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APRIL 26, 2007



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Board member should resign, Thomason says

*Others contend mayoral hopeful
doesn't have his facts straight*

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Mayoral candidate Shannon Thomason called for the resignation of Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. Board of Directors member Raul Marquez Wednesday, citing claims that Marquez "has a considerable amount of unpaid property taxes."



Shannon Thomason

Thomason issued a press release Wednesday morning, calling Marquez's appointment to the Moore Board "unbelievable."

"It is unbelievable that the mayor and council would approve Mr. Marquez's appointment to the board of directors of Moore Development," said Thomason's release. "While I believe that Mr. Marquez probably does have the best interests of the Big Spring business community at heart, his inability or unwillingness to pay his property taxes don't speak well of his ability to oversee the spending of the taxpayers' money."

"As such, I believe that Mr. Marquez should do the honorable thing and resign from the board. That being said though, the ultimate responsibility for appointing a delinquent taxpayer to the Moore Board falls squarely on the shoulders of Mayor McEwen and the council."

According to the Howard County Tax Assessor's Office, Marquez

"As for Mr. Thomason attacking me to get at one of his opponents in the election, Mayor McEwen, I think it's just a really low-down blow. I've never seen anyone do this."



Raul Marquez

currently owes \$97,440 on property located at 1010 N. Lamesa Highway.

"The taxes owed on the property date back over 20 years and two separate lawsuits have been filed against Mr. Marquez in district court in an attempt to recover the unpaid taxes," Thomason claimed in his release.

However, local attorney Drew Mouton, who handles delinquent tax cases for Howard County's taxing entities, said Thomason's description of the situation is anything but accurate.

"The tax situation should not be disparaging to Raul Marquez," said Mouton. "The property he owes the \$97,440 on was deeded to him and five other relatives, and at the time it was deeded, the back taxes owed on it were a great deal more than it was worth. It's not fair at all to blame him for this."

Mouton said he and the attorney representing Marquez and his five brothers, who are all named in the delinquent tax suit, are in the process of remedying the case.

"Their attorney has expressed a desire to deed the property to the taxing entities in lieu of foreclosure," said Mouton. "So that's where we're at with this."

Thomason also alluded to a second tax suit filed against Marquez, a situation Mouton said was cleared in March.

See MARQUEZ, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Howard County Volunteer Fire Department personnel battle a fire at a West Texas Gas Co. plant east of Vealmoor Wednesday morning. No injuries were reported in the blaze.



Drew Mouton,

"It is my opinion as an attorney that Mr. Marquez has handled these matters and done the honorable thing in every case."

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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.

Ambra Cole and Erin Griffin perform a dance routine during practice for "The Audition," a production to be staged by the Howard College Fine Arts Department Friday and Saturday at the Hall Center for the Arts on the HC campus. See article, Page 3A.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Board approves \$3 million letter of intent for Settles development company

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The board of directors for Moore Development voted unanimously in favor of a \$3 million letter of intent Wednesday night, as they moved forward with funding for the Settles Hotel

Development Company and efforts to renovate the historic structure.

After more than two hours in executive session, the board members emerged from the Moore Development conference room with a document

See SETTLES, Page 3A

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Page 1B
Thursday, April 26, 2007

IN BRIEF

Cancer scramble set for weekend

The 2007 Cancer Scramble has been scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at the Big Spring Country Club.

Players can form their own teams for the 4-person scramble or be assigned to a team. The field will be flighted by first round scores.

Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third-place teams in each flight.

Entry fees are \$75 per player, plus a \$20 cart fee. Private carts are welcome.

For more information, call the country club at 267-5354.

Forsan schedules date for banquet

Forsan High School's All-Sports Banquet will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, May 7, at the high school.

Tickets, priced at \$10 each, are available at the high school office and must be purchased by Thursday, May 3.

For more information, contact Debbie Burton at 457-2223.

Relay for Life ragball tournament slated

The Relay for Life Ragball Tournament has been scheduled for May 12-13 at Big Spring High School's Lady Steers Softball Field.

Teams will consist of five male and five female players. Entry fees are \$10 per player.

Registration is set for 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 12, with the first game of the tournament set to start at 11 that morning.

Howard to host Region V tourney

Howard College's Foundation Field will be site for the NJCAA Region V Softball Tournament to be held May 5-6.

The top four teams from the WJCAC will qualify for double elimination tournament play, with the winner advancing to the NJCAA National Tournament in Plant City, Fla., May 17-19.

Guys & Gals Tourney scheduled at BSCC

A Guys & Gals Couples Tournament has been scheduled for May 4-6 at the Big Spring Country Club.

Entry fees for the two-person scramble are \$130 per couple, plus \$40 cart fee per team.

To enter, call the country club at 267-5354.

Teenage baseball league to begin

The Big Spring Teen Baseball league is now looking for coaches or anyone willing to help with the league this season.

If interested, call Randy Phillips at 264-6600 or 517-0399.

Baseball umpires needed for season

The Big Spring Umpires Association is looking for individuals interested in umpiring baseball for the 2007 Little League season.

If interested, call Bradley Garrison at 213-1300.

HC to honor Bill Griffin Friday

By CINDY SMITH

Special to the Herald



GRIFFIN

Bill Griffin, who led Howard College's Hawks to the 1991 NJCAA national baseball championship, will be honored for his induction into the Western Junior College Athletic Conference Hall of Fame during a ceremony set for 11:30 a.m. Friday at Jack Barber Field.

"We are proud to have Coach

Griffin return to his home field and let us honor him for this outstanding career achievement," Howard College President Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks said. "He has done so much for Howard College baseball and his WJCAC Hall of Fame induction as a member of the class of 2007 is

certainly deserved."

Griffin, who was inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame in 1983, while serving as Howard's head baseball coach, compiled a lifetime record of 986-405 and a lifetime winning percentage of .708.

During his tenure at Howard College, from 1982 to 1991, he led the program to 347 wins, two conference crowns, two regional titles and a state championship in addition to the 1991 national

championship.

Following Friday's ceremony, a hot dog lunch will be available for purchase while Coach Britt Smith and the Hawk baseball team take on Western Texas College in a doubleheader beginning at noon.

Anyone needing additional information about Friday's activities can call 264-5034 or visit the Howard College website at www.howardcollege.edu.

Mavs win evens series

Terry does it all in leading Dallas to 112-99 victory

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Jason Terry takes pride in being the energetic leader of the Dallas Mavericks, the guy whose actions set the tone for the entire team.

It can come from diving for the first loose ball of the game. Or from hitting the go-ahead basket and following with a crucial three-point play. And it certainly can come from keeping his cool when opponents are losing theirs.

Terry did it all Wednesday night, along with scoring 28 points, leading the Mavericks to a 112-99 victory over the Golden State Warriors and tying the series at one game apiece.

"We came out tonight with passion," he said. "That's what was really lacking (in Game 1). Going back and really thinking about that first game, we just didn't have that air about us, that we're in the playoffs and we were excited to be there. That's the kind of energy we have to bring night in and night out."

Dallas had lost six straight to Golden State dating to last season. The Mavericks' search for a skid-buster included a new, smaller starting lineup in Game 1, but that only resulted in a 12-point loss.

So coach Avery Johnson went back to the formula that won 67 games in the regular season and saw his club back in synch from the start. The center tandem of Erick Dampier and DeSagana Diop proved they can hold their own against Golden State's little guys, and sixth man Jerry

Stackhouse bounced back from a scoreless opener with 17 points.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 23 points and Josh Howard had 22 points and 11 rebounds. Dallas broke the game open with a 15-2 run in the third quarter.

"Everybody talked about the Xs and Os and the decision Avery made to go smaller, but it really wasn't that," Stackhouse said. "It was just the fact we didn't compete. I thought we came out and really competed tonight for 48 minutes and the game went in our favor."

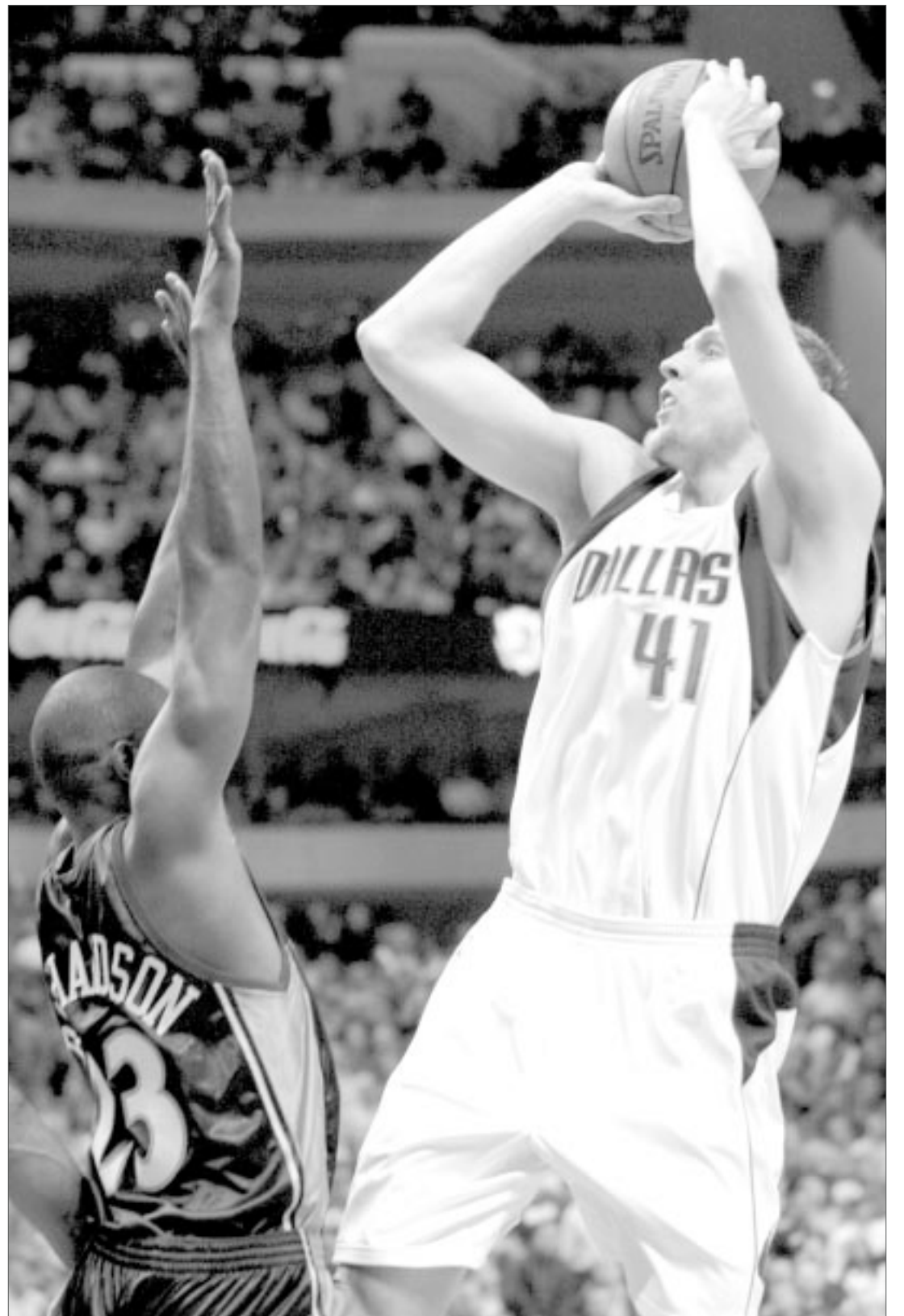
Then again, it was easier with the Warriors' two best players getting ejected.

Baron Davis was tossed with 0.2 seconds left in the third quarter and Stephen Jackson was lost with 4:34 left in the game. Golden State already was trailing when the technical fouls started piling up.

"We're not good enough to lose a player to an ejection, much less two," Warriors coach Don Nelson said. "It hurt us when we lost Baron. I thought we had a shot at the time. It wasn't to be."

The Warriors certainly won't be unhinged by this loss, just their second in the last 12 games. Nelson won't allow it. He's kept his club loose, telling everyone they were lucky to win the opener and that there was a better chance of him being hit by lightning than of his team winning Game 2. His task now will be harnessing Jackson and Davis' emotions when the series shifts to Oakland for Game 3 on Friday night.

Davis and Jackson got their first technicals on the same play during



MCT photo/Ron Jenkins/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki shoots over Golden State's Jason Richardson in the first half during their NBA playoff game Wednesday at the American Airlines Center in Dallas.

Dallas' game-breaking run in the third quarter. Terry dribbled into Jackson, drawing a foul, then kept going into Davis. Words were exchanged and three technicals were issued to try

calming everyone down. Davis got another tech, and an automatic ejection, for arguing about a foul with 0.2 seconds left in the third quarter. He was smiling and clapping at the time, which he said

was to keep his teammates' spirits up. "I wasn't trying to show up the refs," he said. "I was trying to keep my emotions in check."

See MAVS, Page 2B

Indians knock off Rangers in 11 innings

CLEVELAND (AP) — With the strikeouts piling up, Jhonny Peralta figured he might as well swing away, too.

Peralta hit the first pitch he saw for a game-winning RBI single with one out in the 11th inning to give the Cleveland Indians an 8-7 victory Wednesday night over the Texas Rangers, who fanned out a team-record 19 times.

"I was going to swing at anything," Peralta said. "I put it in play and it found a hole."

Victor Martinez doubled down the right-field line to open the 11th off Willie Eyre (1-1) and took third on Kelly Shoppach's ground single to center. After Jason Michaels struck out, Peralta, in a 3-for-36 (.091) slump, hit a grounder just out of the reach of diving third baseman Hank Blalock to drive in Martinez for the win.

Fernando Cabrera (1-0), the last of seven Cleveland pitchers, struck out five over two innings

for the win.

"Fernando pitched well with the game on the line," said Indians manager Eric Wedge, who didn't realize how many strikeouts his pitchers had.

"We struck out 19 guys?" he said. "This was not your usual run-of-the-mill ballgame."

The teams combined for 32 Ks. The Rangers' Blalock and Brad Wilkerson fanned four times apiece and Grady Sizemore went down on strikes three times for Cleveland.

"I don't know what led to that," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "You don't like to see it, but that many strikeouts doesn't bother me at all. We still could have won the game."

Indians starter C.C. Sabathia fanned eight over six innings, leaving with a 6-5 lead.

But Joe Borowski blew a save for the first time in 10 chances. The right-hander yielded an RBI double to Michael Young with two outs in the ninth that tied it

at 7.

"It hurts to battle back like that and lose at the end," Young said. "We have to be more consistent. You can't pat yourself on the back for coming back if you didn't play well the first two innings."

Sammy Sosa and Ian Kinsler each had three RBIs for Texas.

Second baseman Kinsler's error helped Cleveland score four unearned runs in a five-run second inning off Vicente Padilla.

With the bases loaded and one out, Shin-Soo Choo sent a grounder to Kinsler, who tried to tag Peralta running from first, but missed.

Kinsler then threw wildly to first, sending Choo to second and Peralta to third as Ryan Garko and Trot Nixon scored to make it 2-0.

"It was an inexperienced mistake," Washington said. "He'll learn from it. If he gets one out there, that's OK. He'll make that

play the next time."

Peralta scored on a groundout by Josh Barfield and Sizemore singled home Choo. Sizemore then stole second and scored on a single up the middle by Casey Blake.

The five-run inning was Cleveland's largest since the Indians scored five in the first inning of the season opener April 2 in Chicago.

Travis Hafner's RBI single in the fourth made it 6-0.

Kinsler keyed the Rangers' comeback with a three-run homer in the sixth, his eighth of the season. Sosa added a two-run double high off the left-field wall later in the sixth. Washington argued with third-base umpire Dale Scott that it was a homer. TV replays showed the ball hit the yellow home-run line atop the wall.

About an inch higher, and Sosa would have become the first player to homer in 44 major-league stadiums.

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ANSWERS

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4	9	7	3	1	2	6	8	5
2	6	1	8	5	9	4	7	3
5	8	4	2	7	6	9	3	1
1	2	3	9	8	4	7	5	6
9	7	6	5	3	1	2	4	8
7	4	5	1	9	3	8	6	2
6	3	9	7	2	8	5	1	4
8	1	2	6	4	5	3	9	7

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
A complex and melodic cacophony of the senses bursts onto the scene today. Venus in Gemini gets her hands into everything, a concert pianist stimulates conversations and curiosities, while Uranus contributes an unusually rowdy crescendo. Changes of heart make life diverse and exciting, so says this song of love and freedom.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Repeat after me: I'm not my own worst enemy. Let that roll around in your mind, and contemplate the feel of it on the tip of your tongue. And if the opposite seems truer, you may owe someone an apology.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Bossy people have the nasty habit of making disagreement totally unacceptable. Ironically, they cause peace lovers like you to revolt. Probably it's better just to avoid these types altogether.

GEMINI (May 21-June

21). You do love a good diversion — your evil twin agrees. So while you create a conversational decoy, your twin, or another part of your personality, cavorts. The mischief you muster delights everyone.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't like change. But what about trying a different flavor of ice cream, or choosing a spiritual family instead of your familial one? Sometimes the road to happiness is unfamiliar.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you see things as different from how a partner sees them, sometimes that's called a fight; other times, passion. You're open to having your mind changed, and that's just what happens.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Intimate relationships possess you like a virus and are just as hard to shake. You probably don't really want to, anyway. The unreliability, unpredictability and unruliness of your love bond is exciting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A co-worker or office mate has a secret crush on you. Hey, it's not the first time you've been the object of someone's affec-

tion. Treat the knowledge with tender sensitivity. Immature love is fragile.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your personal magnetism is a self-evident, irrefutable truth. It can also get you into hot water. When your charm and persuasiveness kick into high gear, acknowledge your power over the innocents.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When the energy at home is slightly chaotic — OK, bordering on a big mess — your partner picks up the slack. Sit down together tonight and organize your space. This committed act vicariously organizes your future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). As disruptive as the changes might be, they directly benefit you. Maybe a co-worker leaves and you're able to head a more creative project. It's more than good timing — your expertise is needed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You balance your pleasure palette by mixing up your curiosities. New music, literature, scenery, tastes and people must be experienced before you can go back to appreciating your own living room.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March

20). The vicissitudes of love and life cause rapturous upheaval. Later, you'll judge whether today's encounter has been more delightful or more disturbing — right now, it's still hard to tell.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I enjoy your columns every day. I'd be very appreciative of your insights regarding my relationship to a Scorpio man born Nov. 18, 1953 (about 5 p.m.). My birthday was 8 a.m., March 22, 1959. We've been together a very long time."

Yours is a high-energy, intellectual union. You stimulate each other's curiosities and interests to the point of overflow. I wouldn't be surprised if you had a large library of books and games — maybe you're even hobbyists or collectors. You love a good debate, too, and it's your mental chemistry that keeps you both from getting bored with each other. This relationship isn't all brains, though — you have a passionate, sensual connection. Your Venus in Taurus knows just what your sweetie's Venus in Scorpio likes. And when it comes to you, he's easy to please. You cook his favorite

meal just the way he likes it, and he enjoys seeing you in an apron! That's the appetite of the senses, strong glue for keeping you in each other's arms. The cherry on top: You two have the Saturn mark for many more happy years together.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Jack Nicholson always delivers a consistent performance, never veering too far left or right even in his most challenging roles. Nicholson prefers not to complicate things, so he chooses understated simplicity over dramatic gestures. It's a practical choice for a Taurus. How long will he get to play the handsome scoundrel? On- and off-screen, with Venus in Aries, he's always on the prowl.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, 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 am a single mother of two girls, ages 4 and 2. Their father isn't in the picture much. I love my kids, but sometimes I think I never should have had children.

A while ago, I put my 4-year-old into group counseling because she was very aggressive with her little sister and argued with me about everything — what to wear, when to go to bed, etc. She hasn't improved much, and it is making me crazy. Rewards and discipline don't work.

I am on an antidepressant and take a sleeping pill. My children sleep in bed with me every night, just so I don't have to battle with them, which



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

means I have to go to bed when they do, leaving no time for myself. They wear me down until I cry myself to sleep.

The sleeping arrangements are also causing

problems with my boyfriend. Please help. I don't know what to do. — Indiana

Dear Indiana: A certain amount of aggressive behavior toward younger siblings is common, and a consistent, disciplined approach will eventually get results. However, you are too exhausted and overwhelmed to do this, and as a result, you are no longer in control. Not only does this make every day a struggle for you, but it creates insecurity in your children, who, in turn, become more clingy and demanding.

Children need structure and stability. Call your local YWCA, church or community center, and ask if they offer parenting classes. Try to get Dad more involved. Please find time for this — for your children and for yourself.

Dear Annie: My wife and I have been married 37 years. We have two grown daughters whom we have helped financially many times over the years.

I work long hours, but I've always done my best to stay involved in my girls' lives. I chaperoned school field trips, worked science fairs and coached basketball and softball. I

might not have been perfect, but I was there when they needed me.

Now that they are grown, it's as if I don't exist. Both girls are close to their mother, but neither talks to me unless they want something. Yesterday, I received a call from my youngest daughter, saying she and her sister are taking their mother out for dinner to celebrate her retirement. My son-in-law and grandson are also going. When my daughter asked if I would like to join them, she quickly added, "You will have to pay for your own dinner. We are just paying for Mom's."

I feel like an outsider in my own family. There have been other outings where I wasn't even invited. I told my wife how I feel, and she says I am making too much out of it. Am I? — Hurt Father in Indiana

Dear Hurt: Yes and no. If your daughters are taking Mom out to celebrate her retirement, it does not mean they have to treat you as well. Also, it is not unusual for daughters to be closer to their mothers. However, your daughters may not know how much their behavior hurts you, so it's time to tell them how you feel and ask how

to make things better.

Dear Annie: I chuckled when I read the letter from "Burnt Out." His list of chores sure sounded like the daily doings of most women.

As long as he is sharing this working, commuting, doing endless chores, taking care of pets, garbage, laundry, dishes, cars, paying bills, etc., with his wife, and they still remember to say "I love you" to each other, they will survive. Children grow up, and they cannot get back that childhood time. Instead, they need to rechannel their family focus. Take some time to play with the children and one another every week. Make a game of the weekly chores, which everyone in the house should share. They will be making family memories. Hang in there. — Been There, Done That

Dear Been There: We couldn't have said it better. Thanks.

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.

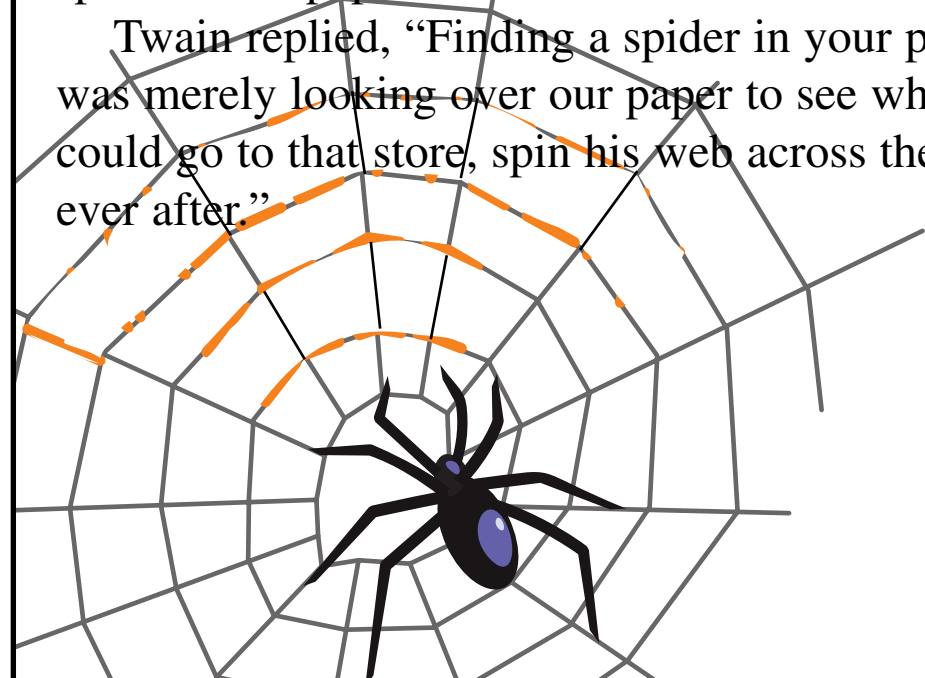
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The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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Talent show slated Friday

The Big Spring High School Choir is sponsoring the annual High School talent show Friday at 7 p.m. in the High School auditorium. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. There will be a variety of talent consisting of vocal and instrumental solos, rock and heavy metal bands, comedy skits, and gospel singing. Snacks and drinks can be purchased during the intermission.

'The Audition' set for HC stage Friday and Saturday evenings

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Just about everybody in the Howard College Fine Arts Department will have a hand on this weekend's production of "The Audition," which runs Friday and Saturday at the Hall Center for the Performing Arts, will feature a little bit of everything, it seems. There will be dancing, singing, jazz bands and even sketch artists, said Eulaine McIntosh, dance instructor at the college. McIntosh and Drama Department Director Clay Grizzle developed the show, which will feature McIntosh's dancers, Grizzle's thespians, Ross Litman's Nighthawk Jazz Band and students from Stacy Slaten's visual arts

department. The production was inspired by the popular Broadway musical "A Chorus Line," McIntosh said. "At first, all the actors and dancers are coming in for an audition. The production is based on that," she said. "And our ending segment will be a big production number." In addition to singers, dancers and musicians, visual artists will be sketching the action, as well, McIntosh said. About 50 students will take part in the production, which is free to the public. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Studio Theater in the Hall Center. For more information, contact the college at 264-5000.



Bobby Cathey, right, is presented a plaque recognizing his 35 years of service as a district director for the Howard Soil and Water Conservation District. Presenting the award is John Wayne Metcalf, district director. The award was presented during Monday's annual Howard SWCD Banquet.

Courtesy photo

MARQUEZ

Continued from Page 1A

"There were taxes delinquent for his personal property, but that suit has been dismissed," said Mouton. "We have entered into a payment agreement, and since that time Mr. Marquez has made every payment on time. It is my opinion as an attorney that Mr. Marquez has handled these matters and done the honorable thing in every case."

Marquez, who has served on numerous local boards and committees, said the tax matters Thomason referred to were discussed by the Big Spring City Council shortly after his appointment.

"This situation was addressed a long time ago, when I was appointed to the board," said

Marquez. "And it's also being addressed right now by our attorney and Drew Mouton. If Mr. Thomason had done his homework better, he would have known that, and he would have known it was an ongoing thing. It takes time to straighten out tax matters, but the situation concerning my appointment was taken care of a long time ago. Mr. Thomason is simply trying to bring it up again." Marquez said he was saddled with the vast majority of the delinquent taxes due to a mistake, but he is doing everything he can to have the situation resolved.

"The property was deeded to myself and my five brothers. So, the taxes should be divided among all six of us," said Marquez. "However, there was a big mistake where most of the taxes were put on me. That's where that large number comes

from. Our lawyers and Drew Mouton have to straighten that out before we can move on to negotiations concerning the property. I am complying with everything I can possibly comply with on this matter.

"I feel like Mr. Thomason is really attacking my character on this matter," Marquez added. "For a man who hasn't voted in an election to attack me and my character like this, I think not. It's not going to happen, and I'm not going to allow it to happen. As for Mr. Thomason attacking me to get at one of his opponents in the election, Mayor McEwen, I think it's just a really low-down blow. I've never seen anyone do this. I wouldn't do this to him, and I wouldn't expect him to use me like this to get to his opponent. That's just the type of man he is."

McEwen confirmed the coun-

cil was aware of Marquez's tax problems.

"We did our job in this matter," said McEwen. "Raul is a good and honorable business-



McEwen

man who has volunteered his time to the community in so many different ways. He's done an outstanding job on the Moore Board. I hate to see his name dragged through the gutter because someone simply doesn't have the facts. This is simply an unfounded accusation."

McEwen declined to comment on speculation Thomason is using the issue as a platform to attack him with the May 12 election looming.

"That gets into trying to speculate what Mr. Thomason's motivation in this matter is," said McEwen. "I have no doubt

what he's doing is a disservice to Mr. Marquez, but I simply can't speculate why he's doing this."

Wednesday's call for Marquez's resignation isn't the first attempt to remove a public figure from office for Thomason, who was one of the driving forces behind the petition to recall McEwen. Because the petition, which also targeted several council members for their parts in the passage of a no-smoking ordinance within the city limits, was successful, McEwen will face a recall for an already-expired term during the May 12 election.

McEwen will face Thomason and James "Jim" Hicks in the mayoral election.

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

SETTLES

Continued from Page 1A

they feel is on target.

"I move that we accept and direct the president (of the Moore Board) sign the new letter of intent with the Settles Hotel Development Corporation for Moore Board to provide up to \$3 million on projects we can do as a 4A company upon the Settles Company coming up with \$6 million," said Moore Board member Frank Parker.

According to Larry McLellan, board president, the agreement will allow Brint Ryan, the manager of the Settles Hotel Development Corporation, room to tailor the construction to meet market demands.

"I feel like Big Spring is still a winner with this," said McLellan. "It makes sense that you wouldn't take a project of this magnitude and try to market or forecast the condition of the final project. If you look at market conditions, I think it's something most developers would consider and then move toward. You don't just put it out there and hope the conditions come to you."

McLellan described the required \$6 million from SHDC as a claw back agreement, which will allow Moore Development to recoup funds if Ryan doesn't meet a two-to-one dollar ratio.

"Moore Board will pay 4A expenses that we can legally pay. As the project progresses, we will reimburse for those expenditures, up to \$3 million,"

said McLellan. "Keep in mind, these could come in early because of infrastructure. We will have a claw back agreement that will require Mr. Ryan to spend \$6 million or reimburse Moore Board for any funds that do not meet that two-to-one ratio. So, if this project is finished at \$6 million, Moore Board would receive money back."

"The original letter of intent was simply an agreement to start the process," said McLellan. "And we mentioned at that time the process would continue on with even multiple letters of intent, until we get to the construction document. Then it will be more of a binding contract that will lay out the plans and the specifics of the project."

Ryan's company has

placed \$75,000 in escrow to pay for the building, according to city officials. Ryan said it was necessary for the company to wait to take control of the title to the building due to "timing issues" in efforts to renovate the structure and have it added to the national registry of historic places.

According to Ryan, SHDC is preparing for a \$12 million renovation project which includes plans for commercial and residential use of the property, with retail space available on the first and second floors.

The board also discussed ongoing efforts to hire an executive director during the executive session. However, no action was taken on the matter.

Contact Staff Writer

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Gloria Ochotorena, 65, died Monday. Funeral Mass will be at 2:00 PM Friday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD
By Eddy Pitchford

It is tempting to view the Virginia Tech tragedy from a worldly viewpoint. Such a view declares the culprit to be the medical profession and the legal system. Had the right doctors and medications been in place, this would not have occurred. Had the proper laws been implemented, this would have been prevented.
Mental illness is real and medication is useful. Law is valid and helpful. However, the Virginia Tech massacre remind us that the real war is between good and evil. The Bible speaks of the devil as a roaring lion, walking about seeking whom he may devour. Jesus declared this enemy to be a thief that steals, kills and destroys.
Virginia Tech was only one battlefield of a much bigger war. I assure you that the outcome of this spiritual war is not in doubt. Life triumphs over death because of Jesus Christ, the cross and the resurrection. Indeed, that good news has encouraged many families bidding farewell to loved ones this week. That victory will motivate others to comfort hurting families in weeks ahead. The hope found in Jesus will prompt some to love and good works, thereby preventing additional killings and reminding all of us that love for one another is a powerful weapon in our daily battles.

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AN EDGE

Ford's crossover gaining on rivals

By **SARAH A. WEBSTER**
Detroit Free Press

Ask any car salesperson and they will tell you: Teachers are some of their toughest customers. They tend to study the price of vehicles as well as safety and performance features, with a little more intensity than the average buyer.

So when Scott Kuschel, a 35-year-old history teacher in Bloomfield Township, Mich., decided to buy a 2007 Ford Edge when it hit the market four months ago, his purchase said something good about the future of the new midsize crossover and Ford Motor Co.

"As far as enjoyment goes, I would give it a 10," Kuschel said.

Ford, which lost a record \$12.7 billion in 2006, is depending on the Edge, along with other new products like the Super Duty pickup, to help the automaker return to profitability by 2009. But the Edge came late to market in December last year, as Ford worked to improve the quality of the launch, fueling concerns it was botching the crucial kickoff.

All that concern is solidly behind Ford now — as the vehicle is rapidly climbing to the top of the crossover charts.

The Edge ranks third in midsize-crossover sales, behind the Nissan Murano and Toyota Highlander. Last month, the Edge was fewer than 1,000 sales away from the top spot, capturing about 16 percent of the midsize-crossover market. Of the 68,439 crossovers sold, 10,915 of them were Edges.

"If it wasn't for the Edge and the Fusion, we'd be hurting," said Steve Rajnert, a salesman at Dorian Ford in Mt. Clemens, Mich. Just like the Ford Fusion sedan did in late 2005, he said, the Edge is "starting to take off."

Fusion sales have continued to rage in 2007, up a sharp 33 percent so far compared with the same period a year ago.

Sales of the Edge have improved month after month, as is often the case when a vehicle enters the marketplace. But even after four months, it still takes a dealer only 20 days to sell an Edge, far better than the 48 days it takes, on average, to sell other midsize crossovers, according to data from the Power Information Network, a subsidiary of J.D. Power and Associates.

Behind the solid sales results for the Edge, also are a lot of golden eggs for Ford. The vehicle is selling at higher-than-average prices with more optional equipment and to younger, more affluent consumers. Eventually, that might mean improved profits for Ford.

Last month, Ford sold more than enough Edges to make up for lost Explorer sales. Ford lost 4,281 Explorer sales in March compared with the same month a year ago, a decline of 25 percent. But consumers bought nearly 11,000 Edges.

Now, Ford is preparing

an acceleration campaign for the Edge, Ford spokesman Jim Cain said. After a slow start, the automaker is increasing production of the vehicle at its plant in Oakville, Ontario, and preparing for the vehicle's next marketing wave.

The current marketing campaign features a hip tune, "Miles and Miles" by Canadian dance-rock-er Dee, as vehicles drive on the edges of sky rise buildings. But the new effort is expected to follow in the footsteps of the Fusion Challenge cross-comparison campaign that pits the Ford vehicle against its competitors.

Despite the Edge's successes so far, auto dealers and experts are quick to point out that the Edge isn't quite a homerun like the Chrysler 300 was when it came to market. The 300 enjoyed such distinguished success that it was credited with buoying Chrysler's financial results and brand image.

Still, most industry experts agree that the Edge has been a solid double or triple, at a time when Ford desperately needed to get players on base.

Alex Rosten, manager of pricing and market analysis at Edmunds.com, called the Edge "the hot seller," although he was quick to clarify that he didn't mean for the industry.

"The hot seller for Ford," he added. "It wasn't a slam dunk."

Some might be critical of the Edge for not capturing more buyers from competing brands, since most Edge buyers are trading in another Ford at acquisition. Data from the Power Information Network shows that the top three vehicles being traded for an Edge are the Ford Explorer, Escape and Expedition, and those three sport-utility vehicles, or SUVs, represent about one-fourth of all the trade-ins for the Edge.

But Rosten said it's critical for Ford to hold on to as many of those customers as possible as it bleeds SUV sales.

"They're losing Explorer customers by the boatload," Rosten



Scott Kuschel, 35, of Clinton Township, Mich., gets into his new Ford Edge, which he purchased in January 2007. Kuschel, a teacher at Brother Rice High School, likes the design and space of Ford's latest product.

said. "It's better to retain those customers."

Because the Edge isn't attracting many consumers from competing brands, some insiders believe the Edge could use some tweaking, especially on price.

One dealer, Andy Czajkowski, a small Ford dealer from rural Van Wert, Ohio, said a special lease program, of about \$270 a month, would do wonders for the Edge.

"That would go great," he said, noting that the current performance is still solid.

One of the complaints some dealers and experts had about the Edge was that the most desired versions of the vehicle seem to be running higher than expected in price.

For example, the panoramic vista roof, a \$1,395 option that provides a large window to the sky over the front and rear seats, isn't available in the base model of the Edge, pushing many customers into an upper-end SEL model of the vehicle. Or, perhaps, to competitors.

Art Spinella, president of CNW Marketing Research in Bandon, Ore., said the vehicle hasn't done so well in middle-income areas, where he called its performance spotty.

"Well-equipped versions move pretty quickly" in those areas, he said. "More fully loaded versions are needed. ...

Lower priced and lower content models are sitting on lots somewhat longer."

Indeed, Edmunds.com reports that the average transaction price for an Edge last month was \$29,699. That's higher than the crossover's average price in February, and it's also higher than the \$28,284 average transaction price for midsize SUVs.

"They're buying better-equipped vehicles and dealerships aren't having to discount them as much," Rosten said, explaining Ford's success in getting customers to pay more.

Rajnert, the salesman at Dorian Ford, even reported that many consumers are getting DVD players installed in headrests so they still can get the vista

roof and don't have to choose between the window ceiling and the DVD screen that flips down from the roof.

"I thought they were priced up a bit, but we aren't having a problem selling them," Rajnert said.

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.



WHAT'S A CUV?

Crossover utility vehicles, or CUVs, look like sport-utility vehicles and offer the same kind of cargo space.

Unlike SUVs, which are built like big trucks, CUVs are built more like cars.

That helps make crossovers more fuel-efficient and ride more smoothly.

CUVs also are easier to get in and out of than a higher-sitting SUV.

For the first three months of the year, crossovers represented 15 percent of all new vehicles purchased in the United States, up from 13 percent during the

same period a year ago.

Crossover vehicles range in size from small vehicles, like the Toyota RAV4, to large crossovers, such as the GMC Acadia.

The Ford Edge is a midsize crossover, and here's how it ranks in sales for the first three months of the year:

1. Toyota Highlander: 31,383
2. Nissan Murano: 26,417
3. Ford Edge: 24,478
4. Hyundai Santa Fe: 21,239
5. Chrysler Pacifica: 16,432

Source: Power Information Network

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THURSDAY

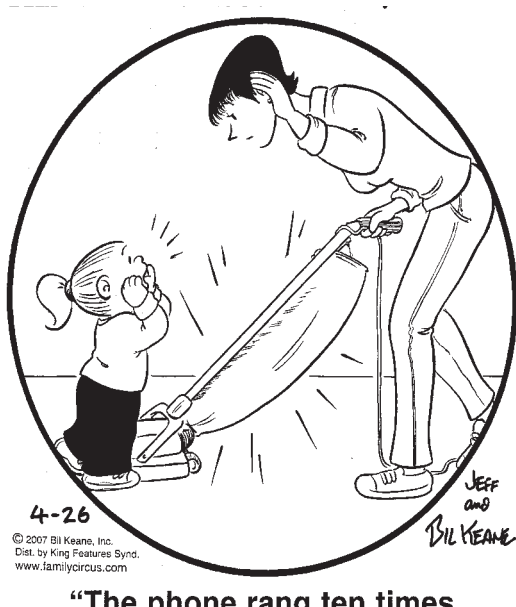
Table with 22 columns (station codes) and 7 rows (time slots from 6:30 AM to 12:30 AM) listing program schedules for various stations.

DENNIS THE MENACE



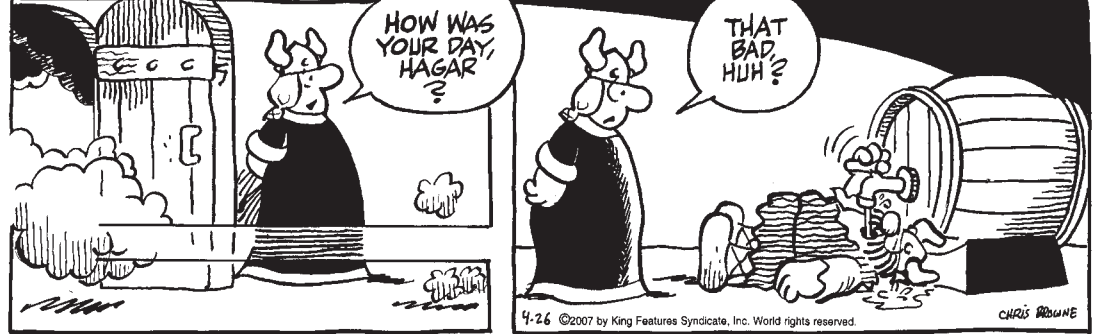
MY SCHOOL BUS DRIVER LETS ME SIT AT THE BACK OF THE BUS... IN FACT, SHE INSISTS ON IT.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



The phone rang ten times and then stopped!

HAGAR



BLONDIE



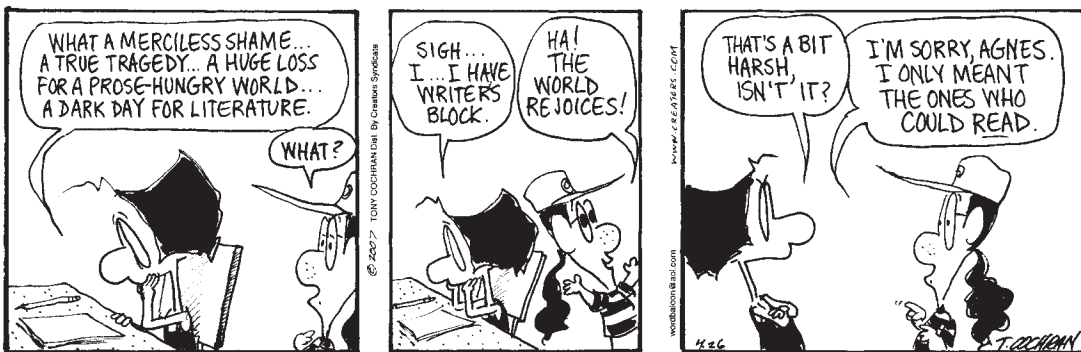
BC



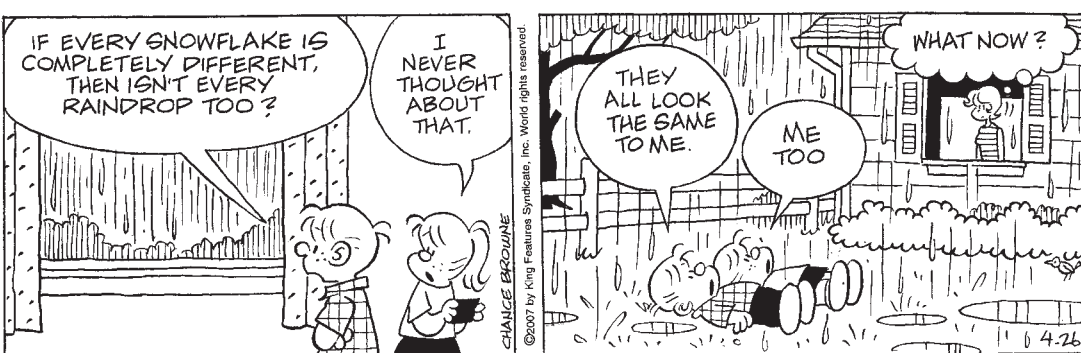
WIZARD OF ID



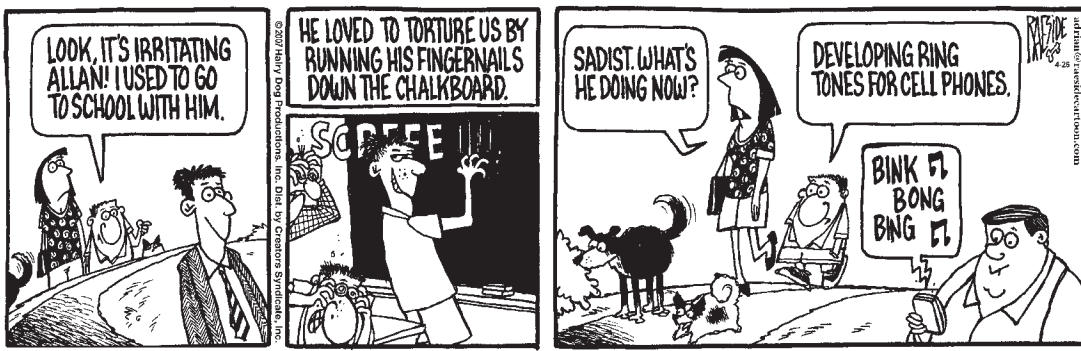
AGNES



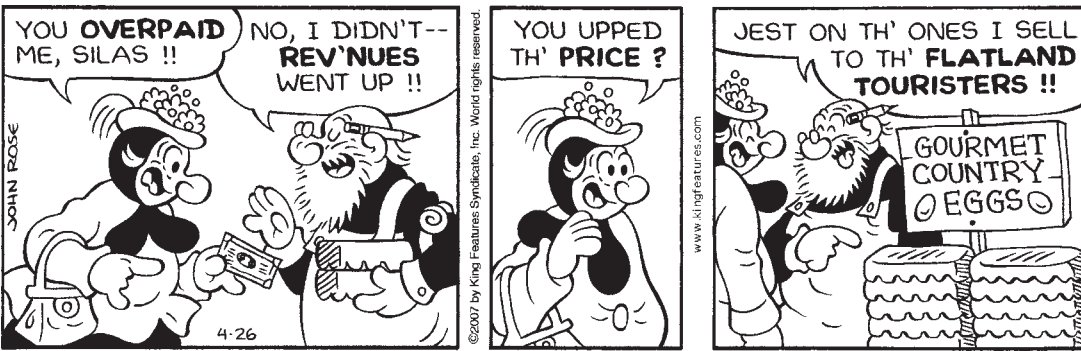
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, April 26, the 116th day of 2007. There are 249 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Four hundred years ago, on April 26, 1607, English colonists went ashore at present-day Cape Henry, Va., on an expedition to establish the first permanent English settlement in the Western Hemisphere.

Philippe Petain, the head of France's Vichy government during World War II, was arrested.

In 1961, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees hit the first of a record 61 home runs in a single season.

In 1964, the African nations of Tanganyika and Zanzibar merged to form Tanzania.

In 1968, the United States exploded beneath the Nevada desert a 1.3 megaton nuclear device called 'Boxcar.'

In 1986, the world's worst nuclear accident happened at the Chernobyl plant in the Soviet Union.

In 1785, American naturalist and artist John James Audubon was born in Haiti.

In 1865, John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln, was surrounded by federal troops near Bowling Green, Va., and killed.

In 1937, planes from Nazi Germany raided the Basque town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War.

In 1945, Marshal Henri

is 64. Actor Giancarlo Esposito is 49. Rock musician Roger Taylor (Duran Duran) is 47. Actress Joan Chen is 46. Rock musician Chris Mars is 46. Actor-singer Michael Damian is 45. Actor Jet Li (lee) is 44. Rock musician Jimmy Stafford (Train) is 43. Actor-comedian Kevin James is 42. Actress Marianne Jean-Baptiste is 40. Country musician Joe Caverlee (Yankee Grey) is 39. Rapper T-Boz (TLC) is 37. Country musician Jay DeMarcus (Rascal Flats) is 36. Country musician Michael Jeffers (Pinmonkey) is 35. Rock musician Jose Pasillas (Incubus) is 31.

Answer to previous puzzle

Grid puzzle answer: CAST USER RIDE EDGAR SEEDERS LAO OTHER LOU DIGS SLOT BULK YSL MEATY CACHE ASKED HASH ACLU SHUN BERGEN ATAD CORONADO PORT SLEIGHT EELS CARS DEL CAMERAS OSCAR OVAL NOVA EWES ERDIE ANNIE YEN ATAD SNOW ZOE HEARD DEL TIER ENDS

Newsday Crossword

THINK FAST by Shirley Soloway Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Herring relative, 5 Honolulu-based detective, 9 Caustic, 14 Scottish philosopher, 15 Leaf projection, 16 Irish county, 17 It means 'both', 18 Imitative one, 19 Trade shows, 20 Mercury alias, 23 Squid weapon, 24 One way up, 25 Fix deeply, 27 Roof angles, 30 Kid's crude telephone, 33 Tanning-lotion stats, 37 Give a ticket to, 39 Nonpaying activity, 40 Hard to believe, 41 Mother of Isaac, 43 Escalator maker, 44 Had pot luck, perhaps, 46 Gambling game, 47 Caustic solutions, 48 Cut again, as a film, 50 Stratagem, 52 Computer help-line workers, 54 Marinara alternative, 58 Scratch up, 60 Idioms, for example, 64 Pass, as a bill, 66 Light melody, 67 Andrews Sisters, e.g., 68 Engine part, 69 Not playing today, 70 Starting, 71 Hostile state, 72 Pull apart, 73 Writer Jaffe, 9 Biting, as criticism, 10 XVI x X, 11 Hub of the Black Hills, 12 Gate material, 13 Work place, 21 Eur., speedometer reading, 22 911 responder, 26 Register, 28 French cabaret star, 29 Watchband, 31 Friendly femme, 32 Costner role, 33 Main attraction spread, 34 Expensive, 35 Car dealer's discount, 36 Decline, 38 Anthony Eden title, 42 1 Down, for one, 45 Encouraging words, 49 Cinema sound system, 51 'No question', 53 Of two minds, 55 Hindustani instrument, 56 Piece of sculpture, 57 Bagel flavoring, 58 Insignificant, 59 Poetic adverb, 61 Take the bus, 62 Enchanted (Anne Hathaway film), 63 Parlor piece, 65 Dot follower

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-73 indicating starting positions for clues.