

BIG SPRING

HERALD

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

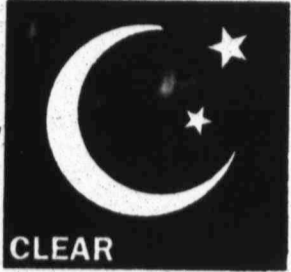
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

THURSDAY

January 1, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR

TONIGHT TOMORROW 50°-52° 65°-67°

INSIDE

Wheels column

The winding hills of Southern California proved a perfect location to test the 2004 Mitsubishi Lancer.

In addition to a freshened appearance, Mitsubishi has added two new trim lines — the racing inspired Ralliart and Sportback. Page 6A

BRIEFLY

Support group

Beginning in January, the Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet only on the second Thursday of the month at noon at the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. The group will no longer meet weekly. For more information, call 263-8273.

Senior tours

An RSVP meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Jan. 8 to plan upcoming vacation tours. The meeting will be held in the Dora Roberts Community Center.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program offers tours throughout the year. The 2004 schedule includes new destinations as well as some of the old favorites.

For more information, contact the RSVP office at 264-2397 or Bilbrey Tours at 1-888-692-1308.

COMING SUNDAY



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Vol. 100, No. 39

Find us online at: 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.

Sharp announces bid for Texas House seat

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

Moore Development Executive Director and Big Spring Independent School District Trustee Kent Sharp threw his political hat in the ring Wednesday, marking the last day of 2003 with his candidacy for state representative in District 85.

Sharp said he will seek the Republican nomination for the seat currently held by Rep. Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, a seat he believes he can bring a fresh West Texas view to.

"I know the issues of the district," said Sharp. "I have 12 years of experience in economic development and have been on

"There are just a myriad of issues that I've dealt with over the last 12 years, and I just feel like I know what needs to be done, and what can be done in Austin at the legislative level to influence policy."



SHARP

several regional committees and organizations. I've also been on the school board here for more than two years and have had the chance to serve on the Texas Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) as a charter board member.

"I know rural Texas, but more

than anything I know this district and I know West Texas. I just feel like it's time for me to step up and try to influence some state policy that I think can really affect our situation out here."

With 12 years of experience in the area of economic development Sharp said he is ready to

bring his experiences in "growing" West Texas to the legislative playing field.

"Many people think that economic development covers just industrial development," he said, "and that's a large part of what 4-A corporations do as far as expenditures go. However, we spend a tremendous amount of time on healthcare-related issues and education because they are so critical to your workforce."

"There are just a myriad of issues that I've dealt with over the last 12 years, and I just feel like I know what needs to be done, and what can be done in Austin at the legislative level to influence policy."

See SHARP, Page 3A

Retired ump to entertain VA patients

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

He's screamed and yelled with the best of them.

Retired American League umpire Larry Barnett, who is the veteran of four World Series, will take a softer, more humorous tone, however, as he prepares to tell baseball stories to veterans at the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

Barnett will be at the facility on Jan. 7 at 10 a.m. to entertain the veterans, and according to Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 47 Commander Edgar Meiser, it should be a memorable event for everyone involved.



BARNETT

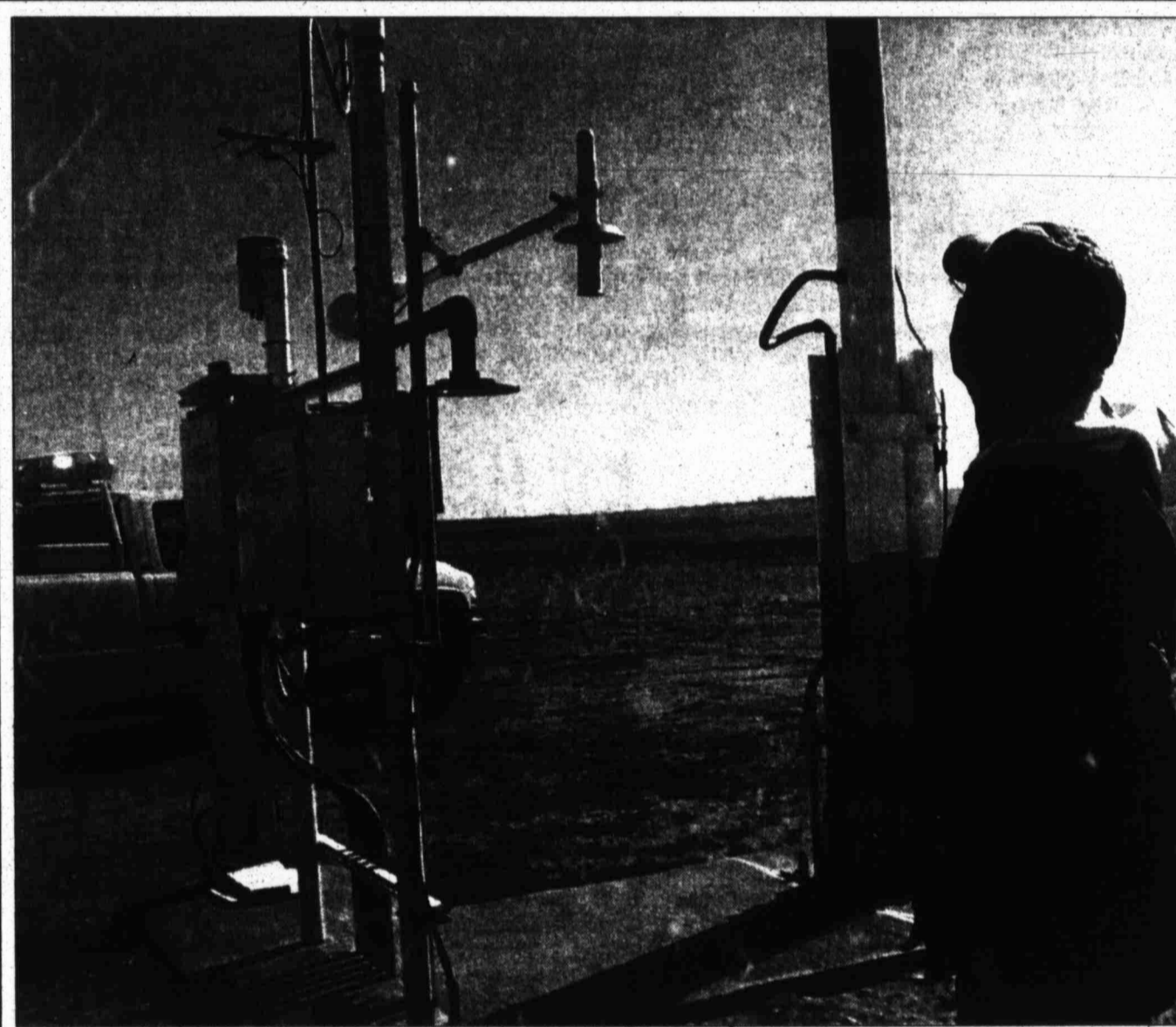
"I met Larry at a DAV National Convention about a year ago," said Meiser. "He's really involved with the DAV and helping veterans in general. I think what he's doing, coming to the Big Spring VA Medical Center and entertaining the veterans, is just tremendous. He volunteers a lot of his time for projects like this."

Barnett, who travels the nation visiting VA Medical Centers, said the stories he has to share with veterans are just a small slice of the humor that can arise when adults get together to play a game.

"The most interesting argument we have is when a manager or player stands this close to your nose, screaming as loud as he can with a mouth full of chewing tobacco," said Barnett. "You can imagine what you look like after that."

One of Barnett's favorite stories revolves around an exchange he had with catcher Thurman Munson at Yankee Stadium in New York. Munson had disputed nearly every ball and strike Barnett called, and by

See UMPIRE, Page 3A



Terry Jenkins, McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark facility superintendent, describes the complex functions of the airpark's AWOS (Automated Weather Observing System) which gives real time weather at the airpark. Pilots can radio into the AWOS frequency and learn temperature, wind gust, visibility, cloud ceiling and more.

Airpark lighting project yields improved system

By LYNDEL MOODY Staff Writer

A 10-month lighting project at the McMahon-Wrinkle Industrial Airpark was completed last week, leaving a more modern system in place of the former Webb Air Force Base era equipment.

"This is something that has been needed for a long time," said Airpark Director Jim Little. "We had a runway lighting system that was put in place during the Webb Air Force Base era

prior to 1977 when the base closed down.

"All of the electrical equipment were associated with the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s eras both in terms of technology and equipment."

The city of Big Spring funded \$132,000 of the more than a \$1 million project with the rest of the cost carried by the Federal Aviation Administration and the Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division, Little said.

Originally, the project's price

was projected at \$678,000 with the city funding a little more than \$100,000, Little said, but the parties involved agreed upon additional lighting along the taxi areas which had none before.

"The significance of that is we'd have people who actually get lost," Little said.

Since the closure of Webb Air Force Base, several of the old runways have been turned into taxiways leaving only the main

See AIRPARK, Page 3A

Early voting for special election begins Monday

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

Early voting in the special election to decide the fate of the District 31 Senate seat currently held by Sen. Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, will get underway Monday at 8 a.m.

The special election will mark some changes in voter identification as well, something Howard County Clerk Donna Wright said voters need to keep in mind before they get ready to head to the polls.

"There have been some changes to the identification requirements this year," said Wright. "In the past, if someone wanted to vote and didn't have their voter registration card, they could provide us with their

New voter registration cards will be mailed out on Jan. 12

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

If it seems sort of strange to head for the early voting poll before you've received your voter registration card, brace yourself. That's exactly what many area voters will be doing during the special election to decide the fate of the District 31 seat in the Texas Senate.

Howard County Voter

Registrar Kathy Sayles said persistent quibbling in Austin over redistricting has forced her office to postpone sending out the new cards for quite some time now.

"The state didn't want any of the cards mailed out until the districting situation had been taken care of," said Sayles. "So they asked everyone statewide

See CARDS, Page 3A

driver's license or any other type of identifying material such as a birth certificate, a federal docu-

ment with their name on it, or even a bill addressed to them.

"Previously if someone didn't

have their driver's license, they had to provide two pieces of mail or other identifying material. Now they only need to provide one."

Wright said one other change may throw a wrench in some voters' plans as well.

"Election officials can no longer vouch for someone to vote at the polls," she said. "In the past, if you didn't have anything to identify you, you could vote if one of the election officials at the poll could vouch for your identity. That avenue has been taken away."

While election officials will have the duty of identifying registered voters, area residents that have moved or changed

See VOTING, Page 3A

JAN 01 2004

Obituaries

Carroll "Tony" Dahmer



Carroll "Tony" Dahmer, 66, of Big Spring died on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2003, in a local hospital. Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

He was born on May 24, 1937, in Mozer, W. Va., and married Vicki Salmon on Sept. 6, 1973, in Big Spring.

Tony graduated from Franklin High School in Franklin, W. Va., in 1955. He served in various branches of the Special Forces from 1956 to 1964 and was discharged from Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring. He worked for Cosden Refinery for 33 years, retiring in 2000. He also owned and operated Dahmer's Antiques for 30 years.

He was a Methodist and was associated with the Salvation Army.

Survivors include wife, Vicki Dahmer of Big Spring, Texas; one son, Matt Dahmer of Big Spring; four sisters, Nellie Calhoun, Violet Hevener, Macie Mitchell and Arbillia Calhoun all of Upper Tract, W. Va.; and three grandchildren, Justin Dahmer, Amy Dahmer and Nicholas Andrew Dahmer.

He was preceded in death by one son, Mark Dahmer; one daughter, Cindy Carroll; his mother, Phoebe Riggelman; his father, Clermont Dahmer; and by two brothers and two sisters.

The family will receive friends at their home at 2600 Coronado.

The family suggests memorials to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105-1905.

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

Paid obituary

Esperanza Abreo DaSilva



Esperanza Abreo DaSilva, 58, of Pearland, died on Sunday, Dec. 28, 2003, in an automobile accident in Monahans. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Joe Torres officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born on April 23, 1944, in Big Spring and married Norberto DaSilva on Nov. 1, 1968, in Big Spring.

She was a Baptist.

Survivors include her husband, Norberto DaSilva of Pearland; one daughter, Julie Abreo DaSilva Saleem and her husband, Faheem, of Pearland; one son, Robert Abreo DaSilva of Pearland; four sisters, Fe Acosta of Ackerley, Mary Elizabeth Rainey of Schertz and Gloria Galan and Mary-Ann Ficke, both of Big Spring; four brothers, Efran Abreo of Leakey, Noe Abreo of Lubbock, Jimmy Abreo of Big Spring and David Abreo of Fort Worth; a half-sister; and a half-brother.

She was preceded in death by her biological parents, Salvadore Abreo and Margarita Perez, and her adoptive parents, Domingo and Luz Abreo.

The family will receive friends Friday, Jan. 2, 2004, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

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

Paid obituary

Lucille Hopper



Lucille Hopper, 87, of Big Spring went to be with her Lord and family on Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2003. Family visitation will be from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, 2004, at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Sammy Simms officiating. Interment will follow at Coahoma Cemetery.

Mrs. Hopper was born Doris Lucille Cook on Sept. 10, 1916, in Lindale. She married William Taylor Hopper on Sept. 16, 1933, in Big Spring. She was a long time resident of Big Spring. She was a member of Crestview Baptist Church and an active member of the community. Her loyalty, compassion and competitive spirit will be missed.

Survivors include her son, Roy Nolan Hopper of Andersonville, Tenn.; daughter, Anna Lea Ryan of Carson, Calif.; two brothers, Alvis Cook of Hemet, Calif., and Jetty Cook of Hunt; three sisters, Francine Campbell of Hobbs, N.M., Bea Crum of Marietta, Ga., and Myrtle Dee Winkler of Long Beach, Calif.; three grandsons, Donald Hopper and Ronald Hopper, both of Andersonville, Tenn., and Daniel Ryan III of Big Spring; and two great-granddaughters.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Taylor; daughter, Novelle; brother, Curtis; and granddaughter, Kathaleen.

The family suggests memorials to: Home Hospice, 600 S. Gregg St., Big Spring 79720.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle &

Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Santiago M. "Jimmy" Morales

Santiago M. "Jimmy" Morales, 79, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2003, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center following a brief illness. Vigil service will be at 8 p.m. tonight, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2004, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, 2004, at St. Thomas Catholic Church with the Rev. James Plagens, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Mr. Morales was born on May 24, 1924, in Pecos. He lived most of his life in Big Spring and later in Lubbock. He returned to Big Spring in July of 2003. He was a Catholic and had retired from the Texas and Pacific Railroad.

He is survived by two brothers, T.M. "Hawaii" Morales and his wife, Ascencion, of Big Spring and Adam Morales of Big Spring; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Hortencia, whom he married in 1973, on May 27, 2003; his parents Anastacia and Cruz Montanez Morales; one sister, Eva Morales; and three brothers, Alfredo Morales, Manuel Morales and Thomas Morales.

Arrangements are under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Nita Wash

Nita Wash, 71, of Forsan died at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2003, at Heart Place Hospital in Midland following a lengthy illness. Funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Jeff Janca, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Forsan, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, 2004, at the funeral home.

Arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity from 8 a.m. Wednesday until 7 a.m. today:

- GINA RENE NORRED, 46, of 1313 Harding was arrested Wednesday on a Midland County warrant for probation violation and on charges of theft, less than \$50 and driving while license invalid.

- RODNEY TUBBS, 20, of 1313 Harding was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft, less than \$50.

- IRENE ALVAREZ, 36, of 1613 Harding was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license suspended.

- NATASHA MORRIS, 17, of 601 W. 15th was arrested Wednesday on a charge of minor in consumption.

- ANDY PEREZ, 17, of 903 Rosemont was arrested Wednesday on a charge of minor in consumption.

- ECTOR JARAMILLO, 18, of 1305 Lexington was arrested Wednesday on a charge of minor in consumption.

- MARCUS COLE, 17, of 715 Tulane Drive was arrested Wednesday on a charge of minor in consumption.

- DAVID FLORES, 20, of San Angelo was arrested Wednesday on a charge of minor in consumption.

- SAMANTHA BREHM, 20, of 1311 Robin was arrested Wednesday on a warrant.

- PAUL MORENO, 21, of 1806 E. Highway 350 was arrested Wednesday on Howard County warrants for burglary of a habitation.

- DAVID FIERRO, 31, of 1802 State was arrested today on two traffic warrants, two Howard County warrants and on a charge of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice.

- JOSE GARFAIS, 27, of 3209 Auburn was arrested today on a charge of public intoxication.

- LUIS MOLINA, 42, of 507 E. 15th was arrested today on a charge of public intoxication.

- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 2200 block of South Main.

- THEFT was reported in the 1700 block of FM 700, the 1100 block of Lamesa, the 400 block of Gregg and the 900 block of Willa.

- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 1800 block of FM 700.

- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 700 block of Douglas and the 700 block of West 18th Street.

- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON was reported in the 1300 block of Robin.

Bulletin board

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

FRIDAY

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

AMBUCS meets at noon at La Posada.

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

SATURDAY

A dance will be held at 8:30 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge, 704 West Third. Everyone is 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 and \$1 for children and senior citizens is encouraged.

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

Hanger 25 Air Museum, located at McMahon-Wrinkle Air Park, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Big Spring Squares meets the first and third Saturday. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

Sheriff's report

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

- RECKLESS DRIVER was reported in the 100 block of Northeast Broadway. The subject was having vehicle problems.

- FIREWORKS were reported in the area of Moore and Gillham.

- THEFT OF OIL FIELD EQUIPMENT was reported on Snyderfield Road.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-8-15-34-39. Bonus Ball: 33. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$39 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 12-20-21-27-31. Number matching five of five: 2. Prize per winner: \$21,928. Winning tickets sold in: Van Alstyne, Seven Points. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night: 2-5-3

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday afternoon: 7-3-9

Weather

Today — Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers. Highs in the upper 60s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Tonight — Partly cloudy. Lows around 50. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.

Friday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Friday night — Partly cloudy. Lows around 50. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. West winds 15 to 20 mph.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Sunday — Partly cloudy. Breezy. Cooler. Highs in the lower 50s.

Sunday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s.

Monday — Sunny. Highs in the mid 50s.

Monday night — Clear. Lows in the mid 30s.

Tuesday — Sunny. Highs around 60.

Tuesday night — Clear. Lows in the mid 30s.

Wednesday — Mostly sunny. Highs around 60.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.95 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).

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



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HENRY BACKES



HAPPY NEW YEAR
It's time to celebrate and be merry. We have a lot to celebrate this year, thanks to loyal residents, caring friends and family members like you. We appreciate your business and look forward to seeing you again in the new year.
2004 is on the way, so now's the time for us to say:
"May the new year bring you much happiness and success!"
AJ Pirkie Jr. Agency
505 Scurry 267-5053
Carriage Inn
Retirement Living At Its Finest
April Martinez
Community Director
501 W. 17th St. 267-1353



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AIRPA

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runway and wind runway change has complex installation Little said.

"At night totally black there is low pilot can act on the inst said.

Little said lights lined taxiways and new signage to clear up a for pilots.

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SHARP

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"I went front of ho I bent over said, 'I thi shut you going to right off yo Barnett amusem me and sh

Larry, if

202

AIRPARK

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runway and the cross wind runway open. This change has created a complex installation design, Little said.

"At night, when it's totally black out and there is low visibility, a pilot can actually get lost on the installation," he said.

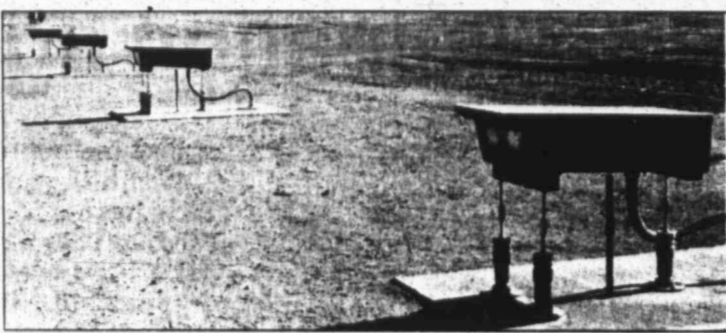
Little said the blue lights lined along with taxiways as well as the new signage should help to clear up any confusion for pilots.

But the bulk of the project was to replace the

aging omnidirectional flashing light system with two more modern lighting systems. Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) and Medium Intensity Light System with Flashers (MALSF).

PAPI, which is a system that controls four strong lights located on the side of the approaching runway, indicates if the plane is on the right glide path to land.

"If your are too low, the four lights will be all red, if you are too high they'll be all white and if your just right, it will be red and white," Little said. "When your driving, you'll see they're all red, so you coming in too



low."

MALSF operates the strobe lights which alternatively flashes toward the start of the runway to give pilots a direction. As with the old system, both systems are also accessible by pilots through their radios.

"The pilot can use their microphones by clicking

a number of times to brighten the lights, dim the lights and turn on the flashing marker if they need it," he said.

To help combat a continuing nuisance at the airport, the cabling was laid in conduits to keep the park's population of prairie dogs from access to the wiring. The ani-

mals chew on the cables causing damage.

"We put in the AWOS (Automated Weather Observing System) weather system which gives the weather in Big Spring at this airport here on a real time bases ... a little over a year ago," he said. "It had not been in a matter of a couple of weeks before the prairie dogs had got to that. When the contractor installed it, he placed the underground cabling in conduits but the cable that came out of the ground was not properly protected. Prairie dogs don't care if they're above or under ground to do damage."

Pilots will also be able

to locate the airport visually through the new beacon located on the west side of the airport by the terminal.

The results from the project will enhance the viability of the airport and attracting industry, Little said.

"Economic development activities we have here and others can still advertise us as being a primary trans-station median that can be taken advantage of," he said. "Putting it in that perspective, plus the rail, plus the highway capability we have out here, it makes us a very inviting type location for industry and others to locate and this is very

SHARP

Continued from Page 1A

According to Sharp, the need for change is apparent in the continual "lagging" of the district.

"We have to do something different out here," explained Sharp. "If you look back over the last 10 years at West Texas and this district, we've continually lagged behind the state. It's time for people to start taking this very seriously. Not that they haven't taken it seriously, but we have to ratchet it up and really increase our

efforts to effect change out here, and I feel that I can do that. I wouldn't be running if I didn't think I could."

While ailing school finance is expected to be the center of attention for the House this spring, Sharp said there are other problems that are just as important to the district's success from both an educational and financial point of view.

"This spring is probably going to see a special session," he said, "where school finance and equity funding is going to be addressed, but we still

have inherent problems in our school system. We still have a high attrition rate, which is the number of students that enter the ninth grade but don't graduate from the 12th grade.

"In my opinion we also have a problem in the way we focus so much on a curriculum that says everyone is going to go to college, and we know that the numbers just aren't there. Not everyone is immediately going to go to college. They might at some point in the future, but we've taken skills training programs out of

the high schools, and our job-seekers and industries have a need for those career technology skills. The legislature has to realize that there are a lot of students that need job skills training programs at the high school level. There are a lot of issues that need to be addressed differently than they have been in the past."

So what does Sharp think the key to a successful campaign will be?

"I think the key is reassuring people that I will be the same person when I'm elected," he said. "I won't forget them. I want

them to understand that I know their issues, and they will be able to pick up their phone and call me. I know so many people from this district already, and that's a large part of why I'm running. Those people have encouraged me. They've told me they know I understand their issues and we've been fighting in the trenches already, so why don't I run. So I'm stepping up to the plate."

"It's going to be a short 10 months and we intend to give it the best race we can," he said. "We'll let the voters decide which

candidate they want to send to Austin."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

VOTING

Continued from Page 1A

their post office box may want to pay special attention to their voting status.

"If you haven't changed it or made a correction within the last two federal elections, which comes out to about four years, then you've been dropped off of the voter rolls," said Deputy Voter Registrar Sandra Bloom. "It's really important to make sure you're registered to vote at least 30 days prior to the election. If you register less than 30 days before the election, you're

ineligible."

Bloom said the registrar's office is preparing to mail out new voter registration cards on Jan. 12, and hopes area residents will pay close attention to the card or cards they receive so the rolls can be kept up to date.

"If you get your card and there is an error on it, or if you receive a card and that person no longer lives at that address or is deceased, you need to return the card," said Bloom. "That way we can correct the roll."

Polling places for the Jan. 20 special election are:

- Precincts 101-115, North Side Fire Station, 100 N.E. Eighth Street.
- Precincts 202-205, 208, Washington Place School, 1201 S. Birdwell Lane.
- Precincts 207, 405, 407-409, Coahoma Community Center, Coahoma.
- Precincts 302-305, Goliad Middle School Library, 2000 Goliad Street.
- Precincts 401-406, 410, Big Spring High School Library, 707 E. 11th Place.

Early voting in the election will begin Monday at the Howard County Courthouse from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day, continuing through Friday, Jan. 16.

Six men and one woman

have filed in hopes of replacing Bivins, who will step down on Jan. 12. Bivins, who has served for 15 years, announced his resignation earlier this month, citing his nomination by President Bush as ambassador to Sweden and a desire to spend more time with this family.

On the ballot will be seven candidates, including lone Democratic hopeful Elaine King Miller of Amarillo. Republican candidates include farmer Lee Gibson of Dumas, businessman Kirk Edwards of Odessa, businessman Kel Seliger of Amarillo, businessman

Don Sparks of Midland, Odessa businessman Bob Barnes, and restaurant owner/attorney Jesse Quackenbush of Amarillo.

Senate District 31 covers 26 counties including Howard, Midland, Martin and Glasscock.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

CARDS

Continued from Page 1A

not to mail out the cards until they gave us a date, which will be Jan. 11, 2004."

Sayles said her office will mail out the new cards on Jan. 12, with many of them expected to come right back undelivered.

"We expect to begin mailing out voter registration cards on Jan. 12," she said. "After that, we'll receive the cards back from the people that have moved or changed their post office box. The cards cannot be forwarded to another address, even if the post office has a new address for that person."

"So if you don't receive your card within a week of the Jan. 12 mail-out, then you need to contact us. You'll have to come in and fill out a change of address form. We're not

allowed to do any of that over the phone, so people will have to come down to the tax office in person."

The Jan. 12 mailing comes a week after the start of early voting in the special election, which will begin Monday at the Howard County Courthouse. Sayles said the lack of a new card won't stop voters from being able to cast their ballots.

"With early voting starting Monday, a lot of people won't have their new voter registration card yet," she explained. "If that's the case, they just need to take their older, orange card with them when they go to vote. There shouldn't be any problems unless they've moved, which there's a process they will be able to go through at the early voting poll to correct that."

Sayles said the new voter registration cards will be blue, something

she hopes won't confuse voters or election officials considering the late mailing date.

"The color change is every two years," said Sayles. "The cards that are out there now are orange. The new cards that will be going out are blue. We just don't want people to get confused between the two when it comes time to start voting because of the color change."

While the registration deadline to be able to vote in the January special election may be past, Sayles said she hopes those that haven't registered yet will do so in plenty of time for the March primaries, which will be the next chance for them to vote.

"They have to be registered to vote 30 days before the election," said Sayles. "So the due date for the special election in January is already past. It will be the same for the

March primaries. If someone plans to vote and they aren't currently on the voter rolls, then they have to get registered before that 30-day deadline."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

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HOWARD COUNTY AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS THROUGH FEMA

Howard County has been awarded federal funds under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program. Howard County has been chosen to receive \$14,637 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

A Local Board made up of the County, City, United Way and other local charitable organizations will determine how the funds awarded to Howard County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) have an accounting system, 3) practice nondiscrimination, 4) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 5) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact United Way of Big Spring at (432) 267-5201 for an application. The deadline for applications is **January 10, 2004.**

005008

UMPIRE

Continued from Page 1A

the third inning the umpire had heard enough.

"I went around to the front of home plate and as I bent over to dust it off, I said, 'I think if you don't shut your mouth, I'm going to bite your head right off your shoulders,'" Barnett recalled with amusement. "He looked at me and smiled and said, 'Larry, if you did that,

you'd have more brains in your stomach than you do in your head."

Barnett is also expected to present one of the veterans in attendance with

a special jacket to commemorate the day.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

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JAN 01 2004

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

We wish you all a happy New Year as 2004 begins

As we enter a new year, it is time to take a few minutes to take stock of where we want to go both individually and collectively during the next 12 months.

If we haven't already taken personal stock, now is the time to ask ourselves what we want to change in our lives and what needs to be done to effect those changes.

Certainly, many of us seek better health and will make resolutions to change our diets and exercise routines. The important thing is to follow through — to make lifestyle changes.

And many more of us will seek to improve our spiritual lives. That is an area in each of our lives in which there is always room for improvement.

Others will more than likely seek to be more loving or caring with regard to family members and friends.

Community-wide, we believe the outlook for Big Spring remains a positive one. And for the most part, we're convinced the same holds true for both our state and the nation.

Despite the closing of some businesses and the departure of others, we continue to see overall growth in our community.

And we're very excited about the performing arts complex and the new Howard Cottage facility which will soon be built at Howard College.

The improvements at Comanche Trail Park that many of us enjoyed during the Pops in the Park celebration in July have been encouraging.

Too, we feel that the city's appeal as a regional center for arts and recreation continues to grow, as evidenced by recent exhibitions at the Heritage Museum, the Big Spring Symphony's concert schedule for the current year and the United States Hang Gliding Association's recent announcement that its U.S. National Championships will be returning here this summer.

All of those projects, events and activities translate to jobs, income from visitors and — perhaps even more important — a better quality of life.

As we delve into the new year, we do admit feeling a bit tentative about some things less under our overall control. We wonder, for instance, how well Howard County will be represented at the state level by which ever candidate wins this month's special election to fill the District 31 Texas Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Teel Bivins.

One thing we can say with certainty though. We continue to be blessed by the "can-do" spirit of our fellow citizens — men and women who work together to get things done. And so, it's time to look ahead again and look ahead with optimism.

Happy New Year, Big Spring.

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

Discrimination against women lives

It is ever so out these days to raise a peep about discrimination against women. If you are so unfashionable as to complain, you are promptly labeled a whiner. Hip young post-feminists will advise you to get over your "victim psychology," Dr. Laura will tell you to pull up your socks, and the women's magazines will advise you to try sexy lingerie for your problems.



MOLLY IVINS

Of course, more women could afford sexy lingerie if we weren't still the victims of wage discrimination. Equal Pay for Equal Work is the oldest demand in the feminist repertoire, and everyone gives it lip service; even the anti-feminists assure us that they certainly believe in equal pay for equal work.

When feminists first made this demand, starting in the mid-'60s, women were paid 69 cents for every dollar a man made. After 30 years of struggle and hard work, we now make 74 cents for every dollar a man makes, according to the National Committee on Pay Equity. At the rate of 5 cents every 30 years, we can expect to achieve equal pay sometime in the 22nd century.

Except, of course, for black and Hispanic women, who are now making 63 cents and 54 cents respectively for every dollar men earn.

Efforts to explain away the persistent pay gap as the consequence of women having less experience or training or education or commitment wear thinner every year. True, some women do take time off to care for small children, but why would that make them worth less money? New mothers have been consistently discriminated

against and offered jobs with less responsibility and lower wages.

New fathers are not similarly afflicted. There is no evidence that motherhood makes a woman less adept at adding figures or making airplanes. There is a particular problem for women in woman-dominated fields, where salaries are historically lower. Teaching is but one example; social workers, for another, are paid less than probation officers, a majority-male group.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has, naturally, seized on one study done by a right-wing think tank that dismisses the pay gap and has proclaimed, "Employers are not to blame for the pay gap." No? Then why did Merrill Lynch, Salomon Smith Barney, Texaco, etc., settle the lawsuits filed by their female employees?

According to the AFL-CIO, American families lose an average of more than \$4,000 a year because of unequal pay—even after accounting for differences in age, education, location and the number of hours worked. The AFL is leading a coalition to introduce equal-pay legislation, but lest the unions be tarred with the dread taint of feminism, they are calling it "Equal Pay for Working Families." With working families losing a total of \$200 billion in income annually to the wage gap, you can see why husbands have just as big a stake in this as wives.

A report by United for a Fair Economy, "Shifting Fortunes: The Perils of the Growing American Wealth Gap," takes an even broader view of economic inequities, concentrating particularly on the middle class. Those who are neither in the top 10 percent nor the bottom 10 percent in income have been the big losers during the last 25 years. Their wealth and earnings as a share of the total wealth and earnings in the United States

are falling.

What is more disturbing, writes economist Lester Thurow, is that their wealth and earnings have been falling absolutely in inflation-corrected dollars. They have less than they used to have, despite an economy that has dramatically increased the per capita gross domestic product. "Put simply and bluntly, the great American middle class has become a non-participant in the American dream."

Here again, we find the usual suspects arguing that inequality doesn't matter. All we need to worry about is the absolute level of material well-being; growth will solve the problem of poverty and low income. Juliet Schor, also writing in the "Shifting Fortunes" report, says: "There are two problems with this popular view. First, growth no longer has the magical quality of benefiting everyone—in recent years, growth has actually been associated with the (impoverishment) of a whole group of workers. And second, the idea that the distribution of income is irrelevant is not supported by scholarly evidence."

Perhaps the most alarming finding in the report is not that financial security has become more elusive for most families—it is the further finding that a specific segment of workers, the 30 percent who earn poverty or near-poverty wages, has been getting the rawest deal. So far we have not seen a political backlash against the growing inequity, but as Thurow writes, "It is a stupid society that runs an experiment to see what its breaking points are."

To find out more about Molly Ivins and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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- BILL CROOKER — Home: 263-2566.
- GARY SIMMER — Home: 263-0269; Work: (Ponderosa Nursery): 263-4441.

Dean's holiday gaffes unnoticed?

Steve Murphy, Rep. Richard Gephardt's campaign manager, this week professed to being baffled. How is it possible, he wondered, that Howard Dean's bizarre comments about Osama bin Laden attracted so little news media attention? The answer is that apart from being obscured by the holiday season, the Democratic presidential front-runner's words got lost in his own stream of unusual remarks.

Dean's post-Christmas comments that he could not suggest a penalty for the terrorist leader and author of the 9/11 catastrophe until he was judged guilty had no time to sink in before he began saying things that stunned his party's faithful. He sniped at Democratic National Chairman Terry McAuliffe for not protecting him from the party's other candidates, and warned of his 1.5 million supporters defecting if any other Democrat is nominated for president.

Dean's holiday performance reflects the yearlong pattern by the former governor of Vermont. To characterize Dean's remarks as leftist tilt that can and will be corrected by a quick pivot to the center is a faulty diagnosis of the doctor's disease. James Carville this week summed up the Dean problem: "He seems to not appreciate the glory of the unspoken thought."

For Carville to make this comment on national television gets the attention of Democrats, including

Dean and his campaign staff. Carville, making no pretense at objectivity, is a passionate partisan emotionally committed to George W. Bush's defeat. As architect of Bill Clinton's 1992 election victory, he is in demand for party functions nationwide and a vigorous fund-raiser for the Democratic National Committee (DNC).

Carville, neutral in the race for the presidential nomination, rarely speaks ill of a fellow Democrat. But he did on CNN's "Crossfire" Monday: "I'm scared to death that this guy just says anything. It feels like he's undergone some kind of a political lobotomy here."

Maria Echaveste, a Dean adviser who was President Clinton's deputy chief of staff, sat across the table from Carville looking like a deer caught in the headlights. "Not every candidate ends up being president from the day he walks out there," she said. "They mature. And this is what this man is doing." Off camera, she suggested Dean needs a little rest.

Being overworked is a poor excuse for Dean's holiday gaffes. They began last Friday when the Concord (N.H.) Monitor published an astonishing interview with Dean. After reiterating that capturing Saddam Hussein did not make America safer, he asserted in regard to Osama bin Laden that "we should do our best not to, in positions of executive power, not to prejudice jury trials." Dean usually will not budge from his bloopers, but his staff was so shaken by this that on Friday he tried backing away. He told the Associated Press he advocated the "death penalty" for bin Laden under "the rule of law."

Two days later in a Sunday

meeting with reporters in Iowa, Dean was even more puzzling. Scolding McAuliffe for not protecting him from other candidates, he said: "If Ron Brown were the chairman, this wouldn't be happening." As DNC chairman in 1992, Brown did not lift a finger as other candidates savaged front-runner Bill Clinton.

In the same Sunday session, Dean warned that "if I don't win the nomination," his million and a half supporters are "certainly not going to vote for a conventional Washington politician." Echaveste found it difficult to explain these outbursts.

Yet, the most disturbing of Dean's holiday gaffes came before Christmas. Answering a questionaire from the Quad-City Times in Davenport, Iowa, asking his "closest living relative in the armed services," Dean listed his brother Charles—actually neither alive nor ever a military veteran. He disappeared at age 23 in 1974 while visiting Laos as an anti-war civilian as part of a world tour, and his body was discovered last month.

I asked Maria Echaveste off camera Monday why the governor would make such a mistake. "That's an old story," she replied. While there is no statute of limitations on gaffes, this one appeared in print only Dec. 14. What bothers James Carville and other loyal Democrats about their prospective nominee is what this pattern portends for the future.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. © 2004 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.



ROBERT NOVAK



Start the New Year...

Start the New Year lucky!

A staple Southern diet for years, black-eyed peas have long been with good luck. A dish of peas Year's traditions areas of thought to bring prosperity for year.

According to Harris, at "Welcome to add a dime to an extra "boob" to the recipient. Greens, though bolize folding often eaten the peas.

A dish of black-eyed peas is one of the lar ways of serving but many serve salads or sim as a side dish or pork chops.

Whether you a full meal, a gathering a football game these recipes into your menu plan.

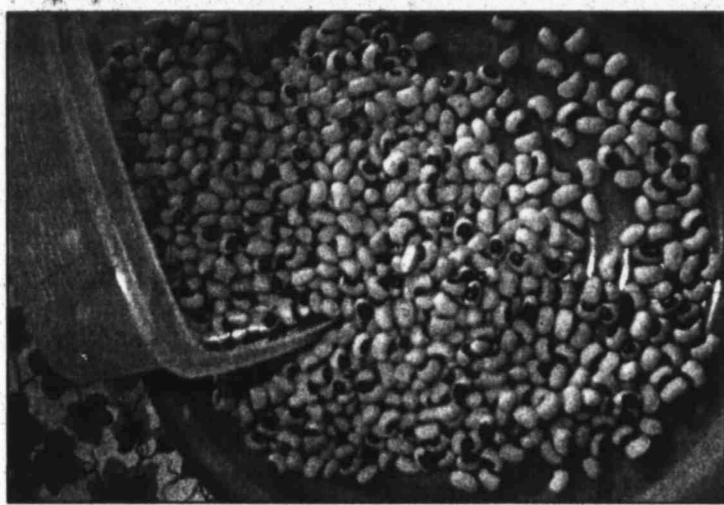
Black-eyed peas 1/2 green dice per two stalks fine celery three chopped onions one teaspoon per two teaspoons 1/2 cup Ketch three chicken cubes 1/4 teaspoon of two, 15-ounce black-eyed peas 10-ounce can toes with green one pressed of two fresh, fine jalapeno peppers one teaspoon

In medium over medium sauté bell pepper and onions amount of order. Add black Tabasco, ketchup cubes, and Lower heat tomatoes, sugar. Simmer 8. Serve hot with for dipping.

WEST T M-F 9-5 SAT. 12 1712 GREG 263-55



Get tips on child rearing at library



Start the New Year with a serving of lucky black eyed peas.

Start the New Year with lucky black-eyed peas

A staple in the Southern diet for over 300 years, black-eyed peas have long been associated with good luck.

A dish of peas is a New Year's tradition in most areas of the South, thought to bring luck and prosperity for the new year.

According to Jessica Harris, author of "Welcome Table", some add a dime to the peas for an extra "boost" of luck to the recipient.

Greens, thought to symbolize folding money, are often eaten eaten with the peas.

A dish made with black-eyed peas and rice, is one of the more popular ways of serving them, but many serve them in salads or simply cooked as a side dish, with ham or pork chops.

Whether you're serving a full meal, appetizers, or gathering around the football game, one of these recipes is sure to fit into your New Year's menu plan.

Black-eyed pea dip
1/2 green diced bell pepper
two stalks finely chopped celery
three chopped green onions
one teaspoon black pepper
two teaspoons Tabasco
1/2 cup Ketchup
three chicken bouillon cubes
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
two, 15-ounce cans of black-eyed peas
10 ounce can Rotel tomatoes with green chilies
one pressed clove garlic,
two fresh, finely chopped jalapeno peppers
one teaspoon sugar

In medium saucepan over medium-high heat, sauté bell peppers, celery and onions in a small amount of oil, until tender.

Add black pepper, Tabasco, ketchup, bouillon cubes, and cinnamon. Lower heat, add peas, tomatoes, garlic and sugar.

Simmer 30 minutes. Serve hot with corn chips for dipping.

Black-eyed peas and greens
two cups dried black-eyed peas, cleaned
two cups water, added as cooked
three large, minced cloves garlic
1/2 teaspoon salt
one sliced onion
one bag, or eight cups chopped collard greens
freshly ground black pepper

Put the black-eyed peas in a large saucepan or dutch oven. Add water, bring to a boil, and simmer covered approximately 15 minutes. Add garlic and salt and continue cooking on low heat until legumes are almost tender for approximately 40 minutes. Add water as necessary while cooking to keep from drying out the peas.

Add onion and collards. Stir and continue cooking about 10 minutes more until collards and onions are cooked. Add black pepper and serve hot with corn bread and sweet potatoes.

Give a good New Year's toast

First, pick a New Year's toast that sounds cheery and filled with best wishes. Toasts should be well planned and thought through.

Keep your toast brief. If a toast goes longer than two or three minutes, the toastees might grow restless and lose the full meaning of the toast.

A host or hostess should be ready with the first toast. Proceed in an orderly fashion after his or her toast, with requests to say a toast.

Toasts should enhance the presentation and the occasion, whether a party or private gathering. Keep it light.

Life is about you. For story suggestions, contact Life desk at 263-7331, ext. 236 with your story idea, or e-mail life@bigspringherald.com.

Read us online at bigspringherald.com

The Library will be closed today, the first day of the New Year, 2004.



AT THE LIBRARY HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

It will reopen at 9 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 2, resuming regular hours.

The Library will also be closed on Monday, Jan. 19 in honor of Martin Luther King's birthday.

Over the Christmas holidays, I spent time with my new grand-daughter, Sydney. She is 10 months old and giggled and cooed at almost anyone who came within her view.

She was especially fascinated by Gus the cat. Being the impartial grandparents that we are, we are convinced that she said "cat" in response to our coaching.

Have you ever wondered what they really mean when, to our ears, meaningless babbles come out on a non-verbal person?

The library has on its shelves a most interesting book by Dr. Lawrence E. Shapiro, titled "The Secret Language of Children" (155.4136 SHA L).

There is a secret language that all children speak. It is a language beyond words. It is revealed in a child's body movements and facial expression, in his voice, in his art, in his play, even in his stories and

The Library will be closed today, reopening at 9 a.m. Friday.

dreams.

It is a language that reveals the true sense of a child's happiness and sense of well-being.

It is a language that reveals his deepest fears and conflicts. It is a language very familiar to professional counselors and therapists, but parents hardly know it exists.

Dr. Shapiro provides the keys that will open the door to an entirely new way for parents to relate to their children, from toddler-hood to the teenage years.

Written in a practical and informal style, his book will provide parents with dozens of unusual techniques to help them be more effective in communicating with their children.

Another interesting book is "Your Child's Development From Birth to Adolescence" (155.4 LAN R), by Richard Lansdown and Marjorie Walker.

The book is designed to see how a child progresses from infancy to age 18.

There are sections on specific subjects such as how to tell if your child's progress is on track, what to do about bullying and how to make friends. I think you will find it fascinating to read.

Did you know that many investigative companies, the FBI, the CIA, Scotland Yard use

graphology, or handwriting analysis, to make a judgment on whether or not an individual is suited for a position?

"Handwriting Analysis - Putting It to Work for You" (155.282 McN A), by Andrea McNichol takes the reader step by step in using graphology in business.

The doodles that you make when on the phone or in a meeting, do they mean something?

Andrea McNichol will help in interpreting handwriting to the benefit of you and your company. We have several other books on handwriting, all in the same area.

Do you work for the terminally ill? Did you know that the library has several very good books for you to checkout and use?

Gail Carson-Reiser has written "Dying 101: A Short Course on Living for the Terminally Ill" (155.937 CAS R).

It has sections on hidden agenda, yours and theirs, insurance, blame, your body and the process of dying and what is left to do when you are dead.

The library has other books that may be helpful such as "Losing a Parent" by Fiona Marshall; "Life After Loss" by Bob Deits" and several more in the 155 section.

Have you resolved to be more pro-active in your personal life?

Then check out "Super Self-Doubling Your Personal Effectiveness" (158 GIV C) by Charles Givens; "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" (158 COV S) by Stephen Covey, and John Gray's

"How to Get What You Want and Want What You Have" (158 GRA J).

I have on order Stephen Covey's book on "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families". It hasn't come in yet.

Howard County Library is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday and 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturday.

The internet/video room closes 1/2 hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main St., phone 264-2260. The library Website is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. The catalog is on line and the email address is hmc-cright@hotmail.com.



Will McEwell Allen

Area resident completes Navy basic training

Will McEwell Allen graduated from U.S. Navy basic training Dec. 23 at the Great Lakes Navy base.

He is the son of the late Kris Allen and the grandson of Rocky and Gina Allen of Big Spring.

His Navy job is Seabee/EO, and he will undergo further training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.

2004: Hope It's Heavenly!
Another year is on the wing and we hope it brings good times and prosperity for you and your family. We feel truly blessed to have customers like you.

Happy New Year

C Bar G Western Wear
1600 Gregg
264-7596

At The Close Of Another Year

Before the clock strikes the final hour, we resolve to give you our very best wishes for a fabulous and fun-filled year. We're really grateful for the time you've spent with us.

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New Year's Day Sale

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EXTRA

15% OFF

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WEST TEXAS DISCOUNT FLOORING

M-F 9-5:30
SAT. 12-4

1712 GREGG
263-5500

Pergo Snap \$2.59 sf	Wilsonart \$2.59 sf
REMNAINT SALE	Plush Carpet \$6.99 yd
16x16 Tile \$1.49 sf	Vinyl \$7.49 yd

feliz año nuevo
Muchas felicidades y gracias, amigos.

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The new Lancer

Mitsubishi favorite gets fresh look, more power

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — The winding hills of Southern California proved a perfect location to test the 2004 Mitsubishi Lancer.

In addition to a freshened appearance, Mitsubishi has added two new trim lines — the racing inspired Ralliart and Sportback.

These are great vehicles.

Fun to drive vehicles. Affordable vehicles.

And I have to give Mitsubishi credit for the new Lancer Ralliart. This is not a base model loaded with special amenities and pretty badges.

Powered by a 2.4-liter, four-cylinder engine using MIVEC (Mitsubishi Innovative Valve timing and lift Electronic Control) technology, the 162-horsepower Ralliart is an honest to goodness performance vehicle.

The high-revving, high-displacement engine improves efficiency,

reduces emissions and increases output.

While available with five-speed manual or four-speed automatic transmission with adaptive shift control, I logged all of my Ralliart seat time with the manual transmission.

Two words: Oh Boy! Borrowing technology from the Lancer Evolution (think 2Fast 2Furious), the manual transmission is enhanced with a sport-shifter assembly which provides shorter throws for improved shift action.

ON THE ROAD



BY NEAL WHITE

Also new this year is the Lancer Sportback sport wagon.

The Lancer Sportback is designed for active consumers who need the extra room provided by a utility vehicle but don't want to sacrifice the sporty ride and nimble handling of a smaller car.

Based on the Lancer sedan, the five-door



The 2004 Mitsubishi Lancer Ralliart sedan.

Sportback is capable of hauling the entire family, yet refuses to compromise when it comes to ride and handling.

Like the Lancer Ralliart sedan, the Lancer Sportback (available in LS and Ralliart trim lines), is powered by the same 2.4-liter powerplant and is mated to an electronically controlled four-speed automatic transmission with driver-adaptive control.

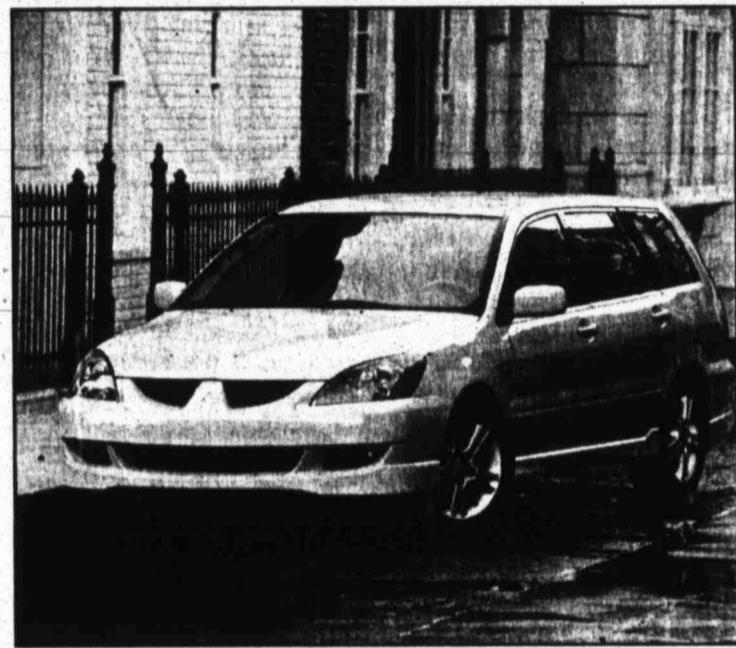
With an overall length of 181.3 inches, the Sportback offers up to 95.3 cubic feet of passenger space. With the rear seats folded flat, you can accommodate up to 60.7 cubic feet for cargo. Again, fun to drive.

Back to the Lancer sedan, which is available in LS ES and O-Z Rally trim and powered by a 2.0-liter, four-cylinder engine (120 horsepower/130 lbs.-ft. torque).

These are also exceptional vehicles — not as exciting to drive as the Ralliart, yet turning in an impressive performance on mountain terrain with steep inclines.

The 2004 Lancer series is well worth a test drive for those in the market for a compact sedan or sport wagon.

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



The 2004 Mitsubishi Lancer Sportback.

Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to neal.white@waxa-hachiedailylight.com.

Bundling children up in car seats could be risky

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Bundling your children up when the mercury drops may be a good defense against the cold, but according to Department of Public Safety officials, it may drive up the risk of them being injured in a traffic accident.

DPS Lt. Judy Altom said it may sound strange, but all too often it's a sad truth.

"When parents bundle their children up like that, they don't realize what a profound effect it can have on the way their car seat protects them," said Altom. "All of that material between them and the restraints causes the harness not to work properly."

Altom said the mechanics of a car crash make it a simple matter of how much slack is in your child's restraint system overall.

"The harness straps in car seats are designed to lie flat and snug against your child," she explained. "When they are adjusted properly, there should be no slack in the harness system. If you wrap your baby in a blanket before placing him or her in the car seat, and loosen the harness straps to accommodate the extra cloth, you have put slack into the system. The same thing happens if you put a coat on your toddler and loosen the straps before buckling him in his seat."

"In a collision, this extra fabric and padding will compress and create slack in the harness system, which will allow your child to move further forward during a crash before being stopped by the harness straps — increasing the injuries they will suffer."

Altom said by following a few simple guidelines when buckling your children up you can help avoid the worst-case scenario: an injured or dead child.

"Always keep your child in the clothes they will be wearing when they are indoors," she said. "Place the child in the infant seat or car seat, making sure the harness straps are snug over the shoulders and that they lie straight and flat down to the buckle."

"Buckle the child in and then put the coat or blanket over them — on TOP of the harness system. You can even turn the coat around and put his arms through the sleeves after he is buckled into his car seat."

Altom said the other common mistake parents and guardians make when buckling their children up doesn't just come with cold weather.

"You wouldn't believe how many times we've seen car seats that aren't set up in the vehicle properly," said Altom. "They will have straps backwards or in the wrong parts of the seat, things like that. That's why it's so important to check the manufacturer's directions and make sure it's in properly."

"If the seat hasn't been installed correctly, it may not protect your child in the event of an accident. Or even worse, it may cause additional injury to them."

For more detailed information on car seats and car seat safety, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's website at www.nhtsa.gov.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

Shuttle disaster, soldier deaths top Texas' state news in 2003

By BOBBY ROSS JR.
Associated Press Writer

From the seven astronauts who perished in the space shuttle Columbia to the dozens of Texas soldiers who died in Iraq, 2003 was, in many ways, a heartwrenching year for the Lone Star State.

Spirits lifted in December when the Fort Hood-based 4th Infantry uncovered Saddam Hussein at a safehouse near his hometown of Tikrit, pulling one of the world's most wanted fugitives out of a narrow, earthen hiding hole.

It was two Fort Hood soldiers and five from Fort Bliss who were captured March 23 in an attack near Nasiriyah that left nine comrades dead. The members of the 507th Maintenance Company survived three harrowing weeks of captivity and Pfc. Jessica Lynch was rescued separately in daring commando raid April 1.

Among 2003's other top state headlines: the legislative fight over how to redraw congressional voting districts; the deaths of 19 immigrants in a botched smuggling attempt; the slaying of a Baylor University basketball player; the striking down of a Texas law that banned homosexual sex;

and the successful separation of conjoined Egyptian twins.

"The Columbia is lost," President Bush said Feb. 1, confirming the nation's worst fears after the shuttle fell to pieces, raining debris over hundreds of miles of dense East Texas woods.

The shuttle catastrophe occurred 39 miles above the Earth, in the last 16 minutes of the 16-day mission as the spaceship reentered the atmosphere and glided in for a landing in Florida. In its horror and in its backdrop of a crystal blue sky, the day echoed one almost exactly 17 years before, when the Challenger exploded.

The loss of seven explorers — shuttle commander Rick Husband, Michael Anderson, David Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, William McCool and Ilan Ramon — brought a new round of grief to a nation still in mourning after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Hundreds of volunteers, mostly in Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Hemphill, worked long hours to retrieve shuttle debris. Law enforcement officers and the National Guard protected the largest pieces of debris for the crash investigation.

Investigators concluded that NASA's overconfident management and inattention to safety doomed Columbia every bit as much as the chunk of foam that struck the shuttle with deadly force. Without drastic changes, they said, another disaster is likely.

The nation's attention then turned to the war with Iraq, with Texas' two largest military installations — Fort Bliss at El Paso and Fort Hood at Killeen — pressed into action.

Another 20,000 troops from Fort Hood are training to ship out in 2004 to replace those deployed in Iraq. In all, 22 Texan soldiers have been killed, according to military reports.

Meanwhile, a political fight brewed at home over congressional redistricting.

A federal trial that started in December followed months of partisan fighting and two out-of-state boycotts — House Democrats fled to Ardmore, Okla., in May and their Senate counterparts to Albuquerque, N.M., in the summer — so there wouldn't be enough lawmakers in Austin to vote on the Republican-drawn map. Finally, a map passed in a third special session.

have a great year!
Wishing you good fortune, happiness and more in the year 2004.
BOB BROCK
FORD • LINCOLN • MERCURY • NISSAN
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OUT WITH THE OLD... IN WITH THE NEW!
Whether you view New Year's as a beginning or an end, we hope your celebration is noteworthy. We thank you for your business this past year and look forward to serving you and your family in the days ahead.
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Dr. Anna Rosinska, M.D. • 264-1500
Dr. Cezary Kuprianowicz, M.D. • 264-1300
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Another year... another chance, to tell you how grateful we are for your generous support.
Happy New Year!
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Sports Editor
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Sports

BIG
SPRING HERALD

Page 1B
Thursday, January 1, 2004

Slow start dooms Steers in 54-30 loss to Tors

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

LAMESA — Don't take Big Spring head coach Jim Kinnear wrong, when it comes to winning he wants to pocket a W every time his team steps onto the floor.

He's been around long enough to know that wins in the non-district portion of a season — as nice as they may be — aren't worth a plug nickel when the "real season" begins. It's much more important to find the bugs

and work out the kinks than worry about wins and losses.

"We start district in a couple of weeks and everyone's record goes out the window. Once district starts, it's a new season and everyone is equal. We've lost a few (in non-district) but we're working on trying to prepare for district.

"We're trying to make ourselves better for when the games really count. That's the most important thing for us," he said.

The second-year Big Spring head coach found plenty of kinks to iron out Wednesday night as the Steers dropped a tough 54-30 decision to longtime rival Lamesa in the seventh-place game of the O.W. Follis Holiday Tournament.

The loss comes on the heels of two gutsy efforts by the Steers against Lubbock Roosevelt and Slaton in the first two rounds.

Despite the loss — which dropped Big Spring to 3-14 for the year, Kinnear said his team

was only interested in getting prepared for its Jan. 16 District 4-4A opener against Frenship

"We're just weren't being very patient on offense or defense tonight," said Kinnear. "If we can be a little more patient and get back to the team concept, I believe we have a legitimate shot at the playoffs.

"Right now, we just need to work on getting better and playing as a team again."

Speaking of work. Lamesa — See **STEERS**, Page 2B



Herald Photo/Tommy Wells
Big Spring senior Erin Partee shoots over a Lamesa defender during the third quarter of the Steers' 54-30 loss Wednesday.

ALL THE MARBLES

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

LAMESA — After watching his team battle the Andrews Mustangs for three quarters, Big Spring junior varsity head coach Will Johnson had just one thing to say to his teams as they began the final eight minutes of play Wednesday afternoon.

His speech was simple: Finish it.

Shay Long and Wes Parks didn't disappoint their first-year head coach in the least. The two helped lead the Steers to the O.W. Follis Junior Varsity Basketball Tournament championship by sparking a 12-4 run in the fourth quarter that cinched a 50-40 victory.

"Coach just told us to finish it," said Parks. "We just went out and did what he told us to do."

Johnson, for his part, attributed the Steers' success to the team's climbing confidence level and the play of the defense.

"The team is starting to get to a point where they're not getting down and expecting to lose when something doesn't go their way. They starting to play well as a team."

Nowhere was the team's confidence more evident than in the final eight minutes of the championship game.

With the Steers leading by a slim 38-36 margin, Long and Parks each pushed in five points in the final stanza — sinking six of nine attempts from the free throw line in the final four minutes — to take the wind out of Andrews' sails.

While Long and Parks may have led the final run, the Steers can thank the inside presence of Kyle Piercefield and Bobby Newton for keeping Andrews at bay in the first 24 minutes. The two forwards combined for more than 12 rebounds and keyed a defensive stand that limited the Mustangs to just 20 first-half points.

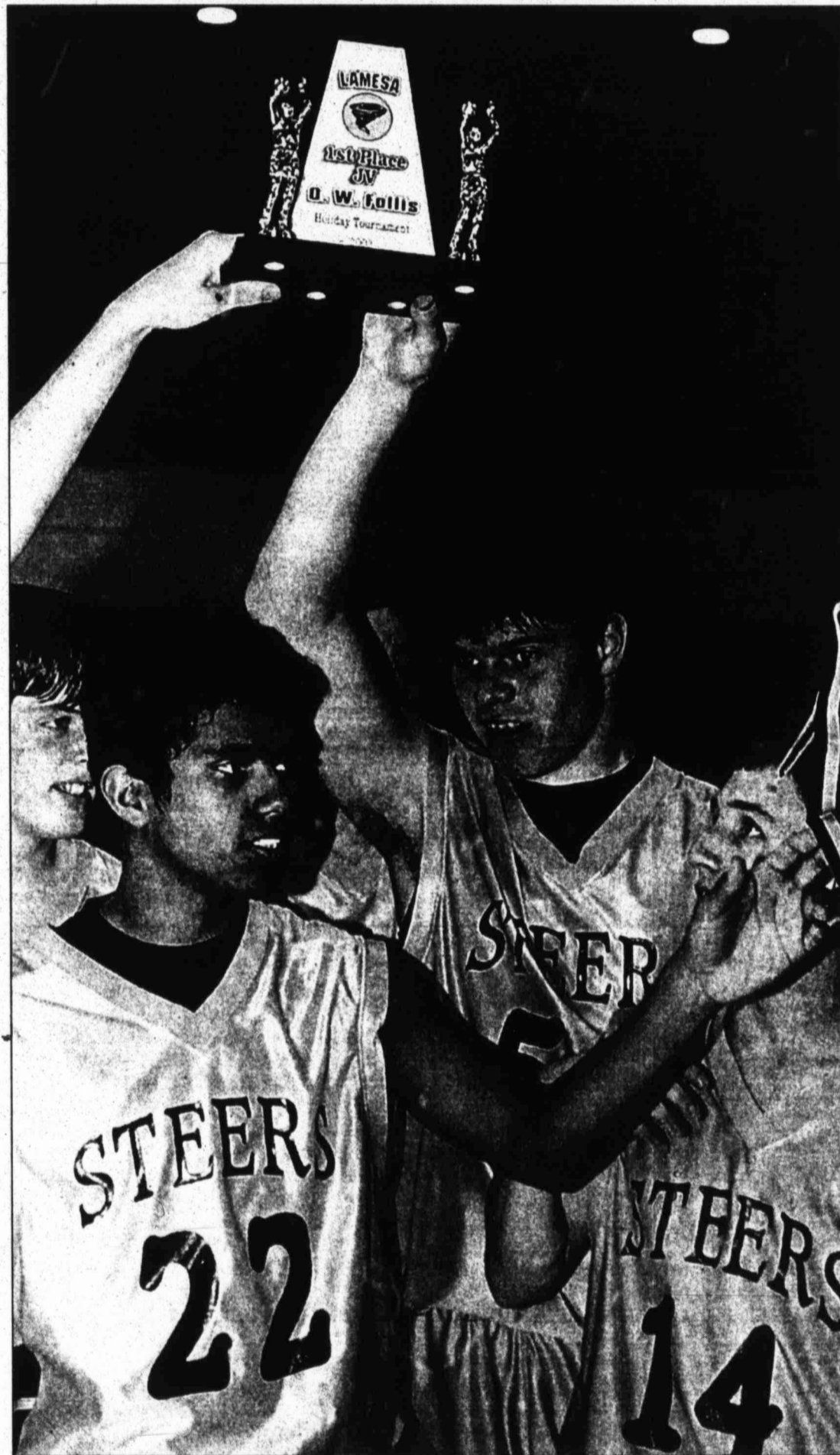
Piercefield and Kalin Whitehead carried Big Spring's offense in the opening minutes of the contest. Piercefield pushed in six points in the first quarter while Whitehead added a pair of shots from the floor.

The Steers, who also collected first-period points from Brandon Boling and Long, took a slim 14-11 cushion into the second period.

Andrews didn't give any ground in the ensuing period. The Mustangs matched Big Spring point-for-point in the frame and went into the half trailing by a 23-20 margin.

Boling, one of three BSHS players to score seven points, highlighted the Steers' third-quarter efforts by sinking a

See **CHAMPS**, Page 2B



Herald Photo/Tommy Wells
Kyle Piercefield lifts the O.W. Follis JV Tournament championship trophy over his head Wednesday afternoon after helping the Steers down Andrews, 50-40. Big Spring went 3-0 in the tournament and held each of its opponents to 40 points or less.

Lady Kats move into RC finals

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

BIG LAKE — With Saddam Hussein in custody, Megan Niehues may be the biggest villain mention in Mason these days. Especially after Tuesday night evening when she helped lead the Garden City Lady Kats to a 43-27 victory over the Cowgirls in the semifinal round of the Reagan County Invitational Basketball Tournament.

Niehues scored a game-high 14 points and helped spur the Lady Kats into the finals of the event Wednesday evening against either Reagan County or Irion County. Garden City, which also collected strong efforts from Leslie Jansa and Jessica Hoch, has advanced to the finals of all three tournaments it has competed in this fall.

Niehues and Company took control of the contest quickly. The Lady Kats outscored Mason — a Class 2A power — by a 12-9 clip in the first quarter.

Garden City, which will be gunning for its 11th consecutive playoff berth when District 7-A action begins later this month, managed to maintain its slim 3-point lead in the second. The Lady Kats matched Mason point-for-point in the frame and went into the half holding a 21-18 cushion.

The Lady Kats ripped the reins from the Cowgirls' hands in the third with a stifling defensive push. Using a full-court press, Garden City held Mason to just five points in the initial eight minutes of the second half.

Mason's defense wasn't as fortunate. Niehues and the GCHS girls reeled off 12 points in the frame and watched their lead balloon to 10, at 33-23, heading into the fourth quarter.

The Lady Kats, now 14-2 overall, salted away the win with a 10-4 run in the final minutes.

Niehues wasn't the only offensive weapon the Lady Kats enjoyed against Mason. Jansa and Hoch each pumped in nine points, while Lauren Plagens and Krystal Sullivan added five apiece.

Senior post Amanda Henson also contributed to the Lady Kats' win, scoring four points. Katie Schmitz added two.

Hoch helped key the GCHS defensive effort by racking up a team-high seven rebounds in the contest.

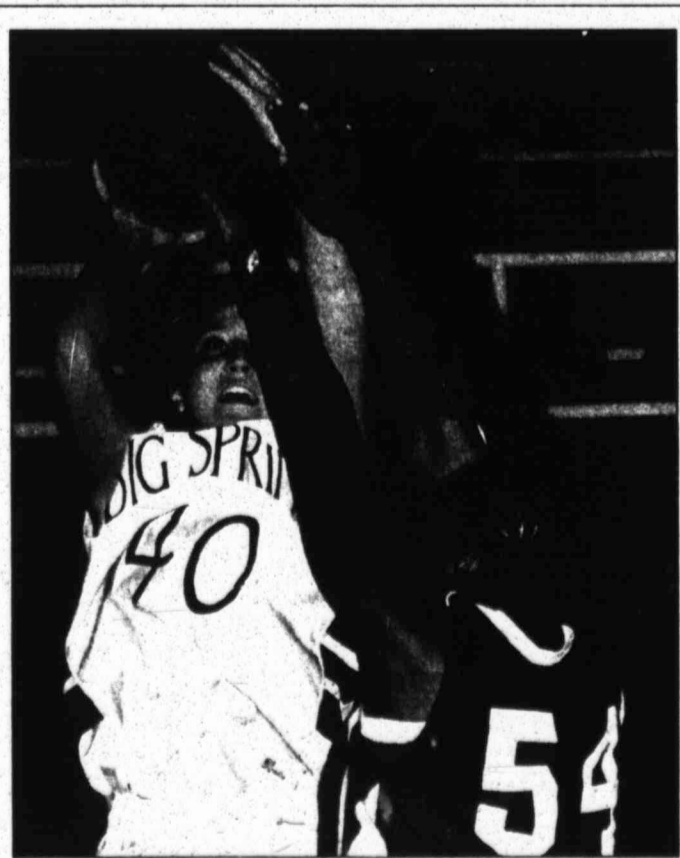
Editor's Note: Due to early deadlines for New Year's Day, results of the tournament finals will appear in Friday's edition of the *Big Spring Herald*.

Tigers ink Johnson to contract

DETROIT (AP) — Right-hander Jason Johnson agreed to a \$7 million, two-year contract with the Detroit Tigers.

Johnson, 30, pitched the previous five seasons for Baltimore. He was the Orioles' second-winningest starter behind Sidney Ponson last season, going 10-10 with a 4.18 ERA in 189 2-3 innings. His victories matched his career high.

Johnson, who became a free agent when Baltimore failed to offer a contract by the Dec. 20 deadline, has started 133 major league games and is 36-58 with a 4.91 ERA over seven seasons with the Orioles, Pittsburgh and Tampa Bay.



Herald Photo/Bruce Schooler
Raegan Ritchey and the Big Spring Lady Steers will begin the new year on Jan. 6 by hosting Lubbock Coronado.

Lloyd's 42-yard FG lifts Gophers to victory

EL PASO (AP) — With the Sun Bowl on the line, Minnesota needed someone who was cool under pressure.

Who better than Winston Churchill?

Englishman Rhys Lloyd kicked a 42-yard field goal with 23 seconds left to give Minnesota a 31-30 win over Oregon in the Sun Bowl on Wednesday.

Oregon took a 30-28 lead on a 47-yard field goal by Jared Siegel with 4:16 left before the Golden

Gophers (10-3) drove 55 yards on their ensuing possession to set up the winner by Lloyd, nicknamed "Winston Churchill."

"I didn't know if it was going to go through. We all just stood there and went crazy when the ref signaled it was good," said Minnesota receiver Aaron Hosack, who caught six passes for 107 yards. "Oregon's defense is one of the toughest we faced all year."

The Ducks (8-5) had one last chance to score but Kellen Clemens, who finished with 363 yards passing, was intercepted by Minnesota's Justin Isom with 10 seconds left.

"We came down the field and Lloyd, a.k.a. Winston Churchill, is a cool customer," Minnesota coach Glen Mason said. "He has done this before against Wisconsin, so I had every confidence in him."

See **SUN BOWL**, Page 2B

Ravens' Lewis wins AP offensive accolades

(AP) Jamal Lewis rushed past the 2,000-yard mark and won The Associated Press NFL Offensive Player of the Year award.

The running back who rushed for 2,066 yards, second-most in NFL history, and 14 touchdowns,

easily outdistanced San Diego's LaDainian Tomlinson for the honor. Lewis also set an NFL single-game mark with 295 yards rushing against Cleveland in Week 2.

Baltimore's Terrell Suggs earned The Associated Press' NFL

Defensive Rookie of the Year award.

Suggs earned 23 votes from a national panel of sports writers and broadcasters who cover the NFL. Dallas cornerback Terence Newman was second in the voting with 15 votes.

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Southern Ca ready to make its case for national title

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — For more than three weeks, the talk in college football has been about split titles, disputed finishes and computer rankings.

Southern California has been at the center of the flap that will either quiet down or pick up after the top-ranked Trojans play No. 4 Michigan in the Rose Bowl today.

“What has occurred is a clear example of the system not working out right,” said USC coach Pete Carroll, whose team was kept out of the Bowl Championship Series title game at the Sugar Bowl because of its

strength of schedule. If staying home to play in the most storied bowl in a traditional matchup against one of the nation's top teams is considered a consolation prize by some, the Trojans sure don't view it that way.

“We're playing in the Rose Bowl with a shot at the national championship,” Carroll said Wednesday. “You can't ask for more than that. I'm not frustrated at all.”

The Rose Bowl is the first of two national championship games this year. History says USC will be in perfect position

to claim The Associated Press' championship with a win against the Wolverines because the AP's top team never has dropped after winning its bowl.

But an undisputed championship is impossible for the Trojans. The USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll is obligated to give its title to the winner of the Sugar Bowl between No. 2 LSU and No. 3 Oklahoma.

That sets up the possibility of college football's 11th split national championship — something that was supposed to be eliminated when the BCS started in 1998.

“Twenty years from now, that won't matter,” USC cornerback Will Poole said. “We'll still get a ring.”

To do that, the Trojans will have to get past a Michigan team that is playing as well as anyone after falling out of national-title contention with two early losses.

Michigan responded by winning its final six games, including three against Top 10 teams in November.

“I think we should be considered,” offensive lineman Tony Pape said. “It's not how you start the race, but how you finish.

We might not have started as fast as some other teams, but we're finishing as a championship team.”

This game figures to be a shootout, with two of the country's most sophisticated offenses.

USC Quarterback Matt Leinart stepped in for Heisman Trophy winner Carson Palmer, directing a high-powered attack to record numbers. He has many options at his disposal, led by All-American receiver Mike Williams, Keary Colbert and a trio of young running backs that provide balance.

SCOREBOARD

NFL STANDINGS

American Conference East Division table with columns for W, L, T, PCT, PF, PA. Includes teams like New England, Miami, Buffalo, N.Y. Jets.

American Conference South Division table. Includes teams like Indianapolis, Tennessee, Jacksonville, Houston.

American Conference North Division table. Includes teams like Baltimore, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Cleveland.

American Conference West Division table. Includes teams like Kansas City, Denver, Oakland, San Diego.

National Conference East Division table. Includes teams like Philadelphia, Dallas, Washington, N.Y. Giants.

National Conference South Division table. Includes teams like Carolina, New Orleans, Tampa Bay, Atlanta.

National Conference North Division table. Includes teams like Green Bay, Minnesota, Chicago, Detroit.

National Conference West Division table. Includes teams like St. Louis, Seattle, San Francisco, Arizona.

NFL PLAYOFFS

Saturday, Jan. 3 Tennessee at Baltimore, 4:30 p.m. (ABC) Dallas at Carolina, 8 p.m. (ABC)

Saturday, Jan. 10 Seattle at Green Bay, 1 p.m. (FOX) Denver at Indianapolis, 4:30 p.m. (CBS)

Sunday, Jan. 11 Indianapolis, Baltimore or Tennessee at Kansas City, 1 p.m. (CBS)

Sunday, Jan. 18 AFC Championship Game, 3 p.m. (CBS) NFC Championship Game, 6:45 p.m. (FOX)

Sunday, Feb. 1 Super Bowl at Houston, 6:25 p.m. (CBS)

NBA STANDINGS

Eastern Conference East Division table. Includes teams like New Jersey, Boston, Philadelphia, New York.

Eastern Conference Central Division table. Includes teams like Indiana, New Orleans, Detroit, Toronto.

Eastern Conference Midwest Division table. Includes teams like San Antonio, Minnesota, Denver, Dallas.

Eastern Conference Pacific Division table. Includes teams like L.A. Lakers, Sacramento, Seattle, Portland.

Western Conference West Division table. Includes teams like Utah, Houston, Memphis.

Western Conference Central Division table. Includes teams like L.A. Lakers, Sacramento, Seattle, Portland.

Western Conference Northwest Division table. Includes teams like Portland, Sacramento, Seattle, Vancouver.

Western Conference South Division table. Includes teams like Dallas, Houston, Memphis.

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

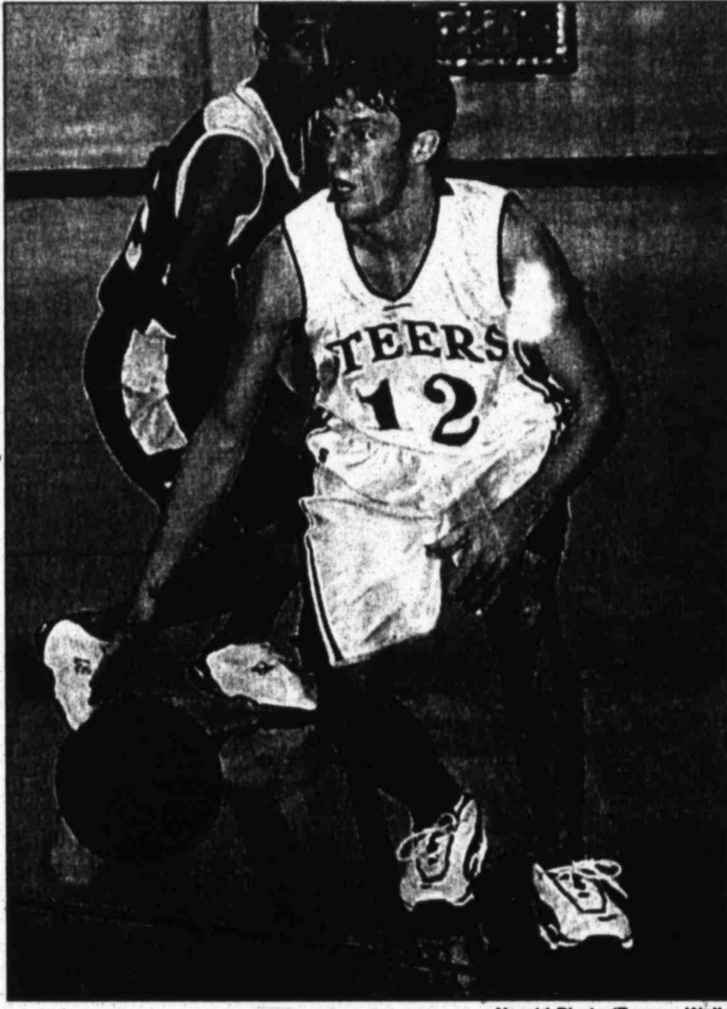
which lost to Big Spring earlier this year in the Steer Gym, got busy against the Steers early in the first quarter. The Tors knocked down three 3-point shots in the first eight minutes and rolled to a stunning 16-9 advantage.

C.J. Lowery led Big Spring's first-quarter efforts by scoring five points. Brandon Gross and Kyle Flenniken added two apiece.

Defensively, Josh Pedigo and Jordan Cobb helped Big Spring flex its muscle in the second period. The Steers forced three turnovers in the first three minutes of the period and cut Lamesa's lead to 18-13.

The Tors managed to rebound a bit in the closing minute of the first half. They scored three times from the floor in the final 53 seconds and went into the half holding a 28-15 lead.

The Steers' luck went from bad to worse in the third. After Lowery had opened the frame by putting back an offensive rebound to trim Big Spring's deficit to 11, at 28-17, Lamesa exploded offensively. The Tors reeled off 13 unanswered points over the final 6:40 of the period and took a



Herald Photo/Tommy Wells

C.J. Lowery and the Big Spring Steers will travel to Abilene Friday to face the Wylie Bulldogs. The Steers fell to 3-14 for the year Wednesday following a 54-30 loss to Lamesa.

commanding 41-17 lead into the fourth. Pedigo and Brandon Hughes managed to kick-start to the BSHS offense in the final stanza. Pedigo and Hughes combined to score 11 of the Steers' final 13 points.

Big Spring, which is scheduled to travel to Abilene Friday to face Wylie, matched Lamesa point-for-point in the final eight minutes. Lowery led Big Spring's offensively with seven points. Pedigo and Erin Partee each added six, while Hughes tallied five.

Lamesa, which had 10 players get into the scoring act, was led by Adam Salinas' eight points. The Steers opened the tournament on Monday with a 47-17 win over Lubbock Roosevelt. Justin Green tallied 11 points in the game, while Piercefield and Boling contributed 10 each.

Big Spring followed their win over Roosevelt with a 44-36 win over the Midland High sophomore squad. Piercefield had a team-high 11 points in the win.

Piercefield had a team-high 11 points in the win. The Steers' record stands at 3-14.

Evening its record at 6-6. The Steers opened the tournament on Monday with a 47-17 win over Lubbock Roosevelt. Justin Green tallied 11 points in the game, while Piercefield and Boling contributed 10 each.

Big Spring followed their win over Roosevelt with a 44-36 win over the Midland High sophomore squad. Piercefield had a team-high 11 points in the win.

Piercefield had a team-high 11 points in the win. The Steers' record stands at 3-14.

and a touchdown for Minnesota, which was beaten 24-20 by Oregon in the 1999 Sun Bowl. Thomas Tapeh added three touchdowns rushing for the Golden Gophers.

Minnesota entered with the nation's third-best running offense, averaging 293.2 yards a game. The Gophers outrushed the Ducks 241-77.

NHL STANDINGS

Utah at Memphis, 8 p.m. Phoenix at Detroit, 8 p.m. Atlanta at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Dallas at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m. Denver at Portland, 10 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Seattle, 10:30 p.m.

Philadelphia 19, 6, 9, 4, 51, 110, 81. New Jersey 19, 7, 8, 1, 47, 86, 59. N.Y. Islanders 19, 15, 2, 1, 41, 110, 95.

N.Y. Rangers 15, 13, 5, 3, 38, 99, 94. Pittsburgh 15, 19, 3, 3, 26, 75, 132. Toronto 21, 7, 7, 3, 52, 110, 92.

Ottawa 18, 10, 5, 3, 44, 113, 76. Boston 14, 11, 9, 4, 41, 91, 96. Montreal 17, 15, 5, 2, 41, 88, 89.

Buffalo 15, 19, 3, 3, 34, 87, 100. Atlanta 19, 16, 3, 2, 43, 120, 121. Tampa Bay 15, 13, 6, 1, 37, 79, 77.

Florida 12, 16, 9, 2, 35, 84, 105. Carolina 12, 15, 8, 2, 34, 67, 84. Washington 11, 23, 3, 1, 26, 96, 123.

Detroit 23, 12, 4, 1, 51, 132, 95. St. Louis 21, 9, 4, 1, 47, 91, 79. Nashville 16, 14, 4, 2, 38, 88, 93.

Chicago 9, 19, 7, 4, 29, 73, 106. Columbus 9, 21, 4, 3, 25, 74, 103. Vancouver 21, 9, 6, 2, 50, 111, 87.

Calgary 19, 11, 3, 3, 44, 83, 72. Colorado 18, 10, 7, 1, 44, 103, 81. Minnesota 14, 14, 10, 0, 38, 83, 80.

Edmonton 13, 17, 7, 0, 33, 94, 105. San Jose 15, 9, 11, 3, 44, 94, 85. Los Angeles 16, 12, 5, 4, 41, 101, 95.

Dallas 17, 16, 6, 0, 40, 79, 84. Phoenix 11, 12, 11, 2, 35, 88, 105. Anaheim 13, 15, 4, 5, 35, 77, 92.

Ottawa 3, Boston 0. Philadelphia 7, St. Louis 2. Minnesota 2, Edmonton 2, tie.

N.Y. Islanders 5, Pittsburgh 1. Florida 2, Tampa Bay 2, tie. Buffalo 7, Washington 1.

Detroit 6, Atlanta 5, OT. San Jose 1, Columbus 0. N.Y. Islanders 3, Carolina 1.

Colorado 2, Calgary 1. Vancouver 4, Chicago 3, OT. Montreal 1, Dallas 1, tie.

Los Angeles at Phoenix, late. Today's Games Pittsburgh at Nashville, 3 p.m. New Jersey at Washington, 5 p.m.

Toronto at Boston, 7 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

Friday's Games Columbus at Tampa Bay, 3 p.m. Philadelphia at Florida, 5 p.m.

Detroit at Carolina, 7 p.m. Anaheim at Buffalo, 8 p.m. Phoenix at Dallas, 8 p.m.

Edmonton at Minnesota, 8 p.m. San Jose at Chicago, 8:30 p.m. Colorado at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

CHAMPS

Continued from Page 1B

3-pointer. Parks, Long and Thaddeus McCullister also scored in the frame.

The Mustangs answered the buzzer for the second half with a flurry. Andrews outscored Big Spring by a 16-12 margin over the first seven minutes of the second half and held a 36-35 lead with just 18 seconds left in the third.

Matt Hilario erased the Mustangs' lead of the contest just 18 seconds later when he pulled up from the top of the key and nailed the second of his two third-quarter treys. Hilario's basket sent the Steers into the fourth clinging to a shaky two-point lead.

Long, Parks and the BSHS defense took over from there. Andrews managed just one shot

from the field in the final period — that shot coming with just 21 seconds and the game in hand. “I think we played really well defensively,” said Johnson. “We kept every team we faced to 40 points or less.”

Long finished the game as Big Spring's top scorer, netting 11 points. Parks, Hilario and Boling all netted seven.

With the win, Big Spring reached the .500 plateau for the year by evening its record at 6-6. The Steers opened the tournament on Monday with a 47-17 win over Lubbock Roosevelt.

Justin Green tallied 11 points in the game, while Piercefield and Boling contributed 10 each. Big Spring followed their win over Roosevelt with a 44-36 win over the Midland High sophomore squad.

Piercefield had a team-high 11 points in the win. The Steers' record stands at 3-14.

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Looking back forward can be before the look at five things nice to see in 20 SAFER M Speedway Nothing is g make driving a at speeds toppi mph completely the steel-and-fo gy-reducing bar developed at the University of N Midwest Roads Facility are m eral tracks whe are competing. NASCAR F has made it a g before the start every track wh

That's Racin'

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

"It's awesome. Not only the award, but the honor of all the drivers that have gotten it, to be on that list and to be able to compete against all the drivers this year and beat them."

— Ryan Newman, on winning the 2003 Driver of the Year award

Adjustment period

Preseason testing gives racing teams time to tinker

By JIM UTTER
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Offseason? What offseason? About six weeks after the Winston Cup season finale in Homestead, Fla., Nextel Cup teams head to Daytona Beach, Fla., next week for the first of five mandatory NASCAR preseason test sessions at the 2.5-mile superspeedway.

Teams that finished in odd-numbered positions in car owner points in 2003 will begin a three-day test Tuesday, Jan. 6. The rest of Cup teams will test Jan. 13-15.

All NASCAR Truck series teams — including the first entries from Toyota — will test Jan. 10-12. NASCAR Grand National series teams are to test Jan. 17-18 (odd numbers) and Jan. 20-21 (even numbers).

The first Cup race of 2004 is the Feb. 7 non-points Budweiser Shootout at Daytona, which will feature the pole winners from 2003 and past winners of the event.

The Truck season opener will be Feb. 13; the Grand National opener Feb. 14; and the 2004 Daytona 500 is Feb. 15.

Even though next week's sessions are considered the first "official" tests of the new season, many teams have been testing since the Nov. 16 season finale.

Several teams have tested at tracks such as Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, Ky., and Nashville (Tenn.) Superspeedway, which don't host Cup races but are similar enough to tracks on the circuit to gain valuable data.

Last month, Evernham Motorsports sent its two full-time drivers — Jeremy Mayfield and rookie Kasey Kahne — and veteran Bill Elliott to Nashville to begin the process of helping Kahne adjust to the series.

"My focus right now is to get comfortable in the car and with the team," said Kahne, who will drive Evernham's No. 9 Dodge. "(Crew chief) Tommy Baldwin is great, and so are the guys on the No. 9 team."

"I'm just going to be listening and learning. I've talked a lot with Jeremy, too. I think it's going to be a great benefit working with him."

Elliott will drive a partial schedule, spending



WOODY MARSHALL/KRT
NASCAR veteran Bill Elliott will be driving a partial schedule during the 2004 Cup season.

most of his time as a mentor for Kahne, who will compete in both the Cup and Grand National series.

"I chose this path, and I think it's going to be good for me," Elliott said. "It'll be a transition, but I think I'll be able to help these guys a lot."

Johnny Sauter, who will step into Richard Childress Racing's No. 30 Chevrolets, is counting on the experience of his veteran crew chief, Kevin Hamlin, to guide him through his rookie season.

"He has the experience at Daytona that will be vital to the team to get the most out of our preseason test," Sauter said of Hamlin. "He knows how to get a car prepared for Daytona and that's far more important than the driver at a superspeedway."

Hamlin said there is not a lot the driver can do to gain or lose speed at the restrictor-plate track.

"The big emphasis during the preseason testing in Daytona is trying to get the speed out of the car, so we mainly do the two-lap runs to find the speed," Hamlin said.

"We would like to get the opportunity for Johnny to get in some drafting practice. That would be more important for his development in the Cup car."

What about the veteran teams, the ones whose drivers have turned hundreds, if not thousands, of laps at Daytona? What do they

Daytona testing schedule

- Jan. 6-8: Nextel Cup series (odd owner points)
- Jan. 10-12: Truck series testing (all teams)
- Jan. 13-15: Nextel Cup series (even owner points)
- Jan. 17-18: Grand National series (odd owner points)
- Jan. 20-21: Grand National series (even owner points)

NOTE: Testing is free and open to the public with admission to the Daytona USA attraction.

2003 top Cup testing speeds

Below are the top five single-lap qualifying runs from last season's testing sessions.

Driver	Car	Speed
Mike Wallace	Dodge	184.053 mph
Mike Skinner	Pontiac	183.786 mph
Kyle Petty	Dodge	183.733 mph
Jeremy Mayfield	Dodge	183.688 mph
Michael Waltrip	Chevrolet	183.572 mph

gain from the test?

"We need to learn as much as possible about what works and what doesn't work and what the team needs to focus on for the season ahead," said Andy Graves, team manager for Chip Ganassi Racing, which fields Dodges for Sterling Marlin, Jamie McMurray and Casey Mears.

"We like to work on team chemistry, if there are new guys on the road crew the preseason is the time for us to work on team cohesiveness. It is important that everyone is able to work together and it's better to find that out now."

Kasey Kahne will use the testing session to get accustomed to driving a Cup car and get comfortable with his new team.

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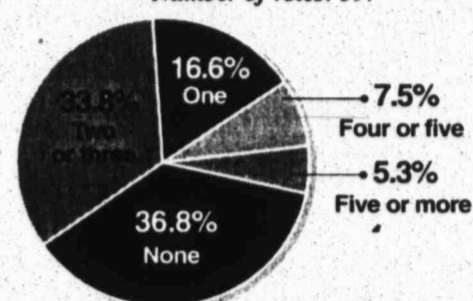
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Toyota enters NASCAR competition in the Truck Series this season. If Toyota or another foreign auto maker joins the Grand National or Nextel Cup series, how would it affect your support of the sport?

Cast your vote at:
www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

How many Nextel Cup races do you plan to attend in 2004?
Number of votes: 397



RACIN' NOTES

Larry Carter named new crew chief of No. 2 team

Larry Carter is the next crew chief who will take a crack at ending NASCAR driver Rusty Wallace's 98-race winless streak.

Carter, a 14-year veteran in Winston Cup (now Nextel Cup) competition, has joined Penske Racing South as crew chief for Wallace and his No. 2 Dodge team.

"We're extremely excited to have Larry join us as our new crew chief," said Wallace, the 1989 Cup champion and 54-race winner. "Larry brings an abundance of talent and experience to our program and he is a perfect fit to accompany the qualified staff we already have in place."

"We can't wait to get the ball rolling in 2004." Carter comes to Penske Racing South from BACE Motorsports, where he served as crew chief for rookie Tony Raines during the 2003 season.

"This is a great opportunity and I am certainly thrilled to have the chance to work with such a successful organization as Penske Racing and a champion-caliber driver like Rusty Wallace," said Carter.

"This is a top-notch team with great people and ample resources. I am delighted that they have the confidence in me to lead their team and I'm really looking forward to this new challenge."

Carter, 41, is a native of Raleigh, N.C., and a 1985 graduate of N.C. State University. He worked for a state agency for several years and worked part time for his uncle, Travis Carter, a longtime NASCAR car owner. Larry Carter became a crew chief for the first time in 1994.

"Travis was so instrumental in my career and he's due a lot of credit for me getting an opportunity like this," Larry Carter said. "Rusty is known for being a driver with the knowledge of every inch of a race car and working with Travis for all those years has given me a similar background that I'm proud of."

"Rusty knows his race car from the ground up and I've been involved in every aspect of our sport. I started in racing carrying tires and went up the ladder all the way to data acquisition before learning to set up race cars."

"So, I'm very confident that the driver and the crew chief will be working on the same page from the very beginning."

Penske Racing South general manager John Erickson called Carter a "perfect fit."

"He's a new-age type of leader, but has an old-school background and should mesh extremely well into our operation," Erickson said.

"I think he'll have a level of communication with Rusty and his team that is second to none and his capabilities in working with Matt Borland and the staff of the No. 12 team will be exceptional."

Carter and wife Tracy live in Mooresville, N.C., with their 8-year-old son, Benjamin.

— Jim Utter

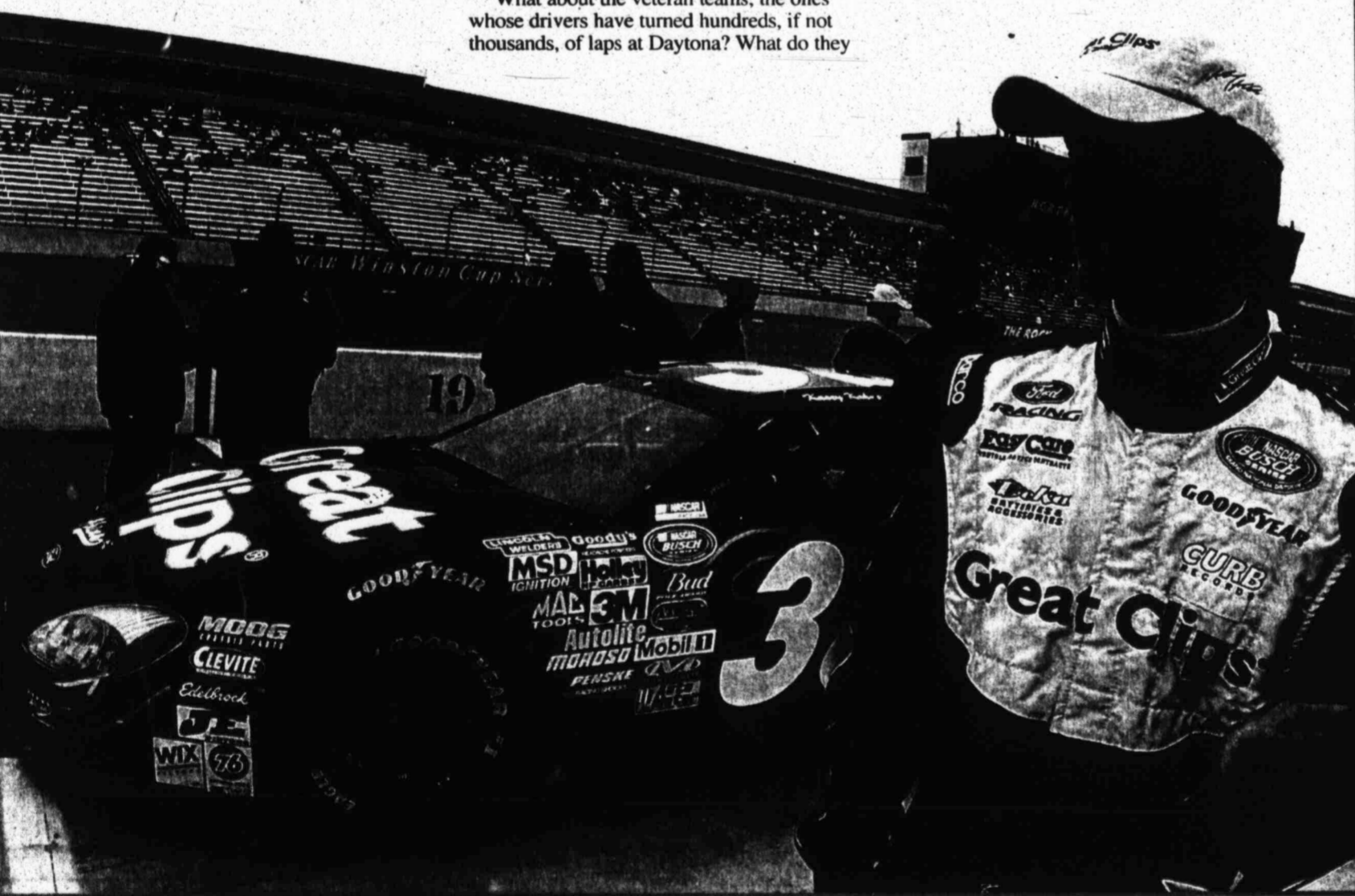
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Things it would be nice to see when a new racing season arrives

Looking back is nice, but looking forward can be more interesting.

Before the season begins, let's look at five things that would be very nice to see in 2004.

■ SAFER barriers at Lowe's Motor Speedway

Nothing is going to make driving a stock car at speeds topping 180 mph completely safe, but the steel-and-foam energy-reducing barriers developed at the University of Nebraska's Midwest Roadside Safety Facility are making a difference at several tracks where NASCAR's top series are competing.

NASCAR President Mike Helton has made it a goal to have the barriers before the start of the 2005 season at every track where installation is recom-

mended. Having them at Lowe's Motor Speedway would mean an application of the barriers has been developed for the family of high-banked intermediate tracks on the circuit, meaning greater overall safety for the sport.

■ A close, dramatic points race for the Nextel Cup

Whether NASCAR decides to go to the 26-10 "postseason" plan, this will be a year of huge changes. There are bound to be some rough waters as Nextel takes over as title sponsor of the Cup series, but a great points race among three or four drivers would make everybody forget about any of that.

If the postseason plan is adopted, fans will never warm to it unless it produces a great points race. If the current format is kept and somebody spends

another fall protecting another big points lead, the second-guessing will surely begin.

■ An honest, objective appraisal of where the Cup series schedule should go

"Realignment 2004 and Beyond" was never anything more than a sham. If the true reason to take a race from Rockingham and move the Southern 500 at Darlington, S.C., from Labor Day to November had been to serve race fans in major markets, Texas would have gotten a second date before California.

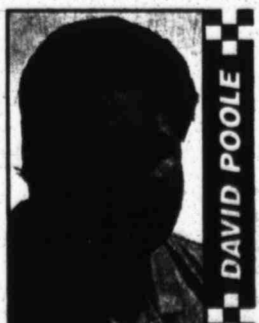
The most valuable asset in American motorsports is a Cup date, and a lot should go into any decision about moving one or taking one away from a track and its fans. The sport's long-term future is riding on that, not just the price of a share of stock in International Speedway Corp.

■ A couple of big money sponsorship deals that NASCAR leaves alone

Shouldn't it be at least possible for somebody to bring new dollars into the sport without having to send a quarter of each one down to Daytona Beach, Fla.? Jeff Burton's team doesn't have a sponsor. Dale Earnhardt Inc. is shutting down a team. If Travis Carter doesn't get a sponsor, he's likely out of the business. Tony Raines and Ken Schrader performed admirably at times without primary sponsors in 2003, but that doesn't mean they necessarily want to do it again.

■ The emergence of a clear prospect from NASCAR's diversity programs

Here's hoping that by next fall everyone is excited by how good at least one minority driver looks after getting a real shot on short tracks in the Southeast.



DAVID POOLE



ALEXA WELCH EDLUND/KRT

Jake Williams carries some of the parts of the SAFER barrier installed at Richmond International Raceway in August 2003.

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106 Lockhart: 2 Bdrm. partly furnished. Call 432-267-7906

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
1200 E. 16th
2 bdr., 1 bath,
\$275/mo. \$150/dep.
432-263-1792 or
816-9984

1315 Tucson. 3 Bedrooms, 1 bath. Stove & refrigerator furnished. Washer/dryer connections. Fenced backyard. \$350/mo. \$100/dep. Call 432-267-2112 Leave message.

1405 1/2 Settles. Clean 1 bdr., stove & refrigerator furnished, fenced yard. \$200/mo. \$100/dep. Call 432-267-1543

1818 Benton. 3 BR 2 bath. CH/A. \$450/mo. \$250 deposit. Call 432-263-3375 or 270-8665

2, 3, 4 Bdrm Houses For Sale or Rent. Owner Finance or Rent-to-own. Call 432-267-3905

2 & 3 BDRM Houses for Rent. CH/A. No Pets. No HUD. Call 432-263-5818 or 213-0820

2 bdr. 1 bath. 1524 E. 17th. CH/A. fenced backyard. \$350/mo. \$300/dep. Call 432-267-4090 or 213-3864

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2605 Cindy Ln. 3 Bdrm 2 bath, large living room. CH/A. \$550/mo. + deposit. Call 432-264-8813 leave message

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Unfurnished
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2BR, 1 bath, 1103 Stanton. No pets. Call 432-267-3841 or 270-7309

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432-263-1792 or
816-9984

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900 Scurry
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Barcelona Apartments
"Call For Move-In Specials"
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1538 Westover Rd. 263-1252

BY JOYCE JILLSON
The new year rolls in with the Taurus moon's methodical, patient, determined energy. Your resolutions won't happen overnight, but they will be accomplished with daily attention. Today is the first day of establishing habits that can be continued all year. The sun's Capricorn energy beautifully supports other aspects grounding us in responsibility.



Joyce Jillson

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You recognize the start of something big. Learn the lingo necessary to join into a new, fascinating world. Steer clear of confrontation, as your mood is potentially volatile. What makes you feel attractive makes you look attractive.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You want to get a jump on those New Year's resolutions and will start with a bang. Friendships may be conveniently linked to the attainment of one of

these goals. Get out of a romantic tangle.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Practical modes of thinking are just fine, but only true if you believe them. If you, however, do actually think that a fairy godmother could appear on the scene to save you, that might happen as well!
CANCER (June 22-July 22). Those whose job it is to lead may get sloppy, expecting you to be totally self-directed. That's fine if you know what you're doing, but today's tasks are new! If you don't understand, ask.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be rewarded for your important involvement on two fronts. At home, you and a partner blend together your dreams and discover way to finance shared aspirations. At work, you get the team together to hash out problems.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Unreturned phone calls, unfinished business and unreliable resources impede the flow of energy to what you really do want to accomplish. Take care of these nuisances early in

the day, when enthusiasm for life increases.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a steep road ahead, especially if you're facing a legal battle or financial pickle. Don't worry — it's true that the challenge drives you to greater accomplishment. You're empowered to do what it takes to win.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you didn't make any resolutions, it's not too late. Write down three things you want and five steps to making each happen. That's a start! Earning, saving and investing are all top issues. Flirt up a storm tonight.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). One method of working has proven ineffective. This is an opportunity. Change your tactics, add information, and eliminate fruitless steps. Your love life flourishes when you support a partner who embarks on a creative

venture.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Charisma soars, and you can make smart contacts that enhance your career quest. Visualize yourself already having your goal. Publishing, legal and financial affairs are among your lucky prospects.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's a long list of things you'd like to buy. If you want to be wealthy, you must develop habits that wealthy people have. Ask, observe, and read. A role model can be met at an educational or volunteer organization.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Love takes many forms. Lighten up on your expectations of relationships, gratefully accepting the contributions that are offered. In regard to money, this is a wonderful time to respond to gut-level instincts.
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Annie's Mailbox



ANNIE'S MAILBOX

Dear Annie: My husband, "Chuck," and I have recently separated. I am the one who wanted him to leave. I don't regret that decision, but now I need your help.
In the two years that we have been married, we haven't slept in the same room for the last 18 months. This is partly because our 2-year-old son sleeps in the same bed with me, and partly because Chuck snores terribly and keeps me awake. During the past six months, we weren't intimate at all.

I love my husband dearly but not like a wife should. He's more like a good friend. The problem is our son. Chuck is an excellent father, and our son has started asking where his daddy is and when he's coming home. This breaks my heart and is the reason I have stuck it out in this marriage as long as I have.
I am thinking of having Chuck move back in with us for our son's sake. It wouldn't bother me if he dates someone else, and I, too, would like to see other people. I just don't know if that would be possible if we were living together.
I haven't brought up the subject with Chuck, and I don't know if I should. We have only been separated a few days, and I'm afraid that if we move back in together so soon, it would confuse the issue. I want to do what's best for our son. Is there any way for Chuck to be in our lives full time but not as my husband? — Torn in Toronto

Dear Torn: First of all, your 2-year-old son should not have displaced your husband in the bedroom. This is asking for trouble. It is unrealistic and unfair to ask Chuck to move back home for a platonic relationship, although if he is willing to do so, it's OK with us. It's also possible that your lack of passion for Chuck may be a result of hormonal changes since pregnancy. Talk to your doctor about it.
Have you seen a marriage counselor? Even if you determine that the marriage is over, there is no reason Chuck cannot be a daily part of his son's life, regardless of your living situation. You can live nearby, even next door, but unless you plan to stay married to him, you are postponing the inevitable by having him as a roommate.
Dear Annie: I read the letter from the woman

who likes to walk around naked after her shower and before bed, and said her teenage son was perfectly comfortable with it. As a teenager, I feel I have a sense of duty to respond.
No teenager wants to see either one of his parents naked — EVER. Even if we seem comfortable, we're not. What's worse is hearing you having sex. Please, from traumatized children everywhere, cover up and quiet down.
Plattsburgh, N.Y.

Dear Plattsburgh: Thanks for your input. We agree with you.
Dear Annie: I am a 70-year-old widow. Last year, I met a gentleman my age, and we have become friends. He has indicated more than a casual interest in me.
This gentleman has a bevy of other single women friends of all ages. He is very chummy with his ex-wife and writes letters saying he loves and misses her. He has another, much younger female friend who spends weeks at a time at his house, and he often stays at hers. There is also a young, gorgeous woman who lives across the street, and each week they have dinner, go to movies and have coffee together.
I feel as if I'm part of a big group. Is this jealousy? I like him very much and enjoy his company when it's my turn. Any advice? — No Name in Florida

Dear No Name: As long as you understand that Romeo is going to see other women, by all means, go ahead and enjoy his company. However, if you are looking for commitment, exclusivity or fidelity, look elsewhere. Romeo likes to keep his dance card full.
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net.

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TONITE, JAN. 1, 2004
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Pallets • Computers • Restraint Equipment from MISD • Universal Weight Machines • Carpet • China Hutch • Futon Bed • Rocker Love Seat
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For Sale By Owner Owner Financing Provided.
Low down payment, low monthly. 3 Bdrm, 1 bath Updated Kitchen & bath. 1103 Sycamore Call Kelly 432-425-9994.
Lake Thomas House For Sale: 2 Story w/balcony 2 bdrm 1 1/2 bath. Call 325-207-3372

GARAGE SALES
J Garage Sale: 702 Belvedere, Sat. 8-1. Table w/ 8 chairs, couch, bar stool, lots of misc.
J INSIDE MOVING SALE, 1601 South Johnson, Saturday, January 3, 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. Furnishing, housewares, lawn furniture, Coca Cola box, Snap On Tool box w/tools, bedding, camping equipment, too much to list.
J Moving/Garage Sale 4213 Bilger, Sat & Sun 8-4. Mens, womens, baby clothes, toys, lawn equip., furn., misc.
J PJ's Inside Sale, 2210 Main, Fri & Sat. 10-4.

MISCELLANEOUS
Moving Must Sale: Dining room set w/6 chairs-\$350, server-\$200, glass top coffee table-\$50, 2 end sofa tables-\$25 each, microwave-\$75, hutch-\$350, washer-\$150, dryer-\$150 and upright freezer-\$250. Call 432-263-7795

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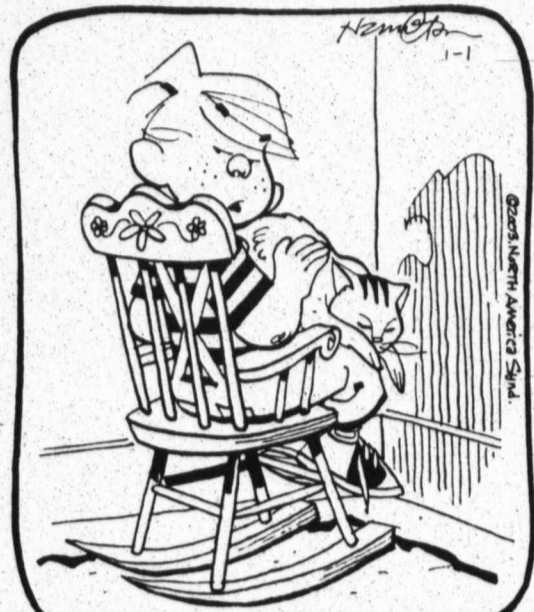
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THURSDAY

Table with 20 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, USA, SCIFI) and rows for time slots from 6:30 AM to 12:30 AM, listing various programs and their broadcast details.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"Boy! Mom's fuse gets shorter every year."

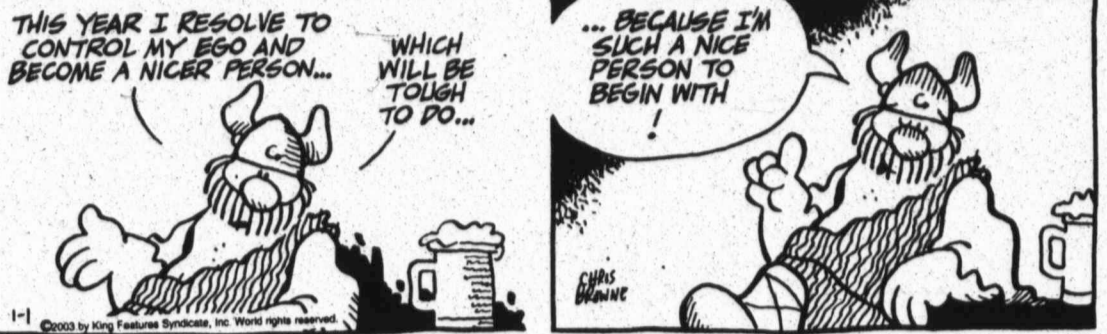
BC

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I can't start this New Year's letter to Grandma. I keep writing '2003' at the top."

HAGAR



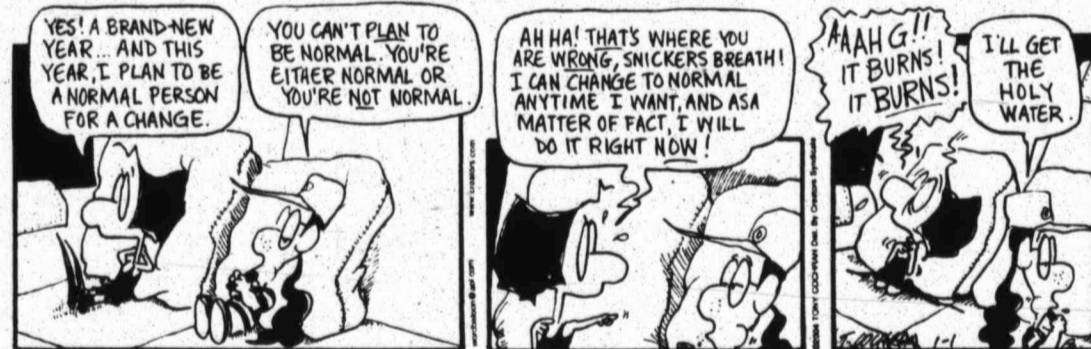
BLONDIE



WIZARD OF ID



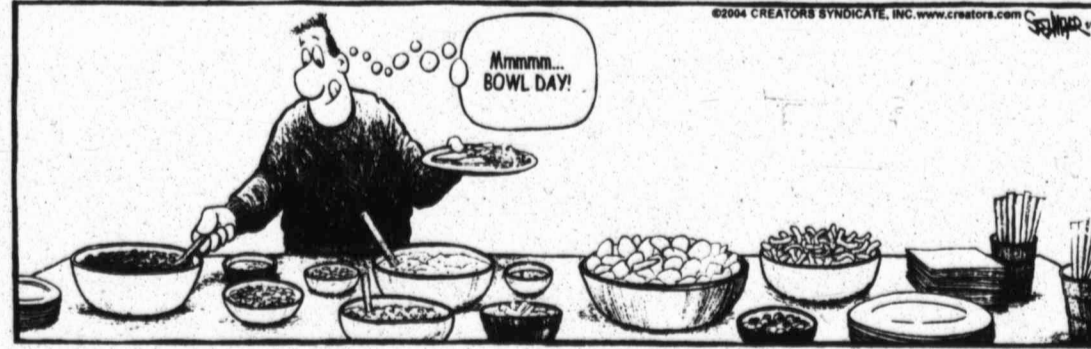
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



MR. HOUSEWIFE



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 1, the first day of 2004. There are 364 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 1, 1863, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states were free. On this date: In 1892, the Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York formally opened. In 1898, Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island were consolidated into New York City. In 1901, the Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed. In 1953, country singer Hank Williams Sr., 29, died of a drug and alcohol overdose while on his way to a concert date in Canton, Ohio.

In 1959, Fidel Castro led Cuban revolutionaries to victory over Fulgencio Batista. In 1979, the United States and China held celebrations in Washington and Beijing to mark the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. In 1984, the break-up of AT&T took place as the telecommunications giant was divested of its 22 Bell System companies under terms of an antitrust agreement. In 1992, Boutros Boutros-Ghali succeeded Javier Perez de Cuellar as secretary-general of the United Nations. In 1993, Czechoslovakia peacefully split into two new countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. In 1997, Kofi Annan assumed the post of United Nations secretary-general. Ten years ago: The North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect. In Mexico, the Zapatista National Liberation Army

launched a rebellion to press for better living conditions for Indian peasants in Chiapas. Actor Cesar Romero died in Santa Monica, Calif., at age 86. Today's Birthdays: Author J.D. Salinger is 85. Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., is 82. Actor Ty Hardin is 74. Actor Frank Langella is 64. Rock singer-musician Country Joe McDonald is 62. Writer-comedian Don Novello is 61. Actor Rick Hurst is 58. Country singer Steve Ripley (The Tractors) is 54. Rapper Grandmaster Flash is 46. Actress Ren Woods is 46. Actress Dedee Pfeiffer is 40. Actress Embeth Davidtz is 38.

Answer to previous puzzle: PLUM PAGED EDDY, EASE ABODE FREE, APED CABAL FANG, PRIMETIMENEWS, CODE ACNE, TEPID TACIT, OMEN CHACHA YAO, FINETOOTHEDCOMB, URN RIOTER MOPI, WELTY RINSE, SLAV ATON, CAPITALLETTER, SUZI ICIER ZEAL, ABET CROCS ERGO, WAISI SENSE SOAP

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS: 1 Piano part, 6 Shows, 11 Nightwear, in brief, 14 Poet's Muse, 15 Brings in, 16 Boring routine, 17 Sail, perhaps, 19 French article, 20 Make inquiry, 21 Diamond surface, 22 Part of a.m., 23 Require, 25 Extensive, 28 Printers' measurements, 30 Radio user, 31 Run away (with), 34 Stars on a keyboard, 40 Reassurance provider, 42 They're annoying, 43 Milk plant, 44 Dockworker's org., 45 Sun. talk, 46 Mixed bag, 52 Flight-speed unit, 56 Top-flight, 57 Some South Africans, 59 Coronado's quest, 60 Manage, 61 Short distance, 64 Period of history, 65 Tartan pattern, 66 Bother, persistently, 67 Nickname for a cowboy, 68 Perform the function of, 69 Follower of Socrates, DOWN: 1 Pie nut, 2 Wipe away, 3 German "thanks", 4 Off-road transport: Abbr., 5 Bread unit, 6 My Cousin Vinny star, 7 Sighed with delight, 8 Greek island, 9 Hydrocarbon suffix, 10 Former Atl. crosser, 11 Trim, as a tree, 12 Military ruling group, 13 Spirited horse, 18 Some power tools, 22 Linked together, 24 Pin a star on, maybe, 26 Poet Silverstein, 27 Memorial Day event, 29 Only, 31 Mentalist claim, 32 Grant opponent, 33 Lt. producer, 34 Consumed, 35 Isr. neighbor, 36 Cable station, 37 Glide downhill, 38 "-plop!", 39 It's a mess, 41 Where the Tigris meets the Euphrates, 45 Orch. section, 46 Diamond measurement, 47 Roulette bet in Monaco, 48 Building addition, 49 WWII menace, 50 Ancient Asia Minor city, 51 British city, 53 Main artery, 54 Eastern European, 55 Book genre, 58 Stage of a process, 61 Health resort, 62 RN specialty, 63 2001 villain

COVER-UPS by Merle Baker Edited by Stanley Newman

Crossword grid with numbers 1-67 indicating starting positions for words.