



## Diez y Seis Fiesta set to get under way Friday

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

It's time for a fiesta, as the Diez y Seis de Septiembre Fiesta gets ready to take off Friday, Sept. 15, in the Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring.

Kelly Zant, a spokesperson for the Diez y Seis Festival Committee, said the festival will be the perfect chance for area residents to celebrate Mexican independence.

"Commemorating Mexico's



ZANT

declaration of independence from Spain in 1810, the Diez y Seis Festival Committee of Big Spring invites the entire community to the fiesta to celebrate and recognize the national holiday of Mexican independence," said Zant. "This fiesta will bring the whole community together as we celebrate the rich heritage, history and cul-

ture of the Mexican patriots who fought for their independence from the Spanish government during the early 1800's."

Zant said one of the main attractions for this year's festival will be music.

"The two-day event will feature a variety of Tejano bands that will bring the extraordinary sound of the accordion to life through various levels of rhythms and beats," said Zant.

"The unique sound that is incorporated using different

types of stringed, horned and electronic instruments — along with the vocal harmony of these colorful bands — brings the heart and soul of our Tejano community to life," she continued.

"Friday, between 6 p.m. and midnight, we'll feature local favorites Grupo Super Bravo, Conjunto Mi Gusto and Hilda Llamas," Zant said. "On Saturday, starting at 11 a.m. and lasting until midnight, Hacienda Records artists

Bronco Norteno, Michelle, Los Papiz, Mingo y Los Mungia Brothers and Jessie Marroquin will perform."

Zant said there will plenty of games and contests available during the two-day event, offering something for everyone in the family.

"If washer pitching is your game, be sure and enter the Tournament slated to start Saturday at 1 p.m.," said Zant.

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Former Texas Gov. Ann Richards, shown here speaking to a group of supporters in an Austin, as she conceded to Republican challenger George W. Bush in the 1998 governor's race, died Wednesday night following a brief bout with cancer.

## Ann Richards dead at 73

By KELLEY SHANNON

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Former Texas Gov. Ann Richards, a darling of the Democratic Party, champion for women and minorities in government and famous for her sharp humor, has died after a battle with esophageal cancer. She was 73.

The silver-haired Richards rose to nationwide prominence when, as state treasurer, she gave the keynote address at her party's 1988 national convention. She sealed her partisan reputation with a blast at then-Vice President George H.W. Bush, saying: "Poor George, he can't help it. He was born with a silver foot in his mouth."

Ron Kirk, former mayor of Dallas, said Richards was instrumental in the lives of countless young minorities and women entering politics. She helped him get his first internship in politics during a state constitutional convention in 1974 then later, when she was governor, made him secretary of state.

"She set the table so somebody like me could become mayor of Dallas," Kirk said.

When he was a child in Austin, Kirk said, Richards fought for people like his parents.

"I didn't appreciate it at the time, but Ann Richards was one of those forward-thinking, rabble-rousing young Democrats that used to go around and raise

money to pay poll taxes so people like my mother and daddy could vote," Kirk said.

Political leaders remembered Richards for her leadership, her instincts in politics and her fun-loving approach to life.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry described Richards as "the epitome of Texas politics: a figure larger than life who had a gift for captivating the public with her great wit."

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, said Richards never stopped enjoying life.

"I wrote her a note when I heard about her cancer and she wrote me back a wonderful letter. She was upbeat and positive and I

See RICHARDS, Page 3A

## Large item pick up set for Sept. 22

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Who would think spring cleaning extended all the way into September?

The city of Big Spring, of course.

The city will once again offer its Large Item Pick Up program, designed to help area residents get rid of large items they can't get

to the landfill themselves, Sept. 22, working through District 5 of the city.

"It's a widely used program," said Todd Darden, director of public works for the city. "We're trying to target people who are elderly, handicapped or otherwise don't have the means to get these large items to our landfill."

"This is a service the city is providing as a courtesy to those people and give them the opportunity to get things off of their property they might not be able to otherwise."

Darden said there are many household items area residents may have laying around that qualify for the program, which is offered at no charge to city residents.

"Some of the more typical items we pick up are tree branches, appliances that don't work anymore, couches and mattresses,"

said Darden. "Those are the kind of things that we can take to our landfill and we're allowed to pick up."

"We can't pick up any household hazardous waste. That means any kind of chemicals including lawn chemicals, car batteries and tires and things of that nature."

All items must be by the curb in the city's right-of-way no sooner than 24 hours before the scheduled pick up. Items need to be separated as much as possible for its trip to the municipal landfill.

Darden said customers need to be aware of gas, water and electricity meters and lines when they put their large items out to be picked up in an effort to protect their services and the city employees helping with the program.

"The reason we need people to be cognizant of where those meters are is because a lot of time we have to bring in equipment to pick those large items up," he said. "If you cover the meters up, it's hard for us to know where they are. Using the equipment makes the pick up go quicker and we want to make sure our employees are safe while they are picking these things up."

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## Local DAV chapter slates open house for Saturday

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Through its many years of existence, the Disabled Veterans of America's mission has been constant — to support U.S. military veterans injured during time of war.

Officials with the local DAV chapter look to reinforce that message when they host an open house between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday at the chapter house on Seventh and Abrams streets.

Ed Meiser, local chapter commander, said refresh-

ments will be served and local DAV officers will be on hand to answer questions and possibly attract new members.

Membership to the DAV is open to all U.S. military veterans who were injured during time of war. This includes the

current-day conflict in Iraq, Meiser said.

"We're just reaching out to the veterans in this area," Meiser said. "Our organization is all about veterans and helping veterans."

Meiser and chapter vice commanders J.L. Stevens

and Frank Stiles will be on hand at the open house to answer any questions about the organization.

In addition, Patrick Carnahan, the chapter's department service officer, will be present to answer questions concerning veteran claims

and any inquiries concerning treatment of service injuries.

For more information, contact Meiser at 263-5163.

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

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### UW DINE OUT DAY

Al's & Son Barbecue, 1810 Gregg St., is the Dine Out Day restaurant Friday for the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

A portion of the restaurant's proceeds that day will be donated to United Way which serves 15 local agencies: YMCA, Victim Services, Girl Scouts, Westside Day Care Center, Westside Community Center, Salvation Army, Northside Community Center, Isaiah 58, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, CASA of West Texas, Council on Aging, Buffalo Trail Council of Boy Scouts of America, Big Spring Humane Society, Boy's Club of Big Spring and American Red Cross.

### LVFD FUNDRAISER SLATED

Dancing for firefighters? You bet! Four Way Gin will be the site for the annual Lenora Volunteer Fire Department dance and barbecue, set for Saturday, Sept. 23.

All funds raised at the event — admission is by donation — go to help the volunteer fire department. LVFD Fire Chief Dusty Wells said they are expecting 300 to 400 people at the fund-raiser, which begins at 7 p.m. with the serving of brisket and continues with the dance from 9 p.m. to midnight. He said the department normally responds to 30 fires by this time of the year, but has been called out 58 times already in 2006.

### LOVE OUR LAKE CLEANUP

Volunteers are needed for Keep Big Spring Beautiful's "LOVE OUR LAKE" Clean-up set for 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23.

Sign-ups will be at the tennis building north of the Dora Roberts Community Center in Comanche Trail Park.

Participants are asked to bring their own gear if possible. Disposable gloves and trash bags will be available.

The group could use two or three paddle boats or boats with small motors (10 hp) to assist cleaning on the lake while other volunteers work the shoreline.

For more information, call Debbie Wegman at 263-8235 or 916-9179.



# Suicide can be spotted, prevented with knowledge

By VALERIE AVERY

Special to the Herald

People who are contemplating suicide often send signals they want to end their life.

Often times, suicide can be prevented by recognizing the signs and intervening in a sensitive and timely manner, said Shelley Smith, West Texas Centers for MHMR CEO.

"Most people will let you know that they want to end their lives," Smith said. "We run into problems when we don't recognize it as a red flag."

People who make statements, such as: "I can't go on any longer;" "I hate this life;" "Everyone would be better off without me;" "Life is not worth living;" and "Nothing matters anymore," are all signals that

need attention.

Signs of suicide include:

- Appearing depressed or sad most of the time and being preoccupied with death or dying and perhaps writing a will or notes or poems about suicide or death.
- Feelings of hopelessness and losing interest in most activities.
- Withdrawing from family and friends.
- Change in sleep habits, either sleeping too much or too little.
- Feeling tired most of the time and frequently complaining about headaches and stomachaches.
- Gaining or losing a significant amount of weight.

If you suspect someone of being suicidal, be compassionate and invite them to expand on their thoughts, said Janet

Payne, mental health director for West Texas Centers for MHMR.

Ask the person if they are feeling suicidal. Persuade them to get help.

Refer them to an appropriate mental health provider.

Do not leave them alone if they are feeling suicidal.

Accompany them to the closest emergency room, or call the WTCMHMR Crisis hotline or 911.

Some people do not give any signs that they are suicidal, Payne said.

Twenty-nine people committed suicide from 1999-2003 in Howard County, Smith said, noting its seriousness.

The Mental Health Association in Texas reported 2,355 suicides in Texas in 2003 — an increase of 15 percent

from the numbers reported in 1998.

Friends, loved ones and acquaintances often recall conversations they had with the deceased and wished they had known that the deceased was really crying out for help, Payne said.

"One of the most difficult things I see in my job is working with people who wished they had just known that the things they discussed just before their death was a signal," she said. "They really wanted them to recognize that they were in distress and wanted someone to reach out. Don't hesitate to ask if someone is suicidal. Be direct in your questioning."

"It is difficult for the people who are left behind to think that they may have been able to prevent the suicide."

Suicide is a high risk factor among youth, and parents should be sensitive to teens' needs at this age.

One of the biggest myths of suicide is that talking about it, encourages it, Smith said. "You can't address a public health issue without talking about it."

This week, Sept. 10-16, is National Suicide Prevention Week.

West Texas Centers for MHMR operates a Mental Health Crisis Hotline for people who need immediate assistance.

The number is 1-800-375-4357.

"It is not just for people who need help themselves, but for people who may not know how to react to a friend or family member who has shown suicidal tendencies," Smith said.

## RICHARDS

Continued from Page 1A

think she was going to go out with guns blazing," Hutchison said Wednesday night.

Texas Democrats in Congress had just discussed Richards at their weekly lunch and were planning to call her next week, said Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, D-San Antonio.

"She was a dear friend and an inspiration. It just breaks your heart," he said.

Richards was diagnosed with cancer in March and underwent chemotherapy treatments.

Her four adult children spent the day with her before she died Wednesday night at her home in Austin, said Cathy Bonner, a longtime family friend.

"They're a strong group of people but they're brokenhearted, of course,"

Bonner said.

New York-based society columnist Liz Smith, a Texas native and close Richards friend, said she thought Richards was strong when she began undergoing treatments at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, a place Richards dubbed "Cancerville."

The two had been e-mailing regularly. But about three weeks ago, Richards stopped e-mailing, indicating something was wrong, Smith said. Richards would still have others send Smith updates.

"I would try to write her every day and send her jokes, political clippings," Smith said.

A few days ago, Smith said, Richards' daughter called and told her how worried she was that her mother "wasn't going to make it."

Richards guarded her condition from her

friends, said Bill Maddox, a spokesman for Public Strategies Inc., an Austin-based consulting firm. But, he said, Richards would check in with him to find out what he knew about the goings-on at the Texas Legislature. They

last spoke about a month ago.

Texas Democratic Party chairman Boyd Richie said people of all political persuasions are saddened by her death.

"We lost a true Texas hero in Ann Richards.

Ann knew the real meaning of public service, and her dedication to empowering others was evident throughout her entire political career," Richie said. "Ann was a trailblazer and a real treasure."

## FIESTA

Continued from Page 1A

"There will be cash prizes and trophies for the winners. Tournament organizer will be Manuel Ontiveros. There will also be many different booths with games, face painting and arts and crafts, as well as kiddie rides.

"Along with the traditional festival food fare of hamburgers, barbecue, corn on the cob, hot wings and other delights, there will also be many

food booths specializing in festive foods and many different culinary delights from the Tejano and Mexican cultures. Food specialties like gorditas and tacos will be available, and for the first time at the festival, we'll have homemade sausages and chorizo."

For more information on the festival, contact Zant at 816-4540.

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

## PICK UP

Continued from Page 1A

Large item pickups will wrap up for the year with District 6 on Oct. 20.

For more information on the Large Item Pick Up program and maps of

the six city districts, visit the city of Big Spring Web site at www.ci.big-spring.tx.us, or contact the city at 264-2504.

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

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## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Don Rogers, 74, died Tuesday. Funeral Services were at 10 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Graveside Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Sweetwater Cemetery in Sweetwater.

Eddie Ward, 54, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Michael Bigham, 44, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Guadalupe Garcia, 94, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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.

Suzanne Reed  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

### Be sure to make POW/MIA event part of your plans

Friday will be POW-MIA Recognition Day and locally, a two-part observance involving the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial Committee and the Hangar 25 Air Museum will give residents a chance to remember those who should never be forgotten.

Members of the Vietnam Memorial Committee conduct a ceremony at the memorial on National POW/MIA Recognition Day each year to recognize the major sacrifice prisoners of war and service men and women listed as missing in action made for our nation and the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. The general public is always encouraged to attend.

This year, however, the observance will be expanded. The first part of the program set for 6 p.m. will be held at Hangar 25 and will include opening remarks by master of ceremonies Don Boling, as well as the introduction of William H. King, who is being honored as September's Veteran of the Month.

The second session will take place at the Vietnam Memorial. The traditional "Missing Man Table" ceremony will be performed and those in attendance will be provided with and introduction to and explanation of that ceremony. A candle lighting will follow.

"We (members of the committee) feel that it's doubly important to not only remember our POWs and MIAs, but to honor those who lost their lives on Sept. 11 and to recognize the people who put their lives on the line for us here in Big Spring and Howard County every day," explained Jerry Groves, the publicity chairman for the committee.

The committee is still taking orders for the pink Texas granite memorial bricks that can be inscribed with three lines of up to 14 letters per line. They are priced at \$30 each and order forms are available at the Sparenberg Building downtown.

We encourage everyone to take some time out of their evening activities Friday and join us at Hangar 25 and the Vietnam Memorial. Lest we forget.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Thank You, Lord, for your love and comfort.

Amen

# Any which way to get at Bush, GOP

Once again the Democratic leadership is giddy about yet another smoking gun "proving" what a liar President Bush is. This time, the Senate Intelligence Committee has issued two "Phase II" reports concerning pre-war intelligence on Iraq that supposedly cast doubt on the administration's claim there was a connection between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda.

This has Democrats dancing in the streets, kind of like they were with news of a delay in the federal response to Hurricane Katrina, which they gleefully attributed to Republican racism.

It is not enough for Republicans to answer merely that, "this is old news." They need to respond forcefully and indignantly. The Democrats are claiming, once again, that President Bush lied about a life and death matter: alleging a Saddam/Osama connection to build public support for attacking Iraq. Republicans dare not take this charge lightly.

First, let's not overlook that Republicans don't have a real majority on the committee, as several of the GOP committee members are decidedly antiwar and the staffer for one of them — Sen. Chuck Hagel — is reputedly a strong Democrat partisan, having worked on Sen. Kerry's presidential campaign.

The Democrats have continually politicized the committee, especially with this latest release. Committee Chairman Pat Roberts said, "I have some real concern with the final version of this report. Very simply, the conclusions are misleading and are not supported by the facts." Roberts added, "Overall, I am disappointed that some of my colleagues have

twisted the facts to reach conclusions that support other agendas."

Next, let's not forget the Democrats' deception on this issue. They have repeatedly said President Bush claimed not only that there was a connection between Saddam and Al Qaeda, but that Saddam was connected to the 9/11 attacks.

Bush did not say that, but exactly the opposite. As I point out in my new book, "Bankrupt," President Bush said, "We've had no evidence that Saddam Hussein was involved with September 11." I quote Secretary Rice as making the same point. As usual, on the subject of lying about Iraq, the Democratic leadership has much explaining to do.

But what about the relationship between Saddam and Al Qaeda? "Fox News Sunday's" Chris Wallace asked Secretary Rice whether she was aware of a pre-war Defense Intelligence Agency report concluding that "Iraq is unlikely to have provided bin Laden any useful CB — that's chemical or biological — knowledge or assistance." Wallace asked, "Didn't you and the president ignore intelligence that contradicted your case?"

While I doubt Rice's answer will get much "mainstream" media play, it is persuasive. She said, "There are intelligence reports and conflicting intelligence reports all the time. That's why we have an intelligence system that brings those together into a unified assessment by the intelligence community ... That particular report I don't remember seeing. But there are often conflicting intelligence reports."

In "Bankrupt," I quote CIA Director George Tenet affirming that intelligence is an inexact science and that there were definitely dissenting opinions on matters contained in the National Intelligence Estimate. But the agencies made the best judgments they could

based on the best intelligence information available, and the president not only had a right, but a duty to rely on the considered judgment of our intelligence experts.

Secretary Rice said the best intelligence pointed to strong ties between Saddam and Al Qaeda "going back for a decade." I cite in "Bankrupt" a good deal of that evidence, and it is powerful.

Chairman Roberts said that these latest reports offer little new information, reiterating that our intelligence was flawed.

But to admit our intelligence was flawed is a far cry from saying that those who relied on it were lying.

The Bush administration was not guilty of cherry picking data to support its case for war. It is the Democrats who are now cherry picking information designed to discredit the president who correctly relied on our intelligence agencies concerning the Saddam/Al Qaeda connection and Iraqi WMD. As Chairman Roberts said, "Instead of focusing on the implementation of reforms and on current and future threats, Intelligence Committee Democrats remain obsessed with looking backwards. On behalf of national security the Committee needs to and must extricate itself from what has become a time-consuming and unnecessary effort and return to forward-looking oversight on the nation's Intelligence Community."

As we just passed the fifth anniversary of 9/11, it is time for Democrats to put the security interests of their country over the political interests of their party. But all signs are they will do anything to win in November, even if it means continuing to undermine national security and the war.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at [www.davidlimbaugh.com](http://www.davidlimbaugh.com).

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DAVID LIMBAUGH



## Honor 9/11 victims by catching their killer

It's five years after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and Osama bin Laden remains free. Two thousand nine hundred and seventy six Americans died that day and the man who plotted their murder has yet to face justice.

Despite all the "dead or alive" rhetoric uttered by President George W. Bush in the wake of 9/11, the effort to capture bin Laden has stalled. Like O.J.'s search for "the real killers," Bush pays lip service to the idea of catching bin Laden, but doesn't seem to look very hard.

If bin Laden had been a common criminal who shot a police officer, the full might of policemen around the country would be hunting him down. He'd end up dead or rotting in a jail cell, not free to skulk around the world planning new ways to kill us.

This makes it somewhat odd that the Bush administration can't seem to muster any enthusiasm to go after the worst murderer in the history of our nation. Sure we spent a few weeks poking our heads into caves in Afghanistan, but after the initial desire for

vengeance wore off, it's as if the President forgot which particular bad guy sent planes crashing into buildings.

Instead of capturing the man who actually caused the death of Americans, Bush used our military to topple a despot in Iraq who might have been thinking about doing so. Clearly Saddam Hussein deserves whatever punishment he gets, but he did not attack the United States and according to a just-released Senate report, has no ties to Al Qaeda.

To put this in easy-to-understand terms this would be like if The Joker robbed the Gotham Art Museum and Batman arrested The Penguin. Sure, The Penguin has probably gotten away with some crimes — he's a genuinely evil little fellow — but he didn't commit this one so you can't arrest him for it.

Saddam Hussein horribly oppressed and even killed his own people. He committed all sorts of crimes that he deserves to be punished for, but he didn't commit this one. Hussein's impending conviction might bring joy to the many Iraqis he persecuted, but it won't bring even a measure of vengeance for what happened on 9/11.

For the best part of the last five years, the American people have

allowed themselves to be distracted by a trick any fledgling magician must master. Bush has everyone looking at his pretty assistant while he stuffs cards, one of those really long scarves and the odd rabbit into his sleeve. The President has everyone so worried about Iraq that we've stopped even asking when he might consider trying to capture the worst villain this nation has ever known.

While bin Laden has been forced to live a life on the run, hiding in caves and whatever desolate outpost might harbor him, he at least gets to breathe. His life might not be one of leisure or pleasure, but he still lives and wherever he is, you have to imagine he's laughing at us.

Two thousand nine hundred and seventy six Americans will never go home again.

They won't get to hug their families, they will never get to tell them they love them or do anything else ever again.

That should be enough reason for President Bush to find Osama bin Laden and bring him to justice.

Daniel B. Kline's book, "50 Things Every Guy Should Know How To Do," is available in book stores everywhere. He can be reached at [dan@notastep.com](mailto:dan@notastep.com).



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# Ready to rumble: Full-size trucks to duke it out

By MATT NAUMAN

San Jose Mercury News

As a General Motors vice president and the executive in charge of its full-size trucks, Gary White knows a lot about big pickups.

He looks at a segment that's grown by 340,000 trucks in yearly sales in 2005 compared with 1999, a period that covers the arrival of the Toyota Tundra (1999) and the Nissan Titan (2004), plus major redesigns of the Dodge Ram (2003) and the Ford F-150 (2004).

But those days of continued growth might soon end.

Over the next few months, GM will launch its totally redone Chevy Silverado and GMC Sierra trucks, and Toyota will bring out its all-new, big-as-Texas (where it'll be built) Tundra.

"This time," White said, "somebody's going to get hurt."

That's his way saying that some automaker isn't going to sell as many trucks as it used to.

Big trucks remain a huge and profitable segment for the few automakers that play the pickup game. That's especially true of the domestic makers.

Total sales of the segment's six trucks — F-Series, Silverado, Ram, Sierra, Tundra and Titan — were 2.45 million in 2005.

But, as Craig Bierley, GMC's product director noted recently, sales of those trucks are down about 13 percent this year.

That's due to a combination of higher gas prices, since big trucks get notoriously bad fuel economy, and the realization by buyers that new models are coming soon.

"But there's a stability in that number in terms of the people that absolutely need the capability of a pickup truck," Bierley said. Most analysts don't forecast as significant a decline with big trucks as has been seen with full-size and mid-size sport utility vehicles.

One truck expert expects the new Silverado and Sierra models to do well, even with more competition from the also-new Tundra.

"The question is, will GM consider the new pickups a success?" said Mike Levine, founder of PickupTruck.com. "In relative market terms, yes, but in absolute terms, with climbing gas prices and higher interest rates, I don't think these trucks will sell the same total numbers" as the previous versions.

Ultimately, Levine said, the new Tundra will affect sales of the Dodge Ram most directly, and it will make Ford "extra motivated to buff up its next F-Series."

In describing the new-generation Silverado and Sierra, White called them "pure American — confident and strong, but not over the top or pretentious." He compared them to John Wayne.

Steven Rosenblum, GMC's marketing director, makes another analogy, personalizing the new Sierra as a U.S. Marine in full dress uniform.



The 2007 Toyota Tundra



Chevrolet's 2007 Silverado

"It's stoic, confident, not joking," he said. "It's got broad shoulders."

GMC buyers want something that's traditional, he said. While 30 percent opt for front bucket seats, the remaining 70 percent buy their truck.

Beside new exteriors, the new GM trucks feature two different instrument panels — one for traditional buyers who will appreciate things like double glove boxes and big door handles and a fancier one with wood trim and special gauge treatment.

The GM executives point to a long list of improvements, many of them shared with the full-size sport utilities such as the Chevy Suburban and Tahoe and GMC Yukon that came out earlier this year.

Front and rear tracks are wider than in the past, and improvements including a stiffer chassis, a new coil-over-shock front suspension and new steering make for a better ride.

The Silverado and Sierra will come in regu-

lar, extended and crew-cab models, and with three boxes ranging from 5-feet-8-inches to 8-feet long. Engine choices include a 4.3-liter V-6 and four V-8s (4.8-liter, 5.3-liter, 6.0-liter and 6.2-

See TRUCKS, Page 6A

# Contract Bridge

With a Little Bit of Luck

South dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♦ 8 4  
♥ K J 5 2  
♦ K J  
♠ A 8 6 5 3

**WEST**  
♦ Q J 7 2  
♥ 8 6  
♦ 10 7 5 4 3  
♠ K 9

**EAST**  
♦ 10 9 5 3  
♥ 7 4  
♦ Q 9 8 2  
♠ J 10 2

**SOUTH**  
♦ A K 6  
♥ A Q 10 9 3  
♦ A 6  
♠ Q 7 4

The bidding:  
South West North East

1♥ Pass 3♥ Pass  
4NT Pass 5♦ Pass  
5NT Pass 6♥

Opening lead — queen of spades.

On many hands, declarer is faced with what appears to be a 50-50 chance for the contract, depending on where a certain card is located. If one opponent has it, he will succeed; if the other opponent has it, he will fail.

However, a resourceful declarer can often improve on a 50-50 chance, so that even if the key card is unfavorably placed, he might still survive.

Take this deal where the outcome

seems to rest only on which defender has the king of clubs. The standard play is to lead toward the queen at some point, and if East has the king, South's troubles are over.

The other possibility, that West has the king, is the chief cause for concern, and that was where South concentrated his attention. He won the spade lead with the king and cashed the A-K of trumps. Next came a spade to the ace and a spade ruff in dummy. South then cashed the A-K of diamonds, thus completing all the key preliminary steps.

With all the spades and diamonds eliminated from both his own hand and dummy, declarer now cashed the ace of clubs and returned a low club toward his queen. When East followed suit with the ten, it seemed that South had to guess whether to play the queen and hope East had the king, or play low and hope West now had the king alone. (If West had the K-J at this stage, the party was over.)

However, thanks to South's advance preparations, it did not matter which of these two situations existed — he could cover both possibilities by playing the queen. When West took the queen with the king, he was forced to return a spade or a diamond. This allowed South to discard his remaining club while trumping in dummy, and the slam came rolling home.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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## High school dropouts face steeper costs in U.S., study finds

By BEN FELLER

AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON — Dropping out of high school has its costs around the globe, but nowhere steeper than in the United States.

Adults who don't finish high school in the U.S. earn 65 percent of what people who have high school degrees make, according to a new report

comparing industrialized nations. No other country had such a severe income gap.

Adults without a high school diploma typically make about 80 percent of the salaries earned by high school graduates in nations across Asia, Europe and elsewhere. Countries such as Finland, Belgium, Germany and Sweden have the smallest gaps in

earnings between dropouts and graduates.

The figures come from "Education at a Glance," an annual study by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The report, released Tuesday, aims to help leaders see how their nations stack up.

The findings underscore the cost of a persistent dropout problem in the

United States. It is rising as a national concern as politicians see the risks for the economy and for millions of kids.

The new report says 44 percent of adults without high school degrees in the United States have low incomes — that is, they make half of the country's median income or less.

Only Denmark had a higher proportion of dropouts with low

incomes.

Also, the United States is below the international average when it comes to its employment rate among adults age 25 to 64 who have no high school degree.

Even U.S. adult education and job training do little to close gaps, because too few dropouts take part, said Barbara Ischinger, director of education for the OECD.

"Those with poor initial qualifications remain disadvantaged throughout their life, because they have fewer opportunities to catch up later on," she said.

About one-third of students in the United States don't finish high school on time — or at all.

Estimates on that dropout rate vary, though, and state data are often shaky.

## TRUCKS

Continued from Page 5A

liter). The 6.2-liter V-8 produces 400 horsepower and is used only on the Sierra Denali model. The 4.8- and 5.3-liter V-8 have GM's Active Fuel Management system which boosts fuel economy by shutting down four cylinders when they're not needed.

Safety features include dual front air bags, side head-curtain air bags and stability control that's standard on crew-cab models and optional on extended-cab versions.

Production on the new GM trucks is expected to begin in October with extended-cab and crew-cab models. They'll go on sale by late November. Within six months, all

light- and heavy-duty versions including the upscale Sierra Denali will be on sale.

Here's a quick glimpse as the world of big pickups, circa the 2007 model year.

Ford F-150: The favorite vehicle in the United States for two decades, the F-Series truck gets two new body styles for 2007, added payload and towing capacity and a longer warranty.

The new F-150 FX2 Sport model has the look of a custom truck with its dark billet grille, monochromatic paint and 18-inch wheels. The F-150 Harley-Davidson SuperCrew features 22-inch wheels, dark exterior paint, black leather seats and plenty of chrome.

The truck's maximum tow rating grows to 10,500

pounds. Its payload maximum is 3,050 pounds. And the coverage of its power-train warranty and roadside assistance plan now extends to five years or 60,000 miles.

Ford said it lowered F-150 prices, too, as its 2007 models range from \$19,120 to \$39,565.

Nissan Titan: Offered in King and Crew Cab models, the 2007 Titan gets more horsepower (from 305 to 317) and torque from its 5.6-liter V-8. There's also a new chrome package option with 18-inch wheels and step rails.

Toyota Tundra: Toyota built a new factory near San Antonio, symbolically putting its new pickup in the heart of truck country. It will still make trucks in Indiana, too.

The 2007 Tundra goes on sale in January. In top

configuration, it'll come with a 5.7-liter V-8 and a six-speed automatic transmission. A 4.0-liter V-6 and a 4.7-liter V-8 also will be available.

It's 10 inches longer, 5 inches taller and 4 inches wider than the current Tundra. Towing capacity grows to 10,000 pounds. With three cab configurations and three trim levels, the Tundra will come in 30 different models.

Toyota said it will sell about 200,000 of them each year — up signifi-

cantly from the 127,000 it sold in 2005.

Chevy Silverado and GMC Sierra: The new trucks pick up many of the changes introduced earlier this year to GM's full-size SUVs. That means stiffer rides and much-improved interiors.

Choices are plentiful — three cab configurations, three box sizes, five engines, five suspension setups, even two instrument panels. Two-wheel-drive Silverados and Sierras equipped with the

5.3-liter V-8 get 315 horsepower and 22 mpg on the highway.

Dodge Ram: Chrysler has added a big work-truck version of the Ram, the 3500 Chassis Cab for 2007. It joins a lineup of distinctive truck models that includes the Ram Mega Cab, the Ram Power Wagon and the Ram SRT10. And its 2007 Rams with Cummins diesel engines can now burn B20, a fuel blend that's 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent regular diesel.

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September 2006 Activities	
September 14 * Thursday • Mall Walking - 8:00 AM • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM	September 23 * Saturday • Alzheimer's Memory Walk - City Park- 9:00 AM
September 17 * Sunday • "Wee Care" Midland Theater - 1:00 PM	September 25 * Monday • New Mexico Casino & Horse Racing - 9:00 AM - (RSVP early - this event is for Senior Circle members only)
September 18 * Monday • Lunch Bunch & Birthdays - 11:30 AM "Serendipity" • Games - 1:00 - 3:00 PM	September 26 * Tuesday • Mail Walking - 8:00 AM • Supper Club "Cowboy's" - 5:30 PM
September 19 * Wednesday • Mall Walking - 8:00 AM • Supper Club "KC Steakhouse" - 5:30 PM	September 27 * Wednesday • Ben E. Keith Food Show - 9:00 AM • Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 AM • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM
September 20 * Wednesday • Sit & Be Fit - 10:00 AM • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM • Lunch-N-Learn - 11:30 AM	September 28 * Thursday • Mail Walking - 8:00 AM • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM
September 21 * Thursday • Mail Walking - 8:00 AM • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM • BUNKO - 5:00 PM	

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- Michael King

Michael is considered among the elite group in the nation to fit these new Virtue hearing instruments. Come in during this 2-day event for a free demonstration of this new technology - hear for yourself the improvements that have been made!

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# Sports

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Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call 263-7331. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B  
Thursday, September 14, 2006

## IN BRIEF

### Quarterback Club meeting is Monday

Big Spring High School's Quarterback Club will meet at 7 p.m. Mondays at the BSHS Athletic Training Center.

Mark Tissue, the booster club's president, encourages all parents of BSHS football players and fans of the Steers to attend.

For more information, call Tissue at 816-3458.

### CGA, Knights to host scramble

The Chicano Golf Association, in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus, will host the 10th Annual Father Delaney Golf Tournament Sunday at Comanche Trall Golf Course.

Format is a four-person scramble. Registration deadline is 9:45 a.m. the day of the tournament.

For more information, contact 264-7116.

### Tennis boosters meet Thursday

The Big Spring High School Tennis Boosters will hold their meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday in the BSHS cafeteria.

### Junior tennis league offered

A free junior tennis league will be held every Tuesday at the Figure 7 Tennis Center.

The league is open to players ages 8 through 12, according to Ted Olesen, Figure 7 tennis pro.

Participants are urged to bring their own tennis racquet, although a limited supply of racquets are available.

For more information, log onto the center's Internet site at bigspringtennis.com.

### Hunter education course Sept. 23

A hunter education course will be offered beginning at 8 a.m. Sept. 23 in the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce building.

Cost for the two-day course is \$15 per person.

If you were born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, you must successfully complete a hunter education course to be licensed in the state of Texas.

Students must be 12 years of age or older to be certified. Those under 17 years of age must have their registration signed by a parent or guardian.

Certification is good in all 50 states.

For more information, or to register, contact Steve Poitevin at 263-7033 during the evening hours.

## OTHER FRIDAY GAMES

Garden City at Midland Trinity, 7:30 p.m.

Westbrook at Sands, 7:30 p.m.

New Home at Grady, 7:30 p.m.

# Backup QB leads Steers vs. Hereford

By MIKE GRIMES  
Sports Editor

Another season, another week of late practices, another 0-2 start to open the season.

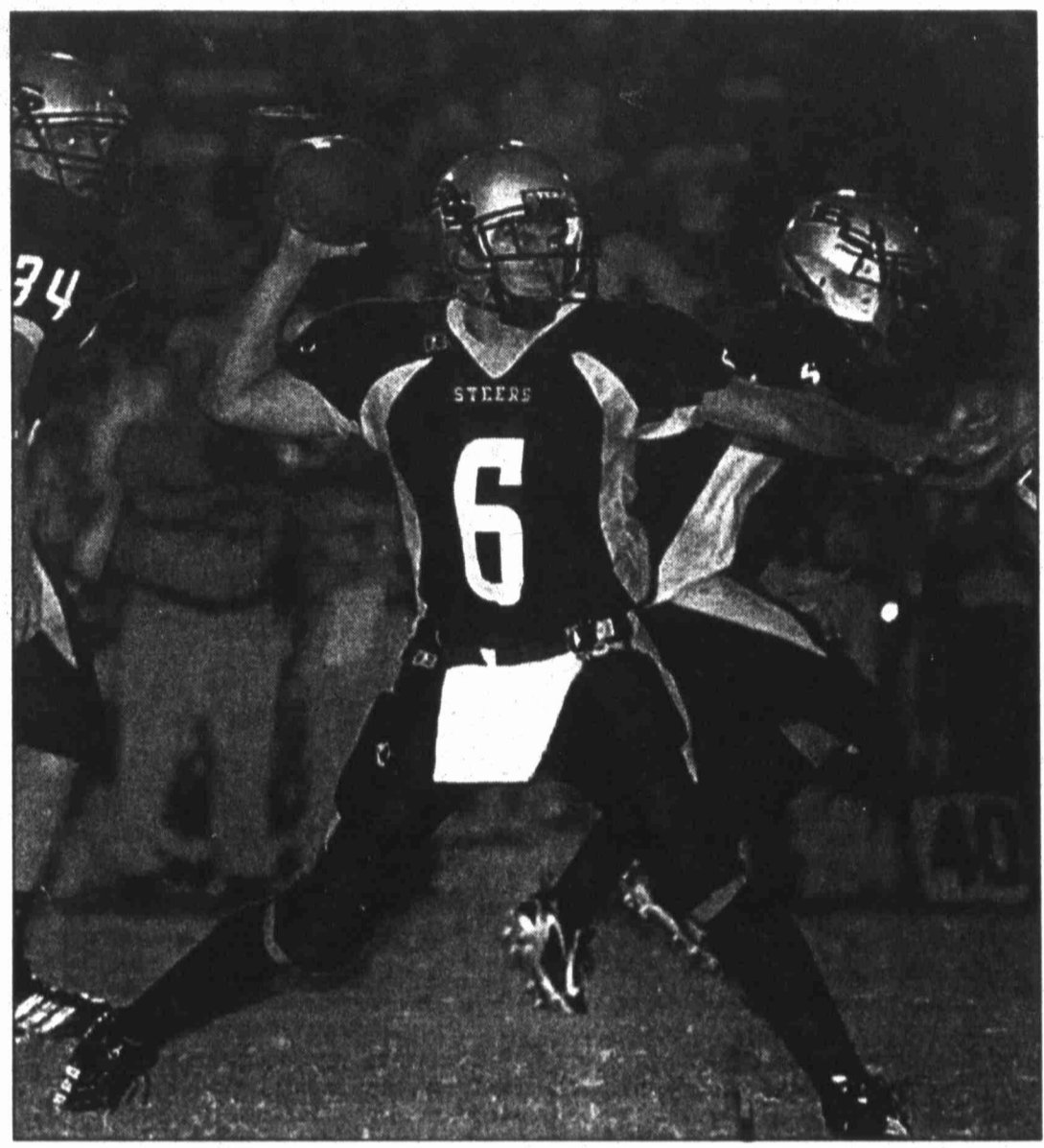
Coach Tim Holt does not enjoy taking this path to the playoffs, but he understands that there are no awards given to the team with the best record for non-district games. He also understands that this brutal schedule his Steers open with will only help this team come October.

Once district play begins fans hope to see this team come together and do something special. Unfortunately, it's still September, and that means that things will not get any easier this week as the Steers have to travel to face the undefeated Hereford Whitefaces Friday night.

Throw in some uncertainties on the offense and it's easy to understand why Holt is so concerned.

"Right now our maturity on this team is not where it needs to be," Holt explained. "As the season progresses I fully expect to see it all come together. All we have to do is play our brand of football and stop making some of these mistakes."

Holt expects a young and wounded Steers team to battle all night. Hereford will present the



Raul Aguilar (6), shown in action against San Angelo Central last Friday, will start in place of injured quarterback Ryan Tannehill when the Big Spring Steers travel to Hereford to face Whitefaces in non-district football action Friday evening.

BSHS defense with multiple challenges. Combine that with a rash of early season injuries to key Big

Spring players, including a shoulder injury to star quarterback Ryan Tannehill, and the chal-

lenge is understandable. Backup QB Raul Aguilar has looked good in practice this week, but

BIG SPRING  
AT HEREFORD  
7:30 P.M. FRIDAY

concedes he's filling some big shoes this week.

"Sure there is pressure," said Aguilar, when asked about replacing Tannehill. "The pressure is not just on me, though, it's on the entire team. We're going to need a team effort with him having to sit out, but I know that everyone out on this field expects to win. I have high expectations for this game, and that's because I know if we play as a team we can win."

That mentality is exactly what the coaching staff has been looking for this week, but whether that attitude translates into the Steers' first win of the season won't be determined until Friday.

"You never know when a team will come together and gel, but the average player improved by about 20 percent from last week's game," Holt said, after a late Tuesday practice.

"If we can continue to improve like that then we're going to be fine."

Contact Sports Editor Mike Grimes at 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mail at sports@bigspringherald.com.

# Battle of the Buffs

STANTON  
AT FORSAN  
7:30 P.M. FRIDAY

By JEFF LANE  
Special to the Herald

Two Buffalo teams will be in action this Friday night as Forsan hosts Stanton, with both teams looking to rebound from losses last week.

Forsan was defeated by Seagraves, 21-7 while Stanton fell to Reagan County, 14-12. The losses put both teams at 1-1 for the 2006 season.

Friday's game will serve as Homecoming for Forsan, but head coach Tommy Thompson says that won't have too much effect on his team.

"The players love Homecoming mostly because of the school traditions, the bonfire, etc.," said Thompson. "From a coaching standpoint, it can be a distraction, but the guys are really excit-



Forsan running back Skyler Sandridge looks for running room against Seagraves last Friday. Forsan holds Homecoming this Friday when it hosts Stanton at 7:30 p.m.

ed and want to treat the Homecoming crowd to a victory."

The Stanton Buffaloes play in district 5-2A and finished the 2005 season with a 1-9 record. But lead coach Lee McCown returns 14 of 22 starters,

including junior QB Garrett Fulton, and looks to have a strong defense.

"Fulton is their most dangerous offensive weapon — he runs their offense extremely well," Thompson said. "They have some talent at the

running back position and a solid defense, especially against the run."

Thompson adds that Forsan will have to utilize their quickness on offense to take the Stanton defense out of the game. The key to Thompson's

offense is no secret, a strong performance from the offensive line and a nice mix of running and passing.

"The O-line needs a big game this week with

See BUFFS, page 2B

# Bearcats stand in the way of Coahoma and first win

By MIKE GRIMES  
Sports Editor

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Bulldogs are itching for their first victory of the young season this week, and Head Coach Ken Cates is all but assuring one. "I don't care if we were having to play the Dallas Cowboys this week," Coach Cates declared earlier this week. "I'm expecting us to win this week."

While Ballinger High School, this weeks oppo-

COAHOMA  
AT BALLINGER  
7:30 P.M. FRIDAY

They (Ballinger) scored close to 30 points last week, but I feel like we match up with them all over the field."

Coahoma Coach  
Ken Cates

nent, may not be as good the team that wears silver helmets with stars on them, the Bearcats do have something that the Dallas Cowboys want and need. A win this year.

"They (Ballinger) scored close to 30 points last week, but I feel like we match up with them all over the field," Cates said.

"All we need to do is be more consistent in all three phases of the game (offense, defense, and special teams) and we will be in good shape."

You can expect to see plenty of action from tailbacks Cory Roberts

(sophomore) and Dakota Teaff (senior) as the Bulldogs try to use the ground game to keep the home team's spread offense off the field. They will be trying to fill the shoes of injured line-backer/tailback Donnie

Garcia, who might be out for the season because of a broken foot.

"These young men are plenty capable of stepping up and making big plays," Cates promised. "We just need for everyone to block and execute so that we can have a ball controlled offense."

On defense the 'Dogs are going to have to slow down a spread offense that tries to distribute the ball from two different

See 'DOGS, page 2B











THURSDAY

Table of TV channels and their respective programming for Thursday, including WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, and SCIFI.

DENNIS THE MENACE



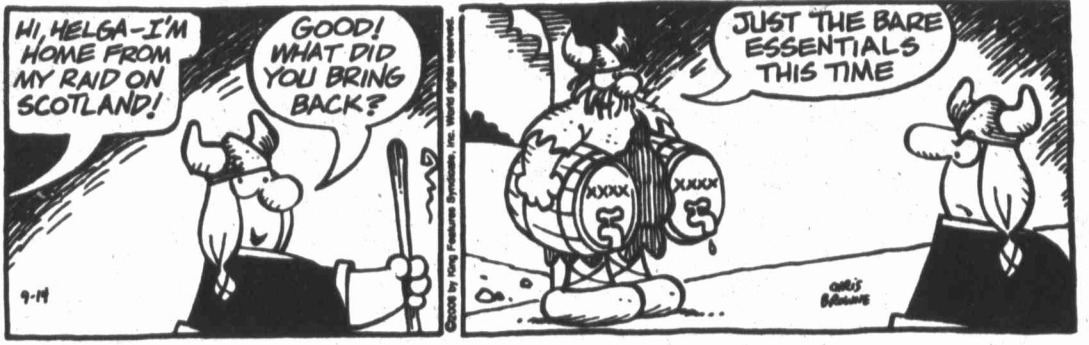
"MY MOM SAYS I'VE BEEN EATIN' TOO MANY CALORIES, BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT ONE TASTES LIKE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Can I have the rest of this cookie I ate half of?"

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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



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BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Sept. 14, the 257th day of 2006. There are 108 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write his poem 'The Star-Spangled Banner'...

York at the site of the United Nations' world headquarters. In 1959, the Soviet space probe Luna 2 became the first manmade object to reach the moon as it crashed onto the lunar surface.

Heatherton is 62. Actor Sam Neill is 59. Rock musician Steve Berlin (Los Lobos) is 51. Country singer-songwriter Beth Nielsen Chapman is 50.

Answer to previous puzzle grid with words like SAGE, STARS, TROY, ALEX, URIAH, RIPE, VINE, PARSIF, ACED, OVERTIME, PERIOD, RETIRED, POL, YES, ADD, CDS, AUDIO, ANNO, THIS, THE TURNING POINT, MUMS, EDNA, LONGS, BHO, PAY, NYU, PAR, ASPENS, TWELVE, ON, THE, DOT, BURN, INDIA, AGRI, EBAN, EDICT, GAME, GAPE, WONKA, ERAS.

Newsday Crossword

TWO CENTS' WORTH by Norma Steinberg Edited by Stanley Newmar www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Traditional Monday chore 5 Horn sound 9 Twitch 14 Archipelago component 15 Ceremony 16 Wrinkled fruit 17 See 45 Down 18 Shrek, for one 19 French sculptor 20 Subjectively speaking 23 It's north of Mich. 24 Compass reading 25 Way in 29 Classy bloke 31 Jefferson Davis' org. 34 Courageous 35 Ballet skirt 36 'Memories Are Made of...' 37 Subjectively speaking 40 Accepting customers 41 Employ 42 Many mountains 43 Blushing 44 Relax, as rules 45 Rubbernecked 46 Feel poorly 47 Antoine's affirmative 48 Subjectively speaking 55 'That's enough!' 56 Columnist's page

Crossword grid with numbers 1-33 indicating starting positions for words.

# FORSAN BUFFALOES VS.

**FRIDAY**

**September 15, 2006 • 7:30 pm**  
**Buffalo Stadium - Forsan**



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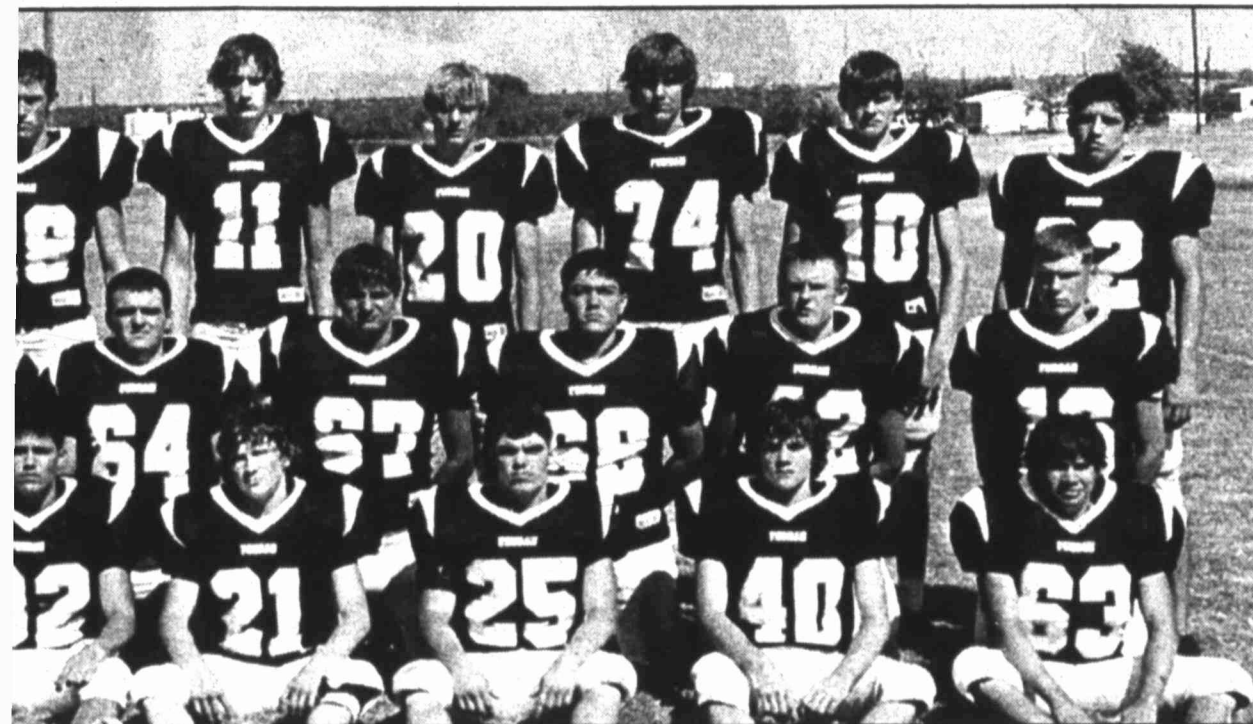
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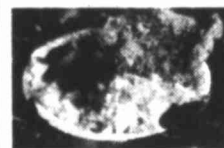
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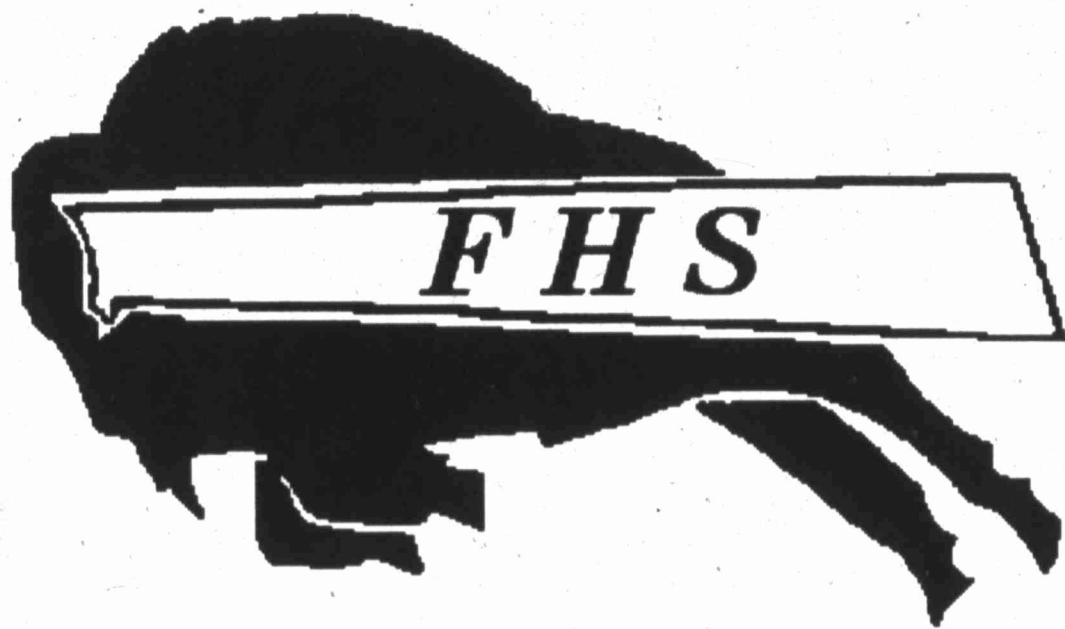
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**GO**

**BUFFA**

**DO**



**ALLOES**