

## NEWSBRIEFS

### CPR training

The Drowning Prevention Coalition's 2nd Annual May Day CPR Event is scheduled for Saturday, May 4 at different fire stations throughout El Paso County. Hands-only-CPR will be taught at the fire stations in six half-hour sessions from 2:00 through 5:00 p.m., beginning at the top and bottom of each hour. There will be refreshments and as well as door prizes at each location. This is a great way for thousands of residential pool owners and many families that frequent pools and other bodies of water during the swim season to get vital CPR training. Locations for the training include:

- Fire Station 6, 1850 Firehouse, 79936;
- Fire Station 7, 3200 Pershing, 79903;
- Fire Station 8, 301 E. Robinson, 79902;
- Fire Station 15, 115 Shorty Lane, 79922;
- Fire Station 18, 7901 San Jose Rd., 79915;
- Fire Station 20, 8301 Edgemere, 79925;
- Fire Station 22, 6500 N. Mesa, 79912;
- Fire Station 24, 1498 Lomaland, 79935;
- Fire Station 27, 6767 Ojo De Agua, 79912;
- Fire Station 30, 4451 Loma Clara, 79924;
- Fire Station 31, 122 Mesa Park Dr., 79912;
- West Valley Fire Station, 510 Vinton Rd., 79821; and
- Horizon Fire Department, 14151 Nunda Ave., 79928

— George De La Torre

### Job Fair 2013

The Career Services Department at El Paso Community College (EPCC) presents its annual Job Fair 2013. The job fair will bring numerous employers who will offer job and internship opportunities. The fair will be held from 9am – noon, Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at the Valle Verde campus, Building C Cafeteria Annex, 919 Hunter. This event is free and open to the job-seeking public. Only serious job seekers should attend and must dress professionally, bring copies of their resume and be ready to interview on the spot. EPCC students and graduates can visit the Career Services Department at their nearest EPCC campus prior the Job Fair for job readiness assistance. For more information on the Job Fair 2013 people can call 831-2636 or email questions to careerservices@epcc.edu or visit www.epcc.edu/careerservices.

— Jim Heiney

### Spring fiesta

The First Annual San Elizario High School Spring Fiesta will be held on May 10, 2013 at San Elizario High School by the Eagles Football Stadium from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There will be jumping balloons, mechanical bulls, a cakewalk, face-painting, loteria, dunking booth and more. Bring your family and friends for an afternoon full of fun, games, food and

See BRIEFS, Page 3

*A grandparent is a baby sitter who watches the kids instead of television.*  
— Quips & Quotes

## San Elizario PAC fights annexation

By Robert Grijalva  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The San Elizario Incorporation Efforts Group Political Action Committee (PAC) held a community meeting to update the residents in San Elizario about their efforts. The PAC was formed for the purpose of unifying efforts in opposition to attempts by the City of Socorro to annex portions of San Elizario. The primary effort by the PAC is to garner support in San Elizario for incorporating the community into a township with its own city government.

On Saturday, April 20, Maya Sanchez, President of the PAC convened the community meeting at Maya's Gardens Hall. "The purpose of the meeting was to update the residents of San Elizario

about the committee's efforts in the recent past and about future efforts," said Sanchez. "The thirty volunteers on the committee were being asked by many residents about the status," she said.

The most important issue was the upcoming court date that would determine the status of certain city council members in Socorro. In 2011, Socorro City Council voted to change the dates for re-electing council members. This action resulted in certain members having their terms extended for one additional year without voters approving a change to the city charter.

A court hearing on April 25 will decide if the action by Socorro was legal. If the judge rules against the City of Socorro, the actions by Socorro that initiated

See SAN ELI, Page 5



— Photo by Robert Grijalva

**GETTING INVOLVED – Maya Sanchez is president of the San Elizario Incorporation Efforts Group, a political action committee. She became involved in opposing the annexation attempt when she realized how it might impact her personal plans in business.**

## Walker, Knauerhase are top Canutillo ISD teachers

By Gustavo Reveles Acosta  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – A well-respected English teacher with a long track of missionary work in underserved parts of the world, and a German Air Force retiree with a newfound passion for educating children were selected as the 2013 Canutillo Independent School District Teachers of the Year.

Sharon Walker, a sixth-grade English teacher at Alderete Middle School, was selected as the CISD Secondary Teacher of the Year. Torsten Knauerhase, a third-grade teacher at Damian Elementary School, is the CISD Elementary Teacher of the Year. They will represent Canutillo in the Region 19 Teacher of the Year contest later this spring.

"These are two top-notch educators that are part of everything that is right about our school district," said Interim Superintendent Annette Brigham. "Mrs. Walker is the type of teacher that is loved by students and respected by other teachers. Mr. Knauerhase has quickly developed a reputation of being a teacher who pushes students to their full potential." Walker impressed the Teacher

of the Year judges with her warmth toward students and her compassion for children in underdeveloped nations, whom she often teaches during church missions to Africa and Asia. She has been a teacher for 10 years and her entire career has been in the Canutillo school district.

Knauerhase, or Mr. K as he is known to his students, decided to teach children after spending years teaching airmen in the German Air Force, both in Europe and on post at Fort Bliss. Last year, the Council for Exceptional Children recognized Knauerhase's work with an autistic student who made significant academic gains.

The CISD Board of Trustees will recognize Walker, Knauerhase and the other campus teachers of the year during its monthly meeting on Tuesday.

The campus teachers of the year are: Cynthia Enriquez, Davenport Elementary School; Sandra Garcia, Garcia Elementary School; Elizabeth Moreno, Canutillo Elementary School; Debbie Warhurst, Childress Elementary School; Karen Rissling, Canutillo Middle School; Bruce Hoang, Canutillo High School; and Andrew Waxman, Northwest Early College.



Sharon Walker



T. Knauerhase



**QUALIFIED – Martha M. Dominguez, El Paso's SBOE representative, is a veteran educator who has served as an instructional aide, teacher, instructional supervisor, assistant principal, and central office administrator. She was elected to the board in November and took office in January. Dominguez graduated from El Paso High School and earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Texas at El Paso, a master's in Secondary Education from Stephen F. Austin State University, and a doctorate in Educational Administration from New Mexico State University.**

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

TEXAS –

In response to complaints from school officials

who say that the current public school system doesn't suit all students because many students would be better served through technical training classes, the Texas School Board of Education (SBOE) gave preliminary approval recently to a plan that would provide students with career and technology options in place of some mathematics and science courses.

The plan, proponents said, would provide greater flexibility in high school graduation plans. Subsequently, SBOE tentatively agreed to allow seven additional Career and Technical Education (CTE) or Technology Applications courses to count for math or science credit.

Barbara Cargill, SBOE chairperson, told a Senate committee recently that experts reached a compromise under the existing system by identifying seven career and technology courses that could count toward a fourth year of math or science. She said that would allow students interested in vocational training to graduate while taking relevant courses.

If given final approval at the board's July meeting, students would be able to earn math credit if they take and pass Robotics Programming and Design; Principles of Engineering; Digital Electronics; or Discrete Mathematics, which currently count as a CTE or Technology Applications credit, according to a Texas Education Agency (TEA) report.

Students could earn science credit for Veterinary Medical Applications, Advanced Environmental Technology or Human Body Systems, which are also currently CTE courses, under the plan approved on first reading recently, TEA stated.

This would expand the math and science course offerings available to students as early as the 2013-2014 school year if given final approval at the board's next meeting.

Composed of 15 members elected from roughly equally populous districts, it is SBOE that adopts rules and establishes policies that govern a wide

See CREDITS, Page 5



## Public Notice

### Clint Independent School District

#### Pre-K and New Kinder Round-Up

Clint Independent School District will conduct registration round-up for students entering Pre-Kinder and new students to Kindergarten for the 2013 – 2014 school year from April 29th to May 10th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Please visit the elementary campus in your area.

Additionally, a required pre-registration for only Pre-K students will be held on August 5 – 9, 2013 at the respective campuses. Please contact your area elementary campus for more information.

**Desert Hills Elementary ..... 915-926-4500**  
**Frank Macias Elementary ..... 915-926-4600**  
**Montana Vista Elementary ..... 915-926-5300**  
**Red Sands Elementary ..... 915-926-5400**  
**WD Surratt Elementary ..... 915-926-8200**

## Noticia Pública

### Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint

#### Inscripciones abiertas para Pre-Kinder y Kinder Nueva

El Distrito Escolar de Clint abrirá inscripciones para estudiantes que entren a Pre-Kinder y estudiantes nuevos de Kinder para el año escolar de 2013–2014 del 29 de abril al 10 de mayo de 9:00 a 11:00 de la mañana y de 1:00 a 3:00 de la tarde. Favor de visitar la escuela primaria que este en su area.

Adicionalmente, se llevara acabo una inscripción requerida solo para estudiantes de Pre-Kinder del 5 al 9 de agosto de 2013 en las escuelas donde van a pertenecer. Favor de comunicarse con la escuela para mas información.

**Desert Hills Elementary ..... 915-926-4500**  
**Frank Macias Elementary ..... 915-926-4600**  
**Montana Vista Elementary ..... 915-926-5300**  
**Red Sands Elementary ..... 915-926-5400**  
**WD Surratt Elementary ..... 915-926-8200**

WTCC: 04-25-13

## Finances By Jason Alderman

# Should you ‘freeze’ your credit reports?

Although the odds of having your identity stolen remain quite low, anyone who’s ever been had their bank or credit card account compromised knows what a pain it can be to unravel the mess. Sometimes enterprising hackers just need your Social Security number, address and date of birth to start opening new accounts in your name.

Many victims don’t realize A credit security freeze is where anything’s wrong until they apply for a new account and find their credit has been trashed; or, they start getting calls from collection agencies regarding unfamiliar accounts. More and more people have begun blocking access to information in their credit reports, even if there hasn’t yet been any fraudulent activity, by instituting a “security freeze.”

## Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

# PTSD drug debate

More than 30 percent of veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) are being prescribed a drug called benzodiazepine, which is a sedative, contrary to the Department of Veterans Affairs own PTSD guidelines. Benzodiazepine covers drugs such as Valium and Xanax, often used to help with insomnia and anxiety.

The problem, says Dr. Nancy Bernardy, clinical psychologist with the VA’s National Center for PTSD, is that the drug can be harmful. She writes in the PTSD Research Quarterly that the typical PTSD symptoms are not handled by benzodiazepine and that “mounting evidence suggests that the long-term harms imposed by benzodiazepine use outweigh any short-term symptomatic benefits in patients with PTSD.” Additionally, her report talks of withdrawal symptoms and risk of tolerance after very limited use.

The VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline “Management of Post-Traumatic Stress,” dated 2010, “Strongly recommends against the use of benzodiazepines to prevent the development of ASD or PTSD.” On the page of Balance of Benefit and Harm, benzodiazepine is noted with an asterisk that says “Potential harm.” In spite of this, prescription levels are about 30 percent.

Short-term prescriptions (two to four weeks) can be beneficial in terms of improved sleep, but at that point the patient naturally doesn’t want to give up the medication, which actually interferes with PTSD therapies. In one test, researchers compared sleep results between benzodiazepine and a placebo – and found no difference.

There are three groups for which benzodiazepine prescription is very much contraindicated: veterans with PTSD and substance abuse disorder, veterans with mild traumatic brain injury, and veterans who take opiates for chronic pain.

To read the whole manual, Google “va/dod clinical practice guidelines for the management of post-traumatic stress”.

To read Dr. Bernardy’s report, Google “The Role of Benzodiazepines in the Treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)” in the PTSD Research Quarterly.

*Freddy Groves regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Send email to columnreply2@gmail.com. (c) 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.*



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


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Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

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\$10 for 25 words, \$15 for 40 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The Courier reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.


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Open rate — \$25 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The Courier reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

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# EPCC

## is proud to honor its faculty and staff!

Minnie Piper Stevens Award and NISOD Excellence Award  
Keith Townsend, Speech

Faculty Achievement Award and NISOD Excellence Award  
Dr. Angelina Arellanes-Nunez, English  
Dr. Roswitha Saenz, Biology  
Gloria Estrada, English

Adjunct Faculty Achievement Award  
Nicholas Fernandez, Psychology  
Maria Isela Maier, English  
Isadora Stowe, Art

NISOD Excellence Award Recipient  
Pamela Payne, Administrative Assistant to the President

Award-winning faculty and staff will be honored at a ceremony on Friday, April 26th at the Coronado Country Club

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

you instruct the three major credit bureaus to disallow new creditors from viewing your credit report and score. Because most businesses won’t lend without first checking your report, a freeze can deter identity thieves.

Before going to the trouble and expense of doing a credit freeze, however, learn how the process works and be aware of several possible inconveniences:

First, determine if you really need a credit freeze. If your credit or debit card is lost or stolen, you won’t necessarily be a victim of identity theft, which usually requires additional personal information. Similarly, fraudulent billing charges don’t necessarily indicate identity theft. Verify by reviewing your credit reports. You can order one free report annually from the three major bureaus through the AnnualCreditReport.com; otherwise you’ll pay a small fee.

To freeze your credit reports, you must individually contact each credit bureaus: Equifax (www.equifax.com), Experian (www.experian.com) and TransUnion (www.transunion.com). You’ll need to supply your name, address, birth date, Social Security number and other personal information.

Filing requirements and fees vary based on your state of residence (commonly \$5 to \$10). People over age 65 sometimes receive a discount and if you are an identity theft victim, credit freezes are free – although you’ll need to provide supporting paperwork.

Once implemented, you’ll receive a unique personal identification number (PIN) from each credit bureau. Store these PINs securely because you’ll need them to temporarily lift a credit freeze and then reinstate it – usually for a fee.

All these fees can really add up, so if you’re planning any action that requires a credit check, you may want to hold off implementing a freeze. It can take up to five business days to process a request for a security freeze or temporarily lift, so plan major purchases or other credit actions carefully.

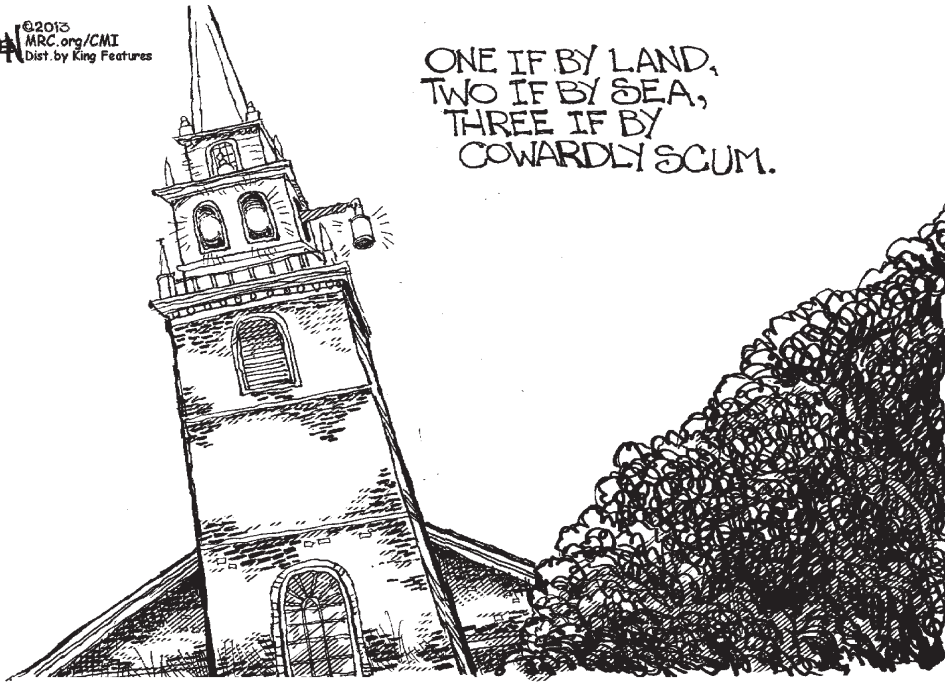
A few additional facts about credit freezes:

- Although freezes can help block the creation of new credit accounts, they can’t prevent an identity thief from making charges to existing accounts.
- Your current creditors can still access your credit reports, as can collection agencies acting on their behalf.
- Government agencies have access for collecting child support payments or taxes, to investigate Medicaid fraud, or in response to court or administrative orders, subpoenas or search warrants.
- You can temporarily lift a credit freeze either for a specific period of time, or for a specific party – say, a potential landlord or employer.
- If you lose your PIN, you may request a new one, although there may be a fee.

Bottom line: Always monitor your credit reports to spot errors or fraudulent activity. To take security a step further, consider placing a credit freeze on your reports.

*Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs.*





Old North Church - Boston, Ma.



– Photo courtesy of Gertrud Konings

**TRAVELERS** – The Monarch Butterfly is especially noted for its yearly migration over long distances. In North America it makes massive southward migrations starting in August until the first frost. There is a northward migration in the spring. The monarch is the only butterfly that migrates both north and south as the birds do regularly, but no individual butterfly makes the entire round trip. Female monarchs lay eggs for the next generation during these migrations.

# Archeology museum features Monarch Butterfly presentation

**By Alfredo Vasquez**  
*Special to the Courier*

The Monarch Butterfly will be the topic of discussion at El Paso Museum of Archaeology's next educational presentation, which is scheduled for 2 p.m., Saturday, May 11, at the museum (4301 Transmountain Rd).

The free presentation will feature Dr. Gertrud Konings, assistant professor of Biology at El Paso Community College. She visited the Monarch butterfly reserves in Mexico recently as part of her studies.

In this talk, Konings stated that she will use a variety of colorful photographs taken at the Monarch butterfly reserves in Mexico to explore the Monarchs' behavior and unique

multigenerational migration through North America.

Konings, who was born, grew up, and studied in Germany, earned a doctorate degree in Biology from the Free University Berlin. She has lived in the United States for 16 years- all in El Paso.

Konings said that she and her husband (Ad) enjoy exploring the southwestern desert, and that her research focuses mainly on cacti. She and her husband recently published a book filled with photographs and interesting information about the cacti that adorn their native Texas habitat.

For more information on the upcoming presentation, contact Museum Education Curator Marilyn Guida, at 915-755-4332, or send email to [guidamr@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:guidamr@elpasotexas.gov).

## Briefs

From Page 1

antojitos. Proceeds go to support student activities.

– Flor Sanchez

## Vote watching

The El Paso County Elections Department is has launched a new website at [www.epcountynotes.com](http://www.epcountynotes.com). The new website optimized navigation by offering quick and easy access to essential information for future and current voters. The new website utilizes web 2.0 which incorporates mobile devices, smartphones, digital tablets, and social media. The elections department will also feature “Election Night Reporting”. This will enable users to follow results as they are reported on election night. Twitter and Facebook will now be available with important election information, deadlines and voter drives across the El Paso County.

– *Elhiu Dominguez*

## Wanted

Javier Enrique Ventura, 20, who also goes by Alcocer, is this week's Manhunt Monday Most Wanted Fugitive. He is 5'10" tall and weighs 215 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes. Officials are



**Javier Ventura**

of Burglary of a Vehicle and Delivery of Cocaine. Recent information indicates Ventura remains in the Borderland area hiding with friends or family. If anyone has seen or has any information on the whereabouts of Ventura 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 Ventura.

– Deputy Jesse Tovar



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### VILLAGE OF VINTON, TEXAS

#### FAIR HOUSING STATEMENT

The Village of Vinton hereby declares its support of fair housing practices. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the locality to bring about, through fair, orderly, and lawful procedures, the opportunity of each person to obtain housing without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental handicap, marital status, parenthood, or age.

It is further declared that such policy is established upon the recognition of the inalienable rights of each individual to obtain housing and further, that denial of such rights is detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the locality and constitutes an unjust denial or deprivation of such inalienable rights which is within the power and the proper responsibility of government to prevent.

The locality has a Fair Housing Policy that may be examined and copied by interested groups or individuals during office hours. The month of April has been proclaimed "Fair Housing Month"; copies of the official proclamation are available at the Village of Vinton Hall between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

#### POLICY STATEMENT ESTABLISHING NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON HANDICAPPED CONDITIONS

The Village of Vinton announces that it has adopted a policy of nondiscrimination based on handicapped conditions concerning access, participation, and benefit of programs and activities operated or conducted by the locality. This policy is in compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 24 CFR, Part 8, "Non-discrimination Based on Handicap in Federally-Assisted Programs and Activities of HUD," dated June 2, 1988. Interested individuals or groups may obtain copies of this policy statement by calling the Town Clerk, who has been assigned to coordinate compliance with this policy and may be contacted at (915) 886-5104.

#### POLICY STATEMENT ON PROHIBITING THE USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The Village of Vinton announces that it has adopted a policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement personnel within its jurisdiction against an individual engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations. This policy is in compliance with Section 519 of Public Law 101-44, 1990, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act. Copies of this policy statement may be obtained by calling the Town Clerk at (915) 886-5104.

#### COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

In order to comply with the requirements of the Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) and of 10 T.A.C. Section 178.1 and Section 178.2, the locality has citizen complaint procedures intended to provide a timely written response to all complaints made against its proposed or completed TCDP efforts. Responses to complaints will be made within no more than ten (10) working days. A copy of the complaint procedures can be obtained upon request at (915) 886-5104. The established complaint procedures are an element of the local Citizen Participation Plan, and meet the requirements of USHUD Section 504 (24 CFR) concerning nondiscrimination based on handicapped conditions.

#### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT

The Village of Vinton is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer.

Madeleine Praino  
Mayor

West Texas County Courier  
April 25, 2012

VOTE MAY 11, 2013

Keep G.L. 'Bob' Jarvis



for Place Two  
Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District

- Graduate, Clint High School
- Resident El Paso County since 1960
- Resident/Homeowner, Horizon City, Texas
- Knowledgeable about water and sewer systems

Pol. ad paid for by Mark Grijalva.

### Classified Ads

#### LEGALS

##### City of Socorro

##### PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held on May 21, 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 2, Block 16, Country Green, from R-1 Single Family Residential to C-2 General Commercial with Conditional Use Permit for Mechanic Shop.

2) On the proposed rezoning of Lot 6, Block 1, Clint Venture Commercial #4, from Unclassified to M-2 Heavy Industrial.

3) On the proposed conditional use permit for Lot 5, Block 4, Poole Subdivision, for

##### childcare home.

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: 04-25-13

##### 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) an architect to draft residential blueprints with seal and 2) a residential

property appraiser. Scope of work for these bids may be obtained at the offices of El Paso Collaborative or by emailing Joyce Davidoff at joyce@ep-collab.org.

Sealed bid packets must be submitted to El Paso Collaborative, 10935 Ben Crenshaw, Suite 210, El Paso, TX 79935 no later than May 6, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. Bid opening will be the same day at 3:15 p.m. For questions, call (915) 590-1210, ext. 116.



WTCC: 04-25-13

##### FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

##### Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

##### FRIDAY MAY 24, 2013

**FULL LINE FOODS MILK/DAIRY, BEVERAGE/ SNACK, MEXICAN FOOD, BAKERY**  
**BID NO. 5302013-035**  
**ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME**

**NON-FOOD ITEMS**  
**BID NO. 05302013-035**  
**ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:30 A.M. LOCAL TIME**

Proposal packets may be picked up at the Fabens Administration Bldg., 821 NE G St., Fabens, TX 79838 between 8:00am and 4:00pm Monday through Friday.

Sealed proposal packets will be received at the Fabens Administration Bldg., 821 NE G St., Fabens, TX 79838.

WTCC-04/25/13  
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archives: [www.wtxcc.com](http://www.wtxcc.com)

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										A	R	D	O	R		D	E	S	I	R	E	D		R	O	E	D	E	E	R

## CryptoQuip Answer

If a couple of metalworkers tied the knot, I suppose a welding reception might follow.

4	+	8	÷	3	4
×		÷		+	
9	-	2	÷	7	1
÷		+		÷	
6	-	4	×	5	10
6		8		2	

# San Eli

From Page 1

annexation of certain parts in San Elizario will be nullified and end the threat of annexation at this time. Sanchez is hoping that the community meeting will motivate residents in San Elizario to attend the court hearing.

According to Sanchez, many residents are unclear on the definitions of annexation and incorporation. The committee intended to clarify the difference between annexation and incorporation and why it is critical to exercise incorporation at this time.

“One thing we felt that was very important was to let the people know that incorporation will not necessarily mean changing the way people live in San Elizario. It is our intention to have minimal impact on life by incorporating,” said Sanchez.

She said the goal was to improve living and not take anything away. Although there is the anxiety about taxes, the priority of a city government would be to clean up the city and to inspire residents to take pride in the community. “We want to have little impact on the citizenry by municipal regulations, especially on agriculture,” she said.

At the meeting, attendees were also informed about efforts by the committee and others in opposition to the annexation. Committee members traveled to Austin to testify before legislative committees in support

of bills allowing San Elizario to incorporate without the permission of the Socorro City Council. Under current law San Elizario must get Socorro’s approval to incorporate. They also heard about the lawsuit filed by the county attorney’s office against further action by Socorro.

Sanchez expressed some concern about the small amount of funding the PAC has generated. Efforts to reach out to the community will be limited to very basic grass roots efforts such as simple flyers printed on personal computers. There are plans to raise funds.

On Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28, the PAC will have a booth at the First Thanksgiving Celebration sponsored by the Mission Trail Association. The PAC booth will be offering menudo and soft drinks.

Also, on May 11, there will be a Mother’s Day Dance at Maya’s Gardens Hall from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. The admission fee is \$15. For questions regarding the events, call 851-8339.

Although born in El Paso County, Maya Sanchez lived most of her life in California. She attended the University of San Francisco and earned a Bachelor’s degree in communication with an emphasis on media studies. She worked briefly for KTSM as a news producer.

Sanchez returned to San Elizario intending to make this her home. She has plans to establish a business and farm. The threat of annexation prompted her to become active in opposing the effort by Socorro.

# Credits

From Page 1

range of educational programs and services provided by Texas public schools. The commissioner of education serves as chief executive officer of the board and supervises the administration of board rules through the Texas Education Agency.

Together the board, the commissioner, and the agency facilitate the operation of a vast public school system consisting of

1,237 school districts and charter schools, more than 8,400 campuses, more than 659,000 educators and other employees, and more than 4.8 million schoolchildren.

SBOE members and their committees include officers appointed by the governor-Chairwoman Cargill (The Woodlands); Thomas Ratliff (Mount Pleasant), vice chair; Mavis B. Knight (Dallas), secretary.

Instruction committee members are: Tom Maynard (Florence), chair; Sue Melton (Waco), vice chair;

Martha M. Dominguez (El Paso); Geraldine Miller (Dallas); and Marisa B. Perez (San Antonio).

School Finance/ Permanent School Fund committee includes Patricia Hardy (Fort Worth), chair; Lawrence A. Allen, Jr. (Fresno), vice chair; David Bradley (Beaumont), Ken Mercer (San Antonio), and Ratliff.

School Initiatives committee members are: Donna Bahorich (Houston), chair; Marty Rowley (Amarillo), vice chair; Ruben Cortez, Jr. (Brownsville), Knight and Cargill.

## PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS

### FAIR HOUSING STATEMENT

The City of Socorro hereby declares its support of fair housing practices. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the locality to bring about, through fair, orderly, and lawful procedures, the opportunity of each person to obtain housing without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, national, origin, physical or mental handicap, marital status, parenthood, or age.

It is further declared that such policy is established upon the recognition of the inalienable rights of each individual to obtain housing and further, that denial of such rights is detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the locality and constitutes an unjust denial or deprivation of such inalienable rights which is within the power and the proper responsibility of government to prevent.

The locality has a Fair Housing Policy that may be examined and copied by interested groups or individuals during office hours. The month of April has been proclaimed “Fair Housing Month”; copies of the official proclamation are available at the Socorro City Hall between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

### POLICY STATEMENT ESTABLISHING NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON HANDICAPPED CONDITIONS

The City of Socorro announces that it has adopted a policy of nondiscrimination based on handicapped conditions concerning access, participation, and benefit of programs and activities operated or conducted by the locality. This policy is in compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 24 CFR, Part 8, “Non-discrimination Based on Handicap in Federally-Assisted Programs and Activities of HUD”, dated June 2, 1988. Interested individuals or groups may obtain copies of this policy statement by calling the City Clerk, who has been assigned to coordinate compliance with this policy and may be contacted at (915) 859-1297.

### POLICY STATEMENT ON PROHIBITING THE USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The City of Socorro announces that it has adopted a policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement personnel within its jurisdiction against an individual engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations. This policy is in compliance with Section 519 of Public Law 101-44, 1990, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act. Copies of this policy statement may be obtained by calling the City Clerk at (915) 859-1297.

### COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

In order to comply with the requirements of the Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) and of 10 T.A.C. Section 178.1 and Section 178.2, the locality has citizen complaint procedures intended to provide a timely written response to all complaints made against its proposed or completed TCDP efforts. Responses to complaints will be made within no more than ten (10) working days. A copy of the complaint procedures can be obtained upon request at (915) 859-1297. The established complain procedures are an element of the local Citizen Participation Plan, and meet the requirements of USHUD Section 504 (24 CFR) concerning nondiscrimination based on handicapped conditions.

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT


The City of Socorro is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer.

Willie Norfleet, Jr.  
City Manager

West Texas County Courier  
April 25, 2013

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# Marathon of American unity is still a work in progress

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

Last week must have been one of the most emotionally draining for all Americans since the events of 9-1-1 back in 2001.

Just before the carnage, Americans were getting frustrated at the constant barrage of uncomplimentary comments that Democrats and Republicans were throwing at each other concerning gun control and immigration and the deficit and the other endless reasons to remain enemies.

And while we busy were pointing fingers, we let our guard down. And as much as we appear to hate one another, there are other people out there who hate us more.

The bombings at the Boston Marathon proved once again to all of us that terrorism can strike anywhere at anytime.

And though we'd like to think that we could go about our lives in relative safety, the truth is that this kind of cowardly behavior can never be totally contained.

The bombings by these two misguided brothers brought out the worst of humanity.

But the response from the city of Boston

and Americans everywhere reminded us once again that there is good in far more people.

What alarms me is that often it takes a tragedy of this magnitude to remind us that we're all Americans and that we should stick together.

It's funny. It seems that when things are going fine in America, we tend to hate each other more.

A horrible event brings us all together. It's like most families, "yeah, we fight and argue with one another, but nobody else better bother us."

And though it's unfortunate that we take our fellow Americans for granted, when we do come together – it's an awesome thing.

Like watching the Boston Bruins fans take over for National Anthem singer Rene Rancourt about 10 seconds into his performance.

Listening to the fans singing that song before the game sent a shiver up the spines of almost everyone who watched or listened to it.

Then there were the New York Yankees fans, who know a little something about terrorist attacks, that stood in unison and sang the Red Sox' fan favorite song Sweet Caroline

at their game.

You have to understand that singing Sweet Caroline at Boston's Fenway Park is like Yankee fans singing New York, New York.

In fact, Neil Diamond himself was on the field to sing his song to the Red Sox fans last Saturday. The response, as you can probably imagine, was extremely emotional.

At gatherings everywhere, Americans responded with moments of silence, chants of USA, USA, and salutes for emergency personnel and the military.

But what now? How long will it take before we become complacent again?

How long before President Obama and John Boehner and Nancy Pelosi and Karl Rove and Harry Reid and Sarah Palin and Al Sharpton and Sean Hannity and Chris Matthews and Rush Limbaugh and Joe Biden remind us that one half of American must hate the other half?

One of the cures that Americans have always taken for tragedies like these has been a sporting event.

Sporting events are where like-minded individuals can converge as one to escape the anxiety of the real world.

People can let out their frustration through cheering and booing and everyone goes home

more relaxed.

But of course the April 15 bombing in Boston occurred at a sporting event.

I'm afraid the time is coming when the United States will begin to operate much the way Israel does to thwart this kind of terrorism.

At many marathons around the world, backpacks like the ones used by the Chechnya brothers to carry their bombs, are forbidden.

Look for this kind of legislation to be established here at more and more large gatherings.

Americans are a resilient people who respond to these attacks with courage and will look you in the eye and dare you to do it again.

Unfortunately, terrorist organizations (though they don't have the courage to look you in the eye) are more than happy to take up the challenge.

America is no doubt going to have to get tougher with these terrorists because I think by now we've learned that they don't cherish life as others do.

I just hope we can stick together long enough as a nation. We haven't even brought up North Korea and Iran yet.

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

### Testimony From Augusta

Legend has the Garden of Eden located somewhere around Mesopotamia (unless you're a Mormon, who believe Adam and Eve's stomping grounds were in Missouri). That may be so, but I am confident when I say that the closest thing to what I imagine the Garden of Eden to be, sans the naked woman feeding me apples, is in Augusta, Ga., where my wife

(attractively attired in a sky-blue Masters windbreaker) feeds me pimento and cheese sandwiches at The Masters tournament. Witnessing The Masters is a transcendent experience. The beauty of the manicured grounds, the excellence of the golf tournament, the attention to even the most minute detail is jarring. If you're a sports fan or if you're feeling down

about human society in general, the first time you hit the grounds at Augusta is almost on par with the rush you felt when it was love at first wife, and only a few strokes behind witnessing the birth of your child.

If you believe in karma, that what goes around comes around, consider the case of Billy Payne, member and club chairman. An investment banker, Payne is responsible for bringing the Olympic Games to Atlanta using mostly private funding and, in so doing, improving and creating much of that city's present-day infrastructure. The

Atlanta Olympics also were mercilessly derided for its over-the-top commercialization and a bombing that took place in the Centennial Olympic Park, killing two and reinforcing the perception that America was little more than a place of sugar-water-sponsored violence.

Let those people come to Augusta, where the only advertisement you will see is the "Courtesy of AT&T" in small type on each of the plain black phones provided on the grounds for its patrons. The phones are provided free of charge as a way to keep cellphones prohibited from the club at all times. Otherwise cutoff from the world, the only news one receives comes courtesy of the manually operated scoreboards or through word of mouth.

When people from all over the world – Melbourne, Glasgow, London and Berlin – come to Augusta, the only

brand they will find on the premises is that of the Masters logo, a flagstick on a silhouette of the United States. Even the cola and beers are labeled simply "cola" and "beer." I defy anyone to find a weed, piece of litter, or stepped over gum anywhere on the grounds. Credit Billy Payne and the Augusta National for this attention to austerity, this display of integrity.

Contrary to what a few placard-waving evangelists outside the gates would have you believe, the Tournament is not a place of idol worship. Rather, it is a place where people come to revel and respect God-given ability. Paradise or not, the patrons who make the pilgrimage and congregate yearly at Augusta are there merely to testify.

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

2013 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE



HOME SCHEDULE

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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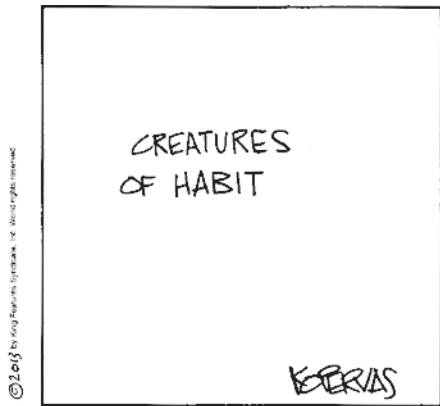
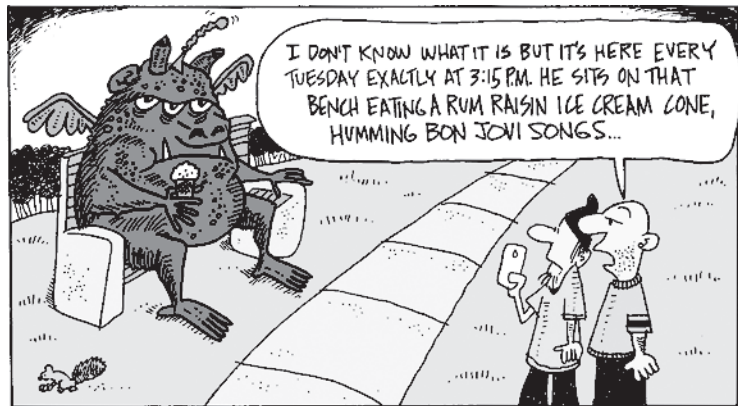
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Horizon City, TX 79928

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

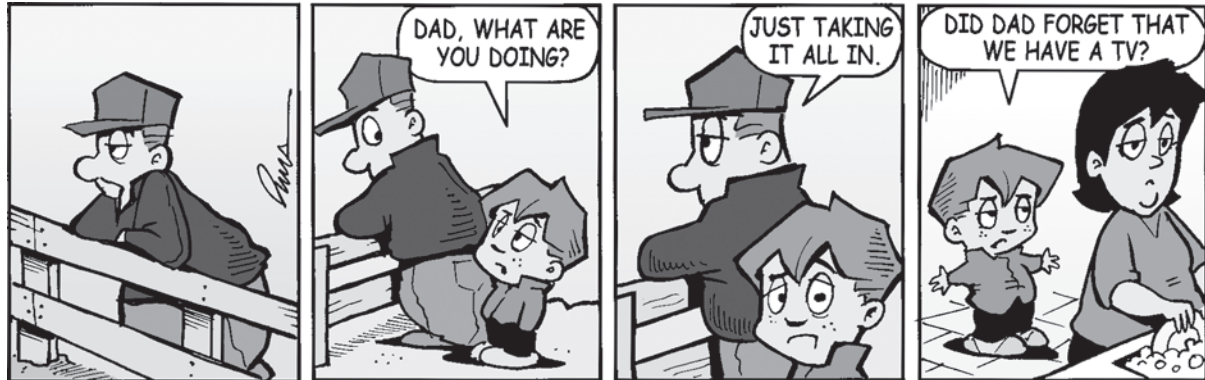


# Comix

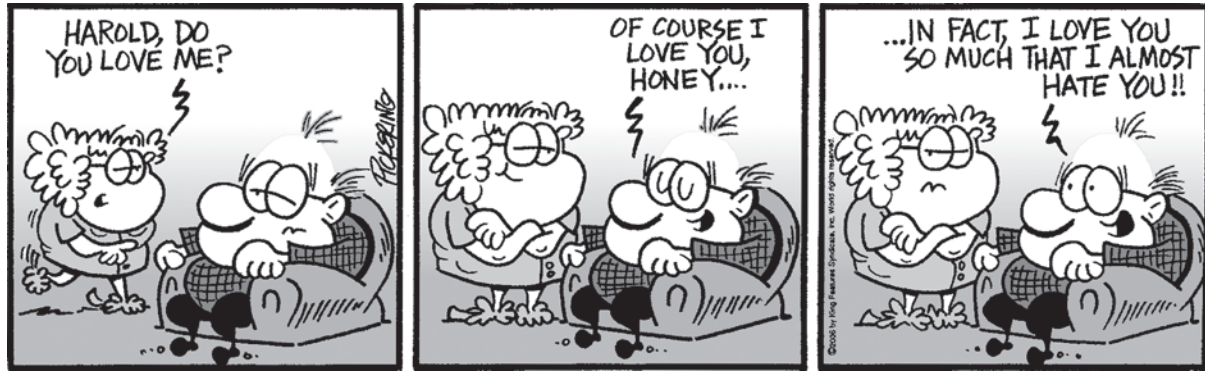
## OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



## AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



# THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



## R.F.D. By Mike Marland



## Your good health By Paul G. Donahue, M.D.

*DEAR DR. DONOHUE: You have no idea how painful spinal stenosis is. Only oxycodone works. My doctor is afraid that I will become addicted. I am 75. I would rather die an addict than a person in constant pain. A surgeon told me it was too dangerous to operate unless I am in constant pain. Can you help? – B.A.*

*DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I read your article on spinal stenosis. I am 82, in good health, but plagued with back pain. My daughter, a nurse at a university hospital, had me see a neurosurgeon there. He suggested a microsurgical procedure that took about three hours. I was discharged with a small bandage. I am now more than two months post-op, and my back feels better than it has in years. People with spinal stenosis should consider this operation. — M.R.*

where a half-inch incision allows the surgeon to spread back muscles and other tissues so the surgeon can home in on the area of involved stenosis. A hollow cylinder is inserted through the spread back tissues, and special instruments allow visualization of the area with the ability to remove the compression. It's something that B.A. ought to consider with the constant pain she endures.

The booklet on back problems deals with some of the more-common back conditions and their treatment. Readers can obtain 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.

*DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My wife has taken blood pressure medicine for many years. She's now 66. Her doctor put her on a new medicine that has her pressure at 125/65. It's never been that low before. Is that too low for someone her age? — L.W.*

Spinal stenosis is one of the most frequent causes of back pain. The spinal cord is an extension of the brain. It runs from the neck to the lower back. It's only as thick as your little finger. An eraser dropped from 12 inches onto it would smash it beyond repair. It, therefore, needs protection. Nature has encased it in the backbones (vertebrae) through a tunnel that runs the length of the spinal column. Narrowing of the tunnel is called spinal stenosis.

Does your wife complain of dizziness, especially upon standing up? If she doesn't, then her pressure isn't too low. Ideal blood pressure is lower than 120/80.

The narrowed part compresses the spinal cord and is quite painful. The narrowing comes from bone spurs, arthritis changes or thickening of back ligaments. Physical therapy, through strengthening back muscles and stretching thickened back ligaments, often lessens pain. Pain medicines can be used liberally. Injection of cortisone into the spinal canal (epidurals) is another way to ease pain and compression.

It's true older people don't always tolerate a sudden drop in their pressure, even though the pressure might be in the normal range. I don't consider your wife to be "older." You'd better not either.

*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

## SWITCH UNITS ACROSS

## Requests at

8 Liquid-filled vessel  
in which to clean  
things  
15 Map source  
20 Smears with  
animal fat  
21 Dish of soybeans  
boiled in their pods  
22 Horse sound  
23 Most valuable  
Scrabble square,  
reduced?  
25 Fish store favorite  
26 Peter of film  
27 Dress edge  
28 To that place  
30 Impersonal little  
kiss, enlarged?  
36 Celebs' rides  
41 Summer, in  
Quebec  
42 Military order  
43 Very quickly,  
enlarged?  
46 "Casino" co-star  
Joe  
51 Williams of tennis  
52 Dog, often  
53 Time-stamps  
anew  
55 Jails  
57 NHL trophy,  
enlarged?  
62 Flight part  
63 Airport transport  
66 Tiny tot

67 ROTC grads  
 68 Alternate title of  
 this puzzle  
 73 Exec's deg.  
 75 Food court pizza  
 chain  
 76 With 44-Down,  
 Kenobi of sci-fi  
 77 Cloverleaf  
 components  
 80 Failure to act  
 promptly, enlarged?  
 84 Now-rare skill  
 86 Frequent  
 downhill's purchase  
 87 Role-play  
 90 \_Butter (Nabisco  
 cookie)  
 91 Razz  
 92 Harvard or Yale,  
 reduced?  
 97 Post-failure  
 comment  
 99 "\_ you ready?"  
 100 Writer with morals  
 101 Walk around  
 looking for work,  
 reduced?  
 108 In proportion  
 109 Thumbs downs  
 110 See 101-Down  
 116 White wader  
 117 Sceptically,  
 enlarged?  
 123 "The Cloister and  
 the Hearth" novelist  
 Charles  
 124 "Free Your Mind"  
 R&B group  
 125 Nation next to

Georgia  
126 Earnestness  
127 Wanted  
128 It has three-pointed antlers

**DOWN**

1 "Tell \_ the judge!"  
2 Flit  
3 Ad biz award  
4 Fido's food  
5 Drum effect  
6 Uncool sort  
7 Dallas-to-Laredo

dir.

8 Visitors' first words

9 "\_ to the list"  
10 Blue  
11 Dr. provider  
12 La \_ (city in Bolivia)  
13 "Follow Me \_" (Kipling poem)  
14 Final bowling frames

15 Bit of hijinks  
16 Zipper parts  
17 Limber  
18 Feel similarly  
19 "Jaws" peril  
24 "All right, I get it!"  
29 Snicker bit  
31 One-eighty  
32 "\_ di-dah!"  
33 Western Amerind  
34 Opposite of old, in Bonn

35 La Brea stuff  
36 Talks like the cat

sylvester  
 37 Not reactive  
 38 2000 #1 hit for Santana  
 39 Infant's bodysuit  
 40 Spanish lady  
 44 See 76-Across  
 45 Some chess pcs.  
 46 "At once!"  
 47 \_ de vie  
 48 Deadlocks  
 49 Official doc.  
 50 Cause adherents  
 53 Fix, as a loose board  
 54 They blink  
 56 Swims with the fishes, maybe  
 58 A couple of runners at the corners, in baseball  
 59 \_ Lingus  
 60 Sci-fi skipper  
 61 Singer Lisa  
 64 Limp as\$65 lcy hazard  
 69 Lith. And Ukr., once  
 70 Workweek ender: Abbr.  
 71 Address of "Dr. No"  
 72 Infant's toy  
 73 Hit 1990s computer game  
 74 Scorch  
 78 Spaghetti sauce brand  
 79 Bug causing a sore throat

81 They result in two  
 82 outs: Abbr.  
 83 "Lost" actor Daniel  
 84 \_ Kim  
 85 Moo goo \_ pan  
 86 Artist Yoko  
 88 Raised a din  
 89 "Mother" of  
 90 Calcutta  
 92 Mad feeling  
 93 Big name  
 94 "Truly"  
 95 Cato's 1,505  
 96 100-yr. span  
 97 Hairly sitcom  
 98 cousin  
 98 Liquefied  
 101 With 110 Across,  
 102 where divas deliver  
 102 Prodding person  
 103 Santa-tracking  
 104 org.  
 104 Belief set  
 105 One feeding  
 106 Provide, as with a  
 107 quality  
 107 Extensive, for  
 108 short  
 111 "How stupid \_!"  
 112 Not new  
 113 Lucid  
 114 Author Wiesel  
 115 Macy's logo  
 118 Suffix with Carol  
 119 Tellies  
 120 \_ polloi  
 121 Farming sci.  
 122 Taint

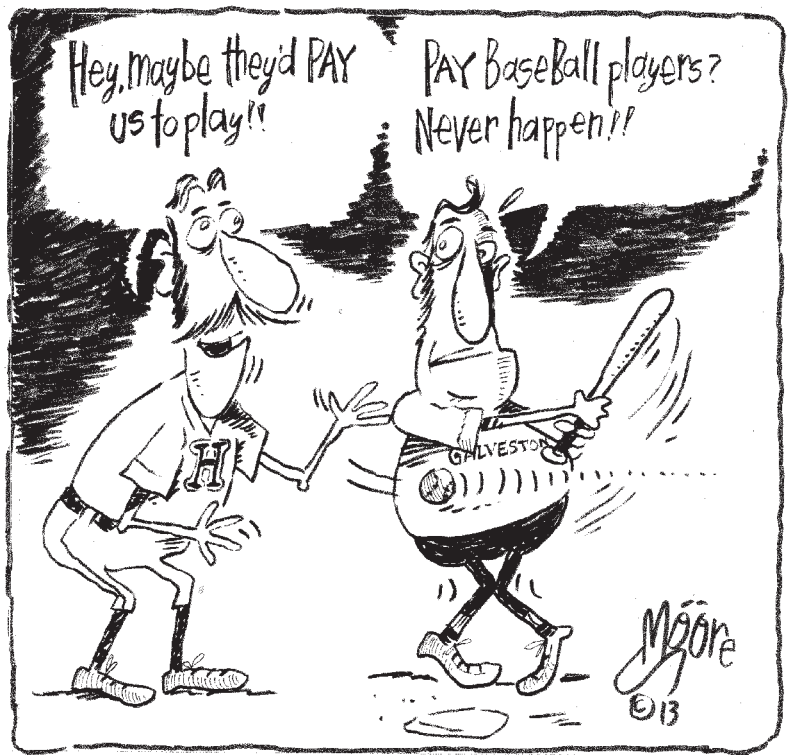
**Answer Page 4**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
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123						124								125					
126						127								128					

**Answer Page 4**



**Moore Texas** by Roger Moore April 21, 1868:  
The Houston Stonewalls beat Galveston's Robert E. Lee's 35-2 in a baseball game played on the San Jacinto battlefield . Baseball was catching on !



**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.

	+		÷		4
×		÷		+	
	-		÷		1
÷		+		÷	
	-		×		10
6		8		2	

2 3 4 4 5 6 7 8 9

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

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**Social Security Q&A** By Ray Vigil

**Q:** Is it illegal to laminate your Social Security card?

**A:** No it is not illegal, but it's best not to laminate your card. Laminated cards make it difficult, if not impossible, to detect important security features. Also, your employer may refuse to accept it. The Social Security Act requires Social Security to issue cards that cannot be counterfeited. We incorporate many features to protect the card's integrity. That includes highly specialized paper and printing techniques – some visible to the naked eye and some not. Further, we continue to explore and adopt new technologies that hamper duplication. Keep your Social Security card in a safe place with your other important papers. Do not carry it with you. Learn more at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber).

**Q:** What is the difference between the disability application and the disability report? Do I have to complete both?

**A:** The Disability Application is an application for Social Security disability benefits. To receive Social Security disability or Supplemental Security Income disability benefits, you must file an application. The Disability Report, meanwhile, is a form that provides Social Security with information about your current medical condition. We need

this information to process your disability application. To start a claim for disability benefits, you need to complete a disability application, a disability report, and an authorization release form that allows us to obtain your medical records. You can get the disability application process started at [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability).

**Q:** I applied for a replacement Social Security card last week but have not received it. When should I expect to receive my new card?

**A:** It takes approximately 10 to 14 days to receive your replacement Social Security card. We're working harder than ever to protect you, prevent identity theft, and ensure the integrity of your Social Security number. To do that, we have to verify documents you present as proof of identity. In some cases, we must verify the documents before we can issue the card. For more information about your Social Security card and number, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber).

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

**CryptoQuip**

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

Clue: Q equals O

DE M VQRYFG QE UGSMFZQITGIX  
SDGK SWG TPQS, D XRY YQXG M  
ZGFKDPL IGVGYSDQP UDLWS

EQFFQZ.

Answer Page 4

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

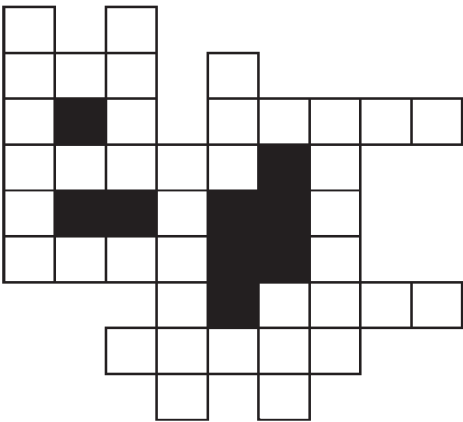
Answer Page 4

★★★ HOO BOY!

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OYS  
TEOBUS  
RAYVO  
EREJ  
BAJTEC  
EIC  
♥BCSA  
♥BROAC  
OBJ  
♥REPNIC  
♥OSTAC  
TERS



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 nationally syndicated newspaper columnist L.M. Boyd who made the following sage observation: "Anyone who eats three meals a day should understand why cookbooks outsell sex books three to one."

• The game of Chinese checkers did not come from China; it was invented in Great Britain in the 19th century. The game's original name was Halma.

• We usually think of Spain as a warm country, so it might surprise you to learn that the nation has 13 glaciers.

• Doubtless you've heard of India's Taj Mahal, but did you know that there is a tourist attraction in America that is so grand, it is popularly known as the Taj Mahal of the West? In 1968, a group of Hare Krishnas founded the New Vrindaban Community near Wheeling, W.Va. Though they began on 100 acres with no electricity or running water, the community now covers more than 1,200 acres and features Prabhupada's Palace of Gold, an ornate edifice of gold, marble and hand-carved teakwood. The award-winning rose garden alone is said to be worth a trip.

• If you're a dog lover, you might have used your beloved pet as a foot warmer from time to time. This is by no means a modern practice; the Aztecs were fond of a certain breed of small, hairless dogs to accomplish the task.

• Despite popular opinion, the dictator Napoleon was not particularly short. He measured 5 feet, 6 inches tall, which was the average height for a Frenchman at that time.

• Those who study such things say that if you're like the average person, you can go 11 days without water – provided the temperature never gets above 60 degrees F.

Thought for the Day: "Everyone is a genius at least once a year; a real genius has his original ideas closer together."

– Georg Lichtenberg

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