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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**VOTE**

**TUESDAY**

**MARCH 4, 2014**



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VOLUME 109, NUMBER 118

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Law enforcement personnel exit a scene in the 100 block of NW Eighth Street in Big Spring this morning. Neighbors said officers had conducted an apparent drug bust although the Herald was still awaiting official word at presstime.

## Voting locations

Where to vote in today's primary elections:

- Precincts 11, 12, 12A, 13, 14, 16, 103, 104 and 105 — road and bridge office at 1000 N. San Antonio in Big Spring.
- Precincts 24, 25, 26, 205 and 208 — Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700 in Big Spring.
- Precincts 32, 33, 34, 35 and 304 — First Baptist Church at 705 W. FM 700 in Big Spring.
- Precincts 42, 45, 46, 404 and 405 — Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, 1001 Birdwell on the Howard College campus.
- Precincts 408 and 409 — First Baptist Church in Sand Springs, 8517 N. Service Road, Sand Springs.
- Precincts 207 and 207C — Coahoma Community Center, 306 North Avenue in Coahoma.

Voting will be held through 7 p.m. Be sure to bring along some proof of identification.

## Skywarn class coming to Big Spring

**BY LYNDEL MOODY**  
 Staff Writer

Weather has been topic of many Crossroads residents lately and later this month they will have a chance to delve a little deeper into that subject. The National Weather Service is offering a Skywarn weather class free of charge to the public. The class is taught by Mark Strobin of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

"The purpose is to educate the general public on everything — the basics of thunderstorm development, fundamentals of storm structure, things of that nature," said Big Spring Police Lt. Brian Gordon, event coordinator. The class will be held at 7 p.m. March 20 in the city of Big Spring Council Chambers. Participants are encouraged to bring a pad and paper to take notes.

The class will cover the following topics: basics of thunderstorm development, fundamentals of storm structure, identifying potential severe weather features, information to report; how to report information and basic severe weather safety. For more information, contact Gordon at 432-264-2561.

Contact Lyndel Moody at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com) or by 263-7331, ext. 234

## Mayor to be honored by Scouts

### Herald Staff Report

A long-time community leader will be honored at the 2014 Good Scout Luncheon sponsored by the Buffalo Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America. Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan will receive the Good Scout Award at the event set for noon Thursday at the Hotel Settles Grand Ballroom. A reception will be held at 11:45 a.m.



McLellan

"The Good Scout Award is given to those who have left an enduring impact on the community," said Brian Sweeney, Lone Star District Executive for the Buffalo Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

"This individual is recognized for modeling the principles and values expressed in the Scout Oath and Law." McLellan was sworn in as the mayor of Big Spring in May 2013. He is an active member of the Big Spring community, serving on numerous boards including the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, the Big Spring Police Academy, the Big Spring YMCA and the Rotary Club. He has served elected terms as a member of the both the Big Spring independent School District and the Howard County Junior College board of trustees.

Born in North Carolina, McLellan earned a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy from the University of North Carolina. He is a licensed pharmacist in both Texas and North Carolina and owns Leonard's Pharmacies. He serves as the pharmacy director for the Big Spring Sate Hospital. McLellan is a member of the First United Methodist Church where he serves as a lay leader.

The luncheon is a fund-raising event to help support the local scout program. For more information, contact Sweeney [brian.sweeney@scouting.org](mailto:brian.sweeney@scouting.org) or by calling 432-212-3577.

## Fishing tournament opportunity to have some fun, tell tall tales

### Herald Staff Report

"That sucker was thissssssssss big! It's never too early to get your kiddos telling tall tales and nothing is a better teaching tool than fishing for that.

The Sixth Annual Trout Fishing Contest for area youngsters will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Comanche Trail Park. Area boys and girls age 17 and under, are eligible to join in the competition, which is sponsored by the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club. A number of door prizes will be awarded beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Community Center. "Comanche Trail Park Lake has been stocked with nearly 3,000 trout this season," said the contest's founder, Ken McIntosh. "In addition to door prizes, children and youth will have the chance to win featured prizes based on the

categories of first fish caught, largest fish caught, and most caught by 4 p.m." Popular ways to catch trout include fishing off the bottom with corn, salmon eggs or a variety of power baits, McIntosh said. "Small Rooster Tail and Super Duper lures work well, too, given the time of day, weather and water conditions," he added. Sponsors estimate that approximately 100 kids and their parents or grandparents have participated in the contest each year over the past five years. "Fishing is a great family outing!" said McIntosh, who can be reached at 432-517-4821.

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To reach us:  
 Please call 263-7331.  
 Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7331 before 6 p.m. weekdays.



## Portland theft suspect caught wearing armored underwear

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A man accused of using a cutting torch on a Portland ATM was wearing armored underwear when he was arrested. KPTV reports an officer responded to the ATM early Sunday and confronted him in a parking lot. Police say he sprayed pepper spray and ran before he was chased down. The 32-year-old man was wearing two

ballistic vests and had ballistic panels sewn into undergarments covering his arms, legs, back and crotch. He was armed with a knife and had a stun gun and acetylene torch in a backpack. He was booked into the Multnomah County Jail on multiple charges including being a felon in possession of body armor.

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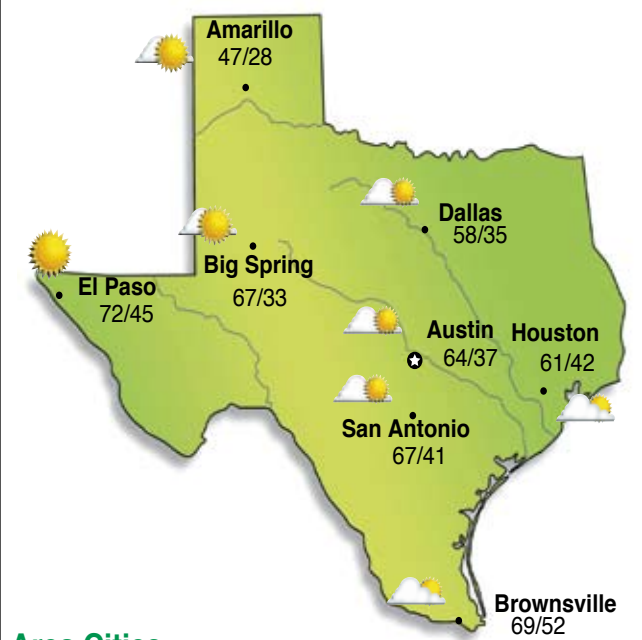
Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 3/5	Thu 3/6	Fri 3/7	Sat 3/8	Sun 3/9
<b>67/33</b> A few clouds early, otherwise mostly sunny. High 67F.	<b>75/43</b> Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 40s.	<b>81/41</b> Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 40s.	<b>53/34</b> Occasional showers possible. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	<b>63/36</b> Occasional showers possible. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise: 7:09 AM Sunset: 6:47 PM	Sunrise: 7:07 AM Sunset: 6:48 PM	Sunrise: 7:06 AM Sunset: 6:48 PM	Sunrise: 7:05 AM Sunset: 6:49 PM	Sunrise: 7:04 AM Sunset: 6:50 PM

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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	61	33	pt sunny	Kingsville	69	46	pt sunny
Amarillo	47	28	mst sunny	Livingston	62	37	cloudy
Austin	64	37	pt sunny	Longview	57	35	cloudy
Beaumont	61	42	cloudy	Lubbock	60	27	pt sunny
Brownsville	69	52	cloudy	Lufkin	63	39	cloudy
Brownwood	67	36	pt sunny	Midland	65	37	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	65	46	pt sunny	Raymondville	69	50	pt sunny
Corsicana	56	35	pt sunny	Rosenberg	61	41	pt sunny
Dallas	58	35	pt sunny	San Antonio	67	41	pt sunny
Del Rio	74	43	mst sunny	San Marcos	64	38	pt sunny
El Paso	72	45	sunny	Sulphur Springs	56	34	rain
Fort Stockton	72	41	sunny	Sweetwater	63	33	mst sunny
Gainesville	54	30	rain	Tyler	56	36	cloudy
Greenville	55	32	rain	Weatherford	58	32	pt sunny
Houston	61	42	cloudy	Wichita Falls	50	28	rain

Laura Renee McGee



Laura Renee McGee, 49, of Big Spring died Saturday, March 1, 2014, at her residence. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at First Baptist Church with the Rev. Earnest Wilson, the Rev. Floyd Green and the Rev. William Vaughn officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Oct. 14, 1964, in Big Spring. She attended Big Spring schools and was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. She worked a number of years at both Wal-Mart and Parkview Nursing and Re-

Obituaries

hab Center. She was a member of Baker's Chapel, A.M.E. Church.

She is survived by her husband: Bobby McGee of Big Spring; two daughters, LeAndra Cross and her husband, K.C., of Arlington and LaKenya Wrightsil and her fiancé, Everett Bills II, of Nashville; one son, Keith O'Brian McGee of Abilene; two grandsons; her mother, Anna Green of Big Spring; her father, Nathaniel Green of Big Spring; one brother, Anthony Smith (and Esther) of Big Spring; one sister, Tammi Wilson and her husband, Earnest, of Mesquite; two nephews; one niece; and a host of other relatives.

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

LaRue Shanks

LaRue Shanks, 81, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, March 4, 2014, in a local nursing home. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Vivian Marie Ward

Vivian Marie Whitetree Ward, 69, of Odessa died Sunday in a Houston hospital. Funeral services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Ronald Long

Ronald Long, 59, of Big Spring died Monday in a local hospital. Funeral services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Dorothy Jones

Dorothy Jones, 84, of Big Spring, died Monday at her residence. Funeral services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Police/Fire/EMS

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

- GARY LEE SMALE JR., 39, of 2000 S. Monticello was arrested Monday on a charge of assault family violence causes bodily injury.
- STEVEN ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ, 42, of 1715 E. Highway 350 was arrested Monday on warrants from another agency.
- LACI SHADA JACKSON, 28, of 1500 Wood was arrested Monday on warrants for speeding, fail to appear - two counts and n drivers license when unlicensed.
- JESSE LEE MOLINAR, 29, of 800 W. Marcy No. 28 was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported at the 3500 block of E. Interstate Highway 20.
- CREDIT/DEBIT CARD

ABUSE was reported at the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.

- SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY was reported at the 900 block of Wil- lia.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported at the 1900 block of Lexington and the 1400 block of N. Highway 87.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported at the 500 block of Aylesford.
- MINOR ACCIDENT was reported at the 500 block of N. Lamesa Highway.

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 76 inmates at the time of this report.
- STEVEN ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ was booked by BSPD on charges of ran a stop sign, driv-

ing while license invalid and violate promise to appear.

- LACI SHADA JACKSON was booked by BSPD on charges of speeding 47 miles per hour in a 30 mile per hour zone.
- WAYNE RICHARD BOYCE was booked by Glasscock County on a charge of theft by check.
- JESSE LEE MOLINAR was booked by BSPD on a parole violation.

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

- MEDICAL call reported at the 300 block of S. Runnels. One patient transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- MEDICAL call reported at the 700 block of Dallas. One patient transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL call reported at the 1600 block of Lexington.

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# News in brief

## Kerry to visit Kiev; West ponders sanctions against Moscow for military incursion of Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State John Kerry on Tuesday will be reinforcing Washington's support for the new government in Kiev, as the U.S. and its top allies grapple with whether to slap Moscow with sanctions for its military takeover of Ukraine's strategic Crimea region.

Kerry left Monday for the Ukrainian capital. The European Union's foreign ministers, meantime, issued a Thursday deadline for Russia President Vladimir Putin to pull back his troops or face a rejection of visa liberalization and economic cooperation negotiations long in the works.

Western leaders point to huge hits that Russia's natural gas, uranium and coal industries would take if sanctions cut off exports to the EU, its largest customer. Still, Western governments acknowledge that few options exist beyond economic and diplomatic penalties, and critics said Obama administration efforts are too little, and too late, after years of trying to foster friendlier relations with Russia.

President Barack Obama on Monday described the Russian advance as a violation of international law. He called on Congress to approve an aid package for the new Ukrainian government and repeated earlier threats that the U.S. will take steps to hobble Russia's economy and isolate it diplomatically if Putin does not back down.

"The strong condemnation that has proceeded from countries around the world indicates the degree to which Russia is on the wrong side of history," Obama said.

## Obama unveiling campaign-year budget focused on economy as deficit-reduction pressure fades

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is unwrapping a nearly \$4 trillion budget that gives Democrats an election-year playbook for fortifying the economy and bolstering Americans' incomes. It also underscores how pressure has faded to launch bold, new attacks on federal deficits.

Obama's 2015 fiscal blueprint, which he is sending Congress Tuesday, was expected to include proposals to upgrade aging highways and railroads, finance more pre-kindergarten programs and enhance job training. The White House said it would also enlarge the earned income tax credit to cover 13.5 million low-earning workers without children, expand the child care tax credit for some parents and make it easier for workers to contribute to Individual Retirement Accounts.

A revamping of corporate income taxes and high-

er tobacco levies would help pay for some of the initiatives.

White House aides say Obama's blueprint would obey overall agency spending limits enacted in December that followed a pact between Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., the heads of the House and Senate budget committees.

Yet Obama will propose an additional package of \$56 billion in spending priorities, the aides say, half for defense and half for domestic programs. It would be fully paid for by cutting spending and narrowing tax loopholes, such as boosting collections from U.S. firms doing business overseas.

## Snowstorm followed by unusually frigid temperatures for March in South, Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON (AP) — The seemingly endless winter dumped a half a foot snow on the ground in parts of the South, Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, and those areas braced Tuesday morning for something even more unusual in March: a blast of arctic air that was expected to send temperatures plummeting into the single digits.

Washington has recorded a low temperature in the single digits in March only two times in recorded history — and the previous two were in 1872 and 1873, according to the National Weather Service. Other parts of the Northeast could also see record lows for the month of March and much of the South will start Tuesday below freezing.

Blame it on a return of the "polar vortex." "That is the buzzword this winter, the polar vortex. That cold air just kind of migrates around the poles and the extreme northern latitudes all the time," said Jim Lee, meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service in Sterling, Va. "The jet stream enables that colder air to move down the East Coast."

Monday's snowstorm followed a pattern that's become routine. Schools and government offices were closed. Federal workers stayed home — the fourth weather-related shutdown this season. Young adults gathered on the sloppy, slushy National Mall for a semi-organized, afternoon snowball fight.

## Toronto Mayor Rob Ford laughs off Jimmy Kimmel's suggestion that he get help

TORONTO (AP) — Embattled Toronto Mayor Rob Ford laughed off Jimmy Kimmel's suggestion that he get help for his drinking problem and was reported to be upset about his appearance on the late night TV talk show.

Ford's appearance Monday night on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" in Los Angeles was the culmination

of months of wooing by the talk show host to get Ford to appear as a guest.

Ford tossed T-shirts to the audience to loud applause as he came on stage after Kimmel introduced him by saying "our first guest tonight has tripped, bumped, danced, argued and smoked his way into our national consciousness."

Kimmel told Ford that if he's an alcoholic, and drinking enough that he would try crack cocaine in his 40s, "and you don't remember it, maybe that's something that you might want to think about, like talking to somebody."

## Professor says Michigan should move slowly on gay marriage, cites his study of young adults

DETROIT (AP) — The author of a controversial study of adult children often cited by opponents of gay marriage defended his work in court on Monday but also said it was too early for social scientists to make far-reaching conclusions about families headed by same-sex couples.

University of Texas sociologist Mark Regnerus testified for more than three hours as a witness for the state of Michigan, which is defending a ban on gay marriage. The constitutional amendment, approved by voters in 2004, is being challenged by two Detroit-area nurses in a rare trial.

Regnerus was the leader of a study that screened thousands of people, ages 18 to 39, and found roughly 250 who said they grew up in a house where a mom or dad eventually had a same-sex relationship.

He found they were more likely to have problems — welfare dependence, less education, marijuana use — than young adults from stable families led by heterosexuals. But he later acknowledged that his study didn't include children raised by same-sex couples in a stable relationship.

## Pistorius murder trial interrupted on 2nd day after prosecutor says witness' image was shown

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — The second day of Oscar Pistorius' murder trial was dramatically interrupted Tuesday and the judge ordered an investigation into allegations that a South African television channel was broadcasting a photograph of a witness — against a court order guaranteeing privacy to witnesses who request it.

Judge Thokozile Masipa warned the media to respect the ruling that images of witnesses who request privacy should not be shown. Masipa called the revelation "very disturbing."

"An investigation is to follow to find out exactly what is happening," he said.

# Take note

- Holy Trinity Catholic Youth Group is hosting a Mardi Gras "Fat Tuesday Feast" in the Father Beasley Hall at 1009 Hearn Street from 6-8 p.m. today. Prices are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 3-10. Price includes drink and dessert. Come and indulge and enjoy great company and music. Door prizes to be given away.

- The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring will host its annual pancake supper from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Howard College Student Union Building cafeteria. Tickets are \$6 apiece and can be purchased at the door or from any club member. For more information, call 432-270-2218.

- The Powwow Committee of Big Spring has been restructured and is seeking new members, according to committee secretary Greg Bodin.

For more information, contact Vice President Randy McKinney at 432-267-4843 or President Richard Lesser at 432-935-0125.

- Big Spring Second Chance Rescue (BSSCR) is in need of donations to help spay and neuter rescued dogs, so they can go to a home. The canine rescue organization has incurred a lot of expenses in obtaining its 501c3 status along with trying to obtain a Tax ID and subsequent Texas filing fees. Just to file the 501c3 cost the rescue more than \$500. Any amount is appreciated. Make checks payable to BSSCR, P.O. Box 2775, Big Spring, Texas, 79720; by credit card at 432-816-2555; or at Highland Animal Clinic, 3600 S. Hwy. 87, Big Spring, Texas 79720; or www.youcaring.com/pet-expenses/bsscr/74800

- Victim Services is a

non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to violent crimes of assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates

are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

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ANSWERS

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

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Carl Windham, 86, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.  
Ricky Lee Williams, 57, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.  
Laura Renee McGee, 49, died Saturday. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at First Baptist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

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# Opinion

## Big Brothers vs. Little Sisters

Why aren't more people outraged over the Obama administration's war on religious liberty?

The administration insists on coercing full compliance with the Obamacare mandates, even when 99.9 percent compliance would fully serve its purposes, and chooses to impose its iron will even against American citizens' God-given and constitutionally and statutorily protected religious freedoms.

Despite straight-facedly promising that he would protect the religious liberties of people and groups and would not violate their conscience rights by forcing them to provide or support contraceptive or abortion services, President Obama has vigorously engaged in a scorched-earth campaign to do just the opposite.

It's not enough that Obama has imposed a mandate on a formerly free America to compel people to purchase health insurance under his woefully inferior new health care scheme. He is insistent on gratuitously forcing it on those whose faith-driven consciences object to the mandate, even when exempting them surely wouldn't impair the workings of his already chaotic law.

This president doles out exemptions like candy for his friends and supporters when he has absolutely no legal authority to do so. But when he is legally required to exempt people (on religious liberty grounds), he refuses. What's the common denominator here? Obama gets his way and the law be damned — period! The will of the people matters — if Obama says it does and not if he doesn't.

You would think Obama would have better things to do than pick a fight with innocent, well-meaning faith-oriented people who simply want the government not to force them to do things that would genuinely violate their consciences. He and his legal honchos have already lost 18 out of 19 cases related to this, including against the

owners of Hobby Lobby. Isn't it ironic that one of the litigants opposing him — the only one to lose its bid for injunctive relief so far — is the University of Notre Dame, the very school at which he made his assurance that he would respect our conscience rights?

The latest chapter in this outrage involves the Little Sisters of the Poor, a Maryland-based order of nuns to whom Obama refuses to grant an exemption from his bullying health care statute. The U.S. Supreme Court temporarily granted an injunction to prevent the government from forcing the mandate or imposing a fine on the Little Sisters, but the case on the merits is pending before the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Little Sisters' mission is to care for the elderly poor. The nuns work hand in hand with the Christian Brothers Services and other Catholic nonprofit groups to provide employee benefits that are consistent with their faith. Their faith unambiguously forbids them to participate in Big Brother Barack's program to distribute, subsidize and promote the use of contraceptives, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs and devices.

But Big Brother wholly disrespects their religious liberties and is pushing all the way to the Supreme Court, presumably to make a point that no one defies Big Brother, whether or not it hurts Big Brother's cause. Big Brother is seeking to force the Little Sisters to execute and deliver his mandatory contraceptive coverage form, EBSA Form 700. If the sisters refuse, Big Brother says he's going to come down hard and impose severe financial penalties.

Big Brother, preposterously, insists that he has not burdened the Little Sisters, because he can't use the Employee Retirement Income Security Act to force third parties (in this case, the administrators of the church plan through which the nuns provide benefits) to act on the Little Sisters' EBSA Form 700. Big Brother is actually arguing that because ERISA lacks enforcement authority against others, the Little Sisters' religious rights are not in jeopardy here. Do you see my point? If it doesn't

matter, then why is Big Brother insisting on it? Just because he can? To throw around his authority? To put his Little Sisters in their place?

But in fact, the Little Sisters' religious liberties would be violated by the group's signing the form, because that would, in the group's attorneys' words, "designate, authorize, incentivize, and obligate administrators to provide coverage" and would essentially rewrite "the Little Sisters' religious beliefs for them." Of course the nuns' moral standards don't allow them to get around their consciences by playing the game of having some other entity technically perform the services. Those with religion-based moral standards would not have to have this principle explained to them. This may be a news flash to the obtuse, but the Little Sisters are not going to take their moral cues from Big Brother and are not going to adjust their religious beliefs to bring them into compliance with what Big Brother says they ought to be (as if he were the pope), as opposed to what they actually are.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act prohibits the government from "substantially burdening" one's exercise of religion only if it demonstrates it has a compelling governmental interest to do so and it is the least restrictive means of furthering that interest.

Amoral Big Brother would have us believe that he has a compelling government interest in forcing a faith-based group to violate its religious conscience by signing a form to enable the provision of no-cost access to abortion-inducing drugs and devices, sterilizations, and all Food and Drug Administration-approved contraceptives.

You got it: This government has no interest in reducing our crippling national debt but has a compelling interest in forcing nuns to support abortion and contraception.

*David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, "The Great Destroyer," reached No. 2 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction. Follow him on Twitter @ davidlimbaugh and his website at www.davidlimbaugh.com.*



DAVID  
LIMBAUGH

Austin, 78768  
Phone: 512-463-0331

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### DAILY PRAYER

Protect us, dear Lord, from those who would try to harm us because of our belief in You.  
Amen

## Hurray for the Republican tax plan

A Republican leader is doing something right ... and good. He is Rep. David Camp of Michigan. Camp has issued a detailed plan for simplifying the tax code. That's his duty as chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, which writes tax law.

Reforming the 70,000-page abomination that is our tax laws — and making them fairer — has long been a stated goal of both parties. But it is a notoriously unpleasant job because it involves doing away with tax loopholes that have vocal and deep-pocketed supporters.

Many Republicans don't want to touch tax reform now for the same reason they don't want to do immigration reform now. The midterms are in November.

Rather than grapple with tough controversies, GOP political strategists prefer stirring up the voters with vile tales of Obamacare. Repealing the health reforms is not on the table these days, and public support for them continues to grow. But that does not seem to deter determined demagogues.

Shame on them. And shame on Democrats reportedly gleeful that Republicans may have to fight one another over a bunch of controversial tax proposals right before an election. Is it too much for our representatives in

Washington to do some work in the next eight months?

"I'm for the concept of tax reform, but many of us have concerns about releasing a plan, considering the likelihood of enacting it this year," Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., told Politico.

Right, like tax reform is going to be enacted next year, when the presidential candidates are scurrying around trying to please their bases. Remember the 2012 presidential election, when no Republican would name a single tax loophole he or she would close?

Meanwhile, Politico said, "House Democrats think they've been handed a gift." I wish it quoted one so we'd have someone to bash.

Responsible conservatives have long endorsed cutting the top rates and making up for the resulting loss of revenues by doing away with special tax deals for those with friends in Washington.

That could work.

Camp's plan would shrink the number of individual tax brackets from seven to two — 10 percent and 25 percent. Some liberals won't cotton to the idea of lowering the tax bracket for the rich. (The top tax rate is now 39.6 percent.)

But there's a lot in the proposal that courtiers for the "1 percent" won't like at all. First off, it would add a 10 percent surtax on individual incomes over \$450,000.

It would require big banks to pay new taxes on their assets. And it would subject private-

equity magnates to the same tax rate on their wage-type income that the police guarding their estates pay. (Private-equity managers now get away with paying the lower investment-income tax rate.)

The proposal would cut the maximum deduction for home mortgages from \$1 million to \$500,000.

Should the rest of us be subsidizing mortgages on megamansions? Most would say no, but the real estate industry will fight like tigers to keep this boondoggle going for its richest homebuyers.

Looking at all the numbers, the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation believes the streamlined tax code would "grow" the economy by \$3.4 trillion over the next decade, creating almost 2 million new jobs. Importantly, it would increase federal revenues by \$700 billion.

One doesn't have to cheer every detail in the plan — or those missing from it. For example, an unwarranted special tax deal for oil and gas companies would remain in place.

But here is a serious proposal deserving a respectful look. The time for tax reform is now and now. Otherwise, it becomes never or never.

*Follow Froma Harrop on Twitter @FromaHarrop. She can be reached at [fharrop@gmail.com](mailto:fharrop@gmail.com). To find out more about Froma Harrop and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*



FROMA  
HARROP

# 'Cedarbird' arrives with a whistle

This year our berries have gone lacking. Remaining on plants, the fruits of juniper, yaupon, and hawthorn remain uneaten. If not for the persistence of a pair of mockingbirds, even the red berries on our hackberry tree would not have been harvested.



BEBE McCASLAND

Even though our late fall and winter offerings were bypassed, there is still a chance of seeing nomadic and colorful flocks of migrating cedar waxwings in March or April. Dependent upon a diet of fruits that have high sugar content, the birds are also attracted to agrita (a native plant known as red barberry.) If more arctic blasts, however, bring frigid temperatures and that berry crop fails, another favorite would be mulberries in May. In the 1990s, however, their migratory appearance was almost guaranteed. Our records show a steady stream

of mishaps ushered them to us for a brief recovery.

One year, late in February, a short respite from work found us at home for lunch. The sudden ringing of our phone led to our learning that, at the end of our block, Mrs. Holly had seen a bird fly into her glass door and fall to the concrete.

Since the bird didn't move, she did not know if it was still alive. "Hoped you'd be at your house for the noon hour," she continued.

Standing outside, she greeted me with appreciation for my coming. Having led me through the house, she pointed to the door. "Why, it's standing!" she exclaimed.

When she had left the bird in order to call, and then go outside, the bird was lying on its side. She feared it had died from the impact.

Although erect, the cedar waxwing stood unfazed by our presence. As it cautiously took a step, it teetered slightly. Every time it tried to walk, it veered to the right. Easily closing my hand



Courtesy photo

High-pitched whistles announce the arrival of the masked harbinger of spring, the cedar waxwing. Sleek and trim, the bird travels in undulating flocks and is known for its social behavior. Nomadic in its search for food, the "cedarbird" is known to wander erratically during its yearly migration.

around it was its next step toward regaining normalcy.

The waxwing's gorging on fermenting fruit had resulted in its flying into the door in an intoxicated state. Confined and safe, the errant drunk would be allowed enough time to

"sober up" before being released.

Its captivity gave us once again an opportunity to appreciate its silky appearance. Every feather seemed to have been applied by an artist's delicate brush strokes. Colors blended with grace.

Clad in soft brown that ultimately segued into gray on its wings, back, and tail, the cedar waxwing was stately with its crested head, and black mask edged with white. Bright yellow tips on its tail contrasted sharply with its softer yellow belly and sides.

The red, oblong ends on some of its wing feathers were a symbol of maturity, and were reminiscent of sealing wax used centuries ago to insure the security of documents or mail. The cedar waxwing thus had derived its name from its appetite for native berries, and these tiny enhancements to the tips of its feathers.

Later in the day, the masked marvel was no longer stupefied with glazed eyes. It had regained its composure and sobriety. Perched on a roost, it stiffened and elongated its colorful body as I opened the gate to its container.

The previous year, harvested mulberries from a friend's tree had been carefully packaged and frozen for just such an occasion. Observing the bird from a distance was payment enough

for the Saturday mornings I had spent collecting the fruit.

After readily swallowing each morsel, the waxwing returned to its perch. Once it had rubbed its beak from side to side on the rough wood, it began to preen. Never would it know of my sneakers and fingers that had been stained with purple for its dining pleasure.

When freed, the cedar waxwing rose with rapid wing beats. Soon, it would join the flocks swooping into neighborhoods and the state park in search of berries. They would also avail themselves of insects and the petals of flowering ornamental trees.

Overindulgence seemed to be one of the most hazardous parts of their avian travel. If only the safety warning for humans, "If you drink, don't drive," could have a slight modification. Then it might also be used to protect the birds: "If you feast, don't fly!"

*Bebe McCasland is author of "The Scoop from Bird Poop." She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.*

# Parents Corner: We all need a trouble tree

I remember my very first job like it was yesterday. I was a young, energetic first-year teacher, ready to change the world and create a new life for myself and my family.



DARRELL RYAN

As I stepped into the superintendent's office in the small town of Crowell, Texas, I thought I was ready for whatever came my way. Superintendent Henry Black was an older man who took me in like a father and began to advise me on what it takes to be a good teacher, a good employee and a good family member. I remember one point of advice that still rings clear to this day; he said, "When you come to work, mentally put on a teacher lab coat as you walk through the front door, then, as you

prepare to go home, mentally remove the lab coat, hang it by the door and don't take it home with you."

I guess my expression showed that I didn't fully understand his meaning, so he told me plainly, "Don't bring your home troubles to work and don't take your work troubles home! The school, your fellow teachers and the students you teach don't need to share the problems that are in your personal life and your family doesn't need to share the problems that may arise at school!"

I've tried to heed that advice through the years and I believe my family and my work has benefitted from it. I heard a story recently that gives this same

advice in a little different manner. See what you think.

I hired a man to help me build a storage building in my backyard. As he worked, everything seemed to go wrong. First he had a flat tire that made him lose an hour of work, then his electric drill quit, then the scaffold on which he was working collapsed. Then to top it all off, as he was preparing to go home, his old truck refused to start. I volunteered to drive him home and during the trip he sat in silence, not saying a word.

When we arrived at his house, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching

the tips of the branches with both hands. He then proceeded to the front door, and opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

After meeting his wife and children he walked me to the car. As we passed the tree my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him

do earlier. "Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home, and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again.

"Funny thing is," he said with a smile,

"when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well enjoy it. I guess the moral of this story is that we all need a trouble tree!

*Darrell Ryan is director of school safety for the Big Spring Independent School District.*

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### BSHS places 13th at Region I powerlifting meet

**TOMMY WELLS**  
Sports Editor

Karina Alvarado and the The Big Spring High School Lady Steers turned in an impressive outing on Friday at the Region I Powerlifting Championships in Fort Stockton. As a team, the Lady Steers had 10 athletes finish in the top 20 in their respective weight classifications. Fort Stockton won

the girls' regional powerlifting crown with 37 points. Seminole edged out Vernon for second. Big Spring finished 13th overall. Alvarado highlighted Big Spring's efforts at the meet. She finished third in the 114-pound classification with a total weight of 560 pounds. Seminole's Amanda Flores won the division

with a combined lift of 585 pounds. Alvarado opened the tournament with a 200-pound effort in the squat competition. She hit 115 in the bench press and closed out her appearance with a 245-pound lift in the deadlift. Emily Crawford and Haley Davidson also turned in an outstanding efforts in Fort Stock-

ton. Crawford finished fourth in her division with total of 580, while Davidson took ninth at 515. Valerie Goodblanket also posted a top 10 finish in the weight bracket. The BSHS senior finished seventh in the 132-pound division with a combined lift of 530. He registered lifts of 205 in the squat and 240 in the deadlift.

Following the meet, Goodblanket returned to Big Spring to help the BSHS Lady Steers claim consolation honors in the Crossroads softball event. She is the team's starting shortstop. Bianca Correa, Courtney Berringer and Morgan Flores all finished in the top 15 in their divisions. Correa was 11th in the 123-pound di-

vision, while Berringer and Flores finished 12th and 13th, respectively, in the 148 classification. BSHS teammate Elda Echevery was 16th in the 148 standings. Danielle Conner was 20th in her weight division, while Mary Gomez was 21st in her bracket. The Class 3A state powerlifting meet will be held Saturday, March 15, in Corpus Christi.



Courtesy photo

### BSYBL champs!! ...

The Heat finished off a perfect 11-0 season on Saturday by winning the Big Spring Youth Basketball League's ?? Division championship. Members of the team are Eric Aguilar, Ethan Hilario, Jaxon Browne, Jesse 'Slim' Cantu, Donyan Hilario, Marcos Paredes and Nathan Vasquez. The Heat was coached by Auggie Hilario, Lonzy Hilario and Kevin Bentit.

### Daniel, Willard shine at Region I Powerlifting meet

Carlee Daniel and Jahnia Willard both turned in record-setting performances for the Forsan High School Lady Steers at the Region I Powerlifting Championships in Irion County. Both set personal marks in the meet, which was held Friday.

A junior at Forsan, Daniel turned more than a few heads with a stellar effort in the 105-pound weight classification. She finished seventh in the final standings after posting a new personal record in the deadlift competition.

In the deadlift, Daniel lifted 230 pounds, easily breaking her previous best mark in the event. She also tied a personal mark in the squat com-

petition with a mark of 210 pounds. Overall, she finished with a combined weight of 525 pounds. Willard was just as strong in the 148-pound division. She placed sixth in the final standings - and qualified for the upcoming state meet - with a total weight of 723 pounds.

Willard was among the top competitors in the squat and deadlift events. She established a season's-best mark in both events, turning in a lift of 305 in the squat and 305 in the deadlift. She pushed up 125 in the bench press competition.

The 2014 state meet will be held in Corpus Christi on Friday, March 14.

### HC men gear up for Region V tourney

The Howard College Hawks will tip off play in the Region V Basketball Tournament on Wednesday, with a first-round matchup with the nationally-ranked McLennan County Community College Highlanders.

Howard College heads into the contest as the WJCAC's No. 4 seed. McLennan County is the No. 1 seed from the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference.

#### Region V Men's Basketball Tournament

The following is a look at the first round of the Region V men's basketball tournament set for March 5 at the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock.

- Game 1: Temple (N2) vs. Western Texas (W3), noon
- Game 2: Hill College (N3) vs. New Mexico JC (W2), 2 p.m.
- Game 3: McLennan Co. (N1) vs. Howard (W4), 5 p.m.
- Game 4: Collin County (N4) vs. South Plains (W1), 7 p.m.

will represent one of the Hawks' tougher tests this season. The Highlanders are 27-3 overall, and ranked seventh in the latest National Junior College Athletic Association poll. The Hawks are 23-7

and come into the tournament as the fourth-place qualifier from the Western Junior College Athletic Conference.

The women's basketball tournament will get under way on Thursday with four games.

Western Junior College Athletic Conference champion New Mexico Junior College will face Temple College at 7 p.m. Temple finished fourth in the NTJAC standings.

Other first-round games include South Plains facing Collin County at 2 p.m., Odessa College against McLennan County (noon) and Midland College against Weatherford at 5 p.m.

All games will be played in the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock.

### Buffaloes advance to state in Team Tennis

The Forsan High School tennis team is headed to tennis' "Promised Land."

The FHS tennis team, under the guidance of head coach Seth Johnson and assistant coach Amanda Burton, qualified for 2014 State Team Tennis Tournament by finishing second in the Region I Team Tennis Tournament.

At the tournament, Forsan went 2-1. They defeated Crane by a 16-3

margin. After suffering a 16-3 loss to Reagan County in the next round, the Buffaloes punched their ticket to state by pounding out a 19-1 romp over Wink.

The victory over Wink enabled Forsan to qualify as the No. 2 team in the area. Reagan County qualified as No. 1 team.

Forsan will compete in the state meet, which will be held Friday and Saturday in Round Rock.

### Bufs' Medrano advances to regional championship

The Forsan High School Buffaloes will be well represented at the Class A Region I Powerlifting Championships this weekend. The team qualified one of the area's top lifters for the event, which will be held on Saturday at Sundown High School.

Qualifying for the event from Forsan is Ausden Medrano. He will be joining more



Ausden Medrano

than 100 athletes from throughout the area in the meet.

### Coahoma JH meet set for today

Some of the area's top junior high athletes will spring into action later today when the annual Coahoma Junior High Track and Field Meet is held. The meet is sched-

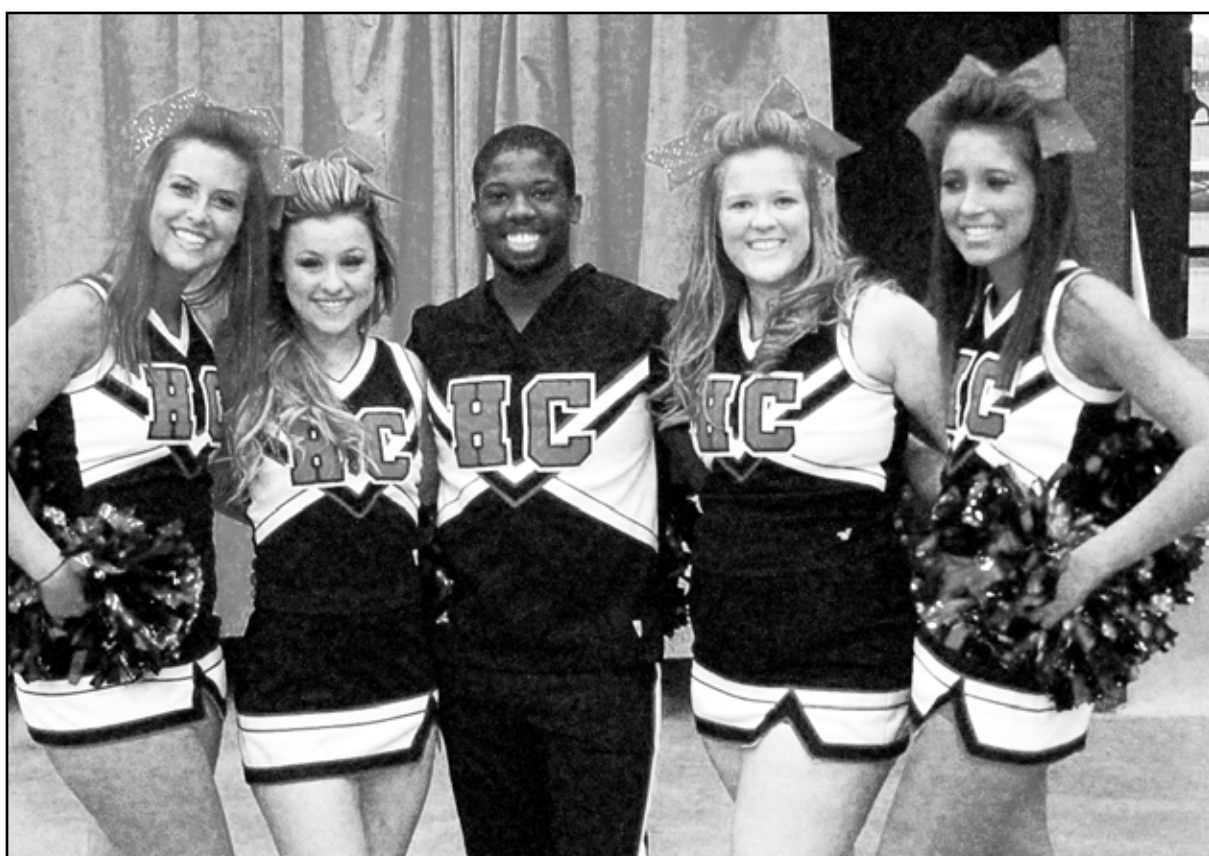
uled to begin at approximately 4 p.m. at the CHS track.

Several area teams will be participating in the meet, including Coahoma and Colorado City.

### BS Invitational set for March 7

The Big Spring High School Invitational Track and Field meet will be held on March 7 at Blankenship Field.

The meet will start at 1 p.m. with the field events. The running events will begin at 4 p.m. with the 3,200-meter run.



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

### 2013-14 HC cheeleading squad ...

Members of the 2013-14 Howard College cheerleading squad performed at all of the Hawks' and Lady Hawks' games this season. Members of the squad include (from left to right) Katie Evans, Hannah Hinton, Rogerick Brown, Kenzi Metcalf and Megan Wilson.



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**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL OIL & GAS WASTE DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT**

Mid-States Operating Company, PO Box 10747, Midland, TX 79702, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil & gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the San Andres formation, Debbie lease, well number 262. The proposed disposal well is located 15 miles southwest of Big Spring, Texas in the Stanton, SE. field, in Howard County. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3,400 to 5,500 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Texas Water Code, Chapter 27, as amended; Texas Natural Resources Code, Title 3, as amended; and the Railroad Commission's Oil and Gas Division Rules (Statewide Rules) at 16 Tex. Admin. Code, Chapter 3.

If you have objections to the issuance of a permit for this well, you may submit a letter of protest. Protests to the application from local government or persons who object and can show that they may be adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application, should be submitted in writing to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792). Unless the Commission receives a protest to the application, the director may take final administrative action on the application (e.g., approve, deny, return, or refer to hearing) no fewer than 15 days after the date the application is filed with the Commission.

Please be advised that the Railroad Commission of Texas does not have jurisdiction over roads, traffic, property values, zoning, noise, odors, esthetics, leasing, pipeline easements, or royalty payments.  
#8195 March 4, 2014

**Legals**

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## Tomorrow's Horoscope

### Mardi Gras Moon

Mark Twain said, "An American has not seen the United States until he has seen Mardi Gras in New Orleans." The appetite-driven Taurus moon is a perfect match for this Fat Tuesday's parades, beads, picnics, music, dancing, floats, king cakes and costumes of purple, green and gold.



HOLIDAY  
MATHIS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You're not trying merely to get ahead of the ball; you want to win the whole game! It's a lot more work than you were expecting, but your energy is high today, so go for it.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You appreciate it when people are friendly and helpful, but not to the extent that you have to wonder whether they're up to something. You're quietly on guard, alert to all of the possible ways things could go wrong.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Appearances will make a bigger than usual difference in the outcome of events. Dress to be respected, not to get attention. You'll use your physical appearance to add constructively to the social and professional milieu.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You may wander far, and you'll find what you're looking for as you explore beyond your usual daily routines. Your comfortable state of mind makes you at home wherever you go.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Of course everyone treats their favorite people with special care, and life is easier for you when you are one of those special people. Because you're so easygoing, people enjoy being nice to you.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The things that rattle your nerves are not the same things that jangle the next person. Seek out people who can handle what bothers you, and do the same for them, and today's problems will have a happy outcome.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll have your choice of paths and will be drawn to the one with the most potential for romance and mystery. This won't include anything very funny or too practical, at least not today.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your psychic sense is strong, and you can tell almost immediately whether or not a situation is going to work. The key is in bailing as soon as possible when you get that "not" feeling, even if you have to take a minor loss.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be the recipient of good fortune and surprise bonuses, but you'll also pay a pretty penny for the services you receive. So in the end, everything shakes out fair and square.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have a valuable talent you're not using. Maybe you don't even know what it is. It's like you're walking around with a diamond in your pocket that you forgot about or didn't know was there.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People like being nice to you, so let them. Practice being a gracious receiver. It may be more difficult than it sounds, because you prefer to be in the position of giving. But receiving well is also a kind of gift.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You are just trying to solve a problem and go on your merry way, but people are apt to confuse things by giving you too much information. Avoid this dynamic by asking people for the short version of the story.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (March 4). Your attention is a kind of warmth that people want to snuggle up to. Give loved ones the best of your focus, and you'll have a happy year. In the next seven weeks, you'll complete a special project. May livens up your personal life. You'll be developing a talent through June, which leads to heart connections. Capricorn and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 4, 22, 7 and 15.

**RETROGRADE ACTIVITIES:** Until Jupiter changes direction on the 6th, the skies will be ruled by three retrograde luminaries. As discussed yesterday, scrapbooking and letter writing are activities favored under these skies, and here are more ideas for taking advantage of the current retrograde.

--Bucket-listing. If you've never made a list of things you'd like to do before you die, the introspective energy of backward-flying Mars, Saturn and Jupiter makes this a perfect time to do so. Some will find the thought of a bucket list to be morbid, but how

much more morbid would it be to come to the end of life full of regret for all that was left undone? Just as list-making helps people keep their lives organized, bucket-listing helps to organize a life around key ideas we have as to what makes up a life well lived.

--Cataloging a collection. Forward-moving planets are better for adding to a collection, but as most collectors know, there is more to collecting than the thrill of the find. The best collections are rich in context. The pause of a retrograde cycle allows for deeper appreciation of what you have. Labeling items, chronicling the relevant facts and history, and finding the best presentation style are all favored activities.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Victoria's Secret angel Erin Heatherton has bridged the career gap between model and actress with roles in the movie "Grown Ups 2" and the television series "The League." There's more to come for this Pisces born with three planets in ambitious, business-minded Capricorn. With Mars and Jupiter in the fiscally oriented Taurus, Heatherton has the natal chart of a mogul.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com).

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## Annie's Mailbox

**Dear Annie:** I'd give anything to be intimate with my wife, in any form. We've been married for 18 years. We have not made love in more than three. We also don't hold hands, hug, kiss or cuddle. We have pleasant conversations, and I would classify us as compatible roommates.

My wife once had a very active libido, but there was a decline in sexual frequency after the birth of our second child. We had many conversations about it, but she and I both

attributed it to crazy schedules and her moderate weight gain. She joined Weight Watchers and lost the weight. In the meantime, I gained 65 pounds.

I help out around the house as best I can. I bathe and groom regularly. I went for counseling by myself and then started hinting to her about wanting to resume sex. Last year, I finally asked her why we don't make love anymore. Her answer stunned me. My weight gain was such that she no longer finds me physically attractive. I thought I was a good person and a



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

good husband. Apparently none of that mattered enough.

She finally agreed to couples counseling. We went once and things improved for about two weeks, but then her mother's health declined and everything was put on the back burner. I started going to the gym and lost five pounds, but no more.

Our bed is a dead zone. I don't know whether it's better to be lonely in a marriage or to be alone. I know we should return to counseling, but between her mother's health, financial issues, underachieving teenagers and my own depression, I am not seeing the point and no longer believe all of this effort will make any difference. Any suggestions? -- *Frustrated on the West Coast*

her mother's health, financial issues, underachieving teenagers and my own depression, I am not seeing the point and no longer believe all of this effort will make any difference. Any suggestions? -- *Frustrated on the West Coast*

**Dear West Coast:** Right now, you don't have the energy to work on your intimacy issues on top of everything else. And even if you did, your wife might not. Life is full of stressful periods, and you cannot let the overriding problem in your marriage slide by while

you wait for things to settle down. Get back into counseling for your own sake, whether your wife goes or not. It will help you reach clarity about your situation and how to proceed. And please work on your weight to get healthier. You'll feel better mentally, as well as physically.

**Dear Annie:** A person I know gossips nonstop. She can tell you the latest about everyone in the neighborhood. She also badmouths people behind their backs. She uses the guise of caring to find out whatever she can so she can spread more gossip. She is manipulative and deceitful and uses people to get what she wants, including favors and free rides. Worse, she presents herself as deeply religious.

Am I wrong to want as little as possible to do with this woman? -- *Don't Know*

**Dear Don't Know:** You do know. This woman sounds toxic. She doesn't deserve an audience. Avoiding her won't make her stop gossiping about you or badmouthing you behind your back. But at least you won't have to listen to the malicious things she says about others, which can color how you perceive them.

**Dear Annie:** I am writing about the letter from "Not the Company's Bank," the wife whose husband was not being reimbursed for his business expenses in a timely fashion. I am happy to suggest an easy solution.

Hubby should go to the boss or accounting department and ask for a company credit card to be used solely for his business expenses. Instead of needing reimbursement, each month's bill would be sent directly to the firm. The husband could have a copy in order to break down the expenses by client for billing purposes or to justify a questionable expense. The responsibility for timely payment would be squarely in the firm's control. -- *A Former Bookkeeper*

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### The Sure Way

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A K 2  
♥ K Q 8 4  
♦ A 10 9 8  
♣ A J

**WEST**  
♠ 10 9 8 4  
♥ 7 5  
♦ 5 4 2  
♣ 10 7 6 3

**EAST**  
♠ Q 6 5 3  
♥ 6 3  
♦ K J 7  
♣ 9 5 4 2

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

The bidding:  
1♥ West North East  
Pass Pass 4NT Pass  
5♦ Pass 5NT Pass  
6♦ Pass 6♥ Pass

Opening lead — ten of spades.  
Consider the North-South diamond holding in today's deal where, as declarer, your aim is to avoid losing more than one trick in the suit.

**One method of play** is to lead low to the ace and return the ten. If East follows low, you can let the ten ride or go up with the queen. If East has the jack, playing low on the ten wins, but if he has the king, the queen is the winning play. Whether you are suc-

cessful depends on how good a guesser you are.

**Another approach** is to lead a low diamond from the closed hand and finesse dummy's eight. If the eight loses to the jack, you later try another finesse against West, hoping your right-hand opponent wasn't dealt the king and jack.

**The second method of play** is better than the first because there is about a 75 percent chance that East does not hold both honors, while if you play the ace followed by the ten, your chances are not nearly as good as that.

**However,** you shouldn't blindly choose the second line of play, for there might be yet another approach that is even better. In the present case, for instance, you can improve your prospects further by adopting a third line of play.

**Accordingly,** you win the spade lead with the ace, draw trumps, cash the king of spades and ruff a spade. Next you cash the A-K-Q of clubs and lead a low diamond to the eight.

**East takes the jack,** but even if he has the king, the slam is home. Because you have taken the precaution of eliminating the side suits before tackling diamonds, there is nothing he can do to stop you from scoring the rest of the tricks.

Tomorrow: Diabolical defense.  
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## Sudoku Answer on Page 3

# sudoku

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.

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

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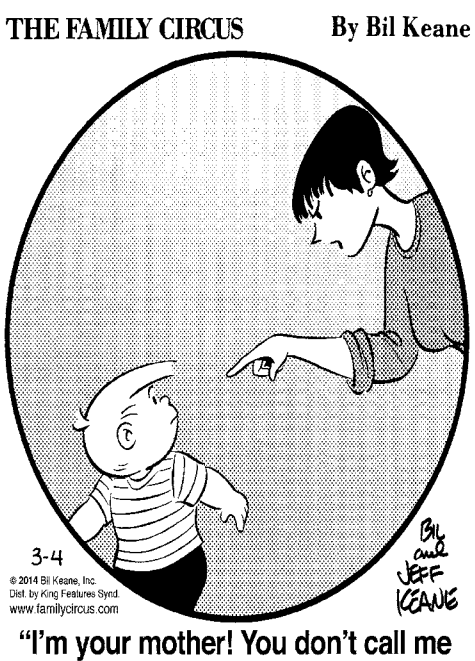
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
<b>5:PM</b>	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News CBS	Seinfeld	Justice Called	Charlie Rose	Riflemen	Amish Mafia	Rocky III, Talia Shire	Ink Master	Castle (DVS)	106 & Park: Top 10	Good Good	Around Pardon	SportsCenter
<b>6:PM</b>	Jeopardy!	Gordo-Flaca	Big Bang	News CBS	Caso Cerrado	News CBS	Seinfeld	Door-Wisdom	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Amish Mafia		Ink Master	Castle (DVS)	Movie: Set It Off, Vivica A. Fox	Good Jessie	College Basketball: Iowa State at Baylor.	College Basketball: Michigan at Illinois.
<b>7:PM</b>	S.H.I.E.L.D.	Por Siempre	Glee (DVS)	NCIS (DVS)	La Impostora (SS)	The Voice	Fam. Guy	Upd Big Bang	Great Performances	Gilligan	Amish Mafia	Movie: Rocky IV, Burt Young	Ink Master	Rizzoli & Isles	Movie: Lemonade Mouth		NBA Coast to Coast	College Basketball: Alabama at Kentucky.
<b>8:PM</b>	Gold Trophy	Lo Que la Vida	New Girl Brooklyn	NCIS: Los Angeles	En Otra Piel (SS)	About-Fisher	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest		Heroes	Amish Mafia		Ink Master	Rizzoli & Isles				
<b>9:PM</b>	Mind Games	Qué Pobres	Mod Fam	Person of Interest	Camelia La Texana	Chicago Fire	Cougar			Taxi	Clash of the Ozarks	Game of Arms	Ink Master	(:01) Perception	The Game	Jessie		
<b>10:PM</b>	News Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Impacto	Arsenio Hall	News Letterman	Noticias Titulares	News Tonight Show	Conan	With Scholars	Charlie Rose	Twi. Zone Perry Mason	Amish Mafia	Game of Arms	Tattoo	(:02) Rizzoli & Isles	Together The Game	Austin Dog	Olbermann	SportsCenter
<b>11:PM</b>	Nightline	Familia-Suerte	How I Met	Ferguson	En Otra Piel (SS)	Seth Meyers	Conan	Ministerios Vida	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	The Untouchables	Amish Mafia	Movie: Rocky, Burgess Meredith	Tattoo	(:03) Perception	Together Good	Good	Olbermann	SportsCenter
<b>12:AM</b>	Extra Paid	Ni Contigo, Ni sin Ti	Raymond	Insider	Camelia La Texana	News	Holmes	Chevalme		Gallery	Amish Mafia		Ink Master	(12:04) Hawaii Five-0	Wendy Williams	Shake It	NBA	SportsCenter
<b>1:AM</b>	Conducta Paid	Law & Order: SVU	Ent Paid	Ent Paid	Pagado Decisiones	(:07) Today	Movie: Dan in Real Life,	Light of the Southwest		Hitchcock Hr.	Amish Mafia		Tattoo	(:04) The Mentalist	Movie: Above the Deck	Deck	NASCAR	SportsCenter

## DENNIS THE MENACE



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## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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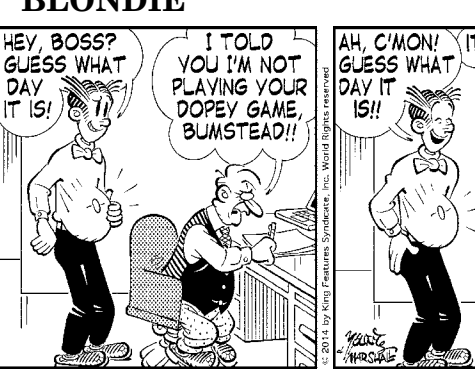
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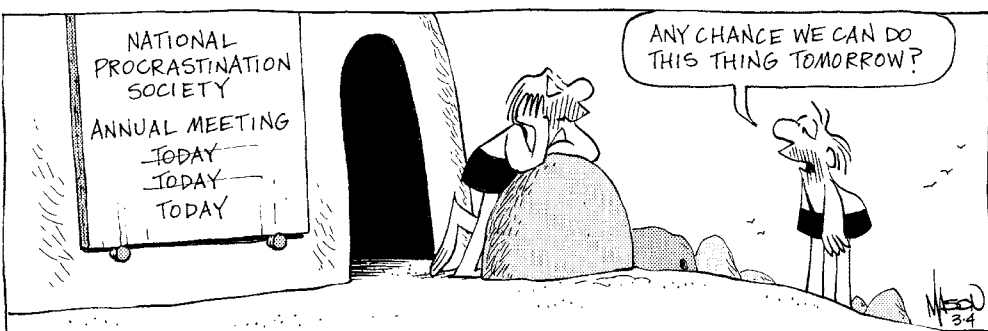
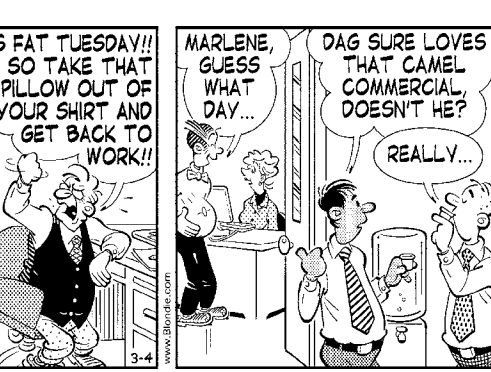
## HAGAR



## BLONDIE



## BLONDIE

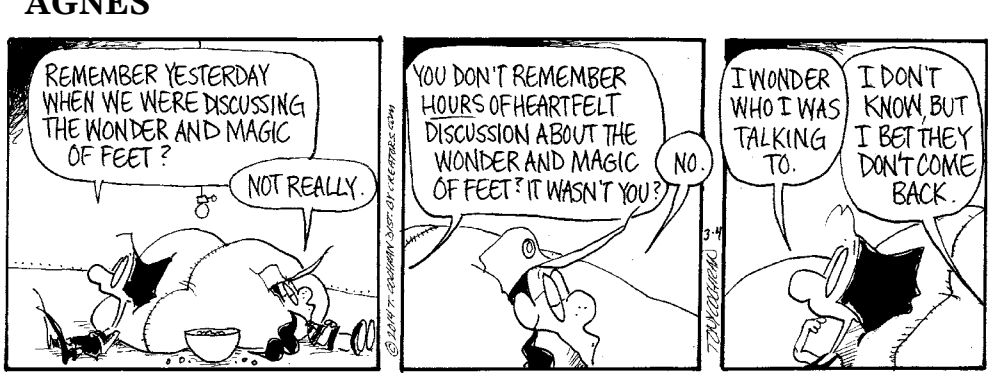


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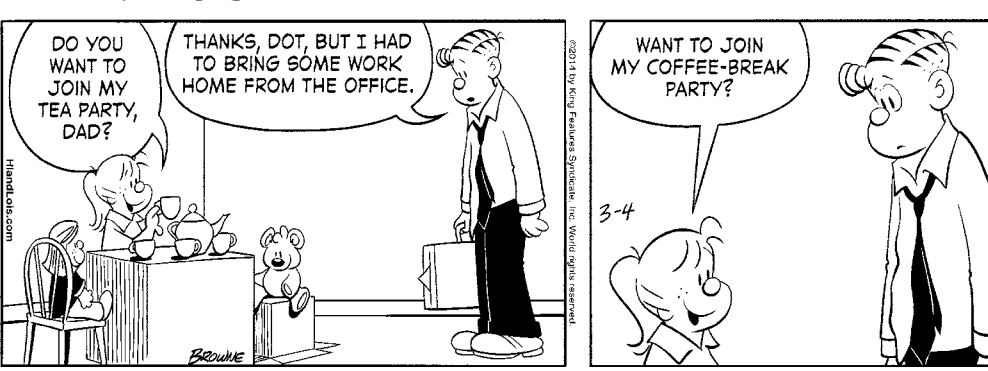
## WIZARD OF ID



## AGNES



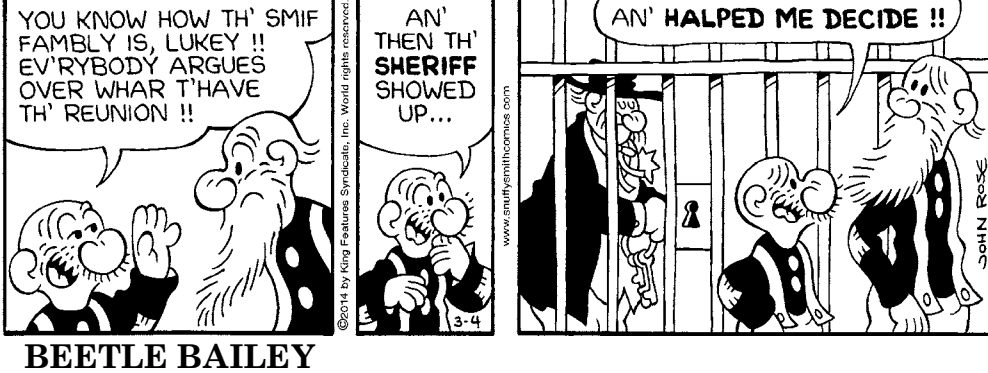
## HI AND LOIS



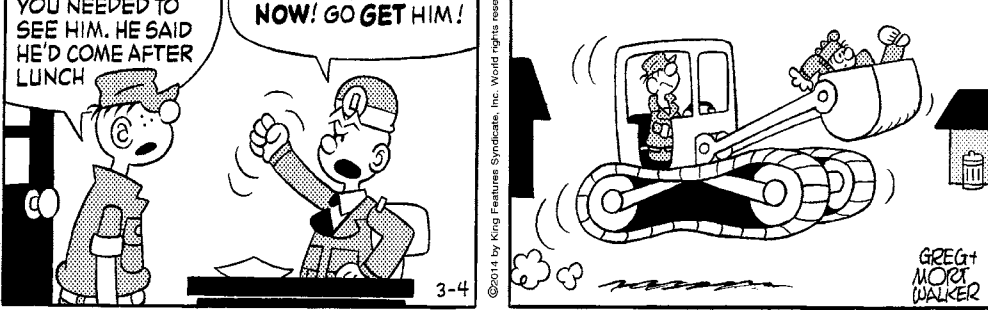
## THE OTHER COAST



## SNUFFY SMITH



## BEEBLE BAILEY



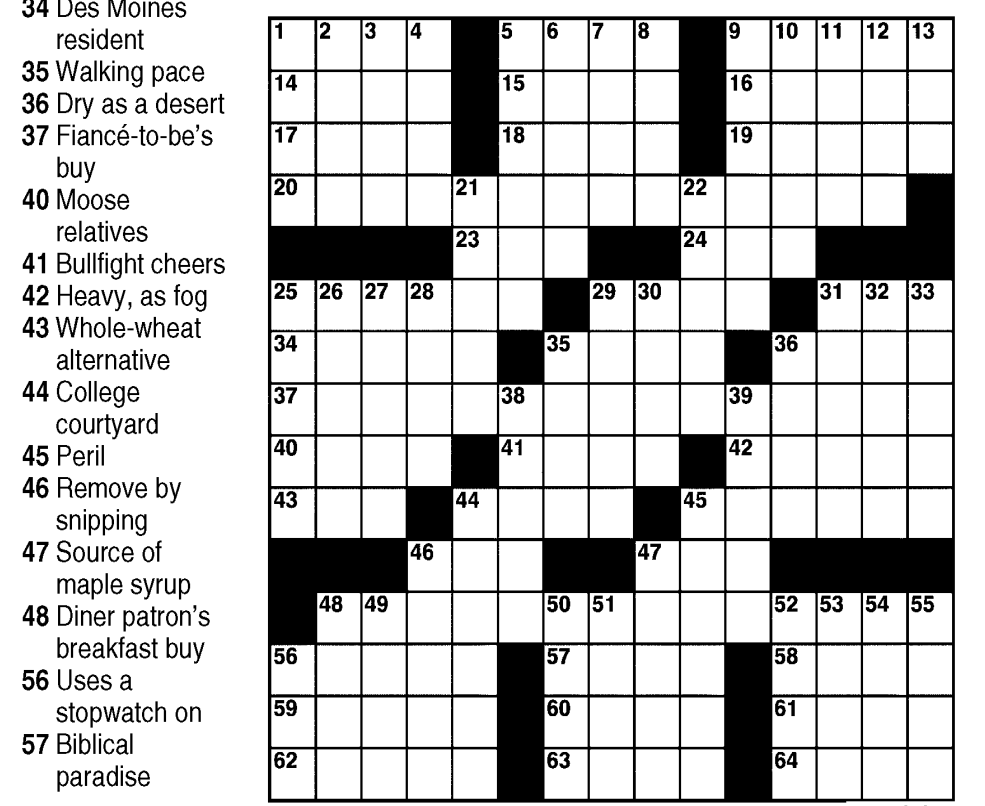
## This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 4, the 63rd day of 2014. There are 302 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On March 4, 1789, the Constitution of the United States went into effect as the first Federal Congress met in New York. (The lawmakers then adjourned for lack of a quorum.) On this date: In 1791, Vermont became the 14th state. In 1861, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as the 16th president of the United States.

The U.S. Government Printing Office began operation. The Confederate States of America adopted as its flag the original version of the Stars and Bars. In 1863, the Idaho Territory was created. In 1913, the "Buffalo nickel" officially went into circulation. In 1930, Coolidge Dam in Arizona was dedicated by its namesake, former President Calvin Coolidge. In 1944, mobsters Louis Capone, Louis "Lepke" Buchalter and Emanuel Weiss were executed in the electric chair at Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, N.Y., for the murder of business owner Joseph Rosen. In 1952, Ronald Reagan and Nancy Davis were married in San Fernando Valley, Calif. In 1964, Teamsters president James Hoffa and three co-defendants were found guilty by a federal court in Chattanooga, Tenn., of jury tampering.

## Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Aspirin tablet
  - 5 "Very funny!"
  - 9 Hotel-room cleaners
  - 14 Shortest-named Great Lake
  - 15 Baking chamber
  - 16 Nostalgic song
  - 17 Couch in a den
  - 18 Truckful of freight
  - 19 Sort of steak
  - 20 Couple's real-estate buy
  - 23 Beet's color
  - 24 Elbow's locale
  - 25 Holds responsible
  - 29 Banquet platform
  - 31 Quid \_\_ quo
  - 34 Des Moines resident
  - 35 Walking pace
  - 36 Dry as a desert
  - 37 Fiancé-to-be's buy
  - 40 Moose relatives
  - 41 Bullfight cheers
  - 42 Heavy, as fog
  - 43 Whole-wheat alternative
  - 44 College courtyard
  - 45 Peril
  - 46 Remove by snipping
  - 47 Source of maple syrup
  - 48 Diner patron's breakfast buy
  - 56 Uses a stopwatch on
  - 57 Biblical paradise
- DOWN**
- 1 Mexican money
  - 2 Metal in steel
  - 3 Hang on for dear \_\_
  - 4 Book page
  - 5 Baker Street sleuth
  - 6 Steer clear of
  - 7 Get back to health
  - 8 Raggedy doll
  - 9 Engines
  - 10 Book of keepsakes
  - 11 Words exchanged at weddings
  - 12 Sup in style
  - 13 Take notice of
  - 21 Sporting venue
  - 22 West Indies nation
  - 25 Mosquito on the attack
  - 26 Menial
  - 27 Left dreamland
  - 28 Apple computers, for short
  - 29 Went out with
  - 30 Helps out
  - 31 Fork tine
  - 32 Help with the dishes
  - 33 More peculiar
  - 35 Elaborate party
  - 36 Church affirmation
  - 38 Itinerary
  - 39 Make suitable
  - 44 Noble pursuits
  - 45 Discourages
  - 46 Moved slowly
  - 47 Scornful look
  - 48 Ocean's motion
  - 49 Medical insurance grps.
  - 50 Office note
  - 51 Notion
  - 52 Toward the right, on a map
  - 53 Canyon sound
  - 54 Expand
  - 55 Understands the point of
  - 56 Faucet



Answer to previous puzzle

BELL	SPAT	PILAF
AREA	POLE	ADAGE
BIGWHEELS	SIREN	YES
EATAT	TOGS	JARS
SEEME	PAGERS	COWS
PDT	ALIST	RUE
CROW	STAT	ABETS
HIDE	TANS	MRS
RANGE	ART	SEAT
HOSTED	PRANK	SOME
RAIN	ELATE	ZAP
DENSE	JUMBO	JETS
ANDES	OBJO	ARMS
START	BEAD	MOST

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## BUY THE NUMBERS

by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

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## Caffeine Word Find

Find the hidden words in the puzzle.

BEVERAGE	COFFEE	HEALTHY
BODY	COLA	JITTERS
CAFFEINE	CONSUME	MODERATION
CHOCOLATE	ENERGY	TEA

N	J	Y	H	T	L	A	E	H	N	E	U
N	O	I	X	E	H	G	E	G	A	T	V
L	L	I	T	V	E	C	Z	L	B	A	Y
R	C	S	T	T	O	F	O	C	E	L	G
B	O	D	Y	A	E	C	F	N	O	O	R
L	N	T	O	U	R	R	I	O	V	C	E
X	S	Q	E	I	X	E	S	Q	C	O	N
V	U	C	W	A	F	G	D	P	Y	H	E
E	M	F	K	F	W	V	I	O	G	C	Y
Q	E	W	A	X	L	X	W	V	M	G	C
P	T	C	B	E	V	E	R	A	G	E	K
D	I	K	D	L	K	J	U	U	L	L	O

## THIS DAY IN...



## HISTORY

- 1942: THE DUTCH SURRENDER TO THE JAPANESE ON JAVA DURING WORLD WAR II.
- 1979: PHILIPS DEMONSTRATES THE COMPACT DISC FOR THE FIRST TIME IN PUBLIC.
- 1999: MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME JOE DIMAGGIO DIES AT AGE 84.



TOO MUCH OF THIS SUBSTANCE IN FOOD OR DRINK CAN LEAVE A PERSON FEELING JITTERY AND HYPER.

ANSWER: CAFFEINE

## Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

PCU FO OEJ

ANSWER: Cup of Joe



## PERCOLATE

filter gradually through a porous surface or substance

## How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Cup
- SPANISH:** Taza
- ITALIAN:** Tazza
- FRENCH:** Tasse
- GERMAN:** Tasse

## Did You Know?

A 2012 GALLUP POLL FOUND 63% OF AMERICANS DRINK AN AVERAGE OF 2.5 CUPS OF COFFEE EVERY DAY. THIS NUMBER HAS REMAINED STEADY SINCE 1999.



## GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: TEA BAG

## SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

## BY BOB WEBER JR

The taxi driver didn't look at his passenger when she spoke until she exited at her destination, and then he deliberately short-changed her. In an attempt to avoid admitting guilt, the driver pretended he could neither hear nor speak. Why doesn't Slylock Fox believe the driver?



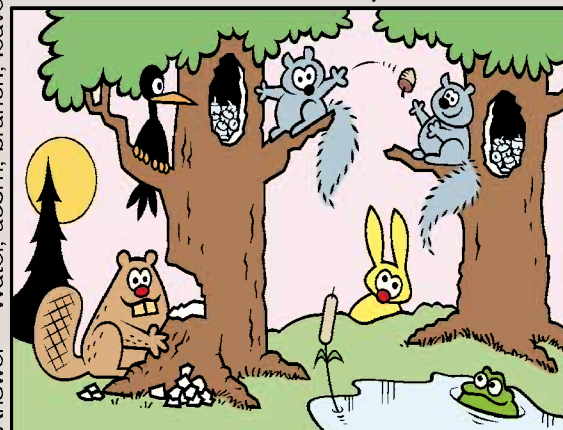
Solution -- The driver could not have read her lips. and if he didn't look at her, he told him if he couldn't hear, to the destination she had not have taken the passenger.

3-2 WEBER

## Spot six differences between these panels.



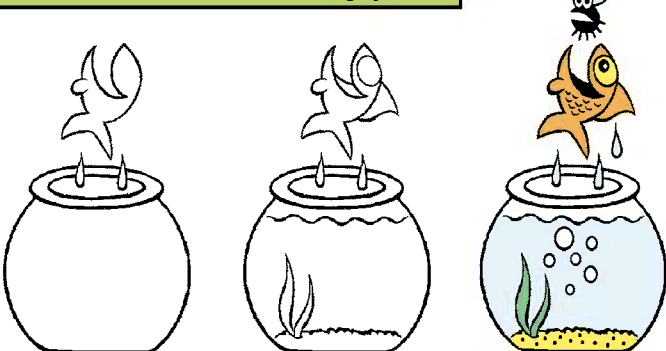
www.facebook.com/SlylockFox



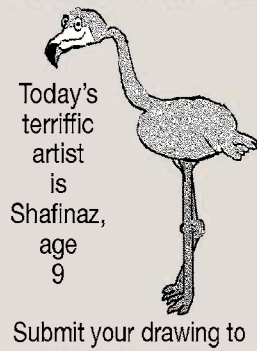
Answer -- Water, acorn, branch, leaves, rabbit and squirrel's mouth.

The fourth Find the six differences collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to Six Differences No. 4, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

## HOW TO DRAW a hungry fish



## YOUR DRAWING



Today's terrific artist is Shafinaz, age 9

Submit your drawing to www.kidcartoonists.com

Which of the following things will a beaver not eat?

- a) Tree bark
- b) Frogs
- c) Water lilies
- d) Fish
- e) Apples

Answer -- (a) Beavers are herbivores (plant-eaters).