



**BIG
SPRING**

HERALD

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

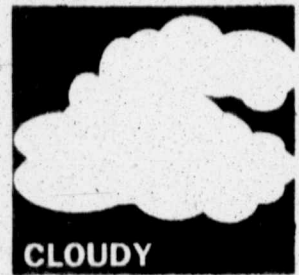
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

THURSDAY

March 4, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLOUDY

TONIGHT TOMORROW
44°-45° 64°-66°

BRIEFLY

Democrat Club

The Howard County Democrat Club will meet at 7 p.m. today at the Democratic Headquarters in Big Spring, 300 N. Gregg.

On Monday, the Democratic Club will hold a rally at the headquarters. Among those attending will be U.S. Congressman Charlie Stenholm, State Rep. "Pete" Laney and Senate District 31 candidate Elaine Miller.

Refreshments will be provided. Everyone is welcome to both activities.

After Hours

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will present another Business After Hours event this evening.

This event will be held from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Workforce Network, 310 Owens.

There will be door prizes and refreshments.

Business After Hours is designed to encourage networking and to showcase sponsors. There is no charge to attend.

The public is invited.

COMING

THIS WEEKEND



Brad Paisley discusses his lifelong love of fishing. He'll reveal his favorite fishing holes, fishing tips, and even a few fish tales!

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To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Prospectors to put on a gem of a show

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Big Spring Prospector's Club will be polishing and cutting the rocks and gems to perfection this week, as members get ready to present the 35th Annual Gem and Mineral Show this weekend.

Prospectors Club Secretary-Treasurer Lola Lamb has been helping to coordinate the show for many years now, and said there will be something for everyone in the family at the show, which is slated for Saturday and Sunday at the Howard County Fair Barn.

"Admission is free," said Lamb. "We'll

What: 35th Annual Gem and Mineral Show.

Where: Howard County Fair Barn, off FM 700.

When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Admission: Free

have dealers and demonstrations, and the spinning wheel will also be there for the children. We'll also have a snack bar and plenty of displays of work done by people locally, as

well as some of the vendors.

"A lot of people probably don't realize what can be inside what appears to be an ugly old rock. There will be plenty of displays showing what is actually inside a rock, and how it's worked into jewelry. Several people at the show will be working with the stones so people can see the process they go through first-hand."

Lamb said demonstrations are a major part of the Gem and Mineral Show, which is slated for 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday.

See **GEM SHOW**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Sherri Wigginton, Scenic Mountain Medical Center executive assistant, reviews the appointments for the day with the hospital's new chief executive officer, Mike Pruitt. Pruitt, who hails originally from Oklahoma, took over the reigns from Tim Schmidt, who left for a similar position at a hospital in Marion, Illinois.

New CEO plans to take SMMC to the next level

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

With just a few days on the job, Scenic Mountain Medical Center's new chief executive officer is ready to bring the hospital to the next level.

"Our overall goal will be to bring specialty services to the community that you might not have or don't have the service full-time," said Mike Pruitt, the hospital's new CEO.

Pruitt took over the reins of Scenic Mountain Medical Center on Monday from Tim Schmidt, who left for a similar position at a hospital in Marian, Ill. Pruitt comes from Lake Granbury Hospital in Granbury after serving six years as its CEO.

Over the next year, Pruitt estimates the hospital will spend almost \$3 million in its on-going program to recruit quality physicians to the area.

"We'll bring some candidates through and see how they fit into the community," he said. "I'd liked for them when they get here to be here for the next 30 years. That is the type of physicians I'm looking for."

"We'll look at three candidates for any one position we pick," he said. "I don't rush out there and take the first one that comes along."

Building up the physician base in the community will be a slow process, but one well worth taking, not only for the hospital but for the com-

"I think the core quality is excellent around here, it's just the little details."

Mike Pruitt,
Scenic Mountain Medical
Center CEO

See **SMMC CEO**, Page 3A

OUT WITH THE FAT

Ag Department fighting child obesity by revamping food rules for schools

AUSTIN (AP) — Deep-fried fritters and whole milk are on the way out, and baked chips are in at Texas public schools.

In an effort to fight childhood obesity, the Texas Agriculture Department is revamping the rules on what foods public schools can serve to their 4.2 million students. Schools have until August to adapt.

The changes range from requiring that canned fruits be packed only in natural juices or light syrups to limiting chips to the reduced-fat or baked varieties.

Deep fat frying is banned altogether, and so are pizza fund-raisers that compete with the cafeteria. There are also limits on how often french fries can be served, how much fat and sugar a meal can have, and what kinds of milk can be offered (2 percent, 1 percent or skim).

The policy expanded on a move last August by Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs that banned "foods of minimal nutritional value," including sodas, hard candy and gum, during the elementary-school

day and at middle-school lunches.

Combs noted Wednesday that 38 percent of Texas fourth-graders are overweight.

"This is a real problem," Combs said. "Schools ought to have a healthy food environment."

About 20 states already restrict students' access to junk food until after lunch, and about two dozen states are considering total bans or limits on vending machine products.

See **FAT**, Page 3A

BACK TO CLASS

Housing corporation staff seeks further certification

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The staff at Crossroads Housing Development Corporation will be heading back to the classroom soon in an effort to better serve the Big Spring area.

Paul Pryor, executive director of the CHDC, said he and Program Coordinator Stacy Walker will be attending certification classes next week,



PRYOR

and again in July, in an effort to not only satisfy the conditions of a grant they received, but to also provide the organization with more credibility.

"We received a grant from the Enterprise

See **HOUSING**, Page 3A

Denim and Diamonds to go tropical this year

Register now to have your name on formal donor card

Special to the HERALD

Vibrant, tropical shirts will give some added punch this year to the jeans and western shirts traditionally worn by patrons who have attended the past 18 Denim and Diamonds galas.

The 18th Annual Denim and Diamonds Gala, hosted by the Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council, will be

April 2 at the Big Spring Country Club.

Invitations to the social event recently were mailed to donors, Denim and Diamonds Chairperson Carol Scott said. Anyone wanting to attend the gala may contact the hospital's Community Relations office, (432) 268-4536.

Donors who want their names listed on the formal donor invitation card must respond by Friday, Scott said. Formal invita-

See **GALA**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Big Spring High School juniors Logan Churchwell and Manoj Thangam have qualified for the National Forensic League, John C. Stennis National Student Congress. The two, along with other members of the high school debate team, left Wednesday for the Texas Forensic Association's state meet in Bryan.

Two local juniors qualify for national tournament

HERALD Staff Report

Big Spring High School juniors Logan Churchwell and Manoj Thangam qualified for the National Forensic League, John C. Stennis National Student Congress this past weekend.

"We are excited to qualify these two students for the National

Tournament in Student Congress," said Jennifer Adams, Big Spring High School speech and debate coach. "Of course, we hope to qualify more when we try to qualify individual events in April."

This marks the second year that the Big Spring High School Debate

See **DEBATE**, Page 3A

Obituaries

Mary "Alberta" Halfmann



Mary "Alberta" Halfmann, 77, loving wife and mother, died Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at a San Angelo hospital and went to be with her good Lord.

Alberta was born to Walter Lee and Mary Ernst Holder on April 24, 1926, in Rowena. She married Ralph A. Halfmann on Oct. 5, 1949, and lived in the St. Lawrence farming community where they were members of the St. Lawrence Catholic Church. She was a member of the St. Theresa Alter Society and also served as one of the first post-masters at St. Lawrence. Alberta was a homemaker and enjoyed farm life and riding with Ralph to check the livestock, the farm and care for the church cemetery.

Surviving Alberta is Ralph, her loving partner in life for the past 54 years, and the joys of her life, her two sons, Rudy and wife Linda of Big Spring, Ronnie of St. Lawrence; two daughters, Sandra Halfmann of Miles and Diann Cmerek and husband Jim of St. Lawrence; three grandchildren, Matthew, Rebecca and Douglas Cmerek also of St. Lawrence; two step grandchildren, Shawn Slayton, and Buddy Slayton and wife Kerry; two step-great grandchildren, Seth and Nate Slayton. Also surviving are two brothers, Robert Holder and wife Adeline of Winters, and Fred Holder and wife Virginia of San Angelo.

Alberta was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Martin and Floyd Holder; and a sister, Ester Holder.

Serving as pallbearers are Bobby Conner, David Holder, Richard Holder, Bill Holder, Lee Holder, Gary Halfmann, Baldwin Halfmann and Bobby Halfmann.

Rosary will be held at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in St. Lawrence on Thursday, March 4, 2004, at 7 p.m. Funeral services and burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 5, 2004, at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church, St. Lawrence with Rev. Tom Barley of San Angelo and Rev. Bernard Getigan, pastor, officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the St. Lawrence Cemetery Association, 5400 FM 2401, Garden City, 79739 or to a charity of your choice. The family would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Anderton, the SCCI staff, Shannon Skilled Nursing and ICU Nursing Staff for the special care given to Mary Alberta.

Till we meet again, Momma, we will always love you.

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

paid obituary

Ada Lorene Petty



Ada Lorene Petty, 82, of Henderson, Nev., formerly of Big Spring, died on Monday, March 1, 2004, at her residence. Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 5, 2004, at Mt. Olive Memorial Park with Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating.

She was born on June 26, 1921, in Holt, San Saba County, to Lela Elizabeth and Victor Hugo Woods. She married Allen Crockett "Doc" Petty on July 4, 1937, in Ballinger. He preceded her in death on Sept. 29, 1990.

Mrs. Petty was a housewife until 1952, at which time she went to school in San Angelo and became a beautician. For several years she owned and operated her own businesses in Fort Worth. She moved with her husband to Big Spring and worked at the Big Spring State Hospital until retiring in 1985.

In September 1986, she and Doc moved to Las Vegas, where she worked as a change person for a slot machine vendor until retiring in 1995. After her husband's death, she lived with her son, Billy and his wife until they returned to Texas. Because of her frail health for the past few years she remained in Las Vegas and lived with her daughter, Nella. She had just recently moved to her daughter Eva's home.

Lorene was a very loving person and her willingness to always be there for her friends will always be remembered and loved by all who had the honor of knowing her.

Survivors include two sons, Billy Petty of Granbury and Charles Allen "C.A." Petty of Tacoma, Wash.; two daughters, Nella Bryant and Eva McNiell both of Las Vegas, Nev.; two brothers, Joseph Clifton "J.C." Woods of Canon City, Colo. and Victor Hugo Woods of Seguin; 12 grandchildren; nine great grandchildren and numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

She was also preceded in death by twin children, Crockett Allen at 2 days and Bobby Eugene at age 6 months; one brother, Charles Robert Woods and one grandson, Donnie Allen Petty.

The family will receive friends from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

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

paid obituary

Geoffrey Zay LeFevre

Geoffrey Zay LeFevre, 61, of Dinero, formerly of Big Spring, died on Wednesday, March 3, 2004, at his residence. Funeral services will be 4 p.m. Saturday, March 6, 2004, at the 14th & Main Church of Christ. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory, Big Spring, Texas.

Lewis Lee Axtens

Lewis Lee Axtens, 72, of Canton, formerly of Big Spring, died Feb. 28, 2004, after a long illness. Memorial services are set for 2 p.m. Saturday, March 6, at Eubank Chapel in Canton with the Rev. Jim Taylor officiating.

Mr. Axtens was born Oct. 18, 1932, in Athens, to Arthur Lee and Zelma Louella Stone Axtens. He was captain of his football team at Big Spring High School when he graduated in 1950. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1951 and was a Korean War veteran. He was a mechanical engineer for 25 years, and worked on projects around the world. He loved his work and his grandchildren, and had a very inventive mind.

He is survived by two sons, James Lewis Axtens and Troy Lee Axtens of Canton; two sisters, Helen Smith of Lubbock and Lyda May Sanborn of Big Spring; a brother, Jack Wesley Axtens of Royce City, four grandchildren and other relatives and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife Betty Jean Myers Axtens, two brothers, George and Olie D. Axtens, and his sister Nell Annen.

Arrangements are under the direction of Eubank Funeral Home Inc. in Canton.

John Ernest Croft

John Ernest Croft, 83, died Wednesday, March 2, 2004, at Harris-Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 6, at First United Methodist Church in Comanche with Rev. Matt Hall officiating. Interment will be in the Proctor Cemetery in Proctor.

Mr. Croft was born Oct. 7, 1920, in Hillsboro to James E. Croft and May Maxwell Reid. He married Mary Helen Hollis on Sept. 4, 1948, in Hico.

He was a veteran and served as a pilot in the United States Navy Reserve during World War II. He was a farmer and a rancher. He was a Baptist.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Croft of Proctor; a son and daughter Ritchie and Judi Croft of Dallas; a daughter and son-in-law Hollis and Joe McCright, of Big Spring; a daughter, Sarah Croft of San Antonio; a son and daughter-in-law, Carl and Lara Croft of Dallas; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at Comanche Funeral Home on Friday from 6-8 p.m. Lunch will be at Proctor Community Center following the funeral services.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Comanche County Public Library or the First United Methodist Church.

Arrangements are under the direction of Comanche Funeral Home in Comanche.

Police blotter

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

- **MONICA HERNANDEZ**, 22, of 609 N.E. Ninth Street, was arrested Wednesday on two local traffic warrants.

- **MATTHEW GROOMS**, 29, of Missouri, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of soliciting without a license.

- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 900 block of Willia.
 - in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
 - in the 1800 block of FM 700.
 - in the 1700 block of FM 700.

- **THEFT BY CHECK** was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.

- **THEFT OF SERVICES** was reported in the 1700 block of Third Street.

- **ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 2500 block of Dow.

- **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 500 block of Fourth Street.

- **BURGLARY OF A COIN OPERATED/COLLECTION MACHINE** was reported in the 2300 block of Goliad.

- **CREDIT CARD ABUSE** was reported in the 700 block of 17th Street.

- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 200 block of 11th Place.

Sheriff's report

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

- **SCOTT ANDREW BAILEY**, 30, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated-third or more offense.

- **ANTONIO JOE FLORES**, 23, was arrested Thursday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated and open container.

The Howard County Volunteer Fire Department responded to a tank battery fire early this morning on FM 821, approximately 2 miles south of Interstate Highway 20.



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Bulletin board

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

TODAY

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

Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. at Gale's.

Kiwanis Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479 for more information.

Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library.

Masonic Lodge 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

AMBUCS meets at noon at La Posada.

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

Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance is held from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. All area senior citizens are invited to attend.

SATURDAY

Potton House, 200 Gregg, a restored historical home is open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. An admission fee of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens is encouraged.

Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hangar 25 Air Museum is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Big Spring Squares meet. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

Dance begins at 8:30 p.m. at Eagles Lodge, 704 West Third. Everyone is welcome.

MONDAY

Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at SMMC for sit and be fit aerobics. People age 50 and older are invited to participate. Call 268-4721 for more information.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers in the evening. Lows in the mid 40s. West winds 10 to 20 mph.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday night and Saturday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Highs in the upper 60s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s. Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.

Sunday night and Monday...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s. Highs in the mid 60s.

Monday night and Tuesday...Clear. Lows in the upper 30s. Highs in the upper 60s.

Tuesday night and Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Highs in the upper 60s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-25-27-39-43. Bonus Ball: 28.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$6 million.

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Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 12-23-25-26-27.

Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$43,350.

Winning tickets sold in: Fort Worth. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

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The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-4-1

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Reflecting A Proud Community

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One dead in truck rollover; fleeing driver now in custody

MOORE (AP) — A pickup truck loaded with an estimated 14 people rolled over after a chase, killing one of the occupants and injuring eight others, the Texas Department of Public Safety said Thursday.

The rollover happened about 40 miles southwest of San Antonio where U.S. 57 merges with Interstate 35, said DPS spokeswoman Tela Mange.

The chase began when Zavala County sheriff's deputies reported seeing an extended-cab pickup speeding east on U.S. 57 northeast of Eagle Pass about 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Mangé said. Deputies reported the truck was traveling at more than 90 mph and moving erratically, she said.

A DPS trooper joined the chase, which continued east through Zavala County and into Frio County.

After a previous unsuccessful try, troopers again deployed tire spikes on U.S. 57 near Interstate 35, deflating the truck's two front tires, Mange said.

The truck slammed into an embankment and flipped, hurling about nine people from the truck's bed and killing one of them, Mange said.

GALA

Continued from Page 1A

tions and admission cards will be mailed in mid-March.

Categories of giving include: benefactors, \$1,000 and above; patrons, \$500-\$999; sponsors, \$200-\$499; and friends, \$100-\$199. A couple wanting to attend the buffet supper and dance may contribute \$50 to \$99.

You may request that your donation remain anonymous.

The gala is the single largest fund-raiser for the Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council. Council members support and fund patient activities and provide extras for patients who are being treated at the psychiatric hospital.

This year's goal is to raise funds to begin a new project, in addition to the \$20,000 needed

annually to support existing volunteer activities and projects that provide many personal touches and benefit the patients, Scott said.

Donors may sample hors d'oeuvres from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the country club's buffet.

Entertainer Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys will play dance music from 8 p.m. to midnight. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the evening.

Big Spring State Hospital volunteers are already busy building decorations to transform the country club into a western paradise with Hawaiian flair for a "Western Beach Party."

For more information on the Denim and Diamonds Gala, call Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations Director Billie Christie at (432) 268-7535 or Carol Scott at (432) 264-9604.

GEM SHOW

Continued from Page 1A

"You take just an ordinary rock and you slab it," she explained. "Then you put it into jewelry. That's just one of the processes people will get to see at the show. We'll also have a sphere maker there. He's from Abilene, and he makes spheres from stones with a special machine. He'll also be doing demonstrations."

"We'll also have another gentleman there doing wire wrapping, and if you pick out a stone or gem, he'll mount it into a ring or necklace while you're there at the show. None of it is soldered. It's all wrapped with the gold wire."

Lamb said another attraction scheduled for the show will be a special bead-making process that involves both metal and glass.

"We'll also have someone there making Venetian beads, which is glass that's melted over a copper center," she said.

"One the biggest attractions, however, is always the faceting demonstrations. That's where they take gems like diamonds and cut the facets into them."

Shoppers will get the chance to sate their rock and gem appetites as well, thanks to a number of vendors from Texas and abroad.

"We have vendors coming from all over the state, and a few from out of state," said Lamb. "I know we have one coming from as far off as Louisiana, but the majority are coming from all over the state of Texas."

"When you come in the front door we'll have a desk set up there so we can give everyone that comes in a ticket for a door prize. We'll be having a door prize drawing every hour. There will also be tickets to vote for what you think is the best the best display case."

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

DEBATE

Continued from Page 1A

Team competed in the NFL Student Congress District Competition.

"We didn't have anyone place last year," Adams said. "We are proud of how far the students have come in a year."

Churchwell and Thangam will represent the Tall Cotton District, along with a trio of students from Amarillo Tascosa. Other schools in the NFL District include Amarillo High, Abilene High, Abilene Cooper and

Midland Lee.

Since 1991, the Stennis Center has sponsored the John C. Stennis National Student Congress as part of the National Forensic League's (NFL) National Speech Tournament.

The country's top high school debaters assemble every June to compete for the honor of the nation's best. The National Forensic League National Tournament will be in Salt Lake City, Utah, this year.

For more information about the Stennis Center, visit its Web site at www.stennis.gov/student-congresspage.htm



Marcy Elementary School parents, students and teachers enjoy Pastries for Parents Night following a Parent Teacher Organization meeting. Big Spring elementaries are holding several events this week in celebration of Texas Public Schools week.

SMMC CEO

Continued from Page 1A

munity as a whole

"There's still about \$6 million dollars of Medicare patients here still trying to access the Midland area for those services," he said.

According to Pruitt, every dollar spent in the local health care industry is returned back to the community 3.2 times.

After years of workers sending off money to Washington, D.C. to pay in the Medicare system, residents now accessing the system would have an opportunity to put those

dollars back and help bolster the local economy, Pruitt said.

"If they will bring those dollars they've already sent to Washington here vs. helping the Midland community, they would be much better off to access their services here and those dollars will have a multiple effect back into the economic impact of the community."

Pruitt and his wife, Nori, are the proud parents of three grown children. Nori is an active volunteer in the Granbury community.

West Texas is not unfamiliar territory to this Oklahoma native. He put

in 20-plus years in the oil industry before a mid-career switch to hospital administration.

He received his bachelor's degree in business from Oklahoma State University and a master's in business administration and one in health administration from Oklahoma University. He also attended law school at Oklahoma University.

During that time, Pruitt served as an adjunct professor at Oklahoma University and the Oklahoma Health Science Center, teaching strategic planning and marketing and human resources.

During his lengthy tenure at Lake Granbury

Medical Center, he oversaw \$42 million worth of investments to build up the hospital.

Now the CEO is challenging his staff to improve overall quality at SMMC.

"I think the core quality is excellent around here, it's just the little details," he said. "We need to make sure quality is throughout all levels of the organization. It's a process. It doesn't happen overnight."

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 324, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

HOUSING

Continued from Page 1A

Foundation for capacity building," said Pryor. "One of the requirements of the grant was that we get additional certification and additional training, so we looked around and the four we picked will be the most beneficial to the organization and to the community in large."

"The certification class I'm specifically going to is Rural Housing Development, which will deal with the obstacles and barriers you run into in the rural area, compared to those you encounter in the metro areas. There are a lot of

different funding streams that you use in the rural areas that you can't use in the metro."

Pryor said Walker will also be attending a certification class aimed at her position as well.

"The certification class Stacy will be attending is on asset management," he explained. "That basically entails tracking all of the funding streams and making sure we're in compliance with the grant requirements."

"Those are the first two classes we'll be doing next week. The other two will take place in July, and we'll do one on financial counseling and another on foreclosure counseling."

While more knowledge is always a good thing,

Pryor said the certificates will be more than just framed pieces of paper to hang on the wall.

"They add credibility," he said. "It's like a lot of jobs that have licensing. Instead of licensing, we have certifications. It helps us so when we go to funders such as Enterprise Foundation. When we show them our certifications, they understand we know what we're doing because we've taken the training and passed the certification tests."

"We want to make our agency more credible and more influential in the state. We just joined a couple of statewide agencies, including the Texas Association of Community Development

Corporations and the National Association of Housing Development Officials. We feel like the more credibility we have as an agency will allow us to influence the state agencies, which in turn influences the national agencies. That's why we're trying to build our standard of credibility up."

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

FAT

Continued from Page 1A

The Texas policy issued this week and takes effect Aug. 1 for schools participating in the national school lunch, breakfast and after-school snack programs.

Some school officials said the deadline is too soon and the cost of implementing the plan

remains unclear.

"At a time when school districts face cuts in essential programs and staff, we remain concerned about possible additional unfunded mandates," said Kathy Golson, a lobbyist for the Texas Association of School Boards.

The ban on deep frying, for example, could require some schools to get rid of fryers and force

them to buy more ovens, she said.

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The Big Spring Prospector's Club

35th Annual Gem and Mineral Show
March 6 and 7, 2004
Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Howard County Fair Barn
Big Spring, Texas

Dealers, Demonstrators, Displays
Spinning Wheel, Prizes, Snack Bar
Jewelry Repair, Stone Setting

FREE ADMISSION

Kerry's complicated exfoliation

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Plan on having one real gem of a weekend

Hopeing to dig up something to do this weekend? You are in the right place because the annual Gem and Mineral Show is Saturday and Sunday, put on by the Big Spring Prospectors Club.

The show is the place to go if you have any interest at all in rocks. From fine-crafted jewelry to rough materials that have only been cleaned up a bit, the show features something for everyone. There will be demonstrations in wire-wrapping and sphere making. You'll even be able to purchase a gem and have it mounted before you leave. The talents displayed at this annual show are amazing.

You'll find things you never dreamed could be fashioned out of rock — from small animals to wall decorations that burst with color.

It's a great place for gifts, too. Dealers will have finished jewelry, rough rock, mountings, crystals, novelty items and more for sale.

There's a concession stand for those who get hungry, and as always, plenty of other refreshments. Did we mention hourly door prizes?

Hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. It will all be going on at the Howard County Fairbarns adjacent to the Big Spring Rodeo Bowl, off FM 700.

The Big Spring Prospector's Club is one of the best-kept secrets in our community. They also have one of the longest-running activities in the area. It's the 35th annual show this weekend. So go out and pay them a visit this weekend and join in the fun.

LETTERS POLICY

- 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

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@crcom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

It's an odd campaign gimmick, but Sen. John F. Kerry, D-Mass., often tells voters that he was "misled" and that's why he voted for an October 2002 resolution authorizing military force against Iraq.

Kerry says he believed the resolution tied President Bush to promises to build an international coalition, to work with the United Nations and to only go to war as a last resort. A disappointed Kerry now says Bush failed in all three venues.

Kerry's story only works if you don't know that the resolution didn't bind Bush as Kerry said.

And a month before Kerry's "yes" vote, Bush went to the United Nations and said the following: "Saddam Hussein has defied the United Nations 16 times. Not once, not twice — 16 times he has defied the U.N. The U.N. has told him after the (Persian) Gulf War what to do, what the world expected, and 16 times he's defied it. And enough is enough. The U.N. will either be able to function as a peacekeeping body as we head into the 21st century, or it will be irrelevant. And that's what we're about to find out."

When Kerry met with the editorial board of the San Francisco Chronicle on Friday, I had the chance to ask the senator how he could have expected Bush to behave differently in light of what Bush had said.

Kerry's answer reminds me of the angry customer in the Federal Express ad who, clad only in a towel and a loofah mitt, calls a

company to complain that FedEx delivered his package as scheduled, which he should not have expected, and by the way, it inconveniently interrupted a "complicated exfoliation."

Kerry's answer was that Washington insiders believed that Bush didn't mean what he said. "I think that you had a hard-line group (then Pentagon adviser) Richard Perle, (Deputy Defense Secretary) Paul Wolfowitz and probably (Vice President Dick) Cheney. But when Brent Scowcroft and Jim Baker (former advisers to the first President Bush) weighed in, very publicly in op-eds in The New York Times and the (Washington) Post, the chatter around Washington and (Secretary of State Colin) Powell in particular, who was very much of a different school of thought, was really that the president hadn't made up his mind. He was looking for an out. That's what a lot of people thought."

What about what Bush said to the United Nations? That was "rhetorical," Kerry answered. And "a whole bunch of very smart legitimate people" not running for president thought as he did. "So most people, actually on the inside, really felt that (Bush) himself was looking for the way out to sort of satisfy Cheney, satisfy Wolfowitz, but not get stuck," Kerry continued. "The fact that he jumped and went the other way, I think, shocked them and shocked us."

So Kerry was "misled" because he believed that Bush didn't mean what Bush said.

Talk about your dirty tricks. Kerry also downplayed the importance of his Iraq vote when he told the Chronicle, "Moreover, we didn't give (Bush) any authority he didn't have. (President)

Clinton went to Kosovo without Congress. Clinton went to Haiti without Congress."

And: "What we thought we were doing was getting him to a place where it would be harder to go to war."

The scariest part is that Kerry looked as if he believed what he said. He had noted that all of his fears of where Bush might err turned out to be right. And at the same time, Kerry asserted that his vote for military force made it "harder" for Bush to go to war.

There are a few ways to interpret Kerry's statement.

One is to believe the Kerry spin that the Vietnam War veteran is a reluctant warrior who only sends other men's sons off to war under the most dire circumstances, and Kerry somehow believed that a Senate vote authorizing force would make it harder for Bush to send U.S. troops to Iraq.

Or you can believe Kerry is a reluctant warrior who voted for war, even if he opposed it, because he was running for president, and the war polled well.

Or you can believe that Kerry strongly believed in the war but now poses as a reluctant warrior because he is running for president as a Democrat.

Or you can believe that you shouldn't believe a politician who complains he was misled because another politician had the cheek to mean what he said.

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

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Republicans disappointed with leadership

At 1 p.m. on Feb. 25, some 15 prominent Republicans invited to be surrogates in the coming presidential campaign gathered at Bush-Cheney headquarters in suburban Northern Virginia for a private briefing.

Less than two hours earlier that day, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan detonated a political bombshell. To judge from the bland and uninformative briefing, nobody on the president's campaign team heard the explosion.

Former Montana Gov. Marc Racicot, a Washington lawyer-lobbyist who last year resigned as figurehead chairman of the Republican National Committee to become figurehead chairman of Bush-Cheney '04, led the precisely orchestrated, one-hour briefing. He did not mention that Greenspan had just testified to Congress advocating reduced Social Security benefits. Racicot might be excused for being silent and unaware of the central banker's latest political mischief, since it also escaped the attention that morning of key Bush policymakers.

The invited advocates were handed a thick batch of talking points to ingest by the campaign's appropriately named chief of surrogates, Julie Cram. Nowhere in the handout did the forbidden words "Social Security" appear. "The president's opponents are against personal retirement accounts" is the closest the briefing material came to the dreaded subject. Many prospective surrogates left campaign headquarters profoundly depressed by the mediocre briefing and the material



ROBERT NOVAK

given them. This fits the deepening malaise among Republicans in the capital. They are neither surprised nor terribly worried by polls that temporarily show George W. Bush trailing John Kerry. What worries the GOP faithful is the absence of firm leadership in their party either at the White House or on Capitol Hill.

The lack of a ready response to Greenspan, while Democrats quickly turned his comments into an indictment of President Bush's tax cuts, was not an isolated failing. Today, Republicans on either end of Pennsylvania Avenue seem to be going in opposite directions.

Disagreement between congressional Republicans and Bush over the size of the highway bill reflects mutual recriminations over runaway federal spending in general. While the president's aides are angered by the lawmakers' addiction to concrete, conservative lawmakers are furious that Bush's budget has preserved and actually increased federal funding for the arts.

Bush's call to make his tax cuts permanent and to repeal the estate tax for all time leaves Republicans in Congress perplexed about how they will be able to write a budget without a massive increase in the huge deficit that never will command a majority vote.

House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert and his allies are bitter that they received no backing from the president and administration in their efforts to keep the independent 9-11 investigation from extending into the campaign season.

The president came out for a constitutional amendment to bar gay marriage without consulting congressional Republican leaders, which helps explain the unenthusiastic reception from his own

party on Capitol Hill. Congressional Republicans still have not recovered from the shock of the President's Economic Report extolling the outsourcing of industrial jobs — good economics perhaps, bad politics definitely.

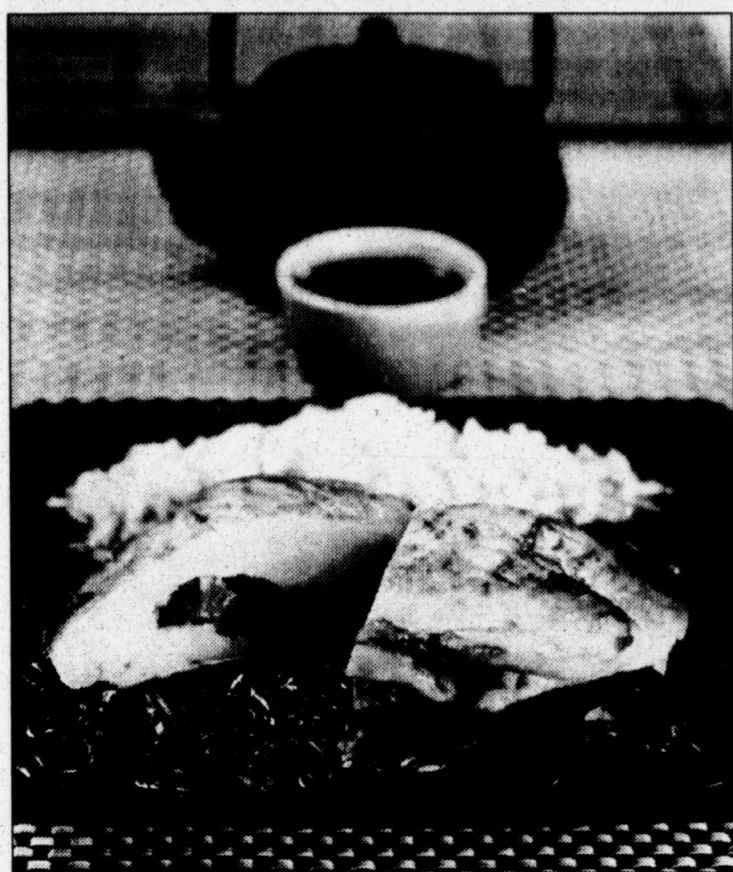
The disaffection is such that over the last two weeks, normally loyal Republicans — actually including more than a few members of Congress — are privately talking about political merits in the election of Sen. Kerry. Their reasoning goes like this: There is no way Democrats can win the House or Senate even if Bush loses. If Bush is re-elected, Democrats are likely to win both the House and Senate in a 2006 midterm rebound. If Kerry wins, Republicans will be able to bounce back with congressional gains in 2006.

To voice such heretical thoughts suggests that Republicans on Capitol Hill are more interested in maintaining the fruits of majority status first won in 1994 rather than in governing the country. A few thoughtful GOP lawmakers ponder the record of the first time in 40 years that the party has controlled both the executive and legislative branches, and conclude that record is deeply disappointing.

But incipient heresy also reflects shortcomings of the Bush political operation. Its emphasis has been on fund-raising and organization, with deficiencies in communicating and leadership. The president is in political trouble, and his disaffected supporters who should be backing him aggressively provide the evidence.

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

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Chicken entree stuffed with colorful nutrition

Pepper-Stuffed Chicken Breasts with Spinach is a colorful entrée with the flavor of California befitting its source. Boneless, skinless chicken breast halves are slit and stuffed with caramelized red and yellow peppers, then baked and basted with a light sauce of lemon, thyme and garlic. The chicken is served on a bed of spinach and watercress, cooked with the full flavor of chicken broth and a chicken bouillon cube.

This recipe is easily doubled to serve up to eight, making it perfect for a springtime buffet. The bright color of the peppers is particularly showy if the chicken breasts are sliced, making it perfect for springtime entertaining. Half the breasts before serving. Couscous or rice and a green salad will make this dish a complete meal. COPIA: The American Center for Wine, Food & the Arts located in the Napa Valley.

Bell pepper stuffed chicken with spinach

INGREDIENTS

- 4 chicken breast halves, boneless and skinless
- 3 TBLS canola oil (divided)
- 1 red bell pepper, julienned (about 1 cup)
- 1 yellow bell pepper, julienned (about 1 cup)
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 3 TBLS butter (divided)
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 TBLS lemon zest
- 1 TBLS fresh thyme
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 1 chicken bouillon cube
- 1 pound spinach leaves
- 1 pound watercress

PREPARATION AND COOKING

Preheat oven to 400° F. In sauté pan over medium-low heat, warm one tablespoon canola oil. Add red and yellow peppers; cook over medium-low heat until slightly browned, about 5 minutes. Refrigerate to cool.

Cut slit in underside of each breast half, creating a pocket. Stuff peppers into breast slits. Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper.

In large, ovenproof sauté pan, warm remaining two tablespoons canola oil over medium-high heat. Add chicken and sear 2 minutes. Place pan in oven; cook 8 minutes, then turn and cook additional 4 minutes.

While chicken is cooking in oven, place chicken stock and bouillon cube in deep saucepan; bring to a simmer. Add spinach leaves and

watercress, stirring and tossing well until wilted, about 2-3 minutes. Remove greens from pan, reserving stock. Drain greens on paper towels. Boil stock and cook until liquid is reduced and begins to thicken, about 5 minutes. Whisk in one tablespoon butter.

Remove chicken from oven, place pan over burner on medium heat and add remaining 2 tablespoons butter, garlic, lemon zest and thyme. Baste chicken with butter sauce for thirty seconds; remove pan from heat.

To serve, place spinach and watercress leaves in center of bowl or on plate. Top with chicken breast half. Spoon sauce over greens.

From COPIA: The American Center for Wine, Food & the Arts.

Nutrition Information
Per Serving:
360 calories
23 g fat
7 g saturated fat
9 g carbohydrate

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Hope in the future

'Coastline' depicts family's struggles

After living in Paris for 10 years, Madeleine returns home to Le Devin, an island off the coast of France. Madeleine's early family life was unhappy, and it was in this emotionally sad situation that Madeleine and her mother left the family home to take up residence in the mainland city. Madeleine made a living as best she could by selling her paintings, but none of her efforts seemed to please her mother.



PAT WILLIAMS

When death finally took the older woman, Madeleine was drawn back to the island even though she had heard nothing from her father since her departure.

Madeleine's arrival in the small village on the north end of the island drew little attention. While a few old friends warmly greeted her, she found her father

depressed and uncommunicative; he refused to acknowledge her presence in his home.

The constant bitterness and competition between Madeleine's home village and the community to the south had grown in her absence, and the resentments among the inhabitants had increased. Madeleine felt compelled to do something positive to improve the situation, and in her attempt to provide both the impetus and method, she found a somewhat willing helper in a mysterious stranger who had made a temporary home among the residents. With much prodding and a tremendous amount of hard work, the north coast inhabitants created physical changes along the coastline that in time caused good things to happen.

Joanne Harris, author of the popular novel *Chocolat*, explores not only Madeleine's wisdom in returning home, but the complicated emotional ties she tentatively forms with the island people, as well as with her long-estranged father. In

many ways, Harris uses the same theme as her other novels: a stranger in the midst of a troubled population and the changes that are wrought by a persistent belief in a good outcome.

Madeleine's character is rather intriguing; much of her life she has been rejected by her father, is estranged from her sister, and had a somewhat bitter relationship with her mother; yet from the pages she emanates the impression of strength. As the story progresses, Madeleine exhibits a yearning for acceptance and love, but she is often disappointed. This complex situation is one that propels the reader to go forward into the story; while there is no wild suspense, the story presents a desire for resolution that provides the motivation.

This definitely isn't a book that would be considered "fast reading." In the beginning there seemed to be an abundance of characters, most with confusing names and identities. The storyline of *Coastliners* was

difficult to follow, but as the reader becomes acquainted with Madeleine, it is a bit easier to ignore the various French terms and titles and become enmeshed into the action of the characters.

Harris creatively uses the confusion of spirituality and superstition as she molds this unique tale. While the story has a somewhat dark mood, there is an underlying sense of hope and optimism that Harris weaves into the lives of those who deal with the inevitable adversities of the sea.

Coastliners by Joanne Harris. HarperCollins Publisher, Inc., New York, New York, 2002.

Pat Williams, former educator, previously lived in Big Spring and contributes this column to the Herald.

Email Lifestyles

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BEST IN TEXAS

Wheels



The 2004 Nissan Titan Crew Cab full-size pickup.

Titan

Nissan's new full-size pickup loaded with power and appeal

The brand-spanking-new Nissan Titan Crew Cab is an impressive full-size pickup.

Let me clarify that. It is an impressive, honest to goodness full-size pickup truck capable of meeting just about any full-size pickup need you can think of.

This made in America truck (the Titan is manufactured at the Canton, Miss. plant) features a 5.6-liter V-8 engine (305 horsepower/379 lb.-ft. torque) capable of towing up to 9,400 pounds. It's mated to a five-speed automatic transmission and is available in both rear-wheel and four-wheel drive configurations.

I have to admit, I was blown away with the Titan's on-demand power. Cruising down the highway, the Titan provided an extremely smooth ride, yet I still felt that I could go off road and drive the Titan where no road existed — especially with its minimum ground clearance of 9.7-inches (11.6-inches on 4X4 models).

When it comes to body styles, consumers have their choice of King Cab and four-Quad Cab, both

capable of seating up to six passengers in comfort. And yes, I tried out the back seat and was impressed with the amount of leg room.

King Cab models feature a 6-1/2-foot bed, while Crew Cab

Titans offer a 5-1/2-foot bed. And get this, when Nissan built the new \$1.43 billion Mississippi plant, they included a \$20 million spray-in bedliner facility. Not only can you get the new

Titan with a factory-direct bed liner protection system, you can also get the Utili-track tie-down system designed for drivers who need versatility in cargo hauling.

The specially designed channel rails provide a wide range of attaching points for cargo tie-downs.

Whether you're hauling a motorcycle, a 4X8 sheet of plywood or household appliances, it's a snap to anchor down the load.

When you go in to the dealership for a test drive, make sure the sales representative shows you all the neat storage compartments — especially the neat tool chest located in the rear fender well.

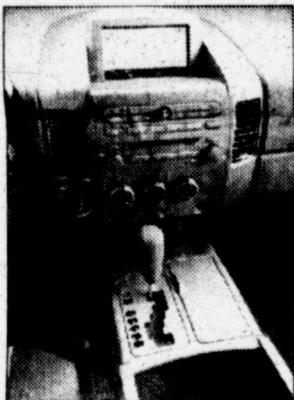
And wait until you see

the inside. Nissan engineers did a great job of making the interior functional, as well as nice to look at — with lots of bells and whistles.

The Titan is available in three trim lines — XE, SE and LE — with a manufacturer's suggested retail price starting at \$22,400 (\$25,100 for Crew Cab).

While dealers have already begun receiving inventory, the new Titan doesn't officially go on sale until mid-December.

The new Nissan Titan is a must test drive.



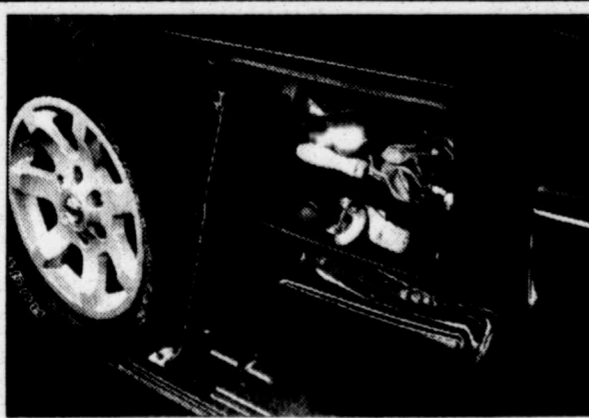
ON THE ROAD



BY NEAL WHITE

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 10 years and is affiliated with the Midwest Automotive Media Association and Texas Auto Writers Association, currently serving as a board officer. Comments may be sent to Neal at editor@waxahachiedaily-light.com.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL: 2004 Nissan Titan Rear-wheel drive Four-wheel drive King Cab/Crew Cab 6-passenger seating
PRICE RANGE: \$22,400 - \$40,000
ENGINE: 5.6-L V-8 (305 hp/379 torque)
TRANSMISSION: 5-speed automatic
EPS: 14 mph city/19 mph highway (2WD)
BRAKES: Disc with ABS and electronic brake force

distribution.
STEERING: Power rack-and-pinion.
TURNING CIRCLE: 46-foot
SUSPENSION: Double wishbone front; rigid leaf rear.
LENGTH: 224.2 inches
WHEELBASE: 139.8 inches
WEIGHT: 5,019 pounds (2WD Quad Cab)
WIDTH: 78.8 inches
HEIGHT: 75.1 inches (2WD Quad Cab).
TIRES: 17-inch; 18-inch
FUEL TANK: 28 gallons
TOW CAP: 9,400 pounds
BED LENGTH: 78.9 in. (King Cab) 67.1 in. (Quad Cab)
SAFETY: Advanced airbag system with seat belt sensors and front passenger occupant classification sensor; optional side impact and curtain airbags.

Three-point safety belts for all seating positions; dual-stage driver airbag with seat position sensor and safety belt buckle sensor; right front passenger airbag with buckle sensor and occupant classification sensor; optional Safety Canopy ABS.

Seliger wins State Senate special election with 56% of vote and wins 18 of 26 counties.

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The Panhandle and the Permian Basin have a common bond. It's time to redirect the "United We Stand and Divided We Fall" message used against me in the special election runoff to now bring all 26 counties of our State Senate district together.

As your newly elected State Senator, I want to encourage your support in helping me represent all of our district in the Texas Senate; after all, we have a lot in common.

We need to work together to defend and restore conservative values, to protect our local water, to bring in new jobs, and we must get some real school funding reforms which replace Robin Hood taxation with a fairer system and more complete system of funding our schools and paying our teachers.

This is the third time in the past three months I've asked to earn your vote. As our new State Senator-Elect, I am honored to ask BOTH those who have supported me in the past to support me again, and to ask those who would consider supporting me for the first time to let me earn your vote in this year's Republican Primary. **Together, we'll get it done.** *Kel Seliger*

Big Spring Backers Help Kel Win State Senate Runoff

Hon. Russ & Laura McEwen • Hon. Bill & Joyce Crooker • Hon. Hardy & Stefanie Wilkerson • Ralph & Billye McLaughlin • John Currie • Mary Francis Malone • Bob & Susan Lewis • Homer & Stina Wilkerson • Tommy & Donna Tune • Jerry & Dr. Louise Worthy • Vess & Lynette Barnes • Greg Brooks • Mike & Sharon Conner • Rich & Barbara Anderson • Charles & Joan Beil • Dan & Kathy Lusk • Larry Bob & Linda Conway • Eddie & Vickie Cole • Reg & Jo Anne Hyer • Tony & Deanne Lester • Pete Thiry • Dr. Bruce & Sheryl Cox • Glenn & Casie Fillingim • Scott & Mary Kay McLaughlin • Bobby & Hon. Gloria McDonald

Permian Basin Republican Don Sparks Endorses Kel

“Today I am announcing my endorsement of Kel Seliger in the March 9th Primary. While my name will appear on the primary ballot, I urge everyone to make their vote count by choosing Kel Seliger. I hope this will help unify the district and I believe this to be in the best interest of our communities and businesses.”

When I entered the race for District 31 State Senate, one of my goals was to help unite the Panhandle and the Permian Basin. Throughout the race I tried to maintain my goal of a united district by encouraging voters to look at the candidate's qualifications, not where he resided in the district.

I now believe it is in the best interest of the communities in the south part of the district to reach out to our newly elected senator and begin to work with him concerning the issues which may be unique to the southern portion of the district, along with the issues which are important to the entire district...” 2/26/04

Texas State GOP Party Chair Congratulates Kel

“Texans have continued to place their trust in the proven, conservative leadership that the Republican Party offers... Kel Seliger (is an) exceptional leader and ... will no doubt do a tremendous job representing (his district) and... the conservative values that a majority of Texans hold dear.” 2/18/04

Young Conservatives of Texas Endorse Kel

“We are pleased to endorse former Amarillo Mayor Kel Seliger for State Senate in District 31. A longtime leader in civic and charitable causes, Seliger supports reducing taxes, imposing the death penalty on violent criminals, & keeping the concealed handgun law. He opposes a state income tax and homosexual marriage. YCT has been a pro-life organization for over two decades, and we are confident that Kel Seliger will fight to protect unborn children.” 2004 Special Election & GOP Primary Endorsement

Kel Wins The Old Fashioned Way

Despite being outspent by a 3:1 margin in the recent special election and runoff, Kel, Nancy and the volunteers personally knocked on doors and made over 50,000 calls to voters districtwide.



Re-elect

GOP PRIMARY: TUESDAY, MARCH 9TH

Kel Seliger



STATE SENATOR

Republican

Campaign Hotline:
(806) 373-5500 www.seliger4senate.com

Political ad paid for by State Senator Kel Seliger Campaign; Ken Kelley, Treasurer.

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Thursday, March 4, 2004

Plainview begins quest for record-tying 4th title

By JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — Winner of three straight Class 4A girls' basketball titles, Plainview has the trip to state tournament down pat.

Leave town Tuesday with a pep rally send-off and police escort, stop in Lubbock for practice at Texas Tech before driving to Abilene for a little shopping at the mall, a barbecue dinner and a decent night's rest.

"The girls love to shop," said coach Danny Wrenn. "So do my assistant coaches."

Work out again in the morning,

drive to Austin on Wednesday and wait for the tournament to start.

It's all part of the winning formula Wrenn has developed to perfection. Another title this weekend would match the 4A record of consecutive championships, set by Levelland in 1986-89.

"This group has a lot of heart and character," Wrenn said. "They've won so much it's almost like they don't know how to lose."

The girls' tournament starts today with Class 1A games. All games are at the University of Texas' Frank Erwin Center.

In previous years Plainview's lineup was peppered with some of the best individual talent in the state and nation. Chelsi Welch and Alesha Robertson were high school All-Americans who signed with Oklahoma and Texas Tech, respectively, and last year's tournament MVP Tojtinay Thompson signed with UT-Arlington. But this year's team doesn't have any players signed to a major college.

Instead, they have four senior starters who want to make history, Wrenn said.

"They've really provided tremendous leadership," he said. "They know it's their last go

around. They can join elite company, and they're committed to doing that."

Plainview (30-2) opens Thursday night against Kerrville Tivy (32-3).

A win could set up a rematch with Dallas Lincoln (28-1), which plays Pflugerville Connally (32-4). Plainview has defeated Lincoln in three straight title games.

"Heartbreak? I don't know," said Lincoln coach Michael Ensley. "We've been beaten by some very good Plainview teams. Now we're waiting our turn."

The Lady Tigers bring a talent- See STATE, Page 2B

IN BRIEF

Hawks to face Wayland Baptist

The Howard College Hawks, off to a Hawks 15-6 start (8-4 in WJCAC action) will face Wayland Baptist University on March 13 at Jack Barber Field. The doubleheader will begin at 1 p.m.

Umpires are needed for BSGSA season

The Big Spring Girls' Softball Association is currently seeking individuals interested in umpiring games.

Interested parties please contact Francisco Ramirez at (432) 466-3670.

Wildcats to face Aspermont in L'land

The Grady Wildcats will try and move a step closer to the Class A state basketball tournament Friday when they face Aspermont in a Class A, Division II regional final bout.

Grady, 32-1 overall, is slated to begin play at 6:30 p.m. at South Plains College's Texan Dome.

Lady Steers to face Permian Friday

The Big Spring Lady Steers will face the Permian Lady Panthers at the BSHS Softball Complex.

Big Spring, 15-1 overall, will begin play at 4 p.m.

The Lady Steers will travel to Arlington for the Arlington Tournament next week.

Coahoma LL tryouts slated for Friday

Coahoma Little League tryouts will be held Friday at the Coahoma field beginning at 6 p.m. Tryouts will also be held Saturday, starting at noon.

All players must attend one of the tryout dates unless they played on a Major division team last year.

For more information call, Jill Ringener at 263-2789.

BSGSA sign-ups begin Saturday

Registration for the 2004 Big Spring Girls Softball Association will begin Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the softball complex.

Women and girls of all ages are encouraged to sign up for the league. The fee is \$30 per player. Last fall, the league fielded a senior league squad.

Sign-ups will be held for the next three Saturdays with late registration set for March 27.

Stanton Relays set for this weekend

Some of the top track and field athletes in West Texas will participate in the Stanton Relays this Saturday. The meet will begin at 9 a.m.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule		
March 5		
Event, Time	Station	
Hawks vs. El Paso (baseball), 3 p.m.	1490	
Spurs vs. Dallas, 6:30 p.m.	1490	
March 6		
Event, Time	Station	
HC vs. Clarendon (softball), 1 p.m.	1490	
Spurs vs. Phoenix, 7:30 p.m.	1490	
March 7		
Event, Time	Station	
Mavericks vs. Houston, No.	1490	
March 8		
Event, Time	Station	
Mavericks vs. Phoenix, 7 p.m.	1490	

Bryant, Lakers thump Rockets

HOUSTON (AP) — Kobe Bryant made certain the Los Angeles Lakers didn't allow another game to slip away.

Bryant, back after missing one game for a court appearance, hit the go-ahead jumper with 32 seconds to play and the Lakers rallied from an 11-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Houston Rockets 96-93 on Wednesday night.

While the crowd focused on the battle between big men Shaquille O'Neal and Yao Ming, Bryant, Luke Walton and Gary Payton each contributed to the Lakers' fourth-quarter charge.

"With nine or 10 minutes left, they missed a few shots," O'Neal said. "I knew then that if we could get some momentum, we could win the game. We let one slip away (Tuesday) night. We had to come out and play harder tonight."

The Lakers were beaten 94-93 in Atlanta and were facing a similar fate against the Rockets. The Lakers trailed by 15 midway in the third quarter. They were behind 75-64 with 10:59 to play.

They trailed 81-71 with 7:45 to go. O'Neal made Los Angeles' next five points and Walton hit a pair of 3-point baskets — the last giving the Lakers an 87-85 lead with 3:18 to play. Payton's 3-pointer with 1:27 to go put the Lakers up 92-89.

After Jim Jackson's See LAKERS, Page 2B

Redskins sign three free agents in first-day frenzy

ASHBURN, Va. (AP) — The Washington Redskins reached a contract agreement with free agent cornerback Shawn Springs, *The Associated Press* has learned.

Highlighting a busy first day of free agency, the Redskins also signed defensive tackle Cornelius Griffin, re-signed offensive lineman Lennie Friedman and welcomed running back Clinton Portis and quarterback Mark Brunell.

Portis and Brunell were acquired in previously announced trades.

Springs, Seattle's first-round choice in 1997, the third overall pick in that year's draft, was to sign his contract Thursday.

Also, cornerback Champ Bailey agreed to a seven-year, \$63 million contract with Denver and Jevon Kearse signed a deal with Philadelphia.



Howard College head softball coach Derek Clapp gives freshman Amy Hitzfeld a pat on the back after she was retired in the third inning Wednesday against the Western Texas College Lady Dusters. Howard College dropped both ends of the doubleheader, falling 4-2 and 7-6. The Lady Hawks will host Clarendon Friday and Saturday at Foundation Field.



Stanton's Dex Allred and Garden City's J.R. Medrano spring out of the blocks during the start of the 100-meter dash Saturday at the Bearkat Relays. Stanton will host the area's top thinclads this Saturday.

Rangers deal Brian Leetch to Maple Leafs

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Rangers traded star defenseman Brian Leetch to the Toronto Maple Leafs, ending his 17-season run on Broadway.

Leetch, the second-highest scoring U.S.-born defenseman in NHL history, joined the Rangers in 1988, immediately after playing for the United States in the Olympics.

The Rangers acquired defenseman Maxim Kondratiev, forward Jarkko Immonen, a first-round pick in this year's draft and a second-round choice in 2005. The Maple Leafs also received a conditional pick.

Earlier, the Rangers traded center Petr Nedved and goalie Jussi Markkanen to Edmonton for forward Dwight Helminen, goalie Stephen Valquette and a second-round pick this year.

Bonds only interested in talking about baseball

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The talk — at least most of it — was about baseball when reporters gathered around Barry Bonds for the first time since a report surfaced Tuesday that federal investigators were told he and five other major-league players had received steroids.

ESPN. "Baseball is fun," Bonds said. "That's what I enjoy doing. I'm getting a little older. I feel a little more than I used to. Things happen and you've got to deal with it and get through it and do the best you can."



BONDS

When Bonds arrived for practice on Wednesday morning, he told his godfather, Willie Mays, he wanted to speak to him. The session lasted about a half hour, but Bonds said he wasn't seeking solace from Mays in light of Tuesday's news.

arrived at spring training Feb. 23, will accompany the Giants on their first road trip, to Houston and San Diego, in anticipation of Bonds hitting two home runs to tie him for third place on the all-time list with 660.

Sabean isn't worried about any off-field distraction affecting Bonds. "Barry is one of the strongest persons I've ever known when it comes to dealing with adversity," Sabean said. "He showed that last year with his father."

LAKERS

Continued from Page 1B
basket with 39 seconds left for Houston's final lead, Bryant's 22-footer clinched it. Derek Fisher completed the rally with two free throws with 9.8 seconds left.

ments than we did." The Lakers, who have won eight of 10, beat the Rockets for the first time in three games this season.

NBA STANDINGS

Table with columns for Eastern Conference, Western Conference, and NBA Standings. Includes teams like New Jersey, Boston, Philadelphia, etc.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Tournaments, PRCALeaders, and NCAA Basketball. Includes money leaders and scores for various teams.

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STATE

Continued from Page 1B
ed lineup, with four players who have signed with Division I colleges. Tameka Smith has signed with North Carolina-Charlotte, Jennifer Sands with Tulane, and Rachel Butler and Artavia Burns with Hampton, Ensley said.

won six titles and returns to face San Antonio Taft (32-6) in one 5A semifinal. Spring Westfield (33-4) and Pasadena Dobie (32-4) meet in the other.

NHL STANDINGS

Table with columns for Eastern Conference, Western Conference, and NHL Standings. Includes teams like Philadelphia, New Jersey, Toronto, etc.

Mavericks gun down Seattle

DALLAS (AP) — Michael Finley scored 35 points, 20 in the fourth quarter, and the Dallas Mavericks stretched their winning streak to six games with a 107-96 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics on Tuesday night.

Park carries Spurs by Memphis, 88-84

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tony Parker made two baskets and a pair of free throws down the stretch to help San Antonio hold on to beat the Seattle SuperSonics 88-84 on Wednesday night.

NCAA Top 25

Table with columns for Record, Pts, and Prv. Lists top 25 teams in men's college basketball.

Advertisement for Justin Boots and Woods Shoes. Features images of boots and shoes, along with promotional text like 'Large Group Men, Women, & Kid's Shirts HALF PRICE' and 'Large Group Cruel Girl Jeans Values To \$49.99 Now Only'.

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

RIDING ON CHANGE



The rear spoilers were cut shorter to increase the downforce on the back of the car during races to improve grip.

Las Vegas is the true test of the new tire and spoiler package

BY JIM UTTER
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Could politics be in the future of Nextel Cup veteran Rusty Wallace? Wallace has already proved to be a master campaigner as he successfully lobbied NASCAR officials over the past year to cut rear spoiler height and "softer" tires this season.

Since superspeedways have special rules of their own and Rockingham chews up tires of any kind, the first "true" test of NASCAR's plan to improve the quality of racing and reduce fuel-mileage strategy comes in Sunday's UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

During a late January preseason test at Las Vegas, teams concentrated on tire wear rates and performing setups with the three-quarters of an inch change to the spoiler.

Wallace, who has gone a careerlong 100 races without a victory, came away pleased with the results and confident he'll soon make a return to Victory Lane.

"The rule changes are monumental. It's something I've been personally campaigning for a lot. We've got it now," he said. "Now it's time to go out there and see if it makes racing better, and I think it will."

"With the softer tires this season, it will be back to where you'll see mostly four-tire stops and that will put additional importance on your team being on their toes in the pits."

Goodyear's harder tire compound over the past couple seasons dramatically reduced the wear-rate of its product, allowing teams to stay on older tires for extended periods of time.

The change provided teams the opportunity to try to win races on fuel-mileage as they could stay on tires longer without losing grip or risk damage to the tire.

Many veteran drivers, particularly Wallace, advocated a return to "softer" tires — tires that showed more wear and



Wallace Burton Reiser



Team engineer Alan Gustafson and driver Terry Labonte inspect wear on their tires after a morning practice at the Daytona International Speedway in February.

would force teams to make more pit stops for fresh rubber.

NASCAR adapted the plan in the off-season and added the reduction in rear-spoiler height to

help reduce the aerodynamic dependency of race cars.

"There are a lot of unknowns. With the new tire and new aero platform, there are a lot of things that everybody is going to Vegas not knowing," said driver Jeff Burton.

"Even though we tested, we're still going back not knowing because it's a lot different running out there all by yourself and then running out there with 42 other cars. From an aero standpoint, that changes everything."

Most drivers and crew chiefs believe long green-flag runs — a tradition of sorts at Las Vegas — will remain, but the hope is when late-race cautions fly, race leaders won't hesitate to dash to pit road.

"It's a situation now where you're probably going to want to come in and get tires before you need fuel," said Lance McGrew, crew chief for 18-year-old Kyle Busch, who will attempt to make his Cup debut this weekend.

"The problem is, you're scared to come down pit road under the green flag, because as soon as you do, the caution will come out and you're in trouble."

Burton believes much of what the new tire and spoiler combination will offer won't be discovered until after Sunday's race is over.

"You're going to have to make long runs in the race. We're going to have tire issues that we didn't have in the test," Burton said.

"Testing does help slow those things down, but when you go to a place like Vegas you're very agro-dependent. When you put more cars on the track, that makes it even harder to take advantage of and easier to be hurt by it."

Robbie Reiser, crew chief for reigning Nextel Cup champion Matt Kenseth, who won last season's Las Vegas race, is also looking forward to race conditions.

"This is going to be our first race at one of the mile-and-a-half tracks so it'll be pretty important to see how we perform in practice right off the bat," Reiser said.

"I think we've got a whole winter's worth of work tied up in how these types of tracks will treat us."



Hard to argue one way or the other on legal gambling on races

When you sit down to write a column about something, it's usually a good idea to know which side you're going to argue.

Actually, more often than we'd care to admit, columnists pick a side without much conviction and choose a point or two to argue forcefully while largely ignoring equally valid points on the other side. After all, it works in politics.

Once in a while, though, you come up against something you can't fake your way through. And with the Nextel Cup series heading to Las Vegas Motor Speedway this weekend, I've run up on one of those.

A couple of weeks ago, rookie driver Brendan Gaughan was sitting around with a group of reporters talking. It wasn't an interview; we were just shooting the breeze. Nobody said "off the record,"

but nobody had to. It was just one of those conversations you know would never happen if anybody had out his notebook or tape recorder.



DAVID POOLE

During that session, Gaughan mentioned that he'd won a tidy sum of money in Las Vegas by placing a legal wager on himself to win a Truck series race at Texas' Motor Speedway.

Gaughan's family owns several casinos in Las Vegas and Gaughan has worked the sports books, so he really enjoyed being able to walk up with a winning ticket and collect money from his old buddies.

A couple of days later, I picked up another newspaper and read a story about how NASCAR planned to have a long talk with Gaughan about the very wager he'd talked about with us and,

apparently, with other reporters in another setting that was considered on the record.

Is that a story? Well, obviously, I didn't think so when the subject first came up, since I didn't follow up and come back the next day to write something.

After the other story ran, I again chose not to write about it because, once again, the wager had been made in a perfectly legal fashion. Gaughan had placed the bet in person at a sports book in a casino in Las Vegas and not through an illegal bookmaker. He also, and I thought this was important, bet on himself.

Over the years that NASCAR has been going to Las Vegas, several drivers have admitted that they've put a few bucks down on themselves to win Busch or Cup series races. And some of them have cashed in.

The question for today, then, is whether there's anything wrong with that?

Clearly, my first inclination is to say no. Again, it's legal to bet on NASCAR races in Las Vegas. Last week, the track's public relations folks sent out the opening odds set forth by Micah Roberts, the oddsmaker for Station casinos in Las Vegas, who lists Kurt Busch, Ryan Newman and Jimmie Johnson at 8-1 as the favorites to win the Cup race and Kevin Harvick and Matt Kenseth as 3-1 choices for the Busch race.

Many of the reporters covering the races this weekend, I assure you, will have money down on one or both of the races. I speak from personal experience on that.

All of that, in my mind, makes it awfully hard for me to get up on a high horse and say NASCAR needs to make and enforce a strict policy prohibiting its competitors from gambling on the sport in which they participate.

At the same time, however, it's just as hard to draw a line that makes racers gambling on NASCAR OK but also

makes what got Pete Rose in so much hot water with baseball so heinous.

Is there any difference in a racer betting on himself in a race and a baseball manager betting on his own team? None that I can see.

But what about a guy who works for one team that has very little chance of winning? If he sees a line he likes and puts down \$20, does the fact that he's got a hand in tuning his team's car make him guilty of trying to affect the outcome of the event? And, while we're talking hypothetically here, is it possible that a NASCAR official might have, at some point on a trip to a race in Las Vegas, put down a buck or two on an event he's working? You'd certainly hate to hear that, wouldn't you?

Should all persons credentialed to work inside the garage this weekend be asked not to gamble on the races, even though such gambling is perfectly legal? I wish I had an answer I believed in for you, folks.

THIS WEEK'S RACE

UAW-DAIMLERCHRYSLER 400

Where: Las Vegas Motor Speedway, a 1.5-mile slightly banked paved oval located in Las Vegas.

When: Sunday at 3 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 6:10 p.m. Friday.

TV: Fox.

Radio: Performance Racing Network.

Purse: \$5,980,118.

Last year's winner: Matt Kenseth. Also this week: The NASCAR Busch Series returns to action this week with Saturday's Sam's Town 300. Nextel Cup driver Kevin Harvick leads the points after two races but is not running the full schedule. Cup driver Joe Nemechek won last season's race.



Kenseth

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

NASCAR visits Las Vegas this weekend. Do you think a driver should be able to bet on himself in a race?

Cast your vote at: www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

With a win at Rockingham, Matt Kenseth tied his victory total for his 2003 championship season. How many races will Kenseth win in 2004?

Number of votes: 5,425

Response	No. of votes	Percent
Three races	1,806	33%
Rockingham was his last	1,058	20%
Two races	1,044	19%
Four races	877	16%
Five races or more	640	12%

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Feb. 22:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. D. Earnhardt Jr. (8)	340	21. K. Kahne (9)	210
2. M. Kenseth (17)	333	22. B. Gaughan (77)	209
3. K. Harvick (29)	294	23. J. Sauter (30)	206
4. S. Wimmer (22)	288	24. J. Andretti (1)	205
5. J. Gordon (24)	286	25. J. Johnson (48)	200
6. T. Stewart (20)	265	26. D. Jarrett (88)	177
7. K. Busch (97)	257	27. K. Lepage (4)	164
8. E. Sadler (38)	255	28. M. Marlin (6)	161
9. W. Burton (22)	250	29. B. Vickers (25)	161
10. J. Nemechek (01)	241	30. R. Craven (32)	152
11. J. McMurray (42)	225	31. K. Petty (45)	151
12. R. Newman (12)	225	32. L. Foyt (14)	146
13. R. Wallace (2)	222	33. D. Cope (50)	146
14. G. Biffle (16)	221	34. J. Green (43)	143
15. C. Mears (41)	221	35. S. Riggs (10)	131
16. T. Labonte (5)	220	36. K. Schrader (49)	125
17. B. Labonte (18)	218	37. D. Blaney (23)	118
18. J. Mayfield (19)	218	38. F. Gordon (31)	118
19. R. Rudd (21)	215	39. M. Waltrip (15)	113
20. S. Marlin (40)	212	40. M. Skinner (33)	97

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Feb. 21:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. K. Harvick	335	11. A. Lewis	239
2. J. Sauter	330	12. K. Busch	237
3. D. Green	294	13. C. Atwood	224
4. R. Gordon	291	14. T. Fedewa	224
5. R. Hornaday	285	15. S. Grissom	218
6. M. Waltrip	276	16. J. Leffler	209
7. B. Hamilton Jr.	266	17. R. Pressley	206
8. J. Keller	265	18. D. Stremme	205
9. M. Truex Jr.	264	19. M. Bliss	197
10. K. Wallace	242	20. D. Lusk	191

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Sam's Town 300, Las Vegas

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Feb. 13:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. C. Edwards	190	6. D. Setzer	155
2. T. Kvapil	175	7. F. Kimmel	147
3. M. Wallace	170	8. J. Wood	146
4. R. Crawford	160	9. D. Reutimann	143
5. T. Cook	160	10. B. Hamilton	135

NEXT RACE: March 13, EasyCare Vehicle Service Contracts 200, Hampton, Ga.

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\$7.408
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\$10.394
\$29.199
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\$15.306
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Business Opportunity

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Cemetery Lots

TWO LOTS in Garden of Macpelah \$1200.00 each. Will pay transfer fee. Call R. L. Smith (432)524-2389.

Garage Sales

2410 BRENT, Thur.-Fri. 9-1. Refrigerator, air conditioner, girls clothes size 10-16, lawn mower, books, kids metal school desks, small bike, misc.

4 Family Sale, Fri.-Sat. Bedroom suite, table & chairs, free standing cabinets, entertainment center, lots of furniture, dishes, pans, glassware, camping equip., cement edging, antiques, collectibles. Too much to list. 5612 Midway Rd.

GARAGE SALE, 1419 Sycamore, Friday, 8:00-5:00 & Saturday, 8:00-? Tools, golf items, etc. Lots of good treasures!!

GARAGE SALE, 2600 Apache Dr. Saturday, 8:00-12:00. Baby clothes, misc. household items, furniture.

BIG SPRING HERALD
263-73331

Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE, 4607 Aspen Rd. 8:00-6:00 Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Wasson Rd, south to Cypress west to Aspen. New & used items, ladies large size clothing.

INSIDE SALE, Friday & Saturday, 9:00-4:00. 110 N.E. Broadway, Coahoma. 1 block east of Town & Country. The Old Cafe building. Large ladies & men clothing, baby & kids clothes, glassware, VHS & Beta tapes, lots misc.

NICE ITEMS. TV's, VCR's, framed paintings, SW collectibles, household, small appliances, curtains, computer desk, misc. items. 721 Baylor, Thur.-Fri. & Sat. 8-5.

THREE FAMILY Garage Sale, Saturday, 8:00-2:00. 2507 East 24th. Furniture, dishes, toys, linens, bicycle, nice clothes, XX long jeans, misc.

Help Wanted

BRAZOS SALON. All - All-Styling Station for rent looking for a whole new crew. 2 Months FREE Rent. Call Barbara (432)268-1019 Mon.-Fri. 9-4.

BRAZOS SALON. Opening for 2 Nail Techs. 2 months FREE. Call Barbara (432)268-1019 Mon.-Fri. 9:00-4:00.

CITY OF Big Spring is accepting applications for Jailer and Animal Control Officer. For further information contact the Personnel Department at City Hall, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or Call (432)264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE.

Help Wanted

DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Quality 25 with class A & One year driving experience. Call Jay at 888-527-7221

FULL TIME legal secretary needed. Must have strong computer and typing skills. Two years legal experience required. Must have references. Send resume to P.O. Box 2199, Big Spring, Texas 79721.

GIRLING HEALTH Care, Inc. Home Care Attendants needed in Big Spring and surrounding areas to help with housekeeping and personal care. For more information call (800)665-4471 or (915)643-5604. Spanish Speaker a plus!

GOOD OFFICE help, good computer skills & phone personality. Be at work on Time. Preferred Non-Smoker. Send resume: c/o Big Spring Herald, PO Box 1431/221, Big Spring, TX 79721.

HIRING IMMEDIATELY! Truckdrivers needed with oil-field experience. Must be able to travel. No need to relocate. Two years truckdriving experience required. Class A CDL and good driving record a must. Call 1-800-588-2669 Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm.

NEED HUMAN resource person in safety and insurance. Fax resume to (432)354-2669

Help Wanted

HOWARD COUNTY Appraisal District is accepting applications for secretary/clerk. Salary is contingent upon qualifications and experience. Good benefit package. Resumes accepted March 1st until March 12th. Send resume or fill out application at the Texas Workforce Network located at 310 Owens, Big Spring, Texas.

KINDER HEARTS HOME HEALTH, PPC is seeking the following position:

LVN Private duty nursing in home health environment. Competitive pay. Must be able to work evenings and some weekends if needed. Will train. For more information call toll free 1-866-778-5778.

LEAD MAINTENANCE person needed with AC Cert. & Plumbing experience. Apply in person at 538 Westover.

LVN/RN'S NEEDED for pediatric cases in Big Spring. Competitive pay & benefits. Call Complete Home Health Care, (432)570-8899 or apply in person @ 2402 W. Wall, Midland, TX.

MACHINE OPERATOR Must have 1 yr. Exp. machine operating. Shifts Hrs. 2-10 PM. Full Benefits. Apply @ American Limestone, 2515 Apron Dr. No Phone Calls Please!

PART-TIME LAUNDRY ATTENDANT Work 7 days- 7days off. Duties include customer care, cleaning, Wash, dry, fold clothes. Must have own car. Apply 1208 Gregg Street.

Help Wanted

MINIMAL PHYSICAL LABOR! Truckdrivers needed. Must be able to travel. No need to relocate. Two years truckdriving experience required. Class A CDL and good driving record a must. Call 1-800-588-2669 Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm.

NEED STUDENTS for summer jobs at Fun Valley Resort in South Fork, Colorado. Jobs available are office, house-keeping, dining room, horse wrangler, kitchen and other. Salary, room, board & bonus. Write Personnel Director, 9010 Ravenswood, Granbury, TX 76049.

OVER THE road truck driver needed. Experience preferred. Call after 5:00, 432-394-4037 or anytime, 503-780-2115.

Help Wanted

RESTAURANT ASSISTANT MANAGER BIG SPRING, TX Immediate opening. Great pay & benefits. Resume to: rbarron@ripgriffin.com Fax: 806-785-4182

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WALLACE MEDICAL Prison Unit in Colorado City is taking applications for an LVN for the 3 pm to 11 pm shift. For further information contact Sandra Sullivan, Human Resources at (325)728-3431 ext. 7105 for more information.

Help Wanted

KEY ENERGY SERVICES, a large growing oilfield service company, is seeking dependable rig hands to join our team in the Trinidad, Colorado area. Trinidad is located on the western boundary of the beautiful Sangre de Cristo Mountains and is nestled along the banks of the Purgatoire River; this mountainous country offers several cold water lakes and an abundance of wildlife for watching, fishing and hunting. The town, at an elevation of 6025 ft. is a picturesque city of Victorian and adobe architecture. Average rental for homes and apartments is \$300 to \$800 per month. Openings are available for floor hands, derricks, operators, winch truck drivers and water truck drivers. Experience preferred, but will train the right applicant. Full-time positions offer competitive pay of \$11 to \$16 per hour, 401k w/company match, medical, prescription drug card, dental, vision, life and accident insurance, short-term disability, and paid vacations. Rig hands must be 18 years of age; all applicants must be able to pass a drug screen. Contact PMS at 719-846-2915 to apply. Key Energy Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Help Wanted

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WANTED; own RV for ment at Fun sort, South office, hot maintenance Write Perso Ravenswooc 76049.

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SOLID WO ble, 8 chair Must see large for 263-3543 end.

TWIN BE boxsprings, Serta. \$ 432-6904.

USED C 200 mh, I plete, r mouse. \$ (432)263-0

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Real 1510 NC bath. 270-730
E A
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2004 SC fice, CH backyard single/cc \$325/mc (432)267
Real

Help Wanted

ROLLING PLAINS Physicians Office in Sweetwater has a position for a full-time X-Ray Supervisor/ Technician, certification in mammography required. Works M-F, no call. Benefit package includes PTO, Holiday Pay, 401k, Health Insurance. Interested parties may fax resume to (325)235-5925 or apply at TWC.

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DRIVER EDUCATION Sign up to get your license at the mall. Class starts March 22nd. Register 18th & 19th. Call (432)270-4610. Lic# C1200. Credit Cards Excepted.

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FOUND TWO male puppies in Silver Heels. Call 432-263-0122.

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SOLID WOOD formal dining table, 8 chairs & matching hutch. Must see to appreciate. Too large for retirement home. 263-3543 after 5:00 or weekend.

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1504 RANNELS, 2 Bedroom 2 bath. Fireplace, fenced, carport, laundry room. No pets. Call (432)263-3572

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ANDA EN busca de una casa? Si, no tiene credito o mal credito hablame al numero (432)413-0549 Annette Sanchez. Tengo una casa de 2 recamaras y 1 bano 705 S Lancaster Y otra de 1 recamara y 1 bano 1811 State St.

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COAHOMA 3 Bedroom, 2 bath Beautiful master bath with walk-in closet, appliances, Handicapped porch. Like new MF Home. Land & Home \$42,000. 803 Atlantic. Call (432)661-5552

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FOR SALE: Commercial property High Traffic, Corner Lot, 901 East Third St. Zoned Industrial. \$69,995. Call 800-417-7419

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Services Offered

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2000 CHEVY Silverado 1/2 ton Pick-up. Reg. cab, short bed, V-6, auto, AM-FM-CD player. White with Charcoal int. 45,500 miles. Asking \$11,000. Call (432)263-1853 or see at 2304 Morrison.

FOR SALE: Low miles all. 1980 Honda CB650 Custom, \$1,000 or best offer. 1985 Honda CB450 Nighthawk, \$850. or best offer. Call 432-264-0460

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1994 Chevy, LT1 engine, Kenwood system, custom paint, \$5700. 1999 Jeep Wrangler, soft top, CD player, New Mickey Thompsons, 36k miles, Great condition. \$9000. 2003 Glastron SX175, 17ft. EZ Load Trailer, wake tower, life jackets, skies, rope, tube, boat cover, CD player, 25 hours. \$16000. Please call (432)268-5968 or (432)267-6505 leave message!

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON
The Leo moon promises there will be eye candy, newsworthy happenings and plenty of gossip. Exaggeration seems like a sin since everyone seems to be dying for a juicy story. Fire-sign energy promises that a tall tale will only inspire mere humans to achieve super-human feats. Don't pass up a chance to spin your own myth.



Joyce Jillson

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The drive to be noticed presses you forward more than higher-minded motivations, but the result is the same. You do excellent work. There's much to appreciate in the way of art and culture. You're richer for taking the time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). On this eclectic day, surprising twists are in store. Your crowd is filled with interesting characters. Friends have weird requests. If the time commitment isn't too great, just say "yes." It's good, clean fun with a funny story later.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're an uplifting influence. Devotion to someone underprivileged makes you feel happy. When you give quietly, your heart is filled. Tonight is filled with laughter. A Cancer or Libra provides reasons to celebrate.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You not only accept human differences and limitations; you embrace them. Out of these frailties come your best ideas, inventions, solutions, moneymaking plans and so on. Luck is associated with a flight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Transformation starts with using your time

differently. Taking care of the needs of others is noble work, but not if you'll resent it later. Make sure you also explore your passion. If you have no life, you have nothing to give.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Volatile emotions have you in their throes, but you're too smart to let that influence your game. Practice being likeable, whether you're in the mood for people or not. Your strong character is sexy. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may not think your life is terribly interesting, but it is. Tell everyone what you're up to, and put a fabulous spin on it while you're at it. The public-relations effort is lucky for your finances and love life as well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's a poignancy to your mood. If you could sit in one place and watch this day pass in real time, you'd see how beautiful life really is. Tonight, your romantic gesture brings the outcome you hoped for.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Think big, and act in broad strokes. Strangely, major problems can easily be cleared up today, but minor ones need a delicate hand and more time. With great faith, you can move mountains.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When the deal doesn't go down the way you wanted it to, self-examination will help you use the setback to your advantage. Determine what you can do to make yourself more deserving of the next opportunity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A playful spirit helps you move through heavy situations with levity and grace. If you want Lady Luck to visit you, you must first trust your own instincts and intuitions. Concentration improves; students make

a breakthrough. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). If you've forgotten how to love your work and work at what you love, a Scorpio or Leo helps you get back on track. Your social life thrives while you're expanding your career horizons. Give respectable people the benefit of the doubt.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I was born a seven-month baby on Jan. 31, 1953. My mom had three miscarriages before my two older sisters and I were born. I am male. My mom passed away last month after three years of illness. I took care of her myself with no help from my sisters. I am still angry about it. It was the best thing that I have ever done in my life, and I am grateful for the opportunity to do so. My life is in the toilet now, however. Do you see me getting on track again anytime soon? What do my prospects look like for the future?"

Though your sisters were no help to you when your mother was dying, they can be of help to you now, if you approach them in the right way. Give up your condescension toward them, and try to understand that everyone goes through the grieving process in a different way. You are both the most charitable and the most spiritual person in your family, with Aquarius and Pisces strongly emphasized in your birth chart. I can see you working in health care or in a church. You are still grieving now, but next month brings a kind of rebirth for you when you finally have the energy to seek new prospects.

If you would like to write to Joyce Jillson, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Joyce Jillson page.

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I always have had a close relationship with my brother, "Tad." He and my sisters and I all live in the same city, and we enjoy getting together several times a year.

Recently, Tad turned 50. When I called him to ask how he was going to celebrate the big day, he told me he was going to a party "someone" was giving him. I later found out that Tad was giving the party for himself and that he invited one sister but not the rest of us.

My husband says to forget about it, but my feelings are hurt. I thought Tad and I were good friends as well as siblings. I know I should be beyond these childish emotions at my age. What is the matter with me? — Numb in New Mexico

Dear Numb: There is nothing the matter with you. It was incredibly insensitive of Tad to invite one sibling and not the others, especially knowing that you would find out about it. Regardless of his relationship with each of you, how difficult could it be to include all his sisters in celebrating his 50th birthday?

It's possible Tad had a good reason for the snub, but the only way to find out is to ask him point-blank, and you might not like what you hear. We hope you are able to chalk it up to Tad's peculiar idiosyncrasies and put it behind you so your family can continue to "enjoy getting together several times a year."



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Omaha," whose 16-year-old son, "Adam," is very shy and not into a normal teenage social life.

My exceptionally handsome, smart and talented 17-year-old son was shy, too, and had a small group of close friends. By the time he was a junior in high school, still receiving awards and honors, he had begun to withdraw from all except his two closest friends. I didn't want to risk alienating him by suggesting he see a counselor. A month before his high school graduation, he committed suicide.

Please, please, tell Omaha not to ignore what's happening. She must find a way to open real communication with him to find out what he is feeling and thinking. She must ask him questions and listen, listen, listen. She shouldn't worry about temporarily alienating him by suggesting counseling. I am

permanently alienated from my son. — No Name/No City

Dear No Name: Our deepest condolences on the tragic loss of your son. Your words will serve as a warning to others, although not all shy teenagers are depressed. Read on:

Dear Annie: I also am a 16-year-old high school student. In middle school, I was extremely shy, but still managed to gather up a small circle of friends. Once we got to high school, though, we all developed different interests. That circle has become smaller, and we are not as close as we once were.

While it is good that "Adam" is playing school sports because it's a great way to meet new people, his parents shouldn't be too concerned about the rest. In high school, we all try to find out who we are. He and his friends may no longer have much in common.

The parents said he is smart. Maybe he ran into the same problem I have, which is that many high school kids aren't that interested in having the conversations that interest me. As you said, Annie, he might relate better to adults. It also might explain why he doesn't go to school social events. — Tired of High School Immaturity

Dear Tired: There are many explanations for a teenager's shyness, and parents need to keep their eyes open to the more worrisome possibilities. Thanks for your valuable input.

THURSDAY

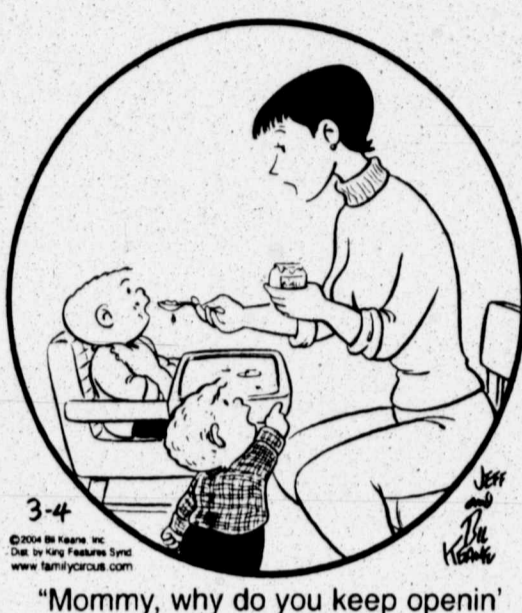
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6	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Amar Otra Vez	King of the Hill Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Pason de Gavilanes	News Seinfeld (CC)	Senfeld (CC)	Joe McGee John Hagee	News-Lerner	New Detectives-Forensic	Stood Still	NBA Tip-Off NBA	Live BET com	Sister, Sister Lizze McGuire	College Basketball	NHL Hockey	JAG (CC)	Zelig
7	Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	Veio de Nova	Tru Calling (CC)	Survivor: All-Stars (CC)	Amor Descarado	Friends (CC)	Movie: Rush Hour (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	New This Old House Hour	Monster House (CC)	Movie: Rooster	Basketball: Kings at 76ers	The Parkers	Movie: You Wish! (CC)	Georgetown at Notre Dame	New York Rangers at Boston Bruins (CC)	Law & Order: Special Victims	Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams National
8	Life After Ext. Makeover	Life After Ext. Makeover	Bajo la Misma Piel	Tru Calling (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Insight	El Alma Herida (CC)	The Apprentice (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (CC)	Mega-Excavators	Excavators	106 & Park: Prime	Comicview	Sister, Sister Boy World	Cincinnati at DePaul (CC)	Timeless	Movie: Bring It On (CC)	Movie: Van Wilder	
9	Primetime Thursday	Primetime Thursday	Aqui y Ahora	70s Show Dharma-Greg	Without a Trace (CC)	Mujeres Apasionadas	Princess Diana	10 Movie: Jackie Chan's	To Be Announced	More Than Human	15 Movie: Angel and the	NBA Basketball	Comicview	Sister, Sister Boy World	Cincinnati at DePaul (CC)	Timeless	Movie: Bring It On (CC)	Movie: Van Wilder	
10	News Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News The Tonight (CC)	First Strike (CC)	The Hour of Charlie Rose (CC)	Sign Off	Mega-Excavators	15 Movie: Rooster	Trail Blazers Inside the NBA	Midnight Love	Even Stevens Sister, Sister	Gamernight Strongwoman	Rome Is Burning (CC)	Jawbreaker (CC)	Wigstock: The Movie
11	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	En las Mejores Familias	Becker (CC) Spin City	(CC) The Late Late Show (CC)	Al Rojo Vivo- Mana Celeste Corte-Familia	Show (CC) Late Night (CC)	10 Movie: Lorraine	Sam Peak Jesse Lee Pe	Update/Israel Derek Prince	More Than Human	Cogburn	The X-Files (CC)	Comicview	Boy World Recess (CC)	Strongwoman	Movie: Forbidden Sins		
12	Live (CC) Oprah Winfrey	Pad Program	Rencor Apasionado	Blind Date	Street Smarts														

DENNIS THE MENACE



"COME ON, MARGARET. I NEED TO DO A TEST RUN WITH YOUR DOLLY FIRST."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Mommy, why do you keep openin' your mouth without saying anything?"

HAGAR



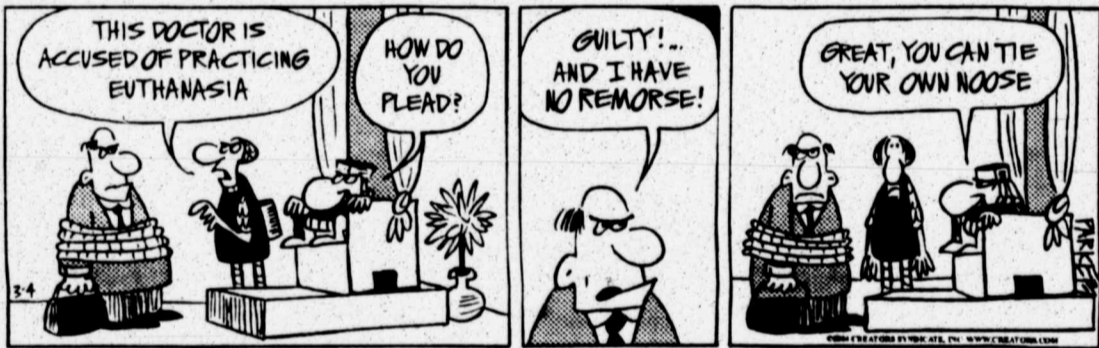
BLONDIE



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WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 4, the 64th day of 2004. There are 302 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 4, 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated president, pledging to lead the country out of the Great Depression. (The start of President Roosevelt's first administration brought with it the first woman to serve in the Cabinet: Labor Secretary Frances Perkins.)

On this date:

In 1193, Saladin, the Muslim warrior who opposed the Crusades, died.

In 1789, the Constitution of the United States went into effect as the first Federal Congress met in New York. (The lawmakers then adjourned for lack of a

quorum.)

In 1791, Vermont became the 14th state.

In 1837, the Illinois state legislature granted a city charter to Chicago.

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated president.

In 1902, the American Automobile Association was founded in Chicago.

In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge's inauguration was broadcast live on 21 radio stations nationwide.

In 1952, actors Ronald Reagan and Nancy Davis were married in San Fernando Valley, Calif.

In 1981, a jury in Salt Lake City convicted Joseph Paul Franklin, an avowed racist, of violating the civil rights of two black men who were shot to death.

In 1987, President Reagan addressed the nation on the Iran-Contra affair, acknowledging his overtures to Iran had "deteriorated" into an arms-for-hostages deal.

Today's Birthdays: Folk singer Miriam Makeba is 72. Actress-singer Barbara McNair is 70. Actress Paula Prentiss is 65. Movie direc-

tor Adrian Lyne is 63. Singer Bobby Womack is 60. Rock musician Chris Squire (Yes) is 56. Singer Shakin' Stevens is 56. Singer Chris Rea is 53. Actor Ronn Moss is 52. Actress Kay Lenz is 51. Musician Emilio Estefan is 51. Movie director Scott Hicks is 51. Actress Catherine O'Hara is 50. Actress Patricia Heaton is 46. Actor Mykelti Williamson is 44. Actor Steven Weber is 43. Rock musician Jason Newsted is 41. Actress Stacy Edwards is 39. Rapper Grand Puba is 38. Rock musician Patrick Hannan (The Sundays) is 38.

Answer to previous puzzle

CABS	IDLE	SCAMS
ALAI	GROW	CRASH
PILL	LUBE	MOAGY
TILL	TOMORROW	
EOS	OLDEST	
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STREET	GOD	
	CLOUD	SEEDING
SAMOA	TOUR	HAUL
EXALT	ERIC	OGLE
TEHEE	SATE	POLE

Newsday Crossword

PEN STATION by Fred PiScop
Edited by Stanley Newman

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| ACROSS | 62 Get the pot going | 11 Greek letters | 38 Seed spitter's sound |
| 1 One of the Three Bears | 63 <i>The Haj</i> novelist | 12 Author Shere agcy. | 39 "___ to Be Wild" |
| 5 Strikebreaker | 64 Rhone feeder | 13 Job safety | 42 Pasta wheat |
| 9 Prefix for logical | 65 In need | 18 Like cheap speakers | 44 Remain at home |
| 14 Chew out | 66 Check out | 19 Ally | 46 Simple shelter |
| 15 Billing unit, perhaps | | 23 Like garage floors | 47 Temper, informally |
| 16 With | DOWN | 24 Wiener wrapping | 49 Roast host |
| 34 Across, French diarist | 1 "All gone!" sound | 25 Actress ZaSu | 51 Soothing spots |
| 17 Ponce de Leon sought it | 2 Natural balm | 26 Deca-times two | 52 ___ breve |
| 20 ___ Aviv | 3 ___ Pry (snoop) | 27 Taunts | 53 Composer Schifrin |
| 21 "___ it a pity?" | 4 Novelist Rand | 28 Ryan or Tatum | 54 Second starter |
| 22 Moses parted it | 5 Cascade Range peak | 30 Put to shame | 55 100% |
| 23 Not fooled by | 6 Vending machine, for short | 31 M*A*S*H locale | 56 Sale condition |
| 24 Kingly address | 7 Em, to Dorothy | 32 Travel like bees | 57 Wasp's home |
| 25 Risky purchase | 8 Sir's sib | 37 Region of Italy | 60 Beaten by the tag |
| 29 Fifth Avenue store | 9 Check writer | | |
| 33 In an aloof way | 10 Battery terminals | | |
| 34 See | | | |
| 16 Across | | | |
| 35 Fiddler's stick | | | |
| 36 Beer stein | | | |
| 37 Flip over | | | |
| 39 Vamp Theda | | | |
| 40 Mao ___-tung | | | |
| 41 Kingston Trio tune | | | |
| 42 Medicine giver | | | |
| 43 Smart talk | | | |
| 45 Costner baseball film | | | |
| 48 Actress Hatcher | | | |
| 50 Bring home | | | |
| 51 Sandwich meat | | | |
| 54 Orkan word | | | |
| 55 Wok | | | |
| 58 Be evasive, in a way | | | |
| 61 Kate's TV mate | | | |

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