



NEWSBRIEFS

Crime Stoppers

A woman crossing Dyer Street in the northeast is struck by a southbound vehicle which flees after causing serious injury, making this the Crime Stoppers “Crime of the Week.” On Tuesday evening, November 20th, 2012, a little after 6:00 PM, a female pedestrian was crossing Dyer street in the 4100 block when she was struck by a southbound vehicle which fled the scene. The victim was not in a crosswalk and was transported to the hospital with serious and possibly life-threatening injuries. The hit and run vehicle then fled south on Dyer. The vehicle that fled is described as a grey or silver Dodge Intrepid that had a different colored left front fender, and possibly Chihuahua license plates. The driver of the hit and run vehicle was described as an Hispanic male possibly in his 50s. If you have any information about the identity of the suspect in this case, contact Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-TIPS (566-8477), on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org or you can send a text message by entering the key word CRIME1 (no space) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

— James Klaes

Wanted

Just after midnight on February 27, 2013 two men walked up to a truck driver at the Petro Truck stop at 1295 Horizon Blvd. and mugged him. Both kicked and punched him as they grabbed his money and made a run for it. The victim tried to stop the assailants, but they just beat him up worse. They two guys we’re looking for escaped with the driver’s money in an older lime green Ford Expedition. There was another guy driving the truck as they headed east on I-10. One of the attackers is described as a white male in his early 30s wearing a white sweatshirt and blue jeans. The second subject was described as being in his late 20s. We suspect someone out there saw what happened or maybe saw the getaway truck, or maybe you’ve heard someone talking about this incident. Anyone with information is asked to call the City of Socorro Police Department at 858-6983.

— Dave Garcia

Wanted II

Juan Pablo Leyva, 19, who also uses Petey, is this week’s Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive. He is 5’11” tall and weighs 190 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes. In late January 2013, a male subject was lured to the desert area east of the 6000 block of Mountain Sun (far east El Paso County) and was

See BRIEFS, Page 5

Most reformers insist that their conscience be your guide.

— Quips & Quotes

Smokestacks scheduled to fall April 13

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – If things go according to plan, interested spectators will have an opportunity to see the two massive Asarco smokestacks come crashing down early Saturday morning, April 13. Only strong winds, that are prevalent during spring in the desert southwest, can thwart these plans now.

Roberto Puga, the trustee in charge of cleaning up the Asarco site, said in a recent public meeting that they are working to see what safe and clear vantage points may be made available for public-viewing. He suggested that Mount Cristo Rey might make for a good vantage point.

As they prepare to drop the massive, contaminated Asarco smokestacks, there are still efforts to preserve the stacks as an important symbol of El Paso’s heritage.

A group of elected leaders recently sent a letter to state environmental regulators asking that they delay demolition of the Asarco smokestacks because of environmental and safety concerns.

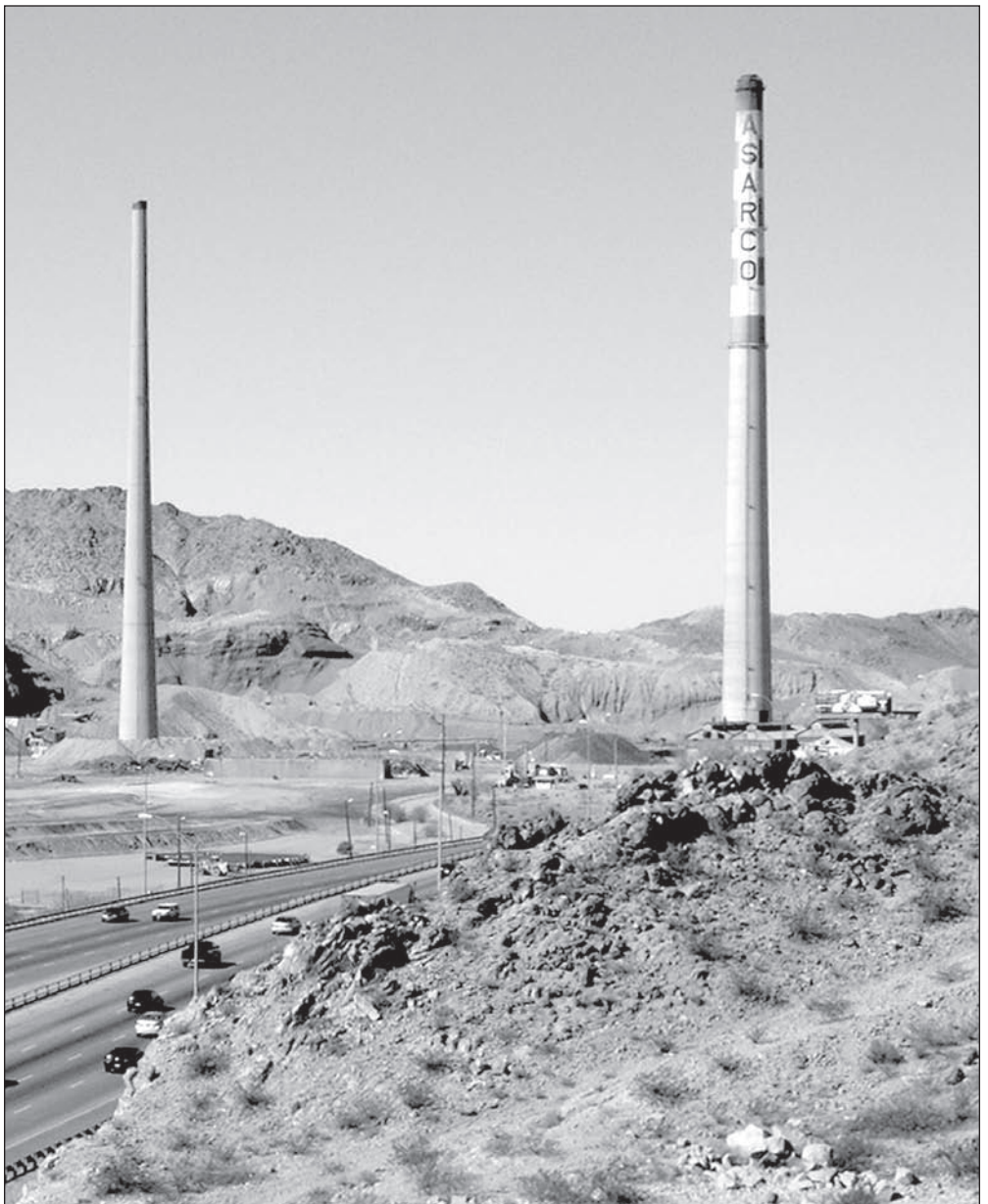
However, Puga said his team has already addressed most of the concerns and the rest will be addressed in advance of the planned April 13 demolition.

Nonetheless, after the drive to save the stacks proved unsuccessful in December’s city council ruling, attention turned to how to demolish them and how to do so safely.

For more than a century, the American Smelting and Refining Co. processed metals such as lead, copper and zinc on the site, just west of Downtown along the Rio Grande. Subsequently, by 1969 El Paso’s air had Texas’ highest concentrations of lead, which can harm almost every system in the body, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Eventually residents fought to shut down

See STACKS, Page 4



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

TO COME TUMBLING DOWN – For more than a century, the American Smelting and Refining Co. processed metals such as lead, copper and zinc on the site that is about two miles west of Downtown El Paso along the Rio Grande. The April 13 demolition will probably stir up a toxic cloud. The Asarco site cleanup trustee said that steps have been taken to help minimize the dust and that the cleanup team will monitor weather forecasts before the 826-foot and 612-foot smokestacks are demolished. Paisano Drive and I-10 will be closed and access to the area will be restricted. The iconic stacks also served another purpose throughout the years as a reference point for pilots.

Projects compete for same housing money

By Robert Grijalva
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – A local builder is

concerned that state monies intended for low-income families may be diverted to housing for artists in downtown El Paso. Bobby Bowling, owner of Tropicana Homes, thinks there is a more efficient use of taxpayer funds

for low-income families.

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) offers grants to qualified builders every two years for a tax qualified program intended to provide housing for low-income residents. By law, the final housing projects must have at least 60% of its tenants earning less than poverty levels set by the state.

Bowling has submitted an application to TDHCA for funding of two housing units inside the city of El Paso. The projects by Tropicana would construct quadraplexes in northeast El Paso and on Rojas just east of Loop 375.

The City of El Paso and the El Paso Community Foundation (EPCF) also applied for project monies that would provide housing for artists under the same grants. Artspace, headquartered in Minnesota, is managing the downtown project.

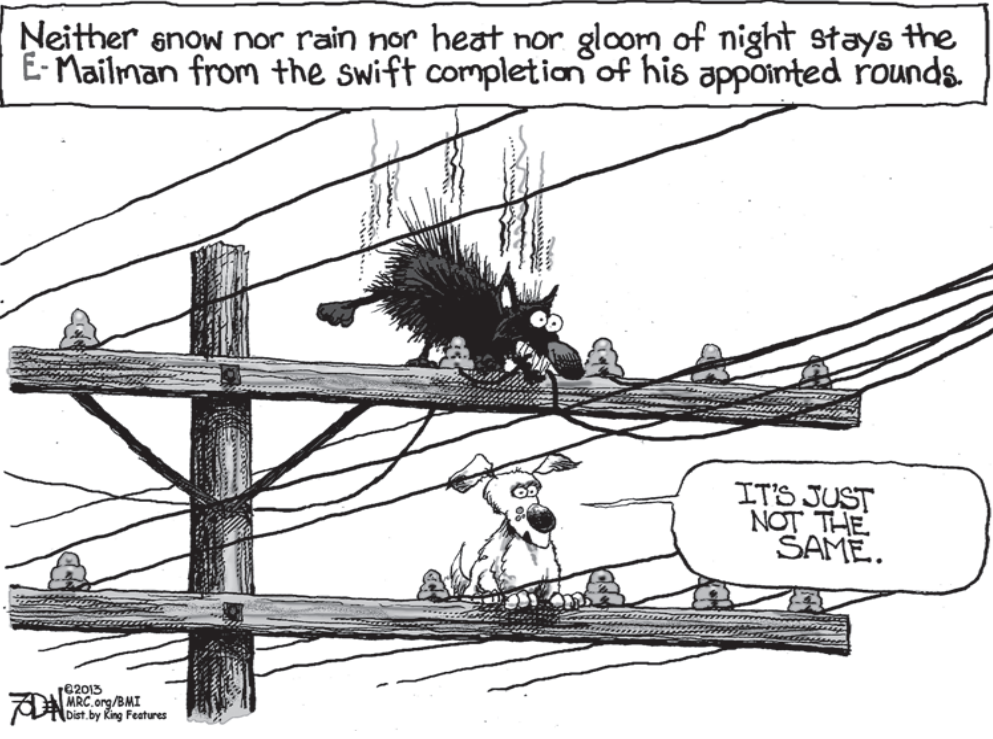
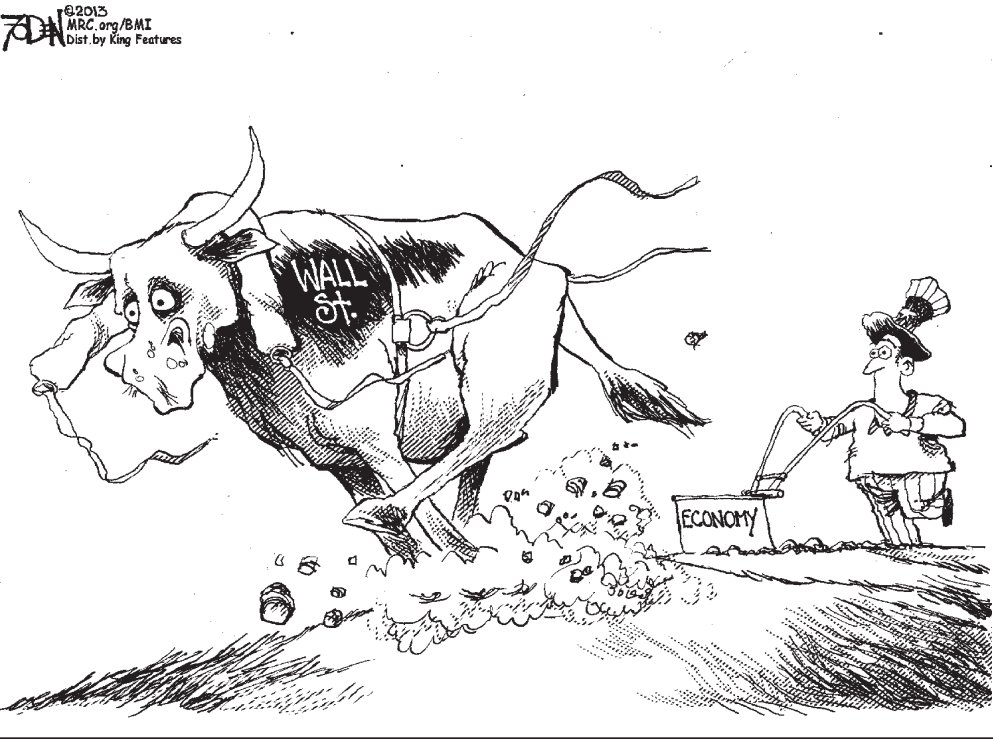
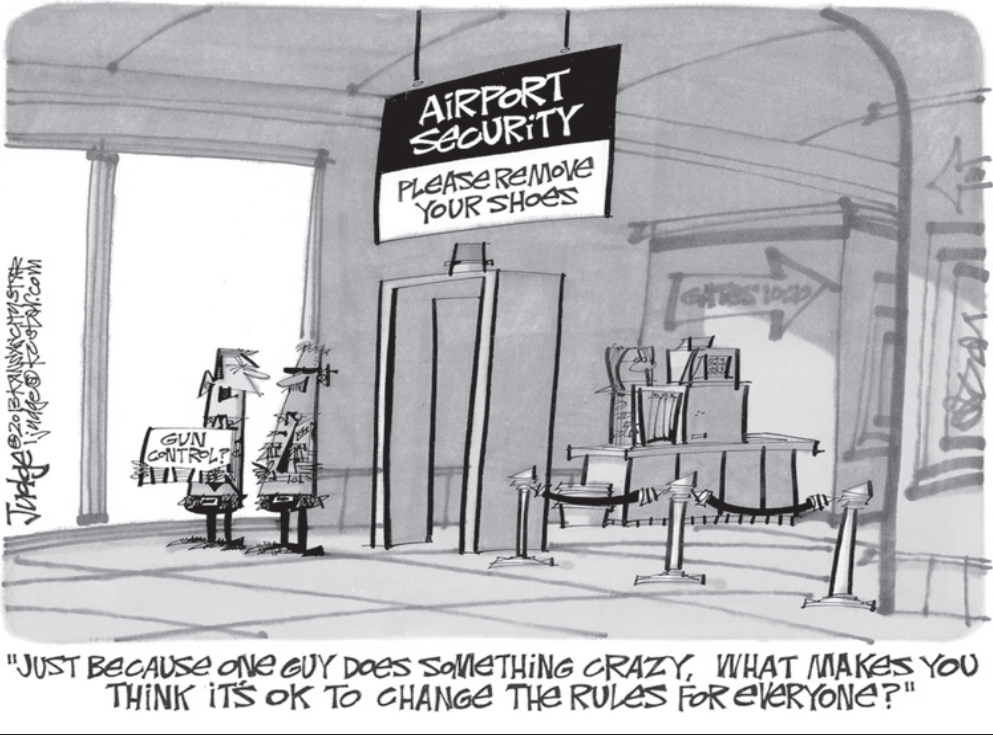
According to Bowling, the grant allocations also require that social programs be provided to the tenants in order to qualify for the funds. Tropicana housing units have provided services



— Photo by Robert Grijalva

Bobby Bowling, owner of Tropicana Homes, talked with his on site property manager, Sergio Gamboa, at his newest housing unit located in Canutillo. Bowling is concerned about how money is spent to create viable low-income housing in El Paso.

See PROJECTS, Page 5



It's the law By Texas AG Greg Abbott

Understanding the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act

“Our remedy cures arthritis and cancer in seven days!”

“Resolve your outstanding debts! With our product, you’ll only have to pay your creditors 30 percent of what you owe!”

When a vendor or salesman uses false statements, duress, exaggerations or misleading advertisements to win a Texan’s business, he or she violates the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act (DTPA).

Vendors may violate the DTPA by claiming their product does something it does not or cannot do. Companies also violate the DTPA when they take advantage of a customer’s lack of knowledge or language comprehension.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) protects Texans by filing civil enforcement actions under the DTPA and other consumer-protection statutes. Businesses must comply with the law when they interact with customers.

Complaints filed with the OAG may form the basis for a state investigation into a company’s business practices. In some cases, significant numbers of complaints about a business may give rise to legal action to enforce state law and protect the public interest. The decision to investigate or take legal action is based on a number of factors.

Enforcement actions are filed on behalf of the State of Texas and the public good. The OAG cannot represent individual Texans, but some legal actions do produce restitution for the defendant’s customers.

The DTPA covers the sale, lease and

distribution of nearly all goods and services, with the exception of professional advice. Providers of professional advice would not be cited under the DTPA if opinions they give clients turn out to be “wrong.”

For example, an attorney could not be sued for deceptive trade practices for advising a client to file a lawsuit that ultimately failed.

Consumer education is a vital part of the OAG’s mission. The best consumer protection is widespread public awareness of consumer rights and common scams. Texans who believe they have been subject to deceptive trade practices should file a complaint with

the OAG and retain as much evidence of wrongdoing as possible, including brochures, advertisements, records of related transactions and notes about conversations with company representatives.

Texans who relied on a deceptive practice to their detriment also should make every effort to remedy the situation with the vendor. They should send a certified, return-receipt letter to the vendor outlining the problem and what the company should do to make the situation right. If that fails, Texans may also consider suing in small claims court or consulting an attorney about civil litigation.

The Office of the Attorney General may take legal action to enforce state consumer protection laws. To file a complaint, contact:

Office of Attorney General
Consumer Protection Division Hotline
(800) 621-0508
www.texasattorneygeneral.gov

Texas Parks and Wildlife turns 50

Agency asks Texans to share stories, photos

Tom Harvey
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – In the late summer of 1963, the most popular show on television was “The Beverly Hillbillies,” a gallon of gas cost 29 cents, the University of Texas Longhorns were headed toward their first national football championship, “My Boyfriend’s Back” was the top hit on AM radio and Texas had a new state agency called the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Earlier that year, Texas lawmakers had begun consideration of House Bill 21, introduced by Weatherford State Rep. James M. Cotton, an attorney descended from a Parker County pioneer. The measure, called for by Gov. John B. Connally as part of his campaign to modernize state government, would merge the Game and Fish Commission with the State Parks Board to create a new agency dedicated to conservation, parks and outdoor recreation. The final bill passed in the Senate in early April and Connally later signed it into law with an effective date of Aug. 23.

This year, TPWD will mark its 50th anniversary using technology not even imagined in 1963. The department has set up a 50th anniversary web page at [www.](http://www.lifesbetteroutside.org)

lifesbetteroutside.org where people can share stories and photos about their memorable moments in the Texas outdoors, and thereby inspire others to enjoy nature.

While online, the agency hopes people will sign up to become a Texas Parks and Wildlife ambassador and pledge to do things like visit state parks, take a kid hunting or fishing, and watch and share a video showcasing what’s made life better outside in Texas.

“With all the bounty and beauty of our natural places, our parks, our wildlife, and with everything that’s at stake in our state today, we are excited about our 50th birthday,” said TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith, “but we don’t want it to be all about us, and we want to look to the future as we celebrate our past.”

While acknowledging the many contributions of former and current TPWD employees, Smith says the agency wants the half-century celebration to focus on the people who support the department, and to inspire a new generation of supporters.

“We’re a successful organization in large part because of those who support us,” Smith said, “and we can’t fulfill our mission without help. If you love wildlife and parks, step up to be a TPWD ambassador and join us in shaping the Texas outdoors we want to see in the next 50 years.”

Committee tours Eastlake High expansion project

By Ytsel Arruñada
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO ISD – The Socorro Independent School District’s Bond Accountability Committee took a tour of Eastlake High School on March 12 as part of its regular meeting.

Team members from the contractor Buford-Thompson Company were on site to give committee members a complete look at the expansion project in progress at the campus.

“The tour was breathtaking... we see the pictures given during the presentation but the tour really gave us an idea of what our kids are going to have available to them,” BAC committee chairman Robert Alvarez said. “I am happy with the progress being made with Bond 2011. We are definitely on schedule with Promises Made, Promises Kept.”

Chief Operations Officer Tom

Eyeington gave the committee a brief update on all of the ongoing construction and an overview of upcoming developments that will affect the next phase of the program.

Along with the completion of Eastlake High School, the fifth combination school—James P. Butler Elementary and SSG. Manuel R. Puentes Middle – is also on its way toward final stages of construction. The new combination school will be ready by the start of the 2013-14 school year.

Other Bond 2011 projects that are under way are the new science labs at Socorro, Montwood and Americas high schools and HVAC conversions at Escontrias, H.D. Hilley, Horizon Heights, Vista Del Sol, Helen Ball and Sierra Vista elementary schools.

For more information visit www.sisd.net/Bond2011.



– Photo by Daniel Escobar / SISD

UNDER CONSTRUCTION – SISD’s Bond Accountability Committee members, Eastlake High School principal and staff and Buford-Thompson employees toured the expansion project at Eastlake High School.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

City of Socorro

PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held on April 16, 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 the proposed rezoning of Lot 10, Block 1, El Campestre, from R-1 Single Family Residential to C-1 Light Commercial.

2) On the proposed rezoning of Lots 1 and 2, North Loop Acres Subdivision from R-1 Single Family Residential to C-2 General Commercial.

3) On the proposed rezoning of Tracts 9, 9A, and 16C, Block 12, Socorro Grant from R-2 Medium Density Residential to R-3 Heavy Density Residential.

4) On the proposed rezoning of Lot 16, Block

5, San Ysidro Subdivision from R-1 Single Family Residential to C-1 Light Commercial.

5) On the proposed rezoning of Tracts 14-B & 14-C, Block 15, Socorro Grant from R-1 Single Family Residential to C-1 Light Commercial.

6) On the proposed rezoning of Lot 1, Block 1, Villa Morena Subdivision, from R-1 Single Family Residential to C-1 Light Commercial.

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: 03-21-13

AYUDA, Inc.

PUBLIC

NOTICE

AYUDA Inc. Adults and Youth United Development Association (AYUDA) Inc is a recipient of Home Contract for Deed #10017655 and HRA Contract #1001763.

AYUDA Inc. will accept seal bids for up to 10 residential new constructions and rehabilitation for each contract. Contractors can pick up a Bid Packet starting March 18, 2013 through April 1, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Bid Packets can be picked up from and delivered to AYUDA Inc. 1325 Beverly Ann, San Elizario, TX 79849.

Submitted Bid Packets must have Home Deed Conversion and HRA Bids written on the lower left hand side of the envelope. A public opening of the Bid Packets will take place on April 5, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the office of AYUDA Inc. phone (915) 851-0272. The contractor must ensure that employees and applicants are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin age

sex or disability.

AYUDA Inc. has a conflict of interest procedure in accordance with 24CFR 92356. AYUDA has a Bidders Protest Rights Procedure. AYUDA Inc. reserves the right to reject any bids or to waive any informality in the bidding.

AYUDA Inc. is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

WTCC: 03-21-13

Town of Horizon City

PUBLIC NOTICE

During a Regular City Council Meeting on **Tuesday, March 12, 2013** the Town Of Horizon City approved the following ordinance(s):

1) **Ordinance No. 0200.** An Ordinance regulating the permissible routes of large trucks and other vehicles within the city limits of the Town of Horizon City, Texas; and providing for the following: findings of fact; repealer; severability;

effective date; proper notice and hearing; the penalty being as provided in Section III of the Ordinance.

Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call 915-852-1046.

Karen Ellefson
City Clerk
Town of Horizon City

WTCC: 03-21-13

TOWN OF HORIZON CITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at **6:30 pm on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, during a Regular Council Meeting** at City Hall at 15001 Darrington Rd. (Court/Police Dept annex) in the Council chambers, Horizon City, TX. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following:

1) **A proposed**

subdivision Replat and Replat Recordation Applications for Darrington Eastlake Commercial Unit One Replat B, described as being a Replat of Lots 1, 2, and 3 Block 1 Darrington Eastlake Commercial Unit One, Replat "A", Town of Horizon City, El Paso County, Texas. Currently Zoned C-2 Heavy Commercial. Replat request is to adjust interior lot line setbacks between Lots 2 and 3.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk of Horizon City. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available and individuals in need of special assistance for attending the hearing are encouraged to contact the City Clerk at 915/852-1046, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this hearing.

Karen Ellefson
City Clerk
Town of Horizon City

WTCC: 03-21-13

Stacks

From Page 1

the refinery. And after a century of operating as a smelter that processed enormous quantities of dangerous toxins as lead, arsenic and cadmium, Asarco ceased production in 2000.

So when the 826-foot and 612-foot stacks are demolished, they will probably stir up a toxic cloud, but Puga said that crews cleaning the site will take elaborate measures to control the dust.

“The site will be prepared by constructing earthen barriers along the sides of the fall zones and the installation of a water fog system, which mitigates dust migration,” Puga stated in a recent news report. “The earthen barriers physically stop dust and debris, and the water fog absorbs dust particles, causing them to fall to the ground,” he explained.

on their sides. “The technique involves placing an explosive charge at the base of the stacks,” Puga stated. “The charge is placed so that it only creates an opening in the stacks, on the side facing the direction the stack is to fall. The resulting opening causes instability in the stack, which allows gravity to topple the structure to the ground.

“It is very similar to how a tree is taken down, other than using an axe to cut a notch at the base of the tree we will use explosives to blow out the ‘notch.’ “Once the stacks are down, metal in them will be recycled and concrete will be crushed and used as fill on the site, Puga said.

The demolition is part of a \$52 million remediation, which is expected to be complete by 2015. Puga said the cleanup will be complete by 2015, and he hopes to sell the property by 2016.

The University of Texas at El Paso inquired last year about expanding into the eastern parcel. The commission on environmental quality, which oversees Puga, told UTEP and University of Texas System officials that it was premature to discuss developing the property before it is cleaned up, according to UTEP officials.

The city’s master plan calls for mixed-use, high-density development on the property.

A facility such as a soccer stadium, racetrack or amusement park might be built on the part west of I-10, where hazardous materials from the entire Asarco property will be landfilled, Puga said. The part east of the freeway could be used for residential development, he added.

Engineers plan to drop the stacks

Engineers plan to drop the stacks

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CryptoQuip
Answer

The new society girl endured much terrible teasing. You might say she was a deb you taunt.

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Texas’ most stolen vehicles

By Michelle Lanham
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Pickups are not only popular among Texas drivers, they are also top targets for Texas vehicle thieves. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has released its final MVT19 report on the top vehicles reported stolen in Texas during 2012. The MVT19 report is compiled monthly by DPS and represents vehicle theft data entered into the Texas Crime Information Center by all Texas law enforcement agencies. An error margin of plus or minus five percent is assumed for incorrect entries by agencies. Based on the reports, as has been the case for many years, pickup trucks top the list of thieves’ most common targets for the year.

The 2012 top ten list of most stolen passenger vehicles is: 1) Ford Pickup; 2) Chevrolet Pickup; 3) Dodge Pickup; 4) Honda Civic; 5) Chevrolet Tahoe; 6) Honda Accord; 7) GMC Pickup; 8) Chevrolet Impala; 9) Toyota Camry; and 10) Ford Taurus.

Vehicles are stolen for a variety of reasons, and contrary to popular belief, the most stolen vehicles are several years old. Some are stolen and stripped for parts. Others are stolen and resold by thieves

to unsuspecting buyers. Many vehicles are stolen for joyriding, for use in committing other crimes, to perpetrate insurance fraud, to burglarize personal items and documentation, or for any number of other illegitimate purposes. And vehicle theft directly costs Texans more than any other single crime – over \$621 million in 2011.

Personnel from the Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA) and the agency’s associated vehicle crime task forces remind Texas drivers that vehicle thieves are always looking for opportunities to steal. Vehicle owners should be aware that thieves can be lurking anywhere, and drivers should practice prevention techniques such as hiding contents that may be desirable to a thief, locking vehicle doors, and taking keys.

The Texas ABTPA, an office of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, has funded law enforcement programs specializing in vehicle crime investigation, recovery, prevention and prosecution since 1991. Since then, Texas has seen a 61 percent reduction in the vehicle theft total. Currently, ABTPA funds 29 task force grant programs statewide, allowing over 150 law enforcement officers throughout Texas to focus exclusively on the resolution of vehicle crime cases.

Projects

From Page 1

such as financial counseling, English as a second language courses, GED courses, and dress for success/job interview courses. Additionally, tenants have been encouraged, through homebuyer counseling, to eventually become homeowners.

According to the Artspace website, the purpose of the units is more centered on arts. The website states:

“While rents vary by community, our goal is to provide affordable space that is adequate for artists both to live and to work in their units. Artspace buildings provide live/work spaces that are larger than other affordable spaces and usually less expensive than other comparable spaces.” “Anyone who qualifies for affordable housing may apply for residency in an Artspace project, but we give preference to those applicants who participate in and are committed to the arts.”

Bowling said, “Our units are truly intended for the poor. Through our projects, low income families can relocate to a newer home, a well constructed home and participate in programs that can lift them from the cycle of poverty.”

In a recent *El Paso Times* article, Eric Pearson, President of the EPCF, said “It’s all about trying to introduce residential into Downtown.” He also said, “Artists tend to be pioneers, and if we can get them Downtown [it will] make the area a viable market for others to invest and also live.”

Tropicana Homes has completed 20 tax-credit housing units since 1999 when it first began applying for the grants. At the end of 2012, there were 2012 units available for the low-income tenants. Through this period, tenants have been provided the social programs that were mentioned previously. There have been several

tenants who have actually achieved homeownership after living in the Tropicana housing units.

The history of Artspace is explained by the following from its website:

“At present, we own and operate 32 projects across the country. Twenty-six are live/work or mixed-use projects comprised of more than 1,100 residential units. Our portfolio of projects is rounded out with non-residential projects that provide space for artists and cultural organizations.”

Briefs

From Page 1

violently assaulted by three male subjects. The victim was later found at a local hospital with serious but non-life threatening injuries. Charges were filed shortly after. During the course of the investigation, one of the three assailants was positively identified as Leyva. Authorities are now looking for Leyva who knows he is wanted. Leyva remains in the Borderland and is known to frequent the Montana Vista area and has also been spotted in the Northeast. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Leyva 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 Leyva.

– Deputy Jesse Tovar



Juan Leyva

2013

TENNIS & SOFTBALL

SCHEDULE

HOME SCHEDULE

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

TENNIS

VS. UTAH STATE | 4.11.13 | 2 PM

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MANY PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY ARE. THEY

DON'T KNOW THAT MORE OF THE BRAIN CAN BE SAVED IF A

STROKE IS DETECTED AND TREATMENT IS RECEIVED IMMEDIATELY.

A STROKE ATTACKS THE BRAIN. THE BRAIN

ALERTS YOUR BODY TO DANGER. SEE THE PROBLEM?

STROKES BEGIN WHEN A BLOOD VESSEL IN THE BRAIN BECOMES BLOCKED OR

BURSTS. BLOOD FLOW IS CUT OFF. TISSUE IS STARVED FOR OXYGEN, AND

PARTS OF THE BRAIN DIE. IF NOT TREATED QUICKLY, ABILITIES AND

PRODUCTIVE LIFE CAN BE LOST. YOUR BRAIN IS YOUR MOST

PRIZED POSSESSION. GUARD IT WITH YOUR LIFE.

WITH A STROKE, TIME LOST IS BRAIN LOST.

If you suddenly have or see any of these symptoms, call 9-1-1 immediately: Numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body • Confusion, trouble speaking or understanding • Difficulty seeing in one or both eyes • Trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination • Severe headache with no known cause

Learn more at StrokeAssociation.org or 1-888-4-STROKE.



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Made possible in part by a generous grant from The Bugher Foundation.



Athletes need to remember social networking works

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

One of the greatest inventions man has ever made has come in the form of communication.

Social Networking has given humans all over the planet a chance to get closer than ever before by sharing ideas, thoughts and beliefs.

Of course there are some people who abuse the privilege. There are people who don't know how to use the technology for good.

To put it simply, some people just don't know when to shut up and keep things to themselves.

One of those people is the Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant. It's as if Bryant first became aware of social media over the last four months.

Let's face it, Kobe is 34-years-old but is still playing basketball at a very high level.

He's better than about 98 percent of the other guys in the league.

Kobe is currently the third highest scorer in the league, averaging 27 a game.

But that's not all. Kobe also leads the league in a few other categories.

He leads the league in complaining, whining, crying, sulking, blaming, pouting, backstabbing, threatening and moping.

It seems like every week he's calling out one of his teammates or questioning the coaching or blaming the referees or squabbling with ownership.

This week it was a new one.

In last week's loss to Atlanta, Kobe took the last-second shot to tie the game and he missed.

After attempting the jumper, he landed on

the foot of the Hawks' Dahntay Jones and twisted his ankle.

Now Kobe, who has been known to get physical on defense from time to time, could have been a professional and taken the loss in stride.

But that would be way too much to ask.

This time in front of the cameras after the game, Kobe blamed Jones for his ankle injury, saying the Jones did it on purpose.

Kobe said that Jones slid his foot under him to purposely injure him.

What's that I hear? Do you hear it too? It's the definite crying of a baby not getting what he wants.

C'mon man. I've seen the replay many times and Jones isn't even looking in Kobe's direction after he released the shot.

Jones just did what Kobe and all good defenders do; he got up tight on him and disrupted his shot.

Does Kobe think that because he is "Kobe" that the defender is supposed to back away and give him an open shot?

Then Kobe goes a little further.

Kobe actually threatened Jones, and the NBA has been conspicuously quite on the matter.

After the game, Kobe said his biggest regret is that he would have to wait a year before he could get revenge on Jones.

If any other player had said that, they would have heard from the commissioner's office in the way of a fine.

There are real pros in the NBA, players like Steve Nash, Tim Duncan, Ray Allen, Chris Paul, Kevin Durant, Tony Parker, Blake Griffin and Chris Bosh.

These players go about their business like true pros and do all their talking on the court.

If there are any problems they take care of it behind closed doors and not in public.

Kobe will go down as one of the best basketball scorers in NBA history.

But whether it's his rape case in Colorado, buying his wife's sympathy back with a \$3 million ring, being mentioned negatively in the book written by Phil Jackson, using a gay slur against another player, his feuds with Shaq and this latest problem with Jones, Kobe's image is as polarizing as that of Rush Limbaugh.

Either you love him or you hate him.

The Lakers have definitely underachieved this season and will struggle to make it to

the playoffs. But this adversity was Kobe's chance to shine as a leader.

When things go wrong, true leaders do whatever it takes to turn things around. They take responsibility, they bring everyone together, they assert their authority and they lead by example.

They don't just start pointing fingers at everyone else.

Kobe Bryant gets an "A" in dribbling, shooting, passing and defense.

But he gets an "F" in teamwork, motivation, maturity, responsibility and humility.

He also gets a "D-" in technical fouls, where he leads the league.



A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Catholics are on the move

It is a process shrouded in secrecy. From around the world (well... in this case, just America), a small group anointed members will come together in a secret conclave. They will blow smoke, select a chosen few and cast their final ballots. Outside, in baited anticipation, the press will wait. For many, it is a supreme sacred moment, and it will occur on a Sunday this March.

Selection Sunday. The day the 10 appointed athletic directors fill out a 68 team ballot in what is essentially a conclave, only in this case within the walls of the holy city of Indianapolis.

The headlines of late have been dominated by the news of Pope Benedict's resignation. It's a pretty

good story when you consider more than 30 percent of the world's people are Roman Catholics – the largest single denomination in the world. This hasn't happened in six centuries, a pope resigning. And now the world waits to see who is selected by a bunch of guys in uniform at the Vatican City.

Because of the timing, it's hard not to draw parallels. It's "March Madness," as we like to say in the sports and marketing world. But for the first time in 600 years, we probably have apparel outfitters wondering if they can get a logo on a Cardinal who's not from St. Louis or Arizona. I bet more than a few cardinals could use a little "heat gear"... sometimes it gets stuffy in

those chapels... particularly the one that Michelangelo laid on his back to paint.

The Catholics are on the move, and not just when it comes to the papacy... they are reshaping college basketball as we know it. The Big East division is currently reforming into an all-Catholic division, and on the West Coast, shockingly, a Roman Catholic school in Spokane, Wash., is leading the charge: Gonzaga. They are, as of this writing, the No. 1 basketball program in the NCAA.

For the past 13 years, Mark Few has been the rock upon which the Gonzaga basketball program has been founded. Under Few's leadership, Gonzaga went from a perennially overlooked mid-major with a small 6,000-seat arena to a program that cannot be denied by the NCAA conclave. Now they are a mid-major with a private jet, and

those 6,000 followers just witnessed the team make it to 30 wins for the first time.

Since the end of the past century (1999-2000), the NCAA has had visions of Gonzaga in their tournament... briefly. Unfortunately for their devout followers, they've never made it past the Sweet Sixteen, and typically flame out in the second round. Now, as all eyes are on

Rome, the faithful of Spokane also watch to see if their beloved "Zags" – truly a class organization, school and community regardless of creed – can overcome the Blue Devils and excise enough demons to take them to the promised land.

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

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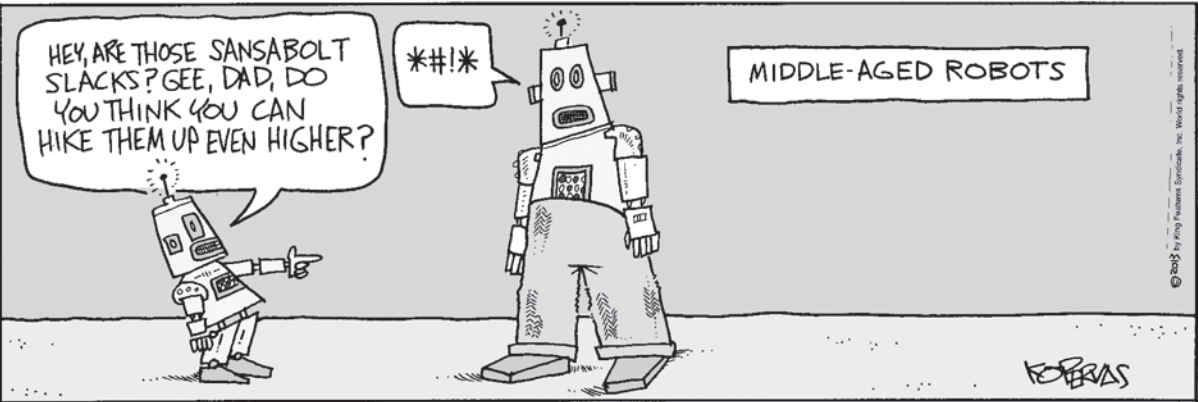
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Comix

OUT ON A 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 heartburn for many years. I take Prilosec for it, and it works fine for me. My doctor scheduled me for a gastroscope exam. I haven't had one for quite a while. The doctor who did the scope called me and my family doctor to say that I had changes seen in the biopsy he took. He says I have Barrett's esophagus, which can turn into cancer. Naturally, this has me worried. Will you elaborate on Barrett's esophagus and what I have to look forward to? Neither of my doctors has suggested a change in medicines. Do you? – T.M.

Barrett's esophagus is a change in the kind of cells that line the lowermost part of the esophagus, the part that attaches to the stomach. That change brings with it a chance of further, cancer changes. The risk is quite small, about 0.5 percent per year.

Barrett's esophagus happens to people who have GERD, gastroesophageal reflux disease, more popularly called heartburn. You take a medicine, Prilosec, that suppresses the production of stomach acid. Medicines that act similarly sometimes can retard the progression of these cell changes into cancer cells. They most definitely control heartburn. Barrett's also can happen to people who do not have GERD.

The chance of cancer developing depends on a number of criteria. One is the kind of cells that have evolved. If they show low-grade changes, the likelihood of cancer is not as great as it would be if they show high-grade changes. The length of the area involved with these changes is another factor in determining the cancer risk.

You must not have had signs that raise the risk for cancer, or the doctor would have recommended immediate treatment. About the only thing you need to do is comply with the suggested

follow-up scope exams so the doctor can see if any procedures are needed to eradicate these new cells. You don't have to sit around and worry. You have not received a death sentence.

The booklet on GERD (heartburn) explains this common disorder and its treatments. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue – No. 501W, 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: At a recent cocktail party, a nurse admonished me for chewing ice. She said that it indicates an iron deficiency. I get blood work done every six months. My doctor has never said anything about an iron deficiency or any other issue. I am 65 and in good health. – C.H.

The nurse was talking about pica. It's a craving for materials not considered foods, like ice, clay, starch and dirt, to mention a few. Sometimes it is an indication of iron deficiency, but far from always.

In someone like you, who has lab tests done twice a year, you're not anemic and don't have pica.

You do, however, have a habit that will ruin your teeth if you don't stop. Chewing on ice can cause microscopic fractures in tooth enamel, which can become larger fractures.

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

GOING FORMAL ACROSS

1 Have faith

6 Alan of TV and film

10 Shish _

15 _ Stanley Gardner

19 Pacific atoll

belonging to the U.S.

21 "Spenser: For Hire" star

22 Brand for hair removal

23 Comedy club event for amateurs, formally?

25 Loretta of country

26 Unescorted

27 Like poison ivy rashes

28 Chair creator

Charles

29 Do a boxing "dance," formally?

35 For no profit, perhaps

36 "Look what _!"

37 4, on some clocks

38 West German city

40 With 91-Across, tone oneself up

41 Supporter of drapes, formally?

46 "Dr." of hip-hop

49 List the particulars of, to a Brit

51 Zap with a stunning weapon

52 Opera house boxes

54 Owner of an

online company, formally?

59 Digital music pastiches

61 Pollen eater

62 Away from the wind

63 Baby goat

64 Best draft status

65 Damone or Tayback

68 Its students learn road rules, formally?

73 Crafty

74 Heavy burden

76 Serpent or alp suffix

77 Ice skater Kulik

78 Tiny charged bit

80 Arctic Circle

region of Europe

82 Aesthete's question, formally?

88 Depression

89 Defensive end

Antwan

91 See 40-Across

92 Furry sitcom alien

93 Stuck to one's decision, formally?

99 Japanese dance-drama

100 Rock's _ Tull

102 Suit part

103 Having left

104 " _ & Juliet" (animated 2011 film)

106 Pay, formally?

112 Painting holder

113 Prefix with fan or jet

114 Resound

115 Site of bliss

116 Victor Hugo classic, formally?

123 Big Apple squad car abbr.

124 Often-dipped cookies

125 Bun or bagel

toppers

126 Spa sounds

127 River to the Oise

128 Chaps

129 End on _ note

DOWN

1 A pair of

2 Ice-T hit, e.g.

3 Guitar kin

4 Got a feeling

5 East _ (nation since 2002)

6 Giant in foil

7 " _-di-dah!"

8 Forensic ID

9 Citrus drink

10 _ Kinte

11 13th-century king of Denmark

12 Egotists have them

13 Throbbing

14 Food preservative

inits.

15 Interweave

16 Sci-fi fryers, formally?

17 Creases

18 Painter Max

20 Nile deposit

24 Peaceful '60s

protest

28 Antiknock fluids

29 Stiff

30 Poem title starter

31 Dog to avoid

32 _ to pick

33 Day, to Juan

34 Xbox 360 competitor

35 King topper

39 Weak state

41 Referenced

42 Herald

43 Playa del _

44 I-40, e.g.

45 Sculler's tool

47 Force back

48 Analytic work

50 Wild bunch

53 "Well well!"

55 Bat's home

56 Corrida call

57 Sartre's sea

58 "Let _ down. O Juno!": Cleopatra

60 Eighth-century pope

63 "The Bridge on the River _"

65 Long river in Russia

66 Totally

67 Java serving, formally?

69 Not al fresco

70 Yalie

71 Not dat?

72 Backs, anatomically

75 _-pitch

79 - power

81 Beer brand

82 Muscle mag display

83 Play caller

84 _ Tac

85 Far Eastern capital

86 Once _ time

87 Alter, as a skirt edge

90 Nitwits

94 Even if, for short

95 Role player

96 Tricycle rider

97 Bowl cheer

98 Suffix with Canaan

101 Makes corrections to

103 Orbs

104 "Angie" star Davis

105 "Octomom" _ Suleman

107 "What the Butler Saw" playwright

108 Past portly

109 Bawls

110 2001 hit for Ja Rule

111 City in Tibet

113 Hatcher of "Soapdish"

116 Hawaii's Mauna _

117 Car ad abbr.

118 Debt note

119 KGB worker

120 Papal name

121 U. URL end

122 Former Russ. state

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Answer Page 4

Moore Texas by Roger Moore **Mar.16,1894:**
Notorious killer John Wesley Hardin is pardoned.
While in jail he passes the bar to become a lawyer.



GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	-		x		10
÷		x		x	
	x		-		14
+		+		÷	
	x		-		13
10		12		1	

1 2 2 3 4 6 7 8 9

Answer Page 4

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: What can I do if I think someone has stolen my identity?

A: You should do several things, including:

- File a report with the local police or the police department where the identity theft took place, and keep a copy of the police report as proof of the crime;
- Notify the Federal Trade Commission (1-877-ID-THEFT or 1-877-438-4338);
- File a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov; and
- Contact the fraud units of the three major credit reporting bureaus: Equifax (800-525-6285); Trans Union: (800-680-7289); and Experian: (888-397-3742).

Learn more by reading our publication, *Identity Theft And Your Social Security Number*, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10064.html.

Q: I'm reaching my full retirement age and thinking about retiring in early 2013. When is the best time of year to apply for Social Security benefits?

A: If you are planning to retire in early 2013, you can apply *now*. You can apply as early as four months prior to when you want your monthly benefits to begin. To apply, just go to www.socialsecurity.gov/apPLYtoRetire. Applying online

for retirement benefits from the convenience of your home or office is secure and can take as little as 15 minutes. It's so easy!

Q: I am trying to save up for a truck. I have \$1,200 in the bank now and need a little more. How much cash can I have in the bank without affecting my Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility?

A: The resource limit is \$2,000. Unless you have other valuable resources, this means you could save up to \$2,000 before you would become ineligible for SSI. We generally do not count your primary car, the home you live in or certain amounts set aside for burial expenses as resources. In some cases, if the vehicle you're saving for is part of a plan to return to work, you can have higher resources – but Social Security would need to approve your plan in order to exclude those resources. For more information, you can visit our webpage about SSI at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi.

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: L equals U

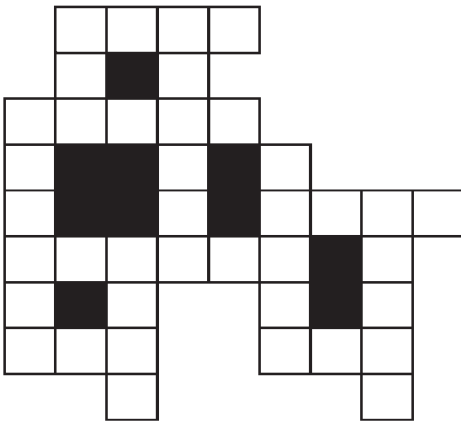
BGR XRN HUDSRBV OSCQ
RXKLCRK ZLDG BRCCSFQR
BRYHSXO. VUL ZSOGB HYV HGR
NYH Y KRF VUL BYLXB.

Answer Page 4

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UGH
HELNIC
PANCE
HECT
♥HEPSEC
PPA
GIHH
HOCTL
♥UNT
HINTEC
♥CASEP
♥EOPL



Answer Page 4

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

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist Pearl S. Buck who made the following sage observation: "All things are possible until they are proved impossible, and even the impossible may only be so as of now."

• If you dread trying (and too often failing) to pair up socks on laundry day, you'll be glad to know that your anguish is not unrecognized: May 9 has been designated National Lost Sock Memorial Day.

• Progress is not always universally embraced. In 1825, a magazine called The Quarterly Review scoffed, "What can be more palpably absurd than the prospect held out of locomotives traveling twice as fast as stagecoaches?"

• If in your studies of history you never ran across the Anglo-Zanzibar War, don't feel educationally shortchanged; most people have never heard of the conflict. In 1896, the pro-British sultan of Zanzibar, Hamad bin Thuwaini, died, and his successor, Khalid bin Barghash, did not look as favorably upon the British Empire. Because a treaty signed 10 years earlier stated that any candidate to attain the sultancy must receive the approval of the British Consul, the British viewed Kalid bin Barghash's accession as an act of war. The sultan barricaded himself in his palace, but the superior numbers and firepower of the British quickly defeated the embattled sultan. How quickly? The battle lasted all of 40 minutes, making it the shortest war in history.

• There are those who wonder if beloved actor Tony Curtis, with more than 100 films to his credit, would have been quite as successful if he hadn't changed his name. His given name, Bernard Schwartz, just doesn't quite have the same ring to it.

Thought for the Day: "People need good lies. There are too many bad ones."

– Kurt Vonnegut

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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	5		3					1
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3					6	9		
		1	9	3				2

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 4

★★★ HOO BOY!

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