



NEWSBRIEFS

Free adult education

The El Paso Public Library offers free adult basic education classes at all of its facilities throughout El Paso. Classes include ESL, Citizenship and basic to advanced Computer. They also have online resources for GED. For more information on how to join, call the EPPL Literacy Hotline at 543-5494.

— Jack Galindo

Vendors wanted

The City of Socorro is looking for vendors to participate in the 3-day Fiesta Del Valle. This year the May 3rd 4th and 5th celebration at Bulldog Championship Park will commemorate The City of Socorro's 165 Anniversary. Arts and Crafts and Food, vendors are encouraged to call Yazmin Quesada at 915 858 2915 for more information.

— Dave Garcia

MS auction

Blanca Borja from Horizon's National Self Storage and the Eastlake Lions Club are inviting the community to help fill a 10' x 20' storage unit with gently used electronics, furniture, household goods, jewelry, etc. (No used clothing.) The items will be auctioned off at the end of March with all proceeds going to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Donations can be dropped off at National Self Storage, 490 N. Kenazo in Horizon from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information call Blanca at 317-7517.

Easter service

The Horizon Kiwanis Club will hold the 38th Annual Community Easter Service on Sunday, March 31. The service will be at the Oz Glaze Center, 13969 Veny Webb in Horizon at 7 a.m.

— Ann Miller

Efficient energy

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recognized El Paso Electric with a 2013 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award for its contributions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by delivering energy efficiency information and services to its customers. This is the second year that El Paso Electric is a recipient of the ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award. El Paso Electric's will be recognized at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on March 26, 2013. The ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Awards for Energy Efficiency Program Delivery are given to a variety of organizations in recognition of their efforts to improve energy efficiency and reduce pollution. Award winners

See BRIEFS, Page 3

It is extremely embarrassing to come to your senses and find out you haven't any.

— Quips & Quotes

HRMUD buys Emerald Springs Golf Course

By Robert Grijalva
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY – On March 6, the Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District (HRMUD) signed papers to gain ownership of Emerald Springs Golf Course. The course was previously owned by a group of investors called Friends of Emerald Springs (FOES).

The Board of Directors of the HRMUD approved the purchase of the course to avoid a costly investment in developing a new location to divert treated wastewater. The owners of the course notified the Board that their rights to use the course for effluent were to be terminated and that created a need to find an alternative quickly.

Since the course was opened in the 1960s, the HRMUD had a lease that would allow the HRMUD to spray treated wastewater on the course. According to Toby Alvarado, the HRMUD general manager, "It was very important that we apply the treated water on the property. It's a way to deposit half a million gallons of treated waste water so that the waste is disposed in a manner that is acceptable under state law."

Although the treated water is not drinkable, the disposal on the golf course poses no hazards for the golfers.

According to Tovar, different locations for alternative sites were looked into. However, not only was the cost to move to another



— Photo by Robert Grijalva

WEED WHACKER – Jeff Gates, new manager for the Horizon golf course, is excited about the future for the course. The fairway behind him was mostly weeds when he first started working.

location prohibitive, the cost to channel the water into the Rio Grande River was also very expensive. It became obvious that the most cost efficient solution was to purchase the property. "It would have cost double the price of the golf course to create a new field to

spray the waste water," Alvarado said. Board member Benny Davis also felt it was in the best interests of the HRMUD and the customers to buy the land. "We thought it

See GOLF COURSE, Page 2

Droughts upstream mean less water for El Paso

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – "Due to the lack of snow and low water levels at the dam, the 2013 irrigation season might not start until June 1," states the notice that is presently posted on the El Paso County Water Improvement District's (EPCWID) website.

Most of the water stored at Elephant Butte begins as rain and snow falling in northern New Mexico and Colorado.

The water level at Elephant Butte Lake is currently down significantly compared with previous irrigation seasons because of the region's prolonged, severe drought. Water at

the lake -- so popular for boating, fishing and swimming -- sits at less than 4 percent of water available to downstream users, including El Paso water customers and farmers, according to El Paso Water Utilities (EPWU) officials.

As a result, EPWU and EPCWID#1 plan to shift away from relying on the Rio Grande for the region's drinking and farming needs.

Jesus "Chuy" Reyes, general manager of EPCWID#1, said that the district's customers, who include farmers, are being affected drastically. Reyes said that the irrigation season usually begins with water releases from Elephant Butte in March, but because of the drought, releases will be delayed until June.

The water allocations probably will be

smaller this year too, according to Reyes. He stated that EPCWID#1 has 58 wells, but that they do not provide the same amount of water as pumping from the Rio Grande.

EPWU also plans to make up the difference by relying more heavily on well water. EPWU has started drilling new wells and building new pipelines to more efficiently move that water around the city, according to John E. Balliew, EPWU president and chief executive officer.

"The bottom line is that we expect less river water again this year. For now, it's just too early to know how much less," Balliew said.

Water officials said that EPWU generally

See WATER, Page 5



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

BONE DRY – El Paso Water Utilities and El Paso Water Improvement District #1 plan to raise public awareness regarding the lack of water in the Rio Grande (above) and encourage residents to practice water conservation.

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

To help a veteran, help the family

Spring is almost here, and most of the country has seen tough weather over the winter in the form of floods, hurricane and heavy snow. For many veterans, it's been a time of trying to keep body and soul together. Those who have families have had it worse.

This would be a good time to concentrate on one or two veterans in your area, especially those who are disabled in some way. Focus on services that the veteran doesn't get through normal benefits channels. Ask the veteran what he or she needs, and consider offering one or more of the following:

- A summer of lawn mowing and trimming at the veteran's home. If you schedule the duty among your membership, chances are you won't be doing it more than once or twice this summer. If you have teenage children, this would be an example of an area where they could pitch in.
- Painting a room or the porch. Rebuild wobbly steps or create a ramp. (Check local building codes and get permits.)
- Taking the family vehicle for oil changes and service, and add the bonus of a wash, wax and vacuum.
- Don't forget the veteran's children, especially if the veteran has difficulty getting around. Offer to include the kids in Little League signups, pizza parties and movie evenings at the library. Pay any fees or costs incurred, especially with Little League or soccer, and pay for uniforms. Arrange for transportation to games for the kids as well as the veteran.

Your regular efforts to help, while they might be small to you, will take a responsibility off the shoulders of a veteran in need, especially when it comes to family. Remember: When you help the family, you help the veteran.

Write to Freddy Groves in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com. (c) 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.

Finances

By Jason Alderman

Avoiding post-disaster scam artists

Have you ever turned on the light in a dark basement and shuddered as cockroaches scurried away? I get that same sense of revulsion whenever I hear about unscrupulous swindlers taking advantage of the victims of natural and manmade disasters.

The Better Business Bureau has dubbed these human cockroaches "Storm Chasers" because they creep out of the woodwork after every major storm or disaster. In fact, because fraud was so widespread after Hurricane Katrina, the Department of Justice created the National Center for Disaster Fraud, a central information clearinghouse for more than 20 federal agencies where people can report suspected fraudulent activities tied to disasters of all types.

One common scam is where supposed repair workers blitz impacted neighborhoods, hoping to ensnare frazzled homeowners. Their typical line is, "We're really slammed but with a cash deposit you can ensure a spot on our busy schedule." Or, they'll scare people into thinking their home is dangerously unsafe, sometimes actually creating damage during their "inspection."

Often, these Storm Chasers just take the money and run. Or, if they do show up and make repairs, their work or materials are shoddy.

This could leave you on the hook financially since your homeowners insurance probably won't cover unauthorized or fraudulent repairs.

Here are a few tips from the Better Business Bureau to avoid becoming a Storm Chaser victim:


- Ask your insurance company about what's covered under your policy and specific filing requirements. Also ask them to survey the damage and see whether they have approved contractors.
- Never hire a laborer or contractor on the spot. Get at least three estimates based on the same specifications and materials. Check their references, licensing and registration information with the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (www.nascla.org/licensing_information); also read reviews posted by the Better Business Bureau.
- Require written contracts that specify work to be done, materials to be used, start and end dates, responsibility for hauling away debris, and costs broken down by labor and materials. Verify that the contractor's name, address, phone number and license number are included, as well as any verbal promises and warranties.
- Read the fine print. Some shady contracts include clauses allowing substantial cancellation fees if you choose not to use the contractor

after your insurance company has approved the claim. Others require you to pay the full price if you cancel after the cancellation period has expired.

- Ask your contractor to provide proof of current insurance that covers workers compensation benefits, property damage and personal liability.
- You'll probably be asked to pay an upfront deposit to cover initial materials – one-quarter to one-third is reasonable upon delivery of materials to your home and once work begins.
- Never pay in full in advance, and don't pay cash. Have the contract specify a schedule for releasing payments, and before making the final payment, ask the contractor to provide proof that all subcontractors have been paid – if not, you could be liable for their fees.

And finally, remember the adage, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." If someone uses high-pressure sales tactics, requires full payment upfront, asks you to get necessary permits or offers to shave costs by using leftover materials from another job – run. They're potentially disastrous to your bottom line – and you've been through one disaster already.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.




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MAIL:
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928




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

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Robert Grijalva
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda




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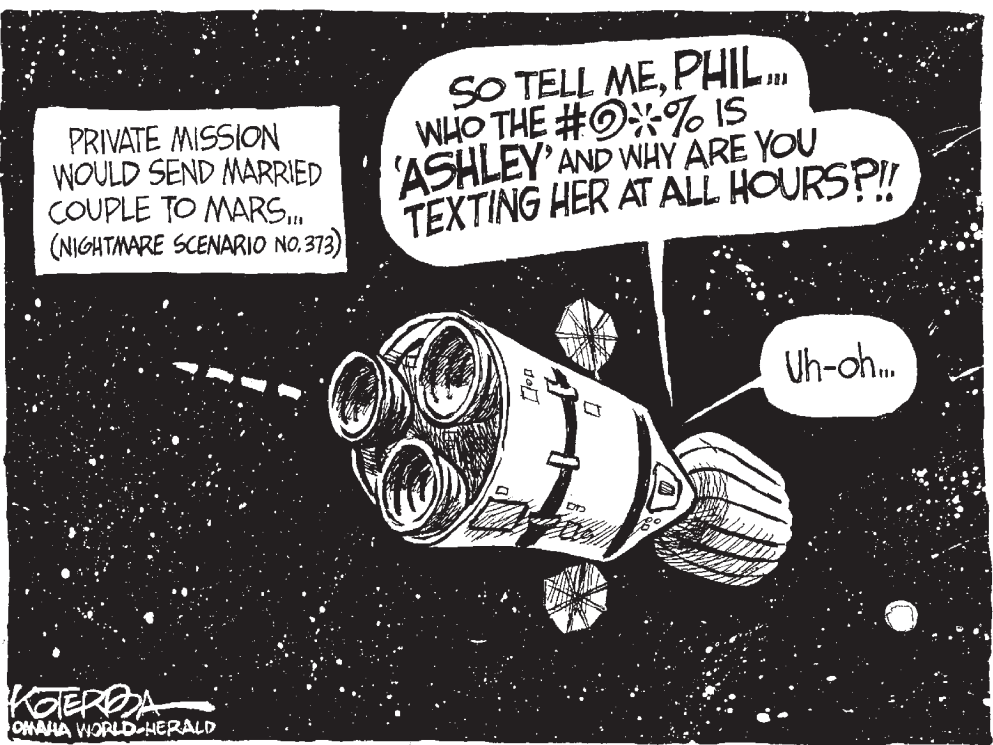
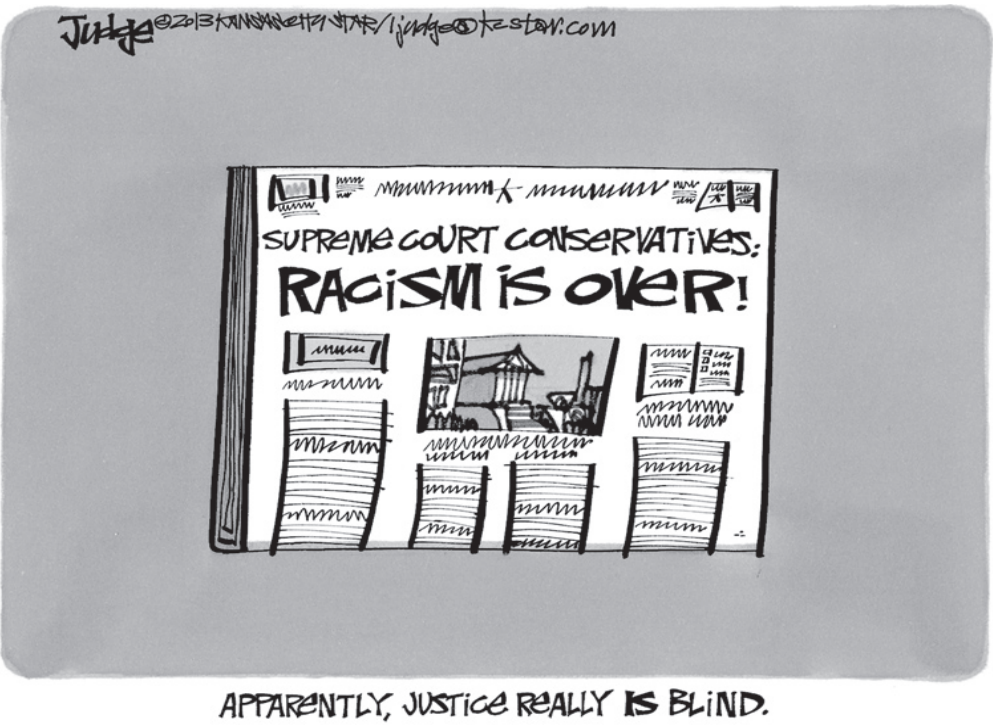
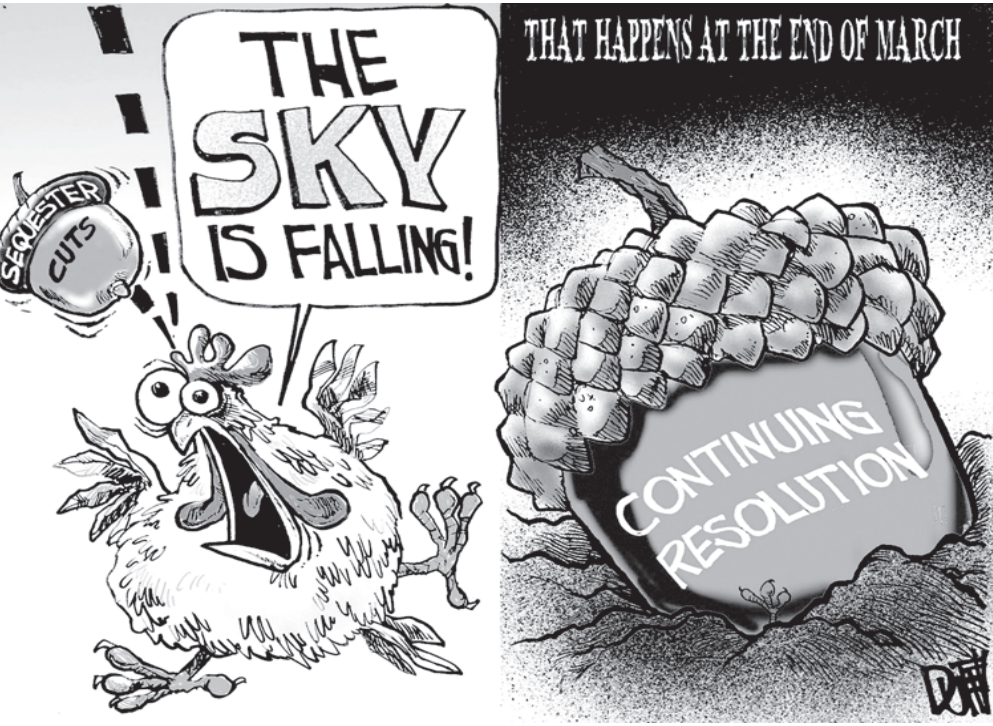
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View from here

By Glenn Mollette

Our national debt problem

Our nation must crawl out of debt. If our outgo continues to exceed our income then our upkeep will be our downfall. Our fiscal house is out of order. Therefore there is urgency in our government for more and more money. Where is this money coming from? The money will come from you, your family and friends. We will never be out of debt by enacting more and more taxes on any group in America whether it's the two percent who are considered rich or the large population of the poor or middle class. We can only do this by eliminating wasteful spending.

As a nation we have gone crazy with debt. We are a poor example for our own citizens and the rest of the world. People in America are drowning in debt. American people are losing their homes every day, filing for bankruptcy and suffering the pain of debt. The answer to the American dilemma is not more debt; more loans and more maxed out credit cards. Families are desperate to get out from underneath the hardship of debt.

America continues to build cities and nations around the world while we continue to increase our debt more and more. This is a huge burden on the American people. We are taxed to pay for roads, bridges and rebuilding cities in other nations that we cannot afford.

In the process our nation is crumbling because we cannot fix our own bridges and roads. Our Social Security and Medicare systems are struggling because our government continues to indebt us and rob the Social Security system to pay for foreign projects that are beyond our means. Therefore our seniors are becoming poorer, the poor are becoming poorer, our young people cannot find jobs and the middle class is becoming the poor class.

Congress should never raise taxes on any group of people in America. The percentages are high enough. The day will come when someone will try to lead Congress to tax our income by 50%. It won't just be the rich. We must turn this tide around. The attitude of "why work?" is growing in our nation. At one time people wanted to work longer hours and make more money. Today people sigh and say, "If I make more it will just all go to the government for taxes." Why would we want to impose more taxes on any group in America? The only hope is to cut back on our wasteful spending.

We must eliminate foreign projects that we cannot afford until we have our own house in order. I am not opposed to helping people when we can afford it. We cannot afford it at

this juncture in our history. Possibly in a few years we can be more generous. But now we are starving our own children while we give money to other countries in the world that hate us. Let me hasten to say I do not think we can buy friends. Giving money to Pakistan or Libya does not buy friendship with these people. We need to cut out every dime given to Middle Eastern nations with the exception of Israel.

We must eliminate unnecessary wars that drain each of us in our country. Iraq and Afghanistan have cost us between four and five trillion dollars! The average citizen is being taxed more and more to pay for these long and drawn out unnecessary wars. Thousands of lives have been lost in Iraq and Afghanistan. What was accomplished? Those people do not like us any more today than they did before the wars. The mindset of the people has not changed. They still have the same hatred toward America and even toward each other in their own nation.

We can no longer go into greater debt as a nation in order to bale out big banks and Wall Street who pay millions of dollars to executives while Americans are struggling to pay their utility bills. Big bankers and Wall Street executives make millions of dollars each year and live in luxury while middle class Americans are being kicked out of their homes by the very bankers who have been rescued with taxpayer money! Allowing the Federal Reserve to print more money to bale out these greedy millionaires while passing the bill on to a struggling American public is appalling.

America can return to being the strongest financial nation in the world but it's not going to happen at the current pace. Life for Americans will only become worse unless we all join hands and turn this nation around. I believe we can. We can become a nation with a surplus and not a deficit. We can once again lead the world in employment. We should not become satisfied watching China, Japan, India and other nations steal our manufacturing out from under our noses while our families lose their own homes and our homeless Veterans walk the streets of America.

I am dreaming of a day when once again families can put some money in the bank because the government is not taking it all and misusing so much of it while our nation goes further and further into debt.

Glenn Mollette is the author of American Issues: Every American Has An Opinion.

Briefs

From Page 1

are selected from the nearly 20,000 organizations that participate in the ENERGY STAR program.

– Teresa Souza

Crime Stoppers

A man with a handgun robs two eastside hotels within minutes of each other, making this the Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." On Thursday, January 17, 2013, about 3:40 a.m., the suspect walked into the La Quinta Inn at 11033 Gateway West wearing a ski mask and inquiring about a room. The suspect then demanded money from the cash register, and fled on foot from the hotel with an undisclosed amount of money. About 20 minutes later, the same suspect entered

the La Quinta Inn at 7944 Gateway East demanding money and showing his weapon to the clerk. But a security guard entered the office and the suspect ran away. The suspect is described as a man of unknown race and age, wearing a gray hooded sweater with red lettering across the front, light blue jeans, white sneakers, and gloves. He was also wearing a black ski mask. There is no vehicle description. If you have any information about the identity of the suspect in this case, contact Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (566-8477), on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org or you can send a text message by entering the key word CRIME1 (no space) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

– James Klaes



– Photo by Robert Grijalva

SPEAKING OUT – Maya Sanchez, President of the San Elizario Incorporation Effort Group, watched as Rene Rodriguez Spoke. Rodriguez is a resident of Socorro and candidate for city council who opposes efforts by Socorro to annex parts of San Eli.

San Eli group pushes for incorporation

By Robert Grijalva
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – A group of San Elizario activist met on March 4 to continue efforts at incorporating the community under state law. The effort is part of a wider effort to stop efforts by the Socorro City Council to annex parts of San Elizario.

Long time community leader Ben Sanchez and his daughter Maya Sanchez brought the group together at Maya’ Gardens Party Hall. The meeting began the process of creating a formal organization that will fight the annexation. Once the organization is chartered, it will accept donations from the public for its political activity.

Maya Sanchez was nominated president and was elected unanimously. Alma Alvidrez was elected as the secretary. Leticia Miranda was elected chair of the finance committee that will record and report all financial contributions and expenditures. The group also voted to name their organization the “San Elizario Incorporation Efforts Group.” (SEIEG)

Sanchez reported to the attendees that Barragan and Associates, surveyors, was continuing its preliminary actions for the boundaries of the incorporated area. The initial plan is to incorporate 4.8 acres in the center of the community.

Barragan has committed to going forward with as much work as possible without a financial commitment from SEIEG at this point. No actual surveys would be undertaken until the group can pay a retainer fee. The surveyors would have everything in place to proceed quickly.

Sanchez recognized Rene Rodriguez, a guest, to speak before the group. Rodriguez owns a business in San Elizario but is a resident of the City of Socorro.

Rodriguez informed the group about his concerns, and the concerns

of others in Socorro, about the effort by Socorro to annex parts of San Elizario. “The business that I have is in San Elizario. I understand, I feel your pain,” Rodriguez said. “As a resident of Socorro, I can do my part in trying to help you avoid annexation.”

He went on to say that, in his opinion, the makeup of the Socorro Council guarantees that the annexation will be done – not only now but also continuing in the future. He informed the group that two council seats and the mayor’s seat were up for election in May.

Rodriguez announced that he is a candidate for the at-large seat. He also mentioned that he is part of a slate of candidates on the ballot for

the three positions. If he and the others are elected, he committed to the group that they will stop any annexation efforts completely. “There are good people in Socorro supporting San Eli,” he said.

The last piece of business before the group was to approve continuing a relationship with an Austin attorney, Monty Akers. “He comes highly recommended. He was previously with the Municipal League in Austin,” Sanchez said. (The Municipal League is a membership of cities throughout the state. It provides assistance to small and large municipalities). Akers is providing the group with direction in formalizing SEIEG under law.

The San Elizario Incorporation Effort Group will have an enchilada dinner fundraiser on March 16. The cost of a plate will be \$5 with a drink for one dollar more. The location will be Maya’s Gardens Party Hall, 12339 Socorro Rd. For more information, contact Paul Johnson, 269-5748.

Scholarships offered for archaeology camp

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

The El Paso Museum of Archaeology will offer scholarships for the spring archaeology special event (camp) for children through a generous grant from the Franklin Mountains Rotary Club.

The special event will be held, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, March 19-22, for children 8 to 12 years of age, on the museum’s grounds (4301 Transmountain Road) and will include a field trip to Hueco Tanks State Park. The camp coincides with spring break for most public school students in El Paso County.

The spring camp is an interactive, hands-on course designed to educate participants about the science of archaeology, its tools, and the prehistory of the Americas, especially the El Paso-Juárez region, from the Ice Age to European contact, according to Marilyn Guida, education curator for the archeology museum. Participants will learn respect and appreciation for prehistoric, historic and contemporary Indian people, she added.

Registration is accepted on a first-come first-served basis as attendance is limited to twelve students per event. Registration fee is \$42.90 for museum members and \$54.60 for non-member per participants. This fee includes the scholarship that was made possible by the Franklin Mountains Rotary Club grant.

For more information and to registration, call 755-4332 or send email to guidamr@elpasotexas.gov.

TEA audits Canutillo ISD

By Gustavo Reveles Acosta
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – The Canutillo Independent School District has received the Texas Education Agency audit into alleged manipulation of limited English proficient and special education subgroups to affect federal accountability ratings.

The audit is the result of a self-report to the TEA after a CISD internal audit identified potential irregularities in the way credits from foreign students were processed at Canutillo High School.

State auditors found that manipulation into limited English proficient subgroups occurred during the 2010 and 2011 school year at Canutillo High School. The state could not find any indication that subgroup manipulation for special education subgroups occurred.

CISD officials said the District’s ability to identify these issues and take proper action was the direct result of the Board having an internal audit function properly established.

“The results of the audit and the recommendations from TEA validate CISD’s efforts to quickly and appropriately address irregularities,” CISD Board President Armando Rodriguez said.

“TEA has imposed no sanctions on the District, and no further action is expected from the state,” Rodriguez added. “The District’s comprehensive corrective action plan, as well as other efforts initiated by the District to address the subject matter, were accepted by the TEA and deemed an appropriate solution to the irregularities that were identified by our internal and the state auditors.”

The District began drafting a corrective action plan in January just weeks after deficiencies in foreign credit transfers were identified. The TEA has approved a multi-pronged plan that will address procedures for award of credits, credit recovery, graduation plans, foreign-credit review and

testing.

Canutillo also will contract the services of Region 19 and Region 20 to create regulation and strengthen the adherence and oversight of state and local policy regarding credits and testing.

The corrective action plan also will lead to personnel action, staff reassignments, revision of job descriptions, training on proper procedures and the hiring of contracted services to help implement and oversee new procedures and established policies.

“We will continue to work to improve our internal systems to guarantee fair and accurate federal and state accountability standards in Canutillo,” said interim Superintendent Annette Brigham. “The audit results will help us become an even better servant to the students of the Canutillo community we have vowed to educate.”

The administration will give the Board of Trustees and the TEA Deputy Chief Commissioner a monthly progress report on the status of each corrective action item and anticipated date of completion.

TEA will continue to monitor progress in Canutillo through the implementation of the corrective action plan and will conduct an on-site review, possibly at the beginning of the 2013-14 school year.

State auditors reported one previous employee – a former principal at Canutillo High School – to its Division of Investigation for further review and determinations after they concluded that hey may have violated state law, rules or policies.

The TEA, however, said Canutillo administrators and school-board members cooperated and were transparent throughout the investigation. “We appreciate that Canutillo ISD immediately self-reported its preliminary findings, cooperated fully in the investigative activities, and was prompt and responsive to all of the agency’s request,” said Emi Johnson, TEA’s director of special investigations.

Bonilla to speak at museum

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

To complement its current *Fourth Wall of Giants* exhibit, The El Paso Museum of History will host a special presentation, titled *The Missions and Their People*, at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 30, at the History museum, 510 North Santa Fe Street. The event is free and open to the public.

The informative talk will feature local historian Elias Bonilla who will give his views as to why these treasured Lower Valley missions – Socorro, Ysleta, and San Elizario – were created. Bonilla stated that how the system was implemented and how successful it was will be the focus of his lecture.

“For many, the history of the missions has been explained as

Spain’s way of Christianizing indigenous populations located in the conquered lands of the New World, but it was much more than that,” stated Bonilla. “It was a business venture by the Spanish Crown and the Church to create a new economic base. The saving of souls gave way to the creation of industrious workers who could then pay taxes to the Crown,” he claimed.

Bonilla is well known as a local borderland research historian. He has lectured numerous times at the El Paso Museum of History on the Mexican Revolution, Mexico’s independence from Spain, and on the Spanish colonization of what is now the United States.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Sue Taylor at 351-3588 or send email to taylorsl@elpasotexas.gov.

County Commissioners seek authority over ESDs

By Robert Grijalva
Special to the Courier

ELPASO COUNTY—A new bill in the Texas Legislature would give El Paso County Commissioners Court additional authority over El Paso County Emergency Services Districts (ESD) 1 and 2. Board members and fire fighters from both ESDs have expressed serious concerns about the passage of this bill.

State Representative Marisa Marquez, District 77 El Paso, filed the bill that applies only to the ESDs in El Paso County. Marquez’s bill would require the ESDs to seek and obtain approval from the commissioners before purchasing new equipment or repairing fire engines in need of repair.

The most urgent concern of the ESDs is that court involvement could seriously impede the repair or replacement of important equipment. For example, if a ladder truck is in need of parts and repairs, the process of going to the court

will add significant down time. The safety of the residents in the district depends on all of the equipment being available.

According to Steve Hambrick, an ESD1 board member, both district boards feel that the necessary oversight is already in place. The commissioners appoint board members on a regular schedule and can remove board members if they are negligent or violate penal codes.

A hearing in the House County Affairs Committee was held on March 7 to hear testimony for or against the bill. In her testimony before the committee, County Judge Veronica Escobar said, “We appointed good people who committed to putting into place policies and procedures and so we feel we are on the right track. But the challenge to the court was how do we prevent this from ever happening again,” said Escobar. Escobar was alluding to allegations of wrongdoing in ESD2.

Prior to the hearing Hambrick said, “[Former] Representative Quintanilla



– Photo by Robert Grijalva

The Horizon City Fire Station is the location where ESDs 1 and 2 met to discuss pending legislation by Representative Marquez. Both districts have vowed to cooperate in preventing the passage.

is the only elected official to visit with the districts to understand what they do.” “No commissioner has taken the time to see what the districts do. It is disappointing that commissioners are seeking such oversight and have not attended our board meetings or watched as our volunteers extinguish fires.”

Also included in the bill, leases or financial agreements or loans cannot be finalized until the court votes to approve. Contracts with other political subdivisions or federal agencies could not be finalized without commissioner’s court approval.

Hambrick pointed out that all financial activities of a board can be reviewed at any time by the county auditor. Both ESDs are required to submit an annual audit to the county by June of each year. The ESDs contract with private accountants who perform the audits. However, the county has the authority to perform the audits instead.

Emergency Services Districts were authorized by a constitutional amendment approved by the voters in 1987. The amendment authorized the districts to provide any emergency services allowed by law.

Water

From Page 1

pumps half of its water supply from wells in the city. The other half comes from water released from Elephant Butte Lake into the Rio Grande.

Mexico, which by treaty is entitled to some of the Rio Grande water for Juárez area farmers, agreed to wait until June to receive its share of irrigation water, according to a recent news report.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) website lists the following as the biggest droughts on record in the U.S. in modern history: 1933-38, the “Dust Bowl” period that covered 80 percent of the country with severe degrees of drought and at least 60 percent with extreme drought; 1953-57, severe drought gripped half the country; and 1988, considered the costliest drought year ever, which caused crop losses of \$15 billion and other losses to the economy.

Ways you can conserve water

1. Turn off the faucet while washing your hair, lathering your hands, shaving or brushing your teeth.
2. Fix leaky faucets, toilets and valves. Don’t forget to check outside faucets, too.
3. Install a water-efficient showerhead and toilet.
4. Shorten your shower by one to two minutes.
5. Run the clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full.
6. Wash fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water. Collect the rinse water and use it to water houseplants.
7. Designate one glass for your drinking water each day or refill a water bottle.
8. Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered, not the sidewalk.
9. Spread a layer of organic mulch around plants to retain moisture.
10. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk.
11. Don’t water your lawn on windy days.
12. Use a commercial carwash that recycles water.

Find more water-conservation tips at epwu.org/conservation and wateruseitwisely.com

2013
W. TENNIS & SOFTBALL
SCHEDULE

HOME SCHEDULE

W. TENNIS

VS. UTAH STATE | 4.11.13 | 2 PM

SOFTBALL

VS. SIENA | 3.26.13 | 3 PM & 5 PM
VS. SIENA | 3.27.13 | 1 PM & 3 PM
VS. EAST CAROLINA | 3.29.13 | 2 PM & 4 PM
VS. EAST CAROLINA | 3.30.13 | NOON
VS. HOUSTON | 4.13.13 | 2 PM & 4 PM
VS. HOUSTON | 4.14.13 | NOON
VS. TULSA | 4.27.13 | 2 PM & 4 PM
VS. TULSA | 4.28.13 | NOON

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CryptoQuip
Answer

Old sitcom about a family
guy who’s an unmatched
pro at landscaping:
“Father Mows Best.”

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Floyd’s Southern Cal meet puts UTEP’s future in different light

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The month of March is here and for sports fans across American that means the beginning of March Madness.

And that’s no different for the citizens of El Paso who watch anxiously to see whether the Miners can put those all-important wins together and advance to the NCAA Tournament.

Starting Thursday, UTEP and all the other Conference USA teams (except Central Florida which is on probation) will meet in Tulsa for the conference tournament.

It appears that win or lose, the Memphis Tigers will be going dancing no matter what they do in the C-USA tournament.

But for the rest of the field, it appears that the only way they’ll ever make it to the NCAA tourney is by upsetting Memphis and winning it all in Tulsa.

And that’s exactly what Miners fans should be worried about this time of year. They should be on pins and needles waiting to see whether the Miners have what it takes to move on to the next level.

But most UTEP basketball fans are worried about something else.

They’re worried that as soon as the Miners lose and their season ends, that the team and the city, will lose its coach.

All the talk surrounding UTEP the last couple of weeks has been the 3-hour conversation UTEP coach Tim Floyd had with USC Athletics Director Pat Haden.

Southern Cal fired its head coach and is looking for a replacement. Where did Floyd leave to come coach at UTEP – Southern Cal.

At his meeting with the media after UTEP’s narrow loss to Memphis last week, Floyd was asked whether he was staying to coach at UTEP.

All Floyd would say is that he had not been offered the job at USC and that he was not looking for a job.

When asked if he would take the job if it were offered to him, Floyd sidestepped the issue and said that was all he was going to say about the matter.

I have to admit that I was skeptical about him leaving but being in that media room, I left it not as confident that he was going to stay.

If you love where you’re at and someone asks you if you are going to stay. The standard answer is “yes,” as long as they still want me.

But when you don’t say yes there’s always a reason. It doesn’t mean that Floyd is leaving but there is a reason he won’t simply say he is staying.

And why would coach Floyd leave a city and a program he obviously loves?

Here are some possible reasons, first of all, Floyd is a big-time college basketball coach and has spent some time as a head coach in the NBA.

And it’s frighteningly obvious that the poor attendance at UTEP basketball games has got to disappoint him. He can’t feel confident about El Paso’s investment in the program.

The consistently half-filled Don Haskins Center has got to give him reason to pause.

Another reason is Conference-USA itself, which will not resemble the same conference next year.

With Memphis, Houston, SMU, Central Florida leaving and East Carolina and Tulane leaving the year after.

Who will take their place? How about

teams like Florida Atlantic, Florida International, UT-San Antonio, Middle Tennessee, Louisiana Tech and North Texas – not exactly a who’s who of college basketball powers.

Another reason is always the money. Floyd brings home about \$600,000 from UTEP. Southern Cal will offer their new coach between \$2.5 and \$3 million.

Some may offer the opinion that Floyd is already a millionaire and doesn’t need to make millions anymore.

That could be true, but then again, some people who have millions live to make more millions.

But Floyd doesn’t appear to be that kind of person at all. He isn’t flashy and he isn’t “on” all the time. He’s modest and humble and doesn’t seek the limelight.

The best reason he has to stay is his love for the city and the desire to see what he’s started play out for the next few years.

If he stays he could quickly have a top-15 team here. If he leaves it’s fair to assume his talented recruiting class will go elsewhere.

It’s easy to see why El Pasoans are more worried about Floyd than this week’s tournament.

A sporting view

By Mark Vasto

Give them what they want

Seeing as how sporting events are “games” first and money foremost, wouldn’t it be great if the fans actually got what they wanted out of the deal?

In recent years, my favorite “nope, that’s not what I wanted” complaint has centered around stadia. Let me get this straight... the taxpayers footed the bill for this stadium improvement, and I’m still expected to pee in a trough? Parking costs have doubled, and now we’re not allowed to tailgate? What exactly did we get out of this deal besides a few bas reliefs, a Tamagotchi scoreboard that freaks out if you’re not paying it attention every few seconds, and wider concourses?

What sports team seriously makes decisions based on wider concourses anyway? And don’t tell me it’s so they can add more vending. There’s

plenty of vending already. Add more vendors, and soon enough you’ll need wider concourses again. See how this works?

And I particularly love the whole argument regarding “downtown revitalization” when it comes to stadium building. Folks... I don’t care what Denver says about how its downtown sprung to hipster heaven after building downtown. The argument is flawed. What, exactly, has been revitalized?

Some may argue that it removed an industrial eyesore by replacing it with a shiny new stadium. OK, fair enough. But in places like Philadelphia, was John Fitzgerald Kennedy Municipal Stadium really an eyesore?

The whole “economic revitalization” argument is nonsense, too. When Atlanta Fulton County

Stadium was torn down after the 1996 Olympics, the brand-new Olympic Stadium was converted into what is now Turner Field. Sure, tax receipts went up there due to vending, but it’s chicken-wing economics. Figure it out for yourself: The game starts at 7 p.m. Most Americans work until 5 p.m. Then they fight traffic, find parking and maybe hit a bar for a few beers and some chicken wings for an hour or so. The game ends at 10 p.m. They’re tired and just spent an average of \$197 during their visit, according to Team Marketing Report. Now what? Hang out in the empty downtown a bit longer? The parking lots won’t even let you stay.

Yankee Stadium didn’t revitalize the Bronx.

I was once asked by a promotions manager of a ball club for any ideas regarding future promotions. I suggested “baseball night.” I was about to explain to her how great it would be to go to a game and just, you know, see the game. Can the explosions after every pitch... but she was long gone, dancing the

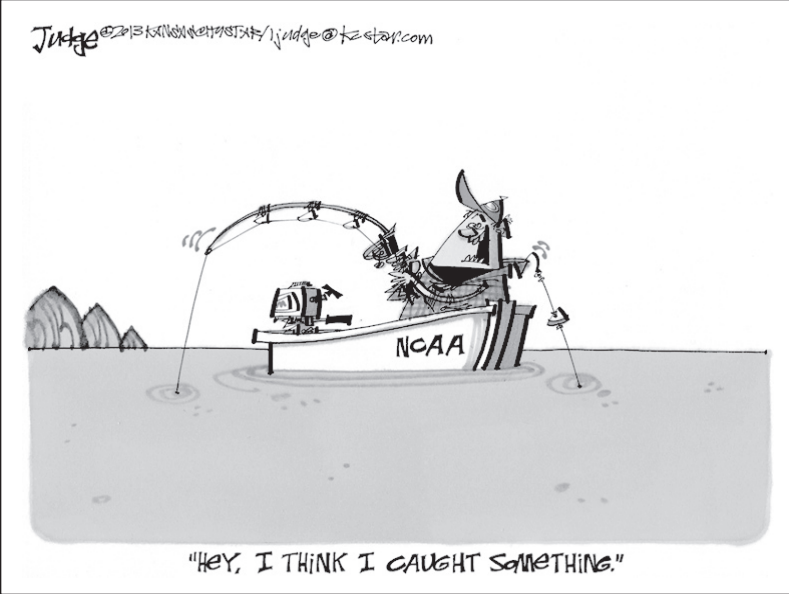
Macarena, pointing to the scoreboard out in centerfield.

“Don’t you love ‘kiss cam?’ We should do this every inning!”

So, to rephrase, give them what they want... but please let “they” be

actual fans of the game. The money will always be there, foremost.

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



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LEGALS

TOWN OF CLINT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Service Announcement: Fair Housing, It's the Law

To promote fair housing practices, the Town of Clint encourages potential homeowners and renters to be aware of their rights under the National Fair Housing Law. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of units in the housing market. For more information on fair housing or to report possible fair housing discrimination, call the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's toll-free hotline at 1-800-669-9777.

Equal Employment Opportunity Statement: The Town of Clint does not discriminate on the basis of color, national origin, sex, religion, age and handicapped status in employment or the provision of services.

Susana Rodriguez
Town Clerk

WTCC: 03-14-13

City of Socorro

PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held on March 19, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. during the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting at City of Socorro Chambers, 860 N. Rio Vista Rd., Socorro, Texas. Purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public comments on the following:

1) On proposed Signalization Project for District No.2.

2) On the proposed rezoning of Lot 12 , Block 16, Friedman Estates, from R-1 Single Family Residential to R-2 Medium Density Residential.

3) On the proposed rezoning of Tract 1Y, Leigh Clark Survey No. 293 from Unclassified Zoning, to M-1, Light Industrial.

4) On the proposed rezoning of Lot 4 , Block 7, Haciendas Del Valle Unit 2, from R-1 Single Family Residential to R-2 Medium Density Residential.

Those unable to attend the public hearing may submit their views to the City of Socorro. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the hearings are encouraged to contact the City Clerk (915) 858-2915, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting.

Sandra Hernandez
City Clerk

WTCC: 03-14-13


PUBLIC NOTICE

El Paso Collaborative for Community and Economic Development

Invitation to Bid

El Paso Collaborative for Community and Economic Development is accepting bids for 1) bathroom improvement for accessibility of one home in the Ysleta area and 2) improvements for accessibility and repairs of one home in the Socorro area.

Bidding period is Thursday, March 14, 2013, through Friday, March 29, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. Bid packets may be picked up at El Paso Collaborative, 1359 Lomaland, Suite 538, El Paso, Texas 79935, M-F 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Packets include specifications. Re-modeling must meet visitability guidelines and have energy efficiency features incorporated. For further information, contact Program Coordinator Joyce Davidoff or Project Specialist Juan Garcia at (915) 590-1210.



WTCC: 03-14-13

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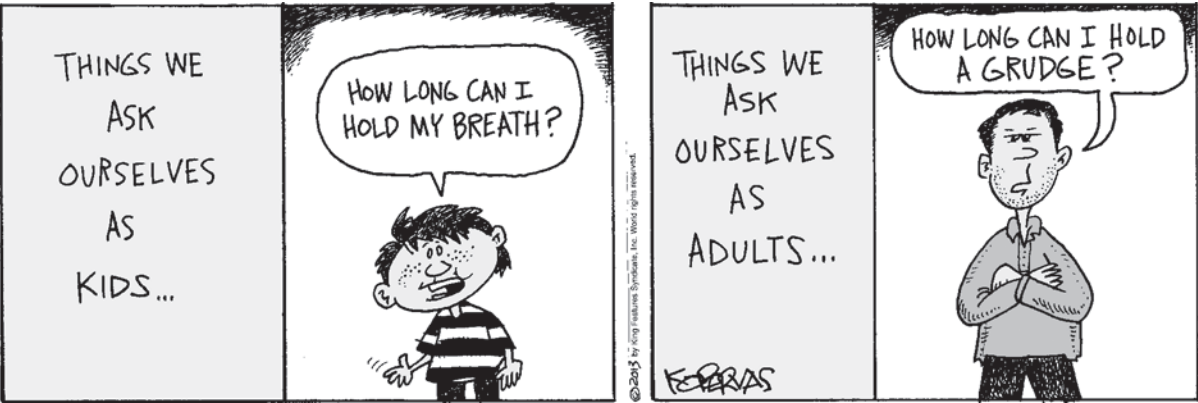
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Deadline: Mondays
Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:
West Texas County Courier
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

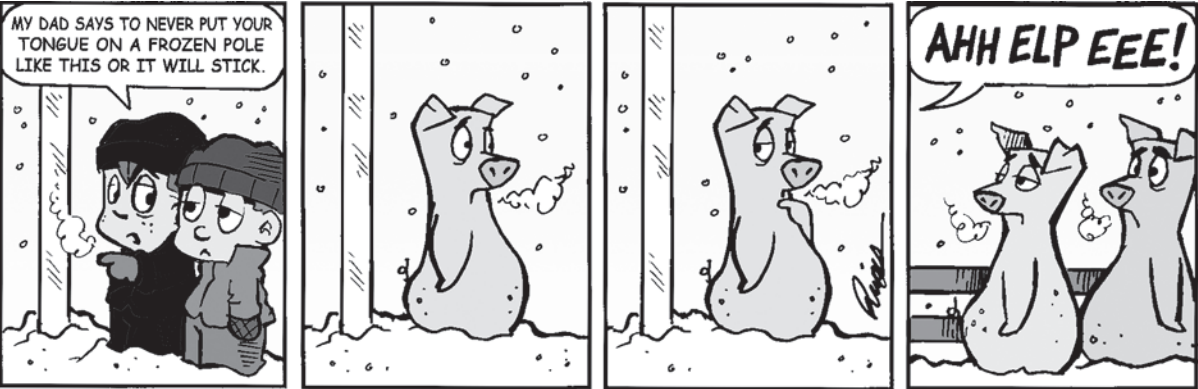
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMBBy Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVESBy Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATSBy Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I have had sciatica for two and a half months. Even though I am better than at I was first, I am taking forever to fully recover. I have had chiropractic treatments and physiotherapy. My doctor tells me it will go away on its own. Books that I have read say that most recover in six weeks. It's going on three months for me. I also had vasculitis (Henoch-Schonlein purpura). I haven't experienced any symptoms for a couple of years. I have been feeling nauseated and have had loose BMs and the odd stomachache. A red spot appeared on my leg a few days ago. Do you think the vasculitis is playing a role in my delay in recovery? – J.B.

abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea (or constipation) also arise. In the first year after recovery, relapses are common. If your current stomach troubles worsen or you see more red blotches, get back to the doctor who took care of you before. I don't believe that HS, if it is returning, is interfering with your recovery from sciatica. The booklet on back problems describes their common causes and their treatment. Readers can order a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 303W, 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.

I'll describe the typical pain of sciatica, and you see if the description fits your pain. The sciatic nerve is the body's largest and longest nerve. It travels from the lower back, down the leg to the ankle or foot. Pressure on the nerve from a protruding back disk, a bone spur or anything that compresses the nerve brings on sharp or burning pain running down the side and back of the leg to the foot.

Pulling the knees to the chest and holding that position for 20 seconds produces sciatica pain.

The pain of sciatica often lessens and disappears in one or two months.

The X-ray report you included doesn't rule in or rule out sciatica. If the pain persists, an MRI or CT scan provides additional information. You are improving, so I think eventually you should be pain-free.

Vasculitis is an inflammation of blood vessels, and Henoch-Schonlein (HE-knock SURN-line) purpura is one kind of vasculitis. Children get this illness more than adults do. Red blotches that turn into bruises (purpura) pop up on the buttocks and legs. Joint pain,

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: As someone preparing for a liver biopsy, please discuss the procedure, recovery and possible side effects. – R.J.

Doctors perform a liver biopsy with a needle attached to a suction device that can capture a thin piece of the organ for microscopic examination. The needle is inserted through the skin over the liver. First the doctor cleans the skin with an antiseptic and often numbs it. The procedure takes less than a minute. You return home shortly thereafter.

Side effects are rare. Bleeding is possible. So is infection. Neither happens frequently.

You don't have to prepare yourself in any special way.

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

- WILLIAM VII ACROSS

1 Dilapidated condition

10 Hawaii-born U.S. president

15 Acute

20 Unlike death and taxes?

21 Marsh bird

22 One healing

23 Former Philippine president going around something?

25 Baseballer Pee Wee

26 "A," in Arles

27 Scriptwriter

Ephron

28 "... minute!"

29 Mambo king

Puente

31 Had food

32 "Who Said Gay _?" (song from "Can-Can")

34 Tender of Andean animals?

37 LummoX

41 _-mell

42 Many-acred home

43 Things keeping baby sheep from straying?

47 Actor Waggoner

49 Newspaper opinion piece

50 Prefix that means "egg"

51 Caustic cleaners

52 Zaragoza's river

55 _- buco (veal meal)

57 Spilled the beans

59 Medusa's activity?

65 Not open

67 At the acme

68 See

69 Cow noise

70 Proclaims, biblically

71 Wicked

73 High-tech greeting

75 Flurry

76 "Friday Night Fights" airer

79 Idi of infamy

80 Car houser

82 People trying out covered wagons?

86 Turn to mush

88 Hammered item

89 Word repeated after "qué"

90 Big name in synthesizers

92 HDTV brand

93 Walked

96 Staff symbol

98 Silky fabric worn by a primate?

101 Stop up again, as a wine bottle

103 "S'il _ plait"

106 Portable PC

107 Be cleverer than a famed candy man?

110 Ivy League Philly sch.

114 Simple card game

115 Spot for a mail slot

116 67-Across, in poetry

117 Neighbor of N. Dak.

120 "_ do not!"

121 Conveyed via a conduit

123 They're hidden in seven long answers in this puzzle

128 "The stage _"

129 Absolve

130 Turf again

131 Unfeeling

132 Velodrome competitions

DOWN

1 Block the flow of

2 A former Mrs. Trump

3 More tender

4 Singer Ocasek

5 He played TV's Al Bundy

6 Old El _ (taco brand)

7 Shortened form, for short

8 Kovalchuk of the NHL

9 Salesperson, for short

10 Response to a great retort

11 "... Mucho" (1944 #1 hit)

12 Meyers of the screen

13 Every 30 days or

so

14 Hollywood's Dickinson

15 Young haddocks

16 Color tone

17 Hiker's guide

18 Paraphrase

19 Dressed up fussily

24 Suffer

30 Sticky pine product

33 Diminish

34 Zodiac beast

35 Sterling silver, say

36 Tavern chair

38 Singer Crystal

39 Plant _ of doubt

40 "Hey ... you"

43 Ton

44 Guacamole base

45 Hundred cubed

46 One next to you on a plane, e.g.

48 Soft throws

53 Plant that flowers

54 Act of retaliation

56 More cunning

58 Point

60 Hokey actor

61 Wiggling fish

62 Mental pictures

63 Electric razor brand

64 The Almighty

66 The Beatles' "_ Woman"

70 Baglike part

71 Verb suffix

72 Pantry raider

74 Vid shooter

77 Stay with, as a

decision

78 Gallup _

80 Aggregation

81 After _ (kind of)

83 Fund

84 Regarding

85 Samms or Watson

87 Khaki

91 Fly ball's antithesis

93 Touring actor

94 Bring back together

95 Ink squirter

97 Earth's highest peak

99 Tarzan actor Ron

100 PC software

102 Relieved (of)

104 Golf tourney

105 Kind of pony or pooch

108 Pueblo builders

109 Prior to, in poetry

111 Computer of the 1940s

112 Nick of "Affliction"

113 Butler on "The Nanny"

117 Skirt type

118 "How are you?" reply

119 Goose of Hawaii

122 Tokyo, previously

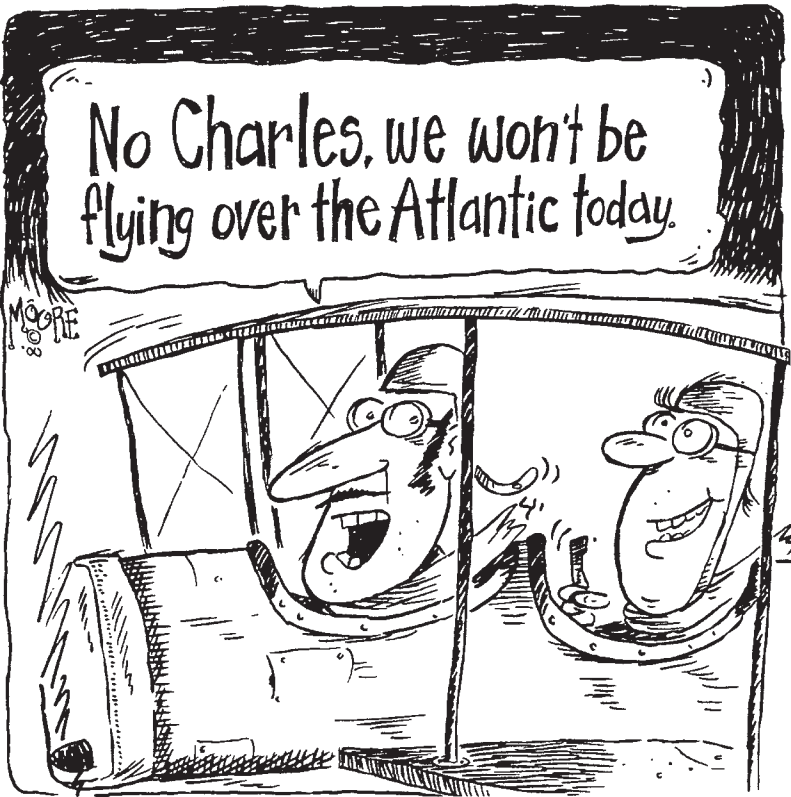
124 Bear, in Madrid

125 Neighbor of S. Dak.

126 Playtex item
- Answer Page 5
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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True Texas Facts by Roger T. Moore

March 14, 1924-Charles Lindbergh starts pilot training at Brooks field in San Antonio.



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.

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	×		+		22
22		10		9	

123456689

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 5

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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 5

★★★ HOO BOY!

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: My wife and I live in Minnesota, but plan to spend the winter in New Mexico. My wife will turn 62 while we are down south. Can she apply for benefits in New Mexico, or do we have to wait until we get back home to apply for retirement at our local Social Security office?

A: These days, you don't even have to be near a Social Security office to apply for benefits. Regardless of where you and your wife are living, you can apply for retirement benefits online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applytotire. It's so easy to do, and it can take as little as 15 minutes to complete and submit the application. If she prefers, your wife can file a retirement benefit application at any Social Security office – including the one closest to you in Minnesota, New Mexico, or wherever you happen to be.

Q: I am about to apply for Social Security disability benefits. I have two children, ages 9 and 12. If my application is approved, will they get benefits, too? Or do the children also have to be disabled to qualify for benefits on my record?

A: If you qualify for Social Security disability benefits, your children may receive dependent's benefits based on your work record, even if they're not disabled themselves. As long as

you receive benefits, their benefits will continue until they reach age 18, or until age 19 if they are still in high school. If your children are disabled, however, at the time that they reach age 18, they may be able to continue receiving benefits into adulthood. For more information, visit our website on disability benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Q: I am 57 years old and I currently receive Social Security disability benefits. Can I still get my regular Social Security retirement benefits when I reach full retirement age?

A: If you are still receiving Social Security disability benefits when you reach your full retirement age, we will automatically switch you from disability benefits to retirement benefits at that point. The money amount will remain the same. For more information, visit our website on disability benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

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, 11111 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: E equals A

YBC ZSOFYJ ENYTO E DEJSBA

PLTA QMY'Z EX TXJEOFMHC RGY

EO BEXCZFERSXL: "DEOMHG

JYQZ NHZO."

Answer Page 5

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FEAR KNQT

By: rj johnson

CONQUER THE WHIRLED

AWH
DIMASS
♥NESTO
NUAL
MEDHYN
SAS
♥NSWO
HYSUM
♥ESU
DUNISA
WARND
MARH

Answer Page 5

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 Robert Kennedy who made the following sage observation: "One-fifth of the people are against everything all the time."
- An adult ostrich can reach up to 9 feet in height and weigh upward of 300 pounds.
- The Taj Mahal, a tomb built by Indian Mogul Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most-visited tourist attractions in the world. It wasn't always so, though; from the time of the building's completion in 1643 until the British occupied the Indian subcontinent, only Muslims were allowed onto the grounds. If any non-Muslim ventured into the forbidden Taj Mahal, he or she was put to death.
- When World War I started, the U.S. Air Force had a grand total of 50 soldiers.
- The frigid island nation of Iceland is, by all accounts, a peaceful place. In the entire history of the country, there has been only one armed-robbery.
- When Albert Einstein was 9 years old, he still wasn't able to speak fluently. His parents worried that he might be retarded.
- In 1957, famed crooner Frank Sinatra wrote for a magazine called "Western World" a piece that included the following: "My only deep sorrow is the unrelenting insistence of recording and motion picture companies upon purveying the most brutal, ugly, degenerate, vicious form of expression it has been my displeasure to hear, and naturally I'm referring to the bulk of rock 'n' roll." He goes on to call it "the martial music of every sideburned delinquent on the face of the earth."
- If you're like the average human, your body produces about two quarts of saliva every day.

ThoughtfortheDay: "Enemies are so stimulating."

– Katharine Hepburn

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