



NEWSBRIEFS

Money for college

El Paso Community College (EPCC) partners with UTEP, the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce and ADP in “Educating Our Community as a Community.” During February and March business volunteers join financial aid officers from EPCC and UTEP to visit area high schools and assist students in filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Beginning February 4, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m., financial aid experts will visit the computer labs of 41 schools to answer questions and help students and parents complete a FAFSA. Filling out FAFSA increases your chances of enrolling in college by 350%. Every year billions of dollars are available in federal grants, work – study, and loans to millions of students to help pay for college or career school by making it possible and affordable. For a complete list of the days that schools will be visited, go to www.epcc.edu.

– Jim Heiney

Fighting hunger

El Paso Community College (EPCC) Student Arts Council and Culinary Arts Program are teaming up with El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank to present the annual “Empty Bowls El Paso.” This event takes place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9 at the EPCC Administrative Services Center Building A, 9050 Viscount Blvd. For a \$20 donation, participants receive a one-of-a-kind bowl to keep created by EPCC art students and community volunteers. Guests also may enjoy soups and breads prepared by EPCC culinary students. All the money raised goes to El Pasoans Fighting Hunger. Empty Bowls events are held across the country raising money for local hunger relief organizations. One in four children and adults in El Paso are food insecure. That is more than 135,000 children and 85,000 adults experiencing hunger in our community today. For more information visit www.elpasoansfightinghunger.org.

– Jim Heiney

Collision techs

Traffic mishaps occur daily, so there’s always a demand for talented collision repair technicians who can make damaged vehicles look like new again. El Paso Community College and Workforce Development invites individuals who want to learn how to repair dented and damaged vehicles to enroll in the college’s Auto Basic Refinishing Program. In four months, through lectures, demonstrations and hands-on experience, the program’s certified instructors will teach students the skills to restore damaged vehicles

See BRIEFS, Page 5

It is usually best to be generous with praise, but cautious with criticism.

– Quips & Quotes



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

JOINING CLINT? – Dirt work has begun on Tropicana Homes plans to build about 250 single-family homes and a 76-unit apartment complex on farm land located between the recently-completed Clint High School and the new U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Station along Highway 20. The homes will probably be priced at about \$125,000 and the apartments will rent for around \$550 according to the developer. The site is under consideration for annexation by the Town of Clint.

Clint officials consider annexation requests

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CLINT – Town of Clint officials are contemplating annexing about 82 acres of land including John and Staci Witte’s one acre plot, Waynelle and James Strachan’s 11-acre farm, and Tropicana Development’s nearly 62-acre subdivision.

The three landowners submitted individual requests in November to have their property voluntarily annexed by the Town of Clint. A series of public hearings were originally scheduled to be held in February for the purpose of receiving public comments concerning the requests but were cancelled recently.

The Town of Clint cancelled the public hearings on the proposed initiation of annexation proceedings to allow for revisions

in certain property descriptions, according to the town’s legal counsel.

State law requires that municipalities hold at least two public meetings before deliberating on any annexation issues.

“We needed to revise the description of the property to be annexed to better describe the portion of Herring Road that is included in the annexation and have that new description be included in the notice that is published. Just a clerical correction, but we have to now postpone the hearings to get it done,” stated Town of Clint Attorney Elaine S. Hengen, of the Bojorquez Law Firm.

According to Clint Mayor Dale Reinhardt, the proposed annexation is a unique case because the landowners are voluntarily requesting annexation and all of the property in consideration is currently agricultural land – there are no residents except for one

household, which is the Strachan’s home.

However, a local homebuilder said that plans are underway to build a neighborhood with affordable homes and apartments on one of the parcels of land being considered for annexation by Clint’s town council.

Bobby Bowling IV, president of Tropicana Homes, said that plans are to build about 250 single-family homes and a 76-unit apartment complex on their land that is located between the recently completed Clint High School and the new U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Station along Highway 20.

Bowling said that the homes will probably be priced at about \$125,000 and the apartments will rent for around \$550. The Lower Valley Water District will provide the water and sewer services to the

See CLINT, Page 5

Fabens Wildcats lend helping hand

FABENS – On the morning of January 19, 2013 the home of Michelle Colon, in front at right, caught on fire at approximately 4:15 a.m. 911 was called and the Fabens and Clint Volunteer Fire Departments responded to put the fire out before the house was destroyed. The Fabens High School football team was called to help sift through the ashes and recover anything that could be salvaged. Team members helped move everything that could be salvaged over to Michelle Colon’s temporary residence and aided in cleaning up the house where the family of six was relocating. Michelle and family were grateful for the quick response of the team in helping with the clean up and the unselfishness demonstrated by the boys. In the background, left to right, are Fabens Wildcat Football team members Eric Ochoa, Pablo Rangel, Chris Silva, Pedro Barraza, Daniel Gamez, Jorge Anaya, Alonso Casteneda, Jacob Cortez and Gary Dominguez.

– Coach Don Hennigan



Tennis association names Vasquez Coach of the Year

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Over the past several years, tennis has become

a solid sports program for the San Elizario Independent School District in large part due to the commitment of teacher and tennis coach Pete Vasquez. On January 26, the Greater El Paso Tennis Association also

recognized his efforts when they honored Vasquez as the Coach of the Year. This past fall, Coach Vasquez who also teaches at Garcia-Enriquez Middle School led the San Elizario

High School Eagles in capturing the District 2-4A Fall Team Tournament Championship, the team’s 11th consecutive title. He has been at the helm of the tennis program at San Elizario ISD since its inception in 2004.

This is the second time he has been honored with the Greater El Paso Tennis Association (GEPTA) title, which he first earned in 2007. According to Vasquez, being named Coach of



Pete Vasquez

the Year is a true honor because the association usually does not give the award to the same person more than once since there are many deserving tennis coaches in the El Paso area. The award was presented to Vasquez at the association’s annual dinner and meeting held at the Coronado Country Club. GEPTA is a membership group that promotes and develops the sport of tennis in the El Paso region.

Finances

By Jason Alderman

Avoiding tax refund identity fraud

Many people file their income tax returns as early in the year as possible. Some are eager to claim their tax refund right away, while others are simply following their New Year’s resolution not to procrastinate until midnight, April 15. Let me add another good reason to file your taxes right away: tax refund identity fraud.

That’s where someone uses your Social Security number (SSN), birth date and other private information to file a fraudulent income tax return in your name and then pockets the resulting tax refund. Often, a victim’s first clue is a letter from the IRS contesting their legitimate tax return, saying one has already been processed under that name. It can take months – and mounds of paperwork – to unravel the mess.

This scam has proliferated in recent years thanks to a confluence of events:

- There’s a thriving black market in personal information stolen from healthcare facilities, nursing homes, schools, insurance companies and other institutions that require an SSN as identification.
- The IRS is pressured to begin issuing refunds shortly after taxpayers start filing returns in mid-January, even though employers and financial institutions aren’t required

to submit withholding and income documentation until the end of March. Thus, disparities often aren’t caught until months later.

- The growing popularity of electronic filing, where hard-copy documentation (like W-2 and 1099 forms) isn’t required.
- Many people receive refunds via direct deposit and prepaid debit cards. Criminals open and close accounts using bogus addresses long before the theft has been detected.

Thanks to severe budget cuts and chronic understaffing – not to mention constantly playing whack-a-mole with thieves who dream up new schemes – the IRS is hard-pressed to keep up. In one extreme example, the agency issued more than \$3.3 million in refunds for 2,137 tax returns filed to a single address.

But all is not lost. The IRS has significantly beefed up its fraud-prevention efforts. In 2011, they intercepted nearly 262,000 fraudulent tax returns seeking almost \$1.5 billion in refunds related to identity theft. And they now issue special personal identification numbers (PINs) to impacted taxpayers to protect their future tax filings.

So what should you do if you’ve been victimized? Typically, the IRS will send you a notice that:

- More than one tax return for you was filed;
- You have a balance due, refund offset or have had collection actions taken against you for a year in which you didn’t file a return; or
- IRS records indicate you received wages from an employer you don’t recognize. This could indicate that someone has used your personal information to get a job.

If you receive such a notice, don’t ignore it. Complete an Identity Theft Affidavit (IRS Form 14039 at www.irs.gov) and return it with a copy of the notice to the address provided on the notice. If you did not receive a notice but believe you may be at risk, the form contains separate submission instructions.

The IRS’s Identity Theft Protection website (www.irs.gov/uac/Identity-Protection) includes tons of helpful information, including ways to tell whether your identity may have been stolen, how to report a breach and tips to avoid identity theft.

And finally, file your tax return as early as possible to beat potential scammers to the punch. If you owe money, you can always file your return now and mail the payment by the April 15 deadline.

Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs.

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Are you an MVP?

The Department of Veterans Affairs has been working on a huge database to study how genes affect health. The project is going to be huge when finished. The VA Office of Research & Development has now passed the 100,000 mark in the number of volunteer veterans who have signed up to be part of the program. Within the next six years, it expects more than 1 million veterans to sign up. The Million Veteran Program (MVP) is designed to be a database accessible by researchers who are studying all the diseases and illnesses that have struck veterans through the years: diabetes, cancer, post traumatic stress disorder, heart disease and others. The goals are to learn new ways of treating and preventing illnesses, discover why certain individuals are more prone to developing certain diseases and to study why certain medicines work better than others. Participation is easy. You’ll fill out a form, allow access to your VA medical records, provide a blood sample, take a test for grip

strength and lung function, and not much more. For more information, go online to www.research.va.gov/MVP. Additionally, there’s a video at the site if you want to learn more about MVP. Privacy is a big deal. No researcher will have access to your name, address, birth date or Social Security number. They’ll use bar codes on your samples so you’re not identified. Insurance companies won’t have any access to the data. There are 40 sign-up locations across the country, listed and linked on the website. If you receive health care at one of those sites, you can schedule an appointment by calling 1-866-441-6075, or talk to your local clinic. A study visit only takes about 20 minutes. Will you be one of the million who helps this project?

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

VS. TULANE

FEBRUARY 2ND • 7 PM

VS. RICE

FEBRUARY 6TH • 7 PM

Hilton Garden Inn

KFOX14

KISS-FM

KLAQ

600 AM

TICKETS: 915.747.5234

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

CONFERENCE USA

CHAMPIONS

VS. TULSA

JANUARY 31ST • 7:05 P.M.

VS. SMU

FEBRUARY 3RD • 1:05 P.M.

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

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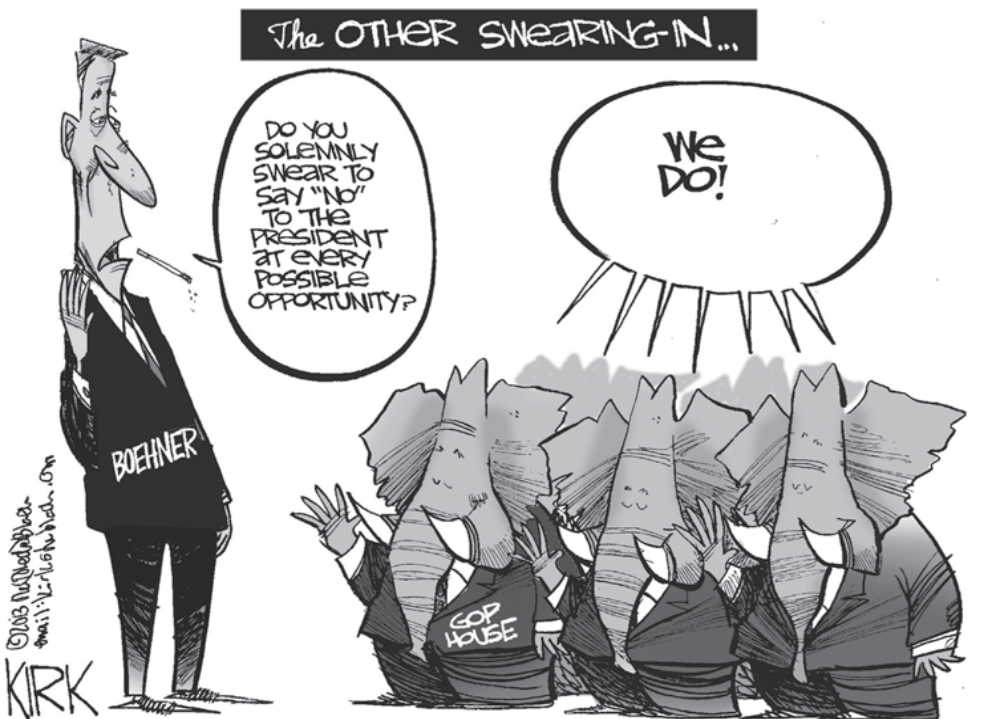
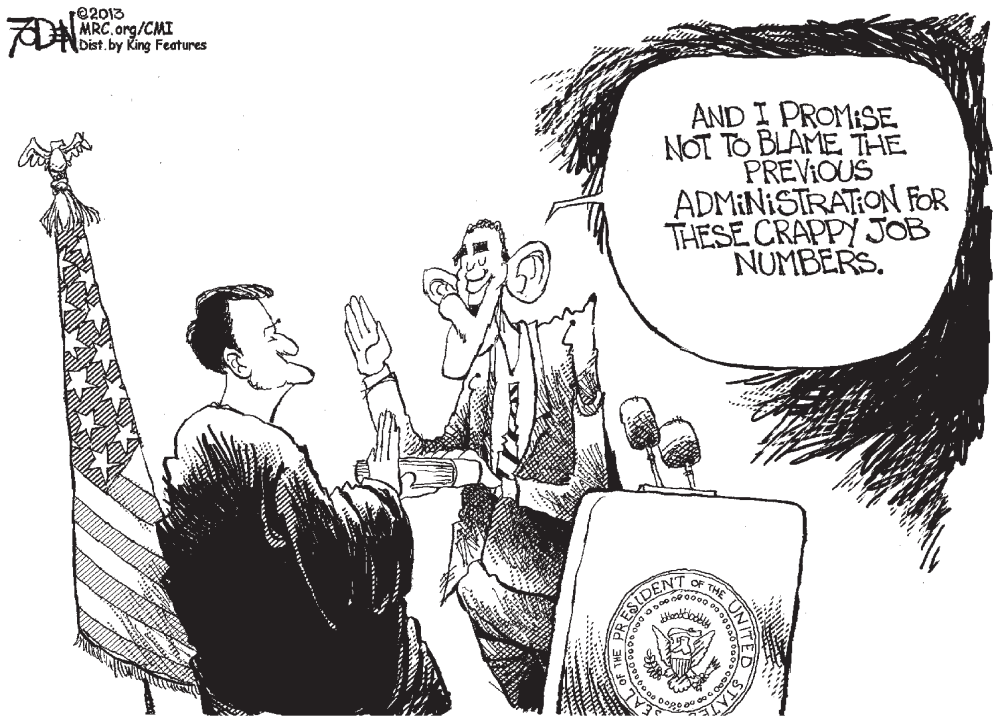
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View from here By Peggy Venable

Texas School Security District Act just another tax

TEXAS – A coalition of conservative groups, Americans for Prosperity, Empower Texans, and Texas Public Policy Foundation, [are opposed] to the Texas School District Security Act.

The recently proposed Texas School District Security Act is an example of well-intentioned legislation that appeals to the emotions of lawmakers and citizens but will prove ineffective.

School shootings are horrendous and every taxpayer wants kids safe in schools. However, citizens should realize that the proposed legislation is a tax increase that is not going to make their schools safer.

Taxpayers are already paying for security in every city and county across the state. And, while it may not seem like it due to the massive media attention, statistically, school violence has been declining since its peak in 1993.

Whether the Texas School District Security Act provides for a sales-taxing or a property-taxing jurisdiction, creation of new special purpose taxing districts will not increase school safety. Instead, it will heap one more tax on hard-working Texans already facing a proliferation of these special purpose districts.

According to Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' report *Taxing Facts*, the biggest

increase in property taxing entities in the past two decades has been special purpose districts. We currently have more than 4,000 property taxing entities in Texas.


Special purpose districts (SPD's) have accounted for 67 percent of the growth in local entities levying sales tax since 1993, comprising 6 percent of these entities in 2002 and 13.1 percent in 2011.

SPD sales tax collections grew by more than 1,700 percent between 1993 and 2011 as the number of SPDs increased from 9 to 193.

Your Money and Local Debt, another Texas Comptroller report, revealed that local government debt has more than doubled from 2001 to 2011, with the biggest percentage of increase in debt in special purpose districts.

Taxing entities are proliferating in Texas. We don't need another one to protect our kids.

AmericansforProsperity(AFP)isanationwide organization of citizen-leaders committed to advancing every individual's right to economic freedom and opportunity. AFP believes reducing the size and intrusiveness of government is the best way to promote individual productivity and prosperity for all Americans. For more information, visit www.americansforprosperity.org.




CAREER EXPO 2013

Learn About EPCC Programs and Find Your Dream Career

Wednesday, February 13, 2013
9:00am-11:30am
VV Cafeteria Annex

The El Paso County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.



Archives: www.wtxcc.com

By Gustavo Reveles Acosta
Special to the Courier

Officials with the search firm helping the CISD Board members find candidates also will meet with students, employees, parents, business leaders, community organizers and other groups with interest in the success of the District.

By Brent Annear
Special to the Courier

“Protect your family, yourself, and those around you. Get a flu vaccination. It is safe and effective,” said Terk.

By Ashley Schmidt
Special to the Courier

“Clearly Texans think that putting a stop to the high interest and fees that trap Texans in a

In 2011, the Texas Legislature took an initial step towards meaningful reform for the first time in a decade. House Bills 2592 and 2594 established basic licensing, reporting and regulation. But they fell short in addressing the cycle of debt these loans create.

For many cities and counties across Texas, this just wasn't enough. Austin, Dallas, El Paso and San Antonio have taken measures into their own hands by enacting ordinances to rein in payday lending and protect their residents.

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Briefs

From Page 1

to original manufacturer’s specifications. Students learn the ins and outs of auto body construction, surface prep, dent repair, painting, cutting and welding. The program also offers externships to students at various auto collision centers throughout the city. “El Paso needs a program like this, because it’s getting more difficult to find qualified body repair technicians and painters. Business is increasing as people hang on to their cars longer,” said Johnny Hinojos, from the Advanced Auto Collision Center in El Paso. To enroll in the program or for more information, please call 831-7825/7756.

– Javier Sánchez

Texas on top

Business Facilities magazine has again named Texas its State of the Year, citing the aggressive economic development strategies that have helped attract jobs and investment to the Lone Star State. “Employers the world over continue to look to Texas as the epicenter of job creation thanks to our conservative fiscal principles of low taxes, reasonable regulations, fair courts and promoting a skilled workforce,” Gov. Perry said. “We will continue proactively reaching out to employers

and individuals to tell the Texas success story, and working to keep our state the land of freedom and opportunity for families and businesses.” In addition to our strong and diverse energy industry, the magazine cited growth in several sectors, including manufacturing and high tech industries, such as biotechnology, that are supported by Texas’ world-class universities. The study also noted Texas’ growing population and strong infrastructure as a factor in its success. “Texas is our 2012 State of the Year because it without a doubt has the most dynamic economy of any state in the nation,” *Business Facilities* Editor in Chief Jack Rogers said. “The job-producing engine in the Lone Star State barely sputtered during the Great Recession, bouncing back over pre-Recession levels faster than anywhere else in the U.S.”

– Catherine Frazier

Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers of El Paso is assisting the El Paso Police Department in identifying and

locating the person or persons responsible for continuous thefts from apartment complexes throughout the city, making this the “Crime of the Week.” More than \$40,000 in money orders and checks have been stolen from various apartment complexes throughout the city. Investigators from the El Paso Police Department are asking for your assistance in finding those responsible through Crime Stoppers. Since December 1 to the middle of December 2012, various thefts took place at apartment complexes throughout the city. In all of these cases, the suspects used different items to fish out envelopes containing checks for rent from drop-boxes. The suspects, after obtaining the checks and money orders, would alter the “pay-to” line to different false names and cash them at various locations. As a result more than \$40,000 has been taken by altering the checks and money orders. Several of the thefts are believed to have occurred during weekends and during night-time hours. Investigators believe residents may have seen

the suspects and are asking for help from the public to find the perpetrators. If you have any information at all about the identity of the person or persons involved in this crime, please call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-TIPS(8477) or submit your tip online at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you may earn a cash reward up to \$1,000.

– James Klaes

Wanted

Jose Alberto Rivera (aka Jose Alvarez and Alberto Alvarez), 35, is this week’s Manhunt Monday fugitive. He is 6’ tall and weighs 310 pounds. He has black hair, brown eyes and multiple tattoos on his chest and right arm. On Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012 Rivera and an accomplice violently assaulted a man in San Elizario. During the course of the incident Rivera displayed a handgun as he threatened the victim. Luckily the victim managed to escape by waiving down an oncoming

vehicle. Rivera’s accomplice was arrested a week later at one of El Paso’s International Ports of Entry attempting to enter



Jose A. Rivera

the United States. Customs and Border Protection Officials turned the individual over to Sheriff’s Detectives. Details later released by Sheriff’s officials indicated this Aggravated Assault incident was drug related and had reason to believe Rivera had fled south of the Border to Juarez, Mexico. Rivera knows he is still wanted and remains on the run. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Rivera 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 Rivera.

– Deputy Jesse Tovar

Clint

From Page 1

proposed annexation property.

Clint is a large farming community about 19 miles east of El Paso and part of the El Paso Metropolitan Statistical Area. The town was incorporated in 1974 and encompasses a total area of approximately two square miles, and the 2010 census reported a population of 926 inhabitants.

According to Bowling, the annexation of the imminent Tropicana housing development is a win-win situation for both the Town of Clint and his company. “We’ve been negotiating with town officials for nearly a year, and we were able to come to mutual agreements.”

Bowling said that the new housing development would add property taxes, as well as annexation fees on every lot, to the town’s coffers. In addition, the builders will use third party state-licensed inspectors to ensure compliance with state and county building codes, thereby relieving Clint of the inspection process burden. And, Tropicana will incorporate park with ponding areas and two commercial property sites as part of the new neighborhood.

In return, the town will provide police services and park and street maintenance to the new community, according to Hengen. She added that town officials are still in the process of developing a service plan document to identify issues that will need to be addressed if the annexation proposal is approved.

The public hearings on the proposed voluntary annexation requests by the three landowners will probably be re-scheduled for March, stated the town’s attorney.

Clint Independent School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended August 31, 2012

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 11,090,719	\$ 3,030,267	\$ 119,681	\$ 279,421	\$ 14,520,088
5800 State Program Revenues	67,572,033	6,939,943	–	1,393,496	75,905,472
5900 Federal Program Revenues	8,127,963	–	–	9,685,968	17,813,931
5020 Total Revenues	86,790,715	10,269,459	119,681	11,358,885	108,239,491
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	43,485,165	–	724,542	8,736,326	52,946,033
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	1,034,843	–	–	7,626	1,042,469
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	139,471	–	–	324,849	464,320
0021 Instructional Leadership	1,632,078	–	–	919,485	2,551,563
0023 School Leadership	5,529,334	–	204,236	343,080	6,076,650
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,827,264	–	–	800,250	2,627,514
0032 Social Work Services	218,113	–	–	–	218,113
0033 Health Services	809,363	–	403	–	809,766
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	2,796,328	–	476,185	–	3,272,513
0035 Food Services	7,880,389	–	–	131,699	8,012,088
0036 Extracurricular Activities	2,382,132	–	45,956	3,670	2,431,758
0041 General Administration	3,186,588	–	–	7,487	3,194,075
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	9,312,645	–	1,019,999	–	10,332,644
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	2,008,309	–	–	14,173	2,022,482
0053 Data Processing Services	1,364,103	–	390	25,976	1,390,469
0061 Community Services	110,370	–	–	43,789	154,159
Debt Service:					
0071 Debt Service - Principal on Long Term Debt	–	5,376,400	–	–	5,376,400
0072 Debt Service - Interest on Long Term Debt	–	5,901,250	–	–	5,901,250
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	–	185,092	–	–	185,092
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	227,709	–	16,683,150	–	16,910,859
Intergovernmental					
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	216,625	–	–	–	216,625
6030 Total Expenditures	84,160,829	11,462,742	19,154,861	11,358,410	126,136,842
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	2,629,886	(1,492,532)	(19,035,180)	475	(17,897,351)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7901 Refunding Bonds Issued	–	8,979,998	–	–	8,979,998
7915 Transfers In	21,141	–	–	–	21,141
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	–	859,841	–	–	859,841
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	–	–	–	(21,141)	(21,141)
8940 Payment to Bond Refunding Escrow Agent (Use)	–	(9,653,719)	–	–	(9,653,719)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	21,141	186,120	–	(21,141)	186,120
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	2,651,027	(1,306,412)	(19,035,180)	(20,666)	(17,711,231)
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	23,195,315	1,704,665	22,891,568	116,949	47,908,497
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 25,846,342	\$ 398,253	\$ 3,856,388	\$ 96,283	\$ 30,197,266

Harbaugh brothers make history in the Super Bowl

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

With all due respect to New Year’s Eve, St. Patrick, Fourth of July and Spring Break, the biggest party of the year is coming up this Sunday and everybody is getting ready for it.

Of course I’m talking about the Super Bowl.

This year’s Super Bowl is in New Orleans and takes on some added significance because it’s the first time two coaching brothers will be on opposing sides of the field as opponents.

The San Francisco 49ers, led by Jim Harbaugh, and the Baltimore Ravens, led by John Harbaugh, should make for an interesting match-up because just like you would think, their coaching philosophies are very similar.

Which could make for one of those last-second victories by either team.

Both brothers preach a hard-hitting brand of football, led by the running game and aggressive hard-nosed defenses.

Naturally, the Harbaugh brothers’ saga alone will make this one of the most memorable Super Bowls of all time. But neither brother will take the field.

And even though these two guys love each other, there has to be a winner and a loser.

So which brother will always have these super bragging rights over the other? Let’s investigate.

Both teams were expected to be in the running for the big game so the fact that they got here doesn’t surprise anyone.

Remember, they both advanced to their respective conference championships a year ago, but both lost.

On the field, the most intriguing aspect of this game is the battle between the quarterbacks.

Baltimore’s Joe Flacco has been a good quarterback for five years now but everyone has been waiting for him to make the leap to the next level.

This is his leap. Now is his chance to silence his critics once and for all.

San Francisco’s Colin Kaepernick is just in his second season in the NFL and until he took over for former starter Alex Smith, nobody even knew who Kaepernick was.

Harbaugh took a lot of flack from so-called experts who said he was making the wrong decision going with Kaepernick. Those guys aren’t as vocal about it anymore.

Both passers come into the game on hot streaks. Both are making the right reads and both just look like they’re ready to lead their respective teams to a championship.

Both teams have marquee running backs. The 49ers have Frank Gore and the Ravens have Ray Rice.

Gore rushed for 1,214 yards this season and scored eight touchdowns while Rice gained 1,143 yards and found the end zone nine times.

Both teams have talented receivers who can take a catch anywhere on the field and turn it into an even bigger play.

The 49ers have Michael Crabtree, Vernon Davis and an older but still dangerous Randy Moss.

The Ravens have Anquan Boldin and Torrey Smith. Throw in tight end Dennis Pitta and that’s a rather formidable threesome.

I know the Ravens have the emotional lift of trying to win the championship in Ray Lewis’ final game.

But that kind of enthusiasm lasts for only so long.

The one big difference that definitely goes in the Ravens’ favor is in the kicking game. While San Francisco’s David Akers has totally forgotten how to kick the football, Baltimore’s Justin Tucker connected on 37 of his 39 field goal tries.

Going back to the signal callers, the emergence of Kaepernick has made the 49ers a complete team.

Their former quarterback, Alex Smith, could lead them down the field in baby steps; cautiously driving down the field not making any mistakes.

Kaepernick has the ability with his arm and his legs, to lead the team down the field in big chunks of yardage or on one explosive play.

I believe he will be the difference in the game.

I think the game will be very close in the opening half. But I think that the 49ers’ running game, and Kaepernick’s legs, will gradually wear down the Ravens in the second half.

So the first “Harbowl” will go to Jim and the San Francisco 49ers by the score of 28-17.

Now that you *know* the outcome of the game you can go out and bet the farm on it.

I, however, might be bold enough to invest maybe a buck or two.

(Publisher’s note: Mr. Escajeda’s commentary on the score, betting and investing on the outcome of any sporting event is intended for entertainment and humor only. Gambling on sporting events is illegal in Texas. The Courier does not endorse gambling and is sure that none of its readers would engage in office pools or ...)

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Earl the Pearl

I used to take a lot of heat from my friends in 1989.

While they were all running about willy-nilly on their mopeds, doing truck grinders on their skateboard (which is, without question, the dumbest trick move in all sports) or stealing squares of linoleum so they could break dance all afternoon, I was huddled away in my basement most nights before dinner. For it was there, on my IBM XT personal computer, that baseball history was made on a nightly basis, thanks to Earl Weaver and Earl Weaver Baseball from EA Sports.

Earl Weaver Baseball remains the greatest computer baseball game of

all time. The graphics, of course, can’t compare with today’s games, but they were good enough to get the point across. The baseball had a shadow at least.

But these were the days of the original Atari 2600 consoles. Handheld games like “Blip” and “LED Football” were only a year or two removed from the game play realm of my childhood. Atari had a gazillion games. Granted, they all revolved around “Pong,” but who’s complaining? Its baseball game was a bit of a dud, though. It was almost impossible NOT to hit a home run, so the scores would end up being something like 80-70.

And then there were the kids who had Intellivision. These consoles were typically bought by the rich parents who were too late to the Atari game, so they decided to one-up everybody and move to the next technology. While Intellivision didn’t have the game selection that Atari had and it utilized this wonky, dial-on-a-box type of controller that everyone despised, the games it did have were prized for their graphics. The only game we played in my rich friend’s house was the baseball game.

When we played, we’d pretend that the player had a name. Say, Rod Carew. (Seriously, say it... he could use the shout out.) But there was no difference from one player to the next.

Then along came Earl Weaver Baseball and our cerebrums almost imploded. Real lineups, actual

stadium dimensions, create your own team across all eras, build your own park!

EA Sports, then just a tiny game company, had the insight to marry the designers from the Intellivision game with the most irascible, least likely to lend his name to a computer game in history with Earl Weaver. It was brilliant in that “you’re kidding, right?” way. In the game, the famed Baltimore skipper would offer advice on setting your lineups, fixing your rotation and offer insights, when asked, about the game you were playing.

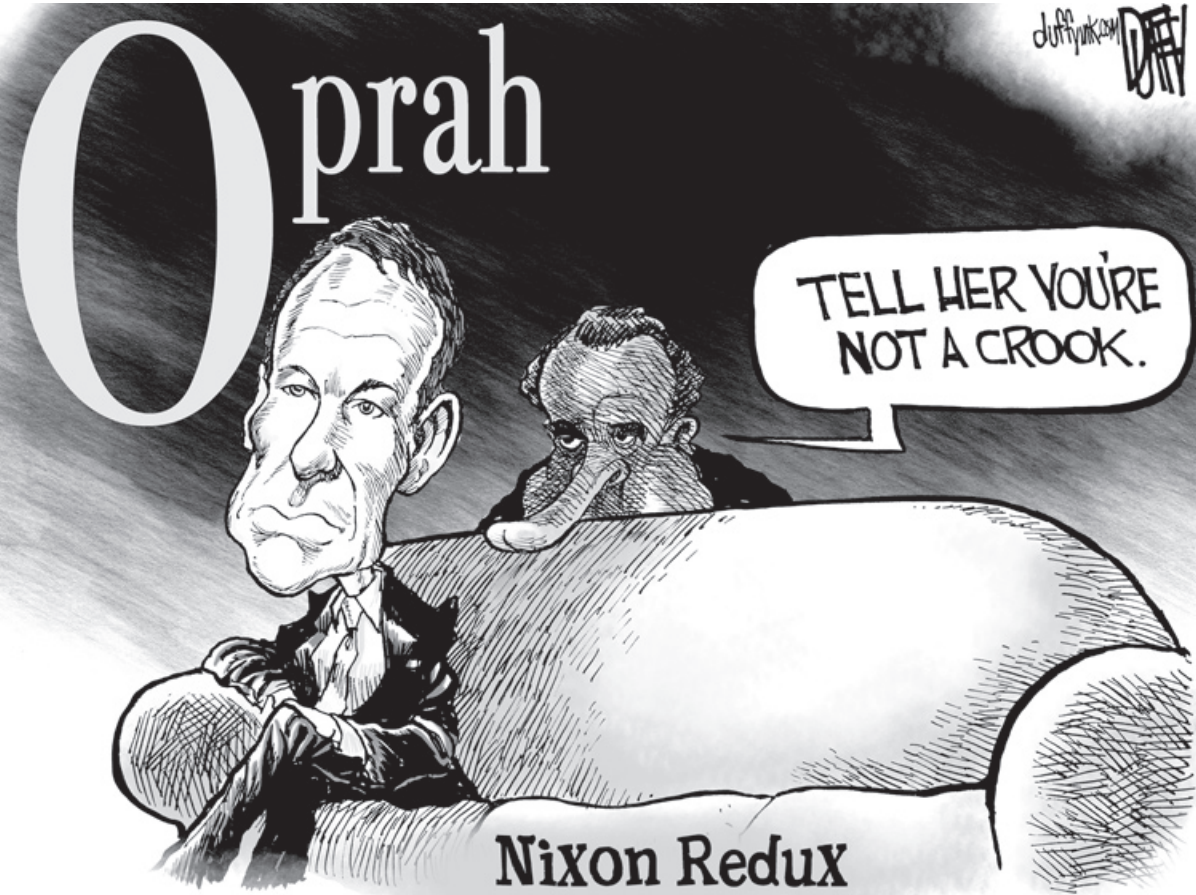
His insight? Do nothing. Do nothing... all the time.

“A bunt is the same thing as an out.” “The hit and run is the worst play in baseball.” “Wait for the three-run homer.”

This game had a manage-only mode. It encouraged you to do nothing. An action-packed game might consist of me pinch-hitting Pete Rose for Orlando Cepeda in the late innings. But it taught me just about everything I know about baseball, and the more I think about it, life.

More on that next week...

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.



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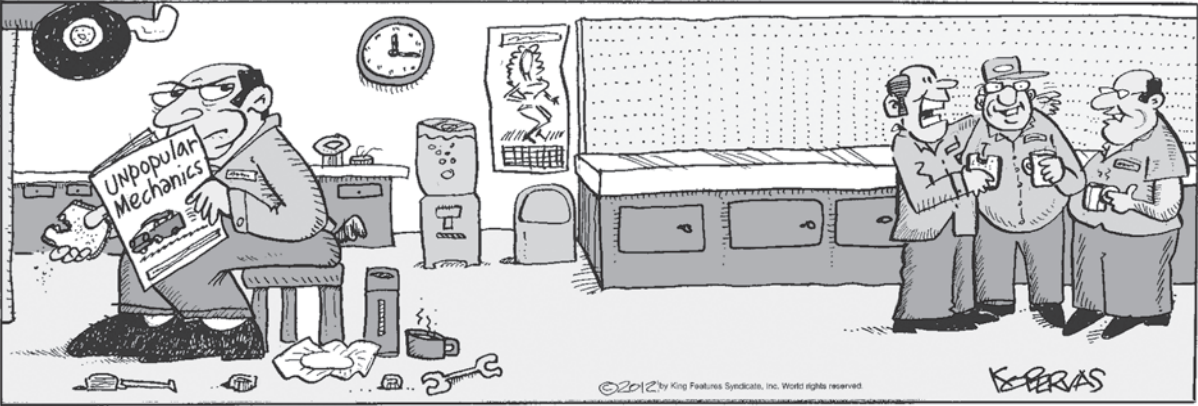
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Your good health

By Paul G. Donahue, M.D.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Two years ago I had shingles, and I now suffer the aftereffects of it. The sores went away in a month, but the stinging, burning, throbbing pain is still with me. I cannot wear clothing over the affected shoulder. No medicines have eased the pain so far. Is there any help? – M.L.

You now are dealing with postherpetic neuralgia, pain that lingers long after the shingles rash has gone. The virus that causes shingles is the same virus that causes chickenpox. Almost every adult on this continent harbors that virus, now called herpes zoster. It lives on in nerve cells.

From time to time, at older ages, it awakens from its hibernation, travels down the nerve to the skin and causes an outbreak of blisters on a red base. The outbreak goes away in about three weeks. Pain can linger for a long time—months, to years. In traveling down the nerve, the virus damaged it.

I can list some of the postherpetic neuralgia medicines. Two are antidepressants – nortriptyline and amitriptyline – given not for depression but for pain relief. Cymbalta (duloxetine) is another antidepressant that can lessen postherpetic pain. Lyrica (pregabalin) is an anti-seizure medicine that’s approved for this problem. Neurontin (gabapentin) is another seizure medicine used for control of the lingering pain of shingles.

Capsaicin lotion, cream or gel (Zostrix, Capsin, R-Gel) is applied directly to the involved skin. A higher concentration of capsaicin comes as a patch that’s applied in the doctor’s office, left on for an hour and then removed. Treatment can be repeated in three months. It’s called Qutenza. Another skin patch is the Lidoderm patch. The latest medicine is Gralise, an extended-release form of gabapentin – Neurontin. It requires fewer doses.

The entire shingles story is covered in the booklet on that topic. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 1201W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient’s printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I get my calcium by drinking milk. I believe natural sources are the best sources of vitamins and minerals. The problem is that whole milk raises my cholesterol. My father died of a heart attack at a young age. Does skim milk have as much calcium as whole milk? – R.T.

Skim milk contains a little more calcium than whole milk. An 8-ounce glass of whole milk has 291 mg of calcium. The same amount of skim milk has 300 mg.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Many months ago, my feet turned numb. The numbness has spread up to my knees. It has made me quite unsteady when I walk. My doctor can’t find a cause or treatment for this. Can you suggest anything? – L.O.

Your description fits peripheral neuropathy, a deterioration of nerve function, often of the leg nerves. The causes for it are many. Frequently, however, a precise cause can’t be determined. You need to make an appointment to see a neurologist as soon as you can.

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) 2013 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

THE FATHER OF ...

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lets go by, as a chance
- 9 Like some eyeglass lenses
- 16 Short race
- 20 Emerge again
- 21 Medium tempo
- 22 Not tricked by
- 23 ... Nuclear
- Physics
- 25 Needle-nosed fishes
- 26 "Grand" instruments
- 27 Speak ill of, in slang
- 28 O.J. Simpson trial judge
- 29 Cuban salsa singer
- 30 People who may share armrests
- 32 ... the Symphony
- 35 McKellen of "Scandal"
- 36 Like the pope: Abbr.
- 37 Become laryngitic
- 38 ... Organized
- Crime
- 44 Wd. with the same meaning
- 45 Luggage screeners' org.
- 46 Lobbies with glass ceilings
- 47 Ease off
- 48 Motor noise
- 50 Señora Perón

- 53 Golfer's first stroke
- 56 ...jongg
- 58 ... Modern China
- 63 S&L options
- 64 TV actress Arthur
- 66 Ease off
- 68 "False!"
- 69 Tantrum
- 70 ... Country Music
- 73 Lady Liberty's land
- 74 Win by _ (barely triumph)
- 76 Clay worker
- 77 Univ. e-mail ending
- 78 Garden of -
- 79 ... History
- 81 Nestlé's _Caps
- 83 Napping audibly
- 85 Wear for a messy meal
- 86 Small inlet
- 88 Employer of many CPAs
- 90 Dorothy, to Em
- 91 Father's Day honorees
- 94 Exam room noises
- 96 ... Modern Genetics
- 100 Tremendous
- 103 Actor Mischa
- 104 "The Raven" penner
- 105 ... Fitness
- 107 Libra
- 113 Shaw of jazz
- clarinet

- 114 Former Ford
- 115 "Either he goes _ go"
- 116 Iroquois tribe
- 117 Early 16th-century year
- 118 ... the United States
- 122 Centuries on end
- 123 Off base with permission
- 124 It offers goods under a canvas shelter
- 125 Hong Kong's Hang _ Index
- 126 Dawdled
- 127 Playful marine mammal
- DOWN**
- 1 Readies, briefly
- 2 Falcon's nest
- 3 Largest city in Yemen
- 4 Exhausted
- 5 Derby city
- 6 Leave port
- 7 Old Egypt-Syr. alliance
- 8 Wisdom
- 9 Cross words
- 10 Suffix with brilliant
- 11 32nd prez
- 12 Dumb and clumsy
- 13 Bill worth 100
- clams
- 14 Waste away
- 15 Was ahead
- 16 Folded-over page corner
- 17 Investment firm

- worker
- 18 Long steps
- 19 Biblical cry of praise
- 24 Scale notes
- 29 Single dance move?
- 31 Fraternity "T"
- 32 First mo.
- 33 "Then again," in a chat room
- 34 Darling
- 36 Supper club
- 38 Queen of rap
- 39 Of the womb
- 40 Maker
- 41 SWAK part
- 42 Slangy approval
- 43 Aptiva maker
- 44 Dirty streak
- 49 New no more
- 51 Vehicles for large families
- 52 _-Z (totally)
- 54 Kobe sash
- 55 Seduce
- 57 Toast starter
- 59 Essentials
- 60 Hit the books
- 61 Very nature
- 62 Hardly the saintly type
- 65 Secret love affairs
- 67 More hokey, as a joke
- 70 "Star Wars" knight
- 71 "Who's there?" reply
- 72 Quick trot
- 75 Cry out loud
- 78 Activist

- Brockovich
- 80 Malia or Sasha
- 82 The "O" of NATO: Abbr.
- 84 Not divided
- 87 "Son of _"
- 89 Clever, specious reasoners
- 91 Crib clothes
- 92 Prize getter
- 93 Division
- 95 Modern Greek
- 97 Mr. _ (old whodunit game)
- 98 Caviar base
- 99 Loggins & _ ("Your Mama Don't Dance" duo)
- 101 Aspen sport
- 102 Bullring holler
- 103 _ Doria (ill-fated liner)
- 106 Bikini Island, e.g.
- 107 Lift syllable
- 108 Italian for "hundred"
- 109 Neurotic worrying
- 110 Unleash upon
- 111 School, in Paris
- 112 More rational
- 115 Fell behind financially
- 118 Zeus or Thor
- 119 Ben_
- 120 Eden exile
- 121 "Te- _!"

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Moore Texas

by Roger Moore Feb 1, 1882:
A groundbreaking ceremony was held for
our present State Capitol building.



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.

DIFFICULTY: ★★ ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		÷		5
×		+		×	
	÷		+		11
÷		÷		÷	
	×		-		6
21		2		3	

1 2 3 4 4 5 6 7 9

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 4

★★★ HOO BOY!

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I applied for a Social Security card for my baby at the hospital, but the card came back with a misspelled name. What should I do?

A: Find at least two original documents proving your child's U.S. citizenship and identity, as well as one proof of your identity as the parent. Then go to your local Social Security office or card center to ask for a corrected card. The documents you show us must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. To find out more, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Q: My aunt is considering applying for Extra Help with Medicare Part D prescription drug costs, but she has about \$10,000 in the bank. Would she still be eligible with this much money?

A: Based on the resources you mentioned, it sounds like she may qualify. However, there are other factors to consider. In most cases, recipients of Extra Help are limited to \$13,070 (or \$26,120 if married and living with a spouse) in resources in 2012. Resources include the value of the things you own, such as real estate (other than the place you live), cash, bank accounts, stocks, bonds and

retirement accounts. To learn more, visit the Medicare link at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Q: Can I delay my retirement benefits and receive benefits as a spouse only? How does that work?

A: It depends on your age. If you are between full retirement age and age 70 and your spouse is receiving Social Security benefits, you can apply for retirement benefits and request the payments be suspended. Then, you can choose to receive benefits on your spouse's Social Security record. You then will earn delayed retirement credits up to age 70, as long as you do not collect benefits on your own work record. Later, when you do begin receiving benefits on your own record, those payments could very well be higher than they would have been otherwise, because you earned delayed retirement credits.

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

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: U equals O

LO ZUP KUB'Y JTZ YUU XPVG
OUN VTNBLQTC ETXFD, YGFB L
DPJJUDF ZUP'QF EUYYFB T

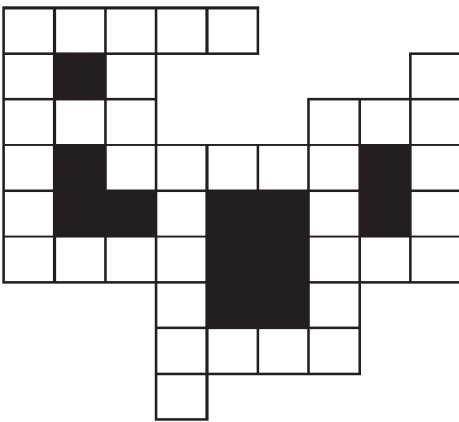
OTLN KFTC.

Answer Page 4

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KTI
FREEBO
TONUS
BUCL
LASCRA
♥NSI
♥AARJ
MORBO
♥OFR
SKOREM
CANBO
♥SMUE



Answer Page 4

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

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was Simon Cameron, who served as secretary of war under President Abraham Lincoln, who made the following sage observation: "An honest politician is one who, when he is bought, will stay bought."

• You might not be surprised to learn that some people who play video games can become rather obsessed. In 2007, one such person, a 45-year-old gamer, used a Japanese sword to rob a lingerie shop. He was apprehended, and when he was put on trial, he told the judge that at the time of the robbery he believed he was a female elf.

• It's common knowledge that methane, a greenhouse gas, contributes to the rise in global temperatures. It's less well-known, however, that 20 percent of the world's methane emissions comes from livestock and their, well... emissions.

• Many professional matchmakers say that one should never date a person who is younger than half one's age, plus seven years.

• The average human walks approximately 100,000 miles in the course of a lifetime. If that walking were done in a straight line on the equator, you would circle the Earth four times.

• In the early 1990s, a couple in Milwaukee was curious about the value of a painting they had displayed in their home, so they invited an art expert to evaluate the piece. The painting in question turned out to be of little relative value, but the expert noticed another work, a still life with flowers, that the owners believed to be a reproduction of a Van Gogh. Imagine this couple's surprise when the work turned out to be an original 1886 painting, which later sold at auction for \$1.4 million.

Thought for the Day: "A bride at her second wedding does not wear a veil because she wants to see what she is getting."

— Anonymous

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