



NEWSBRIEFS

Art exhibit

L'Alliance Française d'El Paso is sponsoring a Watercolor Art exhibit in the foyer of El Paso Community College's Administrative Bldg. A, 9050 Viscount Blvd. from Dec. 7-20. Members of the El Paso Transparent Watercolor Association (EPTWA) will provide the watercolor paintings. The most prominent member of EPTWA is Atalo Mendez, a recognized area artist with numerous awards. Other participating artists are Jacques Barriac, Nancy Diaz, Donna Carpenter, Maud Snell, Irene Stanley, Karen Steinberg and Rose Wilson. The opening reception will be on Friday, Dec. 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. The reception and exhibit are free and open to the public.

— Claire Buisson-Rodriguez

Vinton Christmas

Keep Vinton Beautiful (KVB), a community service organization for the Village of Vinton, is making preparations for its annual "Christmas in the Village" event, which is scheduled for December 15. KVB organizers are seeking public support to ensure a merry holiday season for all Vinton residents. KVB needs volunteers to help with the following tasks: fundraising, park decorating, entertainment, registration, manning booths with activities for children, handing out cookies and hot chocolate, selling popcorn/nachos/beverages, and being one of Santa's helpers. Interested individuals may call (915) 886-5104, for more information.

— Alfredo Vasquez

Luncheon

The Southwest Character Council Monthly Luncheon Westside will be held Wednesday, Dec. 12 from 11:45 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. at Great American Land & Cattle Company, 701 S. Mesa Hills, El Paso. There will not be a meeting at the Yarbrough location in December. The character quality for December is generosity. The cost is just \$10 per person for lunch, networking and training. RSVP to 779-3551 to reserve your spot, and make sure enough meals are prepared. Cash or check only please.

— Kelly McCullough

EPCC grads

The El Paso Community College (EPCC) will confer 1,398 degrees and certificates during its winter commencement ceremony set for 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 14 at the Don Haskins Center. The commencement will include high school grads from throughout the county that have participated in EPCC's Early College program. The event is open to all family and friends of the students. New EPCC president, Dr. William

See BRIEFS, Page 5



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

FROM THE LECTURN — "Many of us take for granted our access to clean drinking water. The reality is that there are still rural areas in America where water systems are nonexistent and residents have never had in-home access to water," said Paco Valentin, USDA Rural Development Texas State Director, during a recent celebration to herald the completion of the new water system in the Upper Valley communities. Also shown in photo, from are: John E. Balliew, P.E., EPWU Vice President of Operations and Technical Services; Christina Montoya, EPWU marketing and communication vice president; Valentin; Suki Perez, Mayfair/NuWay resident; Rev. Pablo Mata, Border Interfaith community member; and Father Richard Frank, San Patricio Catholic Church pastor.

Upper Valley communities get first time water service

*Families finally
have reliable drinking
water at home*

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

About 300 homes in the Mayfair, NuWay, and Schuman Estates communities, which

are situated between Canutillo and Vinton in the Upper Valley, will have reliable drinking water service and dependable fire hydrants for the first time because of the cooperative efforts among the United States Department of Agriculture, El Paso Water Utilities (EPWU), El Paso County, and the Border Interfaith organization.

For years, residents of these communities struggled with problems caused by contaminated water coming out of their

wells and from the water distributed by a private company. Recent Texas Commission on Environmental Quality tests showed that high levels of arsenic (a natural element found in soil and minerals) were discovered in the water distributed by the private system.

The communities' persistence to get reliable water service finally paid off, said the Rev. Pablo Mata, a member of the community group Border Interfaith, during a community meeting held recently at San Patricio Catholic Church in Canutillo to celebrate the water system's completion.

Residents and Border Interfaith members' sought assistance from government officials, and "at the end, the people got it done," Mata asserted. The project comes at no cost to existing EPWU customers.

The water project cost \$1.74 million, which was funded with \$1.6 million from a U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development grant and a low-interest loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The new water system was designed and built by EPWU but will be under the El Paso County's purview. EPWU will operate and maintain the system under a wholesale supply contract with the county.

"As the state-sanctioned regional water planner, El Paso Water Utilities got involved once it became clear that the privately-owned system of wells and pumps was breaking down and failed to meet state standards," said John Balliew, EPWU Vice President of Operations and Technical Services during the community meeting. "For decades, EPWU has partnered with organizations to bring first-time water service and improved quality of life to colonias throughout El Paso County," he said.

EPWU estimates that as many as 5,000 people in El Paso County still live in locations without suitable running water in their homes.

Viesca-Santos appointed to EPA committee

By Elhiu Dominguez
Special to the Courier

El Paso Assistant County Attorney Cristina Viesca-Santos has been appointed to Environmental Protection Agency's 12-member Governmental Advisory Committee by Lisa P. Jackson, the Administrator of the U.S. EPA.

The committee advises the EPA's Administrator on a broad range of environmentally related strategic, scientific, technological, regulatory and economic issues to be addressed in the implementation and elaboration of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC). Committee members serve two-year terms

as representatives of state, local and tribal governments. Ms. Viesca-Santos will be representing local governments in the committee.

Assistant County Attorney Viesca-Santos was selected to the board for her knowledge of environmental issues facing local governments along the US-Mexico Border. Since November 2000, Ms. Viesca-Santos has served as the Environmental Prosecutor in El Paso County. Under her leadership, El Paso County created the first Environmental Court in the state of Texas.



Cristina Viesca-Santos

"I feel very honored and privileged to have been nominated and selected for this important task," said Viesca-Santos. "I will endeavor to bring to light environmental issues we face in our border region as the Commission for Environmental Cooperation works with Mexican Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources and Canadian Environment Minister who are committed to greening the North American Economy," Viesca Santos concluded.

The appointment period runs from October 22, 2012 to October 2014.

There are two sciences all people should learn — the science of speech and the harder one, the science of silence.

— Quips & Quotes

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Hurry up and wait, wait, wait

The plan was for the Department of Veterans Affairs to be caught up on the backlog of veterans’ claims by 2015. By then, it was hoped, all claims would be wrapped up within 125 days.

To track how the VA is doing, the nonprofit Center for Investigative Reporting has put together a self-updating map showing, via circles of varying sizes, the number of veterans awaiting resolution of their claims. Click on a circle and the corresponding information appears below the map.

The numbers for certain big-circle areas show that they’re still struggling to get claims completed.

In St. Petersburg, Fla., there are 46,366 veterans waiting. Of those, 30,321 are past the 125-day mark, with the average wait time being 270 days.

Baltimore has 19,662 veterans waiting, and 16,472 have waited more than 125 days, with the average claim time running at 343 days.

Granted, in some of the high-population areas it might be said that the VA is overwhelmed:

too many claims and too few workers. But not all areas have high population density. Some of the communities are downright small.

White River Junction, Vt. – As expected, this rural area doesn’t have many veterans. Specifically, it has 969 veterans awaiting claims. Why, then, are 589 of those veterans waiting an average of 239 days on their claims? Appeals average 1,084 days.

Then there’s little Fargo, N.D. – Of 1,066 veterans with claims, 292 of them have waited more than 125 days, with the average wait time being 146 days. Appeals average 1,248 days – that’s almost 3 1/2 years!

To see the stats on your regional office area, go online to <http://cironline.org/> and click on “Returning Home to Battle,” then click on the backlog map.

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.

Texas launches veteran jobs training program

By Lisa Givens
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has announced the launch of Skills for Veterans, an initiative to address the unique challenges and training needs of veterans who served in the military post 9/11, many of whom are returning to the Texas workforce. TWC has designated \$1 million from the state’s Skills Development Fund to establish the initiative, which offsets employer-training costs for eligible veteran new hires in an effort to expedite the return of veterans to the workforce. Gov. Rick Perry touted the industry-driven initiative during a recent Veterans Day ceremony in Dime Box, TX.

“The leadership, experience and skills veterans bring back home are a valuable asset to Texas employers,” Perry said. “The Skills for Veterans initiative will help make it that much easier to connect highly-qualified post-9/11 veterans with

Texas employers who are seeking these talented and experienced individuals.”

Skills for Veterans will provide post-9/11 veterans with training that employers identify as necessary for the business’ growth. The initiative will provide up to \$1,450 for tuition and fees in a 12-month period for each eligible veteran new hire. Private employers in Texas must partner with public community and technical colleges in their area or the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) to develop the training programs.

“Approximately 1,500 veterans who served in the military post 9/11 separate from military service and return to Texas each month, joining more than 200,000 post-9/11 veterans already residing in Texas,” said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. “Skills for Veterans will help ensure that these service men and women have the opportunity to receive training and occupational certifications in high-demand industries, such as oil and gas.”

The hourly wage for each veteran trained under Skills for Veterans must meet or exceed the prevailing wage for that occupation in the local labor market. Visit www.texasworkforce.org/svcs/funds/skills-veterans-initiative.html for more information about the new program.

“These brave service members and veterans have answered the call to serve their country during war time at great personal risk,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor, Ronny Congleton. “The Skills for Veterans initiative will provide post-9/11 veterans the training necessary to be competitive in the civilian workforce and offer them greater opportunities to connect with employers.”

“There is a high demand across the state for workers with skills training,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers, Tom Pauken. “This initiative will not only help to bring home our veterans the right way, it will also help grow our private sector by filling a great need in today’s workforce.”

Perry wants to increase job training

By Catherine Frazier
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Gov. Rick Perry [has] announced collaboration between the Governor’s Office, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) that will use competency-based learning to help Texans quickly receive certifications in high demand industries. The governor [is] joined by Texas Education Agency Commissioner Michael

Williams, Texas State Technical College Chancellor Mike Reeser, and lawmakers in Harlingen to discuss this new effort to maintain a skilled workforce to meet our state’s growing industry demands.

“Over the past decade, Texas has established a jobs-friendly environment that has powered our economic engine and attracted major employers in various growing industries, leading to increased demand for certified, high-skilled workers,” Perry said. “The framework for technical training

we’re putting in place will enable workers to earn their technical certifications fast, at an affordable cost, and targeted to specific skills that are needed by industries.”

Demand for skilled workers continues to grow as Texas’ economy flourishes, particularly in sectors like manufacturing, where it has nearly doubled over the past three years and is projected to grow 10 percent by 2020. To address this need, the Texas


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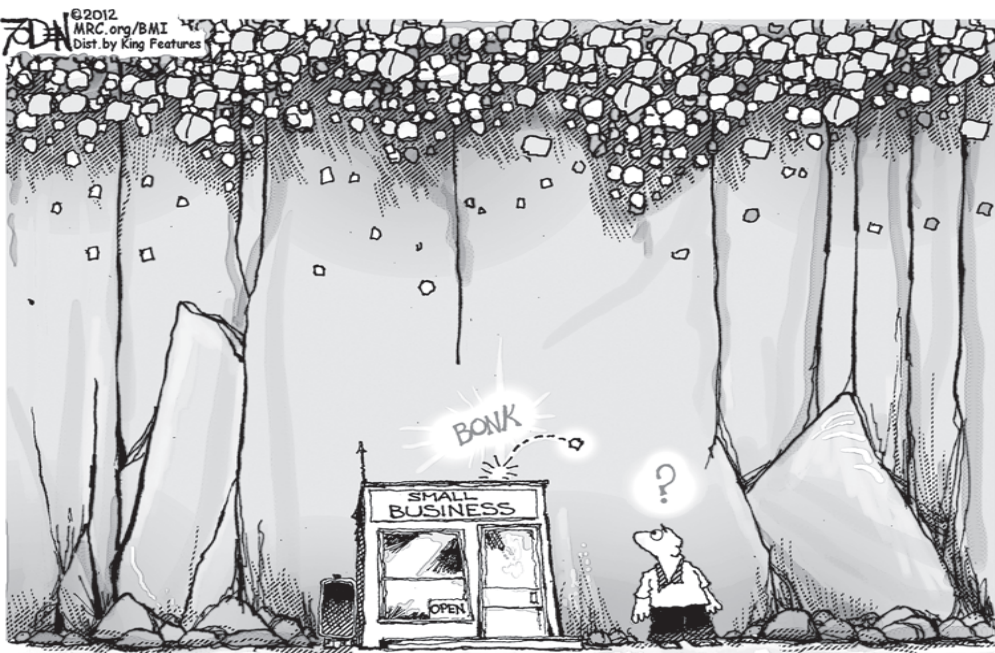
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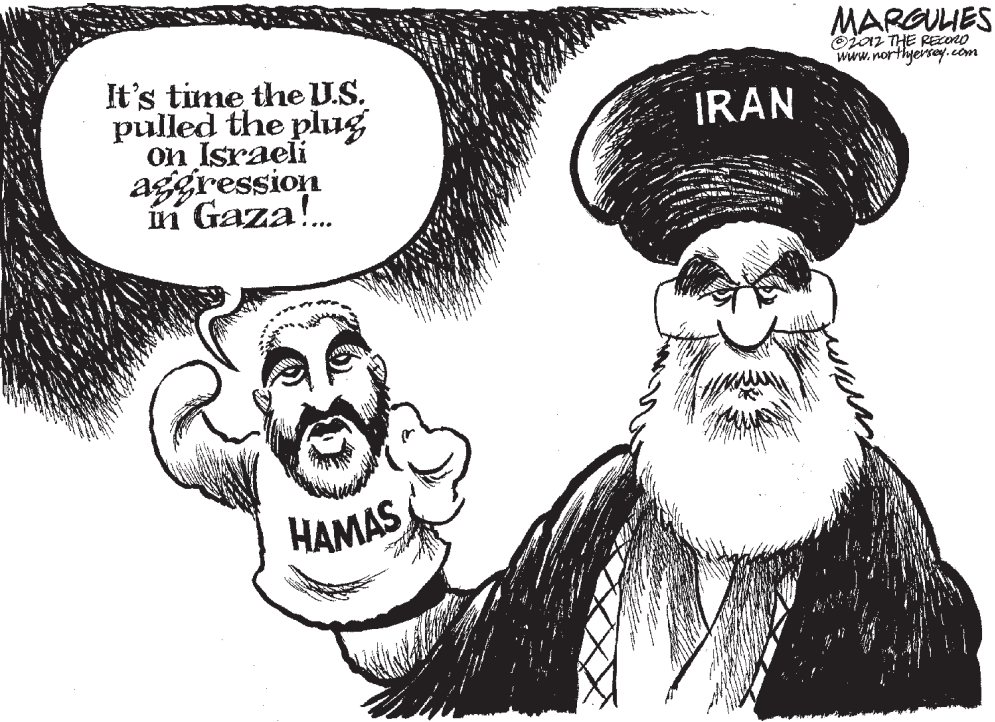
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Meanwhile, at the Base of the Fiscal Cliff.



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

Spring chicken or goose cooking?

We all love adventure. So, last year I greeted notification of acceptance to Baylor College of Medicine's Physician Assistant Program one week before class start with both trepidation and a sense of exhilaration. Could I cut the mustard? At 60 years old, was I a dinosaur ready for extinction, or would I be a spring chicken able to compete with the best and the brightest and assimilate a wealth of knowledge on the road to my field of dreams. Needless to say, I felt like my goose would be cooked, but I just had to try. While I had a medical background as an American expatriot and foreign medical graduate of the University of Rome School of Medicine, I had not seen or touched a patient since 1993, and, frankly, my skills, if they still existed, were rusty at best. I had medicine in my blood, though, and anyone who has ever studied the healing arts will tell you that when it gets into your blood, there is no plasmapheresis on earth that can filter it out. So, while I was prepared to make a go of it, for better or worse, I could not have foreseen the revolutionary changes in medical education and the new didactic platforms that were about to dazzle, dazzle, and discombobulate me.

Now, don't let anyone tell you that the current study of medicine is out of reach for those of us set in our ways and from generations once or twice removed, or that it has changed so dramatically as to make it tantamount to an entirely new language. The fact is that the basic pathophysiologic principles and tenets of medicine have not changed, and still serve as the same strong pillars upon which shingles are hung. My first day of class at Baylor was like a cold shower, when I realized that the vast majority of my colleagues were female and almost three times younger than me. They came from the best universities in the country and were not modest, to say the least. As they greeted me with a bit of amusement and a modicum of respect, I knew that under the niceties lay lingering doubts in their minds as to my ability to tow the line. I knew that I would have to prove myself to gain their respect, and that I would have to unleash the only two weapons in my arsenal that could level the academic playing field; they being my extensive residual knowledge of pathology and pathophysiology, and the fact that I was 60 years old going on 25.

It has not been easy here at Baylor College of Medicine. Then, again, how could it be, when one is dealing with one of the top five physician assistant programs in the United States? To make matters worse, no one ever told me that medicine had gone completely electronic, with paper, pen, blackboards, overhead projectors, and textbooks going

the way of the horse and buggy. Baylor is a brave new world for me, in much the same way as Aldous Huxley might have envisioned it. Here, the incessant assimilation of medical knowledge at breakneck speed is punctuated only by the rat-a-tat-tat of laptop keyboards, the projection of innumerable PowerPoint presentations, and the low-level glow of an occasional PET scan. While I long for the days of fountain pens, chalk boards, systemic anatomy, and medical giants forced to face and engage hungry young (and old) minds, instead of pushing buttons and wielding laser pointers, I know those days are long gone. I take comfort, however, in the fact that I am a bridge between what used to work and what may work better, but at an undeniably higher price. The human body has not changed, so why must we always feel that newer, sleeker, and shinier is always better? Tell that to the primary care providers, that is, if there are any left.

They used to say that the top students with no people skills in the class would go on to teach, while those at the "back of the bus" would become better clinicians. I hope that still holds true, as I have never seen so many students with photographic memories in my life. Baylor is a literal cornucopia of them. Never mind the little purple pill, my problems lie in the opposite direction. Until I can get a handle or an angle on the rapid acquisition of medical knowledge, I am always going to be in left field. In fact, that is my biggest complaint about medical education today. There is just so much didactic material presented that it is hard for me to believe that anyone can assimilate it all. When I try to make those concerns heard, my professors, many of whom are my age, merely wink at me. Do they know something I don't?

It's no fun being a spring chicken when you're on the wrong side of the lectern!

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Dr. Albert M. Balesh obtained his medical training and certifications abroad. He had a practice in Italy before returning to the US. When Balesh returned he was denied entry into the medical field at every door. Internships and standard medical board testing were also denied. After a decade long campaign to get back into medicine, the Baylor College of Medicine's Physician Assistant Program accepted him. He has written over 100 columns on health for the West Texas County Courier.

Anthony ISD track and field closed for construction

Construction on the Anthony ISD athletic stadium and track is scheduled to begin on Monday, Dec. 10, 2012. The facility will be closed to the public during the construction process for safety and liability concerns.

Construction is scheduled for completion at the end of May 2013. When the project is finished, the facility will be available for public use again. The District is asking the public for cooperation and patience during the construction.

FT James Construction is the general contractor for the project. Call 886-6500 if you have any questions about the project.

— Ron Haugen

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U.S. General Services Administration

Finances

By Jason Alderman

Last-minute ways to trim your taxes

From now until New Year’s is probably when you have the least amount of time to spare on mundane financial bookkeeping tasks. But if you can dedicate a few minutes to review your benefits and tax paperwork, you might be able to shave hundreds – or even thousands – of dollars off your 2012 taxes.

Here are a few suggestions:

If you haven’t already maxed out on contributions, ask your employer if you can make a catch-up contribution to your 401(k), 403(b) or 457 plan before year’s end. Most people can contribute up to \$17,000 in 2012 (a \$500 increase over 2011), plus an additional \$5,500 if they’re over 50.

If you contribute on a pretax basis, your taxable income is reduced, which in turn lowers your taxes. At a minimum, if your employer offers matching contributions (essentially, free money), be sure to contribute at least enough to take full advantage of the match.

If you participate in employer-sponsored flexible spending accounts (FSAs), which let you use pretax dollars to pay for eligible healthcare and dependent care expenses, an important change

is coming next year: Beginning January 1, 2013, the maximum annual contribution for healthcare FSAs will shrink to \$2,500 from the \$5,000 limit many employers currently offer; however, if your spouse has FSAs at work, you still may contribute up to \$2,500 to each account. Dependent care account limits remain unchanged.

It’s vital to calculate and use any untapped 2012 account balances before your plan-year deadline (sometimes up to 75 days into the following year); otherwise, you’ll forfeit the remaining balance. If you have a surplus, consider which 2013 expenses you could pay before December 31, 2012. And, keep the new limit in mind when planning your 2013 healthcare FSA.

You can use your healthcare FSA for copayments, deductibles and medical devices such as glasses, contact lenses and braces, among other expenses; over-the-counter medicines are only eligible with a doctor’s prescription (an exception is made for insulin).

Charitable contributions. If you plan to itemize deductions on your 2012 taxes, charitable contributions made to IRS-approved organizations

by December 31, 2012, are generally tax-deductible. If you’ve got extra cash now and want to lower your 2012 taxes even further, consider moving up donations you would have made in 2013.

Gifts. Unless Congress intervenes, the federal income tax exemption for estate distributions and lifetime gifts will drop from the 2012 limit (\$5.12 million) to the pre-2011 level of \$1 million (for married couples, it drops from \$10.24 million to \$2 million); in addition, the tax rate on gifts or estate distributions above those limits will increase from 35 percent in 2012 to 55 percent in 2013.

One way to exceed the lifetime gift limit – and avoid having to file a Gift Tax Return – is by giving separate, annual gifts of up to \$13,000 per year, per person. (Married couples filing jointly can give \$26,000 per recipient.) Rules for gift and estate taxes are complex, so read IRS Publication 950 (at www.irs.gov) and consult your financial advisor.

This isn’t an ideal time to take on any additional tasks, but if some or all of these situations apply, you could considerably lower your tax bill – wouldn’t that be a great way to start the New Year?

Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs.

EPCC has money for STEM studies

By Javier Sanchez

Special to the Courier

El Paso Community College (EPCC) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) are offering scholarships for up to \$8,400 per year to students interested in becoming science, technology, engineering or mathematics scholars.

Over the last decade, there have been concerns that the United States is falling behind and may not be able to compete economically with other nations in the future due to insufficient investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

To the shortfall, EPCC and the El Paso Independent School District have opened an Early College High School with a STEM focus to educate more engineers and scientists.

Scholarship recipients will receive mentoring, counseling and participate in activities throughout the academic year.

Several scholarships are available to qualified students attending EPCC. Some scholarships have specific requirements related to the field of study, academic achievement and financial need. For eligibility and how to apply, visit www.epcc.edu/scholarships.

Interested parties can also contact Dr. Naomi Waissman at 831.5021, nwaissma@epcc.edu; Dr. Fariba Ansari, 831-2627, fansari@epcc.edu; or Edith Aguirre at 831-7145, eaguir53@epcc.edu.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was the third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, who made the following observation: “The man who reads nothing at all is better educated than the man who reads nothing but newspapers.”

• Those who study such things say that a rainbow can’t be seen at midday; the optical phenomena are visible only in the morning or in the late afternoon.

• In 1982, a radio station in Allentown, Pa., thought its rating could use a bit of a boost, so it came up with a contest: Three contestants, selected at random, would live on top of one of the station’s billboards (portable toilets and sleeping bags were provided). The last one to give up would be awarded a mobile home. The problem was, nobody wanted to give up. The three men who climbed to the top of the sign at the end of September were still there come March 1983. In that month, one of the contestants was arrested for dealing drugs, but the remaining two stayed aloft until May. Once the freezing winter was finally over, the radio station decided to declare both of the men winners.

• As the end of the year approaches, you might consider an old British tradition of fortune-telling. Light a candle, place it on the floor and jump over it. If the flame does not go out, you’re likely to enjoy good luck during the coming year.

• If you’re like the average American, you use between 75 and 100 gallons of water every day.

• The Sahara Desert is nearly as large as the continental United States.

Thought for the Day: “If at first you don’t succeed, try again. Then quit. No use being a damn fool about it.”
– W.C. Fields

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O	F	W	A	R		T	R	A	L	E	E		D	O	N	A	D	A	M	S
I	T	A	L	O		E	E	L	E	R	S		E	Y	E	T	E	S	T	
L	A	Y	E	R			D	E	T	E	S		N	O	S	E	D	I	V	E

CryptoQuip

Answer

Sitcom about a lady
who communes with
elms, maples and birches:
“Tree’s Company.”

5	−	2	×	7	21
×		×		−	
6	−	4	×	6	12
−		+		×	
9	÷	3	+	8	11
21		11		8	

Training

From Page 2

State Technical College System is developing a framework for this skilled workforce initiative that will quickly and affordably allow workers to translate existing skills into targeted certifications. This framework can be tailored to specific industry needs, and is easily exportable to all community and technical colleges statewide.

“A skilled workforce is essential to our economy. When our business

and industry leaders work together with our education institutions, it creates a direct path to employment for Texans,” State Rep. Eddie Lucio, III said. “The new educational delivery model that Texas State Technical College will develop will aid to solidify Texas’ economic prosperity. I sincerely applaud the efforts of the Governor’s office, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Workforce Commission.”

Businesses are also encouraged to form partnerships with their local school districts to incorporate this

workforce training into local career and technical education programs. The program will focus on ensuring job-preparedness for groups like veterans, current workers needing retraining, and career-focused high school graduates among others.

“Texas State Technical College System is excited to be working with its fellow state agencies and with Texas industrial employers to develop this new framework for training Texans for crucial high-skilled jobs in our state,” Reeser said. “We are especially grateful for the Governor’s leadership in this

vital effort.”

Texans already benefit from programs that utilize a competency-based approach to education, and Perry has called on higher education institutions to continue looking for ways to implement this approach as a way to make education more affordable and accessible. Texas’ College Credit 4 Heroes program allows veterans to get college course credit for the experience, education and training they obtained during military service, and WGU Texas, a subsidiary of Western Governors University, provides online bachelor

and master degrees, and recently graduated its first class since its creation last year.

Perry also praised Sen. Dan Patrick, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, for calling on the State Board of Education to double the number of approved Career Tech courses available to students in Texas. These courses prepare students to graduate ready to work in numerous in-demand fields and will further bolster the state’s effort to meet the growing need for high-skilled workers in various industries.

Briefs

From Page 1

Serrata, will preside over the commencement ceremony. John Fitzpatrick, Educate Texas Executive Director, will deliver the commencement address. Fitzpatrick has an extensive background in education and has worked with the business sector, educational interest groups, community partners and politicians during his career.

– Javier Sanchez

Light contest

The City of Socorro is holding its 2nd Annual Spirit of Christmas Light Contest. Trophies will be awarded for the three best displays within the City of Socorro. The registration deadline is Friday, Dec. 14th, 2012. Participants must:

- Fill out a free Registration Form. (Residency must be located within Socorro City Limits.)
- Email your form to Dania Diaz at ddiaz@ci.socorro.tx.us or drop it off at the Rio Vista

Community Center on 901 North Rio Vista Road in Socorro.

- Agree to have their names, home address and photos displayed on the City of Socorro’s website. (Winners only.)

Judges will be driving by registered homes at an undisclosed time after sunset from Dec. 17-19. The light displays will be judged based on creativity, uniqueness and overall display. The winners will be announced Dec. 20 on the City of Socorro’s home page. Trophies will be awarded for the top three displays. The Department of Recreation Centers is overseeing the contest. People can call 860-9163 or 860-8615 or visit <http://www.ci.socorro.tx.us/parksandrecreation/spiritofchristmas> for more details.

– David Garcia

School, career

El Paso Community College is bringing the opportunity to 18- 24-year-olds (16-17 may be considered) to fulfill their dreams of having a career in construction, while completing school. In YouthBuild programs, young people who qualify will

work toward their GED, high school diploma or college credits while they learn job skills, and serve their communities by building affordable housing, and transforming their own lives and roles in society. Application deadline for YouthBuild is on January 14, 2013. You can pick up an application at EPCC Administrative Services Center, 9050 Viscount Blvd., Building B, room B-560. YouthBuild is a youth and community development program that addresses core issues facing low-income communities: housing, education, employment, crime prevention, and leadership development. For more information about the El Paso Community College YouthBuild Program call 831-7825 or 831-7756.

– Jim Heiney

Wanted

Daniel Acevedo, 18, who also goes by Meraz, is this week’s Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive. He is 5’3” tall and weighs 126 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes and has multiple tattoos. Acevedo is the leader of a burglary ring that was operating in El Paso. His

accomplices have been arrested and only he remains at large. He is believed to be in the Borderland and continues to hide from authorities. He is wanted on six Burglary counts, though there may be more, and his criminal history shows previous arrests for Theft. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Acevedo 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 Acevedo.

– Deputy Jesse Tovar

Crime Stoppers

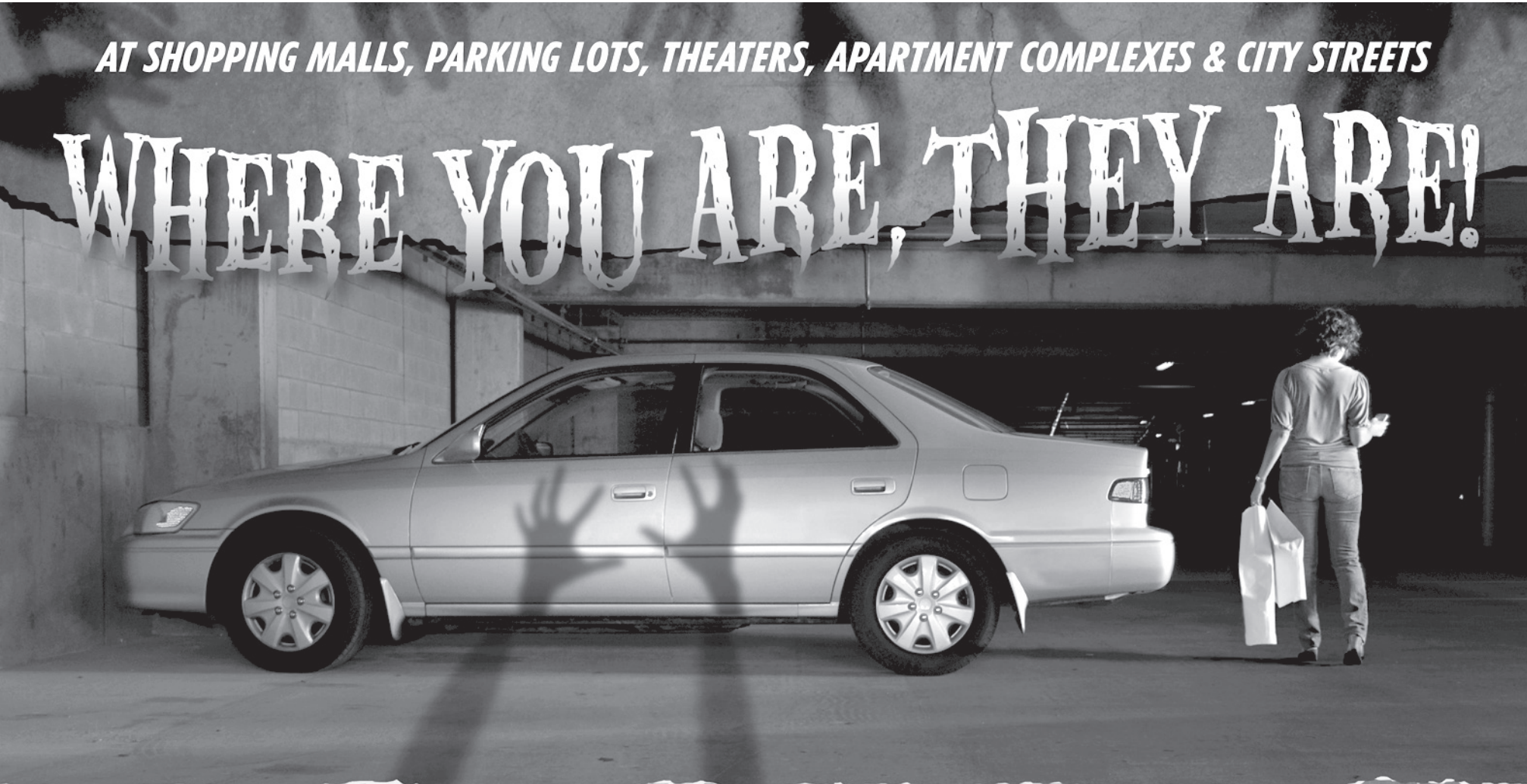
A woman crossing Dyer Street in the northeast is struck by a southbound vehicle which flees after causing serious injury, making this the Crime Stoppers “Crime of the Week.” On Tuesday evening, November

20, 2012, a little after 6:00 p.m., a female pedestrian was crossing Dyer street in the 4100 block when she was struck by a southbound vehicle which fled the scene. The victim was not in a crosswalk and was transported to the hospital with serious and possibly life-threatening injuries. The hit and run vehicle then fled south on Dyer. The vehicle that fled is described as a grey or silver Dodge Intrepid that had a different colored left front fender, and possibly Chihuahua license plates. The driver of the hit and run vehicle was described as an Hispanic male possibly in his 50s. If you have any information about the identity 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

AT SHOPPING MALLS, PARKING LOTS, THEATERS, APARTMENT COMPLEXES & CITY STREETS

WHERE YOU ARE, THEY ARE!




YOU ARE BEING SHADOWED. But you're not the only one. Every year in Texas, car thieves steal close to 100,000 cars and trucks, and burglarize thousands more. Surprised? Don't be any longer. When you leave your vehicle, **HIDE** your things, **LOCK** your car, and **TAKE** your keys. Remember...**YOU HOLD THE KEY.**



Watch Your Car

TEXAS AUTO BURGLARY AND THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY



All men must know, accept their limits for real success

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

One of the unfortunate by-products of professional sports is the inability of some athletes to know when to call it a career.

Some athletes spend a lifetime building a resume of legendary greatness only to embarrass themselves by falling back down to earth in an uncomfortable display of age-assisted mediocrity.

Just like that crazy uncle with the bud light in his hand, believing he is entertaining everyone at the birthday party with his slurred impression of Jack Nicholson.

Nobody wants to say anything but everybody is thinking it.

“You are just embarrassing yourself.”

It’s never easy to watch a legend still trying to perform after it’s rather evident he can no longer do so.

I can still remember Willie Mays corkscrewing himself into the ground swinging and missing in a New York Mets uniform.

How much more coherent would Muhammad Ali be today if he hadn’t taken the extra years of pummeling to the brain. The great Joe Louis hung around so long he was practically reduced to being a sideshow attraction.

And what was the logic behind that lightning bolt on the side of Johnny Unitas’ helmet at the end of his career?

But this self-inflected illness apparently isn’t relegated to the players on the field.

Some owners, coaches and administrators also share in the inability of knowing when to say when.

Does anyone doubt that Joe Paterno overstayed his welcome at Penn State? Even without the scandals that plagued his program

at the very end, wasn’t he really the coach in name only?

Dallas Cowboys general manager Jerry Jones must be a fan of general George Custer.

Clearly both accomplished some good things and claimed some big victories. But at least when Custer lost his touch, it was all over. Jones keeps making the same mistakes year and year after year.

It seems that Jerry Jones’ football expertise is limited to building football stadiums.

And this brings us to yet another member of the “it’s time to step down” club.

David Stern, the NBA’s commissioner for the past 28 years, did the same thing Egyptian president Morsi recently did; he gave himself unlimited power.

Well, what else would you call it when he now believes he can tell an NBA coach how to run his own team?

Stern made his Napoleonistic move last week after San Antonio Spurs coach Greg Popovich decided to rest four of his starters for a game at the Miami Heat.

He decided to rest, Tim Duncan, Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili and Danny Green, because the Spurs were about to play their fourth road game in five nights.

This is something coaches do quite often in the NBA. They rest a superstar or two when they’ve played too many games in a row.

But Stern, like Zeus twirling a bolt of lightning between his fingers, looked down upon the Spurs organization and declared that they would feel his wrath after their dastardly deed.

And true to his overzealous

word, Stern fined the Spurs – one of the classiest organizations in sports – a total of \$250,000.

Stern obviously thought the Spurs were being unfair to the Miami Heat fans that attended the game to watch a battle of NBA titans but were now forced to sit through a certain massacre.

Funny thing is, the Spurs second-sting players actually outplayed Miami and had the lead with 28 seconds left in the game. Miami held on to win 105-100 in a very entertaining game.

If anything, Stern should have fined the Miami Heat for struggling against a virtual B-team.

It’s apparent that Stern’s decision will come

back to haunt him.

The commissioner has set a dangerous precedent. Teams who sit players down after clinching a playoff berth with a week left in the season to avoid possible injuries will also be fined tons of money.

Why not? Stern has made it clear to league members that not playing healthy players is a definite no-no.

And if he doesn’t fine other teams for doing the same thing the Spurs did he’d have a lot of explaining to do.

But he won’t explain it. It’s gotten to the point that he feels he doesn’t have to explain his actions to anyone.

You understand, just like Hugo Chavez, Fidel Castro, Kim Jong Il and Donald Trump.



A sporting view By Mark Vasto

The diamond gates

In the Christian legend, when a person dies they are called up to the big leagues – in this case, Heaven. But, like most things in life, it’s not so simple to get past the gatekeeper, who in this story is St. Peter, one of the original apostles and the first Catholic Pope. It is there that you will be judged.

The upside to the deal is if you get in, you’re there for eternity. The downside means you get sent down to Hell, where you burn in fire and are tortured relentlessly. Again, the

time period being eternity.

Those are some pretty heavy stakes. All I know is, when it’s my turn to appear before St. Peter, I want Marvin Miller by my side. The guy knows a thing or two about breaking out of what would appear to be an eternal contract, and he’s already dealt with the devil that was Charlie Finley.

Miller also is, presumably, already up in the big ball orchard in the sky, having passed away the morning of this writing at the age of 95. Miller

is generally regarded as one of the most important people in baseball history, up there with Hall of Famers Babe Ruth and Jackie Robinson. Unlike those two, however, Miller never swung a bat in a Major League game.

He did, however, swat down some of the most unfair business practices American sports had ever known – namely the lack of arbitration and the unfair application of the reserve clause. It’s hard to believe it now, but there was a time when players were forbidden to have an agent negotiate contracts. Guys like Mickey Mantle and Sandy Koufax had to literally go to their general managers office with hat in hand and take whatever was offered to

them. Further, they believed that they had the right to activate a reserve clause that would keep the player of their choice in bondage for eternity (or at least the end of their career).

Curt Flood became the first free agent in 1972, but for baseball, the levee really broke when Charlie Finley failed to honor his contract with Catfish Hunter. Hunter, considered one of the best pitchers in the league, became a free agent and signed with the Yankees. Spurned, Finley went back to his evil lair and came up with a solution: Let all of the players declare free agency! Open up the floodgates and then owners would again be able to set their price and

keep salaries down.

Chaos is the devil’s tool, and Miller made sure to keep the players union in good graces by staggering free agency, allowing players to receive whatever the market would bear, resulting in the perfect, heavenly, devil-may-care panacea that is today’s game of baseball.

So hats off to Marvin Miller... from the baseball diamond to the pearly gates? Well, he was Jewish, but I think those matters can be sorted out up there. He’s got a pretty solid set of negotiation skills, after all.

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

Classified Ads

LEGALS

CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS

REQUEST FOR BIDS

FOR HOT MIX ASPHALT CONCRETE

ATTN: Sandra Hernandez, City Clerk

CLOSING: DECEMBER 10, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. 124 S. HORIZON BLVD. SOCORRO, TEXAS 79927

The City of Socorro, TX is soliciting bids

for 13,000 tons of Hot Mix Asphalt Concrete (HMAC) specified by the Texas Department of Transportation-Type D, and 1,000 gallons of SS1-H Tac Oil Emulsion, and 1,000 tons of Type-A Grade III base material. The bid shall be on a firm lump sum basis with delivery cost stated separately as an optional service. Bid specifications are available from the City Clerk and all bids must be submitted on official City of Socorro bid forms.

The closing date

for submission is **December 10, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. The bids will be opened publicly and read aloud on December 10, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. at the City Administration Building in Socorro, Texas, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas, 79927.** All submittals must be clearly marked on the lower right hand side corner with your company name and return address on the envelope with the following: **SEALED BID -RFP -FOR HMAC/TAC OIL EMULSION/BASE**

Any proposal received after 2:00 p.m. on the date specified will be unopened. All bids shall be firm offers for a period of thirty days and prices shall be guaranteed for one year from the bid opening. Detailed bid requirements are available at the office of the City Clerk.

The City of Socorro reserves

MATERIALS BID- ATTN: SANDRA HERNANDEZ / CITY CLERK, 124. S. Horizon Blvd, Socorro, Texas 79927.

the right to waive irregularities and to reject all bids.

Sandra Hernandez City Clerk

WTCC: 12-06-12

CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS

REQUEST FOR BIDS

FOR NEW DUMP TRUCK AND NEW BACKHOE

ATTN: Sandra Hernandez, City Clerk

CLOSING: DECEMBER 17,

2012 at 2:00 P.M. 124 S. HORIZON BLVD. SOCORRO, TEXAS 79927

The City of Socorro is soliciting bids for a new 2012-2013 Dump Truck and a new 2012-2013 Backhoe. The equipment is required to be of high adequate warranty and the requirement of the equipment to be Caterpillar, Volvo, Case and/ or John Deere, Talbert and Pitts, or equivalent.

A complete copy of the specifications and requirements

is available from the City of Socorro at 124 S. Horizon Blvd, Socorro, Texas 79927. The closing date for submission is December 17, at 2:00 p.m. All bids must be submitted on official bid forms available from the City Clerk.

The bids will be opened publicly and read aloud on December 17, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. at the City Administration Building in Socorro, Texas, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas, 79927.

All submittals

must be in a sealed envelope clearly marked on the lower left hand side with your company name and return address on the envelope with the following: HEAVY EQUIPMENT BID -ATTN: CITY CLERK.

All prices quoted will remain firm for ninety (90) days from the date and time of the bid opening and will become the contract prices at the time of the award of bid, unless otherwise specified by the City of Socorro.

The City of Socorro reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject all bids.

If you have any further questions feel free to contact Sandra Hernandez /City Clerk at (915) 858-2915.

Sandra Hernandez City Clerk

WTCC: 12-06-12

DRIVER'S ED

5-Star Driving School

1540 Pendale & George Dieter #2

598-1898

Teen Driver's Ed Classes Dec. 3rd, Jan. 7th & Feb. 4th 6HR/TX Mandated License Class(18-24 yrs.) Saturdays 9 am to 3:30 pm

STEEL BUILDINGS

Steel Buildings • Prices Reduced • Wholesale/ Factory offers on discounted deals • Big & Small Source# 18X 800-964-8335

Comix

OUT ON A LIMBBy Gary Kopervas



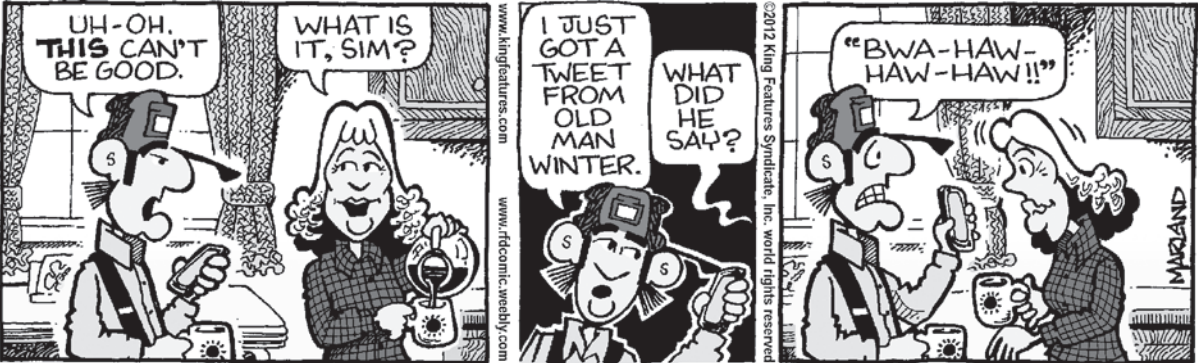
AMBER WAVESBy Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATSBy Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Please advise about the Gardasil vaccine. My granddaughter just turned 18 (to date, no sexual activity—really) and begins college next year. Her doctor is pushing the vaccine for her and for her just-turned-14 sister. I value your common-sense approach to medical issues. What do you recommend? – S.B.

a question about diabetes. My husband has it. He saw a doctor on a television program that said that taking 2 teaspoons of red vinegar at lunch and dinner lowers your blood sugar a lot. Do you think this is true? Should sweetener be added, or water? – N.F.

Without any hesitation, I recommend wholeheartedly the vaccine for protection against the human papillomavirus. It's the virus that causes cervical cancer. Gardasil protects against the most common strains of cancer-causing papillomavirus, strains 16 and 18.

This vaccine is a medical breakthrough. Never has there been a vaccine for protection from any cancer.

Your granddaughters are not too young. The recommendation suggests that the vaccine be given when a girl is 11 or 12, but it can still be given up to age 26.

For best effectiveness, it should be given before a girl has had any sexual encounters. The human papillomavirus is extremely widespread, and exposure to the virus before the vaccine has been given lessens the vaccine's ability to protect against the virus and the cancer it causes.

A second papillomavirus vaccine is also on the market. It's called Cervarix.

The booklet on cervical cancer and Pap smears discusses these topics in greater detail. It does not discuss the vaccines. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 1102W, 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 three to four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I have

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

FRESHENING FRANCHISES ACROSS

1 Fellow crew member

9 Social levels

15 Set of morals

20 Food of the gods

21 Orange-and-black bird

22 Hotel queen

23 Helmsley

24 Camp shelter with a rounded roof

25 1982 Fleetwood Mac hit

26 City on the Rhone River

27 Start of a riddle

29 Skiing need

32 Sterile hosp. areas

33 Make believe

34 Mag. team

35 Riddle, part 2

44 Category

45 Oft-dunked cookie

46 Knocked off

47 "Hava _" (Jewish folk song)

50 12-step affiliate group

52 Neutral, e.g.

54 Certain Scot

55 Riddle, part 3

62 Congeal

63 Here, to Pierre

64 Help wrongly

65 Riddle, part 4

76 Anecdote

77 Roxy Music's Brian

78 " _ Rock" (Simon & Garfunkel hit)

79 Riddle, part 5

89 Guessimate words

90 Gas in lights

91 Nebraska natives

92 Neighbor of Croatia

95 Jury's event

98 "The heat _!"

99 Longoria of TV

102 End of the riddle

106 "Gimme _!" (start of a cheer at Iowa)

108 Cartoon shriek

109 " _ Town"

110 "I do," e.g.

111 Riddle's answer

120 Part of POW

121 City in southwest Ireland

122 "Get Smart" star

126 _-Turkish War

127 Some fishers

128 Optometric exams

129 Paint coat

130 Can't stand

131 Sudden drop

DOWN

1 Doleful

2 Doc bloc

3 Big name in early

PCs

4 Before a big early

20th-cen. conflict

5 Light-loving insect

6 Cruising

7 Color shade

8 Scarfs down

9 Accomplices

10 Stimulation

11 Window component

12 Rundgren or Bridges

13 Tickled red

14 Muppet

15 Spotted in the vicinity of

15 Hyundai model

16 Byte beginner

17 Of detective Sherlock

18 " _ some advice"

19 Houses, to Jorge

27 Tillage tool

28 Inflation subj.

29 Biol. or zool.

30 Bobby Orr's org.

31 With 113-Down, acorn producer

36 _ me tangere (touch-me-not)

37 Port near Algiers

38 _ shui

39 Carrot, e.g.

40 Othello's betrayer

41 Gladly

42 Speak sharply to

43 Waffle brand

48 Grassy tract

49 Wholly

50 High: Prefix

51 Film style

53 Yank rivals

55 Learning loc.

56 1960s TV Tarzan

Ron

57 Kirk's diary

58 M.Sgt., e.g.

59 Cube's six

60 Home: Abbr.

61 Erwin of early films

66 King James Bible suffix

67 Rural "uh-uh"

68 Personal flair

69 Old Spanish money

70 Pa's bro

71 North Pacific salmon

72 Smokes

73 Old witch

74 _ Darya River

75 Singer Cooke

79 Irrate crowd

80 Spanish gold

81 Ill-fated 1940s warship

82 "Sula" author Morrison

83 Tooted thing

84 Camelot wife

85 Discharge

86 Seattle loc.

87 Flapjack eatery,

briefly

88 Mama's ma

93 Not correct

94 To _ (perfectly)

96 Penitent types

97 Least soft

99 Pindar's H

100 Dog treat

101 Eruption emission

103 Did an axel

104 Sky sphere

105 Laid turf on

106 Seething

107 U.S.-Can.-Mex. pact

112 Cube of hay

113 See 31-Down

114 Desist

115 Sheltered, nautically

116 Garden west of Nod

117 Vary wildly

118 Billfold fillers

119 _ the Great (kiddie-lit detective)

123 "A Fool Such _"

124 "Jersey Shore" ainer

125 Compass dir.

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				
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65					66	67	68	69				70	71				72	73	74	75
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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						

Answer Page 4

Moore Texas by Roger Moore Texas was dry in 1956...only 1.76 inches all YEAR in Wink for example. Farmers were watching for any rain signs.



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.

	-		x		21
x		x		-	
	-		x		12
-		+		x	
	÷		+		11
21		11		8	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

Medicare still starts at age 65

If you're in your sixties, you probably know that the age to receive full retirement benefits has changed. But it's important to remember that the age to begin receiving Medicare has not – it is still 65. Even if you have decided to wait until after you are age 65 to apply for retirement benefits, most people should start getting Medicare coverage at age 65.

If you would like to begin your Medicare coverage when you first become eligible, we suggest that you apply within three months of reaching age 65. You can do it online in as little as 10 minutes at www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly.

At the website, you'll find more than just the online Medicare application. You'll also find

information about Medicare, and have the opportunity to watch some short videos about applying for Medicare online. One is a family reunion for the cast of *The Patty Duke Show*. In another, Patty Duke and George Takei go boldly where you should be going – online.

Why go online to apply for Medicare? Because it's fast, easy, and secure. You don't need an appointment and you can avoid waiting in traffic or in line. As long as you have ten minutes to spare, you have time to complete and submit your online Medicare application.

People who started receiving Social Security retirement or disability benefits before age 65 do not need to apply; they will be automatically enrolled in Medicare.

There is no additional charge for Medicare hospital insurance (Part A) since you already paid for it by working and paying Medicare tax. However, there is a monthly premium for medical insurance (Part B). If you already have other health insurance when you become eligible for Medicare, you should consider whether you want to apply for the medical insurance. To learn more about Medicare and some options for choosing coverage, read the online publication, Medicare, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html or visit www.Medicare.gov.

To learn more about applying for Medicare Only using the online application, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly.

Q: I'm doing more things online, including shopping and paying bills. What are some things I can do at www.socialsecurity.gov?

A: Perhaps the most important thing you can do is to take a look at your Social Security Statement, which allows you to check your earnings record and get an estimate

of your future benefits. Revisit your Statement annually, around your birthday for example. If you're ready to apply for benefits, you can do that online as well. Applying for Social Security retirement benefits online can take as little as 15 minutes. Once you've submitted your electronic applications, in most cases, you're done! Also online, you

can find more than 100 publications with information about Social Security and its programs. Most of these publications are in Spanish, and some of the most popular are available in 14 other languages. You also can estimate your future retirement benefit using our Retirement Estimator, which allows you to get personalized estimates based on different retirement ages and scenarios. The possibilities are endless at www.socialsecurity.gov.

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: L equals A

QAJMYV LWYCJ L BLXI EZY
MYVVCSEFQ EAJZ FBVQ, VLGBFQ
LSX WAPMZEFQ:

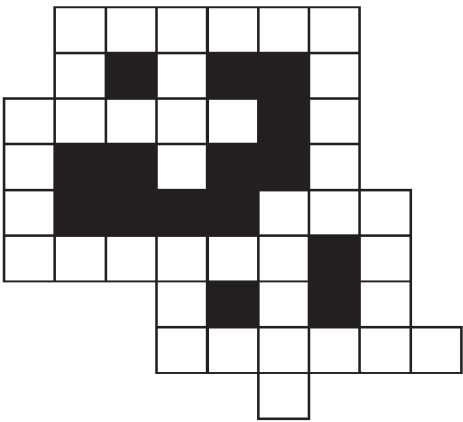
"JPFF'Q MYVGLSI."

Answer Page 4

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MUE
♥IRNGOG
DUBIL
♥LIDA
DEHBLE
♥NBA
MEHL
INUNE
♥MDI
HEEMUX
♥CAMOH
NBGU



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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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Q: Are Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits subject to federal income tax?

A: No. SSI payments are not subject to federal taxes. If you get SSI, you will not receive an annual form SSA-1099 from Social Security. However, your Social Security benefits may be subject to income tax. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Q: I usually get my benefit payment on the third of the month. But what if the third falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday? Will my payment be late?

A: Just the opposite. Your payment should arrive early. For example, if you usually get your payment on the third of a month, but it falls on a Saturday like it does this November, we will make payments on Friday, November 2. Find more information about the payment schedule for 2012 at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/calendar.htm. If you do ever miss a payment, be sure to wait three days before calling to report it missing. Of course, if you get your payments electronically, you'll get your payment without having to wait for the mail. Find out more about electronic payments at www.godirect.org.

For more information on any of the information above, visit www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.