred symbol of America and liberals who see it as a weakening of the First Amendment. (In 1989, the Supreme Court ruled by a 5-4 vote that burning an American flag is protected as free speech.)

Proponents believe they are within one vote of passage in the Senate, but not all the senators have revealed their intentions and party affiliation is not always a reliable indicator of how a senator will vote. According to published reports, at least three Democrats — Ben Nelson of Nebraska, Bill Nelson of Florida and Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, all of whom face tough reelection campaigns in 2006 — will vote for the amendment.

At least one Republican, Bob Bennett of Utah, will oppose the amendment, though a few weeks ago, he introduced legislation protecting the flag from desecration. This "wiggle" position — the Supreme Court might very well strike down such legislation once again — is also the one suggested by Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Democrat of New York.

Bennett's colleague from Utah, Orrin Hatch, also a Republican, is the Senate sponsor of the amendment and told a reporter that senators proposing a law instead of an amendment are "doing that to cover their backsides so people won't be mad at them."

The amendment is only one sentence long — "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States" — but leaves unaddressed the knotty problems of defining what constitutes a "flag" let alone a "flag of the United

States." (Lots of paper napkins that people use at July 4th barbecues have American flags printed on them. Does wiping your mouth with these napkins and throwing them away constitute flag desecration? But if flag applies only to cloth flags, what if I make up a cloth flag with only 49 stars and burn that? Is that desecrating a "flag of the United States"?)

While the White House plays no Constitutional role in the amendment process, it has endorsed the amendment, and political tea-leaf readers view the outcome as a sign of whether conservative forces really are ascendant in U.S. politics or not.

Terri Ann Schroeder, senior lobbyist for the ACLU, recently told a reporter, "We cannot guarantee that we will win this vote. My concern is that we will wake up the next morning and say, 'Oops, did we just amend the First Amendment?'"

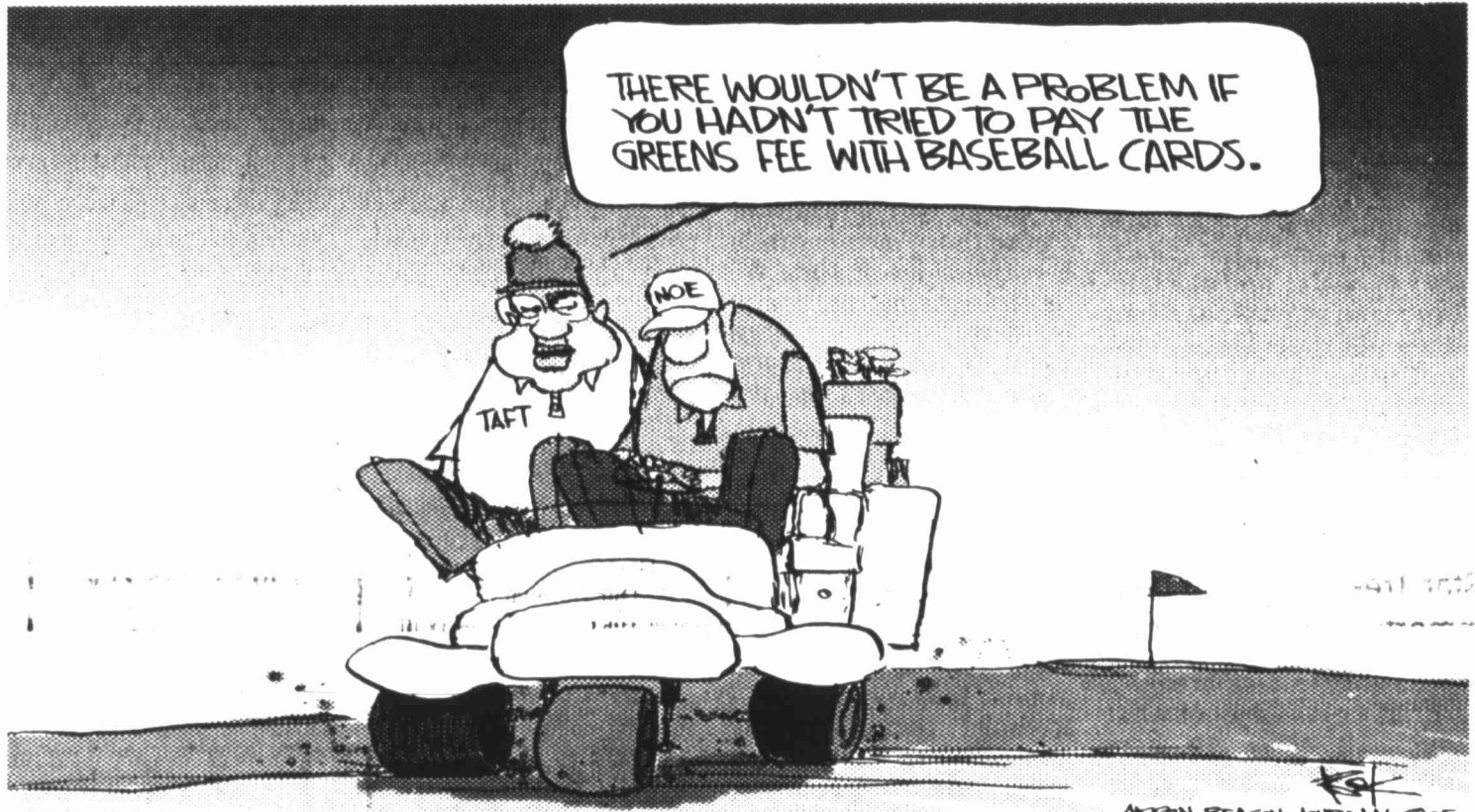
Since the Constitution took effect in 1789, Congress has considered more than 11,000 amendments to it. Only 27, including the Bill of Rights, have been ratified.

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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ROGER SIMON



Pork is the terrorist's friend

Call this another confirmation of the sorriest rule in American politics: In Washington, it is easier to pass a bad bill than a good one. National security and American lives may be at stake — but the forces of pork-barrel spending will win out.

So last week, as U.S. senators deliberated on whether to pass a homeland-security bill that would allocate either 60 percent — or 87 percent — of some \$3 billion in Homeland Security grants to communities deemed at greatest risk, the Senate chose the option with the greater helping of pork for each state.

In fact, the Senate voted 71 to 26 in favor of the porkier option.

"We've got two senators from each of these small states and they control the place," explained Howard Gantman, spokesman for Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. Feinstein sponsored the failed 87 percent plan. It should be noted that the senator wanted every dime of the Homeland Security grants to be allocated by risk, "but," she conceded in a prepared statement, "I understand the realities of the Senate."

No doubt Feinstein understands those realities even better today. Not that she should be happy about it. And this is the new improved version of homeland-security spending.

After Sept. 11, 2001, when the nation ostensibly was uniting and preparing to battle terrorism, Washington came together to devise formulas to best burn through \$10 billion in homeland-security funding. Wyoming received almost \$10 per capita in terrorism funding, while New York and California each received

\$1.33 and \$1.38 per head.

"60 Minutes" aired a sharp piece on the local-spending bonanza that followed. Tiptonville, Tenn., bought an all-terrain vehicle, a couple of defibrillators — one was used at high-school basketball games — and protective suits for the volunteer fire department. Newark, N.J., purchased air-conditioned garbage trucks and Columbus, Ohio, spent its terror money on bulletproof dog vests.

I called the offices of Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., sponsors of the 60-percent scheme and chairwoman and ranking Dem on the Senate Homeland Security Committee, to hear why they support a system that is weighted more toward geography than the greatest risk.

Committee staff director Michael Bopp made the point that the Collins-Lieberman bill would allocate another 20 percent of grants to the 19 most populous or dense states based on risk criteria. OK, but when senators from California and New York vote ix-nay, it's because they know where the dollars are — and are not. They trust the Feinstein plan more.

Be it noted that two of the Sept. 11 terrorists boarded a plane in Portland, Maine — which bolsters the argument that terrorist training often takes place in the boonies (like Leeds, before the London attacks.) "All states need to be part of the prevention efforts," Bopp added.

Collins also pushed for "tough new standards" to prevent "intolerable" waste. On the floor, she promised, "no more spending Homeland Security dollars on leather jackets in the District or air-conditioned garbage trucks in New Jersey." This formula should insure that every state has steady funding for its first-responder efforts.

Then again, as House Homeland

Security Committee Chairman Christopher Cox, a critic of Homeland pork, told "60 Minutes," the problem is that "in the end, everything has something to do with homeland security."

This issue defies your ideas of how Washington works. The House passed a more responsible measure than the Senate bill — which means that fiscally minded people should look to the House, not the Senate, for better policy.

Leading moderates — read Collins and Lieberman — are on the porcine team. Even GOP maverick Sen. John McCain voted for the porkier plan. (Say it ain't so!)

Meanwhile, Feinstein is joined by President Bush and Sen. Barbara Boxer in wanting more money to go to cities and ports that just might be terrorist targets.

Which would I rather see underfunded in the war on terrorism — Jackson Hole or Los Angeles? Gee, I think I'd rather see Jackson Hole do with less.

But the forces of reason will remain in the minority as long as Beltway pols believe they are better off padding their districts than doing what is best for the country. They don't believe their constituents would turn on them if there is an attack in a big city that is under-defended because it is underfunded.

It's the rule of Washington politics redux: In Washington, it is easier to pass a bad bill than a good one — because elected officials think that's what the public wants.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@schronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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News briefs

Jury acquits on some charges, deadlocks on most in Enron case

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal court jury resolved little after deliberating four days, returning only a handful of acquittals and insisting they were deadlocked on dozens of other charges to culminate a lengthy trial of five former Enron Corp. broadband executives accused of conspiracy and fraud.

Jurors were asked to return 192 verdicts in the complex case that lasted three months. After about 24 hours of deliberating, they returned 24 verdicts Wednesday, all acquittals, and said they were hopelessly deadlocked on the others, meaning none of the five defendants was totally exonerated.

"We know we've just spent 12 weeks kissing our sister," said Ed Tomko, whose client, former software engineer Rex Shelby, was found not guilty of four insider trading charges but had 16 other counts unresolved, including four more for insider trading.

U.S. District Court Judge Vanessa Gilmore said she would declare a mistrial on the counts the jury was unable to decide.

She met privately with jurors after reading their verdicts, then huddled behind closed doors with lawyers but would not disclose the nature of the jury deadlock. Gilmore dismissed jurors and ordered them not to discuss the case. She also ordered lawyers not to discuss her conversations with them.

NASA will try for Tuesday liftoff even if gauge problem recurs

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA will try to launch Discovery on the first space shuttle mission in more than two years next Tuesday, and may press ahead with liftoff even if there's a repeat of the fuel gauge problem that halted last week's countdown.

Mission managers decided Wednesday night to bypass another fueling test of Discovery and go straight for the real thing in an effort to understand and either fix or work around the fuel gauge failure. The most probable cause is an electrical grounding problem lurking inside the spacecraft.

"We believe the best way to go through this is to do a countdown," said shuttle program manager Bill Parsons. "If the sensors (gauges) work exactly like we think they will, then we'll launch on that day. If anything goes not per the plan that we've laid out in front of us, then we'll have a scrub and we'll have to talk about it."

Multiple safety nets are in place "to ensure we don't proceed unless we feel we're safe to go fly," he added.

But in what would be an almost certainly controversial move in the wake of the 2003 Columbia tragedy, NASA might also proceed with the liftoff if the fuel gauge problem recurs but is considered well understood. That would mean revoking a launch rule requiring all four hydrogen fuel gauges at the bottom of Discovery's external tank to be working properly, and instead relying on just three out of four.

'Star Trek's' Doohan dies, immortalized for 'Beam me up, Scotty'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Doohan, who played engineer Montgomery Scott, the scrappy Scotsman who repeatedly gave the Starship Enterprise "all she's got" in the original "Star Trek" TV series and motion pictures, died Wednesday. He was 85.

Almost every week, the frazzled Scott was asked to perform an engineering miracle with the warp drive, shields or phasers to save the ship from certain death at the hands of Romulans, Klingons or other assorted aliens.

Doohan died at 5:30 a.m. at his Redmond, Wash., home with his wife of 31 years, Wende, at his side, Los Angeles agent and longtime friend Steve Stevens said. The cause of death was pneumonia and Alzheimer's disease, he said.

Doohan inspired the phrase "Beam me up, Scotty," although Capt. Kirk never issued that order until the fourth movie. He told his family he wanted his ashes blasted into space, Stevens said. Houston-based Space Services Inc., which specializes in space memorials, said it would send Doohan's remains, along with 125 others, aboard a rocket later this year.

Doohan will join "Star Trek" series creator Gene Roddenberry, whose ashes were launched into space six years after he died in 1991.

James Montgomery Doohan was born March 3, 1920, in Vancouver, British Columbia, the youngest of four children of William Doohan, a pharmacist, veterinarian and dentist, and his wife Sarah. As he wrote in his autobiography, "Beam Me Up, Scotty," his father was a drunk who made life miserable for his wife and children.

Man who invented TV Dinner dies at age 83

PHOENIX (AP) — Gerry Thomas, who changed the way Americans eat — for better or worse — with his invention of the TV Dinner during the baby boom years, has died at 83.

Thomas, who died at a Phoenix hospice center on Monday after a bout with cancer, was a salesman for Omaha, Neb.-based C.A. Swanson and Sons in 1954 when he got the idea of packaging frozen meals in a disposable aluminum-foil tray, divided into compartments to keep the foods from mixing. He also gave the product its singular name.

The first Swanson TV Dinner — turkey with cornbread dressing and gravy, sweet potatoes and buttered peas — sold for about \$1 and could be cooked in 25 minutes at 425 degrees. Ten million sold in the first year of national distribution.

It was fast and convenient, and fit nicely on a TV tray in the living room, so that you didn't have to drag yourself away from your favorite television show.

The TV Dinner fit in with societal changes at the time, when more women were entering the work force and did not have the time to spend all day preparing dinner, Thompson said. It also helped introduce the notion of "modular" eating: If there were only two people at home, you put only two dinners in the oven.

In a 1999 Associated Press interview, Thomas recalled that the inspiration for the TV Dinner came when he was visiting a distributor, spotted a single-compartment metal tray and was told it was developed for an experiment in the preparation of hot meals on airliners.

He said he came up with a three-compartment tray because "I spent five years in the service so I knew what a mess kit was. You could never tell what you were eating because it was all mixed together."

After the Campbell Soup Co. acquired Swanson in 1955, Thomas became a sales manager, then marketing manager and director of marketing and sales. He left the company after a heart attack in 1970.

Oregon House passes anti-meth bill that requires prescriptions for cold medicine

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — The state House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a bill that would make Oregon the first state to require a prescription for certain cold medicines, the latest attempt to curb methamphetamine production.

Pseudoephedrine, an ingredient in popular over-the-counter medicines such as Sudafed and Sinutab, is used to make meth, an illegal and powerfully addictive drug.

The bill was sent to the Senate on a 55-4 vote. Advocates said they expect the measure to pass in the Senate, and it has the support of Gov. Ted Kulongoski.

Opponents of the bill complained that it was too radical and that the public will not support the additional restrictions.

"I don't know that I'm willing to punish the many for the sins of the few," said Republican Rep. Tom Butler.

Oregon, like several other states, already restricts the sale of pseudoephedrine tablets to pharmacies and requires that the medications be kept behind the counter. Customers must also show identification.

But state Rep. Greg Macpherson, a Democrat, said he joined three other legislators Monday to shop for cold medicines and easily bought enough in an hour to make drugs that would supply four meth users for several weeks.

"A plague has spread across America," Macpherson said. "This is what we must do in this state to get this problem under control."

Drug maker Schering-Plough, which manufactures the allergy remedy Claritin, is running radio ads in the Portland market opposing the measure.

If the bill becomes law, "the days of just going to the store for these trusted and effective products is over. You would have to go to your doctor first," the ad says.

Some drug companies have begun reformulating cold medicines with substitutes for pseudoephedrine that cannot be used in meth labs.

Pfizer Inc., which makes the decongestant Sudafed and other leading pseudoephedrine products, is marketing a pseudoephedrine-free version of the drug and plans by January to reformulate up to half of the products with a substitute known as phenylephrine.

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Honda S2000 begs to be driven off beaten path

Few changes, but very few were needed for 2005

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
The Orlando Sentinel

Hear that? It's a different drummer, and here comes Honda, marching.

The company always has done what it wants, when it wants. How else to explain the Honda Ridgeline pickup truck? For decades, pickups have been the best-selling vehicles in the United States, and only this year does the company get around to building one.

The Honda S2000 debuted as a concept car in 1995, and it took the company five years to bring it to market. At launch, it had a 2.0-liter (hence the S2000 name), 240-horsepower four-cylinder engine. List price was \$32,477. There were no options offered.

Five years later, we have the 2005 Honda S2000, now with a 2.2-liter four-cylinder engine. So why not call it the S2200? I asked a Honda engineer, and he just shrugged.

The engine still has 240 horses, but now you don't have to rev it up to dentist-drill levels to find the herd. List price is \$33,465, and once again, no options offered.

Improvements have been few, mostly because few were needed. Originally, the rear window was plastic, which — like all plastic rear windows — would eventually crack and discolor. Now the rear window is glass, which allows for an electric defroster. Very mild styling updates were made for 2004, and the car continues this year with no other modifications.

That's fine. The ride is still rough, the cockpit fairly narrow, and trunk space is minimal. But for people who appreci-



The 2005 Honda S2000

ate driving, the S2000 remains one of the most enjoyable vehicles available at any price.

The base-model Porsche Boxster is as much fun and also gets 240 horsepower from its 2.7-liter six-cylinder engine, but, at more than \$10,000 extra, I'm not sure why I'd pay that premium, unless I was just enamored by the Porsche

name.

The S2000 has its idiosyncrasies. The stereo is hidden behind a flip-down panel, and when it's flipped down, it invades the little knee space available. But the basic controls are duplicated by buttons to the left of the steering wheel, so you can generally leave the panel unflipped.

And while I appreciate the power top, I'd be willing to save its weight and cost with a simple manual top like the one in the Mazda Miata. EPA-rated fuel economy is nothing special at 20 miles per

gallon city, 25 mpg highway, and 22 mpg combined. The combined city/highway fuel mileage for the V-8-powered, 400-horsepower Chevrolet Corvette: 21 mpg.

Otherwise, what you see is what you get. The S2000 fairly begs you drop the top, take the next exit off the interstate and seek out the longest, most winding way home. We know Honda marches to a different drummer: The S2000 is looking for customers who drive to a different drummer, too.

Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.



Honda S2000
Base price: \$32,950.
Price as tested: \$33,465.
EPA rating: 20 mpg city, 25 mpg highway.
Details: Front-engine, rear-wheel-drive sports car with a 2.2-liter, 240-horsepower 4-cylinder engine and a 6-speed manual transmission.

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BRIEF

E.S. Country Club sets junior clinics

The Big Spring Country Club has set up a summer junior clinic and an advanced summer junior clinic. The clinics run through August. Both clinics will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, call the golf shop at 267-6354.

Howard announces men's basketball camps in mid-July

The Howard College men's basketball staff will host another week-long camp July Sunday through Thursday.

The camp will cost \$250 per player who wants room and board and \$175 for a commuter. It will take place at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The camp sign-up will take place Sunday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. The first day of the camp will be Sunday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The camp will run each day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Hawk camp format consists of morning and afternoon sessions.

For more info, contact Howard head coach Mark Adams at 816-6957 or Howard assistant coach Jason Sautter at 816-3200.

Signups for football to begin July 22

The Crossroads Youth Football Association will begin its annual signup session Friday.

Signups will take place at the Big Spring Mall Fridays from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The cost to play football is \$70. Flag football costs \$30, while cheerleaders should expect to pay \$75.

For more information, call Daphne Castilaw at 714-4688.

Pistons waste no time, hire Saunders as new head coach

(AP) — Flip Saunders' new team is Larry Brown's old one.

The Detroit Pistons wasted no time replacing their deposed 64-year-old bench leader, hiring the former coach of the Minnesota Timberwolves to a four-year contract worth about \$20 million plus incentives.

The hiring of Saunders and the terms of his contract were confirmed by three league sources who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the financial information and the team's plans to announce the hiring at a news conference Thursday.

The deal came some 24 hours after the Pistons reached a severance agreement with Brown, who led Detroit to the NBA Finals in each of the past two seasons.

Triplets get voted into 'ring' together

• Induction will take place against rival Redskins next season

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING (AP) — Troy Aikman keeps hardly any memorabilia around his house to remind everyone he used to be the star quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys. Yet there is one large picture that he proudly displays.

It shows Aikman walking off the field after a touchdown, with Emmitt Smith next to him and Michael Irvin next to Smith, all standing shoulder pad to shoulder pad. Taken from behind, it's a classic image of the teammates who still love hearing others refer to them as "The Triplets."

They heard it again Wednesday when Cowboys owner Jerry Jones brought the trio back to Texas Stadium for a news conference announcing that Aikman, Irvin and Smith will become the 13th, 14th and 15th members of the club's Ring of Honor on Sept. 19.

The setting for the announcement was appropriate, too.

They were sitting behind a table with the field visible through a window behind them and the franchise's five Super

Bowl trophies gleaming on a table in front of them.

And on a nearby easel was the exact snapshot that also hangs in the Aikman household.

"That picture really symbolizes the relationship the three of us had... what that feeling was like, what it all meant," Aikman said.

The feeling also is captured in their nickname, a term all three are proud to share.

"It's three individuals that came together as one," Irvin said. "That's what makes it so great."

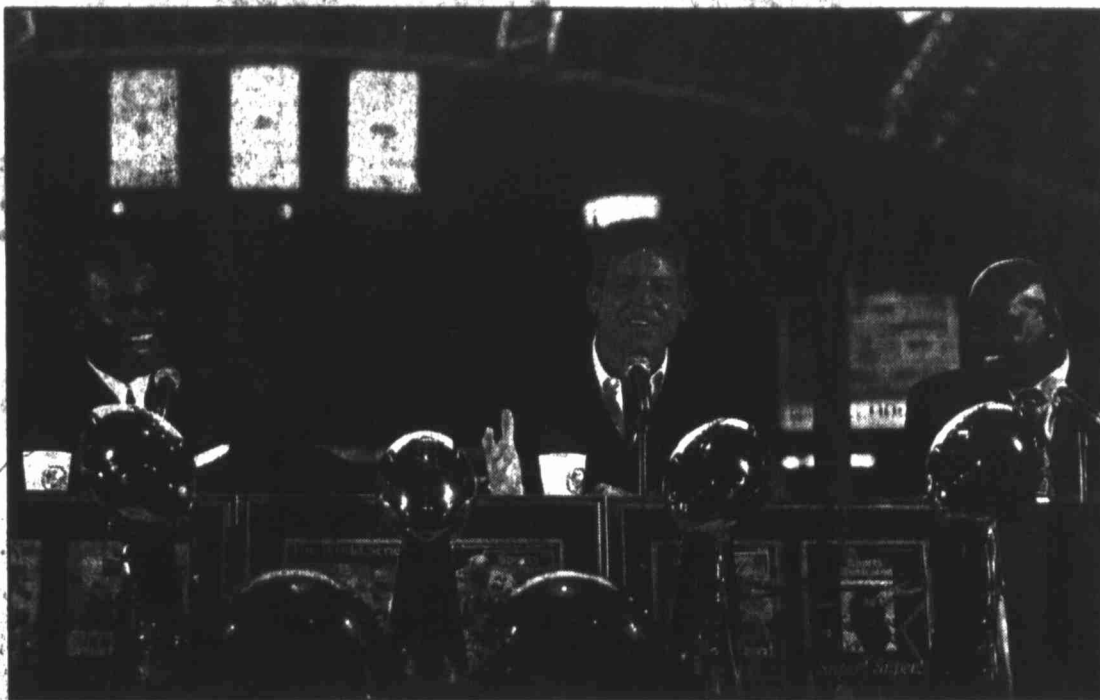
"I feel wholeheartedly that our success was linked together in so many different ways," Aikman said. "All three of us, in a lot of ways, pushed away our own egos and selfishness in order for the team to thrive."

Added Smith: "We're so connected."

As fitting as their shared tribute is the timing of their ceremony: a Monday night game against their top division rival, the Washington Redskins.

"The Redskins are going to hate it. They better hate it because I don't care much for them," Smith said, smiling wide. "Jerry is going to showboat in front of them."

Irvin, Aikman and



Former Dallas Cowboys Michael Irvin (left), Troy Aikman (center) and Emmitt Smith attend a news conference at Texas Stadium Wednesday announcing their induction into the Dallas Cowboys Ring of Honor in the 2005 season.

Smith arrived in Dallas one at a time over three straight summers, 1988-'90, each a first-round pick.

Irvin, drafted by Tex Schramm and Tom Landry, got hurt his rookie year and the team went 3-13, which was so bad that Dallas got the next No. 1 draft pick. Jones bought the club in time to use that top pick on Aikman, but the Cowboys went 1-15.

Then Smith arrived — as did new offensive coordinator Norv Turner, something Aikman and Smith emphasized — and things began to change. Relying on this terrific run-pass combination, Dallas made the playoffs in the Triplets' second season together, 1991, and won championships fol-

lowing the '92, '93 and '95 seasons.

Over their 10 seasons together, the Cowboys went 101-59, a .631 winning percentage, with six division titles and eight playoff appearances. Dallas is 31-49 in the five seasons since, losing its only playoff game.

Injuries forced Irvin to retire after the '99 season, then Aikman a year later, both having spent their entire careers with the Cowboys' star on their helmets.

Smith remained through 2002, then spent the past two seasons in Arizona.

Smith's departure from the Cowboys was a bit messy, but the NFL's career rushing leader reaffirmed his Dallas ties during retirement news

conference in February and later signed a ceremonial one-day contract so he could go out as a Cowboy. He opened his remarks Wednesday by saying, "It's great to be back amongst the family."

Jones said the chance to put all three players into the Ring together was too great of an opportunity to pass up.

Seven of the previous 12 Ring members already are Hall of Famers. Irvin came up short in his first election earlier this year, but will be up for consideration again in February, when Aikman will be on the ballot for the first time.

Smith won't be eligible until 2010 because of the five-year waiting period during retirement news

Armstrong's team shines at tour

By JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

REVEL, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong's teammates are doing a better job of beating him than his rivals.

Armstrong's Discovery Channel teammate Paolo Savoldelli won Wednesday's 17th stage of the Tour de France, three days after George Hincapie earned a stage victory of his own. Meanwhile, Armstrong has yet to win an individual stage so far.

Armstrong looked content to just protect his overall lead Thursday during the Tour's 18th stage — a 117-mile route through south-central France with five climbs, including a steep uphill finish.

On Wednesday, the six-time defending champion donned his 79th yellow jersey — only Belgian great Eddy Merckx has more — after maintaining

his comfortable lead through the Tour's longest stage. Armstrong remained 2 minutes and 46 seconds ahead of his nearest challenger, Ivan Basso of Italy, and on course for his seventh straight Tour victory before retirement.

With Armstrong's win seemingly secure — only an accident or an alarming drop in form stands in his way — the battle for second and third is far more uncertain.

Basso was in second place and Mickael Rasmussen was third, while Ullrich needs to make up serious time to avoid finishing off the podium for only the second time in his Tour career. He was fourth last year.

Ullrich, the 1997 Tour winner, trails Armstrong by 5 minutes, 58 seconds, and is 3:12 behind Basso and 2:49 behind Rasmussen.

He has little chance of

catching Basso, so his priority now is to pass Rasmussen on the penultimate stage time trial in Saint-Etienne.

Rasmussen finished 22nd in Wednesday's 148.8-mile trek across southern France from Pau to Revel — the longest stage of this year's race.

Armstrong was 23rd, and both finished 22:28 behind Savoldelli.

The Texan tied Bernard Hinault for the second-most yellow jerseys — and could overtake him Thursday.

Savoldelli's win was the third for Armstrong's Discovery Channel team at this Tour.

He could become the new Discovery Channel leader when Armstrong retires.

"There is only one Armstrong," Savoldelli said. "The more I see him, the more I realize that he is on another planet."

Six home runs send Yanks past Rangers

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON (AP) — Jason Giambi and Aaron Small won a lot of games as high school teammates in California in the late 1980s. Now, they are winning together again with the New York Yankees.

Giambi and Tino Martinez homered twice, and New York matched its season high with six to back Small in his first major league start in nine years, the Yankees' 8-4 win over the Texas Rangers Wednesday night.

Small (1-0) became the 12th different New York starter this season, the most for any team. He worked 5 1-3 innings in his Yankees debut for his first victory since Sept. 2, 1998.

All six Yankees homers came from left-handed hitters and accounted for all the runs. They came on a night when Gary Sheffield, Alex Rodriguez and Hideki Matsui were a combined 0-for-13.

Giambi and Jorge Posada put the Yankees ahead to stay with consecutive homers in the second off Joaquin Benoit (1-1), who struck out the first four batters he faced.

Benoit had retired eight more in a row until Martinez's one-out homer in the fifth. Robinson Cano's three-run homer made it 6-1, and Benoit was pulled without throwing a pitch in the sixth even after coming out to warm up.

Giambi, whose first homer to center just missed the glove of Gary

Mathews Jr., left no doubt about the second one, his 13th of the season — and majors-best eighth in July.

Martinez homered again in the ninth, his 15th, an inning after his fielding error allowed a Texas run.

A day after being held to a single run, the Yankees upped their July homer total to 36 in 16 games. They are second in the major leagues with 130 homers to the Rangers' 158, but lead the majors with 519 runs scored.

The Yankees won for the 12th time in 15 games to remain a half-game behind Boston in the AL East. They begin a four-game series at the AL West-leading Los Angeles Angels Thursday.



Big Spring's Dyrshae Vanderbilt runs through a drill at the Howard College women's basketball camp Wednesday. The camp began Monday and runs through this afternoon.

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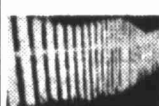
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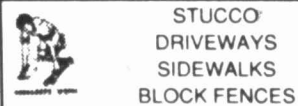
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Each add'l word 20-cents per word per day.

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Enclosed is \$ _____ Cash _____ Money Order _____ Check _____
_____ Credit Card# _____
Exp. Date _____ Vcode# _____

Are you a subscriber: _____ Yes _____ No

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
The moon is full in Aquarius, and it is also the last day of the sun's journey through Cancer.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Mercury goes retrograde tomorrow. There's a Bertolt Brecht song that says, "Such a wonderful lot of terrible things could happen ... You probably won't be able to tell the difference between good luck and bad luck now, so just keep an open mind!"

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your attitude is so very "post-modern" — that is to say, cool, ironic and accepting of the fragmentation of contemporary existence. You're not out to change the world today — just to find a better way to live within the zaniness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're tough when you have to be (and you

will have to be) and merciful when it counts. What else could anyone want from you? You could be promoted because you do the work that's called for.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Take a moment to reflect on the positive things going on before heading out the door. Shout, "I love life!" Don't be shy about asking for what you truly want. Others are willing to go out of their way to accommodate you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are more options available to you at work than you are currently seeing. Brainstorm new ways of being. If you perceive that you have a lack of control over your work, you will resent being there.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Over-reliance on a family member can make you subject to one-sided opinions at best or result in the title of "mama's boy" (or another appropriate term) at worst. Make a conscious effort to base decisions on your own

values.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You find yourself saying, "When I was a kid, I could buy this for (insert insanely low price here)." Sadly, wishing it will not make it so. Look for sales. The prices may not reflect your youth but they may remind you of 1998.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Within your group of friends, there are many with strong opinions. This can lead to battles of will and hurt feelings if taken too seriously. Keep things light by steering clear of controversial topics.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your communication skills are put to the test. The stars throw in a little extra competition, which brings out your very best on the job. Ask for help, even if you don't think the person you're asking can swing it. You'll get a referral.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The stars cheer on a shift in direction on the work front. Bold action brings big rewards. Even subtle changes bene-

fit your position. Take whatever size steps you feel comfortable with, and know you're moving forward.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Some of your responsibilities are in conflict with other responsibilities. Once you figure this out, put it all on paper so you can tell just how to proceed, covering as many bases as you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Midday, you find yourself asking if this is what you wanted to do when you grew up. If it isn't, but you find gratification in your work, congrats. If the answer is simply no, move on. You're too talented to waste your efforts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The planets smile on you when you focus on activities outside of work. Knowing you have enjoyable hobbies makes you less vulnerable to the feelings of isolation and fear that workaholics often live with.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Could you give

me some insights on my relationship with a very personable Gemini? I'm a passionate Cancer. We never stop talking, touching, etc., but I am concerned about the future. I'm very much in love, but this will be our second time around, and I want it to be my/our last. While I know there are no guarantees, I was married to an Aries, and all the stars said no before, and I didn't listen."

The nature of Cancer is to seek security and provide the illusion of security even where none exists — and, as you stated, certainly none exists in matters of the heart. In fact, the very nature of love is that you cannot be in love without having been injured by love. Knowing how badly love can hurt and then choosing to risk the pain is the very essence of love. Without the contrast of pain, love wouldn't be a risk, and if not a risk, it wouldn't be love. So, thank your Aries for causing you pain.

Without that relationship, you wouldn't be the per-

son you are today — the person your Gemini is falling in love with.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Josh Hartnett wants to be known for more than his good looks. This handsome moonchild has an independent Aquarius moon and Venus in Virgo, indicating that he has what it takes to be an executive as well as an actor. Hartnett will likely get more involved in the production side of future projects. His stars indicate that he has a good eye for entertainment that is also intellectually stimulating.

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



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: I'm a 55-year-old woman. On Mother's Day, I went to lunch with my family, at my sister's house.

One of my brothers was giving the other brother advice about something that was happening in his life. They were sitting across from me, and when my brother was finished, he looked in my direction, and I started to sing. It was only a few words of encouragement, but before I could finish, my sister said curtly,

"You don't sing at the table."

If the dinner table is a way for the family to come together to communicate, was I wrong for singing? — Humming in Biloxi, Miss.

Dear Humming: We certainly hope not, or the two of us are in big trouble. We don't recommend belting out "It's Raining Men" at a restaurant, but a short little tune of encouragement at a family member's house should not be cause for alarm. Sis sounds as if she's strung a little too tight.

Dear Annie: I'm so fed up and sad that I needed to write you for a reality check. I cannot get over the insensitivity and apparent self-absorption of some of my friends and family.

A little over a year ago, my husband and I lost our dear baby daughter at 21 weeks' gestation. We were absolutely devastated. After over two years of infertility treatments (which family and friends knew about) and one previous miscarriage, we were thrilled to become pregnant again. When we lost our beautiful angel before birth, our world was shattered. I cannot even begin to express the grief, desperation, anxiety and fear that we felt, and continue to feel.

Many wonderful friends and family members responded to our loss with cards, flowers and sincere wishes. Others simply ignored us. I mean flat-out never even mentioned or acknowledged our loss. OK, fine. Some

people are too weak to deal with others' pain. But what I cannot figure out is why these same people insist on sending us their babies' birth announcements. Worse, we've sent cards of acknowledgement and never have received a response.

Why is it OK for them to ignore us in our time of need, but we have to express happiness during their time of joy? I'm not even sure why I'm writing, because this feels so selfish. But I'm angry and, quite honestly, disappointed. What is your non-biased opinion? — A.T. in CT

Dear A.T.: You aren't selfish, you are grieving. Of course your friends and family members should have shown some sympathy for your loss, but when faced with a miscarriage, many people do not know how to respond — or even if. And when they have their own children, they should not have to contain their happiness, although they certainly could have shown more sensitivity. If you want to mend any of these relationships, it might be helpful to explain that their lack of acknowledgement hurt you deeply and you know that was not their intent. It could open up a healing dialogue for all of you.

Dear Annie: I am a retired senior citizen, and I volunteer at a senior center where I have been assigned a co-worker. "Ted" is nice, but he has a personal habit that drives me up the wall. It isn't his fault, but Ted has a respiratory problem and is constantly expectorating. This nauseates me. I don't know what to do short of giving up this volunteer job, which I would hate to do. — Turned Stomach

Dear Turned: If Ted cannot help spitting, explain the problem to your supervisors, and ask if you can be assigned a different co-worker. We're sure they will do their best to accommodate you. There are too few volunteers around as it is.

Dear Annie: I am dating a very nice guy whose

politics are completely opposite mine. We've gotten into shouting matches about recent Supreme Court decisions, gun control, abortion, etc. He tells me that it seems like he says "potato" and I say "sunflower." He's also hyper-rational, and I am more emotional.

Other than this, we get along well. He likes me as a person, and I feel the same way about him. We enjoy spending time together. I also like that he's easygoing (except when discussing politics), smart and funny, and he respects my intellect (although not all of my opinions). Also, he really loves children.

Tell me, Annie, how important are similar politics to a relationship? How serious is the emotional divide? He's willing to work on things with me, so I thought maybe we should go for counseling, but if politics is too great an obstacle, then maybe it's not worth the bother. (And please don't remind me of James Carville and Mary Matalin, which my friends keep doing. They seem to be the exception that proves the rule.) — Unsure in New York City

Dear Unsure: You've got a great guy who is more politically conservative/liberal than you are. So what? If the two of you are compatible in other ways, and he is willing to work with you on areas of major conflict, you will have a problem only if you insist on creating one. Politics should never be more important than your relationship. The trick is to learn to debate while respecting each other's position. (And don't make politics the focus of your conversations.)

Dear Annie: My husband and I are planning a party for our 50th wedding anniversary. I would like to invite all of my family and friends, but my sister has a 48-year-old son who is mentally unstable. "Roy" is on medication, but when he drinks, he tends to get out of hand. I feel sorry for him and know he needs help, but I'm afraid he will embarrass me in front of my friends.

I love my sister, but she has no control over Roy. Should I not include him? I don't want to hurt my sister's feelings. — Loving Sister

Dear Loving: Please invite Roy. If you can afford it, hire a bartender and let him know about

Roy's problem with alcohol, so he isn't served more than he can handle. You might also assign a friend or one of Roy's cousins to keep an eye on him. (You can even hire someone specifically for that purpose.) If the worst that happens is he embarrasses you, please don't let that be a reason to exclude him. You will get over the embarrassment, but you will not get over hurting your sister.

Dear Annie: This letter is for the woman whose husband refuses to follow his diabetic diet. Actually, this is for the husband:

Dear Diabetic Husband: Have you considered how selfish you are? What makes you think it is OK to jeopardize your health just because it's your body? Your wife obviously loves you or she wouldn't have written. Consider the effect you have on those who love you.

I have a friend (in her 20s) whose mother is dead. They found her in the garden at the age of 42. She was diabetic and wouldn't do what she was supposed to. My friend's little girl has been deprived of a beautiful relationship with a grandmother.

Two years ago, I watched my diabetic husband die surrounded by paramedics in our living room. Most of his life, he ate and did whatever he wanted. In the last six months, he worked very hard to reverse the damage, but it was too little, too late.

You need to learn what happens to your body when your insulin is out of control. Everything is affected — your heart, your breathing, your tissues. Then make up your mind to be around for your family as long as you can. Grow up! — B.F.

Dear B.F.: We hope he is listening to your heartfelt plea. Thanks for writing.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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THURSDAY

| | WFAA (2) | KMID (3) | UNI (4) | KPEJ (5) | KOSA (7) | KTLE (8) | KWES (9) | WTBS (11) | KMIL (12) | KOCV (13) | DISC (20) | AMC (21) | SPIKE (22) | TNT (23) | BET (25) | DISN (27) | ESPN2 (28) | ESPN (29) | SCIFI (34) |
|----|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 6 | News (CC) | News (CC) | Incorde de TI | King of the Hill | News | Amarte Asi | News | Raymond | Joe McGee | News-Lehrer | Discovery | Classics | CSE: Crime | Law & Order | Live | Disney | Billards: | ESPN | Science Fic. |
| 7 | Wheel-Fortune | Wheel-Fortune | La Madrastra | 70s Show | Big Brother 6 | El Cuerpo del | Joey (CC) | Friends (CC) | Update/Israel | West Tex. Jini | Shark Attack | Mojo: | CSE: Crime | Shark Attack | College Hill | That's Raven | UFA Pro Tour | Streetball | Movie: Primal |
| 8 | Extreme Makeover | Extreme Makeover | Futbol: Copa | The O.C. | CSE: Crime | Los Plateados | Joey (CC) | Friends (CC) | Light of the | Antiques | Shark's Lunter: | Mojo: | CSE: Crime | Shark's Lunter: | College Hill | Inspector | 2005 World | 2005 World | Movie: Attack |
| 9 | PrimeTime Live | PrimeTime Live | Semifinal B | 70s Show | Without a | Decisiones | Will & Grace | Will & Grace | Movie: Bad | Soundstage | Frowning | Movie: | MOC | Movie: Twister | Soul Food | American Drgn | Baseball | This is | Sabotech |
| 10 | News (CC) | News (CC) | Primer Impacto | 70s Show | News | Noticias | News | News | The Hour of | Charlie Rose | Shark Attack | 15 Movie: | Widest Police | Nightly News | That's Raven | SportsCenter | SportsCenter | Tripping-Rit | |
| 11 | Ent. Tonight | Jimmy Kimmel | La Hora | Becker (CC) | Letterman | El Cuerpo del | Late Night: | 10 Movie: | Del Sanchez | Sign Off | Shark Hunter: | 15 Movie: | NBA Rookies | Movie: Atomic | BET's Top 10 | Sister, Sister | Billards: | Baseball | Tripping-Rit |
| 12 | Live (CC) | Extra (CC) | Amigas y | Spin City | Show | Al Rojo Vivo | Conan O'Brien | Update/Israel | Jesse Lee Pe. | | Prowling | Reel TV (CC) | Blind Date | Soul Food | Lizzie McGuire | X-Games | SportsCenter: | Baseball | Tripping-Rit |

DENNIS THE MENACE



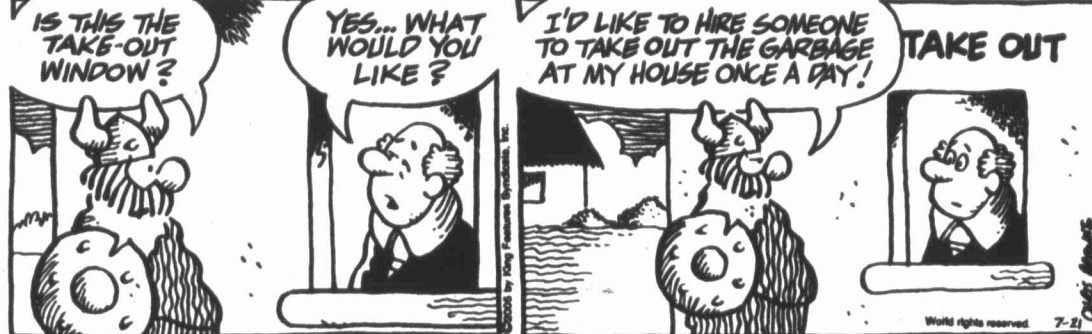
"YOU MUST HAVE GOOD EYESIGHT. MY MOM SAYS YOU'RE A REAL LOOKER!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I told you to stay out of Daddy's tackle box."

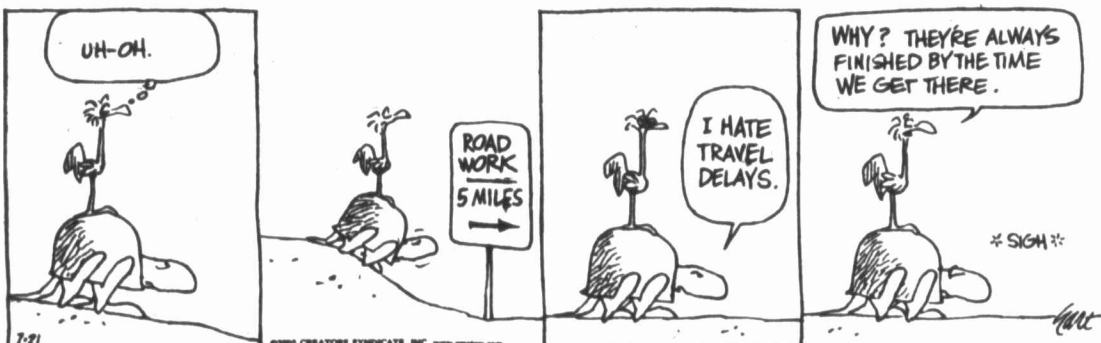
HAGAR



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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 21, the 202nd day of 2005. There are 163 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 21, 1925, the so-called Monkey Trial ended in Dayton, Tenn., with John T. Scopes convicted of violating state law for teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (The conviction was later overturned.)

On this date: In 1831, Belgium became independent as Leopold I was proclaimed King of the Belgians.

In 1861, the first Battle of Bull Run was fought at Manassas, Va., resulting in a Confederate victory.

In 1944, American forces landed on Guam during World War II.

In 1954, the Geneva Accords divided Vietnam into northern and southern entities.

In 1955, during the

Geneva summit, President Eisenhower presented his "open skies" proposal under which the U.S. and the Soviet Union would trade information on each other's military facilities.

In 1961, Captain Virgil "Gus" Grissom became the second American to rocket into a suborbital pattern around the Earth, flying aboard the Liberty Bell 7.

In 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin blasted off from the moon aboard the lunar module.

In 1980, draft registration began in the United States for 19- and 20-year-old men.

Five years ago: Special Counsel John C. Danforth concluded "with 100 percent certainty" that the federal government was innocent of wrongdoing in the siege that killed 80 members of the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, in 1993.

One year ago: President Bush sketched out a second-term domestic agenda, telling campaign donors he would shift focus to improving high school education and expanding access to health care.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz

musician-critic Billy Taylor is 84. Actor-comedian Don Knotts is 81. Movie director Norman Jewison is 79. Former Attorney General Janet Reno is 67. Actress Patricia Elliott is 63. Actor Leigh Lawson is 60. Singer Yusuf Islam (formerly Cat Stevens) is 57. Comedian-actor Robin Williams is 54. Comedian Jon Lovitz is 48. Rock singer Emerson Hart (Tonic) is 36. Country singer Paul Brandt is 33. Actor Josh Hartnett is 27. Actress Vanessa Lengies ("American Dreams") is 20. Actor Jamie Waylett ("Harry Potter" films) is 16.

Thought for Today: "Happiness is good health and a bad memory." — Ingrid Bergman, Swedish-born actress (1915-1982).

Answer to previous puzzle

| | | |
|------------|---------|---------|
| TOFU | ADDS | PARSE |
| AMIN | URAL | ORION |
| TALIC | DYNAMIC | DUO |
| ARMOIR | USERS | GATHERS |
| COMPLY | UTTERED | |
| ADOLE | SNEER | PIP |
| POLE | PALD | TEARS |
| ERE | WOVEN | OWENS |
| SERAPES | CLOSET | |
| OIL | SWEEP | |
| SEGOVIA | ALGIERS | |
| TWINENGINE | EVEL | |
| EELER | HOER | CIAO |
| PRAYS | ANDY | ELLE |

Newsday Crossword

MUSICAL TRIOS by Alex Vaughn

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Poetic contraction
 - 4 Gallic capital
 - 9 Lhasa (dogs)
 - 14 Insect of fable
 - 15 Coat of paint?
 - 16 Chef's hat
 - 17 Latin dance chant
 - 19 Sulks
 - 20 Five-star
 - 21 Generic song syllables
 - 23 Spouse's relative
 - 24 Asparagus piece
 - 26 Edge
 - 27 MGM cofounder
 - 28 Heat unit
 - 29 Philosopher Descartes
 - 30 Guess wrong
 - 31 Goofy or SpongeBob
 - 32 Mythical underworld
 - 33 Tuba sound
 - 36 Pal of Popeye
 - 39 Plank piercer
 - 40 Chanteuse's wrap
 - 43 Don Juan's mother
 - 44 "bleu!"
 - 46 Bolivia neighbor
 - 47 No thoroughbred
 - 48 Keyed up
 - 49 Less ruddy
 - 50 Retro rock group
 - 52 Overwhelming quantity
- DOWN**
- 1 Touch-related
 - 2 As a tribute to, with "of"
 - 3 Office tool
 - 4 "Fiddle-de-dee!"
 - 5 To (unanimously)
 - 6 Where to buy rose quartz
 - 7 Potsdam pronoun
 - 8 Rink patron
 - 9 How some bonds are traded
 - 10 Cooling-off place
 - 11 End of an Einsteinian formula
 - 12 Screenwriter's submission
 - 13 Certain bagels
 - 18 Stick in one's
 - 22 Wool source
 - 25 Act of contrition
 - 28 Mr. Thumb
 - 29 Root word?
 - 31 Plaything
 - 32 Shakespearean prince
 - 33 Photo
 - 34 Ruthless tactics
 - 35 Pizza order
 - 36 Hits a jackpot, perhaps
 - 37 Burdened with debt
 - 38 Huge weight
 - 40 Harp on
 - 41 Trattoria seasoning
 - 42 Golden
 - 44 Be bad
 - 45 Source of the word "algebra"
 - 46 Legal preceder
 - 48 Shines up
 - 49 Madrid museum
 - 51 Odor noter
 - 53 Cain victim
 - 56 Fables in Slang writer

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
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| 36 | 37 | 38 | | | | 39 | | | | 40 | 41 | 42 |
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| 57 | | | | | | | | | | | | 58 |
| 60 | | | | | | | | 61 | | | | 62 |

That's Racin'

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THIS WEEK'S RACE

PENNSYLVANIA 500

Where: Pocono Raceway, a paved, mostly flat triangular-shaped track located in Long Pond, Pa.

When: Sunday at 1:40 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 12:10 p.m. Saturday.

TV: TNT.

Radio: Motor Racing Network.

Purse: \$4,795,586.

Last year's winner: Jimmie Johnson.

Worth mentioning: Carl Edwards started 29th and won the Pocono 500 in June, the farthest back a race winner has started at Pocono since the track opened in 1974.

There have been 17 different pole winners in the last 18 races at Pocono. Qualifying was rained out in the 2002 Pocono 500.

Tony Stewart has eight top-10 finishes in 12 races at Pocono, but has finished 37th, 27th and 35th in his last three.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

What is the coolest way a driver can celebrate a Nextel Cup victory?

Cast your vote at:

www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Where do you think NASCAR should locate its Hall of Fame?

Number of votes: 54,420

| City | No. of votes | Percent |
|---------------------|--------------|---------|
| Kansas City, Mo. | 23,265 | 43% |
| Charlotte, N.C. | 22,560 | 41% |
| Daytona Beach, Fla. | 4,339 | 8% |
| Atlanta | 2,625 | 5% |
| Richmond, Va. | 1,235 | 2% |
| Michigan | 396 | 1% |

STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT

- "Hot" may not be strong enough: **Tony Stewart** has five top-five finishes, including three wins, in the last five races.
- **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** has three consecutive top 10s, his first three straight top-10 finishes since he earned six straight last fall.
- **Rusty Wallace** ranked 19th in points after 19 races last year. This season he is fourth.
- **Matt Kenseth** has finished 11th or better and climbed from 24th to 16th in points in the last five races.

WHO'S NOT

- **Jeff Gordon** ranked third in points after 18 races one year ago. This year he is 15th.
- **Elliott Sadler** has finished 21st or lower in the past three races and dropped from fourth to ninth in points.
- **Jamie McMurray** has finished 22nd or worse in the past two races and dropped from seventh to 11th in points.

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of July 17:

| Rank/Driver | Points | Rank/Driver | Points |
|------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|
| 1. Jimmie Johnson | 2672 | 21. Kasey Kahne | 1955 |
| 2. Greg Biffle | 2595 | 22. Brian Vickers | 1916 |
| 3. Tony Stewart | 2587 | 23. Bobby Labonte | 1854 |
| 4. Rusty Wallace | 2442 | 24. Ricky Rudd | 1774 |
| 5. Kurt Busch | 2347 | 25. Sterling Marlin | 1754 |
| 6. Ryan Newman | 2347 | 26. Scott Riggs | 1748 |
| 7. Mark Martin | 2320 | 27. Casey Mears | 1747 |
| 8. Jeremy Mayfield | 2285 | 28. Ken Schrader | 1729 |
| 9. Elliott Sadler | 2278 | 29. Dave Blaney | 1700 |
| 10. Dale Jarrett | 2254 | 30. Kyle Petty | 1675 |
| 11. Jamie McMurray | 2233 | 31. Mike Bliss | 1657 |
| 12. Carl Edwards | 2200 | 32. Jeff Green | 1636 |
| 13. Dale Earnhardt Jr. | 2195 | 33. Travis Kvapil | 1623 |
| 14. Kevin Harvick | 2149 | 34. Scott Wimmer | 1539 |
| 15. Jeff Gordon | 2134 | 35. Mike Wallace | 1440 |
| 16. Matt Kenseth | 2104 | 36. Jason Leffler | 1383 |
| 17. Jeff Burton | 2085 | 37. Bobby Hamilton Jr. | 1201 |
| 18. Joe Nemechek | 2067 | 38. Robby Gordon | 1038 |
| 19. Kyle Busch | 2046 | 39. Kevin Lepage | 1027 |
| 20. Michael Waltrip | 2037 | 40. Terry Labonte | 557 |

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of July 16:

| Rank/Driver | Points | Rank/Driver | Points |
|---------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| 1. Martin Truex Jr. | 2846 | 11. David Green | 2142 |
| 2. Clint Bowyer | 2704 | 12. Paul Menard | 2122 |
| 3. Reed Sorenson | 2676 | 13. Kevin Harvick | 2009 |
| 4. Carl Edwards | 2626 | 14. J.J. Yeley | 1977 |
| 5. Kenny Wallace | 2499 | 15. Johnny Sauter | 1939 |
| 6. Denny Hamlin | 2446 | 16. Stacy Compton | 1850 |
| 7. Ashton Lewis | 2277 | 17. Randy LaJole | 1849 |
| 8. David Stremme | 2273 | 18. Jon Wood | 1836 |
| 9. Jason Keller | 2186 | 19. Stanton Barrett | 1833 |
| 10. Greg Biffle | 2174 | 20. Justin Labonte | 1745 |

NEXT RACE: Saturday, ITT Industries and Goulds Pumps Salute to the Troops 250, Fountain, Colo.

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of July 9:

| Rank/Driver | Points | Rank/Driver | Points |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|
| 1. Dennis Setzer | 1929 | 6. Jimmy Spencer | 1717 |
| 2. Ted Musgrave | 1846 | 7. Terry Cook | 1660 |
| 3. Bobby Hamilton | 1776 | 8. Mike Skinner | 1644 |
| 4. Ron Hornaday | 1731 | 9. David Reutimann | 1624 |
| 5. Ricky Craven | 1721 | 10. Matt Crafton | 1612 |

NEXT RACE: Saturday, O'Reilly 200, Memphis, Tenn.

READY, SET, READ

New books bring the excitement of racing to print

BY BILL FLEISCHMAN
Knight Ridder Newspapers

NASCAR fans are fortunate that there are several new books available covering different facets of the sport, from drivers to cheating. The books covered here provide an excellent background, particularly to newer fans.

■ **"Full Throttle,"** by Robert Edelstein (Overlook Press), is a biography of Curtis Turner, NASCAR's first superstar. Turner was nicknamed "the Babe Ruth of Stock Car Racing."

Edelstein captures the Turner persona, from the fearless racer to legendary party guy to a businessman with a roller coaster.

The opening story alone is worth the price of the book. Turner, an experienced pilot, lands his single-engine plane, with three passengers aboard, in Easley, S.C., on a Sunday night, scattering terrified churchgoers. Turner was planning to restock the travelers' liquor supply. Turner winds up on a highway, then takes off, barely missing telephone lines.

Edelstein traces Turner's colorful career from a moonshine runner in southern Virginia through his successful racing career in the 1950s. Turner perfected the dirt-track power slide.

Unlike many drivers in those days when car owners were named Hoss (Ellington) and Cotton (Owens), Turner didn't need the money he earned from racing. He was successful in the timber business.

The book covers in detail two notable developments in Turner's career: building Charlotte Motor Speedway with Bruton Smith and his four-year ban from NASCAR for attempting to organize a drivers union.

Turner was a friend of NASCAR founder Bill France Sr. until the union-organizing attempt. In 1965, with Ford having no racing rivals and attendance down at races, track promoters urged France to reinstate Turner. France reluctantly agreed. Turner was 41 years old.

Five years later, Turner and a passenger died when the racer's private plane crashed in western Pennsylvania.

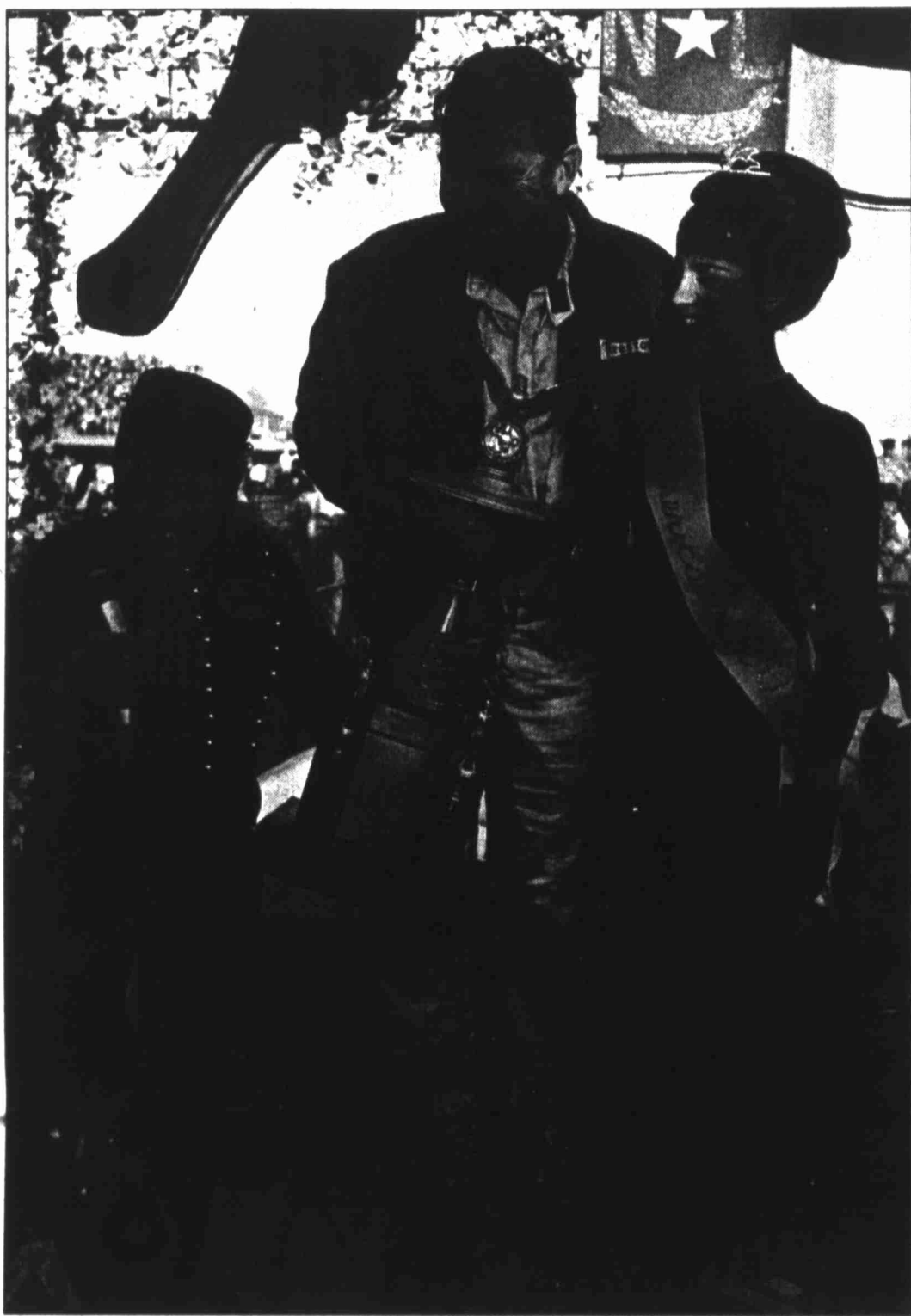
As Edelstein writes, the likable Turner "embodied a quality that only a handful of sports stars ever truly possess: audacity. He did things because he believed unreservedly that he could."

Actor James Garner, a longtime racing fan, says, "What made Curtis Turner a legend? He knew he was a legend and, therefore, he lived it."

■ **"Cheating,"** by Tom Jensen (David Bull Publishing), is an informative and entertaining history of cheating in NASCAR.

All the NASCAR characters are there, from Junior Johnson to Smokey Yunick. Johnson's attitude was "You just worked on what NASCAR didn't check."

Yunick, who ran the renowned "Best Damn Garage in Town" in Daytona



Curtis Turner, center, celebrates his victory in the 1965 American 500. "Full Throttle," by Robert Edelstein, explores the life of Turner, who is listed among the top-50 drivers in NASCAR history.

Beach, Fla., was an innovator far ahead of his time. Driving a Yonick-prepared Chevrolet (General Motors was not officially in NASCAR at the time), Curtis Turner won the pole for the 1967 Daytona 500.

In the 1970s, some NASCAR teams used nitrous oxide (aka laughing gas), which gave engines a horsepower boost. At the 1976 Daytona 500, the cars driven by A.J. Foyt and Darrell Waltrip, the two fastest qualifiers, were disqualified after inspectors discovered nitrous oxide.

Summing up the attitude toward cheating, Waltrip said, "If you don't cheat, you look like an idiot. If you do it and you don't get caught, you look like a hero. If you do it and get caught, you look like a dope."

■ **"Real Men Work in the Pits,"** by Jeff Hammond (Rodale Inc.), follows Hammond's career as a championship crew chief. Now a tele-



vision racing analyst, Hammond recalls working for Junior Johnson. When crew members weren't working on Johnson's cars, they helped on the farm, milking cows and planting the garden.

Hammond and Darrell Waltrip are colleagues at Fox Sports, but Hammond wasn't always a fan of ol' DW.

When Hammond worked for Junior Johnson and Cale Yarborough was their driver, Waltrip was a driver on the rise.

Hammond: "We found out that nothing would shut Waltrip up. Nothing in the world." Later, when Johnson was about to hire Waltrip, Hammond thought, "Man, I don't want that mouthy son of a gun coming in here." Waltrip and Hammond won two Cup titles together.

RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. **Tony Stewart (car No. 20):** No way you can't pull the trigger on making this team No. 1 after the past five races. Last week: 3.

2. **Greg Biffle (car No. 16):** He had finished 27th or worse in four of five tries at Loudon before his fifth on

Sunday. Last week: 1.

3. **Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** Lost the handle to give back six or seven spots over the final laps at New Hampshire. Last week: 2.

4. **Rusty Wallace (car No. 2):** He's finished worse than 12th only once since Darlington, and that was 10 races ago. Last week: 4.

5. **Ryan Newman (car No. 12):** Six weeks ago it looked like this team could go on the hot streak the No.

20's now on. Last week: 7.

6. **Mark Martin (car No. 6):** It just seems like a raw deal that Roush Racing is asking Martin for one more season. Last week: 5.

7. **Kurt Busch (car No. 97):** Must have felt like he was driving uphill all day to get a second at New Hampshire. Last week: 9.

8. **Elliott Sadler (car No. 38):** It's a fine line between comfort and complacency about making the Chase this

year. Last week: 6.

9. **Jeremy Mayfield (car No. 19):** This team seems to like dancing right on the edge of the Chase cut line, doesn't it? Last week: 10.

10. **Carl Edwards (car No. 99):** Pocono was the site of one of the two victories that gets him our final spot in the top 10. Last week: 13.

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

Tony Stewart hungry for a victory at Indianapolis

Tony Stewart got a lot accomplished last Sunday, winning the New England 300 at New Hampshire International Speedway and all, but his Monday dance card was pretty full, too.

"I've got to take a motorcycle driver's test," Stewart said, going over his "to do" list. "I've got to go to the bank, then go to the auto parts store to get some lubricants for my sprint cars. Then I've got a sprint car test (on) Monday night I've got to be at ..."

Sunday's victory added some day-after media requirements to that agenda, but crew chief Greg Zipadelli told Stewart he needed to clear the decks because Tuesday was an important day.

Tuesday morning, Stewart made the short drive from his home in

Columbus, Ind., to join Zipadelli and the Joe Gibbs Racing team for testing at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the historic site of the Allstate 400 on Aug. 7.

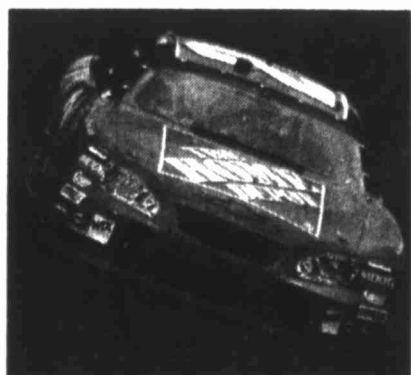
The Indianapolis Motor Speedway, of course, is Stewart's own personal Oz.

He grew up in Indiana wanting to be A.J. Foyt, and though he eventually won the IndyCar series championship he never could win the Indianapolis 500. In NASCAR, he's run six times at the 2.5-mile

Brickyard and finished no better than fifth and no worse than 17th.

How important is Indianapolis to Stewart, the 2002 Cup champion?

"If I could give away my championship and just get one win at Indy, I would do it in a heartbeat," he said.



Tony Stewart has won three of the past four Nextel Cup races.

There's reason to imbue this week's test at Indianapolis with great significance for Stewart, Zipadelli and their team. It was at a test before the June race at Michigan where the team found the footing on which its recent hot streak has been built.

"We went back to what we used to

do well," Zipadelli said of that test, where the team refocused on using its time to gather information instead of looking for instant solutions. "We struggled with that at the end of last year and the beginning of this year because our cars just didn't do what Tony needed them to do."

Stewart finished second at Michigan after that test, then won the next two races at Infineon Raceway and Daytona. Despite crashing the Michigan car in practice at Chicagoland, Stewart came back in his backup Chevrolet and finished fifth before winning again on Sunday.

A lot of what makes cars run well at New Hampshire and Pocono apply to Indy, too, so recent results have Stewart looking to add something he called "pretty close to my heart" to his list of things to do.

"I don't care if I (only) lead one lap at Indy," Stewart said. "Just as long as it's the right one."