

## NEWSBRIEFS

### EPCC musical

El Paso Community College (EPCC) Theater Ensemble begins this year with the classic musical *Godspell*. The play will be performed at 8:00 p.m. on February 28, March 1, 2, 7, 8 and a 2:30 p.m. special matinee on Sunday, March 3rd in the EPCC Transmountain Forum Theater, 9570 Gateway North. General admission is \$15, \$7 for EPCC staff, students and seniors and \$10 for non-EPCC students and military. Tickets are available at the door beginning one hour before show time. *Godspell* is directed by EPCC award-winning instructor, Keith Townsend; music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz; and book by John Michael Tebelak. The musical is based on a series of parables from the Gospel of Matthew. For more information on *Godspell*, contact the Transmountain Forum Theater at 831-5056.

— Jim Heiney

### Texas top exporter

Texas is ranked as the number one exporting state for the 11th year in a row, according to 2012 annual trade data released by the U.S. Department of Commerce. “The fact that Texas is ranked the nation’s top exporter for the 11th year in a row further demonstrates that our strong economic climate provides a broad range of opportunities for businesses to succeed,” Gov. Perry said. “Our longstanding commitment to holding the line on taxes, keeping our workforce strong, and maintaining reasonable regulations and fair courts has led to more than a decade of leading the nation in exports.” Texas exports for 2012 totaled \$265 billion, a 5.4 percent increase from \$251 billion in 2011 and outperformed overall U.S. exports, which only grew by 4.3 percent to \$1.54 trillion. The state’s top export recipients were Mexico, Canada, China, Brazil, and the Netherlands, which respectively imported \$94.8 billion, \$23.7 billion, \$10.3 billion, \$10.0 billion, and \$9.5 billion in Texas-manufactured goods. Additionally, Texas’ top exporting industries in 2012 were petroleum and coal products, chemicals, computer and electronic products, non-electrical machinery, and transportation equipment.

— Lucy Nashed

### Wanted

Marco Tobon, 18, who also uses Marco Caulti, is this week’s Manhunt Monday



Marco Tobon

Most Wanted Fugitive. He is 5’9” tall, weighs 115 pounds, and has brown hair and eyes. He is wanted for multiple car burglaries in the El Paso area. Tobon was arrested in

See BRIEFS, Page 5

*To avoid trouble and insure safety, breathe through your nose. It keeps your mouth shut.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Hazardous waste site still presents danger



— Photo by Robert Grijalva

**MAKING PREPARATIONS** – Fire Marshall Roger Garza (left) and Fireman Frank Guillen review reports of the tire and waste dump and discuss possible access routes to the site.

By Robert Grijalva  
Special to the Courier

Despite the passage of three years, a massive scrap tire dump in far east El Paso County still remains unchanged. This illegal depository of tires and solid waste poses a great fire hazard as well as a health hazard for the residents in the Horizon and Clint areas.

The dump was discovered in November of 2009 by an enforcement officer with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). A daylong investigation of the property resulted in an estimate of 19,000 tires. Additionally, the property was collecting, handling, storing, processing and disposing of industrial and municipal waste.

The worst possible scenario for public health and environmental safety would be a fire with the tire fueling the flames. Tire fires, if not distinguished quickly, will burn extremely hot and will be almost impossible to put completely out. Fires at larger tire dumps have

continued burning for weeks.

A fire would produce toxic smoke endangering the population for miles. The presence of the industrial and municipal waste would add another level of toxicity.

TCEQ has over the past three years implemented all of its resources under Texas law to hold the landowner accountable. Because there are no criminal violations for accumulating such a hazard, the only accountability was through civil processes. The owner has no financial means by which a cleanup could be financed.

According to information from TCEQ, the conditions at the property continue to worsen. Squatters are apparently occupying the medium sized home located there. Signs of parties and firearms practice have been discovered. Other than a lightning strike, only human carelessness could start a fire. Understandably, there is a greater

See HAZARD, Page 3

## New study shows how to identify great teachers

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

*“This is not about accountability. It’s about providing the feedback every professional needs to strive towards excellence.”*

— Tom Kane, Professor of Education and Economics at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education and leader of the MET project

Classroom observations, student surveys, and student achievement gains are the measures by which teachers should be evaluated, according to a recently-released research report called the Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) project. MET was a three-year study designed to determine how to best identify and promote great teaching. MET researchers now claim that the project demonstrates that it is possible to identify great teaching by combining these three types of measures.

The study shows that “Teaching is complex, and great practice takes time, passion, high-quality materials, and tailored feedback designed to help each teacher continuously grow and improve,” stated Vicki Phillips, Director of Education, College Ready – U.S. Program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in a recent news report.

“Teachers have always wanted better feedback, and the MET project has highlighted tools like student surveys and observations that can allow teachers to take control of their own development. The combination of those measures and student growth data creates actionable information that teachers can trust,” Phillips stated.

The project’s findings show that a more balanced approach – which incorporates

the student survey data and classroom observations – has two important advantages: ratings are less likely to fluctuate from year to year, and the combination is more likely to identify teachers with better outcomes on assessments other than the state tests.

The report also provides guidance on the best ways to achieve reliable classroom observations. Many school districts currently require observations by a single school administrator. The report recommends

averaging observations from more than one observer, such as another administrator in a school or a peer observer.

Project officials expect the findings to be used by school districts that are implementing new development and evaluation systems for teachers. Such systems should not only identify great teaching, but also provide the feedback teachers need to improve their

See TEACHERS, Page 5



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**GET BUSY LOOKING FOR BUCKS** – The Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) project sought to answer important questions from educators and policy-makers about how to identify and foster great teaching. Northwest Early College High School Counselor Jaime Mercado, above, spoke to students about the importance of seeking and completing financial aid applications for college.



# Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

## Suicide study comes up short

I’ve just read the worst case of double-speak I’ve ever seen. The new report on veteran suicides is a 59-page waste of time for those looking for helpful information.

The study, done by the Suicide Prevention Program of the mental-health services branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs, is titled Suicide Data Report 2012. Instead of laying out useful facts, it compares apples to oranges to bananas, with partial-this and half-that graphs covering different periods of time.

At this point, it’s received at least some veteran suicide data from only 34 states. “Negotiations” with the other states are continuing. Five states have requested a modification to the data request. Even the information it has, based on 21 states, is incomplete.

Here are some problems:

- Information was collected by funeral homes and not validated by the VA or Department of Defense.
- Statistics from states with large veteran populations, such as Texas and California, weren’t used.
- In some places information

was used for the years 1999 to 2010. In other places it’s 1999 to 2003, or 2007 to 2010, or 2008 to 2012.

Here are a few gems from the Main Finding area below each graph:

- While the percentage of all suicides reported as “veteran” has decreased, the number of suicides has increased.
- Male veterans who die by suicide are older than non-veteran males.
- Veterans who died from suicide were more likely to be married, widowed or divorced.
- The majority of callers to the Veterans Crisis Line are male.

If you want to look at the report, do a Google search for “Suicide Data Report 2012” and click the link on [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

So far the study has cost only \$35,094.23 with \$11,677.06 more expected in 2013. The costs are for state fees for processing and delivering the data.

*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](mailto:columnreply@gmail.com). (c) 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.*

# Socorro fire department would change tax allocations

By Robert Grijalva  
Special to the Courier

Over the past year, Socorro city leaders have pursued the establishment of a municipal fire department independent of the existing El Paso County Emergency Services District 2 (ESD 2). If the separation is achieved, property taxpayers could see both positive and negative effects on city finances.

The most recent development, as reported last year in the *Courier*, was the hiring of a Municipal Fire Chief. The city negotiated two different contracts before finalizing a contract with Jim Langborg. He was previously the chief in Templeton, CA.

Langborg had this to say about his new position: “It’s been my long time goal to become the Fire Chief of a small fire department... I have found these (fire departments) have the best... potential to provide the highest level of service under proper leadership.” The new chief brings with him 19 years of experience in fire protection.

As with all other ESDs, ESD 2 is granted the authority to set and to collect property taxes from the residences within its boundaries. The district has assessed a tax rate of ten cents per one hundred dollars of property value. A property valued at \$100,000 would be taxed \$100 annually.


Because Socorro is the largest municipality outside the city of El Paso, the collective contributions that its residents and businesses pay into ESD 2 are the largest in ESD 2. The property taxes collected by ESD 2 are used uniformly throughout the District. ESD 2 boundaries on the eastside include all areas of El Paso County that are not in the City of El Paso or in El Paso County Emergency Services District 1 (which covers the Horizon City and its extended area). ESD 2 is bounded on the westside by the City of El Paso, the state line with New Mexico and the border with Mexico. ESD 2 currently maintains nine stations.

A former City of Socorro manager, last summer, pointed out that the biggest benefit from the separation would be that the City of Socorro would control all the property tax dollars that ESD 2 now receives from Socorro property owners. The \$100 collected from a \$100,000 home would all be spent on the safety and protection of City of Socorro residents.

Conversely, the assets and liabilities within ESD 2 are also shared throughout the District. The expenses associated with fire engines, vehicles, stations, equipment and office equipment located at the various stations are borne by ESD 2, not each community. If a new fire truck is needed for one station, the cost is spread over the community. If separated, the City of Socorro would bear these costs alone.


Texas law does allow a municipality to separate from an ESD. The law also requires that any assets or liabilities of the district must be indemnified proportionately by the separating entity. Socorro would have to pay ESD 2 for all equipment or debts that it proportionately owns. An audit prior to separation would need to be done. Socorro taxpayers would be assessed that obligation.

City leaders have expressed confidence in accomplishing the separation by the end of this year. A meeting with the *Courier* was postponed, so it was not possible to clarify with city reps how Socorro intended to satisfy its obligation to indemnify ESD 2 for assets and liabilities prior to finalizing the municipal fire department.



– Photo by Robert Grijalva

**WHERE’S THE FIRE – The Socorro Fire Station, now part of El Paso County Emergency Services District 2, is located at 11440 N. Loop.**



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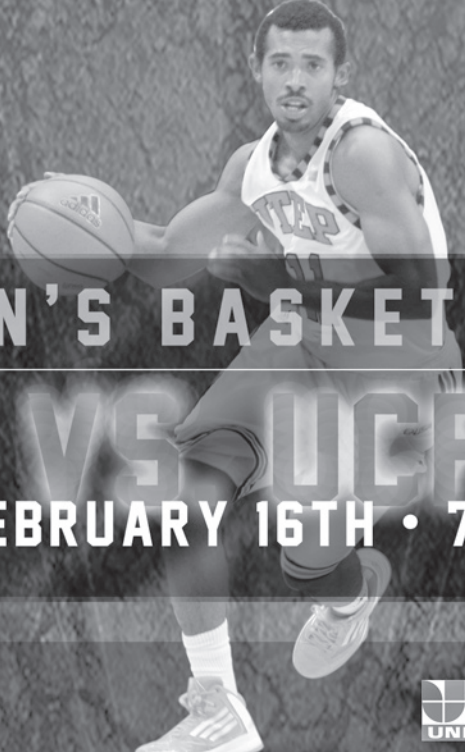


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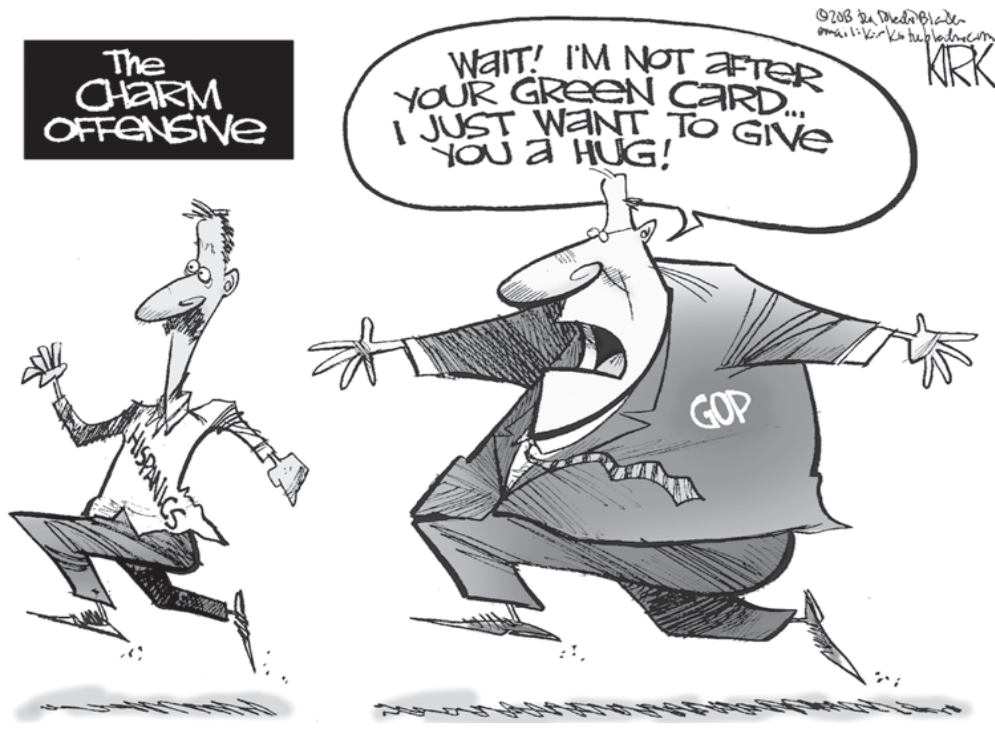
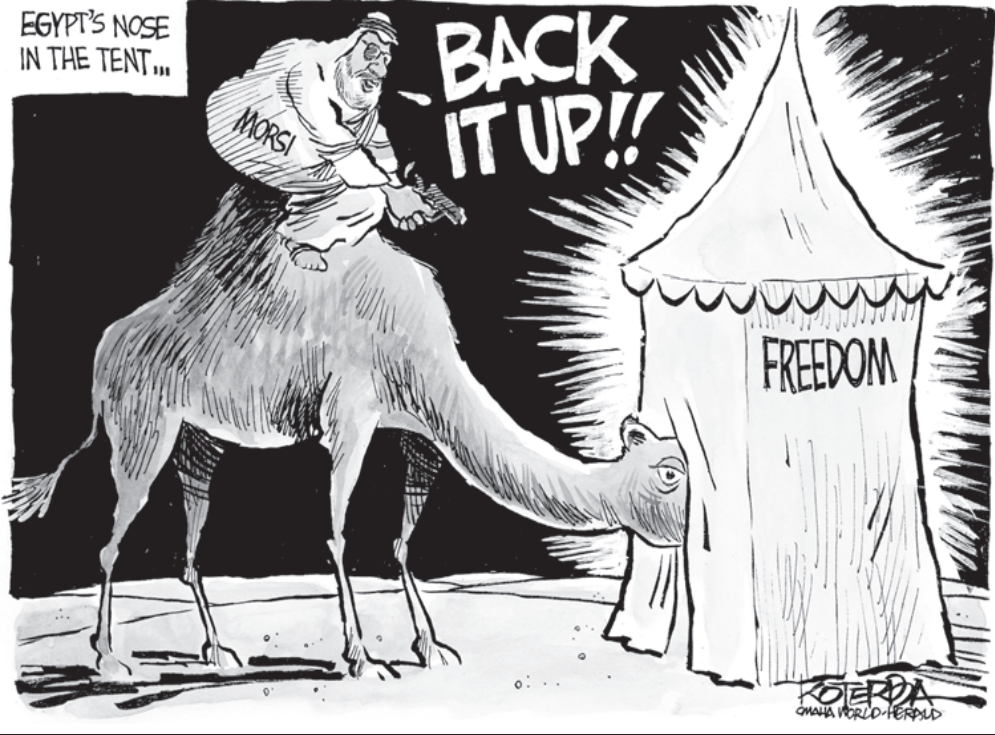
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Finances

By Jason Alderman

When retiring together doesn't make sense

Back when people from my parents' generation were first planning their lives together, most married couples looked forward to working hard for a few decades, buying a house, raising a family and then retiring together while they still had enough money and energy to travel and pursue favorite hobbies.

Some couples do manage to pull this off and thrive; but for many others, any of a host of obstacles can block their ability to retire at the same time. For example:

- Thanks to periods of unemployment, home-value decline or 401(k) account loss suffered during the Great Recession, many couples simply don't have enough money to retire together comfortably.

- If there's a significant age difference, one spouse may not have accumulated enough Social Security credits to qualify for a benefit by the time the other is ready to retire.
  - Women often worry that the couple hasn't saved enough since they're statistically likely to survive their spouses – often for a decade or more.
  - One spouse must continue working to supply employer-provided medical coverage until both reach Medicare eligibility age (65 in most cases).
  - One spouse is just hitting his or her stride, career-wise, and isn't ready to slow down.
- Among couples who have managed to save enough to retire together, when it comes time to pull the trigger many realize they haven't fully agreed on where or how to retire; or they discover that their wishes have diverged over the years. This can put tremendous strain on a marriage if you're not willing to compromise and talk things through.

Long before you actually retire, ask yourselves:

- Should we downsize to a smaller dwelling or even move to a retirement community?

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

Hazard

From Page 1

concern for such an occurrence now that the property is unattended by the owner.

The location of the dump is about two to three miles east of Ascension close to Robert's Ranch Road. Access to the site is very limited.

TCEQ had failed to notify the fire districts with jurisdiction in the area about the fire hazard. El Paso County Emergency Services District (ESD) fire stations in Clint (ESD 2) and Horizon City (ESD 1) were unaware that the dump existed. When they learned about the dump, there was an urgency to visit the site and assess the danger.

On Friday, Feb. 8, Fire Marshall Roger Esparza from Clint, and Fireman Frank Guillen from Horizon City visited the site. After three hours of driving on dirt roads, both concluded that there was no viable access to

the site on roads without barriers.

The fencing that surrounds what used to be Lane's Dairy obstructed access from three different roads. Another private property fence blocked access from Las Colonias. The property is part of the easement for a gas pipeline. The road that could have provided access was just inside the barrier fence.

El Paso County has a major toxic waste site that is inaccessible by emergency personnel. If a fire started, the only outcome would be a complete and lengthy burnout. "We have to develop a plan of action involving multiple agencies," said Guillen.

In addition to contacting Lane's Dairy and the gas company, both officials agreed that a plan of action needed to be put into place involving funding for a cleanup. ESD 1 and 2 will go to the legislature for assistance. Since civil remedies have failed, there are remediation funds that should be available to address the hazardous site.

If you're not covered, you'll be discovered.

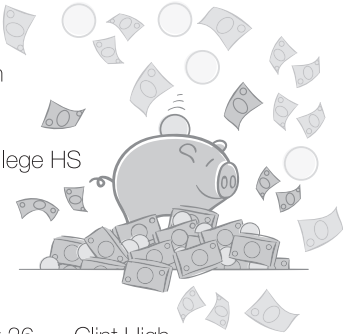
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February 19	Franklin High
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February 20	Northwest Early College HS
February 20	Riverside High
February 21	Americas High
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CHASE

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Canutillo Independent School District  
Public Notice

Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District’s 2011-2012 Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report as part of a School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 19, 2013, at the CISD Administrative Offices, 7965 Artcraft.

The public is invited to attend. The AEIS report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Canutillo ISD campuses, the central office and at [www.canutillo-isd.org](http://www.canutillo-isd.org).

For more information, call 877-7482.

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo  
Junta Publica

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar sobre el reporte “Sistema de Índices de Excelencia Académica” (AEIS) del año escolar 2011-2012. El reporte será parte de la reunión de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para el Martes, 19 de febrero 2013 a las 6:00 p.m. en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas localizado en 7965 Artcraft.

Todos los interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte AEIS estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito, en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas y a [www.canutillo-isd.org](http://www.canutillo-isd.org).

Para mas información, favor de llamar al 877-7482.

WTCC: 02-14-13

Artifacts depict soldier’s life at  
White Sands Proving Grounds

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

Archaeological clues from a 1945-1947 trash deposit are giving researchers insights into a soldier’s life at White Sands Proving Grounds during the atomic bomb testing era.

El Paso Archaeological Society Program will present a glimpse of soldiers’ lives at White Sands Proving Grounds (now known as White Sands Missile Range) with a special presentation by Dr. David T. Kirkpatrick, Associate Director, Human Systems Research, at 2 p.m., Saturday, February 16, at El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4300 Transmountain Road.

According to Kirkpatrick, in 1994 a previously unknown trash deposit was encountered during the construction of a new commissary building at White Sands Missile Range. “The artifacts from this deposit, possibly the earliest at

White Sands, provide us with insight into the daily lives of the soldiers and scientists working on the V-2 missile program,” he stated.

Kirkpatrick said that many of the artifacts relate to the personal lives of the men stationed in temporary quarters in the desert of southern New Mexico. Dates on various artifacts, especially bottles, indicate the trash deposit was in use from July 1945 to 1947, he stated.

“My slide-based lecture will show many of the recovered artifacts. Hopefully, some of the unidentified artifacts may be identified by the audience,” Kirkpatrick stated.

Kirkpatrick is an associate director with Human Systems Research, Inc. in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He earned his M. A. and Ph.D. at Washington State University. Since 1972 he has conducted numerous archaeological surveys and excavations in New Mexico.

Kirkpatrick’s historic archaeological projects include



– Photo courtesy of David Kirkpatrick

**Dr. David Kirkpatrick, a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA), will talk about the results of one of the first studies of material culture of a Cold War military installation.**

excavations at the 1870s McSween House in Lincoln, the 1850s Maxwell-Abreu House at Rayado on the Santa Fe Trail, and the West 800 Instrumentation Bunker at the Trinity Site.

A long-time member of the El Paso Archaeological Society, Kirkpatrick has served as first vice-president and is currently the editor for The Artifact, the journal of the El Paso Archaeological Society.

The program is free and open to the public. The El Paso Archaeological Society, in partnership with the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, is sponsoring the program.

For more information, call 755-4332 or send an email to [guidamr@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:guidamr@elpasotexas.gov).

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U.S. General Services Administration

Fabens Independent School District  
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fabens Independent School District Special Education Department will be destroying confidential student information on special education students who have graduated, moved or were dismissed in 2005. Parents of these students may come to the Special Education Department located at 821NE “G” Ave. in Fabens on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to claim their child’s file. The remaining files will be destroyed as per state directives 30 days from the date of this notice. If you have an questions, please call (915) 765-2690.

AVISO

El Departamento de Educacion Especial del Distrito Escolar de Fabens va a destruir los archivos confidenciales de estudiantes que estaban en programa de educación especial que han graduado, se han movido, o fueron despedidos en el año escolar de 2005. Los padres de estos estudiantes pueden venir a la oficina del Departamento de Educacion Especial del Distrito Escolar de Fabens en 821 NE “G” Ave., de lunes al viernes de 8:00-4:00 de la tarde a recoger los archivos de sus hijos. Los archivos que no sean recogidos van a ser destruidos como manda el estado en 30 días después de este aviso. Si tienen preguntas, llamen al teléfono (915) 765-2690.

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CryptoQuip  
Answer

If a land parcel is growing tons of weeds, I suppose you could say “the lot thickens.”

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Briefs

From Page 1

October and November 2012 for several of these burglaries. He has recently failed to show for court and is now wanted on eight counts of Burglary of Vehicle and Evading Arrest and Detention charges. Tobon is believed to remain in the Borderland. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Tobon 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 Tobon.

– Deputy Jesse Klaes

Crime Stoppers

A man is the victim of a violent robbery at an eastside convenience store, making this the Crime Stoppers “Crime of the Week.” On Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, about 11:30 p.m., the victim was walking into a Valero store in the 11600 block of Montwood when the offender asked to use his cell phone. The victim was reluctant but complied, and the suspect immediately began to flee the scene in a grey or silver Hyundai Tiburon with a female passenger inside. When the victim grabbed hold of the vehicle, the suspect continued to flee, dragging the victim, until the suspect punched the victim in the face causing him to fall. The suspect is described as an Hispanic male, short, medium build, with a bald head and goatee, and wearing a white Southpole sweatshirt under a black jacket. The female is described as a short, medium-build Hispanic with long hair and a black and white shirt. If you have any information about the identity of the suspects 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



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**EDUCATING EDUCATORS – Teachers from throughout the county met during the summer to hear a special presentation on motivating students to learn. The presentation was sponsored by Region 19 Education Service Center.**

Teachers

From Page 1

practice and serve as the basis for more targeted professional development, they asserted.

“If we want students to learn more, teachers must become students of their own teaching. They need to see their own teaching in a new light. Public school systems across the country have been re-thinking how they describe instructional excellence and let teachers know when they’ve achieved it,” said Tom Kane, Professor of Education and Economics at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education and leader of the MET project in a news report.

The MET project was funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in collaboration among dozens of independent research teams and nearly 3,000 teacher volunteers from seven U.S. public school districts.

Along with the MET report, the Gates Foundation also released a set of guiding principles that states and districts may consider when building and implementing improvement-focused evaluation systems. These principles are based on both the MET project findings and the experiences of the foundation’s partner districts over the past four years, officials stated.

The MET project’s reports and publications are available on the project’s website at www.metproject.org.

The Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) Project

The MET project is a research partnership of academics, teachers, and education organizations committed to investigating better ways to identify and develop effective teaching. Funding is provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The approximately 3,000 MET project teachers who volunteered to open up their classrooms for this work are from the following districts: The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, the Dallas Independent Schools, the Denver Public Schools, the Hillsborough County Public Schools, the New York City Schools, the Memphis Public Schools, and the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Participating teachers and students were enrolled in math and English language arts (ELA) in grades 4 through 8, algebra I at the high school level, biology (or its equivalent) at the high school level, and English in grade 9.

Project partners include representatives of the following institutions and organizations: American Institutes for Research, Cambridge Education, University of Chicago, The Danielson Group, Dartmouth University, Educational Testing Service, Empirical Education, Harvard University, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, National Math and Science Initiative, New Teacher Center, University of Michigan, RAND, Rutgers University, University of Southern California, Stanford University, Teachscape, University of Texas, University of Virginia, University of Washington, and Westat.

Anthony 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	ESEA Title 1, A Improving Basic Program	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,720,993	\$ –	\$ 250,253	\$ 1,971,246
5800 State Program Revenues	4,887,823	–	321,076	5,208,899
5900 Federal Program Revenues	823,986	295,430	608,294	1,727,710
5020 Total Revenues	7,432,802	295,430	1,179,623	8,907,855
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	3,400,454	252,347	353,169	4,005,970
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	163,363	–	3,500	166,863
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	32,031	–	170,763	202,794
0021 Instructional Leadership	80,981	–	251	81,232
0023 School Leadership	401,920	–	1,753	403,673
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	148,901	–	70,574	219,475
0033 Health Services	126,923	–	1,608	128,531
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	122,571	–	–	122,571
0035 Food Services	549,414	–	231,524	780,938
0036 Extracurricular Activities	327,814	–	172	327,986
0041 General Administration	524,789	–	–	524,789
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	822,964	–	8,648	831,612
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	29,334	–	–	29,334
0053 Data Processing Services	148,482	–	–	148,482
0061 Community Services	–	43,083	–	43,083
Debt Service:				
0071 Debt Service - Principal on Long Term Debt	–	–	246,000	246,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on Long Term Debt	–	–	132,943	132,943
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	31,825	–	–	31,825
Intergovernmental:				
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	–	–	7,481	7,481
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	24,607	–	–	24,607
6030 Total Expenditures	6,936,373	295,430	1,228,386	8,460,189
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	496,429	–	(48,763)	447,666
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7915 Transfers In	46,577	–	–	46,577
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(46,577)	–	–	(46,577)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	–	–	–	–
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	496,429	–	(48,763)	447,666
0100 Fund Balance – September 1 (Beginning)	3,299,233	–	241,394	3,540,627
1300 Prior Period Adjustment	40,788	–	–	40,788
3000 Fund Balance – August 31 (Ending)	\$ 3,836,450	\$ –	\$ 192,631	\$ 4,029,081

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# Short college ‘careers’ taking toll on the game

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

Ever played a game that nobody wanted to win?  
Or competed in an event that nobody seemed to want to win?  
I can’t remember going through that when I was a kid. Every guy wanted to win and would pretty much do everything he could to come out on top.  
Maybe if we were drawing straws to do something that would get us in trouble when we were back in middle school, but that’s all I can think of.  
The idea of winning any competition is lodged deep in the human psyche. It’s one of the most natural instincts we all have.  
And for the first time that I can remember I am actually seeing that law of nature being challenged, and not by just one entity, but by several at the same time.  
There are over 300 colleges who try to position themselves favorably for a shot at being invited to the NCAA’s big dance at the end of the college basketball season.

Each thrilling victory and devastating defeat goes a long way toward establishing a team’s chances at winning the ultimate prize.  
And during the regular season there is nothing more telling about a program than being ranked #1 in the national polls.  
It tells everyone out there that you are the best in the land. It pronounces to all that you are the big boy on the block, which is enough to scare most opponents psychologically before the game even starts.  
However, that powerful statement hasn’t had the effect that it’s had in the past.  
In fact, being ranked #1 has had the complete opposite effect.  
College basketball’s top ranked team in the land has lost the last five weeks in a row.  
And though these top teams (Indiana, Louisville, Michigan, Duke twice) play in tough conference with many of their league foes ranked in the top-25, all lost as #1 teams to unranked opponents.  
And though Indiana, Louisville, Michigan and Duke are certainly teams to be reckoned with when the NCAA Tournament comes along, it is no certainty that they will even make the elite eight

portion of the playoff.  
That’s how even things are in this day of one-year-and-done college basketball.  
Let’s face it, college basketball used to be much better than the product we get now.  
Before players bolted for the money of the NBA after just eight months in college, everybody knew who was on the big teams. We all knew who the stars were and couldn’t wait to see how much they had improved from the year before.  
You don’t have that anticipation anymore. Every year you have to wait and see who will emerge. And when they do establish themselves as the new superstar, they announce that they are off to the NBA.  
Has this mass exodus hurt the college game? One revealing fact is that college basketball scoring is down to its lowest levels since 1952.  
That’s way too tiny-short-d-white-guys-only standing set-shot 1952.  
One of the reasons for the dull play and low scores is that players can’t make a basket.  
Don’t get me wrong, they can drive down the lane and dunk the ball with reckless abandon. But they can’t even consistently

make a free throw.  
That’s because you never see a highlight of a guy nailing a 15-foot jump shot on ESPN. You see guys throwing down thunderous dunk after dunk after dunk.  
There are too many turnovers, missed shots, 3-point attempts, missed free throws, one-on-one possessions and timeouts in college basketball.  
How can these teams get in any kind of a rhythm? There are eight automatic official timeouts and five (each) team timeouts per game.  
By the time a game is over, there could have been 18 timeouts called.  
That makes it pretty hard to stay interested, let alone make a high percentage of shots.  
So going back to the top ranked teams in the land. Because things seem so wide open this year it might be time for a Gonzaga or Butler or Miami or Creighton or Notre Dame to crash the party.  
They might as well, it doesn’t seem like anybody wants to be #1 this season.  
A little guy winning everything could just save this uneventful college basketball season.

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

### Put a ring on it

Because the Super Bowl is what it is, largely a media-fueled monstrosity of a sporting exposition, most all of our questions have been answered (except for Ray Lewis’ role in an unsolved Atlanta murder). Still, controversy abounds and several questions do remain after the contest between the Baltimore Ravens and San Francisco 49ers. Here, I will do my best to clarify a few things for you, our valued reader.

**1. It was not the most exciting Super Bowl in history.**  
It may have the most surreal Super Bowl in history, but it wasn’t the best or most exciting ever. That award goes to Super Bowl 36, in which first year quarterback Tom Brady takes the New England Patriots down the field without any timeouts and wins the game over the St. Louis Rams on the final play.

**2. The 49ers were the better of the two teams.**  
At first blush, 49ers running

back Frank Gore’s post-game comments about the 49ers being the better team, that the Ravens got away with one, seemed like poor sportsmanlike whining. At least that’s what I thought until I saw the stat comparison. The 49ers had more first downs, more yards from scrimmage, more passing yards, more rushing yards, more average yards per pass and rush and, arguably, more heart. What can’t be argued is that the Ravens scored more points.

**3. Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco was not the most valuable player in the game.**  
Flacco was definitely the better of the two quarterbacks, but you can make a more convincing case that 49ers quarterback Colin Caepernick did more to lose the game than Flacco did to win it. Caepernick failed to spot a wide-open Randy Moss at least twice during the game. Granted, Flacco played a [great] game. He was rocketing

passes sideline to sideline with increasing speed and accuracy and was unstoppable on third down.  
But I’m tired of quarterbacks winning these MVP awards. Picking a quarterback for MVP is like saying John Lennon is your favorite Beatle. We know, we get it... who’s your next favorite then? Besides, Ravens receiver Jacoby Jones was the MVP. He picked himself off the turf to convert a great catch into an electrifying 52-yard touchdown. The 108-yard kickoff return to start the second half was the best kickoff return I have ever seen. He looked like a man running across a field of children. Those two touchdowns provided the winning margin and kept Baltimore’s head wrapped around the fact that winning the game was well in reach if their defense could just hang on through the inevitable 49ers comeback try.

**4. Beyonce was lights-out.**  
Beyonce had my 3-year-old son’s rapt attention. He sat straight up and stared the entire time. His tastes run more along the Elvis and Johnny Cash side of the music spectrum, but after the performance he turned to me with a look that seemed to say,



“What the heck was that?”  
Of all the questions from the game, that was the easiest one to answer: “If you want it, you better put a ring on it.”  
Ask anyone on the Ravens, they know a thing or two about rings now, too.

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

## Balderrama signs to play college ball



– Photo by Robert Grijalva  
**INKED – Mario Balderrama signs his letter of intent to play ball at Eastern New Mexico University.**

**By Gustavo Reveles Acosta**  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Canutillo High School defensive tackle Mario Balderrama will play football for the Eastern New Mexico University Greyhounds next year.  
The 6’ 4”, 245-pound senior signed his letter of intent to play at the Portales, NM school last Wednesday – National Signing Day for high-school athletes committing to play collegiate sports.  
“This is the best day of my life. All my work has been leading to this moment,” Balderrama said. “The fact that I am able to play college football is proof that hard work pays off, and that the support of my coaches and my family has been tremendous.”  
Eastern New Mexico is an NCAA Division 2 school that plays in the

Lone Star Conference. The football team is lead by head coach Josh Lynn.  
“Mario is a bigger defensive end that has a great frame. We are extremely excited about Mario coming in and adding some size to our defensive front,” Lynn said.  
As a Canutillo Eagle had 72 tackles and 7 sacks, and was named to the District 2-4A All-District Team in 2011 and 2012. He participated in this year’s Greater El Paso All-Star Game.  
Canutillo Football Coach Scott Brooks said Balderrama should do well at Eastern New Mexico because he’s tough mentally and physically.  
“More and more, we have kids from Canutillo performing at higher levels and making the transition to college football,” Brooks said.  
“Mario is proof of that. He’s a great player who I know will represent our community with honor.”

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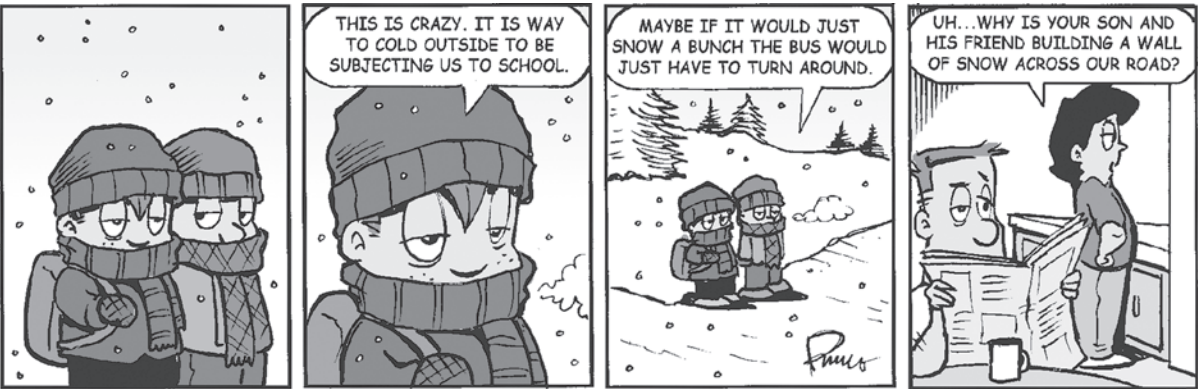
OUT ON A LIMB

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: Will you please provide the pros and cons of using salt in the diet? Why is water retention considered so bad? I am an 81-year-old man with stents in five heart arteries and one in the left carotid artery. My blood pressure is controlled with one medicine. – E.W.

What makes salt (sodium, sodium chloride) a danger to health is its tendency to raise blood pressure. We need only 500 mg of salt a day, yet we take in more than five times that amount. Salt's contribution to the elevation of blood pressure is something that people can alter without resorting to medicines. Salt does contribute to fluid retention. That extra fluid finds its way into the circulation, and blood pressure rises. That's the condensed version of the salt story. High blood pressure promotes heart attacks and strokes.

The booklet on high blood pressure explains why it is so important to lower elevated pressure and how to go about doing that. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 104W, 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: Dairy products are a problem for me. For breakfast, 1 percent milk is fine and yogurt isn't troublesome. Other dairy foods bother me. I am 61 and more intolerant of dairy foods now than when I was younger. Why? – Anon.

Lactase is an enzyme found in the small intestine. It digests lactose, milk sugar. Infants of all animal species are born with a good supply of the lactase enzyme. They lose their supply of lactase at the time they are weaned from their mother's milk. Most humans

hold onto an adequate supply of lactase into adult life.

Some, however, have so little that they find dairy products impossible to digest. Dairy products bloat these people, give them stomach cramps and can bring on diarrhea. That's lactase deficiency or lactose intolerance. Both terms denote the same problem. The lactase deficiency is an ethnic trait. Blacks, Asian-Americans and Native Americans have less lactase in adulthood than do whites. Age causes the lactase supply to dwindle. That's the reason you have more trouble at age 61 than you did years ago.

Cheeses and yogurt are exceptions to the rule. Many lactase-deficient people tolerate them well.

You can overcome the lactase deficiency problem by avoiding dairy products, by taking the lactase enzyme in pill form before eating dairy products or by using dairy products that have been pretreated with the enzyme.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My son is trying to lose weight. He takes acai berry tablets. Are they harmful? So many diet pills are no good. – V.C.

The acai (ah-SAH-ee) berry, the latest nutritional rage, comes from Brazil. As far as I know, it causes no harm. Claims made for it seem somewhat excessive – weight loss, wrinkle remover and cleanser of body "toxins." I have to wonder when so many wonderful things happen from taking one product. Let me know if your son loses weight.

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

X-CHANGING ACROSS

1 Original texts: Abbr.

4 Navy VIP

11 Soda giant

20 Kwik-E-Mart clerk

21 In a very angry way

22 "East of Eden" director

23 Jagger and Fleetwood out in a blizzard?

25 Stencil work

26 Inflated self

27 Pay to play

28 Bags used by some opera stars?

29 Faunae counterparts

32 Top draft status

34 Santa \_ wind

35 Kit \_ bar

36 King of Thebes gets into a crash?

40 Job detail, briefly

43 Triage areas, briefly

44 Perform the duties of

45 2.0 grades

47 Tibetan city

51 Shia's god

52 Golf course on another planet?

55 Concerning

58 Massey of film

60 Knight's mount

61 "Take \_ from me..."

62 Fumigated hair?

65 Pageant adornment

67 Palindromic "before"

68 Silk alternative

69 Opposite of east, in Spanish

72 Of a forearm bone

74 Suffix with

26-Across

75 Actress Teri

79 Dixie rodeo horses?

83 Former New York stadium

85 Is lionlike

88 Nosy one

89 Impostor

90 Hits from a loggerhead?

93 Inserted bud

95 \_ Gyra

96 Delhi dress

97 Came about

98 Suffix with sheep

101 Just barely

104 Nails for company use?

107 Solicit

110 Rocker Ocasek of the Cars

112 Cellar, in real-estate ads

113 Ump's shout

114 Spanish boy grades test papers?

118 Hurts

121 Little hotel

122 Obsessive zeal

for a single thing

123 Big trucks for company use?

127 Have supper

128 Like a hand with fingers spread

129 180 hung by a motorist

130 Most hazardingly icy

131 Rebuffed

132 Tpk.s., e.g.

DOWN

1 Animal throat

2 Sales pitch deliverer

3 Sol and Helios

4 With 5-Down, hang on a clothesline

5 See 4-Down

6 Papa's other half

7 "To put \_ a nutshell..."

8 Pastors

9 Ethylene or propylene

10 Fleur-de-\_

11 Soccer icon

12 Kagan of the Supreme Court

13 Rock climbers' spikes

14 Petty tyrant

15 Prez Eisenhower and singer Turner

16 Irene of "Fame" fame

17 Novelist Cynthia

18 Sri \_

19 Teen turmoil

24 TV actress

Spelling

28 Givers' opposites

29 Rival

30 "Be \_ and help me out!"

31 Big name in ancient geometry

33 Nero's "Lo!"

37 Shower area

38 Western cry

39 Split-off group

41 Pipe shape

42 Potted "pet"

46 Drags to court

48 Rabbit ears

49 Downhiller's accessory

50 Attack with evil reports

51 Golfer Isao \_

52 Create

53 Irish actor

54 QB's pickups

55 Aids

56 Bad traffic accident

57 Walking shakily

59 S.Sgt., e.g.

63 He was attached to Chang

64 Leaky tire sound

66 "Ben-\_" (1959)

70 Exceeds

71 Spain loc.

73 Hay holder

76 "Chances \_"

77 Pull an oar

78 Fan noises

80 Big striped cat, in

Spain

81 Grinders

82 Saucy

84 Razor name

86 Broccoli \_

87 Surgeon's duds

91 Filming area

92 Lip smack

94 Fancy party

97 Fighting a common viral illness

98 "Agreed"

99 Kept from scoring any points

100 Pres. after FDR

102 Fashion giant

Giorgio

103 Senator Feinstein

105 Devotee's declaration

106 Song in an opera

107 Pinnacles

108 Tideland

109 Kunta \_

111 Blubbers

115 Body of laws

116 Not include

117 Go-\_

119 Bird's perch

120 Natural wound cover

123 Photo \_ (Kodak moments)

124 Summer, in Lyons

125 Sm.-lge. link

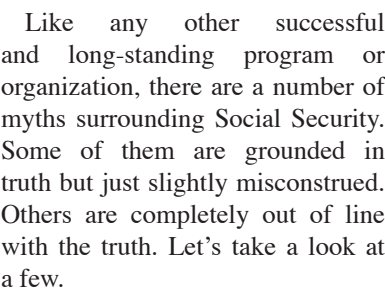
126 The "S" of DOS: Abbr.

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
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130											131								132		

Answer Page 4



the most convenient and fastest way: at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). At our website, you can apply for benefits, use our *Retirement Planner*, get an estimate of your benefits, request a replacement Medicare card, and much more. You'll find it all — along with answers to your questions — at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).



Social Security is more than a retirement program. It provides benefits to retirees, survivors, and people with disabilities who can no longer work. In fact, almost seven million disabled workers and nearly two million of their dependents get Social Security *disability* benefits. Six and a half million dependents of deceased workers (including two million children) get Social Security *survivors* benefits. Social Security is more than just retirement.

Social Security was never intended to be a person's sole income in retirement; it should be combined with pension income and personal savings and investments. Your *Social Security Statement*, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov.mystatement](http://www.socialsecurity.gov.mystatement), is a great place to get an idea of what to expect

Once you reach your full retirement age, there is no penalty and no limit on the amount you can earn. You can determine your full retirement age by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov/retirecharted.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retirecharted.htm). The earnings limit for workers who are younger than “full” retirement age (age 66 for people born in 1943 through 1954) is \$15,120 in 2013. (We deduct \$1 from benefits for each \$2 earned over \$15,120.) The earnings limit for people turning 66 in 2013 is \$40,080. (We deduct \$1 from benefits for each \$3 earned over \$40,080 until the month the worker turns age 66.) Keep in mind that if we withhold some of your benefits due to work, we will re-compute your monthly benefit amount when you reach full retirement age to account for those months that we withheld your benefit. There is no limit on earnings for workers who are full retirement age or older for the entire year.

Not only is this false, but we *encourage* you to do business with us

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.

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**Answer Page 4**

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**Answer Page 4**

★★★ HOO BOY!

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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: **C** equals **Y**

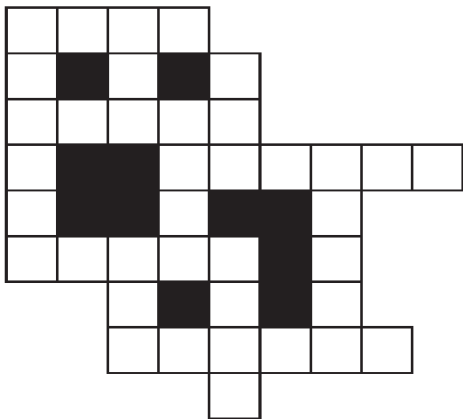
KW H OHRJ BHGETO KQ  
UGSYKRU DSRQ SW YTTJQ, K  
QVBBSQT CSV ESVOJ QHC "DNT

OSD DNKEATRQ."

**Answer Page 4**

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GKE  
YIRAPA  
EARPO  
KUSD  
♥HOSGUL  
OEF  
KREA  
FERIA  
♥AYP  
HADSEG  
DIHEK  
♥ASFO



**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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- It was British author Oscar Wilde who made the following sage observation: “Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go.”

- Those who study such things say that if you drink 100 cups of coffee in a row, it's likely to kill you.

- You might have heard that George Washington's dentures were made of wood, but in fact, they were made of hippopotamus ivory.

- In 1900, a prairie dog colony was found in Texas. That's not surprising – prairie dogs are fairly common out West – but this colony was unique. Researchers say it was the largest colony ever discovered, providing a home to 400 million prairie dogs and stretching over 25,000 square miles.

• If you've read "Alice in Wonderland" or seen any of the numerous adaptations of it, you probably know about the Mad Hatter. But did you ever wonder why he was mad? It seems that haberdashers (those who make hats) at one time used mercury to cure the felt they needed for the hats. Long-term exposure to mercury causes madness, hence the phrase "mad as a hatter."

- Martin Van Buren was the first president to be born a citizen of the United States.

- To earn a world record, a woman named Sonya Thomas ate 65 hard-boiled eggs in 6 minutes, 40 seconds.

- The female long-tailed shrew gives birth to exactly one litter of pups in her lifetime – and promptly dies.

- Our modern word “salary” comes from the Latin “salarium,” or “salt money.” Salarium was the monthly wages given to Roman soldiers in ancient times – paid in salt.

Thought for the Day:  
 "Politicians and diapers have  
 one thing in common. They  
 should both be changed  
 regularly, and for the same  
 reason."

– Jose Maria de  
Eça de Queiroz

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