



NEWSBRIEFS

Rummage sale

The Eastlake High School Band will hold a rummage sale on Saturday, May 4, from 7 a.m. to noon in the Walgreens parking lot at 4300 Horizon Blvd. The proceeds will be used to support band activities.

— Diana Ramirez

Diabetes workshops

En El Camino Para Vivir Con Diabetes workshops will be held Fridays on July 5, 12 and 19 and on September 27, 2013 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Women’s Intercultural Center located at 303 Lincoln Street in Anthony NM. If you have diabetes are pre-disposed for diabetes come and learn how to take control of your health. Olga Hernandez and Amir Hernandez will cofacilitate the free workshops.

— Mary Carter

Author comes home

Ray Gonzalez, the seminal Chicano writer who was born and raised in El Paso, Texas, returns home for a rare local appearance from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 3rd at the El Paso Community College (EPCC) Administrative Services Center Building A Board Room, 9050 Viscount Blvd. This event is free and open to the public. Gonzalez, who is a professor in the MFA Creative Writing Program at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis, is the award-winning author of 17 books of poetry, essays, memoir and fiction. He’s also edited 14 literary anthologies in a career that spans more than 30 years. Gonzalez is the author of a memoir about growing up in El Paso, *Memory Fever* (1999) and essay collections, including *The Underground Heart: A Return to a Hidden Landscape* (2002), which received the 2003 Carr P. Collins/Texas Institute of Letters for Best Book of Nonfiction. In 2004, Gonzalez received a 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award in Literature from the Border Regional Library Association.

— Jim Heiney

GED test

In striving to offer more adults without a high school diploma an opportunity to obtain a high school credential as well as basic technology skills, El Paso Community College is partnering with GED Testing Service to offer the GED test on computer. Online registration and scheduling is now available to test-takers and testing began on April 15, 2013. “The GED test on computer provides a more flexible and efficient testing experience for adult learners who often need to move very quickly into jobs or training programs,” said Randy Trask, president of GED Testing Service. “Over the past year we’ve found that adults who test on computer score higher and finish the exam faster, and we’re excited that the largest

See BRIEFS, Page 6

The man who said taxes would keep us halfway broke was a lousy judge of distance.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Robert Grijalva

Horizon High School is one of the new schools built in outside of Clint in Clint ISD. 11 new schools in Horizon and the East Montana neighborhood have been built before new construction began in Clint.

Pastor wants change on Clint ISD board

By Robert Grijalva
Special to the Courier

Allegations have been made that the Clint Independent School District (CISD) is unfairly distributing funds. Based on these allegations, advocacy groups have made calls for changing the elections from at-large districts to single member districts. Voter turnout numbers in the last two elections have essentially been uniform throughout the district with surprising results.

Reverend Ed Roden-Lucero, pastor at San Juan Diego Roman Catholic Church in Montana Vista, has been working with the residents there for 17 years. He is also a member of El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Group (EPISO). Through the organization, Roden-Lucero has worked to raise the

awareness of the parishioners there about social inequities. Roden-Lucero said that many individuals have voiced strong concerns about education issues.

On July 18, 2012, EPISO and the Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project (PDNCRP) issued a joint press release announcing the results of a study. According to the study, operating expenses per student were shown to be higher for students who attended Clint High School, Clint Junior High and William D. Surratt Elementary School. Figures for schools in Horizon City and Montana Vista/Sandhills consistently show lower allotments at all grades.

The report stated:

“These inequalities may be caused by the composition of the school board: even though Clint has the smallest population of the three communities, six out the seven members

responsible for the allocation of school district funds reside in the Clint area.”

Donna Cline, head of CISD finances, said, “All school districts are required to prepare budgets in accordance with State and Federal guidelines and requirements. These budgets are reported to the Texas Education Agency and reviewed by external auditors on an annual basis. Clint Independent School District continues to meet and exceed all requirements.”

Juan Cruz, CISD attorney, responded to this by saying, “Voters throughout the district supported candidates who they thought were best suited to oversee the school district. The decision by the voters must be honored and trusted.”

CISD has moved to be centrally located. The district’s Central Administration Building

See CISD, Page 3

Education Commissioner revamps accountability system ratings

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – The first ratings under the new accountability system will be issued by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) beginning in August, reported TEA officials.

Commissioner of Education Michael L. Williams announced recently that four components will be part of the new 2013 state accountability system for school districts, campuses and charters in Texas.

“I have heard the criticism of the previous accountability system, with its overemphasis on a school’s lowest performing areas and its blind spot to what a district or charter might be doing well,” said Commissioner Williams. “The new system makes use of multiple indicators to provide parents and taxpayers a more detailed overview of the successes, as well as areas of necessary improvement, for each school district, charter and campus.”

The revised system will still use student assessments, but also makes use of additional indicators to provide parents and taxpayers greater detail on the performance of a district or charter and each individual campus throughout the state, explained a TEA representative.

The 2013 accountability system will use a performance index framework that considers four areas: Student Achievement – represents a snapshot of performance across all subjects, on both general and alternative assessments, at an established performance standard; Student Progress – provides an opportunity for diverse campuses to show improvements made independent of overall achievement levels (Growth is evaluated by subject and student group including race/ethnicity, English Language Learners, and Special Education); Closing Performance Gaps – emphasizes advanced academic achievement of the economically disadvantaged student group and the lowest performing race/ethnicity

student groups at each campus or district.

The final component will be Postsecondary Readiness – includes measures of high school completion, and beginning in 2014, State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) performance at the postsecondary readiness standard. This measure emphasizes the importance of students receiving high school diplomas that provide the foundation necessary for success in college, the workforce, job training programs or the military, said TEA officials.

District and campuses with students in Grade 9 or above must meet targets on all four indexes. Districts and campuses with students in Grade 8 or lower must meet targets on the first three indexes (excluding Postsecondary Readiness).

Districts, campuses and charters will receive one of three ratings:

- Met Standard – met accountability targets

See SYSTEM, Page 5

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

VA home loans are great deal

One of the biggest benefits veterans have is the home loan guaranty program. The Department of Veterans Affairs website (www.benefits.va.gov) has full details, but here are a few things you need to know if you’re considering using it.

Benefits: You usually won’t need a down payment, the closing costs are limited and can be paid by the seller, you can pay off the loan early without penalty, and you won’t be stuck paying private mortgage insurance. The VA doesn’t loan you the money, but it stands behind a loan you get from another source. The loan guaranty is insurance to the lender, which can be helpful if you’ve been turned down by traditional sources.

Eligibility: You must have decent credit, sufficient income and a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). The home must be for you to live in. To obtain a COE, you need to have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions. To apply for the COE, you’ll need VA Form 26-1880. See the VA website for a chart showing the qualifying wartime and peacetime periods, the qualifying active dates and the minimum number of service days required.

What You Can Do: Buy a home, build a home, buy and improve a home, install energy-related improvements, buy a manufactured home and/or lot to put it on.

Other Types of Loans: Cash-Out Refinance, which allows you to take the equity from your home for paying off debts, financing school or making improvements to your home; and Interest Rate Reduction Refinance Loan (IRRRL), which is a refinance program for your existing VA loan. Additionally, there are housing grants to help disabled veterans buy or modify a home.

If you don’t have a computer, call the VA for more information about the home loan guaranty program at 1-800-827-1000.

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.

Finances

By Jason Alderman

Share your money before you die

Now that the long-debated estate tax rules have finally been settled, let’s get real: Despite all the hoopla raised, most people probably would never be impacted whether the lifetime estate tax threshold had stayed at \$5.12 million or reverted to \$1 million. In the end, it actually went up a bit to \$5.25 million for 2013.

Even if your estate will only be a fraction of that amount, it still pays to have a plan for distributing your assets. If your finances are in good shape, there’s no reason not to start sharing the wealth while you’re still around to enjoy helping others. It also doesn’t hurt that you can reap significant tax advantages by distributing a portion of your assets now.

Before you start doling out cash, however, make sure you are on track to fund your own retirement, have adequate health insurance, can pay off your mortgage and are otherwise debt-free. You wouldn’t want to deplete your resources and then become a financial burden on others.

If you can check all those boxes, consider these options:

Avoid the gift tax. You can give cash or property worth up to \$14,000 per year, per individual, before you’ll trigger the federal gift tax. (Married couples filing jointly can give \$28,000 per recipient.) You’ll probably never have to pay a gift tax, however, since you’re allowed to bestow up to \$5.25 million in gifts during your lifetime above and beyond the annual \$14,000 excluded amounts before the gift tax kicks in – which for most of us means never. Read IRS Publication 950 (at www.irs.gov) for details.

Pay for education. If college is still far off for your children, grandchildren or others, consider funding a 529 State Qualified Tuition Plan for them. Any interest the account earns is not subject to federal (and in most cases, state) income tax; plus, many states offer tax deductions for contributions made to their own 529 Plans. And don’t worry: If one child decides not to attend college, you can always transfer the account balance to another without penalty.

Roth IRAs for kids. If your minor children or grandchildren earn income (allowances and gifts don’t count), you may fund a Roth IRA on their behalf. You can contribute up to \$5,500 or the amount of their taxable earnings for the year, whichever is less. Your contributions are made on an after-tax basis but the earnings grow, tax-free, until the account is tapped at retirement.

Fund someone’s benefits. Many people cannot afford health or other insurance and so forego coverage, putting themselves just one serious illness or accident away from financial disaster. Many also can’t fund their 401(k) plan or IRA. Consider applying your tax-exempt gifts to help loved ones pay for these critical benefits. You’ll not help protect them from catastrophe, but also greatly increase their long-term financial self-sufficiency.


Charitable contributions. If you’re planning to leave money or property to charities in your will, consider beginning to share those assets now, if you can afford to. You’ll be able to enjoy watching your contributions at work – and be able to deduct them from your income taxes. Read IRS Publication 526 for details.

Before taking any of these actions, consult your financial advisor to make sure your own bases are covered. If you don’t have an advisor, visit www.fpaforfinancialplanning.org for help locating one.

Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs.

YOUR Gift

IS A WAY TO CONQUER LUNG DISEASE



Give the gift that remembers by helping others ...

When you lose someone dear to you — or when a special person has a birthday, quits smoking, or has some other occasion to celebrate — memorial gifts or tribute gifts made for them to your local American Lung Association help prevent lung disease and improve the care of those who suffer from it.

www.texaslung.org

1-800-LUNG-USA

View from here

By Glenn Mollette

Energy: Stop using foreign oil

We have everything we need in America. We have natural gas, oil, coal, solar and wind energy. We should utilize everything at our disposal to end our dependence on foreign oil. It is time to stop flooding the Middle East with money. These people hate us. Why do we buy their oil?

America has enough oil. It is estimated North Dakota has as much as 500 billion gallons of oil that is in the process of being drilled. The Marcellus shale fields of Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York and West Virginia promises more natural gas than Saudi Arabia has oil.

We can run automobiles and the large trucks of America on natural gas. It’s time to start using it. Automobile companies are converting some of their vehicles to operate on natural gas. Service stations across the nation must move forward with natural gas pumps.

I like coal. My father was a coal miner for 30 years. He raised five kids on a coal miner’s salary. We must continue to work toward burning coal cleaner, more efficiently and environmentally safer. It is a powerful source of energy and we should use it. We hear reports that power plants are moving closer to burning cleaner energy. We hear other reports that power plants are moving to natural gas.

We are learning more each year on how to better use solar and wind energy. We should utilize both of these to meet our heating and cooling needs. The windmills are dotting a lot of landscape in the western part of the United States. They are not the complete answer for power but they are a welcome part of the formula.

As long as we are dependent on foreign energy there will be wars in the Middle East. We need to stop the senseless wars that are ongoing over Middle Eastern oil. Once we become an energy independent nation gasoline prices will decrease. Plus we will not be burning our money in fighting senseless wars to protect our oil interests. Thousands of lives will be spared from wars in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

The goal of every American should be to utilize American energy. This will create more jobs and wealth for Americans instead of sending our wealth overseas.

An energy independent America will be a happier America. Cutting our entanglements with Middle Eastern oil insures a brighter future for America.

1973 40 Years 2013


WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SORTING: ANTHONY VINTON, CANCELLED, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FARENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNELLO

PUBLISHED:
Published each Thursday by Homesteader News, Inc. Appreciation to our many contributors. Office open Monday through Thursday.

COPYRIGHT:
Entire contents © 2013 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the West Texas County Courier may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
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.



Member Texas Community Newspaper Association

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

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Robert Grijalva
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda

Homesteader News, Inc.

Est. 1973


AD DEADLINE:
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

CLASSIFIED RATES
\$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.

DISPLAY RATES:
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.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Minimum 50 issues for \$36. Delivery via 1st class mail.

MAIL:
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928



YOUR FUTURE IS CALLING


Finish the GED® Test

GED TESTING SERVICE

GED is going electronic on January 1, 2014.

If you have started your GED Testing, you must finish by December 31, 2013 or start over.

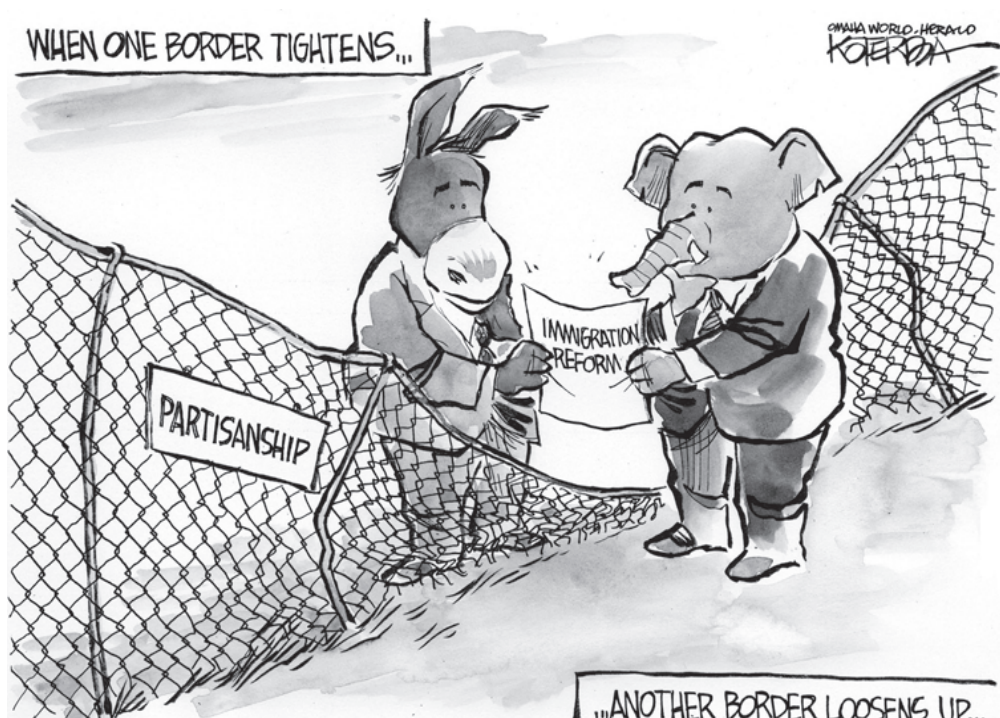
EPCC GED Testing (915) 831- 2072



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.



1886 HAYMARKET BOMBING CHICAGO IL * 1910 LOS ANGELES TIMES BOMBING LOS ANGELES CA * 1920 MORGAN BANK BOMBING NEW YORK NY * 1927 SCHOOL BOMBING BATH MI
1955 UNITED AIRLINES BOMB LONGMONT CO * 1959 POE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOMBING HOUSTON TX * 1960 NATIONAL AIRLINES BOMBING BOLIVIA NC * 1963 SIXTEENTH ST. BAPTIST CHURCH BOMBING BIRMINGHAM AL * 1968 PORT LOCKER BOMBING LOS ANGELES CA
1975 FRAUNCES TAVERN BOMBING NEW YORK NY * 1975 LA GUARDIA AIRPORT BOMBING NEW YORK NY * 1986 SCHOOL BOMBING NEW YORK NY * 1993 WORLD TRADE CENTER BOMBING NEW YORK NY * 1995 MURRAH FEDERAL BUILDING BOMBING OKLAHOMA CITY OK
1978 THROUGH 1995 BOMBINGS AROUND THE WORLD BY THE UNABOMBER
1996 OLYMPIC GAMES BOMBING ATLANTA GA * 2001 WORLD TRADE CENTER NEW YORK NY
2001 PENTAGON WASHINGTON D.C. 2001 UNDEVELOPED FLIGHT 93 SOMERSET COUNTY PA
2013 BOSTON MARATHON BOSTON MA



By Texas AG Greg Abbott

The multitude of law enforcement officers and bystanders affected by the murderous crime in College Station last fall presented a difficult challenge for CVSD and crime victim advocates. But all parties recognized the difficulty of their job was miniscule compared to the life-altering consequences faced by the victims. The Attorney General's Office is honored to collaborate with dedicated crime victim advocates and law enforcement authorities statewide to make our communities stronger and transform victim services in the 21st century. Together, we can find bold, new solutions to new challenges.

In the past two elections, the voters have elected a majority of candidates who live in Clint. The results suggest that either there is no significant dissatisfaction with the Clint ISD Board or voters are not aware of funding problems, if any exist.



Making a difference

HORIZON CITY – Over 250 Volunteers from Eastlake High School, Horizon High School, UTEP, John Ensor Middle School, Horizon Heights Elementary, and many other civic groups, local community members and city employees helped collect over 4 tons of trash and debris from Horizon City roadways on the 13th Annual Keep Horizon Beautiful Clean Up Day. The event took place on Saturday, April 27, 2013. The Town of Horizon City would like to thank the following vendor's for their generous donations making this year's Clean Up Day a huge success: Horizon City Wine & Spirits, Subway, Bojorquez Law Firm, Pot Bellys Pizza, Walgreens, Dynamix, Tax Service, Lowes, O'Reilley's, Jan-Car, G&R Plastics, Goldfarb Financial, Dollar General, Jaime Alvarado, Violeta Mendoza, Pizza Hut, Big Mike's Deli, Little Cesar's Pizza, Jim Bean, Horizon Vista Market, Serena Vista Homes, Pizza Hut, 7-11 Store, Las Banderas Shop, Domino's Pizza, Western Beverage, Green Earth Landscaping, El Paso Disposol, Paula Villegas, and the West Texas County Courier.

– Elvia Schuller



– Photo by Fernie Garcia

ALL KINDS OF AWARDS – In the back row, from left, are Sebastian Orozco, Joel Anguiano, Keith Townsend, Juan Apodaca. The front row, from left, includes Megan McGill, Mary Hetz, Alexis Martinez, Jamie Salazar, Marilyn Wallace. The team did exceptionally well during competition this year.

EPCC Speech and Debate Team is golden

By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY–The El Paso Community College Intercollegiate Speech and Debate Team is having a historic year of competition. The team swept the national tournament season by placing first at all three events:

- The Superior Community College Sweepstakes at PI KAPPA DELTA Nationals;

- First Place Community College Sweepstakes at the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament; and
- The Top Team in our division at the PHI RHO PI National Tournament.

At the PHI RHO PI National Tournament, just completed in Los Angeles, the EPCC team won the First Place Gold Individual Events Sweepstakes Award and the First Place Gold Overall Team Sweepstakes Award in its division.

Team members, Jamie Salazar and Mary Hetz, won the Bossard-Twohy Award for Parliamentary Debate. This award is voted on by the student debaters competing at the tournament and is presented to the team who exhibits the finest qualities in Parliamentary Debate at the national tournament. It is one of the highest honors bestowed at the national tournament. Speech and Debate Team Coach, Keith Townsend, was awarded the PHI RHO PI Coaching Service Award.

System

From Page 1

on all indexes for which they have performance data in 2013;

- Met Alternative Standard – met modified performance index targets for alternative education campuses or districts; or
- Improvement required - did not meet one or more performance index targets.

For eligible campuses that achieve the rating of Met Standard, distinction designations in the following areas will also be assigned for outstanding academic achievement in reading/English language arts and mathematics. The designations are:

Top 25 Percent Student Progress; Academic Achievement in Reading/English language arts; and Academic Achievement in Mathematics. These distinction designations will be based on campus performance in relation to a comparison group of campuses.

“It’s important to note that while the new system bases accountability on an index framework, the state will emphasize the importance of closing achievement gaps and addressing the needs of all students in Texas,” said Commissioner Williams. “Those districts and campuses that are leaders in improving achievement for all its students will be easily identified under this system.”

According to TEA officials,

because all aspects of the performance index framework cannot be fully implemented at this time, 2013 will be considered a transition year. Accountability advisory groups will reconvene later this year to finalize recommendations for accountability ratings criteria for 2014 and beyond.

In addition, work will continue on the conversion of this new system into an A-F rating system for 2014. Williams also acknowledged that various aspects of the state accountability system are currently being discussed by the Texas Legislature and that any changes in bills passed during the legislative session would be incorporated into the system.

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.

Public Notice Clint Independent School District

Clint ISD Pre-K and Kinder Registration Round-Up

Clint Independent School District will conduct registration for students entering Pre-Kinder and Kindergarten in Clint Independent School District for the Fall of 2013 from April 22 to April 26 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Please visit one of the elementary campuses in your area. The next registration will not be held until August 2013.

Additionally, campuses will conduct evening registration on the following days and times:

WD Surratt Elementary	.....April 22	.....4-7 p.m.
Desert Hills Elementary	.....April 22	.....4-7 p.m.
Red Sands Elementary	.....April 23	.....4-7 p.m.
Montana Vista Elementary	.....April 23	.....4-7 p.m.
Frank Macias Elementary	.....April 23	.....4-7 p.m.

Noticia Pública Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint

Clint ISD Inscripciones abiertas para Pre-Kinder y Kinder

El distrito independiente de Clint abrirá inscripciones para estudiante que entraran a Pre-Kinder and Kinder en el Distrito para el otoño del 2013. La matricula sera abierta del 22 de abril al 26 de abril, de 9 AM a 12 PM y de 1 PM a 3 PM. Favor de visitar unos de nuestros planteles primarios en su área. La oportunidad para matricularse será agosto de 2013.

Adicionalmente, los planteles conducirán matriculación en los siguientes días y horarios:

WD Surratt Elementary	.....22 de abril	.....4-7 p.m.
Desert Hills Elementary	.....22 de abril	.....4-7 p.m.
Red Sands Elementary	.....23 de abril	.....4-7 p.m.
Montana Vista Elementary	.....23 de abril	.....4-7 p.m.
Frank Macias Elementary	.....23 de abril	.....4-7 p.m.

WTCC: 05-02-13

archives: www.wtxcc.com

Lackluster teams, injuries make for dull NBA postseason

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

We’re right in the middle of another year of the NBA playoffs and so far there have been no big surprises.

The Boston Celtics and the Los Angeles Lakers played as badly in the post season as they did in the regular season.

The Milwaukee Bucks have proven they never should have been in the playoffs in the first place.

And the Miami Heat are looking like one of those championship teams that will eventually take on the name of “dynasty.”

But this year’s playoff season is still lacking something. This year’s playoffs are not as exciting or compelling as in the past.

And the reason is easy to see – there aren’t as many stars to see.

A ton of superstars are missing due to injury, which makes the playoffs a shell of what it could be.

Let’s face it, love them or hate them, the Lakers are just not the Lakers without Kobe Bryant.

I know he’s a lousy teammate and a diva, but he’s still one of the best players in the world.

And then you have the play-one-day-out-the-next-day Steve Nash.

The Lakers had no chance of defeating the San Antonio Spurs with Kobe Bryant, but NBA fans want to see every team at full strength – win or lose.

The Celtics are getting older by the minute – which makes them a team that is holding on by a thread.

But let’s face it, that thread really broke a couple months ago when their superstar guard Rajon Rondo was lost for the season with an injury.

The one young stud on the team, who is also one of the more exciting players in the league, ran the team like a well-oiled machine.

His loss makes the Celtics look like they wake up every morning with an aching back and a sour disposition.

The Chicago Bulls are playing good basketball right now and they’re doing it without their superstar Derrick Rose.

What’s bad is that even with Rose, the Bulls are about as exciting to watch as

photosynthesis in real time.

But Rose is still the former league MVP. You want to see him on the court.

The most frustrating thing about Rose is that doctors cleared him to come back and play over a month ago from his knee injury.

But he refuses to step onto the court although he’s been practicing with the team for a while... curious.

Everyone expected the Oklahoma City Thunder to challenge the Heat again this season in the NBA finals, but they too have been bitten by the injury bug.

Superstar guard Russell Westbrook had knee surgery and will miss the rest of the playoffs, which now puts the Thunder at a great disadvantage.

Westbrook is easily one of the top 10 players in the league and missing him will hurt OKC’s chances and the fans’ interest.

The Indiana Pacers aren’t the most attractive team out there but they do have an emerging superstar in Danny Granger.

But, yes you guessed it, Granger is out of the playoffs because of an injury.

The Pacers have done pretty well without

him this season but they are not nearly the team they would be with him.

Even the New York Knicks have a superstar who is out of the mix because of injury.

They may have the scoring champion in Carmelo (I’ll pass you the ball – just kidding) Anthony, but they are missing power forward Amar’e Stoudemire.

Stoudemire isn’t nearly the player he once was but a lot of that can be blamed on his many nagging injuries. And what as asset he would be coming off the bench.

One of the brightest stars on the NBA horizon is Golden State center David Lee.

Lee made the all-star game this season and was having one of the most consistent seasons of any player in the league.

Lee had double-figure scoring and rebound games 56 times this season.

And now he is out of action for the rest of the playoffs.

It’s too bad that all these great players are out of action at the most crucial part of the season.

What’s worse is, there’s still plenty of time remaining in the playoff season.

Who will be next?

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Riddle me this

When the New York Yankees win the World Series, as is often the case, their fans do not riot in the streets. They instead just head for their cars (if they live in New Jersey), the subway (Manhattan or Brooklyn), the ferry boat (Lower Manhattan and Staten Island) or train (Long Island), go home and go to sleep. (If the game was played on the road, they head for the weird airport you never

use and hop into their corporate jets instead.)

When the New York Mets win the World Series, it’s 1969 or 1986, and outside of Queens or your socially awkward middle sibling’s room, nobody cares.

I am reminded of this as I watch the Los Angeles Clippers duel the Memphis Grizzlies during the NBA’s first playoff round. It’s safe

to say that most Americans are in agreement when it comes to Los Angeles... it’s a weird place. It’s crazy intense on a corner in Compton and lazy incensed in Beverly Hills. It’s congested with traffic and enveloped in smog in one place, in another they have major high schools two blocks off a municipal pier and beach.

It is with this in mind that I try to decipher the riddle of the Los Angeles Clipper fan. Both the Los Angeles Lakers and Clippers play at the Staples Center, but as we have learned from the New Jersey Meadowlands’ awkward New

York Giants and New York Jets shared stadium situation, there is a world of difference between the two franchises. (More on them in a minute.)

If I were to ask you to name a Los Angeles Laker player from history or the present day, you’d have no problem doing so. The names would practically glide off your tongue: Chamberlain, Kareem, Magic, Jerry, Kobe, etc., et al., ad nauseam. If I was to play a word-association game with you and say “Lakers fan,” you’d immediately respond with “Jack Nicholson.”

I defy the casual basketball fan to name any Clipper player, ever. (If you said World B. Free, Bob McAdoo or Danny Manning, you are excused from this discussion because you clearly have too much time on your hands.) Try to name the person occupying the same seat

Angelina Jolie was occupying the night previous in the same exact building. Betcha bite a chip on your shoulder before you do.

To put this in perspective, Los Angeles does not have a football franchise. It has baseball (Dodgers and the Angels of Anaheim), hockey (Kings and Anaheim Ducks), the aforementioned Lakers and Clippers, the Williams sisters, Snoop Lion and Dr. Dre... but no football. Even Baltimore has a professional football team... even when it’s a Canadian Football team.

So who, exactly, are these loud and bellicose fans at the Staples Center on a Clippers night? Unlike Jets or Mets fans... stay tuned, because that situation is quickly evolving.

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

Briefs

From Page 1

paper-based GED testing center in the country is now offering the test on computer.”Texas joins 39 states that have begun offering the GED test on computer since early 2012. Adult learners across the country have taken advantage of the new benefits, such as online scheduling and registration, instant unofficial score reports, and increased testing flexibility. GED Testing Service studied results from more than 40,000 computerized GED tests given in 2012 and found significantly positive results for test-takers. GED Testing Service’s findings included:

- Adults who tested on computer had an 88 percent pass rate compared to 71 percent for those who tested on paper;
- Adults who tested on computer completed their exams in approximately 5.5 hours compared to 8 on paper; and
- Adults who tested on computer were also 59 percent more likely to retake a failed test instead of giving up and dropping out of the testing program.

The launch also allows adults in El Paso to take advantage of a new GED Testing Service offer. Through May 31, 2013, adults in El Paso who begin their GED test on computer will receive one free retake if they fail. To

view full details of the new offer visit, GEDtestingservice.com/secondshot. The English- and Spanish-language GED test on computer is the same test currently offered in the paper and pencil format. Whether a candidate takes the test on paper or computer, it must be taken in person at an official GED testing center. The GED test is never offered online. States currently offering the GED test on computer are preparing for the new 2014 GED test, which will only be available on computer. For adults interested in taking or learning more about the GED test on computer please visit, www.GEDcomputer.com.

– Jim Heiney

Wanted

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has added Noah Earl Allen Jr., 45, to the Texas 10 Most Wanted Sex Offender list, and a \$3,000 cash reward is now offered for information leading to his capture. Allen has a violent criminal past and is wanted for failure to register as a sex offender. All tips can be offered anonymously. Allen has ties to San Antonio, which was his last known address, and to Houston. He has been known to work as a bricklayer and laborer. Allen’s criminal history includes sexual assault, possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana, unlawful possession of firearm by felon and DWI.

Allen is 5’5” tall and weighs approximately 150 pounds. His tattoos include a Grim Reaper on his chest; two tears under his left eye; “Rolling 30’s” and dice on his left hand; and “Bad to the Bone” and “Pitbull” on his left forearm. He also has pierced ears and scars on his right forearm and near his left eye. There are four different ways to provide anonymous tips:

- Call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-252-TIPS (8477);
- Text the letters DPS – followed by your tip – to 274637 (CRIMES) from your cell phone;
- Submit a web tip through the DPS website by selecting the fugitive you have information about, and then clicking on the link under their picture; and
- Submit a Facebook tip at <http://www.facebook.com/texas10mostwanted> by clicking the “SUBMIT A TIP” link (under the “About” section).

All calls, texts, e-mails and Facebook messages are anonymous. DPS investigators work with local law enforcement agencies to select fugitives for the Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive and Sex Offender lists. You can find the current lists – with photos – on the DPS website at <http://www.dps.texas.gov/texas10mostwanted/>. Do not attempt to apprehend these fugitives – they are considered armed and dangerous.



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FARENS, SAN ELIZABIO AND TORNILLO

CLASSIFIED AD FORM

25 words - \$10 per week; 40 words - \$15 per week

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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

Contact Information:

Name: _____

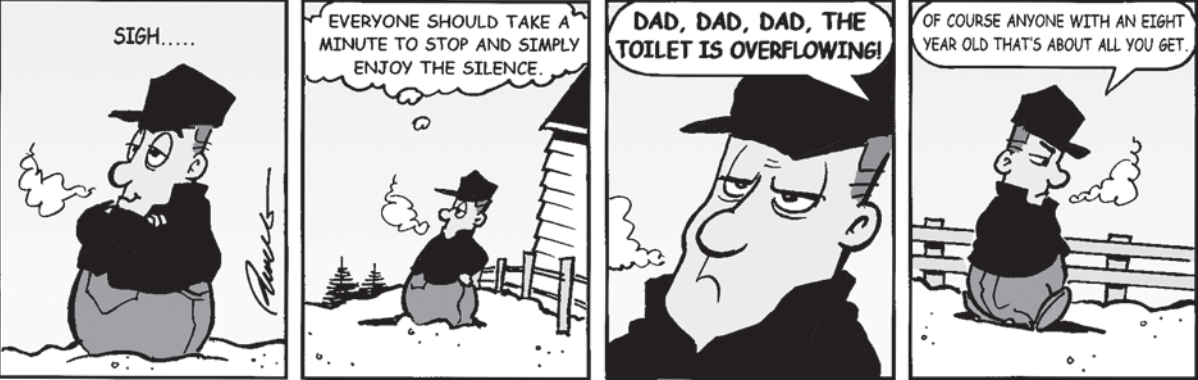
Phone: _____

Comix

OUT ON A LIMBBy Gary Kopervas



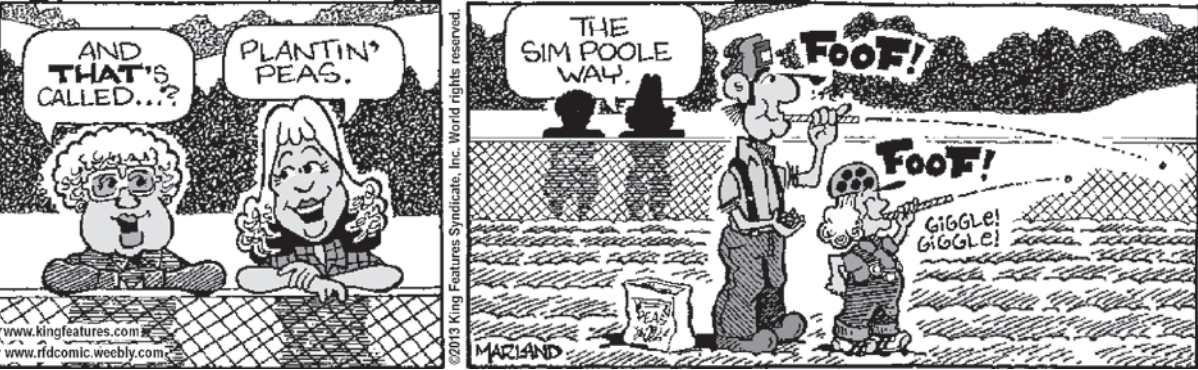
AMBER WAVESBy Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATSBy Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My 73-year-old husband has, in the past year, been jerking during his sleep. His movements are quite wild at times. He has fallen out of bed three times during his “fighting” dreams. He dreams he is in a fight at work, playing football or shooting things. Just last night, it was killing mice. He jerks with his arms and legs. I don’t attempt to wake him, as one time he was on the verge of striking me. I did yell his name three times, and he finally woke up. He has had two sleep tests and was told he has “half sleep apnea.” What does that mean? He takes no sleeping aids. I have never heard that such movements are a sign of sleep apnea. – D.S.

tobacco could bring nocturnal peace for you and him.

If the situation doesn’t clear, then Mirapex or Requip, two Parkinson’s disease medicines, can put an end to the nighttime martial arts. Do tell his doctor about this. Periodic limb movements of sleep are, at times, associated with iron deficiency. I have no idea what “half sleep apnea” means.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Every now and then, my eyelid twitches. I don’t think it’s due to me being tired, because it can happen when I am wide awake in the morning. And I don’t think it’s due to stress – I love my work. Furthermore, I don’t drink any caffeinated beverages. What do you think is the significance of this? – H.R.

A good bet is that your husband has a condition called periodic limb movements of sleep. For many, such movements are bending of the big toe and ankle. For others, it’s jerking of the legs and arms. Most often the person doesn’t waken and has no recollection of what went on during the night. The bed partner and the condition of the blankets give testimony to what occurred during sleep.

If the person doesn’t have daytime fatigue, then this disorder isn’t considered a sleep problem for him or her. It is for the one who shares the bed.

Sometimes periodic limb movements of sleep occur with another problem, restless leg syndrome. That’s a creepy-crawly sensation in the legs that comes on in the evening when sitting or in bed. The person is compelled to get up and move around to quell the feeling.

A warm bath before going to bed might calm your husband’s movements. Decreasing the amount of caffeine he drinks and doing the same for all forms of

Nearly everyone has had a twitchy eyelid at some time in life. It’s not a sign of illness. It’s not something that lasts for any length of time. Fatigue, stress and caffeinated beverages all have been implicated as causes. But most people with a twitchy lid are like you; they have and do none of these things.

A washcloth soaked in warm water and placed on the involved, closed lid for a few minutes generally can stop the twitching. Or gentle massage of the involved, closed lid also can end it.

If it continues and lasts for longer periods, then a doctor has to be consulted.

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

- FINAL DEFEAT

ACROSS

1 Count every penny

7 Thrashes

12 Errors

20 Less than three-dimensional

21 Blue Grotto's island

22 Earnings on the principal

23 Certain custard pie

25 Uncommon instance

26 Base in DNA and RNA

27 Adams of photography fame

29 Hardly ruddy

30 Gallery-funding org.

31 Rachel's biblical sister

33 Stinky sprayer with a luxuriant coat

36 Bit of rock improvising

41 Gun rights gp.

42 Make blond, maybe

43 Windows or Unix, briefly

44 1949 Peace Nobel

46 Person in a fam. tree

48 French for "kings"

52 Arab VIP

53 _ Bator (capital of

Mongolia)

55 Citrus-flavored pop

59 Of neural firing points

61 Rival of Hertz

62 Miracle-_

63 _ degree

64 O'er's opposite

65 Fracas

67 Drug from poppies

69 Group with eight "Fresh Aire" albums

74 Coral colony member

75 Skewered meat dish in peanut sauce

76 Macabre

81 Waikiki Yoko

78 Free _ bird

82 Got back, as losses

86 Situation for a short-handed ice hockey team

89 "If I Only _ Brain"

90 Hitchhiker's need

91 Aerobics aid

92 Santa _

93 Silverstein of kiddie-lit

95 Desert refuges

96 Inits. on a Card's cap

98 Talking-_ (lectures)

101 Form in a catalog

104 High-ranking

senator

109 Actors Erwin and Gilliam

110 Keats piece

111 Game with 108 cards

112 Opa-_ Florida

114 Fugitive

119 Actress Bracco

122 Bleached varnish ingredient

124 Little Rock locale

125 Gnu growths

126 Snare

127 Establish roots elsewhere

128 Latin abbr. for "and the following"

129 Not at all conscious of

DOWN

1 Humane org.

2 Dirt clump

3 5K or 10K

4 Wise to

5 Strong, buff

papers

6 Hedge clipper

7 TV overseer

8 Actress _ Flynn

Boyle

9 Cloudless

expanse

10 Comprehend

11 Son of Jacob and

31-Across

12 Former Earth orbiter

13 Astounded

14 One on the fence

15 Itsy-bitsy

16 Lob's path

17 Reeves of "Matrix" films

18 Ruhr hub

19 Fajita meat

24 Bluish color

28 USPS piece

32 Small grills

34 Small mountain lake

35 Actress Deborah

36 Heads out

37 "You Light _ Life"

38 "Beauty _ the eye..."

39 Despotism

40 Inmate

45 Fits together well

47 Yolk holder

49 Bellybutton variety

50 "A Mighty Fortress _ God"

51 Fake

53 Brigham City's state

54 Miller beer

56 "Welcome to the _" (2010 film)

57 Totally lost

58 Rapper Artis Ivey, familiarly

60 Letter-writing buddy

61 Dutch brew

66 May gems

68 Of lung membranes

69 "Water Lilies" artist

70 By itself

71 African land

72 Bog plant

73 Mean whale

74 Daddy-o

79 Trotskyite's opponent

80 Essayist Rand

83 Leaning Tower of _

84 Spot of bliss

85 Pupil's place

87 Lhasa _

88 "K-K-K-_ " (classic song)

89 The woman

94 Johns _ University

95 Indecent

97 Class-cutting

99 Bird with ear tufts

100 "Prove it!"

102 Summers, in Marseilles

103 Was hasty

104 Cheek tooth

105 Totally love

106 Knee reflexes

107 Having a key center

108 Apple's instant-messaging program

113 Fit to _

115 _ mater

116 Said "guilty," say

117 Part of SE

118 Cave sound

120 Soul singer

Corinne Bailey _

121 Siam annex?

123 Title for an atty.
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | |
| 20 | | | | | | | 21 | | | | | | 22 | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | | 24 | | | | | | | 25 | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | | | | | | | | 27 | | | | 28 | | 29 | | | | | 30 | | |
| | | | | | 31 | | | 32 | | 33 | | | 34 | | | | 35 | | | | |
| 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | | | | | 40 | | | 41 | | | 42 | | | | | | | |
| 43 | | | | | | | 44 | | | 45 | | | 46 | 47 | | | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | |
| 52 | | | | | | 53 | 54 | | | | 55 | 56 | 57 | | | 58 | | | | | |
| 59 | | | | | 60 | | | | | 61 | | | | 62 | | | | 63 | | | |
| | | | | | | 64 | | | | 65 | | | 66 | | 67 | 68 | | | | | |
| | | 69 | 70 | | | | | | 71 | | | | | 72 | 73 | | | | | | |
| 74 | | | | | | | | 75 | | | | | 76 | | | | | | | | |
| 77 | | | | | | 78 | 79 | 80 | | 81 | | | | 82 | | | | 83 | 84 | 85 | |
| 86 | | | | | 87 | | | | 88 | | | | 89 | | | | 90 | | | | |
| 91 | | | | | | 92 | | | | | 93 | 94 | | | | 95 | | | | | |
| | | | | | 96 | 97 | | | 98 | 99 | 100 | | 101 | | 102 | 103 | | | | | |
| 104 | 105 | 106 | | | | | 107 | | | | 108 | | | 109 | | | | | | | |
| 110 | | | | | | 111 | | | | 112 | | | 113 | | 114 | | | 115 | 116 | 117 | 118 |
| 119 | | | | | 120 | | | | 121 | | 122 | | | 123 | | | | | | | |
| 124 | | | | | | | | | | 125 | | | | | 126 | | | | | | |
| 127 | | | | | | | | | | 128 | | | | | 129 | | | | | | |
- Answer Page 4

Moore Texas by Roger Moore 1911: Sanger Bros. in Dallas installs the South's first escalator .



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!

	÷		+		11
+		+		÷	
	+		×		18
×		×		+	
	×		-		27
30		21		11	

1 2 2 3 4 5 7 8 9

Answer Page 4

© 2013 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

© 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: What are the rules for getting Supplemental Security Income (SSI)? I'm thinking about applying based on my disability.

A: To be eligible to receive SSI benefits, you must be disabled, blind, or age 65 or older and have limited income and resources. Income is money you receive such as wages, Social Security benefits, and pensions. Income also includes the value of such things as food and shelter you receive from others. Resources include real estate, bank accounts, cash, stocks, and bonds. You may be able to get SSI if your resources are worth no more than \$2,000. A couple may be able to get SSI if they have resources worth no more than \$3,000. Learn more by reading our publication, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11000.pdf.

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).

If your Social Security card has been stolen, you can apply for a replacement card. But you usually don't need a new card as long as you know your number. To protect yourself in the future, treat your Social Security number as confidential and avoid giving it out. Keep your Social Security card in a safe place with your other important papers. Do not carry it with you. Learn more by reading our publication, Identity Theft And Your Social Security Number, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10064.html.

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: M equals I

LUYCHMCP MC LGBF Y

HMXXKMCP YVYK TN

BTVCNMWJHL, M NWWJ YL

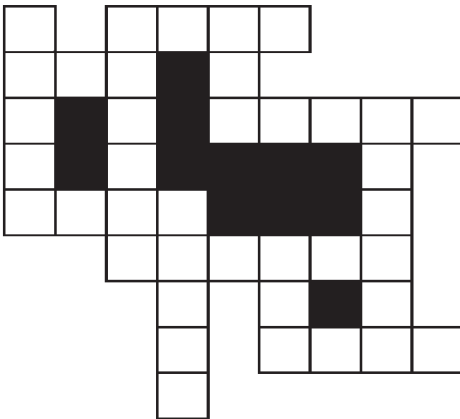
UFTGPF M'S JTLU MC Y SYMXW.

Answer Page 4

© 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.



♥NWO
STUEGH
WREPO
GWEA
SOREOM
♥IPH
♥ENTO
♥PIGSR
♥AGT
DOWNIS
HEITT
OPLG



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.

© 2013 King Features Syndicate. All rights reserved.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was Founding Father Thomas Jefferson who made the following sage observation: "The tax which will be paid for education is not more than the thousandth part of what will be paid to kings, priests and nobles who will rise up among us if we leave the people to ignorance."

• Half of all the world's flower species can be found in South America.

• If you're worried about catching a cold from another person, you should be more worried about handshakes than sneezes.

• The Hula Hoop was introduced in the United States in early 1958, and the craze rapidly became one of the biggest in history up to that time. Shortly thereafter, the British Medical Journal blamed an uptick in back, neck and abdominal injuries on the fad.

• Though there are an estimated 600,000 words in the English language, only 1,500 to 2,000 words make up 99 percent of all speech in America.

• In some parts of Asia, it is the custom to put salt in one's tea.

• If you're of a certain age, you might remember that in 1968, Tommy James and the Shondells had a No. 3 hit with the song "Mony, Mony." You might be surprised to learn, though, that the inspiration for the song came from the business world. On Broadway in New York City, atop the 40-story building that housed the Mutual of New York Insurance Company, also known as M.O.N.Y., Tommy James often saw a huge neon sign flashing the short form of the company's name. He evidently liked the way it sounded.

• Those who study such things say that explorer Christopher Columbus had blond hair.

Thought for the Day: "No sacrifice is worth the name unless it is a joy. Sacrifice and a long face go ill together."

– Mahatma Gandhi

(c) 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.