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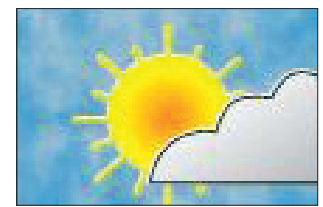


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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

APRIL 29, 2010



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Rodeo Kings, Hernandez at museum today

Herald Staff Report

Heritage Museum is hosting a reception from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. today featuring local artist Adam Hernandez. Hernandez is a local artist helping with a museum fundraiser — its annual Legends & Legacies event. Specifically for the June 15 event, he painted "Rodeo Kings," which features local legends Wacey Cathey, Toots Mansfield, Jody Nix, Hoyle Nix and Quail Dobbs, and is among four prizes to be given away during the museum fundraiser. Tickets for an opportunity to take the painting home are \$10 each and may be purchased at the museum during the reception and any time before June 15. Other prizes include a print of the painting, a \$250 VISA gift card and a \$100 museum gift shop card.



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Emergency responders from the Big Spring Fire Department and the Howard County Sheriff's Office carry a man through a field near Interstate Highway 20 Wednesday morning to a waiting ambulance following a one-vehicle traffic accident. According to DPS officials, an elderly man was traveling east on I-20 when he apparently blacked out, crossing the median and the westbound lanes into a field near the 169 mile marker shortly after 11 a.m. The man sustained only minor injuries and was transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Charity hopes to send local kids camping

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Area residents won't have any trouble finding a yard sale Saturday, as the Salvation Army's Boys and Girls Club prepares to hold a community yard sale to benefit the organization's annual summer camp program. Sonnet Hildebrand, director of the local Boys and Girls Club, said the yard sale is slated from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Salvation Army office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., and will help give children within the Boys and Girls Club program a chance to attend a five-day camp. "The camp is really an amazing time for the kids," said Hildebrand. "They get to take part in activities like horseback riding, fishing, paintball and swimming. They also get a chance to play a lot of



See **CAMP**, Page 3A

BP welcomes military help

CAIN BURDEAU
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — A massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is even worse than believed and as the government grows concerned that the rig's operator is ill-equipped to contain it, officials are offering a military response to try to avert a massive environmental disaster along the ecologically fragile U.S. coastline. Speaking Thursday on NBC's "Today" show, an executive for BP PLC, which operated the oil rig that exploded and sank last week, said the company would welcome help from the U.S. military.

"It has become clear after several unsuccessful attempts to determine the cause" that agencies must supplement what's being done by the company.

—Coast Guard Rear Adm. Mary Landry

is spewing five times as much oil into the water than originally estimated — but it might be closer to shore than previously known, and could have oil washing up on shore by Friday. At the same time, there appeared to be a rift developing between BP and the Coast Guard, which is overseeing the increasingly desperate operation to contain the spill and clean it up. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Mary Landry was emphatic at a hastily called news conference late Wednesday that the new leak was discharging 5,000 barrels a day of

See **SPILL**, Page 3A

Large item pick up slated in District 2

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Area residents in Big Spring's District 2 will get a chance to kick their spring cleaning into high gear Friday, as the city targets the area for its annual large item pick up service. Chad Averette, code enforcement supervisor for the city, said the program is designed to help area residents move large cumbersome items off their property that might not otherwise have a means to move

the objects to the municipal landfill. "Some of the more typical items we pick up are appliances that don't work anymore, couches and mattresses," said Averette. "Those are the kind of things that we can take to our landfill and we're allowed to pick up. However, we can't pick up any household hazardous waste. That means any kind of chemicals including lawn chemicals, car batter-

See **TRASH**, Page 3A

Howard College still taking registration for English fluency class

Special to the Herald

Howard College is taking a new English fluency class that is free of charge to the public and is still accepting registration. The class focuses on improvement in speaking, reading and writing the English language. Although classes began April 20, enrollment is still being accepted. The session will end Wednesday, June 30.

"We emphasize small class instruction with one-on-one assistance for those who need a little help mastering the English language," said Debbie Klepper, director of Adult Basic Education at Howard College. The class is taught by Adrian Saldivar and will be held on the Howard College campus in the Practical Arts Building, Room 103. There is no fee for

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Area teams to start postseason play

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Six Howard County teams are about to start their second season.

Baseball and softball teams from Big Spring, Coahoma and Ford all qualified for the state playoffs and the Big Spring softball squad will be the first to see postseason action.

The Lady Steers, who finished the regular season as the fourth seed out of District 4-4A, will face District 3-4A champion Canyon Randall

in a best-of-three series Friday and Saturday at Lubbock High School.

The first game of the series will be at 6 p.m., followed by Game 2 at 11 a.m. Saturday. A third game, if needed, will start approximately 30 minutes later.

The Lady Steers ended the regular season with an 18-13 overall record and were 4-4 in district action. The Lady Raiders, meanwhile, were 20-4 in the regular season and 11-1 in district play.

The BSHS baseball team, which also finished fourth in

district play, will play a practice game at Lubbock Cooper at 6:30 p.m. Friday. The Steers will start postseason play next week against Canyon High School at a time and site to be determined.

The Coahoma Bulldogettes, who finished second in District 5-2A play, open the playoffs with a three-game series against Bangs Friday at Abilene Christian University. Game One will begin at 5 p.m., followed by the second game at 7 p.m. Game Three, if necessary, will be at 5 p.m. Monday, also at ACU.

The Coahoma Bulldogs will play an extra game Friday vs. Grape Creek to determine seeding for the baseball playoffs. The game will be played at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Sweetwater.

The Forsan Lady Buffaloes will have a first-round bye in the Class 1A playoffs and will face Haskell in a practice game at 10 a.m. Saturday in Trent. The Lady Buffs will open playoff action next weekend against either Roby or Lockney.

The Forsan Buffaloes also will have a wait before they

begin the Class 1A baseball playoffs, but will play a trio of practice games to tune up for the postseason.

The first practice game is set for 6 p.m. Friday in Colorado City vs. Anson, while the second practice game will be at 5 p.m. Tuesday in New Deal vs. Lockney.

The Buffs face Windthorst in a third practice game later next week.

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



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Forsan Head Baseball Coach Jason Phillips, left, talks to team members before the start of practice Wednesday afternoon. The Buffaloes recently completed the regular season with a perfect 20-0 record.

Smith honored by HC

By CINDY SMITH

Special to the Herald

Among the traditional team recognitions during the annual athletic banquet held Tuesday night, Howard College added a special honor to the program and inducted Anna Smith into the Hawk Athletics Hall of Fame.

Smith, who joined the Howard College faculty in 1959 and retired in 1977, was director of women's physical education, dean of women and eventually dean of students during her time at Howard.

Throughout her tenure with the Hawks, she coached women's volleyball and men's and women's varsity tennis.

"We are so proud to induct Anna into our Hall of Fame," said Dr. Cheryl Sparks, president.

"We are honored to recognize her legacy and the impact that she has had on our college and athletic programs," Sparks added.

Smith has long served in various roles throughout the community advocating for youth.

She has served on various committees and boards on both a local and state-wide basis.

She served on the executive board for the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation and was a member of the committee that was instrumental in getting health education recognized on all levels in our public schools.

Additionally, she was selected as a regional member of the Governor's Council on Lifetime Sports.

Smith has been the recipient of five meritorious sports awards from the Kiwanis Club of Big Spring and was among HC administrators and board of trustee members in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

"Anna Smith is a very classy lady," added Sparks.

"Her accomplishments are many but even more importantly she served as a crucial role model for our students and helped navigate them through the lessons of life."

Perfect Buffs prepare for playoffs

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

FORSAN — Excuse the Forsan Buffaloes if they don't spend too much time celebrating a perfect regular season — they do have more games left to play.

The Buffaloes, proud owners of a 20-0 record, are knee-deep in preparations for the Class 1A baseball playoffs. They will have three practice games — against playoff veterans Anson, Lockney and Windthorst — before they start the postseason within the next two weeks.

Despite that sterling regular-season record, postseason success is the team's major goal this year.

"If we play they way we can, game in and game out, we have a chance to be successful," Head Coach Jason Phillips said. "We thought we should have won more playoff games last year ... but we had an early exit."

The Forsan baseball program has come a long way in just five years, as evidenced

by its perfect record and No. 3 ranking in the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association Class 1A poll.

"It was something (Assistant Coach) David Park and I started talking about at the end of the playoffs last year," Phillips said. "We only lost a couple of players off that team, so we had a lot of talent coming back this year. We knew we had a chance to be pretty good — how good, we didn't know."

The Buffaloes answered that last question with authority this season. Phillips got an inkling about how good the team might be when they won a tournament at Albany early in the season.

"I thought then that we might be onto something here," he said. "Then we went to a tournament in Rawls — that's the team that knocked us out of the playoffs last year — and we run-ruled them. And we had a tough district ... but found a way to win some close games."

Phillips doesn't hesitate

when asked to name the team's best quality.

"It's their work ethic," he said. "I knew our talent level was good enough for us to make the playoffs, but their work ethic is what's putting us over the top."

The Buffaloes have won by being a well-balanced team this season, Phillips said.

"It's been a little bit of everything," he said. "Most of the year, we hit the baseball really well — we're averaging about 12 hits a game and we hit 20 home runs, but our pitching and defense have been consistent all year, also. Pitching-wise, we can go five or six deep, which, for a Class 1A school, that's a pretty good deal. And our defense has been pretty steady all year."

Phillips points to the leadership of seniors Evan Burton, Ryan Flores and Zach Dykes as another reason his young team has done so well this season.

"They're just a special group," he said. "They all played as freshmen, so they've

been around to see this program grow. They're a big reason we're where we're at."

Despite the team's regular-season success, Phillips knows the quality of opposition — not to mention the pressure level — will only increase once the playoffs begin. Still, he remains confident for Forsan's chances for success.

"I think we'll respond really well," he said. "We played Hamlin twice this season and both games were really close — basically, they both came down to the final at-bat — so it was good to see the team come through in tight games when the bats went cold."

"We're going to face good pitching in the playoffs," Phillips added.

"We're not going to get 12 hits every night, so it's good to know we can when even when we're not slugging it over the fence."

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

Harden still wild for Rangers, but gets win

ARLINGTON (AP) — Rich Harden's first victory for the Texas Rangers wasn't a thing of beauty.

Harden pitched six innings despite more control problems, Josh Hamilton's two-run homer keyed a five-run first, and the Rangers hung on to beat the Chicago White Sox 6-5 on Wednesday night.

Harden (1-1) allowed three runs and four hits after lasting less than five innings due to wildness in three of his first four starts. This time he hit two batters and walked five, giving him 23 walks in his five starts.

The White Sox were unable to capitalize until Carlos Quentin ended a 2 for 37 slide with

a three-run homer off Harden in the sixth that reduced the deficit to 5-3.

"I got through six and that's progress," Harden said. "I want to work on keeping my walks down. That's going to be the key. There are a few things I've been working. Mechanically, I've been trying to find my arm slot. Mentally, I need

to be aggressive."

The Rangers signed Harden as a free agent in December to take over one of the top two spots in their rotation, but Harden's once-dynamic fastball has been less than imposing so far.

"I thought Rich was much better," Rangers manager Ron Washington said.

CLASS

Continued from Page 1A

admission to the class. All books and materials are provided. Computer learning programs are also available as a part of the curriculum. Those interested in signing up for the class should contact the ABE office right away at 264-5014. For more information on Howard College, contact Cindy Smith at csmith@howardcollege.edu or visit www.howardcollege.edu

CAMP

Continued from Page 1A

different sports, such as football, basketball and baseball, as well as take part in a ropes course. "Morning activities include songs, praise and devotion. There are nighttime activities as well, like movies and scavenger hunts, to help the kids with their social development." However, before the children can head for the camp — which is located in Midlothian, near Dallas — the mundane task of paying for the activities has to be accomplished, according to Hildebrand. "That's what this yard sale is all

about," she said. "This fund-raiser will assist the children attending camp with the costs and fees involved. What we need from the community — beside plenty of bargain shoppers on the day of the sale — is donations of items to be sold." Hildebrand said the Salvation Army is still accepting donations for the sale as well, and encouraged area residents to clean out their garages and see what they might have hiding. "Anything you feel can bring a good price at the sale would be appreciated. You'd really be surprised how many things people have cluttering up their garage that other people in the community could really use," said Hildebrand. "However, most people just don't have

the time to hold a garage sale these days, so those things just sit there and continue to gather dust." Hildebrand said anyone with questions regarding what would or wouldn't be a good item for the yard sale can call her at 264-0455. "If someone is wondering if their item would work for this sale, the best thing they can do is call and ask," she said. "Also, if someone would like to make a monetary donation and sponsor a child to go to camp, that would be fantastic. We need as much help from the community on this project as we can get." Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

SPILL

Continued from Page 1A

sweet crude, not the 1,000 barrels officials had estimated for days since the Deepwater Horizons drilling rig exploded and sank 50 miles off the Louisiana Coast. Suttles disputed at the same news conference with Landry that the amount of oil spilling into the water had ballooned — or at the company wasn't able to handle the ongoing operation to contain it. But early Thursday, he said on "Today" that the leak may be as high as the government's new estimate. He said there was no way to measure the flow at the seabed and estimates have to come from seeing how much oil makes it to the surface. "Using the satellite imagery and our overflights, we can now say it looks like it's more than a thousand. It's a range," Suttles said. He

said the range was up to 5,000 barrels a day. The Secretary of Homeland Security has briefed President Barack Obama on this new information and the government has offered to have the Department of Defense use its equipment and expertise to help contain the spill and protect the U.S. coastline and wildlife, Landry said. "It has become clear after several unsuccessful attempts to determine the cause" that agencies must supplement what's being done by the company, she said. This all played out at the end of a long day as crews began an experiment to burn off parts of the slick — the latest in a series of high- and low-tech efforts to stop the oil leak, reel in as much of the oil as possible to prevent it from washing ashore and harming the fragile wildlife and plant life that dot the coast. Landry said the controlled, test burn was successful late Wednesday

afternoon. BP was to set more fires after the test, but as night fell, there were no more burns. The burns were not expected to be done at night. No details about when more were planned were given during the news conference. Crews planned to use hand-held flares to set fire to sections of the spill. They turned to the idea after failing to stop the leak at the spot where a deep water platform exploded on April 20 and later sank. Eleven workers are missing and presumed dead and more than 100 escaped the blast, the cause of which has not been determined. A 500-foot boom was to be used to corral several thousand gallons of the thickest oil on the surface, which will then be towed to a more remote area, set on fire, and allowed to burn for about an hour. The decision to burn some of the oil came after crews operating sub-

mersible robots failed to activate a shut-off device that would halt the flow of oil on the sea bottom 5,000 feet below. Officials had estimated about 42,000 gallons of oil a day was leaking into the Gulf from the blown-out well drilled by the Deepwater Horizon oil rig. That would be closer to 210,000 gallons a day with the new estimates. Eleven workers are missing and presumed dead and more than 100 escaped the blast, the cause of which has not been determined. A spokeswoman for a U.S. military base in Colorado Springs, Colo., that provides support to civil authorities during natural disasters said BP has not requested the defense department's help to contain the leak. However, the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the U.S. Northern Command at Peterson Air Force Base, were anticipating the request, said Stacey Knott.

"We are looking at how we may be able to offer support if we are asked," said Knott. As for the burn, Greg Pollock, head of the oil spill division of the Texas General Land Office, which is providing equipment for crews in the Gulf, said he is not aware of a similar technique ever being tried off the U.S. coast. The last time crews with his agency used fire booms to burn oil was a 1995 spill on the San Jacinto River. "When you can get oil ignited, it is an absolutely effective way of getting rid of a huge percentage of the oil," he said. "I can't overstate how important it is to get the oil off the surface of the water." When the flames go out, Pollock said, the material that is left resembles a hardened ball of tar that can be removed from the water with nets or skimmers. "I would say there is little threat to the environment because

it won't coat an animal, and because all the volatiles have been consumed if it gets on a shore it can be simply picked up," he said. Authorities also said they expect minimal impact on sea turtles and marine mammals in the burn area. A graphic posted by the Coast Guard and the industry task force fighting the slick showed it covering an area about 100 miles long and 45 miles across at its widest point. "It's premature to say this is catastrophic. I will say this is very serious," Landry said earlier Wednesday. From the air, the thickest parts of the spill resembled rust-colored tentacles of various thickness. The air was thick with the acrid smell of petroleum.

TRASH

Continued from Page 1A

ies and tires and things of that nature. We also won't be picking up any tree branches, shrubs or things like that. "We're trying to target people who are elderly, handicapped or otherwise don't have the means to get these large items to our landfill. This is a service the city is going to provide as a courtesy to those people and give them the opportunity to get things off of their property they might not be able to otherwise." Averette said the program is available to more city residents than ever before in hopes of

clearing up code violations. "In the past, the program was simply aimed at residents that didn't have the means to get these large items off their property and to the landfill," said Averette. "This year, however, we're opening it up to everyone. This is part of an all-out effort to go through each district and get rid of code violations. Each month we go through and take a really close look at each district before the Large Item program comes through." District 2 residents that choose to ignore the warning letters or citations issued by code officers could find themselves in hot water, ac-

ording to "The minimum fine for a first offense is \$250, and if they have been cited in the past, a second offense could cost them up to \$2,000," said Averette. "We're working hard to try to clean up our city and bring things into compliance, and we're more than willing to work with the citizens. However, if you want to just sit back and ignore the notices and letters, it's going to hurt your wallet in the long run." Averette said customers need to be aware of gas, water and electricity meters and lines when they put their large items out to be picked up. "A lot of time we have

to bring in equipment to pick those large items up," he said. "If you cover the meters up, it's hard for us to know where they are. Using the equipment makes the pick up go quicker and we want to make sure our employees are safe while they are picking these things up." All items must be by the curb in the city's right-of-way no sooner than 24 hours before the scheduled pick up. Items need to be separated as much as possible for its trip to the municipal landfill, added Averette. "To be placed on the pick up list, all residents have to do is call 264-2504 or 264-2501, and we'll get them set up," he said. "If they don't

call and get on the list, we can't pick up their items." For more information on the large item pick up program — which will target one city district each month — and maps of the six city districts, visit the city of Big Spring Web site at <http://www.mybig-spring.com>, or call 264-2504. Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Gilbert Reyna, 77, died Friday. Funeral mass was at 10:00 a.m. today at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park with military honors.
James Robert Wigington, Sr., 80, died Tuesday. Services were at 2 p.m. today at First Baptist Church. Burial was at Trinity Memorial Park with military honors.

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MISSING BIRD

FOUND
Our sweet bird, Bobby, was reported missing in the Kentwood area April 19th around 6:00pm. Please help us find him!
If you spot him, simply keep your eye on him and call us at 432-267-7776 or my cell phone 432-213-1423. If neither are available, try 432-816-9031

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD

By Eddy Pitchford

Many folks consider the church to be a man-made organization filled with "holier-than-thou" hypocrites. Granted, some Christians "point out splinters in others while suffering from their own logs," but it must be admitted that many non-Christians suffer the same malady - which goes to show how much we all need Christ to remit our sins. When we believe that Jesus died to remit sins of unrighteousness and self-righteousness, we obey Him and encourage others to do likewise. We trust and obey Him so we are added to the church He built (Matthew 16:18) and bought (Acts 20:28). Although members of Christ's church are imperfect in attitude and habit, we belong to God and are joint-heirs with Christ. As we grow in our faith, we humbly exalt Jesus and take action when His word reveals "logs in our eyes." As we mature in spirituality, we show our divine nature by loving and serving those who are "holy" as well as those who are "unholy."

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Volunteerism alive and well in Big Spring

It has been noted here before, but always bears revisiting. There may be no community anywhere better qualified to have celebrated last week as National Volunteer Week than Big Spring, Howard County and the surrounding area.

Simply put, volunteerism is a staple of life in this area.

It's not hard to see the work of volunteers in our community. Nor is it difficult to discern the impact they have had on the lives of countless people.

As a matter of fact, the examples seem almost endless — the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council, CASA of West Texas, Victim Services, Howard County Volunteer Fire Department and the individuals and organizations that volunteer at the VA Medical Center and at Scenic Mountain Medical Center immediately come to mind when the subject is discussed.

There are countless others — those who serve on advisory boards for organizations like the Salvation Army, the Boys Club, YMCA, Emergency Services Chaplains Corps and local units of the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association.

That's not to mention the community's local service clubs like the Lions, Kiwanians, Rotarians, Optimists, etc.

In fact, the list is almost endless and any attempt to name all those who volunteer in one form or another in this community would certainly leave someone out.

A number of local organizations and facilities have already recognized their volunteers with special events this month and others are sure to follow.

Today, as we have done in the past, the Herald wants to take this opportunity to thank all those in our community who give of themselves. The selflessness you all show is one of the things that make this the place we want to live, work and raise our families.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

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 - Sign your letter.
 - Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
 - We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
 - We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
 - Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
 - Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we listen to Your suggestions, Lord.

Amen

Relief for our American taxpayers means making tax cuts permanent

On April 15, millions of Americans dutifully filed their 2009 federal income tax returns.

Over the past 18 months, our nation faced record unemployment, lost income and home foreclosures. Amid these uncertain times, American families and small businesses have tightened their belts and made tough financial decisions in order to maintain a responsible budget.

On Tax Day, Congress was reminded of the budget sacrifices our constituents are making, and we should renew efforts to simplify our tax system and lessen the burden on hard-working Americans. The tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 helped boost employment and economic prosperity. I'm especially pleased that we finally got tax parity with other states by making Texas state sales tax dollars deductible on federal income tax returns.

Texas is one of only eight states that do not have a state income tax. Having no state income tax has fostered a thriving business climate. However, in lieu of income taxes, we do have a state sales tax. Because we were unable to deduct the state sales tax, Texans were penalized when filing federal tax returns. In 2004, Rep. Kevin Brady (R-

Houston) and I finally corrected this injustice by passing legislation to allow state and local sales tax deductibility for two years. We have also been able to enact successive extensions every few years. Deductibility of state and local sales taxes provides an average return of about \$600 per Texas family. We are now working to make this deductibility permanent so that residents of Texas and other no state income tax states are not unfairly disadvantaged in the federal tax code.

I am also actively pursuing action to ensure that the marriage penalty, the most egregious, anti-family provision in the federal tax code, never returns. The marriage tax penalty pushes married couples into a higher tax bracket than two single wage earners taking in the same combined income. As a matter of principle, the IRS should never do anything to discourage one of the most fundamental institutions of our society: marriage.

I have been fighting since 2001 to reverse this inequity. And as part of the tax cuts of 2001, Congress eliminated the marriage tax penalty for most married couples. Before this tax relief passed, more than 25 million American married couples paid an average penalty of \$1,141 just because they were married! I am proud that I was able to help repeal that outrage.

However, this marriage penalty relief will expire at the end of this year. I will again lead the effort to pass a permanent extension so that American families

will not face this outrageous tax penalty again.

Unfortunately, the Obama Administration and the Democratic leadership in Congress are pushing higher taxes and even more deficits in order to finance their unprecedented spending programs.

The American people want an end to this reckless spending that is hampering our economic recovery. And the American people want tax relief.

Presidents from both parties, including Presidents Kennedy, Reagan and Bush, have successfully employed tax relief to create jobs and spur economic activity.

That is why we must extend the tax cuts that are scheduled to expire in 2011. If we allow the tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 to expire, 43 million families with children would be forced to pay \$2,300 more in taxes each year; more than 18 million seniors will owe \$2,200 more in taxes; and 27 million small businesses will owe \$4,100 more in taxes.

At this time of economic uncertainty, the last thing we should be doing is raising taxes. I am committed to working to make the tax cuts permanent, giving real relief to American taxpayers.

If these tax cuts expire — April 15, 2011, will be even worse!

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas and is the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.



The First Amendment and animals

Let me be clear at the outset: I love dogs. Not like them, love them. Of course, I love mine the best: Judy J. Estrich, Molly Emily Estrich and Irving A. Estrich.

Judy is named after one of my dearest friends, Judy Jarvis, who died of cancer 10 years ago.

Molly is named after her dog, who took care of her when she was sick and taught me not to be afraid of big dogs.

Irving is named for my father. I would kill anybody who laid a hand on them.

That is why I so strongly support the efforts of Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Calif., and Rep. James Moran, D-Va., to enact legislation aimed at prohibiting the sale and distribution of "crush" videos depicting senseless and vicious animal cruelty.

In 1999, according to the Humane Society of the United States, there were as many as 3,000 videos on the market depicting animals being crushed, burned or impaled for so-called "entertainment" value.

After Gallegly's initial bill was enacted, the market disappeared.

But earlier this week, the United States Supreme Court held that law to be unconstitutional on First Amendment grounds,

finding that it swept too broadly and could be construed to apply (even though no one ever has) even to hunting videos.

Videos of women in high heels crushing puppies to death are a far cry from hunting videos.

I'm glad that the conservative court has embraced the First Amendment, which they don't always do. But nothing in the First Amendment allows for the celebration of criminal cruelty.

Just as we protect children through carefully tailored bans on child pornography, so should we be entitled to protect animals from the effects of gratuitous and criminal violence.

In 2008, a federal court of appeals struck down the law that Gallegly championed.

Subsequently, the Humane Society found that the blatantly offensive videos that had disappeared from the market in 1999 were all over the Internet.

I was teaching a First Amendment class at that time and remember assigning my students the task of finding the "outer limit" of protected speech.

I don't shock easily, but I was shocked.

What kind of a person would make such things or watch them?

I understand the dangers of content-based regulation. I understand that the answer to bad ideas is debate and not censorship. But I am hard-pressed to come up with any argument as to the value of protecting depictions of criminal cruelty and the brutal murder of animals.

These are not hunting videos we are talking about. They aren't images of slaughterhouses. Staging such events would be criminal (just ask Michael Vick), and recording them and selling them should be, too.

The new bill introduced by Gallegly and Moran this week would prohibit the interstate sale of images of animals being "intentionally crushed, burned, drowned or impaled" unless they have "religious, political, scientific, educational, journalistic, historic or artistic value."

Punishment is up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

The draft bill, in an effort to satisfy First Amendment critics (including those in robes), specifically provides that it does not apply to hunting videos.

Don't expect all the critics to be satisfied.

Andrew Tauber, an attorney who filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the Supreme Court, is already being quoted today criticizing the bill as "presumptively unconstitutional."

A new round of court challenges should be expected. Sign me up.

There's a famous Harry Truman quote I've always loved: "If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog."

Dogs are lucky to have good friends in Gallegly and Moran. They just need a few more on the court.

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► Angel Food Ministries menu for May

Angel Food Ministries distribution at North Birdwell Lane Methodist Church will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. this Friday and May 7 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday and May 8.

The church is located at 2702 N. Birdwell Lane. Orders may also be placed at www.angelfoodministries.com

May menu

Signature Box, \$30: 1.5 lb. ribeye steaks (4x6 oz.), 2 lb. lasagna dinner entree, 1.5 lb. breaded fish fillets (12 ct.), 1 lb. lean ground beef, 1 lb. all white meat chicken, 1 lb. sausage (mild Italian), 1.5 lb. country fried steak (4x6 oz.), 14 oz.-16 oz. hickory smoked ham steaks, 1 lb. frozen peas and carrots, 1 lb. frozen broccoli florets, 1 lb. frozen sliced zucchini, 15 oz. baked beans, 24 oz. french fries, 1.3 lb. frozen fruit, 2 lb. onions, 32 oz. 2 percent shelf stable milk, dozen eggs, dessert.

Just 4 Me After School Box, \$24: 1.5 lb. fish sticks, 1 lb. popcorn chicken, 2 pepperoni pizza (6.5 oz. ea.), 2 peanut butter and jelly sandwich, 15.6 oz. pepperoni stuffed breadsticks, 2 twin charbroil hamburgers with cheese, 2 PBJ or graham wafer, 1.5 lb. mini corn dogs, 7.2 oz. mimi Moon Pies (6 ct.).

May Special No. 1, \$23: 1.5 lb. bone-in New York Strip steaks (2x12 oz.), 2 lb. Baby Back Ribs, 1.5 lb. hamburger patties (4x6 oz.), 1.5 lb. mild Italian sausage with cheese.

May Special No. 2, \$22: 4 lb. sirloin strip steaks (8x8 oz.).

May Special No. 3, \$19: 4 mesquite chicken breaks (6 oz. ea.), BBQ chicken breasts (6 oz. ea.), Italian chicken breast (6 oz. ea.).

May Special No. 4, \$35: (Four complete meals to feed a family of four) Beef Tips and Gravy - 1.5 lb. beef tips and gravy, 1 lb. egg noodles, 1 lb. vegetable blend. Split Whole Chicken - 3 lb. whole split chicken, 1 lb. stir fry with vegetables, 1 lb. green beans. Choice Roast Beef - 1.5 lb. roast beef, 1.5 lb. potato medley, 1 lb. green beans. Baby Back Ribs - 2 lb. Baby Back Ribs, 1 lb. corn, 1 lb. green beans.

May Special No. 5, \$22: 1 head cello lettuce, 1 head Romaine lettuce, 1 lb. bag carrots, 6 oz. radishes, 1 red onion, 5 oz. croutons, 16 oz salad dressing, 3 lb. bag potatoes, 2 lb. bag apples, 3 lb. bag oranges, 1 package Roma tomatoes, 6 lemons.

May Special No. 6, \$21: 28 oz. Salisbury steak and gravy dinner entree, 12-inch supreme pizza, 1 lb. steak fajita strips, 1 lb. Kielbasa sausage, 2 lb. broccoli and cheese soup, 2 lb. green beans, 1 lb. corn, 1 lb. hash brown patties, 1 pie.

Allergen-free box, \$23: (Processed to eliminate the eight top serious allergens) 1 lb. breaded chicken breast chunks,

1 lb. breaded chicken tenders, 1 lb. breaded cubed steak, 2 lb. bread-

lets, 1.5 lb. crunchy popcorn shrimp, 1 lb. breaded clam strips, 1 lb. me-

cooked meals, just heat and serve)

Mesquite chicken with Southwest rice blend, black beans, mesquite BBQ sauce, carrots and green beans.

Salisbury steak and gravy with red skin potatoes, peas and carrots and cauliflower.

Country herb chicken with mashed potatoes, sauce, broccoli and green beans and red pepper blend.

Chicken parmesan with fettuccini noodles, cheese, marinara sauce, zucchini and red peppers and brussels sprouts.

Meatloaf and gravy with mashed potatoes, peas and carrots and cauliflower.

Chicken teriyaki with fried rice blend, teriyaki sauce, sugar snap peas and carrots.

Chicken and noodles with carrots, peas, creamy sauce, corn and brussels sprouts.

Swedish meatballs with malfada pasta, sauce, broccoli and carrots and red peppers and onions.

Fettuccini Alfredo with fettuccini noodles, broccoli, carrots, alfredo sauce, zucchini and red peppers and brussels sprouts.

Beef stew with potatoes, carrots, celery, onions, brussels sprouts, corn and red pepper blend.

Variety of desserts and snacks.



ed chicken drumsticks.

Premium Seafood box, \$35: 1.1 crab cakes (5), 1.3 lb. haddock fil-

dium raw shrimp, 8 oz. Mahi-mahi (2x4 oz.).

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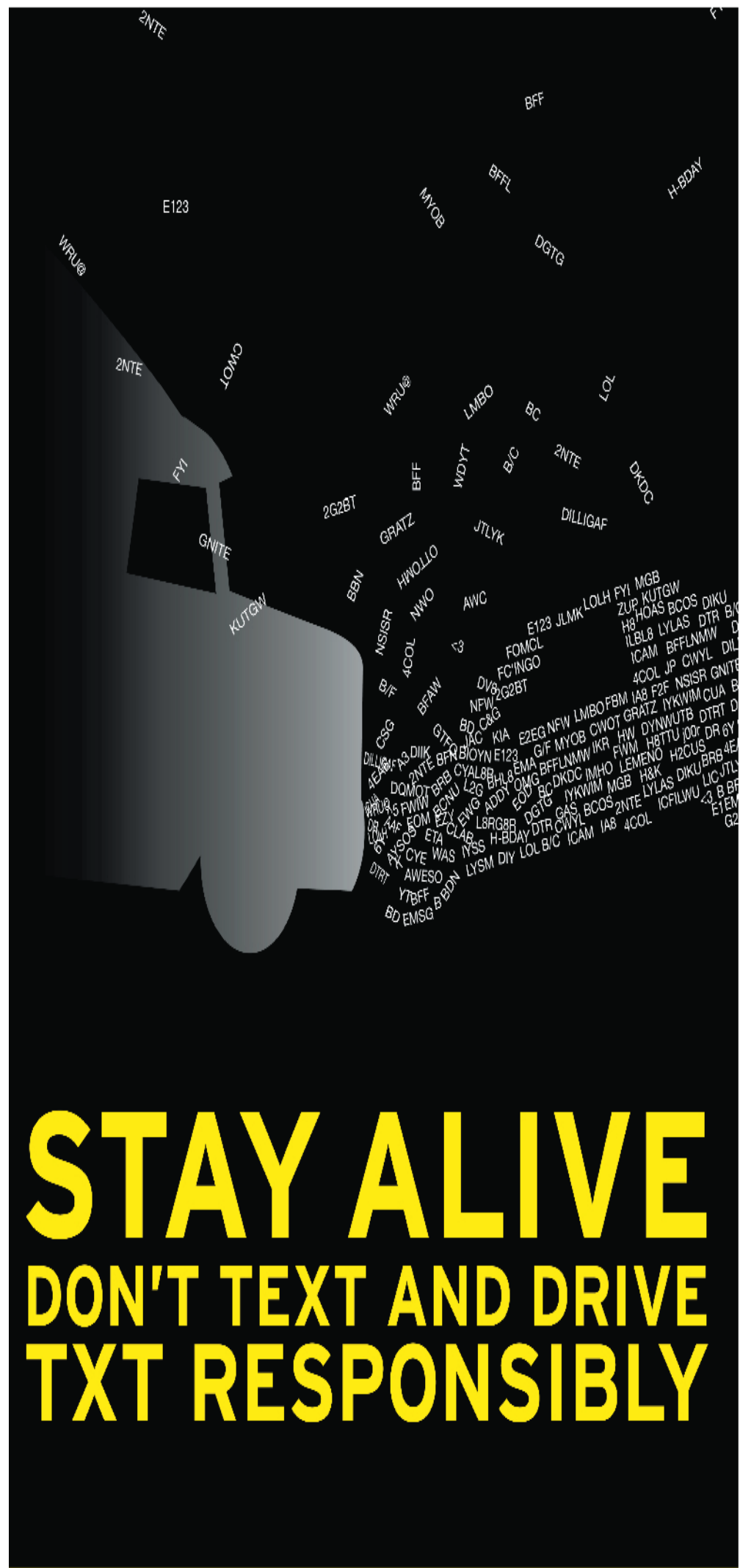
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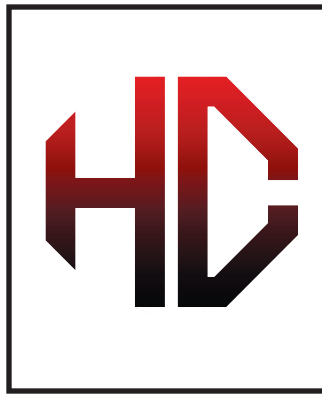
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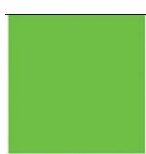
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Challenger

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The 2010 Dodge Challenger R/T and Challenger SE

When it comes to vehicles that get the most attention, American muscle cars by far top the list.

If my test vehicle for the week is a muscle car, I know it's going to be a busy week.

Folks will see the car in the parking lot and stop to check out the car. Some even come in and ask for a demonstration or test drive. I've even been followed into a parking lot by car enthusiasts wanting to get a closer look and pick my brain.

The Dodge Challenger is no exception. In fact, I could easily classify it as one of the most head-turning vehicles I've driven for a review.

Since its reintroduction for the 2009 model year, the Challenger has literally captivated American driving enthusiasts.

Dodge absolutely nailed it. Not only does the rear-wheel drive coupe deliver

modern day performance specs, safety features and impressive fuel economy, the retro styling lets everyone know at a glance they are looking at pure American muscle.

I tell everyone it is like driving a classic muscle car of the late '60s, but with all of the modern day technology — the best of both worlds.

As a kid who grew up in the '60s (and came of age in the '70s), I fondly remember the iconic machines that dominated American roadways. I absolutely love those cars and envy the collectors who own and restore them. (Maybe when my wife and I become empty nesters I can join their ranks.)

That's one of the reasons I really enjoy the Challenger.

While in its second model year of production, there are not a lot of changes for the 2010 model. Electronic sta-

bility control is now standard on the SE trim level; automatic headlamps, LED cup holder and door handle lights are now standard on the R/T trim; buyers now have the option of a Super Track package and there is also the option of a Uconnect multimedia package with sound group.

The Challenger is still available in three trim levels — SE, R/T and SRT8.

And yes, you can still get one that's HEMI powered.

Since Dodge revived the Challenger nameplate, I've been fortunate to drive all three trim levels.

When asked (and I have been frequently), the Challenger R/T is my favorite. If I didn't have three kids in college, one would be parked in my driveway (without having to give it back the following week).

While several of my gearhead buddies make a

compelling argument for the 425-horsepower SRT8 (\$41,230 base price), I really don't need that much power, or the track clock on the instrument panel that posts your 1/4-mile time, lap time and how many G-forces you're pulling during acceleration.

The R/T (\$30,860 base price), powered by a 372-horsepower HEMI V-8 — is more power than I'll ever need and it is very nicely equipped. The base SE trim level (\$22,735 base price) is powered by a 250-horsepower V-6.

Down the road, I have no doubt the new Challenger will become a hot commodity for classic collectors, much like the original Challenger is today.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 20 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL:
2010 Dodge Challenger
5-seat coupe

Rear-wheel drive

Trim packages:
SE, R/T, SRT8

PRICE RANGE:
\$24,000-\$45,000

ENGINE:

3.5-L V6 (250 hp/250 T)

5.7-L HEMI V8 (372 hp/400 T)

6.1-L HEMI V8 (425 hp/420 T)

TRANSMISSION:

5-speed automatic

6-speed Tremec manual

EPA: 17/16/14 mpg city,

25/25/22 mpg highway (3.5

V6/5.7 V8/6.1 V8)

FUEL: Regular/midgrade/
premium unleaded (3.5 V6/5.7
V8/6.1 V8)

TRACTION CONTROL:

All speed traction control

BRAKES: ABS

LENGTH: 207.6 inches

WHEELBASE: 115.6 inches

WIDTH: 75.7 inches

HEIGHT: 57.1 inches

WEIGHT: 3,720-4,144 lbs.

TRACK: 63/63.1 inches

(front/rear)

FUEL TANK: 18/19/19 gallons

(SE-R/T-SRT8)

TIRES: 17-, 18- or 20-inch

Casual Cooking with Kris

Welcoming readers to my world where I enjoy simple, sometimes quick, but always delicious meals.

Because of my love for Mexican cuisine, I believe I have a Mexican heart trapped in a Gringa's (white woman) body. The recipe provided this week is just in time for Cinco de Mayo celebration. Before you turn up your nose and say eewwww... to the name of the recipe, let me guarantee the deliciousness.

I have heard and seen things on cooking channels that made me want to try these. I thought



KRIS SOLIZ

about how I would like these to taste and came up with this recipe. My husband and I cooked this up two Sundays ago.

We enjoyed them so much we were talking about them all evening and the next day. I couldn't wait to share this recipe.

We cooked them on a gas grill, but the source of heat is not in question as the method and flavor. You can use outdoor grill, indoor grill, fry pan, broiler or oven.

In preparation of the corn tortillas, the grills or fry pan can be used. You will lightly brush or wipe vegetable oil on both sides before warming them up, making them pliable and with toasted marks for flavor.

I recommend using catfish, grouper, talapia, orange roughy or I

used a frozen fish called Striped Pangasius Fillet.

The fish I used was delicious, held up very well and was meaty, it can be found in the frozen fish section at H-E-B.

It will take two corn tortillas for one taco because it needs to be strong enough to hold all the goodies, so if you're feeding four people you will need 16 corn tortillas.

I look forward to making these again and hope you will too.

Enjoy — Kris Soliz

FISH TACOS

- 4-8 Fish Fillets
- 8-16 corn tortillas
- 2 limes
- cilantro
- sour cream
- pico de gallo
- packaged, finely shredded cabbage
- cajun or creole seasonings
- cumin
- chilli powder
- paparika
- garlic powder

vegetable oil

Lightly oil both sides of fish, then sprinkle them with all the dry spices. Cook a couple of minutes on each side until done. Place on platter or pan. Squeeze lime juice over the fish and cover with foil to keep warm. Brush or wipe the corn tortillas with oil, then place on grill or fry pan. Turn them over, warming them through. Leave some toasted marks for flavor.

To assemble, take

two tortillas and place a small portion of fish on one side. Add torn cilantro leaves, sour cream, pico de gallo and finely shredded cabbage.

The cabbage is a wonderful substitute for shredded lettuce and because the flavor is mild and it looks like lettuce you can disguise nutrition wrapped in flavor for kids or those with a more picky palate.

This is a finger food, so load up on the napkins.

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Poll: A third say pets listen better than husbands

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Husbands, if you end up in the doghouse, consider it a promotion.

A third of pet-owning married women said their pets are better listeners than their husbands, according to an Associated Press-Pet-side.com poll released Wednesday. Eighteen percent of pet-owning married men said their pets are better listeners than their wives.

Christina Holmdahl, 40, talks all the time to her cat, two dogs or three horses — about her husband, naturally.

"Whoever happens to be with me when I'm rambling," said Holmdahl.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The day after the full Scorpio moon has a distinct feeling to it. It's like looking back on something you ranted about in your diary in the heat of passion and then realizing in the light of day how melodramatic and maybe even immature it all sounded. At least you didn't post it in a blog or send it as an e-mail to your entire list. Oh, you did? Oops.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You will journey into the unknown. There's a certain kind of person you should take with you on this excursion — someone who can go with an open mind and look at the challenge as an adventure.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's no need to put on airs or to know more than you know. Don't be afraid of sounding inelegant. People will connect with you on basic levels. Silly ideas will sell, both on a personal level and in business.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are not what your business card says you are — not really and certainly not all of the time. You will defy narrow definitions and confining roles as you delight in one of your most playful days in weeks.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your relationships will serve you well, efficiently bringing your dreams into reality. In a few instances, you'll be blown away by the speed at which your hopes are realized.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There are still a few problems to solve. However, you've had enough of executive level action and high mindedness for one week. Break yourself out of a mental rut with intuitive, illogical or just plain dumb solutions. They'll work!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be meeting

with important people face to face. Visualize the outcome you desire before you even knock on the door. The intention you set will dictate the way it all shakes out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You relate to others with ease, but you still prefer to be alone today. There's something you're working on — a feeling you want to process or an artistic impulse that needs to be sorted out in silence.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you respond to problems without critical thought, you'll be wiser than you realize. Highly structured scenes could use a playful, disruptive force. Your childlike reactions and rule bending will make good things happen.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're in the mood for some risky business. It may be challenging to find anyone willing to take those risks with you. Many are trying to preserve what they have. You'll wind up with more because you took the risk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll banter with a conversational foil. This person can point out the faults in your logic, affording you the opportunity to fix the holes before you present the ideas to anyone else.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll take measures to increase your strength and stamina. There are many reasons to do so, the most important being that you have a long list of things you want to do and they all take energy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will be energized by spur-of-the-moment social happenings. You'll enjoy the company of a variety of characters. Even those you normally don't favor will have something to offer you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 29). You'll learn about new subjects and will find one so fascinating that you'll follow it through the entire year. You'll

make a savvy investment in May. Believe in yourself and follow through — that's key. A wound heals in July. August shows you either building or redesigning a home, or making a move. Cancer and Aries people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 25, 10, 22, 17 and 50.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "What is a trine in astrology?"

When two planets are 120 mathematical degrees apart from each other (one-third of a circle), they're said to be trined. The trine is a beneficial aspect that brings stability to a situation. Like the Great Pyramid in Egypt, that triangular shape is strong enough to withstand eons of wear and tear. Trined planets may be so secure and comfortable in each other's presence, in fact, that the situation at hand may take on a life of its own. Let's say that Jupiter trines Mercury. You may find yourself on the receiving end of kudos galore, which is great as long as you can keep up with your gazillion e-mails and keep your server from crashing. Forward momentum is nearly impossible to stop once set in motion, and the trine definitely greases the wheels of inertia unless you deliberately apply the brakes. Too much of a good thing can get out of control. Think of the trine like this: You're holding a beautiful cup, and someone's pouring you a refreshing beverage. You have to know when to say when, or that cup is going to overflow and ruin your grandmother's heirloom tablecloth. Don't get greedy.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Why are Taurus comedians so funny? This grounded sign tends to find humor in things that many people can relate to, turning commonplace situations into extraordinary laughs. On the subject of birthdays, earthy Taurus Jerry Seinfeld says, "You know you're getting old when you get that one candle on the cake. It's like, 'See if you

can blow this out.'"

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
Diabolical Defense

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ Q J 7 3		♠ 10	
♥ A K 9 5 2		♥ J 6 3	
♦ —		♦ 10 8 4	
♣ 8 7 6 2		♣ A K Q 10 5 3	

WEST		SOUTH	
♠ 9 4 2		♠ A K 8 6 5	
♥ Q 10 8		♥ 7 4	
♦ J 9 7 6 3		♦ A K Q 5 2	
♣ J 4		♣ 9	

The bidding:
South 1♠ Pass West 2♥ Pass North 4♠ Pass East 6♣ Pass

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

It may be hard to see how South could fail to make six spades on this layout, but that is exactly what happened when the deal occurred. Moreover, given the circumstances he encountered in both the bidding and the play, we suspect that quite a few others would have fallen into the same trap.

East laid the initial groundwork for declarer's eventual undoing when he elected to remain silent throughout the auction. West then did his

part by leading his doubleton jack in the unbid suit, clubs.

It was now East's turn to take advantage of what he knew and declarer didn't. Instead of making the normal play of overtaking the jack with the queen and continuing with the king, East won the first trick with the ace and returned the queen! This sequence of plays was designed to create the impression in declarer's mind that West had led from a club holding headed by the K-J-10.

The payoff came a few tricks later. After ruffing the queen, South trumped a diamond in dummy, then played the queen of spades and a spade to the king. A second diamond was ruffed with the jack of spades, bringing declarer to the critical position.

With no more trumps in dummy, South had to guess how to get back to his hand. The threat, of course, was West's nine of spades, which could score a fatal overruff.

It was here that East's earlier deceptive plays came to fruition. Afraid that West might overruff a third round of hearts and certain that West had at least one club remaining, South elected to ruff a club, and the nine of spades came home to roost.

Perhaps another declarer might have made the winning decision, but the actual South is certainly deserving of our sympathies.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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su | do | ku
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ANSWERS

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

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News in brief

Obama: Congress may not have 'appetite' for immigration

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama says there "may not be an appetite" in Congress to deal with immigration immediately after going through a tough legislative year.

With energy legislation on the table and midterm elections approaching,

Obama said Wednesday he didn't want to force an immigration bill through Congress "just for the sake of politics." Still, he said discussions on the issue must move forward in a way that can garner the support of the American people.

"We've gone through a very tough year and I've been working Congress very hard, so I know there may not be an appetite immediately to dive

into another controversial issue," the president told reporters aboard Air Force One returning with him to Washington from a Midwest trip.

The issue of immigration bubbled to the surface in recent weeks after Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed a controversial bill into law requiring local and state law enforcement to question people about their immigration status if there's reason to suspect they're in the country illegally. The law also makes it a state crime to be in the U.S. illegally.

Obama has sharply criticized the law, asking the Justice Department to look into whether it violates civil rights.

On Wednesday, he said he understands the frustrations of people in Arizona who are faced with thousands of immigrants coming into their state illegally, but he said the state's new immigration law would only end up polarizing the debate over reform.

Senators prepare to debate the details of financial bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Now it's all about the details.

With Republicans ceding the way for debate, legislation to impose sweeping new controls on financial institutions faces a test from both parties. Some Democrats seek tougher restrictions on banks; some Republicans aim to ease consumer protection provisions.

Senate officials expect about two weeks of votes on amendments that could change the bill in substantial ways.

The legislation, aimed at preventing a recurrence of the crisis that knocked the nation's financial system to its knees in 2008, advanced Wednesday when Republicans abandoned their blockade in the Senate. The House has already passed its version.

While Democrats and Republicans agree the Senate will ultimately pass landmark changes, how the debate unfolds will determine whether the

legislation achieves significant bipartisan support.

Democrats still need 60 votes to get past procedural obstacles, a number they can't reach without at least one Republican on their side.

Florida's Crist on cusp of running for U.S.**Senate as independent**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The very thing that once made Gov. Charlie Crist the clear Republican choice to run for U.S. Senate is also what will perhaps make it inevitable that he will eventually buck the party to run as an independent: his embrace — literally and figuratively — of bipartisanship.

A year after it seemed he was the man to beat for the GOP nomination for the U.S. Senate and a virtual shoo-in in the general election, Crist has seen his poll numbers nose-dive and speculation has run rampant about his chances of surviving a primary against tea-party favorite Marco Rubio, the state's former House speaker. The 53-year-old governor has scheduled a Thursday evening event in his hometown where he will reveal his plans, though three confidants have said he's already decided to abandon his long-shot GOP primary bid and run as an independent.

From the day he took office, Crist set out on a course to show he was no Jeb Bush, his conservative Republican predecessor who never wavered from the far-right's ideals.

The Republican establishment liked Crist's moderate credentials a year ago when it backed him for the seat being vacated early by Republican Mel Martinez.

Even as conservatives slammed him, Republicans such as Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and former presidential candidate John McCain of Arizona joined National Republican Senate Committee Chairman John Cornyn of Texas and others in singing his praises.



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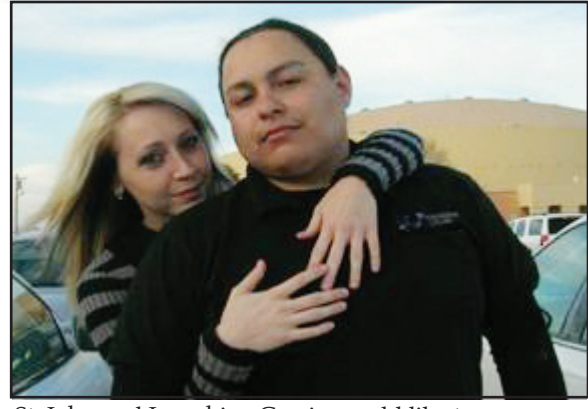
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St. John and Josephine Garcia would like to announce the wedding of their son Christopher John Garcia and Dana Lynn Huckabee. Christopher is a 2001 graduate of Big Spring High School. Dana is a 1997 graduate of Lake View High School. Chris is the grandson of the late Charley E. and Lucia Garcia of Snyder, and Madaleno and Elvira Castillo of Hermleigh. Dana is the daughter of Curtis and Darlene Strickland and granddaughter of Roy and the late Bettye Huckabee of San Angelo, Texas.

Wedding vows are set for May 1st, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at the Word of Life Church located at Ben Ficklin, Exit Hwy. 87 S. San Angelo, Texas. A reception will follow at "The Venue" on S. Jackson, in San Angelo. They welcome all family and friends to attend the blessed union where two shall become one.

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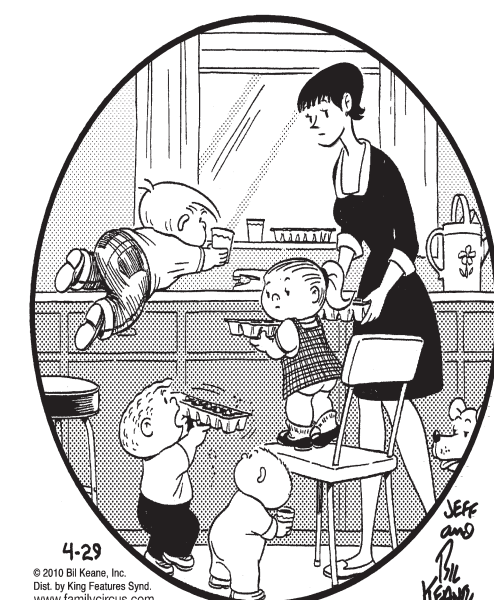
206646

TV schedule table with columns for station (WFAA, KMid, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and rows for time slots (5:30 PM, 6:30 PM, 7:30 PM, 8:30 PM, 9:30 PM, 10:30 PM, 11:30 PM, 12:30 AM, 1:30 AM).

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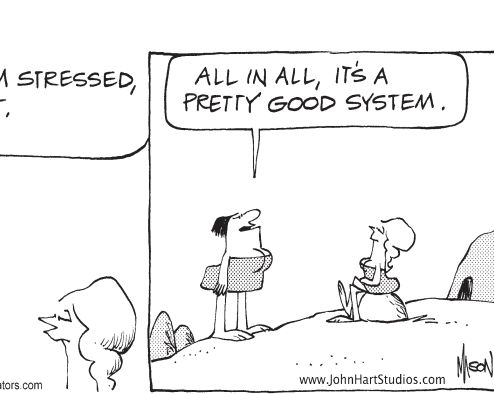
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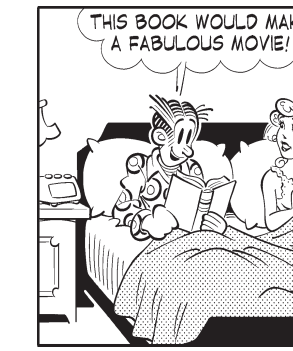
BC



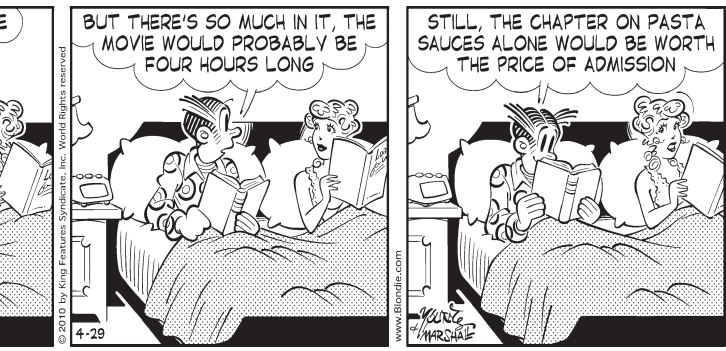
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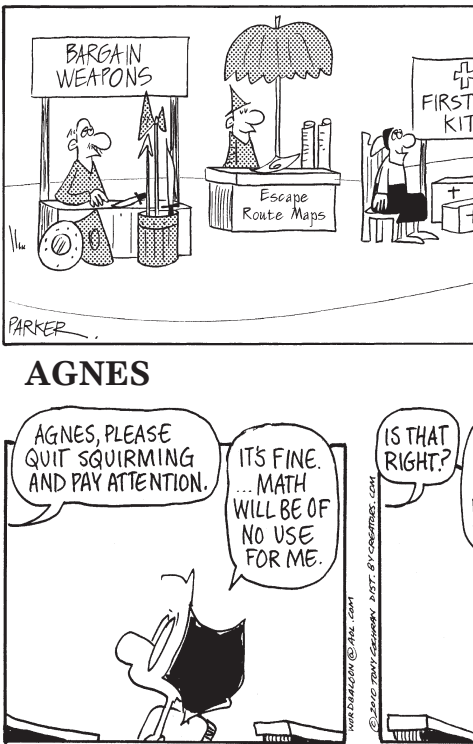
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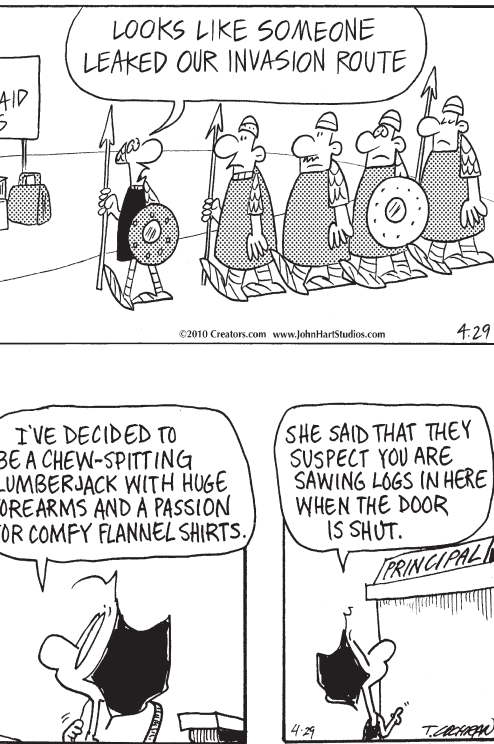
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, April 29, the 119th day of 2010. There are 246 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On April 29, 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Dachau concentration camp...

British authorities.

In 1946, 28 former Japanese officials went on trial in Tokyo as war criminals; seven ended up being sentenced to death. In 1968, the counterculture musical "Hair" opened on Broadway following limited engagements off-Broadway.

THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



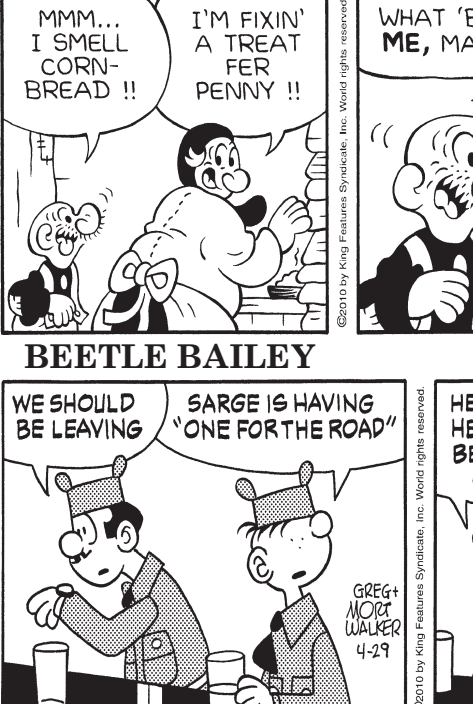
Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Husband and wife 6 Hamilton adversary 10 Cable alternative 14 St. Theresa's home 15 Ostrich relative 16 Golden Rule word 17 Honoree in a toasting tune 20 Aardvark morsel 21 Informal assent 22 Cockpit crew 23 Hang in the balance 24 Card-game shout 25 Ref's declaration 26 Lower in rank 29 Whiz kid 31 Long time 32 Wretched 34 Garish signs 38 "Chill out!" 41 Lone Star State ballplayer 42 Obsessed by 43 Opera that premiered in Cairo 44 Like a team of oxen 46 Disheveled 48 Word of protest 51 __ XING 52 Noggin 53 Lawrence of Arabia star 55 Peter Pan dog 56 Gray shade 59 Steve Martin's self-description 62 Clinched, as a game

MALE BONDING by Fred Piscop

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and answers. Clues include: 11 Place to moor, 12 New parents' lawn adornment, 13 "In what way?", 18 League of Nations city, 19 Cause of strange weather, 23 Bakery buy, 24 Remarkable, 26 Tot's word, 27 They may clash at work, 28 Needing realignment, 29 Mix smoothly, 30 Enya's music, 33 Like some university walls, 35 Skip over, 36 Zip, 37 Negotiations hangup, 39 Major publicity, 40 Solar-eclipse sight, 45 With intensity, 47 Renders speechless, 48 Alamo defender, 49 City on the Mohawk, 50 Boardinghouse sign, 52 Fixes a hole, perhaps, 54 Vegas calculation, 55 Final Four org., 56 Tourist city of India, 57 Port of Egypt, 58 Demonic alter ego of fiction, 60 Female rabbit, 61 Starchy side dish.

BEETLE BAILEY



BEETLE BAILEY

