



City to clamp down on ordinance violations

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

If you have a lot in the city of Big Spring that's overgrown with vegetation, beware.

If you park illegally in the front yard of your home, beware.

That was the message Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen handed down during Monday night's meeting of the Big Spring City Council.

According to McEwen, city

code enforcement and other officials will be taking the gloves off when it comes to city residents who "thumb their noses" at city ordinances.

"What we've done in the past is send out letters and give a 10-day notice asking them to please rectify the situation," said McEwen. "What we're finding out is there's no compliance with those letters and people aren't coming into compliance."

"So what we're going to do in

the future is just cite them. If you're not adhering to our ordinances — whether it be weedy lots, overgrown yards, large items in your yard or you're parking on the grass — you will be cited the same way you would be for a traffic citation."

McEwen said area residents who aren't familiar with the ordinances should contact the city of Big Spring and educate themselves, but in the end, a lot of it is just common sense.

"I think common sense

"It's a small group that may not understand what the ordinance is, but will come to know it very well, very soon."



Tim Green, Municipal Court Judge

rules," said McEwen. "You can't just park in your yard indiscriminately. If you have two cars and you have a single car driveway and want to park

a car next to that driveway, you can in fact have a gravel area or a dirt area or whatever. But

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Senior center pact gets OK

Rift appears to widen between staff and its board of directors

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

While Howard County commissioners called for better communication between the staff at the Spring City Senior Citizens Center and its newly appointed board of directors, it appears the rift that's developed between the two groups is widening.

Commissioners gave their unanimous approval of a set of definitions and policies developed by the board for the senior center Tuesday, a move Bobby Sledge, who has been a patron at the center for more than a decade, called underhanded.

"I think they're going behind the backs of the people (senior center staff) out there and getting all of this done," said Sledge. "They could be cooperating with them, but they're not."

"Me and many of the people that go to the center have a problem with the board because it's a negative-type board. That's the way I see it."

—Bobby Sledge, Senior Center patron

Senior center staff member Yolanda Mendoza confirmed that neither her or the staff at the center had seen the definitions and policies prior to Monday morning's meeting.

"Judge Lockhart, can we please get a copy of these policies?" asked Mendoza during the meeting. "We haven't had a chance to see them yet."

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ENJOYING A LAZY DAY



Valentine Torres Jr. and his 4-year-old son Valentine Torres III take a break from fishing at Comanche Trail Park to enjoy a good swing. Torres said the fishing was slow right now, having only caught a small catfish during the pair's outing.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Big Spring ISD students storm competition at regional contest

□ Win One-Act Play title, advance several to state competition.

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Big Spring High School's academic squad just keeps repeating itself.

Fresh off its first-ever win at the district University Interscholastic League academics meet, BSHS pulled a "two-fer" at the regional level, earning top points honors at the Region 1 Class 4A UIL academics meet at Angelo State University.

BSHS collected 173

points to earn top honors among 35 schools competing at the meet. Azle High School finished second with 157 points, while El Paso High School earned third place with 109 points.

This marked the second year in a row that Big Spring students earned top points honors at the regional UIL meet.

Tracie Lindsey's drama students got things going BSHS' way Friday when they captured first place in the One-Act Play competition. The students' performance of Steve Martin's "Picasso at the Lapin Agile" earned BSHS a spot in State UIL competition for the first

time since 1990, ahead of Denton High School and El Paso Burges.

James Clark was named Best Actor at the competition and Jessi New was named to the all-star cast.

As at last year's regional meet, speech and journalism points once again clinched the win for Big Spring.

Senior Tony Emerson placed first in feature writing and third in headline writing, earning two spots at the state UIL tournament May 5. Emerson and Taylor Parks also added to point totals in news writing.

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Student recruitment

Howard College to offer more scholarships, intramural program to attract high school grads

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Attracting new students, as well as retaining current ones, is about to become a bigger priority at Howard College.

In the face of a study that shows declining college enrollment in the West Texas region, Howard trustees approved a plan for recruitment and retention of students during their monthly meeting Monday afternoon.

College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said loss in student enrollment is not



Sparks

a serious problem at Howard yet, but could become so unless the college takes action.

"We know that our (public) school districts are battling declining numbers of students, and those are the areas that we've been recruiting heavily in for years," Sparks said. "So we need to recruit not only locally, but also in this area and region — and state-wide, as well — in order to increase our

numbers in the future." College officials are looking at a future addition to the school to help attract new students. The visual and performing arts building, set for completion in March 2006, should help entice students to attend Howard, Sparks said.

To further aid recruitment, the college will offer new scholarships in performing arts, rodeo, cheerleading and for students interested in helping to kick-start an intramural program at

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TIP MEETING SET

The Texas Department of Transportation will host a meeting in Colorado City at 6:30 p.m. today to focus on the 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

TIP is a three-year program that includes a priority list of all transportation projects that will be carried out within that period.

The meeting will be held in the Mitchell County Courthouse.

Areas affected by the program are Borden, Callahan, Fisher, Haskell, Howard, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Shackelford, Stonewall and Taylor Counties.

EARLY VOTING

Early voting continues in the May 7 area municipal and school board elections. Locally, the only contested election is the Big Spring City Council District 3 race, which features Bob Kincheloe Jr. challenging incumbent JoAnn Staulcup. Voting hours are from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at city hall offices, 310 Nolan Street.

Sands CISD board incumbents Martin Nichols and Robin Barraza are joined on the ballot by Rick Timmins and Wes Hughes. The top two vote-getters will win spots on the board. Voting is from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the district business office.

AMERICAN PROFILE



The terrible twos were multiplied by six in the Headrick household. Fortunately, Sondra and Eldon got some help baby sitting, feeding and potty training Danielle, Ethan, Grant, Jaycie, Melissa and Sean from nurturing neighbors in Rago, Kan. (pop. 18). "At first I called them volunteers," says Sondra, 36, "but now they're our family."

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Constitutional change would ban gay marriage

AUSTIN (AP) — Lawmakers who passed a measure to ban her moms from getting married need help or maybe just a gay friend, said 10-year-old Kimberly Norman.

"I don't think that they're opening their eyes to look at the world to see everything," the fifth-grader said in an interview at the Capitol after the Texas House approved a change to the Texas Constitution to ban same-sex marriages.

Her moms, Karen Langsley and Jill Wilcox, have been in a committed relationship for more than four years. They live in Dripping Springs, where they are raising Kimberly and her 12-year-old brother. They said they were disgusted with legislators who approved the ban, which would require a statewide vote.

"They put down who we are as individuals, as humans, who ought to be protected by the constitution that applies to every citizen," Langsley said.

The measure, sponsored by Republican Rep. Warren Chisum of Pampa, aims to stem possible court challenges to an existing Texas law making same-sex marriages illegal. It passed with a vote of 101-29, more than

the 100 needed for approval of a constitutional amendment in the House.

Proposed lottery bill allows Internet purchase

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas would become the first state to sell lottery tickets online under legislation approved by a state legislative panel.

Under the bill approved by the state House Appropriations Committee, players also would be able to pay for lottery tickets with a debit card and establish a Texas Lottery Commission account that would draw down as they bought tickets.

The proposal was inserted in a larger bill, which would allow motorists to display one license plate on the rear of a vehicle.

Rep. Jim Pitts, the committee chairman and bill author, said Internet sales of lottery tickets would earn an additional \$100 million a year. The lottery raised \$1 billion last year for schools.

Rep. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio, a supporter of the bill, described its chances in the full House as 50-50.

Rep. Myra Crowner, R-Denton, objected to the proposal, saying it could give children access to buying tickets and easier access could fuel addictions.

VIOLATIONS

Continued from Page 1A

you have to have a permit if it's an 'undeveloped' area. There are some 76 people who have come to the city and have been inspected, and they have permits to have those types of situations at their home."

Those unfortunate enough to find themselves on the receiving end of a citation will learn one very valuable lesson, according to Municipal Judge Tim Green.

Breaking the law isn't cheap.

"They can look for a fine up to \$200," said Green sternly. "They're done on a case-by-case basis. You really can't just jump in there and set a fine because there could be circumstances. So we like to view them on a case-by-case basis."

"What we're talking

about today is the habitual guy that just keeps thumbing his nose at us. That's who the crackdown is targeting. As always, we'll help out the elderly or anyone with a handicap or disability. We'll work with them. But it's almost always the same people over and over again, and we're at the point where you just ask yourself what do you do?"

While Green is forced to deal with these types of issues on a daily basis, he said it's important not to lose sight of the fact that most area residents are pulling their weight when it comes to making Big Spring look good.

"For the most part, the majority of the people out there are doing what they need to do," said Green. "And anytime we're doing a crackdown like this we're not saying the majority of the people out there are doing these

things. It's a small group that may not understand what the ordinance is, but will come to know it very well, very soon."

For more information on these ordinances and others, contact the city of Big Spring at 264-2505.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Leon Lowry, 80, Friday. Graveside Services were at 10:30 AM Tuesday at Fair Lawn Cemetery in Elk City, Oklahoma.

Virgil Prim, 74, died Saturday. Graveside Services will be at 3:00 PM Wednesday at DFW National Cemetery in Dallas.

Donnie Beth Ogle Oringderff, 63, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Callie Bennett, 75, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Peggy Kirby, 66, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ed Sternadel, 59, died Monday. Services are pending.

CENTER

Continued from Page 1A

Sledge said it is this type of lack of communication that has him and many of the patrons at the center wondering if the board of directors really have their best interests in mind.

"Me and many of the people that go to the center have a problem with the board because it's a negative-type board," said Sledge. "That's the way I see it."

Sledge went on to say the importance of the center goes beyond line-dancing classes and just a daily gathering for senior and elderly residents.

"I've been going out there for 12 years," said Sledge. "At one time we had a board comprised of the people that go to the center. That's the way we operated up until recently."

"I think it's very important. There are people involved in that center that come out to eat that might not have another meal. I go to the center for my enjoyment and I pay

for my meals, but there are a lot of people that go out there that can't pay for it. And those are the people the center really serves."

Sledge's suggestion that the commissioners table the policies and definitions to give senior center staff and administration time to review them and make any necessary arguments was dismissed by the court.

"This is definitely a step in the right direction," said Commissioner Bill Crocker. "We didn't have any rules or policies in place, and we need these to give direction to those involved with the senior citizen center."

Board President Bebe McCasland said she was pleased with the commissioner's decision as well, and expects to be back in the near future.

"I'm elated. I'm elated that this document has passed," said McCasland. "This is a living document and an ongoing document. We'll be back in the (commissioner's) court at a future date with more amendments."

"I was asked by the

director of the Area Council on Aging if we were copying someone else's policy," she added. "I told her no, that I think our situation is unique and we need to individualize it and suit it to the Big Spring center. She told me that was perfect."

McCasland described the document accepted by commissioners as a "work in progress," and said she hopes to see it improve the service area seniors receive from the center.

"It's needed and the board is certainly going to participate in the ongoing structure and building of that center," said McCasland. "That's what we were appointed to do. It's a work in progress. That's an old catch phrase, but I think it works for this situation. And we have an opportunity to serve thousands of age 60 and older residents in this county and city, and we need to generate more enthusiasm and have more programs. We're looking to the future with optimism."

While commissioners may be pleased with the

establishment of policies for the center, they certainly weren't pleased by the price tag necessary renovations at the facility are going to cost:

County Construction Administrator Phil Furqueron told the court the first round of improvements, which included much needed electrical and plumbing work necessary to bring the building up to speed with the state's health codes, will cost approximately \$33,000.

Commissioners approved a \$3,000 expenditure to fix the building's electrical panel, but Crocker said in the end, the strain on the county's budget will be obvious.

"That's going to be a pretty good size hit to the budget," said Crocker, going over the \$33,000 estimate. "We need to get the details from Mr. Furqueron to study them and see just what is

involved.

"The electrical panel, from what I understand, is very dangerous. They're using long extension cords to operate equipment, and you and I both know this can be a very dangerous situation — it has the potential to become very dangerous. This is why we need to resolve this very quickly."

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

UIL

Continued from Page 1A

but did not advance to the state meet in that event.

Emerson was the top point-gainer in journalism events.

Senior Manoj Thangam earned a spot at state in

Lincoln-Douglas debate with his first place win. Thangam also finished first in persuasive speaking.

Corey Green placed first in informative speaking and James Clark placed second in persuasive speaking. Tapley Holguin also won a spot at the

state meet in poetry interpretation, placing third at regionals. Also earning points in speech and debate events were Logan Churchill and James Clark.

Speech also won first place in team points and journalism placed second in team competition.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

Howard Sparks said.

An intramural program would be instrumental in attracting students to the campus, she said.

"We want Howard College to be a campus that students will feel a certain synergy about ... and a place they'll want to be a part of," Sparks said.

The total monetary amount of the scholarship package is unknown right now, but Sparks estimated it could reach as high as \$100,000.

But attracting new students is only part of the equation in battling declining enrollment, Sparks said, noting that the college must do more to retain students in danger of dropping out of classes.

To help these at-risk students, the college will implement a "learning framework" course, a one-hour credit course designed for students placed on academic probation.

The course will serve as a "how to survive college" manual for the at-risk students, covering several topics the college used to

address in its now-discontinued freshman orientation seminars.

"A lot of our students are 'first-generation' students, and don't have the kind of family background to deal with a college situation," Sparks said.

If the course proves to be successful, the college then plans to offer it to all first-year students, Sparks said.

In other business,

trustees:

- Named retired English professor Gary Grant professor emeritus of Howard College.
- Approved the retirements of instructors Anna Bartosh and David Lewis of Howard's San Angelo campus.

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

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Coahoma changes kindergarten sign-up

Special to the Herald

Coahoma Elementary has changed the registration process for kindergarten students for the 2005-2006 school year.

Registration for children 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2005, is set for 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. May 3 in the Coahoma elementary cafeteria.

Parents and children will meet in the cafeteria at 5 p.m. Teachers will take half of the children for a bus tour around the campus, along with a milk and cookie snack.

The other group of children will tour the building and meet the school nurse.

Parents will remain in the cafeteria for a question and answer session.

The two groups will then switch activities so

all children participate in both events.

Registration packets and kindergarten supply lists will be distributed at the event.

After completing the paperwork, parents should submit the forms as well as the child's official birth certificate, original social security card and current shot record to the elementary school office.

Parents must also provide their driver's license and original social security card.

Students will not be enrolled in kindergarten without these documents.

Parents unable to attend this event may enroll their child in kindergarten the week before school begins. Dates will be announced.

Pre-kindergarten registration will be announced

at a later date and will not take May 3.

Parents who do not have a student enrolled in the Coahoma Independent School District this year must go to the school administration office before May 3 to complete a proof of residency form.

A utility bill that lists a physical address is required to complete the form.

The notarized proof of residency form must be brought to the kindergarten registration event.

The administration office hours are 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. Friday.

The office is closed from noon until 1 p.m. for lunch.

Call the elementary school at 394-4323 for more information.



Heritage Museum director Nancy Rainey, left, and museum children's director Tracy Sloan assist magician Bill Mills perform a magic rope trick with Magen Schreengost, center, during the annual Chuck Wagon Party at Kokopelli's recently. About 100 museum member attended the dinner, which also featured door prizes and art work that was given away, including paintings by Sue Bagwell, Lenita Fryar and Linda Rupard Irvin.

Commenting on lost art of communication

Communication hit an all-time low for Ron and I a few weeks back.

I subbed for a school one Monday and he gave a program at the same school that Wednesday.

One of the teachers put two and two together and came up with the last name Alton, so she asked if Ron knew me or was related to me.

He replied, "No." He even elaborated that there were no other Altons in this area, none

in the phone book and so on.

Unbeknownst to me, I was asked by the same teacher if I knew him on the following Thursday.

To which I replied, "Of course. That's my husband."

She was pretty amazed that I knew him but he didn't know me.

It was then that I had to explain that Ron and I see each other on the calendar now and then and sometimes not even then.

Communicating is not our strong suit and couples who actually engage in the lost art simply astound me.

That the husband would actually let the wife know that he wanted to invite someone to

lunch or dinner beforehand just blows me away.

I can't count the times that I've sat at the local drive-in on FM 700, cooling my heels while Ron's waiting patiently at the one on Highway 87.

The problem seems to be that we honestly believe we've told each other what we're doing — out loud — and it turns we've done no such thing.

...Maybe on our next anniversary.

Christy Alton works full time, has two children and is married to her park ranger, Ron. Her column appears in the Tuesday edition of the Big Spring Herald.



CHRISTY ALTON

Briefs

Cauble School reunion scheduled

The Cauble School reunion is set for 11:30 a.m. May 7 at the Spanish Inn Restaurant.

This reunion is for all friends and ex-students of Cauble School. It is a Dutch-treat meal.

Bring school pictures and other memorabilia to be shared at the reunion.

For more information, contact Ross Callihan at 267-6023.

Big Spring Symphony tickets available

The Big Spring Herald has tickets to be given away for the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra's presentation of "A Spring Gala" at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Municipal Auditorium.

The tickets are sponsored by ALON USA.

They will be distributed on a first-come, first-gifted basis.

To receive two free tickets to the concert, call 263-7331.

Senior Citizen driver safety course set

A senior citizen driver

safety course will be taught at the Big Spring Senior Center on Thursday and Friday, May 5-6, starting at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m. each day with a half hour off for lunch. There is a \$10 fee for the books.

Most auto insurance companies give a discount on insurance premiums after completing this course. To register call the Senior center at 267-1628. Class size is limited to 35.

This course is the nation's first and largest classroom refresher for motorists age 50 and older. It deals with the physical changes of the mature driver and identifies ways that drivers may compensate for these changes. The course material is based on research about what is needed by this age group to update driver knowledge and skills.

National Foster Care Month activities set

May is National Foster Care Month, a time to honor America's foster parents and the vital role they play in the battle against child abuse and

neglect. Foster parents provide safe, loving homes for children who have been abused or neglected. Today, as more children fall victim to abuse and neglect, the role of foster parents and the need for foster homes has never been greater.

In observance of National Foster Care Month, a community-wide celebration of foster children and families is planned for May 4 at 12:05 p.m. on the courthouse steps in Midland, Howard, Dawson and Andrews Counties.

The "Elevating the Lives of Our Children" blue balloon release will serve to raise awareness of both the impact of child abuse and neglect and of the tremendous need for foster homes.

In Texas in 2002, there were 47,409 confirmed cases of child abuse. 58 percent of these children were under 10 years of age.

In 2002, there were an average of 16,000 children in foster care each month but only 7,000 foster homes.

For find out more about foster parenting, call 1-800-223-3405.

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- April 18 • Monday**
• Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm
(Chair Exercises)
- April 19 • Tuesday**
• Mall Walking - 8:00 am
(Meet At The Mall & Walk Together)
• Supper Club "Cowboys" - 5:30 pm
Relay For Life Committee Meeting at
Kentwood Center - 5:30 pm
- April 20 • Wednesday**
• Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am
(Eat For \$2.00 In The Hospital
Cafeteria)
- Games For Seniors - 2:00 pm
- April 21 • Thursday**
• Mall Walking - 8:00 am
(Meet At The Mall & Walk Together)
• Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am
• Lunch-N-Learn - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Book Fair - SMMC Lobby
10:00 am - 6:00 pm
- April 22 • Friday**
Book Fair - SMMC Lobby
7:00 am - 3:00 pm
- April 25 • Monday**
• Shreveport Casino Trip
• Relay For Life Committee Meeting
Kentwood Center - 5:30 pm
- April 26 • Tuesday**
• Mall Walking - 8:00 am
(Meet At The Mall & Walk Together)
• Shreveport Casino Trip
Relay For Life Committee Meeting at
Kentwood Center - 5:30 pm
- April 27 • Wednesday**
• Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am
(Eat For \$2.00 In The Hospital Cafeteria)
- Shreveport Casino Trip
- April 28 • Thursday**
• Mall Walking - 8:00 am
(Meet At The Mall & Walk Together)
• Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am
(Coffee With Members)
• RSVP Annual Volunteer
Recognition Banquet - 6:00 pm at
Dora Roberts Community Center
- April 29 • Friday**
• Senior Circle 6th Anniversary Party
(Cake/Ice Cream & Door Prizes 3:00 pm)

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IN BRIEF

Big Spring Country Club announces couples tournament

The Big Spring Country Club has set up a two-day two-person couples scramble for May 14 and 15.

The tournament will cost \$130 per team plus cart fee, but private carts are welcome.

A practice round will take place May 13, while registration begins at 11:30 a.m. May 14 and a shotgun start begins at 1 p.m.

There will be prizes for three places per flight and a male/female longest drive and closest to the pin awards will also be given.

Dinner will be served after play on both days.

For more information, call 267-5354.

Cornell Corrections sets up second dodge ball tourney

Cornell Corrections has set up a second dodge ball tournament to benefit Relay For Life.

The tourney will take place Saturday at the YMCA and registration must be done by Thursday.

The tourney starts at 9 a.m. and costs \$10 per person and teams must have eight people — male and female.

For more information, contact Phyllis Turney 267-2004.

Forsan ISD sets up all-sports banquet

Forsan has announced that its all-sports banquet will take place Tuesday, May 3, at the high school.

Tickets for non-athletes and parents are \$10 and they must be purchased before Thursday.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Forsan High School Office at 457-2223.

Tickets may also be purchased at the high school office.

C.G.A. announces monthly golf tourney

The Chicano Golf Association has set up its annual Four Person Selective Drive Tournament for Sunday at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

Registration must be done by 9:30 and the tournament will use a shotgun start beginning at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact Billy Pineda of the Chicano Golf Association at 264-7116.

Softball tournament announced at Cotton Mize Softball Field

A Class D and E softball tournament will take place at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park Friday and Saturday.

The entry fee is \$100 and prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place.

For more information, call JR Landin at 264-1736 or Abel Rios at 432-213-2115.

Motivated Villarreal advances to semifinals

Big Spring senior takes out No. 2 seed at regional tourney

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
SAN ANGELO — Big Spring senior Veronica Villarreal is just two wins away from a state berth after breezing through her first two opponents at the Region 1-4A tennis tournament Monday at the Bentwood Country

Club in San Angelo. Villarreal easily defeated Canyon Randall's Shayna Pierce in round one 6-0 and 6-2 and then came up with a huge win in match No. 2 as she knocked off second-seeded Jennifer Flack of Wichita Falls



VILLARREAL
Flack of Wichita Falls

Rider 6-4 and 6-4. "She won the first match like expected and it was a good warm-up for her," said Big Spring coach Sarah Corse. "Then she played outstanding tennis against Jennifer Flack. Things went well for her (Monday) and we'll just have to wait and see what happens (Tuesday)."

Villarreal entered the tournament not seeded, which came as a bit of

surprise to Corse, but not getting a seed gave the Big Spring senior a little more motivation.

"She may have been upset that she wasn't seeded and looked a little bit more motivated for this match," said Corse. "The fire and determination was definitely there."

Villarreal played No. 4 seed Hilary Jennings of Birdville in the semifinals Tuesday morning, but results of that match

were unavailable at press time. The finals were played at 10 a.m., as well.

Sophomore Roshan Shroff also competed in boy's singles at regionals. He was defeated in round one by Simon Trujillo of Fabens 4-6, 6-1 and 6-2.

"He played well, but ran into an experienced senior," said Corse. "It was his first time here so getting the experience was the big thing for him."

Coahoma's Laurikkala in hunt after round one of regional golf tourney

Stanton's team holds down 13th

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
BAIRD — Coahoma's Sini Laurikkala is in the hunt after day one at the Region 1-2A golf meet played Monday at the Shady Oaks Golf Club in Baird.

Laurikkala shot an 85 in the opening round and sits six strokes off the lead, trailing Kyla Whittley of Wall, who shot a first round 79. Laurikkala is currently tied for sixth with Kermit's Kayleigh Yount. They are just one shot out of fifth, two strokes out of third and three back of second.

"Sini played well and struck the ball very good," said Coahoma coach Kim Nichols. "She had troubles putting and ran into problems with a

tree on the second hole, but recovered nicely on the back nine."

Laurikkala's front nine score was 44, while she shot a back nine 41.

Sonora is leading the team standings after shooting a first round 380. Canadian shot a 393 and is in second, while San Saba, Idalou and Kermit are placed third, fourth and fifth.

Stanton is currently in 13th place, eight strokes ahead of district rival Colorado City.

Megan Cook led Stanton after day one as she shot a 104. Savannah Smith turned in a 111, while Bonnie Kendall fired a 116.

Samantha Portillo (117) and Amanda Jo Bryand (120) also competed for the Lady Buffaloes.

The final round was played today in Baird, but final results were unavailable at press time.

Dallas addresses defensive troubles this year at draft

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer
IRVING (AP) — Bill Parcells is doing everything to mold the Dallas Cowboys into a 3-4 defensive team, except to just say that's what he's going to do.

The expected switch to the scheme Parcells has preferred in the past, but never before a standard for a Cowboys coach, became more clear during the draft. Six of eight Dallas picks were defensive players, including ends Demarcus Ware and Marcus Spears in the first 20 selections of the first round.

One of the primary free-agent acquisitions before the weekend was 305-pound defensive tackle Jason Ferguson, a block-eating wide body that will fit nicely in a three-man front. Plus, there were several player and coaching changes, most prominently linebacker Dexter Coakley being released and Jim Jeffcoat fired after 19 seasons as a player and defensive ends coach in Dallas.

"It's quite obvious our defense is going to have a new look," Parcells said during the draft, the first time he'd spoken publicly to reporters since after the season finale.

Parcells had already told defensive assistants to prepare for every eventuality. One of the offseason tasks given to defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer was to get familiar with the 3-4 defense.

"He is familiar now because he spent all winter to get familiar with it," Parcells said. "I said, 'Don't tell me about what

you don't want to do. Be prepared to do whatever I tell you because it's not going to be a suggestion at some point in time for what we do."

Still, Parcells insisted he hasn't decided to move to primarily three-man fronts in Dallas. The Cowboys surrendered 405 points while going 6-10 last season.

"It's definitely possible," he said. "I didn't say it was probable, but said it was possible."

The right pieces are in place to make the transition.

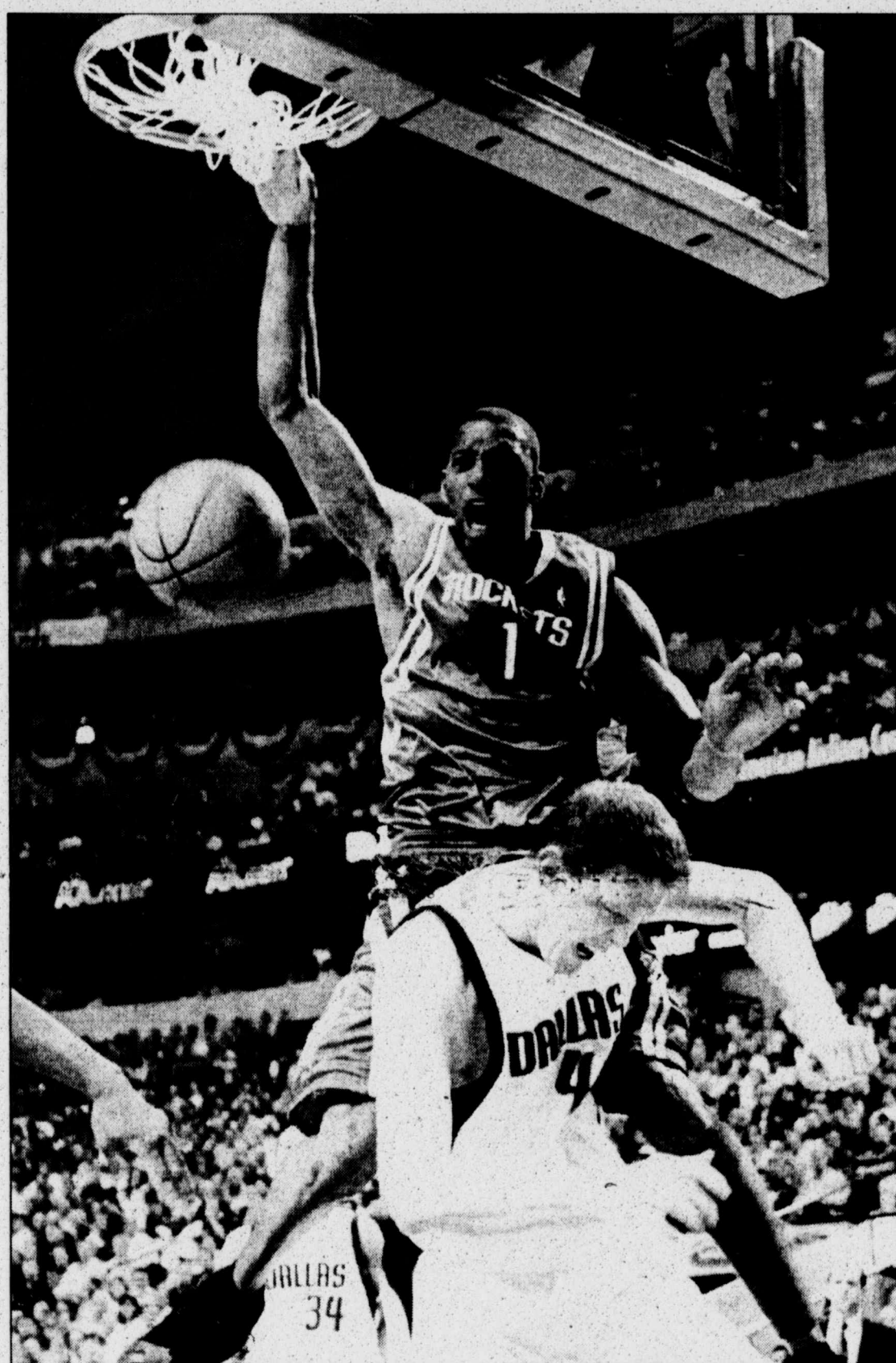
Spears, a 304-pounder from LSU, is similar to Ferguson, who signed a \$21.5 million, five-year contract. Those newcomers also will allow Parcells to reduce the number of plays for perennial All-Pro tackle La'Roi Glover and end Greg Ellis.

The 251-pound Ware is going to be an outside linebacker in Dallas. Parcells compared the player from Troy to "No. 56" (Lawrence Taylor) and Willie McGinest, drafted fourth overall by Parcells when he coached New England in 1994.

Tennessee linebacker Kevin Burnett, drafted in the second round, can play in either a 3-4 or 4-3 scheme like the first-round picks. The Cowboys also drafted Virginia's Chris Canty, a prototypical 3-4 defensive end at 6-7, 239 pounds, and Auburn defensive tackle Jay Ratliff.

Parcells used a fourth-round pick to get Minnesota running back

See COWBOYS, Page 2B



Tracy McGrady of the Houston Rockets comes down on the Dallas Mavericks' Shawn Bradley after putting down a slam dunk in the first quarter. The Rockets defeated the Mavericks at American Airlines Center in Dallas Monday night and grabbed a commanding 2-0 series lead.

Houston slam dunks Dallas in game No. 2, takes control of series

Rockets grab advantage against favored Mavericks

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer
DALLAS (AP) — Jeff Van Gundy gave Tracy McGrady a choice.

During a timeout with 26.4 seconds left and Houston up by two points, the Rockets coach asked McGrady whether he wanted to stop the clock again if Dallas tied it. No way, McGrady said. So they decided McGrady would go right at the defense and take a quick shot, preferably off a screen by Yao Ming.

Great call. McGrady surprised the Mavericks by charging up the court, going around Yao and nailing a 2-pointer with 2.2 seconds left. When Dallas

Michael Finley missed at the buzzer, the Rockets had a 113-111 victory Monday night and a 2-0 lead in the first-round series.

"We shocked them a little bit by not calling timeout," McGrady said. "My teammates didn't even know. The only people who knew were me and Yao. ... I saw them scrambling on the defensive end. We caught them off-guard pretty good."

With the next two games in Houston, starting Thursday night, the Rockets — who've won nine straight — can move even closer to getting into the second round for the first time since the days of Hakeem Olajuwon. It also would be a first for McGrady.

But he knows better than to look ahead, remembering how his

Orlando team blew leads of 2-0 and 3-1 in the first round against Detroit two years ago.

"We've got to stay grounded," he said. "We haven't done anything yet."

Actually, McGrady and Yao have done something. This game established them as the Western Conference's new dynamic duo, filling the void created by the breakup of Shaq and Kobe.

The preseason hype and hope surrounding their union became a reality with Yao scoring 33 points — making 13 of 14 shots, his only miss arguably a turnover — and McGrady scoring 28 with 10 assists, eight rebounds, three steals and three blocks.

"We've got to find a way to stop him," said

See ROCKETS, Page 2B

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ROCKETS

Continued from Page 1B

Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki, who scored 26 points but struggled with his shooting again, making just 8 of 21 shots.

Stopping McGrady and getting Nowitzki started are the primary challenges for Mavs rookie coach Avery Johnson, who has lost twice in three days after losing that many games his first five weeks after taking over for Don Nelson. Dallas closed the regular season 16-2 for Johnson and came into this series having won nine straight.

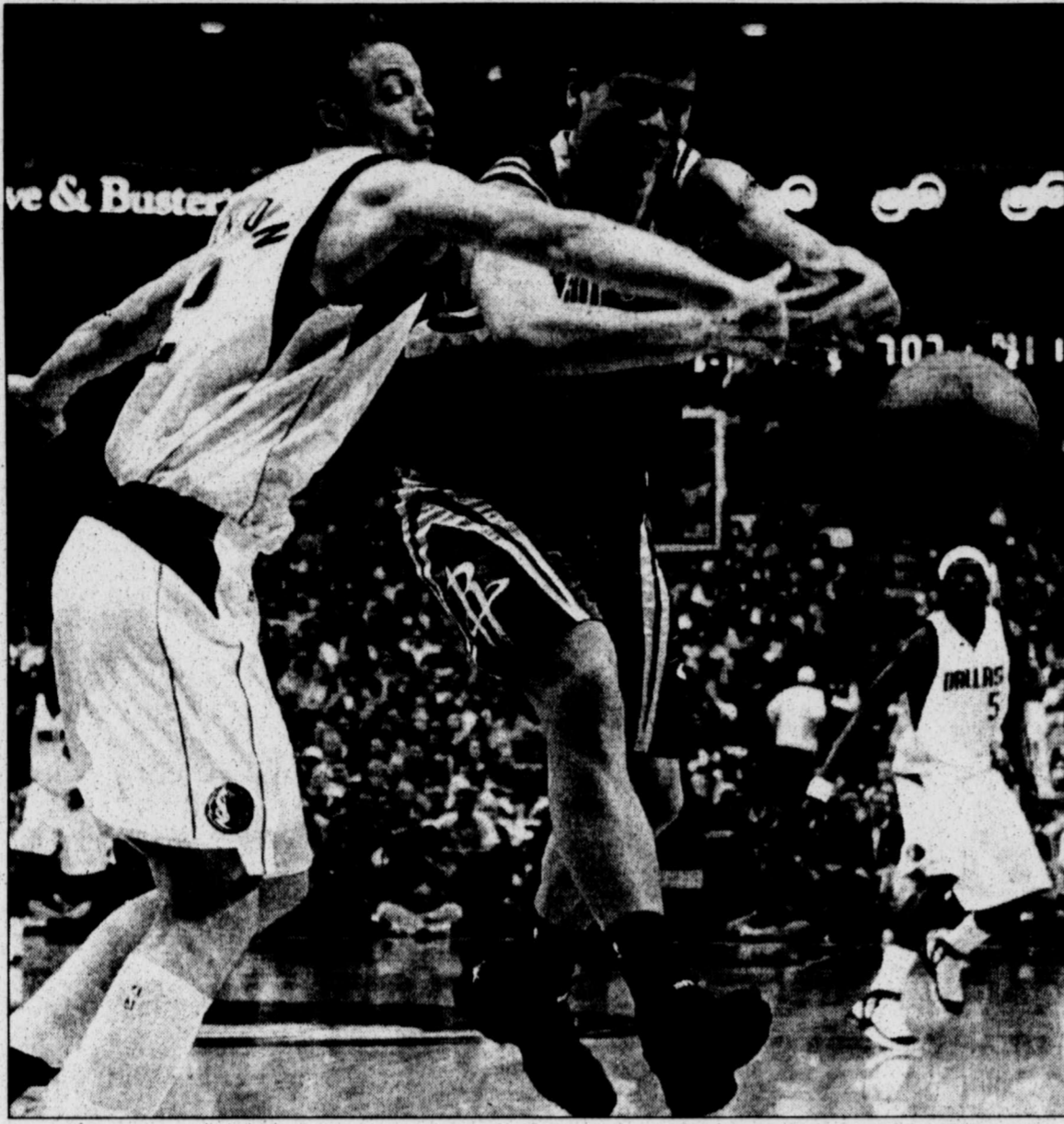
As bad a hole as this is, Dallas has been in worse. In 2001, the Mavs trailed Utah 2-0 in a best-of-five series before advancing. This group also goes to Houston having won a franchise-best 29 road games.

"It's possible," Finley said. "It's happened before. It's not like we have to win the lottery."

The Rockets led the entire first half, by as much as eight, but the Mavericks gained control early in the second half — for the first time since 12:10 in Game 1 — and were ahead most of the last two quarters.

Houston trailed 102-95 with 5:36 left, but McGrady began a go-ahead run of six straight shots with a long jumper. After Dallas tied it at 109, McGrady drove to the rim and slipped the ball to Yao for an easy dunk and the lead with 1:06 left.

Nowitzki tied it again with a jumper from around the free-throw



Keith Van Horn, left, of the Dallas Mavericks and the Houston Rockets' Yao Ming battle for a rebound in first quarter action Monday at the American Airlines Center in Dallas. Houston won the game and now leads the series 2-0.

line with 10.4 seconds left. It was during a timeout before that play that Houston had decided what to do next. "They tried to trap me in the backcourt, but I got away from them pretty easily," McGrady said. "I just got the ball up the court. Yao set a great screen. I realized I was by myself when I came off. ... Let me be honest. I don't even know if there was someone else. I was so

zoned out. I don't know, I don't care." Houston won the opener easily behind a big game from McGrady, but a quiet one from Yao, who was taken out of sync by foul problems. He was aggressive from the start this time, scoring 17 points in the first quarter. His only all game came on his seventh shot, when Nowitzki popped the ball away as he was bringing it up.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

Marion Barber III as a backup for Julius Jones, but didn't need the draft to address other big concerns on offense.

Quarterback Drew Bledsoe reunited with the coach who made him the No. 1 overall pick in 1993, replacing 40-year-old Vinny Testaverde. Pro Bowl offensive guard Marco Rivera was signed to protect him, though the guard had surgery to repair a bulging disk in his back soon after arriving.

Parcells said undue pressure was put on Testaverde last year when Jones and receiver Terry Glenn were injured, and the Cowboys played from behind so often because of the defensive struggles.

"Had that not happened, he would have been more effective than he was," Parcells said.

But that didn't keep Parcells from signing the younger version of his former quarterbacks after he was released by Buffalo.

"Drew likes our system, it's not like a big learning curve," Parcells said. "All you've got to do is look at Buffalo last year. Once they got the running game going, they started winning. It's as simple as that. Once they got balance in the attack, it was as simple as that."

Bledsoe signed a \$14 million, three-year contract a week before free agents Rivera (\$20 million, five years), Ferguson and cornerback Anthony Henry (\$25 million, five years) joined him.

About to be 10 seasons removed from the last of three Super Bowl titles with the Cowboys, owner Jerry Jones was more than willing to spend big. "This was a good time to have frustration because we can do something about it," he said. "I've been frustrated before with the Dallas Cowboys when we were really behind the 8-ball with the salary cap and without a No. 1 pick."

"We were disappointed this year, and we had change in my mind. We had the cap room and the draft picks to address it."

Pirates' Perez outduels Oswalt on mound

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — After puzzling his own team all season, Pittsburgh Pirates left-hander Oliver Perez decided to start fooling the guys wearing the other uniforms.

Perez shook off a season-long slump to allow

four hits over 7 2-3 mostly dominating innings, outpitching Roy Oswalt and leading the Pirates to only their second home victory, 2-0, over the Houston Astros Monday night.

Perez (1-2), taking his catcher's advice by mixing up his pitches more than before, didn't give

up a hit until two outs in the sixth and struck out nine.

Oswalt (3-2) gave up two runs on sacrifice flies to end his three-game winning streak.

The Pirates had a major league-worst 1-6 home record, but ended a four-game losing streak at PNC Park



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HENRY BACKES



MOE SKEETER MOSQUITO AND THE HOTDOG

Moe Skeeter Mosquito lived in the deepest, darkest, wettest part of the swamp called "Okefenokee." Do you know where the Okefenokee Swamp is? Try to find that on a map tomorrow.

The Okefenokee Swamp is not a terrible place to live, if you are a mosquito. Lots of birds and animals love to live there. Do you think that you would like to live there with them?

I think that we had better get on with this story before you fall asleep, don't you? Are you tucked in? Did you brush your teeth? Good! It sounds as if you are ready for this story. When we do get started and then get to the end,

tell me if you think this story is true or not. Remember to tell me in case I forget to ask. Promise?

When Moe was a very little mosquito, no one taught him what he was supposed to eat. The very first thing that he tried was vegetables. But soon, he knew that he wasn't going to like them. Mosquitos aren't supposed to even try eating



vegetables! But humans are! Do you like vegetables?

As he became a little older, he decided to try eating fruits. He tried all of the fruits and just didn't like any of them. Do you like fruits? Humans are supposed to like them, but mosquitos aren't!

When Moe finally grew up, he still didn't know what mosquitos are sup-

posed to eat. He had tried everything that he

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could think of and could find nothing he liked. Until THAT day!

Moe Skeeter woke up that morning and was feeling very hungry. But he

didn't know what he was going to have for breakfast. He decided to go to a little mosquito village that was just over the hill and go to a drive-thru restaurant and order something from their menu. Did you know that mosquitos could drive? Did you know that mosquitos have drive-thru restaurants? I didn't know it either, and I surely didn't know that they could read a menu. But this is a bedtime story, and we have to use our imaginations just a tiny bit. Ok, in

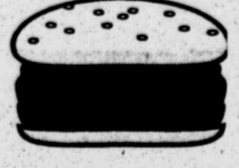
this story, we have to use our imaginations a lot!

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Just as Moe was getting close to the drive-thru, an old mosquito came over to his mosquito car and said, "If you really want something that is very good to eat, then try a dog." We all know that mosquitos love to bite humans, cats, cows, sheep, horses, birds and every thing else that moves! Moe wasn't sure just what a dog looked like, but he did tell the old mosquito that he would try one. Maybe it would be very good. Maybe not!

Moe looked at that menu very carefully, searching for a dog. He found ham-

burgers. But mosquitos don't eat hamburgers! He found steaks.



Mosquitos don't eat steaks, either! Cole slaw! Mosquitos surely don't eat cole slaw! What will he do? He is really starving now! And then he saw it! Right there on the bottom of the menu, he found just what the old mosquito had told him about. Dogs. Hotdogs! He thought to himself that the dogs would taste even better if they were hot!

Moe ordered two hotdogs to go and then found himself a nice place to eat near a babbling brook. When he bit down into that first hotdog, well, it was the best thing that he had ever tasted. Pretty soon, both hotdogs were gone! If Moe hadn't been a mosquito, he would have been a great pig!

Moe finally had found a

good food to eat. And he ate a lot of hotdogs after that day. And sometimes when he had visitors come by to chat with him, they would often talk about mosquito food.

They asked Moe once what was his favorite food and he told them that he liked dogs the very best. And do you know that they said the very same thing. They loved dogs the best, too!

It's time to "buzz" off to sleep now. Moe Skeeter Mosquito said to tell you, "Goodnight"

PS, I didn't forget to ask you if you think this story is true or not. I was waiting for you to tell me. Did you forget? "Goodnight again"



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Wacky Facts

May 1 is Mother Goose Day.
May 5 is Cartoonists Day.
Mother's Day is May 8.
This year, Memorial Day falls on May 30.
— World Almanac for Kids

KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"He wants Texas back."
— Dodgers' manager, Tommy Lasorda, in 1981, when asked what terms Mexican-born pitching sensation Fernando Valenzuela might settle for in his contract negotiations.



In The News

A chat with Beverly Cleary

Beverly Cleary had trouble learning to read as a child. But that didn't stop her from becoming one of the best-loved children's authors of all time. She wrote her first book, "Henry Huggins," in 1950. Since then, she's brought many popular characters, like Ramona Quimby and Otis Spofford, to life. Her books have earned her many prestigious awards, including the 1984 Newbery Medal for "Dear Mr. Henshaw."

Cleary's new book, "Two Times the Fun," is about 4-year-old twins Jimmy and Janet, who have all kinds of adventures. It's based on her experiences with her own twins, who are now adults. TimeForKids spoke with Cleary about writing and her books.



TFK: There was no library in Yamhill, Ore., where you grew up. Is it true that your mother created one?

CLEARY: Yes, she had books sent from the state library. She kept them in a china cabinet in a smoky-smelling room over a bank. She was always enthusiastic about reading.

TFK: You had difficulty learning to read as a child. How and when did you finally grow to love books?

CLEARY: I was in the third grade. It was a very dreary, rainy Sunday, before television, I didn't have anything to do. But my mother always read to me, and kept books around that I might read. I picked one up to look at the pictures and discovered I was reading, and actually enjoying what I read. It wasn't just something I was doing in school.

TFK: How do you come up with plot ideas?

CLEARY: Some things are based on my experiences or memory, and some come from my imagination. Sometimes ideas just seem to come out of thin air. That's the fun of writing—starting something and finding out what turns up.

TFK: Where do you get the inspiration for your characters?

CLEARY: My characters come from myself, people I have known, or people I would like to know.

TFK: Ramona Quimby is your best-known character. Why do you think she's been so popular all these years?

CLEARY: Ramona comes out of my own childhood emotions, and I think all children have pretty much the same feelings. Many people have written to me that they could relate to Ramona when they were children.

TFK: These days, there are so many TV programs to distract children. What can kids get from reading books that they can't get from television?

CLEARY: Reading exercises the imagination in a way that television doesn't. It's all right there on television. But in reading, your imagination creates the pictures. If children don't have imagination, they're not very interesting people.

— Jennifer Marino



SHEAR BEAUTY

Create a cut-paper banner to celebrate Cinco de Mayo

By MAGGI MANNING
Knight Ridder Newspapers

You may have seen them, beautiful banners of cut paper hanging festively in Mexican restaurants. These banners are called, in Spanish, papel picado, which means punched or pierced paper. They are based upon a traditional folk art from Mexico used to decorate during festivals.

May 5 is Cinco de Mayo, a day when Mexican-Americans celebrate the Mexicans' victory over the French in the Battle of Puebla, Mexico, on May 5, 1862. People celebrate with songs, food and dancing.

During festivals, papel picado are strung across streets and plazas, lay like tablecloths on altars and tables, and hang in windows.

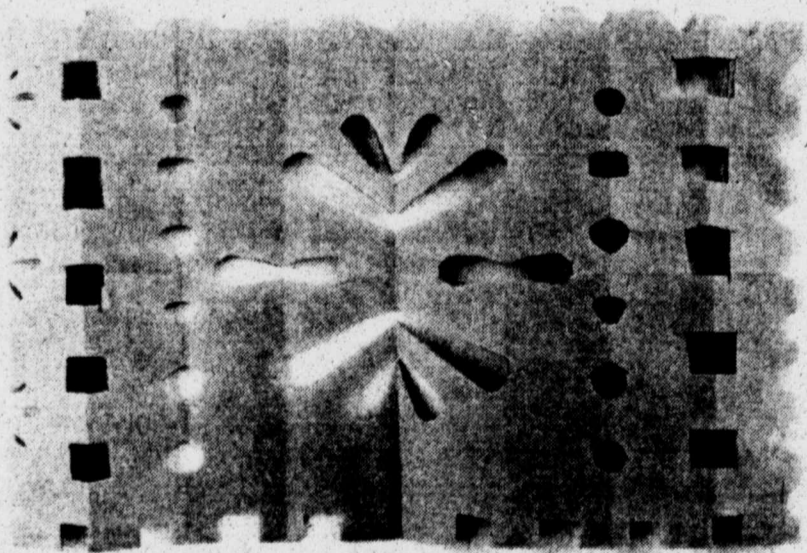
Author Kathleen Trenchard was fascinated by these banners but had a hard time finding a book about them, so she wrote one: "Mexican Papercutting" (Lark Books, \$14.95). She says traditional Mexican artists use hammers and chisels to create their paper art. After drawing a design, they place their template over a stack of tissue paper and cut through all the paper using their tools.

However, for simplicity and safety, we'll work with one folded sheet of paper using small craft scissors. Craft knives will also work well, but should be reserved for older kids.

Traditional designs have a lattice look with many intricate cuttings. Folding the tissue over and over will give us the opportunity to create a fairly intricate design without "punching" the paper.

Try this design, inspired by Trenchard's work.

Mexican Papercutting



PHOTOS BY NATALIE CAUDILL/KRT

Always cut the folded side of the paper.

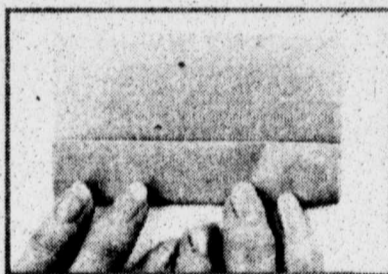
If an area remains uncut, fold your paper to gain access. Folds can be ironed out afterward.

NOTE: Mexican paper cutting is also used during Mexican Independence Day and Day of the Dead holidays.

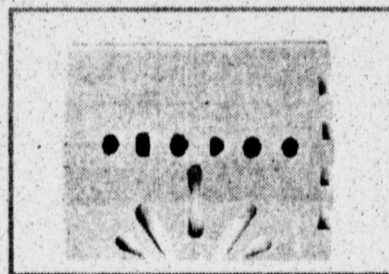


Tools

- Colorful tissue paper 13 by 8 inches
- Craft scissors or small scissors with sharp points
- A ruler
- String or filament
- Glue stick



STEP 1 Prepare the tissue paper. Cut tissue paper to 13 by 8 inches. Fold it in half vertically, so it is 6½ by 8. Fold horizontally to 6½ by 4. Fold again vertically to 3½ by 4. Take the folded 4-inch side and fold the bottom edge up 1 inch.



STEP 5 Unfold to 3¼ by 4 inches and cut rectangles along the folded side.



STEP 2 With your craft scissors, cut a small petal shape in the center of the fold.



STEP 6 Unfold to 6½ by 4 inches. Along the one remaining uncut folded side, cut small petals for each of three flowers. These are very small cuts, so you may cut three or five petals per flower.



STEP 3 Unfold the bottom edge. The cut will look more like an hourglass. Cut more petals, two on either side of the center shape, to create a flower.



STEP 7 Make a new fold by turning the petal edge up 1/16 inch. Cut rectangles along the new fold. Fold the opposite side in the same manner and repeat the cutting process.



STEP 4 Fold the tissue in half, to 1½ by 4 inches. Cut semicircles across the new fold.

STEP 8 Unfold to 6½ by 4 inches. Cut the perimeter of the unfolded edges with a scallop design (see far left image).

STEP 9 Unfold the tissue completely. To hang, use a glue stick to apply adhesive to one 13-inch edge of the tissue. Then, lay filament across the glued edge and fold the tissue over. Repeat this with the other tissues so they hang next to each other (see top).

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