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Hahn takes runoff for treasurer by 38 votes

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Scott Hahn defeated incumbent Lee Cornelison by a margin of 38 votes to win Tuesday's Republican primary election runoff for Gray County treasurer.

Hahn received 631 votes, while Cornelison garnered 593 of the 1,233 Republican votes. Nine Republican voters did not cast a vote for either candidate.

Hahn won a majority of the votes in six of the eight precincts. Precinct totals were:

Precinct 1	--	Hahn,	14;
Cornelison,			11

Precinct 2	--	Hahn,	71;
Cornelison,			63
Precinct 3	--	Hahn,	12;
Cornelison,			5
Precinct 4	--	Hahn,	15;
Cornelison,			7
Precinct 5	--	Hahn,	108;
Cornelison,			105
Precinct 6	--	Hahn,	102;
Cornelison,			103
Precinct 7	--	Hahn,	35;
Cornelison,			46
Early Voting	--	Hahn,	274;
Cornelison,			253

"I'm tickled to death at the result," Hahn said shortly after learning the final election results Tuesday evening at Gray County Courthouse.

"I think accuracy is the problem that's going to be my main goal," he said. "I think accuracy has been a problem for awhile in the treasurer's office, and I'll make sure that never happens during my term."

"I do want to thank the voters of Gray County for their vote of confidence and support," he said.

Cornelison declined to be interviewed by telephone this morning, and a message relayed by his staff stated that he would have a prepared statement this afternoon for the press.

The only other runoff race on the

Republican primary ticket was between Terry Keel and Charles Holcomb for the office of judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 8. Keel received 475 Gray County votes versus 351 for Holcomb.

Two runoffs were also on the Democratic ballot in Tuesday's election.

Barbara Ann Radnofsky earned 20 Gray County votes for U.S. Senator, while her opponent, Gene Kelly, garnered 11. Three county Democratic voters did not vote for either candidate in the race.

See HAHN, Page 3

Star parties at Rec Park to teach astronomy

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The stars at night are big and bright deep in the heart of Recreation Park.

Bobby Schiffman told the Pampa City Commission Tuesday afternoon that he and his wife Rosemary along with three other men in Pampa have been hosting star parties for the Pampa Independent School District.

"The idea behind the star parties was to give the students some practical application in the field of astronomy," Schiffman said.

They provided telescopes and information about the night skies.

Schiffman said he'd like to expand the program and make it a public star party at



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Bobby Schiffman stands at the podium in the Pampa City Commission Chambers to tell commissioners about a star party he wants to hold at Recreation Park.

Recreation Park.

"The cost will be free," he said.

Schiffman said there is a group from the Three Rivers Foundation for the Arts and Sciences, a non-profit organization, that would come to Pampa to conduct the star party.

"They're building a Comanche Springs See STARS, Page 3

Austin confusion sets back PEDC

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Confusion in Austin has led to a delay in Pampa getting sales tax money to fund its economic development corporation.

"I received a letter from the comptroller's office this week," Pampa City Manager John Horst said, "stating that our EDC rate would go into effect on July of this year."

The Pampa Economic Development Corporation is funded by a half-cent sales tax to be added to the sales tax in Pampa. The increase was expected in April with the first check arriving in June.

"I called Gerard Washington in the comptroller's office and asked him why the delay," Horst said. "When I talked to the state in March, everything seemed to be on schedule."

Washington said the state does not have time to implement the change before July.

"We did not become aware that the comptroller's office needed a copy of the sample ballot and the canvassing ballot until last month," Horst said. "We faxed that to them and followed up with hard copies delivered by Federal Express."

City officials thought all the information required by the Texas Comptroller's office was sent to them in November and December of last year.

The delay will cost the city three months of tax revenues for the EDC.

"It's very unfortunate," Horst said.

The state collects the tax

See PEDC, Page 3

Pampa strikes deal with Gray to use voting machines

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The City of Pampa has struck a deal with Gray County to lease new electronic voting machines for the spring elections.

The Pampa City Commission approved an agreement Tuesday afternoon during their regular meeting in which Gray County would provide the electronic voting machines for the May 13 city elec-

tions.

Under the agreement, the city would lease the machines beginning April 28, the Friday before early voting begins on May 1, and return them to the county clerk's office the night of May 13, after the polls close. The county would tabulate the voting totals and send them to the city secretary for release.

Pampa City Secretary Phyllis Jeffers told the commission that the

city is planning on using four machines. One would be for early voting. Three would be at the polls at M.K. Brown Auditorium on Election Day.

"I'm really excited about using them," Jeffers said.

The initial estimate of \$4,700 for training was reduced to less than half that amount, she said.

The agreement calls for the city to pay \$22.85 per hour to cover the

overtime costs of the county employees to configure, maintain and tabulate the results. Jeffers estimated the total amount at \$200.

The commission also authorized the city staff to apply for a Selective Traffic Enforcement Project grant covering seat belt enforcement.

Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner told commissioners that the

See CITY, Page 3

Devon donations continue

Devon Energy Corporation of Oklahoma City has donated another \$10,000 to farmers who have suffered property damage from grass fires that have recently burned large portions of the Texas Panhandle.

The firm announced Monday it would donate \$10,000 to Panhandle Producers and Royalty Owners Association's volunteer fire department campaign.

On Tuesday it announced \$10,000 would go to landowners who have suffered losses.

A presentation took place Tuesday at the Top o' Texas Rodeo Grounds.

The company is working in partnership

with PPROA in Amarillo to distribute money to area fire departments, and is working with the Texas Farm Bureau's Wildfire Oversight Committee to distribute money to farmers who have suffered property damage.

"With Devon's growing presence in the Panhandle and surrounding areas, we are eager to help those that have been affected by this catastrophe," said Brad Foster, vice president and general manager of Devon's Central Division. "We recognize that many farmers and ranchers have been affected by

See DEVON, Page 3

Weed control becomes issue of fire prevention

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

As Pampa Fire Department units rolled east of Laketon to battle another grass fire, city officials voiced concern Tuesday afternoon that the lack of moisture may threaten the city.

"It's very dry," said City

Manager John Horst. "We're under drought conditions."

Last week, a grass fire threatened the city's water treatment plant on the west side of town. Horst said no city facilities sustained any damage, but a neighboring

See WEEDS, Page 3

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Obituaries

Nannie Lou 'Nan' Chennault Garmon, 81

Nannie Lou "Nan" Chennault Garmon, 81, of Pampa, Texas, died April 10, 2006, at Pampa. Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 13, 2006, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with Philip Elsheimer, minister of Calvary Assembly of God, officiating. Local arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



Garmon

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. Friday, April 14, 2006, at Fry & Gibbs Funeral Home in Paris, Texas, with graveside services at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 15, 2006, at the Knights of Honor Cemetery in Blossum, Texas. Arrangements are under the direction of Fry & Gibbs Funeral Home.

Mrs. Garmon was born Feb. 26, 1925, in Lamar County, Texas, and was reared in Red Oak, Texas. She married Troy David Garmon on Sept. 27, 1940, in Grant, Okla. They were married for 52 years before he preceded her in death in 1992. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1958.

She was a former member of the Four Square Gospel Church and was a current member of the Fellowship Baptist Church.

She worked for K-Mart for seven years.

She loved to cook and was known for her family pies. She was an avid "Grande Ole Opry" fan. She loved spending time with her family and recalling memories of her youth,

and she believed that friends made were friends for life.

She was an avid collector of "nick-nacks."

Survivors include two daughters, Pam Lorensen and Kimberly Gay Johnson, both of Pampa; five sons, Troy W. Garmon and wife Martha of Wellston, Okla., Larry Garmon and wife Connie of Amarillo, Jerry Garmon and David Garmon and wife Sherry, all of Pampa, and Tim Garmon and wife Julie of Nash; one sister, Onita Floyd of Pampa; one sister-in-law, Irene Black of Pampa; 20 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Monty Garmon in 1958 and Marcus Garmon in 1966; four brothers, Marcus J.C. Chennault, Desso Lee Chennault, Erbie George Chennault, and William Henry Chennault; and two sisters, Mary Frances Hood and Avis Tula Fields.

The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065, or Pampa Nursing Center, 1321 W. Kentucky, Pampa, TX 79065.

The family will be at 1341 N. Starkweather.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Charles Harrington Jr., 87

Charles Harrington Jr., 87, of Pampa, Texas, died April 11, 2006, at Amarillo, Texas. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



Harrington

Mr. Harrington was born Nov. 28, 1918, in Stroud, Okla. He married Artie Switzer on Dec. 21, 1942, in Drumright, Okla. They moved from Oklahoma to the Bowers City and Pampa areas in 1946.

He retired from Phillips Petroleum in January of 1984 as a field mechanic. He was a member of the First Assembly of God. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps, serving during World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Artie Harrington, of the home; one son, Jerry Harrington of Pampa; two daughters, Sharon Moss and husband John of Borger and Janice Steele of Houston; two brothers, Harold Harrington of Hobbs, N.M., and Melvin Harrington of Shamrock, Okla.; eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Letha Harrington; three sisters, Lois Lookingbill, Marie Strickland and Mary Harrington; and one brother, Gene Harrington.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Emergency Services

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Nine traffic stops were made. One traffic stop in the 900 block of West 19th led to an arrest for driving while intoxicated, second offense.

Traffic complaints were received from the intersection of Barnes and Spears streets, the 1300 block of Hamilton, the intersection of 23rd Avenue and Price Road, the 1200 block of Darby and the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the 2300 block of Duncan and the intersection of Kingsmill and Purviance streets.

Lost property was reported in the police department lobby.

Three burglar alarms were reported. Warrant service was attempted on one occasion, resulting in at least one arrest.

An animal complaint was received from the 600 block of North Sumner.

A suspicious person call was received from the 1600 block of North Somerville.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from an unreported location.

Disorderly conduct was reported at the intersection of Georgia and Mary Ellen streets and the 1000 block of North Frost.

A criminal trespass call was received from the 2600 block of North Hobart. The call resulted in an arrest for unlawfully carrying a weapon and criminal mischief over \$50 and under \$500. The weapon was a wooden baseball bat wrapped in electrical tape.

Harassment was reported in the 900 block of South Banks.

Violation of a protective order was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1800 block of North Nelson.

Assault by threat was reported in the 300 block of North Dwight.

Assault was reported in the police department lobby and the 900 block of Cinderella.

Burglary was reported in the 2600 block of North Hobart. The door frame of an apartment was damaged, and approximately 80 compact disc recordings were taken. Estimated value of damage and loss is \$300.

Theft was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 900 block of South Wells. Taken were a 12" bar chain saw, a 24" bar chain saw, gray two-ton jack stands, 2" ratchet tie down straps, a rolling tool box with various tools and an International pickup bed liner. Estimated value of loss is \$955.

Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents today.

Tuesday, April 11
3:14 p.m. — A 2000 Cadillac Seville, driven by Jeanne Maggart Willingham, 82, 2506 Evergreen, and a 2003 Chevrolet Tahoe, driven by Rebecca Lekay Hutto, 36, 8606 Pear Drive, collided at the intersection of 25th and Duncan streets. No injuries were reported. Willingham was cited for failure to yield right of way at a stop sign.

6:40 p.m. — A 2004 Toyota Sienna, driven by Tonya Gail Brown, 29, 803 E. Scott, and a 1995 Chevrolet Suburban, driven by Harold Dean Blackmon, 59, 613 Deane Drive, collided at the intersection of Kingsmill and Purviance streets. No injuries were reported. Brown was cited for failure to yield right of way at a stop sign.

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests today.

Tuesday, April 11
Troyce Glen Brewer, 37, of Pampa was arrested in the 900 block of West 19th by Pampa Police Department for driving while intoxicated, second offense; public intoxication; and failure to appear.

James Kenyon Kendall, 19, of Pampa was arrested in the 800 block of Lefors by PPD on capias pro fines for failure to signal and speed 50/30.

Undral Dewayne Jernigan, 23, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for possession of a controlled sub-

stance. Haley Esther Maddox, 20, of Pampa was arrested in the 2600 block of North Hobart for unlawful carrying of a weapon and criminal mischief.

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, April 11
8:55 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 400 block of North Naida on a medical assist.

1:03 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 600 block of North Wynne on an arcing cable line.

1:52 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1300 block of West Somerville on a medical assist.

3:13 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to Wheeler County to assist with a grass fire.

3:16 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of 25th and Duncan on a vehicle accident.

4:15 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 800 block of North Nelson on a medical assist.

5:06 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to Perry Lefors Field on a mutual assist to help mix fire retardant.

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, April 11
8:56 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 400 block of Naida and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

9:40 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to BSA Hospital in Amarillo.

1:19 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

1:54 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to an undisclosed location on Somerville and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:20 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 100 block of South Russell and transported a patient to PRMC.

3:23 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to 25th and Duncan. No transport.

4:17 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of North Nelson. No transport.

6:42 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Kingsmill and Purviance. No transport.

Wednesday, April 12
6:48 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 300 block of Miami and transported a patient to PRMC.

Weather

Today: Sunny, with a high around 86. North wind around 10 mph becoming east.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 62. South wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 90. Southwest wind around 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 59. South-southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 83.

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Stars

Continued from Page 1

Astronomy campus that will have observatories and teaching facility down by Crowell, Texas, southeast of Childress," Schiffman said. "They're planning on serving the northern Texas area in astronomy and fine arts."

The foundation has an outreach program, Schiffman said, called Star Struck.

Larry Smith, executive vice president and retired National Park Service official, has three 18-foot trailers carrying astronomy equipment that they can bring to Pampa.

"If you can't come to them," Schiffman said, "they will come to you."

Schiffman said the foundation is willing to come to Pampa for free to the public.

He said he would like to use Recreation Park. Schiffman said Smith could use the Norris Pavilion at the park for his presentations and restrooms would be available for those attending.

"The biggest item would be to turn the lights off," Schiffman said. "It's difficult to have a star party if you can't see the stars."

The security lights, rodeo arena lights and softball field lights would make it difficult to see the stars, he said.

Schiffman said the star party would be one afternoon and one evening, probably on a Saturday. He said it would be from about mid-afternoon to midnight.

"It wouldn't be any longer than that," Schiffman said. "We need to schedule a primary date and a secondary date. We can control everything but the weather."

If Pampa is lucky enough

to have rain, he grinned, it would prevent the star party.

Schiffman said he would like to hold the star party during the summer or into the fall.

The dates are important, he said, because of the positions of the sun and the moon at certain times during the summer and fall.

"Some of the equipment that the Comanche Springs people could bring up are solar telescopes where you can get a real time view of the sun plus the moon will be anywhere from due south to the eastern horizon," Schiffman said.

The foundation has several telescopes for people to use so everyone wouldn't have to stand in one line.

"If it works," Schiffman said, "there's the possibility of making this an annual event. I don't see why we couldn't make it available for kids and parent on down the line."

NPS presents special achievement awards

FRITCH — The National Park Service has announced that the Administrative Division at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument has been presented Special Achievement Awards for their dedication and commit-

ment above and beyond the call of duty in getting the job done in spite of staff vacancies over the past year.

During the past several months, two administrative positions have remained vacant. The duties and responsibilities of those positions, including payroll,

travel, and training, have been re-distributed among the remainder of the permanent administrative staff. The workload has tripled in human resources, information technology, procurement and property, budget and finance, as well as records management.

Weeds

Continued from Page 1

storage yard destroyed a lot of equipment that belonged to Cable One. The fire burned right up to the fence surrounding the water treatment plant.

Fortunately, Pampa fire units and units from Skellytown and Hoover Volunteer Fire Departments quickly brought the blaze under control, but not before the flames destroyed equipment and supplies in the adjoining Cable One storage facility.

"We never lost power or communications," Horst said. "Firefighters did an excellent job of containing

that fire."

But that doesn't mean it couldn't happen again in or around Pampa. A grass fire was reported Tuesday afternoon between Laketon and Mobeetie. Another one was reported near Canadian.

"What we're worried about here at the city is some of these weeds igniting and really causing some damage to homes, fences, businesses," Horst said.

Consequently, he said that city officials would be looking for areas of dry grass and weeds.

"We're going to be enforcing our high weeds ordinance vigorously this year," Horst said. "If anyone wants to read that, it's on our Web site," Horst said. "It's www.cityofpampa.org, and look under City

Government on the home page."

There's a link there called Pampa City Codes under the City Government heading in the left column of the home page. The ordinance is Number 1377.

"It will also give you the penalties for not taking care of your yard," Horst said.

If the property owner does not keep up their grass and weeds under control and the city has to do it, the City of Pampa charges the cost of mowing plus \$75 administrative fee.

"It's for the safety of the community," Horst said. "We're urging everyone to look in their alleys and yards. If they've got weed and grass that needs to be cut, please cut it."

City

Continued from Page 1

grant was part of a \$5,000 grant the city was applying for with several surrounding towns. Pampa's share would be \$4,000.

It would be used to cover overtime during the Memorial Day weekend, he said.

The commission also approved the sale of tax delinquent property at 514 and 516 S. Barnes for \$200 to Regina Stalter.

Code Enforcement Officer Danny Winborne said the city had the property for some time and had recently cleared it of dilapidated structures.

He said it is proof that the city's demolition program, tearing down abandoned structures, is working.

Horst also told commissioners that the company from which the city leased the tracked backhoe the city has been using to demolish abandoned houses notified

him that they have someone who wants to buy the machine. Valued at \$81,000, the city's lease contract allows for purchase of the backhoe with credit for lease payments already made. The city has spent \$19,000 on renting the machine for the past two years.

Horst said the city could buy the machine for \$62,000.

He said the city is only using the machine two days a week and he would like to use it more but the city has a shortage of operators.

Pampa Public Works Director Richard Morris said that while everyone agrees it would be nice to be able to tear down five houses a week instead of the current demolition rate of two, the increased demolition rate could cause problems at the landfill.

Horst also told the commission that he had received a complaint about fees charged by the city's water department. A citizen with rental property said his

renter had moved out owing the property owners back rent and also owing the city an overdue water bill. When the landlord went to repair the damaged rental property, he found that it would cost him a \$50 refundable fee to turn the meter back on so he could check for leaks. Complaining that he would need the water turned on for only a few minutes, he said he didn't think he should have to pay the fee.

While the commission commiserated with the landlord's predicament, any remedy would require a change in the city ordinance, a process that will take a month or so.

The commission also heard from Bobby Schiffman concerning a proposed astronomy program at Recreation Park.

While the program would be free to the public, Schiffman said it would need to be at a time when the security lights, lights at the rodeo grounds and the softball grounds lights could be turned out.

Devon

Continued from Page 1

the fires, and we welcome this opportunity to assist them."

The Texas Farm Bureau is equally grateful for Devon's assistance. Devon is the largest U.S.-based independent oil and gas producer.

"The Texas Farm Bureau is very grateful to Devon for this generous contribution," said Billy Bob Brown, state director of the Texas Farm Bureau. "There are so many needs in the aftermath of these fires. We've been

working to meet short term feeding needs, and now we are beginning to focus on the tremendous amount of fences lost during the fires. More than 5,000 miles of fences were destroyed. Devon's contribution will help those ranch families survive this ordeal."

Devon's contributions will fund purchases of firefighting equipment, such as protective gear, respirators and hand tools. The donations will also be used to help departments qualify for additional matching funds from state and federal agencies.

"We're very pleased with Devon's contribution to the fund," said P. David Walker,

president of the board of directors of PPROA. "I can't say we're surprised. Devon has an enviable track record of good citizenship, and we're proud they are members of our association."

Donations are being distributed to fire departments in several counties in the Panhandle and the bordering counties of Oklahoma that were involved in the firefighting effort in mid-March.

For more information from PPROA, contact Wayne Hughes at 806-352-5637. For information from Devon Energy, contact Brian Engel at 405-228-7750.

Hahn

Continued from Page 1

Radnofsky won the runoff election statewide, according to The Associated Press. Number of votes cast statewide for Radnofsky and Kelly was not available as of press time today.

In the runoff for Democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Benjamin Z. Grant got 22 Gray County votes, while Maria Luisa Alvarado earned 10. Two Gray County Democratic voters did not vote for either candidate in the race.

Local voters did not agree with the statewide results, in which Alvarado was nominated as Democratic candidate for the position. Number of votes cast statewide for Grant and Alvarado was not available as of press time today.

PEDC

Continued from Page 1

money and sends the City of Pampa its share and the additional taxes collected for the EDC. The city then writes a check to the EDC.

"We won't get a check with the EDC money until September.

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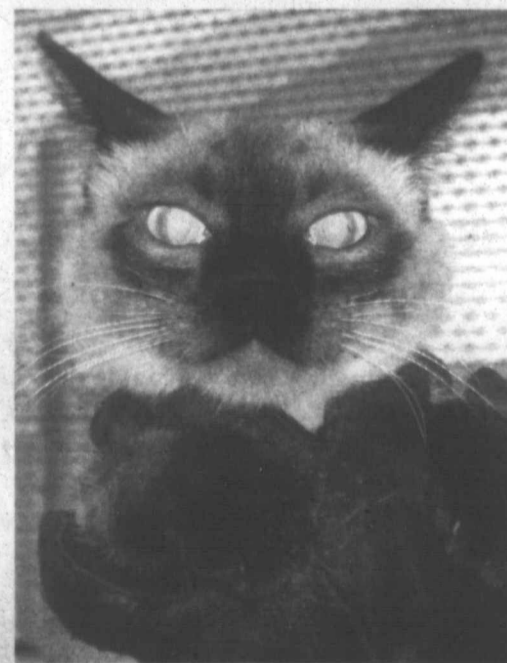
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Viewpoints

Deadline to enroll in drug plan coming soon

I am sure most of you have heard something about Medicare Part D, the new prescription drug coverage for seniors. All Medicare beneficiaries are eligible for it. It is a voluntary benefit.

No one is required to take it. However, an important deadline is coming up for those who would like this coverage.

The first enrollment period for Medicare Part D ends May 15, 2006. If you are currently on Medicare, — and you want to add this benefit — you must enroll by that deadline to avoid a possible penalty.

Those currently eligible for the benefit could be charged higher premiums if

they sign up after May 15.

Almost 28 million people across the country are already enrolled and receiving the new prescription drug benefit. In our congressional district, approximately 60 percent of those eligible have signed up for the benefit.

The Department of Health and Human Services estimates this coverage will save seniors an average of \$1,100 a year on the cost of their medicines. Some retirees will save significantly more than that average. But, Medicare Part D does not give enrollees all of their medicine for free. And, it is not a typical "one size fits all" government program. It

is insurance provided by private companies with part of the cost paid by the government. Like other insurance, there are premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and other costs.

Medicare Part D could be a big help for those with very high drug expenses. Under the standard plan, once a beneficiary's out-of-pocket drug expenses for one calendar year reaches \$3,600, they will be required to pay just 5 percent (or a small co-payment) for the rest of their drug purchases that year. All

of their other drug purchase costs will be covered by the plan.

Mac Thornberry
U.S. Representative



There is also extra assistance available for those with a low income.

Medicare beneficiaries who meet the eligibility guidelines, the savings on drug purchases will be substantial. Millions of low income Medicare beneficiaries could pay no more than \$5 per prescription.

The prescription drug benefit will help many people, but it is still important to

remember that it is not mandatory. You may decide you do not want it. You may already be receiving good coverage through another source such as an employer or a union.

If you decide to accept this benefit, you will need to find a coverage plan that is right for you. About 20 organizations have been approved by Medicare to sell plans in Texas. Companies offering this insurance must meet certain requirements such as covering all medically necessary drugs. But, these companies are also competing with each other on things like prices and how benefits are packaged. People looking for the plan

that is right for them will need to carefully examine what is offered. In most cases, beneficiaries will be able to change plans once a year.

If you need more information about this new coverage, there is a good Web site at www.medicare.gov. You may also call Medicare's toll-free number, 1-800-MEDICARE.

The May 15 deadline is important, but there is still plenty of time to do the research necessary to make the best decisions. Family and friends can help you.

I also encourage you to call my office if I can help provide you with information.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, April 12, the 102nd day of 2006. There are 263 days left in the year. The Jewish holiday Passover begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History:

Four hundred years ago, on April 12, 1606, England's King James I decreed the design of the original Union Flag (also referred to as the Union Jack), which combined the flags of England and Scotland.

On this date:

In 1861, the American Civil War began as Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina.

In 1862, Union volunteers led by James J. Andrews stole a Confederate train near Marietta, Ga., but were later caught. (This episode inspired the Buster Keaton comedy "The General.")

In 1934, "Tender Is the Night," by F. Scott Fitzgerald, was first published.

In 1945, President Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Ga., at age 63; he was succeeded by Vice President Harry S. Truman.

'Eternal truths will be neither true nor eternal unless they have fresh meaning for every new social situation.'

— President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945)

In 1955, the Salk vaccine against polio was declared safe and effective.

In 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man to fly in space, orbiting the earth once before making a safe landing.

In 1981, the space shuttle Columbia blasted off from Cape Canaveral on its first test flight.

In 1983, Chicagoans went to the polls to elect Harold Washington the city's first black mayor.

In 1985, Sen. Jake Garn of Utah became the first senator to fly in space as the shuttle Discovery lifted off.

In 1989, radical activist Abbie Hoffman was found dead at his home in New Hope, Pa., at age 52.

Ten years ago: President Clinton named U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor to succeed the late Ron Brown as commerce secretary.

Five years ago: The 24 crew members of a U.S. spy plane arrived in Hawaii after being held for 11 days in China. Cincinnati Mayor Charles Luken declared a state of emergency amid the worst outbreak of racial violence in the city since the aftermath of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968.

One year ago: Three men with suspected al-Qaida ties, already in British custody, were charged with a years-long plot to attack the New York Stock Exchange and other East Coast financial institutions.



Disasters overburden nation's taxpayers

When the big one finally hits us in California it won't be the insurance companies who'll pick up the multi-billion-dollar cost to rebuild our homes and cities — it will be you, the American taxpayer.

This is a lesson we're learning from New Orleans, where the mayor has assured displaced residents of areas of the city deemed very vulnerable to another hurricane that he will not stand in their way should they choose to rebuild their demolished houses, even though they would most likely be destroyed if another Katrina comes along.

Now that's bad enough, but the generous Mayor Nagin did not stop there. He urged those residents to take advantage of a buyout program that would pay them

up to \$150,000 for their property. Need I tell you who's going to foot that bill?

It won't be insurance companies — most of the residents in the affected area didn't have flood insurance. Do you need to be told that it's you, the taxpayer, who'll shell out that \$150,000 or so?

Here in California we don't worry about hurricanes, broken levees or blizzards. We worry about earthquakes. Every once in a while the earth shivers and shakes, and buildings and bridges and highways come crashing down. The last big one was 12 years ago, in 1994. We can protect our-

selves from having to pay the ruinous cost of rebuilding our homes after a massive quake by buying earthquake insurance, just as the people of New Orleans could have protected themselves from Katrina by buying flood and windstorm insurance.

The problem with earthquake insurance is the cost — which is huge. Because it is so expensive, fully 86 percent of Californians cross their fingers, hope that they'll be spared from a quake and, as a result, don't buy quake insurance.

Does that make them worry that they might be destroyed financially and

left homeless in the event of an earthquake against which they were not insured? As the folks in New Orleans are learning, there's no need to worry. Who needs insurance when the government is willing to pay the cost of their failure to buy insurance?

In 1996, the number of folks in California not insured against quakes was 65 percent. Now, as memories of the last earthquake fade, that figure has jumped to 86 percent, which means only 14 percent of us in the most earthquake-prone state in the Union are insured against another quake — a quake that's sure to come.

That 86 percent, however, are not shooting craps, hoping the inevitable quake

See REAGAN, Page 5

Michael Reagan
Columnist



Illegal immigration greater threat than terrorism

A friend of mine sent me an excerpt from the Mexican Constitution. It makes for good reading while illegal aliens are demonstrating and demanding a say in our politics.

In Chapter 3, Article 33, the Mexican Constitution states: "The Executive of the Union has the exclusive right to expel from the national territory, immediately and without necessity of judicial proceedings, all foreigners whose stay it judges inconvenient. Foreigners may not, in any manner, involve themselves in the political affairs of the country."

There are, some say, 11

million illegal immigrants in our country. They are not citizens. They have broken our laws. The present penalty for such a breach is deportation.

Yet the yellow-bellies in Congress and the president are scheming to grant them amnesty, by legalizing their presence and offering them citizenship. This will send a loud and clear message to all the people suffering from bad government and poor resources to our south to come across our borders in

even larger numbers. The present hordes are a direct result of previous amnesty. The Mexican government, which ruthlessly expels its illegal immigrants, encour-



Charley Reese
Columnist

our Border Patrol. What the yellow-bellies in the House and the Senate and that scoundrel in White House are doing, of course, is catering to the corporations, businesses and indi-

viduals who love cheap labor. Cheap labor is more seductive than most drugs and even sex. How nice it is to have an employee who cannot complain about poor pay and bad working conditions.

You may say that most of the illegals are nice people. I won't argue with that, though certainly some of them are a long way from nice. You may say that they work hard, and I would agree with that.

But nevertheless, we are either a nation of laws or we're not. How can any nation on Earth claim to be a

See REESE, Page 5

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Easter egg hunt



As the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Pampa Nursing Center draws near, Marie Boyd and Carylton Rutherford paint festive wooden eggs. The Easter Egg Hunt is slated for 2 p.m. Friday.

Events calendar

• **Habitat For Horses, Inc.**, is in the area distributing horse feed, hay, medical and barn supplies. The volunteer organization will continue to organize feed and hay drives to the fire damaged area and coordinate distribution centers as needed. For more information, call (866) 434-5737 or (806) 681-5858.

• **A cancer support meeting** is scheduled Thursday in Room 202 of Pampa Regional Medical Center. For meeting time or more information, call 669-9667. The group will meet regularly at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month.

• **The Red Hat Dollies Society** of Pampa will meet at 11 a.m. April 20 at Pampa Senior Citizens Center. For more information, call 669-9916 or 669-9297.

• **The next Third Thursday** at Amarillo Museum of Art in Amarillo will begin at 6 p.m. April 20. Olga Perez, resident artist with Amarillo Opera, will perform. The event will also include the documentary film "Photographer: Russell Lee," a coffee and tea tasting courtesy of Starbucks Coffee, a video on becoming a museum volunteer and children's and adult's art activities.

• **Top O' Texas CattleWomen** will award two \$500 scholarships and two \$250 scholarships to four area high school seniors. Students from Gray, Carson, Collingsworth, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Roberts and Wheeler counties may apply. Applications are available in counselors' offices of participating schools. The deadline to apply is April 22. For more information, call (806) 256-1268.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

sovereign power if it cannot control its own borders? Drugs, terrorists and common criminals cross those borders, and the U.S. government has been criminally negligent in enforcing our immigration laws.

After all, illegal immigrants are not hard to find. All the federal government has to do is locate them and levy stiff, stiff fines against those who employ them. If we have to build a wall and

man it with soldiers, so be it. Hadrian did that in Roman Britain to keep the Scots out.

As I often said, if you don't think uncontrolled immigration will cause you to lose your country, ask an Apache or a Sioux. This is a more serious problem facing America than terrorism, and it should be Americans, not illegal immigrants, who are pouring into the streets and demanding that the federal government do its duty.

God knows that the federal government in imperial Washington likes to stick its nose into all of our lives, but as far as doing its legitimate

duty, it is absent without leave.

There are literally millions of people to our south who live in countries that, because of bad and corrupt governments and a scarcity of resources, cannot support them.

If I lived in those hellish conditions, I would cross the border, too. And, if Americans showed themselves to be too timid and too saturated by entertain-

ment to defend their country, then I and my compatriots would take it away from them, exactly as our ancestors took this land away

from the Native Americans — and, I should add, from Mexico.

Don't kid yourself for one minute that there is any affection for the gringo south of the border. We have done much harm, but no favors, to the Mexican people, and if we have forgotten our own history, I assure you they have not. Finally, amnesty under any guise for illegals is a slap in the face to the legal immigrants who often wait years in order to obey our laws.

Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

Reagan

Continued from Page 4

won't occur. They rest easy in the knowledge that you, the taxpayer, will step in and make them whole. In New Orleans they had good reason for putting their faith in the government. They understand that the politicians lust after the vote of African-Americans, and since the majority of the population in New Orleans is black — or "chocolate" as their idiot mayor calls them, they know that Uncle Sam will be there, with his check-book handy, to try to buy their votes with taxpayer money.

Here in California we are fully aware of our enormous political clout. We know how much the politicians of both parties yearn to win our votes, which go a long way towards electing a president. We send more members of Congress to Washington than any other state.

And we know that in order to stay in our good graces, the pols will take the rubber band off the federal bankroll and pick up the cost of any earthquake or other natural disaster, giving us low-cost loans and other goodies. So why spend all that money for earthquake insurance?

After all, we're in good hands with Uncle Sam. Mike Reagan, the eldest son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on more than 200 talk radio stations nationally as part of the Radio America Network.

First Presbyterian announces upcoming Maundy Thursday, Easter sunrise services

Maundy Thursday will be observed at 7 p.m. Thursday at Pampa's First Presbyterian Church, 525 N. Gray. Easter Sunday will begin with a brunch and sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. at the home of Chuck and Phyllis White.

All are invited to participate in both the brunch and the service. Carry-in dishes of favorite breakfast foods are welcome.

Nancy Ruff, commissioned lay pas-

tor for First Presbyterian, will speak. Easter hymns will be sung by worshippers with Doris Goad, church organist, accompanying on the piano.

Regular worship for Easter Sunday will be at 10:45 a.m. in the church sanctuary. Guest preacher will be the Rev. Mert Cooper of Canadian.

In place of the customary lilies given in memory or in honor of loved ones, all are encouraged to make a

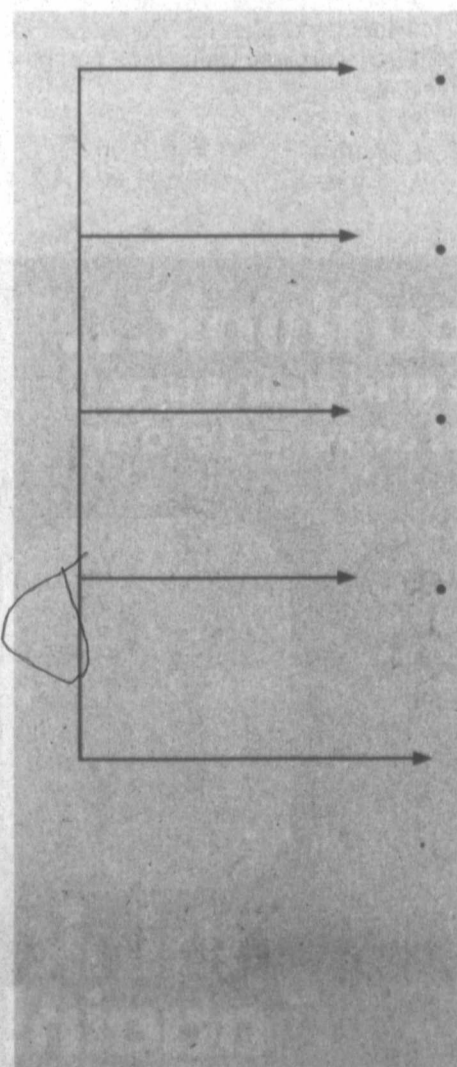
donation to Heifer International, a non-government organization which works with agricultural programs around the world.

Currently, all donations are being matched with a grant from a German foundation (up to \$400,000), for special projects in Armenia.

For more information on Heifer International go to www.heifer.org.

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Sports Day

Lucus and Foreman have unique opportunity

The Harvester Tennis team will be competing in their spring district tournament Thursday and Friday at the Austin Tennis Center in Amarillo. Spring is considered an individual season so players are allowed to enter one event and compete for a chance to make it to regionals in San Angelo and then on to State in Austin.

The district tournament uses a single elimination format in which first and second place finisher will advance to regionals.

Pampa has three teams seeded in the tournament. In Girls Singles, Myca Vinson received the No. 1 seed in the draw. "Myca went undefeated in our district in the fall and has had a very successful spring season," noted Pampa head coach Emily Laurence. "I really

expect to see her move on to regionals and then hopefully to state."

This spring is the first year for Mixed Doubles to compete in the district tournament.

"Once we realized how good the two of them would be together, they have had a good season." Laurence also noted, "This is actually the toughest draw because everyone in the state wants to be

Braydon Barker received the No. 4 seed. Coach Laurence likes what she has seen in Barker this season. "I am amazed at his athleticism of Braydon," she said. "He just came out for tennis this spring and has already impressed the coaches enough to receive the No. 4 seed. This is a tough draw but I'm looking forward to watching Braydon surprise the No. 2 in the semifinals."

In explaining the format of the district tournament, Laurence said players will compete in three matches Thursday with the exception of the seeded players who received a bye in the first round. Friday, those who make it to the finals or the third place match will play. The player who receives third place still has a chance to play for

'true second' if the player they lost to in the semifinals wins the tournament.

Coach Laurence notes, "This is the time to see what our team is made of. The players that didn't get seeded still have a good draw and still have a chance to spoil the seeding."

Laurence has expressed nothing but pride about her team throughout the spring season and how far each of her players has come. "No matter what happens at district, this has been a fun group of kids to coach," said Laurence.

The district tournament starts at 9 a.m. both days. The JV team will also be competing at Randall High School starting at 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

'This is actually the toughest draw because everyone in the state wants to be the first state champion in mixed doubles'

— Emily Laurence
Head Coach, Pampa High School Tennis

The Harvester duo of Ashlee Lucas and Michael Foreman received the No. 1 seed in that draw. "If this team is on, they are unstoppable," said Laurence.

the first state champion in mixed doubles." Laurence said she hopes Lucas and Foreman will have that same chance.

In the Boys Singles draw,

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Pampa News photos by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Pampa pitcher Brett Ferrell (above) sends a strike by a Caprock's Trevor Cordova in Tuesday's game against the Longhorns. Alex Torres (right) manages to dig a low pitch out of the dirt for a bunt single in the Harvesters' 9-8 district win.



Boys survive late 'Rock rally; girls drop Lady Whitefaces

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Lady Harvesters 6, Hereford 1

The Lady Harvesters improved to 17-5 (6-1) Tuesday with a 6-1 win over Hereford (9-13, 2-5).

Junior Nicole Clark had another strong outing for Pampa, hurling a complete game for her eighth win of the season against just one loss.

The win keeps the Lady Harvesters atop the District 3-4A standings with three games left in the regular season.

Caprock defeated Dumas Tuesday to improve to 17-8 (6-1). The Lady 'Horns' lone loss came against Pampa April 4. The two teams will face each other in the final week of the regular season April 22.

Said Pampa head coach Bobbi Gill, "We played very good defense yesterday with only one error." She added, "It was a solid game from both teams. We just strung the hits together in the 7th to put the game away."

Pampa plated five runs in the seventh and finished the game with 13 hits. Hereford had three hits in the contest.

Coach Gill likes what she sees in her team and its potential as the season winds down and the playoffs looming. "I am very excited about finishing the second round of district strong. We are on the right path right now."

Pampa will host Palo Duro Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

Pampa	000 100 5 - 6 13 1
Hereford	000 010 0 - 1 3 3

Harvesters 9, Caprock 8

Longhorn errors in the second inning allowed four Pampa runners to cross the plate in Tuesday's 9-8 nail-biter at Caprock.

The Harvesters took an early 1-0 lead in the first before the floodgates opened for them in the second. Pampa plated seven runners total in the inning to take what appeared to be a comfort-

able 8-0 lead into the bottom of the second.

Caprock however, had others ideas. The Longhorns managed to string a few hits together in the bottom of the second to close the gap, 8-4. After six innings, Caprock had closed the gap to 9-8.

Brett Ferrell started the game on the hill for Pampa. He was spelled by Keenan Davis in the sixth, Tyson Hickman entered to close the game in the seventh. Davis and Hickman combined to shut down the Longhorns and secure the win for Ferrell who remains perfect for the season (6-0).

The Harvesters (13-7, 4-1) take over sole possession of second place in District 3-4A, one game behind Randall. Pampa will host the Raiders Thursday to start the second half of the district season. Game time will be 4:30 p.m.

Pampa	170 010 00 - 9 11 1
Caprock	040 121 00 - 8 7 4

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Last night I saw my brother-in-law hit my 1-year-old niece. It was horrible. I confronted him, and he and my sister are going to get counseling. He says he "made a mistake," but that he also believes it is "OK to swat a child." I am so upset. I used to think the world of my brother-in-law, but now he seems like an ignorant bully to me. I am hoping he will learn better parenting, and that everything will turn out all right. I'm around a lot, and the children are seldom alone with him. What can I do while I wait to see if counseling is effective? — **CONCERNED AUNT IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR CONCERNED: You can suggest that your sister and brother-in-law could also benefit from taking a parenting class and reading some books on child development. Sometimes adults hit children because they have unrealistic expectations about what they "should" be able to do at a certain age. They also do it because they lose their patience. One-year-olds do not always have the ability to control their emotions and behavior. It is up to the parents to set an example -- to model good behavior -- and hitting sets a poor one. Parenting classes offer valuable insights and suggestions to new parents. To find one, check with a pediatrician, your local high school or community college, or your health plan.

DEAR ABBY: "Book Lover in Pennsylvania" described the frustration of loaning books to friends and never getting them back. I, too, am a book lover. Some of my books are old friends that have remained on my shelves for years. Periodically, I take them down and reread them. As I have matured, I understand things the author was saying that I did not upon the first reading. Because many of these books are out of print and irreplaceable, I have designed a bookmark that I

print myself on card stock. At the top, I list the title, author, loan date, who I loaned the book to, and the person's phone number. When I lend a book to someone, I cut off the top portion of the bookmark and fill it out in the presence of the borrower. I keep the top portion taped to my desk calendar, and when a reasonable amount of time has elapsed, if the book has not been returned, I'll telephone. Or, I'll stop by the person's home, ring the doorbell and say politely, "Hi, I've come to collect the book you borrowed." So far, it has worked for me. If you print my letter, please keep me anonymous. Sign me ... **P.L.S. IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR P.L.S.: That's a clever solution to a touchy problem. Thank you for sharing it.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together for seven years. We're happy together, but if I bring up the subject of marriage, he reminds me that he's from India and told me from the beginning that we couldn't marry. We have tried to separate, but couldn't even make it a month apart. We love each other more than we ever thought we could. Do you think he is just scared of commitment, or doesn't he want to marry me? I love him, but I'm tired of waiting, and I don't want to be someone's lifetime girlfriend. — **LOVESICK DOWN SOUTH**

DEAR LOVESICK: Give your boyfriend credit for honesty. He hasn't misled you. He may come from a conservative, traditional Indian family that expects to arrange a "suitable" marriage for him to a woman from his own culture. After seven years, you can't be blamed for wanting a commitment, so it's time to bite the bullet, lay your cards on the table and end the romance if you must.

TO MY JEWISH READERS: A Happy Passover, one and all!

For Better Or For Worse



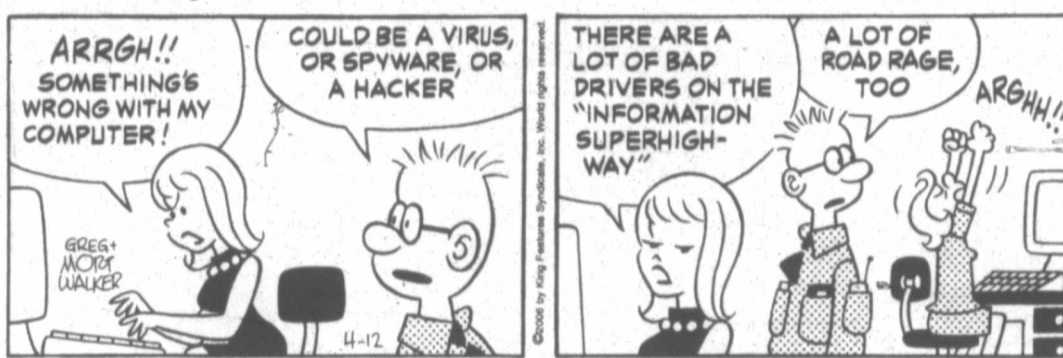
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Garfield



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By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Rapper

1 Shovel's Elliott

6 Con

10 Wife of Menelaus

11 Thomas of "That Girl"

12 Second president

13 Once more

14 Edges

15 Strut

16 Julep

17 need

18 Writer Levin

19 Piano part

20 Got

gradually quieter

22 Hay-bundle

23 "Rats!"

26 Tricked

29 "Oh, wow!"

32 Cover

33 Compete

34 Genesis

36 Lo-cal adjective

37 Prom rentals

38 Praline bit

39 Critic Roger

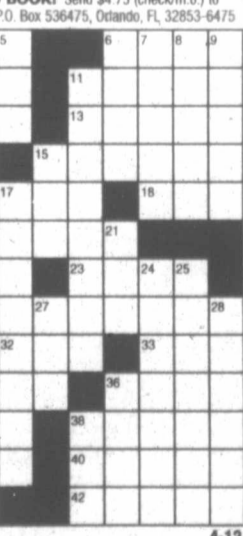
40 Asserts

41 Stow-cargo



Yesterday's answer

1 "Doctor Zhivago" star
2 Rickshaw's kin
3 City near Oakland
4 GOP side
5 Print units
6 Long workes
7 Old car part
8 Ralph's phytes
9 Green-backs
10 Pillaged



4-12

Marmaduke

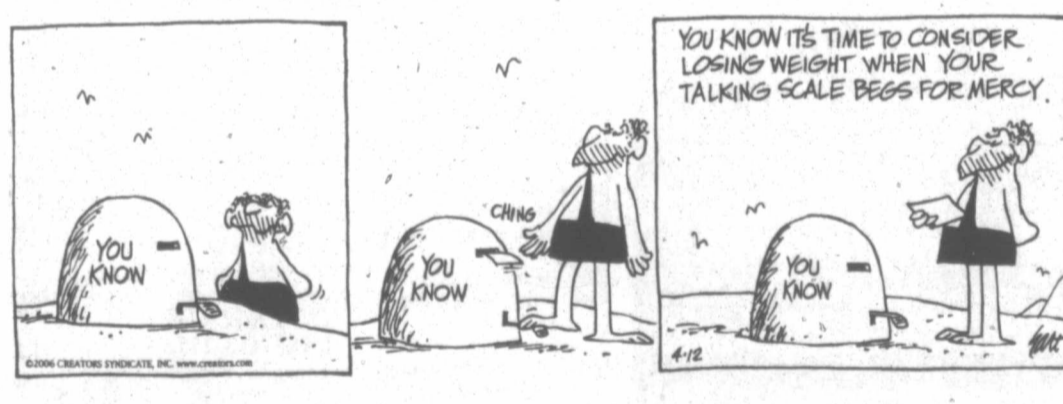


The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie

