

MONDAY

August 30, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 63°-64° **TOMORROW** 88°-90°

BRIEFLY

Forsan ISD sets bond seminars

Forsan Independent School District will host two information sessions concerning the \$4.9 million bond election, scheduled for Sept. 11.

The sessions will be held in conjunction with an open house on each campus.

Forsan Junior/Senior High School will host one meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the auditorium. The open house will immediately follow and early voting will be conducted beginning at 7 p.m.

The information session and open house at Elbow Elementary is scheduled for Sept. 2, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Early voting will be held that night beginning at 6.

Everyone is invited to attend either or both sessions and the open houses.

Early voting began Wednesday and will continue through Sept. 7 at the superintendent's office. If passed, the bond package will fund extensive upgrades to district facilities, construction of a multi-purpose athletic facility and new buses.

'The Guys' set on stage Sept. 11

The Howard College Theater Department will be performing "The Guys" by Anne Nelson on Saturday, Sept. 11 to benefit the Big Spring Fire Department.

The play will be in the Municipal Auditorium. Tickets can be bought at the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce office, 215 W. 3rd Street, for \$10.

INDEX

- Classified 4-5B
- Comics 6B
- Features 5-6A
- Obituaries 2A
- Opinion 4A
- Sports 1-2B

Vol. 100, No. 237

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There's still time get your voter registration card

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

The clock is ticking — and with a little more than a month until the deadline to register to vote, area residents hoping to cast their ballots in the upcoming presidential election should make every second count.

The deadline to register to vote in the November election is set for Monday, Oct. 4, and according to Howard County Voter Registrar Kathy Sayles, it's time



SAYLES

to check on your "voter readiness." "The registration deadline for any election is 30 days prior to the election day," said Sayles. "This year the deadline actually falls on a weekend, so the state is giving everyone the following working day, which is a Monday, to get their voter registration cards in."

Sayles said most Howard

County voters have already received their new, blue, voter registration cards by mail, but for those that haven't, a quick trip to the County Courthouse Annex can get them ready to cast their ballots.

"If they haven't received their card or aren't sure if they're registered, all they have to do is come by the office," said Sayles. "They can fill out the voter registration card and their card should be mailed to them in time for the November election."

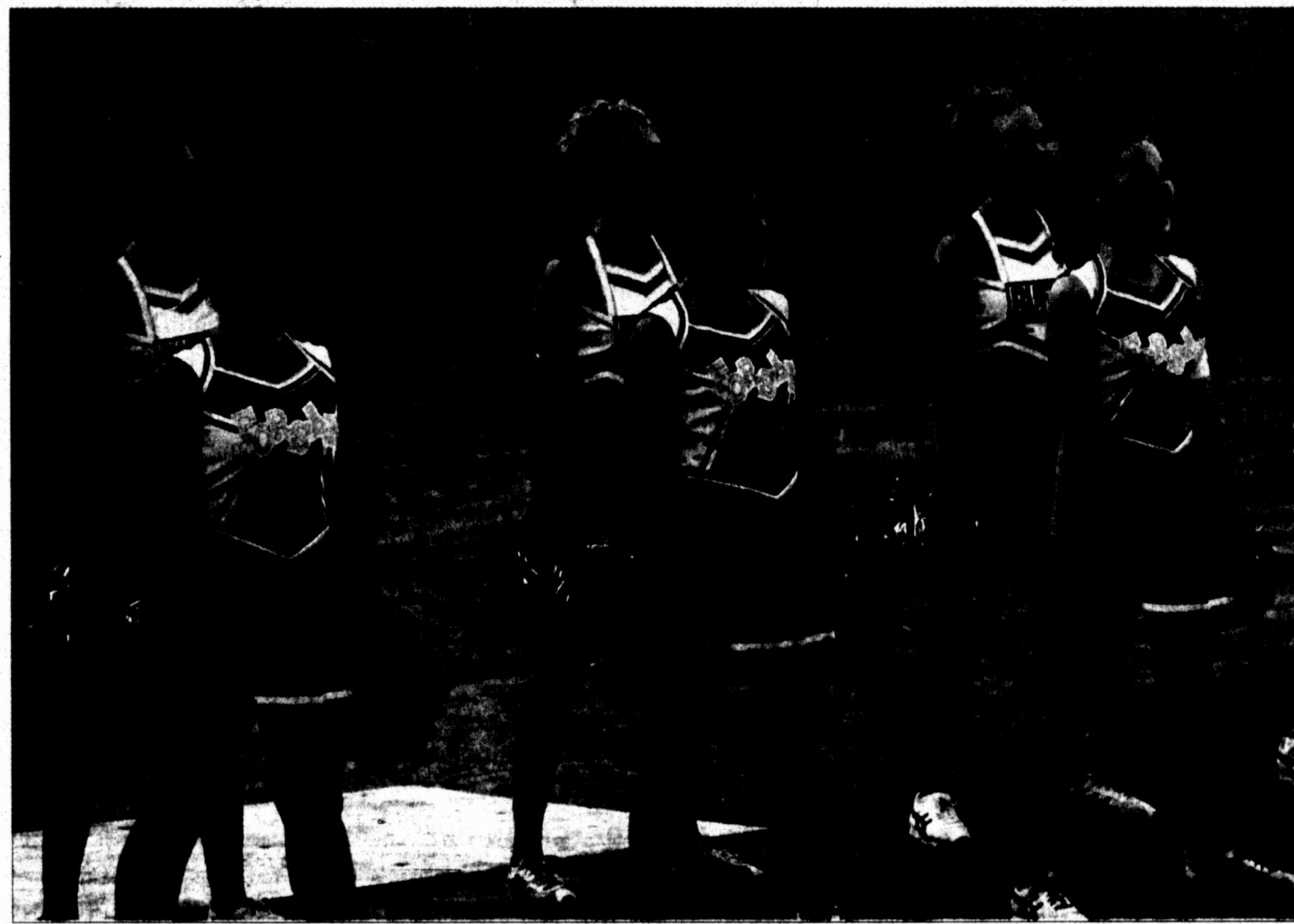
"For those that can't get out, they can call us and we'll mail them the form. They can fill it out and just mail it back to us. It's a very easy process."

Sayles said the registration cards require a Texas driver's license or identification card number, or the last four digits of the prospective voter's Social Security number.

"If the person registering doesn't have any of that information,

See REGISTER, Page 3A

LEADING THE CHEERS



The Forsan High School Cheerleaders "shout it out" Saturday evening, taking first place in the High School Cheer competition at the Battle of the Cheerleaders, held at the Howard County Fair. Coahoma High's cheer team took second place, while the Stanton High cheer squad walked away with third. In the High School Dance division, Coahoma took top honors, Sterling City placed second and Forsan took third. In the Junior High Cheer Division, Forsan once again dominated, receiving the first place nod. The Coahoma squad took second place while the Garden City junior high team took third. In the Junior High Dance Division, Coahoma took first place, with Forsan nabbing second place and Garden City rounding things out in third.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

McCain: It's legitimate to question Kerry some

By **TOM RAUM**

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Republicans sharpened their attacks on John Kerry ahead of the opening of their national convention Monday, with Sen. John McCain suggesting it was fair game to criticize the Democratic candidate's anti-war protests three decades ago.

His comments came as Republicans gathered at Madison Square Garden, where they planned to use

McCain, R-Ariz., told CBS's "The Early Show" that television ads run against Kerry accusing the Democrat of lying about his military service in Vietnam were "dishonest and dishonorable." But, he added, "What John Kerry did after the war is very legitimate political discussion." Kerry was a leader of Vietnam veterans who opposed the war.

the first day to pay tribute to victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks and to portray President Bush as a strong leader in the war on terrorism.

McCain, R-Ariz., told CBS's "The Early Show" that television ads run

against Kerry accusing the Democrat of lying about his military service in Vietnam were "dishonest and dishonorable." But, he added, "What John Kerry did after the war is very legitimate political discussion."

Kerry was a leader of Vietnam veterans who opposed the war.

While seeking to energize the party's conservative base, Republicans also were reaching out to moderates who remain undecided.

Most of the prominent convention speakers — McCain, former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and California Gov.

Arnold Schwarzenegger — are far more politically moderate on social issues than most convention delegates. Democratic Sen. Zell Miller of Georgia gives the keynote address on Wednesday.

Republicans on Monday added a second Democrat

See GOP, Page 3A

Texas oldest rod run to rumble Saturday

Public invited to participate or observe

By **BILL MCCLELLAN**

News Editor

Vroom, vroom.

Comanche Trail Park — normally a venue for ball-games, tennis, swimming and picnicking — will put on a little muscle Saturday, Sept. 4, as the

Early Cars of Big Spring organization makes it the home for its annual rod run.

Some 75 to 100 vehicles — maybe more — are expected for the event.

"We'll draw participants from all over Texas, Oklahoma and Eastern

New Mexico," explained Early Cars member John Edwards. "We have a lot of fun every year."

That's every year now for 33 years. The Sept. 4 run will be the organization's 34th.

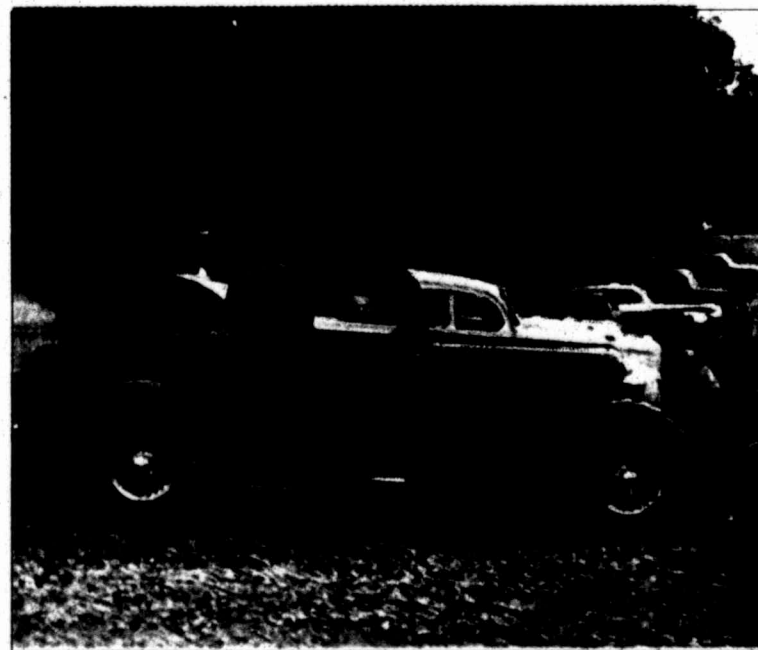
"It's Texas' oldest consecutive rod run, and we're very proud of that," said Edwards.

All types of automobiles are eligible to participate. There is a \$25 entry fee.

Drivers of the first 50 vehicles registered will receive a T-shirt and a dash plaque. Those are just a few of the prizes which will be given away during the day-long event.

The automobile judged to be the top vehicle at the run will earn \$50 and a plaque. The top five chosen will receive a plaque, too. The vehicle traveling the trip from the farthest distance will win \$100.

"We have a lot of door prizes, too," said Edwards. "Virtually every body shop and auto



Courtesy photo

This 1933 Plymouth owned by Early Cars of Big Spring member John Edwards won Director's Choice from a field of 500 entries recently in Fredericksburg. The public is invited to the Early Cars 34th annual rod run Saturday in Big Spring.

parts place donated items for door prizes."

The event will begin with registration and visiting at 8 a.m. in the park. At 1 p.m., the group will embark on a small tour across Big Spring, with special appearances at the

Comanche Trail Nursing Home and Mountain View Lodge.

"We wanted to do this for some people who aren't able to come out to the park and see the cars.

See RUN, Page 3A



Courtesy photo

Car enthusiasts look over Dickie Partlow's yellow 1940 Ford at the state meet in Fredericksburg. Early Cars of Big Spring members will host Texas' oldest rod run Saturday at Comanche Trail Park.

AUG 30 2004

Obituaries

Agustin "Gus" Fierro



Agustin "Gus" Fierro, 81, of Big Spring died Friday, Aug. 27, 2004, at his residence. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel led by Teresa Rocha. Funeral Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with the Rev. Richard Regan officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born May 28, 1923, in Big Spring, to Ricarda and Telesforo Fierro Sr., and was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. The love of his life, next to his family, was baseball. He played semi-pro baseball while in the Army.

After returning to Big Spring, he played for Big Spring Tigers as short-stop, his favorite position, but was also a pitcher. He later coached the Tigers. He also coached Little League.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and was employed at the Veterans Administration Medical Center for more than 30 years. He was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. He married Celia Everett in 1947 in Big Spring.

He is survived by his wife, Celia Fierro, of Big Spring; one son, Agustin Fierro Jr., of Big Spring; two daughters, Martha Martinez and Cynthia F. Harvey, and her, husband Dean, all of Houston; two grandsons, Matthew Martinez and Jordan Martinez, both of Midland; one granddaughter, Elizabeth Grace Harvey of Houston; and one brother, Jimmy Fierro of Big Spring.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by two brothers, Charlie Fierro and Telesforo Fierro Jr.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Paid obituary

Take note

□ **YOUNG LIFE MUCKFEST** for all high school students is set for 7:59 p.m. TODAY at the Cotton Mize Field in Comanche Trail Park.

□ **HOMECOMING ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR ALL COAHOMA EXES** is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in Christene's Cafe. Officers will be elected and a date set for Homecoming. Dinner will be dutch treat.

□ **A FUND TO HELP DEFRAY** the funeral costs and medical bills of Johnny Darden, a Howard County man who was recently attacked and killed by a swarm of bees, has been set up at State National Bank under account no. 2007126.

□ **A SAVINGS ACCOUNT TO BENEFIT LOVE FROM HOME** has been established at Citizen's Federal Credit Union. Love From Home is a local effort to provide personal items needed by the soldiers serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Contact the credit union at 267-6373 to contribute funds to offset the cost of postage for the packages mailed to the soldiers.

□ **CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH** is looking for infant cars seats to be given to needy families. Call Karen at 263-3517 or the church at 263-5683.

Weather

Several areas of the state should see rain on Monday while North Texas is expected to be sunny and clear, according to the National Weather Service.

The Panhandle has a 20 percent chance of rain with highs in the upper 80s and lows in the lower 60s.

There's a 30 percent chance of rain along the Texas Coast with highs in the upper 80s. The rain chance continues at night with lows in the mid 70s.

Central Texas should be partly cloudy with highs in the lower 90s and lows in the upper 60s.

Mostly sunny skies will cover North Texas with highs in the lower 90s and lows in the mid 60s.

South Texas is the area most likely to get rain with a 50 percent chance. Highs in the lower 90s and lows in the upper 70s are expected.

Daytime rain chances in far West Texas are 10 percent with highs in the upper 80s. There's a 20 percent chance of nighttime showers with lows in the mid 60s.

The Permian Basin should be partly cloudy with highs near 90 and lows in the mid 60s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 5-7-8-29-43. Bonus Ball: 35. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$31 million.

...

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 20-29-2-28-1. Number matching five of five: 0. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night: 7-1-6

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 10 a.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. today:

• **JENNIFER JEANETTE HENRY**, 29, of 2911 Highway 80 West, was arrested Saturday for local capias warrants.

• **RANDY DWAIN MCCABE**, 36, of 904 Nolan, was arrested Sunday for three local warrants.

• **BEN JOSEPH GARZA JR.**, 24, of 1020 Stadium, was arrested Sunday for a parole violation.

• **LAURA LAUNA TRAWICK**, 25, of 1315 Stadium, was arrested and held on Sunday for the HCSO.

• **STEVEN TIPTON**, 44, of 507 Highland Drive, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving with license suspended.

• **ABEL JAVIER PADILLA**, 39, of 2606 Barksdale, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:

- in the 1600 block of Owens

- in the 2300 block of Wasson

- 1400 block of Highway 87.

• **THEFT** was reported:

- in the 1100 block of Lamesa

- in the 1700 block of FM 700.

- in the 1800 block of Gregg.

- in the 300 block of Gregg.

- in the 1200 block of 11th Place.

- in the 1500 block of 4th Street.

- in the 200 block of FM 700.

• **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported:

- in the 600 block of South Runnels

- in the 2900 block of Old Highway

• **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported:

- in the 1200 block of 11th Place.

- in the 500 block of Westover.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:

- in the 800 block of Creighton.

- in the 3600 block of Hamilton.

• **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A VEHICLE** was reported:

- 600 block of 4th Street.

- 1300 block of Stadium.

• **ASSAULT OF ELDERLY/DISABLED** was reported:

- in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

• **BURGLARY OF HABITATION** was reported:

- in the 1400 block of 6th Street.

- in the 1500 block of Robin.

- in the 700 block of Anna.

- in the 1300 block of Tucson.

• **DRIVING WHILE LICENSE**

SUSPENDED/INVALID was reported:

- in the 600 block of 18th Street.

- in the 400 block of Marcy.

• **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported:

- in the 1200 block of Birdwell.

- in the 1300 block of Gregg.

• **EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION** was reported:

- in the 200 block of Austin.

• **ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY** was reported:

Sheriff's report

- in the 1400 block of Wood.

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

• **VICTOR BALDERAS FLORES**, 37, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

• **JORGE ANTONIO ARMENDARIZ**, 53, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated, second offense.

• **RICHARD ELLISON**, 29, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of theft and conviction/violation of probation.

• **JAMES D. HEADRICK**, 32, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.

• **LONNIE GREENE**, 45, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft.

• **ROGER EUGENE SCHLEICH**, 40, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of issuance of a bad check.

• **JOHN MATHEW GONZALES**, 18, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated/open container of alcohol.

• **LAURA LAUNA TRAWICK**, 25, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated.

• **DARRELL GENE TRAWICK**, 42, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of public intoxication.

• **STEVEN M. TIPTON**, 44, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD on charges of driving while license suspended.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

• Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

• Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

• Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the north-west door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.

• Young Life Muckfest for all high school students is set for 7:59 p.m. at the Cotton Mize Field in Comanche Trail Park.

TUESDAY

• Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Comanche Trail Nursing Center Open House from 2-4 p.m. for the Alzheimer's Secure Unit. The public is invited.

• A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

• Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

• Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.

Support groups

MONDAY

□ All widows and widowers are invited to attend the Encourager's Support group meeting at 6 p.m. Aug. Call 398-5522 for more information.

TUESDAY

□ The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

THURSDAY

□ Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m., at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.

□ Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30-7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m.

□ The Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at noon in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. Call 263-8273 for more information.

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HENRY BACKES

TEXAS

CPS seeking

DALLAS (AP) — A court to try to injured 5-year-old boy to a face injury to a Police have said told them the g function.

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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

CPS seeking injured girl's custody

DALLAS (AP) — Child Protective Services is going to court to try to get permanent custody of a critically injured 5-year-old girl whose stepfather and mother face injury to a child charges.

Police have said doctors at Children's Medical Center told them the girl has lost almost all detectable brain function.

CPS was granted temporary custody when the child was admitted to the hospital on Aug. 18 with head trauma, a broken pelvis, a broken arm and broken ribs.

CPS plans to ask a juvenile court judge Monday to grant permanent custody. The Dallas Morning News reported in Monday's editions.

Authorities say the girl's mother and stepfather had previously taken her to a church because they said she was possessed by a demon.

The two — whose names are being withheld because the child may have been sexually abused — are jailed on the injury to a child charges.

The child's condition may force CPS to consider asking a judge for an order ending life support. The hospital would not discuss the girl's condition, saying the family has asked that no information be provided.

Father charged in infant's death

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A 20-year-old man was charged with capital murder over the weekend in connection with his newborn daughter's death.

Joseph Anthony Mauricio was arraigned on the charge on Sunday and was being held in the Bexar County Jail on \$500,000 bond.

Mauricio's 7-week-old daughter, Desiree, was found unresponsive in her crib on July 23, police said. She was taken to University Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

An autopsy revealed Desiree had sustained two separate brain injuries about four weeks apart. The second injury killed her.

Child Protective Services placed the child in her aunt's care after she was taken to a hospital on July 2 for vomiting.

Stillborn child's parents can't sue

AUSTIN (AP) — A stillborn child's parents cannot sue a hospital or doctor for negligence because a fetus is not considered an individual under state law, the Texas Supreme Court has ruled.

In a decision watched by abortion rights activists and anti-abortion groups, the court voted 7-1 to stand by legal precedence that allows only infants who have taken at least one breath to be considered individuals who can sue or have a suit carried out on their behalf.

The Friday ruling overturned a decision by the 2nd Court of Appeals in Fort Worth that would have allowed Tara and Donnie Reese to sue a Fort Worth hospital for the death of her unborn son.

Tara Reese was seven months pregnant in May 1998 when she went to the Fort Worth Osteopathic Medical Center's emergency room complaining of a racing pulse and dizziness. She said the hospital's staff should have delivered the baby by Caesarean section.

The hospital said Tara Reese was a high-risk patient

who gained about 50 pounds during her pregnancy, eventually weighing almost 300 pounds. They also questioned the quality of her prenatal care.

Cuban woman held for questions

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A 58-year-old Cuban woman who reportedly spent two months lost at sea has been sent to a detention facility as part of an ongoing investigation, U.S. Border Patrol officials said.

Magali Arojo was one of at least six Cubans on a boat that washed up on Mustang Island Wednesday night.

She was hospitalized until Friday and planned to stay with a Cuban-American family in the Corpus Christi area until relatives from Miami could join her or pay her way there, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported Monday.

Arojo instead was sent to the Port Isabel Service Processing Center pending the investigation, at least part of which may deal with whether there was a previously unknown seventh occupant aboard the 30-foot boat, the Border Patrol officials said.

Border Patrol spokesman Eddie Flores said his agency was not conducting the investigation. A spokeswoman for the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement said she did not know about the investigation.

The group left Manzanillo, Cuba, on a raft on June 25, the Border Patrol has said. They apparently purchased their 30-foot boat, water and fuel in the Cayman Islands five days later.

The group had planned to travel through Mexico to the border and then sneak across the Rio Grande, the Border Patrol said. Hurricane Charley and Tropical Storm Bonnie probably blew their boat off course.

GOP

Continued from Page 1A

to the roster of speakers, saying that former New York Mayor Ed Koch would introduce Republican Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Bush allies sharpened their rhetorical knives at a series of delegation breakfasts.

Kerry is "just everywhere" on issue, said Rep. Roy Blount of Missouri, the No. 3 House Republican, rattling off what he said were shifting stances on tax and education legislation.

"He was for removing Saddam Hussein but not by force," Blount said, pausing as the Ohio delegates laughed. "He's waiting for the next election (in Iraq), I guess, to see if he leaves."

Democrats fought back with equally strong rhetoric.

Kerry's running mate, North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, dismissed GOP assertions that Bush was a strong world leader.

"We have seen what this administration's approach does to our standing in the world. It

isolates us. It costs us respect from our allies. It means we must face these new challenges alone," Edwards said in remarks prepared for a speech in Wilmington, N.C.

"After months of saying he'd done everything right on Iraq and foreign policy, the president acknowledged just the other day that he miscalculated the way in which he waged the war in Iraq. He believes that he may have won the war too quickly and that was a miscalculation," Edwards added.

Vice President Dick Cheney, meanwhile, denied anew that the Bush campaign had any role in the anti-Kerry ads being run by the group Swift Vote Veterans for Truth.

Cheney received deferments that allowed him to avoid serving in Vietnam, but the vice president told ABC's "Good Morning America" that lack of military service should not be "prohibitive by any means" for potential leaders in wartime.

Bush, who served state-side in the Air National Guard during Vietnam, was campaigning Monday

in New Hampshire and Michigan. In an interview on NBC's "Today" show, Bush said retreating from the war on terror "would be a disaster for your children."

"You cannot show weakness in this world today because the enemy will exploit that weakness," he said.

When asked "Can we win?" the war on terror, Bush said: "I don't think you can win it. But I think you can create conditions so that the — those who use terror as a tool are — less acceptable in parts of the world."

The opening of the convention in the city that felt the brunt of the worst terrorist attacks in U.S. history came a day after more than 100,000 people protesting Bush's Iraq and domestic policies swarmed past the Garden, where the president will accept the party's nomination for a second term on Thursday.

The convention begins with polls showing Bush and Kerry in a virtual tie. The first day was intended to focus on Bush's leadership in the war on terrorism, with a tribute to families of the Sept. 11,

2001, attacks and speeches by McCain and Giuliani.

"In choosing a president, we really don't choose a Republican or Democrat, a conservative or liberal," Giuliani said in prepared remarks that compared Bush with Ronald Reagan and Winston Churchill. "We choose a leader. And in times of danger, as we are now in, Americans should put leadership at the core of their decision."

A far different message was delivered Sunday on the streets of Manhattan by protesters who filled 20 city blocks, many chanting "No More Bush" and "No More Years" and bearing anti-war and anti-Bush banners. Some carried flag-draped, coffin-shaped boxes meant to draw attention to a U.S. death toll in the Iraq war that is approaching 1,000.

One New York official put the size at over 120,000. Organizers put the number at some 400,000. In all, about 100 arrests were reported, with no major outbursts of violence.

Republicans convened about four miles north of Ground Zero, where two hijacked planes destroyed

both towers of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Nearly 3,000 people died there, at the Pentagon and at a crash site in Pennsylvania.

Republicans pressed their monthslong efforts to portray him as weak on national defense and as a waffler.

Bush arrives Wednesday after a tour of eight battleground states. He'll spend one night in New York before returning to the campaign trail.

Laying low while Republicans command the spotlight, Kerry spent Sunday at his beachfront home in Nantucket, Mass., and was remaining there until he addresses the American Legion in Nashville on Wednesday. Bush talks to the veterans' convention on Tuesday.

The names of Bush and Cheney were to be placed in nomination for second terms on Monday and an alphabetical state-by-state roll call begun that will be

spread out over several nights.

There are 2,509 voting delegates and a candidate needs a simple majority to be nominated. GOP officials say Bush and Cheney will likely clinch the nomination on Tuesday night.

On the Net:

<http://www.johnkerry.com>

<http://www.georgewebush.com>

<http://www.gopconvention.com>

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson
267-8288

Doris Gibson, 74, died Friday. Funeral Services were at 10:00 AM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Agustin "Gus" Fierro, 81, died Friday. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:30 AM Tuesday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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111 E. Marcy 267-8283

RUN

Continued from Page 1A

This gives them an opportunity to see them, and it's fun for us, too," explained Edwards.

The group will also take on Scenic Mountain, then drive through both Sonic Drive-in locations, Gregg Street and FM 700. Later in the day, managers of the Sonics will award \$50 to the two cars they determine to be the "best of the bunch."

Other activities throughout the day will include a hot dog lunch for registered participants

as well as horseshoes, fly belt tossing and more.

Club awards will be presented at 4 p.m. and then the vehicles will leave the park and head for Sonic on FM 700, where winners of the Sonic awards will be presented.

The event will be held rain or shine.

"Last year, it rained but we still had about 30 vehicles," said Edwards. "We're hoping for a lot more this year."

The public is invited to attend.

"We'd love to have the public come out and look at the cars and ask questions and all. It's free. The only thing we ask is that

people respect the vehicles — stay off of them, don't open doors, things like that. Some of the owners have invested \$40,000 and more in some of these vehicles," said Edwards.

It is not necessary to pre-register to enter the rod run. Anyone needing more information, however, can contact Edwards at (432) 264-0536, Raymond Hogg at 263-0693 or Mike Carey at 965-3412.

News Editor Bill McClellan can be contacted by calling 263-7331, ext. 235, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

call 264-2232.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-

7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

REGISTER

Continued from Page 1A

there's a box on the card that they can check and still complete the process," said Sayles. "However, their name will be flagged in the computer, and when they go to the polls to vote, they will be asked to present identification."

Sayles said anyone who isn't sure about their registration status should contact her office, and if a replacement card is needed, one can be provided free of charge.

For more information

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AUGUST 30 2004

EDITORIAL

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

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Presidential campaign is just tiring?

With a little more than two months to go before the Nov. 2 general election, there is already a palpable sense of fatigue with this dyspeptic presidential campaign.

The relentless bashing of President Bush, the endless parsing

Some of this enervating, humorless flow can be blamed on the telescoped primary season that forces what races there are into a few weeks time. There are primaries going on all over the country this month and next Nevada's presidential primary isn't until Sept. 7 but the presidential candidate selection was over by mid-March.

Such a collapsed time frame takes most of the drama and some of the interest out of the rest of the political year, and extends the presidential race into a nine-month marathon. But even that could be interesting if the political leaders would allow it.

Instead, the leadership of the Democratic and Republican parties force the candidates into a campaign structure utterly devoid of spontaneity and humanity. There is no opportunity for the candidates to interact with one another, except in the very few formal debates; there is little chance for the public and the press to fire questions and gauge the responses.

Presidential elections have become bloodless and rehearsed. The candidates fight each other for voters through the frozen landscape of advertising. When they meet the public, it's in planned and scripted venues that limit the possibilities for extemporaneous discussion.

Republicans are going so far as to insist that individuals attending Bush-Cheney functions sign a loyalty oath promising to vote for the ticket. How does that look to undecided voters? These are the voters that both Bush and Kerry are courting.

In this election run-up, even John Edwards, who is as good as anyone with the public and on his feet, has been on a tight rein. It has been a cold, calculating campaign so far, and 75 more days of it is excruciating to ponder; each day another flood of advertising and spin and poll numbers reflecting the latest turn of the screw.

American voters should demand more of these men who want to run the government. They should insist on numerous debates, scores of press conferences and much more exposure to the public both candidates claim to represent. Americans should be able to see them in action, not just on the screen.

That won't be possible as long as the party chieftains insist on insulating the candidates and mounting an elaborate charade in place of a real campaign.

However, if one escaped the leash most likely the challenger the other would be forced to follow or suffer public opprobrium for hiding instead of politicking.

It could happen.

THE AMERICAN-STATESMAN
AUSTIN

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You are a wise investment, Lord.

Amen

Inside report: Swift boat interview

Retired Rear Adm. William L. Schachte Jr. said Thursday in his first on-the-record interview about the Swift boat veterans dispute that "I was absolutely in the skimmer" in the early morning on Dec. 2, 1968, when Lt. (j.g.) John Kerry was involved in an incident which led to his first Purple Heart.



ROBERT NOVAK

"Kerry nicked himself with a M-79 (grenade launcher)," Schachte said in a telephone interview from his home in Charleston, S.C. He said, "Kerry requested a Purple Heart."

Schachte, who also was then a lieutenant junior grade, said he was in command of the small Boston whaler or skimmer, with Kerry aboard in his first combat mission in the Vietnam War. The third crew member was an enlisted man whose name Schachte did not remember.

Two enlisted men who appeared at the podium with Sen. Kerry at the Democratic National Convention in Boston have asserted that they were alone in the small boat with Kerry, with no other officer present. Schachte said it "was not possible" for Kerry to have gone out alone so soon after joining the Swift boat command in late November of 1968.

Kerry supporters say that no critics of the Democratic presidential candidate ever were aboard a boat with him in combat.

Washington lawyer Lanny Davis has contended that Schachte was not aboard the Boston whaler, and the statement in "Unfit for Command" that he was aboard undermines that critical book's credibility.

Schachte until now has refused to speak out publicly on this question and agreed to give only two interviews. One was a television interview with Lisa Myers of NBC News. The second was a print interview with me.

Schachte described the use of the skimmer operating very close to shore as a technique that he personally designed to flush enemy forces on the banks of Mekong River so that the larger Swift boats could move in. At about 3 a.m. on Dec. 2, Schachte said, the skimmer — code-named "Batman" — fired a hand-held flare. He said that after Kerry's M-16 rifle jammed, the new officer picked up the M-79 and "I heard a 'thunk.' There was no fire from the enemy," he said.

Patrick Runyon and William Zaladonis are the two enlisted men who said they were aboard the skimmer and did not know Schachte. However, two other former officers interviewed Thursday confirmed that Schachte was the originator of the technique and always was aboard the Boston whaler for these missions.

Grant Hibbard, who as a lieutenant commander was Schachte's superior officer, confirmed that Schachte always went on these skimmer missions and "I don't think he (Kerry) was alone" on his first assignment. Hibbard said he had told Kerry to "forget it" when

he asked for a Purple Heart.

Ted Peck, another Swift boat commander, said, "I remember Bill (Schachte) telling me it didn't happen" — that is, Kerry getting an enemy-inflicted wound. He said it would be "impossible" for Kerry to have been in the skimmer without Schachte.

"I was astonished by Kerry's version" (in his book, "Tour of Duty") of what happened Dec. 2, Schachte said Thursday. When asked to support the Kerry critics in the Swift boat controversy, Schachte said, "I didn't want to get involved." But he said he gradually began to change his mind when he saw his own involvement and credibility challenged, starting with Lanny Davis on CNN's "Crossfire" Aug. 12.

The next time he saw Kerry after the first Purple Heart incident, Schachte said, was "about 20 years" later on the U.S. Senate subway in the basement of the Russell Senate Office Building. "I called, 'Hey, John.' He replied, 'Batman.' I was absolutely amazed by his memory." He said they "talked about having lunch" but never did.

Schachte said he has never been contacted by or talked to anybody in the Bush-Cheney campaign or any Republican organization. He said he is a political independent who has voted for candidates of both parties.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OFFICE — 264-2200.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I just wanted to say thank you for the article that Thomas Jenkins wrote on Aug. 15 about the anniversary of the disappearance of our son, William Arlin Bynum.

I felt that the article was well written and we appreciate the Herald not letting this very important issue die. The only way we are ever going to have some closure and peace is for someone to come forward and tell us where Arlin's remains are located.

This has been a very difficult year for our family, but we feel that it is important to keep this "mystery" in the minds of Big Spring residents so that hopefully something as horrible as this won't happen to another Big Spring family.

Thank you for your help in reminding Big Spring that our son is still missing.

JUDY BYNUM
BILOXI, MISS.

TO THE EDITOR:

The recently concluded national hang gliding competition was an example of what this community can do when even a few of our citizens are willing to spend the time and make the effort to plan and supervise an event and make our guests feel welcome in our city.

Jim Little, our airport manager, and Bobby McDonald in particular deserve our thanks for establishing Big Spring as the center of hang gliding competition in this country.

With more employees and volunteers like Little and McDonald we can attract and host similar events to give us the reputation of being the fun capital of at least West Texas, if not the entire state.

BEN BANCROFT
MIKE ABUSAAB
RUSS MCEWEN
TOMMY CHURCHWELL
AND RALPH McLAUGHLIN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Good evening or how we say it over here in Japan, "konichi wa!" I'm writing as a service member serving our country overseas and representing the good old town of Big Spring.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to personally thank the great citizens of Big Spring for all of their support and well wishes. You see, I recently visited home and noticed all the support and patriotism in Big Spring. I especially enjoyed the memorial where all service members past and present were represented. This was very touching and an awe inspiring to see.

Sometimes, we as service members forget how much support we actually have back home. We tend to focus on the negatives of being overseas, like loneliness and hardship. It's not until we get news from home or in my case when I read the Big Spring Herald online and see all the things going on back home that we are reminded of why we are out here.

It's also the people back home that go out of their way to send their thanks our way. So, thank you from your sons and daughters all over the world.

LT. GABRIEL RUBIO
MISAWA AB, JAPAN

TO THE EDITOR:

Big Spring, listen up! Dunlaps, our lovely retail store will be closing in October to be replaced with another Dollar Store. I cannot believe we need another Dollar Store as we already have three for those who wish to shop there.

I am devastated to think that we are being treated this way. Do we want to be known as "Big Spring, Home of the Dollar Stores, be sure to shop Big Spring first?" I am sorry to say I cannot buy all the things I need in a Dollar Store, nor can may of the other fine people who live here.

Big Spring, Chamber of Commerce, Moore Board, Concerned Citizens — somebody get control of this runaway train before our city is in total ruin.

SHIRLEY BURGESS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I am sorry that Sue Ellen White-Howell has "continually heard bad remarks about the oil field people in Big Spring."

I've lived here for 45 years. My husband worked in the oil field for Texaco for 24 years before we started our oil field mechanic business 30 years ago. I was an oil field pumper before moving to Big Spring. I worked for Fred Hyer, who discovered oil in 1925, for 18 years, kept books for the Forsan Oil Co. for 5 years and also kept books for several other independent oil producers.

It is true that in the early years Big Spring didn't want oil or oil field people but I have never experienced or heard derogatory remarks about our industry in this day and age.

Almost all of this area is connected to oil in one way or the other. We have ALON, we have many independent producers and some major producers. We have Robinson Drilling, Duncan Drilling and others. We have roustabouts, roughnecks, production people, mechanics, suppliers, bankers and investors. I wish Big Spring would do an oil field appreciation day and I believe we would be surprised at the number of businesses and people that receive at least some of their income from oil-related enterprises.

We are proud to have been "oil field but not trash" for so many years. Oil has fed our family and paid our taxes.

I believe Big Spring should be proud that the Lord has blessed us with wonderful people who work in so many diversified industries. Can you imagine if we only had one kind of way to make income?

If anyone says "bad remarks", just tell them how proud you are to be associated with the oil industry.

PHYLLIS GRAUMANN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Due to the lightning storm on Tuesday night, my electricity and my cable were knocked out of service.

When notified, both companies — TXU and Cox Cable — sent people out the next morning and fixed them. I really appreciate the promptness.

STANLEY HARBIN
BIG SPRING

Pa Kaya activi

By CASSANDRA
Knight Ridden

DETROIT — those gorgeous days, the kind too rare in Michigan sun brightens skies, but the bodies of blue-gray water beach at Recreation Brighton, Michigan like liquid candy.

A half-dozen one man canoes parking shelves lake.

They pull from inside them from a trucks and v the shores of beside the lake the canoe rental.

A few of kayaking suits wet suits.

They all wets before their sleep kayaks, streaks of vibrant serene water.

The six women are a Michigan their way to

ness. At least a week - more can fit it in the lakes of metro Detroit.

"I just love Jeanne Bocc education t exciting; it's yet it's peaceful. You hard as you you can take

"It's a great sneak up on says Gayle Y. Earlier this and her 19-year, Sarah C with whale Lawrence Quebec.

In addition fun, paddling and kay workout with you're work.

You build only by paddling from lifting your water you attach v transport th people do.

"I've never body stren started kayaking," Cole, a hon and lactation "Now I can kayak up ar my should problem. I could I before. I have tire on my t no problem l up on my sh

"People t just workin body, but it workout if y correctly," Rosemarie C sonal traine teaching c kayaking fo

"It's a great burner," "Besides b cardiovascular you gain s mobility."

One of the ting the full efits is twi and extendi so there's bend at Cardosi say

SCENIC MEDICAL
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Paddling for a healthy lifestyle

Kayaking and canoeing popular activities for fun as well as fitness

By CASSANDRA SPRATLING
Knight Ridder Newspapers

DETROIT — It's one of those gorgeous summer days, the kind that are all too rare in Michigan. The sun brightens the blue skies, but doesn't bake the bodies on land. The blue-gray waters off the beach at Island Lake Recreation Area in Brighton, Mich., shimmer like liquid crystals.

A half-dozen women and one man converge at a parking shelter near the lake.

They pull their kayaks from inside vans, lift them from atop cars and trucks and wheel them to the shores of Kent Lake beside the boat dock at the canoe rental stand.

A few of kayakers wear bathing suits; others wear wet suits.

They all wear life jackets before pushing off in their sleek, slender kayaks, which add streaks of vibrant color to the serene water.

The six women and one man are among many Michiganders who paddle their way to fun and fitness.

At least three days a week — more when they can fit it in — they're on the lakes or rivers of metro Detroit and beyond.

"I just love it," says Jeanne Bocci, 61, an adult education teacher. "It's exciting; it's exhilarating, yet it's peaceful and it's calm. You can work as hard as you want to or you can take it easy."

"It's a great way to sneak up on wildlife," says Gayle Yerge-Cole, 48. Earlier this month she and her 19-year-old daughter, Sarah Cole, kayaked with whales on the St. Lawrence Seaway in Quebec.

In addition to having fun, paddlers say canoeing and kayaking offer a workout without realizing you're working out.

You build strength not only by paddling, but from lifting and carrying your watercraft, even if you attach wheels to help transport them, as many people do.

"I've never had upper body strength until I started canoeing and kayaking," says Yerge-Cole, a home-care nurse and lactation consultant. "Now I can pick my kayak up and carry it on my shoulder with no problem. I can carry stuff I could never carry before. I had to change a tire on my truck and had no problem lifting the tire up on my shoulder."

"People think you're just working your upper body, but it's a total-body workout if you're doing it correctly," says Rosemarie Cardosi, a personal trainer who's been teaching canoeing and kayaking for five years.

"It's a great calorie burner," she says. "Besides being a great cardiovascular exercise, you gain strength and mobility."

One of the keys to getting the full physical benefits is twisting the torso and extending the arms so there's just a slight bend at the elbow, Cardosi says. Doing so

Sensible safety

Always wear a personal floatation device; don't just have it available in the canoe or kayak. Make sure it fits snugly.

Paddle with people. Never go alone.

Know and practice rescue and recovery techniques.

Take classes — even before you purchase a kayak or canoe. The classes will give insight into the proper boat to purchase for your individual needs. Most canoe rental shops, outdoor stores and some community and recreation centers can refer you to classes and clubs.

Drink lots of water before, during and after your outing.

Don't drink alcoholic beverages before or during boating outings.

Join a club to get connected with others and improve your skills.

Dress for the water's temperature, not the temperature on land, in case your watercraft tips over.

Wear fast-drying clothing.

You do not have to know how to swim to enjoy kayaking or canoeing. But if you're not a good swimmer, it's best to enjoy boating in shallow, calm waters.

also assures more efficient paddling, she says.

"If your shoulders hurt, you're doing something wrong," she says.

While canoeing and kayaking are similar, kayaking has become far more popular in recent years, says Alan Heavner, whose family has owned a canoe rental company for 52 years.

"People will wait hours for a kayak while canoes sit to be rented," he says.

Kayaks are like sports cars and canoes are more like regular automobiles, Cardosi says.

Generally, kayaks hold one person, who must handle all the paddling, and canoes fit at least two people, who can share the work.

"I enjoy it because it's a sport I could take up and do on my own," says Bocci, who prefers kayaking. But both activities offer good, fun workouts.

It's something people can do most of the year, too, because Michigan waters rarely freeze. It simply requires dressing for the weather conditions.

"It's something people of all ages can do," says Bocci, who began kayaking as an alternative to running and race-walking, other sports she enjoys with her husband, Gerald Bocci, 66. When they complete a marathon in New Mexico on Labor Day and one in Rhode Island in November, they will have met their goal of doing a marathon in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

"I just love being healthy," says Bocci, who kayaks on Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River. "It's not to try to brag, but I look at other people my age and they can't do many of the things I can

do because I'm physically active. I want to enjoy my grandchildren. I can play with them and be active with them and hopefully, when they're old enough, go kayaking with them."

For many people, paddling isn't strictly about exercise. It's as much about the peace and relaxation that comes from being out on the water.

"I saw it described on a brochure as 'liquid medicine for the soul' and that is so accurate," says Sharon Clark, 44. "It allows you to take a mental break from your ordinary routine. It's a lot of fun and you meet a lot of great people."

Paddlers connect on the waterways by responding to e-mailed invitations, postings on Web sites and listservs and club announcements.

A message from Yerge-Cole attracted the group to Island Lake Recreation Area for the outing on the recent picture-perfect Sunday afternoon.

All of them had tales of being on the water surrounded by whales, dolphins and other creatures.

After they paddled a few feet into Kent Lake, well away from people swimming at the beach, a few of the women began practicing rescue and recovery. The maneuvers help prepare them for emergencies — and on this afternoon, added to the fun.

Patty Pape, 53, deliberately tipped over, ending up in the water under her kayak.

Wendy Beckwith, 51, paddled her kayak next to Pape's and helped Pape right herself.

"It's a great way to cool off," Pape said, smiling as she came up, still snug inside her kayak.



Gayle Yerge-Cole, 48, of Livonia, Mich., makes her way out in her kayak with a group of other women kayakers on the water at Kent Lake Beach near the dam in the Island Lake Area in Brighton, Mich.

Pape, a retired elementary school teacher, grew up around water and has been canoeing since childhood. She began kayaking in the early 1980s as another way to be physically active. She also bikes, runs and swims.

"I just like being active," Pape says. "It keeps your bones in good shape. I don't have to worry about huffing and puffing as I go up stairs."

Kayaking is especially enjoyable because it's a way to hobnob with friends, exercise, relax and get an up-close view of nature. "I've been right next to ducks, muskrats, deer and all kinds of birds. You just get a different view than you can get on land," Pape says.

Pape says she especially enjoys camping by kayak. "It's like backpacking without having to carry a pack on your back. You can put everything you need in the hatches of the

kayak."

Yerge-Cole says kayaking provided a great bonding experience for her and her daughter, who had to work the Sunday afternoon Yerge-Cole organized a gathering of friends. But she's joined her mom on other trips.

The mother-daughter team began kayaking during a vacation in Washington in 1996.

Now they do regular trips together and help teach other women through a state program called Becoming An Outdoor Woman.

"It's a great way to explore nature and be with friends," Yerge-Cole says.

All of the women are good swimmers, but they say you don't have to be to enjoy canoeing and kayaking. It helps to know how to swim, but it's not necessary, the women say.

The most important thing is to always wear a life jacket that fits snugly.

After about three hours of paddling, the group packed up their kayaks and headed home relaxed and happy.

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AUGUST 30 2004



At left, the sun sets over Moss Creek Lake; below, Dana Neugebauer, wife of U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer, visits Kentwood Elementary to read to students; below left, David Frost, United Blood Services phlebotomist, prepares to draw blood from Dr. Lillian Bohannon, Maranatha Baptist Academy head mistress, during the school's blood drive; and bottom, the Coahoma High School cheerleaders take to the sky in both a show of balance and flexibility Saturday evening, garnering second place in the High School Cheer competition at the Battle of the Cheerleaders, held at the Howard County Fair.

Sunset and cheerleading photos by Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins; blood drive photo by Lyndel Moody, advertising department; and photo of Dana Neugebauer courtesy of Kentwood Elementary.

Do you have photos for Good News?
If so, submit them at the
Big Spring Herald, 710 Scurry,
or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net



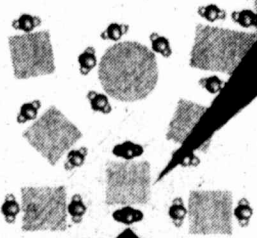
TECHNOLOGY NEWS

NEW DIRECTIONAL HEARING AID INCREASES USERS' SATISFACTION

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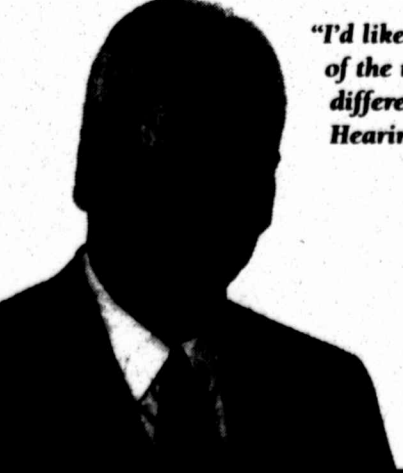
...reducing the interference of sounds and conversations from the sides and rear.

As part of a Texas research study, America's largest manufacturer of hearing aids, Starkey Laboratories, is looking for 25 people in the Big Spring area to try its new Precision Directional Imaging Microphone Technology (PDI). Livingston Hearing Centers have been selected as the local participating center in this area. There are over 35 hearing centers across Texas involved in this study.

This remarkable new DIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE Technology provides a way for you to enjoy improved hearing in more difficult listening situations. Restaurants and

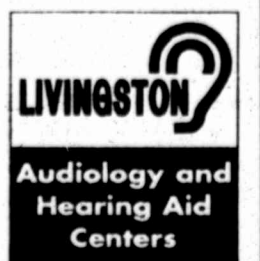
parties are full of sounds and conversations you don't necessarily want to hear. That's why we are proud to introduce PDI - Precision Directional Imaging - an elaborate digital processing system that narrows the hearing instruments' sound reception patterns to focus on the area directly in front of you and the conversation that's most important.

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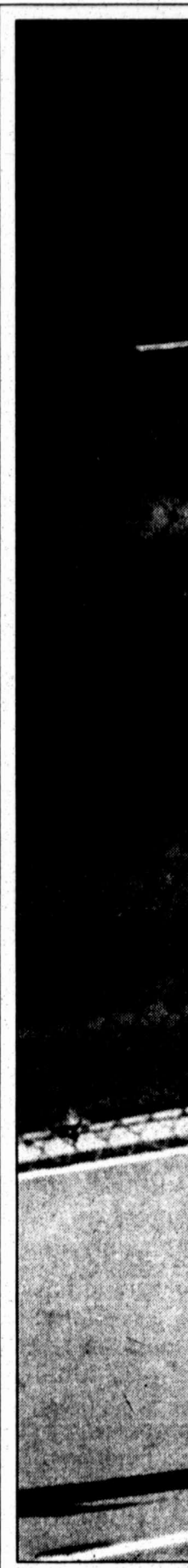


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SP



Big Spring freshman football team...
7 Tennis Center

Grady

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor
The Grady began its six-match Saturday afternoon Jayton Gridiron The Wildcats — eral scheduling — finally played Avoca and ca with a dominating 41-0 win, despite really not knowing much about their opponent.

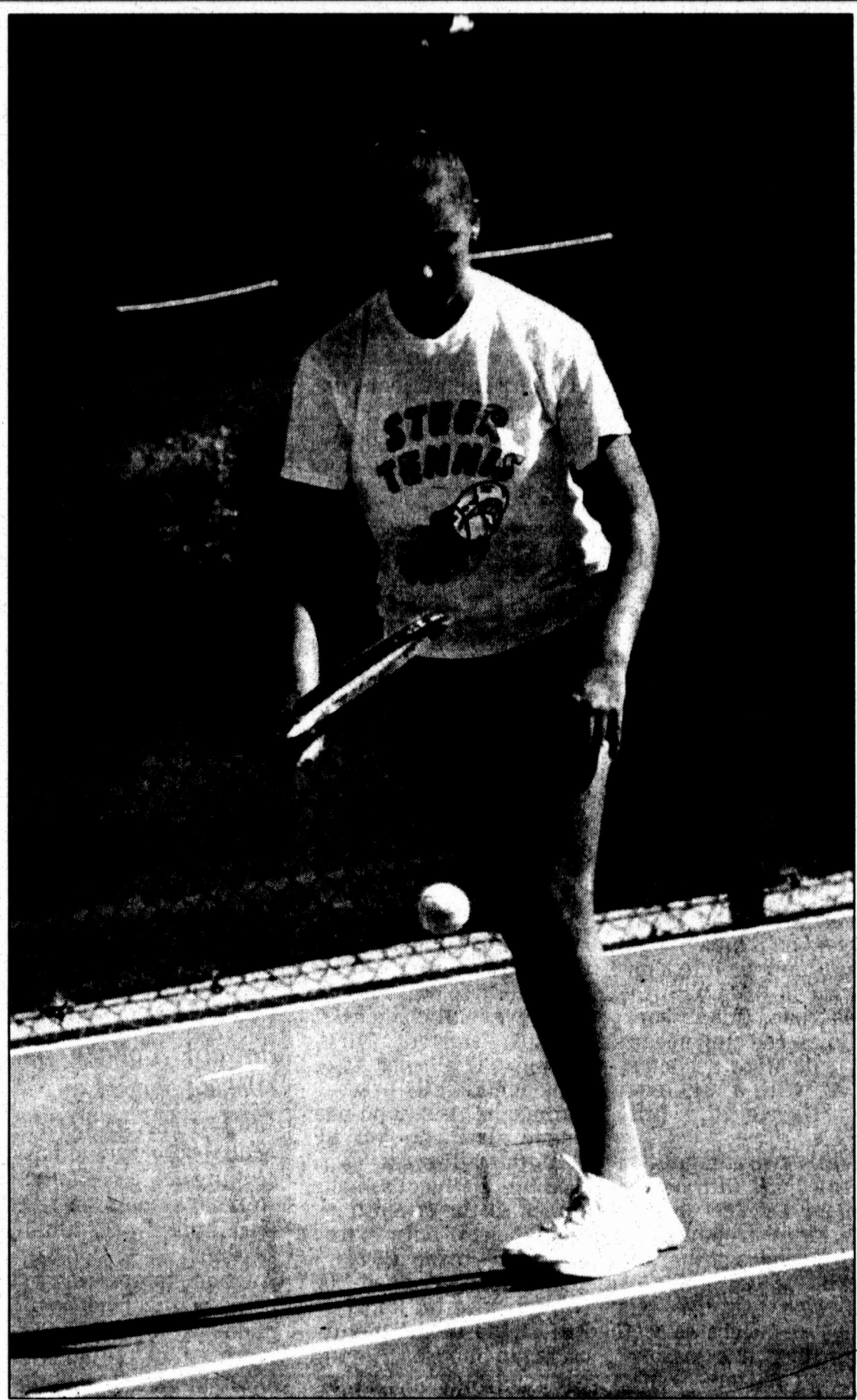
"Because of the change, I really did not have much time to study them on things went wrong anyways," said head coach Joe Grady Lueders-Avoca ly by nearly 300 the shut out ga something to sm "Any time you someone in the game scoreless sive," said Helm really pleased defense."

Grady went up the first quarter touchdowns and The Wildcats

Big Spring

Special to the H
The freshman football team opened season up against a sting High sophomore Thursday and lo The Steers played throughout the and trailed 23-time before giving second half poi

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Troy Hyde at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com



Big Spring freshman Allison Ward gets ready to serve during her doubles match with fellow freshman teammate Ryan Gonzales last Tuesday. Big Spring hosts Odessa at Figure 7 Tennis Center inside Comanche Trail Park Tuesday.

Consistency found in new line-up as netters take third

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
Head coach Revis Daggett had been contemplating making a change in her Big Spring volleyball team's lineup for several days, but hadn't done it yet.

Well, that changed this past weekend at the San Angelo Tournament as Daggett inserted new players in the lineup, including two junior varsity players which will now play permanently at the varsity level.

"I needed to find more size in the front row and wanted to find a more stable and consistent lineup," said Daggett.

To solve this problem, Daggett started senior Cycelye Tuitt in the front row for much of the weekend and also gave sophomore and former-JV captain Katy Abner and junior Chalesa Johnson, who was also a JV captain, a shot at permanent varsity role.

"They all passed the test for me this weekend," said Daggett.

And team fared better and played more consistent as a result, according to Daggett.

The Lady Steers came away with four wins and two losses at the tournament and earned themselves a tie for third place overall.

"That is fabulous considering the 32 teams here and the fact that we are still dissecting the team," said Daggett. "I feel good about the changes we have made and about where this team will go this year."

After defeating Fort Worth Trinity in the opening round, Big Spring (11-8) took on Seminole in round two. The win over Trinity assured them a position in either the gold or silver bracket, but a win over Seminole in round two would guarantee the Lady Steers a shot in the gold bracket, which consisted of the top eight teams.

Big Spring said hello to the gold bracket after taking out Seminole in three games, losing the first game 20-25 and winning games two and three, 25-23 and 25-10, respectively.

"We turned this match around when we started to block them all over in game three," said Daggett.

And, the insertion of junior Krista Chesworth in games two and three over senior Stefany Scott, who started game one, helped as well, according to Daggett.

"Krista was a big part of the win," added Daggett.

Tuitt also played the front row in this contest for senior Kendal Adams, but Adams still remained in the match as a back row setter.

"Tuitt's size in the front row really made a difference against Seminole's 6-foot, 3-inch kid," said Daggett.

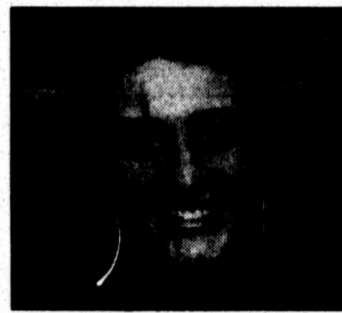
The Lady Steers drew a tough final match Friday as they took on Lubbock Coronado, which is currently ranked 10th in Class 5A.

The higher ranked team showed its supremacy in this contest as the Lady Steers were defeated in

two sets, 14-25 and 9-25.

"They basically dominated us," said Daggett. "They are a fantastic team and they might be underrated as far as the rankings go."

Change remained the constant theme Friday as Daggett inserted Abner into the lineup as a defensive specialist.



ABNER

"(Katy) was one bright spot in the match for us," said Daggett.

Daggett also added that Abner and Johnson permanent move

to the varsity level means two new players will find starting roles and captain roles at the JV level.

Higgins led the Lady Steers against Lubbock Coronado, finishing with six assists and four points on two kills and two aces. Tuitt finished with 3.5 points after compiling three kills and one assisted block.

Juniors Carmen Lewis and Breanna Swinney each had two points, while Adams finished with five assists and junior Raegan Ritchey contributed 17 digs.

Saturday's portion of the gold bracket had four number one seeds and four number two seeds. Big Spring's loss to Lubbock gave them a number two seed.

Unfortunately, the Lady Steers couldn't get back on track in their first match Saturday.

Big Spring's took on district rival Lakeview and lost in three games, losing games one and three 23-25 and 15-25, respectively, and winning game two, 25-21.

"(San Angelo) Lakeview played great defense and is, a very good ball control team," said Daggett.

The Lady Steers had a six point lead in game one, but failed to finish and lost. And then trailed by nine points in game two and came back to win.

"I challenged them in game two to come back on them like they came back on us," said Daggett, "and they did."

"We just couldn't pass or do much of anything in game three."

Lewis led the team with 7.5 points and 29 digs. She scored her points on five kills, one solo block and three assisted blocks. Ritchey played consistently well all around with 6.5 points and 27 digs. Her points were scored from two kills, two aces, one solo block and four assisted blocks.

Swinney added five kills and 31 digs, while Tuitt finished with four kills and Abner added five points on five aces. Higgins had seven assists and Adams added five.

"We played a decent game, but the team needs to settle in to our new lineup," said Daggett.

The loss to Lakeview sent the Lady Steers to consolation side of the gold bracket, where the team picked up two wins to end the tournament. Big Spring defeated Kirville Tivy and

Monahans each in straight sets.

They knocked off Tivy, 25-22 and 25-16 and were led by Higgins' six assists, seven kills and two assisted blocks.

"I really felt like we were in control of this match from the start," said Daggett. "We were solid and looked comfortable."

Ritchey finished with 6.5 points on one kill, one ace, three solo blocks and three assisted blocks. Lewis added three kills and three assisted blocks, while Tuitt added four kills. Adams finished with 10 assists, while Abner and Swinney had 17 and 16 digs, respectively.

Big Spring took on Monahans in its final match of the tournament and for the first time this year was able to defeat the Class 3A seventh ranked team.

"We lost the first two matches because we couldn't stop Brittney Hughes," said Daggett.

Problem solved.

The Lady Steers contained Hughes in this match and came away with the win.

Ritchey deserves much of the credit against Monahans best player, said Daggett.

"Raegan followed her at the net and didn't let her get any clear spikes at the ball," added Daggett. "She gave our defense a fighting chance."

Swinney led the team with seven kills, but Higgins added five kills and eight assists. Adams also contributed eight assists from the back row.

Lewis and Chesworth each scored 5.5 points. Lewis had 18 digs and scored her points off three kills, one ace, one solo block and one assisted block, while Chesworth added five kills and only three errors.

Abner finished with 21 digs and just one error on defense.

"Her stats jumped out at me because as a team we are averaging 4.5 errors per player," said Daggett. "Statistically that was huge."

Tuitt continued to score well from her spot, finishing with 3.5 points on two kills, one solo block and one assisted block.

"I can still visually see her inexperience on the court, but having Cycelye in that position makes us a stronger team on paper statistically."

"We are moving in the right direction, but we are going to be young for awhile. Our finish here should show people that things are starting to steady out."

Higgins was named to the all-tournament team for her efforts, said Daggett.

The Lady Steers will have another shot at Midland High this Tuesday when the two teams face-off in Midland at 7:30 p.m.

"We have not beaten them the last two years," said Daggett, "but this gives us another shot at them and hopefully our current consistency streak will continue and we can come away with a win."

Grady records shutout in opener

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The Grady Wildcats began its six-man season Saturday afternoon at the Jayton Gridiron Classic. The Wildcats — after several scheduling changes — finally played Lueders-Avoca and came away with a dominating 41-0 win, despite really not knowing much about their opponent.

"Because of the change, I really did not have much time to study them on film, but things went well for us anyways," said Grady head coach Joe Helms.

Grady outgained Lueders-Avoca offensively by nearly 300 yards and the shut out gave Helms something to smile about.

"Any time you can keep someone in the six man game scoreless is impressive," said Helms. "I was really pleased with our defense."

Grady went up 15-0 after the first quarter with two touchdowns and a safety. The Wildcats recorded

the safety early after Lueders-Avoca snapped the ball through the end zone.

Then, senior quarterback Andrew Villa found Jobe Christon and Ben Hirth on back-to-back touchdown pass plays. Christon's score covered six yards, while Hirth's went for 30 yards.

Hirth and Villa were not done, however.

Hirth scored the Wildcats' only touchdown of the second quarter as he ran the ball past the goal line from three yards out and gave Grady a 21-0 halftime lead.

Villa and Hirth also played roles in both third quarter scores for Grady. The first score was a 35 yard pass play from Villa to Hirth and the second touchdown was a 31-yard run by Hirth.

The team's final score took place in the fourth quarter as Justin Tubb hooked up with Brock Rhoades on a 45 yard pass play.

"We threw the ball and caught the ball well," said

Helms. "That was a concern of mine coming into the game, but we executed well."

Hirth, a senior, led the Wildcats with 166 yard rushing and 85 yards on four catches receiving, while scoring four times. Hirth also had an interception on defense. Villa was 11-for-15 through the air for 134 yards and three touchdowns.

Senior Aguedo Najera, who led the team with eight tackles on defense, ran the ball nine times for 42 yards.

Tubb was four-for-five through the air for 66 yards and one touchdown. Cole Mitchell also had an interception.

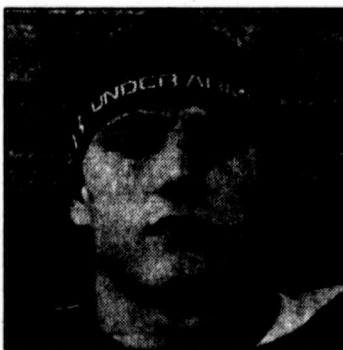
Grady's next test will take place on the road at 7:30 p.m. Friday against 15th ranked Rule.

"I am just now looking at tape of the team," said Helms late Sunday evening. "They are very physical and have a lot of speed. They have a lot of kids and a lot of big kids. It should be a tough test for us."

Rule was a playoff team last year and lost to eventual champion Strawn in round one. However, Rule defeated Strawn this past weekend.

playing against a sophomore team with freshman and we'll take our bumps and bruises early, but in the end, we will benefit from this."

The Steers' next contest will be against Odessa Permian's sophomore team at Ratliff Stadium starting at 5 p.m. Thursday.



HIRTH

Big Spring freshman lose to Odessa sophomores

Special to the HERALD

The freshman Steers football team opened their season up at home against a stingy Odessa High sophomore team last Thursday and lost, 44-0.

The Steers played hard throughout the contest and trailed 23-0 at halftime before giving up 21 second half points to the

Bronchos.

"I thought the defense played good, hard football in the first half," said freshman head coach Steve Ward. "They just wore us down in the second half."

"Offensively, we came together late in the game and showed some good signs. It is always hard

AUG 30 2004

Big Spring harriers begin season on positive note

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

The Big Spring cross country team opened up competition this past weekend as they traveled to the Brownfield Jamboree Saturday.

The varsity girls team took second overall, while the junior varsity boys team took the title. Two boys ran at the varsity level, but the Steers did not run a full team this week.

"I was very pleased with the girls' second place finish," said Big Spring head coach Randy Britton.



TOBAR

"Overall, I was pleased with everyone's performance."

The Lady Steers' varsity team scored 133 points and was only beaten by

Class 5A Odessa Permian, which finished with 36 points. Big Spring was nine points ahead of Lamesa and 12 points ahead of district rival Frenship. Andrews, which is also a

district rival, finished 5th with 164 points.

Senior Tashá Rios led all girl runners with a

17th overall placing, but freshman Esther Tobar was right behind Rios at 18th and freshman Mistie Aguilar was right after Tobar in 19th place.

Rios, Tobar and Aguilar finished with times of 13:55, 14:02 and 14:10, respectively.

Sophomore Lorissa Rodriguez and senior Patricia Franco came in

22nd and 37, respectively with times of 14:19 and 14:59.

Sophomores Michael Rodriguez and Chris Martinez both ran in the boy's varsity race and fared well for the Steers.



RODRIGUEZ

Rodriguez came in fourth in 16:41, while Martinez

crossed the line in seventh in 17:07.

Big Spring's junior varsity scored 18 points and earned first place in their division. The next closest

team was Lubbock Monterey, which finished with 61 points. Frenship and Andrews came in fifth and sixth, respectively.

Sophomore Jessie Sanchez, freshman Zack Dawson, Jordan Valle and sophomore Chris Salazar finished first, second, third and fourth, respectively, while Dylan Yarbrough came across in 10th.

Big Spring will run in the West Texas Micro-Graphics Invitational in Lubbock Saturday.

The Big Spring home invitational is set for Sept. 18.

IN BRIEF

Howard College to assist in telethon

The Howard College Athletic Department will be helping out with the Jerry Lewis Telethon at the Big Spring Mall Sept. 6.

A member from every sport — men's and women's basketball, baseball, softball and rodeo — as well as cheerleaders and trainers will be answering phones and taking pledges.

C.G.A. announces monthly tournament

The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association has set up a golf tournament for Sunday, Sept. 11, at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

The tournament is the ninth annual Father Delaney tournament, which is in conjunction with Knights of Columbus.

It will be a four person scramble (pick your own team) and teams must be registered by 9:45 a.m. Sunday for the 10 a.m. shotgun start.

For more information, call 267-7977.

Howard College is seeking singers

Howard College's Athletic Department is seeking National Anthem singers for the upcoming basketball seasons.

Anyone interested in being a singer needs to make a tape or CD (with the person singing) and drop it off at the athletic office with attention Tana Howard.

For more information, call Howard at 264-5155.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule	
Today	Station
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	1400
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	1400
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	1400
10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	1400
11:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	1400
Monday	Station
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	1400
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	1400
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	1400
10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	1400
11:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	1400
Tuesday	Station
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	1400
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	1400
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	1400
10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	1400
11:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	1400

Rangers lose season series to lowly Orioles

ARLINGTON (AP) — Melvin Mora has become a dangerous hitter with the bases loaded.

Mora drove in four runs in a pair of bases-loaded singles, helping the Baltimore Orioles snap their season-high 12-game losing streak with a 7-6 victory over the Texas Rangers on Sunday.

Mora improved to 8-for-15 with 18 RBIs with the bases loaded this season. "I knew the club needed me," said Mora, second in the AL with a .349 average. "I gave it a little extra."

Mora's two-run hits in the third and fifth helped stop the Orioles' longest slide since dropping the final 12 games of the 2002 season.

"If we'd lost this one today, we might as well have called it a season," Orioles starter Sidney Ponson said.

Baltimore's Brian Roberts reached base four times and scored three runs.

"We were ready for something positive to happen," Roberts said. "We thought we'd break the streak every day for the last 10 days. Now we can move on."

Ponson (9-13) allowed five runs and 12 hits — 11 singles — in seven innings, but won for the sixth time in his last seven decisions. He

struck out six and walked none.

"I thought Ponson threw well," Orioles manager Lee Mazzilli said. "He did what an ace is supposed to do. He got us deep in the game so we could let the other guys take over."

B.J. Ryan allowed one run and two hits in one-third of an inning. Jorge Julio got five outs for his 19th save in 21 chances.

Texas starter Chris Young (0-1) allowed four runs and six hits in 4 1-3 innings in his second big league start and left in the fifth trailing 4-2.

David Dellucci's solo homer in the seventh — the Rangers' only extra-base hit — made it 6-5. Baltimore regained its two-run lead on Roberts' RBI single in the eighth off Brian Shouse.

Pinch-hitter Brian Jordan's RBI groundout against Julio in the eighth got Texas within 7-6, but the Orioles' closer got Kevin Mench to pop out with the tying run at third.

Mark Teixeira went 3-for-4 with two RBIs for Texas, which lost five of seven to Baltimore in the season series that ended Sunday.

Before the losing streak, the Orioles had won 11 of their previous 13. Mazzilli said getting a positive result was important.

Forsan JV falls short, Coahoma gets shut out

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Both Coahoma and Forsan's junior varsity teams came out on the short end of the stick last week as the Bulldogs lost to Reagan County and the Buffaloes fell to Iraan.

Coahoma lost its game, 20-0. Reagan County scored one touchdown in each of the first three quarters on its way to the shut out. All three touchdowns covered runs of six, 17 and 68 yards, respectively. The Bulldogs got inside the 10-yard line three times, but came away with no points.

Iraan defeated Forsan, 22-20, in its game. The Buffaloes ran out of time late in the game. They cut Iraan's lead to two points with 1:30 to go in the game, but couldn't convert the two-point conversion.

Seth Johnson had two touchdown passes to Adam Bailey and he also added a two-point conversion, while Josh Schlipf recovered a fumble and rumbled 63 yards for the third touchdown.

Bailey also blocked a punt that eventually set up one of his touchdowns.

James Marlow recovered a fumble and Johnson added an interception, as well.

Forsan will take on the Eldorado Eagles at 6 p.m. next Thursday in Forsan, while Coahoma hosts Seagraves at 6 p.m. Thursday, as well.

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KRT photo/Ai Diaz, Miami Herald
The Olympic Flame rises over the stadium during the closing ceremonies of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, Sunday.

Berkman homers to lead Astros past Cubs, closer to wild card

CHICAGO (AP) — Lance Berkman homered and Carlos Hernandez earned his first major league win in almost two years, leading the Houston Astros over the Chicago Cubs 10-3 Sunday in the final meeting of their testy season series.

Houston star Carlos Beltran left with a bruised knee after he was hit by a pitch in the eighth.

Berkman was plunked in the helmet later in the inning, and the benches emptied for the second time in the four-game series when new Astros reliever Dan Wheeler hit Derrek Lee in the back with a pitch in the ninth.

Wheeler and Houston manager Phil Garner were ejected.

The game was delayed for about three minutes, but no punches were thrown.

Jeff Bagwell capped a big series with three hits for the Astros, who took three of four from Chicago to climb back into playoff contention.

They have won 11 of 14 overall and are just four games back in the NL wild-card race.

The Cubs dropped into a tie with San Diego for the wild-card lead and lost starter Matt Clement (9-12) to a strained neck and upper back. Corey

Patterson and Moises Alou each hit a solo homer for Chicago, which has dropped three straight after winning eight of nine.

There was trouble between the Cubs and Astros all week.

Roy Oswalt hit Chicago catcher Michael Barrett with a pitch last Sunday in Houston after Aramis Ramirez's home run.

Barrett got into a couple of heated verbal exchanges with Oswalt and other Astros players Friday at Wrigley Field. Cubs reliever Kent Mercker also plunked Oswalt in that game.

Houston scored five times in the eighth inning to add to its 5-3 lead.

Ryan Dempster hit Beltran with a pitch, and Mike Remlinger nailed Berkman with the bases loaded to force in a run. Jeff Kent, Mike Lamb and Jose Vizcaino followed with consecutive RBI singles. Remlinger walked Orlando Palmeiro with the bases loaded, making it 10-3.

Beltran, who has hammered Cubs pitching since he was traded to Houston by Kansas City in June, went 1-for-2 with

two stolen bases and two walks before limping off in the eighth.

Berkman stayed in the game after he was hit. Both benches were warned after Berkman got hit.

Hernandez missed the entire 2003 season because of shoulder surgery.

Making his fourth big league start of the year, he allowed three runs and six hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Hernandez (1-1) struck out two and walked four in his first major league win since Sept. 1, 2002, against Los Angeles.

In the first inning, Beltran walked, stole second and scored on Bagwell's RBI single. Bagwell went 10-for-18 with seven RBIs in the series.

Patterson hit his third career leadoff home run in the bottom of the first. Palmeiro and Beltran each had an RBI double in the second, making it 3-1.

The Astros extended their lead in the fifth. Clement gave up a homer to Berkman on a 3-1 pitch. One out later, Clement was removed because of his injury.

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BY JOYCE JILLSON
Pluto spends a third of the year in retrograde, but today, the slow-moving (and rather profound) planet is set to go direct. Pluto rules life's major changes, and for many, there will be an intense event or insightful realization from which there is no going back. In a sense, life changes overnight, even though the change might take weeks to unfold.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As a rebel, you sometimes feel that if you're not acting against an opposing force, you're not working hard enough. Everything doesn't have to be a fight. There's luck when you yield to the requests of people you respect.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Any action you take to deter your own progress is dangerous. If you're honest, you'll easily spot these behavioral traps. Take hold of your psyche, and command yourself to do the things you've been procrastinating for ages.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your day is a series of choices, not events that happen to you. This shift is one of the most empowering you could ever experience. You're creating the movie of your life — what admirable action will the main character take?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're hard on yourself. Sure, an action is not complete until you bring it to a conclusion, but somewhere along the way, try to sit back and observe your work, knowing that with each effort you're getting closer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your mind is going a million miles a minute now. As soon as you get an idea, act on it right away. Otherwise, you'll wait and worry and doubt and eventually forget about it.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

This is especially true if you want to meet someone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your aims are high now, but don't forget about balance. Expecting to have endless energy and creativity when you've done nothing to nurture them is unreasonable. Take care of yourself like you never have before.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're prone to passionate whims and could even take a spontaneous road trip. Responsibilities don't magically disappear, though. Cleverly cover your bases while you're flying down the freeway or beaching it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The atmosphere is charged with a fresh feeling, and with all the playful electricity in the air, it may as well be a Friday — even the shyest in the bunch is ready for action. Everyone is out and about, making the hot spots even hotter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). All morning long, you've got luck for getting the tedious stuff out of the way. This lets you kick back and visit with friends, or start something new. If you don't know how to go about a task, look to someone who does.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your approval puts a plan in motion. It's good to be king — or queen, as the case may be. If you get the feeling something's up this after-

noon, it could be because someone is either talking or fantasizing about you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A problem that has been dogging you for a long time suddenly seems simple — maybe because you're doing instead of worrying about what there is to do. Use intuition to help you decide whether to go through with a deal.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Relationships suck mental energy if you allow them to. Or you could release problems and ask the universe to show you what to do. What would happen if you just let go of plaguing commitment issues?

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I have had the same job for the past five years, and I want to move up in the company. However, the transition has not been easy. I am a Taurus and was also in a relationship with a Cancer for four years, which ended a few months ago. Although I'm usually very patient, lately, I'm becoming really frustrated with things. I'm not a flirty kind of person, and I take sex and relationships very seriously. It is hard for me to imagine I am ever going to meet someone else. It has been a long time since I have really been happy and satisfied with any aspect of my life. Any advice?"

I commend you for having the courage to move past your last relation-

ship. Your frustration is actually a good sign — you are starting to expect more happiness and satisfaction and believe you can have it. Even though you're already juggling a heavy workload, I encourage you to take on a new, time-intensive endeavor such as a night class or a sport. The physical and intellectual stimulation will help you get your imagination back. I see a higher position for you in February, and the new year brings many love interests, most notably a Capricorn.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Beyonce Knowles is riding out a very hot streak now. I predict this year she'll follow the business model of artists like Sean "P. Diddy" Combs and Jennifer Lopez and develop her own product lines for everything from perfume to tennis shoes. Virgo artists don't find it easy to take on such endeavors because their hands-on style requires that they put much time and effort into overseeing the business.

If you would like to write to Joyce Jillson, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Joyce Jillson page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Joyce Jillson and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am married to "Bob," a wonderful man, and we have an incredible 3-year-old son. The only problems we ever have are about family.

My mother and I never have been close. The community we live in believes she is an angel of mercy, since she donates her time and money to various charitable causes. Yet she ignores her own grandchild and treats Bob and me as if we were strangers. It's been worse since my father passed away four years ago.

Annie, I know I cannot change my mother, but I'm not sure how to deal with her. Should I ignore the fact that she behaves this way? Should I continue to bring our son to family gatherings, even if it leads to squabbles with family members? I want to do what is best for my son. Please advise. — Hilda in Plattsburgh, N.Y.

Dear Hilda: You're smart to realize you cannot change your mother, but that doesn't mean your son should be kept away. Continue to visit, but remember that the best way to avoid family squabbles is to disengage from the argument. Don't allow yourself to be sucked into a fight you cannot win. Smile and change the subject. It is fruitless to expect your mother to respond more affectionately toward you or your child. Accept her as she is, keep those visits short, and maintain your equilibrium. Your son will take his cues from you.

Dear Annie: My dear friend "Ginny" was recently married for the second time. Upon learning of her engagement, I offered to make the wedding dress as my gift to her. I also made a dress for the groom's mother, for which I was well-paid.

While Ginny and I were shopping for dress material, she bought a pattern and material for her daughter's gown, too. I neglected to mention any charge for sewing the second dress. I tried to bring



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

up the subject in the following months, but was interrupted by others and felt this was a private matter between Ginny and me.

On the day of the wedding, I delivered the dresses and helped set up tables and chairs for the ceremony. I saw Ginny pay the florist, photographer and deejay, but not me. I was quite hurt. My husband says I should have asked for payment when she had her checkbook out, but I thought that would be tacky.

I have receipts for some small items I needed to finish the dress, and Ginny already promised to reimburse me for those. When I mail her the receipts, should I include an invoice for her daughter's dress? Or, do I chalk it up to a lesson learned? I don't want to lose a friendship over this. — Southern Seamstress

Dear Seamstress: No good deed goes unpunished. If you value the friendship, don't spring a surprise on Ginny by mailing an unexpected bill. She should have offered to pay for her daughter's dress, but you had many opportunities to speak up and didn't. Pick up the phone and say: "Ginny, dear, when I mail the receipts for the additional beading, should I also send the invoice for your daughter's dress?" Her response will tell you if you'd be better off considering this an expensive lesson.

Dear Annie: You print-

ed a letter from "Orange Park, Fla.," a 44-year-old man with a severe hearing impairment. His family was very understanding about his need to read lips, but strangers were more judgmental.

I have severe impairment in both of my ears and also found it hard to communicate with others unless I was looking straight at them. This was often embarrassing because it would seem like I was staring. I'd like to tell all those with intact hearing: If someone is looking straight at you when you are speaking (or if they don't respond when they are NOT looking directly at you), chances are good that they're hearing-impaired.

Since my hearing loss affected my career, I sought help from my local vocational rehabilitation office. Thanks to them, I was fitted for hearing aids last month, and it's been incredible. I finally hear what birds sound like. But the biggest thing for me has been the ability to hear my boyfriend and my family clearly. Every day with my "new ears" has been a wonderful learning experience. — Happy to Hear

Dear Happy: Several readers wrote about "Orange Park." Read on:

From Murrietta, Calif.: May I suggest that he investigate cochlear implants? I had them done a year ago, and the quality of my life has improved enormously. I can understand words, use the telephone, go to the movies, have a conversation, hear environmental sounds, and my hearing improves each day. The smile is back on my face. I am 65 years old, female, and wish I had done it when I was 44.

Mississippi: You do not know how frustrating, isolating and just hurtful it can be to suffer hearing loss. Please tell your readers to check with SHHH — Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (hearingloss.org).

AUGUST 30 2004

