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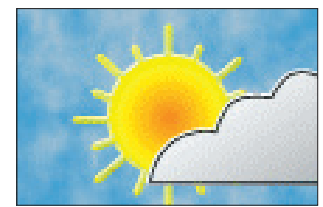
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BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY

APRIL 15, 2011



VOLUME 106, NUMBER 115

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Salem Baptist women 'top' volunteers

Jack Y. Smith Award goes to group helping the state hospital for 30 years

By **VALERIE AVERY**
Special to the Herald

Steve Smith presented the women of Salem Baptist Church with the Jack Y. Smith Award Thursday during Big Spring State Hospital's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

The luncheon, "Touching Lives, Lifting Spirits," recognized approximately 100 volunteers who have raised more than \$1.5 million in the past 10 years for the patients at Big Spring State Hospital through fundraisers, soliciting donations and operating The Chalet Resale Shoppe.

Mary Sue Walker and Mary Womack accepted the award for the members who bake

and deliver more than six cakes every month for patients' birthday parties. Each unit celebrates birthdays for the patients on the second Thursday of the month and depend on the women to provide the treats.

"The ladies at Salem Baptist Church have faithfully shown up in the driveway of the Community Relations Office each month for more than 30 years with a trunk full of homemade cakes to celebrate patients' birthdays," Smith said. "One might think of Salem Baptist Church as being somewhat small and not having many members to



Courtesy photo

Representatives from Salem Baptist Church pose with the Jack Y. Smith Award following Thursday's volunteer awards luncheon at Big Spring State Hospital. Accepting the award are Mary Womack and Mary Sue Walker, center. From left to right: Edna Faye Smith, the widow of Jack Y. Smith; Steve Smith, the son of Jack Y. Smith; Womack; Big Spring State Hospital Superintendent Ed Moughon; Walker; and Assistant Superintendent Lorie Couch.

See **AWARDS**, Page 3A



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Glen Carrigan, candidate for the District 3 seat on the Big Spring City Council, right, delivers his answer to a question Thursday night during a political debate at the Howard College Cactus room. Seated and awaiting their turns to speak are District 1 candidate Marcus Fernandez, left, and District 3 candidate Shannon Thomason.

Candidates speak out on city issues

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Despite drawing only three candidates, Thursday night's debate for city council hopefuls managed to heat up the races for the District 1 and District 3 seats on the government panel, with attention turning to term limits, the tax rate and municipal spending.

District 3 candidates Shannon Thomason and Glen Carrigan — along with a last minute-statement from write-in candidate Oscar Velasco — joined District 1 hopeful Marcus Fernandez to take part in the debate, which was fueled

by questions submitted by e-mail and mail.

District 3 incumbent Joann Staulcup said she was unable to attend the debate because she would be out of town, while District 1 incumbent Stephanie Horton said she could not attend due to surgery. However, during the debate several audience members, including Mayor Tommy Duncan, told those in attendance the surgery was scheduled for Monday.

Questions presented at the debate covered a wide

See **DEBATE**, Page 3A

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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 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.

Tea Party planned downtown Saturday

Herald Staff Report

Howard County Conservatives will host a Tea Party rally from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Heart of the City Park.

The event is informal. Those attending may want to bring refreshments and lawn chairs.

"This is an opportunity for all citizens to become better informed on the critical issues facing our

See **RALLY**, Page 3A

Valve installation to limit water pressure

The city of Big Spring Water Utilities Department will be installing three valves on Auburn Street beginning at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Work will continue until water has been restored. Customers living in the following areas will experience low or no water pressure during valve installation:

- Auburn from Baylor to Columbia
- Columbia from Cornell to 11th Place
- 11th Place from Baylor to Columbia
- FM 700 from Columbia to Interstate 20
- Sands Springs and Coahoma area.

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Obituaries

Allen William Gerhart



Allen William Gerhart, 80, of Odessa passed away April 13, 2011, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 16, 2011, at Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home Chapel.

He was born Dec. 6, 1930, in Winters. He served in the Army and was an aircraft painter. He is preceded in death by a daughter, Brenda.

He is survived by his wife, Rose Ubnoski Gerhart of Odessa; son, Michael Gerhart; step-son, Eddie Renbarger of Colorado City; step-daughters, Judy Campbell and husband Larry and Terena Renbarger, all of Odessa; brothers, Jack Gerhart and Kenneth Gerhart, both of San Antonio; sisters, Doris Jean Tedford of Abilene and Anna Lee Bloodworth of Vonage, Mexico; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services are entrusted to Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home.

Travis N. Rushing

Travis N. Rushing, 71, of Big Spring died Friday, April 15, 2011, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

A fund has been established at T&P Federal Credit Union for the Gary Nelson family, who lost their home to a fire Wednesday. Funds raised will go toward rebuilding the home. Anyone who would like to help can do so by contacting the credit union at 101 Main or by calling 263-1631.

American Legion Post 506 will hold a fish fry from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the post home, 3203 W. Highway 80. Plates are \$10 each. Carryouts are available. Delivery is from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Everyone is welcome.

Howard County Conservatives will host a Tea Party rally from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at Heart of the City Park in Big Spring. Everyone is invited.

Big Spring Retired Teachers will meet Monday at the Cactus Room on the Howard College campus. All retired school personnel are encouraged to attend and join the association. Dues are \$25 for state and \$7 for local. Any other interested persons are also welcome. The program will be a report on Relay For Life by Vicki Stewart.

First Church of the Nazarene will host a Community Easter Egg Hunt at the Old Settler's Pavilion in Comanche Trail Park on April 23. The event will begin at 10 a.m. Free hot dogs and drinks will be served following the hunt.

Friday is live band dance night at Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler. Senior adults are invited to an evening of fellowship (and good exercise) from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. each Friday. Cost is \$6 per person. For more information or to find out what band is playing, call the Senior Center at 432-267-1628.

The Howard County A&M Club is accepting applications from high school students who are graduating this May and have been accepted at Texas A&M University for fall 2011. Students must be Howard County residents and will enroll for at least 12 hours. Deadline for applications is Friday. More information and the application may be found on the club website: www.westexags.com

What's Happening

April 16-June 1
Heritage Museum presents "Bill Brooks Woodcarving"
For more info contact the museum at (432) 267-8255

April 16-17
Relay For Life Golf Tournament
Big Spring Country Club.
For more info contact Big Spring Country Club at (432) 267-8241

April 16-17
West Texas Disc Golf Championship Tournament
Comanche Trail Park
For more info contact **Greg Brooks (432) 528-5076**

April 23
Community Easter Egg Hunt
Comanche Trail Park
Begins at 10am
Sponsored by the First Church of the Nazarene.
For more info contact (432) 267-7015

Big Spring
Convention & Visitors Bureau
245 W. 3rd St. (432) 263-8235
www.visitbigspring.com

Police blotter

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

- EURVIN JAMALL WINTERS, 23, of 1900 Martin Luther King Blvd., was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid – no insurance.
- PAMMY SUE PUGA, 45, of 1313 Lindbergh St., was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- LINDSAY ROCHELLE WAGNER, 24, of 13 Riva Ridge, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- JASON DION WALKER, 30, of Hawaii, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while intoxicated – open container.
- LORENZO DELUNG WESLEY, 34, of 500 E. 17th St., was arrested Thursday on warrants for assault – family violence and failure to appear.
- ROGER FAY NEWTON, 50, of 1608 Center Point Rd., was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- SYLVIA HERNANDEZ MARTINEZ, 45, of 407 Sunset, was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.
- ELEUTERIO TORRES PADRON, 62, of 509 N. Goliad, was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ANTHONY JOSEPH YANEZ, 19, of 1610 Cardinal, was arrested Friday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- BRANDON JOSEPH SCHEIRBECK, 37, of 501 E. 15th St., was arrested Friday on charges of disregarding a red light, no driver's license – when unlicensed, operating a motor vehicle without license plates (or with one plate), wrong license plate and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1700 block of S. Gregg Street.

Sheriff

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

- Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 73 inmates at the time of this report.
- JASON DION WALKER, 30, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated – open container.
- LORENZO DELUNG WESLEY, 33, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for assault – family violence and failure to appear.
- CALEB LEE ROBERTSON, 34, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- PATRICK TERRALL KESLER, 32, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sat 4/16	Sun 4/17	Mon 4/18	Tue 4/19	Wed 4/20
85/56 A mainly sunny sky. Warm. High near 85F. Winds SE at 10 to 20 mph.	98/65 Mainly sunny and windy. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 60s.	99/66 More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 60s.	96/53 Windy with a few clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 50s.	92/62 Plenty of sun. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 60s.
Sunrise: 7:16 AM Sunset: 8:16 PM	Sunrise: 7:15 AM Sunset: 8:17 PM	Sunrise: 7:14 AM Sunset: 8:17 PM	Sunrise: 7:13 AM Sunset: 8:18 PM	Sunrise: 7:11 AM Sunset: 8:19 PM

- less.
- SYLVIA HERNANDEZ MARTINEZ, 45, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
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- BRANDON JOSEPH SCHEIRBECK, 37, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of disregarding a red light, no driver's license – when unlicensed, operating a motor vehicle without license plates (or with one plate), wrong license plate and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Fire/EMS

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

Note – A report was not made available in time for press.

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News in brief

Wildfires force evacuations in Rotan area

ROTAN (AP) — Residents of this West Texas town of 1,500 are back in their homes after evacuating for several hours as wildfires threatened the community.

Department of Public Safety Sr. Trooper Sparky Dean said officers went door to door to advise residents of Rotan to leave their homes Thursday night. Today, Dean told The Associated Press that evacuees were allowed to return shortly before 11 p.m. Thursday, when the winds shifted and the threat eased. Nobody was hurt.

The Texas Forest Service says Highway 70, Highway 92 and County Road 413 were closed to traffic at times because of fires in Fisher, Kent and Stone-wal counties. The roads reopened late Thursday.

More than 200,000 acres, mainly in West Texas, burned this week during dry, windy conditions.

Nobody hurt in Central Texas fire at storage site

TEMPLE (AP) — Nobody has been hurt in a fire at

an industrial business in Central Texas and crews monitored the blaze as it burned for a second day.

Temple Fire Department spokesman Thomas Pechal said the fire was under control this morning at a storage facility at Forta Corp.

Pechal told The Associated Press that the fire site originally was identified as a recycling facility operated by Temple Iron and Metal Co. Pechal says it was later determined that the fire, which broke out Thursday night, happened at the Forta facility located on Temple Iron and Metal property.

Thousands lose power in latest North Texas storms

DALLAS (AP) — Strong thunderstorms with hail the size of golf balls have pelted parts of North Texas and interrupted power.

Crews from Oncor worked Friday to restore electricity to nearly 3,800 customers who lost power in the bad weather that began Thursday night. The utility reported most of the outages were in the Dallas area and East Texas.

No injuries were reported. The National Weather Service received reports of large hail and winds of around 70 mph in the northern suburbs of Dallas and Fort Worth. At least two homes in Honey Grove, about 70 miles northeast of Dallas, suffered storm damage.

Man pleads guilty to shooting La. trooper

PLAQUEMINE, La. (AP) — The two men arrested in the July 3 shooting of a Louisiana State Police trooper during a traffic stop on Interstate 10 in Iber-

ville Parish appeared in court this week, with one pleading guilty and the other sentenced.

The Advocate reports that 21-year-old Robert Armendariz of El Paso pleaded guilty Wednesday to attempted first-degree murder of a police officer in the shooting of Lt. David Conaway on the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge.

Armendariz faces up to 50 years in prison when he is sentenced July 6.

On Thursday, 20-year-old Fabian Herrera of Houston was sentenced to one year probation after pleading guilty in January to accessory after the fact to attempted first-degree murder of a police officer.

Conaway was released from a hospital the next day.

Marine to be laid to rest in Texas

ARLINGTON (AP) — Friends and family are gathering to pay tribute to a North Texas Marine who died last week — apparently the first case of American troops killed by a missile fired from a U.S. drone.

The memorial service for 26-year-old Staff Sgt. Jeremy D. Smith was scheduled today at Grace Community Church in the Dallas-Fort Worth suburb of Arlington.

Two senior U.S. defense officials have said the military is investigating how Smith and a Navy medic could have been mistaken for insurgents in southern Afghanistan last week. They were hit while moving toward other Marines under fire in Helmand province.

The drone in this case was armed and used to hunt and kill militants.



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Senate boosts fees to pay for legal aid

JIM VERTUNO

Associated Press
AUSTIN — In a year the Republican-dominated Texas Legislature has vowed not to raise taxes, the Senate voted Thursday to add \$10 to the court costs assessed on millions of municipal traffic violations and other misdemeanors.

The increase is designed to pay for criminal and civil legal aid for the poor. But several cities are fighting back, calling the boost a shadow "tax" that lawmakers want their police and courts to collect for them.

The measure by Sen. Jose Rodriguez, an El Paso Democrat, got initial approval by the Sen-

ate on Thursday. A similar measure is pending in the House.

According to a legislative analysis, the bill would raise about \$77 million over the next two years. Rodriguez said that money is needed to meet the state's constitutional obligation to pay for legal help to those who can't afford it on their own.

Federal, state and local money to help pay for those programs is drying up in the tough economy or getting cut by governments, including Texas, facing massive budget shortfalls.

Rodriguez said his plan sets up a dedicated source of money that will ultimately help pay

for legal help for veterans, domestic violence victims and the elderly. The additional court costs would be assessed on traffic cases such as speeding or running a red light, and on low-level criminal cases such as disorderly conduct or simple assault.

According to Rodriguez, annual statewide expenses for indigent defense have gone up from \$91 million in 2001 to \$195 million last year. In 2010, the state provided \$30 million to help with those expenses.

Current budget proposals for the next two years would cut state help by about \$8.6 million.

"If we're going to live

up to our ideals of equal justice for all ... we have to do this one way or another," Rodriguez said.

But the Texas Municipal League is fighting the measure. The group notes that since 2002, the state portion collected from municipal court costs in traffic cases has doubled from \$40 to \$82.

Texas issues more than six million traffic tickets every year. Raising court costs any higher will make traffic violations unaffordable for many drivers and many will simply not pay at all, the group said.

Bennett Sandlin, executive director of the Texas Municipal League, called legal help for the poor a worthy cause, but said "legislators are turning police officers into tax collectors because they don't want to vote for a tax increase."

Rodriguez insists it isn't a tax but a fee assessed on violators.

"Nobody wants to raise taxes," Rodriguez said. "They wouldn't be subject to the fines if they don't commit the violations."

Cities collect \$15 in court costs from municipal violations and there are several other bills that would raise that amount pending in the Legislature, Rodriguez said.

"You don't hear them complaining about those," he said.



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Howard College Rodeo begins



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Howard College cowgirl Paige Woodward and her horse round a barrel during Thursday night's slack competition at the 2011 Howard College Rodeo. The rodeo continues tonight and Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Big Spring Rodeo Bowl. Admission is free.

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Rodeo — 2011 Howard College Rodeo, 7 p.m., Big Spring Rodeo Bowl.

Baseball — Howard College at New Mexico Military Institute (DH), 3 p.m. MST, Roswell, N.M.

Baseball — Coahoma at Lubbock Roosevelt, 7 p.m.

Baseball — Forsan at Ralls, 5 p.m.

Softball — Howard College at Frank Phillips College (DH), 1 p.m., Borger.

Softball — Big Spring at Abilene Wylie, 4:30 p.m.

Softball — Coahoma at Lubbock Roosevelt, 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Rodeo — 2011 Howard College Rodeo, 9 a.m. (slack) and 7 p.m. (finals), Big Spring Rodeo Bowl.

Baseball — Big Spring at Abilene Wylie, 1 p.m.

Baseball — Howard College at NMMI (DH), noon MST, Roswell, N.M.

Softball — Howard College at Clarendon, (DH), 1 p.m.

To submit a calendar item, call 263-7331, ext. 235

NBA playoffs: Beware the Bulls

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
AP Basketball Writer

Kobe Bryant has all that championship experience, and perhaps the NBA's best supporting cast. The Miami Heat have the promise of what LeBron James and Dwyane Wade can deliver in their first postseason together, and the Boston Celtics think their playoff-tested group can do it again.

"You don't ever know if you're going to win a championship until you get there, but you know you have the pieces that can compete for one," Wade said. "That's where we're at right now."

But to win an NBA title, those teams may have to go past Michael Jordan.

Well, past his likeness anyway.

The Chicago Bulls, with dynamite point guard Der-

rick Rose, earned home-court advantage by finishing with the league's best record for the first time since Jordan ruled the NBA. Keep on winning, and the Bulls would open the finals at the United Center, with its statue of Jordan outside.

And what a story it would be if his old coach was on the opposing sideline.

Phil Jackson, who led

Jordan and the Bulls to six NBA titles, is expected to retire after this season. The Lakers would love to send him off with a sixth title in Los Angeles and a remarkable fourth threepeat.

They are the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference and endured a five-game losing streak late in the season. But they

See **NBA**, Page 2B

In brief

Stanton golfer wins 3-2A medalist honors

DENVER CITY — Denver City won the boys' title and Colorado City captured the girls title at the District 3-2A golf tournament, which concluded play Monday.

The results had been on hold while the district's executive committee investigated possible rule violations by an undisclosed team. No infractions were discovered, officials said.

In boys' play, Denver City ended with a score of 685, two strokes better than runner-up Colorado City, Lubbock Roosevelt was third, while Stanton finished fourth with a team score of 744.

Stanton's Eric Garza qualified for the Region I-2A tournament individual competition by finishing fourth in district medalist play.

Coahoma finished sixth with a team total 772, while Forsan placed seventh with a team score of 776.

C-City won the girls' team title with a score of 825, easily out-pacing Denver City, which was second with an 897. Roosevelt was third and Stanton fin-

ished fourth.

Stanton's Kendra Graham won district medalist honors with a two-round score of 181. Taylor Harris of Colorado City was second with a 191.

Tournament to benefit Relay For Life

The 2011 Cancer Scramble, which will benefit the Howard-Glasscock Relay For Life American Cancer Society fundraiser, will be held Saturday and Sunday at Big Spring Country Club.

Format will be a four-person scramble. Entrants can make their own teams or be assigned.

The field will be flighted after the first round, officials noted.

Prizes will be awarded for longest drive, closest to pin and the top three teams in each flight.

Entry fee is \$75 per person plus a \$22 cart fee (private carts are welcome).

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



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The Aries sun does exacerbate the tendency to burn the candle at both ends. And with Mercury, Mars, Jupiter and Uranus all in the sign of the ram, the energy reaches a fever pitch. That's why the Virgo moon is such a welcome reprieve. Virgo's focus on good health and temperance will cause many to retreat, reorganize and rejuvenate.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's no secret that you're a giver. You'll bring around someone else's good fortune. This will ultimately be more satisfying for you than riding your own lucky streak.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your dreams of last night affect the start of your day. Your subconscious has had its fun, but in the morning light, it is time to push the mental "reset" button and take control of your

own mind and mood.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will produce the equivalent of a rabbit out of a hat. It's a trick, the usefulness of which is questionable, but that doesn't keep it from being a sheer delight to your rapt audience.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Avoid a game that's too easy for you. Your nerves will tell you whether you're playing at the right level. And you can channel your nervous energy to give you the edge.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your energy is vibrant, though not necessarily constant. As superhuman as you feel, you still require downtime to recharge. Make time to relax and get grounded, and you'll stay strong.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You will be in a cautious mood, looking out for those more reckless. Someone has to! Your kindness will not be directly repaid, but doing the right thing is its own reward.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll work on your core — if not your abs then your emotional core.

You are loved and valued. By focusing and feeling this at a very deep level, you'll attract more of the same.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be in a spunky mood, and you'll be less guarded with what you do and say. Because of this, you have the potential to brighten someone's day or ruin it, and of course, you'll choose the first option.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Unbeknownst to you, you are drawing someone in with the intensity of your presence, your sparkling eyes and the gusto you add to the conversation. Be careful, heartbreaker!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Though you are open and curious, you will not be easily won. Furthermore, it will take an especially compelling argument to separate you from your money.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You choose what you want because you think it would be fun to have it. You will be careful not to choose out of insecurity or need and will not respond to pressure.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Get back into your hobby. Loved ones may at first be jealous of the time you spend doing "your thing," but they will ultimately be happy for you, as doing what you enjoy makes you a more loving person.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 15). This year grows a new and more confident you. A financial boost will improve many parts of your life. Professional goals will lead you far from your comfort zone. You'll become masterful at a very difficult task because you keep practicing. A special relationship brings blissful times. Cancer and Leo people are your enthusiastic supporters. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 19, 33, 28 and 1.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: **ARIES:** Jealousy can only make you look bad, so don't let it show. **TAURUS:** Be both realistic and creative as you play with your image. **GEMINI:** You are an essential agent for social fun and will receive many invitations. **CANCER:** Your interest

in someone causes you to take a personal inventory and tidy up your game. **LEO:** Acceptance and forgiveness are practices that bring out your highest levels of attractiveness. **VIRGO:** Getting out of town will put you back in touch with who you are. **LIBRA:** You'll lose old baggage. It just doesn't seem relevant to who you are anymore. **SCORPIO:** You don't like the idea that people are playing games, and yet you can't deny that they are. If you participate, you'll do well. **SAGITTARIUS:** Maybe you're not hiding anything, but pretend you are anyway — mystery looks good on you. **CAPRICORN:** Your happy, excited and adventuresome moods are becoming more frequent and lasting longer. **AQUARIUS:** Social grace is a talent you were born with, but it still needs to be honed. You'll practice on a date. **PISCES:** A loved one will see you through another person's eyes and be attracted to you all over again.

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Dear Margo: Betr Lat Thn Nev

Dear Margo: Two years post-divorce, I have been trying to date again. A nice man I have much in common with told me in October that he'd like to get to know me better, but nothing has come of it. Instead, he spends hours texting without trying to set up any sort of a date, sends inappropriate texts for the level of relationship we have, refuses to reveal his schedule or anything else that might aid in our dating — or in

getting to know each other at all, for that matter. After four months of waiting, I feel that I should just move on. It seems that texting is the only relationship he has to offer. This is so sad. Can anything here be saved? — *Sick of Texts*

Dear Sick: Maybe your dignity. Run, do not walk, to the nearest exit. I am guessing that when this man "told" you he wanted to get to know you better, it was online. All he has to offer is texting. I would not be surprised if this time-wasting crackpot is a teenage boy or some random filbert who gets his jollies playing this sort of game. Too bad there seems to be four months down the tubes, but I will not linger too long on the length of time it took you to (dare I say it?) wake up and smell the coffee. — *Margo, correctively*

Being Related Does Not Guarantee Cordiality

Dear Margo: My dilemma involves my three siblings. I am the youngest and have a brother and two sisters, whom I'll refer to as "A" and "B." Sister A is an alcoholic. While none of us are close, we manage to attend holiday gatherings and remain cordial. All this changed when my mother died in 2006.

During the time she lived with me during her last year, sister A visited twice, and the other two sibs never visited until Mom was dying. When she died, she left her house to the four of us. Sister A moved in with her husband, a good man who had cancer and died within months. The house was trashed and full of her belongings, and it took a while before she was completely moved out, in 2008. My cousin was named executrix of Mom's

estate, and she too was in declining physical and mental health, although we did not know this for another year. She neglected Mom's estate, and sister A began a verbal and legal campaign against her. I chose not to join in this, which made her angry with me.

When my cousin died, I was named executrix. I kept in touch with my siblings about estate matters by e-mail, and sister A got the other two sibs on board and turned them against me, writing vitriolic e-mails to me voicing suspicions about the money involved, misuse of funds, etc. — all untrue. When I could no longer stand this, I turned the estate over to my brother.

As of today, the house is still on the market. Thousands of dollars have gone to paying taxes and bills, and there is no more money in the estate. There has been no criticism of my brother

regarding the estate. So here's my dilemma: Should I make any effort to communicate with three siblings who have never shown the slightest interest in me? I love them all, yet I feel unloved. — *Youngest Sibling*

Dear Young: I think if I had three sibs who had "never shown the slightest interest in me," I would probably turn into one of those people who makes her friends her family. The level of dysfunction is high, so I would accept the situation for what it is: lousy. — *Margo, yieldingly*

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Lander's daughter. All letters must be sent via e-mail to dearmargo@creators.com. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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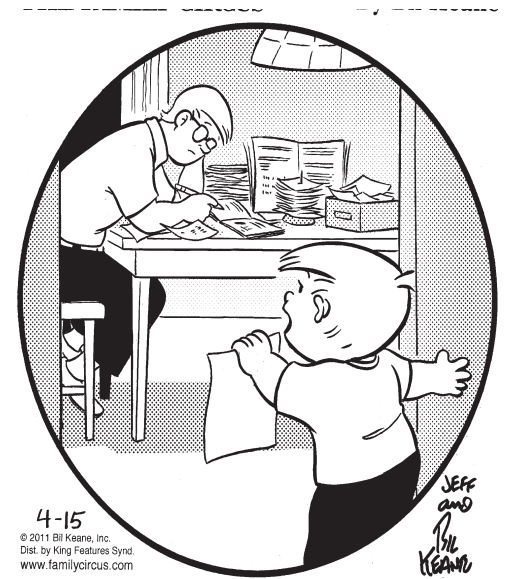
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM 30	News	Alma	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	Faye H.	World	70s Show	Cash Cab	Twelve, Matt Damon	Gangland	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Around	SportsCenter
6:PM 30	Jeopardy!	Llena de Amor (SS)	Two Men	News	Caso Car-rado	News	King	Sala	Business	70s	Cash Cab		The Ultimate Fighter	Bones		Good	Pardon	NBA Tonight
7:PM 30	Shark Tank	Eva Luna (SS)	Two Men	Ent	Millionaire	King	House	Seinfeld	Wash.	Smallville	Hogs Gone Wild	Movie: The Recruit, Bridget Moynahan	Coal	Bones	Movie: Paid in Full, Kevin Carroll	Good	Football	Association
8:PM 30	Primetime: What	Teresa (SS)	Fringe	CSI: NY	Herederos-Monte	Dateline NBC	Light of the Southwest	Supernatural	Need to Know	American Loggers		Movie: The Recruit, Bridget Moynahan	Coal	Movie: The Bourne Supremacy	Movie: New Jersey Drive, Saul Stein	Good	NFL Live	Baseball Tonight
9:PM 30	20/20	Rosa de Guadalupe	Simpsons	Blue Bloods	La Reina del Sur		Movie: 50 First Dates, Rob Schneider	Payne	Daytrip	American Loggers		Movie: The Recruit, Bridget Moynahan	Coal	Movie: GoodFellas, Joe Pesci	Deck	Good	MMA Live	SportsCenter
10:PM 30	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticiero	News	Cortes	Roseanne	Daytrip	Hogs Gone Wild		Movie: The Recruit, Bridget Moynahan	Auction	Movie: GoodFellas, Joe Pesci	Wizards	Association	SportsCenter	
11:PM 30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Para Volver a Amar	Law & Order: SVU	Late	El Cartel	Late Night	Dr.	South Pk	World	American Loggers		Movie: The Recruit, Bridget Moynahan	Auction	Movie: GoodFellas, Joe Pesci	Shake It	SportsNation	NFL Live	
12:AM 30	Extra	Cero en Conducta	Paid	Insider	Decisiones (SS)	Poker After Dark	Brad	South Pk	Upd	American Loggers		Movie: Halloween, Nancy Loomis	MAN	Movie: Paid in Full, Kevin Carroll	Good	NASCAR	SportsCenter	
1:AM 30	Paid	Mujer... Cero	King-Hill	Jewelry	Pagado	Pagado	Best of Light of the Christmas	Passion		Storm Chasers		Movie: The Green Mile, Michael	Movie: The Green Mile, Michael	Good	2010 Poker	SportsCenter		

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'M APPLYING FOR A TAX REBATE. HAVING DENNIS NEXT DOOR REDUCES OUR PROPERTY VALUE!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Daddy, when you finish your tax homework, can you check my math homework?"

HAGAR



I HEREBY CLAIM THIS LAND IN THE NAME OF HAGAR THE HORRIBLE!

HAGAR



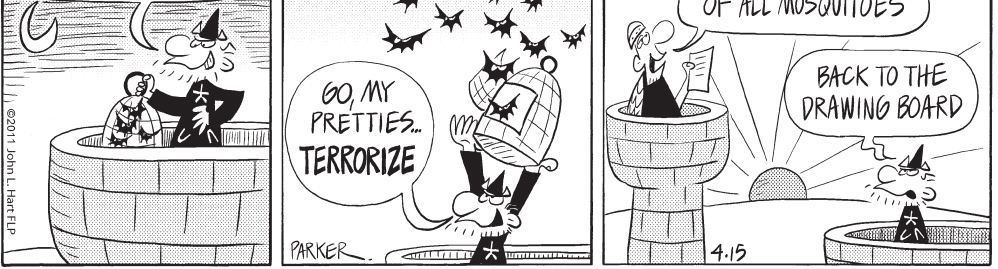
HI, THERE! I'M WITH THE TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE! I'M HERE TO ASSESS YOUR PROPERTY FOR TAXES!

BC



DO YOU FEEL UP TO THE RIGORS OF MANAGING YOUR TEAM THROUGH ANOTHER DIFFICULT SEASON? SURE DO... I'VE EMPLOYED A NEW COPING STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH THE STRESS. HERE IT COMES NOW...

WIZARD OF ID



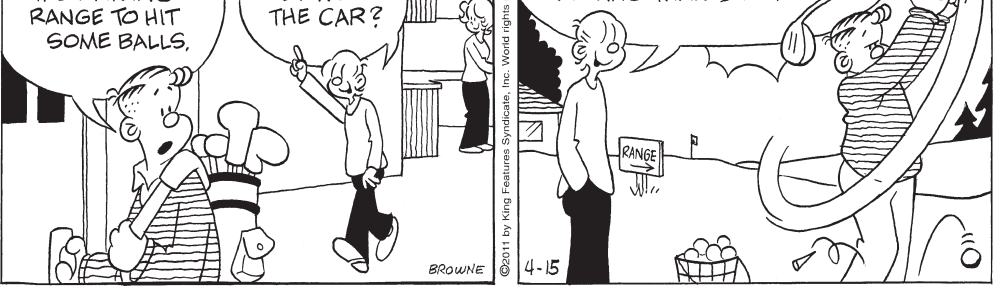
TONIGHT, IT IS TIME FOR SOME MAYHEM... GO, MY PRETTIES... TERRORIZE... TODAY IN THE NEWS... PEOPLE ARE CELEBRATING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ALL MOSQUITOES... BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

AGNES



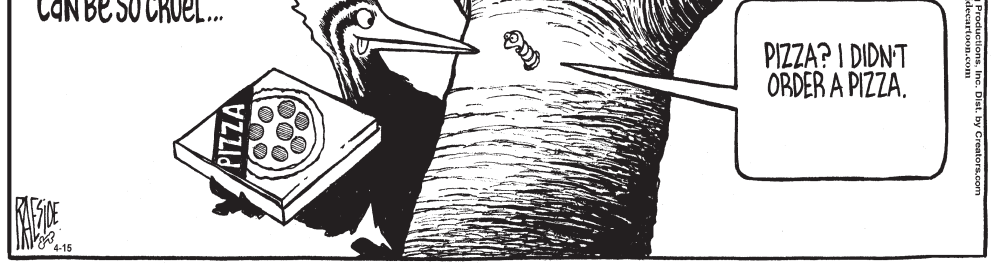
I AM A HUGE CONGLOMERATION OF WORRIES, FEARS AND NEUROSES. THEY SAY TO PICK ONE THING AND DO IT WELL. OK... I'LL PICK WORRYING. I AM ALREADY WORLD CLASS AT THAT. GOOD. NOW I'M WORRIED I PICKED THE WRONG ONE. SHOWOFF.

HI AND LOIS



I'M GOING TO THE DRIVING RANGE TO HIT SOME BALLS. CAN I DRIVE THE CAR? YOU NEED MORE PRACTICE DRIVING THAN I DO.

THE OTHER COAST



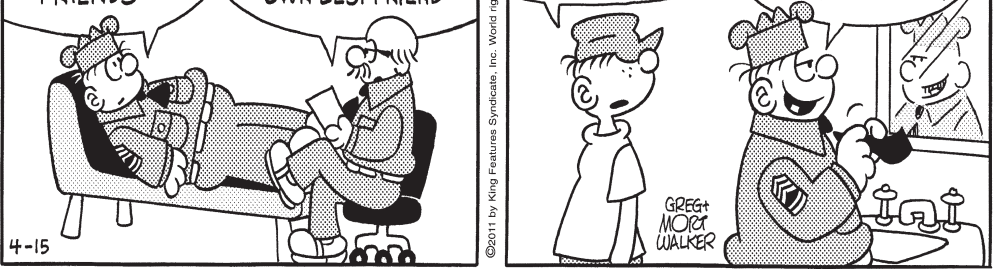
SOMETIMES NATURE CAN BE SO CRUEL... PIZZA? I DIDN'T ORDER A PIZZA.

SNUFFY SMITH



I'M HOPIN' FER A TAX REFUND THIS YEAR, SNUFFY !! I WOULDN'T COUNT ON IT, LUKEY !! WHEN YOU'RE WORKIN' UNDER TH' TABLE, TH' BEST YOU CAN HOPE FER IS CRUMBS !!

BEEBLE BAILEY



SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I HAVE NO FRIENDS. THE SECRET TO MENTAL HEALTH IS TO BE YOUR OWN BEST FRIEND. GOING SOMEWHERE, SARGE? NO, I THINK WE'LL JUST STAY IN OUR ROOM TONIGHT!

This Date In History

Today is Friday, April 15, the 105th day of 2011. There are 260 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 15, 1861, following the Confederate takeover of Fort Sumter, President Abraham Lincoln declared a state of insurrection and called out Union troops.

On this date:

In 1817, the first permanent American school for the deaf opened in Hartford, Conn.

In 1850, the city of San Francisco was incorporated.

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln died, nine hours after being shot the night before by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington. Andrew Johnson became the nation's 17th president.

In 1912, the British luxury liner RMS Titanic sank in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland, less than three hours after striking an iceberg; some 1,500 people died.

In 1945, during World War II, British and Canadian troops liberated the Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson, baseball's first black major league player, made his official debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers on opening day. (The Dodgers defeated the Boston Braves, 5-3.)

In 1959, Cuban leader Fidel Castro arrived in Washington to begin a goodwill tour of the United States. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles resigned for health reasons (he was succeeded by Christian A. Herter).

In 1960, a three-day conference to form the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) began at Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C. (The group's first chairman was Marion Barry.)

In 1980, existentialist philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre died in Paris at age 74.

In 1986, the United States launched an air raid against Libya in response to the bombing of a discotheque in Berlin on April 5; Libya said 37 people, mostly civilians, were killed.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Michael Ansara is 89. Country singer Roy Clark is 78. Author and politician Jeffrey Archer is 71. Rock singer-guitarist Dave Edmunds is 67. Actor Michael Tucci is 65. Actress Lois Chiles is 64. Writer-producer Linda Bloodworth-Thomason is 64. Actress Amy Wright is 61. Columnist Heloise is 60. Actress-screenwriter Emma Thompson is 52. Bluegrass musician Jeff Parker is 50. Singer Samantha Fox is 45. Rock musician Ed O'Brien (Radiohead) is 43. Actor Flex Alexander is 41. Actor Danny Pino is 37. Actor-writer Seth Rogen is 29. Actress Alice Braga is 28. Rock musician De'Mar Hamilton (Plain White T's) is 27. Actress Emma Watson is 21.

Newsday Crossword

LIVE AND LEARN by Nina Rulon-Miller
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Sound preceding "Yikes!"

5 College major, for short

10 First name

14 Some map lines: Abbr.

15 City on the Missouri

16 "For dieters" descriptor

17 You love: Lat.

18 Calculus concept

19 Obstruction-free

20 Start of a Mark Twain quip

23 Part of i.e.

24 Olive-tree cousin

25 Happening

28 Remained still

30 Worn out

33 Portrait on Chinese currency

34 Like kilts

37 Fixed charge

38 Middle of quip

41 Go-to guys

42 Unconquerable foe

43 Sliced salmon serving

44 Loses (to)

45 Walker's gear

49 Sweepstakes submission

51 Security device

53 Mideast political org.

54 End of quip

59 Square measure

61 Head of Hollywood costuming

62 It may be living

63 Days in Barcelona

64 Sort of scary

65 Parts of some portfolios

66 Classify

67 Pants parts

68 lbsen title character

7 Potato alternatives

8 Smart

9 Word in a memorable Morse message

10 Chilly

11 Envoy, e.g.

12 Enjoyed, with "up"

13 Chaps

21 Serve, as stew

22 Bran source

26 Solemn avowal

27 Tip of a mule

29 Stops wavering

30 Mushroom features

31 "Take this!"

32 Coleridge selections

35 Cubic Rubik

36 Not many

37 Elevation

38 Cultural symbol

39 Procrastinator's deadline

40 Major hurricane of 2005

41 Pale potato

44 Provo sch.

46 Honey source

47 Catchphrase

48 "No fooling!"

50 Luau, typically

51 Adorable one

52 Is sore

55 Sense offense

56 Idyllic spot

57 Calamitous

58 Piece of kindling

59 Paid space

60 Big city for soccer

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16

17 18 19

20 21 22

23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31 32 33

34 35 36 37

38 39 40

41 42

43 44 45 46 47 48

49 50 51 52 53

54 55 56 57 58

59 60 61 62

63 64 65

66 67 68

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Answer to previous puzzle

RULES	CLEF	SAFE
UTICA	YURI	UFOS
RAZOR	BASS	NAGS
HANGS	OUTTODRY	
EAR	FDA	
DOESNT	GOQUIETLY	
INPUT	PELE	WEE
WISE	HEADS	DIVA
ECO	LAIR	NINER
REMAIN	INSTOBES	SEEN
DVD	CAT	
STAYS	AWAY	FROM
JEEP	ONES	LIMOS
EAST	ANTE	LIVANA
BLTS	POSY	XEROX