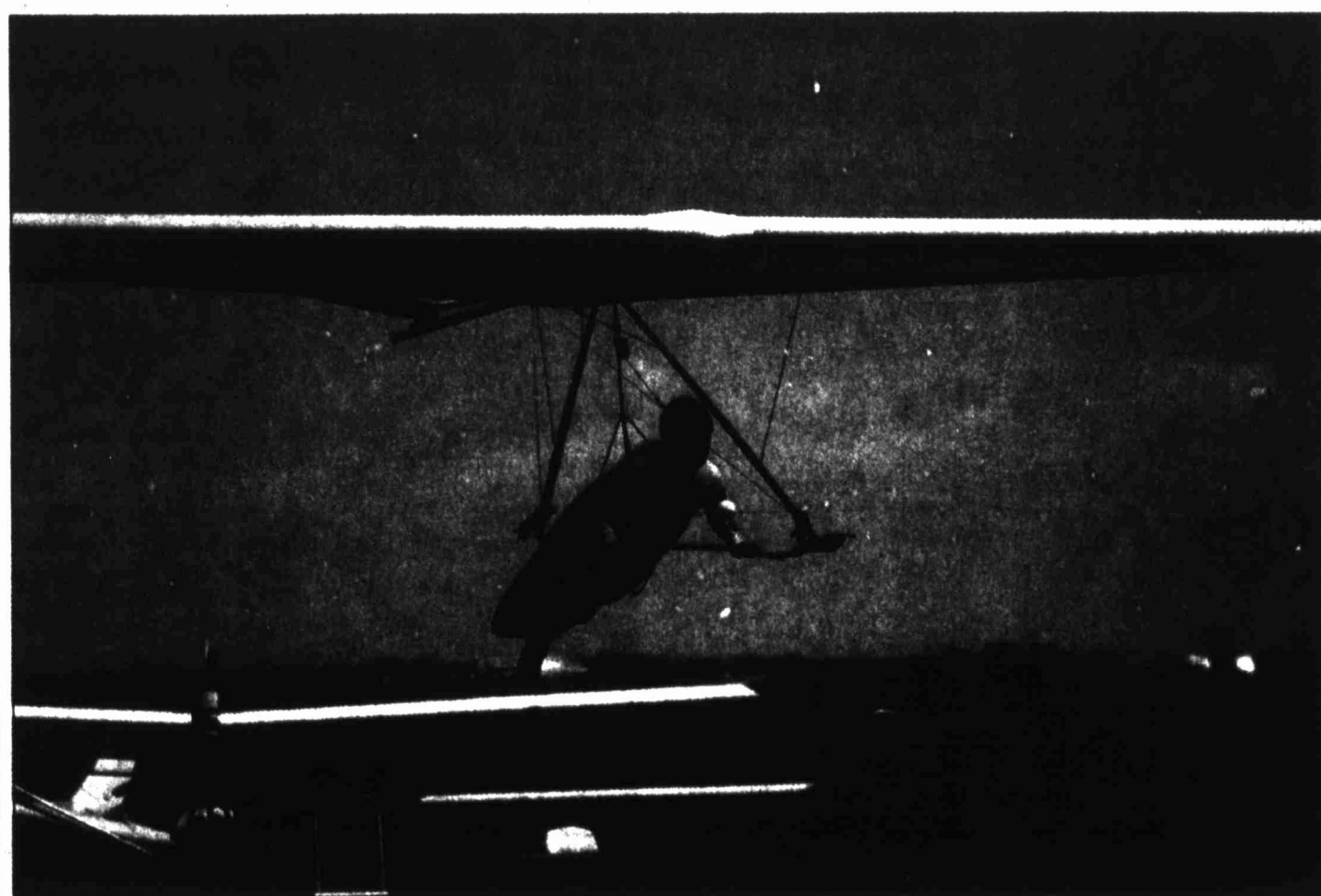


21 years riding the wind



Davis Straub, a 21-year veteran of the hang gliding community, takes to the air Thursday afternoon to defend his lead in the rigid wing competition at the U.S. Hang Gliding Association National Championships. The championships continue through Saturday at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

Event leader has lengthy love affair with hang gliding

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

After three days of "big air" at the U.S. Hang Gliding Association National Championships, 21-year hang gliding veteran David Straub leads the rigid wing division as the competition begins to heat up.

Straub, a self-described nomad who travels the country — and the world — to participate in hang gliding competitions, said his purpose is twofold: to fly as much as he can and provide the hang gliding community with as much information as he can.

"In the springtime I live in Florida, but I travel around full-time in my RV going to these hang

gliding competitions," said Straub. "I have an online newsletter that for the last nine years I've been reporting five days

a week all around the world for the hang gliding community."

Straub, like most hang glider pilots, began his love for the air with a conversation with a fellow enthusiast.

"I'm one of those people who always had a desire to fly. It was always in the back of my mind," said Straub. "I ran into a

See STRAUB, Page 3A

Local police allege Subway 'robber' was actually an employee

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The search for the person responsible for the aggravated robbery reported at the Subway Sandwich Shop on Gregg Street Sunday is over.

However, the culprit's identity might surprise some people, according to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the Big Spring Police Department.

"The investigation has determined that no robbery took place and the money was taken by the reporting person," said Everett in a press release issued Wednesday.

In a report released

Monday, Everett described the crime as reported by the Subway employee now thought to be responsible for the theft.

"According to the witness, he was sitting on the back door steps with the back door open," Everett said. "He stated that a black male approached him, pointed a handgun at him and forced him to go back in the business."

Once inside, the victim claimed he was forced to open the safe and hand over an undetermined amount of cash to the suspect, who then fled the

See ROBBER, Page 3A

Population facts

39.9 million

The estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2003, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest race or ethnic minority. Hispanics constitute 13.7 percent of the nation's total population.

102.6 million

The projected Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2050. According to this projection, Hispanics would constitute 24 percent of the nation's total population on that date.

Nearly 67 million

The number of people of Hispanic origin who would have been added to the nation's population between 2000 and 2050, according to this projection. The projected percentage increase — 188 percent — would amount to a near tripling.

Source: Census Bureau

Texas newest state to have majority minority population

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL

Associated Press Writer

EL PASO (AP) — With a growing Hispanic population, Texas has joined three other states and the District of Columbia as a majority-minority state, according to population estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Hispanics are now the largest minority group in California, New Mexico as well as Texas. Asian-Americans are the largest minority in Hawaii, while in the nation's capital, it is blacks.

According to the population estimates based on the 2000 Census, about 50.2 percent of Texans are now minorities. In the 2000 Census, minorities accounted for about 47 percent of the nation's second most populous state.

Five other states — Maryland, Mississippi, Georgia, New York and Arizona — aren't far behind,

The country should expect to see an eventual political shift, which is likely to include more Hispanics running for public office at all levels of government.

Tatcho Mindiola, director
UH Center for Mexican American Studies

with about 40 percent minorities. Blacks and Hispanics are the largest minority groups in those states.

While a state demographer said the new estimates should be no surprise, public policy analysts said these states and the country as a whole need to bring minority education and professional achieve-

See MINORITY, Page 3A

Working together: BSISD to implement new teacher mentor program

□ Big Spring ISD registration continues through Friday. See Page 3A.

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Who better to help a new teacher navigate the sometimes treacherous waters of that first school year than another

teacher?

That's the basic idea behind the new teacher/mentor program instituted at Big Spring Independent School District.

For a new teacher, having an experienced colleague to lean on — and occasionally vent at — can help to ease the shock of the first year in the profession, said Wenda Christopher, assistant principal at Big Spring High School and one of the

directors of the mentor program.

"You can learn all you can about teaching in college ... but once you get in that classroom, it's a whole new ballgame," Christopher said. "We want to keep good teachers, so whatever we can do to support them, we will."



Christopher

The program is not new — something similar was unsuccessfully tried a few years ago — but Christopher has high hopes for this latest incarnation.

"Everybody has been really supportive of the idea," she said. "They've volunteered both their time and their money ... that counts a lot."

New teachers will be paired with their mentors by subject

matter, grade level and personality, Christopher said.

"This won't be just a matter of the mentor saying, 'Come on down to my room if you need anything,'" she said. "They'll be meeting on at least a weekly basis." The teacher/mentor teams also will meet with Christopher and co-program director Elissa Medina-Bancroft on a monthly basis throughout the school year.

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To reach us:

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.

FISD BREAKFAST SET

The Forsan ISD Superintendent Prayer Breakfast will be held from 7:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. Friday in the junior high/high school cafeteria.

Tickets are \$4, must be purchased in advance and are available at Elbow Elementary, the junior high/high school office or the superintendent's office.

"I can't think of anything more important than asking God to provide safety, wisdom and peace for the upcoming school year," said Randy Johnson, FISD superintendent.

CAR ALARM SILENCED

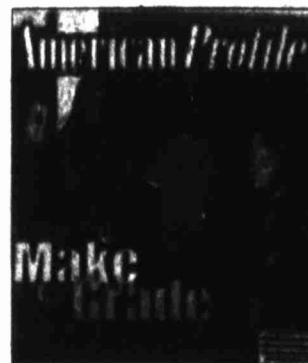
SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP) — A man annoyed by a car alarm fired at least three bullets into a Toyota Camry, silencing the alarm but getting arrested in the process. David Owen Rye, 48, was booked for investigation of reckless discharge of a firearm and felony vandalism. He told officers he grabbed his handgun and went out to stop the alarm. Neighbor Ken Davis said he heard gunshots and looked outside to see Rye holding a gun.

"It was little scary," Davis said. "I didn't know what kind of mood he was in. I didn't want to say anything to him."

COMING THIS WEEKEND

Cover Story: American Profile presents the latest in affordable back-to-school fashions that are available everywhere.

A celebrity stylist helps students make trendy outfits on a budget.



Obituaries

Ken Mayhall



Ken Mayhall, 62, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2005, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 12, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Jim Binnix, pastor of Midway Baptist Church and the Rev. Tommy Culwell, pastor of Colonial Hills Baptist Church, Snyder, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

He was born May 27, 1943, in Inverness, Miss., and married Mae Awazu July 27, 1962, in Papaaloo, Hawaii.

Ken served in the United States Navy from 1960-1964. He completed basic training in San Diego, Calif., and served at Pearl Harbor on the USS Stark County, USS Conserver and the USS Abnaki.

Ken moved to Big Spring in 1964 and worked for the Big Spring Fire Department from 1968-1970. He left to work as a civilian fire fighter for the U.S. Navy and Air Force. In 1979 he rejoined BSFD's ranks.

During his career, he obtained many certifications from the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. He held four firefighting certifications from basic to master firefighter, two instructors certificates and was certified as a field testing proctor for the commission.

Salty, as he was known to the fire fighters, advanced from hoseman to driver in 1982. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1983 and retired in the spring of 2000.

Ken had been certified as an emergency medical technician, EMT-B, by the Texas Department of Health and had earned a degree in fire science from Midland College. He earned two letters of commendation during his career for his actions while fighting fires at the local refinery.

Salty was a regular instructor in the department's training academy and was the primary instructor for aircraft fire and rescue. He served as a trustee on the board of the Big Spring Fireman's Relief and Retirement Fund for multiple terms. He was a member of Midway Baptist Church and had been a volunteer for Meals on Wheels.

Survivors include his wife, Mae Mayhall of Big Spring; one son, Shane Mayhall and wife, Jo of Big Spring; two sisters, Mary Ann Ross and husband, Red of Big Spring and Jannett Pugh of Lake Charles, La.; and five grandchildren, Zach, Lindsey, Hannah, Shelby and Kaeli.

He was preceded in death by one son, Scott Mayhall, his father, W.C. Mayhall, his mother, Juanita Mayhall, two brothers and two sisters.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Midway Baptist Church, 6200 S. Service Road I20, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

John A. Burger III



John A. Burger III, 33, of Sand Springs died Monday, Aug. 8, 2005, at his residence. No services are planned.

He was born Nov. 15, 1971, in Corona, Calif., and married Jennifer Waters June 5, 1990, in Corona, Calif.

John was raised in Corona, Calif., and moved to Big Spring with his family 22 months ago. John was a devoted husband and father. He was accepting of all people regardless of their differences.

He was a lover of nature and an avid conservationist.

He found beauty where others would not think to look. He had a continued thirst for knowledge, seen through his love of books. John had a great way with words, he was a beautiful artist and poet. He loved nothing more than being with his wife and two daughters.

He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Burger of Sand Springs; two daughters, Chanel Burger and Taryn Burger, both of Sand Springs; his parents, John A. Jr. and Kathleen Burger of Corona, Calif.; two sisters, Shereen Turner of Corona, Calif., and Katrina Pyle of Orange, Calif.; one brother, Shon Burger of Norco, Calif.; his maternal grandparents, Doris and William Roseberry of Corona, Calif.; his paternal grandfather, John A. Burger Sr. of Upland, Calif.; his paternal grandmother, Joyce Lukens of Oregon; and a number of nieces and nephews.

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

Paid obituary

Ruby Tate

Ruby Tate, 81, of Big Spring died Thursday, Aug. 11, 2005, at her residence. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

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.

Take note

• **WEST TEXAS OPPORTUNITIES** is sponsoring an Outreach Seminar from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Friday at 4005 E. I-20, the former Cosden Credit Union, to provide information and accept applications for utility and weatherization needs. Call 267-9536 for more information.

• **HOWARD COUNTY FAIR WEB SITE** is www.howardcountyfairoftexas.com

• **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM** that delivers meals 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.

• **RSVP ICE CREAM SOCIAL** from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Dora Roberts Community Center. RSVP to 264-2397.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1995 10-YEAR REUNION** is set for Homecoming weekend. For information about the events, contact bshs1995@yahoo.com or call Amanda or Stacie at 267-1353.

Police blotter

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

• **JUAN ORTIZ JR.**, 25, of 406 E. 10th, was arrested Wednesday on a local capias warrant.

• **DAVID CHRISTOPHER PETREE**, 20, of 5001 Dawson Road, was arrested Wednesday on four local warrants.

• **BRANDON NORRIS MARTIN**, 19, of 1318 Sycamore, was arrested Thursday on charges of driving under the influence by a minor and possession of a dangerous drug.

• **CARLOS MONTANEZ**, 52, of 703 E. Third Street, was arrested Wednesday on a Taylor County warrant.

• **ERNEST SUPANCIC**, 74, of 101 S. Gregg Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of attempted kidnapping.

• **THEFT** was reported:
- in the 1500 block of Lexington.
- in the 900 block of Willia.
- in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 700 block of Settles.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 800 block of Creighton.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1900 block of Main Street.

Sheriff's report

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

• **MATT CASEY EDWARDS**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **KRISTOPHER GARCIA**, 21, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone and possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.

• **WILLIAM E. SNEED**, 30, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on charges of evading arrest or detention, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, driving with a juvenile not secured by a safety belt and no driver's license.

• **RUDOLPH AVALOS JR.**, 18, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of no driver's license, speeding, criminal mischief and a motion to revoke probation for criminal mischief.

• **TONY RANDAL PARTEE**, 45, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **ERIC LEE PACE**, 36, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of ride not secured by a safety belt, no liability insurance and violation of a promise to appear.

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.

• Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

• Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.

• American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.

• Friends of the Fair hamburger supper with ice cream and cake at 6:30 p.m. in the fair building.

• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

• Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

• Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

Weather

Tonight—Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows around 70. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday—Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Friday night—Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows around 70. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Saturday—Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday night—Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s.

Sunday—Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.

Sunday night—Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s.

Monday—Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 18-24-37-41-43. Bonus Ball: 10.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: none.

Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$23,615.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 10. Prize: \$2,142.

Number matching four of five: 442. Prize: \$104.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 364. Prize: \$112.

Number matching three of five: 15,582. Prize: \$5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 4,685. Prize: \$5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 22,073. Prize: \$3.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$37 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 8-17-31-34-35.

Number matching five of five: none.

Matching four of five: 104. Prize: \$460.

Matching three of five: 3,366. Prize: \$11.

Matching two of five: 31,296. Prize: \$2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-4-1

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2700 block of S. Anderson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of E. Fourth Street. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Bell. Service was refused.

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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
A pilot competing in the U.S. Hang Gliding National Championships takes to the air Monday at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark during day two of the competition. The championships will continue through Saturday near the park's Air Terminal, with launches expected around noon daily.

STRAUB

Continued from Page 1A

hang glider pilot at a wedding reception and grilled him on the sport for three hours. The next weekend I was out getting instructions. I've been involved in hang gliding for 21 years."

Straub isn't just a competing pilot — he's also the head of the task committee, which designs the unseen courses he and other pilots fly through the week-long event, which continues through Saturday at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, near the air terminal.

And while you might think these tasks are thought of well ahead of time, Straub said it's done on a daily basis because of Mother Nature's unpredictable nature.

"First, we get on the Internet and get the weather for that day," said Straub. "We determine what the lift is going to be for the day and how high we're going to be able to get, whether there are going to be clouds and what the wind strength is and how it varies with height."

"Based on those parameters, we decide what is a feasible task for the hang gliders to do on that day. Whether we can come back against the wind. Whether we need to

get far away to stay away from a cell that's developing into a microburst, like we had yesterday. We also look at how long the task will take to complete. Straub said some pretty sophisticated technology also helps make the task-making chore easier.

"We do the task on a computer," said Straub. "We have special software for calculating the goals and the tasks. Then the pilots put those waypoints and goals in their GPS (global position satellite) system. Then they basically follow the arrows to the turn points. "The GPS keeps a record and that track log is downloaded by computer and scored by special software that keeps track of that."

While the differences between rigid wing hang gliders — the division Straub competes in — and flex wing gliders may be subtle to the untrained eye, Straub said it becomes pretty obvious when it comes time to leave the upward draft of the thermals.

"I compete in the rigid wing division, which is the high performance hang gliders," said Straub. "They have a higher glide performance. We climb at about the same rate in the thermals, but when we go on glide we'll cover a little more ground when losing the same amount of altitude."

"When you're on glide, gravity is your engine. The further you go down, the further you'll go forward. Rigid wings are able to go more forward in the same amount of drop in altitude."

So what is Straub's secret to leading the competition?

"My secret?" Straub asked with a laugh. "Twenty-one years of experience. No, really. The secret is you have to pay attention and go fast every time. You can't waste an extra second in the thermal. When it's time to go, you have to go. You can't dawdle around."

For local residents that would like to see the sport first-hand, take-offs are slated tentatively from noon until 1 p.m. each day, north of the airport's Airport Terminal.

Pilots will spend several hours in the air before landing back at the airport or another designated site.

For those a little more daring, tandem flights can be arranged between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. each morning of the competition. For more information on tandem flights, including scheduling and costs, call the Big Spring Air Terminal at 264-2362.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

BSISD registration set through Friday

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Registration for new students in the Big Spring Independent School District will continue through Friday, officials said.

Parents of new students who will be attending grades K-8 need to bring their children to their respective campuses for registration. A birth certificate, shot records and the child's Social Security Card are required for registration, officials said.

Students new to Big Spring High School need to call 264-3641 to schedule an appointment before registering. Students who attended BSISD classes in 2004-05 are all registered, regardless of grade.

Registration will occur at the campus of the student's attendance area, unless a transfer request is approved by the Administration Office. To learn your child's campus, contact BSISD Transportation Director Howard Stewart at 264-4108.

The following class orientations are scheduled:

- Goliad Intermediate School (Aug. 18) — Fifth-grade orientation will be held at 5 p.m., followed by sixth-grade orientation at 5:30 p.m.
- Big Spring Junior High School (Aug. 19) — Seventh-grade orientation and open house will be from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Eighth-grade orientation and open house will be from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Big Spring High School seniors can pick up their schedules from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Aug. 16. Juniors will receive their

schedules from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. that day, while sophomore may pick up their schedules from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Aug. 17. Students should see the school counselors for any schedule conflicts.

BSHS freshmen will have orientation at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 18 in the high school auditorium. An open house and schedule pick-up will follow. Freshmen with scheduling conflicts should contact the school counselors from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 19.

For more information on registration, contact the BSISD administration office at 264-3600.

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

ROBBER

Continued from Page 1A

scene.

Everett said the matter is still under investigation.

"At this time statements are being taken and detectives are attempting to

determine how many people are involved in this case," said Everett. "Upon completion of the investigation, charges of theft and filing a false report with a peace officer will be filed."

Everett said he couldn't release the name of the supposed "victim" or possible accomplices until charges are filed against them.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

Volunteer help needed

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.

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MINORITY

Continued from Page 1A

ment to the levels of Anglos. Otherwise, these areas risk becoming poorer and less competitive in the world market.

With the nation's under-18 minority population already nearing that of Anglos of the same age group — recent population data showed 42 percent of U.S. residents under 18 are minorities compared to 58 percent for Anglos — the nation should be more than half minorities by 2050, said Steve Murdock, a demographer at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Lawmakers need to start with immigration reform, said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

"Immigration is good for the United States ... it's important for us to keep our doors open, but we need to keep an eye on the people coming in," Frey said.

"While initially it will be a state problem, eventually it will be a national issue, and education is the best way to deal with

it." Frey said bringing minorities' education and salary levels in line with Anglos should be a top priority and needs federal support.

This demographic shift, which Frey and other experts attribute to Hispanic immigration, could also lead to more bilingual education.

The demand already exists and is not being addressed, said Tatcho Mindiola, director of the

University of Houston's Center for Mexican American Studies.

Mindiola said the country should also expect to see an eventual political shift, which is likely to include more Hispanics running for public office at all levels of government.

Complications from the cultural shift aren't likely to be exclusive to states that already have majority-minority populations, Frey said.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
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Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

It's again time to prepare for our county fair

There's nothing more traditional than a county fair and that's especially true where the Howard County Fair is concerned.

And with this year's fair rapidly approaching, organizers are already hard at work making sure traditions such as the queen contest go off without a hitch.

This year's fair is scheduled for a Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 24-27, run. And the Howard County Fair Queen Contest is always kind of a start to the festivities.

The queen contest, according to Howard County Fair Board member Nancy Howard, is always fun and offers girls an opportunity to take the classes offered.

The contest is open to all girls in high school who are unmarried and are not mothers. A \$35 entry fee is required, but contestants may solicit sponsors to offset that cost.

Applications are available at Posey Cotton Co./Southwest Crop Insurance on Scurry Street, Faye's Flowers and the Howard County Extension Office. They must be turned in to the Extension office by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 17.

The contest is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at the Municipal auditorium. At 10 a.m. that same day, the contestants attend classes that provide them instruction in make-up application, runway presentation, self-esteem and the interview process.

Each girl competes in two divisions — denim/casual wear and formal wear. Lunch is provided for all contestants the day of the event and prizes are awarded to the winners. A gift bag is also presented to each contestant.

For more information, contact Howard at 353-4448 or Janeice Barnes at 353-4434.

It's also time to be renting exhibit booths for the fair.

Booths measuring 8x10 are available with an electrical outlet. A table with two chairs is available for rent for \$10. And since there was a waiting list for booth space at the 2004 fair, it's advisable for those planning to have a display at the fair contact Howard as quickly as possible.

Howard is also the contact for those interested in the Children's Fair designed for students through the fifth grade. This year the Children's Fair theme is the Wild, Wild West. All projects submitted must be three-dimensional work, with the contestant choosing the medium or material for the project. Each student who submits a project will receive a ribbon.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- 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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we act in a manner that wouldn't require explanation to You, Lord.

Amen

Poll shows decline in public trust

George Bush's poll numbers are in decline because the Iraq war hangs around his neck like a two-ton albatross.

The latest AP-Ipsos poll puts approval for Bush's handling of the war at only 38 percent and his overall job approval at only 42 percent. (In addition, 50 percent of the country says he is a dishonest and only 48 percent says he is honest.)

The latest Newsweek poll puts Bush's war approval at only 34 percent and his overall approval at 42 percent, his lowest ranking ever.

Since Bush doesn't have to run for office again, you might wonder why this matters. There are at least two reasons:

Republicans in Congress have to run for re-election next year, and these figures terrify them. The numbers are getting so bad — as is the war in Iraq — that some are already wondering whether a campaign visit by the president would be a plus or a minus in their districts.

One reason the administration is

now talking — largely via leaks to the news media — about a pull-down of troops in Iraq next year is that congressional Republicans are virtually demanding a return of some U.S. troops before Election Day. And the Republican Party does not want to even think about trying to run a presidential campaign in 2008 if large numbers of U.S. troops are still fighting and dying in Iraq.

The best thing the Republicans have going for them, in fact, is that the Democrats are not offering any solutions. Most Democrats just parrot what the White House is saying: We must stay the course in Iraq. It's not over until it's over. We will have accomplished our mission when our mission is accomplished.

For voters, this is not a choice, but an echo.

One would think that antiwar Democrat Paul Hackett's narrow loss in a special election for a House seat in Ohio recently would give some Democrats the courage to actually oppose the war. But it probably won't. (And Hackett, of course, was an actual Iraq war veteran, which helped deflect criticism of him.)

Yet the amount of voter discontent over the war is still far more trouble for the Republicans, since

it was a Republican administration that initiated the war (because of those mirage-like weapons of mass destruction) and continues to pursue it (because it doesn't know what else to do).

The other reason that Bush is upset with the polls numbers is that they show his political capital now running a deficit.

Those who hailed Bush's recent legislative "triumphs" — the energy bill, the highway bill and CAFTA — overlook political reality. In the real America, you can't find a hundred people who know anything about the energy bill, highway bill or CAFTA.

Average Americans — and this is due in large part to a ferocious publicity campaign by the White House — are familiar with only one legislative initiative: Social Security. And whatever happened to George Bush's plans to privatize it?

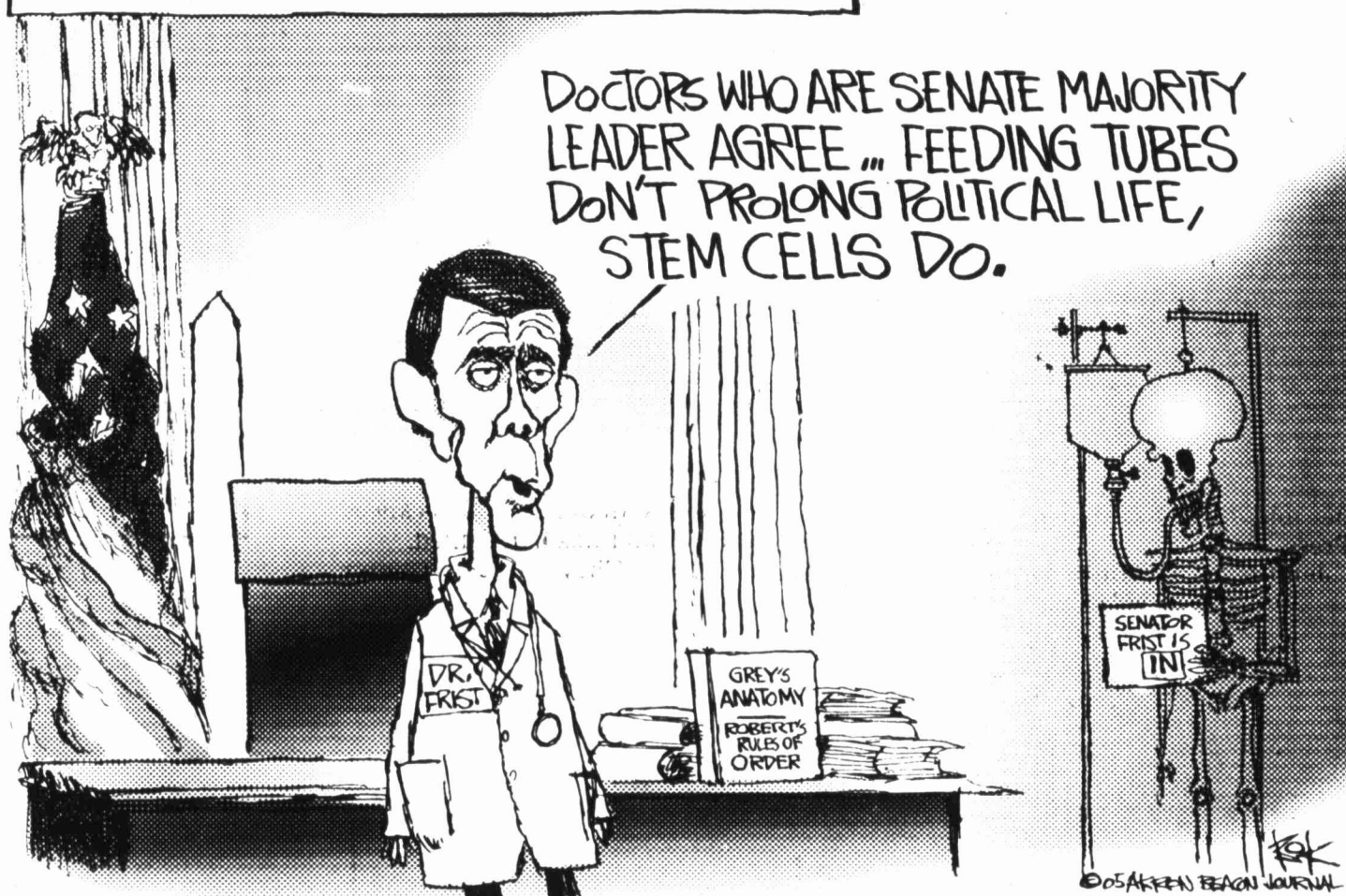
Gone and buried — along with his high poll numbers.

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

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ROGER
SIMON

THE LATEST FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH..



Pirro can't match Hillary Clinton

In Hollywood, they call it stunt casting.

When you don't have the perfect solution — when, let's face it, you don't have any answer at all — you do a stunt, instead.

So goes the Republican Party in their effort to slow down Hillary Clinton.

The stunt isn't Jeanine Pirro, the smart, tough former district attorney from Westchester who made the mistake of marrying a real crook — and, I must add, drove around with him in the Jaguar and the Ferrari that showed up in the tax returns that she signed and that landed him in prison. OK, nobody's perfect. But she was just the wife there. Just kidding.

The stunt is her husband, Al, and the cheap thrills it gives true Clinton-haters to get to compare the ex-con and the ex-president.

Of course, only a true Clinton-hater could fail to see the folly of this comparison. The president's popularity has only grown, as he seems to put his health on the line to follow plagues and tsunamis around the world, between hanging out with W's folks.

Pirro, on the other hand, continues to mount up problems, which may have also played a role in his wife's decision not to seek another term as district attorney. At the time, her husband's name had been mentioned on a wiretap as a source of information about an investigation into a crooked cop then being conducted in her office.

Pirro had denied that her husband had any involvement in the

case. But after being released from prison, her husband opened a lobbying firm that featured prominently on its website among its clients one of the senior members of the Gotti organization, identified as such in recent indictments, making him continuously vulnerable to the very sort of accusations raised this year. A separate investigation was ongoing of another man who was being charged with trying to bribe Pirro.

How do you give a high-level security clearance to a woman with a husband like that? Sorry, but you have to ask the question. Can you see Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff giving sensitive national security information to anyone connected with this guy? I know Michael Chertoff, and I can't.

This wasn't the first time Al Pirro got in trouble. He'd forced his wife to pull out of an earlier contest for lieutenant governor because of questions about his ties to a carting company. And yet he goes out and starts advertising his mob connections as soon as he gets out of prison, leading himself to be the object of conversation among gangsters, at least.

Homeland security anyone? Somebody go ask Rudy Giuliani if he would hire a prosecutor who was married to a guy like Al Pirro — even if she promised she'd never tell him anything. Does he promise never to read her e-mail? Go through her briefcase?

On their own terms, Jeanine Pirro cannot match Hillary Clinton when it comes to national and international issues, which is the real reason why Republicans aren't worrying about security clearances. They don't expect her to win, just to serve as the Trojan

horse for attacking Bill and, among the more rational, taking a shot at Hillary for being so ambitious that she might actually consider a run for the presidency rather than finishing a second term.

The big problem Republicans face right now, in addition to bankruptcy in their ranks in New York, is that people in New York have clearly forgotten the caricature they used to dislike of a young, aggressive, ambitious woman with a headband, wielding a health care plan in one hand and a cookie sheet in the other, and singing "Stand By Your Man."

Confronted by a mature, middle-aged moderate running for her second term as senator, wearing the black suit and short bright hair-do that is the new definition of the Hillary look, she's headed for re-election with approval ratings as much as 30 points higher than they were six years ago. What happened to that ambitious witch? Can you get her back by challenging her to serve a full term?

Bill Clinton, campaign manager, suggested the answer a few weeks ago, when he advised that Hillary could simply do what his new friend's son had done. He faced this same issue in Texas, back in 1998. He'd only served four years at the time. He smiled and didn't make any promises. Funny, I don't remember anyone calling him ambitious ...

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

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SUSAN
ESTRICH

Suspect charged after trying to shoot official in City Hall

FORT WORTH (AP) — A man was charged with attempted murder after he entered City Hall and tried to shoot a city official Wednesday morning.

City Development Director Bob Riley avoided injury by diving behind a desk when Ray Dean Redding fired at him with a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun just before 8 a.m., police said.

Redding, 42, was quickly subdued by others, officials and observers said.

Redding, of Fort Worth, was being held in lieu of \$200,000 bond at Mansfield Law Enforcement Center on the first-degree felony, spokesman Lt. Dean Sullivan said.

Police said Redding also was wanted on several outstanding traffic warrants.

Man who abused stepdaughter gets six life terms

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A man who sexually abused his stepdaughter for a decade has been sentenced to six life terms plus 120 years behind bars and \$120,000 in fines.

A jury deliberated for about an hour before sentencing Ricardo Zamora, 42,

on Tuesday. State district Judge J. Manuel Banales ordered that the sentences be served separately rather than concurrently.

Zamora pleaded guilty Monday to six counts of aggravated sexual assault on a child and six counts of sexual assault on a child.

The 18-year-old victim testified that the abuse began when she was 8 and that her mother, who died in 1996, knew about the abuse but didn't stop it.

Zamora testified that he assumed the role of the victim's father so he could retain custody of the victim when her mother died. The victim's real father disappeared years ago.

He insisted that she asked him to let her perform oral sex on him when she was 15, after years of sexual abuse.

"I treated her like a princess," he said.

The victim confided in a friend at work, who told her how to get help.

House sends controversial cable bill to Gov. Perry

AUSTIN (AP) — Dismissing the bitter battle waged by the cable television industry, Texas lawmakers gave final approval to a measure that will make it

easier for phone and other companies to offer cable-like services.

The wide-ranging telecommunications bill would allow phone companies to avoid the thousands of local cable TV licenses that cable companies must acquire.

The Senate approved the bill late Tuesday night. The House followed with its vote about 12 hours later, sending the bill to Gov. Rick Perry for his consideration.

Texas is one of several states that have considered the issue, with phone companies and cable companies engaged in a furious battle.

TV service is dominated by cable companies, although a growing share of the market is going to satellite-TV providers. Phone companies are trying to muscle into the TV business by offering video service over fiber-optic networks that could also carry voice and high-speed data transmission.

Phone companies have been searching for a new source of revenue for several years as their traditional base, phone lines, has shrunk.

The bills would allow phone and other companies that want to offer TV services to get a franchise from the state

instead of contracting with each city they want to serve, which cable companies must do under existing law.

Fetus found in fast food restaurant's bathroom

HOUSTON (AP) — A fetus was found in a trash can at a McDonald's restaurant by an employee on Wednesday, police said.

The baby's body was found in the women's bathroom.

An autopsy was to determine if the baby was alive at birth or was already dead, investigators said. The male baby is believed to have been about four to five months in gestation.

"I'm sure that there were people inside who may have seen somebody come in that may have been pregnant," said Houston Police Detective H.A. Chavez. "We are hoping that they contact us, or the mother, herself, will contact us, or maybe a family member who knew that somebody may have been pregnant and now they are not."

Detectives have questioned employees, but none remembered seeing anything out of the ordinary at the restaurant, located near downtown.

Cabbie says fugitive couple told him they were headed to Amway meeting

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The cabbie who picked up the couple suspected in a deadly courthouse escape in Tennessee said Thursday they told him they were going to an Amway convention, but the story "didn't really seem to wash."

A tip from cabdriver Mike Wagers led police to George and Jennifer Hyatte, who were arrested without a struggle Wednesday night at a budget motel in Columbus, authorities said.

Wagers said he drove the Hyattes about 115 miles from Erlanger, Ky., to Columbus, and dropped them off at a budget motel. The fare was \$185, he told The Associated Press.

Jennifer Hyatte is accused of ambushing two prison guards

Tuesday as they were leading her husband from a hearing in Kingston, Tenn., fatally shooting one before the couple sped away, authorities said.

Wagers said he didn't make the connection with the killing until he returned to Kentucky and a friend urged him to call the police.

Authorities had announced that the couple's van had been found in Erlanger.

The Hyattes were arrested at the America's Best Value Inn in Columbus after at least 25 officers surrounded their room, ending a more than 300-mile manhunt, authorities said.

When police finally tracked the couple down at the motel, Deputy U.S. Marshal Nikki Ralston called their second-floor

room and told them they were surrounded.

"A female answered the phone," Ralston said. "And I said, 'Hey, Jennifer.' She said, 'Yes,' and I knew it was her."

"I said you need to get George, both of you need to exit the hotel room and follow the directions of the officers who will be to your immediate right," Ralston said.

Motel guest Robin Penn, who was watching from across the parking lot, said Jennifer Hyatte was limping as she left the room with her hands up. George Hyatte then came out with his shirt pulled over his head, walked backward toward the stairwell, got on his knees and was handcuffed.

"They really didn't show any emotion at all," Penn said.



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Overcoming skepticism

Handling, design set new Saab SUV apart from other GM vehicles

By MARK PHELAN

Knight Ridder Newspapers

The Saab 9-7x will need its big engines and all-wheel-drive if the new SUV is to overcome the mountain of skepticism in front of it.

Saab has never sold a vehicle remotely like the new midsize SUV, which comes from the same assembly plant in Moraine, Ohio, that builds General Motors' other midsize SUVs: the Buick Rainier, Chevrolet TrailBlazer, GMC Envoy and Isuzu Ascender.

Moraine is a long way from Saab's origin in Trollhattan, Sweden, and the truck-based 9-7x, with its big engines and 6,500-pound towing capacity, is equally far removed from the nimble little front-wheel-drive cars that built Saab's reputation.

Many observers assumed GM would simply slap a new grille and a griffin badge on a TrailBlazer and call the result a Saab, but the company went to great lengths to avoid the badge engineering that has blurred the distinctions among its American brands.

Saab expects to sell about 7,000 9-7xs a year. The vehicle is hitting dealerships now. Prices start at \$38,270 for the six-cylinder Linear model and \$40,270 for the V8 Arc.

There's no doubt Saab needed an SUV to boost its U.S. sales, but all the Swedish engineers knew about GM's midsize SUVs was what they'd read in magazines, so they rented a TrailBlazer in Sweden for a test drive early in 2003.

They decided it could work, but the ride and handling had to become more controlled and responsive, said Per Jansson, Saab's chief chassis-development engineer.

They developed a quicker steering ratio, new low-profile Dunlop tires, stiffer springs and shocks, and bigger roll bars to give the SUV a sportier personality than its U.S. cousins.

They also lowered the ride height and produced a new grille, headlights, hood and front fenders for a face that will look at home in a Saab dealership.

They even had a suppli-



The 2006 Saab 9-7x

er come up with new roof rails that would be compatible with accessories like bicycle racks that Saab owners already had.

The interior also got a Swedish massage, including a new instrument panel with elegant, driver-oriented gauges and

European-style materials.

All the controls were replaced with parts that match other Saabs.

Saab even moved the ignition switch from the steering column to the company's traditional spot on the center console just aft of the shift lever.

That's a change that won't mean anything to newcomers, but it speaks volumes to brand loyalists.

It's also a change that cost \$50 per vehicle, which is probably more than the entire amount General Motors spent try-

ing to create the impression of a difference between some Pontiacs and Chevrolets.

"We want people to get out of a 9-3 or 9-5 and say, 'This is a Saab,'" said Sean McNamara, group manager for product at Saab Cars U.S.A.

Benny Boyd

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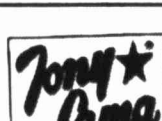
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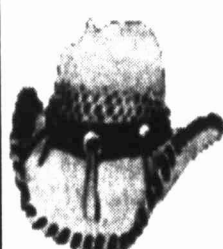
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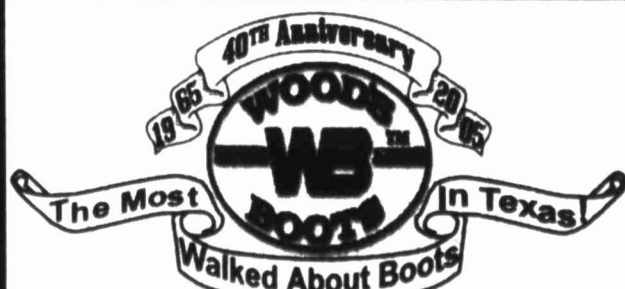
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Page 1B
Thursday, August 11, 2005

IN BRIEF

Lady Steers Booster Club sets meeting

The Big Spring Lady Steers Booster Club will meet Monday at 6 p.m. in the Athletic Training Center.

All parents with girls in volleyball, basketball, cheerleading and track are encouraged to attend.

Softball tourney to benefit LULAC set

The La Raza Unida Softball Tournament, which will benefit the LULAC scholarship, will take place Aug. 26-27 at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park.

The entry fee is \$110 per team and the tournament begins the evening of Aug. 26.

For more information or to enter a team, contact Janey at 263-6351 or leave a message at 268-9155.

C.G.A. to sponsor annual golf tourney

The Chicano Golf Association will be sponsoring a golf tournament put on by Hispanic Women for Progress.

The tournament will take place Sunday at the Comanche Trail Golf Course.

The entry fee is \$20 per person and registration will begin at 9 a.m. Prizes will also be awarded for first, second and third place.

All proceeds of the tournament will be used to benefit the Hispanic Women for Progress' scholarship fund.

For more information, contact Essie Ortiz at 263-7865.

Henson Memorial fund-raiser set

The Second Annual Pfc. Clayton W. Henson Memorial Scholarship Fund-raiser golf tournament has been set for Sept. 10.

The tournament will be a four person scramble and will cost \$80 per person.

It will take place at the Phoenix Golf Club in Stanton.

Tea times will be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. while a BBQ, auction and night golf scramble will take place later in the evening.

For more information, contact Wally Hazelwood at 756-2424 or the Phoenix Golf Club at 756-2556.

Local bowling leagues now forming

Bowling leagues at Bowl-A-Rama Lanes are now being formed. There will be several leagues throughout the week.

A senior league will take place Fridays at 6 p.m. for players 55 and over. The league meeting will take place Sept. 9 at 6 p.m. and the league will begin Sept. 16.

Also, a children's league will take place Saturday mornings at 10 for bowlers aged four through 17.

The children will also have the chance to bowl for scholarships.

For more information, call 267-7484.

Ramirez leads Red Sox in rout over Rangers

• Boston ruins the return of Rogers as champs dominate

By JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Maybe another week off would have done Kenny Rogers some good.

Rushed into the rotation when his suspension for shoving two cameramen was cut from 20 games to 13, Rogers gave up Manny Ramirez's long home run in a five-run fourth inning Wednesday night and the Boston Red Sox scored nine more off the bullpen in the eighth to beat the Texas Rangers 16-5.

"We struggled," Rangers manager Buck Showalter said. "A lot of people

struggle in Boston."

The Red Sox won their fourth straight game and their 12th in 14 tries to move 5 1/2 games in front of the New York Yankees in the AL East.

It's Boston's biggest lead in the division since the end of the 1995 season.

Bronson Arroyo (10-7) allowed four runs and seven hits in 7 1/3 innings. He took a 7-1 lead into the eighth before Texas scored four runs off four Boston pitchers to cut the lead to 7-5.

Mike Timlin needed one pitch to end the threat, getting Kevin Mench to line out to left, where a charging Ramirez caught the ball backhanded. Boston answered with a season-high nine runs in the bottom half to win its

11th consecutive game at Fenway Park.

The Red Sox scored 35 runs in their three-game sweep of Texas.

Rogers (11-5) allowed five runs and seven hits in five innings, walking one and striking out five in his first loss since July 3. He took a line drive off his right forearm in the first but stayed in the game and retired the first eight Boston batters; X-rays were negative.

"Kenny was pitching well until he got hit by that line drive and he battled his way through five innings," Showalter said.

Asked if he thought the layoff affected Rogers, Showalter said, "I think what he got affected by was the line drive by David Ortiz."

The Fenway fans were ready for Rogers, with one holding up a sign during batting practice that said, "Kenny Should Play Nice."

When he took the mound for the bottom of the first, he was jeered resoundingly; the boos stopped only when he was hit near his glove by Ortiz's comebacker to end the inning.

Rogers took extra warmup pitches at the start of the second while pitching coach Orel Hersher looked on.

Rogers was spared an even worse night when umpire Derryl Cousins turned Kapler's would-be homer into a double. Ironically, it was a TV cameraman who captured how lucky Rogers was:

Video clearly showed the ball bounced beyond the red line along the top of The Wall that signifies a home run.

Red Sox manager Terry Francona was able to control his temper when arguing with Cousins, the third-base umpire, but outfielder Trot Nixon, who's on the disabled list, was ejected from the dugout.

But Rogers had no such luck in the fourth. Edgar Renteria and Ortiz singled before Ramirez hit one over the Green Monster seats.

With one out, Kevin Millar singled, Tony Graffanino doubled and Bill Mueller singled to score one run before Kapler's groundout made it 5-1.

Eagles send T.O. home from camp

• All-Pro receiver gets into argument with Philly coach Reid, sent home for a week

By DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

BETHLEHEM, Pa. (AP) — Terrell Owens has some unexpected time off to plot the next twist in his colorful and controversial career.

TO has been TKO'd — as in Totally Kicked Out — of training camp. The playmaking, showboating wide receiver was asked to leave Eagles camp Wednesday after a heated exchange with coach Andy Reid.

"I got sent home until Wednesday for whatever reason," Owens told Comcast SportsNet from his home in Moorestown, N.J. "It was just a difference of opinion. I was defending myself."

Defending himself from what, it's not exactly clear.

Owens refused to say what the argument was about, and the Eagles issued only a brief statement saying Owens was not expected to return to the team until next Wednesday.

Suddenly, pulling a Sharpie from his sock or posing on the Cowboys' star seems downright tame.

But this was the risk the Eagles were willing to take last year when they traded for Owens because they thought he could help them win a Super Bowl.

Now comes this.

For the fifth time in six days, Owens did not practice Wednesday because of a groin injury suffered last week. Instead, he worked out with the assistant trainer for about 20 minutes, catching balls from a machine and doing some light running. He did not speak to reporters or acknowledge the fans who chanted his name.

Between sessions — the Eagles had a special teams practice Wednesday afternoon that Owens was not required to attend — Owens and Reid started arguing during a meeting.

Reid asked the injured Owens to leave after their discussion, according to Owens' agent, Drew Rosenhaus, and his publicist, Kim Etheredge.

Owens then got his

belongings and cleared out of training camp at Lehigh University.

"If the truth needs to be told, then that's what I'll do," Owens said. "If he (Reid) wants me to be a man about it and have me really go on the air and really tell the people what happened, then I can. It was a difference of opinion."

With reporters camped on his lawn and helicopters hovering overhead while Owens played basketball and lifted weights, the circus scene only magnified the distraction Owens has become to the NFC champions.

Owens is unhappy the Eagles have refused to redo his contract as he enters the second season of a seven-year, \$48.97 million deal. He hired Rosenhaus and threatened to skip camp completely. Instead, Owens reported, then injured his groin last Thursday.

He was day to day and the injury wasn't considered serious.

Owens also skipped a scheduled autograph session with the rest of the Eagles' receivers after Wednesday's practice.

The Eagles still won't show Owens the money he desperately wants. They have, however, shown the All-Pro wide receiver the door.

Since arriving at Lehigh, Owens has been distant on the field with his teammates. After signing autographs and slapping hands with fans on a nearly daily basis last year, Owens has jogged on and off the practice field, barely acknowledging their chants and screams.

"Just because I don't talk to everybody, that's up to me," Owens said. "Everybody needs to understand the situation is all business, it's nothing personal. The situation is between me and management. They know what's going on."

"I think some people are kind of ticked off because I haven't really said much. They don't pay me to go in there and talk to everybody and be friendly to everybody. They paid me to play and they paid me to perform."

Last season, Owens had 77 receptions for 1,200 yards and a franchise-record 14 touchdowns before severely injuring his ankle late in the season.



KRT photo/Michael Plunkett, Philadelphia Inquirer
Eagles' receiver Terrell Owens unloads his vehicle outside his home in Moorestown, New Jersey, Wednesday. The All-Pro wide receiver was sent home by Philadelphia Eagles coach Andy Reid after the two got into an argument during an Eagles practice Wednesday.

Houston extends wild card lead after narrow win over Nationals

By PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Pitching to Morgan Ensberg isn't any easier than facing Lance Berkman.

Maybe now, teams will finally learn.

Ensberg hit a two-run double in the sixth inning after Livan Hernandez intentionally walked Berkman to load the bases, giving the Houston Astros the cushion they later needed to beat the Washington Nationals 7-6 Wednesday night.

It was the third time since July 8 that Ensberg has made a team pay for intentionally walking Berkman to get to him. The first was a game-winning double against the Los Angeles Dodgers, and the second an RBI single

against Pittsburgh July 20.

Brad Lidge got the save despite a shaky ninth, striking out pinch-hitter Jose Guillen with runners at the corners to end it. Houston moved two games ahead of Washington in the NL wild-card race.

Craig Biggio also had a run-scoring double and four hits for the Astros, who resumed their home dominance after dropping the series opener Tuesday.

The Astros are 37-16 at Minute Maid Park, where they have not lost consecutive games since June 4 and will play their next 11.

Jose Vidro and Hernandez homered for the Nationals, who are struggling in one-run

games. Once baseball's best team in close games, the Nationals have dropped 13 of their last 14 games decided by one run.

Washington's first two batters reached in the ninth against Lidge, but Vidro lined into a double play when Berkman — who moved from left field to first base in the ninth for defense — made a diving catch and Brandon Watson was caught off the bag.

After Nick Johnson's RBI double and Brad Wilkerson's run-scoring single, Lidge fanned Guillen for his 28th save in 31 chances.

Wandy Rodriguez (7-5) lasted five innings and earned the win despite struggling against Hernandez (13-5).

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Garage Sales

Garage Sale: 1104 Ridgeway Drive, Saturday 7:00-7:00. Wood chipper, gas weed eater, tiller, pruning shears, dishes, cabinets, computer, clothes and 1996 Sunbird.

Garage Sale: 1211 Pennsylvania, Friday & Saturday 8-1. Piano, clothes, metal window frames and lots and lots of misc.

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MOVING REMODELING. Saturday, 8:00-7:00. 5Q3 Scott. Appliances, kids clothes, toys.

MULTI. Garage Sale: 208 Washington, Saturday 8:00-7:00. Lots of Furniture, tons of baby items, knick-knacks, clothing, kitchen items and lots of misc. items.

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Scorpio moon calls forth the energy of the unconscious. This, in combination with the Mercury retrograde, dilutes our words until they mean nothing at all. Listen through the clichés or strip them away entirely. What's underneath is something rare and profound. Everyone needs love and acceptance.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There is work to be done and you're the one to do it. Keep in mind that "work" comes in many forms. Some people sit and think for a living. Some people listen for a living. Your work today falls along those lines.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Money and how to handle it is the theme. Don't blame yourself for financial problems. Instead, get educated. Priorities must shift again in order for you to be comfortable. What others think is most important may not be for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Travel isn't idyllic, but all the little snags and snafus make it interesting. So if you do go, be patient and flexible under unpredictable conditions. Danger appeals to you, too. You don't have to play it safe — just play it smart.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A break from the pressure is what everyone needs. Be playful! In order to capture the attention of that wonderful someone, you must take your turn when the spotlight comes around to

you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). With much frenzy and hoopla, you finally get where you're going. You rethink your approach because so much energy is going into what should be a simple task. It could be that your team is no longer optimal for what you need to get done.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're childlike spirit of curiosity emerges, endearing you to friends and family. But by evening, you feel cranky. Try and figure out what it is that bothers you so much, and find a way to build immunity to it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are starting to realize that you've only scratched the surface of a relationship. There are deep, fascinating, unconscious layers that impact you on a day-to-day basis. Continue your quest for truth.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your various moods are triggered by things that only make sense to you. Today, you vacillate between being sincerely wacky or frivolously solemn. Loved ones are crazy about you however you choose to feel.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Because you take responsibility for your own decisions, you feel empowered to do what you want. Let others run their own show, too. Procrastination leads to half-baked results. Get it done ahead of time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Though life flows simply when you're operating alone, love will provide a challenge you didn't know you needed. People are open to your affection, and you have plenty to give. You'll receive tenfold.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Feb. 18). Concern over money will soon seem silly — that is, unless you still don't have a plan. If you do, have more faith in your plan. Let friends influence you by introducing you to something hip and trendy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Someone may have an unflinchingly critical review of your work. The fact that people give you serious attention is a plus, no matter what they actually say. You are able to learn from every situation.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I was born on December 24, 1977. However, whenever I would read the horoscopes and about the characteristics of Capricorn, I found that I never quite identified with them. One day, I started reading the horoscopes and about the characteristics of Sagittarius, and I thought, 'This is me!' Could it be possible that I truly am a Sagittarius and not a Capricorn? I was born so close to the dates that separate the two zodiac signs."

I don't know the hour and place of your birth, so I cannot tell you if your ascendant is Sagittarius. But I can tell you that you have three significant planets in Sagittarius: Mercury (day-to-day events and communication), Venus (love and pleasure), and Neptune (dreams and imagination). If you identify with your fiery influences more than your earthy Capricorn sign, by all means read Sagittarius instead of Capricorn. I believe that astrology is meant to add dimension to your life, not limit it. It is likely that at different stages in

your development, you will be more interested in your Capricorn-ness, such as when you're on a quest to advance in your career, buy a house or jump into a different economic, social or political strata.

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ators.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

Dear Annie: I know you've covered this before, but please bear with me. I am a man in my late 30s who is too nice and has no luck. I never dated in high school or college, and my adult dating experience amounts to what I can count on two hands. Married women think I'm great because I am no threat to their marriages, while single women avoid me like the plague. It's almost as if I am invading their space.

I have tried everything I can think of to find someone to share my life, including online dating services. I am tall but nothing much to look at, and no one is beating a path to my door. I am painfully shy in the company of women, which can be mistaken for aloofness and arrogance. I am extremely tough on myself.

I do not want to be hurt again and feel as though I cannot trust any women. Don't get me wrong, I love women and almost everything about them, but I know they don't think of me in the same way.

I am not looking for ways to meet women. I want to know what is wrong with me. I know it has to be me, since I am given the impression that women do no wrong and won't say what is wrong when asked. To whom can I speak (someone not related and someone I don't know) regarding my situation? — Just Can't Win

Dear Can't Win: Let's examine what women are interested in — looks, true, and for some, money and prestige. However, women also are attracted to confidence, intelligence, kindness and a healthy sense of humor, tucked inside of good grooming. Really. If you have those qualities and can't find a woman, perhaps you are looking at the wrong ones. (And it won't help to have a sarcastic attitude about women.)

Do you approach single women who are your age or older? Divorced with kids? Overweight? Inside those packages can be delightful people, but too many men are only looking for Barbie. If you can honestly say you've tried all kinds of women, then we don't know why you are having so much trouble.

Since you don't want to ask someone who knows you to list your flaws, talk to a counselor and find out if there is something else going on that isn't apparent. Your frustration and resignation also may be fostering depression and an unattractive scent of desperation. Your doctor can recommend someone.

Dear Annie: I work in an office with nine women, six of whom are smokers, including all three members of management. Most of them do not abuse the privilege, but even so, it is sometimes difficult to pick up the slack with everybody taking cigarette breaks, often in groups.

We have no formal system for how many breaks we get, and complaints about the smoking have not been well received. This has contributed to



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

an overall decline in office morale since the rest of us are covering their duties when they are outside. The communal breaks are also the equivalent of gathering around the water cooler and the non-smokers are left out of the loop. Any advice? — Smoldering in the Office

Dear Smoldering: Don't approach this as a smoking vs. non-smoking issue. Say that frequent breaks are affecting office morale and disrupting efficiency. However, we warn you, if it doesn't bother management, you may be out of luck.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Feeling Blue in the Bluegrass State," whose late father may have been entitled to military honors. Please tell her to contact her local American Legion or VFW Post. They will no doubt be more than willing to arrange some sort of memorial service at the gravesite and render a three-volley salute. (A 21-gun salute is given only to high echelon persons, such as the president or top official of a foreign country.) — Bobbe Stuvengen, Past National Historian, The American Legion, Orfordville, Wis.

Dear Bobbe Stuvengen: Thank you so much for coming to the rescue. We hope she contacts someone immediately.

Dear Annie: Please tell your readers not to force junk food on anyone. My elderly mother has had numerous heart attacks. She barely survived the last one. She also is quite overweight, yet my morbidly obese sister, "Mirella," brings cake, candy, cookies and pies to Mother's home. When Mother visits my sister, Mirella insists that Mom take home the leftover sweets.

I've told Mirella that Mother cannot have sweets, because the sugar contributes to her heart disease. But my sister still forces the junk on Mother, saying, "She doesn't have to eat it." My sister is not being kind. Giving sugar to a heart-attack patient makes as much sense as forcing an emphysema victim to smoke a carton of cigarettes. Any suggestions? — Trying To Save My Mother's Life

Dear Trying: Assuming your mother is not incompetent, she is entitled to make her own food choices. However, it's too bad your sister doesn't care enough to look out for Mom's health. Giving Mom forbidden sweets is a lazy way to buy her affection, and Mom enjoys it. Instead of raising your blood pressure, accept that you cannot control what your mother and sister do. If the worst happens, it happens.

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THURSDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KYLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPICE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (25)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCFI (30)
6:30	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	King of the Hill (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)
7:00	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)
8:00	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)	Extreme Makeover (CC)
9:00	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)	Hooking Up (CC)
10:00	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)
11:00	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)
12:00	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I DON'T MIND THE BATH PART, IT'S THE WASHING PART THAT'S A PAIN."

BC

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I made Prince Charming's castle and his garage."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Aug. 11, the 223rd day of 2005. There are 142 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 11, 1965, rioting and looting that claimed 34 lives broke out in the predominantly black Watts section of Los Angeles.

On this date: In 1909, the SOS distress signal was first used by an American ship, the Arapahoe, off Cape Hatteras, N.C.

In 1934, the first federal prisoners arrived at the island prison Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay.

In 1942, during World War II, Vichy government official Pierre Laval publicly declared that "the hour of liberation for France is the hour when Germany wins the war."

In 1962, the Soviet Union launched cosmonaut Andrian Nikolayev on a 94-hour flight.

In 1978, chiefs of state and foreign dignitaries arrived in Vatican City for the funeral of Pope Paul VI.

In 1984, President Reagan joked during a voice test for a paid political radio address that he had "signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes."

In 1992, the Mall of America, the biggest U.S. shopping mall, opened in Bloomington, Minn.

Ten years ago: President Clinton banned all U.S. nuclear tests, calling his decision "the right step as we continue pulling back from the nuclear precipice."

Five years ago: The National Transportation Safety Board released evidence reports in the Oct. 31, 1999, crash of EgyptAir Flight 990 off the New England coast; a transcript of the cockpit voice recording showed the chilling details of the pilot's futile struggle to save the Boeing 767 and its 217 occupants.

One year ago: Britain granted its first license for human cloning for the purpose of stem cell research.

Today's Birthdays: Actress

Jean Parker is 93. Former TV talk show host Mike Douglas is 80. Rev. Jerry Falwell is 72. Rock musician Jim Kale (Guess Who) is 62. Country singer John Conlee is 59. Wrestler-actor Hulk Hogan is 52. Singer Joe Jackson is 51. Rock guitarist Charlie Sexton is 37. Rhythm-and-blues musician Chris Dave (Mint Condition) is 37. Hip-hop artist Ali Shaheed Muhammad is 35. Rapper Chris Kelly (Kris Kross) is 27. Singer J. Boog is 20.

Thought for Today: "A pessimist is a man who looks both ways when he's crossing a one-way street." — Laurence J. Peter, Canadian-born educator and author of "The Peter Principle" (1919-1990).

Answer to previous puzzle

TEST ANNA STEPS	RUTH SUER ERROL
AREA SCAM RAINY	DOWNHILLSKING
ESS ASE EON	SHIITEUSLIM
MARIA REPS TRA	ONES HAUNT EMT
AKA PALS PRESS	NAPOLIITALIA
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WIZARD OF ID



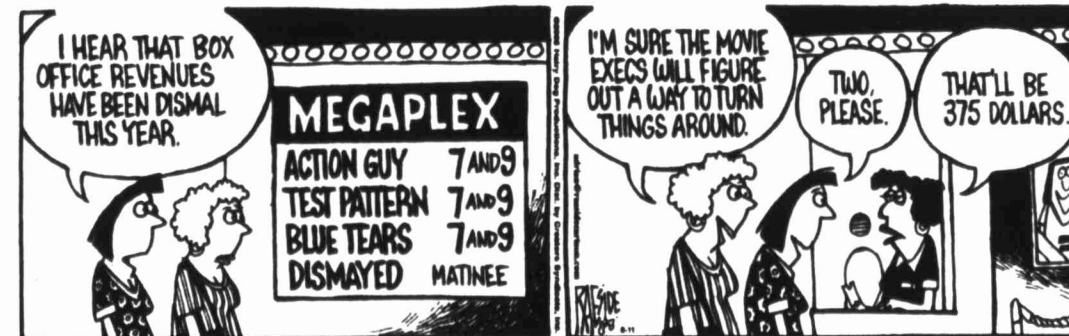
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



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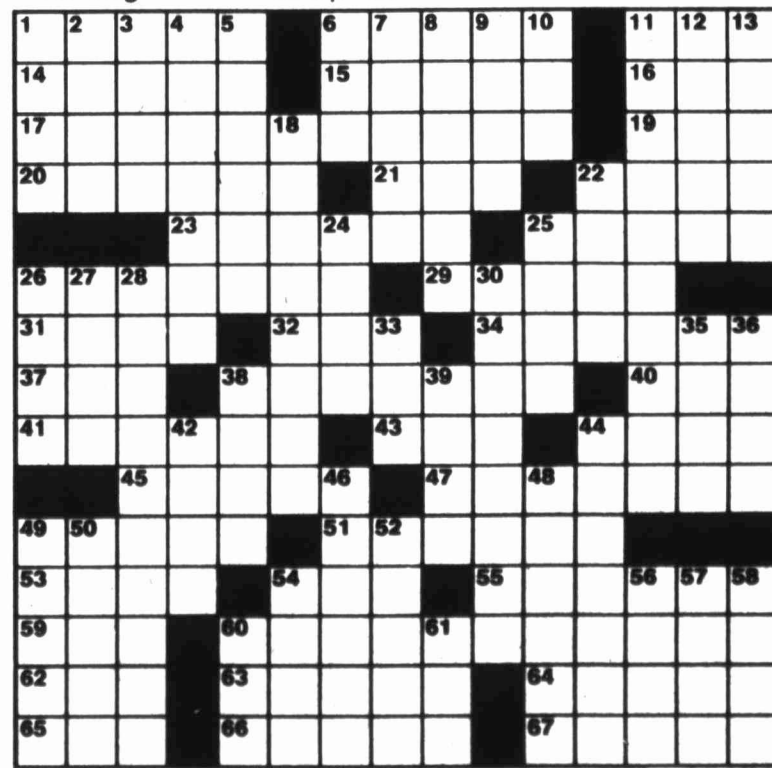
Newsday Crossword

TRIVIAL PURSUITS by Robert H. Wolfe

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | | |
| 1 Storage spot | 1 A bit moist | 7 Leave alone | 33 C followers |
| 6 Morning sound | 2 View from Toledo | 8 Is of use | 35 Shrek, for one |
| 11 Get-up-and-go | 3 Fourth-down play | 9 Jockey's control | 36 Marsupials, for short |
| 14 Nearly rainless island | 4 Orchestral members | 10 Gibson or Brooks | 38 One out of fashion |
| 15 Mississippi sight | 5 Seafood sauce | 11 Shoplifting, maybe | 39 John/Rice musical |
| 16 Greek letter | 6 Tavern serving | 12 Web sales | 42 Kissers |
| 17 It hardly matters | | 13 Deflect, as a sword | 44 Severely simple |
| 19 Road cover | | 18 Raze | 46 African biter |
| 20 Dress category | | 22 Use a letter opener | 48 One who rules |
| 21 Storage spot | | 24 Consumer | 49 Brown shade |
| 22 Recipe word | | 25 Clearance candidate | 50 Burning crime |
| 23 Mark Twain's real first name | | 26 Baroque composer | 52 Major apostle |
| 25 In a cunning manner | | 27 "Would you?" | 54 Make reference to |
| 26 Informal restaurants | | 28 It's hard to read | 56 Morally wrong |
| 29 Break up | | 30 Speck | 57 French city |
| 31 Charity offering | | | 58 Thin board |
| 32 Blazed a trail | | | 60 of luxury |
| 34 Playwright, e.g. | | | 61 Scale notes |
| 37 Goss' grp. | | | |
| 38 Rifle or revolver | | | |
| 40 Self-importance | | | |
| 41 They're exchanged at meetings | | | |
| 43 Be good for | | | |
| 44 Big hairdo | | | |
| 45 Beer category | | | |
| 47 Thins out | | | |
| 49 Sentimental, as a film | | | |
| 51 ###, to a proofreader | | | |
| 53 Goes awry | | | |
| 54 So-so mark | | | |
| 55 Approaches the wee hours | | | |
| 59 Tire-gauge meas. | | | |



That's Racin'

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A fateful race

The fortunes of several drivers may depend on their performance at Watkins Glen International

BY JIM UTTER
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Road course races, much like restrictor-plate tracks or the bumping and banging of short tracks, have typically been some of the Nextel Cup Series' "toss up" races. With five races remaining before the field is set for the drivers who will compete in the Chase for the Nextel Cup, two of those "toss up" races remain.

The first is Sunday's Sirius Satellite Radio at the Glen road course race at Watkins Glen (N.Y.) International; the second is the Aug. 27 race on the high-banked short track in Bristol, Tenn.

None of the four drivers still within 100 points of making the top 10 — Jamie McMurray, Elliott Sadler, Kevin Harvick and Jeff Gordon — cringe at the thought of a road course.

Gordon, particularly, has excelled at left and right turns in NASCAR. Harvick has been strong in recent seasons, and both McMurray and Sadler have top-10 finishes.

"I'm really looking forward to getting up there," said Gordon's crew chief, Robbie Loomis. "The road courses have been real good to us."

"We're trying to keep the big picture in mind. We want to go there and win, but we want to go there and have a good, solid day."

Gordon, who owns a NASCAR record seven road course victories, is coming off an eighth-place finish at Indianapolis, snapping a three-week stretch of finishes of 13th or worse.

"I wish the next five were road courses," Loomis said. "We're good at all the places we got left to go to before the Chase."

"We just need to keep giving it our best effort and not worry about the points. If we give it our

best effort and we can lay down at night and know we did everything we could, things will take care of themselves."

Regardless of Gordon's up-and-down season, Loomis said he has "a good feeling" about how it will turn out.

"It's unfortunate we're in this situation. It's because of the choices I've made and some luck, but we have the ability to make one of the best comebacks of the year," he said.

While Gordon is working his way up out of a hole, Sadler and his team are trying to halt a slide. He has dropped from third to 12th in points over the past five races.

"We've got no room for errors. It's really that simple. Right now we've got some ground to make up so we've got to hit all of marks as a team and hope that we can perform better than the guys in front of us," said Sadler, who will also run the Busch race Saturday in Watkins Glen for added seat time.

"Watkins Glen, as far as a road course goes, suits my style a little better than Sonoma. It's faster than Sonoma but you still have to be 100 percent focused at all times.

"You can't afford to make a single mistake because track position is so important."

For McMurray, who has floated in and out of the top 10 over the past several weeks, Sunday's race is a hump he and his team need to navigate without any problems.

"I believe this is going to be one of those events that could be a 'make or break' for some of the teams in the same position we are. There are a lot of unknowns at road courses because we don't run them very often," he said.

"The keys to being successful at Watkins Glen are qualifying well, keeping yourself up front with solid pit strategy and staying on the course. If you can do all of that, you're almost guaranteed to have a good finish."

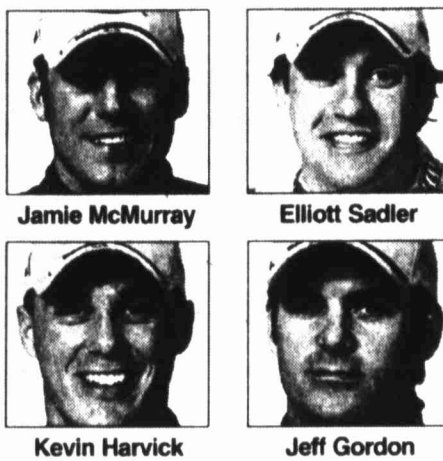
"We've run okay there in the past, but it's imperative for us to have a top-10 run there this weekend."

Harvick has dismissed talk of the Chase in recent weeks, preferring to concentrate on week-to-week

performance. He has proven a solid road course driver since he joined the series in 2001, with two top fives and four top-10s in nine starts.

WITHER THE GLEN?

Four drivers are within 100 points of making the top 10 in the Nextel Cup Series, which will ensure them a spot in the 2005 Chase for the Nextel Cup. Here is each driver's results in their past three road course races entering Sunday's race:



	Points outside top 10	Past 3 finishes
McMurray	-12	13th, 13th, 2nd
Sadler	-24	6th, 15th, 10th
Harvick	-82	37th, 6th, 12th
Gordon	-87	33rd, 21st, 1st



RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. Tony Stewart (car No. 14): Sometimes a dream comes true and it's every bit as great as you thought it would be. Last week: 1.

2. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): Not leading the standings now isn't a big deal, but this team's Brickyard

weekend was bad. Last week: 2.

3. Greg Biffle (car No. 16): This team seems like Johnson's did last year. It needs a pre-Chase momentum jolt. Last week: 3.

4. Rusty Wallace (car No. 2): Nothing good happened for Wallace at Indianapolis but he's still solidly in the Chase. Last week: 4.

5. Mark Martin (car No. 6): He put another driver behind him in the points with another top-10 finish at

Indianapolis. Last week: 6.

6. Kurt Busch (car No. 97): This car figured to be more of a factor at The Brickyard after its victory at Pocono. Last week: 5.

7. Jeremy Mayfield (car No. 19): Indy was typical of his season. He never led a lap, but he was around the front all day. Last week: 9.

8. Ryan Newman (car No. 12): Maybe he's this year's Kurt Busch — making hardly any noise until the

Chase starts. Last week: 7.

9. Carl Edwards (car No. 99): He's on the Chase cusp after a decent run at Indy, but Watkins Glen's a big hurdle. Last week: 8.

10. Dale Jarrett (car No. 88): The hot spot in the Chase race is bubbling on the spot where this team sits. Last week: 10.

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

Stewart's win at Indy completes a lifelong dream

Every time Tony Stewart went into Turn 2 on his way to Sunday's memorable victory in the Allstate 400 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, it was like looking into a family album.

As though by design, the suite Stewart owns in that part of the track sits just high enough that he was looking right at it every time he made that corner on the biggest day of his life. His family and many of his closest friends were there, as they always are whenever Stewart faces his great white whale, wishing and hoping and praying that this, finally, would be the day.

Shortly after Stewart took the lead on Lap 100 of the 160-lap race, he noticed his father, Nelson, standing at the rail at the front of that suite.

Every time he passed, Stewart could see his father.

"It's unbelievable that you can run as fast as you can in a race car and you can see things and pick up emo-

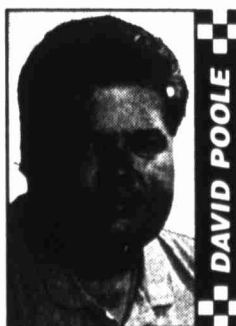
tion," Stewart said. "To see the emotion on his face and to see how excited he was with his hands and fists in the air, I mean, that's when I got tears in my eyes."

"But I said, 'Hey, I've been in this position before.'"

Two laps later the tears went away, and it was back to business. Every year that I got the lead, I've got to see him do that. Today I thought, 'Man, I just want to finish it off one time.'"

Stewart built his lead to more than three seconds, and it appeared that the only thing that could stop him from fulfilling his — and his father's — biggest dream in life would be to make a mistake.

Stewart eventually lost the lead to Kasey Kahne, but on a restart with 11



DAVID POOLE

laps to go he drove his No. 20 Chevrolet to the low side going into Turn 1.

Stewart wriggled his way underneath Kahne's No. 9 Dodge, and held his car there through the short straightaway toward where Nelson Stewart was urging his 34-year-old son on.

Coming off Turn 2, right there in front of all of those people who wanted Stewart to win this race almost as badly as Stewart did himself, the pass was completed.

"You know," Stewart said later, "you dream about something for so long you become consumed by it. ... Finally, today I got to see the view of coming down that front straightaway and seeing the checkered flag as the first driver to go under it."

He'd tried 11 times before here, six times in the Nextel Cup event and five times in the Indianapolis 500.

He'd won poles here and led races here, and at times it looked like he might win here only to have his heart broken.

All of the angst and agony Stewart had suffered here, washed away Sunday.

The run-in with a photographer after the 2002 race, the frustration that would spill over after problems dashed his Indy 500 hopes — that's all largely irrelevant now.

From now on, what people will remember about Stewart at this track is how emotional it was for him to win and how so many fans hung around for nearly two hours after it was over to chant "To-ny! To-ny! To-ny!" and "Smoke! Smoke! Smoke!" as they strained to catch a glimpse of the victory celebration.

"This is one of those days that I don't want to end," Stewart said. "This is probably — well, it's definitely — the greatest day of my life."

THIS WEEK'S RACE

SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO AT THE GLEN

Where: Watkins Glen International, an 11-turn, 2.45-mile road course located in Watkins Glen, N.Y.

When: Sunday at 1:35 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 11:10 a.m. Saturday.

TV: NBC.

Radio: Motor Racing Network.

Purse: \$4,625,176.

Last year's winner: Tony Stewart.

Also this week: The NASCAR Busch Series returns to Watkins Glen on Saturday for the first time since 2001. Series points leader and reigning series champion Martin Truex Jr. won the series' first road course race earlier this season at Mexico City.

Dennis Setzer takes his commanding lead in the NASCAR Truck Series into Saturday night's race at Nashville Superspeedway.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

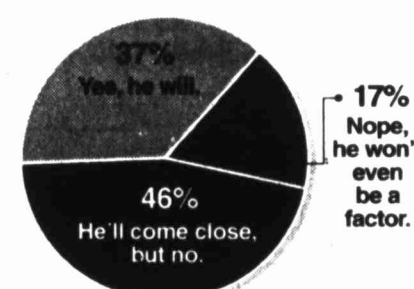
Is it "game over" for Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s Chase hopes or can he still rebound?

Cast your vote at:
www.thatracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Will Tony Stewart realize one of his life's biggest ambitions and win at The Brickyard?

Number of votes: 5,095



STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT

■ **Tony Stewart** has seven consecutive top-10 finishes, including four victories. He leads the series points race for the first time this season.
■ **Mark Martin** and **Kurt Busch** each has three top-10 finishes in the past four races.
■ **Robby Gordon** has four top-five finishes, including a victory (2003) in six races at Watkins Glen.

WHO'S NOT

■ **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** has led only 16 laps in 2005. One year ago at this time he had led 586. Earnhardt Jr. was also third in points one year ago. He is currently 16th.
■ **Greg Biffle** has finished 30th or worse in his two races at Watkins Glen.
■ **Rusty Wallace** has finished 17th or worse in his last five races at The Glen.

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Aug. 7:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Tony Stewart	2923	21. Kasey Kahne	2212
2. Jimmie Johnson	2848	22. Brian Vickers	2207
3. Greg Biffle	2812	23. Bobby Labonte	2039
4. Rusty Wallace	2705	24. Casey Mears	2002
5. Kurt Busch	2646	25. Sterling Marlin	1971
6. Mark Martin	2636	26. Ricky Rudd	1948
7. Ryan Newman	2568	27. Mike Bliss	1925
8. Jeremy Mayfield	2554	28. Ken Schrader	1896
9. Dale Jarrett	2493	29. Kyle Petty	1877
10. Carl Edwards	2487	30. Dave Blaney	1876
11. Jamie McMurray	2475	31. Scott Riggs	1870
12. Elliott Sadler	2463	32. Jeff Green	1860
13. Kevin Harvick	2405	33. Travis Kvapil	1724
14. Jeff Gordon	2400	34. Scott Wimmer	1717
15. Matt Kenseth	2319	35. Jason Leffler	1538
16. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2296	36. Mike Wallace	1521
17. Joe Nemechek	2248	37. Bobby Hamilton Jr.	1341
18. Jeff Burton	2240	38. Robby Gordon	1177
19. Michael Waltrip	2237	39. Kevin Lepage	1085
20. Kyle Busch	2226	40. Terry Labonte	617

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Aug. 6:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Martin Truex Jr.	3286	11. Jason Keller	2465
2. Clint Bowyer	3201	12. J.J. Yeley	2399
3. Reed Sorenson	3182	13. Johnny Sauter	2290
4. Carl Edwards	2955	14. Stacy Compton	2223
5. Kenny Wallace	2890	15. Randy LaJoie	2197
6. Denny Hamlin	2847	16. Greg Biffle	2174
7. David Green	2829	17. Jon Wood	2094
8. David Stremme	2593	18. Justin Labonte	2090
9. Ashton Lewis	2573	19. Stanton Barrett	2040
10. Paul Menard	2550	20. Kevin Harvick	2009

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Zippo 200, Watkins Glen, N.Y.

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Aug. 5:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Dennis Setzer	2279	6. David Reutimann	1929
2. Ted Musgrave	2052	7. Terry Cook	1905
3. Bobby Hamilton	2050	8. Matt Crafton	1893
4. Ron Hornaday Jr.	2006	9. Ricky Craven	1891
5. Jimmy Spencer	1974	10. David Starr	1864

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Toyota Tundra 200, Lebanon, Tenn.