



NEWSBRIEFS

San Eli seeks Ex

San Elizario High School is asking for nominations to honor one standout former student during this years homecoming celebration. Nominees must have graduated from San Elizario High School in order to be eligible, demonstrate service and professional accomplishments, and should be available to participate in homecoming festivities the week of September 24-28. All nominations are due no later than 4 p.m. on September 17 and should be sent to Student Activities Manager, Ruben Rodriguez at rrodriguez@seisd.net or mailed to San Elizario High School; P.O. Box 920; San Elizario, TX 79849. For more information, contact Ruben Rodriguez at (915) 872-3970 ext. 3711.

— Cynthia P. Marentes

Cross-country

The Horizon City Falcons Track Club will begin cross-country training Thursday, Sept. 13 at Col. John O. Ensor Middle School track. For information call Dick Harshberger at (915) 203-7005.

— Dick Harshberger

Horizon events

A Farmer's Market will be held Saturday, Sept. 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Horizon City Hall parking lot 14999 Darrington Rd. The vendor fee is \$10 and set up is at 8 a.m. All items must be homemade or home grown. A Horseshoe Tournament and Rummage Sale will be held Saturday, Sept. 29 at the Oz Glaze Senior Center, 13969 Veny Webb, Horizon City. Registration is at 11 a.m. and the tournament runs from noon to 4 p.m. The entrance fee is \$5. Contact Fred at 852-0062 for information on either event.

— Julie Tucker

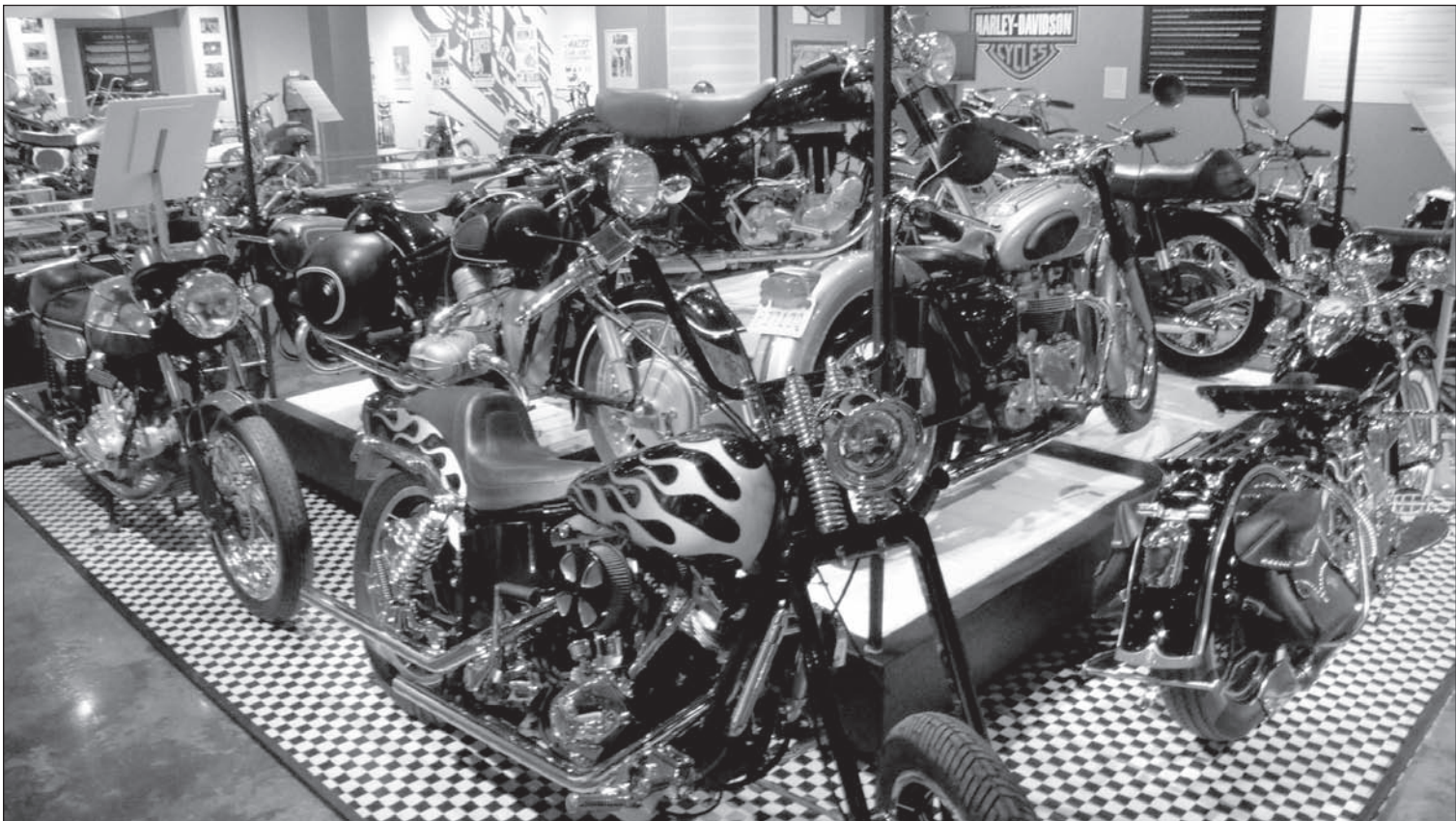
Crime Stoppers

An unknown subject breaks into a family's vehicle parked in front of their Mission Valley home and, by the time they discover it, their credit cards have already been used at local businesses without their permission, making this the Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." On Thursday, July 5, 2012, between midnight and 5:30 p.m., the unknown offender broke into a vehicle parked in the 9100 block of Kernel Circle in the Mission Valley, stealing several items including a cell phone and a credit card. That same day, the credit card was used to make purchases at five different stores on the eastside; and two more stores the next day. The suspect is shown on surveillance video at one of the store. He is described as black or Hispanic man in his 20s, medium height and build, with close-cropped hair, a trimmed full beard and goatee. He also appears to have band aids on his nose and face, and a black eye. He was wearing a grey t-shirt. If

See BRIEFS, Page 4

If you want to know the value of money, try and borrow it.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

RIDE ON – Motorcycle Madness exhibit designer Timothy Hanlon will give an enlightening presentation about the conception and execution of the museum's motorcycle event, at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, September 20, at the El Paso Museum of History (510 N. Santa Fe Street). Hanlon's presentation is free and open to the public.

Exhibit designer explains Motorcycle Madness origins

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – One of El Paso Museum of History's current exhibits is *Motorcycle Madness: A History of Motorcycles in the Southwest*, which features over 50 motorcycles from the surrounding region including street bikes, dirt bikes, choppers, and a special section on Harley Davidson motorcycles.

The unique exhibit also showcases custom-made clothing, distinctive bike accessories, classic motorcycle posters, and historic El

Paso photographs.

To gain a better understanding and appreciation of the effort undertaken in producing the Motorcycle Madness display, exhibit designer Timothy Hanlon will give an enlightening presentation about the conception and execution of the motorcycle event.

The illustrated lecture will be held at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, September 20, at the El Paso Museum of History, 510 N. Santa Fe Street. The presentation is free and open to the



Timothy Hanlon

public.

Hanlon will share this fascinating story, starting from the initial contact with the museum and the birth of the exhibit concept to how the bikes were acquired and the numerous individuals involved in making the exhibit a reality. Hanlon will also talk about the challenges encountered including the installation process and graphics development.

Hanlon, a designer, writer and

See MOTORCYCLES, Page 5

El Paso County sues banks for dodging payments

By Elhiu Dominguez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso County, along with nine other Texas counties, has filed a lawsuit against national financial institutions associated with Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a corporation commonly known as MERS.

MERS is a private national electronic registry created by the defendant banks in order to circumvent recording mortgages in the public land records. The lawsuit alleges that MERS is a fraudulent scheme that misrepresented the need to record mortgage assignments, and that the defendants used MERS to avoid paying millions of dollars in recording fees to the County.

According to El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal, "Defendants have operated MERS in a manner designed to unlawfully transfer interests in mortgages while avoiding payment

of recording fees to counties. As part of the MERS scheme, the defendants have misled investors and the general public regarding the need for properly recording mortgage conveyances."

According to the counties, they will not know the full extent of their damages until the defendants reveal how many transactions they failed to record with each county. However, the damages to El Paso County are estimated to be in the millions of dollars.

The lawsuit, filed on August 2, 2012, in a federal district court in Austin, Texas, will be litigated on behalf of the plaintiffs by the law firms of Ted B. Lyon & Associates and Blume, Faulkner, Skeen & Northam, PLLC.

Other Texas counties that have joined the litigation are Cass County, Hidalgo County, Kaufman County, Navarro County, Panola County, Rusk County, Smith County, Starr County and Webb County.

The defendants are: The Bank Of

See LAWSUIT, Page 6

Waste turned into power

By Christina Montoya
Special to the Courier

EL PASO – Methane gas emitted during the treatment of wastewater at three El Paso Water Utilities plants is now being turned into energy to help run the plants themselves.

As part of the recently completed project, the gas is captured, pumped into a chamber full of iron-covered wood chips where hydrogen sulfide is removed, and pumped through carbon filters before ultimately being used to run powerful electric generators. "This project embodies EPWU's commitment to sustainability," said David Ornelas, EPWU's Wastewater Division Manager. "We are taking a byproduct of the wastewater treatment process and turning it into a valuable resource."

The new technology will save an estimated \$689,000 each year in electricity costs. Additionally, it provides a reliable backup electric power supply for the plants.

The equipment has been installed at the Roberto R. Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Mission Valley, the Haskell R. Street Wastewater Treatment Plant in South Central El Paso, and the Fred Hervey Water Reclamation Plant in Northeast El Paso.

The \$8.2 million dollar project was funded in part by \$4.1 million in grants from the State Energy Conservation office.

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Brain trauma

Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy. Even the name sounds scary. CTE is a brain condition caused by concussions. Until now, this condition was thought limited to sports athletes, like boxers and football players, where the results of multiple head injuries over a career are well known. Research now shows that service personnel who’ve been subjected to at least one blast or concussion that resulted in traumatic brain injury can develop CTE.

CTE is a progressive, neurodegenerative disorder, with symptoms only showing up later in the form of disorientation, confusion, depression, headaches, impulse control and aggression problems, suicide and more. Symptoms later in life can include dementia.

There hasn’t been a way to truly diagnose CTE except for a brain biopsy after death. Researchers at two universities teamed up with the Department of Veterans Affairs health system to compare the brains of athletes with those of service members who were subjected to at least one blast or concussive episode. They found no differences.

The injury triggers accumulation of an abnormal protein called “tau” in the areas of the brain that regulate impulse and aggression control, depression and memory. It takes only one blast from an improvised explosive devise (IED) to set in motion the chain reaction that can result in CTE.

Tau can be seen in the blood soon after injury, leading researchers to start trials to develop a way to detect its presence within minutes. From this they hope to find a treatment that will keep TBI from progressing into CTE.

As of now, more than 244,000 service personnel have been diagnosed with TBI since 2000. It’s thought there are many more whose brain damage hasn’t been diagnosed.

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.

View from here

By Buck Files

Constitution Day

We hear a lot of talk these days about the U.S. Constitution and how important it is to protecting our liberties. But surveys continue to show a disturbing trend of many Americans not understanding the Constitution and its relevance to our lives today. After all, with all the technology we have now, why should we care about a document that was written 225 years ago on parchment and with a feather quill pen?

For starters, just imagine life without the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The Bill of Rights guarantees some of our most precious liberties, including freedom of religion, speech, and press, freedom from unreasonable search and seizure, and private property rights. The Constitution created the framework for a strong but limited national government and established the fundamental rights of all U.S. citizens.

Our Constitution is the foundation of the legal authority for our nation and federal government, and it also established the system of checks and balances with three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial. This separation of powers was crucial to the framers of the Constitution – and still is today – to prevent an oppressive government similar to what the British enacted on colonial America.

Although written long ago, the Constitution is as relevant to our lives today as ever. For example, the Constitution is the governing document that lets us post messages on Facebook, Twitter, and watch videos on YouTube. It also allows us to have differing opinions, enjoy the freedom to express them on blogs or elsewhere and even demonstrate peacefully.

To emphasize the importance of Americans understanding the Constitution, Congress has designated Sept. 17 as Constitution Day to commemorate the signing of the document in 1787. The legislation requires educational institutions that receive federal funding to implement programs to teach students about the Constitution.

While it’s appropriate to learn about and celebrate the Constitution on this day, we also should take this time to renew our focus on civics education in our schools and society. Today’s young people soon will be voting, sitting on juries and running for political office, and they must have the civics knowledge to make informed decisions and be engaged citizens. Research has shown that individuals who receive a solid civics education are more likely to be involved in their communities through activities such as volunteering and voting.

In today’s economy, the need for math, reading, writing and science knowledge is obvious, but civics education is an essential part of a comprehensive education. It is also essential to develop informed, effective and responsible citizens. Our future depends on individuals who understand their history and government, have a sense of what it means to be an American, and know their rights and responsibilities as a citizen.

“The better educated our citizens are, the better equipped they will be to preserve the system of government we have,” said retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, a longtime civics education advocate. “And we have to start with the education of our nation’s young people. Knowledge about our government is not handed down through the gene pool. Every generation has to learn it, and we have some work to do.”

Justice O’Connor is right that we have some work to do.


We are seeing increasing evidence that civics education is not a priority in America, and state and federal funding of programs designed to teach students about our heritage has been cut. The National Assessment of Educational Progress found that less than one-third of U.S. fourth, eighth, and 12th grade students are proficient in civics.

Educating the public about the rule of law is part of the State Bar of Texas’ mission. For more than 26 years, the State Bar’s Law-Related Education program has been training educators on civics education programs and curriculum. As funding for civics education continues to decline, the Bar’s programs are more important than ever. Lesson plans focused on Constitution Day can be found on www.texaslr.org.

In the past year alone, LRE has trained more than 6,800 teachers and had an impact on more than 450,000 Texas students. Another recent addition to Law-Related Education’s resources is, “Oyez, Oyez, Oh Yay! Civics Resources for Texas Students and Teachers.” The web-based resource assists students and teachers in studying the landmark court cases that students need to know for the TEKS test. The site, texasbar.com/civics, includes videos, educational games, case summaries, lesson plans and numerous links to curriculum materials and other resources. And, this is just the beginning. The State Bar continues to enhance the program and “Oyez,

YOUR Gift

IS A WAY TO CONQUER LUNG DISEASE



AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®
of Texas

Give the gift that remembers by helping others ...

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.

www.texaslung.org

1-800-LUNG-USA

1973
39 Years
2012

WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

SERVING ARTHUR, VINTON, CHITTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOGARD, CLINT, FARENS, SAN

PUBLISHED:
Published each Thursday by Homesteader News, Inc. Appreciation to our many contributors. Office open Monday through Thursday.


AD DEADLINE:
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

CLASSIFIED RATES
\$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.


DISPLAY RATES:
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.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Minimum 50 issues for \$36. Delivery via 1st class mail.

MAIL:
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928




Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtxcc@wtxcc.com
Website: wtxcc.com




Publisher
Rick Shrum


Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda



Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.




Member Texas Community Newspaper Association




#BATTLEOFIIO
UTEP VS. NMSU
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH - 6 P.M.
TICKETS: 915-747-5234

PARENTS WEEKEND
CELEBRATE PARENTS WEEKEND!
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
915-747-8600


SALSA CONTEST
COME SAMPLE SOME OF EL PASO'S BEST SALSA AT GAMEDAY ZONE - LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE OF CAMPUS - GAMEDAY ZONE ENTERTAINMENT -
JOHNNY KAGE
RADIO LA CHUSMA




Western Refining



UTEPFANZONE.COM



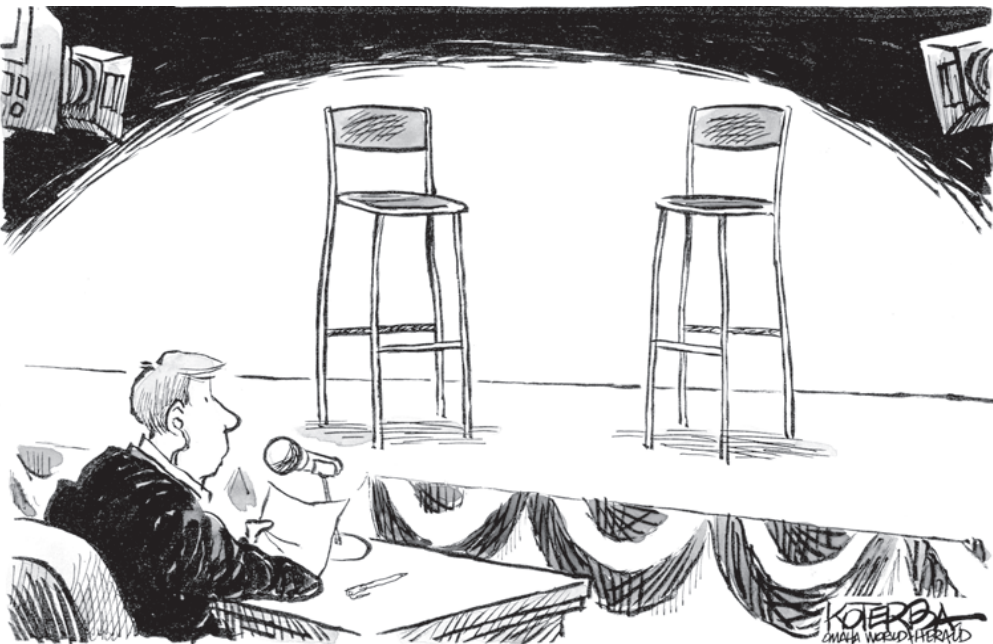
Howdy's



UTEPATHLETICS.COM

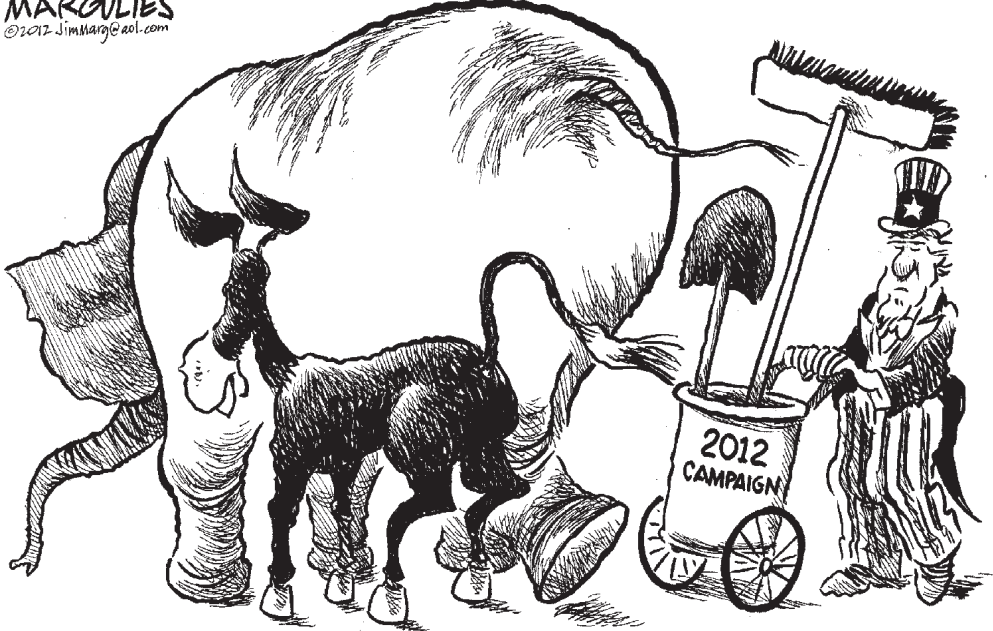


“HEY! IF ANYBODY WANTS TO BUILD A PIPELINE FROM THE FLOODED GULF COAST TO THE MIDWEST, I'M ALL FOR IT!”

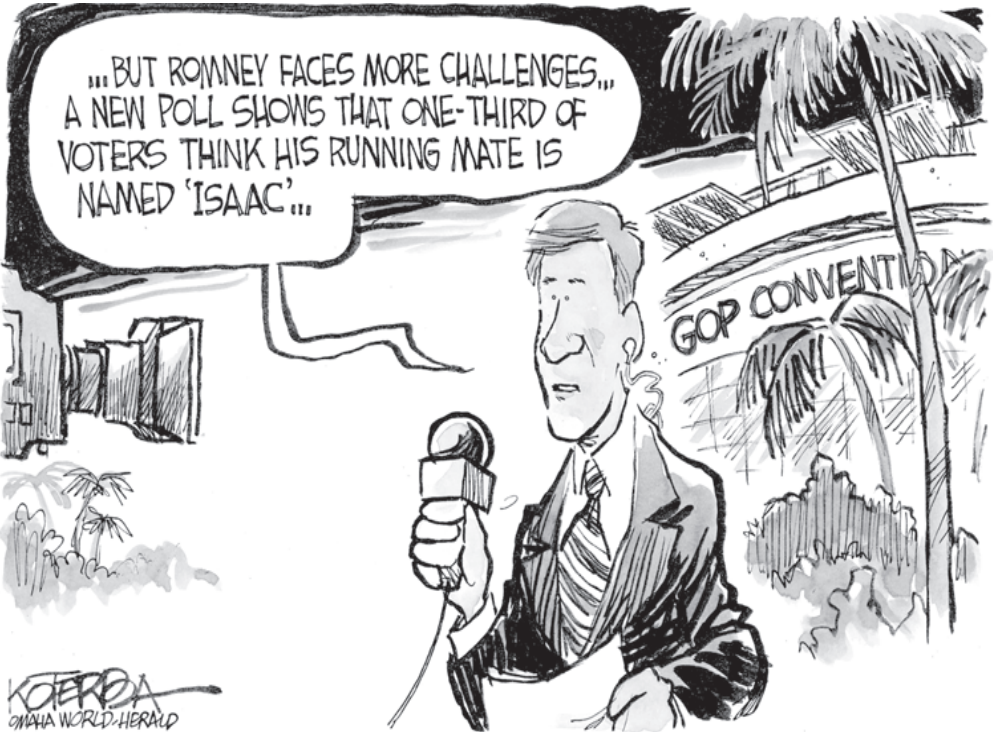


AND THEN THE NETWORKS REALIZED THEY DIDN'T NEED THE CANDIDATES TO HOLD DEBATES...

MARGULIES
©2012 Jim Marg@aol.com



Shovel-Ready Project



KOERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Museum celebrates Mandy’s anniversary

Mandy the Mule, El Paso Museum of History’s educational mascot, is celebrating her first year at the museum, and to mark the occasion, the El Paso Museum of History and the Junior League of El Paso Inc., will host Mandy’s first birthday party, from 2 to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, September 15, at the museum (510 N. Santa Fe Street).

The public is invited to join the Museum of History and the Junior League, as they celebrate the anniversary



– Photo courtesy El Paso Museum of History

ONE YEAR OLD – Mandy the Mule celebrates her first anniversary at the El Paso Museum of History.

elpasotexas.gov. with special activities for children of all ages

including crafts, games, and a special story time with Mandy.

Admission is free, but guests are encouraged to donate a new children’s book for the Junior League of El Paso’s Family Resource Center at the University Medical Center’s Children’s Hospital.

For more information, call Katherine Vandertulip at (915) 351-3588 or send her an email at vandertulipkw@

– Alfredo Vasquez

Lower Valley Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The LOWER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2012 on Thursday, September 20, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., at 1557 FM 1110, Clint, Texas 79836. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

FOR the proposal: **Rosalinda Vigil, David Armstrong, Henry Trujillo, Gina Cordero and Warren W. Jorgensen**

AGAINST the proposal: **NONE**

PRESENT and not voting: **NONE**

ABSENT: **NONE**

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.204386/\$100	0.201574/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	– \$0.002812/\$100	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	– 1.38%	
Average appraised value	\$ 71,580	\$ 72,802
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen’s or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average taxable value	\$ 71,580	\$ 72,802
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 146.30	\$ 146.75
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	+ \$ 0.45	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ 0.31%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

Briefs

From Page 1

you have any information at all about the identity and location of the suspect in this case, 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

On July 12, 2012 Raul Sanchez walked into Alamo Discount Furniture at 11552 Socorro Rd, in the City of Socorro. The 27 year-old man actually met with the store manager and bought a Home Elegance four piece bedroom set and a 42-inch Vizio television. Sanchez’s story was he did not have his credit card on him but that he knew his credit card number

and actually provided the manager with a valid American Express Card number. The store manager manually entered the number and it worked, so the next day Sanchez



Raul Sanchez

picked up the furniture and TV. Two weeks later (July 26, 2012) American Express got a hold of the store manager to say that the card given by the defendant was reported as a stolen credit card and Alamo Discount Furniture was being charged back \$1,973.39 – the amount that was originally authorized on the date of purchase. So now the business is out of the merchandise and the money. City of Socorro Investigators have found out

Sanchez has reportedly done this to other businesses throughout El Paso as well. He’s staying in the area, just moving around, so someone may know where he is or where he’s hiding out. Sanchez may face additional charges if he doesn’t come forward and others can get in trouble if they help him hide. If you know or hear anything call the police. In the City of Socorro the number is 858-6986.

– David Garcia

Wanted II

Oscar Daniel Villegas, 20, this week’s Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive. He also goes by Oscar Maturin. He is 5’5” tall, weighs 145 pounds and has brown hair and eyes. He has multiple tattoos on his chest, arms and ankle. He is wanted for a string of burglaries and thefts in the East Montana area. During the summer, Villegas and his

crew broke into homes and also stole two vehicles from one property. They sold the vehicles at a scrap yard in El Paso County. The accomplices have



Oscar Villegas

since been arrested and Villegas remains at large. He knows he is wanted and is believed to remain in the area hiding with friends or family. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Villegas please 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 Villegas.

– Deputy Jesse Tovar

– Corrected Notice –

2012 PROPERTY TAX RATES

Town of Clint Small Taxing Unit Notice

The Town of Clint will hold a meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 25, 2012 at the Clint Community Center, 200 N. San Elizario Rd. to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2012-2013. The proposed tax rate is \$0.442248 per \$100 of value.

The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in the Town of Clint by 8.00%.

WTCC: 09/13/12

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The West Texas County Courier will publish two editions early. The October 4 and October 11, 2012 issues will go to press on Tuesday, September 25, 2012.

All material for these publications must be submitted to the West Texas County Courier no later than Wednesday, September 19, 2012.

The West Texas County Courier office will close beginning Friday, September 21, 2012. The office will open again on Thursday, October 11, 2012.

POWERING PROGRESS

Every time the turbines spin in our power generators, your future gets brighter.

Every time the sun’s rays are absorbed by one of our solar panels, your future gets brighter.

And every time the businesses, nonprofit organizations and people of our region practice energy efficiency, your future gets brighter.

At El Paso Electric, we’re more than a power company — we’re a member of your community that’s dedicated to making your future brighter.

El Paso Electric.

Visit epelectric.com and click on the sunny side.



Motorcycles

From Page 1

marketing consultant, is co-founder of Mean Street Products, the world leader in design and manufacturing of custom motorcycle forks (front-end suspension).

Hanlon is currently the sales and marketing director for the El Diario’s Custom Print Division, Paso Del Norte Publishing, the largest web printing and publishing company in the Southwest.

For more information, call Sue Taylor at 351-3588 or send email to taylorst@elpasotexas.gov.



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

The Motorcycle Madness: A History of Motorcycles in the Southwest exhibit is currently on display at the El Paso Museum of History. There is a \$5 fee for adults to view the motorcycle collection.

High school grads need to understand credit

By Jason Alderman
Special to the Courier

If you’ve got a recent high school graduate who’s getting ready to head off to college or join the workforce, let me share a few lessons I learned the hard way about managing personal finances that you can pass along to your kids.

Young adults are just starting to build their credit history. In the coming months they’ll probably encounter many unfamiliar expenses – and many financial temptations. If they’re not careful, a few ill-thought decisions made now could damage their credit for years to come.

Here are several actions your kids can take to build good financial habits and strong credit – and a few minefields to watch out for:

Probably the most fundamental tool to for young adults to help manage their finances is a basic checking account and debit card. A few tips to pass along:

- Look for a bank/credit union that charges no monthly usage fee, doesn’t require minimum balances and has conveniently located ATMs so you don’t rack up out-of-network ATM charges.
- Enter all transactions in the check register

and review your account online regularly to know when deposits, checks, purchases and automatic payments have cleared.

- Don’t write checks or make debit card purchases unless the current balance will cover them – many transactions now clear instantaneously.
- Banks must ask whether you want overdraft protection. If you opt for coverage, understand that overdrafts can be expensive – up to \$35 or more per transaction.
- Request text or email alerts when your balance drops below a certain level, checks or deposits clear, or payments are due.

Credit cards for young adults can be a useful tool, but they must be used responsibly. By law, people under 21 must have a parent or other responsible adult cosign credit card accounts unless they can prove sufficient income to repay the debt. If you allow your child to become an authorized user or joint account holder on one of your accounts, remember that any account activity, good or bad, goes on both your credit reports, so careful monitoring is critical.

Another way to build credit history is to start out with a “secured” credit card – a card linked to an account into which you deposit

See CREDIT, Page 6

Notice of Tax Revenue Increase

The **TOWN OF HORIZON CITY** conducted public hearings on September 4, 2012 and September 11, 2012 on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the **TOWN OF HORIZON CITY** from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 3.19 percent.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised last year at last year’s tax rate of \$0.301250 for each \$100 of taxable value was \$1,912,500.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.322791 for each \$100 of taxable value, excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$2,164,168.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.322791 for each \$100 of taxable value, including tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$2,233,271.

The City Council of **TOWN OF HORIZON CITY** is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on September 25, 2012 at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas 79928 at 6:30 PM.

Notice of Tax Revenue Increase

The **CITY OF SOCORRO** conducted public hearings on September 4, 2012 and September 11, 2012 on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the **CITY OF SOCORRO** from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 14.66 percent.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised last year at last year’s tax rate of \$0.496757 for each \$100 of taxable value was \$4,053,507.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.565805 for each \$100 of taxable value, excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$4,640,185.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.565805 for each \$100 of taxable value, including tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$4,745,233.

The City Council of **CITY OF SOCORRO** is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on September 14, 2012 at City Hall located at 860 N. Rio Vista at 5:00 PM.

The Nationals: Bad planning, decisions and press

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The Washington Nationals have said all year that they were going to limit their ace pitcher Stephen Strasburg’s innings no matter what.

No matter how he felt, no matter how well he was pitching, no matter how well the team was doing and no mater how it might affect them in the playoffs.

It ended up that the Nationals were true to their word – and then some.

Manager Davey Johnson didn’t only shut down Strasburg for the season last week, he shut the young phenom down a week early.

All this talk about not letting Strasburg play the entire season arose from the “Tommy John” surgery he went through a year ago.

The thought was that the team would rather he rest his arm some this season, thus giving him more years as a healthy pitcher.

The entire decision was based on the pitcher’s physical well being.

Many were scratching their heads last week

when it was made public that Strasburg was lifted a week earlier because of his “mental” state.

And if anyone was wondering whether Strasburg was good with the decision, his comments shortly afterward may give you a hint.

“I thought I had another start,” said Strasburg last Saturday. “It was pretty shocking and honestly, I’m not too happy about it.”

Johnson told the media that the reason he took away Strasburg’s final start was due to the growing media attention. He also sited that Strasburg was not there mentally any more and was not totally committed to what he had to do on the mound.

Wow, that’s about as insulting you can get with an athlete. And Johnson had no problem sharing it with the national media.

He could have said that Strasburg had reached his inning limit for the season – period.

But again, Strasburg let his feeling be known on the subject, and he was pretty direct.

“I don’t know if I’m ever gonna accept it to be honest,” the 24-year-old said. “It’s

something that I’m not happy about at all. That’s not why I play the game. I play the game to be a good teammate and win.

“You don’t grow up dreaming of playing in the big leagues to get shut down when the games start to matter. It’s gonna be a tough one to swallow, but like I said, all I can do is be the best teammate possible for these guys.”

Those guys are his Washington teammates, who own the best record in baseball and are just a month away from participating in the playoffs.

Strasburg finished his season with a 15-6 record and a 3.16 earned run average. He pitched 159 innings and struck out a whopping 197 batters.

And suddenly, it’s all over.

Johnson and the Nationals took Strasburg out a week early because of the tremendous media hype. Well who do you think created the media hype in the first place by creating this situation? They did.

The weirdest thing of all is that there is absolutely no proof that pitching more or less innings, after the surgery he had last year, will either prolong or cost him his career.

Some doctors say limit his time on the field, some say there is no risk at all.

The Washington Nationals have been playing in D.C. for eight years and before that they were known as the Montreal Expos.

They are going to make the playoffs this year. Let me tell you how rare that is for this franchise.

They’ve been in existence since 1969 and have made the playoffs only one time. And that lone appearance, which they lost, happened 31 years ago.

That, my friends, adds up to a lot of losses.

What really irks me is that no one with the team thought about maybe putting Strasburg on the disabled list a couple times this season and keeping him fresh for the postseason.

That would have saved him six or seven starts and about 35-45 innings, keeping him well under his innings count and thus available for the all-important playoffs.

Oh well, the Nationals’ lack of imagination and creativity will cost everybody.

The fans of D.C., fans all around the nation, MLB and especially the team, will pay the price for this blunder.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Roddick calls it quits

What (were) Andy Roddick’s chances at winning the U.S. Open?

“As good as anybody not named Roger,” said Andy... perhaps the most quotable tennis player in the history of the sport.

Andy called it in at this year’s U.S. Open, announcing his retirement after the first round of the tournament. I’m sure there’s a joke in that headline somewhere – that he usually retires around the first round of a championship but that would, of course, be a joke. For

Andy Roddick was a champion... albeit a champion with very bad timing.

Andy Roddick held the torch of American tennis for the better part of a decade. And by “better part,” we mean “better part.” This guy at one time held the record for fastest serve (155 mph... you just try doing that on the highway), he hosted “Saturday Night Live,” and he married Brooklyn Decker.

Did I mention he had a really fast serve?

But Andy Roddick had a problem at birth: He was born at the same time as Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. Unfortunately for the script, those guys played better tennis.

It certainly wasn’t for lack of trying. Sure, Roddick was a fiery, tempestuous sort of player. He needed to get psyched up before every match as if he was Matthew Modine in “Vision Quest.” But when he won, he won big. There aren’t many tennis players or champs from any game that can say they won the U.S. Open (2003) and 32 career titles.

Roddick had a flair for drama, and his announced retirement during the middle of a tournament didn’t seem

too out of place for the man. Though not an outsized personality or multi Grand Slam winner like McEnroe or Connors, he still managed to get into the club. In another decade or so, ask yourself who was a dominant male American tennis player at the turn of the century. You’re not going to say “Mardi Fish,” or anyone else for that matter.

He’s only 30 years old. I bet he comes back, and if he doesn’t, something tells me he’ll find another line of work. For those of us in the post-game business, he’ll be sorely missed. Rarely has an athlete been more forthcoming at a press conference.

Hey Andy, you just lost at Indian Wells to an inferior player and said

your confidence was shot... can you elaborate?

“It comes from playing like [crud]. Why would I feel confident right now? If that was the case, I don’t think we’d be sitting here having this funeral-like press conference. It’s just weird because, I used to like, hit for a half-hour and then go eat Cheetos the rest of the day... come out and drill forehands. Now I’m really trying to make it happen, being professional, really going for it... and I miss my Cheetos.”

We’re gonna miss you too, Andy Roddick.

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

Classified Ads

BUILDING MATERIALS

Steel Buildings Complete for Assembly

• Ex. 24x24 Reg \$5,808 Disc. \$4,840 (Qty 1)
• 40x60 Reg \$17,278 Disc. \$14,399 (Qty 2)
Call for Others Source# 18X

800-964-8335

LEGALS

Rio Grande Council of Governments

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

Notice is hereby

given that the Rio Grande Council of Governments, as the political subdivision for the Far West Texas (Region E) Water Planning Group, will submit by 5:00 p.m. October 4, 2012, a grant application for financial assistance to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) on behalf of Region E, to carry out planning activities to develop the 2016 Region E Regional Water Plan in completion of the state's Fourth Cycle (2012-2016) of Regional Water Planning.

The Far West Texas Water Planning Group (Region E) includes the following counties:

Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio, and Terrell counties.

Copies of the grant application may be obtained from the Rio Grande Council of Governments or online at www.riocog.org. Written comments from the public regarding the grant application must be submitted to the Rio Grande Council of Governments and TWDB by no later than October 14, 2012. Comments can be submitted to the Rio Grande Council of Governments and the TWDB as follows:

Annette Gutierrez, Administrative Agent for Region E Rio Grande Council of Governments 8037 Lockheed El Paso, Texas 79925

Melanie Callahan, Executive Administrator Texas Water Development Board P.O. Box 13231 Austin, Texas 78711-3231

For additional information, please contact Michael Ada, Rio Grande Council of Governments, c/o Region E; 8037 Lockheed, 915-533-0998 ext. 112, and michaela@riocog.org

WTCC: 09-20-12

Credit

From Page 5

money. Typically you can charge up to the amount you’ve deposited and then replenish the account with more funds.

After they’ve made several on-time payments, have your kid ask the lender to convert it to an unsecured card, or to at least add an unsecured amount to the account. Just make sure that the lender agrees to report your payment history to at least one of the three credit bureaus; otherwise, the account does nothing to improve your credit.

If they qualify for an unsecured credit card, have your kids follow these guidelines:

- Always make at least the minimum payment – on time –

each month.

- Strive to pay off the full balance each month; otherwise, the accumulated interest will add significantly to your repayment amount.
- Avoid using credit cards for cash advances, which often incur upfront fees and begin accruing interest immediately.
- Look for a card with no annual fee and also compare cash advance, late payment, balance transfer, over-the-limit and other fees.

For more tips on building and maintaining strong credit, visit What’s My Score, a financial literacy program for young adults run by Visa Inc. (www.whatsmyscore.org).

Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs.

Lawsuit

From Page 1

New York Mellon; Bank of America Corporation; Chase Home Mortgage Corporation of the Southeast; Citimortgage, Inc.; HSBC Finance Corporation; Merrill Lynch Credit Corporation; Nationwide Advantage Mortgage Company; Suntrust Mortgage, Inc.; United Guaranty Corporation; Washington Mutual Bank; Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.; Deutsche Bank, A.G.; U.S. Bank, N.A.; J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.; HSBC Bank USA, N.A.; and La Salle Bank, N.A.

No court hearings have been set on the case yet.

Constitution

From Page 2

Oyez, Oh Yay!” will continue to be a part of public school curriculum for the next 12 years.

On this Constitution Day, let’s all re-dedicate ourselves to learning more about our heritage and encourage our children to do the same. An engaged citizenry is essential to preserving our rights and freedom, and sustaining our system of government.

Buck Files, a criminal defense lawyer from Tyler, is president of the State Bar of Texas.

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

							T	
C	A	T	C	H				
	V			R	E	N	O	W
	O			A				O
	W	A	Y			E	A	R
							N	
				O			L	C
				N	O	T	I	C
							E	
						A		
						T	I	N
							Y	

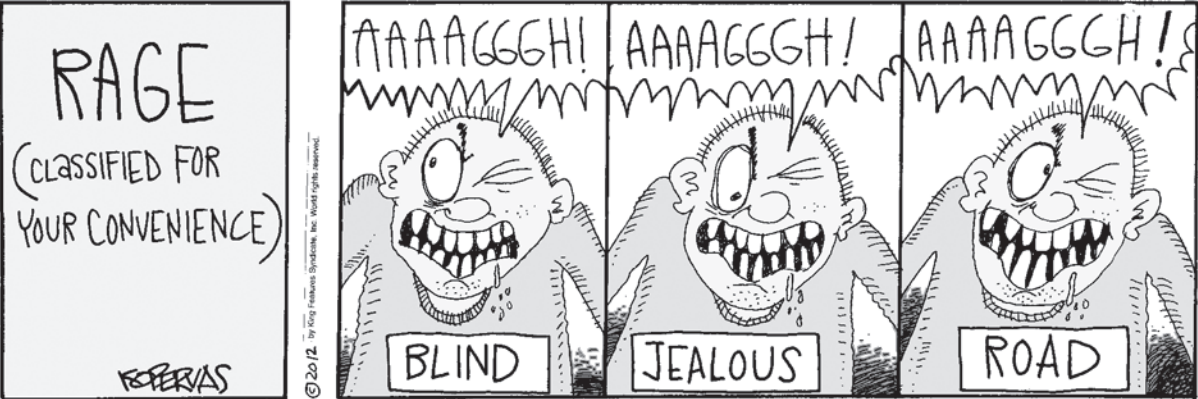
CryptoQuip Answer

If a man possessed real superhuman strength, do you suppose he might try shop lifting?

2	–	1	×	7	7
×		+		÷	
9	÷	3	×	7	21
÷		×		+	
6	–	5	×	8	8
3		20		9	

Comix

OUT ON A LIMBBy Gary Kopervas



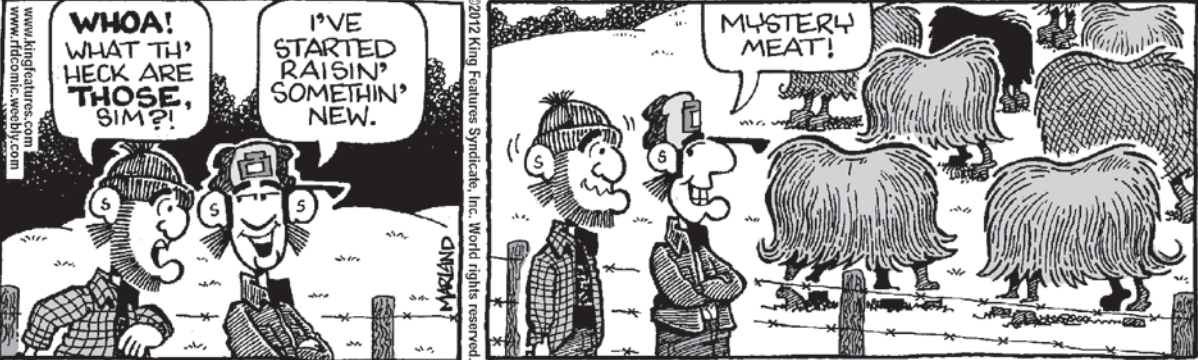
AMBER WAVESBy Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATSBy Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good healthBy Paul G. Donahue, M.D.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My wife’s doctor thinks she has intermittent claudication due to peripheral vascular disease. She also has diabetes. Would you describe it and its treatment? – S.B.

Peripheral vascular disease also goes by the name peripheral artery disease, PAD. “Peripheral” refers to the outer boundary, and when speaking of the body, the legs are its periphery. Leg arteries are narrowed and often blocked by the buildup of cholesterol, fat and many other components found in the circulation. The buildup is called plaque. The buildup can be so great that no blood runs through the main leg arteries.

Intermittent claudication is leg pain that develops when someone with PAD walks any distance. The person can tell, almost to the number of steps taken, when pain will arise. Taking a rest relieves the pain.

About 15 percent of those 70 and older have PAD. Its main sign is intermittent claudication.

Your wife can do many things on her own that will help her. If her cholesterol is high, she has to get it down. She has to maintain normal blood pressure. She must exercise within the limits prescribed by her doctor. Walking is one of the best exercises. If she starts out modestly and gradually increases the distance and pace, she should aim for 30 minutes of walking daily. When pain arises, she should stop, take a break and then resume once pain has gone.

One simple test for determining PAD is comparing blood pressure taken at the ankle with blood pressure taken in the arm. They should be nearly equal. If the ankle pressure is lower, that’s evidence of PAD.

Your wife’s doctor will discuss the use of medicines like Plavix, Pletal and aspirin. With severe blockage of an artery, opening it up with a balloon-tipped catheter and inserting a shunt is one treatment. It’s the same procedure used for clogged heart arteries. Removing the obstructed artery segment and replacing it with a graft is another way to treat this illness.

The booklet on PAD discusses the details of this common malady in depth. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 109, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Can. with the recipient’s printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Ever since I was 10 years old, I have had this problem: If I set something down or reach or touch something, I have to touch it again to make it feel right. When I hang clothes, I reach for a hanger and then put it back for a different one. I do things like this all day. I am 55. Am I crazy? – N.H.

You describe obsessive-compulsive disorder. You’re not crazy. Many people have it. It’s an irresistible urge to perform a certain ritual, like touching things a second time or constantly washing the hands. That’s the compulsion, an act that relieves inner unease, the obsession.

Help is available. Ask the family doctor to refer you to a specialist in this disorder. You’ve put up with it for too long.

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

- CONSONANT
SEXTETS
ACROSS

1 Holier-than-_
5 Cow sounds
9 Blueprint, e.g.
15 Not very much at all
19 Procure off-site, as goods and services
21 Novelist Waugh
22 "Livin' La Vida _" (Ricky Martin hit)
23 Bodybuilding regimen
25 Dull, as London skies
26 Buying places
27 "Candida" playwright
28 Declares
30 That vessel
32 Potential epidemic
36 Post-shave splash-on brand
40 Rowboat movers
43 Arab rulers
44 Utah's _ Mountains
45 Airline posting
48 Bay _ (Bostonian, e.g.)
49 Juliet's guy
50 New Mexico art mecca
51 Biol. or geol.
52 "Born Free" lioness
54 Certain fruity liquor

63 Spiel giver
67 Fry a little
68 "Rocky" actress Talia
69 Tel _
84 Auto pioneer
85 With 56-Down, bigwig with big bucks
86 Is hurting
89 " _ that hard to believe!"
92 _ frisé (toy dog)
96 Large dog used in police work
101 Broadcasting
102 Actor Joe
103 Emmy winner Falco
104 Rosten and Sayer
105 Penetrate suddenly
108 Nose variety
110 Pays a casual visit
111 Vehemence
114 Delineated
119 "I _ Song Go Out of My Heart"
120 1952 Peace Nobel
125 Ireland, in poetry
126 Regret-filled

127 Greeting in a sitcom
128 Nitwit
129 1922-73 comic strip
130 Gear teeth
131 Whizzes

DOWN

1 Throw away
2 Jabba the _ ("Star Wars" villain)
3 Other, in Oaxaca
4 Customer
5 Perp's photo ID
6 Dinner scrap
7 Phil of folk singing
8 Actor Rogen
9 Marine plant
10 Livy's 106
11 Barn clucker
12 Yale Bowl cheerer
13 Avian mimics
14 Gloomy anxiety
15 Neighbor of Libya
16 Downpour
17 Film overlay
18 Bright planet seen before sunrise
20 Some till fill
24 Rally cry
29 They're not able to get out much
31 Part of NNE
33 _ Darya (river)
34 Small, in Dogpatch
35 Three, in Trieste
36 15-Down loc.
37 Polly Holliday

41 Nipper's co.
42 Buying place
46 "Bonanza" brother
47 Suffix with Taiwan
48 Educ. inst.
51 Venue
53 Pooch sound
55 Syrian president
56 See 85-Across
57 "Ben-_"
58 Budge
59 Some
60 Small
61 _-dieu (pew add-on)
62 Dispatch
63 Filmmaker Gus Van _
64 Declare
65 Two cubed
66 _ rock (music genre)
71 Homily: Abbr.
72 Airport uniform abbr.
73 Day-_ paint
76 Attempts
79 Kazan of Hollywood
81 Light brown
82 Have dinner
83 Move upward
87 PC screen variety
88 Armada unit
90 Prefix with

91 "ER" figs.
92 Winter Olympics event
93 Not yet born
94 Neck artery
95 _ - American (Latino U.S. resident)
96 Hamburg loc.
97 Prefix with propyl
98 Start to puncture?
99 During every evening
100 Fixes, as Rover
102 Chordata, for humans
106 Some ski lifts
107 Bulls, rams, and bucks
109 Basic street system
112 Flexible, electrically
113 Mr. Kojak
115 "Take _ from me..."
116 Antidrug kingpin
117 Architect Saarinen
118 Ones against alcohol
121 The Andrews Sisters' " _ Mir Bist Du Schön"
122 New newt
123 Deep groove
124 Turn tail?

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18
19				20						21							22			
23									24								25			
26							27							28		29				
				30		31			32		33	34	35							
36	37	38	39		40		41	42		43						44				
45				46					47						48					
49						50								51						
		52			53			54		55	56	57	58				59	60	61	62
63	64					65	66			67						68				
69					70			71	72						73		74			
75				76		77							78			79				
80					81						82	83			84					
				85						86		87	88		89			90	91	
92	93	94	95				96	97	98	99					100					
101						102						103					104			
105					106						107			108		109				
110										111		112	113		114		115	116	117	118
119					120		121	122	123					124						
125					126							127								
128					129							130					131			

