

FAYETTEVILLE

MORNING NEWS MONDAY
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ELECTION 2004

Kerry Begins Campaign Procedures

MASSACHUSETTS LIBERAL TAKES FIRST STEPS FOR PRESIDENTIAL BID

By Ron Kampeas
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Massachusetts Democrat John Kerry, a leading Senate liberal and decorated gunboat officer during the Vietnam War, said Sunday he is taking a first step toward running for president in 2004.

He took aim at President Bush's policies on taxes, education, Iraq and the Middle East, saying, "There is a better choice for this nation."

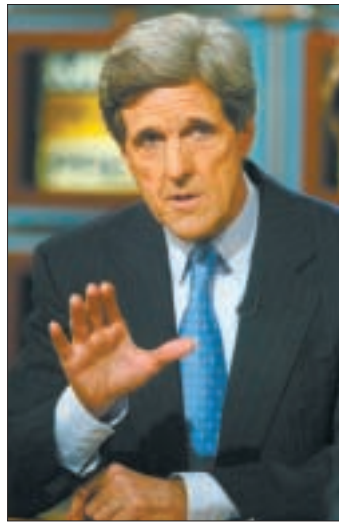
Kerry, a 58-year-old former prosecutor first elected to the Senate in 1984, has said for the past year that he was seriously thinking about a run in 2004. He was unopposed for re-election in November to a fourth term — the first Massachusetts senator in 80 years with no major-party opposition.

"I'm going to file this week an exploratory committee, a formal committee, and I'm going to begin the process of organizing a national campaign," Kerry said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

An official announcement of his candidacy is months away, Kerry said.

Exploratory committees are established by budding candidates mainly to raise money, finance travels around the country and help gauge voter support.

"When you really get into the



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., speaks on "Meet the Press" during a taping Sunday at the NBC studios in Washington.

formal stage, which I am now entering, you find out who's prepared to be there, you see if you can raise the money," Kerry said. "It becomes real."

The best-known Democrat to emerge from Massachusetts is President John Kennedy — and Kerry did not shy from invoking his memory. But other Bay State Democrats have not fared as well in national elections.

Kennedy's brother, Sen. Edward Kennedy, failed in 1980 to win the

SEE KERRY PAGE 2A

House Towers Over Treetops

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS PROFESSOR'S CREATION FEATURED ON TELEVISION SHOWS

By Amy Ramsden
SPECIAL TO THE MORNING NEWS

FAYETTEVILLE — Once a Bible salesman straight out of a Flannery O'Connor short story, University of Arkansas professor Marlon Blackwell is now putting Arkansas on the map — or rather, on television.

Last month, his Keenan TowerHouse appeared on the Fine Living network and next year it will be featured on Home and Garden Television.

During a nine-minute episode called "Breathing Spaces," host Amanda Pays interviews owners Stacy and James Keenan and architect Blackwell about how the space serves as a sanctuary.

"It has given me, and Stacy as well, an opportunity to come up here, reflect and think about how blessed we are," said James Keenan.

The Keenan TowerHouse is an 80-foot-tall steel structure on Old Wire Road in Fayetteville. Similar to a fire tower, the structure was built using white oak, river stones, pecan shells and locally fabricated steel.

"The structure is very attentive to the experience," Blackwell said. "As the sun tracks across the sky over the course of the day, it's in a constant state of change."

Blackwell was born in Germany, grew up in Florida and the Philippines and worked as a Bible salesman while he earned his bachelor's degree in architecture at Auburn.

Since coming to Arkansas in 1992, he has received numerous accolades for the Keenan TowerHouse, including a cover story in the February 2001 issue of Architectural Record magazine and a 2001 Gulf States Regional American Institute of Architects Design Honor Award.

The tower appeared on the cover of "Private Towers" and was featured in "House: American Houses for the New Century" and in the Russian magazine Interior Digest.

"I think only one other Arkansas building has received as much attention as the Keenan Tower-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
The Keenan TowerHouse, an 80-foot-tall structure similar to a fire tower, stands above the tree canopy near Old Wire Road in Fayetteville. The tower, which has been the subject of recent television shows and magazine articles, was built using white oak, river stones, pecan shells and locally fabricated steel.

House, and that is E. Fay Jones' Thorncrown Chapel," said UA School of Architecture Dean Jeff Shannon.

Viewers who missed Fine Liv-

ing can still see Blackwell's tower on Home and Garden Television. The crew will be coming in January to film "Dreambuilders," which will air in the spring.

"The tower has captured the imagination of the people," Blackwell said. "They see what can be done that isn't so outlandish it can only happen once."

New Fayetteville Council Prepping For Job Ahead

MEMBERS EXPLAIN ITEMS ON TO-DO LIST

By Anthony Childress
THE MORNING NEWS • ACHILDRESS@NWAONLINE.NET

FAYETTEVILLE — When the new City Council is sworn into office in January, four members elected last month will carry fresh perspectives of what voters expect of them, and each has an ambitious "to-do" list.

Voters in Ward 1 gave incumbent Alderman Robert Reynolds

another term on the council, and Ward 4 sent newcomer Shirley Lucas to join him.

In last week's runoff, Reynolds received 481 votes (61 percent) to challenger Tx Trumbo's 303 votes (39 percent). Trumbo had outpaced Reynolds in the Nov. 5 general election, which also featured Al Vick, who finished third and endorsed Trumbo.



Reynolds

Lucas, 67, triumphed with 401 votes (78 percent) over Amy McMillan's 115 votes (22 percent).

Lucas and McMillan ran neck-and-neck in the general election, outpacing a third candidate, Tim Sanderlin.

Reynolds was first elected to the council in 1998 after six years on the Fayetteville Planning Commission.



Lucas

He said the coming years will bring challenges because of population growth, so completing projects already under way becomes more important.

Lucas, a retired woman's program manager at Washington Regional Medical Center, said she will take part in ward meetings and meet with neighborhood associations to keep them abreast of



Cook

city business.

She said she also supports increased fire and police protection, including construction of new fire stations to improve response time in emergency situations.

Reynolds, who noted that he has lived in Fayetteville 35 years, said he answers every call from a constituent.

"Communication is the greatest



Rhoades

thing you can do as an elected official," he said. "I think we've had a lack of it in some cases, but I also think this city administration has done a better job of it — and all eight of our council members have as well."

"I'm a full-time alderman and serve my ward every day."

Fayetteville businessman Kyle Cook claimed the Ward 2, Position 1 seat currently held by Cyrus Young, who did not seek re-election. It was Cook's third try at winning that race. He defeated Melis-

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 2A

GETTING STARTED



IN THE NEWS

Nations Mark World AIDS Day

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Southern African countries marked World AIDS Day on Sunday with hopes that the region, which has the highest rate of HIV-positive people on the planet, can slow the spread of the disease.

There are 42 million HIV-positive people worldwide, with sub-Saharan Africa home to 75 percent of them, according to UNAIDS, the U.N.'s AIDS agency. FULL STORY, 1B

Audubon Lease Considered

COUNCIL TO LOOK AT DEVOTING BUSINESS PARK SPACE TO BIRDS

By Anthony Childress
THE MORNING NEWS • ACHILDRESS@NWAONLINE.NET

FAYETTEVILLE — The City Council is considering whether to enter a lease with Audubon Arkansas for using about 219 acres in the Wilson Spring Business Park for conservation, recreational and educational programs.

The council meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the City Administration Building, 113 W. Mountain St.

At last week's agenda-setting session, representatives of Audubon Arkansas spoke with councilors about using acreage for establishing an "important bird

area" in the park, while also constructing a nature center on or near the site.

The state Audubon chapter is part of the National Audubon Society, an organization dedicated to protecting birds, wildlife and their habitat. Founded in 1905, the Audubon Society has 500 chapters and offices in 27 states.

Don Nelms, representing Audubon Arkansas, said the group's aim is to educate people, especially children, about the importance of protecting bird and wildlife species in their native habitat.

"Biodiversity is very important," Nelms said. "We feel there are a

number of endangered birds (at the Wilson Spring site). Preservation is important. We'd like to make it back into a prairie and have made a long-term commitment to put money into this land and project. It's not something that will be done overnight."

As a result, Audubon Arkansas wants to study the area at its own cost to determine which course of action is most suitable.

The city owns 289 acres, known as Wilson Spring Business Park. Earlier this year, Mayor Dan Coody appointed the Wilson Spring Business Park Task Force

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