

Special Seats Offer Children Safety Boost

Children often leapfrog from child safety seats to seat belts, but when they do they miss an important transitional safety support - a special vehicle booster seat designed just for their size, according to safety experts at the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

When children outgrow child safety seats, usually at about 40 pounds, most are then restrained with a vehicle's safety belt alone, even though these restraints are designed for adults and do not fit children properly.

"If children have outgrown a safety seat but are less than 4 feet 9 inches tall, they need a booster seat," said Frank Luera, director of DSHS Safe

Riders Traffic Safety program.

"It lifts the child so that the seat belt fits correctly."

With a booster seat:

- The lap belt will be placed low on the child's hips, rather than on the child's abdomen;
- The shoulder belt will cross the center of the child's chest; and
- The child's knees will bend at the edge of the booster seat, increasing comfort and fit.

Only an estimated 10 to 20 percent of children four to eight use booster seats, despite the fact that children in booster seats are 59 percent less likely to be injured in a motor-vehicle crash than are children who are restrained

by safety belts alone, according to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Luera also points out that airbags pose a high risk of death or serious, life-altering injury for children.

"Even in vehicles with advanced airbags, which is a new technology that allows airbags to adjust deployment based on the occupant, children 12 and under should ride in the back seat," he said.

Safe Kids Worldwide estimates that children riding in the back seat are 36 percent less likely to die in a crash than are children sitting in the front seat.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has launched a

new Web site at www.boosterseat.gov that features the following information for parents:

- An interactive child seat guide. Enter the age, weight and height of your child and receive a recommendation for the type of child seat your youngster needs.
- Child seat inspection information. Locate child seat fitting stations in your area where certified technicians can help make sure child seats are used correctly.

For more information about booster seats and other child passenger safety information, contact the DSHS Safe Riders program at 800-252-8255 or visit the DSHS Web site at www.dshs.state.tx.us/saferiders.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES — Mar 21/Apr 20

A rash move in the financial sector leaves you with less cash than you hoped, Aries — and all in time for your birthday. Watch purchases for the next couple of days.

TAURUS — Apr 21/May 21

Don't think about heading out of town for a while, Taurus. There's too much going on in your life at this time for you to be away from the homefront.

GEMINI — May 22/Jun 21

This week, offer more compliments to loved ones, otherwise you'll be viewed as unlikable, Gemini. A friend welcomes your advice on Wednesday.

CANCER — Jun 22/Jul 22

It's been an interesting year so far, Cancer, and it's bound to get that much more exciting. There's nothing but good news coming in the immediate future, so enjoy it.

LEO — Jul 23/Aug 23

If you can't beat them join them is the old adage. Take this advice when your family ropes you into a group event later in the week, Leo. Have fun and let your hair down.

VIRGO — Aug 24/Sept 22

Stop pushing people away, Virgo. Being alone isn't always good for the spirit. Surround yourself with those who care and make a concerted effort to socialize that much more.

LIBRA — Sept 23/Oct 23

A fight with your romantic partner leaves you at odds for a while, Libra. Don't worry, this isn't the end of the relationship, just a chance to make it even stronger.

SCORPIO — Oct 24/Nov 22

Your emotions are running wild, Scorpio, which is not your normal mode of operation. Don't try to suppress them. Others will just have to adapt to this change of pace.

SAGITTARIUS — Nov 23/Dec 21

A disagreement at work leaves you as the odd person out, Sagittarius. Be a diplomat and don't let it get to you. Things will smooth over and return to normal by the weekend.

CAPRICORN — Dec 22/Jan 20

It's good to budget purchases, Capricorn, but lately you've been being thrifty to an extreme. Learn to indulge once in a while — it will be frivolous and fun.

AQUARIUS — Jan 21/Feb 18

Lashing out at a loved one when he or she expresses an opinion will lead to trouble, Aquarius. Rather, listen with an open mind, and choose your response carefully.

PISCES — Feb 19/Mar 20

It's been an uphill struggle with a problem that has been plaguing you. Pisces. However, the end of tunnel has finally arrived.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
MARCH 19
 Bruce Willis, Actor (51)
MARCH 20
 Michael Rapaport, Comic (36)
MARCH 21
 Gary Oldman, Actor (48)
MARCH 22
 Reese Witherspoon, Actress (30)
MARCH 23
 Keri Russell, Actress (30)
MARCH 24
 Lara Flynn Boyle, Actress (36)
MARCH 25
 Elton John, Musician (59)

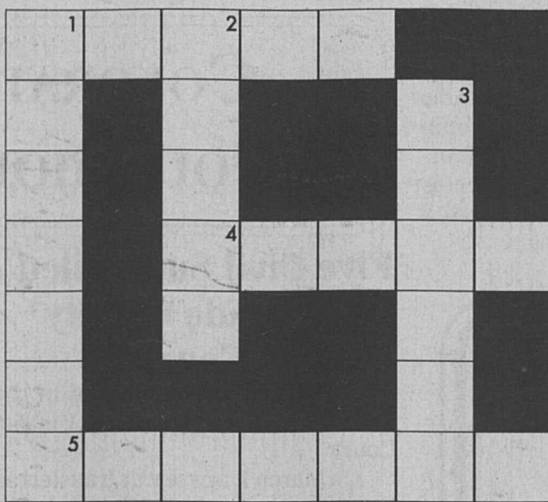


Food FACT:

THIS IS ONE OF THE CLASSIC IRISH FOODS ENJOYED ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

ANSWER: IRISH SODA BREAD

St. Patrick's Day Crossword



CLUES ACROSS

1. Religious figure
4. Musical arrangements
5. Irish man's name

CLUES DOWN

1. Honorable
2. From Ireland
3. Light brown color

Answers
 Across
 1. Saint 4. Songs 5. Patrick
 Down
 1. Standup 2. Irish 3. Cognac

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY



- 1634: MARYLAND WAS FOUNDED BY SETTLERS.
- 1934: HORTON SMITH WON THE FIRST MASTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT.
- 1965: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ENDS THE ALABAMA FREEDOM MARCH.

Hist. Homes Meeting Set For Today

The Colorado County Historical Commission will meet on March 16 at 7 p.m. at the Colorado County Services Facility, 305 Radio Lane in Columbus.

The program is "Historical Homes of Colorado County" by Carolyn Hastedt.

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a poetic name for Ireland

How they SAY it in...

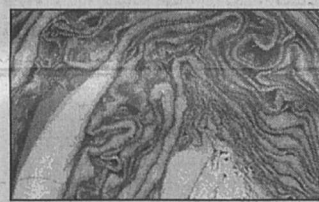
- English:** SAINT
Spanish: SAN
Italian: SANTA
French: SAINT
German: HEILIGE

Did YOU KNOW?

ST. PATRICK WASN'T IRISH-BORN. HISTORIANS BELIEVE HE WAS BORN IN SCOTLAND OR ENGLAND. NONETHELESS, HE BECAME THE PATRON SAINT OF IRELAND.



get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is featured here?

ANSWER: CARABAGE

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Sport Appearance, Grp. Auto, 5.7L V-8 Hemi, #586252
 MSRP \$23,915 - Appel Disc \$10,595
\$23,320 -TT&L



2005 DODGE NEON SE

Bucket Seats, Auto, A/C, Cruise, Side Air Bags, #124883
 MSRP \$16,625 - Appel Disc \$4,232
 +Rebate \$800
\$12,393 -TT&L



2005 DODGE STRATUS

Bucket Seats, Side Airbags, Auto, Power Sunroof, #009863
\$17,428 -TT&L



Pre-Owned Inventory

'01 VW BEETLE, Auto, Leather, Sunroof, #438945	'05 CHRYSLER CROSSFIRE, Power, CD, Sporty #028198	\$19,995
'05 JEEP LIBERTY, Auto, Power, CD, #506172	'03 DODGE 3500 QUAD CAB, 6 Spd, Neff Bars, Diesel, #719301	\$22,995
'05 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN, Quad Seats, Low Miles, #276721	'04 DODGE 3500 QUAD CAB, 4x4, Diesel, 6 Spd, #165220	\$27,977



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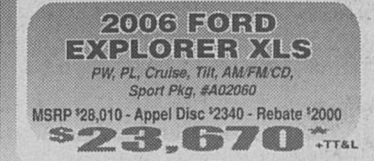
TRUCK MONTH



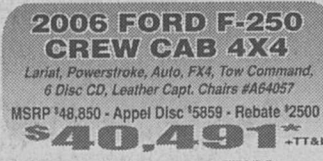
2006 FORD RANGER SUPERCAB XLT
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\$18,649 -TT&L



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\$23,872 -TT&L



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\$23,670 -TT&L



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 MSRP \$48,850 - Appel Disc \$5859 - Rebate \$2500
\$40,491 -TT&L

PRE-OWNED SPECIALS

2001 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE LT, 12 Pkg, Roof, 50K Miles	\$9,877	2004 GRAND PRIX LT, 4 Disc, Leather, Roof, V6, Auto, 19K Miles	\$17,888
2005 PONTIAC SUNFIRE, Auto, 2 Disc, 24K Miles	\$11,897	2004 LINCOLN TOWN CAR SIGNATURE, Leather, 44K Miles	\$21,641
2005 CHEVY IMPALA, Auto, 4 Dr, V-6, PW, PL, PM, #H19904	\$14,987	2004 MINI COOPER S-TYPE, 4 Speed, Leather, 28K Miles	\$21,877
2005 FORD FREESTAR, PW, PL, Cruise, Tilt, FX4, Auto, 4 Disc, 40,000 Miles	\$16,276	2002 DODGE 3500 QUAD CAB SLT, 4x4, Auto, Diesel, #105814	\$25,555
2005 BUICK LESABRE CUSTOM 4DR SEDAN, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PM, #65801	\$16,877	2004 TOYOTA RUNNER LIMITED 2WD, Leather, V4, 47K Miles	\$25,987
2002 HONDA ACCORD, Leather, 4 Disc, Auto, CD/Cass, #252820	\$17,621	2005 MERCURY MONTEGO, Certified Pre-Owned	Three To Choose

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