



NEWSBRIEFS

School uniform swap

El Paso County Lions Clubs are sponsoring a school uniform swap. Families can turn in clean used uniforms for a credit slip or donate outgrown uniforms to other students. People can drop off their uniforms for vouchers at National Self Storage – 2 locations – 10560 North Loop (Blanca, 858-0000) or 7620 North Loop (Luisa, 779-7676), Mon. to Fri. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. People with vouchers will go first on Swap Day. Walgreens (14300 Horizon Blvd.; 852-1561) and Elite (12115 Rojas, Ste. 900; 590-9056) will be taking donations only of uniforms, solid polo shirts, school supplies and backpacks only. Distribution/Swap Day is Saturday, July 14, 2012 from 9 – 11 a.m. at Eastlake High School, 13000 Emerald Pass Ave., El Paso, TX 79928. There are no guarantees of sizes or quantities. If you are interested in volunteering please call (915) 203-0346.

– Linda Miner

Farmers market

The Town of Anthony, Texas is sponsoring a Farmers Market at the Anthony Municipal Park beginning Saturday, June 9 and every Saturday till the end of summer from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The market will sell local produce from area farmers. Local arts and crafts vendors are invited. The cost per booth is \$5 with electricity and water provided. There will also be a food booth and beverage booth with jumping balloons and other activities. For more information please contact the Town of Anthony at 886-3944.

– Art Franco

Summer hours

Summer hours for San Elizario ISD are 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday. The District is closed on Friday. These hours of operation will run from June 4 to August 17, 2012.

– Cynthia P. Marentes

Driver safety

An AARP Driver Safety Class will be offered 9:30 a.m. Thursday, July 12 at the Oz Glaze Senior Center, 13969 Veny Webb, Horizon City. The cost is \$14 (\$12 for AARP members). There is a July Educators Special of \$5 for all credentialed educators at any level. Call 852-0062 for more information.

– Nancy Feetham

Crime Stoppers

Officers respond to an aggravated assault call and upon arrival find a man critically injured by stab wounds, who died a short time later, making this the Crime Stoppers

See BRIEFS, Page 5

Nothing seems to make children more affectionate than sticky hands.

– Quips & Quotes

Lucero receives Keep Texas Beautiful award

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

VINTON – Yolanda Lucero of Vinton, Texas, has been named winner of the 2012 OP Schnabel Senior Citizen Award by the Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) non-profit organization and will be honored at KTB’s 45th Annual Conference, which will be held June 25-28, in San Antonio.

The OP Schnabel Senior Citizen Award recognizes senior citizens (age 55+) who demonstrate positive, dynamic and selfless public-spirited leadership in enhancing their local community environment during their lifetime, according to KTB officials.

The Schnabel award is one of nine that KTB bestows to honor those who protect the Texas environment and support the organization’s mission to make Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation.

Each year, KTB acknowledges deserving individuals, businesses, community groups, civic organizations, media, government entities and law enforcement officials for their commitment to an array of environmental issues, including litter prevention and community beautification, volunteerism, illegal dumping enforcement and education.

Lucero was selected based on her years of volunteer work and public service. A resident of Vinton since 1971, Lucero is a member of the town’s park committee, tree board, and city council. She also volunteers regularly for events which take place throughout the year including the annual health fair, the Christmas program, and various environmental activities.

Lucero has served on the Vinton City Council on and off for 11 years, and as a council member she is an advocate for more playground and beautification projects, such as Mariposa Neighborhood Playground, which she helped complete recently. She was also instrumental in rallying a group of citizens to raise funds for a new community baseball field.

Lucero is credited with being one of the organizers of Vinton’s first health fair in 2003, and she continues to work to ensure that the health fair brings vital information and services to residents each year. In addition, her public service involvement helped bring drinking water to some of the town’s neighborhoods, reduced illegal dumping throughout the community, and promoted weatherization for Vinton homeowners.

Lucero was also instrumental in developing the Public Works Department’s plan for waterway cleanups and maintenance on a regular basis. The waterway maintenance program now includes partnerships with the Texas Department of Transportation, El Paso County Road and Bridge Department, Canutillo Independent School District, the International Boundary and Water Commission, Keep Vinton Beautiful, and many local businesses.

KTB is a statewide grassroots environmental and community improvement nonprofit that strives to educate and engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their community environment.



– Photo © Lui Cardenas Photography / www.luicardenas.com

Sitting pretty

Stephanie Rivas, a senior at Anthony High School, won the Miss El Paso Teen USA pageant May 19th at the Abraham Chavez Theater. Stephanie is 17 years-old and will attend University of Texas at El Paso after graduation. Stephanie will now represent the region in the Miss Texas Teen USA pageant in Houston later this year. “We are extremely proud of Stephanie,” said Mayor Franco, “and the Town is honored to have sponsored her in the past and will continue to do so in the future.”



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

Yolanda Lucero has served as a member of the Village of Vinton Council for a total of eleven years. She is shown in photo, left, with Mayor Madeline Praino during a recent council meeting.

KTB and its more than 360 affiliates work with government, businesses, civic groups, and volunteers to ensure that every Texan has the opportunity to make Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation.

For more information on KTB programs and events, call 1-800-CLEAN-TX or visit www.ktb.org. A full list of KTB winners and award descriptions, as well as information about the conference can be found at www.ktb.org.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 19, 2012 in the Canutillo ISD Administration Office, Board Room, 7965 Artcraft, El Paso, Texas 79932. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.170000/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.252100/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	1.00% Increase
Debt Service	16.70% Increase
Total Expenditures	2.58% Increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 2,192,647,196	\$ 2,344,927,867
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 66,410,251	\$ 54,750,063
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 1,401,016,698	\$ 1,548,259,369
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 65,859,945	\$ 53,486,578

* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** “New property” is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$88,179,991

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 1.170000	\$ 0.250000*	\$ 1.422100	\$ 3,623	\$ 4,994
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.125330	\$ 0.247720*	\$ 1.373060	\$ 4,120	\$ 5,207
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.170000	\$ 0.250000*	\$ 1.420000	\$ 3,999	\$ 4,720

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.
The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 140,565	\$ 144,588
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 125,565	\$ 129,588
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.422100	\$ 1.422100
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,786.00	\$ 1,843.00
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 57.00

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.170000. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.170000.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 10,859,531
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 4,382,023

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Hurry up and wait

Too many veterans have waited far too long for mental-health care.

The Office of the Inspector General at the Department of Veterans Affairs was asked to look at whether the Veterans Health Administration is accurately recording the wait times for mental-health services for both existing and new patients.

Policy states that if a veteran calls in and asks for help, he or she is to be seen within 24 hours.

If after the initial evaluation the veteran is not immediately given services (hospitalization or outpatient care), a more-comprehensive evaluation must take place within 14 days. This would include a diagnostic and treatment plan.

VHA is to calculate wait times by figuring the days from the desired date of care to the date of the actual appointment. This assumes, of course, that the right date is entered into the system.

The VAOIG determined that: 1) VHA doesn’t have a reliable way to determine whether it’s giving services on time; 2) VHA doesn’t provide initial appointments within that 24-hour window; 3) Veterans are waiting far past that

14-day window for their treatment plan appointments.

As always, the devil is in the details.


The VA’s own 2011 performance report claimed that 95 percent had their evaluation with 14 days. Not so, said the VAOIG. The VA’s inaccurate calculations were based on the time between the actual appointment date and the time the evaluation was complete ... often on the same day, which looked like a wait of zero days. It wasn’t calculating how long it took to get the appointment, which might have been weeks.

The VAOIG looked at selected records and determined that only 49 percent of veterans had their evaluation within 14 days. The average wait was 50 days to get a full evaluation.

Fifty days is a long time for a veteran who is seeking help.

To read the whole report, go online to www.va.gov/oig/pubs/VAOIG-12-00900-168.pdf.

Write to Freddy Groves in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com. (c) 2012 King Features Synd., Inc.



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YOUR **Gift**
IS A WAY
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LUNG DISEASE

Find out how you can help ...

www.texaslung.org

When you lose someone dear to you — or when a special person has a birthday, quits smoking, or has some other occasion to celebrate — memorial gifts or tribute gifts made for them to your local American Lung Association help prevent lung disease and improve the care of those who suffer from it.

1-800-LUNG-USA



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Letters must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

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Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

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\$10 for 25 words, \$15 for 40 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The Courier reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.

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Open rate — \$25 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The Courier reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

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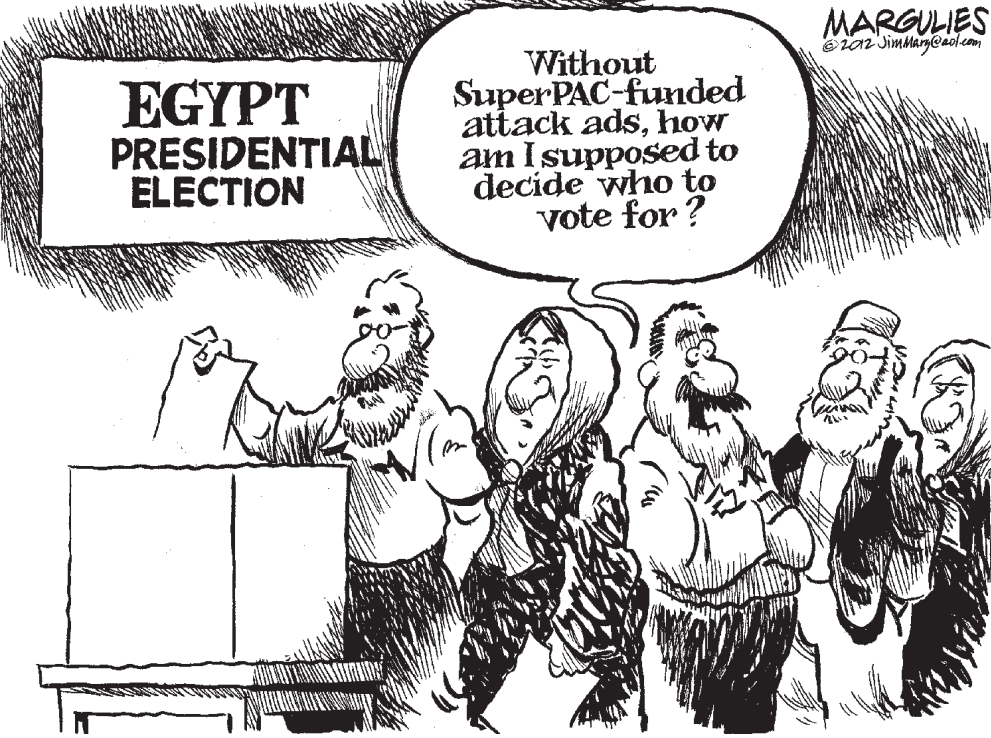
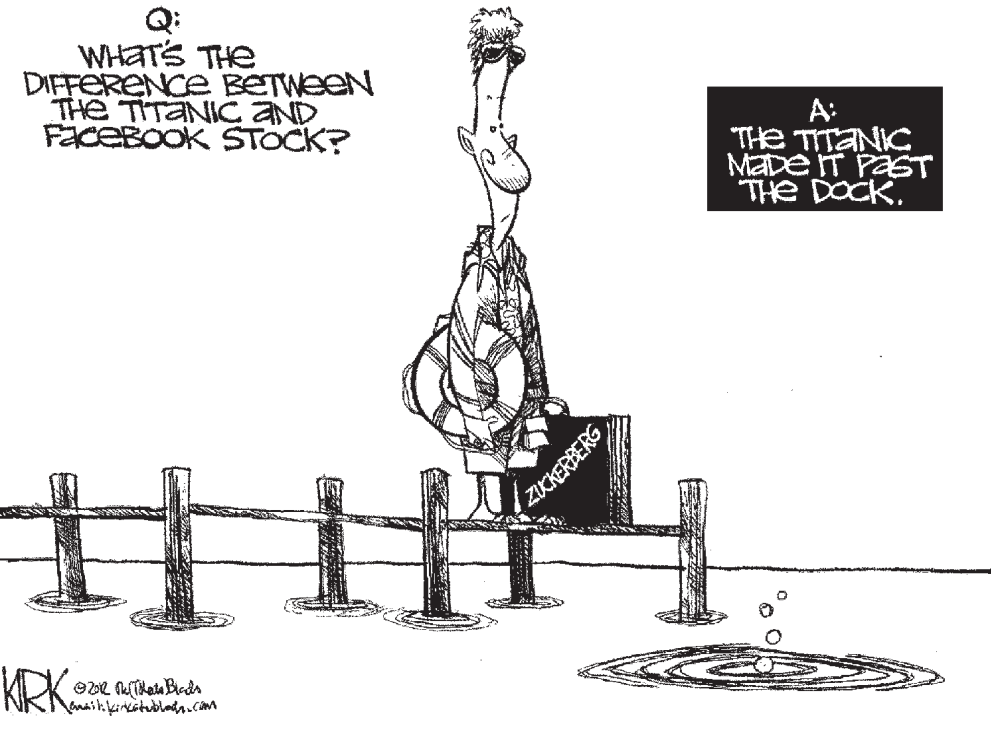
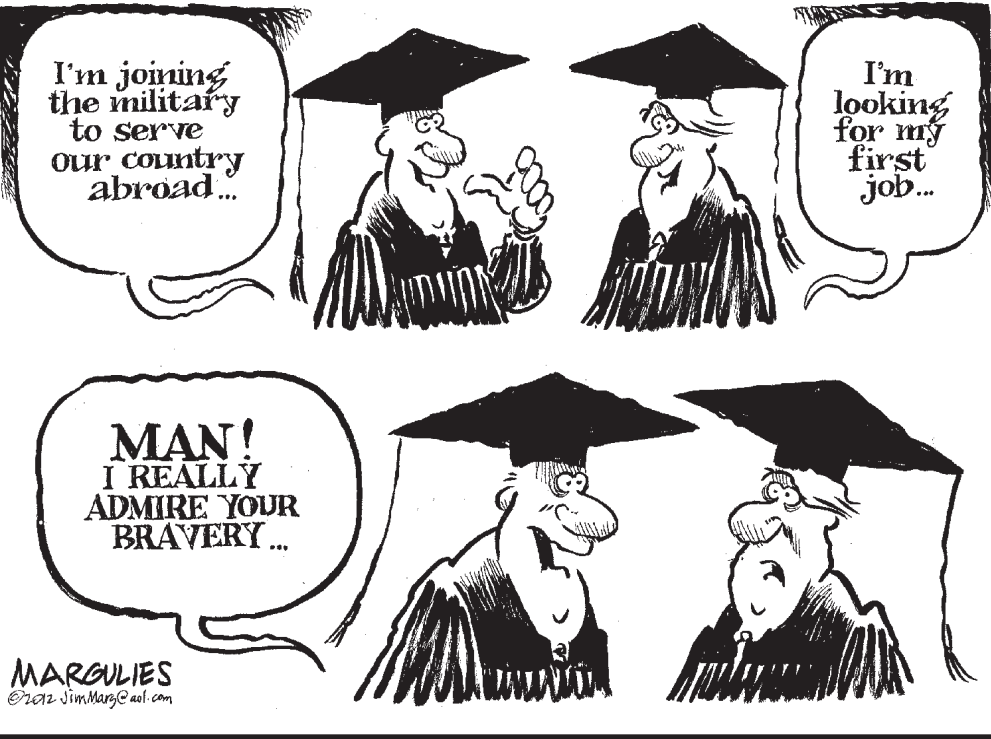
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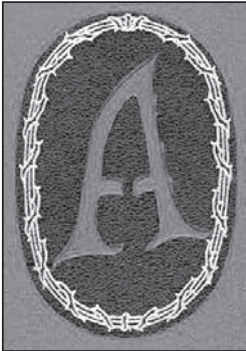
What's up doc? By Albert Balesh, M.D.

Erasing the Scarlet Letter

The scarlet letter “A” for adultery that Nathaniel Hawthorne so eloquently described in his 1850 novel has come to refer instead to an old friend of ours, namely aspirin, in recent years, with the likes of physicians, pharmacologists, medical school faculty, and the general public decrying its evils for a host of reasons ranging from provocation of nasal polyps and Reye’s syndrome in children to bleeding disorders and gastritis in the adult population. The drug has been with us since the time of the ancient Pharaohs, who employed it for headache relief 5,000 years before the advent of modern medicine, and the ancient Greeks and Romans, who treated pain and fever with willow bark and its contained aspirin derivative salicin. A king’s ransom has been made over the years by the Bayer AG Corporation in Munich, Germany on aspirin’s broad shoulders. Why should we be surprised, then, when the current medical literature sings its praises and champions its resurgence to reduce risk of recurrence of unprovoked venous thromboembolism in patients who have discontinued previous anticoagulant treatment? It appears that old friend aspirin can do this with no apparent increase in the risk of major bleeding, too. Isn’t it time to erase aspirin’s scarlet letter?

Venous thromboembolism is a terrible thing, and its long arm can reach not only central organs of the body, but also outlying areas, resulting in death from pulmonary embolism, myocardial infarction, and stroke, as well as the unpleasant consequences of unstable angina pectoris, transient ischemic attack, and loss of blood flow to the lower limbs. Patients are often prescribed anticoagulant treatment to prevent this veritable cornucopia of potentially hazardous events, but sooner or later such therapy is withdrawn, because its propensity to cause major bleeding complications becomes every bit as dangerous as the hazards outlined above. When anticoagulant treatment is, indeed, withheld, the risk of recurrence of venous thromboembolism persists for many years afterwards. Damned if you do, and damned if you don’t! The risk of recurrence is particularly high among patients with unprovoked venous thromboembolism (of unknown cause), with 20% having a recurrence within 2 years of discontinuation of anticoagulant treatment. Easily remedied, you say, by just continuing anticoagulants indefinitely. Not so fast, Buster, as substituting

one evil for another does not get to the heart of the problem, if you’ll excuse the pun. While prolonged therapy with so-called “blood thinners” does reduce the risk of recurring clots and emboli, it does so at the expense of increased risk of bleeding, as well as the inconvenience, expense, and anxiety of frequent laboratory monitoring and dose adjustments.



Enter our old chum aspirin, who for years has seen the pharmacologic landscape and neighborhood change from its former glory and domination to the upscale, more costly, and stomach-friendly environs of Aleve (naproxen), Celebrex (celecoxib), and a host of other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Now it appears

that aspirin has been called on again, in much the same way as a fallen superhero with “A” on chest, to right a potential wrong. In fact, researchers at major medical centers throughout Italy have recently found that in patients with unprovoked venous thromboembolism, aspirin therapy, begun after 6 to 18 months of oral anticoagulant treatment, reduces the rate of recurrence by 40%, as compared with placebo, with no apparent increase in the risk of major bleeding. Those results have been published in the May 24, 2012 issue of The New England Journal of Medicine, and that not only spells good news for physicians and patients alike, but also helps erase the stigma that has branded aspirin for far too long now. While newer, more powerful, orally administered, clot-inhibiting medications have been shown to be more efficacious than aspirin, their high cost, unknown side effects, and uncertain safety profiles tip the scales in favor of tried-and-true aspirin. The latter, however, is not without its downsides, too. Its efficacy in patients with cancer, ischemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, and symptomatic atherosclerosis has not been sufficiently tested, and aspirin, despite its former claim to fame and boasting rights, may have no effect whatsoever on arterial clots.

So, let the buyer beware! Nonetheless, in an imperfect world in which less than perfect medicine is practiced, aspirin’s scarlet letter is entitled to a makeover based on current scientific evidence.

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Perry calls on agencies to identify 10 percent budget savings

TEXAS –The Governor’s Office and Legislative Budget Board (LBB) have directed state agencies to develop their legislative appropriations requests for the 2014-2015 biennial budget, including identifying 10 percent savings (in five percent increments) in general revenue-related funding. The governor discussed the directive and his commitment to keeping Texas on the path to prosperity at a discussion about the Texas economy hosted by the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and emceed by talk radio host Joe “Pags” Pagliarulo.

“Every two years, state leaders and agencies take a fresh look at our budget to ensure each taxpayer dollar is spent efficiently by our state government to keep Texas the best place to live, work, raise a family and start a business,” Gov. Rick Perry said. “Identifying potential savings early in the budget process reiterates our ongoing commitment to the responsible fiscal policies that have made Texas the epicenter of job creation in the U.S., including keeping our taxes low, spending in check and government running efficiently.”

The Governor’s Office and LBB letter

provides a starting point for state agencies as they prepare their budget requests for the 83rd Legislative Session, and is similar in scope to directives provided by leadership in previous years to begin the budget writing process. Requests must be submitted to the Governor’s Office and LBB by the end of August.

The directions in this letter support the priorities Perry has outlined in the Texas Budget Compact to ensure the state remains committed to fiscally responsible governing:

- 1) Practice truth in budgeting;
- 2) Support a Constitutional limit of spending to the growth of population and inflation;
- 3) Oppose any new taxes or tax increases, and make the small business tax exemption permanent;
- 4) Preserve a strong Rainy Day Fund; and
- 5) Cut unnecessary/duplicative government programs and agencies.

To view the letter to state agencies, please visit <http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/LAR/LAR%20Policy%20Letter.pdf>.

To view the LBB’s instructions to state agencies, please visit <http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/LAR/LAR.htm>.

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– Photo courtesy El Paso Museum of Archeology

The musical group, Ceiba, will present a musical workshop at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology from 2 to 4 p.m., Saturday, June 16. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with music and art inspired by ancient and modern Latin America- from México to the Andes.

Family workshop explores the music of the Americas

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso musical group, Ceiba, will explore the music of the Americas in a special presentation that is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m., Saturday, June 16, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4301 Transmountain Road.

Families with children (age six years and up) are invited to participate in a creative, interactive exploration of music and art inspired by ancient and modern Latin America- from México to the Andes. The free workshop will be conducted in English and Spanish.

Ceiba musicians will perform on a variety of instruments from indigenous cultures of

Latin America, such as the charango, rain stick, and various flutes made of wood, ceramic, and bamboo. Also, they will play percussion instruments made of turtle shell and gourd, as well as a variety of stringed instruments, such as the jarana, guitarra de golpe, vihuela, tiple, cuatro, and guitar.

Ceiba will play various musical pieces using the indigenous instruments and ask participants to respond to questions, such as what did you hear, where did you go in your mind while listening, what did you feel, and how would you draw that music.

This free workshop is sponsored by the City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department and the Texas Commission on the Arts. For more information call 915-755-4332 or send email to guidamr@elpasotexas.gov.

Chavez takes message to Washington DC

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

Clint ISD – El Paso’s youth want all forms of violence to stop. The local blue-ribbon committee for *Do the Write Thing* hosted local semi-finalists, including four from Clint ISD, their parents and teachers from seven El Paso School Districts at a banquet on Wednesday and announced the two national finalists and the state finalist.

Julio Cesar Chavez, 8th grade student at Ricardo Estrada Junior High, Clint ISD, was selected as a national finalist. He voices his perspective saying, “Violence has taken over this world... You got kids committing suicide since people make them feel worthless... kids that were bullied try to get revenge...”

More than 2500 students addressed this topic as part of the *Do the Write Thing* Project, a national writing competition for 7th and 8th grade students sponsored by the National Campaign to Stop the Violence.

As a national finalist, he will travel to Austin and Washington DC with their parents and teachers to deliver his message to state and national policymakers.

Middle school students experience violence in their homes, bullying at school, and are exposed to killings in Juarez, and often don’t get the chance to talk about it or to develop solutions. As part of the National Campaign to Stop the Violence, *Do the Write Thing El Paso* challenges students to think critically about violence then develop ways to eliminate it.

“Exposure to violence can lead to a future filled with aggression, said 388th District Judge Patricia Macias, chair of the local



– Photo courtesy Clint ISD

Julio Chavez receives his DTWT award from coordinator Bobbie Estrada.

project. *Do the Write Thing* gives students a voice, involves their parents and teachers to help examine the issues, and challenges youth to take a stand and create a “normal” without violence.”

The 27 *Do the Write Thing* semi-finalists and their parents attended a Leadership Summit on May 5th that resulted in resolutions against bullying and steps that can be taken by parents, teachers and school administrators to address the problem. The resolution, along with student writings will be taken to state and national policymakers. Locally, a book containing student writings will be presented to school boards and administrators.

Do the Write Thing El Paso is one of 31 programs throughout the country and one of ten in Texas. The El Paso project has involved over 12,500 seventh and eighth grade students since 2003.

Briefs

From Page 1

“Crime of the Week.” Just before 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16, 2012, officers from the Police Department’s Northeast Regional Command were called to the 11000 block of Rockdale in reference to an aggravated assault that had just occurred. When they arrived, a witness told them that the victim had asked for help and then walked into a garage and closed the door. When officers entered the home they found the victim face down with stab wounds. He was rushed to a hospital but died a short time later. The victim was 30-year-old Lucostal Leon Holley. Investigators from the Crimes Against Persons unit determined that the victim was seen talking to two men in front of a nearby home. All three were later seen near the home where the victim was found, with the two suspects holding the victim

against a fence. They are described only as heavyset black men. If you have any information at all about the identity of the suspects in this case, please contact Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (566-8477), on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org or you can send a text message by entering the key word CRIME1 (no space) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

– James Klaes

Wanted

A New Mexico man didn’t even know his motorcycle was missing until City of Socorro Police found 22-year-old Jose Antonio Estrada riding it in the desert east of the City of Socorro. Now A Socorro Search is on for the guy who took it. It was about 3 in the morning on October 20 2011, when City of Socorro Police Department officers found a green 1998 Chevy Truck (TX temporary tag

02P1528) and Red 2008 Honda Motorcycle (NM R75950) parked right in the middle of the off ramp impeding traffic on Gateway East, at Clint exit 42. The City of Socorro Police officer stopped to see if he could help. The officer noticed the ignition switch was

missing from the motorcycle. He started an investigation and the suspect’s explanation had a lot of inconsistencies. At first Estrada said he bought the motorcycle from a friend for \$1,500 but did not have any kind of bill of sale or any proof of ownership. The suspect admitted all along to all officers on scene he had been riding the motorcycle in the desert and he admitted it on audio and video captured on the City of Socorro Police Unit 1104. Since he could not prove it was his, City



Jose A. Estrada

of Socorro Police impounded it pending further investigation. Finally a report came back from New Mexico that revealed the real owner was not aware his 2008 Honda Motorcycle had been stolen from New Mexico, and he had not given permission to steal or use his motorcycle. Estrada has been on the run ever since. And if he doesn’t turn himself in now he may need more than his \$5,000 bond to get out. Detectives know someone out there has been in contact with Estrada and anyone hiding him could be in trouble, too. If you know anything about this guy or this case call the Police. In The City of Socorro the number is (915) 858 6986.

– David Garcia

Wanted II

Juan Pedro Solis, 21, who also uses Juan Martinez, is this week’s Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive. He is 5’10” tall and weighs 175 pounds. He has black and brown eyes. In March 2012, Sheriff’s officials

received a complaint against Solis in reference to a sex crime. Further Investigation revealed Solis inappropriately touched a 12-year-old girl at a residence in the Montana Vista area. Charges were filed and Solis is now wanted for the offense.

He is also sought on unrelated charges of drunk driving and drug possession (cocaine). He knows he is wanted and is believed to remain in the Borderland area hiding with friends or family. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Solis they can contact Crime Stoppers at 566-TIPS (8477). Callers will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information provided leads to the apprehension of Solis.

– Deputy Jesse Tovar



Juan Pedro Solis

Buckle up every rider for every trip.

State law now requires both adults and children to be buckled up in the front or back seat. A child less than 8 years old, unless taller than 4 feet 9 inches, must ride in a child safety seat. Most children between 4 and 8 years old will need a booster seat to be safe and comply with the law. Fines range from \$25 to \$250, plus court costs. TexasClickItorTicket.com

Click It or Ticket.

Even in the back seat.

Maybe It Wasn't That Heavy Shopping Bag.

Weakness On One Side May Mean A Stroke.

Recognizing the signs of stroke and acting fast may make a difference between life and death. Call 9-1-1 immediately if you experience one or more of these signs: sudden weakness especially on one side of the body; trouble speaking or understanding; dizziness, loss of balance; trouble seeing in one or both eyes; and severe headache with no known cause. New treatments can help reduce damage to the brain but only in the first few hours after symptoms begin. Every minute counts.

To learn more about stroke, call the American Heart Association at 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit us online at www.americanheart.org/tx

American Heart Association.
Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

Somebody must really like watching pros play poorly

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Through the ages we’ve witnessed a countless number of bad decisions.

There was that time that Eve was warned about staying off apples but couldn’t help herself.

How about that time that Michael Dukakis decided to play “pretend tank commander,” that didn’t turn out too good for his presidential bid.

There’s no doubt that Warren Beatty is a major Hollywood star, but did you know he turned down the role of Jack Horner in Boogie Nights, James Caan’s role in Misery, the part of Gordon Gekko in Wall Street and Robert Redford’s role in The Sting.

Don’t forget General Custer and his giddy optimism going into the battle at Little Big Horn. Don’t believe his calculations were quite dead on though.

How about Sarah Palin’s decisions to answer... well... any questions at all.

What makes bad-decision-making even more difficult to understand is the fact that these choices are made by whom we thought were relatively smart people.

I guess that was our bad decision.

Anyway, the so-called smart people of the National Football League made another really bad decision this week.

And this bad decision came on the heels of a very good decision the same guys made just a month earlier.

Though the original news was somewhat surprising, the NFL announced that they were going to suspend the thoroughly unwatchable Pro Bowl game.

They said the game had pretty much deteriorated into a glorified flag football game with millionaire players doing their best to avoid collisions of any kind.

So NFL commish Roger Goodell said the game would probably never be played again but players would still be named as Pro Bowl members. This way the players could still be paid their Pro Bowl bonuses.

The most amazing thing about the news was that there was absolutely no outcry whatsoever about the game being cancelled. Nobody cared.

Suddenly, last week without any warning, the NFL put out a statement that the Pro Bowl game would be played as scheduled in Hawaii after all.

What happened? Is it December 21st

already?

I thought everybody was happy. I thought everything was tranquil. I thought the NFL had finally figured it out.

Like all the jurors in the John Edwards’ case, the NFL has left me scratching my head wondering what the heck they’re thinking.

And guess what the main reason was for the league to keep the game going?

The NFL players all promised that they would play harder in the game from now on.

Excuse me.

Are these guys really being honest or are they practicing that Richard Nixon-Bill Clinton-Pete Rose-Barry Bonds-Pinicchio-Charles Ponzi-Martha Stewart-Bernie Madoff-Marion Jones-Milli Vanilli-Benedict Arnold-Jimmy Swaggart-Jon Lovitz-Casey Anthony-O.J. Simpson-Rod Blagojevich-Insert Any Lawyer’s Name Here-kind of honesty?

All these guys care about is the all-expenses-paid trip to Hawaii for themselves and their families.

Certainly not bad compensation for a job well done I must admit, but c’mon now. The game isn’t worth watching and it hasn’t been for a couple decades.

Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie and

tourism officials naturally praised the second chance for the Pro Bowl. Abercrombie hinted that the state, “plans to deepen its ties to the league by helping it establish relationships in Asia.”

Whoa, the NFL is working on expanding its relationship in Japan and China?

Wow, why not – it was a huge hit in Europe. For those of you who aren’t entirely sure – I’m being obnoxiously facetious.

At some point the NFL has to learn that football is America’s sport. The world’s sport is soccer and that’s just the way it is.

But that’s okay.

And by the way, what is so wrong with the NFL doing away with the Pro Bowl? Who would miss it? Would you? Me either.

Here’s another thing, because the game is held a week before the Super Bowl, no Super Bowl participants can play in it.

And yet another thing – college football is getting very close to going to a four-team playoff format. What would be the best day for a national college football championship game – the Sunday before the Super Bowl.

Oops, can’t do it. We’re stuck with the National Football League’s “non-contact-flag football score-o-rama” known as the Pro Bowl.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

The Nets have left New Jersey

People saw it coming for years. The two were never really head over heels over one another to begin with – it seemed to be more a marriage of convenience after the ABA folded and Dr. J moved on to Philadelphia. The Nets became a team that seemed to be going through the motions in the Meadowlands, hidden behind a pay channel called “SportsChannel” that nobody wanted to watch (Devils owner John McMullen

once famously said he didn’t “think SportsChannel [was] the most popular channel in the state.”) The Nets were basically the NBA’s version of “Brenda and Eddie,” and now New Jersey is waving Brenda and Eddie goodbye.

The franchise’s move from the swamps of Seacaucus across the river to Brooklyn, N.Y., is firmly set in brownstone. It is perhaps the crowning achievement in the

decades-long revitalization of the borough that until recent times considered a three-second clip from the opening credits of “Welcome Back Kotter” and the loss of the Dodgers to California as its primary claims to fame.

Times have changed.

Brooklyn, for the better part of this century, has been booming. The old blue-collar canneries and sweatshops that once dotted the Gowanus Bay, rusting away in full view of Manhattan, have since been transformed into vibrant loft spaces and production areas. Most new residents rode in on the internet/

Apple wave. It’s easy to see why the area took off.

But who’d have thought they’d take the Nets, too?

To those unfamiliar with the relationship, it doesn’t seem fair. New Jersey and the Nets have spent the mediocre part of 35 years together, and this is how it ends? “Crooklyn” steals the girl?

Don’t weep for New Jersey – it can handle it. It’s state capital’s motto is “Trenton makes, the world takes.” It can handle the breakup. In fact, not only will it handle the breakup, it just might beat Los Angeles – the city that stole the Dodgers from Brooklyn – for the championship.

Feelings of jealousy would be understandable in Brooklyn as the Devils skated around downtown

Newark with the Stanley Cup held high. Isn’t that always the way? Your ex looks better than ever, particularly since you’ve learned she is just fine without you.

“My message to the Nets is goodbye,” New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said at a recent press conference. “You don’t want to stay here, we don’t want you? [You] want to leave here and go to Brooklyn? Good riddance – see you later.”

So yeah, congratulations, Brooklyn. You’ve successfully wooed the Nets away from New Jersey.

They’re your problem now.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2012 King Features Synd., Inc.

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By Dave T. Phipps



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By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Your good health

By Paul G. Donahue, M.D.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I am an 80-year-old male whose annual physical exam was good. My wife and I have a good sex life. We’ve been married 61 years. However, my PSA rose to 5.7. My family doctor sent me to a urologist, who suggested a biopsy. The urologist said my prostate gland is normal for my age and had no hard spots or lumps. My dad died at 87 due, in part, to prostate cancer. A brother also had difficulties. I read that at my age, I should enjoy life without such procedures. Your opinion, please. – B.M.

talk to the doctor about your wishes. One of those wishes could be active surveillance. The booklet on the prostate gland discusses gland enlargement and cancer. Readers can order a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 1001W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient’s printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I am a 52-year-old male in good health. I am not a drinker or a smoker. My problem is premature ejaculation. I am on no medicines. Are there any vitamins or supplements that would help me? – Anon.

What to do when the prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test is higher than normal is a controversial subject. Every year, about 192,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer. Close to 70 percent of those cancers are low-grade, meaning they don’t pose a serious threat to life. Such cancers, depending on the man’s age and his health, may not require any treatment other than scheduled monitoring.

One of the ingredients that goes into the mix for making a decision for “active surveillance” is what’s seen on the biopsy. The pathologist examining the prostate tissue discovers if any cancer is present and assesses the cancer’s stage and its potential to be an aggressive cancer. If the cancer is in its early stages and if its appearance is one that’s not threatening, then the decision for treatment is something that can be discussed with the doctor. Quality of life is as important as extension of life. However, I believe you should have the biopsy. It has some rare complications, but it provides information not obtainable in any other way.

You are a very young 80-year-old. You have no other health problems that might shorten your life. You have a family history of prostate cancer. If the biopsy shows a low-grade cancer, then

This discussion should start with your family doctor. The doctor can, after talking with you, decide if the problem is physical or psychological. Both are possible causes. Anxiety, depression and prostate gland inflammation are examples of things that can lead to your problem.

Sometimes simply starting and stopping and then restarting relations will solve the problem. A numbing agent like the combination of lidocaine and prilocaine cream might be helpful. A condom should be worn so that your partner isn’t affected by the cream. Fluoxetine, paroxetine and sertraline are medicines that have been successful for some men. Vitamins or supplements are not likely to help.

Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. (c) 2012 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

- BY ANY OTHER NAME

ACROSS

1 Bert of "Rose Marie"

5 Decorate glass

9 Tight

14 Oven feature

19 Hodgepodge

20 "Star Trek" navigator

21 Really big star?

22 Florida city

23 Legendary drummer?

26 Boxer Roberto

27 Alpha opposite

28 Use the microwave

29 _ Pan Alley

31 Cable channel

32 Vote in

34 Use a dagger

38 Shadowy site?

41 "La Traviata" tenor

44 Musty

45 Family car

46 Dutch painter

47 Spine start

49 Fountain order

51 Shoe

measurement

54 "Xanadu" rockers

55 Revolutionary War hero?

59 Nest egg

60 Madame Curie

62 Gelid

63 Rock's _ Maiden

64 Word form for "center"

65 Wrapped up

68 Gymnast Korbut

71 Overdo a tan

72 Caravansary

73 Safe place?

75 Syndicated film critic?

78 Tizzy

79 Circle section

80 Paella ingredient

81 Wordy Webster

82 Actor Reeves

84 Sprawl on the sofa

85 Computer image

86 "Winter of Artifice" author

88 Terra _

91 Aspin or Paul

92 "It's Too Late" singer?

98 Letters of credit?

99 Move through mud

101 Part of NB

102 Literary

contraction

103 A real Swede guy

104 Nick of "Cannery Row"

107 "The _ Man" ('72 song)

109 Most laconic

111 Vietnam's _ Van

Thieu

112 Painter Paul

113 Baker's appliance

114 Taradiddle

115 Fall behind

117 Coup d'_

119 Gary of "The Buddy Holly Story"

123 City on the Mohawk

126 "I Dream of Jeannie" star?

131 Flynn of films

132 Psychedelic

Timothy

133 Poorly

134 Sundance's sweetie

135 Stick

136 Violinist Mischa

137 _ majesty

138 Groucho's gaze

DOWN

1 Timber wolf

2 Grad

3 Lie low

4 Hammerstein's partner

5 Seer's gift

contraction

6 Arnold or Brutus

7 Influence

8 Clean your ears?

9 Alphabet sequence

10 "Ben_"

11 Funnyman Philips

12 Be adjacent to

13 Pocket flowers?

14 Director Browning

15 Hosp. area

16 "Captain Ron" star?

17 Serengeti springer

18 Be bombastic

24 81 Across' alma mater

25 Gnat or brat

30 Comic Louis

33 _ St. Vincent

Millay

35 Rpm indicator

36 South African

plant

37 Composer Bartok

39 "The Perfect Fool" comic

40 Chou En_

41 "Excuse me"

42 Tra_

43 Famous nurse?

44 Manatee or dugong

48 Sweater letter

50 Cover story?

52 Singer Lopez

53 Common

contraction

55 "Waking _ Devine" ('98 film)

56 Synthetic fabric

57 Jack's place

58 Mob

61 Squid's squirt

66 Author Jong

67 Furnishings

69 Moo _ gai pan

70 Hersey town

73 "Great _ of Fire" ('58 hit)

74 Sharon of Israel

76 Vacuum-tube gas

77 Say neigh

78 _Cat (winter wheels)

80 In full measure

83 Rhine whine

87 Angus' uh-uh

89 Stocking stuffers?

90 Cousin's mom

93 Canal feature

94 And more of the same

95 Lion's pride

96 Solo performances

97 Essence

100 Old French coin

103 Potsdam pastry

105 _ Aviv

106 Make feasible

108 Graceful ruminant

110 Melodious

McEntire

111 Safecracker's tool

113 Syrup source

114 Feed a fire

116 Celt

118 Sheep's shaker

120 Location

121 Punta del _

122 1492 or 1776

124 Machine part

125 Kensington quaff

127 Pound a portcullis

128 Undergarment

129 Writer Rand

130 Deli loaf

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18
19						20				21						22				
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Moore Texas by Roger Moore September 2002...folks in Midland turn out a piece of toffee weighing almost 3000 pounds.



GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	÷		+		17
+		×		÷	
	+		+		15
÷		+		+	
	×		-		13
5		12		10	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 4

★★★ HOO BOY!

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: How do I apply for disability benefits?

A: Apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov; or call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, to make an appointment to apply for benefits at your local Social Security office or to set up an appointment for someone to take your application over the telephone. Get a head start by checking out the online Disability Starter Kit. The Disability Starter Kit is available at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Q: I want to estimate my retirement benefit at several different ages. Is there a way to do that?

A: Use our Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator to get an instant, personalized retirement benefit estimate based on current law and your earnings record. The Retirement Estimator, which also is available in Spanish, lets you create additional “what if” retirement scenarios based on different income levels and “stop work” ages.

Q: Who decides whether I can get disability benefits?

A: First, Social Security will review your application to make sure you meet the basic eligibility requirements for disability benefits. We will check whether you worked enough years to qualify. Also, we

will evaluate any current work. If you meet these requirements, we will send your application to the Disability Determination Services office. This state agency evaluates your medical condition and makes the disability decision for us. Doctors and disability specialists in the state agency ask your doctors for information about your condition. They consider all the facts in your case. They use the medical evidence from your doctors and hospitals, clinics, or institutions where you have been treated and all other information. Learn more about disability benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Q: I lost my Social Security card, should I get a new one?

A: If you know your Social Security number, you may not need a replacement card. You can replace your Social Security card for free if it is lost or stolen, but you are limited to three replacement cards in a year and 10 during your lifetime. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: N equals H

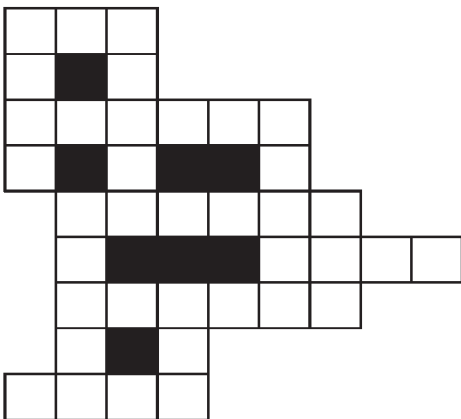
WDKFWP, KNF LDTCFT ZVRJTTPZ
MX D WJK CJTF JLKFM. NF NDV
CDMP XTJRZMX AJMAFTMV.

Answer Page 4

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DRI
♥PRMSIC
MACSH
DOPN
MENEDA
♥OSD
♥ESRI
DEEUS
♥NPI
♥RICCEL
COSID
♥EDIC



Answer Page 4

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was pop art icon Andy Warhol who made the following sage observation: “It’s the movies that have really been running things in America since they were invented. They show you what to do, how to do it, when to do it, how to feel about it, and how to look when you feel about it.”

• If you were like the average rabbit, you would take 18 naps every day.

• You probably know that the 1939 film “The Wizard of Oz” was based on the book “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz” by L. Frank Baum. You may not realize, though, that Baum wrote a total of 14 Oz books between 1900 and 1920. The series continued even after the author’s death; Ruth Plumly Thompson produced one Oz book every year between 1921 and 1939.

• Those who study such things say that wine was being drunk more than 7,000 years ago, in ancient Sumeria.

• When the Coca-Cola Company first started marketing its product in China, the advertisements used Chinese symbols to spell out the brand’s name phonetically. It was only after the ads had been published that the marketers learned that those symbols spelled out the phrase “bite the wax tadpole.”

• The manufacture of a single domestic automobile requires the use of a whopping 39,000 gallons of water.

• Every year, about 10 percent of the world’s population visits a zoo. In the United States, though, about half of us make such a visit annually.

• Most people have about 100,000 hairs on their head. It’s not clear why, but redheads tend to have somewhat fewer hairs – about 90,000 – while blondes have more.

Thought for the Day: “I’m willing to admit that I may not always be right, but I’m never wrong.”

– Samuel Goldwyn

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