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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY
MARCH 6, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 84

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Survivor staircase to be moved

By AMY WESTFELDT
Associated Press Writer
NEW YORK — Tom Canavan saw the stairs through the smoke after tunneling out of debris that buried him when the World Trade Center's south tower collapsed. The sun fell on a section of gold awning that led him down the stairs to safety on a nearby street. The north tower collapsed a few minutes later.
"Without that staircase, I don't see myself getting out of that plaza before the north tower comes down and kills me," said Canavan, one of countless Sept. 11 survivors who escaped the burning ruins by the same route.
That staircase — 37 stairs that once connected the outdoor plaza outside the twin towers to the street below — survived Sept. 11 and remain the only above-ground remnant of the trade center complex.
After years of debate over whether and how to preserve the structure, See **STAIRCASE**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
From left, Alesha Yanez, Eric Barton, Ty Matlock, Tiffany Dixon and Lynn Edwards perform a scene from "The Diary of Anne Frank," a Howard College Theater Department production that runs from Friday through Sunday at the Hall Center for the Arts.

'Anne Frank' to open at Hall Center Friday

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer
Howard College's Theater Department will stage "a play about hope" when it presents "The Diary of Anne Frank" this weekend.
Showtimes are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the Hall Center for the Arts on the Howard College campus. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.
The celebrated story of Anne Frank, a Dutch Jew who, along with her family, hid from Nazi authorities for more than a year during the height of World War II, has been made into a Tony-award winning play as well as a movie, but audiences will see a somewhat streamlined dramatization of the

"People have asked me, 'Why do a story that ends badly?' Well, the story is not about the tragedy of Anne's death, it is that family is worth saving, if only for a day or two."



Davidson

historic events.
Kirk Davidson, head of the HC Theater Department, said the original script has been See **PLAY**, Page 3A

State grants run out for neutering of pets

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer
State grants to fund the spaying and neutering of dogs and cats in and around Big Spring totaling nearly \$70,000 have run

out, according to local animal control officials.
"The department will continue to seek such grants, but at this time the state is not offering any grant funds for this program,"

said Big Spring Police Department Lt. Terry Chamness. "The Big Spring Animal Control received grants from the Texas Department of Health for spaying and neuter-

ing of pets in 2005 and 2006, and ended in August 2007. The grants were for a total of \$69,203 and were dispersed in vouchers See **PETS**, Page 3A

Powwow on horizon

Volunteers sought to help with two-day event

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer
Are you ready to powwow?
Coordinators for the fourth annual Big Spring Powwow certainly are, as the local organization prepares for a fun — yet competitive — foray into the world of native American culture and dance April 5-6.
"This year's powwow is a contest powwow," said Connie Lesser, who also serves as secretary for the

What: Fourth Annual Big Spring Powwow.
Where: Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.
When: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. April 5 and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 6.

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." Lesser said the Powwow Committee is currently looking for a little help.
"We need volunteers to help us run some of the minor parts of the powwow," said Lesser. "Things like helping to run the front desk and some of the contests and monitor some of the different stations. It's a lot of fun and it gives people a chance to get a birds-eye See **POWWOW**, Page 3A



HERALD file photo
Powwow participants make their grand entry into Dorothy Garrett Coliseum in a previous event.

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



TIME CHANGE COMING

Daylight Saving Time begins this weekend, the second weekend in March, courtesy of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
That act changed the date last year, which in previous years had been the first weekend in April.
Officially, the time change still takes place at 2 a.m. Sunday.
It's much simpler, however, to set your clock an hour ahead when you go to bed Saturday night (Spring forward, fall back).
Local firefighters are also reminding the public that this is also a good time to change batteries in home smoke detectors.

BIBLE CLASS SUIT

ODESSA (AP) — Each side in a lawsuit over a West Texas school district's Bible curriculum claimed victory Wednesday after a mediator's proposal gained final approval.
The Ector County Independent School District can continue to offer a Bible course but its course work will be developed by a committee of seven local educators appointed by the superintendent. The lawsuit challenged class material produced by the Greensboro, N.C.-based National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools. The class will be offered beginning in the 2008-09 school year.

CLINIC INVESTIGATED

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Nearly 40,000 people learned this week that a trip to the doctor may have made them sick.
In a type of scandal more often associated with Third World countries, a Las Vegas clinic was found to be reusing syringes and vials of medication for nearly four years. The shoddy practices may have led to an outbreak of the potentially fatal hepatitis C virus and exposed patients to HIV, too. The discovery led to the biggest public health notification in U.S. history, brought demands for investigations and caused scores of lawyers to seek out patients at risk for infections.

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Sports

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Page 1B
Thursday, March 6, 2008

IN BRIEF

Brackets set for Howard College at Region V Tourney

The Region V Tournament brackets for Howard College's men's and women's basketball teams were officially released today.

Howard College's men open with Temple College at 7 p.m. Thursday, while the women face McLennan Community College at 12:30 p.m. Friday.

TODAY

Men's 1st Round

Game 1, 12:30 p.m., Midland College vs. Collin County Comm. College

Game 2, 2:30 p.m., Weatherford College vs. South Plains College

Game 3, 5:00 p.m., Odessa College vs. McLennan Comm. College

Game 4, 7:00 p.m., Temple College vs. Howard College

FRIDAY

Women's 1st Round

Game 1, 12:30 p.m., McLennan Community College vs. Howard College

Game 2, 2:30 p.m., South Plains College vs. Collin County Comm. College

Game 3, 5:00 p.m., Midland College vs. Temple College

Game 4, 7:00 p.m., Weatherford College vs. Western Texas College

Local MMA fighter wins match in La. in 16 seconds

Big Spring's Nathan Torres trains with a local mixed martial arts gym in town called 5150 Big Spring MMA.

Torres recently took part in a match in Louisiana and used a rear naked choke hold, forcing his opponent into submission after 16 seconds.

Torres and his brothers Angel and Joe have matches scheduled for Saturday in Alabama.

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

TODAY - SAT.

Big Spring baseball at Snyder Tournament.

Coahoma baseball at Llano Tournament.

Coahoma softball at Clyde-Eula Tournament.

FRIDAY

Big Spring softball at Andrews, 5 p.m.

Big Spring boys golf at San Anelo.

Big Spring girls golf at Andrews.

Big Spring girls track at Snyder for Tiger Relays.

Big Spring boys track at Midland for Tall City Relays.

Big Spring tennis at Seminole tournament.

TUESDAY

Big Spring softball at Greenwood, TBA.

Big Spring baseball at Fort Stockton, 6 p.m.

Forsan baseball at McCamey, 5 p.m.

See **BRIEFS**, Page 2B

HC ready for Region V Tourney

By **ERIC RODEWALD**

Special to the Herald

BELTON — Although it might seem longer, it's only been nine days since the Howard College men's and women's basketball teams have played. During the time off, each team has been preparing for the large task that lies immediately ahead.

The Howard College basketball teams both finished the season third in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference and head to the NJCAA Region V Tournament today and Friday

for first round action in Belton.

The regional will be played at Mary-Hardin Baylor with the Howard men facing the Northern Junior College Athletic Conference's No. 2 seed Temple College (27-3) at 7 p.m. tonight.

As for the Howard women, they play McLennan Community College (22-8) Friday afternoon with tip-off scheduled for 12:30 p.m.

With a win the Howard men (23-7) advance to face the winner of the Odessa College-McLennan Community College game. The men's semi-final for Howard

would be Saturday at 2:30 p.m. The Region V Men's Championship is scheduled for a 2 p.m. tip off Sunday.

A revenge factor could play a part in the Hawks' tournament opener. Last year, the Hawks entered Region V as a four seed and knocked off top-seeded Temple in the first round before bowing out to South Plains College in the second round.

However, the Hawks are just two years removed from winning the region and advancing to the national tournament.

As for the Howard College

women's team, they have the task of trying to stop the NJCAC's player of the year in Richarda Outley and freshman of the year Nicole Walton. Both players are explosive, but the Hawks hope to use the nation's No. 4-ranked defense to contain McLennan's dynamic duo.

With a win, the Howard women (24-6) play at 5 p.m. Saturday in the semi-finals against the winner of South Plains College and Collin County Community College. The Region V Women's Championship is slated to tip off Sunday at 5 p.m.

Rockets set franchise record with win

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets made history Wednesday night. Now they can go back to trying to make the playoffs.

Tracy McGrady scored 25 points and the Houston Rockets won their franchise-record 16th game, beating Indiana 117-99.

The Rockets are 4-0 since losing Yao Ming for the season with a stress fracture in his foot and have won 20 of their last 21 games, and own the longest winning streak in the NBA this season.

Houston is still clawing for a playoff spot in the tough Western conference and plays the division rival Mavericks in Dallas on Thursday night.

"It's great to have your name down in history," Rafer Alston said. "We are having some great regular-season success right now, but we know the big picture is getting it done in the postseason. You enjoy it for the moment, but you have to continue to prepare for every game."

The Rockets led by 17 at half-time, but two runs by Indiana in the third quarter got the Pacers within seven. Houston scored 11 of the last 13 points of the quarter to stretch the lead to 16 and the Pacers wouldn't threaten again.

It's Houston's seventh straight win by 10 points or more, which extends a franchise record.

"It's all about confidence," McGrady said. "We have great chemistry and guys know their roles here. We all are playing so well, we just can't really count on one guy."

All but two of McGrady's points came in the first half and he had six rebounds and five

assists. Alston added 21 points and had seven assists.

"This was a big win for us, we were trying to make history," McGrady said on the court as red confetti rained down.

Houston used an 14-4 run in the first half of the fourth quarter to stretch its lead to 108-82 and send scores of fans streaming for the exits. That run included a one-handed dunk by Carl Landry that brought the crowd to its feet and ended with a long 3-pointer by Bobby Jackson.

Both teams played mostly back-ups after that.

Among the fans that stayed, several held signs, including one that said "Sweet 16, Go Rockets" with the 16 made out of glittering dark pink numbers.

Another sign read "Mavs, Here We Come." After Dallas on Thursday Houston hosts New Orleans Saturday.

"I think most of us are already focused on Dallas," Shane Battier said. "We know that this game, while significant, doesn't really guarantee us anything."

Houston's last 15-game winning streak was in the Rockets championship season of 1993-94.

The Pacers outscored Houston 15-6 in the opening minutes of the third quarter to cut the lead to 72-64. Indiana got a pair of 3-pointers from Danny Granger and one from Travis Diener in that span to fuel the run.

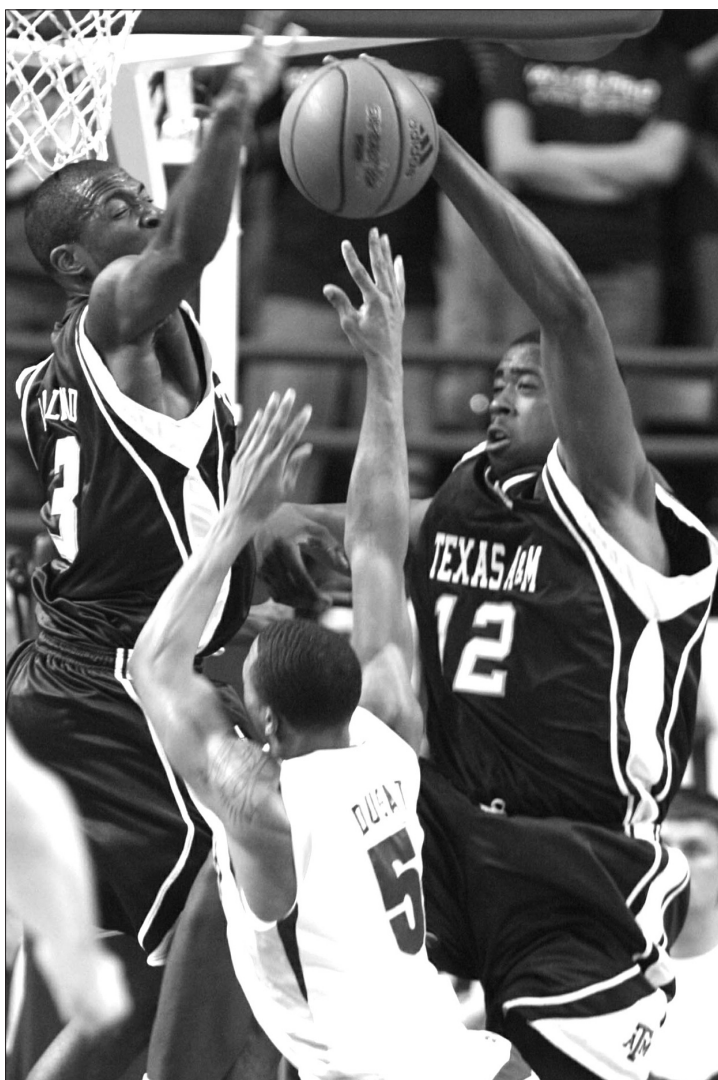
Granger and Troy Murphy had 17 points apiece to lead Indiana. Murphy also had 10 rebounds.

"I think the league anticipated a drop-off when Yao went out, but it never happened," Murphy said. "They are playing as well as any team in the league right now."

See **ROCKETS**, Page 2B



AP photo/Pat Sullivan
Houston Rockets guard Carl Landry (14) is fouled by Indiana Pacers forward Troy Murphy, left, during the second half of a NBA basketball game Wednesday in Houston. The Rockets set a franchise record, winning 117-99 and extending their win streak to 16.



AP photo/Duane A. Laverty

Texas A&M defenders Derrick Roland (3) and DeAndre Jordan (12) knock down a shot from Baylor's Henry Dugat (5), center, during first-half action in a college basketball game Wednesday in Waco. A&M won 71-57.

Aggies avenge 5-OT loss, dominate Baylor, 71-57

By **CHRIS DUNCAN**

AP Sports Writer

WACO — Angry boos never sounded so good to Texas A&M.

Josh Carter and Donald Sloan scored 17 points apiece as the Aggies beat Baylor 71-57 on Wednesday night, avenging a five-overtime loss to the Bears in College Station on Jan. 23.

A&M (22-8, 8-7 Big 12) won for the second time in six games after losing their last two road games by 27 points.

"That's as well as we've played in a long time," said A&M coach Mark Turgeon. "It's been a long time since we've played with this kind of swagger."

The game drew a record crowd for a men's game at the Ferrell Center and the fans got increasingly hostile as the Aggies hit their free throws pulled away in the final minutes. Sloan finished off the

game with a showboat dunk, drawing loud jeers from the crowd. Fans threw plastic soda bottles onto the floor as the Aggies trotted off with smiles on their faces.

"It was a great environment," Turgeon said. "It really made us concentrate. Sometimes, the louder the crowd, the more focused you are as a team."

DeAndre Jordan grabbed 10 rebounds and blocked six shots, an A&M record for a Big 12 game. Beau Muhlbach added a career-high 12 points as the Aggies beat Baylor in Waco for the fourth straight year.

"The whole team's exhausted because of the way we played," Sloan said.

Curtis Jerrells and Mamadou Diene scored nine points apiece for Baylor (20-9, 8-7), held under 60 points for the first time this season. The Bears, the Big 12's second-

best 3-point shooting team, went 4-for-19 from long range and shot 21-for-63 (a season-low 33 percent) from the field overall.

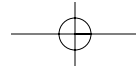
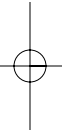
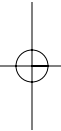
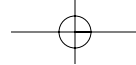
Baylor officials said it was the first time since the advent of the shot clock (1985) that no player reached double figures in a game.

"We had some good looks early and didn't make those," said Baylor coach Scott Drew. "Their outside defense was very good."

The Aggies jumped out to a 10-2 lead, scoring as many points in the first five minutes as they did in the first half of Saturday's 64-37 loss to Oklahoma.

With only two weeks left to impress the NCAA tournament selection committee, Turgeon said his team seemed more relaxed on the road. He said the Aggies would've

See **BIG 12**, Page 2B



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PLAY

Continued from Page 1A

rewritten and trimmed from its original three-hour length, but lacks none of its emotional punch.

"It's about family," Davidson said. "People have asked me, 'Why do a story that ends badly?' Well, the story is not about the tragedy of Anne's death, it is that family is worth saving, if only for a day or two. "Hitler wanted his Reich to last for a thousand years, but it

didn't," Davidson added. "Anne wanted her writings to live forever and they have. Basically, she got the last laugh."

Staging a play based on actual figures and events presents a special challenge, cast members said.

"As an actor, you naturally feel a responsibility to do justice to the actual characters," Eric Barton said. "These were real people in real situations, but I feel everyone in this cast has stepped up ... and done everyone justice."

The title character is played

by Alesha Yanez, a 14-year-old Big Spring High School freshman who came to Davidson's attention when HC co-produced "Camelot" with the BSHS Theater Department in 2007.

"Mr. Davidson saw me in that play and he asked if I'd like to try out for Anne Frank," Yanez said. "I did and here I am."

Being 14 and the lead in a college production may sound daunting, but Yanez wouldn't have things any other way.

"Anne Frank was a really strong person. She's one of my heroes," she said. "I do feel

some pressure ... but it's been wonderful. I love all the people I'm working with. It really is a once-in-a-lifetime role."

Frank and her family were finally captured by the Nazis and sent to a concentration camp, where she died shortly before the end of the war.

Despite the tragic ending, Davidson and his cast promise an uplifting and entertaining evening.

"As the story progresses, you forget about what's going to happen to that family," Davidson said. "As you get

caught up in their lives, you'll forget about anything else."

"At its core," Barton said, "it's a story about people in a horrible situation making the best of things."

Yanez agreed.

"Everyone thinks of the Diary of Anne Frank as a tragedy, and it's not, until the very last scene," she said. "It's really a play about hope."

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

PETS

Continued from Page 1A

to be redeemed at three local veterinary clinics.

"Our records show 654 dogs and 411 felines were treated under the program, and of the vouchers dispersed, 1,020 were to Big Spring residents, 57 from Coahoma, eight from Forsan, four from Knott and three from Ackerly. The animal control department would like to express its gratitude to these residents for participating in the program, which greatly impacts the health and safety of other animals and citizens in

their communities."

Chamness said the results of having an animal spayed or neutered aren't always evident, but in the long run it's the right thing to do.

"People don't always realize the impact having an unaltered pet has on the community," said Chamness. "One unspayed dog and her offspring can lead to 67,000 dogs in just six years. The same situation with a cat can produce 420,000 cats in seven years."

"There are 70,000 puppies and kittens born daily in the U.S., with approximately 6 million to 8 million entering shelters each year. Between 3 million and 4

million dogs and cats are euthanized by shelters each year, and the same number are adopted from shelter's each year."

According to Chamness, the BSPD Animal Control reported in 2007 picking up 856 dogs, with 209 dropped off at the municipal shelter; and 815 cats, with 215 dropped off. Pet owners released 223 dogs and 70 cats to animal control, with 207 dogs and 22 cats released back to the owner. The same year, 861 dogs and 944 cats were euthanized.

"The animal control department encourages responsible pet ownership," said Cham-

ness. "It's important to pick your pets by need, not by the social trends, and to know your pets needs and traits. It's also very important to make sure your pet is medically treated and vaccinated, and make sure you are able to provide food, water and shelter based on each pet's needs and conditions."

"Be sure you have adequate space and the right type of enclosure. Both tethering an animal and letting them run loose are against city ordinance. Also, be aware of your pet's temperament and be mindful of the safety of children and neighbors."

Chamness said city ordi-

nances require cat and dog owners to license their pets if they are kept within the city limits, and the licensing fee is more for unaltered pets than those that have been spayed or neutered.

"If the pet becomes unwanted, please be sure to turn them over to a shelter or put them up for adoption," said Chamness. "And unless you're in the animal breeding business, we would encourage you to have the pet spayed or neutered."

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

POWWOW

Continued from Page 1A

view of what goes on during the powwow."

The event — to be at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. Saturday, April 5, and from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday, April 6 — 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."

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.

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 think of war dances or rain dances. However, Native Americans dance for many reasons — a good harvest, marriage or childbirth, or just for the fun of it. These dances would last for days."

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.

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@big-springherald.com

STAIRCASE

Continued from Page 1A

though, the staircase will be moved this weekend for the first time. Construction crews will station the stairs about 200 feet to be stored on site until they can be installed at the Sept. 11 memorial.

"I would have liked it if they could have left it where it was," said Canavan, 48. But "I realize they couldn't do that."

Preservationists and survivors of the 2001 terrorist attack began campaigning years ago to leave the staircase as it stood, while developers refined plans for office towers, a transit hub and Sept. 11 memorial on the 16-acre site. The staircase, which had weighed 175 tons and stood 22 feet, sits in the middle of the footprint of a 1,278-foot skyscraper, one of five being built to replace the destroyed towers.

In 2006, state officials announced they would demolish all but one or two slabs of the staircase to make way for the new

tower, undeterred by a preservation group that named the steps one of the nation's most endangered historic places.

The site's owners, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, said the piece could not be taken off the site because it is too tall for traffic lights and overhead poles and possibly too heavy for bridges.

"You would have to

have started moving light poles" to move the staircase intact, said Steve Plate, the agency's director of priority capital programs who oversees the trade center site's redevelopment.

Leaders in Gov. Eliot Spitzer's administration worked out a compromise last year, to separate the stairs from their concrete base and install them at the Sept. 11 memorial.

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EDITORIAL

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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

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

It is time to get Health Fair 2008 booths lined up

It has oft been noted that nothing is as important as one's health. Adages on the subject abound. And for good reason, because anything else, with the exception of one's spiritual condition, pales in comparison.

Unfortunately, far too many of us fall woefully short of being conscientious when it comes to making sure we're in good health. We're too busy, we believe, to schedule a doctor's appointment for a check up.

Worse still, in some cases we ignore symptoms of potentially life-threatening conditions.

That's why it's important that we all make plans to take advantage of free health screenings that will be offered on April 12 at Health Fair 2008.

Doors to Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. that day and there will be numerous booths supplying free screenings and information.

The theme for this year's fair is "A Gold Medal for Good Health." Booth spaces are now available. The 10x10 booths are \$80, and corporate sponsorships for this, the 26th annual edition of the Health Fair are still available.

Corporate sponsors for the fair to date include Alon USA, H-E-B, Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, Parkplace Retirement/Parkview Nursing and Rehab, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Warren Chiropractic Center, West Texas Centers for MHMR and West Texas VA Health Care Systems.

To reserve a booth or lock in a corporate sponsorship, contact Debbye ValVerde, executive director of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, at 263-7641.

The partial list of screenings available include: blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, PSAs, Pulse/Ox testing and weight. Fluoride treatment for children will also be available, as well DNA identification kits for children.

In addition, Dimple the Clown will again make an appearance at the fair and will provide fun for children of all ages.

We encourage everyone — from our community's healthcare professionals to the average man, woman or child on the street — to make plans to be involved that weekend and pay a little attention to healthy living.

It just might be the best and most important fun you've ever had.

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.
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- 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

*You, Lord, can not do enough for us when we trust in You.
Amen*

MSM Gods, Hillary and McCain

Memo to former mainstream-media darling John McCain: I hope you are paying close attention to the MSM's palpable favoritism toward Barack Obama because we haven't seen anything yet. You think *The New York Times* was an exception? Just wait. I urge you to review the tape of the Ohio Democratic debate from Tuesday night.



DAVID LIMBAUGH

In one sequence after another, Brian Williams and Tim Russert took proactive roles in the debate, playing "gotcha" mostly against Hillary Clinton instead of facilitating a debate between the candidates.

"So what?" MSM apologists might say. "This isn't a high school debate where we are trying to pick the best debater. This isn't about fairness to the candidates. The purpose is to elicit the most information from the candidates and test them under fire so the voters can make the most informed decision."

Yes, but when the moderators team up against one of the two candidates, the dynamics change. It's hard not to be defensive when everyone in the room who's talking is against you. That's difficult to overcome psychologically.

It reminds me of certain jury trials I've witnessed where the trial judge was noticeably prejudiced against one side and projected his feelings — in body language, words and attitude — to the jury. The less-favored litigant had little chance. And it was outrageously improper.

Even if you think it's acceptable for the moderators to abandon neutrality, surely you don't think it's OK for them to start debating

the candidates themselves. Are they running for something? The Smartest Guys in the Room Award, perhaps?

To be fair, Hillary brought some of this on herself by showcasing her most annoying side during the initial laborious exchange on health care, when she just wouldn't yield the floor. "I have to respond to that because this is not just any issue. Ö Brian, wait a minute. I've got — this is too important."

If Williams' and Russert's taking sides after that was just payback for Hillary's refusal to play by the rules, it would be one thing. But they had most of their questions planned in advance.

For example, Russert, with his tough-interviewer's hat on instead of his moderator beanie, pressed Hillary about her "economic blueprint in Wisconsin," where she pledged to create five million jobs over 10 years. He essentially asked her if she was blowing smoke considering that she had breached her 2000 campaign promise to create 200,000 jobs for upstate New York, where there was a net loss of 30,000 jobs.

Isn't that something Obama should be bringing out rather than Russert? It seemed to me this kind of thing went on all night, with far more of it being directed at Hillary than Barack.

Obama outclassed Clinton in form and presentation by a country mile. And while Hillary mostly did well on substance, where she utterly blew it was when Brian Williams invited her reaction to a video clip of her lampooning Obama's unity theme. In the clip, she says, "The sky will open, the light will come down, celestial choirs will be singing, and everyone will know we should do the right thing and the world will be perfect."

(When I heard Hillary sat that, I

fantasized for a moment that she might be channeling me since I had advised her in a previous column to challenge Obama on his ludicrous promises to bring unity while implementing the most liberal agenda in recent memory.)

To me, this is the one place Obama is vulnerable to a Hillary attack: his lack of realism, bordering on outright deception. She certainly has no credibility to attack his robust liberalism.

But instead of going after him on this, Hillary shrunk away from it as if she had been caught on tape in a dirty trick. Hillary said, "Well, I was having a little fun. You know, it's hard to find time to have fun on the campaign trail, but occasionally you can sneak that in."

Bull. She wasn't trying to have fun. She was showcasing the absurdity of Obama's feigned messiahship and hitting him in the jugular. But under pressure and outside the comfort zone of her own campaign rally, she didn't have the courage to follow through and call him on his utopian nonsense.

I'm not sure it would have done any good, but the cards were stacked against her anyway, so what did she have to lose?

This is all ominous for John McCain because there is a common contributing factor in his and Hillary's previous electoral successes: They were both greatly aided by favorable MSM treatment. But that was then.

The unspoken message from the MSM to Hillary and McCain, to borrow from Bill Cosby, is: "We brought you into this world, and we can take you out."

To find out more about David Limbaugh, visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com.

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Wow! What a charter school!

One of the greatest life changers is a college education. For so many young people, college is a vehicle that allows them to reinvent themselves in the image of their own dreams. It also empowers them to become assets to their families and contributors to their communities. But many young people are precluded from higher education, not because someone is standing at the university door barring their admission, but because they didn't receive the most basic academic foundation that elementary school should have provided. In New York, one of a number of schools addressing that lack of preparation is the Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant, which serves minority students from low-income families who live in some of Brooklyn's most economically depressed neighborhoods.



MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

Modeled after other high performing institutions, Excellence Charter School opened in 2004 as an all-boys school dedicated to developing the knowledge, character and leadership skills that students need to thrive both academically and as "honorable citizens and courageous leaders." Students at Excellence are taught that through hard work they can achieve anything. The school currently has 220 boys in grades K-4. Each year an additional kindergarten class will be added until the school includes grades K-8 by school year 2011-12. Significant resources have been marshaled to enable Excellence students to reach the school's high expectations. The students attend a longer than average school day, from 7:30

a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and they benefit from small classes as well as a Saturday Tutoring Academy and a summer remediation program. A prime ingredient of the school's success is its corps of highly qualified teachers. Excellence employs a rigorous screening process to select teachers who are committed to urban education and bridging the achievement gap. Teachers typically stay late to prepare for the next day's classes and many tutor students on Saturdays and after school.

The heart of the school's curriculum is its emphasis on reading and mathematics. Each day, every student has three hours of language

arts instruction (phonics, reading comprehension and writing). Parents must sign a daily log book to certify that their child has completed his homework and that he has read with the family for at least 20 minutes. The goal is to develop a love of reading and a desire to pursue independent reading after school. The students also have two classes of mathematics each day, and Excellence works on helping them reach their full potential in the areas of leadership, creativity, team work and self-expression. A sense of responsibility for one's community is established early as fourth grade big brother/mentors are paired with second graders, and third-graders are similarly paired with first-graders.

Excellence provides a safe haven from negative social pressures and stereotypes. It is a place where it's "cool" to be smart and excited about learning. The school's teachers and staff are reliable and consistent adults who provide support, guidance, tutoring and encouragement — especially to those students who need a refuge from an abusive family life. Each week ends with a Friday Community Meeting where stu-

dents celebrate their accomplishments. Here they can shine as they sing songs, recite poems, share what they've learned and exhibit exceptional school work. The students also perform a skit each week that demonstrates and reinforces one of the eight core values of the Excellence School — scholarship, brotherhood, honesty, justice, respect, hope, courage and love. At the meeting, the Spirit Stick is presented to the student who best exemplifies the goals and values of Excellence. He then has the honor and responsibility of carrying the Spirit Stick throughout the week and serving as a role model to the other students.

Excellence's success is measurable. Last year, the third-graders were the first in the school to take the standardized New York State Math and Language Arts Exams. Their performance was superb. Ninety-two percent of the students earned advanced or proficient scores in language arts, and 100 percent in math. Excellence Charter School is clearly a model that works. It is an antidote to the dysfunctional approaches to education in too many schools around the country. It has taken a few basic components — quality teachers, a strong curriculum, character development, high expectations for performance and incentives for achievement. This model must be replicated in thousands of school districts in depressed urban and rural communities. Our political decision makers seem to have no problem finding the money and resources to reproduce juvenile detention centers. Why not reproduce programs that help develop our children into strong, self-sufficient, contributing adults?

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund and its Action Council.

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Secret is out

Suzuki SX4 Crossover most fun, affordable all-wheel-drive compact

The 2008 Suzuki SX4 Crossover is without question the most fun-to-drive, affordable all-wheel drive compact vehicle on the road today.

It's really unfortunate that few people know about it.

While it was introduced for the 2007 model year, this week marked the first time I had the chance to log seat time behind the wheel.

My initial impression is the SX4 has to be the best-kept secret in the auto industry because if the general public knew what a great vehicle this is, the nation's highways would be filled with them.

The SX4 Crossover is the ideal commuter vehicle. It's peppy, nimble, turns on a dime, provides

lots of visibility and the five-door design provides quite a bit of flexibility for cargo options.

Best of all, it has a base price of \$15,270. That's \$15,270 for a nicely equipped, five-passenger, all-wheel drive vehicle

that comes with a 7-year/100,000-mile, fully transferable, zero-deductible powertrain warranty.

Did I mention the SX4 turns on a dime? It has also moved up to the No. 1 position

on my "Easiest Vehicle to Park in a Crowded Parking Lot" category. While it's not one of those highly coveted awards manufacturers buy commercial time to promote, it does mean a lot to those of us who believe parking shouldn't be a full-time job.

I am so impressed with the SX4 Crossover, I actually found people to take



The 2008 Suzuki SX4 Crossover

on a demonstration ride because I absolutely believe people need to see this vehicle.

Out of 10 people I took for a test drive, not one had ever heard (let alone recognized) the SX4 Crossover.

All, however, were very impressed with its capabilities, ride and handling. And they were absolutely blown away when I told them how much it cost.

The SX4 Crossover comes in one content-packed trim level with two optional packages — Convenience and Touring.

It is powered by a spirited 2.0-liter I-4 engine (143 horsepower/136 lbs.-ft. torque) and is mated to either a five-speed manual or four-speed automatic transmission. Requiring regular

unleaded gasoline and rated as a Low Emissions Vehicle, it has an EPA fuel economy rating of 21 mpg city, 28 mpg highway.

Active safety features include daytime running lights, four-wheel disc brakes with ABS and electronic brake force distribution and tire pressure monitoring system. Passive safety features include six standard airbags and LATCH child seat anchor system, among others.

The base model is loaded with equipment, including power locks, mirrors and windows, remote keyless entry, air conditioning, premium audio system, trip co-

See **WHEELS**, Page 6A

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The Pinkerton Law Firm, PLLC recently resolved over 150 personal injury claims related to the BP explosion that occurred in Texas City, Texas, with clients recovering extraordinary monetary awards and/or settlements. The Pinkerton Law Firm, PLLC has the experience and track record to prosecute your claim to the maximum extent possible under the law.

If you were there, you may have a claim for physical and/or emotional injuries. Time is of the essence to preserve your claim.

Dear New Client:

I am an experienced attorney in the area of industrial accidents. I have recovered millions of dollars for my clients who were injured in incidents similar to that for which your community has recently endured. My track record is impeccable. I believe that I understand what your particular community is going through right now. I am a resident of Houston, Texas, and felt the emotional trauma caused by the BP explosion that occurred in my community in March of 2005. Although I live in Houston, Texas, I pride myself on being a West Texan. I spent much of my youth on my grandfather's farm in Hedley, Texas. Growing up on the farm, I was taught the values you live by. Because of that, I too live by those values today. Those values include being self-sufficient, hard-working, honorable and trustworthy. In addition, those values sometimes include being non-litigious, a value I understand and respect, but also have found to be detrimental under certain circumstances.

If you were injured by this blast, our system of law has but one remedy—money damages. That is how our system works and it has worked for hundreds of years. It is your absolute, sovereign right to bring a lawsuit to protect your interests if you were injured in this explosion. You may have been injured by the direct impact of the blast or flames. You may have been emotionally traumatized by the events of that tragic day. You may have been injured escaping from the disaster area in an attempt to save your life. You may have been injured trying to rescue others. For any of these injuries, and many others, you may have a claim for money damages. I contend that it is your duty to yourself, your family and your community to bring your claim into our justice system—and allow the system to work for you, your family, and your community. I would respectfully suggest to you that it is in your best interest to contact an attorney who has the experience, know-how, and wherewithal to handle a claim like this. I believe that person is me. But, even if you do not contact me, contact someone. As always, I remain,

Very truly yours,
Chad Pinkerton

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Inside Big Spring Pack and Ship

Recruiting depot explodes; none injured **WHEELS**

By **DEREK ROSE**

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — An explosive device caused minor damage to an empty military recruiting station in Times Square early Thursday, shaking guests in hotel rooms high above “the crossroads of the world.”

Police blocked off the area to investigate the explosion, which occurred at about 3:45 a.m. No one was injured. The blast left a gaping hole in the front window and shattered a glass door, twisting and blackening its metal frame.

“If it is something that’s directed toward

American troops than it’s something that’s taken very seriously and is pretty unfortunate,” said Army Capt. Charlie Jaquillard, who is the commander of Army recruiting in Manhattan.

He said no one was inside the station, where the Marines, Air Force and Navy also recruit.

Witnesses staying at a Marriott hotel four blocks away said they could feel the building shake with the blast.

“I was up on the 44th floor and I could feel it. It was a big bang,” said Darla Peck, 25, of Portland, Oregon.

“It shook the building. I

thought it could have been thunder, but I looked down and there was a massive plume of smoke so I knew it was an explosion,” said Terry Leighton, 48, of London, who was staying on the 21st floor of the Marriott.

Members of the police department’s bomb squad and fire officials gathered outside the station in the early morning darkness, and police cars and yellow tape blocked drivers — most of them behind the wheels of taxicabs — from entering one of the world’s busiest crossroads. Police began allowing some traffic through around the start of rush

hour.

Though subway cars passed through the Times Square station without stopping in the early hours of the investigation, normal service was soon restored, with some delays.

The recruiting station, located on a traffic island surrounded by Broadway theaters and chain restaurants, has occasionally been the site of anti-war demonstrations, ranging from silent vigils to loud rallies.

In October 2005, a group of activists who call themselves the Granny Peace Brigade rallied there against the Iraq war.

Continued from Page 5A

muter and roof rails. The Convenience package (\$500) adds automatic climate control, heated side mirrors, cruise control and leather-wrapped steering wheel with audio controls. The Touring package (\$1,100) adds electronic stability program with traction control, SmartPass keyless entry and keyless start, ultra premium

audio system, rear spoiler and fog lamps.

For anyone who commutes, the SX4 Crossover is an absolute must test drive.

The secret ends here.

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@wax-ahachiedaily.com.

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THURSDAY

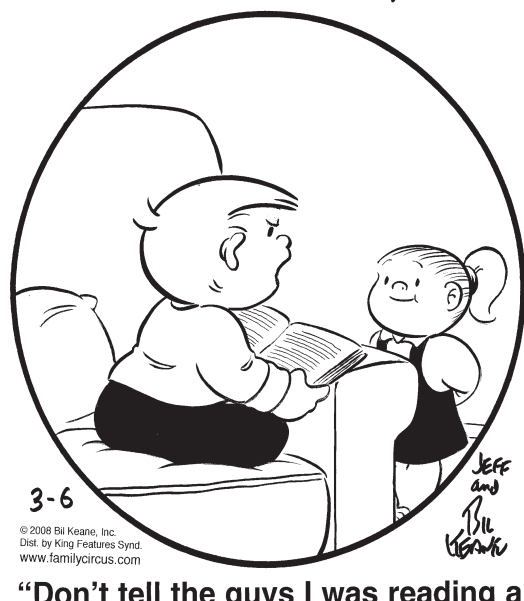
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCIFI (64) Science Fic.
6:PM :30	News (CC) Entertainment	Jeopardy! Wheel-Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	The Simpsons Two-Half Men	News Entertainment	12 Corazones	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Joe McGee John Hagee	News-Lehrer	Bone Detectives		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	NBA Basketball:	Live (CC) Black Carpet	Han, Montana Zack & Cody	College Basketball:	College Basketball:	Trek: First Contact
7:PM :30	Lost (CC)	Lost (CC)	Al Diabolo con Los Guapos	American Idol (CC)	Survivor: Fans vs. Favorites	La Traicion	The Office (CC)	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Update Israel Sid Roth	Divo: Live at the Greek	How It's Made How It's Made	Movie: Sniper (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Cleveland Cavaliers at Chicago Bulls NBA	College Hill: Reunion	Movie: Cadet Kelly (CC)	Clemson at Georgia Tech	Connecticut at Providence	
8:PM :30	Lost (CC)	Lost (CC)	Pasion	New Amsterdam	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Victoria	The Celebrity Apprentice	Movie: Secondhand	Light of the Southwest	Broadway's	Dirty Jobs		TNA IMPACT!	Chicago Bulls NBA	Wild 'n Out Wild 'n Out		College Basketball:	College Basketball:	Movie: Stargate
9:PM :30	Eli Stone (CC)	Eli Stone (CC)	Amas de Casa Desesperadas	TMZ (CC) Raymond	Without a Trace (CC)	Pecados Ajenos	Lipstick Jungle (CC)	Lions (CC)		Best at Pops (CC)	Dirty Jobs	Breaking Bad (CC)		Basketball: Rockets at Mavericks	Com.-Presents Life Derek	That's-Raven Han, Montana	Michigan State at Illinois	Xavier at St. Joseph's	
10:PM :30	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	Two-Half Men Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias Mas Vale	News Tonight Show	Sex and-City Sex and-City	Update Israel Jack Van Impe	Charlie Rose (CC)	Bone Detectives	Movie: Iron Eagle (CC)	Pros vs. Joes (CC)	Mavericks	Malcolm-Eddie Malcolm-Eddie	Zack & Cody Han, Montana	Gamenight Mix Tape Tour	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie:
11:PM :30	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Letterman Late Late	Tarde Decisiones de	Late Night-Conan O'Brien	:10 Movie: Scary Movie 2	Betty Swann Y. Salamandra	Tavis Smiley Tavis Smiley	How It's Made How It's Made		MANswers MANswers	Inside the NBA (CC)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Replacements Kim Possible	NASCAR Now 2007 World Series of Poker 2007 World	Gamenight NBA Fastbreak SportsCenter (CC)	Bloodsuckers
12:AM :30	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Lighthouse	Salome (SS)	Reno 911! George Lopez	The Insider	Famosos Programa	Conan O'Brien News	Update Israel Light-World	Update Israel Light-World	Sign Off	Dirty Jobs	Breaking Bad	MXC Whacked Out	Without a Trace (CC)	Comicview (CC)	Emperor New American Drgn			Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



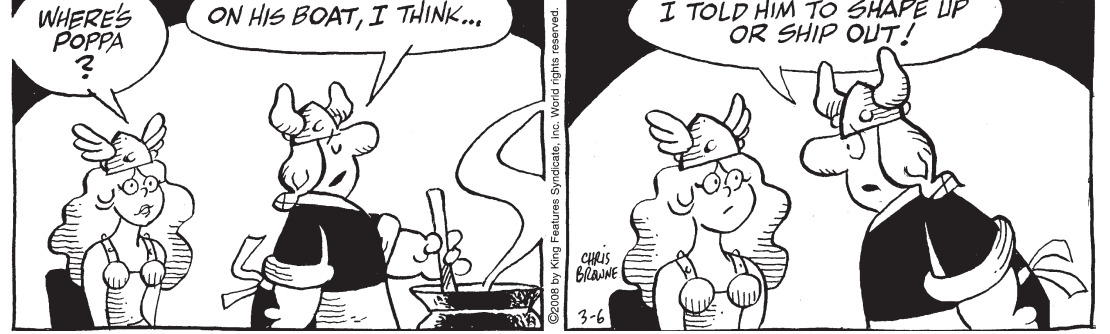
"LET THE EATING BEGIN... ATTILA THE HUNGRY HAS ARRIVED."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

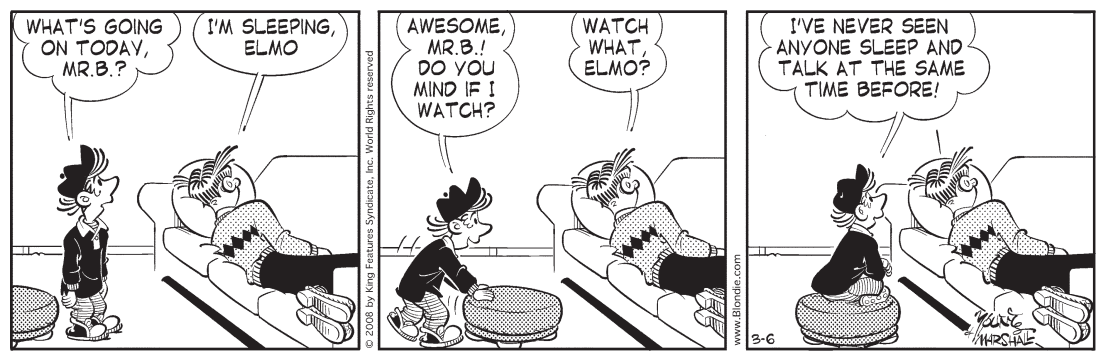


"Don't tell the guys I was reading a Baby-Sitters Club book!"

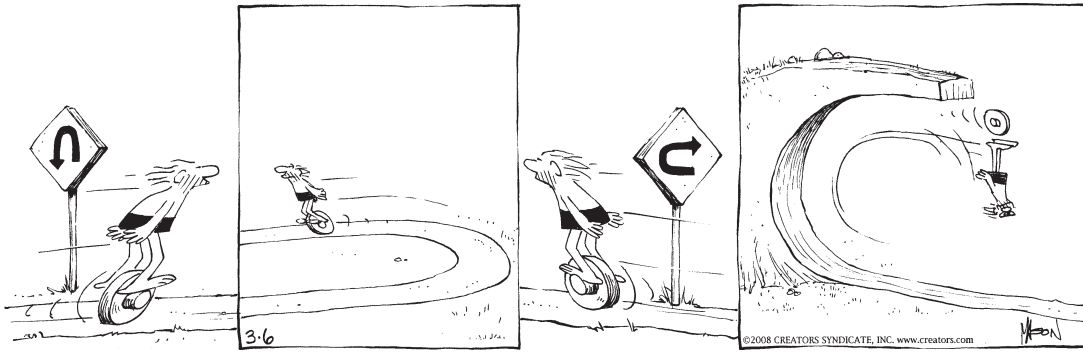
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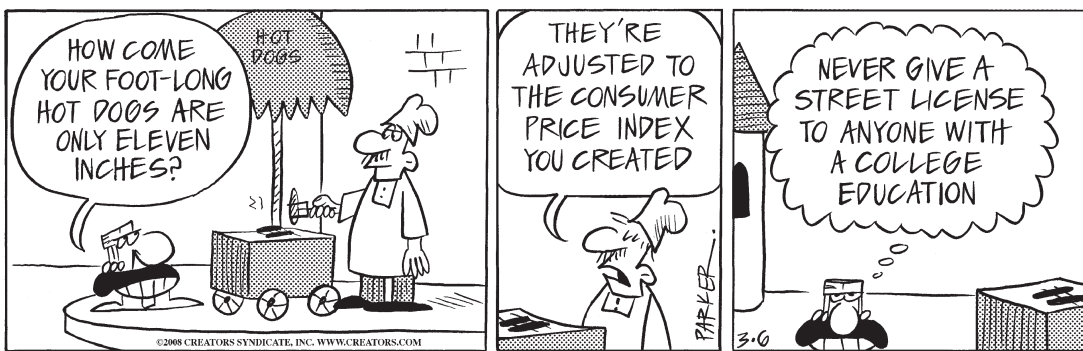
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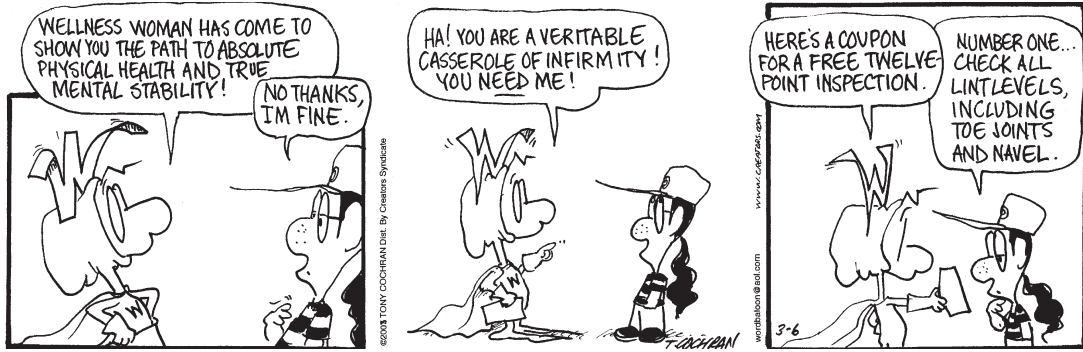
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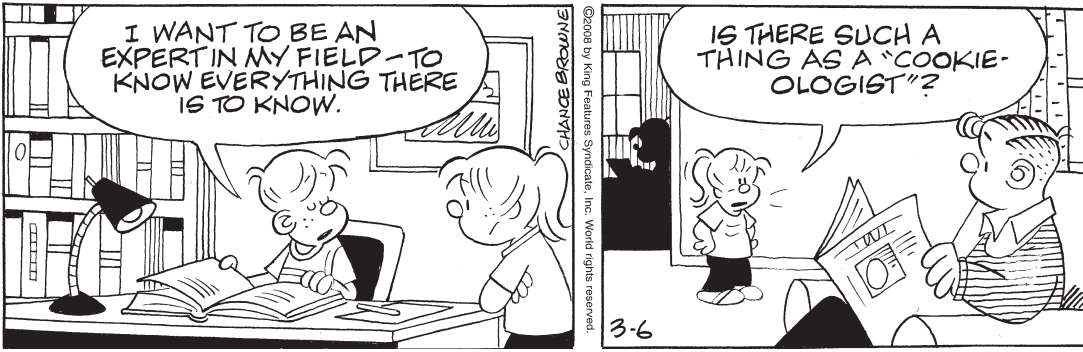
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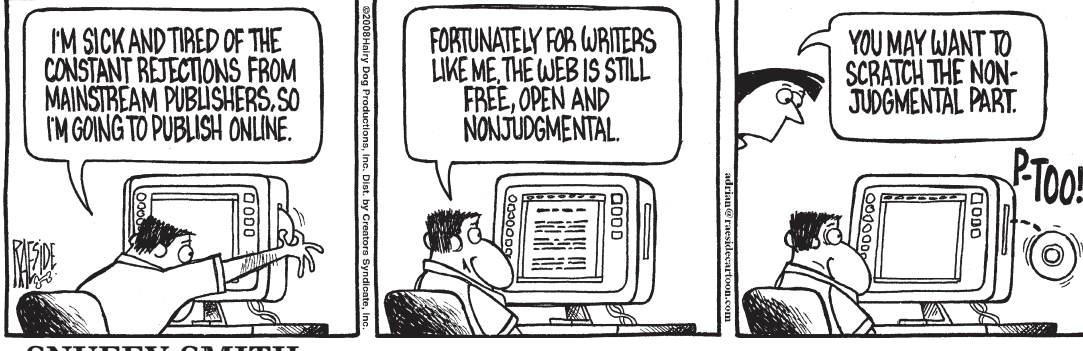
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, March 6, the 66th day of 2008. There are 300 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On March 6, 1857, the United States Supreme Court ruled in Dred Scott v. Sandford that Scott, a slave, was not a U.S. citizen and could not sue for his freedom in federal court.

On this date:

In 1834, the city of York in Upper Canada was incorporated as Toronto.

In 1836, the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, fell to Mexican forces after a 13-day siege.

In 1853, Verdi's opera "La Traviata" premiered in Venice, Italy.

In 1933, a nationwide bank holiday declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt went into effect.

In 1935, retired Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. died in

Washington.

In 1944, U.S. heavy bombers staged the first full-scale American raid on Berlin during World War II.

In 1957, the former British African colonies of the Gold Coast and Togoland became the independent state of Ghana.

In 1967, the daughter of Josef Stalin, Svetlana Alliluyeva, appeared at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India, and declared her intention to defect to the West.

In 1983, in a case that drew much notoriety, a young woman was gang-raped atop a pool table in a tavern in New Bedford, Mass., called Big Dan's; four men were later convicted of the attack.

In 1988, the board of trustees at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., a liberal arts college for the deaf, selected Elisabeth Zinser, a hearing woman, to be school president. (Outraged students shut down the campus, forcing selection of a deaf president, I. King Jordan, instead.)

Today's Birthdays:

Orchestra conductor Julius Rudel is 87. TV personality Ed McMahon is 85. Former FBI and CIA director William Webster is 84. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan is 82. Author Gabriel Garcia Marquez is 81. Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova is 71. Country singer Doug Dillard is 71. Sen. Christopher Bond, R-Mo., is 69. Actress-writer Joanna Miles is 68. Actor Ben Murphy is 66. Opera singer Dame Kiri Te Kanawa is 64. Singer Mary Wilson (The Supremes) is 64. Rock musician Hugh Grundy (The Zombies) is 63.

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Answer to previous puzzle

SCRAM	SHAM	ABCS
OLIVE	CEDE	IRON
WATER	COLOR	RAVI
SPA	GARP	LIFTED
FERN	RIPOSTE	
JURIST	DONOR	
APER	EBAV	SCENT
COPE	LAMAS	ERIE
KNOCK	YELP	OILS
RACES	LANCEIT	
ASSAYED	MATE	
SAUCER	POSE	IMP
HUCK	EARTH	ANGEL
ETRE	ALOT	SPORE
SEER	LIMO	ERRIED

Newsday Crossword

NO SURPRISES by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Some investing stats
 - 7 Arch sites
 - 11 Sat in session
 - 14 Hillary Clinton, vis-à-vis Yale
 - 15 Capital on a fjord
 - 16 Smelter input
 - 17 Desired heart rate
 - 19 Metal in an Oscar
 - 20 ___ out a living
 - 21 "You've got mail" co.
 - 22 Bounced back
 - 24 Spruce up
 - 26 Run on TV
 - 27 Ones rounded up for questioning
 - 33 Chair repairer, maybe
 - 35 Singer Redding
 - 36 "-hoo!"
 - 37 Many paintings
 - 38 Get hitched again
 - 40 Bus. school subj.
 - 41 Singleton
 - 42 Plot size, perhaps
 - 43 Add up
 - 44 Given to everyone
 - 48 Get-up-and-go
 - 49 Monopoly card
 - 50 Take over
 - 53 Angler's need
 - 54 Flow back
 - 57 Chaney, Sr. or Jr.
- DOWN**
- 8 Immigrant's subj.
 - 9 Otherwise
 - 10 Boot reinforcements
 - 11 Roofless vehicle
 - 12 Euclid's lake
 - 13 Watch over
 - 18 Steno's place
 - 23 Hightail it
 - 25 Andorra's cont.
 - 27 Like matzoh
 - 28 Scattered, on the farm
 - 29 Beehive State
 - 30 Funny Caesar
 - 31 Hammer or sickle
 - 32 Magnavox competitor
 - 33 Dove calls
 - 34 "If it ___ broke . . ."
 - 38 Magnavox competitor
 - 39 Go wrong
 - 40 Brandy
 - 42 Fleet leader
 - 43 Philosopher Lao-__
 - 45 Quick drink
 - 46 Teen fave
 - 47 Roomy autos
 - 50 Ribs serving
 - 51 Mail bag
 - 52 Pianist Peter
 - 53 Uncouth
 - 55 Elliot title character
 - 56 Raised, as dogs
 - 59 Jazzman's job
 - 60 Go bad
 - 61 ___-relief

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