

THURSDAY

September 9, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW
55°-57° 84°-86°

BRIEFLY

American State offering t-shirts

American State Bank is selling t-shirts with a design to commemorate the tragedies which occurred Sept. 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and a crash site in a Pennsylvania field. Proceeds from sales will benefit local charities.

Church slates mission benefit

A benefit for Mexico missions will be held from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Saturday at Christ's Community Fellowship, 1008 Birdwell. Your choice of a brisket sandwich, chopped barbecue sandwich or a hot link sandwich, bag of chips and a homemade cookie for \$5. Soft drinks \$1. Deliveries will be made for orders of five or more. Call 213-3105, 816-9409 or 466-1850.

Business Before Hours set Saturday

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will present Business Before Hours on Friday. The event will be hosted by the Big Spring Holiday Inn Express on the south service road of Interstate 20. The come-and-go event will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be given away. Like Business After Hours, Business Before Hours is designed to encourage networking and to showcase sponsors.

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www.bigspringherald.com

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United Way getting ready for campaign start

By KENDRA WISS
Staff Writer

Jerry Traylor, a nationally known speaker, is scheduled to keynote the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County's annual kick-off luncheon Sept. 28. Traylor is best known for jogging across America on crutches, despite his life-long battle with cerebral palsy. Traylor, who was born in Nebraska and lives in Arizona, has run 35 marathons, climbed Colorado's 14,000-foot-high Pikes Peak three times and jogged 3,728 miles across the United States. Traylor's visit is sponsored by the Big

"...it's not just the numbers of the people we help that are important; if we're able to help even one person, it's worth it."



Cynthia Scott

overcoming their personal situations and realize that there are others who are less fortunate than us," said Cynthia Scott, executive director for the local United Way.

This year's luncheon will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Garrett Hall at the First United Methodist Church. Al's and Son Bar-B-Q will once again cater the meal. Tickets are \$10 each.

Scott is hoping this event will be a good start to the United Way's fund-raising goal of \$275,000, an increase of \$10,000 from last year.

Money raised during the campaign will go

Spring Rotary Club. "This is an excellent opportunity for members of the community to get to see those

See UNITED WAY, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
David O'Neill, who now serves as district executive for the West Texas Buffalo Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America, straightens a casket flag that was donated to the local scouting museum. O'Neill said the flag was donated to the museum by the widow of a long-time scout.

Boy Scouts seek used uniforms to help recruits and to raise funds

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

While most Boy Scouts would be more than willing to give "the shirt off their backs," local scout officials are turning things around for a rather novel fund-raiser.

"There are a lot of things that kids are involved with, and to get a uniform shirt on top of everything else can be pretty tough."

Local Boy Scouts are asking area residents who have scout uniforms and shirts they've outgrown or no longer need to donate them to their ongoing "shirt drive," an effort to help low-income scouts purchase

See SCOUTS, Page 3A

Comptroller: Later school start would save millions

AUSTIN (AP) — Hundreds of millions of dollars can be saved if Texas schools started later in the year, state Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn said in a report released Wednesday.

Strayhorn identified \$790 million annually in lost income and additional expenses because of August school-start dates.

"The school year is more than two weeks longer now than it was 50 years ago, but the number of instructional days is the same, or even fewer in some cases," she said.

Costs associated with early school start dates include utility bills for air conditioning schools in August; increased daycare expenses to teachers; lost income to teenagers and

teachers with summer jobs; and potentially lost income for migrant workers who might leave their jobs early to enroll their children in school, the report said.

"A school year that begins after Labor Day is feasible," Strayhorn said. She said she's asking the Legislature to compress the school year schedule.

The comptroller said she'll appoint a task force of educators and community leaders to explore the issue and come up with a calendar that would preserve the necessary instructional days.

In 2001, the Legislature passed a bill forcing school districts to start their academic year no earlier than the week of Aug. 21. That was a date later than most districts used at the time.

9-11 tribute slated Friday

The public is invited to a brief, special ceremony Friday, in remembrance of the third anniversary of the terror attacks on the United States, which took place Sept. 11, 2001.

At noon, anyone who would like to participate will say the pledge of allegiance in front of the West Texas VA Health Care Center. Administrators suggest those attending wear patriotic colors.

Museum hopes for sale of limited edition Bowie knives

By KENDRA WISS
Staff Writer

Historical Armory Inc. has a numbered set of 10 limited edition Bowie knives for sale, with a portion of each sale going to the Heritage Museum of Big Spring.

Each knife is stainless steel with 24-karat gold engravings depicting major events in Howard County's history.

Paul Brunswig of Historical Armory explained that many months of planning and research went into the production of the special project. The museum was instrumental in helping the company to learn more about the history and people of Howard

County. "Without our county's museums, the larger picture sewn from smaller pictures would never happen. A community's history is what holds it together," said Brunswig.

Some of the details of the knife include the Webb Air Force Base, Will Travis Roberts, Comanche Trail and the Texas & Pacific Railroad. Illustrations depict a map inlay, longhorn and hereford cattle and a train.

When asked why his company chose Howard County, Brunswig replied, "The history of Howard County represents the history of West Texas and that's why we're here. We want to give back to the commu-

nity." For each knife sold, Historical Armory will give the museum \$25. If all 10 are sold, the company will donate the profit and a special case to the museum.

"This is a wonderful project and we are honored that the company considered our county and town worthy," said Nancy Raney, director of the museum.

"I hope all 10 are sold, we would love to have one of these limited edition knives at the museum," she added.

The knives retail for \$495 and include an oak and glass display case.

For more information or See MUSEUM, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Kendra Wiss
Nancy Raney, director of the Heritage Museum, admires the Bowie knife that Paul Brunswig of Historical Armory Inc. displays to promote Howard County and the museum.

S E P T E M B E R 9 2 0 0 4

Obituaries

Alan "Ace" Merrick



Alan "Ace" Merrick, 56, of Big Spring died Monday, Sept. 6, 2004, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10, 2004, in the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Mr. Merrick was born Aug. 11, 1948, in Evansville, Ind., and married Zieta Mae Darnell Jan. 28, 2004, in Big Spring.

Ace had lived in Big Spring since 1972. He was an avid motorcyclist and fisherman.

Survivors include his wife, Zeita Merrick of Big Spring; three daughters and one son-in-law, Emilia Stolp, Michelle and Jimmy Futrelle, and Emelia Merrick, all of Big Spring; two stepsons, Sandy Daves and wife, Micheal, of Big Spring, and Stephen Daves and wife, Sarah, of Oregon; one stepdaughter, Anna Miers and husband, Billy, of Big Spring; his mother, Elaine Waddill, of Big Spring; four sisters, Sylvia Booth and Nancy Reed, Lorene Merrick, Marie Merrick and Marsha Gross and husband, Ronald, all of Big Spring; one brother, William "Richard" Merrick III, of Big Spring; and 14 grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be made to Allison Cancer Center, 301 North N, Midland 79701.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Paid obituary

Betty Arview



Betty Arview, 71, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2004, in San Angelo. Memorial services will be 10:30 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

She was born Oct. 20, 1932, in Sandusky, Mich., to Harry Damrau and Alice Nichol Damrau. She had been a resident of Big Spring for 20 years and had worked almost 20 years at Wal-mart before retiring.

She is survived by three sons, Wayne Earl O'Neal of Texarkana, Paul Leslie O'Neal of Mississippi, and Arthur Dwain Arview of Big Spring; two daughters, Cheryl Yvonne Moore of Guernsey, Wyo., and Kathleen Yvonne Arview of San Angelo; one brother, Robert Damrau of Globe, Ariz.; a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one daughter, Rebecca Vernice Arview and one brother, Bernard Erwin Damrau.

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

Fredonia "Patty" Barber

Fredonia "Patty" Barber, 67, of Lindale died Sept. 6, 2004, in Tyler. A memorial service is set for 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10, 2004, in the Prairie Creek Fellowship in Lindale, with the Rev. David Hicks officiating.

She was born Oct. 6, 1936, in Santa Anna. She was a homemaker and a member of the Prairie Creek Fellowship.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Zeral Ray Barber and a daughter, Myra Kay Osborn.

She is survived by one son, Lowell Mark Osborn, of Midland; two daughters, Linda M. Osborn Hicks of Palestine and Kimberly Truelove of Lindale; one brother, William L. Matheny of Alba; two sisters, Sonora Layman of Round Rock and Pat Jones of Big Spring; six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Services are under the direction of Memorial Funeral Home, Tyler.

Morris C. Rhodes

Morris C. Rhodes, 68, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2004, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support groups

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.

□ Alzheimers Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at The Texas State Veterans Home, 1809 N. Hwy 87. For more information call Orand Carroll 268-8387.

FRIDAY

□ AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon open Big Book study meeting, 8-9 p.m.

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Police blotter

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

• **RUDOLPH AVALOS JR.**, 18, of 1805 Winston, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of burglary of a habitation.

• **ANGEL TORRES**, 24, of 813 Anna Street, was arrested Wednesday on local warrants.

• **ROBERT SANCHEZ**, 40, of 1023 Stadium, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **TRACI CASTILLO**, 27, of 1700 Settles, was arrested Wednesday and held for the HCSO.

• **FERNANDO ARRIAGA JR.**, 28, of 606 N.W. Eighth Street, was arrested Wednesday on local warrants.

• **JESUS BUSTAMANTE JR.**, 25, of 1200 Stamford, was arrested Wednesday on a local capias warrant.

• **ERICK PAUL QUALLS**, 38, of 1901 Eubanks, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **MISTY MARTIN**, 21, of 2515 Fairchild, was arrested Thursday on a charge of reckless driving.

• **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported:

- in the 800 block of 16th Street.

- in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.

• **TERRORISTIC THREAT** was reported in the 4100 block of Dixon.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1400 block of Oriole.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 2200 block of Brent.

• **FORGERY** was reported in the 800 block of Anna.

• **THEFT** was reported:

- in the 900 block of Abrams.

- in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

Sheriff's report

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

• **BRANDON LEON RAMEY**, 25, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.

• **SHERRI GENT**, 20, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.

• **BENJAMIN LEE RODRIGUEZ**, 28, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft - more than \$500, less than \$1,500 and a motion to revoke probation for theft.

• **GLORIA LOPEZ CORTEZ**, 31, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.

• **TRACI RENE CASTILLO**, 27, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license suspended and charges of driving while license suspended - two counts.

• **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 300 block of N. Fourth Street.

• **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Take note

□ **THE BIG SPRING AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** is seeking vendors to reserve booths for the "Crossroads Cuisine and Business Expo Featuring the Taste of Home Cooking," set for Oct. 21. Contact the chamber at 263-7641 to reserve a booth or to purchase a ticket to the event.

□ **KID'S CLUB FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS** begins Sept. 14 from 3:30-5:15 p.m. Space is limited. Call Pat Rhoton at 267-2291; Tammi Jones at 267-8223; or Pam Steel at 267-6394.

□ **KENTWOOD ELEMENTARY THIRD GRADE GRANDPARENTS APPRECIATION DAY** is set for 9:30 a.m. Friday in the fellowship hall of College Baptist Church.

□ **KENTWOOD PARENTS/TEACHERS ORGANIZATION** meets at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 14. Door prizes and new principal Karen Saunders will speak.

□ **WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY THIRD GRADE GRANDPARENTS APPRECIATION** at 9:30 a.m. Friday in the Fireplace Room of Howard College.

□ **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.

Spanish Inn

Celebrating our
61st Anniversary!

Get a great meal & help others in your community!

See you there Friday, September 10

Lunch Dinner

200 NW 3rd
267-9340

Dine Out Day

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

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

• Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

• Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.

• American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.

• Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

• Masonic Lodge 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main St.

• Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area senior citizens are invited.

SATURDAY

• Howard County Scottish Rite Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge located at 21st and Lancaster streets. Breakfast is served.

• Senior Health Fair at Canterbury South, 1700 S. Lancaster, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Free and open to all area senior citizens.

• Free eye glasses are available from 9 a.m. until noon at Bob's Custom Wood Work at 409 E. Third.

• A benefit for Mexico missions will be held from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at Christ's Community Fellowship, 1008 Birdwell. Your choice of a brisket sandwich, chopped barbecue sandwich or a hot link sandwich, bag of chips and a homemade cookie for \$5. Soft drinks \$1. Deliveries will be made for orders of five or more. Call 213-3105, 816-9409 or 466-1850.

• The Permian Basin Chapter of the Cossacks Motorcycle Club and American Legion Post 506 will hold a benefit auction and "in-house" poker run for local resident Virginia King, who has been diagnosed with cancer. The benefit will be held beginning at noon at the Legion Post, 3203 W. Highway 80. Southern fried catfish will be served. Proceeds from the event will go to help King and her family meet medical and other costs.

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

Weather

Tonight - Mainly clear skies. Low near 55. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.

Friday - Mainly sunny. High 86. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.

Friday night - A mostly clear sky. Low 61. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday - Plenty of sun. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the low 60s.

Sunday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the low 60s.

Monday - Sunny. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the mid 60s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-3-4-9-10.

Number matching five of five: 2.

Prize per winner: \$16,647.

Winning tickets sold in: Kenefick, Pearland.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 8-11-21-36-41. Bonus Ball: 23.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 1.

Prize: \$36 million.

Winning ticket sold in: San Antonio.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$4 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-4-7

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MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere.

Memo

By PETE YOST

Associated Pre

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Memos state Bush failed to meet standards, refused direct order

By PETE YOST

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Newly unearthed memos state George W. Bush was suspended from flying for the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam war because he failed to meet Guard standards and failed to take his annual flight physical as required.

The suspension came as Bush was trying to arrange a transfer to non-flying status with a unit in Alabama so he could work on a political campaign there.

A memo written a year later referred to one military official "pushing to sugar coat" Bush's evaluation.

"On this date I ordered that 1st Lt. Bush be suspended from flight status due to failure to perform to USAF/TexANG standards and failure to meet annual physical examination ... as ordered," says an Aug. 1, 1972 memo by Lt. Col. Jerry Killian, who is now dead.

The same memo notes that Bush was trying to transfer to non-flying status out of state and recommends that the Texas

unit fill his flying slot "with a more seasoned pilot from the list of qualified Vietnam pilots that have rotated."

The Vietnam-era documents add details to the bare-bones explanation of Bush's aides over the years that he was suspended simply because he decided to skip his flight physical.

The White House said in February that it had released all records of Bush's service, but one of Killian's memos stated it was "for record" and another directing Bush to take the physical exam stated that it was "for 1st Lt. George W. Bush."

"I can't explain why that wouldn't be in his record, but they were found in Jerry Killian's personal records," White House communications director Dan Bartlett told CBS's "60 Minutes II," which first obtained the memos.

Bartlett said Bush's superiors granted permission to train in Alabama in a non-flying status and that "many of the documents you have here affirm just

that."

A memo dated May 19, 1972, five days after Bush was supposed to have completed his physical, summarizes a telephone discussion with Bush about how he "can get out of coming to drill from now through November." It says Bush was "told he could do ET for three months or transfer." ET referred to equivalent training, a procedure for meeting training requirements without attending regularly scheduled drills.

The same memo says "we talked about him getting his flight physical situation fixed" and quotes Bush as saying he would "do that in Alabama if he stays in a flight status." It also says, I advised him of our investment in him and his commitment."

Democratic Party chairman Terry McAuliffe said, "George W. Bush's cover story on his National Guard service is rapidly unraveling. ... George W. Bush needs to answer why he regularly mislead the American people about his time

in the Guard and who applied political pressure on his behalf to have his performance reviews 'sugarcoated'."

Bartlett told CBS, "As it says in your own documents, President Bush talked to the commanders about the fact that he'd be transferring to a unit ... in Alabama that didn't fly that plane," the F-102, the type Bush was trained in.

Using only last names, one of the newly disclosed documents points to sharp disagreement among Bush's superiors in Texas over how to evaluate his performance for the period from mid-1972 through mid-1973.

"Staudt has obviously pressured Hodges more about Bush," Killian wrote on Aug. 18, 1973. "I'm having trouble running interference and doing my job - Harris gave me a message today from Grp regarding Bush's OETR and Staudt is pushing to sugar coat it. Bush wasn't here during rating period and I don't have any comments from 187th in Alabama. I will not rate." Grp refers to a

military unit and OETR stands for officer efficiency training report.

The memo concludes: "Harris took the call from Grp today. I'll backdate but won't rate. Harris agrees."

At the time, Walter B. Staudt was commander of the Texas National Guard; Lt. Col. Bobby Hodges was one of Bush's superiors in Texas who two years earlier had rated Bush an outstanding young pilot; and Lt. Col. William D. Harris Jr. was another superior of Bush's.

Records released this year when Bush's military service re-emerged as a campaign issue contain no evidence that he showed up for duty at all for five months in mid-1972 and document only a few occasions later that year.

Asked about Killian's statement in a memo about the military's investment in Bush, Bartlett told CBS: "For anybody to try to interpret or presume they know what somebody who is now dead was thinking in any of these memos, I think is very difficult to do."

Scientists forced to pick up the pieces of space capsule that crashed

DUGWAY PROVING GROUND, Utah (AP) — Scientists with tweezers picked through the twisted wreckage of a space capsule that crash-landed on Earth, hoping that microscopic clues to the evolution of the solar system weren't completely lost in Utah's salt flats.

NASA engineers were stunned Wednesday when neither parachute deployed aboard the Genesis capsule and the craft plummeted to the ground at 193 mph, breaking open like a clamshell and exposing its collec-

tion of solar atoms to contamination.

"There was a big pit in my stomach," said physicist Roger Wiens of Los Alamos National Laboratory. "This just wasn't supposed to happen. We're going to have a lot of work picking up the pieces."

The capsule held billions of charged atoms — a total haul no bigger than a few grains of salt — that were harvested from solar wind on five collecting disks during the 884-day, \$260-million mission.

Roy Haggard, who took part in the initial reconnaissance of the capsule, said the capsule's shell had been breached about three inches and the science canister inside appeared to have a small break.

The inner canister was flown to the Army's air field at the proving ground and put in a clean room, a work area in which the air quality, temperature and humidity are highly regulated to prevent contamination.

The reconstruction was expected to take several

days, and scientists were hopeful they could salvage the embedded atoms among the twisted platters of exotic metals and silicone.

"This is something that's not a total disaster," said Carlton Allen, astronautics curator for the Houston-based Johnson Space Center. "We didn't lose all the science in the crash."

NASA planned to appoint a "mishap review board" to determine a cause for the failure. Flight engineers say a set of tiny explosives didn't

trigger the capsule's parachutes, although the fact that all explosives failed pointed to another cause.

The spacecraft was designed and built by Lockheed Martin Space Systems near Denver. Robert Corwin, an engineer for the company, said a battery that overheated shortly after the 2001 launch could be a culprit.

The mishap also raised questions about the durability of another NASA sample-return capsule called Stardust, due to land here in 2006. But that

capsule was built to be more rugged and will land on its own with a parachute.

Scientists got their first glimpse of the damage when the Genesis capsule was wheeled into a garage bay late Wednesday.

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

Hattie Gladys Hudgins, 78, died Saturday. Graveside Services will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Betty Arvieu, 71, died Wednesday. Memorial Services will be at 10:30 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

SCOUTS

Continued from Page 1A

their uniforms, as well as finance the Scouting Museum currently under construction.

David O'Neill, who now serves as district executive for the West Texas Buffalo Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America, has been involved with scouting virtually all of his life and understands how tough it can be for parents to "dress-out" their children for activities.

"There are parents that have two or three boys in scouting or sports," said O'Neill. "There are a lot of things that kids are involved with, and to get a uniform shirt on top of everything else can be pretty tough."

"Anyone that has old Boy Scout or Cub Scout shirts or uniforms can call the office. I can pick them up or they can drop them off here. We use these for the boys that can't afford new uniforms. We're reaching out to those folks that have outgrown their scout shirts or have moved on to other activities and no

longer need their scout shirts. They can donate those to help the families that need them."

O'Neill said the shirts that are donated will be sold to scouts at a cost between \$5 and \$10, less than half the cost of a new uniform, which runs approximately \$23. The funds raised by the shirt drive will go to fund the continued construction of a scouting museum, which will be housed in the Scout Service Center located at 610 S. Scurry Street.

"The building was donated to us about eight years ago, and a part of the plan for the building was to have a scouting museum," said O'Neill. "Scouting has been a rich tradition in Howard County. The first Boy Scout troop west of the Mississippi River was started right here in Big Spring, and at one time was the longest continually registered troop in the country."

"Through the Boy Scout and Cub Scout history, which includes air scouting, which was tied into Webb Air Force Base, there have been a lot folks involved in the program and a lot of history that's

been built up over the years."

O'Neill said the museum serves as a reminder of the many good deeds local scouts have done over the years.

"The statue of liberty outside of Municipal Auditorium was put there by Boy Scouts," said O'Neill. "The totem pole at Comanche Trail Park was made and put there by a scout. Those things and all of the people that have gone through scouting — there are a lot of things that we can put into the museum to help document the history that we've had here."

While shirt donations will help fund the museum, which is still in need of several display cases and other items, O'Neill said there has been a steady stream of items for display coming in during the past year.

"We've already had a number of donations through the years," O'Neill said while straightening an "Air Scout" uniform donated to help document the ties between local scouting and Webb Air Force Base. "Scouters have passed away and their families have brought us old uni-

forms and books, old camping gear and lots of other neat things."

To arrange pick up of a shirt, call O'Neill at 263-3407 or (432) 413-5194.

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

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UNITED WAY

Continued from Page 1A

to help many local United Way agencies: American Red Cross, West Texas Chapter; Boy's Club of Big Spring, Buffalo Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America; CASA of West Texas (new agency for the United Way); Council on Aging (Meals on Wheels); Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center; Howard County Humane

Society; Isaiah 58; Northside Community Center; Salvation Army; Victim Services; Westside Community Center; Westside Day Care Center; West Texas Girl Scout Council and YMCA of Big Spring.

"We have 15 local agencies that help people, and it's not just the numbers of the people we help that are important, if we're able to help even one person, it's worth it," Scott added.

Scott reminds Big

Spring residents of the "Dine Out Day for United Way" fund-raiser that will continue through November.

Friday's host restaurant is the Spanish Inn, which is celebrating its 61st anniversary this week.

Call the United Way office at 267-5201 for tickets by Friday, Sept. 24.

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

MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1A

to view the proof, call

Brunwig at 970-481-9581 or the company at 1-888-777-7570. For more information about the museum, call Nancy Raney at 267-8255.

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

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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

OUR VIEWS

New twist!
We'll see you
'Before Hours'

A new twist on a familiar program takes place Friday as the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and the Holiday Inn Express present Business Before Hours. A "sister" to Business After Hours, the program is a worthwhile activity that allows business professionals to meet casually and interact.

The difference, of course, is the time. Whereas "After Hours" is usually held from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. or so, "Before Hours" will be held in the morning — in this case from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

One reason for the change, organizers say, is the operators at Holiday Inn want the public to sample their omelets. We can think of no reason to argue with that!

Business Before Hours promises to be an excellent opportunity to have some breakfast, meet with other merchants and get a look at the Holiday Inn Express if you've never taken the time to do so.

The general public is invited as well, and for them, it's a chance to get to know more about the local business.

Like "After Hours," Business Before Hours is an informal, come-and-go event. There are no programs; it is simply a time to get acquainted. We'll see you there!

ADDRESSES

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Washington, D.C.

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JOANN KNOX — Home: 816-9083; Work (BSISD): 264-3635.

From Rudy to Arnold — courage

Some have criticized former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani for invoking the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks at the Republican National Convention in New York. But the disagreement over how to confront terror and chaos abroad is the heart of this election.

As Giuliani noted, before Bush, the world community let terrorism pay. Or, as Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger told the crowd Tuesday, you're a Republican if you have more trust in foreign policy directed by the United States. You're not a Republican if you put more trust in the United Nations.

The motif for Monday night was "courage" — and it was the "best opening night" of a GOP convention Nixon alumnus Martin Anderson ever saw. There is, of course, a danger of overdoing the "courage" issue — as the Democrats' national convention in Boston proved. So the theme for Tuesday was "compassion."

Call it the "Lover, Not a Fighter Night," starring California's governor and first lady Laura Bush. You could feel the love — of Schwarzenegger for Schwarzenegger. He mentioned Bush so little that if you made a

drinking game out of how many times Schwarzenegger mentioned Bush — one swig per mention — you'd end the night sober.

"Disingenuous filmmaker" Michael Moore was the skunk at the party Monday night. He entered the press gallery at the Madison Square Garden convention floor as a temporary columnist for USA Today. Journalists gawked. Delegates frowned. A man in a cowboy hat heckled, "Hey, Michael Moore, come down here."

Later, when Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., called Moore "a disingenuous filmmaker who believes that Saddam's Iraq was an oasis of peace," he was unaware that Moore was in the room. Moore responded to the senator's mention with G-rated hand gestures. After his speech, McCain told me, "I hope it didn't distract from my message. We (Democrats and Republicans) have got to stop treating each other as enemies."

Actually, Sen. McCain, Moore illustrated your message. Does Moore help or hurt the GOP? I asked convention spokesman Mark Pfeifle. His answer: "I think the crowd's reaction said a lot."

It made me think: Remember when Democrats dismissed criticism of President Clinton simply because the critics were "haters"?

RNC Chairman Marc Racicot



DEBRA SAUNDERS

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I'M 3744 GETTING INTO PARTIES



BY WEDNESDAY THE NYPD SEEMED TO HAVE WON THE WAR ON PROTESTERS. THE MEDIA WAY OUTNUMBERED PROTESTERS AT THE 'AXIS OF EVIL' PROTEST PANTY FLASH IN BATTERY PARK.

Attacks on Kerry: Vietnam roll call

There is a cruel irony to the attacks on John Kerry's service in Vietnam.

One of the main points of attack by Kerry's critics is that Kerry did not deserve all three of his Purple Hearts and that he exaggerated at least two of them in order to get out of Vietnam. (If you got three Purple Hearts, which are given for injury in combat, you got to go home.)

To believe this accusation, however, you have to believe that Kerry schemed to get wounded — but not too badly — for the purpose of getting home early.

But, as we all know, there was a far easier way of getting out of Vietnam. It was called not going in the first place.

This is the option that George W. Bush took.

This is the option that Dick Cheney took.

This is the option that Bill Clinton took.

This is the option that hundreds of thousands of young men of John Kerry's socio-economic class took.

But this was not the option that John Kerry took. (For the record: I was eligible for the Vietnam draft but was never called because of a high lottery number. This did not displease me.)

Kerry not only volunteered for military service, he not only volunteered for Vietnam, but he volunteered for highly dangerous duty on the Mekong River in a so-called swift boat.

Kerry's reward for this military service is now to be attacked as a coward and a liar, while Bush and Cheney are hailed as a "wartime" president and vice president.

Hold on, Kerry's critics say, Kerry may have been in Vietnam, but he was there for only four months. (Kerry says he was there longer.)

But as we all know, some periods of time can seem a lot longer depending on the circumstances. Take the four-month figure that Kerry's attackers use.

I would argue that four months on a swift boat in combat in South Vietnam is a lot longer than four months in the Air National Guard in Alabama or four months spent in various college deferments.

The attacks on Kerry's military service have been effective in one respect, however. They have revealed one weakness of Kerry as a campaigner so far: Kerry has not

says no. No surprise there. MSNBC pollster Frank Luntz, however, expects the ticket to enjoy a 5-point bounce in the polls. He explained: "Bush is not sympathetic. But the upside is that he is consistent and people trust him."

I asked attorney Ben Ginsburg, who stopped acting as an attorney for the Bushies because he also had advised the anti-Kerry Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, what the best outcome from this episode is. He noted that a "surprisingly large and gratifying" number of reporters have told him he got a "raw deal." They see a double standard in journalism that reports his associations but not those of anti-Bush groups aligned with Camp Kerry and the Democrats.

So the cycle of dirty politics — now dirtier because the people who are slinging mud aren't running for office and have little to lose — accelerates.

Oh, joy. What was it that McCain said about Americans with different opinions not being the enemy?

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.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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Teens in Amb

HOUSTON (A) teens have been who was jailed. Jessica Kelle 15, were the sul seen walking fr Hills subdivisi Tuesday aftern

Investigators the girls wer Georgia man o

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Delta to cut u

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by K. Rae Anderson

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Amen

TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Teens in Amber Alert found; man under arrest

HOUSTON (AP) — Two missing Liberty County teens have been found in the home of a Georgia man, who was jailed in their disappearance.

Jessica Kelley and Juliette "Julie" Patterson, both 15, were the subject of an Amber Alert. They were last seen walking from their homes in the West Woodland Hills subdivision between Dayton and Cleveland on Tuesday afternoon.

Investigators who were trying to locate them said the girls were communicating with an unknown Georgia man over the Internet.

Early Thursday, authorities arrested Richard Mason, 22, of Rome after finding the girls at his home. He has been charged with enticing a child with intent to commit a felony.

The girls were placed in the custody of Georgia's Child Protective Services.

Delta to cut up to 7,000 jobs, wages

ATLANTA (AP) — Delta Air Lines is axing up to 7,000 jobs, cutting employee wages and shedding its Dallas hub as part of a sweeping turnaround plan aimed at helping the nation's third largest carrier cope with high fuel costs and competition from low-fare rivals.

But even with those changes — part of a \$5 billion cost-saving program — CEO Gerald Grinstein warned on Wednesday Delta would seek bankruptcy court protection if Delta can't slow the pace of pilot retirements by the end of September.

Grinstein told reporters that he fears pilots could jump ship en masse because they are worried about their pensions and keenly aware of UAL Corp.'s threat to terminate the employee retirement plans at its United Airlines unit. Several hundred Delta pilots have retired early in recent months, and more have threatened to do so, he said.

"We have to know what we're dealing with before the end of the month," Grinstein said, after delivering a speech to 300 middle managers that was broadcast on the Internet.

The normal pilot retirement age at Delta is 60. Senior pilots with enough years of service can retire early at age 50, and roughly 2,000 are currently eligible, Grinstein said. If that many retired early, it would hurt Delta's ability to operate the international flights that many of its senior pilots handle, Grinstein said.

Many sign up to speak at textbook hearing

AUSTIN (AP) — Emotional debate over sex education marked the last of two public hearings on proposed health textbooks at the State Board of Education.

More than 300 people signed up to speak Wednesday about the books. The board, which will vote in November, heard from some who support teaching abstinence-only and others who favor lessons on contraception.

Critics say the books lack discussion of condoms and contraception, violating a curriculum requirement that health books "analyze the effectiveness and ineffectiveness of barrier protection and other contraceptive methods."

Supporters of the books say local school districts have the option to use supplemental materials that could include ways for sexually active teens to protect themselves.

Some who spoke against the proposed books said they contain errors and omit critical information. If teenagers are not provided the facts, they'll often go to unreliable sources, such as peers, teachers testified.

Group calls for change in insurance laws

DALLAS (AP) — Three-fourths of uninsured Texans have full-time jobs but cannot afford health insurance, according to a report released Wednesday by the Texas Association of Business.

The study also shows that more than half of Texans without health coverage live in households earning more than \$75,000 a year.

The statistics show the need for changes to the state's insurance laws to combat the soaring costs, said Bill Hammond, president and CEO of the Texas Association of Business, which represents more than 140,000 small and large companies and 200 chambers of commerce.

WORLD BRIEFS

Insurgent-held cities bombed, dozens reported killed

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — U.S. jets on Thursday pounded the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah and a northern town astride a major smuggling route, killing dozens of people, officials and witnesses said.

Warplanes hammered Tal Afar, a northern city near the border with Syria suspected of lying on a smuggling route. The operations are intended to return the city 30 miles west of Mosul to control of the interim Iraqi government.

The military said initial reports put the number of insurgents dead at 57. At least a dozen civilians were also killed in the attack, Iraq's Interior Ministry said.

American warplanes fired missiles on a building used by associates of Jordanian-born militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in the third day of strikes in Fallujah, a hotbed of Sunni Muslim insurgents bent on driving coalition forces from the country. At least five were killed, including a woman and a child, said Dr. Ahmad Thair of the Fallujah General Hospital.

Hurricane Ivan rips Grenada, kills at least 15 in Caribbean

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (AP) — Hurricane Ivan pummeled Grenada, Barbados and other islands with its devastating winds and rains, causing at least 15 deaths, before setting a direct course for Jamaica, Cuba and the hurricane-weary southern United States.

The most powerful hurricane to hit the Caribbean in 10 years damaged 90 percent of the homes in the "spice isle" of Grenada and destroyed a 17th century stone prison that left criminals on the loose as looting erupted, officials said Wednesday. Ivan strengthened early Thursday to become a Category 5 on a scale of 5. It packed sustained winds of 160 mph with

higher gusts as it passed north of the Dutch Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Some escaped convicts included politicians jailed for 20 years for killings in a 1983 left-wing palace coup that led the United States to invade Grenada.

Before it slammed into Grenada on Tuesday, Ivan gave Barbados and St. Vincent a pummeling, damaging hundreds of homes and cutting utilities. Thousands of people remained without electricity and water on Wednesday.

Pakistani jets launch attack on suspected militants

WANA, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistani jets pounded a suspected training facility for foreign militants in a two-hour barrage Thursday in tribal South Waziristan, killing 50 people, senior intelligence and military officials said.

The military said the camp was located near Dila Khula, a South Waziristan village about 15 miles northeast of the region's main town, Wana.

"There were confirmed reports of training activity being conducted by foreign elements including Uzbeks, Chechens and a few Arabs," the military said in a statement.

"These trained terrorists were indulging in sabotage and terrorist acts in the country."

Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan told the private ARY television channel that 50 people were killed and 90 percent of them were foreigners. He said the camp was totally destroyed and all the people there were believed killed.

Sultan said the men had been involved in terrorist acts inside Pakistan, but gave no details. He said they were not in any way connected to suspected Chechen and Arab militants who took hundreds hostage at a school in southern Russia earlier this month. At least 330 people — many of them children — died in the end to that siege.

Fear of terror attack persists, could be helpful to Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans today are as fearful of becoming victims of terrorism as they are of losing their jobs or having their homes burglarized.

Almost all of the people questioned in an Associated Press poll say they remember what they were doing when they learned about the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon — and seven in 10 say those memories are among their most vivid.

Such a highly charged atmosphere could play to the advantage of President Bush, who counts his handling of terrorism as a leading strength.

Those who were worried about another terrorist attack, including women with those concerns, were more likely to support the president. Those who were less worried were more likely to support Democrat John Kerry.

Almost four in 10 in an Associated Press poll say they sometimes worry about the possibility of another terrorist attack — about the same number who worry about getting burglarized or losing a job.

In a measure of the trauma of Sept. 11, the AP-Ipsos poll found that 98 percent remember exactly what they were doing three years ago when hijackers flew jetliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing almost 3,000.

Car bombing at Australian Embassy in Indonesia kills 7

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A powerful car bomb exploded outside the gates of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta on Thursday, killing seven people and wounding nearly 100 in an attack police blamed on al-Qaida-linked terrorists.

The blast flattened the embassy's gate, mangled cars on the busy commercial street and shattered the windows of nearby high-rise buildings. Dazed survivors desperately tried to locate colleagues and relatives.

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Local LULAC sponsoring Miss Deiz y Seis pageant

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Feature's Editor

A pageant to crown Miss Deiz y Seis, sponsored by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council No. 4791, is a scholarship fund-raiser for the newly-formed league. "Each contestant should pick up a sponsorship form and the winner will be the girl who collects the most money from her sponsors," said LULAC fund-raiser chairperson Isabel Calderon.

The Miss Deiz y Seis contest is open to all girls 16-18 who are of good character.

She must also be single, never married and have never conceived a child, she said.

A second Miss Princess contest is open to girls 14-16.

The winner in this age group also will be the one who gathers the most funds for the scholarship program.

Miss Duchess is open to girls 14-16 as well, and will be awarded to the girl

in this age group who receives the second highest amount of donations for the sponsorship fund program.

Also, a Lil Miss Queen and a Lil Mr. King will be awarded to a boy and a girl, 2-4, who earns the most in sponsorship fund donations.

"We're doing this to raise money for our newly-created college scholarship program," Calderon said.

The winner crowned Miss Deiz y Seis will

receive half of the money contributed to the scholarship fund.

She will also serve LULAC by attending all council functions.

She must set a good example to her peers.

She will represent the council when awarding scholarships throughout her one-year term, she said.

She must also attend the crowning ceremony for the 2005 competition.

All contestants must attend the Deiz y Seis celebration Sept. 18 at Big Ed's, 301 Sgt. Paredes St. All money collected

must be turned in at 5 p.m. and the crowning ceremony will take place at 6 p.m.

The crowning ceremony will require the contestants to wear a formal gown.

All contestants will participate in a group photograph after the crowning ceremony.

Also, contestants must be a resident of Texas.

Sponsorship forms are available at KBYG and KBST radio stations and at Big Spring High School. "We hope this will be a fun activity and help our

council's scholarship program at the same time," Calderon said.

The mission of LULAC is to advance economic conditions, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States.

For more information, contact Calderon at 213-4239.

Marsha Sturdivant is the feature's editor of the "Big Spring Herald." Contact her at life@bigspringherald.com.

Book Review

"Good Grief" by Lolly Winston Living through loss with victory

Sophie Stanton has been a widow for three months. It's all she thinks about; she doesn't really have the mental control to think about anything else at this point.



PAT WILLIAMS

Her husband of a very few years has died of Hodgkin's disease, and his death has consumed every aspect of her life.

At the age of 36 and still childless, most of her friends are pretty well settled in three-bedroom marriages. After the first flush of expressed sympathy to her, they have gone back to their everyday existence, leaving Sophie to deal with the mundane bits of a sad reality.

After running her car through the garage door, it is obvious she needs some help; her doctor prescribes antidepressants, as well as membership in a "grief group."

Neither work very well.

A series of incidents indicate that recovery is not coming quickly, and Sophie is more miserable than ever.

After one disastrous day, Sophie takes one of her pills, and then another, and another.

On another day she shows up at work in her bathrobe and comfy slippers.

Sophie has the ability

to recognize her behavior is not only inconsistent, but occasionally bizarre, yet she cannot conjure up the energy or direction to do much about it.

Sophie's best friend is a single mother living in Ashland, Ore., who calls frequently and begs Sophie to make a clean break and move closer to her.

After another despairing day, an extreme change seems like the only solution to regaining some mastery over her life.

She sells her house, waves farewell to her always-controlled, ever-controlling mother-in-law, and takes off for the Northwest.

The move does force Sophie to tackle a different set of problems. She gets a job — not what she wants — but something to help with living expense, and through this experience, she gains confidence in her abilities to make friends and develops the desire to own a business of her own.

Sophie adopts a "Little Sister", falls in love, and buys a bakery.

Any one of these actions is a daunting task, but Sophie muddles through with some of the results being nothing less than hilarious.

One of Lolly Winston's subtle lessons taught through this tale is that in order to heal, some conscious changes must be made; just floating along does not make it better.

In Sophie's life the physical move creates

opportunities she never could have imagined. As she solves each problem, her emotional strength increases, thereby enabling her to tackle more complex situations and relationships.

This book may be too sensitive for someone who has just experienced a major loss.

For others who have previously dealt with death, it is like visiting with a comforting friend.

The book offers up the premise that while we each react from our own unique needs and backgrounds, in similar circumstances we experience the same feelings of aloneness, desperation and frustrating, helpless anger.

While "Good Grief" has no highly charged climax, the action moves along with energy.

Winston never allows her characters to slip into a weak or overly-sentimental state, but gives them a grace and dignity along with a healing sense of humor and the vulnerability of being open to love in its many forms.

In short, it is the telling of a distinctive journey with a positive and beautiful life lesson. Don't miss it!

"Good Grief" by Lolly Winston. Warner Books, New York, New York, 2004.

Pat Williams, wife of former "Big Spring Herald" publisher Chuck Williams, writes this column for the "Big Spring Herald."

Big Spring State Hospital volunteer Dorothy Sheppard not a quitter

BY VALERIE AVERY

Special to the Herald

When her first-ever Game and Card Party and Luncheon was cancelled on June 15 because of a flood in the hospital's Community Relations building, she just penciled in another date.

This one is written in ink for Sept. 14.

The hospital's newest fund-raising project was initiated when Sheppard's sister told her she was attending one in their native Pennsylvania, where they are very popular.

Volunteers will host a Game and Card Party and Luncheon September 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the new Community Relations office.

A salad luncheon

provided by the volunteers will be served, and groups will play the games of their choice following the luncheon.

Organized groups can choose to play any game, including cards, dominoes, bUNCO, or board games.

Anyone without a group can call and be worked into a table, Sheppard said.

Each person attending pays \$10 to play for the afternoon. Volunteers will allow four players per table and a maximum of 10 tables will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

The luncheon begins at 12:30 and games will continue until 4 p.m. if desired. Players can end their games at any time

before 4 p.m., Community Relations Director Billie Christie-Morgan said.

Each table decides what game to play, Sheppard said. A table prize will be allocated to each table's overall winner.

For tickets or more information, call (432) 268-7535 or 263-4483.

Sheppard asks attendees to bring their own cards and games for the afternoon. No motorized card shufflers will be permitted.

Money raised during the Card Party will be used to support the patients at Big Spring State Hospital. The hospital serves psychiatric patients in a 78-county in West Texas and the Texas Panhandle.

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Business After Hours is a program of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and is specifically designed to encourage networking and to showcase sponsors. There is no charge to attend.

H

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Roads power

More room, power and a fun.

Hats off to the engineering team for a job well done. The enhancement of the S2000 road is the 2004 model.

While the road drive S2000 is a number of power and handling improvements, the most significant change for me is the added room inside. Even a modest gain in interior space is a dramatic improvement for my six-foot frame. For the first time, the S2000 was reduced in 2004 to actually able driving the v

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Honda S2000

Roadster receives more power, interior room

More room, more power and a lot more fun.

Hats off to the Honda engineering team for a job well done on the enhancements made to the S2000 roadster for the 2004 model year.

While the rear-wheel drive S2000 receives a number of powertrain and handling improvements, the most significant change for me is the added room inside.

Even a modest gain in interior space is a dramatic improvement for my six-foot frame. For the first time since the S2000 was introduced in 2000, I was actually able to enjoy driving the vehicle.

And yes, I did enjoy my one-week test drive in the 2004 model.

In many ways, the S2000 is a throwback to the glory days of sports cars and open top rac-

ing. Without question, this is a driver's car, designed to provide maximum response and total exhilaration of the road for the person sitting behind the wheel.

The new larger, 2.2-liter I-4 engine cranks out an impressive 240 horses, while the six-speed manual transmission has been enhanced to provide lower gear ratios.

Handling has also been improved. In addition to major suspension improvements, the S2000 now rides on 17-inch tires, giving a solid, sure-footed feel on the road.

While nicely appointed, this is not a luxury, pamper the driver at all cost sports car. As I said before, the S2000 is more of a throwback to what sports cars — roadsters in particular — were designed to be.

While there are many



The 2004 Honda S2000.

outstanding sports cars on the market today, most have been designed to pamper the driver by making the "job" of operating the vehicle as easy and convenient as possible.

Yes, Honda has incorporated a lot of state-of-the-art technology into the S2000. However, when you shift through the gears on a winding stretch of country road, the S2000 is all about the relationship between car and driver. Not only do you see the open road, you experience it.

Honda's 2.2 I-4 with Variable Valve Timing and Electronic Engine Control is exceptional, as is the in-wheel double wishbone suspension system.

The 2004 Honda S2000 is highly recommended for sports car consumers looking for a more traditional driving experience.

With a base price starting under \$33,000, the list of standard fea-

tures include: high-intensity discharge projector headlights, power-operated convertible top that opens or closes in six seconds, air conditioning with micron air filtration, cruise control, AM/FM stereo with CD player, power door locks, power windows, power heated side mirrors, and Immobilizer theft-deterrent system with keyless entry.

Standard safety features include: three-point seat belts with load limiter and pretensioner, dual front airbags, roll bars and reinforced windshield posts and anti-lock brakes.

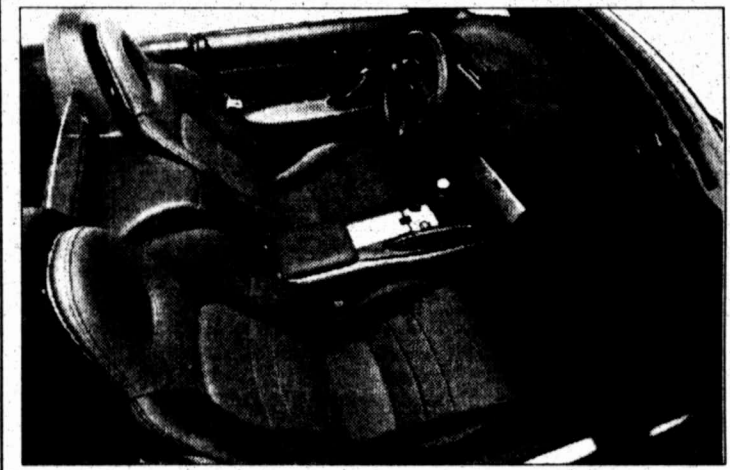
Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@wax-ahachiedailylight.com.

ON THE ROAD



BY NEAL WHITE

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL:
2004 Honda S2000
2-passenger seating
Rear-wheel drive roadster

PRICE RANGE:
\$33,000 - \$35,000

ENGINE:
2.2-L I-4 (240 hp/162 torque)

TRANSMISSION:
6-speed manual

EPA: 20 mpg city/25 mpg highway

SUSPENSION:
Four-wheel double wishbone suspension features a compact in-wheel design, similar to the type used on racing cars, with gas pressurized mono tube shocks.

STEERING:
Electrically assisted

power rack-and-pinion steering.
BRAKES: Four-wheel disc with anti-lock braking.
TURN CIRCLE: 35.4 feet
LENGTH: 162.2 inches
WHEELBASE: 94.5 inches
WIDTH: 68.9 inches
HEIGHT: 50 inches
TRACK: 57.9/59.4 inches (front/rear)
TIRES: 17-inch
WEIGHT: 2,850 pounds
WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION: 49/51 (front/rear)
FUEL TANK: 13.2 gallons
CARGO: 5 cubic feet

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Go online and check out www.thatstracin.com for the latest information and news on stock-car racing, updated daily.

Chase catch-up

By DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Finally, it's time. After Saturday night's Chevy Rock & Roll 400 at Richmond (Va.) International Raceway, all of the suspense-things and what-about-thats everyone has had about the Chase for the Nextel Cup championship will be resolved.

By the end of the weekend, we'll know which drivers have a chance to win the 2004 Cup championship — and which ones do not.

Because this is the first time the sport and its fans have dealt with this system, however, nobody really knows what to expect over the 10 races that begin a week from Sunday at New Hampshire.

In fact, some basic questions about what's going to happen still linger. So let's answer all we can:

What happens to the points after Saturday night's race?

Going into New Hampshire, here's how the top 10 will look in the standings:

Place	Points	Place	Points
First	5,050	Sixth	5,025
Second	5,045	Seventh	5,020
Third	5,040	Eighth	5,015
Fourth	5,035	Ninth	5,010
Fifth	5,030	Tenth	5,005

If another driver is within 400 points of first after the 26th race, which could happen this year, his total would be reset to 5,000. In fact, all drivers beyond 10th who qualify will be reset to 5,000 points and start the final 10 tied, even if it's 12, 13, even 15 drivers.

Who's already in?

Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Tony Stewart and Matt Kenseth have clinched berths. Elliott Sadler clinches a berth by merely starting at Richmond. Kurt Busch is assured of a spot if he finishes 42nd or better Saturday. Assuming Sadler and Busch are safe, eight other drivers are mathematically eligible for the three remaining top-10 slots.

What happens if two drivers tie for 10th place?

NASCAR's tie-breaker system would go into effect. The driver with more wins would

Clearing the confusion over Nextel Cup's title format

get the 10th position and the other would not make the Chase — unless they're both within 400 points of the leader, of course.

If the tied drivers have the same number of wins, the next tie-breaker would be more second-place finishes, then third-place finishes, etc., until the tie is broken.

That process would be used to break ties within the top 10, as well. If two drivers were tied for fifth, for example, the tie-breaker would be used to give one 5,030 points and the other 5,025.

What if somebody not in the Chase gets hot and wins a bunch of races in the final 10? Won't he be able to move up to finish in the top 10?

No. Moving the top 10 drivers ahead in the points is designed to put them far enough ahead so that 11th place couldn't catch 10th even if the 10th place driver was injured and didn't start any of the last 10 races. The thinking behind that is that you have to earn the right to race for the championship in the first 26 races, and if you don't, that's the price you pay for not making the cut.

Does anything change about how the races will be run? It's not just going to be 10 cars on the track over the final 10 races, is it?

Each race will still have a 43-car starting field. The points will be distributed for each finishing position just as they are now. A Chase contender finishing fourth and leading a lap in a race would still get 165 points, just like a non-Chase driver would.

If a driver gets hurt, can his team put another driver in his car and still race for the championship?

Again, no. As is always the case, a driver must start the race to get the points awarded for that car's finish — the way Dale Earnhardt Jr.

did after he suffered burns in July. If a driver can't compete, he gets no points. The team can put another driver in the car and race, and it will get car owner's points, but not driver points — and the Cup championship is the drivers' points championship.



Earnhardt Jr.

So do points still mean anything for the drivers not in the top 10?

Yes. Points will continue to be added to the 26-race total for each non-Chase driver over the final 10. The driver finishing 11th will get special recognition and a \$250,000 bonus at the awards banquet in December, and points-fund money will still be paid down beyond the top 10.

If more than 10 drivers make the Chase under the 400-point rule, the bonus still goes to the driver finishing 11th — not to the first driver outside the Chase at season's end.

How have the teams that expected to make the Chase altered their strategies to prepare for the final 10 races?

Several top teams have saved many of their allotted test dates for tracks that will be part of the final 10. Even teams that have used up some or all of their tests will take advantage of places such as Kentucky Speedway. Since Kentucky doesn't host a Cup race, test sessions held there don't count against a team's total.



Testing at tracks like Kentucky Speedway doesn't count against a team's allotted testing sessions.

Will NASCAR still penalize teams points for infractions in the final 10?

Yes, if NASCAR deems a penalty is necessary, it would use the same process it uses now. Of course, it's going to be interesting to see if NASCAR is more reluctant to levy such penalties, given how important they would be in a tight championship race.

THIS WEEK'S RACE

CHEVY ROCK & ROLL 400

Where: Richmond International Raceway, a 0.75-mile paved slightly banked tri-oval located in Richmond, Va.

When: Saturday at 7:30 p.m. (all times ET).

Qualifying is 3:10 p.m. Friday.

TV: TNT.

Radio: Motor Racing Network.

Purse: \$4,860,973.

Last year's winner: Ryan Newman.

Newman.

Worth noting: Rusty Wallace leads all active drivers with six victories at Richmond, all occurring on the 0.75-mile configuration. There have been 10 different race winners in the last 13 races at Richmond. Only Tony Stewart (fall 1999, spring 2001 and spring 2002) and Dale Earnhardt Jr. (spring 2000 and spring 2004) have multiple victories at the track since 1998.



Newman

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

OK, we're almost to the Chase. What do you think of the new points system now?

Cast your vote at:

www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Who's your pick to win the first Chase for the Championship?

Number of votes: 11,824

Driver	No. of votes	Percent
Jeff Gordon	4,023	34%
Dale Earnhardt Jr.	3,900	33%
Someone else	1,348	11%
Tony Stewart	1,044	9%
Matt Kenseth	788	7%
Jimmie Johnson	721	6%

STOP 'N' GO

INSIDE RICHMOND

Trends to be aware of as the Nextel Cup circuit heads to Richmond International Raceway for the Chevy Rock & Roll 400:

RICHMOND STANDOUTS

■ **Matt Kenseth** has five consecutive top-10 finishes at Richmond, the longest top-10 streak of any active driver.

■ **Ryan Newman** finished second in both of his races at the track in his rookie season (2002) and won in his fourth attempt there (fall 2003).

RICHMOND STRUGGLES

■ In five Cup starts at Richmond, **Jimmie Johnson** has one top-10 finish (second), which came in the spring.

■ **Terry Labonte** has one top-20 finish in his past eight races at the track.

■ **Sterling Marlin** hasn't finished in the top 10 at Richmond since September 1999.

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Sept. 5:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. J. Johnson (48)	3,482	21. S. Marlin (40)	2,631
2. J. Gordon (24)	3,432	22. G. Biffle (16)	2,607
3. D. Earnhardt Jr. (8)	3,366	23. B. Vickers (25)	2,573
4. T. Stewart (20)	3,304	24. T. Labonte (5)	2,565
5. M. Kenseth (17)	3,253	25. J. Nemechek (01)	2,486
6. E. Sadler (38)	3,204	26. S. Wimmer (22)	2,381
7. K. Busch (97)	3,183	27. R. Rudd (21)	2,312
8. R. Newman (12)	3,078	28. W. Burton (0)	2,233
9. K. Kahne (9)	3,067	29. S. Riggs (10)	2,208
10. M. Martin (6)	3,058	30. J. Green (43)	2,067
11. J. McMurray (42)	3,033	31. B. Gaughan (77)	2,045
12. B. Labonte (18)	3,022	32. K. Schrader (49)	2,033
13. D. Jarrett (88)	3,015	33. K. Petty (45)	2,021
14. J. Mayfield (19)	3,003	34. R. Craven (32)	1,901
15. K. Harvick (29)	3,002	35. J. Spencer (4)	1,501
16. C. Mears (41)	2,704	36. D. Blaney	1,295
17. M. Waltrip (15)	2,674	37. J. Sauter	1,217
18. J. Burton (30)	2,647	38. D. Cope (50)	1,021
19. R. Gordon (31)	2,647	39. M. Shepherd (89)	747
20. R. Wallace (2)	2,641	40. T. Bodine (50)	652

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Sept. 4:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. M. Truex Jr.	3,789	11. A. Lewis	2,767
2. K. Busch	3,694	12. S. Compton	2,706
3. J. Leffler	3,341	13. T. Fedewa	2,691
4. G. Biffle	3,306	14. M. Waltrip	2,672
5. D. Green	3,211	15. K. Kahne	2,670
6. J. Keller	3,173	16. D. Stremme	2,664
7. R. Hornaday	3,136	17. C. Atwood	2,664
8. M. Bliss	2,944	18. R. Pressley	2,609
9. B. Hamilton Jr.	2,896	19. J. Sauter	2,594
10. K. Wallace	2,794	20. M. Wallace	2,587

NEXT RACE: Friday, Emerson Radio 250, Richmond, Va.

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Aug. 14:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. B. Hamilton	2,288	6. T. Musgrave	2,043
2. D. Setzer	2,204	7. T. Kvapil	2,038
3. C. Chaffin	2,092	8. R. Crawford	1,903
4. C. Edwards	2,084	9. M. Skinner	1,886
5. M. Crafton	2,075	10. D. Starr	1,885

NEXT RACE: Thursday, Kroger 200, Richmond, Va.



RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. **Jimmie Johnson** (car No. 48)
 2. **Jeff Gordon** (car No. 24)
 3. **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** (car No. 8)
- Before you start, remember these rankings are about the season's performance. Aside from Earnhardt Jr. at Bristol, these three teams have sputtered recently. But they do have 13

victories and the three highest totals in top-five and top-10 finishes. Last week: all were tied for first.

4. **Tony Stewart** (car No. 20): Never was a threat at California. Richmond is a good place for him to start building momentum. Last week: 4.

5. **Elliott Sadler** (car No. 38): Speaking of momentum, if not for a blown tire at Michigan, this team would be riding a big wave of it right

now. Last week: 7.

6. **Matt Kenseth** (car No. 17): Hard to tell if they're struggling or just biding their time until the 10-race Chase starts. Last week: 5.

7. **Kurt Busch** (car No. 97): Amazingly, this team has a Chase spot well in hand despite having just four top fives. Last week: 6.

8. **Kasey Kahne** (car No. 9): Five second-place finishes now. It'd really be a shame if Kahne doesn't make

the Chase. Last week: 11.

9. **Mark Martin** (car No. 6): In the top 10 for first time this year. If he stays there another week, watch out in final 10. Last week: 10.

10. **Ryan Newman** (car No. 12): Has 45 points and two drivers between him and 11th. That's not safe, but it's close. Last week: 9.

For the rest of the top-40 rankings, go online and visit www.thatstracin.com.

Sadler's circus season is sure to end in New York

Elliott Sadler had held off Kasey Kahne and Mark Martin to win the Pop Secret 500 Sunday at California Speedway and all but clinch a spot in the Chase for the Nextel Cup. So crew chief Todd Parrott was already smiling.

But Parrott's grin ramped up a couple of notches as soon as the topic of how Sadler had been coping with the pressure of nailing down a spot in the top 10 was broached.

"It has been so much fun to watch him," Parrott said. "He doesn't know it, but I've had a great time. It's cool to see the intensity in his face and to see somebody who cares about what they're doing and what they want so bad."

Sadler has been in the top 10 after every race this year, but he's also been close enough to the crevasse between 10th and 11th under this year's championship format to keep him in a nearly constant tizzy.

"The last month has been like a circus around me," Sadler said, who needs only to start Saturday's race at Richmond (Va.) International Raceway to lock up his Chase berth. "I've been about to throw up before every race."

Sadler was particularly on edge before last week's race at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway.

"I was just white as a ghost before the race started," Sadler said. "I blew out my uniform — I was trying to zip it up and it didn't zip. I had to race the whole Bristol race with my uniform open. I had to duct tape it up. It was a big mess."



Elliott Sadler celebrates his victory.

Sadler finished fifth at Bristol and came to California with a car he'd finished third in at Indianapolis. He nearly wrecked that car Saturday, spinning out in Turn 2 in the final practice with Jeff Gordon barely avoiding him in a cloud of tire smoke.

There was, however, no harm done, and during an afternoon and evening at California that saw 29 lead changes, Sadler took that No. 38 Ford to the front eight different times.

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By TROY HY

Sports Editor
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By TROY HY

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BIG SPRING HERALD

Page 1B
Thursday, Sept. 9, 2004

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

Bearkats battle in top-10 showdown

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

For the second week in a row, Garden City finds themselves in a battle with another top 10 team. This time the 10th ranked Bearkats take on ninth-ranked Sanderson in Garden City Friday.

Garden City head coach Ken Hoskins said Sanderson has a lot of experience and should be a tough match for the 'Kats.

Sanderson reached the semifinals in 2001, the finals in 2002 and the quarterfinals in 2003. And five seniors are where much of the team's success comes from.

"Those guys are very talented and the rest of the team are role players pretty much," said Hoskins. "They have three athletes that have been starting since their sophomore year.

"Sanderson has played in a lot of big football games."

Hoskins said ninth-ranked Sanderson runs a triple option on offense and the players are quick as a team.

"We must stop their option and trap," he added.

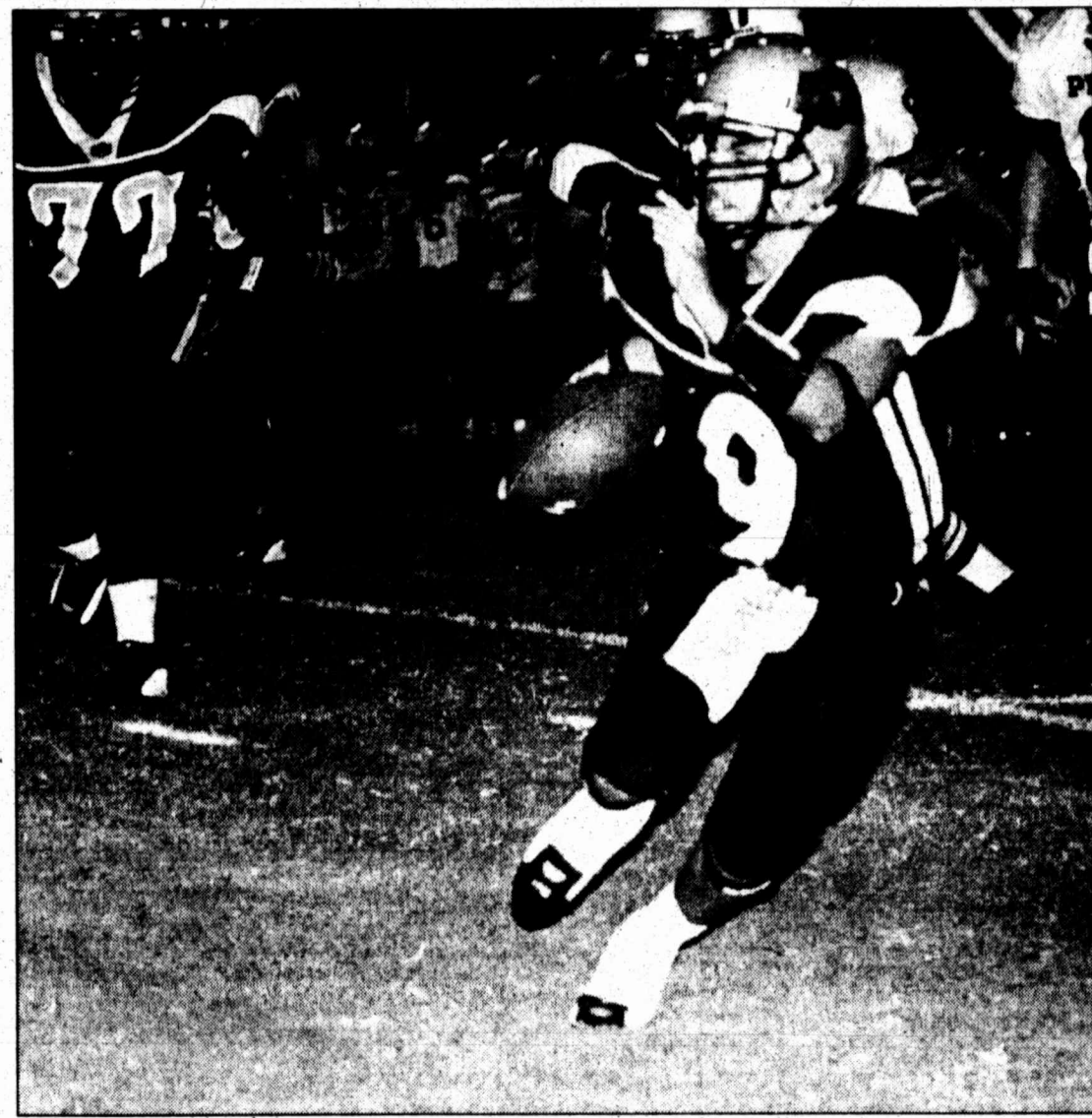
Offensively, Hoskins wants to establish the run early against Sanderson's 3-1 defensive set.

"Getting a good running game going will hopefully open us up to some good play action passing," added Hoskins.

Sanderson comes into the top 10 clash with one game under its belt as the team defeated El Paso Emmanuel Baptist, 77-0.

"We have had a good week of practice so far and I am expecting a good night of practice tonight," said Hoskins Wednesday afternoon. "If we execute Friday, I think we will be all right."

The varsity game will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, and the junior varsity squad takes to the field at 5 p.m.



courtesy photo/Bruce Schooler
Big Spring senior Jerry Doporto looks for running room against Odessa Permian last Friday night at Memorial Stadium. This week, the Steers hope to record their first win on the road against Hereford Friday. The game will start at 7:30 p.m. Big Spring defeated Hereford last season 49-7.

Buffaloes seek first win against Seagraves

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Stanton hopes Homecoming 2004 plays a role in its football contest with former district rival Seagraves Friday. So far, Stanton is 0-2 this year with losses coming against Reagan County and Roscoe. Seagraves is 1-1 and recorded a win against Lubbock Roosevelt, but lost to Coahoma 39-28 last week.

"We are just trying to get better every week," Stanton head coach Lee McCown. "Homecoming is a good thing at Stanton. The kids are being smart with things and I think we can use homecoming to our advantage. It will also be nice to see lots of people in the seats."

If Stanton is to be successful Friday night, McCown knows they must contain Seagraves' best wide receiver Aaron Smith.

"He is an exceptional athlete and in order for us to win we are going to have to stop their key players and play with intensity on defense."

McCown also sees Seagraves quarterback Bradley McGinnis as possible trouble for his Buffaloes.

"He is another key player for them," added McCown. "He runs the option and passes well."

McCown said Seagraves runs a 5-2 defense and has two good linebackers and good overall speed.

"We need to break tackles and make things happen offensively," McCown added.

Seagraves beat up on Stanton last year during district play and McCown has never defeated the Eagles in his three year reign as head coach.

Last week, Stanton improved, but came up short against Reagan County on the road, losing 14-7.

"They played their hearts out, but the guys lost out on some breaks," said McCown. "And the yellow flag hurt us too much, as well."

The game Friday against Seagraves will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma hopes to stay on winning track at home

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Last week, the Coahoma Bulldogs recorded its first win on the road against former district rival Seagraves.

This week, the Bulldogs return home in hopes of capturing their first victory at Bulldog Stadium.

Wall (1-1) comes to town

Friday night and they bring with them a wish-bone offense that features a lot of option.

"We have to get after it and play assignment football on defense against their option," said Coahoma head coach Robert Wood.

Wall has some big kids up front and like Coahoma, have young

kids in places throughout the offense and defense, added Wood.

Coahoma welcomes back junior Darrick Shifflett on offense this week as he returns from an injury.

Shifflett should add another option for senior Adrian Abrego to throw to as well, said Wood.

The Bulldogs defeated

Wall on the road last year, 34-18, but were shut out at home in 2002, 33-0.

"They embarrassed us here two seasons ago," said Wood.

Wall's win this year came against Coleman last Friday. It won the game 48-7.

Friday's non-district contest will begin at 7:30 p.m.



SHIFFLETT

This Week

At Home:

Coahoma vs. Wall, 7:30 p.m.

Garden City vs. Sanderson, 7:30 p.m.

Stanton vs. Seagraves, 7:30 p.m. (Homecoming)

Grady vs. Ira, 7:30 p.m.

On the Road:

Big Spring @Hereford, 7:30 p.m.

Forsan @Eldorado, 7:30 p.m.

Sands @Westbrook, 7:30 p.m.

Stopping rush will be key for Forsan Saturday at Sweetwater

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Forsan head football coach Tommy Thompson says the key to victory for his Buffaloes Saturday against Hawley at Sweetwater will be to stop Hawley's relentless rushing attack.

"They like to run the ball with leads and dives," said Thompson. "They will try to hammer it down our throats and will pass only when they have to."

"We are expecting them to run against us and our guys need to make good

contact and swarm to the ball. That is what we have been working on all week in practice."

Junior quarterback Tye Baker led the Forsan offense last week, but the Buffaloes lost to Eldorado, 50-7. Baker was five-for-14 through the air for 105 yards and one touchdown, which went for 44 yards to junior Jonathon Wright.

But this week, Thompson would like to establish the run early.

"We need to move the ball on the ground and then hopefully that will

open up the passing game for us," added Thompson. "Hawley has a good front seven and their linebackers drop into coverage well."

Hawley (0-2), which plays in Class 2A, has lost its first two games this year. They were defeated by Haskell in week zero and by Rotan last Friday.

Saturday's game will take place in Sweetwater and will begin at 7:30 p.m.

"I hope for better results this week," said Thompson. "We have to get after it from the start."

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IN BRIEF

C.G.A. announces monthly tournament

The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association has set up a golf tournament for Sunday 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 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.

For more information, call Tana Howard at 264-5155.

Relay for Life ragball tournament set

A ragball tournament, which has been set up to raise money for the Relay for Life, has been announced for Oct. 2-3 at 1 p.m. at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park.

The cost of the tournament is \$10 per player and each team must have five men and five women.

More more information or if you are interested in signing up, call Angel at the Big Spring ISD Bus Barn at 264-4108.

Phoenix Golf Club to host memorial

The Phoenix Golf Club has announced that they will host the first-ever Clayton Welch Henson Memorial scholarship night golf scramble.

The memorial will take place Saturday in Stanton and a fish fry (5 p.m.), auction (after fish fry) and night golf scramble (9 p.m.) will take place.

The cost will be \$40 for the fish fry and golf (cart and night balls included), or \$10 for the fish fry only.

Anyone with items they would like to donate to this benefit, or for more information, contact Gaye Hull at 458-3234, Radar Madison at 756-2988 or A.J. Luxton at the golf club at 756-2556.

Clayton Welch Henson, of Stanton, was killed in Iraq April 17 while serving his country.

The fund will provide scholarships to graduates of Stanton, Grady and Greenwood high schools.

Longhorns softball touney announced

A Longhorns softball tournament has been set for Sept. 18-19 at Comanche Trail Park.

The cost of the tournament is \$125 per team and T-shirts and trophies will be awarded to first, second and third place.

For more information, call Mike Hilario at 267-6619 or Sally Grant at 268-4728 or 393-5237.

ON THE AIR

Event, Time	Today	Monday	Tuesday
Baseball, 7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
Baseball, 8:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Baseball, 7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.

Clemens leads Houston to top of NL wild card

By JOEL ANDERSON
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — With two World Series rings and plenty of postseason experience over his 21-year career, Roger Clemens knows a lot about winning.

But the Houston Astros' furious push for the playoffs has left even The Rocket at a loss for a comparison.

Clemens got his 326th win to tie Eddie Plank for 11th on the career list, and the Astros hit four first-inning home runs to beat the Cincinnati Reds 5-2 Wednesday and move into the NL wild-card lead with their 12th straight win.

"I've been on clubs throughout my career who've won quite a few in a row," Clemens said,

"but I don't know if it's ever been like this."

Jeff Bagwell, Lance Berkman, Craig Biggio and Mike Lamb homered in the first off Jose Acevedo (5-11), sending Houston on its longest winning streak since taking a team-record 12 in a row from Sept. 3-14, 1999.

Houston has won 20 of 23 since Aug. 15 for the best record in the major leagues over that stretch.

"We're on a nice roll right now," Bagwell said. "It's kind of been amazing to me, all the home runs we're hitting. I've never seen it quite like this."

The Astros are a percentage point ahead of San Francisco and half-game ahead of the Chicago Cubs in the NL wild-card race, and they tied Tampa Bay (June 9-

22) for the longest win streak in the major leagues this season. Cincinnati continued its late-season swoon, losing for the 10th time in 12 games.

Clemens (16-4) won his fourth straight start, allowing four hits in seven innings. He gave up his only run in the first on Sean Casey's sacrifice fly, and Cincinnati managed only three singles over Clemens' next six innings. The Rocket finished with six strikeouts and two walks.

"Give credit to the hitters. They've come alive and made it ... easier for the pitchers," Clemens said.

Chad Qualls, Mike Gallo and Russ Springer pitched in the eighth, with D'Angelo Jimenez

hitting an RBI single off Springer, and Brad Lidge got three outs for his 21st save in 24 chances. With runners at the corners and two outs, Lidge struck out Juan Castro to end the game.

Biggio hit a leadoff homer, and Bagwell and Berkman hit consecutive drives with one out in the first. Jeff Kent walked, and Lamb connected for a 5-1 lead.

Acevedo lasted just one inning, and six relievers combined to keep Houston scoreless the rest of the way: John Riedling, Phil Norton, Ryan Wagner, Mike Matthews, Todd Van Poppel and Danny Graves.

Acevedo, who's been shuttled back and forth from the bullpen over the past three weeks, was

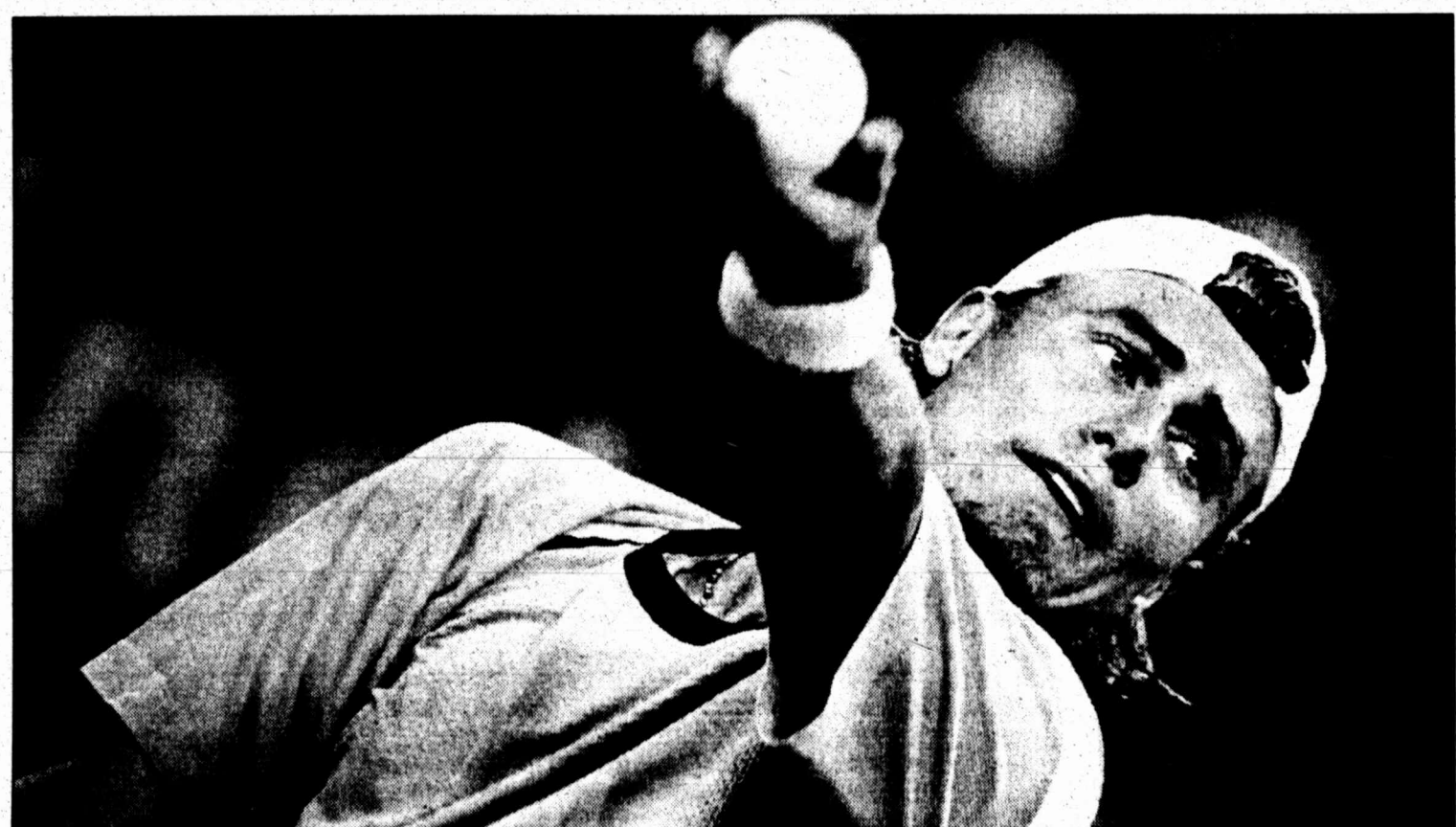
sullen following what was easily his worst outing of the season.

"I've got to find another way to pitch these guys," Acevedo said. "It's like they knew what was coming. There's just not much you can do against a team that's hitting like that."

Reds slugger Adam Dunn was left awed by the Astros' power-hitting display during the three-game sweep.

"It's not like these games have been close," Dunn said. "They have been beating teams by touchdowns. This is the right time of the year for them."

Houston has beaten Cincinnati eight straight games, outscoring the Reds 68-25 during that stretch.



Lleyton Hewitt defeated Feliciano Lopez, 6-1/6-4/6-2, in their third round match at the 2004 US Open in Flushing, Queens, New York, September 5. Both men's quarterfinal matches were suspended due to rain Wednesday. The marquee matchup between Roger Federer and Andre Agassi started but could not be completed. Federer leads two sets to one as the match will be finished Thursday afternoon.

Cowboys' secondary to be tested Sunday

By JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — For a team that finished last season with the league's top-ranked defense, the Dallas Cowboys sure are going into this season with a lot of problems, especially in covering receivers.

There's no proven cornerback beyond Terence Newman and safety Darren Woodson is out at least five games with a back injury.

They can't expect much help from a pass rush that looks better on paper than it did in the preseason. And they must be wary of officials who've been told to throw flags for anything resembling pass interference.

Oh, one more thing: The Cowboys must open the season Sunday in Minnesota's ear-splitting Metrodome trying to chase down Randy Moss and the rest of the Vikings.

"I think it's good for us," defensive lineman La'Roi Glover said Wednesday. "We'll find out right out of the gate whether we can step up and compete."

That's easy for Glover to say. He's a Pro Bowler, so he can handle challenges. He's also only been in Dallas the last two years, so he's never seen what Moss does to the Cowboys, the team he blames most for his draft-day slide in 1998.

As if taunting Jerry Jones with what he could've had, Moss has turned 21 catches into 525 yards and eight touchdowns in just four games — all Minnesota victories. He's had at least a 47-yarder each time and averages 25 yards per catch, easily his best

against any foe he's played at least twice. The TDs are his most against any non-division foe.

Defensive end Greg Ellis, the player Dallas drafted instead of Moss, and linebackers Dexter Coakley and Dat Nguyen are the only players left who played in any of those games. Even if they've been able to erase those memories, you can be sure defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer hasn't; back then, he was the secondary coach.

Woodson remembers them well, too, and he passed on the horror stories to Newman.

"It's like running around with a mean pit bull without a chain. He's liable to do anything he wants," Woodson told Newman.

Newman also has heard that Moss doesn't always try hard when the ball isn't coming his way. He doesn't expect to get that lucky this time.

"This is the first game of the season," Newman said, "I'm pretty sure he will."

Cowboys coach Bill Parcells is among those never to have gone against Moss. Still, he's

faced enough great receivers in his career that he figures the best plan is to merely hope to contain Moss, likely by mixing up the coverages.

"I don't think we could get away with just one thing with Moss," Parcells said.

Dallas usually jams receivers at the line, so Moss can expect plenty of that. The Cowboys could send a message by letting hard-hitting safety Roy Williams get in a pop or two. They also could have Newman shadow Moss, although that would be out of character for Parcells.

When Newman stays at his usual spot on the left side of the defense, look for Moss to line up against right cornerback Pete Hunter, a converted safety who didn't start a game last season.

"He's a tall, physical player and I'm a tall, physical cornerback," Hunter said. "So it should be a good matchup."

The Cowboys also know if they go all-out to try stopping Moss, other players can hurt them, starting with quarterback Daunte Culpepper. That's where Glover and the

defensive line come in.

Ellis and newcomer Marcellus Wiley are the ends expected to try getting to Culpepper, hoping to sack him or make him hurry a throw. Glover will try getting there from the inside, but he'll be without his usual nose tackle, Leonardo Carson, who is suspended for one game. Chad Eaton will start there instead.

Glover said the 42 sacks Minnesota allowed last season is proof Culpepper can be had. But he also knows it takes a lot to bring down the 6-foot-4, 264-pound quarterback and that he can be an effective runner.

"If we can get to him, throw off his timing, hopefully that will help our guys on the back end," Glover said.

While Parcells dismissed last year's No. 1 defensive ranking as ancient history and admitted he has serious concerns about this year's unit, he also pointed out there were many similar questions going into last season. They came out of it — having allowed a league-low 253.5 yards per game, going 10-6 and making the playoffs.

Rangers lose to White Sox, still looking up at playoffs

ARLINGTON (AP) — Freddy Garcia wasn't at full strength in his first start in over two weeks. He was good enough, though, to lead the Chicago White Sox to their fifth win in six games.

Garcia pitched five solid innings and Carlos Lee hit a tiebreaking RBI single in Chicago's four-run sixth, leading the White Sox to a 5-2 win over the Texas Rangers on Wednesday night.

"I'm not 100 percent," Garcia said. "I'm 75, 80 percent. That's the best way I can pitch. When I'm 100 percent, things don't always go well for me."

Garcia (11-10) allowed one run and three hits in his first start since Aug. 22, when he developed tightness in his right forearm. He struck out eight and walked two, improving to 7-3 for Chicago since he was acquired from Seattle on June 27.

Garcia must rebuild his arm strength, so he didn't have his best fastball. That forced him to depend more on his other pitches, and the formula was successful.

"His velocity wasn't always in the 90s, so he pitched better. He had to throw more strikes," manager Ozzie Guillen said. "But I don't care how hard he throws. He put zeros on the board."

Ben Davis homered and Timo Perez hit a two-run double for the White Sox, who remained 8 1/2 games behind first-place Minnesota in the AL Central.

Shingo Takatsu got four outs for his 17th save in 18 chances.

Kevin Mench homered as Texas lost for the eighth time in 10 games.

Texas batters struck out 15 times as the Rangers missed another chance to gain ground in the AL West.

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GARAGE SALE: 1502 Nolan, Fri. & Sat. 8-5. Lots of items. Too much to list.

GARAGE SALE: 4003 & 4007 Wesson Rd., Thursday, Friday & Saturday 8-?. Lots of misc. items.

GARAGE SALE: 705 E. 17th, Saturday 8-2. Clothing, bedding, furniture, home decor., misc. items. No Early Sales.

MOVING SALE: 2403 Cindy Lane, Saturday 8-4. Furniture, clothing, too much to list.

MULTI FAMILY Garage Sale, 4121 Theo Street. Friday 8:00-10:30, Saturday, 8:00-?. Redecorating and getting rid of good stuff to get even better stuff. So come buy good stuff for good prices. Furniture-including entertainment center, desk, home decor- including Home Interior, bedding, artwork, florals, gift baskets, dishes, clothes, & much more.

MULTI. FAMILY Garage Sale: 1418 Sycamore, Fri. & Sat. 7-?. Wood table w/ 6 chairs, kitchen appliances, household goods, baby clothes 0-12mos., lots of misc.

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1215 RIDGECROFT. Two bedroom, one bath. \$275. month. \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

1314 MT. Vernon. 3 Bedroom, 1 1/2 bath. Office, Screened porch, Central heat. References Required. \$400. month, \$250. deposit. Call (432)263-3535 after 6:00 pm.

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3 BEDROOM, 1-1/2 bath. 4221 Hamilton. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON

The Cancer moon brings focus to how we feel about our environment. You'll be able to put your finger on something that's been bugging you for days. Once problems are identified, they are easily remedied. With love planet Venus in Leo, a secret crush is hard to keep quiet. Even if your lips are sealed, someone observant will find out!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Originality is where it's at. Don't worry about fitting in. Instead, focus your efforts on selling your most unique talents. At work, you can expect a clash of personalities, but with a diplomatic touch, you will prevail.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The most powerful beliefs you hold are probably centered around your identity. You're in an experimental phase now, so the need to remain consistent is not as strong as usual.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What stands in your way is only an illusion. Willpower and hard work pay off eventually. For now, keep moving regard-

less of immediate results. Attend business seminars; you'll meet all the right people.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's easy to capture and hold someone's attention if that person thinks you have a burning secret, so don't feel you must voice everything. Saying what is on your mind doesn't always bring happy results. Be discerning.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're busy making commitments, proving your loyalty and giving selflessly. But take care of yourself, too — first, if you dare! Relay your needs, and you'll be amazed at how they are met. Asking more of others is healthy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Brighten people's spirits, or create a more harmonious environment, and you'll do well. Make calls, get packages off, fax, and file. The more organized you are, the easier it will be to notice anything you missed earlier.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've still got much to learn in order to make a

goal happen. Instead of being content with what you already know, close the gap in your knowledge by doing homework, research or planning.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Apparently random events are falling into a pattern. Is it you? Could it be? Well, of course, it is. Home in on the particular thing you are doing to create this trend. On a romantic note, you can't afford not to take risks today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The team needs a leader, and you're it. Friends flock to your side when you show true devotion to a cause. You've the gift of gab, and that helps loosen people up, sway them to your side and then motivate them to action.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's more than what you're reading on the surface. Become an expert at subconscious communication, and you'll always know who is lying. You can afford to be more generous with your attention.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You prefer to make

people feel good, and that's part of your charm — you live by the rule. "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." However, today, what your friends really want from you is the truth.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've got the sharp mind-set that can push any situation to your favor. Just don't act impulsively; patience will help you focus. Try new projects, and you'll meet people who'll help you find what you're looking for.

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 : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I have an 18-year-old daughter, "Marissa." I recently found a letter to her from her boyfriend in which he mentioned a sexual encounter they'd had. My husband and I would like to confront Marissa, and possibly her boyfriend, too, but the problem is the way we got our information. I picked the note out of Marissa's garbage can. My husband and I both are very concerned about Marissa having unprotected sex, but we don't want her to think we are snooping. Normally, we would never poke around in her things, but we needed to know what was going on.

Marissa is very headstrong, and we want to tread carefully so we don't accidentally push them closer together. Please give us some advice. — Her Mom

Dear Mom: How about discussing this with Marissa instead of "confronting" her? You snooped, Mom, so fess up. Tell Marissa you found the note in her garbage can and apologize for reading it. Now, however, you have an opportunity for an open discussion so you can be a source of support for her.

If Marissa already is having sex, a lecture from you is not going to help. What she needs is information on birth control and how to avoid sexually transmitted diseases. Also talk to her about values, morals and her expectations. Many young women are more committed than their partners, and a sexual relationship can turn into something quite painful if Marissa is emotionally unprepared.

Dear Annie: My husband is currently deployed in the U.S. Air Force, and there are days when I have no idea where he is. I am writing to let you know of a program set up by the Department of Defense to help our troops call home.

We ran into problems with regular prepaid calling cards, because they were not designed for use outside the United States. Either they don't work, or they cost more to use. The Department of Defense has allowed the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) to sell prepaid calling cards that are designed for overseas use.

The 550-Unit Military Exchange Prepaid Phone Card can be purchased by



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

anyone who wishes to make a donation to an individual service member or "any soldier" at www.aafes.com (1-800-527-2345). Just follow the icon on the right to "Help Our Troops Call Home." Please get the word out to others concerning this great way to keep in touch. Hearing the voice of your loved one helps you make it through to the next phone call. Thank you, Annie. — Proud Air Force Wife

Dear Proud Wife: We are more than happy to help our deployed troops call home. Readers who don't personally know any military personnel, but would like to donate a card, can do this as well. Thank you.

Dear Annie: I just received an invitation from my sister-in-law for a cocktail party to celebrate her son's eighth-grade graduation, her other son's 13th birthday, her boyfriend's 43rd birthday, her mother's 78th birthday, the adoption of her new puppy and a housewarming in her new million-dollar home.

Is it appropriate to celebrate so many occasions at one party, especially when she is serving only drinks and munchies? Am I supposed to spend money on all these people? — Anything Else I Should Bring a Gift For?

Dear Anything Else: It is confusing to celebrate so many disparate occasions at the same time. We recommend sending gifts in advance for the graduating child and the birthday boy (we assume these are your nephews). Mail cards to Mom and the boyfriend. Bring a small housewarming present, and on the note, congratulate your sister-in-law on the newest addition to the family. We think we've covered everyone.

Dear Annie: Our wonderful, 30-year-old son

died by suicide four months ago. He was a born-again Christian and a married man, smart, handsome, caring and liked by all. He offered his arm to senior citizens at church. He loved his family. What led him to suicide? In college, he was lured into trying drugs. Being young and invincible, he tried them "just once" and found he could not put them down. A decision that took a split second to make destroyed his life.

Drug addiction can attack all families, all colors, all income levels, all levels of education. No demographic group is excluded from this horrible demon. His father and I have been married 37 years. We are middle-class, college-educated, responsible citizens who raised our child with love, high standards and high morals.

Please, parents, do not be naive and think this cannot happen in your family. Keep your eyes open. If you see something that is even mildly worrisome, address the issue. Be alert for something that does not sound right to you. Don't always take your child's word. Keep the lines of communication open. Know their friends, where they are going, what they are doing. Enforce curfews. Don't be afraid to say "no." Help them develop wholesome, healthy interests. Don't be eager to send them away to college. Let them mature close to home for the first year or two. Help them find a passion to keep them motivated through the difficult parts of life.

I don't know that there is anything we could have done differently to avoid this tragedy. Our hearts are forever broken. Help me keep this from destroying other families. If it can happen to us, it can happen to anybody. — Michael's Proud Mom

Dear Michael's Mom: We ache for your loss. Parenting is one of the most difficult jobs on earth. Parents can do everything right, but children still grow up and make their own choices. We do the best we can with the tools we have. Thank you for caring enough to share your story with our readers.

Dear Annie: I had to laugh at your answer to the reader who has a pet rat. When my daughter was 4 years old, she

brought a rat home for the weekend from preschool. We were horrified at that big, fat, ugly thing with the long tail, but soon we realized that it was gentle, ate demurely, didn't run away and was kind of cute.

We then allowed the kids to raise a baby rat, which had the run of their room. It never made a mess because it liked its cage so much. When the kids came home from school, it came lunging toward them like a puppy.

Any pet can be therapeutic. Of course, always wash your hands after handling, and make sure it has a clean bed, food and fresh water. — Like Rats in Orange, Calif.

Dear Like Rats: We heard from plenty of rat aficionados, and we will concede that they might make good pets, but we'll pass, thank you.

Dear Annie: I was married for two years, but was dissatisfied and got a divorce. My husband took the breakup pretty hard. Now, a year later, I see how I let things get out of control. I miss my husband. After reading countless self-help books, I feel ready to try again, and be more committed and communicate better.

I hurt my ex deeply, and I've heard he has moved on, but I know he still loves me. He works in another state, and I have no way to contact him. His family will not give him my messages. What can I do to make this right? — Stanfield, N.C.

Dear Stanfield: You can explain to his family that you made a terrible mistake and want to do better, but if they still won't put you in touch with your ex-husband, please let it go. If he has moved on, you should, too. We're hoping you'll do better the next time around.

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.

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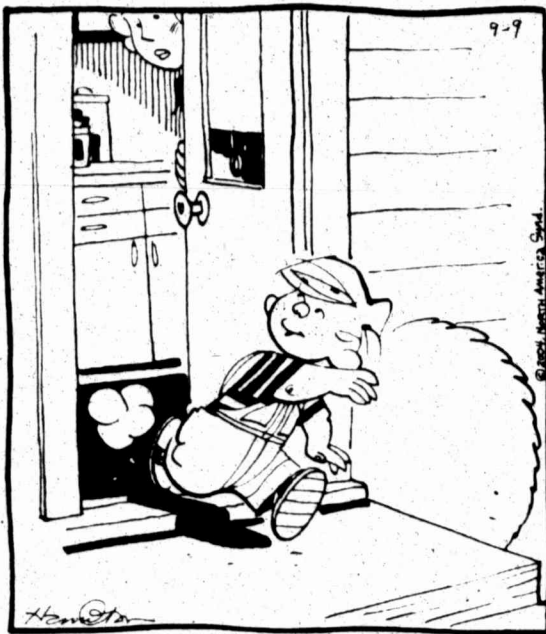
SEPTEMBER 9, 2004

THURSDAY

SEP. 9

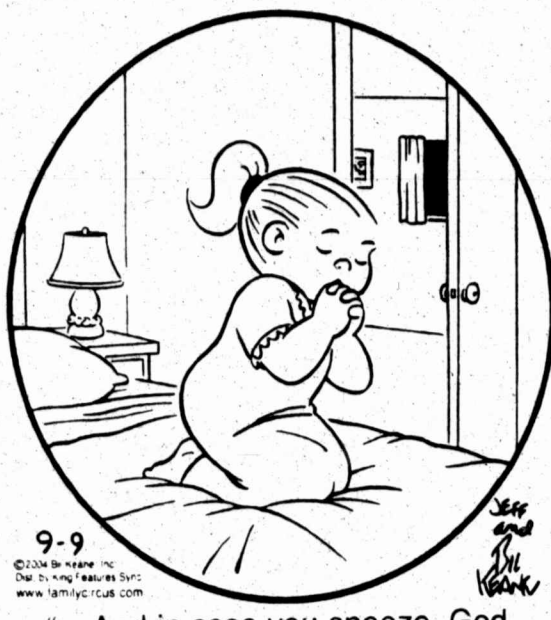
Table with 21 columns (WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, TMC) and 7 rows (6-12 PM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I GOTTA GO. MR. WILSON GETS REALLY LONESOME WHEN I'M NOT THERE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"... And in case you sneeze, God, bless you."

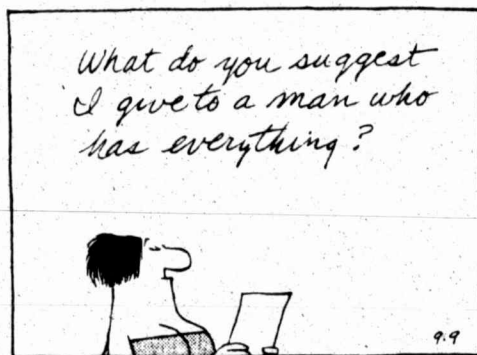
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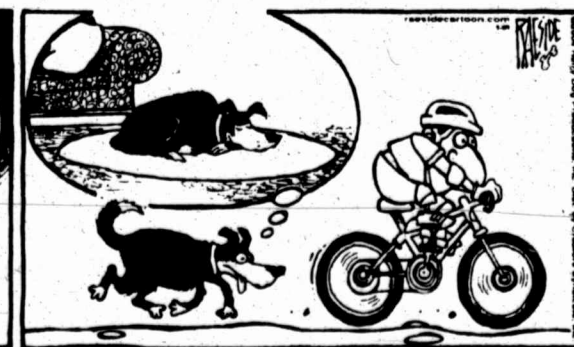
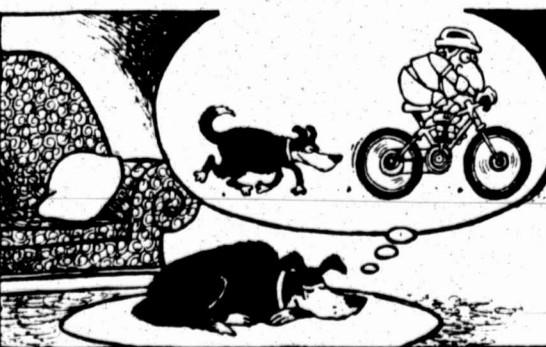
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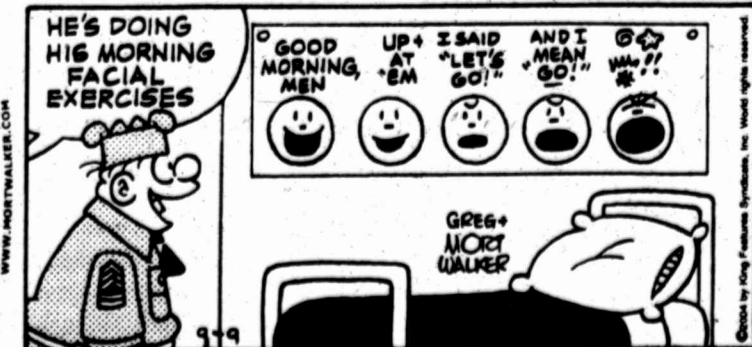
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 9, the 253rd day of 2004. There are 113 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 9, 1776, the second Continental Congress made the name United States official, replacing United Colonies.

On this date:

In 1850, California became the 31st state of the union.

In 1926, the National Broadcasting Co. was created by the Radio Corporation of America.

In 1943, Allied forces landed at Salerno and Taranto during World War II.

In 1948, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) was created.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made the first of three

appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

In 1957, President Eisenhower signed into law the first civil rights bill to pass Congress since Reconstruction.

In 1971, prisoners seized control of the maximum-security Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, N.Y., beginning a siege that ended up claiming 43 lives. In 1976, Communist Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung died in Beijing at age 82.

In 1993, PLO leaders and Israel agreed to recognize each other, clearing the way for a peace accord.

In 1997, Sinn Fein, the IRA's political ally, formally renounced violence as it took its place in talks on Northern Ireland's future.

Ten years ago: The United States agreed to accept at least 20,000 Cuban immigrants a year in return for Cuba's promise to halt the flight of refugees. Prosecutors in Los Angeles said they would not seek the death penalty against O.J. Simpson. The space

shuttle Discovery blasted off on an 11-day mission.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Cliff Robertson is 79. Actress Sylvia Miles is 72. Actor Topol is 69. Rhythm and blues singer Luther Simmons is 62. Singer Inez Foxx is 62. Singer Dee Dee Sharp is 59. Singer-musician Billy Preston is 58. Rock singer-musician Doug Ingle is 58. Country singer Freddy Weller is 57. Football commentator Joe Theismann is 55. Actor Tom Wopat is 53. Actress Angela Cartwright is 52. Musician-producer Dave Stewart is 52. Actor Hugh Grant is 44. Actor Adam Sandler is 38.

Answer to previous puzzle grid with words like FAVES, LAH, STET, ONALL, SUMO, EAVE, UNCLE, ALIT, AREA, LOUIE, DUSTS, TORM, UPTO, SUJET, ADMS, THU, BALSAM, PETE, TOTIS, MECCA, ICU, MOPTOP, RUT, NOBLE, SEMI, CUTE, GREATS, REL, OBEY, BUCS, LYON, SWEEP, PHAND, ELUDE, HALL, ELIA, TARES, ERIE, MELD, INSET, SPED, ESE, STEPS.

Newsday Crossword

OUTSIDE THE LAW by Robert H. Wolfe

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 RPM part 4 Where sparrows may sit 10 Le Pew 14 Libation station 15 Ideal spot 16 Moran of Happy Days 17 Kind of crook 19 Egg on 20 Be in accord 21 Felt regret 23 "Give me ___" (Columbus cheer start) 24 Frequent delivery 25 Kind of crook 28 Colony member 29 "I knew it!" 30 Ivy Leaguers, casually 31 Fr. holy woman 32 Ranch tyros 35 Area unit 36 Kind of crook 39 Fancy wheels 42 Minute quantity 43 HBO competitor 46 Becomes accustomed (to) 49 Tennis call 50 Word from the stands 51 Kind of crook 54 Horse hair 55 Extremity 56 Rights org.

- 57 Lesser part of a 45 58 Tale teller 60 Kind of crook 63 Volcanic mount 64 Mogul's home 65 Montreal summer 66 Changed color 67 Took five 68 Wine choice DOWN 1 Night wear 2 Refined and tasteful 3 Script change 4 Exercise authority 5 Giant great 6 "Wow!" 7 Richard's veep 8 Bind 9 Free from risk 10 Get-up-and-go 11 Not consistent 12 Western settler 13 Get behind 18 Food fish 22 Circle line: Abbr. 25 Cast out 26 Attacked 27 Lacking bubbles 29 Bustle 33 Misplay the ball 34 Like old rye 36 Sort of stopper 37 Bakery finisher 38 Filming area 39 Defamed in print 40 Mindlessness 41 Quite ordinary 43 Tractor follower 44 Authorization to act 45 Rooted for 47 Important time 48 Suburban kids' sport 52 Nonchalantly unconcerned 53 Prank victims 54 Food additive initials 57 Raised, as horses 59 X-ray unit 61 Diamond wood 62 Sport ___ (kind of vehicle)

Crossword grid with numbers 1-68 indicating starting positions for clues.