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BIG SPRING

HERALD

THURSDAY

APRIL 3, 2008



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Early voting in runoff ends Friday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Local election officials will wrap up early voting in the political primary runoff election Friday, as two local candidates prepare for the final showdown Tuesday.

“Early voting has gone very smoothly,” said Sandra Bloom, Howard County Elections Administrator.



BLOOM Jimmie Long and Winston Paschal Odom, both Republican candidates for the Precinct 3 seat on the Howard

County Commissioners Court, are currently going head to head in a runoff election made necessary by the March 4 political party primaries.

Neither candidate was able to garner the required 50 percent of the vote to avoid a runoff. Long finished ahead of the pack for the party’s nomination with 310 ballots — 39.64 percent of the vote — while Odom finished the night with 197 ballots,

accounting for 25.19 percent of the vote.

Vote totals at mid-week had the Republican contest out well ahead of the Democratic runoff, with 116 ballots in the local contest. The Democratic runoff garnered only 39 ballots, for a total of 155 ballots.

The low number of ballots is to be expected, according to Bloom.

“In all, this is the turn out

we’ve been expecting all along,” said Bloom. “When you only have one local contest — and only voters in a single precinct can cast a ballot — you don’t expect big numbers.”

The winner of the runoff will have to face Democratic nominee Dick Dubose — who won his party’s nomination unopposed — in the November election.

See **ELECTION**, Page 3A

FEMA will pony up

Federal agency to help defray costs of fires

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Big Spring and Howard County will receive welcome financial help from the federal government to help defray costs incurred by the recent spate of wildfires.

Regional officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that it will soon provide funds to help reimburse the county and city for at least a portion of the costs incurred while fighting the recent fires in this area.

“Howard County fire conditions are extreme. The Kentwood fire in Big Spring covered 200 acres and threatened over 200 homes and a nursing home when the state requested federal aid,” FEMA Regional Administrator William Peterson said. “Fires like this show how critical it is for firefighters to receive the support they need to protect the public.”

The authorization makes FEMA funding available to pay 75 percent of eligible firefighting costs under an approved grant for managing, mitigating and controlling designated fires, the statement noted.

Howard County Judge Mark Barr said the county qualified for the FEMA funds because recent fires in the Silver Heels and Kentwood areas threatened at least 100 homes.

“We’ll get at least some of our money back, based on fuel costs and the cost of maintaining our



A firefighter works to keep flames from reaching a home in the Kentwood area during Monday afternoon’s grass fire that destroyed two homes, damaged another and threatened dozens of others. FEMA officials have announced the federal government will provide funds to help pay for the costs of fighting that fire, as well as the previous week’s fire in the Silver Heels area.

firefighting equipment,” Barr said. “This is very good. It won’t pay all of our costs, but it will help defray at least some of them.”

Barr and other area officials

will meet with FEMA authorities in the near future to hammer out an agreement. The judge said it will likely be six or seven months before the city and county receives the agency funds.

It is unknown at this time how much money local agencies will receive from FEMA, Barr added.

County and city firefighting

See **FEMA**, Page 3A

BSHS play ends its run

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Big Spring High School’s young thespians finally found a roadblock they couldn’t get past.

The BSHS drama department’s production of “The Crucible,” which advanced past district-level competition last week, did not have such good fortune at Tuesday’s University Interscholastic League Class 4A Area Contest in Lubbock.

Canyon Randall and Denton Guyer secured the top two spots at the contest and will advance to the regional round of competition. Denton Ryan was chosen as alternate.

While BSHS didn’t advance, cast and crew members received individual honors. Paula Mills was named to the all-star cast, while Geoffrey Treece and Josh Wilson were honorable mention selections.

In addition, Will Cross, who was a last-minute replacement as stage manager, received a special technical award from the judges.

See **PLAY**, Page 3A

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www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:
Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

Powwow gets under way Saturday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Get ready to powwow Big Spring. Native American culture will take center stage at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum this weekend, as the fourth annual Big Spring Powwow gets ready to bring fun and dance to the Crossroads of West Texas.

Big Spring Powwow Committee member and spokesperson Connie Lesser said this year’s powwow will be slightly different from the event held last year, as the many dancers participating will

also be competing for top honors.


“This year’s powwow is a contest powwow,” said Connie Lesser, who also serves as secretary for the committee that holds the annual event. “That means there will be competitive dancing going on during certain parts of the event. We’ll also hold an awards ceremony at the end of the last day.”

The event — which is slated for the Dorothy from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. Saturday and from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday — will feature an array of talented Native American artists, according to Lesser.

“The Southern Drum host this year is Southern Renegade from Albuquerque, N.M.,” said Lesser. “The Northern Drum host is Ruzing Sun from Mescalero, N.M. The drum hosts are responsible for keeping the event flowing without interruptions, and the names indicate what type of music and songs the hosts perform.”

“The Southern Drum host plays music that is low in pitch and slow, while the Northern Drum host will provide music that is fast-paced with a high pitch.”

See **POWWOW**, Page 3A



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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Thursday, April 3, 2008

IN BRIEF

Hawks baseball team climbs to No. 3 in polls

Howard College Baseball (33-3, 9-3) swept the series over New Mexico Military Institute Friday and Saturday at Jack Barber Field, finishing with a pair of no-hit victories and winning the series by a combined score of 37-0.

Howard moved up two spots to No. 3 in the latest regular season NJCAA Division I Baseball Poll.

The Hawks climbed four spots to No. 4 in the latest Baseball America JUCO poll.

Howard travels to El Paso for a four-game series Friday and Saturday, beginning at noon each day.

Relay for Life volleyball tourney set for Saturday

The Yellow Dogs are sponsoring a volleyball tournament to benefit Relay for Life at the Big Spring Junior High gymnasium Saturday.

Registration starts at 10 a.m. and costs \$5 per person. The first game will be played at 11 a.m.

Teams must be comprised of three boys and three girls. A concession stand will be available.

Big Spring Country Club hosting 3-person scramble

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 3-person scramble Saturday and Sunday with a 1 p.m. shotgun start on both days.

Entry fee is \$60 per player plus a golf cart, however, private carts are welcome.

Entry includes a barbecue lunch on the course for the first day of the tournament.

The field will be flighted by first-round score and the number of flights will be determined by the number of entries.

An optional cash players pool will be available for both rounds.

Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for details.

Crossroads of West Texas Golf Classic scheduled

The Big Spring Chamber of Commerce and ATMOS Energy are sponsoring the Crossroads of West Texas Golf Class to be held at the Big Spring Country Club May 17 and 18.

The tournament is limited to the first 100 paid teams with a two-man scramble format being used.

A handicap is required and the tournament will be pre-flight-ed by a tournament committee and local golf pro.

Entry fee is \$180 per team. All entries are to be paid in advance.

Call the country club's Pro Shop at 267-5354 or the Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641, for more information.

Silva baffles Rangers, M's win 4-1

By GREGG BELL

AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — So what if he's a starter? Miguel Batista was destined to close this game.

The Mariners' bullpen was a mess after just two games. All-Star closer J.J. Putz had just gone on the disabled list with a ribcage injury.

And the fortune cookie Batista had to finish off his pregame dinner declared: "Someone will need your help this month."

Carlos Silva allowed three hits and one run in his Seattle debut, Jose Lopez hit a three-run homer

and Batista, the No. 5 starter, turned his cookie into an omen by getting his first save in three years to close out the Mariners' 4-1 win over the Texas Rangers.

When Batista showed John McLaren what fortune cookie he had drawn at dinner, the Mariners manager exclaimed: "Oh, no you didn't!"

Putz had gone on the disabled list for an indefinite period hours earlier with a ribcage injury, after allowing a ninth-inning home run to Josh Hamilton in a rare blown save Tuesday. The next option to close, hard-throw-

ing right-hander Mark Lowe, had pitched in consecutive games and is coming off two elbow surgeries in 19 months. Plus, Thursday was an off day for Seattle.

Just like that, the starter was now closer for a day.

"Well, it is actually an interesting way of using your bullets," Batista said.

McLaren was left with a huge grin.

"Everything came together for us pretty well there," he said.

Batista saved 31 games for Toronto in 2005 but led Seattle

with 16 wins as a starter last season. He got shoved to the back of the rotation by the arrival of Silva and new ace Erik Bedard and was preparing for a routine bullpen session during batting practice when McLaren told him to save himself for a possible ninth-inning bailout.

When Sean Green walked Hamilton on four pitches to begin the ninth, bailout time arrived. Batista quickly got Hank Blalock and Milton Bradley to fly out. Then Frank

See RANGERS, Page 2B

Three Buffs advance to area



Forsan's Adam Bailey clears a hurdle in a 110-meter race as his parents (standing in the background) look on at the District 11-A track meet Wednesday in Roscoe. Bailey won the event with a time of 16.35 to advance to the Area meet Tuesday at McMurry University in Abilene. Two other Buffs also advanced to area. Junior Alex Huckabee placed second in the high jump clearing 5 feet, 10 inches. Jace Sandridge, junior, placed third in the 100 meters with a time of 11.25 seconds. This marks Sandridge's third trip to the area meet. He qualified last year for area in the 100 meters. Two years ago, he qualified for area and regionals on the Forsan 4X100 meters relay in which he helped to set the school record at Forsan with a time of 43.01 seconds. Bailey, a senior, is making his second trip to area. Last year Bailey advanced to the regional meet in the 110-meter hurdles and the high jump. This year he focused on the hurdles only.

Courtesy photo/Bob Fishback

Berkman homer in ninth powers Astros over SD

By BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO — The Houston Astros were one strike away from opening the season with three straight losses, then inches away.

They managed to stick around long enough for Lance Berkman to hit a three-run homer off Trevor Hoffman in the ninth inning that carried them to a 9-6 win over the San Diego Padres on Wednesday night.

"Our bats woke up," manager Cecil Cooper said. "We got some big, big, big hits."

None was bigger than Berkman's homer. It was his first career hit off Hoffman, baseball's career saves leader.

"I just wanted to not strike out on three pitches like I did last night," said Berkman, who fanned against Hoffman to end Tuesday night's game.

With the Padres leading 6-5, Hoffman retired the first two batters before walking pinch-hitter Jose Cruz Jr. on a full-count pitch. Michael Bourn singled to right and Hunter Pence followed with a single off the tip of first baseman Adrian Gonzalez's glove to score Cruz. Berkman drove a 3-1 pitch to center field for his first homer of the season.

Berkman said he was able to pick up Hoffman's release point much better than he had on Tuesday, then patiently worked the count.

"He gave me a fastball that I could hit 3-1 and I'm glad I swung at it," Berkman said.

"Lance just crushed that one," Cooper said. "That ball was

See ASTROS, Page 2B

Dirk returns, re-energized Mavs charge past Warriors

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki sat at his locker, with a bulging ice bag wrapped around his left ankle and a sly smile across on his face.

The reigning MVP was back in the playoff race for the Dallas Mavericks — and they got a huge victory in a game that many didn't expect him to play. Nowitzki wasn't even so sure, no matter how much he was ready to get back on the court after missing four games because of a high ankle sprain.

"I didn't know if I should do it or not," Nowitzki said.

But Nowitzki was back, scoring 18 points in his unexpected start Wednesday night, and the Mavericks posted a 111-86 victory over the Golden State Warriors that could have big implications in a tight Western Conference playoff race.

"There was already a sense of urgency. ... And then seeing Dirk out there, it was very inspiring," said Jason Terry, who matched a season-high with 31 points. "We were very surprised to see him (start). But once we saw him out there joking and laughing and smiling, I knew he'd be OK."

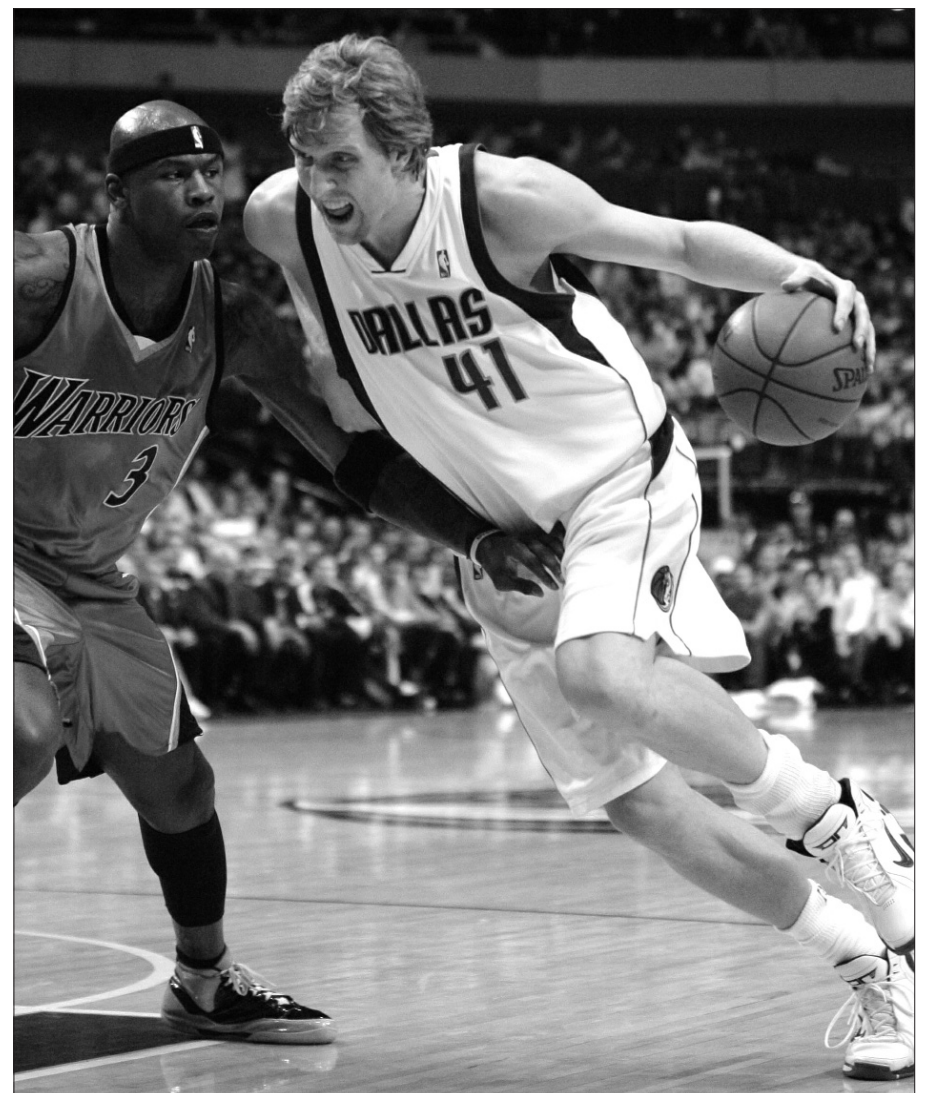
Nowitzki had expressed doubts about playing after the morning shootaround, and the final decision wasn't made until he warmed up less than 90 minutes before the game.

Coach Avery Johnson had indicated earlier in the day that the Mavericks were planning to play without Nowitzki. But that may have been part gamesmanship against Warriors coach Don Nelson, who resigned as the Dallas coach in March 2005 and turned the team over to Johnson, his hand-picked successor.

"Yeah, yeah, Nellie taught me that," Johnson said.

Dallas (47-28), seventh in the Western Conference, moved a full game ahead of idle Denver and two games ahead of Golden State (45-30). Only the top eight teams make the playoffs.

The Warriors have consecutive losses for only the second time since going 0-6 to start the season, when Stephen Jackson was suspended. They were also held under 100 points again after having a 37-game streak of hitting the century mark snapped in a 116-92 loss at San Antonio on Tuesday.



AP photo/Matt Slocum

Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki, right, drives to the basket around Golden State Warriors forward Al Harrington during the first half of a NBA basketball game Wednesday in Dallas. It was Dirk's first game back after missing four due to a high ankle sprain. His return energized the Mavs' to a 111-86 victory.

See MAVS, Page 2B

Obituaries

Jan Hirt Bryson



Jan Hirt Bryson, 50, of Bandera passed away Tuesday, April 1, 2008. She was born March 5, 1958, in San Angelo. She was a graduate and letterman athlete of Texas Tech University, graduating with a bachelor of science in 1980. Jan married Joe Ed Bryson on May 31, 1980. She went on to work for Texas A&M agriculture as a county extension agent, first in Upton/Reagan County, then Crane County and Bandera County before retiring in 1996. She had a hard fought battle against multiple sclerosis and cancer.

Jan is survived by her loving husband Joe Bryson, one daughter, Kendra Aileen Bryson, and one son, Kyle William Bryson, all of Bandera; her mother, Elsie Hirt of St. Lawrence; one sister and brother-in-law, Dinell and Gary Jacob of Winters; four brothers and sisters-in-law, Chris and Lana Hirt, Wayne and Susan Hirt and Kevin and Linda Hirt, all of St. Lawrence, and Barry and Linda Hirt of San Antonio; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Daniel Hirt.

The rosary will be at 7 p.m. Friday April 4, 2008, at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church and the funeral services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, April 5, 2008, at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church with the Rev. Francis Njoku officiating. Interment will follow at the St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be members of the Texas A&M Corp of Cadets Company E-2 Class of 2009. Honorary pallbearers will be the Crazy 8. She will be dearly missed.

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

Vinis 'Jean' Murphree



Vinis "Jean" Murphree, 77, of Big Spring died Monday, March 31, 2008, at her residence. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 5, 2008, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Byron Brown officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born Oct. 16, 1929, in Stigler, Okla., to Jewel and O.O. Beeler. She married John "Revis" Murphree May 28, 1974, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on March 12, 1997. She was a long time Howard County resident coming from Crosbyton. She had worked at Herman's Restaurant a number of years, retiring in 2002. She was a Baptist.

She is survived by two daughters, Sandra Adams and her husband, Stanley, and Joyce Moore, all of Big Spring; one brother, Kenneth Beeler of Big Spring; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by one brother, O.J. Beeler; and three sisters, Beulah Tucker, Georgia Parker and Martha Lee.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.

• Life Recovery, a non-denominational Christian group of recovering alcoholics and addicts, meets at 7 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. today:

- **ERNEST CLARK**, 68, of 4000 W. Highway 80, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **DANIEL RIOS**, 22, of 905 E. 16th Street, was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants and a Howard County warrant.
- **DALE THOMAS MITCHELL**, 34, of 7504 S. Service Road, was arrested Thursday on a charge of criminal trespass.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1300 block of Tucson.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:
 - in the 1400 block of Sycamore.
 - in the 800 block of FM 700.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 36 inmates at the time of this report.
- **TERESA LORENE LANG**, 25, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of burglary of a habitation.
 - **JESSIE R. LOPEZ**, 20, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of burglary of a habitation.
 - **NATHANIEL JAMAL AUSBIE**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of no liability insurance, no driver's license, failure to appear and driving while license invalid.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 5000 block of FM 669. Two people were transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 300 block of Spring Creek. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1000 block of Cypress. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

• Big Spring High School Student Council will sponsor a blood drive through United Blood Services from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday in the high school auditorium foyer. If you would like to sign up in advance, you may call the main office at 264-3641.

• The Class of 2009 will be having a prom meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10, in the Big Spring High School Library. All juniors and their parents are encouraged to attend. For information, call Carrie Fox at 816-9687 or Karen Martin at 213-1388.

• Mobile Meals needs volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The organization delivers approximately 70 meals each day and needs drivers to donate just one hour per week. Mobile Meals also needs back-up volunteers to fill in when regular drivers can't make it. For more information, contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

• American Red Cross Lifeguarding and CPR classes will be held in two sessions this year, March 31-April 5 and April 14-19. Cost will be \$125. Those interested can sign up with Coach Randall Shaw at rshaw3535@hotmail.com or at the Big Spring YMCA. Times of the class will be given at the time of registration. Spots are limited and fees must be paid at registration. Individuals who register must be present for all classes. After the first day of class, no refunds will be given.

• Cross stitchers are needed to complete one or more blocks of this year's Howard County Fair quilt. All supplies are provided. Blocks may be picked up from Posey Cotton Office, 601 Scurry, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. For information, call 263-1267 or 263-4980. This year's quilt theme is "Wildflowers of Texas." All proceeds from the sale of tickets for the quilt are used to defray the expenses of the Fair. The quilt will be awarded the last night of the fair.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

- Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 7-18-20-21-41-44. Number matching six of six: None. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$5 million.

•••

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 28-29-31-32-35. Number matching five of five: None. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

•••

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night, in order: 8-6-3-2. Sum It Up: 19.

•••

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night, in order: 7-8-9. Sum It Up: 24.

•••

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday afternoon, in order: 8-7-0-9. Sum It Up: 24.

•••

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday afternoon, in order: 2-8-4. Sum It Up: 14.

Weather

Today — Decreasing clouds. Warmer. Patchy blowing dust in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 80s. South winds 15 to 25 mph becoming southwest 20 to 30 mph this afternoon.

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cooler. Lows in the upper 40s. South winds 15 to 20 mph shifting to the north after midnight.

Friday — Partly cloudy. Cooler. Highs around 70. North winds 10 to 20 mph.

Friday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s. Light and variable winds becoming southeast around 10 mph after midnight.

Saturday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s. South winds 15 to 25 mph.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.

Sunday — Sunny. Highs around 80. Sunday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.

Monday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. Monday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy. Highs around 80. Tuesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s. Wednesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s.

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ASTROS

Continued from Page 1B

almost on a line going out of the ballpark.”

Fans saw a rare sight — Hoffman (0-1) being pulled. He blew the save a night after getting his first save of the season and the 525th of his career.

“It’s part of the process and here we are talking about being on the other end of it,” Hoffman said. “We had done a good job of shutting them down for almost three games, but they exploded for four runs in the ninth.”

The Astros had scored just one run in their first two games, and that was on a bases-loaded walk.

Padres manager Bud Black called Berkman “one of the best players in the National league. He’s a good hitter and good hitters do those things.”

Balls were flying out of spacious Petco Park on a cold night. The Astros hit four homers and the Padres had two.

The Astros had tied the game at 5 in the top of the eighth when Berkman hit a leadoff double, stole third and scored on Miguel Tejada’s sac fly.

San Diego’s Brian Giles singled three times and had three RBIs, including a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the eighth off Jose Valverde (1-0). Michael Barrett scored three runs for the Padres.

Greg Maddux made five nice defensive plays in his season debut for the Padres, including one where he dove to his right to field Berkman’s sharp grounder, got up and threw him out to end the fifth inning. Maddux won his record 17th Gold Glove Award last year.

“Just luck,” Maddux said. “That’s about the only time a pitcher can

dive on a ball like that. It looks tougher than it is.”

Geoff Blum, Ty Wigginton and Carlos Lee hit solo homers off Maddux.

“I felt good, but just couldn’t keep it in the park,” Maddux said. “I made a couple of mistakes and they got me. It’s probably one of the better line-ups we’ll face this year.”

San Diego’s Scott Hairston hit his second homer in as many nights and Gonzalez added a two-run shot, both off left-hander Wandy Rodriguez.

Maddux went six innings, allowing four runs, three earned, and six hits while striking out three and walking none. He turns 42 on April 14.

After winning the first two games of the four-game series, the Padres quickly fell behind 3-0.

Blum and Wigginton started the second with consecutive homers. Blum, who left the Padres

as a free agent, hit a pitch into the seats in right field. Wigginton, who grew up in a San Diego suburb, drove a 3-2 pitch off the balcony on the fourth level of the Western Metal Supply Co. brick warehouse in the left-field corner for a 3-0 lead.

Hairston homered leading off the second and Giles added an RBI single. Gonzalez’s two-run homer into the sand play area beyond the fence in right-center that gave the Padres a 4-3 lead.

Houston tied it on Lee’s homer to center leading off the sixth.

Tony Clark hit into a double play while pinch-hitting for Maddux in the sixth, but Giles singled in Barrett, who opened the inning with a base hit to left.

Rodriguez allowed four runs and eight hits in five innings, struck out six and walked one.

MAVS

Continued from Page 1B

“We played two lousy games and ran into two hot teams,” Nelson said. “That combination is going to get you beat by 20, if you’re lucky.”

Nelson called it “the biggest game of the season” for both teams — there are only seven regular season games left. But Golden State responded with one of its worst performances of the season.

Monta Ellis led the Warriors with 27 points, while Baron Davis had 20.

“It’s mandatory that we win the rest of them,” Jackson said. “We don’t want to wait around for other teams to lose.”

Josh Howard added 28 points for the Mavericks, while Kidd had a season-high 17 assists with 11 rebounds and five points.

The Mavericks had been 11-10 since getting Kidd from New Jersey at the All-Star break. Dallas was 0-10 against teams with winning records with the All-Star point guard before the victory over the Warriors, which came three nights after a 114-104 loss at Golden State.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

Catalanotto grounded out for Batista’s first save since Sept. 27, 2005, at Boston.

“I would have used all my pitches during batting practice. It’s a little, not nerve wracking, but a concern to do it in a game with the heart of the line-up coming up,” Batista said.

“As a starter, you can pitch six or seven innings and pace. As a closer, you have to put everything you have into that one inning and challenge guys.”

Silva challenged the Rangers all night — and won.

The Mariners were laughed at for signing the 270-pound right-hander with a lineman’s build to a to \$48 million, four-year contract to be their No. 3 starter. He looks worth it so far.

“Silva was spectacular,” McLaren said. “Another No. 1 pitcher for us. You can’t pitch much better than that.”

Silva (1-0) showed off his usual sinkerball for which he is known for getting ground balls, a tricky changeup, plus a new cutter he learned from pitching coach Mel Stottlemire a few weeks ago. They — and just about everything else — worked in the colder, heavier air better than in the Arizona desert.

“It’s hard to believe how

weather can affect you. The ball was moving great,” Silva said.

He didn’t allow a hit from Ian Kinsler’s leadoff double until his only real blemish, a home run by former Mariner Ben Broussard leading off the sixth. Broussard’s first home run for Texas plopped onto the top of the right-field fence and bounced past to make it 4-1. It came on an 0-2 that Silva left up.

Seattle’s new top triumvirate of Bedard, Felix Hernandez and Silva have allowed two earned runs combined in three starts.

“Oh, yeah, that’s the way everyone was expecting it to be from the starters,” Silva said.

Jason Jennings (0-1) allowed four runs on five

hits in five innings, giving up Lopez’s three-run shot with two outs in the fifth. That came on a full count, after he had Lopez down 0-2.

“I was doing everything I wanted to do, but you can’t make mistakes like that with their guy is throwing as well as he did tonight,” Jennings said.

Lopez, the No. 2 hitter, has five RBIs in three games. He was an All-Star in 2006 while batting second during the first half of ‘06 then slumped for a season and a half while at the bottom of the order.

Notes: Texas still hasn’t won an opening series since 2001. ... Betancourt, the No. 9 hitter, is 6-for-11 (.545) through three games.

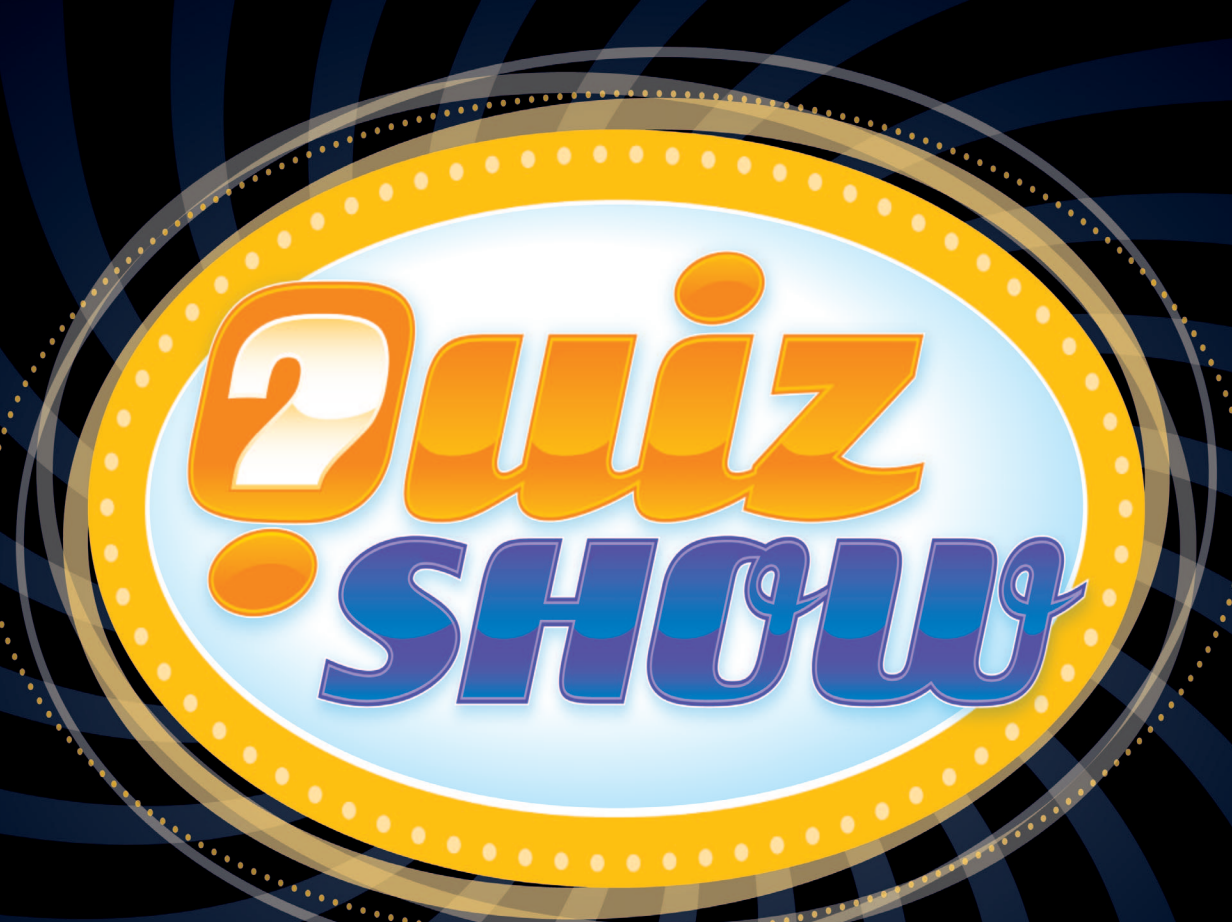
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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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LIQUIDATION SALE: Runnels Jr. High. Saturday 8-5. Computers, large monitors, chairs, tables, desk. Lots of great buys. Come see for yourself.

MOVING SALE: 602 W. 17th., Saturday 8:00-1:00. Furniture, washer & dryer, clothes, Mexican pottery, Coca-Cola decor., riding lawn mower.

MULTI. FAMILY garage sale, Saturday, 7:30-1:00. 4217 Theo. Kenmore washer, TV-VCR combo, Xbox w/2 controllers and 2 games, living room set/ furniture, girls & boys clothes, scrapbooking material.

MULTI. FAMILY Sale: 2713 & 2715 Central Drive, Saturday 8-? Too much to list. Priced to Sell.

SATURDAY 8-12, 1501 Main, (Rear). Small table, 2 chairs, round oak table w/4 chairs, Fostoria Amber glassware, large roaster, paperback books, sprinklers, lots of misc.

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BLUE SKY Services is looking for a Journeyman Electrician. If interested please call 432-580-7332.

CDL DRIVERS needed. Vacuum truck. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Must pass drug test. Call (432)466-3838.

CLERK II
The Department of State Health Services Big Spring WIC Clinic is seeking a person with clerical experience. The WIC Clerk is responsible for assisting in eligibility screening, physical assessment of clients, data entry of client information, issuing program benefits, preparing monthly reports, teaching group classes and outreach activities. Must enjoy working with the public. Bilingual/Biliterate (English/Spanish) required. Salary \$1661.00per month. For Complete Job Description and state application please access the State of Texas Web Site at https://rm.accesshr.hhsc.state.tx.us or the Texas Workforce Commission website at www.workintexas.com Reference Job Posting #86220. State applications must be completed and received by 04/11/2008. Applications can be completed online or faxed to 866-245-3646. For application assistance call AccessHR at 888-894-4747. EOE

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Help Wanted

FORSAN ISD is now accepting applications for manager/cook positions at the JR/SR High School for the next school year. Contact Cindy Graves at (432) 457-2223, Ext. 330 for application information. Applications will be accepted through April 10th.

FRONT DESK Cheerful Energetic Person. Computer Skills, Ability to Multi Task, Billing and Insurance experience helpful. Will train right person. Monday-Thursday 8-5, Bring resume by 1708 E. FM 700 Big Spring TX.

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Incumbent serves as a general dental practitioner responsible for diagnosis and treatment of difficult dental problems in a correctional environment. Provides comprehensive dental care to the inmate population, who may have behavior and communication problems. Assists in the coordination the dental program, providing input regarding proposed modifications to operating procedures. Incumbent is required to meet suitability as well as qualification requirements to be selected for this position. Applications and more information can be obtained from www.usajob.opm.gov. Questions regarding this position can be directed to Michael Cross, Employee Services Manager, mcross@bop.gov, (432) 466-2402, or Aramis Martinez, Health Services Administrator, axmartinez@bop.gov, 432-466-2438. The BOP is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
The action between Mercury and Pluto deepens perspectives and broadens mindsets.

Communication requires sensitivity and perceptiveness so as not to become estranged from the real issue or person involved.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Understanding is not easy to reach, which makes it all the more satisfying when it finally is.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Whether packing for a trip, going to the grocery store or navigating the business world, make a checklist. There's magic in that little paper — a tiny sketch of your future. When you know you're hitting each item, you can relax.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you're fumbling around for what you want to say and how you want to say it, that's OK. Your message will get across. Speak from your heart — you'll be right on message.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're in an exploratory mood. A new path, dance, date or door beckons, "Try me!" Why wait for a reason to do what you've never done before? That which you've never done it before IS the reason.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Lucky is the person who is invited to share those homey instincts of yours. Your love-lure is

Tomorrow's Horoscope

the food you make — or order — and the comfortable environment you choose to share in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Let your people know that it's safe to disagree with you, and encourage them to tell you what they think. You'll learn from those who have a different point of view, even if they are clearly in the wrong.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You know how to inspire and when to get out of the way of that inspiration. Give someone a problem, and then walk away while it's worked out.

The creativity and initiative shown will be a testament to your leadership.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You thought you knew how you liked to be treated, but suddenly you're not sure. The person who does everything right seems somehow less appealing than the one who's not as good at showing his or her affection.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's not your job to fix anyone but yourself — and even then, only if you're in the mood. Probably everything about the situation, you included, is in precisely the perfect place, you just don't know it yet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Instead of looking for someone special, look for something special in everyone you meet. Maybe it's the admirable ambition of an Aries you'll acknowledge. Or the Gemini who cracks you up that will catch your fancy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It comes to you in the morning — the thing you will need to do if you are to grow in the direction of your wishes. Get it down on paper as soon as possible, or later it won't be so clear.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you forget where you set down your keys or the name of the person you were just introduced to, forgive yourself. You're moving so fast through the obstacle course of this day, one minute ago may as well have been last year.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Around certain people, it may seem appropriate to crack a joke at your own expense. Though your instinct for humor is charming, it's better to refer to yourself in only positive terms or say nothing.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "As a Pisces, it's extremely difficult to know what direction to swim toward career-wise. I've been waiting for an 'Aha!' moment. Now what?"

As a Pisces, know you were born with the knowledge of what you're going to do. You live the role before you ever get the job or even the education for the job. That's not to say you won't have employment in different fields, but all the while you know deeply that it's all designed to prepare and perfect you for the work you were always meant for. So if you feel lost and don't know what direction to take your career in, all you have to

do is ask for a sign. Reading the omens is a specialty of yours, and you usually get a clear understanding of what to do next within days of asking. You can also draw on your learning curve: Others think you know how to do things without their having actually trained you or witnessed you in action. Even you assume that you can tackle whatever comes up. And here's your superpower: hiring. You can sum up a person's character and experience level in five minutes or less. (Adjust your career compass with my book, "Rock Your Stars.")

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Can Aries people get away with murder? There is a certain amount of daring recklessness associated with Aries, infamous for falling down and getting back up again. Robert Downey Jr. is a case in point. He's earned his comeback kid reputation several times over. And owing to charming Venus next to his sun, not only does he keep coming back — he's received with open arms.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I've been seeing two women for several months. Neither relationship is that serious, and I enjoy the time I spend with them equally.

However, I've reached



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
Howard County will receive sealed bids until 10:00 a.m. on April 11, 2008 for the sale of used County vehicles.

A list of available vehicles may be obtained by contacting Jackie Olson, County Auditor, at 432-264-2210, located at the Courthouse, 300 Main St., 2nd Floor, Big Spring, Texas.

Bids will be presented to the Commissioners Court for their consideration at 10:00 a.m. on April 14, 2008.

The court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
Jackie Olson-Auditor
#5717 March 27, and April 3, 2008

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed bid proposals until 4:00 P.M., April 28, 2008, on the following:

- Boys Basketball Supplies
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- Swimming Supplies

Specifications and bid documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office located at 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620. Bids will be publicly open and read immediately following the deadline for receiving the bids in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. Bidders are invited to be present at the bid opening. Bids received after the opening date and time will be returned unopened. Bids will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on May 8, 2008 at 5:15 P.M. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
#5736 April 3 & 10, 2008

the point where I have to choose between them. I'm looking to settle down and see one of them exclusively. I'm not asking you to tell me whom I should pick. I need to know how I should go about letting the other gal down.

It would be easy, except the women work together at the same company. They each know I am friends with the other, but don't know I'm dating both. How can I emerge from this delicate situation without hurting either woman's feelings? No matter which one I pick, I'd still like to be friends with the other. — It's Complicated

Dear Complicated: You're an optimistic fellow. Whoever you let down will be hurt and disappointed, and when she discovers you've been two-timing her with a co-worker, she will be furious. And so will the other woman. We suggest breaking up with one of

them immediately and allowing some time to pass before making your relationship with the other public knowledge.

Dear Annie: I lost my pet dog the other day. He was so special to me. I was just wondering if I would ever see him again, or is his life just over? Every religion seems to have a different answer. — Wondering in Salem, Ore.

Dear Wondering: Here's one of our favorite essays that may provide some comfort:

Do Dogs Go To Heaven? by the Rev. Dale Turner (1917-2006)

Looking back across the years I see how important dogs have been in my life. I had been an ordained minister only a few weeks when I received a call from an 8-year-old boy. His dog had been killed by a car. "Mr. Turner," the lad sobbed, "do you do funerals for dogs?"

I didn't know quite how to respond, but I recalled the Scriptures' affirmation of God's knowing when even a sparrow falls. I replied, "Why not?" and I conducted a little ceremony for the boy's pet. He was very pleased and then asked, "Is my dog going to heaven?" I wasn't prepared for that question, but my love for animals got me through it. I'm sure I made the child feel better.

Several years later I had my own personal experience that provided the answer I had never been sure of.

Our wonderful dachshund, Gretta, died and we were eager to bring another dog into our home. We went to the pound to get the dachshund whose photo had appeared in the paper. By the time we arrived, it had been claimed. Another puppy, sensing our mission,

poked her nose through the wire fence. The look in her eyes seemed to say, "Please, pick me." We did. And we named her Pick.

Whenever I came home, Pick was there to greet me. I'd say, "Pick, you've got it made. Other animals work for their keep. A canary sings, cows give milk, chickens lay eggs, but you don't have to do anything but hang around."

After 14 years, Pick became very sick and there was nothing to be done except put her out of her misery. With a heavy heart I drove her to the vet's, who did what had to be done. I then went back to my study and wept for hours.

A few days later, a parishioner who knew of my grief sent me this poem. It healed my sorrow. Perhaps it will help others. I'd like to share it.

I explained to St. Peter, I'd rather stay here, Outside the pearly gate. I won't be a nuisance, I won't even bark, I'll be very patient and wait.

I'll be here, chewing on a celestial bone, No matter how long you may be.

I'd miss you so much, if I went in alone, It wouldn't be heaven for me.

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, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Forsan one-act cast headed to area

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

FORSAN — The Forsan High School Drama Department is treading in unfamiliar territory — welcome, but unfamiliar. For the first time in seven years, the FHS thespians will take their one-act play past the district level of competition when they stage “I Remember Mama” at the University Interscholastic League Class 1A Area Contest Saturday at Santa Anna High School.

John Van Druten’s “I Remember Mama” is a family comedy set in 1910 and it seems to fit the Forsan Drama Department strengths perfectly, Director Jim Rhodes said.

Forsan has survived two rounds of competition to reach this point, advancing past recent zone and district contests, Rhodes said.

Three Forsan students — seniors Alex Newsom and Claudia Jones and sophomore Kaleb Willey — were named to the district’s all-star cast, while junior Tessa Kendrick and sophomore Claudia

Jones were honorable mention selections.

Sophomore Aaron Johnson was named the district’s outstanding crew technician.

This is the furthest a FHS play has advanced since 2001, which was the last time Forsan qualified for state-level competition.

While Rhodes is in no hurry to predict a repeat accomplishment this year, he thinks his current group of actors is a particularly strong ensemble.

“Basically, we picked a good script and we had a strong cast in the correct parts,” he said. “That is what I think is behind our success this year ... Sometimes, you get good chemistry and everything just gels. We’ve got one of those groups this year.”

And the judges to date have agreed with Rhodes’ assessment.

“Number one, they thought we had a very strong ensemble,” Rhodes said. “No one has won best actor or actress ... but everybody has contributed to the play’s success.”

With a step up in com-



Jessica Ballard, left, and Lara Spence perform a scene from “I Remember Mama,” which the Forsan High School Drama Department will stage at the University Interscholastic League Class 1A Area One-Act Play Contest Saturday at Santa Anna High School.

Courtesy photo/Bob Fishback

petition comes a corresponding rise in pressure and expectations, but Rhodes thinks his charges are up to the task.

“As you advance a cou-

ple of rounds, the confidence begins to build,” he said. “I think this group is more excited than scared, really ... Moving out of our comfort zone onto a new stage creates

anxiety, sure, but that’s the challenge of it and the kids are ready to head out on the road.”

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331,

ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

POWWOW

Continued from Page 1A

Arena director is Fabian Galvan of Lubbock and emcee for the event is Tim Harjo of Ada, Okla. The Head Female Dancer is Sandra Luna of San Antonio and the Head Male Dancer will be Terry Pecos of Albuquerque, N.M.

Vendors offering many

different wares will also be available and a food drive is scheduled with all donated canned goods given to local food banks.

Sunday the event begins with a special Christian worship service at 9:30 a.m. in the arena, followed by gourd dancing and the Grand Entry.

According to committee treasurer Randy McKinney, the powwow is not a religious event,

but will certainly help those in attendance lift their spirits.

“The powwow is a social event and there is no Native American religion involved; there will be no medicine men and no ceremonies,” said McKinney. “A powwow is a wonderful experience; the drum alone will lift your heart and make your feet want to dance.

“Dancing has always

been a big part of the Native American culture, as it has in many cultures. Most people thin of war dances or rain dances. However, Native Americans dance for many reasons — a good hunt or harvest, marriage or childbirth, or just for the fun of it. These dances would last for days.”

Admission to the event is \$5 and children under 12 are free.

For more information about the powwow, contact Lesser at 264-8203, or visit the Powwow Committee’s Web site at www.powwowbigspring.com.

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

ELECTION

Continued from Page 1A

tion.

For voters participating in the Democratic runoff,

they will have to choose between Railroad Commission candidates Dale Henry (Austin) and Mark Thompson (Hamilton).

Bloom said early voting

polls will be open on the county courthouse’s third floor between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and continue through Friday, with late voting set for today and polls open from 8 a.m.

until 7 p.m.

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

FEMA

Continued from Page 1A

crews have been extremely busy the past several weeks battling a variety of wildfires in this area. The latest, on Monday,

resulted in the destruction of two homes on Fisher Road, while a third on Rebecca Drive sustained serious damage.

Despite the heavy workload, Barr said firefighting equipment and crews were holding up well.

“As soon as something breaks down, we get it fixed,” Barr said. “(County Volunteer Fire Department Chief) Tommy (Sullivan) takes good care of the equipment, and the commissioners support him 100

percent. There’s not been any major equipment breakdown yet, just your normal wear and tear.”

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

PLAY

Continued from Page 1A

BSHS Drama Director Tracie Lindsey said her charges overcame a case of nerves to perform solid-

ly Tuesday.

“I think they were nervous being in a different space, but they were still strong,” Lindsey said. “They didn’t feel they were as ‘on’ as they were at the district contest, but

they still did a good job.” The drama department will present an encore performance of Arthur Miller’s dramatization of the Salem Witch Trials at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the BSHS auditorium.

Admission is \$2, Lindsey said.

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

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Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Let's make sure Texas Trash-Off is a big success

Spring has arrived and it's time for that traditional "spring cleaning" of our community known as the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off which will be observed Saturday.

Organizers hope as many local volunteers as possible will join the more than 55,000 across the state who will pick up millions of pounds of litter from Texas roadsides and city parks.

Pat Simmons, the local coordinator for the event, is seeking anyone interested to come out and take part in the Trash-Off, whether they volunteer as individuals, groups or organizations.

Simmons is encouraging all property owners to take part in the event by not only cleaning up their property, but to volunteer by helping clean up vacant lots and other areas throughout the city.

Plastic bags are available for participants and they can be picked up Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Volunteers may also call Simmons at 263-4607, to register individually or as a group.

The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club will be furnishing hot dogs for volunteers' lunch, with the Chamber of Commerce furnishing all the trimmings and drinks.

Lunch will be served from 11:45 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. Saturday at the Old Settlers Pavilion in Comanche Trail Park which will be the headquarters for the local Trash-Off effort.

Participants will bring the trash they've collected with them to the pavilion where Keep Big Spring Beautiful volunteers will have a 30-yard container.

We encourage anyone who can to take part in this weekend's Trash-Off.

You'll not only get a sense of achievement, but you'll help make sure Big Spring continues to be what we consider the prettiest city in West Texas.

How To Contact Us

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We don't have all the answers, Lord, but You do.

Amen

Are Democrats self-destructive?

Democrats seemed determined to convert their sunny 2008 forecast into a perfect storm, which only can be diverted if either the approaching Obama front or Clinton front dissipates soon or changes directions to join forces with the other via the proverbial "dream ticket."

Until Pastor Wright managed to become Obama's potentially career-shattering albatross, Obama looked unstoppable, indeed superhuman. But as has happened repeatedly in this campaign, Hillary's persistence was rewarded — briefly, anyway. Obama's long and close association with the incendiary pastor undercut his perceived ability to rise above both race and party.

With the passage of a little time, though, Obama appears to have recovered. Or are his rising poll numbers merely a result of Hillary's umpteenth gratuitous tall tale?

It's hard to imagine that Obama's 52 to 42 percent national lead among Democrats, his narrowing of the superdelegate gap, and his lopsided acquisition of endorsements since Super Tuesday (64 to nine) are the result solely of Hillary's fraudulent assertion of sniper-tested heroism.

It's more likely that concerns about Obama's association with Wright have diminished with the cessation of a 24/7 news cycle devoted to it. The mainstream media's reversion to Obama adoration following his dreamy post-Wright lecture on race in America hasn't hurt him, either.

That said, if Hillary wasn't deterred before — when her prospects looked even worse —

why would she be now? She has to believe — along with many, many others — that the Wright story has legs.

But the dirty little secret is that the Democratic left, which wields enormous power in the party, probably isn't much troubled by Pastor Wright's anti-American and racist diatribes or Obama's arguably tacit endorsement of them.

Don't forget that it wasn't the Democratic left that threw Howard Dean overboard. Nor did the party reject Dean's message; they just deemed him unelectable, and the media reinforced that perception.

Interestingly, the same thing hasn't happened yet to Obama. Since the initial Wright shock wore off, there has been no sustained mass exodus from Obama. Yet his association with Wright, along with other disturbing stories beginning to surface out there, could render him as unelectable in the general election as Howard Dean in his worst screaming moment.

Why is Obama weathering this storm? Is it political correctness; are Democrats cutting him extra slack because of his race? Is it that they are in denial about his increasing baggage because they so crave a party deliverer who speaks their language? Is it because they aren't viscerally repulsed by Pastor Wright's hate speech or Michelle Obama's apparent grievances against this nation? Or is it that they have no one even as electable as John Kerry waiting in the wings — considering Hillary's permanent and ever-increasing negatives?

I suspect it's a combination of all those factors, which doesn't bode well for the party. Hillary is not in as good a position to capitalize on an Obama implosion as Kerry was to exploit the Dean political suicide. Everyone — including for-

merly ardent Clinton supporters — now realizes that for the Clintons, it's all about the Clintons, who'll do anything to win. "Anything" includes playing a despicable brand of racial politics and betraying the Democrats' unwavering, albeit disingenuous battle cry since Bush-Gore 2000: "Every vote must count."

The leftist blogs are getting ever more vicious against Hillary and increasingly indignant over any criticisms of their would-be champion, Obama. After all, what good did it do for them to settle for Kerry last time? They've been waiting a long time now for a full-blown anti-war standard-bearer.

So Democrats are faced with the dilemma of sticking with Obama, who truly might be approaching unelectability, or turning to the obnoxious and narcissistic power couple for whom the magic has long since disappeared.

If Obama does well from this point forward, the superdelegates will have no choice but to endorse him because even concerns of electability would not justify the divisions, including along racial lines, that would ensue should the party brokers cashier him. If Hillary marginally — but not significantly — outperforms Obama, the same principles will apply.

Only if Hillary wins consistently and decisively from now on, to the point of overtaking Obama in the popular vote, will she have the slightest chance of credibly arguing that superdelegates should go her way.

Even then, unless Obama fully gets on board a Hillary ticket — especially by way of the second slot — there will be hell to pay in the party for years.

*David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.
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McCain seems a bit out of touch

Wait a minute. Stop the music. I thought John McCain was supposed to be the candidate with the most experience; the one with the proven ability to stand up to dictators and Dick Cheney.

He had gravitas, he had a thorough knowledge of foreign affairs. McCain, we were reminded, is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, been in the Senate longer than his two rivals put together, served on important committees.

In short, he would be ready (you should pardon the expression) from Day One.

So a week or so ago he steps off a plane in Baghdad and tells us that the Surge is working and a good thing it is because Iran is training al Qaeda terrorists and sending them into Iraq against us. In other words the Surge is not only working, it had better keep working or dat ol' debil Iran will get us.

(By the way, isn't the Surge getting a little old to be called "the Surge?" It's beginning to sound like one of those four-hour erections that men should call their doctors about in the commercials. It needs a new name, like "The Long Goodbye.")

As McCain finished his statement, Sen. Joe Lieberman, playing Tonto to McCain's Lone Ranger on the trip, stepped to his side and

whispered in his ear.

McCain then stepped back to the microphone and said he'd mis-spoke, that it was Shiite terrorists Iran was sending into Iraq, not al Qaeda.

Are you kidding me?

Al Qaeda (in Mesopotamia or out) is basically a Sunni organization. It spends a good share of its time killing Shiites. Iran is a Shiite country. When it finds a Sunni its first thought is to tie him to the back bumper of a pick-up and drag him around for a while.

So it seems that John McCain, that paragon of experience, five years into the war, still doesn't know the difference between Shia and Sunni. He's not the only one, of course. From the very beginning of this mess the Bush people have done their best to confuse the issue of whom we're fighting and why.

It was because Iraq had Weapons of Mass Destruction. No.

Because there were al Qaeda terrorist bases operating there and we had to wipe them out. As it turned out, no. Then because it would be a good thing to have democracy there and the Iraq people were desperate to get it. Not so much.

Now we seem to be there because the Surge is working and since it's the only thing that's worked for us so far, it would be a shame to give up.

McCain is part of that ongoing charade. He was part of it at the beginning and he remains so. That's what experience can do for

you. This campaign isn't just about the war, of course. There's the economy. Republicans (the party of "the markets are never wrong") are throwing money at the varlets who got us into this mess in hopes they'll take pity and not burn us down to the ground.

So they ask McCain, Mr. Experience, what he'd do about it and he answers, in best imitation of Jay Leno, that he'd appoint a committee headed by Alan Greenspan "whether he was alive or dead."

First: Appointing a committee is a weak, lame response; the kind you might expect from a guy who's been around Washington too long. They don't solve problems, they study them.

Second: Alan Greenspan? The Alan Greenspan, the architect of the disaster we are now facing? It was Greenspan who pooh-poohed the idea of a housing bubble, brushing it off as a mild exuberance. It was he who refused to regulate the exotic credit instruments that set us up for this fall.

And McCain is going to put him in charge of figuring things out. In the meantime Obama staggers toward the Democratic nomination while Hillary clings to his leg like a Gila monster.

Ain't politics wonderful?

Donald Kaul is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington correspondent who, by his own account, is right more than he's wrong. E-mail him at dkaul1@verizon.net.

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'08 Outlook

Saturn goes large with full-size crossover

Earlier this week I had lunch with a friend who happened to be in the early process of looking for a new vehicle.

Since I was driving the new Saturn Outlook full-size

crossover, naturally the conversation turned to Saturn and my take on both the company and the vehicle.

I told him I was impressed with the Outlook, which is available in both front- and all-wheel drive configurations.

Powered by a 3.6-liter V-6 engine and mated to a six-speed automatic transmission, the Outlook delivers plenty of torque on demand and the transmission is absolutely stellar.

Delivering 270 horsepower (275 when equipped with dual exhaust) and providing 248 lbs.-ft. of torque, the Outlook can tow up to 4,500 (in case my friend ever needed to pull a trailer). Using regular unleaded gasoline, it has an EPA fuel economy rating of 16 mpg city, 24 mpg for front-wheel drive models (16/22 mpg for four-wheel drive models).

It also shares the same platform as its GM cousins — the Buick Enclave and GMC Acadia.

Available in 7- or 8-passenger seating (bucket seats are available for the second row), the Outlook provides an abundance of comfortable seating for carrying passengers (which my friend often needs for his family), yet

is easily configurable to provide additional cargo room when he needs to carry a lot of equipment to a photo shoot for his photography business.

First introduced as a 2007 model year vehicle, several new features

have been added for '08, such as a rear backup camera on models equipped with the navigation system, available rear park assist feature, a second row console for those opting for bucket seats, XM Satellite Radio is now standard on all models and several new colors have been added to the Outlook palette.

I told him that I was very impressed with the Outlook's ride and handling capability and for a full-size vehicle, I thought it was very easy to maneuver and park in a crowded lot.

"But, Neal," he said, "What do you think about Saturn?"

I hope he wasn't expecting a short answer. I started from the beginning of the Saturn franchise and talked about their economic and well-built vehicles and how the company — from the manufacturing plant in Spring Hill, Tenn., to every dealership nationwide — developed a reputation from day one as delivering stellar customer service. I talked about the early products, which were all small cars, telling them they were dependable, affordable, practical modes of transportation —

See **WHEELS**, Page 6A

ON THE ROAD



BY NEAL WHITE



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strut; direct acting stabilizer bar;

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(front); linked H-arm independent suspension; coil springs with twin tube shock absorbers mounted on isolated sub-frame (rear).

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LENGTH: 201.1 inches

WHEELBASE: 118.9 inches

es

WIDTH: 78.9 inches

HEIGHT: 69.9 inches

WEIGHT: 4,700-4,905 lbs.

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(front/rear)

FUEL TANK: 22 gallons

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WHEELS

Continued from Page 5A

although lacking a little bit on the "wow" factor when it comes to styling.

That started changing about four years ago as Saturn set out to build on

its reputation for customer service and dependability as it began launching the first of several new vehicles — each one loaded with "wow." I pointed to several of the features of the Outlook as we drove, noting the attention to detail and styling throughout the

cabin.

With the Outlook, like the Saturn Sky roadster and Aura sedan, Saturn is building stylish vehicles that are not only practical and fun to drive, they are stunning and loaded with standard and optional features.

When we left the

restaurant, I talked him in to taking a test drive.

Neal White has been covering the automotive

industry for more than 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive

Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@waxahachiedaily.com.

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6:30 PM	News (CC) Entertainment	Jeopardy! Wheel-Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	The Simpsons Two-Half Men	To Be Announced	12 Corazones	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Dell Sanchez John Hagee	News-Lehrer	How It's Made How It's Made		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Black Carpet	Han. Montana Zack & Cody	NASCAR Now NFL Live	College Basketball:	Movie: Creature
7:30 PM	Miss Guided Miss Guided	Miss Guided Miss Guided	Al Diablo con Los Guapos	Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader? (CC)	Survivor: Fans vs. Favorites	La Traicion	My Name Is Earl (CC)	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Update Israel Supernatural	TX Mnthly Talk McLaughlin	How It's Made How It's Made	Movie: Patriot Games (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	NBA Basketball:	Movie: Somebody	That's-Raven Zack & Cody	MLS Soccer: New England	NIT Final -- Teams TBA	
8:30 PM	Lost (CC)	Lost (CC)	Pasion	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Victoria	The Office The Office	Movie: Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle (CC)	Light of the Southwest	To Be Announced	How It's Made How It's Made	Movie: Heaven Knows, Mr.	Most Amazing Videos	Chicago Bulls at Cleveland	Cavaliers NBA	Com.-Presents Com.-Presents	That's-Raven Life Derek	(CC) MLS Soccer:	Revolution at Chicago Fire	College Basketball:
9:30 PM	Eli Stone (CC)	Eli Stone (CC)	Amas de Casa Desesperadas	TMZ (CC) Raymond	Without a Trace (CC)	Pecados Ajenos	The Office The Office	Sex and-City Sex and-City	Update Israel Jack Van Impe	Charlie Rose (CC)	How It's Made How It's Made	(CC)	The Ultimate Fighter	Basketball: Rockets at	Malcolm-Eddie Malcolm-Eddie	Zack & Cody Han. Montana	Earthquakes at Galaxy	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: 12:01 (CC)
10:30 PM	News (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	News Jimmy Kimmel	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	Two-Half Men Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias Mas Vale	News Tonight Show	10:55 Movie: Almost	Dr. Booker Dr. Swallow	Tavis Smiley Tavis Smiley	How It's Made How It's Made	When Good Pets Go Bad	Trail Blazers	Hell Date Hell Date	Replacements Kim Possible	NASCAR Now	NFL Live Baseball		
11:30 PM	The Insider News (CC)	Extra (CC) Lighthouse	Nina Amada Mia	Reno 911! George Lopez	Show The Insider	Famosos Programa	Conan O'Brien News	Famous (CC)	Update Israel Light-World	Sign Off	How It's Made How It's Made	Movie: Heaven Knows, Mr.	Most Amazing Videos	Inside the NBA (CC)	Comicview (CC)	Emperor New American Drgn	SportsCenter Special (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Battlestar Galactica

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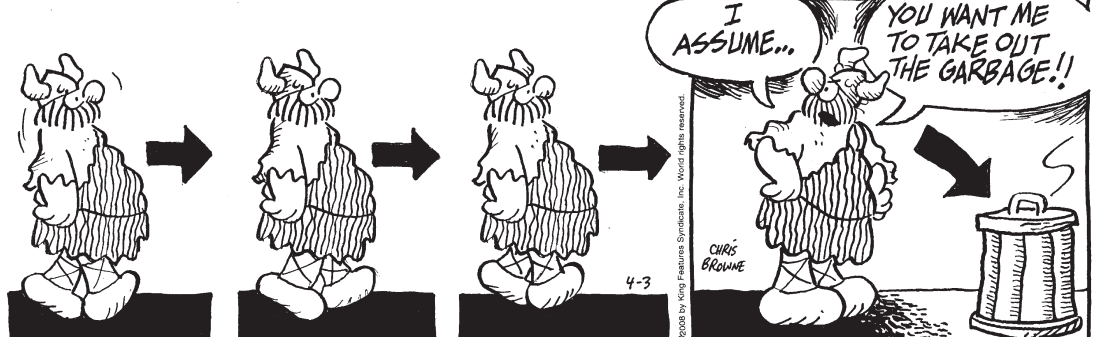
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Bless us all."

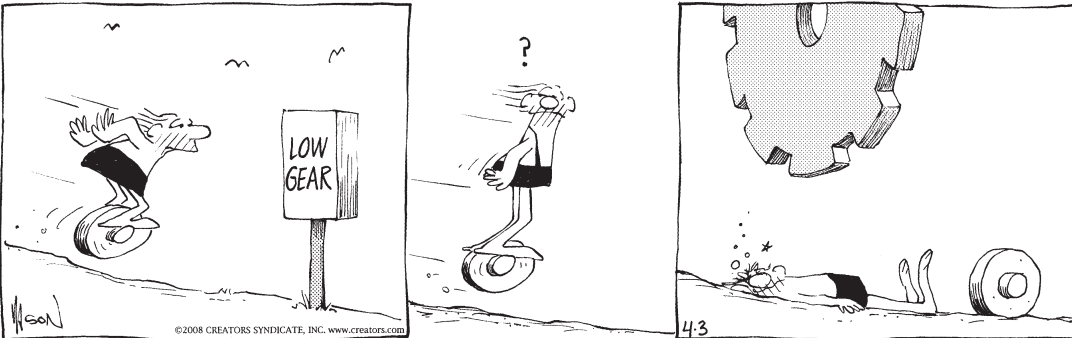
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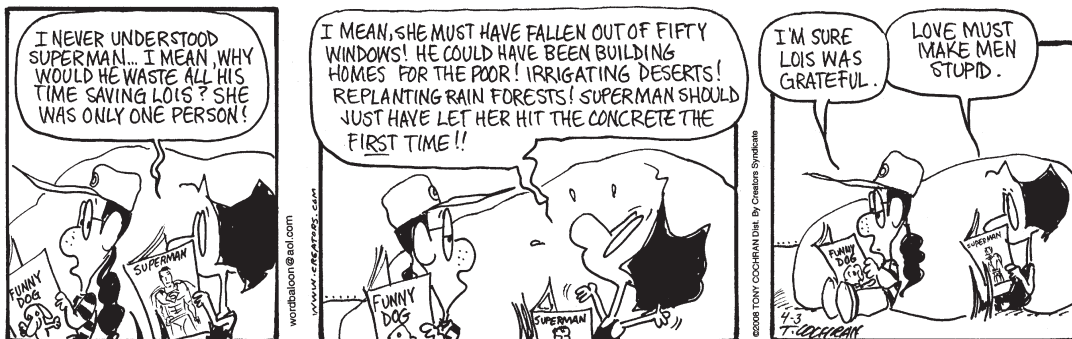
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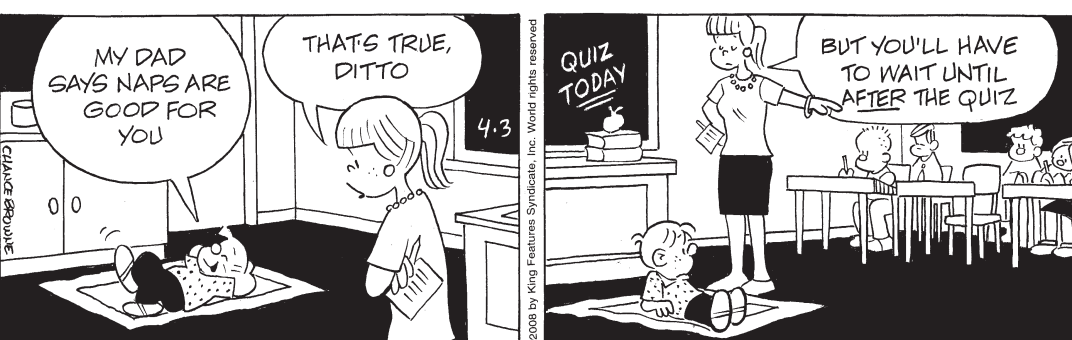
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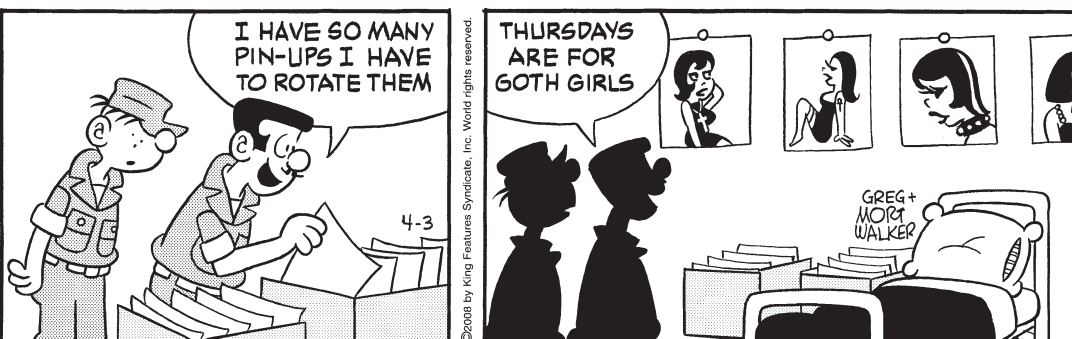
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, April 3, the 94th day of 2008. There are 272 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On April 3, 1968, the day before he was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "mountaintop" speech to a rally of striking sanitation workers.
On this date:
In 1860, the legendary Pony Express began service between St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif.
In 1865, Union forces occupied the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va.
In 1882, outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Mo., by Robert Ford, a member of James' gang.
In 1936, Bruno Hauptmann was electrocuted in Trenton, N.J., for the kidnap-murder of the Lindbergh child.
In 1946, Lt. Gen. Masaharu

Homma, the Japanese commander responsible for the Bataan Death March, was executed by firing squad outside Manila.
In 1948, President Truman signed into law the Marshall Plan, designed to help European allies rebuild after World War II and resist Communism.
In 1968, North Vietnam agreed to meet with U.S. representatives to set up preliminary peace talks.
In 1974, deadly tornadoes struck wide parts of the South and Midwest before jumping across the border into Canada; more than 300 fatalities resulted.
In 1996, an Air Force jetliner carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and American business executives crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people aboard.

Birthdays:
Actress-singer Doris Day is 84.
Former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is 78.
Jazz musician Jimmy McGriff is 72.
Actor William Gaunt is 71.
Actor Eric Braeden is 67.
Actress Marsha Mason is 66.
Singer Wayne Newton is 66.
Singer

Billy Joe Royal is 66.
Singer Tony Orlando is 64.
Comedy writer Pat Proft is 61.
Singer Richard Thompson is 59.
Country musician Curtis Stone (Highway 101) is 58.
Blues singer-guitarist John Mooney is 53.
Rock musician Mick Mars (Motley Crue) is 52.
Actor Alec Baldwin is 50.
Actor David Hyde Pierce is 49.
Rock singer John Thomas Griffith (Cowboy Mouth) is 48.
Comedian-actor Eddie Murphy is 47.
Rock singer-musician Mike Ness (Social Distortion) is 46.
Rock singer Sebastian Bach is 40.
Rock musician James MacDonough is 38.

Answer to previous puzzle

DJS	TESLA	RIPEN
ROT	ALLOT	ERODE
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OHNO	RELIC	SHOW
MATCH	STICKS	AXE
ALIKE	NOELS	HEN
RESET	ANDES	ANT

Newsday Crossword

IN THE WATER by Daniel R. Stark
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bogus quarter
- 5 Moon over Milano
- 9 Oscar or Tony
- 14 South African Peace Nobel
- 15 Starbuck's boss
- 16 Dr. Montessori
- 17 Stein fillers
- 18 Tub treat
- 20 More overgrown
- 22 Makes fizzy
- 23 Earthenware pots
- 25 Family nickname
- 26 Garlic portions
- 29 Dance steps
- 33 Visibility obstacles
- 34 Subarctic forest
- 35 Ser. deliverer
- 37 Bouquet material
- 38 Bridal-veil material
- 39 Ballet leap
- 40 Longing movement
- 41 Sonata member
- 42 Chorus member
- 43 Grandstand cry
- 45 Mendel's science
- 46 Boxing legend
- 47 Hannah of Hollywood
- 49 Nonwinning racehorses
- 53 Dwelled
- 57 Equinox follower
- 59 Canceled, to NASA
- 60 Humongous
- 61 Made the most of
- 62 Wax-coated cheese
- 63 Zingy flavors
- 64 Flowers-to-be
- 65 Grabbed a taxi
- DOWN**
- 1 Iffy attempt
- 2 Humdinger
- 3 Western Indians
- 4 Admire to excess
- 5 Places for brand names
- 6 Star Trek officer
- 7 Take into custody
- 8 "Dancing Queen" band
- 9 Land named for Vespucci
- 10 Terre Haute's river
- 11 Like ___ in a maze
- 12 Ceremony
- 13 Telegraph syllables
- 19 Gil Blas writer
- 21 Seine vistas
- 24 Heated almost to a boil
- 26 Bok ___
- 27 Did dock work
- 28 UV blocker
- 30 Port near Mauna Loa
- 31 Battleground
- 32 ___ Hall University
- 34 Giant kegs
- 36 Quite
- 38 Gym activity
- 39 Way to go
- 41 Softens
- 42 Tops and trains
- 44 Getting lighter
- 45 Engenders
- 48 Ready for battle
- 49 Senior NCO
- 50 City of Samoa
- 51 Where Farsi is spoken
- 52 Theatergoer's souvenir
- 54 Bygone bird
- 55 Mild exclamation
- 56 Rotunda's crown
- 58 Ames inst.

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