SPORTS/The Charlotte Post

The Charlotte Post 704-376-0496

is commentators going on about how Peyton Manning FORD'S USED TIRES New Tires Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Brake Job Front \$35.00 • Oil Change - \$21.88 Back \$45.00 Ford's Busy Bee Mini Mart 505 Beatties Ford Rd. Charlotte, NC 28216 (704)333-8448 3401 Tuckaseegee Rd. Charlotte, NC 28208 1222 Central Ave. Charlotte, NC 28204 (704)377-0870 (704)393-1109

should win the MVP. When a player holds out, it's not about the team. When an owner underpays a player, it's not about the team. If it were all about the teams, then the professional sports leagues wouldn't sell and market jerseys with individual names and num-NOTICE MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED FIRMS

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is seeking minority and women-owned firms (M/WBE) to bid on upcoming highway projects throughout the State. The Locations of the projects are:

County/ Route		ype	tion	c/ sh		LSI	3Y
			Location	al i	GOALS BY PERCENT		
D I		ιχ [†]		Metric/ English	DBE	MBE	WBE
Durham	12	Structure, Grading, Drainage, Paving	Bridge 111 over New Hope Creek on SR-1107				
Watauga	4	Structure, Grading, Drainage, Paving	Bridge 324 over Middle Fork Creek on SR-1542				
Cabarrus	10	Drainage, Grading, Paving, Culverts, Signals	Bridge 47 over Three Mile Branch on SR-1002				
Caswell	26	Structure , Grading , Drainage, Paving	Bridge 24 over Hyco Creek on US 158				
Wayne	002	Guardrail, Signing, Paving	US 117 from North of US 70 Interchange at Goldsboro to South of SR-1342				
Wayne, Wilson	12	Guardrail, Paving, Signing	US 117 from South of SR-1342 to South of US 301				
Rowan	32	Grading, Drainage, Paving, Widening, Curb and Gutter, Signals, Pavement Markers	China Grove - Intersection of US 29A (North Main Street) & NC 152 - SR 1337 (Church Street)				
	Cabarrus Caswell Wayne Wayne, Wilson	Cabarrus 10 Caswell 26 Wayne 002 Wayne, 12 Wilson 12	Cabarrus 10 Drainage, Paving Cabarrus 10 Drainage, Grading, Paving, Culverts, Signals Caswell 26 Structure, Grading, Paving Wayne 002 Guardrail, Signing, Paving Wayne 12 Guardrail, Paving, Signing Wilson 32 Grading, Drainage, Paving, Culver, Signals, Pavement Markers	Strate and Strate Currer, GradingEndge 324 ord mode ForkCabarrus10Drainage, Grading, Paving Culverts, SignalsBridge 47 over Three Mile Branch on SR-1002Caswell26Structure, Grading, Paving Drainage, PavingBridge 24 over Hyco Creek on US 158Wayne002Guardrail, Signing, Paving IssUS 117 from North of US 70 Interchange at Goldsboro to South of SR-1342Wayne,12Guardrail, Paving, Signing WilsonUS 117 from South of SR-1342 to South of US 301Rowan32Grading, Drainage, Paving, Widening, Curb and Gutter, Signals, Pavement MarkersChina Grove - Intersection of US 29A(North Main Street) & NC 152 - SR 1337 (Church Street)	Cabarrus 10 Drainage, Grading, Paving, Culverts, Signals Bridge 47 over Three Mile Branch on SR-1002 Caswell 26 S t r u c t u r e, G r a d i n g, Drainage, Paving Bridge 24 over Hyco Creek on US 158 Wayne 002 Guardrail, Signing, Paving US 117 from North of US 70 Interchange at Goldsboro to South of SR-1342 Wayne, 12 Guardrail, Paving, Signing, Wilson US 117 from South of SR-1342 to South of US 301 Rowan 32 Grading, Drainage, Paving, Signals, Pavement Markers China Grove - Intersection of US 29A (North Main Street) & NC 152 - SR 1337 (Church Street)	Cabarrus 10 Drainage, Grading, Paving, Culvers, Signals Bridge 47 over Three Mile Branch on SR-1002 Caswell 26 S t r u c t u r e, G r a d i n g, Drainage, Paving Bridge 24 over Hyco Creek on US Wayne 002 Guardrail, Signing, Paving, Guardrail, Signing, Paving US 117 from North of US 70 Interchange at Goldsboro to South of SR-1342 Wayne, 12 Guardrail, Paving, Signing, Wilson US 117 from South of SR-1342 to South of US 301 Rowan 32 Grading, Drainage, Paving, Signals, Pavement Markers China Grove - Intersection of US 29A (North Main Street) & NC 152 - SR 1337 (Church Street)	Cabarrus 10 Drainage, Paving Dridge 47 over Three Mile Branch on SR-1542 Cabarrus 10 Drainage, Grading, Paving, Culverts, Signals Bridge 47 over Three Mile Branch on SR-1002 Caswell 26 S t r u c t u r e , G r a d i n g , Drainage, Paving Bridge 24 over Hyco Creek on US 158 Wayne 002 Guardrail, Signing, Paving US 117 from North of US 70 Interchange at Goldshoro to South of SR-1342 Wayne, Wilson 12 Guardrail, Paving, Signing Wilson, Curb and Guter, Widening, Curb and Guter, China Grove - Intersection of US 29A (North Main Street) & NC 152

Designates a Federal Projec

LETTING DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2004 Until further notice, the pre-letting activities formerly held at the North Raleigh Hilton will no longer be held at the Bennington Corporation. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Civil Rights. NCDOT Office of Civil Rights & Business Development 1.800.522-0453

Certification of highway contracting firms: Jerry Armstrong Certification of supply/service/engineering firms: Robert Mathes Comments or concerns: Larry Dickens: Interim Director

Getting Married?

We Want To Know!

The Charlotte Post is now publishing

C. JEMAL HORTON

This is a scenario you are sure to see take place when the Carolina Panthers have their playoff game at Ericsson Stadium Saturday: A Panthers player - or any player, for that matter - will zommit a blunder. He'll try his best, but then he'll drop a pass or fumble a ball or miss a tackle or ... something.

And someone will boo, someone will yell nasty things to him.

Many of the same people who screamed about the horrific lack of sportsmanship when Joe Horn pulled out a cell phone in the end zone recently will narrowly miss spilling their beverage on their children as they jump and scream at players. "You suck!"

"Shut up and play!"

Yep, there's an example for the kids. That's real sportsmanship. That's not showing up a player.

And Horn gets vilified, not to mention a \$30,000 fine, for pulling out a lousy cell Come on. We have got to

phone?

get over ourselves, people. We have got to get over using athletes as the symbol of everything that is wrong with our country, particularly when, in some cases, we're the ones setting the poor example.

Let's look at these elaborate end zone celebrations for a moment: What's the big deal? Please tell me how a guy who celebrates a touchdown somehow is a menace to society.

Will somebody please tell me why we're so quick to act as if a guy pulling out a cell phone is so much worse than, say, a guy violently spiking the ball 5 feet away from his fallen defender. That's taunting. That's hurtful to the opponent. And that's exactly what future Hall-of-Famer Steve Young used to do.

Yet no one ever complained.

This is the classic example of people from different cultures and life experiences trying to force their own mores on other people. And that's wrong. Very wrong.

Fans and media love to complain that there are too many "look at me" athletes in our society and not enough "team."

You watch an Indianapolis

Colts game, and all you hear

bers on them.

We're all part of me-first society

Well, if you've been fortunate enough to attend a game at Ericsson Stadium or the Charlotte Coliseum or similar places, you've seen the reaction of most fans when their faces pop up on the lumetrue Late interest the Jumbotron. Let's just say they don't sit in their seats as so many fans and and sports commentators love to say, "act like they've been there before.²

People do everything from get up and dance to wave their hands feverishly to bring attention to their body parts

How much more "look at me" does it get? A whole lot of us are hyp-

ocrites, because a whole lot of us are "look-at-me" people. First of all, most of the people spewing this mess are loudmouth talk-radio hosts and sports columnists with their pictures in newspa-These are the same pers. people who are, at the tops of their lungs, publicly ripping players, owners and fans. Again, how much more

"look at me" does it get? And let's get rid of this

ridiculous notion that professional sports are all about the team, OK?

Something Sporty: That's Monte Carlo's SS coupe

WINFRED **B.** CROSS Test



NASCAR has done a lot for General Motors, or is that the other way around?

GM products win a lot of races, which helps sales for those models, even though racing versions have little to do with the consumer products. Still, some people get a kick out of driving the cars their favorite drivers use.

Those who like the Monte Carlo will like the SS version even more. SS probably stands for super sport or something. Sporty it is, boasting a 240 supercharged version of the venerable 3800 engine. That's the real sweetness of this car. The engine is lively, propelling the car to 60 mph well before

the clock ticks off 7.0 seconds. The engine has a somewhat metallic sound while producing these horses, but the exhaust note is quite nice. If you go fast you need to

stop and turn fast, the Monte Carlo delivers. The four-wheel antilock brakes will haul this puppy down to 0 in a pinch. The standard traction control helps keep the car on the right path, even under adverse situations. Steering is good also. It's not as tight as I like for a car this fast, but it's quick enough.

The four-wheel independent suspension is tuned more for sport than comfort but the ride is OK. I expect-

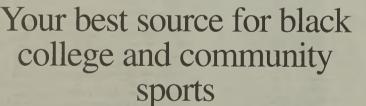
ed harsh, but I got good. For a coupe, the Monte is pretty livable. There's plenty of room for four, maybe five. The doors are about the right side, wide enough to allow easy access, but not so heavy as to make you wish

for a four-door.

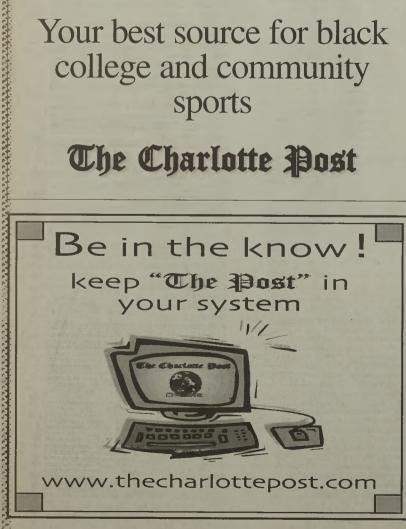
Chevy's interiors always Carlo is no exception. familiar Fischer-Price dash hasn't changed, nor the '80s radio faceplate. There is satellite radio, which is the best GM option next to OnStar.

The SS Monte Carlo comes with a lot of standard stuff which includes ABS, dual climate controls, power package, traction control, cruise, keyless remote, and 17-inch diamond cut wheels. Options include XM radio, OnStar, upgraded 200 watt stereo and driver's information center.

With options, the car test-ed at \$31,055. Not bad, but there's plenty to choose from in that price range. But not many of those will be found circling an oval at triple digit speeds.



leave me cold. The Monte There's a lot of inexpensive plastic and odd shapes. The



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(actual size 3.792 inches x 6 inches)

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