

Hair stylist to stars moves to SouthPark

Continued from page 8C

Castaneda currently fashions hair for Tyra Banks, host of "America's Next Top Model" on the UPN television network. Other high profile clients include socialite Ivana Trump, model Heidi Klum and actress Natalie Portman.

Known for her expertise in hair extension, Castaneda helps super-model Naomi Campbell maintain her 32-inch locks. She has created the extension hair looks for the annual Victoria's Secret fashion show since 1998.

The Allure article mentions Campbell as a Castaneda client, as well as tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams.

Castaneda worked backstage from 1995 to 2002 on the Versace Collections and Couture shows of Donatella Versace, who is the inspiration for the name of her salons. Italians use "Ecco Goia" to wish someone joy. "I heard that every day for 10 years from Donatella," Castaneda said, "and I named my studio in homage to her."

Castaneda, who splits time

between Charlotte and New York, said she will double the three hair stylists currently working at the salon near the corner of Sharon and Fairview roads. At 2,700 square feet, the studio is three times the size of her New York space and can accommodate 12 stylists.

"Charlotte is a very different market from New York, but I'm excited about bringing my talents to this arena and increasing my territories," she said.

In Charlotte, only the salon's name will change

right away. Castaneda said she wants to nurture the customer base of the former Salon Arte and gradually introduce new services.

For those interested, she added, she is ready to practice her traditional method of track weaving and braiding. Her work in that area has been featured on the covers of magazines such as Essence, Vogue, Hello, OK and Elle, among others.

One of her goals, Castaneda said, is to blend her Charlotte and New York staffs into a backstage team

for fashion shows in New York's Bryant Park for the 2006 collection season. Eventually, she added, she wants her team to be included in the Milan and Paris show seasons.

Castaneda trained at the Wilford Academy in New York and worked under Ellen Lavar. The hair styles they developed together are a staple on the covers of fashion magazines, she said.

Originally from Connecticut, Castaneda initially pursued a ballet career. But she developed a passion

for creating hair fashions while growing up, and she found happiness when she returned to her roots, she said. She has been a cosmetologist for 18 years.

Castaneda first heard about Charlotte from a friend who praised the city. She moved with her 7-year-old daughter to the Ballantyne area two years ago.

"I wanted my daughter to grow up in a place like this," she said, "where she can play with neighbor's children and have nearby friends."

As cellular use grows, so does debate over tower placement

Continued from page 8C

keep up with demand - including residential areas like the South Hampton neighborhood.

Ten years ago, the U.S. had 24 million cell phone subscribers, said Joe Farren, a spokesman for CTIA-The Wireless Association, the trade group for the industry. Today, more than 190 million cell phones are in use.

To keep up, cell "sites" - towers and antennas, mostly - have increased tenfold, from fewer than 18,000 in 1994 to more than 175,000 now. Without additional towers, calls are lost and reception suffers.

"Our companies are always running into this conundrum, which is, 'We want cell phone service, but don't put that tower here,'" Farren said. "When you're

dealing with communications through the air, you have to have antennas and towers."

To meet demand, companies are increasingly turning to nontraditional sites - fire houses, churches, schools, even cemeteries and national parks. A cell tower now sits near Yellowstone's Old Faithful, despite strong opposition.

Opposition is just as strong in residential areas. Washington attorney Ed Donohue, who represents several cell phone companies, estimated that more than 500 cases have been heard nationwide involving efforts to stop cell phone towers and antennas. In most cases, the cell phone companies have won.

That's in part because federal law eliminates one of

the key arguments against cell sites - the health factor.

No studies have shown conclusive evidence that radio-frequency emissions are harmful at levels allowed by the Federal Communications Commission. As a result, the law prohibits rejection of a tower based on health risk.

Yet fear of the uncertainty remains. A year ago, the International Association of Fire Fighters opposed the use of fire houses for cell sites "until a study with the highest scientific merit" proves they are safe.

The American Cancer Society's Web site says that because the technology is still relatively new, "we do not yet have full information on health effects." However, the organization noted there was no known evidence of a

link between low-level emissions and cancer.

Still, the perception of a health risk, combined with what some consider an eyesore, can lower property values for those living near a cell site, O'Brien said.

Cell sites can be a financial boon to those who provide space for them. Cell companies won't discuss rent, but Donohue said companies typically pay \$800 to \$2,000 per month, depending on location, the size of the tower or antenna, and other factors. That can be a significant amount for a struggling school district or a church with stagnant or declining membership.

Residents of St. Louis' South Hampton neighborhood first learned of Southampton Presbyterian's plan to rent space to T-

Mobile in 2003. Immediately, they mobilized against it. A petition opposing the cell antenna was signed by more than 250 people.

When talks failed, residents turned to zoning officials who ruled against T-Mobile. The city's Board of Adjustment agreed, ruling the antenna could have "a negative impact on the health of children and residents" and would cause property values to decrease.

T-Mobile sued. U.S. Magistrate Judge Frederick Buckles ruled in favor of the company in July.

Debbie Barrett, a spokeswoman for suburban Seattle-based T-Mobile, said the company is doing everything it can to make the site blend in. But she said the antenna is needed.

"We have a responsibility not only to our customers but to the public agencies that benefit from our 911 service," Barrett said.

Southampton's pastor, Will Mason, said the antenna will not extend beyond the top of the chimney, will sit flush against it, will even be painted the same shade of white as the chimney. Neither he nor T-Mobile would disclose the rental fee.

Mason said he spent months studying health effects of cell sites, the impact on property values and other issues. He believes the antenna is harmless.

"It wasn't all that kindly to be demonized, but we're over it," Mason said. "We've tried to work with the neighborhood association and the folks opposed to the antenna."

U.S. pushes for broad limits on Chinese textiles, clothing

Continued from page 8C

part the surge in Chinese imports that has occurred since Jan. 1 when a three-decade old system of global quotas was lifted.

American textile and clothing manufacturers contend that 19 textile plants have shut down this year because of the import surge and 26,000 jobs in textile and clothing plants have disappeared.

The administration has already re-imposed quotas on several key clothing categories including trousers, shirts, underwear, socks and combed cotton yarn with decisions scheduled to be made in coming weeks on a number of other categories, limiting growth in Chinese imports to 7.5 percent annually.

But the U.S. industry is pressing for a broader approach that would impose limits on import growth across all categories of products where Chinese imports threaten the U.S. industry. American manufacturers contend they won't settle for the deal the European Union reached in June because the growth that agreement

allowed in imports - up to 12.5 percent annually - is too high.

"The EU agreement in our opinion was incredibly weak," said Missy Branson, a spokeswoman for the National Council of Textile Organizations, an industry group.

"No comprehensive deal is better than a bad deal," said Lloyd Wood, spokesman for the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition, another group representing clothing and textile manufacturers.

On the other side, American retailers, who like the low-priced imports, went to court last year in an effort to stop the quotas from being re-imposed. But now they say they would support a comprehensive deal if it allowed for growth in imports beyond the 7.5 percent cap, which has already been reached this year in several categories of Chinese imports.

"For the importers, this has been a race to the dock to try to get shipments in as fast as possible. Most of the major categories are now closed," said Laura Jones,

executive director of the United States Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel.

This week's talks, which will take place Tuesday and Wednesday in San Francisco, are expected to be just the beginning of new discussions. Some industry officials predict the aim is to strike a deal by the time Chinese President Hu Jintao visits Washington in September.

Some trade experts wonder how many U.S. jobs can be saved even if a comprehensive agreement is reached. They note that since 2001, U.S. clothing and textile manufacturers have lost 389,400 jobs - 37 percent of the total work force.

Those job losses have the attention of Washington politicians. Many Republican lawmakers from textile states refused to support the Central American Free Trade Agreement until the Bush administration promised to seek broad caps on Chinese imports.

The textile battle is not the only trade dispute the administration has with China. America's trade deficit with China hit \$162

billion last year, the largest imbalance ever recorded with a single country. This year's deficit with China is running 32 percent above last year's pace, reflecting the 58 percent surge in clothing and textile imports through the first half of 2005.

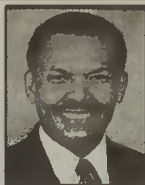
Many economists believe America's trade deficit with China will not significantly

improve until China goes much further to allow its currency to rise in value against the dollar. They contend that China's initial 2.1 percent revaluation of the yuan last month was tiny compared to the 30 percent to 40 revaluation needed to make American goods more competitive against Chinese products.

"There needs to be contin-

ued and significant further revaluation of the yuan," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com.

On the Net:
U.S. Trade Representative:
www.ustr.gov
American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition:
www.amtacdc.org
United States Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel:



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Closer Than You Think

When we discover our dream, there are few things that are more exciting. Once you really know what you want out of life, you can spend hours and hours working on it without ever noticing how much time has passed by. Others around you, such as friends and family, may not understand how you can spend so much time on the pursuit of your dream and not become bored or burned-out.

But as you go after your dreams, some times it may take you a bit longer to see your dreams come true than expected. Sometimes the things you try to achieve your dream do not produce the results you wanted. For example, your advertising campaign may not reach the kind of people who would be interested in your product or service. You may find it necessary to invest more in your idea than you had expected.

It may be that you experience a misunderstanding in a significant relationship that threatens the stability of that relationship. At that point you may feel that you have to start all over again to recapture what you may have lost.

At times, it can seem that you

encounter one roadblock after another in achieving your dream. After a while, you may feel that your dream is just too far out of reach. You may think about pulling back on your dream or just forgetting about it altogether.

However, when you encounter such challenging times, I would say to you that you could very well be much closer to your dream than you think. Often times, when you are just about to give up you will discover that if you hang on just a little while longer, you will make it.

But even if something happens that keeps you from achieving exactly what you had in mind, part of the joy of dreaming is knowing that you had a beautiful dream. There is a deep satisfaction in knowing that you dared to reach for the very best of your heart's desire.

You may not get exactly where you thought you wanted to go, but keep believing in your dreams and determine in your heart that you will not give up on your dreams. You could very well be that much closer to making your dream a reality than you ever thought!

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Oil prices motivating studies for renewable energy source

By Betsy Blaney
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soaring oil prices and government incentives are fueling increased interest in renewable energy sources like cow manure.

And what better place to do manure research than in the Texas Panhandle, which holds the aromatic distinction of being the country's biggest producer of cowpies in a state that leads the country in cattle production.

For years, researchers have studied manure as a fertilizer. Now, however, they are focusing on developing other uses for the abundant substance as the livestock industry grows and fertilizer's role diminishes. State and federal energy bills also call for increasing renewable energy sources.

Cattle manure can be used as fuel instead of coal or natural gas to create steam to run turbines, which create electricity.

That's how The Panda Group of Dallas plans to fuel a \$120 million ethanol plant set to open next year in Hereford. The company said it will realize an energy savings equivalent to 1,000

barrels of oil per day turning manure and cotton gin waste into clean-burning fuel to power the plant.

"I see it as a valuable tool in our tool box," John Sweeten, resident director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in Amarillo, said about cattle manure's energy potential. "Sixty dollar-a-barrel oil recruits a lot of interest in biomass. At \$10-a-barrel oil, there's not much interest."

Biomass is renewable organic matter, such as manure and crops like corn, grain sorghum and soybeans, all of which can be processed into ethanol.

"Anything that's renewable and is at least competitive with other prices, it's better for everybody," said Donald L. Klass, director of Biomass Energy Research Association in Washington.

The potential for surplus manure stems from more cattle, dairy cows and hogs coming to the Panhandle, and farmers moving toward planting more dryland crops, which demand less fertilizer.