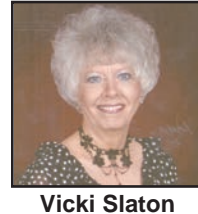




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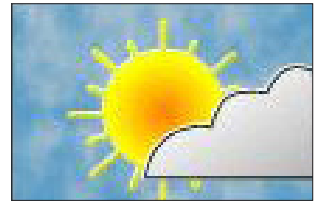


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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY
AUGUST 28, 2008

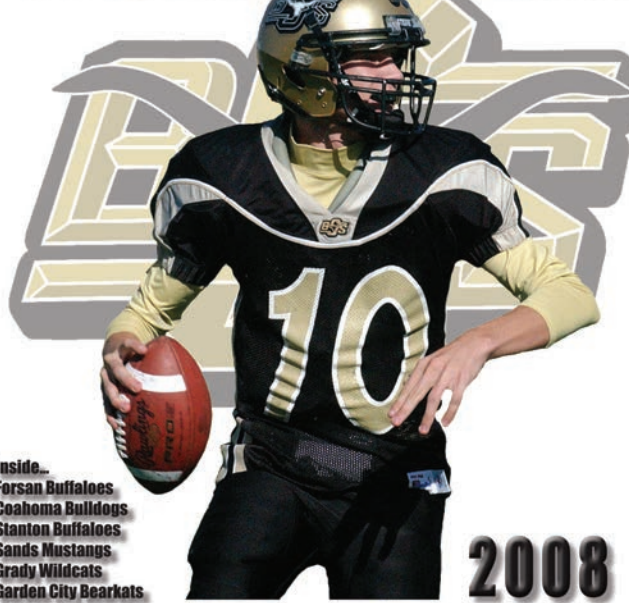


VOLUME 103, NUMBER 232

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Crossroads Football



Inside...
Forsan Buffaloes
Coahoma Bulldogs
Stanton Buffaloes
Sands Mustangs
Grady Wildcats
Garden City Bearcats

2008

Inside

The Herald's annual football preview issue marks the kickoff

of the gridiron season. Follow the action each week for the best coverage throughout the Crossroads area.

Growing pains

Overcrowding prompts BSISD officials to transfer students to other campuses

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District officials have begun shuffling some elementary students to other campuses to relieve overcrowding.

Interim Superintendent Michael Stevens told school trustees Wednesday that severe overcrowding at Marcy Elementary — and the same problem to a lesser degree at Kentwood and Moss elementaries — have caused officials to scramble to find classroom space for those students.

To relieve the situation, officials will transfer 70 students from Marcy to Bauer Elementary on the north side of Big Spring. Also, some students will likely be transferred from Kentwood and Moss schools to Washington in the near future.

Stevens said three factors — recent enrollment growth, outdated attendance zone maps and a state-mandated 22-to-1 student/teacher ratio in the elementary grades — have

See **CROWDED**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Sharon McGrievy teaches her second-grade class at Marcy Elementary this morning.

CONTINUING INVESTIGATIONS

Youth was missing 13 hours before his body was discovered

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The investigation into the death of an 18-year-old Forsan High School graduate is still ongoing, according to officials with the Howard County Sheriff's Office, as detectives try to piece together the events that led to

the young man's death.

Michael Robert Creel, 18, was pronounced dead at just after 1 p.m. by Howard County Justice of the Peace Benny Green after law enforcement officials say he apparently fell or was thrown from the back of a pickup truck traveling on Longshore Road, north of Big Spring.

Jeffrey Ray Pierson, 18, of Glasscock County was located shortly after Creel's body was discovered and arrested on a charge of intoxicated manslaughter, according to HCSO Chief Deputy Mark Hall.

Hall said the two young men

See **YOUTH**, Page 3A

BSISD tax rate to increase by 1.5 cents per \$100

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Property owners within the Big Spring Independent School District will see their taxes increase slightly under the district's 2008-2009 budget, which was approved by trustees Wednesday evening.

Increased debt service payments will increase the district's tax rate by 1.5 cents per \$100 valuation, but little else will change from last year's budget to now, officials said.

Expenditures will be virtually unchanged, increasing by \$200,000 from the 2007-2008 budget year. Taking up the lion's share of the increase is a 3 percent across-the-board pay raise for district employees, said Chief Financial



Waggoner

Officer Sandra Waggoner.

"It's a good budget and it's a balanced budget," Waggoner said. "With gasoline and other costs going up, a lot of districts

have had to dip into their fund balances or go with a deficit. We haven't had to do that yet."

Unlike the past few years, there will be few "big ticket" items in this year's budget. Waggoner said about \$300,000 in reserve funds have been set aside to purchase new buses for the district. Other than that, though, this is a lean, tight financial package, she said.

See **BSISD**, Page 3A

Plenty of suspects but progress slow in case of double homicide

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The investigation into the May 4 shooting death of two Big Spring residents is still under way, according to local law enforcement officials, as the number of suspects

continues to pile up.

Valerie Garcia, 20, and Michael Cardona, 21, both of Big Spring, were pronounced dead at Scenic Mountain Medical Center shortly after a drive-by shooting was reported at 905 E. 16th St. at 9:38 p.m. Sunday, May 4. According to police

reports, Garcia was pregnant at the time of her death.

Also injured in the shooting were an unidentified 3-year-old girl, 19-year-old Philp Martinez, 21-year-old Daniel Rios and 21-year-

See **HOMICIDE**, Page 3A

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Animals saved?

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP) — More than 100 animals destined for religious sacrifice have been rescued from a backyard in a northern suburb of New York City.

Police responding to a complaint last Friday found about 30 goats and rams plus crates of chickens, ducks, quail, turtles, pigeons and doves.

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals chief Ken Ross says Greenburgh resident Luis Perez-Hernandez and his son had planned to sacrifice the animals in a ritual of the Afro-Caribbean religion Santeria.

Veteran of the Month

Hangar 25 Air Museum has announced that E. Byron Range Jr. is Veteran of the Month for August.

A reception in his honor will be held at 6 p.m. today in the museum's briefing room. The public is invited.

Range served during World War II in the Army Air Corp. He worked as a technical inspector and later as an inspector general.

For more information about this event, Hangar 25 Air Museum or the Veteran of the Month program, contact Meghan Bias at 264-1999. The museum is located at 1911 Apron Drive.

UW Dine Out Day

K.C. Steakhouse at N. Service Road I-20 West is this week's Dine Out Restaurant assisting the United Way for Big Spring and Howard County.



Proceeds from Friday's sales at K.C. Steakhouse will benefit United Way. Future participating restaurants will include, Al's & Sons Barbecue, Dell's Cafe, Papa Georgio's Pizza, Cowboy's Steakhouse and others.

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FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Coahoma opens in Odessa Area roundup

Bulldogs face Van Horn in Ratliff Stadium Saturday

By **BRANDON HALLFORD**

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — Coahoma's Bulldogs go into their season-opening game Saturday against the Van Horn Eagles at Odessa's Ratliff Stadium hoping to accomplish two things.

First, translate practice time into an actual game situation. Second, be successful doing it and survive the affair without any serious injuries.

"We're looking forward to hitting someone other than each other," first-year Head Coach Stacy Martin said. "We are anxious to make all our hard work pay off. We expect Van Horn to be a physically tough team. They like to line up and play smash mouth football. They have a couple of good running backs and a big fullback. They like to just run over you."

To counter this, the Bulldogs are

hoping their defense is not quite as porous this year as last. Coahoma gave up a staggering 5.2 yards per carry last season, a problem Martin hopes has been solved.

"We are just going to have to play hard and not give in," he said. "We are going to have to get after the ball and maintain our assignments. If we are able to do that, then things

See **COAHOMA**, Page 2B

Stanton seeks to avenge 2007 loss to Grape Creek

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**

Staff Writer

STANTON — There's a lot of revenge on the minds of the five returning starters on the Stanton Buffaloes heading into the 2008 season.

Stanton Coach Lee McCown says there's a need to redeem themselves and lay claim to a coveted playoff spot — which they missed last year after a heartbreaking loss in overtime to McCamey in the final game of the year.

"That was a tough one. The players coming back definitely remember it," McCown said.

They can get off on the right foot with a win against Grape Creek in San Angelo at 7:30 p.m. Friday. The bi-annual district realignment puts Stanton into Class A, and expectations are high.

"We expect to be one of the teams fighting to get into the playoffs," McCown said. "I wouldn't say we are the favorite, but we have as good a chance as anyone else."

State semifinalist and preseason No. 4 Sundown is also in their district, as is perennial playoff team Seagraves, so McCown

knows he has his work cut out for him.

The Buffs will rely on senior running back Robbie Noland as a key part of the offense. Noland ran for 1,059 yards last season, reaching the end zone 10 times. Sophomore Tyler Fulton, kid brother to Garrett Fulton, will fill his older brother's shoes at the quarterback position.

"Tyler is ready," McCown said. "We fully expect Tyler to pick up where his brother left off."

The defense lacks experience but McCown has faith that the players who moved up from JV know the system and are ready to duke it out at the line of scrimmage. "We should be alright," McCown said. "The drop from 2A will help, but it isn't going to be easy just because we dropped down a class."

Sands prepares for hopeful playoff run

ACKERLY — Sands High School's Head Football Coach Wayne Henderson has playoff hopes in mind this year and with good reason, too. The

See **AREA**, Page 3B

Rivalry renewed

Big Spring, Snyder battle for first time in six seasons

By **JONATHAN HULL**

Sports Editor

Time to find out how much two weeks of two-a-days and several months of preparation has paid off.

The Big Spring Steers kick off the 2008 football season Friday night, traveling around 40 miles east to renew an old rivalry.

For the first time since 2001, the Steers take on Snyder's Tigers at 7:30 p.m. Friday. The last time the Steers and Tigers met on the gridiron they were district foes. Big Spring won the game, 24-14.

The two schools first played each other in 1949 with the Steers winning two contests that year, 27-7 and 20-0. From that point and up until 2001, there have been only four seasons in which the two teams didn't clash. Big Spring holds the all-time edge, 27-22-1.

See **STEERS**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Big Spring Steers quarterback Matt Ritchey trots into the end zone in a scrimmage against Lubbock High at Memorial Stadium Friday. Ritchey will start at QB to Big Spring's in place of injured Tyler Tannehill season opener against Snyder.

Forsan starts season vs. former district opponent

By **JEFF LANE**

Special to the Herald

FORSAN — Forsan's Buffaloes open the 2008 season at 7:30 p.m. Friday in a new district, but against a familiar foe, as they travel to Eldorado to take on the Eagles.

Last season, the Eagles walked away with a 21-14 victory that left the Buffs scrambling to stay atop the district leader board. This year, the Buffs look to get some payback and to spark another run at a playoff berth.

Forsan is coming off two recent scrimmages against Grape Creek and Reagan County in preparation for the regular season. Head Coach Tommy Thompson said that while there were some things still to work

on, both games were good experiences.

"The first two scrimmages were good for us," said Thompson. "Against Grape Creek we saw that we needed to be more aggressive on defense, and that we needed to solidify our offensive line and skill positions. In the Reagan County game, we found our passing game developing well and that we were playing more aggressive defensively. We need improve in the running game and create more turnovers on defense."

Against the Eagles, Thompson said he will continue in the spread offense from last year, but will not overlook his base Wing-T set. Defensively, Forsan will line up in a 4-3

defense in hopes of controlling a solid ground rush from the Eagles.

"We have the personnel to be effective in the spread offense, but we will be multi-faceted in our sets and won't forget our base offense", Thompson said. "We are confident that our kids will be able to recognize adjustments by our opponent and will be able to adapt on the fly."

The Buffs rely on experience and quickness at the skill positions to counter Eldorado's strong running game and size.

Thompson said that while the Buffaloes have good size on the offensive and defensive fronts, they will have to be quick and aggressive to disrupt the Eagles strong backfield.



Courtesy photo/Bob Fishback

Forsan Buffaloes running back Jeremy Freitag eludes a tackler in action from the 2007 season. Freitag returns as the Buffs' leading rusher in 2008.

CROSSROADS FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

ZERO WEEK

Big Spring
at
Snyder

Coahoma
vs.
Van Horn

Forsan
at
Eldorado

Sands
at
Hermleigh

Stanton
at
Grape Creek

Garden City
vs.
Abbott

Grady
at
Sanderson

Obituaries

Ronald Holland

Ronald W. Holland, long-time city manager of Eagle Lake, died Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2008, after a lengthy illness. Services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29, 2008, in Eagle Lake, under the direction of Eagle Lake Funeral Home. Visitation will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. today at the mortuary. Interment will be at the Garden of Memories in De Leon at 11 a.m. Saturday.

He was born May 4, 1943 in Big Spring. He attended Big Spring public schools, graduating from Big Spring High School in 1961. He married Dianne Musgrave in November 1961. The young family moved to Illinois in 1967 where Holland attended college and received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from outhern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

After completing his schooling, he served as executive director of the Ozark Gateway Council of Government, City Manager of Cabol, Mo. and City Manager of LaGrange before becoming City Manager of Eagle Lake in 1993.

He was a member of the local Lions Club, served on a number of boards and commissions and is past president of the BCL of Texas, a non-profit small business lending institution offering guidance as well as funding for start-up businesses and first-time home buyers.

He is survived by two sons, Douglas and Paul Holland of Glen Carbon, Ill.; a granddaughter, Allison Joseph of St. Louis, Mo.; his mother, Johnnie Holland; a brother, Ed Holland and his wife, Vada, of Eagle Lake; and a sister, Ronda Sickels and her husband, Richard of Winona, Minn.; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Wilford P. Holland.

Memorials may be sent (in lieu of flowers) to the Eagle Lake Police Department Equipment Fund.

Paid obituary

Take Note

• Colorado River Municipal Water District will hold a blood drive at the Dora Roberts Community Center, 100 Whipkey Drive, Sept. 3-4, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each donor will receive a special T-shirt. All donors at least 21 years of age will be eligible to win a trip for two to Las Vegas.

• Big Spring High School yearbooks are for last year's seniors. They may be picked up in Room 120. Yearbooks will be available for several weeks.

• Yearbooks have arrived at Forsan High School. Pick up your copy at the front office.

• The Howard County Pachyderm Club will have its monthly meeting at noon Thursday at the Big Spring Country Club off Driver Road. Lunch is dutch treat. All concerned Republicans are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 267-7287. Guest speaker will be Republican candidate for Howard County sheriff, Stan Parker.

• Big Spring High School Class of 1998 10-year reunion will be held Sept. 12-13 during the BSHS homecoming weekend. To get details and register, visit www.free-webs.com/bshs1998 or contact Traci Bellinghausen at (817) 308-9845 or Jacob Cordova at (432) 935-0533.

• BSHS Class of 1978 30-year reunion is Sept. 12-13. Contact Kent Rice at 870-918-5875 or kent_rice@murphyoilcorp.com

• Big Spring High School Class of 1988's 20-year reunion will be held the weekend of Sept. 12-13. Contact Cheri Wyrick Reibe at 432-268-9587 or reibe1@suddenlink.net for information. The class still needs classmates' contact information so please contact Cheri to pass those along.

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is now available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

• A medical expense account has been established at Cosden Federal Credit Union for Kody Jackson, who was recently diagnosed with lymphoma in his right knee. He has no medical insurance and must start chemotherapy and radiation treatment as soon as possible. Kody is the son of Susan and Johnny Jackson. For more information, contact Cosden FCU at 264-2600.

• The Texas Department of State Health Services is conducting a community health survey. The information will be used to study barriers to health care and other public health issues. Your personal information will not be used, other than the comments portion of the survey. You will not be asked for your name. The survey is available online and takes about 15 minutes to complete. For the English survey, go to www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=929625. For the survey in Spanish, go to www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=929626.

• Mobile Meals needs volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The organization delivers approximately 70 meals each day and needs drivers to donate just one hour per week. Mobile Meals also needs back-up volunteers to fill in when regular drivers can't make it. For more information, contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.



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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. today:

- ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ, 59, transient, was arrested Tuesday on six local warrants.
- RYAN PRESTON HANVEY, 20, of Lubbock, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a dangerous drug.
- JACOBY SAM MENDEZ, 18, of 1500 Chickasaw, was arrested Tuesday on charges of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less and possession of a controlled substance.
- CHRISTY CUELLAR, 23, of 538 Westover Road Apt. 118, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- DENA COKER, 51, of 1502 Runnels, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- STANLEY FRALEY, 44, of 1506 Stadium, was arrested Tuesday on charges of public intoxication and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- SHERRI MONIQUE ALDRIDGE, 38, of 1006 Baylor, was arrested Wednesday on a Midland County warrant.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 1000 block of Birdwell Lane.
 - in the 200 block of FM 700.
- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 700 block of FM 700.
- FAILURE TO IDENTIFY – GIVING FALSE INFORMATION was reported in the 200 block of Ninth Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:
 - in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd. (two reports).
 - in the 3600 block of Hamilton.
 - in the 600 block of George.
 - in the 1300 block of Stadium (two reports).
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 1900 block of 25th Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1500 block of Johnson.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 58 inmates at the time of this report.

- RICHARD ARTHUR DEXTER, 67, was arrested by DPS Wednesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated – second offense.
- MICHAEL SHAE JACKMAN, 22, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft by check.
- MELISSA YOUNG, 39, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for an unnamed charge.
- CHRISTY CUELLAR, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- JACOBY SAMANTHA MENDEZ, 18, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less and possession of a controlled substance.
- RYAN PRESTON HANVEY, 20, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a dangerous drug.
- DAVID CHRISTOPHER PETREE, 23, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for an unnamed charge.
- TYLER JAMES URBINA, 18, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- BRYAN CHRISTOPHER ODLE, 26, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for theft.
- DAVID CHARLES PATTERSON, 31, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on charges of failure to appear – theft, a motion to revoke probation for theft by check and violation of parole for theft by check.

Fire/EMS






The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of 20th Street and Scurry. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 900 block of Paredes. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 200 block of Petus Road. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Blvd. Service refused.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 700 block of N. Goliad.



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 86/66 Partly to mostly cloudy with widely scattered showers or thunderstorms poss.	 87/64 Scattered thunderstorms possible.	 84/65 Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm.	 87/65 Slight chance of a thunderstorm.	 88/65 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the mid 60s.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

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

MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.
- District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 begins at 5 p.m. with weight-in at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffet.
- Howard County ARC meets at 806 E. Third in the Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.
- The Big Spring Cruisers club meeting at 7 p.m. in the Texas RV Park meeting room.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
- Big Spring Chapter No. 178 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

TUESDAY

- Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
- VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
- Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
- The Howard County Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Posse building on the Andrews Highway. For more information, call Bert Sheppard at 263-4483 or Rose Armstead at 263-2769.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.

Lottery

The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: 5-8-15-25-40-53

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery: 13-14-30-31-33.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-1-5-2. Sum It Up: 10.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-2-7. Sum It Up: 9



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PIGSKIN PREDICTIONS

This week's games



Jonathan Hull



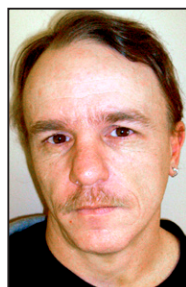
Jeff Lane



Robert Smith



Troy Hyde



Brandon Hallford



Art Barrera



Tim Knox

Big Spring at Snyder
Stanton at Grape Creek
Forsan at Eldorado
Sands at Hermleigh
Garden City vs. Abbott
Grady at Sanderson
Coahoma vs. Van Horn
Wake Forest at Baylor
E. Washington at Texas Tech
Illinois at Missouri
Florida Atlantic at Texas
Arkansas St. at Texas A&M
North Texas at Kansas St.
SMU at Rice
TCU at New Mexico
Oklahoma St. at Washington St.
NC State at South Carolina
Virginia at USC
Alabama at Clemson
Virginia Tech at ECU
Utah at Michigan
Michigan St. at Cal
Colorado St. vs. Colorado
Fresno St. at Rutgers
Tennessee at UCLA

Big Spring
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Forsan
Sands
Garden City
Grady
Coahoma
Wake Forest
Texas Tech
Missouri
Texas
Texas A&M
Kansas St.
Rice
TCU
Oklahoma St.
S. Carolina
USC
Clemson
ECU
Utah
Cal
Colorado
Fresno St.
Tennessee

Snyder
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Baylor
Texas Tech
Missouri
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Rice
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USC
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Virginia Tech
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Clemson
Virginia Tech
Michigan
Michigan St.
Colorado
Rutgers
Tennessee

Big Spring
Grape Creek
Forsan
Sands
Garden City
Grady
Coahoma
Wake Forest
Texas Tech
Missouri
Texas
Texas A&M
Kansas St.
Rice
TCU
Wash. St.
S. Carolina
USC
Alabama
Virginia Tech
Michigan
Cal
Colorado
Rutgers
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Big Spring
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Texas A&M
Kansas St.
Rice
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New Mexico
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TCU
Oklahoma St.
S. Carolina
USC
Clemson
Virginia Tech
Utah
Michigan St.
Colorado
Fresno St.
Tennessee

With the first week of football season comes the Herald's 2008 edition of Pigskin Predictions.

There are some new faces on this year's panel so here are some quick tidbits about each of us.

Jonathan Hull is the Herald's sports editor. He is a 1999 BSHS graduate. His football allegiances lie with all local squads, the Colorado Buffaloes and Dallas Cowboys.

Jeff Lane works for Big Spring ISD and covers Forsan sports for the Herald. He prefers the Texas A&M Aggies and has a deep love for the Dallas Cowboys.

Robert Smith is the Herald's circulation manager. He's been with the paper for a little over a year. He stays loyal to the Dallas Cowboys and the Texas Tech Red Raiders.

Troy Hyde was Herald's sports editor from 2004-2006. He now covers sports in Newton, Iowa. He roots for the Iowa Hawkeyes and the San Francisco 49ers.

Brandon Hallford is a stringer for the Herald and usually covers Coahoma sports. He cheers for the Texas A&M Aggies and Indianapolis Colts.

Art Barrera is a sales rep for Cintas and will handle play-by-play duties for Steers' football on KBST. He is loyal to Notre Dame and the Tennessee Titans.

Tim Knox is the Operations Manager for KBST, KBEST and KBTS. His loyalties align with all local teams, the Texas Longhorns and the Dallas Cowboys.

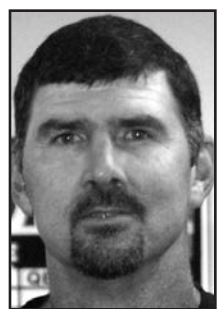
STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

In 2002, Snyder dropped to Class 3A and Big Spring began playing more area 5A schools in its predistrict schedule. However, there are no 5A schools on the schedule this season, allowing the Steers and Tigers to reunite.

"Having Snyder on the schedule just makes sense," Big Spring Head Coach Phillip Ritchey said. "They're just 40 miles away. It's like having Andrews on the schedule. They've got a solid 3A program. We don't take them for granted for being in a smaller classification. They play good football."

The Tigers now play in District 2-3A, which appears to be one of the better leagues in the state at that classification with teams like Brownwood, Abilene Wylie, Graham and Sweetwater. Ritchey believes Snyder is



Ritchey

equipped to deal with that sort of competition because of their girth up front.

"Snyder has become a traditionally strong football team," Ritchey continued. "This year, the offensive line is their biggest strength. They're very big. Obviously, they want to run the ball right at their opposition. They bring a physical-type game. Snyder lost some good players at skill positions. Their running back is good, but he's not what they had last year. It's the same thing with their quarterback."

Snyder's power running game takes place behind mammoth guards Daniel Samia, 6-1, 295 pounds, and Patrick Meighan, 6-4, 310. The Tigers' tackles weigh around 240 pounds. Junior Chase Arendale and sophomore Xavier Malone will receive most of the carries.

Defensively, Snyder is playing a different scheme over what it utilized last season — a 3-3-5 attack bent on confusing offenses.

"Defensively, they've changed this year," noted Ritchey. "They'll do a lot of stunting with the 3-3 stack. They want us to think one guy is blitzing, then bring a different guy instead. They're looking to deceive us with several guys moving at

once. You don't see this defense much at the high school level. West Virginia is having some success with it in the college ranks and that's where everyone is kind of getting it from."

While it's rare to come across a team using the 3-3 stack, it's not foreign to the Big Spring coaching staff.

"I actually coordinated the 3-3 stack in Boyd when we won a state championship," he said. "So I have some experience with it. It's a real challenge for our offense though, because we haven't seen it as a team before. It changes all of our rules. We can't guess about where they're coming from. We just have to have a plan and our offensive line has to understand that the guy they think they might be blocking might not be there once the ball is snapped."

Other than the possibly confusing scheme, which could create problems for the Steers' offensive line, Ritchey feels Big Spring holds an advantage over the Snyder defense.

"They're not very big on defense," Ritchey continued. "We'll have a definite size advantage and a height advantage with our receivers against their defensive backs. We have a speed advantage there, too. They have

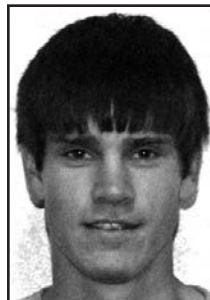
one guy in the secondary that's a sprinter, who qualified for the state track meet. Overall, they'll have trouble matching us speed for speed."

Snyder's lone speedster is Kenneth Turner, who is the defending Class 3A champion in the 100- and 200-meter races. He won the 100 with a time of 10.61 and clocked a 21.49 in the 200.

On offense, the Steers will be w i t h o u t junior quarterback Tyler Tannehill. Tannehill had just finished rehabbing his left knee after surgery in the offseason and took the field in Big Spring's final scrimmage against Lubbock High last Friday.

Unfortunately, he injured his right knee after being sacked by two Lubbock defenders. His long-term status is unknown, but it is certain he will not play against Snyder Friday.

Starting in his place will be junior Matt Ritchey. Ritchey usually starts at tight end, but started at quarterback for the



Tannehill

junior class from the time they were in seventh grade to ninth grade. He also started at QB during 7-on-7 football this summer and took snaps with the first team in both of Big Spring's scrimmages.

Phillip Ritchey, Matt's uncle, said his nephew and Zamir Linton figured to take some snaps against Snyder even if Tannehill were healthy because of the threat they pose.

"Matt is probably the best combination of a runner and passer we have on the team," explained Ritchey. "Zamir is incredibly elusive and we like what he brings to the table as well. We're going to use both weapons at quarterback some."

Other than Tannehill, Ritchey reports the Steers are a healthy squad right now.

"(Running back) Monte (Anderson) got a little nicked up against Monahans in our first scrimmage, but he looked good and ready to go against Lubbock," noted Ritchey. "We're excited about this season. We think this could be a special year and we're ready to get it started."

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

should go our way."

Offensively, the Bulldogs are pinning their hopes on the legs of senior running back P.J. Daylong and the arm of junior quarterback Josh Paniagua.

Daylong was the primary weapon of choice for the Bulldogs last year, a situation that was brought on by numerous injuries early in the season. The versatile back ended the season last year with just over 675 yards on the ground while adding 583 yards receiving and 211 passing.

"Last year, they kind of took a beating on offense early," Martin said of last year's misfortunes. "That is a big thing. If you go into district all banged up, it makes it hard to make the play-offs."

Paniagua takes over the reigns of the offense from last year's QB Donnie Garcia, who chose not to play football this year. Paniagua, however, does have experience at his new position as he stepped in last year for six games while Garcia recovered from injury.



HERALD Photo/Bruce Schooler

Coahoma Bulldogs running back P.J. Daylong (3) finds a hole to run through in action from the 2007 football season. Daylong leads the Bulldogs into their 2008 season-opening game Saturday against Van Horn at Ratliff Stadium in Odessa.

"Josh has been doing a good job of grasping what we have been throwing at him," Martin said. "He did a good job for them last year in a backup role, so I

have no worries when it comes to his ability to handle the offense."

Working the outside will be sophomore Lupe Abrego and

senior Rey Gutierrez, while transfer Lane Douglas will man the tight end position in the Bulldogs multiple I-formation.

"We will know more about

where we are after this first game," explained Martin. "You really can't tell much until you get into games that mean something."

Obama set to woo nation 45 years after MLK's 'I have a dream' speech

DENVER (AP) — Barack Obama stands before delegates and the nation Thursday — the 45th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic "I Have a Dream" speech — to accept the Democratic presidential nomination, the first black man to claim such a prize.

The drama of his long, emotional primary struggle against Hillary Rodham Clinton behind him at last, Obama's long-awaited convention speech will propel him into a tough sprint to Election Day, a mere nine weeks away.

Obama's march into history will be coupled with a modern-day technological effort to get most of the 75,000 packed into Invesco Field at Mile High stadium to form the world's largest phone bank — text-messaging thousands more to boost voter registration for the fall.

Any edge is imperative as polls show a close race between Obama and Republican presidential candidate John McCain in the bid to become the nation's 44th president, succeeding George W. Bush.

Obama accepts his party's nod on a day few could ever imagine decades ago, when King fought for civil rights.

3 years after Katrina, New Orleans watches another storm brewing in Caribbean

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — National Guard troops stand ready, batteries and water bottles sold briskly, and one small-town mayor spent a sleepless night worrying. The New Orleans area watched as a storm marched across the Caribbean on the eve of Hurricane Katrina's third anniversary.

With forecasters warning that Gustav could strengthen and slam into the Gulf Coast as a major hurricane, a New Orleans still recovering from Hurricane Katrina's devastating hit drew up evacuation plans.

"I'm panicking," said Evelyn Fuselier of Chalmette, whose home was submerged in 14 feet of floodwater when Katrina hit. Fuselier said she's been back in her home one year this month, and called watching Gustav swirl toward the Gulf of Mexico indescribable. "I keep thinking, 'Did the Corps fix the levees?,' 'Is my house going to flood again?' ... 'Am I going to have to go through all this again?'"

Taking no chances, city officials began preliminary planning to evacuate and lock down the city in hopes of avoiding the catastrophe that followed the 2005 storm. New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin left the Democratic National Convention in Denver to return home for the preparations. Gov. Bobby Jindal declared a state of emergency to lay the groundwork for federal assistance, and put 3,000 National Guard troops on standby.



HERALD Photo/Lyndel Moody

Officials with the Big Spring Fire Department said this unoccupied home, located at 706 N. Goliad, suffered extensive smoke damage and some fire damage in the living room area after a fire ripped through it at approximately 2:30 a.m. Thursday. According to Big Spring Fire Chief Brian Jensen, the cause of the fire has been labeled suspicious and is currently under investigation. The home is owned by Sylvia Martinez of Big Spring.

CROWDED

Continued from Page 1A

combined to cause the current problem.

After more than a decade of steady decline, enrollment began moving upward again about three years ago, with the trend being heaviest in the elementary grades. Earlier this week, of-

officials reported 2,159 elementary students enrolled in classes, an increase of 144 from the same time last year.

The problem is most acute at Marcy, which is figuratively bursting at the seams with 537 students, while Bauer, in contrast, has two classrooms standing vacant.

The problem is less severe at Kentwood and

Moss, but Stevens said some students at those campuses will be transferred to Washington to bring the classes in line with mandated student/teacher ratios.

Transferring the students will alleviate the problem for now, but Stevens said other steps will have to be taken in the future.

"The elementary prob-

lem is not going to go away," he said. "We need to redraw the attendance zones and do whatever it takes to solve this.

"We're hoping we don't get a big influx of students," he added. "But if we do, we'll deal with it."

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

YOUTH

Continued from Page 1A

were at Creel's residence the evening before the young man's body was discovered, and had left with a juvenile just after midnight.

"We have confirmed there was a juvenile in the vehicle at that time," said Hall. "They left Creel's

residence at about midnight. Pierson returned to the Creel residence at about 2:30 a.m. Creel was missing approximately 13 hours before his body was found, but he was never reported missing to the authorities."

Hall said rumors Creel had been beaten or hit by a car prior to his death have been cleared by the preliminary autopsy.

"According to the medical examiner's report, Creel showed no signs of having been assaulted or hit by a vehicle," said Hall. "The medical examiner concluded his injuries were consistent with having been thrown from a moving vehicle. It is possible he had alcohol in his system at the time of his death, but there's nothing at this time to indicate he

was intoxicated."

Hall said good information regarding the 13-hour period leading up to Creel's death and the discovery of his body has been hard to come by.

"Pierson told us he thought Creel had gotten out of the back of the truck at a stop sign during their trip between midnight and 2:30 a.m.," said Hall. "However, when he (Pierson)

went back to look for him, he was unable to locate him. It's been really hard to get good information on just what happened."

Hall said evidence suggests how Creel was thrown from the back of the vehicle or fell from the pickup truck has yet to surface, and confirmed no other arrests have been made or charges brought at this time.

"It's really still too early in the investigation to say whether more charges will come out of this," said Hall.

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

HOMICIDE

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old David Rios.

According to police investigators, a dark-colored Ford pickup was seen leaving the scene of the shooting.

Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, said three arrests have been made in connection with the shooting.

James Cole, 18, of Lame-

sa; Gabriel Gonzales, 21, of Ft. Stockton; and Eduardo Mares, 21, of Seminole have all been charged with deadly conduct — discharge of a firearm in connection with the shooting, said Everett.

"No murder charges have been brought at this time," said Everett. "We're waiting to see how the district attorney's office wants to handle it."

Everett said the case has been complicated and slow to develop, but expects to see progress — including

elevation of charges and possibly more arrests — very soon.

Everett confirmed Cole is a member of the Latin Kings street gang and maintains the shooting — along with a slew of other shootings in the Big Spring area currently being investigated — are connected to a drug turf dispute between a Big Spring family and the Latin Kings.

All three suspects are currently free on bond, according to Howard County Sheriff's Office records.

Howard County District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson said his office will examine the evidence before deciding whether the shooting should be prosecuted as a capital murder.

"It certainly appears to have the merits necessary for capital murder, but until the details of the investigation are turned over to us its hard to say for sure," said Wilkerson shortly after the investigation began. "Anything at this point would purely be speculation."

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BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

"It seems like the cost of everything is going up," she said. "This year, we budgeted for a 30 percent increase in fuel costs, and I'm not sure that's going to be enough."

While costs continue to increase, the district's capacity to raise money has hit a virtual ceiling. BSISD's tax rate is already at the state-allowed maxi-

mum, while state aid to the district is frozen at 2005-2006 levels.

While the district can deal with the situation for now, Waggoner said things could get worse in the near future.

"The state's frozen their revenue levels, while at the same time, costs such as gas and food have gone sky high," she said. "If the state doesn't do anything about funding, it will probably get worse in the next few years."

In other business, trustees approved:

- The district's safety audit.
- Announced they will decide on a superintendent search firm at their Sept. 11 meeting.
- Approved a resolution to adopt a 403(b) supplemental retirement plan for district employees.

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

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Briles' era starts at Baylor tonight

By JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

History is against Art Briles. The new Baylor head coach inherits a program that has been the worst in the Big 12 since the league started. Five of the last six Bears coaches — dating all the way back to 1969 — lost their first game.

The present doesn't seem to be of much help either. Briles' Baylor debut comes Thursday night against No. 23 Wake Forest, which is ranked to start the season for the first time in program history.

Briles says he's all about the future and a win would make it seem a heck of a light brighter.

"Every game is a big game (but) Thursday is a big chance for us to showcase nationally what we certainly hope to be about as a football program," he said.

His staff and players need to look no further than Wake Forest for an example of how a major conference program can turn things around. The Demon Deacons have gone from ACC also-ran to conference champion under coach Jim Grobe and have won 20 games over the last two

seasons.

That's the kind of success Baylor has been dreaming of for years. It's what the school was looking for when it hired Briles away from Houston, where he took a team that had been winless in 2001 and molded it into a Conference USA champion by 2006. Baylor hasn't had a winning season since 1995 under coach Chuck Reedy and was 3-9 last season under Guy Morriss.

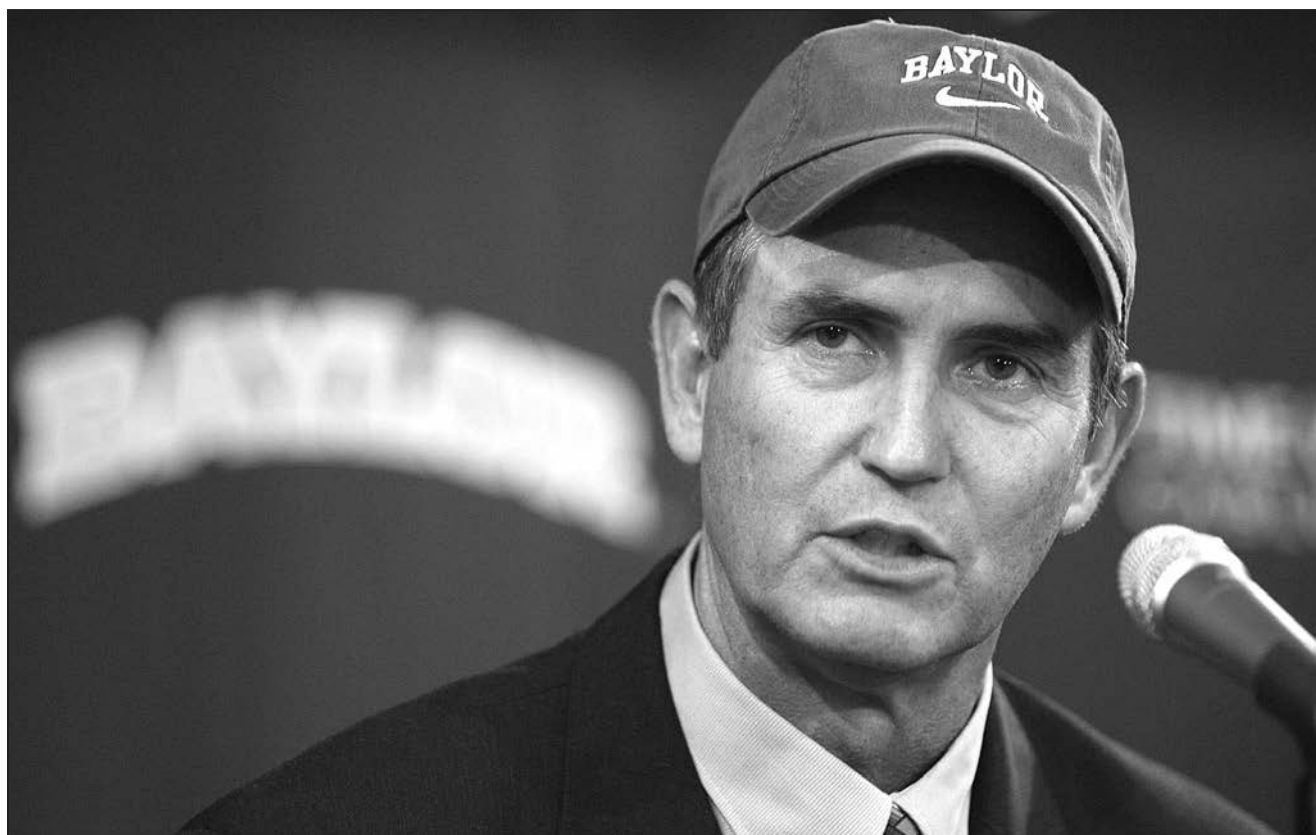
So what prompted Briles to leave Houston for the dead end of the Big 12?

"My daughter told me not to take it," Briles said.

"The biggest challenge, without a doubt, is I feel like when people haven't had a lot of success, a lot of times they're scared of success. We can't be a university that's scared of success," he said. "I like to walk down paths nobody else wants to."

One of Briles' first challenges was simply picking his lineup. After a three-way battle at quarterback between Robert Griffin, Miami transfer Kirby Freeman and last season's starter Blake Szymanski, Briles said Tuesday has picked a starter but was keeping it a secret.

Szymanski started 10 games



AP file photo

Art Briles answers questions after being introduced as the new coach of the Baylor University football team during a press conference in Waco earlier this year. Briles begins his first season as the Bears' coach when Baylor takes on Wake Forest tonight.

last year and passed for 2,844 yards. Freeman started seven games in his career with the Hurricanes before transferring to Baylor for graduate school.

All Briles would say is that he expects to use more than one quarterback in the game.

Wake Forest has the unusual challenge of trying to live up to high expectations. After the 2006 ACC title, Wake promptly started last season 0-2 before rebound-

ing to finish 9-4.

"People are just throwing names and number out there before anything has happened," Skinner said. "Before you even play a down of football, you feel like you should be handed a trophy," Skinner said. "I think being on both ends of the spectrum has really helped us stay grounded. We know that we can't let that stuff get to us."

This year, the Demon Deacons

return nine starters on a defense that held six opponents under 20 points and scored eight touchdowns on turnovers. Offensively, Skinner runs the show. His 72 percent pass completion rate was best the country last year.

"With the expectations through the roof for this football team, I think there's a little bit of pressure," Grobe said. "I hope we handle it better than we did last year."



AP photo/Orlin Wagner

Texas Rangers pitcher Frank Francisco, left, is congratulated by catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia following their win over the Kansas City Royals in a baseball game played in Kansas City, Mo., Wednesday. The Rangers defeated the Royals 3-2.

Rangers complete sweep of Royals

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A little luck and a little hustle was all the Texas Rangers needed to pull off their first three-game sweep this season.

Jarrod Saltalamacchia scooted home when pitcher Brian Bannister flubbed a popup, giving Texas the go-ahead run in their 3-2 win over Kansas City on Wednesday night.

"Give him 10 more of them and he won't drop them," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "Salty didn't take it for granted the ball was going to be caught. It worked out well for us."

Matt Harrison won for the fourth time in August, pitching the Texas Rangers to a 3-2 win over the crumbling Kansas City Royals.

The Royals have lost 10 of their last 11 games and 17 of 20, falling to a season-worst 21 games below .500.

This one got away in the seventh inning. Chris Davis and Saltalamacchia

hit two-out doubles to tie it, then Saltalamacchia came home when Joaquin Arias' routine popup went off the heel of his glove.

"That's what we're taught since Little League, to hustle and run the ball out. That's the fundamentals of baseball. We were in a tight situation. We needed a big hit. I thought when he hit it that I had to run as hard as I can, especially since I'm not in the lineup everyday. I busted my fanny as hard as I could. Rounding third, I saw him drop it and I thought they might throw me out at home. Then I saw (catcher Miguel) Olivo out there, too, and I knew I had it."

Harrison (6-3), a 22-year-old rookie left-hander, went 4-1 in five August starts. He held the Royals to two runs, one earned, on seven hits in 6 2-3 innings, giving the Rangers their first franchise sweep of more than two games at Kansas City.

Frank Francisco worked a flawless ninth to log his first career save.

"It was night of firsts all the way around," Washington said.

Francisco was 0-for-6 in save opportunities this season before retiring the Royals in order in the ninth, striking out two.

The Royals stranded seven runners and went 2-for-10 with runners in scoring position.

"Obviously, the error hurt, but it shouldn't have been as close as it was either," Royals manager Trey Hillman said. "A lot of that has to do with lack of run production when we should produce. Third inning, runner on second, nobody out, and we don't get him over. Fourth inning, runners on second and third with nobody out and we don't score a run out of that, too."

Bannister (7-14), who struck out a career high eight, has not won in 11 starts since June 23.

AREA

Continued from Page 1B

Mustangs, a six-man, Division I team last season has been reclassified to six-man D-II, which should play to Henderson's favor.

Sands will open regular season play at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Hermleigh, which went 5-5 last year.

"We're going to take it one game at a time," Henderson said. "Hermleigh has a good spread and we won't take them lightly."

The new division is certainly no "gimme," however, with the Borden County Coyotes, a Top 5 state ranked team in the mix as well as Grandfalls-Royalty, which finished last season with a 10-2 record. The Mustangs will have their share of challenges.

Last year, the Mustangs had five sophomores on offense, and managed to keep opponents in check despite being in a district which was touted as the toughest in Texas. Those same sophomores are now juniors and have more experience to help carry Sands through the regular season.

"They were able to keep games as competitive as possible against the toughest six-man district in the state last season," noted Henderson.

The success Sands may enjoy also rests heavily on junior quarterback Johnny Rogers. Rogers is just one of five returning offensive starters who should be an impact player for the Mustang's offense. "Johnny should have a good year," Henderson said. "His maturity level has improved and he's really starting to see the offense the way I want him to."

Daniel Armendariz, also a junior is expected to be a playmaker on both sides of the ball. Defensively, he led Sands recording 135 tackles, as well as four interceptions — two of which he returned for touchdowns.

If the Mustangs play their cards right, they have an excel-



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Sands Mustangs running back Daniel Armendariz powers past two defenders in action from the 2007 football season.

lent chance of seeing playoff action for the first time since 2002.

"Our goal is to make the playoffs," Henderson said. "We're going into this season believing we can win every game on our schedule. It's the best chance

we've had for the playoffs since I've been here."

Young Wildcats open with Sanderson

LENORAH — The Grady Wildcats open their season at 7:30 p.m. Friday, when they take a trip to Sanderson, facing a tough Eagle squad.

Sanderson is favored to win its district and www.sixmanfootball.com hints the Eagles could potentially upset the Wildcats, despite Grady blowing them out, 58-8 last season. However, Sanderson enters 2008 ranked sixth in Division II.

"Sanderson is very run oriented. They went on to have a pretty good season after we beat them," said Grady Head Coach Joe Helms. "They return a lot of kids from last season so we can't take them too lightly."

Grady is also favored to win its

district in Division I, despite losing a lot of key players to graduation.

Helms, who was honored by the Texas Coaches Association with coach of the year honors in six-man Division I, should see success in the new district they landed in.

"It's nice to be out of a district with all the perennial powerhouses we were pitted against for the past two seasons," Helms said of the realignment. "But with the new district comes the unknown and unfamiliar. There's definitely some caution because of that."

Grady will have to compete with another strong team in Ira to top their district, but Helms is optimistic.

Quarterback Dylan Cox tops the list of returning offensive players. Cox threw for over 1,700 yards last season and could very well repeat or top that feat this year. According to Helms, Cox, now a junior, is even more accustomed to the program and should dazzle if he stays healthy.

"His understanding of the offense should be better than ever," Helms said. "He's kind of been broken in for this position."

EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Confusing good health with excess pounds

It is none of our business but ... we can't resist. Alabama is getting tough with state workers who are too fat. Beginning in 2010, state employees who are obese and don't work on getting fit will have to pay \$25 a month for insurance that is free to other workers.

The State Employees Insurance Board approved the plan last week. Maybe it is following the example of airline companies that recently began charging passengers for overweight luggage. But this is a bad approach to an admittedly worrisome problem. Yes, it is a good idea to encourage employees to improve their health, get in shape, be fit.

In Alabama, fried food is endemic to the culture. Everything is fried there, from grits to okra to mouth-watering chicken — and tea comes presweetened. This kind of food is fat-inducing, and it takes an iron will just to resist.

However, being overweight — even obese — is not necessarily linked to one's diet. For many overweight people, weight gain is more about genes than diet. On the other side of the coin, many people who are of "average" weight are afflicted with the kind of medical issues — diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels, etc. — that are typically associated with obesity. If the concern is about poor health, why not focus on health issues instead of weight?

This is a situation where the carrot is better than the stick. Offering a plaque, a reward, bonus, cash or recognition for improvement creates positive incentive and good karma. Assessing a cash penalty for lack of improvement is a negative incentive. It can work, but there may not be full buy-in of the concept.

Officials thinking of following Alabama's example should take note: Don't confuse good health with excess pounds.

THE MIAMI HERALD

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

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

Party unity my, er, eye

In one sense, it's incomprehensible that Barack Obama would forgo an opportunity to reunite his party by picking Hillary Clinton as his running mate. But in his place, wouldn't you be willing to sacrifice a little if it guaranteed you'd never have to view and smell Bill Clinton's sock feet propped up on the Oval Office desk?

But whatever will this messianic emissary of change do to unite his party? That is a legitimate question, is it not, since unity, harmony, love and bliss have been Obama's main campaign themes since his entry onto the presidential campaign stage?

How, inquiring minds wonder, can Obama join us all together — bitter clingers and all — in one big communal bond of sentimental good will if he can't even inspire unity in his own party?

That's unfair, you say? It's not his fault? It's those grudge-holding Clintons and their die-hard supporters who won't bury the hatchet?

Oh? I thought it was George W. Bush's fault that the countries of Old Europe wouldn't support the American efforts against Iraq. I thought it was Dubya's fault — that evil, unilateralist, go-it-alone cowboy — that the United Nations wouldn't do the right thing and enforce its own resolutions that Saddam Hussein had violated at will.

Democrats told us that had they been in charge, the world would have melted in their diplomatic hands.

It was Dubya's fault the world wouldn't get on board. Shame on Dubya for not placing "unity" and "bilateralism" — you know, getting along for the sake of getting along

— ahead of national interests.

Democrats also railed against Bush for failing in his promise to bring the country together, to usher in a spirit of conviviality across party lines, as he had done as Texas governor.

Never mind that he did reach out ad nauseam to Democrats, even courting the ideologically hostile Ted Kennedy. Never mind that Democrats and their fellow leftist Bush Derangement Syndrome enablers were engulfed in blue flames of unquenchable hatred for George Bush and depicted him daily as "Hitler" and "the enemy." No, it was all George Bush's fault that the country didn't come together. It was his fault they couldn't forgive him for sins he hadn't committed.

Shouldn't these people who held Bush to the impossible standard of winning the favor of terrorists, recalcitrant nations and an unappeasably hostile opposition party be held to the much easier standard of unifying just their own party?

Yet what do we see as this splendid Democratic convention week begins in Denver? What news stories are sucking the oxygen out of every crevice in the Pepsi Center?

Outside, we see the irrepressible anger of anti-war protestors surrounding the site.

And inside, we see in some 25 percent of the jilted Clinton delegates the fury of a woman scorned — literally.

Clinton primary supporter Debra Bartoshevich, featured in a McCain ad, doubts Obama has the "experience and judgment to be president." "A lot of Democrats," she says, "will vote McCain." And she's hardly an isolated case.

One group of disgruntled Clinton supporters calls themselves "Party Unity My Ass" and hisses mockingly at Obama on its Web site, "We are the ones no one was expecting." Other disillusioned feminist

Clintonoids, firmly believing their candidate was a victim of sexism, succeeded in inserting language into the Democratic Party platform condemning misogyny. How heart-warming.

Then there's the latest USA Today/Gallup Poll, which shows that only 47 percent of the Clinton troops said they'd vote for Obama while 23 percent were uncommitted. Sorry to flag the obvious, but this means that more than half the Clinton supporters have yet to join Obama.

Trust me, if there were a spirit of unity in this party, the Obama camp wouldn't be preoccupied with proving it. Supportive media outlets, such as The New York Times, wouldn't be declaiming, "The biggest challenge for Democrats will be reuniting a party strained by the months-long primary battle between Mr. Obama and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton." And Obama supporters wouldn't be lashing out at Hillary holdouts as "bitter-enders" and comparing them to "Japanese soldiers in the South Pacific still fighting after the war is over."

Obama made his own bed with his unity boasts. Of course, he also told us he would bring a fresh and less divisive and mean-spirited approach to politics before proceeding to skewer John McCain with such loving caricatures as, "Talking tough and acting dumb is not a way to keep you safe and secure."

But fear not. Barack's still got that change thing going for him. Biden, anyone?

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• **GEORGE W. BUSH**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator

703 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-5922

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
1510 Scurry

Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

STATE GOVERNMENT

• **RICK PERRY**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **JOE HEFLIN**

State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (432) 213-2897 or (512) 463-0604

• **KEL SELIGER**
State Senator
Texas 31st District
401 Austin, Suite 101
Big Spring, 79720
Phone: (432) 268-9909

Obama, Clinton, Biden and McClain

DENVER — The goodie bag given to attendees of the Democratic National Convention includes

maps, magnets and Dale Carnegie's Golden Book. The first principle for Carnegie's "How to Win Friends and Influence People" is: "Don't criticize, condemn or complain." No. 2: "Give honest, sincere appreciation."

Clearly Carnegie didn't write an opinion page column, but in that I think my original take on Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's choice of running mate was a tad harsh, I would like to address what was positive about his choice of Joe Biden.

My first take? I felt the same as when I watched the end of the last episode of "The Sopranos." Let down. The go-to-black ending may have been nuanced, but as far as I was concerned, the producers punted. They chose a non-ending because they couldn't decide on a strong ending.

Yes, Biden is considered a statesman with strong foreign-policy credentials. He also comes across as a very decent man. He has been an effective senator, who could work with Democrats and Republicans alike.

Politically, however, not choosing Hillary Rodham Clinton as his running mate seemed a gratuitous way of insulting Clinton's close-to-18 million voters.

Worse, it must have felt like rubbing salt into the wound to Clinton and her supporters when Obama passed her over for a man who, months ago, was shooting for a

third- or fourth-place finish in Iowa — then dropped out after he came in fifth, having failed to garner 1 percent of the vote.

There are more than 1,500 delegates pledged to Clinton in this town — and you know what they say about women scorned. So, if you have to pick the Iowa horse who couldn't win, place or show — well, first, hide the ashtrays.

Now for the honest, sincere appreciation part: It was gutsy for Obama not to pick La Hil. Maybe he didn't pick her because he doesn't like her. Or maybe he didn't pick her because his pollsters think that Clinton would cost him votes. Whatever the reason, if Obama loses, he will spend the rest of his life hearing that this is where he screwed up.

And it won't matter that Clinton ran a disorganized campaign, burned through \$106 million before the first vote was cast and frittered away a solid lead.

Clintonia will whisper that if the Dems lose the White House, then it will be because Obama didn't pick Clinton.

The upside of this gamble? If Obama wins, then he'll own the operation. He'll start with a clean slate.

One big problem with Biden: Like Hillary Clinton, Biden voted to authorize the use of U.S. military force in Iraq. Some liberals forgive Biden for his Iraq vote, noting that he has been highly critical of the Bush administration's handling of the war — albeit with his quirky proposal to divide Iraq, Gaul-like, into three parts.

And like Obama, Biden said the surge could not work. Well, it has worked.

I think Clinton lost because she voted for the war. I think that Democratic primary voters chose not to forgive in 2008 a vote they forgave

in 2004 when they nominated John Kerry. I remember looking out at delegates at the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston — 86 percent of who, unlike me, opposed the war — and thinking that if they wanted the party to be truly united, they should have nominated a candidate who did not support the war. As I wrote at the time, "They should have picked (Howard) Dean."

In 2004, Democrats thought they were being clever in nominating Kerry, whose vote rankled so many delegates. In 2008, they picked a clever candidate who opposed the war from the start.

Look beyond the convention. Even those voters who have strong misgiving about the war in Iraq nonetheless may not want a vice president who voted for a war, then walked away from that vote when it became politically unpopular.

Biden says that his old friend, John McCain, has changed his positions to win the GOP nomination. "I've been disappointed in my friend, John McCain, who gave in to the right wing of his party and yielded to the very 'Swift Boat' politics that he once so deplored. Folks — campaigns for presidents are a test of character and leadership," Biden said.

Leadership? When the polls showed his support of the Iraq War could kill his chances in 2008, McCain stood firm. He even called for more troops in Iraq.

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

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DAVID
LIMBAUGH



DEBRA
SAUNDERS

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

Changing of the guard

There's a new, yet familiar, face leading Steers' cross country

By **JONATHAN HULL**
Sports Editor

No athletic program at Big Spring High School has had more success in the past few years than cross country.

Two years ago, the boys' cross country squad won the first team state championship in school history. Last year, the Steers' hopes of repeating fell just short with a very respectful third-place finish at the state meet in Round Rock.

In 2008, expectations actually aren't as high as they have been the past two seasons. Mostly because of the loss of team leader and two-time third-place state finisher Zach Dawson, who graduated in May and now runs cross country for Texas Tech.

"Anytime you have to replace a talented kid like Zach, it's hard," said Coach Randy Britton. "We've still got some talent here and group of kids that are willing to put the work in to advance far. I'm very optimistic that we can have success. I'm not going to say we'll win district or the region, but we're going to compete for it."

Even without Dawson, the Steers still have an individual in the boys' division capable of advancing to state. Jordan Valle finished 12th at the 2007 state meet, registering a time of 16:01. However, Britton expects Valle to be even stronger in 2008.

"Jordan is the nucleus of this team. He's an tremendously hard worker. If I told

See **CC**, Page 5B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring's Zack Dawson (left) and Jordan Valle (right) lead the pack at the 2007 Class 4A, Region I cross country meet at Mae Simmons Park in Lubbock. Last season, Valle pushed Dawson to higher performance, but ran in his teammate's shadow. Now a senior, 2008 should be Valle's turn in the spotlight.



HERALD photos/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring Lady Steers Volleyball Coach Meghan Blake (left) speaks to the 2008 version of the Lady Steers' varsity volleyball team during practice Aug. 6. Blake and the Lady Steers are off to a slow start this season, but are having encouraging moments mixed in with the disappointments that come with a 4-12 record.

Lady Steers find growth even in slow start

By **JONATHAN HULL**
Sports Editor

It hasn't been exactly a memorable start for the Big Spring Lady Steers volleyball team in Head Coach Meghan Blake's first season.

The Lady Steers have opened the season at 4-12, dropping five of their past six matches. Still,

Blake points out there have been positive moments to build off of.

"Emotionally, we're like a roller coaster right now. We're having a lot of downs, but there have been a few ups too," noted Blake. "We're learning to play point to point. Right now, we're unstable with the flow of the game. What we have to figure

out is that our energy level can be for us or against us. We're learning to control that."

Blake moved back to Big Spring in the summer to take over the Lady Steers' program after spending a year in Denver, assisting at Metro State College and heading up a high school girls traveling team. She attended Big Spring High

School for her freshman, sophomore and junior years, playing volleyball for the Lady Steers.

She ended up graduating high school in Olathe, Kan., and continued her volleyball career at Johnson County Community College where she was an

See **VOLLEYBALL**, Page 5B

AD Ritchey gets desired tennis coach

New leader inherits youth and experience

By **JONATHAN HULL**
Sports Editor

Persistence. That's what it took for Big Spring Athletic Director Phillip Ritchey to finally land the man he wanted for the head tennis coaching job.

It took a couple months, but Ritchey finally talked Dana Jones into accepting.

"Phillip and his brother Mike literally kept after me for two months and finally wore me down to accept it," Jones said. "I know and have worked with a lot of the kids on the team. I've been involved with the junior program. I became unemployed in June and everything just kind of lined out for me to take this job. I told Phillip and Mike I wouldn't do it at first, but they just kept calling back. It just started feeling like this is where I'm supposed to be."

Jones has plenty of tennis background. He played for the last ever Howard College tennis team in 1975, then went on to Texas Tech, where he played for another season.

See **TENNIS**, Page 5B

BSHS swim team rebuilding quickly

By **JONATHAN HULL**
Sports Editor

Rebuild and recruit. Those are the two words new Big Spring Swimming Coach Kenneth Nelson was using when he first started his new job.

However, the only reason the words needed to be used, according to Nelson, was because of a lack of quantity of swimmers in the program and not because of a slippance in quality.

"The kids I have are great," Nelson said. "I've got around 14 kids participating in the offseason training right now and am hoping to get some last second recruits before the season begins."



Nelson



2008 Big Spring Steers & Lady Steers swim team

See **SWIM**, Page 5B

Foose F-150

Limited Edition Ford showtruck goes 'Overhaulin' to the Max'

Truck collectors take note: Ford only has plans to produce 500 units of the F-150 Foose Edition, so for those interested, don't walk, run to your nearest Ford dealer to get an order in.

It's that good. In a collaborative agreement between Ford and

custom street rod designer Chip Foose (who also stars on the TLC television show *Overhauled*), Foose has taken a stock SuperCrew Styleside F-150 and created a masterpiece show truck.

It's not uncommon for manufacturers take a popular product and spin-off limited edition models that feature unique styling and/or performance enhancement to create consumer excitement over the product line.

Ford, however, has long led the charge when it comes to leveraging its relationships outside the industry to create specialty products that captivate attention in the market while providing unique ownership opportunities for their customers.

The most popular examples being the limited edition models produced in collaboration with Carroll Shelby, Harley-Davidson and the King Ranch.

The F-150 Foose raises the bar for limited edition models.

For starters, it has all the styling elements you would expect from a Foose vehicle — the front

end has been lowered, a sport-tuned suspension added, unique Foose interior accents throughout the cabin including Chip Foose signature headrests and leather-wrapped center console, cat-back dual exhaust package with chrome tips

and special 22-inch wheels. But the real Foose treatment is under the hood. Powering the special edition is a 5.4-liter supercharged Triton V-8 engine that cranks out 450 horsepower and 500 foot-pounds of torque making the Foose edition the most powerful F-150 since the 2004 SVT Lightning — as well as the most powerful half-ton production pick-

up on the market today. Each of the 500 units comes with a Foose serialization plaque designating its production number in the limited edition series. Tecstar LP takes care of the Foose conversion with parts covered under the original factory warranty. As with all limited edition models, the special package comes with a premium over the basic truck price — in this case nearly \$19,000. The manufacturer's suggested retail price for the F-150 Foose Edition is listed at \$54,995, not counting destination and delivery. Because of its limited availability, if you're able to find one available, don't be surprised if the asking price is higher. For information on ordering, I recommend visiting



The Foose F-150 Limited Edition model.

RIDE & DRIVE
with Neal White



Custom street rod designer Chip Foose.

your local Ford dealer first to see if it is still possible to put in an order before searching the online auction sites.

Either way, for collectors or consumers seeking to own a high-performance pickup, the Foose F-150 is absolutely worth adding to the garage.

During my one-week

test drive, I can tell you that it is extremely fast. Unfortunately I didn't have a test track available this week to really open it up.

Without question, the turnkey custom hot rod pickup is a sweet ride that will long be a top draw at car shows around the country.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@uninews.com.

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

	7	3						6
2	4		6	5				
					4	2		8
						7	9	1
	8						2	
4	9	2						
7		6	3					
				4	6		3	7
	5					8	1	

In Observation Of Labor Day

The following Financial Institutions will observe the following:

Citizens Federal Credit Union
CLOSED SAT/MON

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
CLOSED

State National Bank
CLOSED

Big Spring Community
Federal Credit Union
CLOSED

First Bank Of West Texas
CLOSED

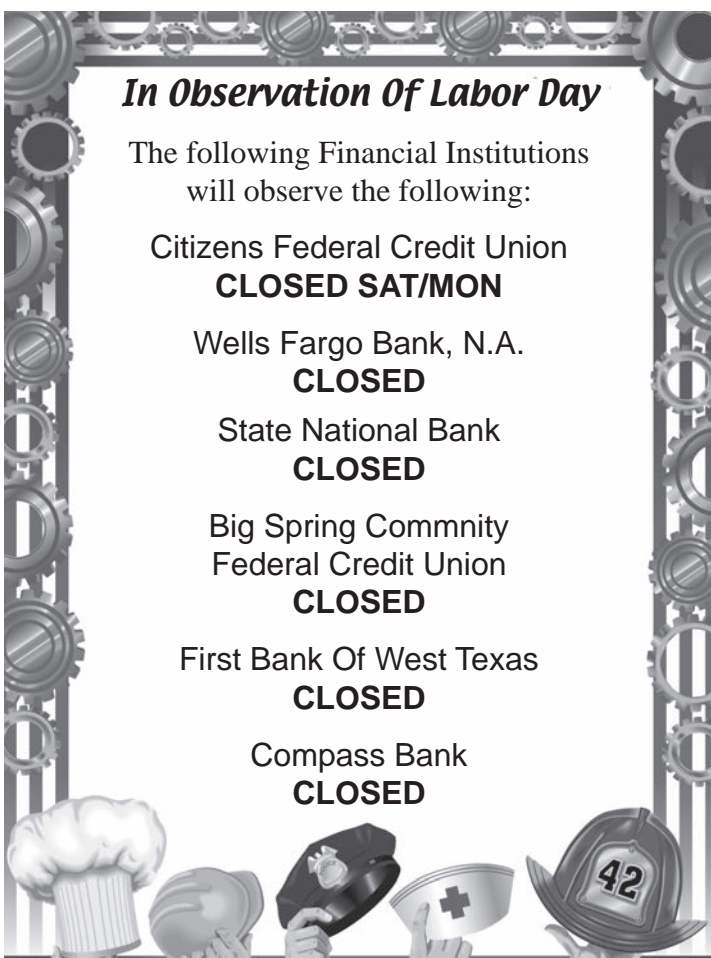
Compass Bank
CLOSED

SPECS

MODEL:
2007 Cadillac DTS
5- or 6-seat luxury sedan
Front-wheel drive
Trim packages:
Luxury I, II, III, Performance
PRICE RANGE:
\$42,000-55,000
ENGINE:
4.6-L Northstar V-8
(275/291 hp/286/292 torque)
TRANSMISSION:
4-speed automatic
EPA: 17 mpg city, 25 mpg high-

way
FUEL: Premium unleaded
SUSPENSION: Independent MacPherson strut-type with side-load compensation, 29 mm stabilizer bar, L-shaped aluminum lower control arm, 80 mm hydraulic ride bushing (front); multi-link independent with coil springs and semi trailing arm, 18 mm hollow stabilizer bar, 48 mm diameter trailing arm bushing, monotube shocks, 288-mm spring (rear)

TRACTION CONTROL:
Four-channel StabiliTrak with brake assist
BRAKES: ABS
LENGTH: 207.6 inches
WHEELBASE: 115.6 inches
WIDTH: 74.8 inches
HEIGHT: 57.6 inches
WEIGHT: 4,009 lbs.
TRACK: 62.5/61.7 (front/rear)
FUEL TANK: 18.5 gallons
TIRES: 17-, or 18-inch
SAFETY: Dual front dual-depth front airbags, seat-mounted head curtain side impact airbags, remote keyless entry, et. al.



Big Spring
Symphony Association, Inc.
Keith Graumann, Music Director & Conductor
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Times to Remember Great Friends

Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in e minor
Tchaikovsky: Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture
Strauss: Overture to Die Fledermaus
Schubert: Unfinished Symphony Mvt I

Big Spring Symphony Orchestra

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John Giordano

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Dr. Kirsten Yon



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Admission

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TENNIS

Continued from Page 4B

He's also been a coach at Colorado City High School and Mary Hardin-Baylor University. Recently, he's been serving at the president of the Crossroads Tennis Association here in Big Spring.

"We brought in Dana for the same reason we wanted Mike Warren to be our girls' basketball coach and Meghan Blake to be our volleyball coach. He has ties to the community," said Phillip Ritchey. "He's lived in Big Spring for a while and has worked with a lot of the kids in our tennis program. Dana was

our first choice. We didn't get him early, but we ended up just coming back around to him. We're happy things worked out the way they did. We're hopeful Dana can stick around a few years and build the program right away."

Jones inherits a very experienced group of girls, but Big Spring will be young in the boys' division.

Leading the girls is Keely Parnell, Brandi Rigdon, Christina Chaney and Brittany Farmer.

The top boys' players will be Mike Gonzales, C.J. Bursleson and Jeremy Langford.

Big Spring played in its first tournament of the season Aug. 20-21 in Wichita Falls. Sixteen

teams participated in what is considered one of the better tennis tournaments in the state.

Big Spring went 1-3 over two days.

The Steers opened play against host Wichita Falls Rider, suffering their first loss of the season.

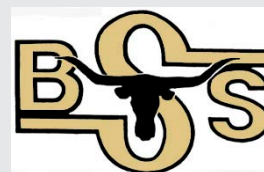
However, it didn't take Big Spring long to make up for that defeat, topping Vernon. The Steers ended up losing to Burkburnet and Pampa in competitive matches on the second day.

"Overall, I think we had a good start," Jones said. "We don't have a lot of experience with just three seniors on the girls' team and none on the boys."

Big Spring hasn't won its district since Wolforth Frenship joined the league in the early part of this decade. However, not even Frenship enters the 2008 team tennis season as the district's favorite.

Abilene Cooper is the defending Class 5A state champion and a perennial powerhouse in that classification. In other words, it's not only football where Cooper will leave its mark in 2008 after being dropped down to Class 4A.

"Everyone seems to believe that we're fighting Frenship for second place because neither of us can beat Cooper," said Jones. "I just want us to go out and be the best we can be, whatever that is."



Big Spring Steers Team Tennis

Date	Opp.	Site	Time
9-5	Abilene Tourn.	Away	TBA
9-9	Snyder	Home	4 p.m.
9-13	Brownwood	Away	8 a.m.
9-13	Sweetwater	Away	1 p.m.
9-16	Andrews	Away	4 p.m.
9-23	Abilene Wylie	Away	4 p.m.
9-27	Cooper*	Home	8 a.m.
10-4	Lake View*	Away	8 a.m.
10-7	Snyder	Away	4 p.m.
10-11	Frenship*	Home	8 a.m.
10-14	Monahans	Away	4 p.m.
10-18	Plainview*	Away	8 a.m.
10-21	Lubbock Trinity	Home	4 p.m.



Big Spring Steers Swimming

Date	Meet	Site
10-4	Abilene/Cooper	Abilene
10-11	Lubbock Relays	Lubbock
10-17	Abilene Inv.*	Abilene
10-21	Andrews/Cooper	Andrews
10-31	Big Spring Inv.*	Here
11-7	Midland Inv.*	Midland
11-14	Pecos Inv.*	Pecos
11-21	Monahans Inv.*	Monahans
12-12	Seminole Inv.*	Seminole
1-9	Andrews Inv.*	Andrews
1-16	Lubbock Inv.	Lubbock
1-30	District meet	Andrews
2-12	Regional meet	Andrews
2-27	State meet	Austin

SWIM

Continued from Page 4B

Nelson said he needed around 25 swimmers in order for Big Spring to be able to compete as a team at most swim meets. However, he does note the Steers should be just fine on an individual level.

Problem solved. Nelson took advantage of freshman orientation and witnessed the number of swimmers almost double.

"I went into the freshman orientation and started recruiting kids," he said. "The response was great and now I have a team that will definitely put up a lot more points."

That was only Nelson's first surprise last week. A bigger one emerged a few days later.

Only one Steer swimmer advanced to the state meet in Austin last year. Cameron Hughey has high expectations

for his senior year and Nelson says Hughey should be able to achieve them. In fact, Nelson believes he can make Hughey an even more competitive swimmer.

"Cameron has been winning off of talent alone and there's nothing wrong with that. That's how I was when I swam in high school, too," Nelson explained. "It wasn't until I got a coach who worked with me on my stroke technique that I started to really post top times. I want to help Cameron fix his stroke some and that will make him a better swimmer."

Heading into the year, it appeared Hughey wouldn't be available for all the meets at the start of the season because of his plans to play football. Despite having Nelson's support, Hughey changed his mind after completing two-a-days, feeling it was better for him to concentrate just on swimming.

"I'm very excited about Coach Nelson. He's the reason I quit

football," Hughey said. "Coach swam the same events I did in high school and I think working with him is going to really help me a lot."

"Cameron has the chance to go a long way," added Nelson. "I'm excited about the potential he has this season. Playing football would have helped him in a way because of the amount of time he would have spent in the weight room."

"He quit at the wrong time, though. You're supposed to quit football before two-a-days are over, not after its done," he joked. "He's going to get a chance to just concentrate on swimming now and on fixing his stroke. I expect him to have a great year."

The top girls swimmer returning to Big Spring this year is junior Kelly Sage.

"I'm really excited about Kelly. She'll have a chance to advance a ways," said Nelson. "I'm going to work with her on her stroke technique and coach

her up a bit. She'll swim faster than she ever has this season."

The 2008 season marks Nelson's first as a head coach of a swimming program. Last year, Nelson, 31, worked as a substitute teacher for Frisco Independent School District and helped coach swimming at the Frisco Natatorium.

He was a regional qualifier in high school in Bryan and swam for a club team at at Texas A&M, Commerce.

He welcomes the challenge coaching in Big Spring will provide.

"I know the focus is going to be on Cameron and Kelly and rightly so, but we've got a lot of good kids swimming right now," Nelson said. "I'm hoping to get even more involvement with the program and even get a club team started in the summer, hoping to get some junior high kids involved. I think we can make some moves so that this swimming program grows instead of declines."

VOLLEYBALL

Continued from Page 4B

All-American in 2003. She also was named the team's Most Valuable Player that season.

However, after her sophomore season, she had surgery on both knees, bringing an early halt to her promising career. She finished her final two years of college at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

The move back to Big Spring was a difficult decision for Blake, but it isn't one she regrets either.

"I loved Denver, but I feel the female athletes here needed a change and I'm willing to come in and do it," Blake said. "I think that's why I took this job, because I know I can help them get better."

According to the Lady Steers' new skipper, improvements are already noticeable.

"These girls have learned a lot in a few weeks of practice and playing. We've made some strides with our mechanics and fundamentals, but we still have a long way to go," explained Blake. "Right now, our confidence is our biggest issue. We have to walk out onto the court believing we can win."

"What we're having trouble doing right now is playing up to our size," she continued. "We're a big team with a lot of tall girls. That's a real intimidation factor over opponent's. We don't play big, though. We have to start using our size to our advantage."

Some of the height Blake is talking about can be seen in senior Andrea Claxton, who leads the Lady Steers in kills this season.

"Andrea will have a good senior year if she continues to swing and hit the ball

hard," Blake said. "She's been a little timid at times. I still think she can swing harder."

Junior Macy Graves also provides a lot of length for the Lady Steers and leads the team in blocks.

"Macy has the opportunity to be a great blocker," Blake said. "She's got the right build for the role. She's tall, slender and has a good wingspan. If she keeps working at it, she could end up being a dominant presence at the net."

Cerbi Ritchey is just a freshman, but Blake is excited about the potential the daughter of Athletic Director Phillip Ritchey has already shown this season.

"Cerbi is our setter, and I think as the season goes on and she becomes more relaxed in that role, then she'll become a more aggressive player," noted Blake. "She will be a big part of this team for the next four years."

Junior Sloan Davis and senior Baylea Fox have alternated at libero, or defensive specialist, leading a group Blake says is pivotal to turning Big Spring's season around.

"Our ball control players are very important," said Blake. "We've got to work a lot on that aspect. We're still a bit too inconsistent right now and it keeps us from being able to push back when teams push us. I can say this, though. Everyone on this team will get better at whatever role they're filling. This team will play more consistently in two or three more weeks."

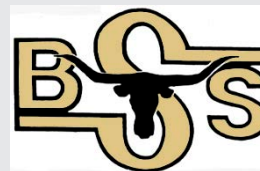
The season won't be getting any easier in the next week with Class 2A's No. 4 squad Bronte visiting the Lady Steers Tuesday. Four days later, Big Spring takes on Class A's No. 14 team Wink in a duel match in Andrews.

For now though, Blake and the Lady Steers will continue to worry more about

improving in areas they can control rather than harping so much on earning a win.

"We have so much work to do fundamentally and that's my biggest concern right now," explained Blake. "We need

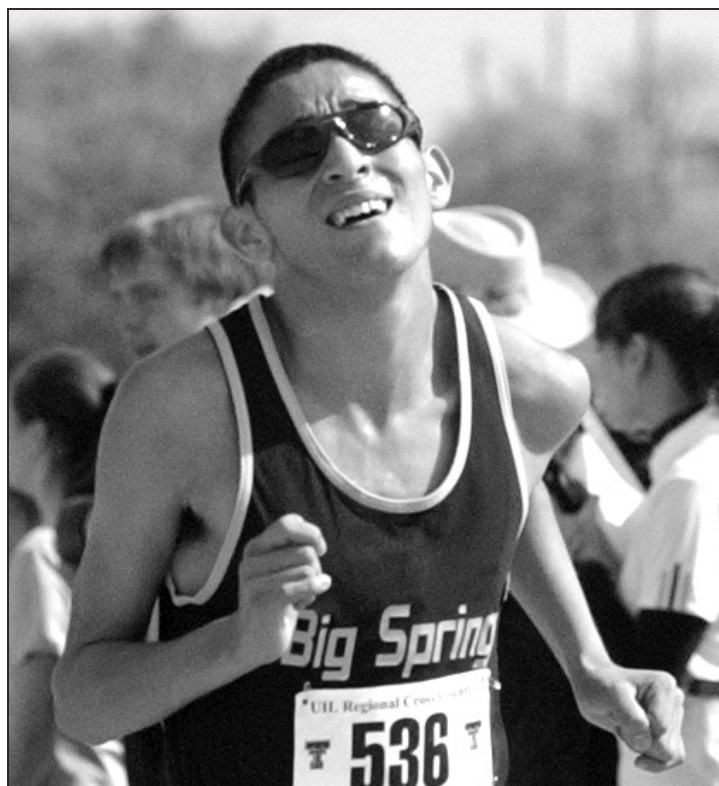
every minute of every practice to be of a high quality. We don't have any time to waste if we want to turn this thing around this year. We've got to fix our fundamentals and mechanics first. After that, winning will start coming naturally."



Lady Steers Volleyball Schedules

Date	Opponent	Site	Teams	Time
8-29	Seminole Tournament	Away	Varsity	TBA
8-29	Midland Tournament	Away	JV	TBA
9-2	Bronte	Home	9-JV-V	4/5/6:00
9-5	Lamesa Tournament	Away	JV	TBA
9-6	Wink/Andrews	Away	9-V	10/11:30
9-9	Midland Christian	Away	9-JV-V	4/5/6:00
9-13	Greenwood/Lub. High	Home	Varsity	10/11/12:00
9-13	Snyder	Home	9-JV	12/1:00
9-16	Miles	Home	9-JV-V	TBA
9-20	Kermit	Away	9-JV-V	11/11/12:00
9-23	Open			
9-27	Frenship*	Home	9-JV-V	1/1/2:30
9-30	Plainview*	Away	9-JV-V	6/6/7:30
10-4	Lake View*	Away	9-JV-V	1/1/2:30
10-7	Abilene Cooper*	Home	9-JV-V	6/6/7:30
10-11	Midland Lee	Away	JV-9	10/11:00
10-11	Denver City	Away	Varsity	11:00
10-14	Plainview*	Home	9-JV-V	6/6/7:30
10-18	Frenship*	Away	9-JV-V	1/1/2:30
10-21	Abilene Cooper*	Away	9-JV-V	6/6/7:30
10-25	Open			
10-28	Lake View	Home	9-JV-V	6/6/7:30

*-district game



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring's Jordan Valle runs toward the finish line at the 2007 Class 4A, Region I cross country meet at Mae Simmons Park in Lubbock.

CC

Continued from Page 4B

him to try to run through a wall, he would give it his best effort," raved Britton. "I'll be surprised if he doesn't run faster times than he ever has this season. He just puts in the work to do it."

"Jordan can be with the top 3 runnings in the state and if things go his way, he could win a state title," he continued. "He has a unique desire. He likes running and he likes to excel at it. I've never coached a kid with a better work ethic."

Joining Valle on the boys' team is Kade Parker and brothers Sammy and Daniel Segundo.

The fifth spot on the team that will register points will probably be filled by a freshman. That's a sign of caution for Britton.

"It's hard to project how you'll do when you're relying on a freshman," he explained. "You never know if this kid will really have the dedication it takes to run cross country. Kids don't enjoy running anymore.

It's just not a popular thing to do. It's too much work. So that makes it hard to recruit athletes to a cross country team anymore."

On the girls' side of things, Catherine Leubner returns after suffering a disappointing end to her season as a junior. Leubner was projected to advance to the state meet, but was unable to finish the race at regionals due to dehydration.

For a second consecutive year, the Lady Steers won't have enough girls running to qualify as a team with only Opal Gonzales joining Leubner on the team.

However, Britton says both girls could be factors within the district, depending on the amount of work they're willing to put into it.

"Opal and Catherine are really on the same level now and it just depends on who shows the better practice habits as the season goes on," noted Britton. "I can only do so much. I can't put the desire into these runners' hearts. That's something they control. If they decide this is what they want to do, then they'll succeed."



Big Spring Steers Cross Country

Date	Meet	Site
9-6	ACU Classic	Abilene
9-13	WT Micro-Gra.	Lubbock
9-20	UTSA Classic	San Antonio
9-27	Lubbock Inv.	Lubbock
10-4	McNeil Inv.	Round Rock
10-11	Georgetown Inv.	Georgetown
10-18	TBA	
10-30	District 4-4A	Lubbock
11-8	Regional meet	Lubbock
11-15	State meet	Round Rock

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3213 FENN Street, Saturday Only 7:00-? TV, bunk bed, Gateway computer, keyboard, drum set, microwave, furniture, clothes from infant to adults, riding toys, lots more.

CARPOR SALE: 204 East Robinson Road, Friday 5pm to 8pm and Saturday 8-? Alpaca Silver & Fashion Jewelry, New picture frames, cross necklaces, Mary Kay, clothes, furniture, misc. too much to list.

HUGE MULTI Family Garage Sale, Saturday, 8:00am-? 3703 Connally St. (off Wasson Rd). Furniture, toys, clothes, tools. Too much to mention. Call (432)213-1646 for directions.

HUGE MULTI Family Sale: 2204 Warren, Saturday 8-? Furniture, household items, knick-knacks, clothing all sizes. Too much to list.

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Help Wanted

32ND JUDICIAL District CSCD (Adult Probation) has an opening in Sweetwater, Texas for a Community Supervision Officer. Salary Range \$28,500-\$40,000. Call (325)235-2608 for application.

AAA TESTING needs Derrick Hand. Must pass drug test. 432-267-7821.

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AMERICAN LIMESTONE at the airpark is looking for two mature people. Plant and quarry. Must have transportation, be able to read a tape measure. 267-3907.

BIG SPRING oil company needs a experienced Driller and Rough Necks. Must be able to pass drug test. Competitive salary and limited benefits. Most work within 60 miles of Big Spring and Snyder. If interested please call (432)816-9100, (432)267-6654.



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COMMERICAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY is looking for a Mechanic/Driver. Must have CDL and Tool. Starting pay is \$15.00 per hour. Drug Test and Pre-Employment Physical is required. Send Resume to: General Superintendent, PO Box 6070, Midland, TX 79711 or call (432)638-2920 or (432)563-5393.

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Beth, 3-year-old female



Sherri, 3-year-old female

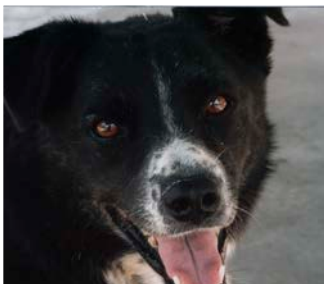
Beth and Sherri are sisters



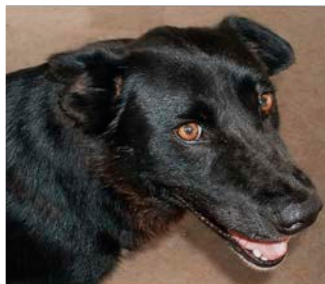
Fresno, 2-year-old male, domestic shorthair



Venus, 1-year-old domestic shorthair female



Brad, 4-year-old male mixed breed



Kassy, 5-year-old female mixed breed

News in brief

Judge wants indictments against Victoria officials spelled out or will drop charges

VICTORIA (AP) — District Attorney Stephen Tyler must clarify the alleged wrongdoings of Victoria's mayor, police chief, former city attorney and a police lieutenant or the majority of the charges against them will be dropped, according to a district judge's ruling.

The ruling Wednesday by Victoria County District Judge Robert Cheshire will also make available to defense attorneys copies of grand jury testimony. Grand jury proceedings are typically secret, but the defense lawyers need the records to build their arguments, Cheshire wrote.

"I'll be doing something. I'm not walking away," said Tyler in Wednesday's Victoria Advocate.

Tyler received the full decision shortly after 2 p.m. on Wednesday. He had not determined whether he would rewrite the charges or if he'll need to get a new grand jury indictment, he said. However, Tyler said he was confident his evidence was strong enough to write indictments that would stick and to eventually prosecute the four men, the newspaper reported.

Victoria Mayor Will Armstrong and the others were indicted in May in a widening probe accusing top city officials in this South Texas town of tampering with a criminal case against former Victoria County Sheriff Michael Ratcliff. Ratcliff was accused of sexually assaulting a teenage boy. Victoria's police Chief Bruce Ure and David Smith, former city attorney, were indicted on charges alleging they tampered with the investigation by leaking information about it to a local reporter.

3 mentioned as possible No. 2's speak at Democratic convention

DENVER (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton isn't the only also-ran on the loose in Denver. Three officials who were mentioned as possible running mates for Barack Obama but didn't make it onto the ticket got a chance to address the Democratic convention Wednesday night.

Cue the music for Sens. Evan Bayh of Indiana and Jack Reed of Rhode Island, and Texas Rep. Chet Edwards:

—Bayh, a former Indiana governor who now represents his state in the Senate, was in the running to the end, when Senate colleague Joe Biden of Delaware emerged as Obama's choice. Bayh originally supported Hillary Rodham Clinton in the primaries and was selected as part of the effort to unify the party behind Obama. Bayh is a member of both the Senate Armed Services and Intelligence committees, and was an early

supporter of the Iraq war.

Keller man pleads guilty to wife's strangulation, sentenced to 40 years

FORT WORTH (AP) — A Keller man who initially told police his wife was abducted last year has been sentenced to 40 years in prison after pleading guilty to killing her.

Richard Sandlin entered the plea earlier this week in the murder of Donna Sandlin. She was strangled with a shoestring and her body dumped in woods northwest of Waco in March 2007.

Defense attorney Walt Cleveland said Sandlin had initially wanted to go to trial in hopes that a jury would impose a lighter sentence.

"It was never a matter of Mr. Sandlin not accepting responsibility for what he'd done," Cleveland said in a story for Wednesday's online edition of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.



By Steve Becker

Dangerous Waters Ahead

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 8 2
♥ K 10 8 3
♦ 10 5
♣ J 10 6 4

WEST
♠ A J 5 3
♥ 6 4
♦ Q J 9 2
♣ K 8 3

EAST
♠ Q 10 7 4
♥ 9 5
♦ K 8 6 4 3
♣ 7 2

SOUTH
♠ K 9 6
♥ A Q J 7 2
♦ A 7
♣ A 9 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass
4♥

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.
This deal features a play that's easy enough to appreciate after the hand is over, but one that might easily be overlooked in actual practice.

When the deal occurred, South won the opening diamond lead with the ace and played the ace and another trump to the king. He then led dummy's queen of clubs and, when East followed low, let it ride.

West won with the king and led a diamond to East's king. East then shifted to a spade, and the defense scored two spade tricks for down

one. While it is true that South was unlucky to find West with both the king of clubs and ace of spades, the fact remains that South was responsible for his own demise. Had he refused to take West's queen of diamonds with the ace at trick one, he would have overcome the unfriendly lie of the cards.

The purpose of ducking West's queen at the outset is to prevent him from later putting his partner on lead with a diamond. By severing this line of communication between the defenders, declarer assures the contract even though the club finesse loses and the spade ace is offside.

Let's say West continues with a diamond at trick two. Declarer wins, draws trumps as before and tries the club finesse. West takes his king but is helpless. A diamond return presents South with a ruff-and-discard; cashing the spade ace establishes South's king; and a club return allows declarer to discard two spades on dummy's clubs. All roads thus lead to at least 10 tricks.

Note that if East elects to overtake West's queen with the king at trick one, South can counter by taking his ace at once. The presence of dummy's ten ensures that East will at no point gain the lead to threaten declarer's king of spades.

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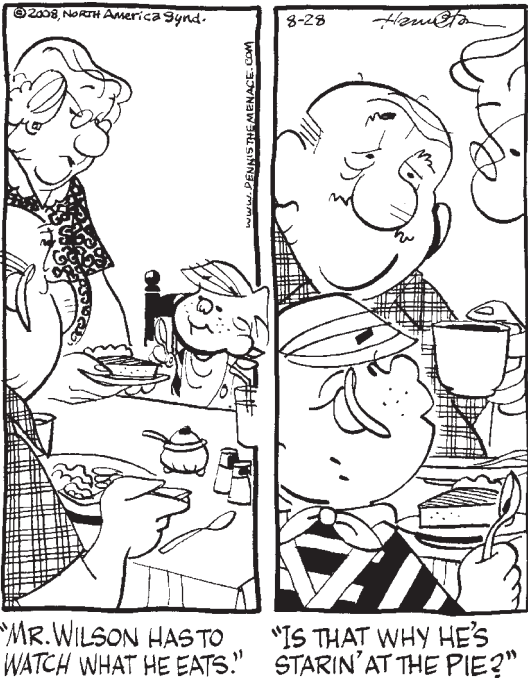
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Table with 29 columns (WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLN, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and 24 rows (5:30 PM to 1:30 AM) listing various TV programs and channels.

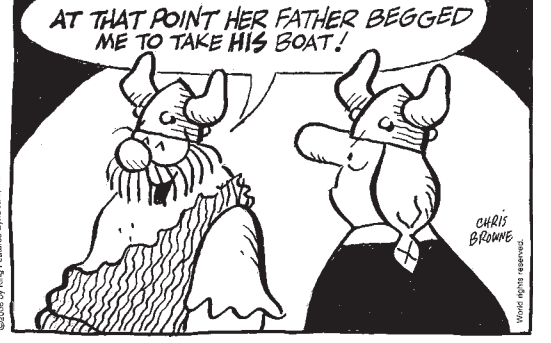
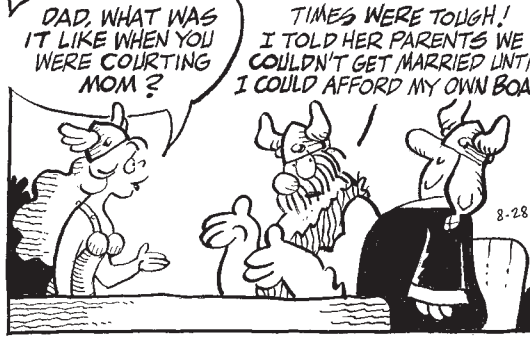
DENNIS THE MENACE



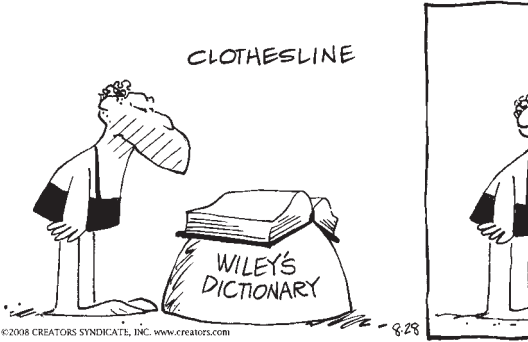
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



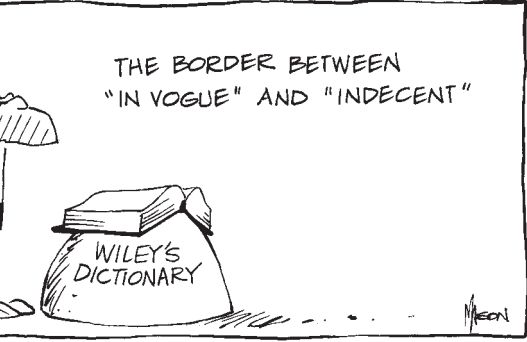
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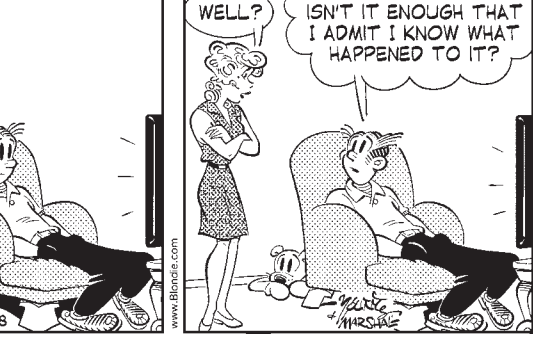
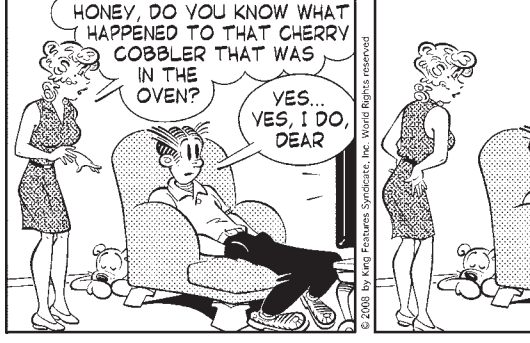
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THE BORDER BETWEEN



BLONDIE



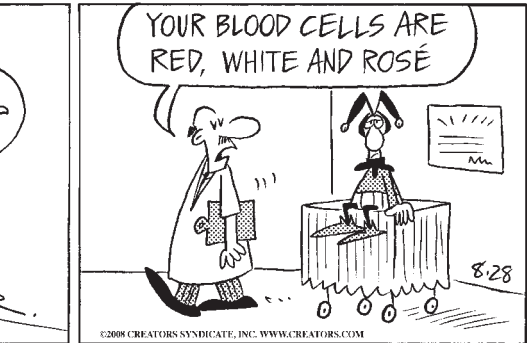
This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 28, the 241st day of 2008. There are 125 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Aug. 28, 1963, 200,000 people participated in a peaceful civil rights rally in Washington, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial.

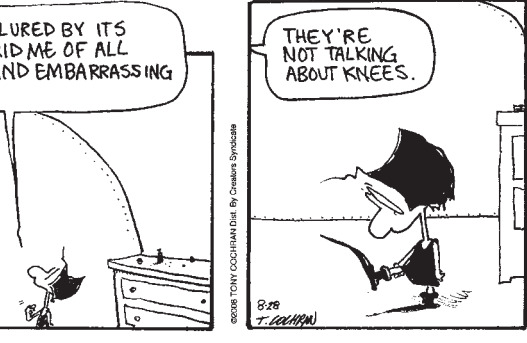
Ben Gazzara is 78. Actor Sonny Shroyer is 73. Actor Ken Jenkins is 68. Former Defense Secretary William S. Cohen is 68. Actor David Soul is 65. Baseball manager Lou Piniella is 65. Actress Alice Playten is 61. Singer Wayne Osmond (The Osmonds) is 57. Actor Daniel Stern is 51. Olympic gold medal figure skater Scott Hamilton is 50. Actor John Allen Nelson is 49. Actress Emma Samms is 48. Country singer Shania Twain is 43. Actor Billy Boyd ("The Lord of the Rings") is 40. Actor Jack Black is 39. Actor Jason Priestley is 39. Olympic gold medal swimmer Janet Evans is 37. Actor J. August Richards is 35. Rock singer-musician Max Collins (Eve 6) is 30. Actress Carly Pope is 28. Country singer LeAnn Rimes is 26. Actor Michael Galeota is 24.

Answer to previous puzzle: TENET VAMPS FAD, OBAMA ALOHA IDI, RABBIT FOOT SHE, NYSE HEART SHOT, RBIS OPTICS, JOLSON REGION, APU SETUP LUGES, DAMES ALI STRAP, ALBUM PECAN OSU, ERASED RENDER, THRONE SIRE, ROYS NADIA WORD, USA MAJOR LEAGUE, MER STARE AGREE, PAD TEXAN REEDS.

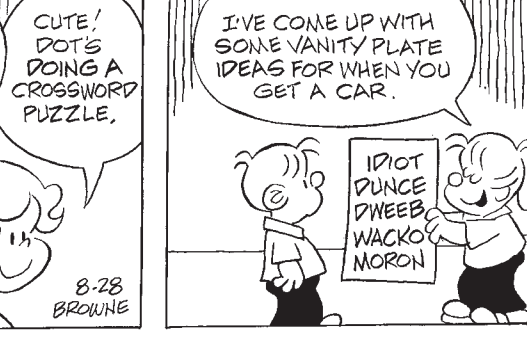
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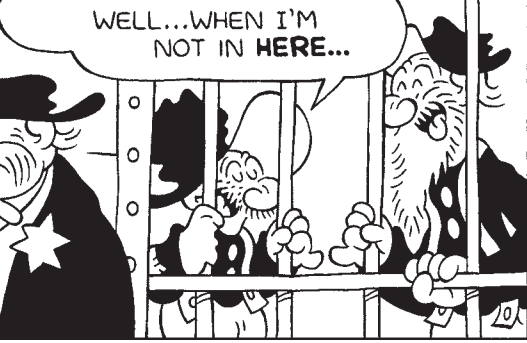
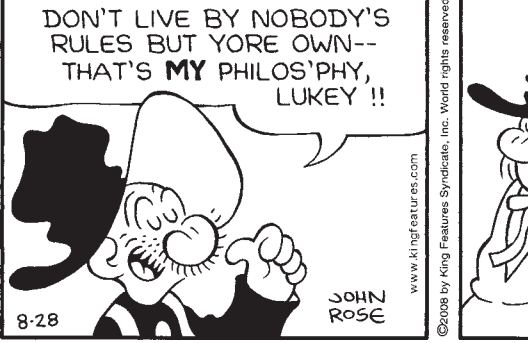
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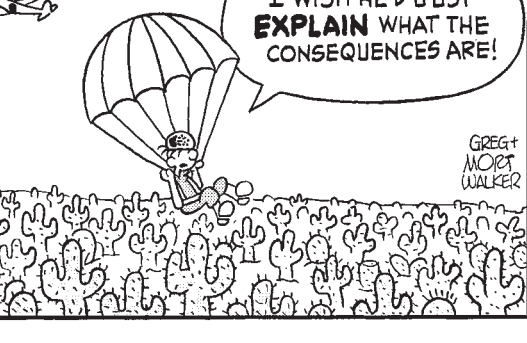
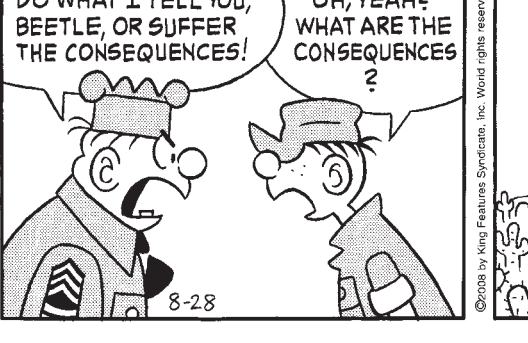
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH

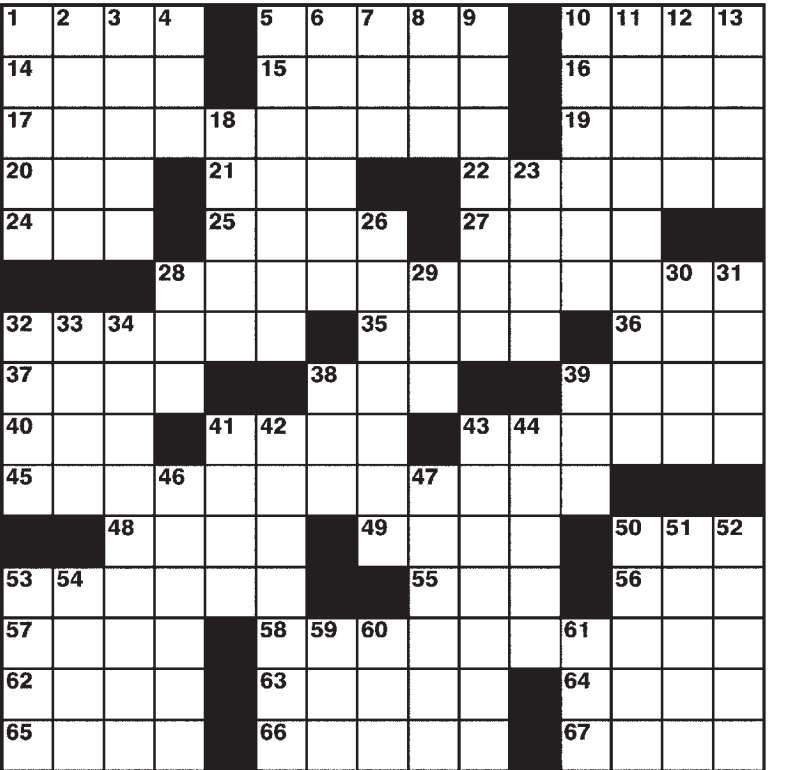


BEETLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS: 1 Shower alternative, 5 Broadway offerings, 10 Con game, 14 Ranch unit, 15 Talk-host O'Donnell, 16 Manner of speaking, 17 Jack Nicholson film of '80, 19 Bar snacks, 20 Charged atom, 21 12/24, for one, 22 Has an idea, 24 Sent down for the count, 25 Buck or cob, 27 Cleanup devices, for short, 28 Jack Palance film of '91, 32 "That's all for me!", 35 Cover thoroughly, 36 Auction grouping, 37 December air network, 38 Murdoch thriller, 39 Robin Cook thriller, 40 TGIF part, 41 Lasting mark, 43 Tank's top, 45 Jack Lemmon film of '60, 48 Seafood-salad tidbit, 49 Put into cubbyholes, 50 Call balls and strikes, 53 Scale sequence, 55 Prefix with pod, 56 Do damage to, 57 Netman Lendl, 58 Jack Black film of '06, 62 Ars longa, brevis, 63 Old anesthetic, 64 Say grace, say, 65 Fruity quaffs, 66 Crocodile (insincere show), 67 Cereal grains, 6 Isolated, 7 "see it . . .", 8 Yang's counterpart, 9 Guitarist, 10 Santa, 11 Summer-camp worker, 12 Start the pot, 13 Boot-camp cuisine, 18 Confine, 23 Hostilities ender, 26 Prom dates, 28 Maj.'s superior, 29 Bagel filler, 30 Seven Hills city, 31 ASAP, in the ER, 32 Monogram pt., 33 Closet pest, 34 Dishonor, 38 Partner of wide, 39 PC monitor, 41 Unwanted e-mail, 42 Pantry, for instance, 43 Rotten little kids, 44 Not later than, 46 Fight sites, 47 May honoree, 50 Eclipse shadow, 51 French Revolution leader, 52 Victimizes, with "on", 53 Prima donna, 54 The Art of Love poet, 59 Wolfed down, 60 Chinese tea, 61 Wall St. debut



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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

As Mercury enters Libra, the sign of partnership, we are reminded that communication is a two-way street. Feedback is requested and appreciated. Viewpoints are solicited, ideas weighed in on and relationships considered from all angles. Consider and listen to what others have to say today to maximize this balancing energy.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Wherever ideas come from, the gate must have been left open because there's a virtual stampede of them going through your head now. Not all of these ideas are good, but many are. Share!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Though ideally you would make a purchase when you have the money and can really afford it, today you might be inclined to make a purchase that you cannot afford. And somehow it all works out anyway.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A pauper can be distinguished from a king by the language and manner he chooses. Listen and watch the refined style of the "kings" in your world to pick up effective tips.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're not given the best instructions in the world. You'll have to interpret them for your



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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Glasscock County Commissioner's Court will accept bids on a Metal Roof System for the Glasscock County Jail with a 20 year warranty, the relocation of the A/C units to the ground and corresponding electrical work. Bids will be opened on September 8, 2008 @ 10:00 AM.

For specifications or further information please contact the County Judge's office @ 432-354-2382. The court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. #5889 August 28 & September 4, 2008.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

own purposes. Still, stick as closely as you can to the parts that make sense to you. You're being guided.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Every day you get to know yourself a little better. You're able to see your own behavior in an objective light and notice your motivation, too. Keep your sense of humor and you'll really be amused with yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Money-saving attempts could turn out to be money wasters. It's well worth the expense to find the absolute best-quality solution for your problem. You're particularly lucky doing business with a Sagittarius.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your alter ego comes out for some fun. Have you named this dashing part of your personality yet? Play around with a strong-sounding options. You're never too old for a new nickname.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't have to work at being thoughtful now. You're genuinely interested in others, which causes you to inquire about and consider their feelings. You get back a heap of gratitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The impulses you follow this afternoon O well, your mother would be shocked! In the past some of your tangents have been expensive. Happily, today's ideas are either cheap or free.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-

Jan. 19). The water signs you know (that's Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces) have strong opinions about what you should do next. They may even treat you with a psychic premonition.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've been with someone through a journey and the growth is more noticeable now. Speak up about how impressed you are. And know that your contribution has made a difference, too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your taste is right in line with what is pleasing to those around you. Plus, it's one of those rare days when people actually listen to and take advice. Prepare to be popular.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm an Aquarius and there is this guy I like -- a Taurus -- and a couple of times in the past three months he would flirt with me and I would flirt back, but a couple of days later he won't be as "nice." We didn't do anything "naughty" and he won't talk to me so I can know him better, but by his actions I'm starting to see who he is. I'm wondering, should I stick around and see if he has a serious interest in me, or should I just forget about him?"

Taurus men are in touch with their primal instincts, if you haven't noticed. He communicates through body language and direct moves. Maybe he's sidled up to you at the copy machine,

or casually grazed your hip with his hand. If you're up for making a serious ploy for his attention, he'll respond to the more obvious of your feminine wiles -- the way you dress, the smell of your hair, etc. Scintillate his senses a little; entice him toward what's to come. That said, if after the "me Jane, you Tarzan" thing, he's still not playing nice, the interest isn't there -- at least not for now.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Virgo Michael Jackson rose to the cream of the crop with hard work and talent. Through perfecting his craft he became one of the most admired artists in the industry. The King of Pop is now extremely controversial, but his body of work has remained irrefutably consummate. Thus, his artistic dignity is intact, which is important to Virgos. In 2009, he'll discover a new way to bring his art to the world.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2008 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox ®:
Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: Recently, my mother-in-law called my husband's cell phone while he was at work. The phone went to his voice-mail, which has my voice asking the caller to leave a message. The next day, she called my husband crying and accusing me of hanging up on her and not answering the phone.

How dare she accuse me of hanging up on her when she clearly knows how voicemail works. I also was angry that my husband didn't stand up for me. Instead he patiently explained something she already understood.

I have not slept well since this happened. I can't stop thinking about the constant disrespect this woman inflicts on our family. No one ever stands up to her, so I decided it was important for her to know she hurt my feelings with her accusation. Instead of apologizing, however, she asked why my husband had my phone. I explained that it's his phone, but my voice is on the recorded message. She replied, "Well, your voice shouldn't be on his phone." I said it was none of her business.

How do I deal with this selfish, controlling woman who constantly demeans everyone around her? I think the only option is to move out of Dodge. -- Ready To Leave Town

Dear Ready: Moving certainly is an option, but it



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

won't change the way the two of you get along. It's possible Mom really was confused hearing your voice on Sonny's phone, but she chose to make a fuss about it because she gets attention that way. Sonny should have emphasized that you did nothing wrong. We're big advocates of the "kill 'em with kindness" school. Your mother-in-law can learn to respect and even love you, but you're going to have to work at it and be very forgiving, and your husband absolutely must back you up every time. Please give it a shot before calling the movers.

Dear Annie: I recently visited my 72-year-old "Aunt Gladys." She's sharp as a tack and in fairly decent health. The problem is, Gladys says showers and laundry take too much effort, so she neither showers regularly nor changes her clothes. The result is she has a very unpleasant smell about her.

How can I tell my aunt she needs to change her undergarments daily, bathe at least three times a week and wash her clothes after she wears them several times, even if they don't look dirty? -- Loving Relative of a Sweet Old Lady

Dear Relative: Our senses, including smell, can dull with age. We suspect Aunt Gladys doesn't realize she has lost the ability to smell her clothes and body as acutely as she

once did. It's also possible she is having some physical problems that make it painful to shower or do laundry, so please see if that could be what's going on. If not, and she is otherwise "sharp as a tack," someone (you) should tell her, privately, that she will need to be extra meticulous with her bathing and laundry.

Dear Annie: This is for "B.A.," who claims that our media images of anorexic models are but a reflection of our biological predilections, and that "overweight women are not healthy."

Hey, Toots, you should Google "goddess of fertility" and see what kind of images pop up. They look more like an ad for Michelin tires than what you'd consider attractive based on today's media images. And, by the way, there IS a biological reason for that, seeing that a healthy fat ratio for a woman is 18 percent. Below that, she may stop menstruating. Fat must be essential to something, get it? -- Goddess and Proud of It

Dear Goddess: Many experts believe women should have a 22 percent body fat ratio in order to maintain normal menstrual cycles. However, too high a percentage will also interfere with a woman's childbearing ability. The goal is to remain healthy, at whatever weight that is for each woman.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2008 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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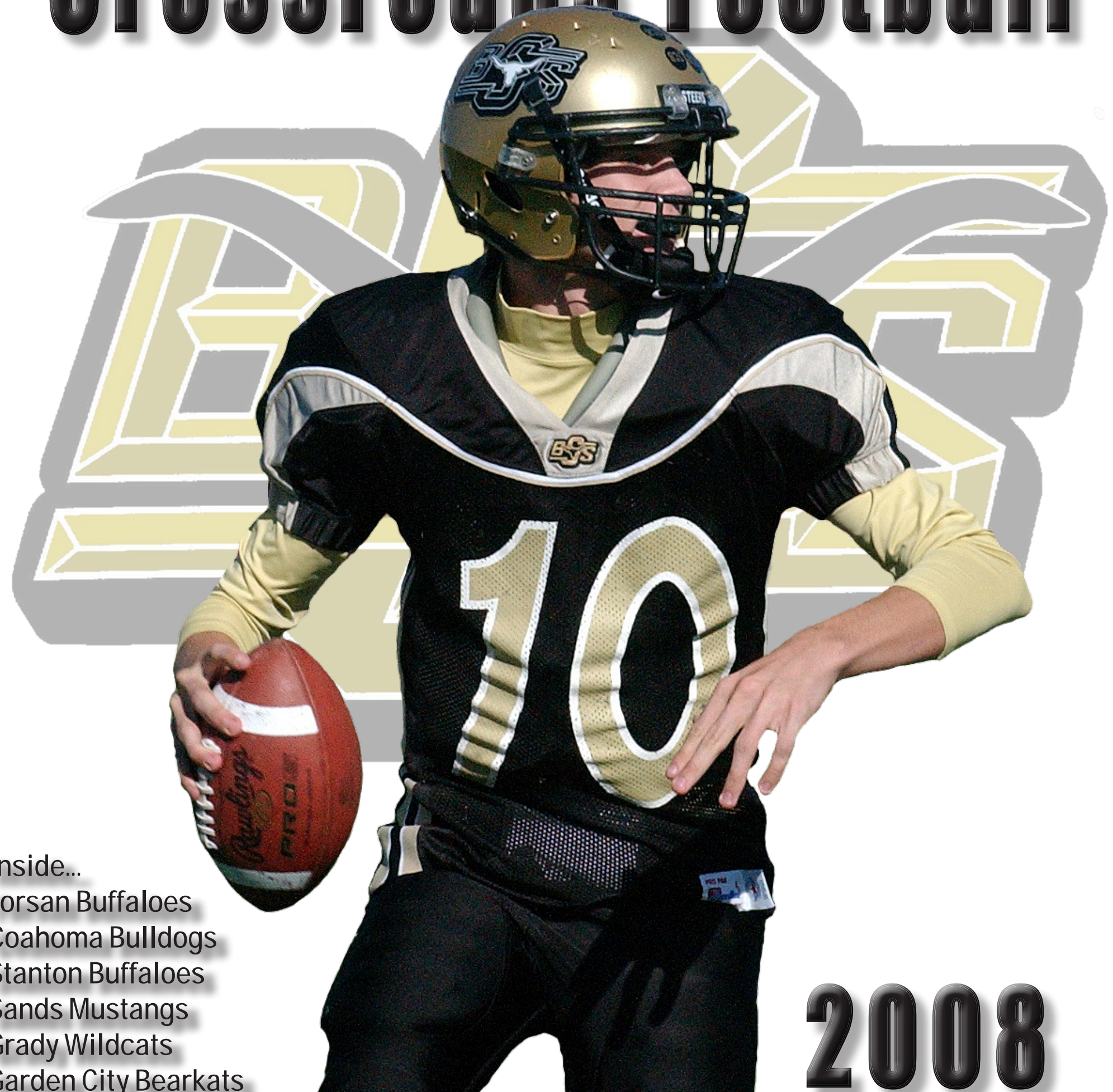
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Crossroads Football



Inside...
Forsan Buffaloes
Coahoma Bulldogs
Stanton Buffaloes
Sands Mustangs
Grady Wildcats
Garden City Bearkats

2008



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HERALD photos/Bob Fishback and Bruce Schooler
Above: Forsan Buffaloes fullback Jace Sandridge breaks a tackle in action from Sept. 26, 2007. Right: Grady's Leighton Fields hauls in a deep pass from quarterback Dylan Cox in action from Nov. 8, 2007.



And so it begins...

Whether you prefer 11- or six-man, Crossroads' football brings plenty of action

Soon a cooler breeze will be blowing, trees' leaves will turn a different color and the sound of pads and helmets colliding will fill the air.

That's right. Soon, it will be football season. A time when the battles on the field cause everyone to forget the other trials and tribulations surrounding their lives for three hours or so at a time.

There's much to look forward to on the gridirons around the Crossroads region this fall. From Ackerly to Garden City and Coahoma to Stanton, high school football players are strapping on their helmets, ready for the beginning of a new season. For now, everyone is 0-0 and none of the teams in the Crossroads region have low expectations for what they could accomplish this year.

It is, however, a year of change as teams prepare to play in brand new districts. Some of the changes could turn out for the worse for

some Crossroads schools and some could prove significantly beneficial.

No change in Big Spring has been talked about more than the one facing the Steers in 2008. Abilene Cooper, historically a powerhouse in Class 5A, has made the move to the Class 4A ranks and expectations are high. Cooper boasts a lot of speed and talent and has its sights set on a deep playoff run in its first season in the smaller classification.

However, it's probably been five or six years since so much hype has surrounded the Steers. Expectations are as high as ever, especially considering the Steers posted a 3-1 district record last season and fell to the Hereford Whitefaces, 34-20, in the bi-district round of the playoffs.

The 2008 version of the Steers claim one of the more talented groups to ever grace the field at Memorial Stadium — led by senior middle linebacker Cade Hollandsworth. Hollandsworth is being highly recruited by Division I colleges such as TCU and Baylor. He's not the only senior with DI potential, either. Wide receiver Sidney

Parker and safety LaRay Woodard are also catching the eyes of scouts.

Junior tailback Monte Anderson, the team's leading rusher in 2007, is also considered by scouts to have DI potential.

The Steers are also breaking in their second new head coach in as many years in 2008, however, the name is very familiar. Phillip Ritchey, the older brother of former Big Spring Athletic Director and current Principal Mike Ritchey, takes over the reins of the Steers after serving as the team's offensive coordinator last year under his sibling.

Keeping a Ritchey in charge of the program means there will be very little change in the way the Steers run their offense and defense.

Big Spring isn't the only Crossroads' school to see a new coach come in this season. Coahoma saw its own head man Jay Kennedy move into the administration as the school's principal this off-season, opening the door for Stacey Martin. Martin comes from Comanche High School, but is a graduate of Big Spring High School and

played football with Kennedy as one of his coaches.

Martin inherits a team with good talent and size on each side of the ball. Josh Paniagua returns as the Bulldogs' signal caller and he'll be joined in the backfield by running back P.J. Daylong. Keeping Garcia healthy may be the biggest priority

for Martin and the Coahoma coaching staff. The senior quarterback battled through an injury-riddled junior season,



but is a huge difference maker when he's on the field.

Daylong is a multi-dimensional back, racking up 675 yards rushing, 583 yards receiving and 211 yards passing. He scored 12 total TDs. Corey Roberts is another option out of the backfield for the Bulldogs, lining up at fullback. Roberts was also the team's leading tackler on defense with 86.

The Bulldogs will need their top



JONATHAN HULL



Continued on Page 4

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Continued from Page 3

players to be at their best once district starts with perennial playoff contenders like Ballinger, Tuscola Jim Ned and Wall being grouped in Coahoma's league.

Forsan and Stanton have always been big gridiron rivals, reuniting every year for the "Battle of the Buffaloes". However, that battle will now mean a lot more as Stanton slips into Class A, placing them in the same district as Forsan.



The white Buffaloes of Forsan won their first playoff game in 20 years last season and are hoping to build upon that success in 2008. Leading the squad is quarterback Alex Huckabee, who threw for more than 1,200 yards last season and 11 touchdowns.

Forsan's biggest 1-2 punch comes from the two players lining up beside or behind Huckabee in the backfield — fullback Jace Sandridge and running back Jeremy Freitag. Together, Sandridge and Freitag combined for more than 2,000 yards rushing and 20 touchdowns.

Stanton lost some key pieces from their 6-4 2007 team, but return one of the area's more impressive defensive players. Linebacker Mark Garcia

lays the type of hits on ball carriers that makes all in attendance gasp.

Offensively, the red Buffaloes return 1,000-yard rusher Robbie Noland and will feature sophomore Tyler Fulton at quarterback. Fulton's older brother Garrett was the Buffs' starting quarterback last season.

Both squads of Buffs are going to have their work cut out for them in the new District 7-A with two of the state's best in Class A -- Sundown and Seagraves -- joining them.

Does traditional football seem too slow for you? Then it might be worth your while to check out the six-man version of the game.

Some of the state's best six-man football teams play in the Crossroads' region, including 2007 state-quarterfinalist Grady and perennial powerhouse Garden City. However, once upon a time, it was the Sands Mustangs who were consid-

ered one of the state's best in six-man, but a dropping student census has hurt the Mustangs' ability to compete at the larger six-man level. That changes in 2008.

Sands has moved into the small-school Division II, giving the Mustangs ample opportunity to compete for their first playoff berth in several years. The Mustangs are led by quarterback Johnny Rogers, whom Head Coach Wayne Henderson feels could become one of the state's better signal callers at the six-man level.

Grady lost a fantastic senior class, but there is still plenty for 2007 Texas Six-Man Coaches Association Division I Coach of the Year Joe Helms to build around. The key piece for Helms is quarterback Dylan Cox, who threw for more than 1,700 yards last season.

Cox has a couple of options returning from last season's 11-2 squad in running back Casey Shands and wide receiver Leighton Fields.

Grady's district did get considerably easier on paper, though, as the Wildcats were moved out of a league that included Garden City, Rankin and Fort Davis. Instead, they'll play teams like Ira, Loraine and O'Donnell, making Grady the easy favorite to win the Division I, District 7.

However, in Garden City, the district didn't get any simpler to overcome. The Bearkats still have to deal with the likes of Rankin and Fort Davis. Sterling City also moves down from 11-man's Class A to play six-man in the Bearkats' district.

The Bearkats are led on the field by a pair of cousins — Jake and Cole Schwartz. Jake leads the Bearkats offensively after an impressive season that saw him receive notoriety as an honorable mention all-state utility back. Cole was team's leading tackler in 2007.

Regardless of the style of high school football you prefer to see played, the action throughout the Crossroads region is certain to be action packed this season.

Get your popcorn ready, as an eccentric Dallas Cowboys wide receiver would say. It's going to be a good show.



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Continued from Page 25

Left behind are Garden City, Fort Davis and Rankin. Grady is now placed in District 7 where it is considered the top team and is heavily favored to sweep through the league.

"It's nice to be out of a district with all of the perennial powerhouses we were pitted against for the past two seasons," Grady Head Coach Joe Helms said. "But with the new district comes the unknown and unfamiliar. There's definitely some caution because of that. I don't really know any of these coaches. I don't know their schemes or offensive sets. It's going to take a different level of preparation."

The only team Grady has some familiarity with in the new district is Ira. The Wildcats defeated Ira in the second round of the playoffs last year.

Grady also lost several of its top players from last season's deep postseason run, including top tackler Roy Rodriguez, top receiver Justin Tubb and top rusher Tommylee Rivas. Still, Helms is very confident in the players who are returning to the Wildcats.

Topping Grady's players to watch list is quarterback Dylan Cox, who Helms says started to come into his

own last year as a sophomore.

"Dylan is a junior now and I've been the only coach he's ever had. He's kind of been broken in for this position," Helms said. "He's a junior now and his understanding of the offense should be better than ever. We're going to be able to open up the offense a little more each week."

Leighton Fields is the top returning receiver for Cox. Joining the junior quarterback in the backfield is running back Casey Shands, who Helms said will also be the team's defensive leader, attempting to make the loss of Roy Rodriguez easier to take.

"We lost a lot when Roy graduated," Helms said. "We're probably more athletic on defense than last year, but we don't have the same amount of heart. That's what Roy brought us. We'll miss his heart and leadership more than anything."

Still, the fact Grady returns as many starters as it does from a successful team in 2007 makes it easier for the Wildcats to replicate that success in 2008, according to Helms.

"A lot of it just perpetuates itself. Winning like that simply helps develop expectations for the new players coming in," he explains. "We're

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not going to be fighting an uphill battle as far as gaining confidence and the belief that we can win. We're entering the season favored to win the district and we definitely believe we're more than capable of doing so."

Ira appears to be Grady's top challenger in the district with one of the state's top runners Andy Rivera returning.

Helms is also cautious of O'Donnell, playing its first season in six man after moving down from Class A this year.

Missing from Grady's schedule are long-time rivals Sands and Garden City.

The Wildcats could have an opportunity to face Garden City in the opening round of the postseason, depending on how each team's district plays out. It's a first round matchup Helms says his team would welcome.

"That would be a big challenge for us and I think our kids would look forward to it," Helms said, looking well ahead into the future. "That's a long way off, but we do believe we're capable of getting to and past that point. We scrimmaged Garden City and didn't allow a score. We're confident going into this season and think another deep playoff run is in our future."

Jonathan Hull's
Division 1: District 7
projections

1. Grady
2. Ira
3. O'Donnell
4. Spur
5. Loraine
6. Aspermont

Grady Wildcats
Football Schedule

Varsity

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
8-29	Sanderson	Away	7:30
9-5	Meadow	Home	7:30
9-12	New Home	Away	7:30
9-19	Midland Trinity	Home	7:30
9-26	Ropes-h	Home	7:30
10-3	Open		
10-10	Aspermont*	Away	7:30
10-17	O'donnell*	Away	7:30
10-24	Ira*	Home	7:30
10-31	Loraine*	Away	7:30
11-8	Spur*	Home	7:30

h-homecoming
*-district game

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AUG 30 TH	COAHOMA VS VAN HORN IN ODESSA	6:00 PM
SEP 5 TH	COAHOMA @ FORSAN	7:30 PM
SEP 12 TH	IRION COUNTY @ FORSAN	7:30 PM
SEP 19 TH	MCCAMEY @ FORSAN	7:30 PM
SEP 26 TH	KERMIT @ COAHOMA	7:30 PM
OCT 3 RD	IRAAN @ STANTON	7:30 PM
OCT 10 TH	FORSAN @ STANTON	7:30 PM
OCT 17 TH	BALLINGER @ COAHOMA	7:30 PM
OCT 24 TH	TAHOCA @ STANTON	7:30 PM
OCT 31 ST	WALL @ COAHOMA	7:30 PM
NOV 7 TH	TAHOCA @ FORSAN	7:30 PM

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Big Spring Steers Football Schedules

Varsity			
Date	Opponent	Site	Time
8-29	Snyder	Away	7:30
9-5	Denison	Away	7:30
9-12	Pampa-h	Home	7:30
9-19	Andrews	Away	7:30
9-26	Sweetwater	Away	7:30
10-3	Open		
10-10	Frenship*	Home	7:30
10-17	Plainview*	Away	7:30
10-24	Cooper*	Home	7:30
10-31	Lake View*	Away	7:30
11-7	Hereford*	Home	7:30

h-homecoming
*-district game

Junior Varsity			
Date	Opponent	Site	Time
8-28	Snyder	Home	7:00
9-4	Open		
9-11	Pampa	Lubbock	7:30
9-18	Andrews	Home	7:00
9-25	Sweetwater	Home	7:00
10-2	Andrews	Away	7:00
10-9	Frenship	Away	5:00
10-16	Plainview	Home	5:00
10-23	Cooper	Away	TBA
10-30	Lake View	Home	5:00
10-6	Hereford	Lubbock	TBA

Freshman			
Date	Opponent	Site	Time
8-28	Snyder	Home	5:00
9-4	Open		
9-11	Pampa	Lubbock	6:00
9-18	Andrews	Home	5:00
9-25	Sweetwater	Away	7:00
10-2	Andrews	Away	5:00
10-9	Frenship	Home	7:00
10-16	Plainview	Away	5:00
10-23	Cooper	Home	TBA
10-30	Lake View	Away	5:00
11-6	Hereford	Lubbock	TBA

Don't be fooled

Even without 5As, Steers' schedule isn't easy

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

On paper, it appears the Big Spring Steers dumbed down their schedule a bit, trading in Class 5A schools as opponents for teams in Class 3A.

However, Steers Head Coach Phillip Ritchey warns against taking a school from a smaller classification for granted.

"We feel our pre-district schedule is still very tough," Ritchey said. "Class 3A schools in West Texas are some of the best and most storied programs at that level in the state. We've got a long history against a lot of these schools. We're excited about the challenge we're still going to get this season, even without the Class 5A's on our schedule."

Four of Big Spring's first five games are on the road and three of them are against some of the Steers' biggest rivals. Big Spring does play three of their five district games at home, which could be important in one of the most competitive districts Big Spring has played in since moving to Class 4A from 5A in 1986.

Big Spring at Snyder

The Steers renew a long and storied rivalry with the Snyder Tigers to open the season Friday. It's the first time the Steers have met the Tigers since 2001 — the last season Snyder was a Class 4A school. The Tigers are regarded as one of the state's best in Class 3A, since they return nine total starters and 18 lettermen from a state semifinalist team in 2007.

The Tigers were the first team outside the Associated Press' Top 10 Class 3A poll, receiving 19 votes. No. 10 Gilmer received 20 nominations, placing just ahead of Snyder.

"Snyder is not the most athletically gifted team, but we probably won't face a team more mentally prepared to play the game," said Ritchey. "They're very well coached and very physical. It will be a tough challenge to open the season."

Big Spring and Snyder first played in 1949 with the Steers winning two

contests between the two squads that year, 27-7 and 20-0. From that point and up until 2001, there were only four seasons in which the two teams didn't clash at some point in the season. Big Spring holds the all-time edge, 27-22-1.

In 2002, Snyder dropped down to Class 3A and Big Spring adopted the philosophy of playing more area Class 5A teams in the pre-district schedule. That train of thought changes in 2008.

"We're glad to have Snyder back on the schedule," commented Ritchey. "It's a great rivalry and one we'd like to keep going for a long time."

Big Spring at Denison

Unfamiliarity is the biggest caution for Big Spring in this Sept. 5 game.

"We know less about Denison than any other team on our schedule," Ritchey said. "That's the biggest challenge in preparing for them."

It's actually not going to be the first time these two schools have met for a Friday night affair. The Yellow Jackets handily defeated the Steers in 1947, 36-6, in their only meeting.

Denison is favored to win District 9-4A, based on the return of 18 total starters, including 10 on offense. The Yellow Jackets were 4-6 in 2007.

The 361-mile drive is the longest trip the Steers have possibly ever made for a regular season game. Big Spring did play Victoria in 1950, but records aren't clear whether it was a home or away game. If it was away, then the 440-mile trip would be the longest in school history.

Pampa at Big Spring (Homecoming)

BSHS alumni make their way home Sept. 12 for the annual homecoming game. This year's festivities feature the Steers taking on the Harvesters of Pampa.

Big Spring has faced Pampa three times in school history and hold a 2-1 record in those games. The last

contest was a bi-district playoff in 2005 with the Steers winning 14-7.

However, unfamiliarity with Pampa isn't too much of a problem.

"We've scrimmaged Pampa the past two seasons, so we know a little about their personnel and scheme," Ritchey said. "It's never hard to get up for a homecoming game, though. There's always an atmosphere about it. Last year, we sort of found our identity offensively at homecoming against Andrews. Hopefully, we'll be in more of a flow by this time."

The Harvesters return just six starters — only one offensively — from a 4-6 team in 2007.

Big Spring at Andrews

Speaking of Andrews, the Steers play the first of back-to-back games against teams nicknamed Mustangs Sept. 19.

Last season, Big Spring led 29-19

Continued on Page 6

Big Spring football all time win/loss against district and long-time foes (Through 2007)

Abilene Cooper.....	8-17
Andrews.....	16-14-2
Estacado.....	11-15
Fort Stockton.....	11-4
Frenship.....	1-9
Hereford.....	5-8
Lake View.....	15-7
Lamesa.....	21-12-5
Levelland.....	10-8
Monahans.....	9-5-1
Odessa.....	14-34-2
Plainview.....	13-11
Pecos.....	14-1
SA Central.....	16-42-6
Snyder.....	27-22-1
Sweetwater.....	24-43

Continued from Page 5

with less than four minutes to play.

However, Andrews managed two scores in the final minutes, giving them a 33-29 victory and robbing Big Spring of its first win of the season.

“That loss sticks out, but there was a lot of good that came out of it,” said Ritchey. “We finally started moving the ball offensively and it was just a good sign of what was to come.”

Big Spring had its best offensive output of the season against Andrews as running back Monte Anderson led the way with 202 rushing yards. After the loss, the Steers went 3-1 over the season’s last four games.

The Steers hold the all-time edge on Andrews with a 16-14-2 record.

Big Spring at Sweetwater

It’s never hard for a true Steer to get ready to play any team nicknamed the Mustangs.

“Whether it’s Sweetwater or Andrews, it’s not hard to get ready to play the Mustangs around here,” Ritchey said. “Of the two, Sweetwater sticks out to me more this season. They embarrassed us last season.”

Ritchey is speaking of a 40-0 thrashing dealt by Sweetwater last year in the Mustang Bowl. The Steers return to the storied Mustang Bowl Sept. 26 with revenge on their minds.

“This team hasn’t forgotten what happened last season,” Ritchey said. “This game will mean a little more to them than it usually does. We got beat bad by other teams last season, but at least we put up a fight. We never got a chance against Sweetwater.”

Historically, Big Spring has played Sweetwater more than any

other opponent. In the 100 years of Steers’ football, the two squads have met 67 times with the Mustangs winning 43 of those games.

Frenship at Big Spring

The Steers get a bye week before they start the five-game district season, opening with a home game against perennial powerhouse Frenship Oct. 10.

The Tigers have dominated Big Spring over the past 10 years, winning nine of the 10 contests. Big Spring’s only win came in a non-district game in 1999. Last year, Frenship dominated with a 49-14 win.

“A lot of our losses to Frenship over the years have come simply because of intimidation,” commented Ritchey. “I believe we lose to Frenship before we ever start playing the game.

“I think this is the best chance Big Spring has had in some time to beat Frenship,” he continued. “They lost a lot of key players and we’re returning a very talented group.”

Frenship does return most of their offensive linemen, but have to replace most of its skill players. The Tigers could be exposed defensively as they return no starters on that side of the ball.

Still, the tradition at Frenship is to reload, not rebuild.

“They’ll put a very competitive group on the field just based on their numbers,” Ritchey said.

Big Spring at Plainview

If the season had a true turning point in 2007 for the Steers, it came against Plainview.

Leading 13-10 with seven minutes to play until halftime, the Steers saw Plainview move the ball inside their 1-yard line. The Bulldogs at-



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Big Spring’s Sidney Parker Jr. (4) tackles an Andrews Mustangs ball carrier in action from the 2007 season.

tempted two consecutive quarterback sneaks.

The first was stuffed and the second was fumbled with the Steers recovering the ball.

Big Spring took that momentum and carried it for an eventual 26-16 victory.

It was an unusual down year for Plainview in 2007, finishing at 1-9. However, Ritchey warns against expecting another bad season from the Bulldogs.

Big Spring visits the Bulldogs Oct. 17.

Abilene Cooper at Big Spring

One of the most talked about moves in the state caused by redistricting has been the migration of Abilene Cooper from Class 5A to 4A. Expectations are high for the once perennial 5A powerhouse. The recent AP poll anticipates Cooper being one of the top teams in 4A, ranking them ninth overall in the first edition of the rankings. Cooper was 4-6 in 5A last season.

The Steers face Cooper for the first time since 1985 — the last year Big Spring was classified as a 5A school. Cooper defeated the Steers that season, 27-15.

Big Spring’s last victory over the Cougars occurred in 1983, winning 14-11. Cooper holds the edge historically at 17-8.

The old Little Southwest Conference rivalry renews Oct. 24 at Memorial Stadium.

Big Spring at San Angelo Lake View

Of all the schools on Big Spring’s 2008 schedule, it has dominated Lake View the most in its history. The Steers hold a 15-7 lifetime edge on the Chiefs.

Last season wasn’t any different. Big Spring blasted Lake View, 35-14, in the final game of the regular season.

Former standout Lake View quarterback Sterlin Gilbert takes over the Chiefs’ football program and inherits another talented signal caller in the person of John David Baker.

The 28-year-old Gilbert transferred from Abilene Cooper where he was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach the past two seasons.

Hereford at Big Spring

Big Spring’s newest rival visits Memorial Stadium Nov. 7 to close out the regular season.

Big Spring is 5-8 lifetime against Hereford with the Herd winning the past six meetings, including two in the bi-district round of the playoffs in the past two seasons.

Hereford defeated Big Spring twice in 2007, once in the regular season by a score of 35-13 and then again in the playoffs, 34-20.

“They have a good system up there,” commented Ritchey. “The players know it and are comfortable in it. This will never be an easy game for us. We’re looking to wipe out their win streak this year.”

Continued from Page 25

Wayne Henderson said. “We started five sophomores last season and they were able to keep games as competitive as possible against the toughest six-man district in the state last season. The move down benefits us a lot. It’s going to give us a chance to compete for a playoff spot.”

Sands High School Football

Varsity

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
8-29	Hermleigh	Away	7:30
9-5	Wilson-h	Home	7:30
9-11	Trent	Home	7:30
9-19	Sterling City	Away	7:30
9-26	Spur	Home	7:30
10-3	Dawson	Away	7:30
10-10	Open		
10-17	Westbrook*	Home	7:30
10-24	Borden Co.*	Away	7:30
10-31	Buena Vista*	Home	7:30
11-7	Grandfalls*	Away	7:30

h-homecoming

*-district game

Henderson knows Sands will still have plenty of competition in Division II, particularly within its own district.

“It’s not like we’re just going to be handed a district title because we moved down from Division I” he said. “Borden County is starting out the season as a Top 5 team in the state and Grandfalls-Royalty went 10-2 last season. We’re going to have our fair share of tests.”

The Coyotes of Borden County are ranked fifth in the preseason Six man, Division II poll. Grandfalls-Royalty is the district’s defending champion.

Also in Sands’ league is Westbrook’s Wildcats, who narrowly topped Sands in a regular season game last season.

Leading the Mustangs’ offense will be junior Johnny Rogers, who Henderson believes is capable of passing for 2,000 yards and rushing for another 1,000.

“Johnny is a smart player, who understands the game and what I want done offensively,” explained Henderson. “He carries a load of potential with him and should be one of this district’s best players.”

Joining Rogers in the backfield will be fellow junior Daniel Armendariz, who is also the team’s top defensive players. Henderson feels

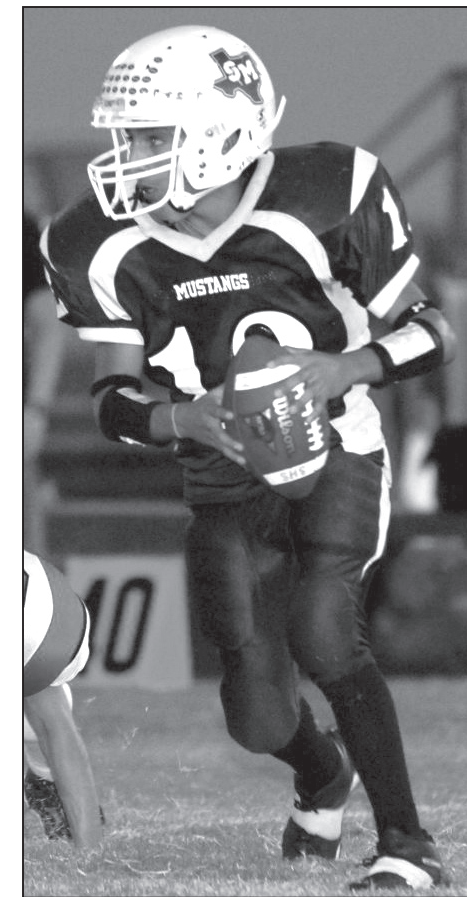
Armendariz is fully capable of running for 1,000 yards to go along with his defensive skills.

Last season, Armendariz set a single-game team record, recording 21 tackles in against Garden City. He finished the season with more than 150 tackles along with four interceptions, two of which he returned for touchdowns.

“Daniel is definitely our best defender,” Henderson said. “We count on him for a lot. Last year was his first season playing six man football, too. We expect him to have a huge year on offense and defense.”


With Rogers and Armendariz leading four returning starters on each side of the ball, Henderson expects the Mustangs to have their most competitive season since 2002, when Sands last made a postseason appearance.

“Our goal is to make the playoffs,” Henderson said. “Last season, we did well to compete as much as we did in our district against Fort Davis, Rankin, Grady and Garden City. This year, we expect to be competitive in every game. There isn’t a game on the schedule we don’t feel like we can’t win. I’ve been here for five years and without a doubt, this is the best chance we’ve had to advance to the playoffs.”



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Sands Mustangs quarterback Johnny Rogers drops back to pass in action from 2007. Sands’ coaches have high expectations for Rogers in 2008.



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WARNING: CONTENTS COULD BE EXPLOSIVE

Steers excited about potential offensive production

By **JONATHAN HULL**
Sports Editor

An offense can never have enough weapons. Most coaches will always find a way to utilize whatever talent they have on the roster.

In fact, having a litany of athletes capable of making big plays and figuring out a way to get each one touches is a good problem.

It's an issue new Big Spring Head Coach Phillip Ritchey is relishing. "We feel like we have a lot of athletes we can utilize and put in situations to contribute offensively,"

Ritchey said. "That's one of the reasons we made a switch to the spread offense last season. The spread lets us get these athletes out in space so they can make plays."

Ritchey joined the Steers' staff last season as the offensive coordinator after his older brother Mike took over the reins of the program. With



Ritchey

him, the younger Ritchey brought a spread offense he won a state title with as a coordinator for Boyd in 2002.

The new scheme didn't come easy for the Steers until late in the 2007 season. Big Spring scored 34 total points in its first five games of the season.

However, everything started to click on Homecoming night in a matchup with long-time rival Andrews. The Steers managed 27 points and more than 400 yards, by far their highest totals of the season to date. From that point on, except

for a district game against highly-ranked Frenship, Big Spring's offense flowed as the Steers posted a 3-1 record in District 4-4A.

Nine starters return from that offense, including several key players at skill positions. However, Big Spring also welcomes a few new faces with the capability of contributing immediately to the success of the offense.

"We're excited about what we've got coming back on offense," Ritchey said. "We're miles ahead

Continued on Page 9



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HAVE A GREAT YEAR BEARKATS AND LADYKATS

13276

Continued from Page 23

Even though Garden City gave Fort Davis a shellacking in last year's final district game, they are still ranked below the Indians. According to Sixmanfootball.com, the 'Kats are the No. 10 team in the state while Fort Davis will begin their season at No. 5.

Garden City will look to use last year's final game against Fort Davis as a springboard for the upcoming season.

"It's a slap in the face to be ranked below Fort Davis," senior quarterback Levi Schaefer said, "but we have a lot of new faces. We just have to go out and make a name for ourselves."

The 'Kats return two starters on offense, and one on defense. Seniors Cole Schwartz and Jake Schwartz started on offense, while Cole spear-headed the Garden City defense. With Schaefer, the Schwartz' provide leadership for the 'Kats.

"We've got a good core coming back," Head Coach Vance Jones said. "Those three have done a great job as leaders since the first day."

Garden City is definitely not devoid of youth either. The 'Kats will need contributions from last year's junior varsity players.

"All of our younger guys are talented kids," Cole Schwartz said, "and more importantly they're smart kids which helps with the transition to varsity."

On the offensive side of the ball, Garden City will be lead by honorable mention All-State running back, Jake Schwartz. The senior is



HERALD photo/James Schwartz

Garden City Bearkats running back Jake Schwartz leaps over a defender in action from 2007. Schwartz was an honorable mention all-district utility back last season and will figure heavily into the Bearkats' offensive gameplan in 2008.

Garden City Bearkat Football

Varsity			
Date	Opponent	Site	Time
8-30	Abbott	Hico	8:00
9-5	Jesus Chapel	Home	7:30
9-12	Robert Lee	Home	7:30
9-19	Abi. Christian	Away	7:30
9-26	Imm. Christian-h	Home	7:30
10-3	Santa Anna	Away	7:30
10-10	Sterling City*	Away	7:30
10-17	Open		
10-24	Fort Davis*	Home	7:30
10-31	Water Valley*	Away	7:30
11-7	Rankin*	Home	7:30

h-homecoming
*-district game

Continued on Page 30



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Continued from Page 7

of where we were at this point last season. The guys now understand the offense and their role in it. Expect to see a lot of points on the scoreboard.”

Here’s a position by position look at why Ritchey is so optimistic:

Quarterbacks

No further evidence of the Steers’ coaching staff’s willingness to utilize the skill set of multiple players at a singular position is needed.

Big Spring has three players capable of lining up behind the center – juniors Tyler Tannehill and Matt Ritchey and senior Zamar Linton.

Tannehill is expected to see the most time at the position though.

He started the final three games of the season as a sophomore, posting impressive performances in each. However, he has been slowed by a knee that required surgery in the offseason.



Tannehill

T a n n e h i l l

hasn’t taken many reps at quarterback since last season, playing just a few snaps during 7-on-7 football in the summer and only playing in one scrimmage before the start of the season.

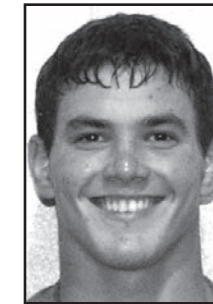
Still, When he’s healthy the Steers don’t have a better pure passing option, according to Ritchey.

“Tyler has the best arm and mechanics of the three guys we can put at quarterback,” Ritchey said. “He can make just about any throw we ask him to.”

No. 2 on the depth chart at signal caller is Matt Ritchey, who is the nephew of the new head coach and son of last season’s leading man Mike Ritchey.

Matt was impressive in the Steers’ first preseason game, passing for 199 yards and three touchdowns against Monahans. It was a performance that drew rave reviews from his uncle.

“I’ve never seen Matt throw the ball better than he did in that scrimmage,” Ritchey said. “He’s always



Ritchey

had the accuracy, but his velocity was better than ever. He also had 45 rushing yards. Matt gives us the best dual threat at the position.

“There isn’t a quarterback controversy here, though,” he continued. “Tyler is our quarterback. We will utilize Matt in certain situations, but he’s going to be our starting tight end.”

Big Spring’s final threat at the position didn’t play for the Steers last year. Linton moved to Big Spring during basketball season. It didn’t take long for Ritchey and Co. to figure out that they needed to create a spot for the athletic transfer.



Linton

“Zamar has great speed and agility. He has a skill set that allows him to play at several positions,” Ritchey said. “One of those is quarterback. He’s not a bad passer, but his legs are his best weapon. We have packages

where he will receive some snaps. He’ll also be used as a slot receiver and as a running back.”

Backs

When Linton does line up in the backfield, he’ll be joined by a very familiar face – his little cousin Monte Anderson.

Anderson took over as the Steers’ feature back in the midst of his freshman season. He’s now playing for his third varsity coach in three years. However, one thing all three coaches have in common is the giddiness they felt when seeing the speed Anderson brings to the field.



Anderson

“Monte is lightning in a bottle,” Ritchey said. “He has game-breaking speed. Defenses have to scheme to stop him. He’s a special player and we’ll use him in more ways this season than we did last year.”

One of the ways Big Spring will utilize Anderson more is in the passing game.

“Last season, we had some troubles with our offensive line. We had a lot of players who were learning

Continued on Page 10



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Continued from Page 9

their positions," noted Ritchey. "That forced us to keep Monte in on passing plays to help with protecting the quarterback. We feel more comfortable stringing him out into open spaces in the passing game this year. It's going to be a new dimension that our opponents haven't seen from Monte yet."

Word of Monte's speed and agility is quickly spreading, according to Ritchey.

"We've been told by major Division I colleges that Monte is at the top of the running back recruiting board for the 2010 class," Ritchey said. "That's the type of talent we're talking about here."

Anderson has been rated the top back in West Texas, regardless of classification by www.WestTexasPigskin.com, as well. He totaled 1,127 yards and 12 touchdowns in 2007.

"He's a huge threat any time he gets in open space," Ritchey said. "He's also got the power to break some tackles. Monte has turned into a complete back. We're excited to see what he can do over the next two years."

Receivers

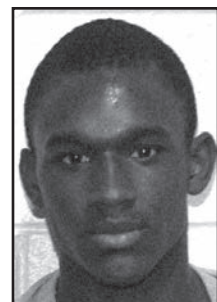
If Anderson draws the most attention from opposing defenses, then Sidney Parker Jr. is probably a close second on that list.

Parker Jr. has led the Steers in receiving yards for the past two seasons. Last year, he totaled 450 yards and four touchdowns.

"Sidney's presence on the perimeter of the offense opens up opportunities for some of our other playmakers," Ritchey said. "Defenses know they can't try to cover Sidney with one guy for an entire game. Usually they have to try and double team him. That brings opportunities for our other weapons at receiver. If they single cover Sidney, then eventually he's going to beat them for a big play."

Returning with Parker in the receiving corps. is junior Thaddeus Straughter, who several Big Spring coaches tout as having the best hands on the team.

"Thaddeus is built more like a receiver than any other player on this team," Ritchey said. "He's got the prototypical size to go along with



Parker Jr.

very soft hands. If the ball is within his reach, he's going to pull it in. He made some catches last season that just made you stop and go wow."

LaRay Woodard saw some time offensively last season as the focal part of the Jumbo package. In the Jumbo set, Woodard lined up as quarterback and would run left or right upon taking the snap. His athleticism and elusiveness made him a perfect fit for the scheme.

However, Woodard's main contribution on offense this year will come as a slot receiver. If his performance in a preseason scrimmage is any indication of what is to come, the future might be bright for the senior playmaker. Woodard was on the receiving end of a 69-yard touchdown pass from Matt Ritchey against Monahans, bringing a smile to his coaches' faces.

"LaRay is too talented to not try and use. He's a threat to go the distance everytime he touches the ball," Phillip Ritchey said. "We're



Woodard

going to try him out in the slot and attempt to get him in some mismatches against slower defenders." Not to be forgotten is Matt Ritchey at tight end. Ritchey was the starting quarterback for the teams he played on from seventh through ninth grade.

However, his development physically has taken him in a different direction.

"Matt was always the quarterback for that junior class and Tyler actually lined up at wide receiver," Phillip Ritchey noted. "You can see the different development of the two. Matt has grown a bit stockier, whereas Tyler is a bit more built like a quarterback. Matt has the athletic ability to contribute at either position, though."

In the Steers' offensive scheme, Ritchey will often find himself in motion before the ball is snapped. Last year, some of his motion ended up with him under center, catching defenses off guard as he threw a quick pass.

Linemen

It's without a doubt the most important position on the field. No offense can function without a solid

Continued on Page 11

Sands, Grady, GC expect district titles

Mustangs benefit by dropping to Division II

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

ACKERLY — Some high school athletic programs frown upon moving down in classification. You'll see nothing but smiles at Sands High School, though.

The Mustangs moved from Six-Man, Division I to Division II this season, grouping them with schools closer to their level of play and enrollment totals.

"We've been outmatched in Division I and especially in the district we were in the last couple seasons," Sands Head Coach

Coach:

Wayne Henderson, 6th season

Returning starters O/D: 4/4

2007 Record: 4-6 (0-4)

Players to watch: QB Johnny Rogers, LB Daniel Armentariz, E Jesus Gomez, E Ethan Zant, C Xavier Elizondo.



Continued on Page 27

Wildcats enter 2008 as league's top team

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

LENORAH — It was a season for the ages for the Grady Wildcats in 2007. The Wildcats posted a 11-2 record and advanced to the regional finals in the postseason before falling to then district-rival Rankin.

It's not out of reason to believe Grady can post a similar record in 2008, particularly because they moved into a district populated by teams north of the school, rather than the perennial powerhouses the Wildcats had grown accustomed to in the south.

Continued on Page 29

Coach:

Joe Helms, 6th season

Returning starters O/D: 4/3

2007 Record: 11-2 (3-1)

Players to watch: QB Dylan Cox, WR Leighton Fields, RB Casey Shands, DL Joe Cook, RB John Ramirez, WR Jacob Rodriguez.



Continued on Page 29

Bearkats favored over familiar foes

By EVAN JANSA

Special to the Herald

GARDEN CITY — In Garden City, the more things change, the more they stay the same. Especially when referring to the Garden City Bearkat football program.

The Bearkats will play in a new district this year after the 2008 UIL realignment. Moving from District 1, to District 8 shouldn't be a tough transition for Garden City. In the new district, the 'Kats will see familiar district foes Rankin and Fort Davis.

Water Valley and Sterling City, making a move from Class A, also join the five team district.

Continued on Page 25

Coach:

Vance Jones,

Returning starters O/D: 4/4

2007 Record: 8-2 (3-1)

Players to watch: WB Jake Schwartz, LB Cole Schwartz, RB Josh Colunga, RB Adrian Arzola, E Brett Chudej.



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Continued from Page 20

“We expect to be one of the teams fighting to get into the playoffs,” Said McCown. “I wouldn’t say we are one of the favorites, but we have as good a chance as anyone else.”

The quest for a playoff spot will not be an easy one, however, as the Buffaloes jump into a district headed by Sundown — a state semifinal-

ist last season.

Not to mention a Seagraves team expected to finish second in the district.

“You have Sundown, ranked No. 4 in the state, who is always good. Then there is Forsan, which has a lot of players returning from a team that went a round deep in the playoffs last year,” noted McCown. “I really don’t know too much about Seagraves, Plains or Tahoka, but from the little I have learned, all of them have the tendency to play tough. It should be interesting towards the end of the season.”

On the offensive side of the ball, the Buffs run the I-formation with senior Robbie Noland — 1,059 yards and 10 touchdowns in 2007 — carrying the brunt of the attack.

Sophomore Tyler Fulton inherits the quarterback position from his older brother Garrett.

“Tyler is ready,” confirmed McCown. “His brother Garrett was a good player for us and we fully expect Tyler to take up where he left off.”

Nathan Nix was to line up for the Buffalos from the fullback position, but thanks to a broken leg suffered during practice, senior Mark Garcia — an All-District selection at linebacker last year — steps in un-



HERALD photo/Bruce Schoeler
Stanton Buffaloes tailback Robbie Noland follows a blocker on a sweep in action from Sept. 21, 2007.

til Nix is able to return.

On defense, the split-6 formation will be the base for the Buffs with Jacob Cazares joining Garcia as the only two returning from last year’s squad.

“We don’t have a whole lot of experience on defense but the ones that moved up from JV know the system and what we need from

them,” McCown said. “We have to hope that a few of them are able to step in and help us get to where we need to be.

“We should be alright,” he continued. “The drop from 2A will help a little, but I know that it isn’t going to be any easier just because we dropped down a class.”

performance from its line.

However, at the start of last season, much of Big Spring’s issues offensively came from the pivotal position. From picking up on correct blocking schemes to the most basic, fundamental facet of every play — the snap — the Steers’ offensive line struggled to get things right.

“We had a lot of youth and inexperience on the line last season,” noted Ritchey. “Guys were always moving positions. It was definitely a struggle. That changes this year.”

Big Spring returns two starters from last year’s line, but neither will be playing the same position.

Junior Kyler McGee started at left tackle much of last season and even started several games at center. It’s another new position for McGee to start 2008 as he’ll be moving inside to the guard position.

Taking his place at left tackle is senior Quentin Ausbie, who Ritchey feels has a better skill set for the pivotal position.

“We think Kyler is a bit stronger at the point of attack and Quentin is quicker out of his stance, letting him deal with faster pass rushers,” Ritchey said. “We think the change will benefit us a lot.”



McGee

Filling in at the other guard spot will be Jimmy Watson, whose season was cut short last year due to an injury. Watson doesn’t look the part of an offensive lineman, but don’t judge a book by its cover.

“So much of an offensive lineman’s ability is based on heart and technique. Size limitations can be overcome by having those two factors,” explains Ritchey. “Jimmy has both heart and technique working for him.”

There will be a new face at center where transfer Zack Saldivar, son of new Assistant Superintendent Stephen Saldivar, takes over. Saldivar was an all-district performer at Lamesa in 2007 and Ritchey is excited about his addition to the team.

“He gives us a lot of options at a position that was a problem for us to fill at times last year,” Ritchey said. “We’re going to be much more stable on our line because of his presence.

“Our line is going to be much im-



HERALD file photo/Ken Hollandsworth
Big Spring Steers running back Monte Anderson stiff arms a San Angelo Central defender in action from Sept. 7, 2007. Anderson should figure more into the Steers’ offensive gameplan with an improved offensive line.

proved over last season,” he continued. “We can’t deny that the line held us back early on last year. This season, we’re much improved here.

It’s going to give us the ability to have our offense clicking from the start.”

Stanton High Football Schedule

Varsity

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
8-29	Grape Creek	Away	7:30
9-5	Reagan Co.	Away	7:30
9-12	Colorado City-h	Home	7:30
9-19	Roby	Away	7:30
9-26	Open		
10-3	Iraan	Home	7:30
10-10	Forsan*	Home	7:30
10-17	Seagraves*	Away	7:30
10-24	Tahoka*	Home	7:30
10-31	Plains*	Home	7:30
11-7	Sundown*	Away	7:30

h-homecoming

*-district game

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Overshadowed, but not forgotten

Steers' defense receiving fair share of preseason praise

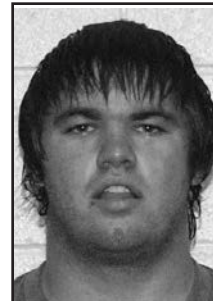
By **JONATHAN HULL**
Sports Editor

The old adage goes "Offense wins games, but defense wins championships." While the guys scoring all the points receive most of the glory, no football team has gone far without strong play from its defense. Arguably the turning point of the Big Spring Steers' season in 2007 came on a series of defensive plays. The Steers led Plainview late in the second quarter, when the Bull-

dogs took the ball inside the 1-yard-line with two plays to score. On third and goal, the Steers' front line stuffed the middle of the Bulldogs' offensive line, allowing middle linebacker Cade Hollandsworth to get into the backfield and stop the running back for no gain. Fourth and goal had a similar ending. Big Spring took over the contest from that point, picking up its first victory of the season and carrying that momentum to win two of its final three regular season games.

The stakes are even higher this season with Abilene Cooper and rival Hereford moving into the district. However, Big Spring Head Coach Phillip Ritchey and his coaching staff have made some position changes they believe will give the Steers a better chance of competing

against a tougher district. Here's a position-by-position look at the differences from last season's defense to the 2008 squad:



Hollandsworth

Linemen
There isn't a bigger name, or body for that matter, on this defense than that of Hollandsworth. The junior was an honorable-mention all-state linebacker last season and was selected as a member of Dave Campbell's Texas Football all-state team

Continued on Page 13

Continued from Page 20

Thompson. "We have 19 seniors on this year's team and most of those guys had a big hand in our success last year. They saw what it takes to win and they are eager to improve. They will be solid leaders for us this year."

Frietag will be joined by his running mate from last year, Jace Sandridge. The duo provided the Buffs with a solid one-two punch in 2007 and will likely see a lot of playing time on the defensive side of the ball as well.

Alex Huckabee will be under center again this year after a successful switch from wide receiver last season. Huckabee passed for more than 1200 yards in 2007 when he stepped in to replace an injured Jeremy Robbins.

Robbins was penciled in to be the starter, but due to an injury was sidelined for most of the year. He returned late in the season and lined up at wide receiver, helping Forsan as their playoff run began.

"Alex did a fantastic job for us last year, exceeding all of our expectations when so much was asked of him on a very short notice," Thompson said. "With him having a year of experience under his belt and having Robbins available from the start, we are looking forward to a big year offensively. When you add the two running backs we have to that mix, you have virtually our entire backfield returning, and that is exciting." The Buffs will play in District 7-A

Forsan High School Football

Varsity

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
8-29	Eldorado	Away	7:30
9-5	Coahoma	Home	7:30
9-12	Irion Co.-h	Home	7:30
9-19	McCamey	Home	7:30
9-26	Iraan	Away	7:30
10-3	Open		
10-10	Stanton*	Away	7:30
10-17	Sundown*	Home	7:30
10-24	Plains*	Away	7:30
10-31	Seagraves*	Away	7:30
11-7	Tahoka*	Home	7:30

h-homecoming
*-district game

this season with Stanton, Tahoka, Plains, Seagraves and preseason No. 4 Sundown. Sundown returns from a 14-1 team that made the 1A Division II State Semifinals last year and will be expected to be the forerunner in the district this season. Stanton barely missed the post-season last year, going 6-4, beating Forsan 47-13 in last year's Battle of the Buffs and is dropping in classification this year from 2A.

The Seagraves Eagles finished 8-3 last year, making it to the bi-district playoffs. With more than half of last year's starters coming back and a ton of speed at the skill positions, the Eagles will also be one of the favorites. Seagraves beat the Buffs last season, 20-6.


"This is a very tough district to be in" said Thompson, "Sundown obviously looks to be the favorite with their tradition and experience, but I think the teams that show up ready to play on Fridays, will have a chance to be competitive. Whichever team takes this district will have a chance to go far into the playoffs. We have some history with a couple of teams and others we will see for the first time. No matter how you spell it though, we have to

play hard-nosed football and stay focused week in and week out." Forsan will also face an equally tough pre-season schedule, including some old foes in Eldorado and Irion County and will renew an old rivalry with Coahoma. "We have a solid challenge ahead of us this year", Thompson said, "But, the kids have come in with excitement and enthusiasm. Some of the kids even camped out in the parking lot for the first day of two-a-days. They are progressing very well heading into the season and are picking up schemes and understanding their assignments. They have a goal of winning the district title and making it back into the playoffs. If the old saying is true that 'success breeds success' then I know we will be where we need to be come November."

Jonathan Hull's District 7-A projections

1. Sundown
2. Seagraves
3. Forsan
4. Stanton
5. Plains
6. Tahoka

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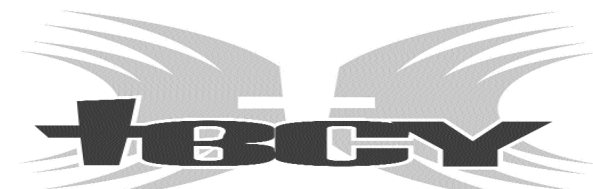


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Bufffs herd together

Rivals Forsan, Stanton enter same district

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald

FORSAN — Football is back and with it thousands of teams taking to the gridiron in search of glory under the bright Friday night lights.

In Forsan, it also means another season of Buffaloes' football under sixth-year Head Coach Tommy Thompson.

The Buffs are coming off one of their better years in recent memory, going 6-6 in 2007-08 and advancing as far as the regional quarterfinals, where they fell to Valley Mills, 40-21. The Buffs did win their first playoff game in 20 years over Iraan to get to that point.

However, with 18 returning letterman, including the Offensive Player of the Year, Jeremy Freitag, the

Coach: Tommy Thompson, sixth season.

Returning starters O/D: 8/7

2007 Record: 6-6 (5-2)

Players to watch: QB Alex Huckabee, RB Jeremy Freitag, RB Jace Sandrige, WR Jeremy Robbins, LB Ryan Flores.



Bufffs have high hopes that last year's success will transform into another chance at a district title and another trip into the postseason.

"We are really excited about our potential this season," said

Continued on Page 21

By Brandon Hallford

Special to the Herald

Pardon Head Coach Lee McCown and the few returning lettermen the Stanton Buffaloes have from last years 6-4 team, but there is a bit of a bad taste in their mouths from the way last year's campaign ended.

Who can blame them, though?

After all, last year ended with them holding the short end of the stick, losing 7-0 in overtime to the McCamey Badgers, which left the Buffs on the outside looking in as the Coahoma Bulldogs claimed the final playoff spot in what was then District 5-2A.

"That was a tough one," McCown said. "The players coming back definitely remember it."

Add that bit of motivation with

Coach: Lee McCown, 6th season

Returning starters O/D: 4/1

2007 Record: 6-4 (4-3)

Players to watch: LB Mark Garcia, WR Jacob Cazares, TB Robbie Noland, QB Tyler Fulton, LB Nathan Nix, DE Brandon Almanza.



the fact the Buffs will step down into the Class A ranks due to the latest rounds of bi-annual district realignments by the UIL, and you can understand why Stanton expects to be in the middle of the District 7-1A playoff chase.

Continued on Page 22

Continued from Page 12

as a middle linebacker.

There's just one catch. Hollandsworth won't line up at the same position full time this season.

In an effort to create a more significant pass rush defensively, Hollandsworth will start the season as a defensive end.

"Cade was the type of linebacker offenses had to scheme around," Ritchey said. "We think he can have the same type of impact at defensive end."

Although Ritchey insists the opinions of outsiders has nothing to do with the position change, several Division I colleges and scouts have made it known they potentially see Hollandsworth as a defensive end at the next level.

"Cade would have made the move to defensive end even without the opinion of college scouts. That's the type of team player he is," commented Ritchey. "He's going to work hard no matter where he lines up. I think it made the transition a little easier to handle though, because the scouts do want to see Cade at end. It will only help his value."

Joining Hollandsworth as a leader on the d-line is senior Tyler

Chesworth at defensive.



Chesworth

plays bigger than he is. He's also a very good interior pass rusher."

Linebackers

Hollandsworth's move to end creates a void in the middle of the Steers' defense. Filling that hole is junior Matt Ritchey.

"The only reason we can move Cade to defensive end is because of Matt," Phillip Ritchey said. "We believe Matt can fill in at the position and not cause any dropoff in quality."

Matt is also the team's starting tight end offensively and backup quarterback, meaning he'll be on the field for a majority of a game's plays. Also meaning that fatigue

Chesworth is undersized on paper for a defensive tackle, but makes up for his lack of size with good quickness and knowledge of the game.

"Tyler has a lot of hustle in him. He plays until the whistle," noted Ritchey. "He plays bigger than he is. He's also a very good interior pass rusher."

can be a factor late in games.

In that scenario, Hollandsworth would then move back to middle linebacker to allow Ritchey a moment to catch his breath.



Yanez

of speed and competitiveness at outside linebacker.

"Martin is a playmaker at linebacker," Ritchey said. "If he gets his hands on a pass, then we fully expect him to return it for a touchdown."

Secondary

Changes to upgrade the quality at certain positions occurred in the Steers' secondary as well. The biggest move involves senior LaRay Woodard switching from safety to cornerback.

Woodard transferred back to Big Spring in the midst of the 2007 football season. He wasn't allowed to start playing on the varsity until district began, but the benefit of his presence was undeniable.

"Before LaRay joined the team, Cade was really the only big playmaker we had on the defensive side of the ball. LaRay changed that with his play at safety," Ritchey said. "We're moving him to cornerback because we believe he's athletic and skillful enough to shut down whatever receiver he lines up across from. We think LaRay has the ability to take away one half of the field in the passing game."



Woodard

Other players making contributions in the secondary will be Kaegan Hunt, who was a starting cornerback and honorable mention all-district selection last season, senior Zamir Linton and twin brothers Xavian and Tevian Parnell.

Continued on Page 14

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Continued from Page 13

Special Teams

There is no facet of the game taken for granted more than special teams.

Ritchey has mixed emotions about the current state of the Steers' unit.

"I really like what we have in the return game, but we're going to have some problems in the kicking game," Ritchey said. "We've got some stuff we need to look at there."

The problems start with simply finding the personnel who can handle kickoffs, field goals and punting. Quarterback Tyler Tannehill was the team's punter last season, but offseason knee surgery raises questions about his ability to perform in that role this season.

"I really like for my quarterback to be my punter, too," explained Ritchey. "It gives us the ability to run a variety of fakes and make our punter a true threat return teams have to account for. We're hoping Tyler will be able to give it a go at some point this season."

There are no problems finding return specialists on the Steers, though.



HERALD photo/Ken Hollandsworth
Two Big Spring Steers attempt to block a field goal in action against Odessa High Aug. 31, 2007. The Steers' coaching staff has mixed emotions about their special teams play heading into the 2008 season.

Woodard, Yanez, Linton, Monte Anderson and Sidney Parker have all exhibited the ability to return kicks at a very high quality.

"The return game is one of the strengths of this team," Ritchey said. "That just speaks volumes about the number of athletes we

have and can utilize. We've really got a lot of kids that are going to make our opponents think twice about taking us for granted."



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Coahoma's Corey Roberts carries the ball in action from Nov. 2, 2007.

Coach: Stacey Martin, 1st season
Returning starters: 7/7
2007 Record: 4-7 (4-3)
Players to watch: RB P.J. Daylong, LB Corey Roberts, QB Josh Paniagua, FS Ray Gutierrez.



Continued from Page 15

Comanche and is more than familiar with Coahoma's new district mates.

He also has the pleasure of welcoming back 16 returning players, including eight seniors.

"We have a fight ahead of us in our district," Martin said. "All the teams in the district usually have pretty good programs and all of them take pride in the way that they play. We are going to have count on our experience and have some good senior leadership if we are going to be successful."

If Martin and the rest of Coahoma hope to make the playoffs they will rely on the legs of senior running back P.J. Daylong.

Junior Josh Paniagua will start the season under center for Coahoma,

running the multiple I-formation.

"We are counting on P.J. having a great year," Martin said of his running back. "He runs hard and has pretty good speed."

Daylong led the team in rushing last year, carrying the ball 675 yards, while Paniagua played six games at the quarterback position due to injuries.

Running the routes for Coahoma this season will be senior Ray Gutierrez and sophomore Lupe Abrego, while Lane Douglas, a transfer from 6-man Miami, will fill in at the tight end position.

The Bulldogs have questions on defense as they attempt to shore up a unit that gave up 3000 yards in total yardage, 1600 of which came through the air.

The Bulldogs do return their top two tacklers, linebackers Daylong and Corey Roberts.

Gutierrez will also line up at free safety in hopes of shoring up last season's weakness.


"We are going to have to play hard on defense if we are going to win," Martin said. "We are going to have to leave it all on the field every week if we expect to be in contention at the end of the year."

Jonathan Hull's District 7-2A projections

1. Ballinger
2. Tuscola Jim Ned
3. Coahoma
4. Colorado City
5. Wall
6. San Angelo Grape Creek

Coahoma High Football Schedule

Varsity				
Date	Opponent	Site	Time	
8-30	Van Horn	Odessa	6:00	
9-5	Forsan	Away	7:30	
9-12	Seagraves	Home	7:30	
9-19	Tahoka	Away	7:30	
9-26	Kermit-h	Home	7:30	
10-3	Open			
10-10	Jim Ned*	Home	7:30	
10-17	Ballinger*	Home	7:30	
10-24	Colorado City	Away	7:30	
10-31	Wall	Home	7:30	
11-7	Grape Creek	Away	7:30	
h-homecoming				
*-district game				




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Bulldogs ready for different fight



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
 Coahoma Bulldogs running back P.J. Daylong breaks away from several Colorado City defenders in action from Oct. 19, 2007.

Coahoma enters 2008 with new coach in tougher district

By Brandon Hallford
 Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — There's a lot of fight in the Bulldogs which are bred in Coahoma.

Last year, the Bulldogs fought and clawed their way to a 4-7 record to make the playoffs, only to bow out in the first round to the Ballinger Bearkats, 35-20.

This year, they won't have to worry about Ballinger knocking them out of the first round. Instead, the Bulldogs have moved over a district, joining up with the Bearkats in District 7-2A.

The news doesn't get any better from there, as not only do the Bulldogs get to battle Ballinger in district play, but they also get peren-

nial playoff contenders Jim Ned and Wall.

The district is all that's new in Coahoma, either.

"I think that it's going to be a real fight for the district title," first-year Head Coach Stacy Martin said. "Jim Ned and Ballinger are both going to be tough, but there really isn't a pushover in the bunch. I think that it could come down to the final week of the season before the playoffs spots are figured out."

Martin takes over the helm from Jay Kennedy, who moved into the principal's office earlier this year. Martin, a 1993 graduate of Big Spring High School, comes over f r o m

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