

BIG SPRING

# HERALD

At the Crossroads of West Texas

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

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THURSDAY

December 4, 2003

## WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR

TONIGHT 34°-36° TOMORROW 52°-54°



Each day through the holiday season, the *Herald* will publish locations where you might help others less fortunate, including the Salvation Army Angel Trees and Salvation Army Kettles. If your organization has an established program to help others and would like to be included in this list, call Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234.

**Angel Tree locations:**  
• Big Spring Herald (seniors)  
• Gale's Sweet Shop  
• Big Spring Mall  
• Wal-Mart

**Salvation Army Kettles:**  
• Post Office  
• Wal-Mart  
• Big Spring Mall  
• Rip Griffins Truck Stop

**Giving Tree**  
• Wells Fargo Bank  
• Western National Bank

**Herald Toy Drive**  
• Big Spring *Herald*

**Canned Food Drive**  
• Big Spring *Herald*

## BRIEFLY

The Howard County Democratic Party will meet at 7 p.m. today in the Howard County Courtroom on the second floor of the courthouse.

Election of new officers will be held.

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Vol. 100, No. 18

Find us online at: [www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com)

To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 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.

# State Sen. Bivins tenders resignation

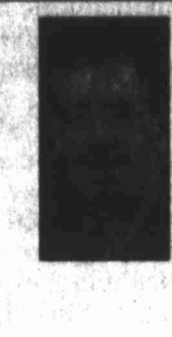
By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

Sen. Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, has submitted his letter of resignation, citing as the reasons family concerns and his recent nomination as ambassador to Sweden.

Bivins, who delivered the letter to Gov. Rick Perry and his senate colleagues Wednesday morning, will be resigning his District 31 seat effective at 5 p.m. on Jan. 12, 2004. He said his reasons for resigning were manifold.

"As you know, I am now a new dad splitting my time between Houston and Amarillo," Bivins said in the letter. "The reality is that I am simply unable to devote the time needed to represent my constituents in Austin."

*"The reality is that I am simply unable to devote the time needed to represent my constituents in Austin."*



Sen. Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo

Bivins went on to say his recent nomination as ambassador to Sweden has also spurred him to take action now, instead of waiting for confirmation to

See BIVINS, Page 3A

# Former Amarillo mayor visits Big Spring, announces candidacy

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

Former Amarillo Mayor Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, stopped in Big Spring Wednesday afternoon to announce his candidacy for the District 31 seat on the Texas Senate which will be vacated by long-time Sen. Teel Bivins.

Seliger said he chose to announce his candidacy in

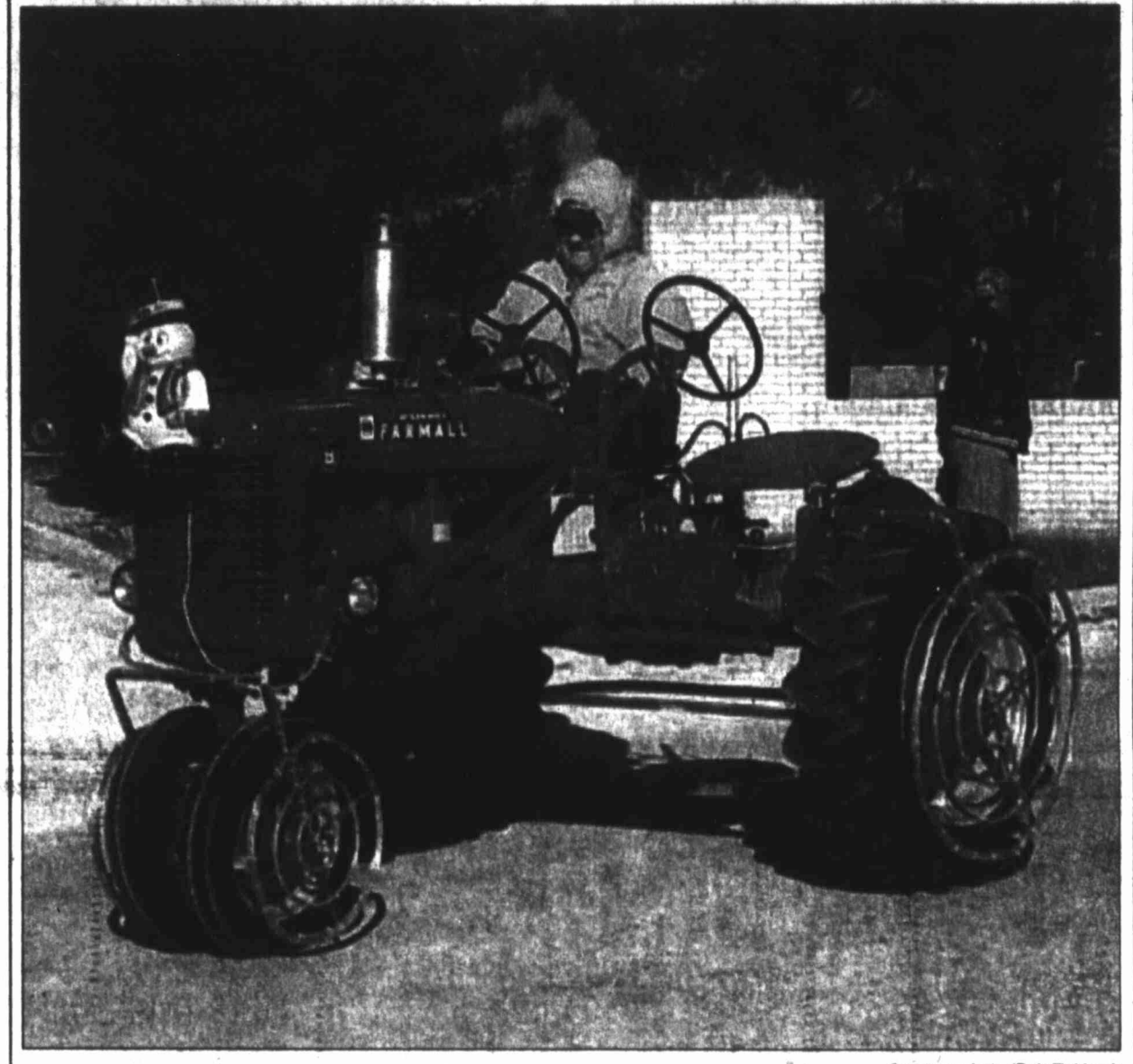
Howard County because it has been such a pivotal county in recent redistricting.

"In the last three- or four-year period, Howard County will have had three state senators," said Seliger, "two very good and well-respected ones, and one yet to be named. I think it's very important for the people in Howard County to feel a consistency in the quality of their representation, and for a new representative, the determination



SELIGER

Howard See SELIGER, Page 3A



Participants in the Christmas in Boomtown parade make their way down the streets of Forsan last year to usher in the holiday season. This year's parade begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday. Vendor booths will be set up near the Forsan Soda Shop during much of the day.

# Old-fashioned fun promises to be booming through Forsan

By LYNDEL MOODY  
Staff Writer

Two long-time Forsan residents will serve as grand marshals for the third annual Christmas in Boomtown parade Saturday.

"Arthur Barton and Clarence Williams will be honored as grand marshals this year," said Jeff Janca, parade coordinator. "They have made big contributions to the community."

Barton, a World War II veteran, and Williams, a Forsan city councilman, will headline the parade when it begins at 10:30 a.m.

*It's not too late to enter. Meet at 9:30 a.m. Saturday in the Forsan High School parking lot.*

"We've got quite a few entries this year," Janca said. "The Howard County Volunteer Fire Department, the Howard County Sheriff's Posse and antique cars are coming out this year for the parade. We have motorcycle entries and the Forsan High

School band will be marching.

"We also encourage some of the kids to decorate their bikes and be in the parade," Janca continued. "We are hopeful to have some antique tractors."

"Anyone who wants to enter the parade is welcome until the start of the event."

"They can meet at the Forsan High School parking lot," Janca said.

Entries will gather in the parking lot at 9:30 a.m. and will head down Avenue H

See PARADE, Page 3A

# VA Medical Center will turn on the lights Friday

HERALD Staff Report

Set to usher in the holiday spirit, the VA Medical Center will hold a ceremony Friday to light the facility's outdoor lights and Christmas tree.

"We invite the community

to join in this festive occasion," said Iva Jo Hanslik, community relations coordinator.

The program will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the hospital lobby, and includes a performance by the nursing home care

unit choir, which will sing Christmas carols.

Santa Claus will help to celebrate the event with the assistance of some children by flipping the switch to turn on the festive indoor and outdoor lights.

# Hangar 25 Air Museum to sponsor open house

HERALD Staff Report

Hangar 25 Air Museum will be hosting its annual "after parade" open house on Saturday.

Cookies and hot chocolate will be served.

Because Pearl Harbor Day is the next day, Dec. 7, there will be a short program to pay homage to those who experienced the "Greatest Generation." Bill Crooker, Howard County Commissioner, will speak. Crooker was a student at

the Big Spring Bombardier School and served as a 2nd Lt. with the 15th Air Command from 1943 to 1945. He was a prisoner of war for six months after he was captured when his plane went down over Czechoslovakia.

# COUNTY

## Contested elections are mounting quickly

HERALD Staff Report

One day into the filing process, it appears Howard County will have at least two contested commissioner seats for the March primaries.

Longtime Precinct 1 Commissioner Bill Crooker will be challenged in the Republican Party Primary by local business woman Kathy Lusk. Both filed with the Republican Party on Wednesday.

Filing treasurer information with the county clerk's office on Wednesday were Precinct 1 Commissioner Emma Brown, seeking re-election, and Yolanda Mendoza, both Democrats.

Candidates have not officially filed until they pay a filing fee with their party chairman. Margarita Durand-Hollis is the Republican Party chairman for Howard County. The Democratic Party is holding an election tonight to determine its chairman, presumably Wayne Burns.

Also filing with the Republican chairman were three incumbents, County Attorney Mike Thomas, County Tax Assessor/Collector Kathy Sayles and Precinct 1, Place 1 Peace Justice Bennie

See FILING, Page 3A

# UNITED WAY

## Officials hope to reach goal as campaign ends

By LYNDEL MOODY  
Staff Writer

United Way of Big Spring and Howard County officials are hoping to announce some good news soon.

"We are very close to our goal," said Executive Director Cynthia Scott. "We are waiting on three key contributors to come in and, if their last year's contribution is any indication, once we receive those we are expect to be close or exceed our goal."

Today is the last official day of the campaign which helps raise funds to support 14 area agencies.

Volunteers have been working for several weeks to reach the goal of \$265,000.

"You can't say enough about the volunteers," said 2003 Chairman Charles Myers. "This is a totally volunteer-driven campaign. We have one paid staff member, Cynthia Scott, and she does a great job. The legwork and solicitations are done primarily by volunteers in the community."

Scott said United Way will continue to take donations following the end of the campaign today. Contributions can be designated for a certain agency, at the donor's request.

See UNITED WAY, Page 3A

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Obituaries

John Calvin Wilson

John Calvin Wilson, 40, of Big Spring died at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2003, at Covenant Lakeside Medical Center in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support groups

THURSDAY

Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 12 noon to 1 p.m.; Women's meeting; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Non-Smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue Support Group meets at noon at the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center.

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

FRIDAY

AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon Open Big Book Study Meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

Open Discussion Meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open Podium/Speakers Meeting 615 Settles 8 to 9 p.m. Open Birthday Night, No Smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 to 6 p.m.

Surviving Pregnancy Loss meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library Committee Room. Call 631-4430 for more information.

TUESDAY

Area Agency on Aging of the Permian Basin will hold a self-help support group for care givers in Howard County on Tuesday.

The meeting will be held at Canterbury Retirement Homes Inc., 1700 Lancaster, from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. For more information, call Raynetta Williams, caregiver coordinator, at (432) 563-1061 or (800) 491-4636 or locally call Debbie Read at Home Hospice at (432) 264-7599.

This group is open to the public and funded by the Texas Department on Aging.

Take note

A FUND HAS BEEN set at State National Bank to help defray medical costs for Elsie Hinojosa of Stanton, a cancer patient. She is a relative of Patsy Padilla of Big Spring.

THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM, which delivers to the elderly and homebound, needs volunteers to deliver meals.

If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed.

About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring.

If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

ROAD TO RECOVERY DRIVERS WANTED. Volunteer drivers are needed to transport cancer patients to and from treatments. If you can spare a few hours each month, please consider volunteering to drive somebody along the Road to Recovery. For more information about volunteering or if you are a cancer patient in need of the service, call La Wanda Hamm, 263-7827.

SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy.

Distribution is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING counties are in critical need of foster families.

Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected.

For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

All announcements to the Sunday Life! section are free of charge. Call the Herald office for more details, 263-7331

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Espanol... (432) 264-7772

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Police blotter

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

RAMON IGLESIAS ALVERA, 25, of 508 Young, was arrested Thursday on charges of public intoxication, burglary of a vehicle and a capias warrant for assault.

ROBERT PAUL NEWTON, 25, of 2105 Scurry, was arrested Thursday on a charge of evading arrest.

SETH KUEHN SWEARINGEN, 19, of 431 Glass Lane, was arrested Thursday on a charge of minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage.

MAX HAROLD GRAND, 19, of 1001 Birdwell, was arrested Thursday on a charge of minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage.

KENNETH WAYNE SWINDLE, 21, of Lubbock, was arrested Thursday on a charge of furnishing alcoholic beverages to a minor.

WAYNE JOSEPH DOUCET, 19, of Lake Charles, was arrested Thursday on a charge of minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage.

JACOB LYNN SMITH, 21, of Sweetwater, was arrested Thursday on a charge of furnishing alcoholic beverages to a minor.

CLARENCE EDWARD YANEZ, 27, of 1503 Wood, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana-two ounces or less.

ERIN REBECCA MULVEY, 18, of Round Rock, was arrested Thursday on a charge of minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage.

ANALISA ARRELLANO, 18, of Austin, was arrested Thursday on a charge of minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage.

DANIELLE MARIE RAWLS, 21, of Coahoma, was arrested Thursday and held for the Howard County Sheriff's Office.

EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION was reported in the 2100 block of Scurry.

MINOR IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE was reported in the 3400 block of the Interstate Highway 20 South Service Road.

PURCHASE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE FOR A MINOR was reported in the 3400 block of the Interstate Highway 20 South Service Road.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT was reported in the 400 block of Dallas.

POSSESSION/DELIVERY OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 600 block of Owens.

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA-TWO OUNCES OR LESS was reported in the 600 block of Owens.

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA-TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE was reported in the 700 block of 11th Place.

THEFT was reported: in the 2500 block of Gregg Street.

ASSAULT BY THREAT was reported in the 700 block of Pine.

BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

Sheriff's report

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

DIEGO GARDEA, 31, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

JEREMY LYNN TREVINO, 17, was arrested by the HCSO Wednesday on a charge of assault with intent to cause bodily injury.

ALFREDO EDWARD GARZA, 32, was arrested by the HCSO Wednesday on a motion to revoke probation for aggravated sexual assault of a child.

TONY LEON JETTON, 27, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of assault/family violence.

DANIELLE MARIE RAWLS, 21, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on two charges of forgery of a financial instrument.

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 300 block of E. Robinson Road. Deputies were dispatched, parties separated. No report.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s. East winds 5 to 10 mph.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s. North winds 10 to 15 mph..Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Highs in the mid 60s.

Monday...Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows around 40. Highs in the mid 60s.

Tuesday...Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 30s. Highs in the mid 50s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Highs in the mid 50s.

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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

Thursday Kiwanis Club, noon at HC Cactus Room. Call 267-6478 for more information.

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

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

Genealogical Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in Howard County Library.

Masonic Lodge B40 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

Friday

Spring City Senior Citizen country and western dance will be held from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. All senior citizens are invited.

AMBUCS meets at noon in La Posada, 206 NW 4th Street.

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

Saturday

Dance, 8:30 p.m. at Eagles Lodge, 703 West 3rd. Members and guests welcome.

Potton House, 200 Gregg, a restored historical home is open from 1 to 5 p.m. A one time admission fee of \$2 for adults; \$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 located at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Sundays from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Monday

Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m., SMMC Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. People 50 and older are invited to participate. Call 268-4721.

The public is invited to the evening Lions Club meeting at 6:30 p.m. at La Posada.

Big Spring Commandery No. 31 meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic Temple, 221 1/2 Main. Dinner is held at 6:30 p.m.

Big Spring Assembly No. 211, Social Order of Beauceant meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.

Archeology Society for Howard and Borden County meets every second Monday in the library basement in the community room at 7 p.m. Call Lane Clawson, 270-2615.

Coahoma's Lion Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center, 306 North Ave.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 16-17-18-23-34. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$43,686. Winning tickets sold in: Austin. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 3-4-7-16-29. Bonus Ball: 42. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$17 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-3-9

Newspaper in Education Each Tuesday BIG SPRING HERALD

BIG SPRING HERALD www.bigspringherald.com Reflecting A Proud Community 432-263-7331 (Main switchboard) 432-263-7335 (Circulation calls only) (Fax) 432-264-7205

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SELIGER

Continued from... to provide qu... sentation. "No one i... come in and... Teel Bivins, Robert Dunca... line that's o... worthy goal, simply not go... pen in Januar... Seliger said... strong ties to... because of its... to his hon...

PARADE

Continued from... when the parac... begins at 10:30... From there... continues dow... then turns le... Street, and co... Main Street. Parade wat... encouraged to l... eral booths in... Forsan Soda Sh... ety of wares... display. "The Forsan...

UNITED

Continued from P... Final totals... announced dur... cheon to be set... date. Funds from... paign are used... the American P... West Texas... Boy's Club of B... Buffalo Trail... Boy Scouts of... Council on Ag...

FILING

Continued from Pa... Green. Other Howard... seats up for el... 2004 are district...

News

Boy testifies pastor beat h... AUSTIN (AP) year-old boy... Wednesday that... severely beaten... tree branch by... pastor and his tw... er to "get the de... me" because... believed he had... during Bible clas... Trial began W... for Joshua an... Thompson, 23, accused of bea... boy after he mi... in Bible camp a... City Baptist Ch... fundamentalist c... tion where he... church servic... school. Police say the... was so severe... boy's kidneys fa... that he needed... transfusion to su... The Thomps... felony charges o... injury to a ch... aggravated assa... penalties rangin... probation to lif... if convicted.

WE SE... INSURAN... WE LI...

LIKE A GOOD NEIGH... State Farm... Save Farm Life an...



**SELIGER**

Continued from Page 1A

to provide quality representation.

"No one is going to come in and be the next Teel Bivins, or the next Robert Duncan. Down the line that's certainly a worthy goal, but that's simply not going to happen in January."

Seliger said he feels strong ties to Big Spring because of its similarities to his hometown of

Borger.

"I view this community as exactly the same one that I grew up in — in its ties to energy and agriculture, public schools and community colleges," he said. "The things that concern me and the things that I have worked hard on as the mayor of Amarillo are the same things that are important to this community. The dedication of the people to make this community grow is exactly the same as those I saw in Amarillo and elsewhere."

Seliger's announcement to run for the seat comes on the heels of several other West Texas candidacy announcements, including Midland Mayor Mike Cannon, Odessa businessmen Kirk Edwards and Bob Barnes and Midland businessman Don Sparks.

The first day to file with Texas Secretary of State was Wednesday.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [newsdesk@crcom.net](mailto:newsdesk@crcom.net)

**PARADE**

Continued from Page 1A

when the parade officially begins at 10:30 a.m.

From there the route continues down FM 461, then turns left to Rex Street, and continues to Main Street.

Parade watchers are encouraged to browse several booths in front of the Forsan Soda Shop. A variety of wares will be on display.

"The Forsan junior and

senior classes will have a garage and bake sale," Janca said. "The Teen Challenge choir from Midland will come and sing, and they will set up a booth. There will be people selling Christmas decorations, tamales and rare coins."

Booths will set up at 9 a.m. and stay open to around 1 p.m.

Almost 600 people lined the parade route last year, Janca said, offering a conservative estimate, to watch the parade of

antique cars, tractors, floats and children wind their way down the streets of the small community.

For more information, to enter a float in the parade or to reserve a booth, call Janca at 457-0303 after 5 p.m.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at [newsdesk@crcom.net](mailto:newsdesk@crcom.net)

**UNITED WAY**

Continued from Page 1A

Final totals will be announced during a luncheon to be set at a later date.

Funds from the campaign are used to support the American Red Cross, West Texas Chapter; Boy's Club of Big Spring; Buffalo Trail Council; Boy Scouts of America; Council on Aging; Dora

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

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at [newsdesk@crcom.net](mailto:newsdesk@crcom.net)

**FILING**

Continued from Page 1A

Green.

Other Howard County seats up for election in 2004 are district attorney,

sheriff, and four constable posts — two of which are currently vacant.

Filing fees are \$750 for each position, except justice of the peace and constable, which are \$375.

The filing period runs through Jan. 2.

**News in brief**

**Boy testifies pastor beat him**

AUSTIN (AP) — A 12-year-old boy testified Wednesday that he was severely beaten with a tree branch by a church pastor and his twin brother to "get the devil out of me" because they believed he had acted up during Bible class.

Trial began Wednesday for Joshua and Caleb Thompson, 23, who are accused of beating the boy after he misbehaved in Bible camp at Capitol City Baptist Church, a fundamentalist congregation where he attended church services and school.

Police say the beating was so severe that the boy's kidneys failed and that he needed a blood transfusion to survive.

The Thompsons face felony charges of serious injury to a child and aggravated assault, with penalties ranging from probation to life in prison if convicted.

**TDI wants change to credit score rule**

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Department of Insurance has proposed changing a new rule on how insurers can use policyholders' credit histories to set rates.

Under a new TDI staff proposal, a cap would be placed on how much insurers can vary rates for a consumer because of the customer's credit scores. The proposal says the rate could not increase or decrease more than 10 percent because of a credit score.

**BIVINS**

Continued from Page 1A

the position.

"I have been honored to learn that President Bush intends to submit my name in nomination to become the United States Ambassador to Sweden," he said. "If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate, it is very important to me that the voters of Senate District 31 have the opportunity to select new representation in anticipation of a potential special session on public school finance in April, 2004. By tendering my resignation now, I hope that an early vacancy would allow for a special election to select my replacement prior to that time."

Bivins also cited the term limitations that he supported in 1995 as yet another reason for his desire to leave the Texas legislature.

"I knew going in that the job was only temporary," he said. "In 1995, I sponsored a constitutional amendment that would have limited terms in the Texas Senate to no more than 14 years. Now that I have served for 15 years, I know that my tenure has been long enough."

Gov. Perry said Bivins' expertise on public finance will be sorely missed, but wished the soon to be ex-senator best wishes on his possible ambassadorship.

"In Sen. Teel Bivins, President Bush has chosen an individual of exceptional statesmanship who has served the State of Texas with distinction and honor for more than a decade," Perry said in a press release shortly after receiving the senator's resignation.

"Teel's leadership on education and expertise on public finance has benefited all Texans and will be sorely missed. I thank

him for his many years of public service. Anita and I wish Teel and his family well through the senate nominations process, and for continued success in the years ahead."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [newsdesk@crcom.net](mailto:newsdesk@crcom.net)

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**

24th & Johnson  
267-8288  
Elmer J. Henson, 87, died Monday. Funeral services were 11:30 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial was in Mt. Olive Memorial Park.  
Lloyd Love, 85, died Monday. Private family services will be held at a later date.  
Rev. John G. "Jack" Harrison, 83, died November 5, 2003. Memorial services will be 11:00 AM Friday at First Presbyterian Church.  
John Calvin Wilson, 40, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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**50% OFF**

**MEN'S 2-PC. WARM-UPS**  
By Sun River Sport.  
Reg. 50.00, **SALE 24.99.**



**FRIDAY ONLY BONUS BUY!**

**50% OFF**

**BOYS 4-20 REEBOK & RUSSELL**  
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Reg. 16.00-40.00, **SALE 8.00-20.00.**



**FRIDAY ONLY BONUS BUY!**

**50% OFF**

**MISSES FALL SWEATERS**  
By Designers Originals.  
Reg. 26.00, **SALE 13.00.**



**50% OFF**

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**40% OFF**

**GIRLS & BOYS SWEATERS**  
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**30-50% OFF**

**MISSES TOPS & SWEATERS**  
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Orig. 29.00-48.00, **SALE 19.99-32.99.**

**SALE 26.99**

**GUYS LEVI'S RED TAB JEANS**  
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**33-50% OFF**

**MEN'S/LADIES OUTERWEAR**  
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**40% OFF**

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## EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Chuck Williams  
Publisher

Susanne Reed  
General Manager

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

## Bring a thermos and enjoy the parade Saturday

For 18 years now, the Christmas season in Big Spring has gotten off to its official start with the Herald's Community Christmas Parade. And another Yuletide will get under way Saturday afternoon as the parade's 17th edition begins at 5:30.

We here at the *Big Spring Herald* take great pride in sponsoring each year's Community Christmas Parade and strive to make every procession just a little better than that which came before.

That's obviously the case for most of those who enter the parade each year, because it seems that your entries continue to get better and better. That has most certainly been the case since the parade was changed to an evening start and lighted entries encouraged.

This year's procession, set to stroll down Gregg Street at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, will have 53 entries following the theme "A Family Christmas."

U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, will serve as grand marshal for the event.

The parade route will be as follows: The procession will start at the corner of East 24th and Gregg streets, moving northward on Gregg Street, take a right on Sixth Street, go all the way up to Main, take a left on Main Street and disperse around the courthouse area.

While the chilly temperatures of the past couple of days are supposed to moderate to some degree Saturday, there's no question that it will be cold once the sun goes down.

So dress warmly, bring a thermos of coffee or hot chocolate and head downtown in plenty of time to get a good vantage point. You won't want to miss this parade.

We'll see you there.

## 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 [jmoseley@crcom.net](mailto:jmoseley@crcom.net)

## 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 Moseley at [jmoseley@crcom.net](mailto:jmoseley@crcom.net) or News Editor Bill McClellan at [newsdesk@crcom.net](mailto:newsdesk@crcom.net).
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we not be afraid knowing that you are there,  
Lord.

Amen

## A national Rx for bankruptcy

There are reasons to support the Medicare bill, passed by the House and the Senate. Poor seniors should get relief they desperately need. Congress should reverse a pending 1.5 percent reduction in payments to physicians who care for elderly patients.

Still, Tom Coburn would have voted against it. Coburn is an Oklahoma doctor who was elected to the House in 1994. He continued to practice family medicine and obstetrics while he served as a GOP congressman, until 2000 when he chose not to run for re-election, in keeping with his campaign pledge to serve only three terms.

Taking a break from his patients — and from promoting his new book, "Breach of Trust, How Washington Turns Outsiders into Insiders" — Coburn got on the telephone to give his take on the bill. As he sees it, the Medicare bill is another big-spending bill from a big-spending GOP-led Congress and a big-spending Republican president.

"It's pretty sad, isn't it? There's not a choice any more about controlling the size of the federal government. It's not Democrat vs. Republican," said Coburn. It's careerist vs. non-careerist — and the careerists carry the day.

"I deal with seniors every day

who have to make a choice between supper and their medicine," Coburn added. He wants the government to do something, but he believes regulators should reduce what drug companies charge American consumers. I doubt his prescription would work — but at least Coburn's plan wouldn't inflate the national debt.

The bill's \$400 billion price tag isn't credible. For one thing, Washington inevitably will expand benefits — that's why the AARP supports the bill. It's the camel's nose in the tent.

As the bill stands, seniors who earn less than \$12,123 annually wouldn't have to pay premiums or deductibles. That's good. But other seniors who enroll in the program would pay a \$35 monthly premium, a \$250 deductible and a co-payment of 25 percent for the first \$2,250 in drugs each year. Seniors would then pay all of the next \$2,850 in drug costs — this gap is called the "doughnut hole," because there are no benefits in the middle — until they pay \$3,600, when Medicare would pick up 95 percent of remaining drug costs.

As the fiscal-watchdog Concord Coalition argues, there's no policy reason for the doughnut hole. It exists solely to keep the tab under a \$400 billion limit. Which means, Coburn and the Concord Coalition warned, it's inevitable that Congress will boost benefits and fill the hole.

Then, some day, Congress will have to hike the payroll taxes of 25-year-olds to bankroll the drug

bill for seniors who think that only other people should have to pay for their medicine.

President Bush was right to ask Congress to authorize \$87 billion in spending to fund military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. But the move seems to have made him feel a need to boost domestic spending. He's so anxious to get the credit of giving other people's money to seniors during the 2004 campaign that he has forgotten about the future beyond the campaign. House Republicans were so eager to pass the bill before the election heats up that they gave billions to private employers and care providers. Anything for a win.

As Stephen Moore of the tightwad-right Club for Growth noted, "Republicans have lost their fiscal conscience. It's not true that we have an anti-big government party. We have two big-government parties, and they're in a contest to see who can outspend the other. This is putting us on the path to national bankruptcy."

Congress should have passed a bill to provide prescription drug coverage for poor seniors. Instead, it was goodies for all. No senior voter left behind.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@sfchronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@sfchronicle.com). To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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## Congressional market place

Sen. Bill Frist, experiencing a rough rookie year as majority leader, put it publicly to fellow senators late Friday morning. If you want to retain the succulent morsels of pork embedded in the massive energy bill, you better let the whole bill pass because you won't get a chance to pass them individually. This was modern "logrolling," a 19th-century invention for passing lots of bad proposals by bundling them together.

Frist fell two votes short of the 60 senators (out of 100) required to halt debate, a Senate super-majority needed these days to adopt anything controversial in the Senate. That setback evoked no remorse over concocting a monstrosity of a bill that goes \$4 billion over Budget Act limits. Unrepentant about the bill, Frist promised to try again before adjournment. Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle, who pushed hard for special ethanol treatment benefiting agricultural interests in his home state of South Dakota, blamed House Majority Leader Tom DeLay's help for energy interests in his state of Texas for sinking the bill.

The tip-off on the congressional mindset came when the House quietly abandoned plans to quit for the year this past weekend. Instead, House leaders made plans to reconvene Dec. 4 and 5 to consider an omnibus appropriations bill. "That gives them a chance to buy votes," one prominent lobbyist explained to me. That is, appropriations might purchase votes for the energy bill. More now than

any time since I started covering Capitol Hill in 1957, Congress is a giant, bipartisan, bicameral marketplace.

The 1,200-page final version of the energy bill supposedly addresses serious national problems, and it does contain desirable provisions (including federal authority to issue permits for interstate electricity lines in bottleneck areas). But mainly the bill is a vehicle for special interests. Washington lobbyists have been in a frenzy.

A classic case, described in detail by the Public Citizen liberal watchdog group, involves \$800 million in federal loan guarantees for Minnesota-based Excelsior Energy to build a coal gasification plant. Although this would be the largest American facility of this type, neither the Senate nor the House voted on the risky venture. Excelsior was created by executives tied to NRG Energy, which filed for bankruptcy this year after being fined for manipulating energy markets.

Excelsior's executives since January 2002 have contributed more than \$15,000 to congressional candidates, with over \$7,000 going to Republican Sen. Norm Coleman of Minnesota (elected in 2002). Some 13 lobbyists employed by Excelsior have contributed \$44,000 in the same cycle. Minnesota's Democratic Sen. Mark Dayton joined Coleman in voting for the bill.

Support for the energy bill from Daschle and other farm belt Democrats was bought by mandating a doubling of ethanol production in the next 10 years. This puts the federal government solidly athwart the market in dictating nationwide use of the corn-based fuel.

Addressing the Senate after

Friday's failed cloture vote, Daschle upbraided DeLay for going one step too far. The Republican leader added an amendment that throws out a lawsuit filed by New Hampshire against oil and chemical manufacturers of MTBE (alleging that the fuel additive has tainted underground water supplies in the Northeast). Opposition by five Republican senators from New England killed cloture on Friday.

Daschle seemed oblivious to what a monstrosity the energy bill would still be, even without the MTBE provision. So were Frist and nearly all Republican senators. Sen. John McCain took the Senate floor last Wednesday to assail the energy bill with the trademark criticism that often offends his colleagues: "I fear for the passage of a 1,200-page, pork-laden bill. The outbreak of Washington trichinosis will be so severe we will be forced to have a field office for the Centers for Disease Control right next to the Capitol."

McCain was the only Republican senator outside New England to vote against cloture Friday. He is one of the very few senators of either party who, apart from partisan considerations, object to today's degrading legislative process. McCain says the energy bill should be called the "Leave No Lobbyist Behind Act of 2003." Brushing themselves off after their defeat on the energy bill, the lobbyists were back at work over the weekend seeking a new venue for pork.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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Robert Langdon received an invitation to confer with Jacques Sauniere, a renowned curator at the Louvre Museum in Paris.

Langdon, a Harvard professor and well-known religious symbolologist, was excited with Sauniere. The meeting place in Sauniere the Louvre, Langdon arrived for the meeting, he is eager to show his body of Sauniere.

Before he died, he had positioned the pose of a famous sketch. He had written poems and a code beside his name.

The police constantly waits for interpretation of the scene, and as it insists Langdon more than he is.

These mysterious combined position of the no sense to Langdon while he multiplies scene Sophie police cryptology into the gallery joins the group ages to

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# He'll be singing on Big Spring time

A popular performer of country and western music will appear in a Saturday show at The Stampede in Big Spring.

Johnny Bush began his career in musical popularity at the age of 12, according to a press release.

For the next 20 years he worked his way through the honky-tonks of Texas to become a success in Nashville, performing as a touring musician, songwriter and performing vocalist. By the 1970s he was an established country and western talent.

Bush mysteriously lost his voice in 1972. With great difficulty he intermittently was able to sing. He underwent numerous treatments from experts. Eventually he was told he suffered from a malady known as spasmodic dysphonia, a rare neurological disorder for which there is yet no known cure.

But he continued to perform as best he could for his loyal Texas fans. By the mid 1980's, with the help of a voice coach and speech pathologist, Bush began to regain strength in his singing and speaking voice.

Since 1998 he has made a remarkable comeback. In March 2002 in Washington D.C. he was presented the Annie Glenn Award which recognized his spirit while coping with his condition.

Johnny Bush will appear from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 at The Stampede in Big Spring.

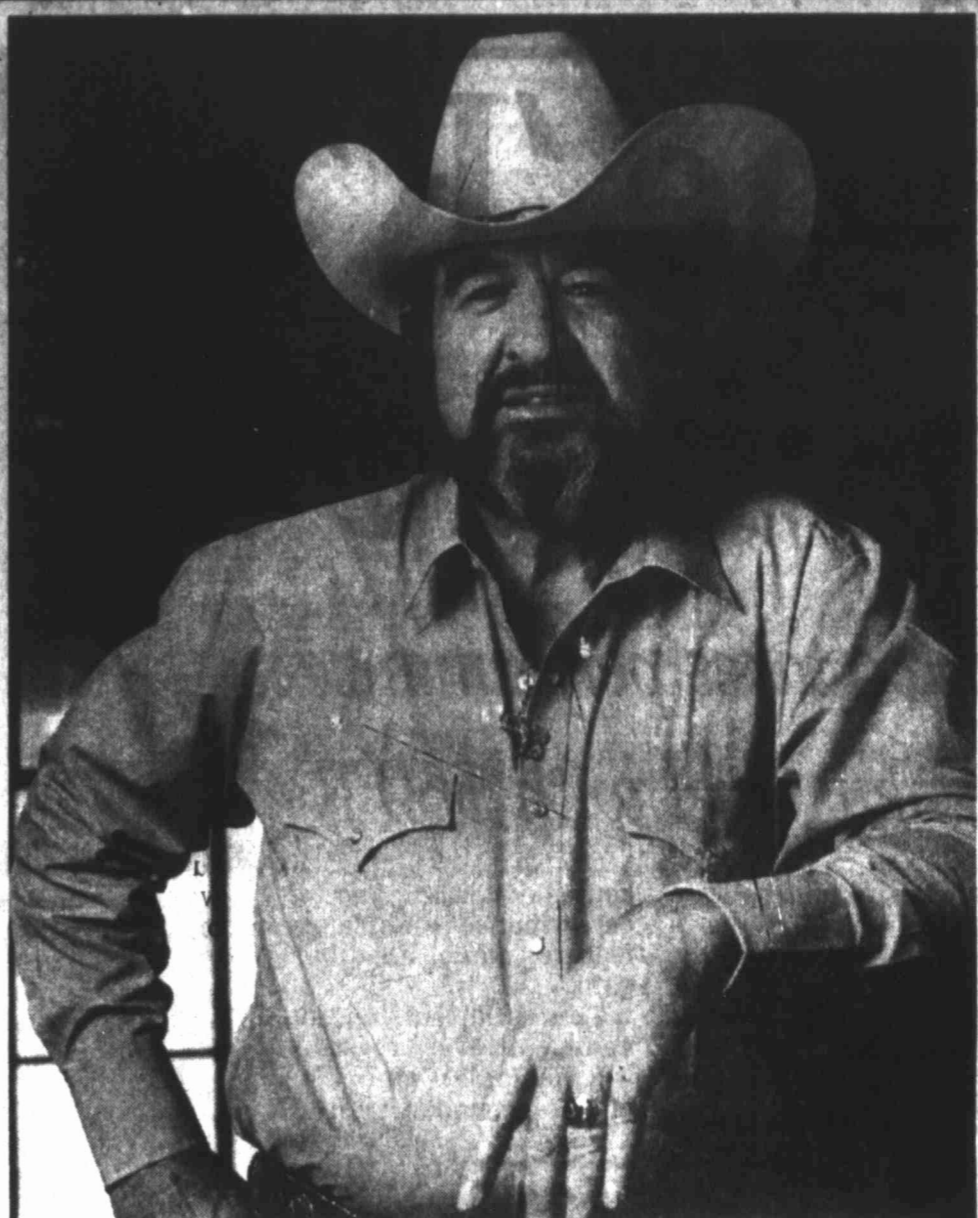
Tickets are \$12 per person. For reservations call 432-267-2060.

Bush, 67, was born John Bush Shinn III Feb. 17, 1935 in Houston. Raised in a shotgun style home without electricity or indoor plumbing, the Bush family had a household rich with the sounds of music.

His father and friends often gathered to play guitars and fiddles. Bush listened avidly to "Grand Ole Opry" on a crystal radio set his father built.

Country music ran in the family. His uncle, "smiling" Jerry Jericho, was a popular local singer and a cast member of the Houston radio show Blue Jean Jamboree.

At age 10, Bush's father taught him some chords on the guitar, and Bush took the guitar with him everywhere, singing and playing at school and parties. The rest of the story is country and western music history.



Johnny Bush

## Mystery unveils a crafty homicide scheme

Robert Langdon received an invitation to confer with Jacques Sauniere, a renowned curator at the Louvre Museum in Paris.



BOOK REVIEW  
PAT WILLIAMS

Langdon, a Harvard professor and well-known religious symbolist was flattered. He was eager to meet with Sauniere as he often had quoted the great man and looked up to him as a leader in his field.

The meeting was to take place in Sauniere's office at the Louvre, but when Langdon arrived for the meeting, he is met by the police chief who is only too eager to show him the dead body of Sauniere.

Before he died, Sauniere had positioned himself in the pose of Da Vinci's famous sketch of man, and had written puzzling statements and a numerical code beside his body.

The police chief expectantly waits for Langdon's interpretation of the death scene, and is agitated as he insists Langdon knows more than he is saying.

These mysterious writings combined with the position of the body make no sense to Langdon, but while he mulls the odd scene Sophie Neveu, a police cryptologist, bursts into the gallery. As she joins the group she manages to manipulate

### HERALD BOOK REVIEW

Langdon's conversation, and soon convinces him he is to be made the guilty party the police are eager to parade before the public. Langdon and Sophie escape the Louvre, and soon begin a wild chase through France and England to find Sauniere's murderer, as well as solve the great conundrums he has left.

Much of the story revolves around religion and religious organizations. The plot which is about the search to find documents or prove a religious belief is intertwined with a basic murder mystery.

Dan Brown uses authentic organizations and rituals that are not well known among society today, but both in times past and present, their movements and goals changed society in major ways.

In "The Da Vinci Code", the author sets forth controversial religious ideas about women as a major part of the story.

He also tells the history of the Priory of Sion, an actual secret organization founded in 1099 devoted to finding and divulging facts which were unacceptable to most religious people. Brown gives some history of the Knights Templar and the changes they wrought in the growth of Christianity.

Even more interesting were the facts woven into the novel about an existent,

but relatively unknown, conservative group of the Roman Catholic Church, Opus Dei.

Within the last few years they have built new headquarters in mid-town Manhattan, as well as appearing to be a powerful influence within the Vatican.

In building the plot, bits of religious trivia are dropped into conversations and situations giving the story a deeper level than found in most popular fiction works today.

The characters often quote Biblical New Testament verses while they give credence to documents which would serve to destroy Christianity.

As fictionalized history, "The Da Vinci Code" once again shows that greed and power, often in the cloak of religion, can cause men to do murderous acts against others.

Even more tragic, their

### VA Christmas tree lighting to be held Friday

A Christmas lighting ceremony will be held at the VA Health Center Friday at 5:30 p.m.

The Nursing Home Care Unit Choir will sing Christmas carols and refreshments will be served. Santa Claus will visit with all children. With the help of a few children Mr. Claus will light the Christmas tree from a remote control.

false piety and evil doings generate no shame or remorse.

Dan Brown's story-telling vocabulary is extensive. Unusual words often are the small symbols that give emotion and power to an already unique plot.

His writing genius is evident as he uses every clue leading to a solution as a puzzle in some form; this not only gives the reader a chance to play with the clues, but the characters' solutions, right or wrong, are a part of the intricately woven plot.

"The Da Vinci Code" is one of the best written

pieces of fiction to be published recently. Don't pass up the chance to decipher the code.

"The Da Vinci Code" Dan Brown. Doubleday

Publishing, New York, New York, April, 2003.

Pat Williams, formerly a resident of Big Spring, previously worked as an educator.

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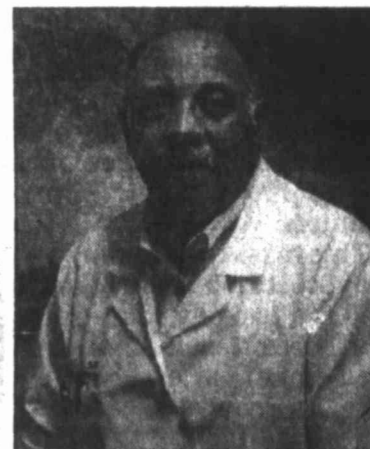
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4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

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DECEMBER 2003



# The 'R' is here

Volvo takes performance to new level with S60 R

Buckle up and hold on to your hat. Driving a Volvo has never been this exciting.

The new Volvo R series takes driving excitement to a new level with the S60 R.

Yeah, it's still one of the safest cars on the road. But thanks to the R-series "Four-C Technology" and a lightning quick 300-horsepower I-5 engine, the S60 R has got to be one of the most exhilarating sedans on the market.

Did I mention it's fun to drive?

And it still has all the safety features Volvo is known for.

For starters, let's get back to the "R."

The R-series — Volvo's special designation for performance vehicles — began in earnest back in 1995 with the T-5R wagon. Hans Nilsson, Volvo Car R Line manager sums it up best when he said, "The Volvo 'R' cars are built from the inside out with safety at its core. Our design provides control and excitement, without compromise."

After spending a week in the newly released S60 R, Volvo has definitely succeeded.

Only 7,000 R cars are being built, with 2,500 being sold in North America.

Pricing for the S60 R

begins at \$36,825, and for performance and safety features alone, it's a bargain.

This is an outstanding vehicle, in every regard.

It has a 0-60 mph time of 5.7 seconds (with 6-

speed manual transmission — 5-speed automatic available) and a top speed of 155 mph.

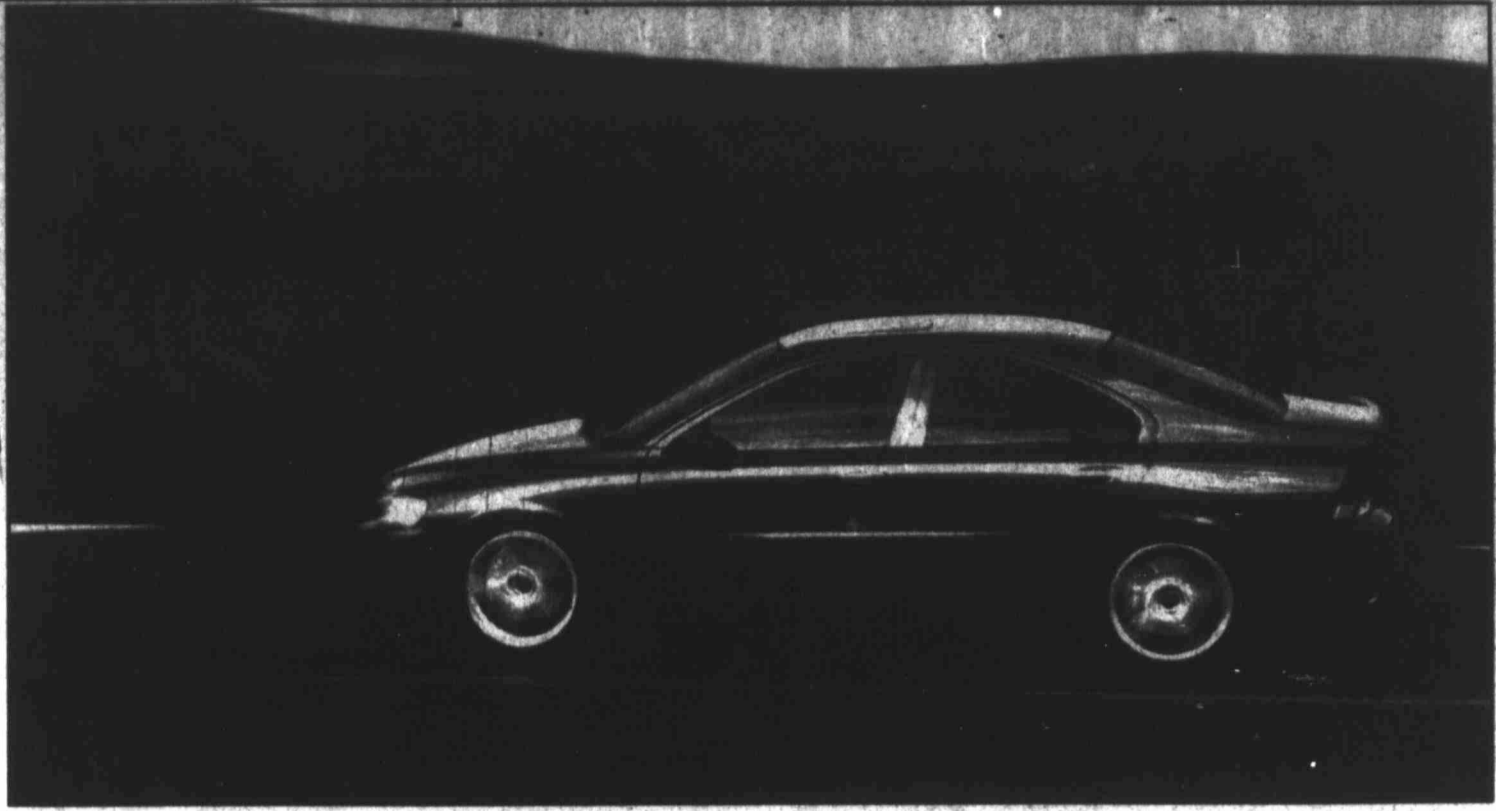
And no, I didn't put that claim to the test, I prefer to take Volvo's word for it. It does, however, get to the legal speed limit in a hurry.

While the Volvo S60 meets and exceeds every expectation of a performance-oriented driver, it also serves as an exceptional family vehicle for the everyday commute and car pool situations.

Thanks to Volvo's Four-C Technology, the R cars feature one of the most advanced active chassis systems on the road that constantly monitors driving conditions and makes adjustments faster than you can think about them (500 times a second).

Sensors are constantly monitoring the longitudinal, lateral and vertical acceleration of the car and making adjustments continuously and instantaneously.

A super microprocessor computes the motions of the car in order to adapt the hardness of the shock absorbers, ensuring the



## THE NUTS AND BOLTS



**MODEL:**  
2004 Volvo S60 R  
Mid-size sedan  
All-wheel drive  
5-passenger seating  
**PRICE RANGE:**  
\$37,000 - \$45,000  
**AS TESTED:**  
5 N/A  
**ENGINE:**  
2.5-L I-5 (300 horsepower)  
**TRANSMISSION:**  
6-speed manual  
5-speed automatic  
**EPA:** N/A  
**BRAKES:** Anti-Lock Brakes with Electronic Braking

Assistance and Electronic Braking Distribution.

**STEERING:**  
Power assist, speed-sensitive rack-and-pinion  
**LENGTH:**  
181.3 inches  
**WHEELBASE:**  
107 inches  
**WEIGHT:**  
3,571 pounds

**WIDTH:** 71 inches  
**TIRES:** 17-inch  
**CARGO CAP:**  
13.9 cubic ft.  
**FUEL TANK:** 18.5 gallons  
**RECOMMENDED FUEL:**  
Premium  
**WARRANTY:** 4-year/50,000-mile; with Roadside Assistance.

**SAFETY:** Anti-submarine seats, dual front airbags, Dynamic Stability Traction Control, inflatable curtain, rear fog light, home safe lighting, side impact airbags, whiplash protection seats, et. al.

car is always fluid with the surface of the road.

When it comes to severe braking, for example, the system receives the braking information a few milliseconds before the brake pads touch the brake disc.

By then, the microprocessor has computed how much braking will cause the front end of the car to dive, and uses this information to set the shock absorbers to maximize control and tire grip.

You really have to drive it to appreciate it. There are a lot of really good vehicles on the market. This is one of the best.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 10 years and is affiliated

with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at [neal.white@waxd-hachiedailylight.com](mailto:neal.white@waxd-hachiedailylight.com).

## TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Alon USA, L.P. has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a flexible amendment to Air Quality Permit No. 36845 which would authorize modification to the Emissions from the Crude Utilization Project located at the intersection of Refinery Road and I-20, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

## A TODAS LAS PERSONAS Y ENTIDADES INTERESADAS:

Alon USA, L.P. se ha registrado con la Comision de Calidad Ambiental de Tejas (TCEQ o Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) para autorizar un Permiso Flexible de Calidad de Aire Num. 36845 el cual autorizara la construccion de un(a) Crude Utilization Project en Big Spring Refinery, Interstate Highway 20 and Refinery Road, Big Spring, Condado de Howard County, Tejas. Informacion adicional sobre esta solicitud puede encontrarse en la seccion de avisos publicos de esta publicacion.

## ON THE ROAD



By Neal White

## Driver safety course slated for Martin Co.

Special to the Herald

Fifty-five Alive driver safety program classes will be held from 8 a.m. until noon Dec. 11-12 at the Martin County Senior Citizen's Center in Stanton.

This class is taught by a state-certified instructor and is a two-day course of four hours each session. You must attend both days to receive a certificate, which will be accepted by most insurance companies for a deduction in premiums for a three-year period.

The cost is \$10 per person. To register, call 432-756-2791, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This class is not a defensive driving class and cannot "forgive" traffic violations.

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<b>1712 GREGG</b>	<b>REMNAINT SALE</b>	<b>Plush Carpet</b> <b>\$6.99 yd</b>
<b>263-5500</b>	<b>16x16 Tile</b> <b>\$1.49 sf</b>	<b>Vinyl</b> <b>\$7.49 yd</b>

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**IN BR**  
BSYBA regis now under w Registration Big Spring Basketball L now under w will run thro 13 at the YMC between the and 14 are el participate. Players will ed into age based on the e date of Aug. The registrati \$20 per Financial assi available fo unable to affor Boys and gi participate in evaluation an draft on Dec. 2 will begin Jan Adults inter volunteering a or referee sho at the YMCA.

**Coahoma hoo sign-ups to be**  
Registration Coahoma Basketball Lea be held from 5: p.m. from Dec the Coahoma High School g league is o fourth, fifth a graders from C Elementary Sch The fee is player. Try-ou draft will be h 13 beginning a For more info call Loy Hahr 4232.

**BS baseball b to meet Dec**  
The Big Sprin School Boosters will ing a meeti Monday, Dec begin preparat the upcoming The meeting w at 6 p.m. in the

**Quarterback C sell banquet t**  
The Big Quarterback selling tickets BSJS football which is slated p.m. on Dec. 1 BSJHS Cafeteri Only 350 tick be sold for th Ticket prices each and can chased at Sparenburg Bu 309 S. Main Spring.

**Basketball off needed for se**  
Basketball are needed upcoming seaso Persons inter officiating loca this fall should Adam Rodrigue 8731 (home) or (cell).

**BSHS freshme face S'water**  
The Big Sprin Steers' freshm will return Monday to f Sweetwater Mustangs in trict basketball The two tea scheduled to be at 6:45 p.m. in t Gym.

**ON THE**  
Sports Broadcast B Dec. 4 Event, Time ..... Mavericks vs. Lakers, 8 p.m. Dec. 5 Event, Time ..... Spurs vs. Magic, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 6 Event, Time ..... Spurs vs. Heat, 6 p.m. Dec. 7 Event, Time ..... Texans vs. Jaguars, 11:45 a.m. Cowboys vs. Eagles, 11:30 a.m.



## IN BRIEF

### BSYBA registration now under way at 'Y'

Registration for the Big Spring Youth Basketball League is now under way and will run through Dec. 13 at the YMCA. Youths between the ages of 5 and 14 are eligible to participate.

Players will be divided into age groups based on the eligibility date of Aug. 1, 2004. The registration fee is \$20 per player. Financial assistance is available for those unable to afford the fee.

Boys and girls must participate in a skills evaluation and player draft on Dec. 20. Games will begin Jan. 17.

Adults interested in volunteering as a coach or referee should apply at the YMCA.

### Coahoma hoops sign-ups to begin

Registration for the Coahoma Youth Basketball League will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. from Dec. 10-12 in the Coahoma Junior High School gym. The league is open to fourth, fifth and sixth graders from Coahoma Elementary School.

The fee is \$25 per player. Try-outs and a draft will be held Dec. 13 beginning at 10 a.m. For more information, call Loy Hahn at 394-4232.

### BS baseball boosters to meet Dec. 8

The Big Spring High School Baseball Boosters will be holding a meeting on Monday, Dec. 8, to begin preparations for the upcoming season. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the ATC.

### Quarterback Club to sell banquet tickets

The Big Spring Quarterback Club is selling tickets to the BSHS football banquet, which is slated for 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 15, at the BSJHS Cafeteria.

Only 350 tickets will be sold for the event. Ticket prices are \$10 each and can be purchased at the Sparenburg Building at 309 S. Main in Big Spring.

### Basketball officials needed for season

Basketball officials are needed for the upcoming season.

Persons interested in officiating local games this fall should contact Adam Rodriguez at 263-8731 (home) or 517-0300 (cell).

### BSHS freshmen to face S'water Monday

The Big Spring Lady Steers' freshman team will return home Monday to face the Sweetwater Lady Mustangs in non-district basketball action.

The two teams are scheduled to begin play at 6:45 p.m. in the Steer Gym.

## ON THE AIR

Event, Time	Station
Dec. 4	
Mavericks vs. Lakers, 8 p.m.	1490
Dec. 5	
Spurs vs. Magic, 8:30 p.m.	1490
Dec. 6	
Spurs vs. Heat, 8 p.m.	1490
Dec. 7	
Texans vs. Jaguars, 11:45 a.m.	94.3
Cowboys vs. Eagles, 11:50 a.m.	95.7

# LET THE GAMES BEGIN!



Leina Braxton and the Big Spring Lady Steers will begin play in the Concho Classic this evening at 6:30 p.m. against Schertz Samuel Clemens. A win would lift the Lady Steers into a semifinal round showdown against San Angelo Central, a team they beat 55-54 earlier this season.

## Big Spring, area hoop teams gear up for 'tournament time'

By BRANDON HALLFORD

Special to the Herald

You say you're in need of a basketball fix? Well, just sit right back and consider yourself luckier than the latest Lotto winner. To be sure, there will be no shortage of hoops sportage this weekend as no less than five area schools will be hosting basketball tournaments.

If that isn't enough, the Big Spring Steers and Lady Steers will be hitting the road to play a bit of hoops in — what else — tournaments.

The Steers, off to a solid 1-4 start to the season, are scheduled to tip-off the weekend's action by hitting the road for a spot in the Brownfield Basketball Tournament this afternoon.

Big Spring heads into the tournament on a high note. Despite dropping a tough 49-47 decision to Lamesa Tuesday night, the Steers outscored the Tors by an 18-10 clip in the final eight minutes and just missed a shot at overtime when a last-second shot failed.

Last season, the Steers notched one of their two wins at the Brownfield tournament.

The Steers will see at least one familiar face at the tournament this season. Defending District 4-4A champion Lubbock Estacado will be participating in the tournament this fall. The Matadors, who went 28-4 a year ago, have won the San Angelo Concho Classic in each of the past two years.

Speaking of the Concho Classic, the Lady Steers will be trying to gun for a spot in the Concho finals when they tip-off at 6:30 p.m. tonight against Schertz Samuel Clemens. A win over Clemens would propel the Lady Steers into the semifinals against San Angelo Central, a team they beat, 55-54, earlier this

### Tournament Time

The following is a list of the first round schedules for the Crossroads' five basketball tournaments that begin today.

Coahoma Invitational Basketball Tournament	
<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
Monahans vs. Seminole, 1:30 p.m.	Santa Anna vs. Blackwell, 8 p.m.
Greenwood vs. Roswell Chr., 4:30 p.m.	Ira vs. Westbrook, 9:30 a.m.
Seminole JV vs. Coahoma, 7:30 p.m.	Water Valley vs. Highland, 12:30 p.m.
<b>Girls</b>	Rotan vs. Lorraine, 3:30 p.m.
Sweetwater vs. Midland JV, Noon	Santa Anna vs. Blackwell, 6:30 p.m.
Sterling City vs. Stanton, 3 p.m.	<b>Borden County Coyote Christmas Classic</b>
Midland 9th vs. Coahoma, 6:30 p.m.	<b>Boys</b>
<b>Bearkat Booster Classic</b>	Borden Co. at Jayton, 11 a.m.
<b>Boys</b>	Roscoe vs. Tahoka, 11 a.m.
Crane vs. Grady, 11 a.m.	Ralls at Ropes, 5 p.m.
Christoval vs. Midland Class., 2 p.m.	Forsan vs. Post, 2 p.m.
McCamey vs. Sands, 5 p.m.	New Home vs. Lub. Christian, 2 p.m.
Jesus Chapel vs. Garden City, 8 p.m.	Roosevelt vs. Borden Co. JV, 5 p.m.
<b>Girls</b>	<b>Girls</b>
Wink vs. Grady, 9:30 a.m.	Borden Co. vs. Jayton, 11 a.m.
Christoval vs. Midland Chr., 12:30 p.m.	Forsan vs. New Home, 3:30 p.m.
McCamey vs. Sands, 3:30 p.m.	Ralls vs. Lub. Christian, 6:30 p.m.
Jesus Chapel vs. Gar. City, 6:30 p.m.	Roscoe vs. Borden Co. JV, 8:30 p.m.
<b>Westbrook Oak Creek Classic</b>	<b>Sands JV Basketball Tournament (Friday &amp; Saturday)</b>
<b>Boys</b>	<b>Boys</b>
Ira vs. Westbrook, 11 a.m.	Sands vs. Coahoma, 8 a.m.
Water Valley vs. Highland, 2 p.m.	Grady vs. Midland Classical, 11 a.m.
Rotan vs. Lorraine, 5 p.m.	

season.

All the hoop action isn't more than an hour away.

In Gail, the Borden County Coyotes play host to 13 boys and 10 girls teams beginning today in their annual Coyote Christmas Invitational Basketball Tournament. Among the teams competing in the three-day event will be the Forsan Buffaloes and

See HOOPS, Page 2B

## Vick's return brightens Falcons' season

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. (AP) — The Atlanta Falcons are having a miserable season. With a month to go, they already have 10 losses and a play-off pink slip.

Not much to get excited about, right?

Think again. Michael Vick will make his first start of the season Sunday night against Carolina, pumping a bit of life into this down-and-out franchise.

"It's creating a buzz

around town and around the country that a team like us would normally not get," receiver Peerless Price said Wednesday.

Vick strolled into the media room with a big grin — quite a change from the look he had back in August, when he hobbled into that same room on crutches, his broken right leg wrapped in a cast.

"We're trying to get back on track," Vick said. "It's not how you start,

it's how you finish. That's what we're looking forward to right now."

Vick, who was voted to the Pro Bowl in his first year as a starter, went down in a preseason game with a broken fibula. Initially expected to be out six-to-10 weeks, his recovery dragged on for 3 1/2 months.

He finally got back on the field last week, playing the last two possessions in a 17-13 loss to the Houston Texans.

## Parcells: Release not a message

IRVING (AP) — Bill Parcells insisted Wednesday that he wasn't trying to send a message to the rest of the Dallas Cowboys by cutting kick returner-cornerback Derek Ross just days before a big game.

The move came after Ross missed two team functions — a team run and hospital visits — and fumbled twice in a Thanksgiving Day loss to Miami. But the coach said those aren't the reasons Ross is gone.

Parcells said Ross, a third-round pick from Ohio State in 2002 who once appeared to be a rising star, just didn't have a future with his Cowboys.

"I certainly don't do things impulsively," Parcells said in his first meeting with the media since cutting Ross on Tuesday. "I've been watching him in the off-season, minicamps, training camps, and you're hopeful things will go in a certain direction. Then at some point in time, you become convinced they're not going to."

"When you get to that point, it's a waste of everybody's time to continue the relationship."

The Cowboys (8-4) play Sunday at Philadelphia (9-3) in a game filled with playoff implications. The Eagles have won seven straight since losing at Dallas, but the Cowboys can take a big step toward an NFC East title with a win.

Parcells and Ross have clashed several times.

Parcells criticized Ross for relying on raw ability instead of technique when covering receivers, and carrying the ball loosely on kickoff returns. He lost one of his fumbles in the 40-21 loss to Miami. The coach also wasn't pleased with how Ross handled a knee injury that kept him out of the first four games.

"It's best for him and us to give him an opportunity to go somewhere and do something and we can move forward," Parcells said. "I think it's simple as that."

Zuriel Smith, who has been inactive for five of the last six games since being replaced by Ross as the kick returner, could return to that role.

Pete Hunter and Andrew Davison, a free agent signee who has been inactive his first 10 games, are likely candidates to take over for Ross at the nickel back.

Ross played all but two games last season, starting nine and leading NFL rookie cornerbacks with five interceptions.

## BSHS freshman, JV girls to play in Lamesa tourney

The Big Spring High School varsity girls won't be the only team in action this weekend. The Lady Steers' sub-varsity squads hit the floor as well, competing in the Lamesa Junior Varsity Basketball Tournament.

The Big Spring freshman and junior varsity squads will be playing games both Friday and Saturday in the LHS gym.



Clara Tidwell and the HC women host Weatherford College Saturday.

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SCOREBOARD

NFL STANDINGS

Table with NFL Standings: American Conference East Division, South, North, West.

Table with NFL Standings: National Conference East, South, North, West.

Table with NFL Standings: Thursday's Games, Sunday's Games.

Table with NFL Standings: Monday's Game, Sunday, Dec. 7.

Table with NFL Standings: NBA STANDINGS Eastern Conference, Western Conference.

HOOPS

Continued from Page 1B Lady Buffs.

Also in the tournament are Lubbock Roosevelt — the team responsible for ending the Buffaloes' playoff run last year in the Region I quarterfinals.

"We like going to this tournament because it gives us a chance to play some teams that we wouldn't see otherwise," Forsan head coach Terry McDonald said.

Action began bright and early this morning as the Borden County junior varsity took to the floor for an 8 a.m. matchup against the Roscoe Plowboys.

The Lady Coyote junior varsity team began the girl's side of the bracket at 9:30 a.m. against Roscoe. The BCHS varsity girls began at 12:30 p.m.

The Forsan boys are scheduled to begin their tournament slate at 2 p.m. against Post. The FHS girls will also play New Home in the first round, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

In Garden City, the Bearkat Booster Classic will again feature some of the top talent in West Texas.

Things got started early this morning as the Lady

Cats faced off against Wink at 9:30 a.m.

The Sands Lady Mustangs take to the floor for the first round at 8:30 when they tip off against McCamey.

The host Lady Kats end the first day's action when they take on Jesus Chapel starting at 6:30 p.m.

In the boy's draw, Grady goes against the Crane Golden Cranes, starting at 11, while the Mustangs will do battle with the Badgers beginning at 5 p.m.

Out in Coahoma, the Bulldogs will tip off the 18th Annual Coahoma Invitational Basketball Tournament.

The first game of local interest will take place on the boys' side of the draw when the Stanton Buffaloes square off against the Cisco Lobos, beginning at 2 p.m.

Coahoma, which opened its 2003-2004 basketball season Tuesday night with a 65-44 win over the Stamford Bulldogs, is scheduled to make its tournament debut at 7:30 p.m. when they face the Seminole junior varsity.

The local girls get things started at 3 p.m. when the Stanton Lady Buffaloes meet the Sterling City Lady Eagles. Stanton and Sterling City are both coming off impressive seasons a year ago.

The WHS boys, led by guard Trey Chavez, were slated to play Ira at 11 a.m.

Other teams competing in the tournament



Lauren Johnson and the Westbrook Lady Cats will try and get on the winning side of the ledger this weekend at the annual Oak Creek Classic.

into the tournament at 1-3.

Like Borden County, Garden City and Coahoma, the Westbrook Wildcats will also be staging a tournament, beginning today when eight teams square off for the annual Oak Creek Invitational Basketball Tournament.

The Westbrook Lady Cats, now 0-4 on the year, opened the tournament at 11 a.m. when they faced District 8 rival Ira.

The WHS boys, led by guard Trey Chavez, were slated to play Ira at 11 a.m.

Other teams competing in the tournament

include Water Valley, Highland, Rotan, Loraine, Santa Anna and Blackwell.

In Ackerly, the Sands Mustangs will be hosting a sub-varsity tournament beginning tomorrow with teams from Coahoma, Ira, Grady and Midland Classical.

Sands and Coahoma get the party started at 8 a.m. Friday. Grady will face Midland Classical beginning at 11 against Midland Classical.

Ira will play the winner of the Coahoma-Sands game at 8 p.m.

The Ackerly tournament finals will be held Saturday morning.

HUGE DECEMBER STOCK REDUCTION SALE!!!

Advertisement for a car sale featuring various models like Lincoln, Mercury, Ford, and Vans with their respective prices and features.

Advertisement for Bob Brock Ford Lincoln Mercury Nissan with a list of staff members and contact information.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Big Spring Thursday, D', 'Write', 'Driver of', 'Race of', 'Talladega, Ala', 'changes and D', 'early problem', 'line' rule in a', 'Biggest', 'was no hint th', 'out as title spo', 'later, it became', 'Early call', 'on: Newman's', 'Harvick is a d', 'Biggest', 'Beyond.' It's', 'for the NASC', 'cartel to keep c', 'out of the seco', 'Driver of', 'Winston Cup c', 'deserving of d', 'season, howev', 'leading eight w', 'the class of th', 'Race of t', 'fender-to-fend', 'Ricky Craven', 'spring race at I', 'among the best', '2003.', 'Biggest s', 'Labonte's retr', 'prise, but he p', 'and first win si', 'Early call', 'Brian Vickers', 'NASCAR Gran', 'winning the titl', 'series. He appe', 'Cup circuit as', 'Early call', 'on: In two Cup', 'demstrated h', 'a championship', 'the charm.', 'JO', 'John', 'for the F', 'Driver of', 'eight victories', 'Kenseth's meth', 'Cup champion



# That's Racin'

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## SEASON REWIND

### Writers look back, rate the major events of the Cup season

#### DAVID POOLE

David Poole covers NASCAR for the Charlotte (N.C.) Observer

■ **Driver of the year:** Matt Kenseth did what was required to win a championship, but Ryan Newman won eight races and 11 poles. Those are career year-type numbers.

■ **Race of the year:** Aaron's 499 at Talladega, Ala., on April 6. There were 43 lead changes and Dale Earnhardt Jr. rallied from an early problem to win by skirting the "yellow-line" rule in a controversial late pass for the lead.

■ **Biggest surprise:** In early January there was no hint that R.J. Reynolds Tobacco wanted out as title sponsor of the Cup series. A month later, it became the year's biggest story.

■ **Early call on the first Nextel Cup champion:** Newman's the clear favorite, but Kevin Harvick is a decent dark-horse pick.

■ **Biggest lie:** "Realignment: 2004 and Beyond." It's nothing more than a cover story for the NASCAR/International Speedway Corp. cartel to keep cheating Texas Motor Speedway out of the second date it deserves.

#### JIM UTTER

Jim Utter covers NASCAR for www.thatstracin.com

■ **Driver of the year:** Matt Kenseth won the Winston Cup championship and that's often deserving of driver of the year honors. This season, however, Ryan Newman's series-leading eight wins and 11 poles made him the class of the field.

■ **Race of the year:** The side-by-side, fender-to-fender photo finish between Ricky Craven and Kurt Busch at the spring race at Darlington, S.C., must rank among the best ever in NASCAR, not just in 2003.

■ **Biggest surprise:** Not only was Terry Labonte's return to the top 10 in points a surprise, but he picked up his first pole since 2000 and first win since 1999.

■ **Early call on 2004 rookie of the year:** Brian Vickers, 20, became the youngest NASCAR Grand National Series champion, winning the title in his first full season in the series. He appears poised to make a splash in the Cup circuit as well.

■ **Early call on the first Nextel Cup champion:** In two Cup seasons, Jimmie Johnson has demonstrated he has what it takes to put together a championship season. The third try should be the charm.

#### JOHN STURBIN

John Sturbin covers NASCAR for the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

■ **Driver of the year:** Ryan Newman, whose eight victories and 11 poles overshadowed Matt Kenseth's methodical march to the last Winston Cup championship. By season's end, it was an

upset if Newman was not on pole.

■ **Race of the year:** The Carolina Dodge Dealers 400 at Darlington Raceway on March 16. Ricky Craven's fender-rubbing victory over Kurt Busch looked like a scene out of "Days of Thunder." But it was NASCAR at its best.

■ **Biggest surprise:** Communications giant Nextel signing a 10-year, \$700 million contract in June to replace R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. as title sponsor of the Winston Cup Series, after 33 years, starting in 2004.

■ **Early call on the first Nextel Cup champion:** Jimmie Johnson, the 2003 Cup runner-up, who has emerged — with all due respect to four-time champion Jeff Gordon — as the man to beat at Hendrick Motorsports.

■ **Don King trickster award:** To "Realignment: 2004 and Beyond." A cynic might argue that NASCAR's plan is a diabolical scheme designed to award a second Cup race to International Speedway Corp.'s California Speedway, to the chagrin of Speedway Motorsports Inc. and Texas Motor Speedway.

#### MIKE BRUDENELL

Mike Brudenell covers NASCAR for the Detroit Free Press

■ **Driver of the year:** Ryan Newman, who gave new meaning to the word "fast" as he set about scoring eight victories and claiming 11 poles during 2003.

■ **Race of the year:** Season finale at Homestead, Fla., which saw Bill Elliott run rings around the field until he blew a Goodyear on the final lap of the race.

■ **Biggest surprise:** Pontiac, which announced it was quitting NASCAR, leaving a number of Cup drivers looking for a

ride in 2004.

■ **Early call on the first Nextel Cup champion:** Ryan Newman, who should carry on the good work from 2003, although he'll have Jimmie Johnson, Kurt Busch and Brian Vickers snapping at his heels.

■ **Worst disappointment:** Rusty Wallace, who failed to win a race for the second successive year and must think he walked under a ladder at Daytona in February.

#### BILL FLEISCHMAN

Bill Fleischman covers NASCAR for the Philadelphia Daily News

■ **Driver of the year:** (tie) Matt Kenseth and Ryan Newman. Kenseth won his first title with remarkable consistency, but we can't overlook Newman's eight wins and 11 poles.

■ **Race of the year:** Darlington, in March. Ricky Craven edged Kurt Busch by .002 of a second. Classic finish.

■ **Biggest surprise:** Bill Elliott placing ninth in the points standings. With such a strong finish, how can he think about retiring?

■ **Early call on the first Nextel Cup champion:** Ryan Newman. If it weren't for a few bad finishes early in the year, Newman would have pressured Matt Kenseth this season.

■ **Most improved TV analyst:** NBC's Wally Dallenbach. A year ago, as a rookie, Dallenbach didn't offer much. Now, he's insightful, opinionated and humorous. Look out, D.W.

#### JIM PEDLEY

Jim Pedley covers NASCAR for the Kansas City (Kan.) Star

■ **Driver of the year:** Ryan Newman. Racing is about winning races. Newman was at the head of the class in this category.

■ **Race of the year:** The Darlington spring race. Ricky Craven and Kurt Busch were locked in a time-machine fight to the finish line.

■ **Biggest surprise:** Matt Kenseth is able to win the championship driving a Ford.

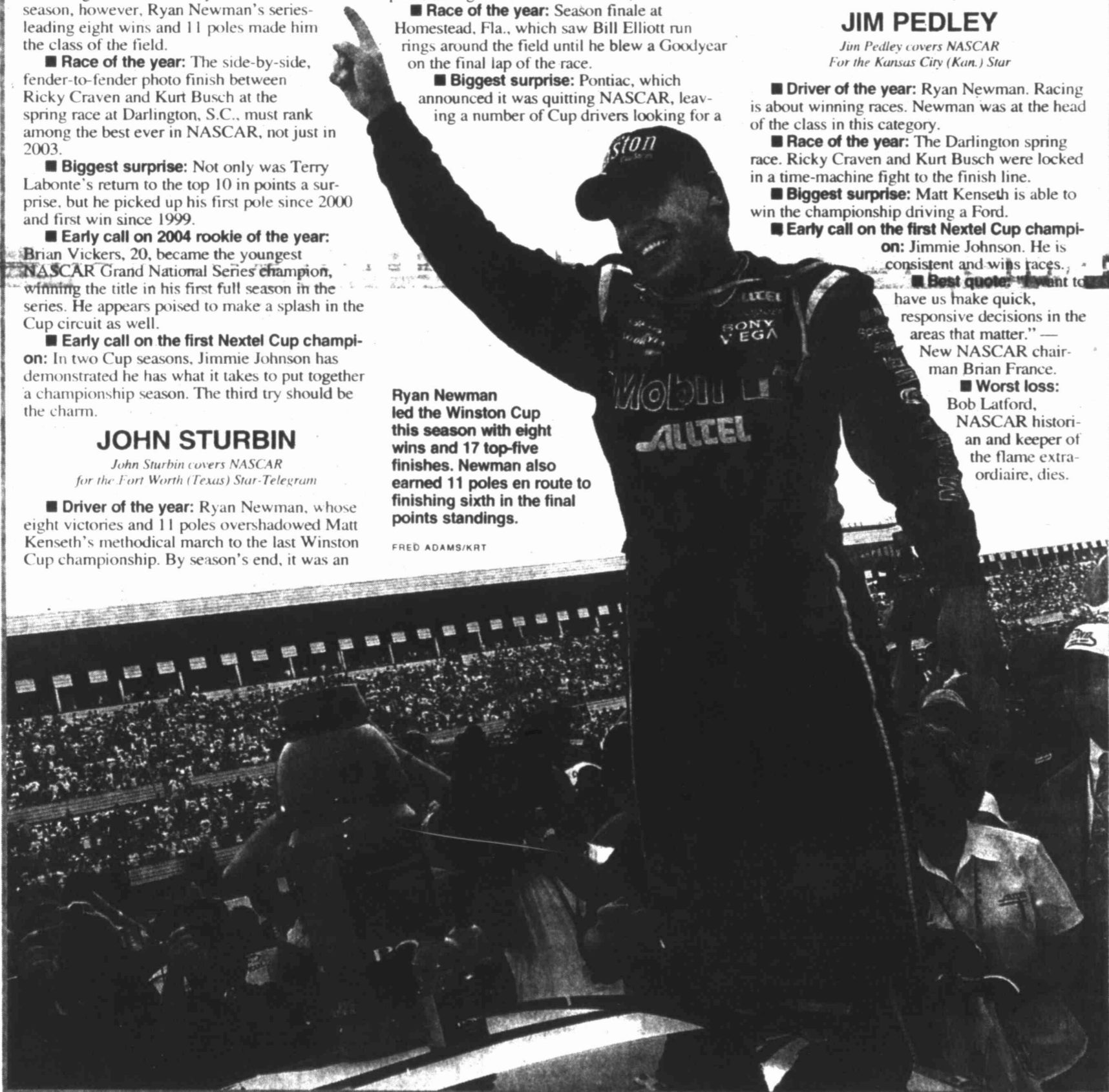
■ **Early call on the first Nextel Cup champion:** Jimmie Johnson. He is consistent and wins races.

■ **Best quote:** "I want to have us make quick, responsive decisions in the areas that matter." — New NASCAR chairman Brian France.

■ **Worst loss:** Bob Latford, NASCAR historian and keeper of the flame extraordinaire, dies.

Ryan Newman led the Winston Cup this season with eight wins and 17 top-five finishes. Newman also earned 11 poles en route to finishing sixth in the final points standings.

FRED ADAMS/KRT



#### POLL POSITION

##### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

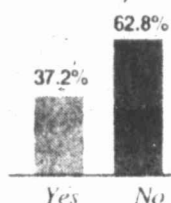
How likely are you to give NASCAR souvenirs as holiday gifts?

Cast your vote at: [www.thatstracin.com](http://www.thatstracin.com)

##### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Should NASCAR change the points system before the 2004 season?

Number of votes: 3,477



#### RACIN' NOTES



Pole winner Jeff Green, right, holds up his award next to second-place qualifier Dale Earnhardt Jr. at the 2003 Daytona 500.

#### Jeff Green signed to drive the No. 43 car next season

Former NASCAR Grand National Series champion Jeff Green was announced Tuesday as Petty Enterprises' full-time driver in its No. 43 Dodges in the Nextel Cup series next season.

Green, the 2000 Grand National champion, spent several races this season filling in the No. 43 after the team released driver John Andretti. Open-wheel star Christian Fittipaldi also drove the No. 43 in several races.

"Having those races together this past season should help us a lot as we start 2004," Green, 41, said. "I am excited to be part of Petty Enterprises, to drive the famous No. 43, but most of all, to be working with some of the most talented people."

In the past two Cup seasons, Green has four top-five and 10 top-10 finishes. He spent the season driving for Richard Childress Racing and won the pole for the season-opening Daytona 500.

Jim Utter

#### BY THE NUMBERS

##### 2004 GRAND NATIONAL SERIES SCHEDULE

Feb. 14	Daytona International Speedway
Feb. 21	North Carolina Speedway
March 6	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
March 20	Darlington Raceway
March 27	Bristol Motor Speedway
April 3	Texas Motor Speedway
April 10	Nashville Superspeedway
April 24	Talladega Superspeedway
May 1	California Speedway
May 8	Gateway International Raceway
May 14	Richmond International Raceway
May 23	Nazareth Speedway
May 29	Lowe's Motor Speedway
June 5	Dover International Speedway
June 12	Nashville Superspeedway
June 19	Kentucky Speedway
June 27	The Milwaukee Mile
July 2	Daytona International Speedway
July 10	Chicagoland Speedway
July 24	New Hampshire International Speedway
July 31	Pikes Peak International Raceway
Aug. 7	Indianapolis Raceway Park
Aug. 21	Michigan International Speedway
Aug. 27	Bristol Motor Speedway
Sept. 4	California Speedway
Sept. 10	Richmond International Speedway
Sept. 25	Dover International Speedway
Oct. 9	Kansas Speedway
Oct. 15	Lowe's Motor Speedway
Oct. 23	Memphis Motorsports Park
Oct. 30	Atlanta Motor Speedway
Nov. 6	Phoenix International Raceway
Nov. 13	Darlington Raceway
Nov. 20	Homestead-Miami Speedway

## Looking back, former driver not bitter about hand dealt by fate

Sometimes it's funny how things work out. Sometimes it's not. What if you've got heads when fate's coin comes up tails? Do you laugh about that, even if things have their own way of working out for you on down the road?

Tim Bender, in all honesty, has mixed emotions when he thinks about the hand he got dealt back in 1997 when Matt Kenseth first swerved onto the road that would eventually lead to the 2003 Winston Cup championship.

Bender holds no ill will toward Kenseth, mind you. "Matt's a great guy," Bender says. "Obviously he's very talented and I am not saying I am close to being his caliber."

But, still. "You can't help but look back and

wonder what might have been," Bender says.

With the Winston Cup awards ceremony coming up Dec. 5, you're going to hear a lot about the circumstances that brought Kenseth together with crew chief Robbie Reiser.

It's a good story, but when people tell it, it usually begins with Reiser needing somebody to drive the car he owned in the NASCAR Grand National Series in the 1997 season. He wound up calling Kenseth, a former rival of Reiser's from their short track days in Wisconsin, and the tale goes from there.

Bender's part of the story comes before that — immediately before it, actually.

On April 11, 1997, Bender crashed while trying to qualify the No. 17

Chevrolet that Reiser owned for the Moore's 250 at Bristol.

"I backed the car into the wall and had a herniated disc in my back," says Bender, who a month earlier had won the pole for the Grand National race at Atlanta in that car. "I had to have an operation and it looked like I was going to be out at least five or six weeks."

Reiser himself drove the No. 17 in the Bristol race after Bender's injury. He lost an engine after completing just 24 laps and finished 41st in a race Jeff Burton won.

The next week, Reiser called Kenseth, a driver who'd just about given up on NASCAR. Kenseth was back in Wisconsin and had a good ride lined up to run in the American Speed Association in 1997. But when Reiser called, Kenseth answered.

The next weekend at Nashville, Kenseth qualified third and finished 11th. A week after that, Kenseth finished seventh at Talladega and also first

met Mark Martin at the drivers' meeting, beginning a friendship and a mentor-mentee relationship that would ultimately lead Kenseth to the spot he has today at Roush Racing.

Bender, meanwhile, was home in the Buffalo, N.Y., area trying to heal a sore back.

"It wasn't like they were anxious to get me back in the car," Bender says. "Matt's talent showed right away. We talked things over and I agreed to step aside."

Kenseth ran 21 races that year for Reiser, finishing third twice, and in the top 10 five other times. Bender, meanwhile, stayed home. While he was ready to test out his back, he climbed in a three-quarter version of a Winston Cup car he'd built several years earlier and ran 100 laps, then 200 laps at a time on short tracks in New York.

People who saw what Bender called a Cup Lite car wanted to buy one. Tracks wanted to let people race

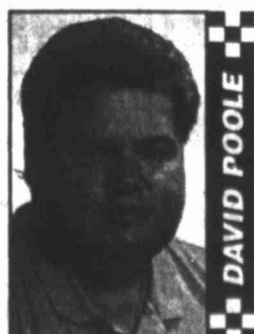
them. Before that could happen, though, Bender had to build them.

"I guess I came to sort of a crossroads," Bender says. "I had spent so much time and so much money trying to get down to Charlotte (N.C.) to get into racing."

Snowmobile engines power the Cup Lite cars Bender built. That's not a coincidence. Bender is an 11-time world champion in snowmobile racing and is a member of that sport's hall of fame. Today, he manages a factory-backed team that runs sno-cross, a hybrid of snowmobile racing and motocross, and his son is one of his drivers.

"This year my son got to race in the sno-cross at the X Games, which is like our Daytona 500," Bender says. "I got to help him do that. If I had stayed down there, that wouldn't have happened. ... That helps me rationalize things a little."

But, still. "You try not to think about it sometimes," Bender says. "It wears on you."



DAVID POOLE

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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**  
BY JOYCE JILLSON  
In this split-toned day, the  
moon shifts from headstrong  
Aries into solid, stubborn  
Taurus. Whatever  
you explore,  
you'll do it  
with new  
deliberate  
energy, as  
opposed to  
the whimsical  
curiosity you  
may have  
approached  
life with earlier  
in the week. Limitations  
are the one thing you won't  
see, which is probably a good  
thing. You'll go farther.



Joyce Jillson

takes some forethought.  
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).  
Set your sights higher today.  
Sure, failure is a constant  
possibility, and that's what  
makes your life so exhilarating.  
At work, don't waste  
time being stymied. Just  
make a guess. Take preventive  
measures this afternoon.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).  
Being thorough will save you  
from having to do a task  
over. Besides, there's no  
rush. Tonight, couples share  
big, important issues such as  
dreams and fears - this is  
an essential part of communication.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).  
You're exceptional. It's bad  
news to anyone trying to  
manage you because literally,  
for every rule, you'll be  
the exception. Governing  
your own actions is a challenge,  
too, as you are resistant  
to anything that's good  
for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-  
Dec. 21). Ambitions are clear,  
and in this clarity lies their  
power. Be specific, and think  
as detailed as you can. Even  
if someone else is standing  
where you'd like to be, your  
graciousness and patience  
will get you the assignment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.  
19). Why work at making  
your relationships fun and  
healthy? Play at it instead.  
Put an extremely high value  
on humor and laughter.  
Otherwise, emotional clutter  
is a real problem.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb.  
18). You might consider  
picking up a new behavior  
because you think it will  
help attract members of the  
opposite sex. These are poor  
reasons, but you might still  
benefit from the behavior.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).  
Successful relationships  
make you feel rich. Add new  
people to your circle. Keep  
first impressions on the light  
side. People don't want to  
hear about the problems of  
someone they hardly know  
unless it's a hilarious story.

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CANCER (June 22-July 22).  
If you're going to dream,  
dream big. Later, you can  
make sure all plans are  
thoroughly plotted out. News  
flash: Walking from the couch  
won't make you fit. Here's a  
challenge: Sign up for a  
marathon.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A  
sense of autonomy is liberating.  
It's not like things are  
that different from yesterday,  
but your attitude has  
shifted, and you can now see  
new possibilities. Being rich  
isn't rocket science, but it

**RENTED**  
1708 Main. Clean 3 bdr.  
1 bath, CHA &  
refrigerator. Large  
yard. \$400/mo. \$200/dep.  
Call 432-267-1543

**2908 Cherokee. 2  
Bedroom, garage,  
fenced yard. \$12,000.  
No Owner Finance.  
432-267-6667**

3 bdr. home on huge  
fenced lot. \$12,000.  
Owner finance with  
\$2,000 down. Linda,  
263-1284 or 263-7500.

**Stephens Ranch  
Real Estate**  
199 acres Coleman  
County w/10 acre  
lake. Great hunting &  
fishing. \$1250.00 per  
acre.

166 acres Mitchell  
County. 2 tanks, will,  
hills, lots of cover.  
Ready to hunt complete  
with hunter's camp,  
blinds & feeders.  
\$140,000.00

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF  
APPLICATION AND INTENT  
TO OBTAIN A FLEXIBLE  
AIR QUALITY PERMIT NO.  
36845**

APPLICATION ALON USA,  
L.P., has applied to the Texas  
Commission on Environmental  
Quality (TCEQ) for an  
air quality permit under  
Title V of the Clean Air Act  
for a new facility located at  
the intersection of Refinery Road  
and 20th Street, Big Spring,  
Texas. The facility will  
emit the following air  
contaminants: nitrogen oxides,  
carbon monoxide, particulate  
matter, organic compounds and  
sulfur dioxide.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
application/permit which  
may affect your  
concerns. Requests for a  
contested case hearing must  
be submitted in writing  
within 30 days following  
this notice to the Office of  
the Chief Clerk, at the  
address below.  
If a hearing request is timely  
filed, additional notice may be  
provided following the close of  
all applicable comment and  
contested case hearing to the  
TCEQ Commissioners for their  
consideration at the next  
Commission meeting. If a  
hearing is granted, the subject  
of the hearing will be limited to  
disputed issues of fact relating  
to relevant and material air  
quality concerns raised during  
the comment period. Issues  
such as property values, noise,  
traffic safety, and zoning are  
outside of the Commission's  
jurisdiction to address in this  
proceeding.

**"U.S. POSTAL  
JOBS"**  
ANNOUNCEMENT-  
USPS15LD  
UP TO \$29.16 PER  
HOUR - FREE  
CALL/APPLICATION  
INFORMATION. NOW  
HIRING 2003!  
FEDERAL HIRE-FULL  
BENEFITS, PAID  
TRAINING.  
1-800-892-5144 EXT.94

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BENEFITS, PAID  
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1-800-892-5144 EXT.94

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).  
Ambling along is a pleasure,  
but unfortunately, you've got  
to get down to business by  
the afternoon, or the day's  
work is a wash. Tonight, a  
former love could make your  
current romantic partner  
jealous.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).  
Grueling assignments such  
as organizing your finances  
or managing your career are  
on the board. In the area of  
romance, a current rendezvous  
is the start of something  
that has staying power.

**2 & 3 BDRM  
Houses for Rent.  
CHA, No Pets. No  
HUD.  
432-263-5818 or  
213-0820**

**2 bdr, 2 bath.  
References. No pets.  
Fenced yard. Damage  
dep. 432-263-7259.**

**2001 S. Monticello  
3 bdrm, 1 bath, garage  
\$375/mo, \$150/dep  
432-267-5386**

**Garage Sales**  
J 1410 State Park  
Drive, Sat. Exc.  
computer desk, FS  
mattress, dresser,  
small "frige"

J 4 Family Sale, 2411  
E. 24th, Sat. 8-?  
Antiques, swing set,  
baby strollers, dishes,  
clothes, toys and alot  
more. Some see us.

**Garage Sale: 2410  
Carton, Sat. 7-?. Lots of  
clothes & electronics.**

J Garage Sale, 401  
Dallas, Sat. 8-? Baby  
items, family clothes,  
lots of other stuff.

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Central Dr. Furn.,  
water bed, Christmas  
decorations,  
Motorcycle, lamps,  
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8-1.**

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EVERYTHING MUST GO  
FRIDAY DEC. 5, 2003  
8:00 AM - 7:00 PM**  
Dinette Table w/6 Chairs,  
Matching Couch and Love Seat,  
Lawn Mower, Weed Eater,  
Christmas Stuff, Kitchen Bar  
Stools, Chairs, Records, Tapes  
And Much More.  
2308 LOOP RD.  
263-3531

**550 MOVE-IN  
SPECIAL**  
One and Two Bedroom  
Apartments  
Available  
Starting from \$335.00  
per month

**\*FREE CABLE**  
\*On site Laundry  
Facilities  
\*Covered Picnic area  
with BBQ Grills  
\*Playground for the Kids  
\*Central Air & Heat

**For Rent clean 2 bdr.  
Fenced backyard,  
No Pets. Deposit.  
Call 432-263-4483**

For Sale: 2 story, 3,000  
sq. ft., downtown office  
building. Would be ideal  
for Doctor's Office. Call  
432-267-3126

**For Sale By Owner  
705 S. Lancaster  
1811 State St.  
2/1, \$188/mo. for 10 yrs.  
Please call  
Annette Arballo  
432-413-0549 or  
432-620-0380  
Owner will Finance  
Regardless of Credit**

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**ANNIE'S MAILBOX**  
Dear Harassed: Hopefully,  
Dick has cleaned up his act  
since last year. However, if  
he hasn't, tell him you find  
such comments offensive,  
and feel free to chastise him  
gently in front of the entire  
family. If sweetness and  
humor don't help, let him  
have it with both barrels,  
and tell Tom you expect him  
to back you up.

Annie's Mailbox is written  
by Kathy Mitchell and  
Marcy Sugar, longtime  
editors of the Ann Landers  
column. Please e-mail your  
questions to anniesmail-  
box@comcast.net, or write  
to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O.  
Box 118190, Chicago, IL  
60611.

**Medical/Clinical  
Assistant needed for  
busy Doctor's Office.  
Position pays \$8.00/HR  
40 hours a week. Mail  
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Medical Assistant  
Position  
1605 W. 11th Place  
Big Spring,  
Texas 79720  
No Phone Calls**

**Owner will Consider  
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payment. 1613 Lark St.  
2 Bdrm, 1 bath \$15,000.  
Call 432-263-7747 for  
Appt.**

**House for Sale: 3609  
Catalin. Nice 3 Bedroom  
1 bath. New paint  
(Kitchen & bath).  
Carport, Large Back  
yard. (Thirties). Call  
432-268-8254 if no  
answer leave message  
or 432-267-1346**

**Barcelona  
Apartments**  
"Call For  
Move-In Specials"  
All Bills Paid  
538 Westlow Rd. 263-1251

**CHRISTMAS AUCTION  
SATURDAY, DEC. 6, 2003 - 9:00 AM**  
Attention Dealers & Retailers!  
Brand New Merchandise in Single & Quantity Lots  
Gift Bags • Wrapping Paper • Tape  
Ribbons • Bows • Stocking Stuffers  
Christmas Decorations • Toys Tools  
Knives • Watches • Gift Items • Gift Sets  
Pillows • Gloves • Ceramics  
Plus Lots More!  
PVI - Auction will start promptly at 9:00 am to  
wind up just in time for the Christmas Parade.  
Please join us for the festivities after the auction.  
Always Taking Consignments!

**Upcoming Auction  
Dec. 5 - 8:00 Auction Air 11:00 Noon**  
**Spring City Auction**  
Scott Emerson TXS-15051

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**LOVELY  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
COMPLEX**  
Swimming Pool  
Carports,  
Most Utilities  
Paid,  
Senior Citizen  
Discounts,  
1 & 2 Bedrooms  
&  
1 or 2 Baths  
Unfurnished  
**KENTWOOD  
APARTMENTS**  
1904 East 25th Street  
267-5444  
263-5000

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**HILLSIDE PROPERTIES**  
Homes With Alarm Systems  
2 - 3 - 4 - 5, Even 6 Bedrooms Available  
Rent - Rent-to-Own or Buy With Owner Financing  
Swimming Pool - Basketball & Volleyball Courts  
24 Hour Emergency Maintenance  
2501 Fairchild Phone 263-3461

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THURSDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	USA (30)	TMC (35)	
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	New York	Premium	
6:30	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	El Manantial	King of the Hill Raymond	News Heritage Hol.	Pasion de Gavitanes	News Seinfeld (CC)	Seinfeld (CC)	Joe McGee John Hague	News-Lehrer	New Detectives-Forensic		NBA Basketball: Chicago Bulls at Philadelphia	Live Movie-Honey	Sister, Sister Lizzie McGuire	College Football: MAC Championship	NFL Live: Detroit Red Wings at St. Louis Blues (CC)	JAG (CC)		
7:30	News Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Threat Matrix (CC)	Veloz de Novia	Tru Calling (CC)	Survivor: Pearl Islands (CC)	Amor Descarado	Friends (CC)	Movie: Bad Boys (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	West Tax Jim World	Killer Arts (CC)	Movie: The Enemy Below						Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (CC)	Movie: Stealout	
8:30	Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	Nina, Amada Mia	Funnest Wedding Outtakes	CSI: Crime Scene Investig.	Ladron de Corazones	Will & Grace Scuba (CC)	Light of the Southwest	To Be Announced	Xtreme Martial Arts		8:55 Movie: In Harm's Way	Basketball: Lakers at Mavericks	Fomiview	Sister, Sister Boy World	Playmakers (CC)			Movie: Stealing	Movie: Another
9:30	Primetime Thursday	Primetime Thursday	Aqui y Ahora	70s Show Dharma-Greg	Without a Trace (CC)	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Bad Boys (CC)	Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Killer Arts (CC)			Nightly News Maad Sports	Kim Possible Proud Family	Playmakers (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (CC)		
10:30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Bad Boys (CC)	Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Killer Arts (CC)			Nightly News Maad Sports	Kim Possible Proud Family	Playmakers (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (CC)		
11:30	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	En las Mejores Familias	Becker (CC) Spin City	Little Late	Al Rojo Vivo-Maria Celeste Corpe-Familia	Late Night	25 Movie: Get Carter (CC) (DVS)	Update/Israel Derek Prince	Sign Off	Xtreme Martial Arts		Inside the NBA	Midnight Love (CC)	NFL Live Winter X-S-Games	Games Classic Wx. X-Games	Nash Bridges (CC)	10:50 Movie: The Shout		
12:30	AM Live (CC) Oprah Winfrey	Live (CC) Paid Program	Angela	Blind Date	Show (CC) Street Smarts							12:15 Movie: The Enemy	X-Files (CC)	Comicview	Boy World	Recess (CC)				20 Movie:

DENNIS THE MENACE



"YES, I'M SURE YOUR HAMSTER NEEDS A WARM PLACE TO SLEEP, BUT OUR BED IS NOT IT!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

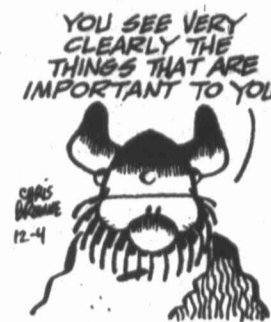


"On TV the commercials wait their turn!"

HAGAR



WHEN YOU REACH MY AGE, YOU BEGIN TO EXAMINE YOUR LIFE MORE CLOSELY...



YOU SEE VERY CLEARLY THE THINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU!



AND BOILED LIVER FOR DINNER ISN'T ONE OF THEM!!!

BLONDIE



DIONNE, YOU AND CONNER NEED TO LOOK AT THESE PHOTOS OF WEDDING CAKES WE CAN PREPARE



WHO'S THE GUY IN THE BACKGROUND WITH THE KNIFE AND FORK?

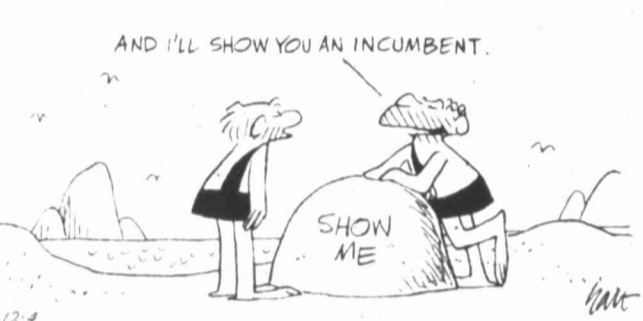


THAT'S MY HUSBAND

BC



SHOW ME A MAN WHO WILL LIE, SLANDER AND SWINDLE FOR ONE LOUSY VOTE...



AND I'LL SHOW YOU AN INCUMBENT.

WIZARD OF ID



DON'T YOU KNOW THE ECONOMY HAS TURNED AROUND?



YOU MEAN? YES!

AGNES



OK... WE HAVE LISTED SEVERAL POSITIVE ASPECTS OF ME... NOW WE WILL LIST THE NEGATIVES.



YES! LET'S GO! I AM READY TO ROCK!



WE'LL YOU CERTAINLY ARE EMBRACING THIS PART OF THE EXERCISE WITH ENTHUSIASM

HI AND LOIS



DID YOU GET MY E-MAIL?



YES

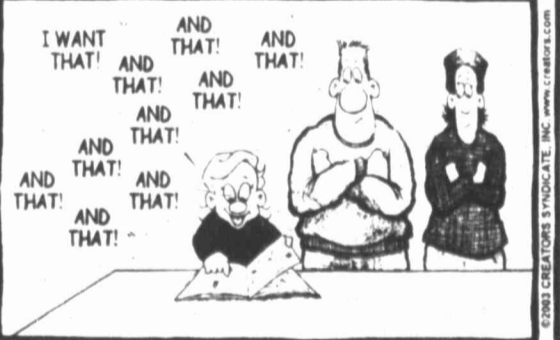


DID YOU CLICK ON THE LINK TO THE WEBSITE?



YES

MR. HOUSEWIFE



I WANT THAT! AND THAT! AND THAT!



AND THAT! AND THAT! AND THAT!

SNUFFY SMITH



SORRY, TATER, YOU'RE TOO LIT TO HALP WIF TH' WOOD!!



THEN AG'IN...



THAT'S 'H LAST LOAD, TATER-- THANKEE FER BEIN' MY DOOR STOP!!

BETTE BAILEY



WHEW! I NEED A SHOWER! HOW ABOUT YOU?



NO THANKS

This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 4, the 338th day of 2003. There are 27 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 4, 1783, Gen. George Washington bade farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York.

On this date: In 1816, James Monroe of Virginia was elected the fifth president of the United States.

In 1875, William Marcy Tweed, the "Boss" of New York City's Tammany Hall political organization, escaped from jail and fled the country.

In 1918, President Wilson set sail for France to attend the Versailles Peace Conference.

In 1942, President

Franklin Roosevelt ordered the dismantling of the Works Progress Administration, which had been created to provide jobs during the Depression.

In 1942, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time in World War II.

In 1945, the Senate approved U.S. participation in the United Nations.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini VII with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard.

In 1977, Jean-Bedel Bokassa, ruler of the Central African Empire, crowned himself emperor in a ceremony believed to have cost more than \$100 million. (Bokassa was deposed in 1979; he died in November 1996 at age 75.)

In 1978, 25 years ago, San Francisco got its first female mayor as City Supervisor Dianne Feinstein was named to replace the assassinated George Moscone.

In 1991, Associated Press correspondent Terry

Anderson, the longest held of the Western hostages in Lebanon, was released after nearly seven years in captivity.

Today's Birthdays:

Actress-singer Deanna Durbin is 82. Game show host Wink Martindale is 69. Actor-producer Max Baer Jr. is 66. Actress Gemma Jones is 61. Rock musician Bob Mosley (Moby Grape) is 61. Singer-musician Chris Hillman is 59. Rock singer Southside Johnny Lyon is 55. Actor Jeff Bridges is 54. Rock musician Gary Rossington (Lynyrd Skynyrd; the Rossington Collins Band) is 52.

Answer to previous puzzle

WRAP	TEEB	PIAZA
EAVE	ELTA	TYVID
EVER	MAST	IMAGE
PICKUP	THE	TAB
	MOE	OBOIST
SCALPS	REAL	LEO
PANES	VANDELLAS	
AREA	TCT	ETNS
COMPACTED	VINCE	
ELI	LAOS	DEPTED
RECALL	COE	
	SEMITROPICAL	
PASTA	HOAM	RANI
OTHER	KITE	INKS
PEERS	SLED	STAT

Newsday Crossword BESIDE ONESELF by Robert H. Wolfe

Edited by Stanley Newman

**ACROSS**

- Eye part
- Abba of Israel
- Not many
- Become sour
- Art
- Martini adjunct
- Angry
- Palm fruits
- '60s TV talk host
- Jumps, as from fright
- Chinwag
- Pull along
- Bullets, e.g.
- With nobody
- Neighbor of Lebanon
- Homer launcher
- Agents and moles
- Library patrons, at times
- Tom or drake
- Lawman Earp
- Major conclusion
- Crucial appraisal
- Union
- Bobbsey twin
- Sits in place
- Noblemen
- Deer or pheasant, at times
- Emphatic Spanish "yes"
- Henna, for one
- Groups of witches
- Pitchfork part
- Tangle
- Angry

**DOWN**

- Of a thing
- Feel badly about
- Strong emotion
- Clip off
- Mystery-writing award
- Yogi's family
- Top flier
- Shows approval
- Morning rouser
- Angry
- Important nights
- Director
- Craven
- Whoopi's Ghost role
- Ralph of consumerism
- Contaminates
- Meter reader
- Andes climber
- Angry
- Spins around
- Scholarship determinant
- Part of AARP
- Aorta, e.g.
- African biter
- Scandinavian country
- "Only Just Begun"
- Fashion initials
- Opportune
- Daresay
- Friends, e.g.
- Turn aside
- Dickens villain
- Spelunker's milieu
- Forest male
- Emulate Maxwell Perkins
- Agent, briefly
- What Notre Dame sits upon
- Flamenco cheer
- Plane part
- Gave nourishment to

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13				14				15					
16				17				18					
			19				20	21					
22	23	24		25		26		27					
28			29		30		31			32	33	34	
35				36		37				38			
39				40	41					42			
43			44				45	46					
47				48			49		50				
			51	52			53		54		55		
	56					57		58			59		
60						61	62				63	64	65
66						67					68		
69						70					71		

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