



NEWSBRIEFS

Schools closed

All El Paso County school districts will be closed Nov. 25-29. El Paso Community College will close for Thanksgiving and Black Friday.

Offices closed

On Friday, November 29 all Social Security field offices will be closed to the public. Employees who work the day after Thanksgiving will focus on backlog reduction. Most Social Security services do not require a visit to a local office. Many services, including applying for retirement, disability or Medicare benefits, signing up for direct deposit, replacing a Medicare card, obtaining a proof of income letter or informing us of a change of address or telephone number are conveniently available at www.socialsecurity.gov or by dialing our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778. Many of our online services also are available in Spanish at www.segurosocial.gov.

— Ray Vigil

Wanted

This week's Crime Spot involves a man who stole more than a thousand dollars in cellular telephones from an East El Paso business. The theft took place on Friday, Nov. 8 2013, during early morning hours at the Walmart located at 12236 Montana. The suspect walked into the business and made his way to the electronics department. Once he arrived to the electronics section the suspect managed to grab three Samsung Galaxy SIII telephones. The suspect was able to remove them from the packaging. The suspect concealed the cellular phones in his clothing and walked out of the store. The telephones are valued at \$399.88 each. Security cameras from the store captured the suspect. The suspect is also believed to be involved in other thefts of electronic items at the store. Investigators are certain that someone knows the individual involved in this theft. Anyone with any information on the identity of the man captured on video to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477 (TIPS), on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org or you can send a text message by entering the key word "CRIME1" (no space and include the quotation marks) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward. Crime Stoppers of El Paso, Inc. is a non-profit organization that brings together the community, law enforcement, and the media to solve crime.

— Javier Sambrano

Thinking will get us to the foot of the mountain; faith will get us to the top.

— Quips & Quotes

Tejanas are national champs



— Photo courtesy El Paso Community College

LOTS OF HARDWARE – The El Paso Community College (EPCC) Women's Half Marathon team is a National Champion. The Tejanas traveled to Dallas, GA for the National Junior College Athletic Association Half Marathon Championships on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013. Along with the team title, Freshman Andrea Amaro was the individual National Champion running the 13.1 mile course in a time of 1:24:56 and led the Tejanas to the National Team Championship with 15 points. This is the Tejanas' second national title and third individual national title. Freshman Shannon Luevano finished 4th with a time of 1:27:23 and joined Andrea with All-American honors. The team, from left, are Shannon Luevano, All-American; Monica Ruiz; Brisa Carrillo; Felix Hinojosa, Head Coach; Andrea Amaro, National Champion and All-American; and Daniela Rodriguez.

— Jim Heiney

Vinton council renews water infrastructure plans

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Since 1992, the Village of Vinton has been studying the possibility of constructing citywide water and wastewater (sewer) systems and of securing the necessary funds. Most Vinton residents rely on private wells for their water needs. Finally in 2010, the village was awarded grants from the Border Environmental Cooperative Commission (BECC), Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to pursue this much needed infrastructure, but to no avail.

For whatever reasons, Vinton council members Juvencia Rios-Ontiveros, Martha Garcia and Maria Medina refused to apply for the funding. The three denied more than \$30 million in grants guaranteed to the village to bring the necessary groundwork. Thus the efforts have been dormant for the past two years.

Then this past October, almost a year after a lawsuit filed by village residents sought to remove the three council members from office for alleged incompetence, ignorance and carelessness, they chose to settle out of court and resign rather than go to trial.



— Photo courtesy of Village of Vinton

Village of Vinton's new council unanimously approved plans for restoring funding efforts for city-wide water and wastewater systems during its first official meeting in November. Council members, from left, are Yolanda Lucero, Yassu Grier, Dolores Diaz, Mayor Madeleine Praino, Manuel Leos, and Santos Lucero.

Subsequently, three concerned residents ran unopposed for the open slots in November's general elections. During its first official council meeting recently, the village's new city council voted to begin the process for re-applying for funding opportunities to

provide safe drinking water and a safe sewer system for all households in the Upper Valley community.

The council, which includes the three new

See WATER, Page 3

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

VA hiring vets for mental-health jobs

The Department of Veterans Affairs set a goal, and has met it. In 2012, an executive order was handed down to improve VA mental-health services for veterans, service personnel and their families by hiring more than 800 peer specialists and peer apprentices. The specialists and apprentices are themselves veterans who have been successful in dealing with their own mental-health issues for at least a year. Specialists are trained and certified, and the apprentices are in the process of getting training on the way to becoming specialists. Part of the executive order was that training for all of them would be finished by the end of the year. The VA says it will meet that goal. Both the specialists and apprentices have been sent to all VA Medical Centers that have more than 10,000 enrollees, as well as the outpatient clinics. And they increased staffing at the veterans crisis hotline by 50 percent. Overall, it's not a bad effort. If you need to talk to someone, or know a veteran who does, call the veterans crisis hotline at 1-800-273-8255. There's a good chance that the person on the other end also will be a veteran. If you want to learn about the VA's mental-health services in general, go online to www.mentalhealth.va.gov. Do you think you'd make a good specialist or apprentice? Go online to www.vacareers.va.gov/peer-to-peer/ and click on Search Peer Support Positions. As of this writing, there are positions in Alaska, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and many more. Remember that one of the main requirements is that you be a "veteran who has recovered or is recovering from a mental-health condition." Veterans with physical disabilities also are encouraged to apply. Look closely at the open and closing dates of the position listings. They're not all the same.

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

Finding your lost money

You may not know it, but millions of Americans are owed money from long-forgotten government payments, stock sales, bank accounts and other lost accounts. When the entities holding these funds can't find the rightful recipients, they turn over the money to individual states, which hold it in escrow until claimed. State treasuries and other government agencies are sitting on more than \$33 billion in unclaimed assets. And that doesn't include billions of dollars in unredeemed U.S. savings and treasury bonds, unclaimed pensions and income tax refunds returned to the IRS as undeliverable. Money winds up in government lost-and-found agencies for many reasons, including:


- People move and don't leave accurate forwarding addresses – they forget to update companies where they do business, hold investments or have earned retirement benefits;
- Dying without a will leaves it up to the court to assign assets;
- You could unknowingly be named as beneficiary of an insurance policy or other account;
- Forgotten utility deposits, bank accounts or product rebates;
- Overpaid mortgage payments after a home sale; and
- Name changes after marriage or divorce.

Start your search with the nonprofit National Association of Property Administrators (NAUPA), which provides tips on finding your money, as well as links to unclaimed property programs maintained by each state (www.unclaimed.org). Many individual state programs also participate in MissingMoney.com (www.missingmoney.com), a free, centralized database endorsed by NAUPA. Companies are required to surrender balances from accounts that have been inactive for one year or longer to the state government of your last known address; also check with other states where you've lived or done business, just in case. To improve your chances, search using different variations of your name (such as first name and middle initial, first and middle initials, last name first, etc.), as well as common misspellings. NAUPA also provides a handy round-up of links to other sources for unclaimed property such as unclaimed veteran's benefits, refunds from HUD/FHA-insured mortgages and unclaimed foreign bank accounts. Other helpful sites include:

- The IRS' "Where's My Refund?" page, where you can track down an expected federal tax refund you never received – or check the status of your current filing (www.irs.gov).
- The Treasury Department's "Treasury Hunt" search engine can help you find and redeem matured, uncashed Series E savings bonds issued since 1974 (www.treasurydirect.gov).
- The Public Benefit Guaranty Corporation (www.pbgc.gov) can help you track down forgotten pension benefits you've earned. Other helpful sites include PensionHelp America (www.pensionhelp.org), and the Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (www.dol.gov/ebsa).
- The National Registry of Unclaimed Retirement Benefits can help you find an unclaimed defined contribution plan, such as a 401(k) or profit-sharing plan (<https://www.unclaimedretirementbenefits.com>).

Many legitimate companies use states' freedom of information acts to obtain owner information for unclaimed accounts. They contact individuals and offer to help find lost property for a fee (often a percentage of the total). This is the same information you can find yourself, for free. Also, beware of emails or letters purporting to be from the state treasurer asking you to supply personal information – either by mail or by logging into a link provided. This is how many cases of identity theft begin. If in doubt, contact your state treasurer or controller's office to ensure the contact was legitimate.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial educational programs.



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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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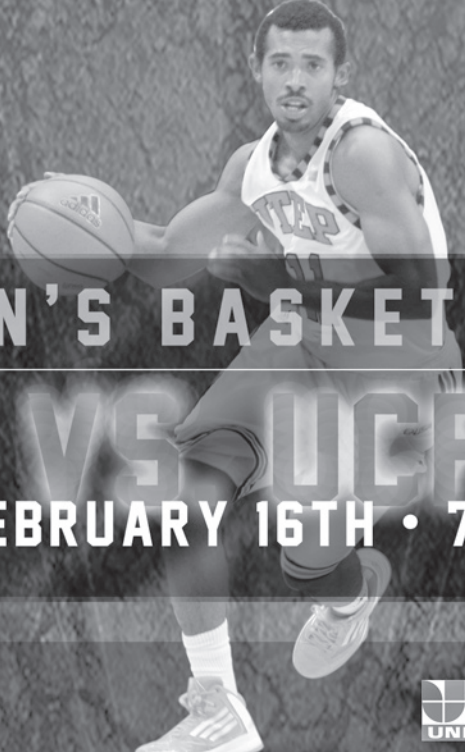
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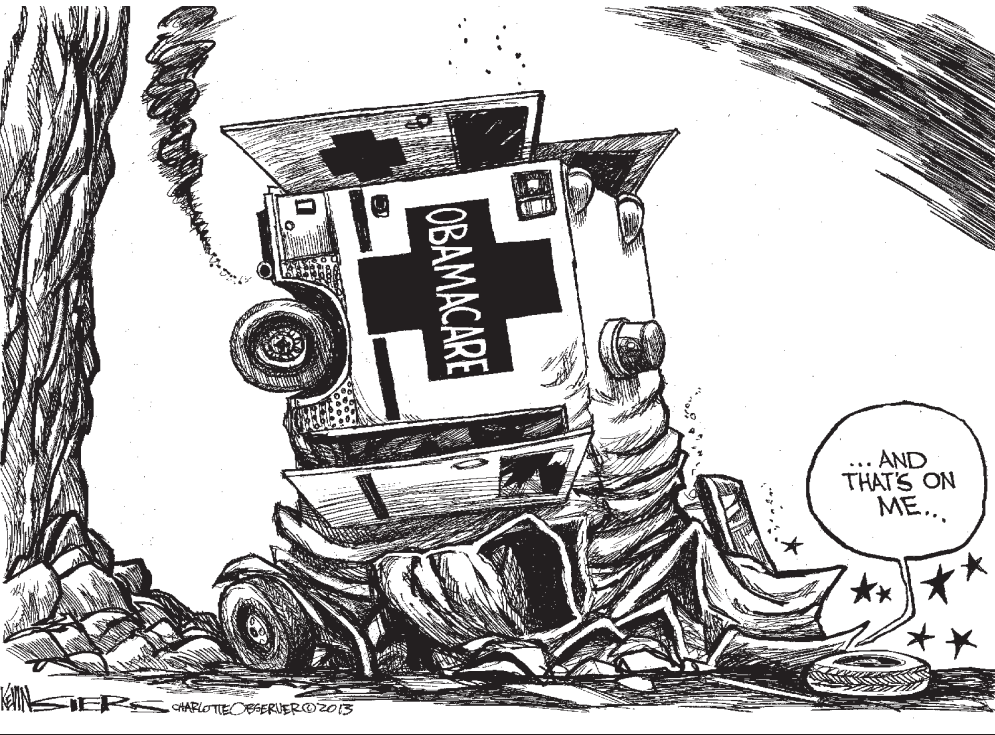
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Saskia, 39, quit for good on the 7th try.

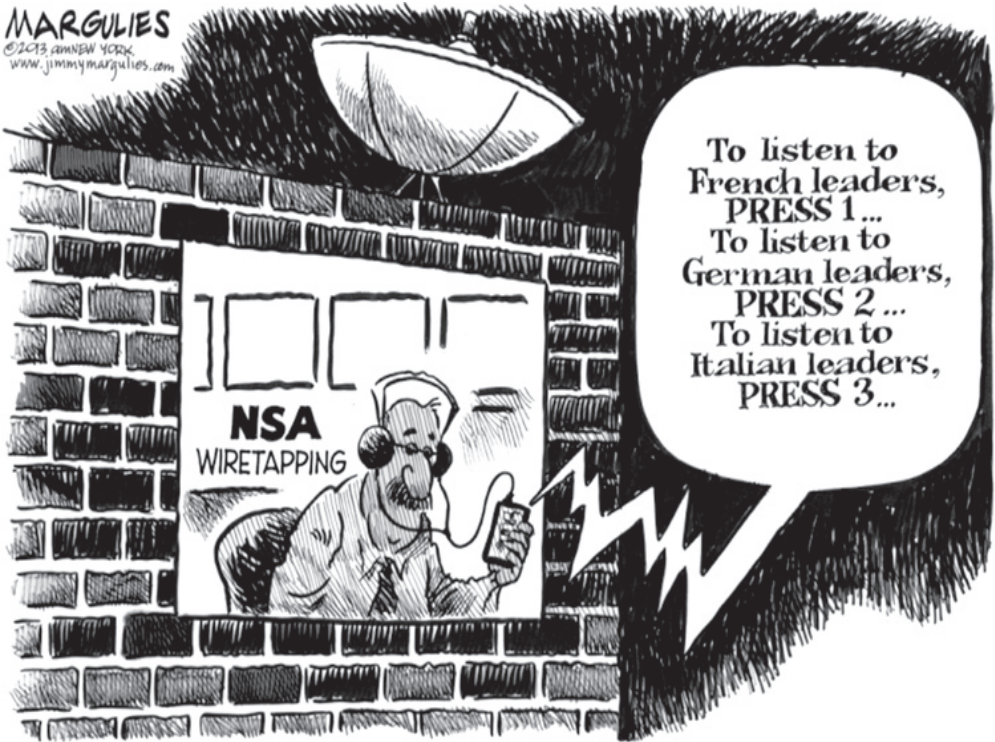
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West Texas County Courier

November 28, 2013



OUR TIRELESS REPRESENTATIVES
“PREPARING” FOR THE DAYS
THEY SCHEDULED THEMSELVES
TO BE AT WORK FOR THE REMAINDER
OF THE YEAR. ALL 15 OF THEM.



Horizon fire department takes proactive steps to serve community

By Stephen Hambric
Special to the Courier

In a recent article titled “Fire departments try to extinguish staffing crisis” in USA Today, dated September 29, 2013, an outline was presented concerning attracting and retaining volunteer fire fighters. Many of the nations fire departments are now turning to paid positions and stipends to ensure coverage during peak hours. Below is an outline of the steps that El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 (EPCESD #1) has taken to combat this crisis. EPCESD #1, and the service provider, The Horizon City Fire Department – a volunteer fire department, have recently developed a stipend program to staff the station during those hours that the majority of the volunteers are on their regular jobs.

EPCESD #1 covers 156 square miles of territory in the eastern part of El Paso County. The population has exceeded 66,000 in the district. The fire department was formed as a rural fire protection district in 1974, and has transitioned into the modern department it is now. The voters in the district overwhelmingly passed the petition to convert the rural fire department to the Emergency Services District in 1993. Many of the citizens in the district do not realize that volunteers cover the area. This is due to the training and certifications that are required to be a volunteer.

Departments are governed by the National Fire Protection Association, State Firemen and Fire Marshals Association, Texas Department of Health and other agencies that oversee the day-to-day operations for fire departments. Not only are the firefighters governed but the equipment as well must meet the stringent standards.

As the department has grown, it has added a Certified Fire Marshal to ensure that annual business inspections are conducted and that all new construction has met the current code requirements and presented construction plans for review.

The new stipend program correlates with the construction of a new headquarters firehouse being built next to the existing station. Both of these items were put into place while the department works toward a fully staffed, 24-hour operation. EPCESD #1 and the Fire Department have realized for some time that the volunteer ranks were shrinking and in need of additional support programs to cover the calls during the day.

Training occurs every Wednesday and is conducted by certified instructors in every facet of firefighting. As in a municipal fire department, each recruit is trained and certified prior to moving up the ladder. In 1988, a class of thirteen fighters earned their state certification by obtaining a regiment of classes over a years’ time. Most of the new recruits are graduates of Fire Tech School and must have a minimum of an Emergency Care Attendant or Emergency Medical Technician. The Community College offers both of these programs.

The department has added several new fire engines and support vehicles to enable a quick response to any emergency in the district and also to support the efforts of the other fire departments in the county. To ensure a quicker response, the county fire departments are working toward adding additional dispatchers for the Sheriff’s Department dispatch office to increase the accuracy of each call in the county.

Finally, EPCESD #1, is working to lower the Insurance Standards Organization rating for the district. This will help lower homeowners’ insurance when completed. This is a combined effort that includes all the firefighting tools, water supplies, other departments and training to secure a better rating.

This proactive approach is the accumulation of many years of learning various management tools implemented in the other departments in the state and nation.

People with questions about EPCESD #1 are encouraged to contact Ron Larson, Administrator, at 852-3204.

Water

From Page 1

members and the two who have always been in favor of the water and sewer projects, said that they want to go after those lost monies.

Joining current council members Yolanda Lucero, Yassu Grier, and Mayor Madeleine Praino are newcomers Dolores Diaz, a retired school district employee; Manuel Leos, an electronics technician specialist at Fort Bliss; and Santos Lucero, a local business owner.

“I am glad that I am able to help get these projects started again because they are badly needed,” said new Councilman Leos, who will serve a two-year term. He said that the three new members came into office specifically to restore the water projects and to address the town’s storm water drainage problems.

The original proposal was slated to receive funding through several federal and state agencies and was designed to address the need for an adequate water and wastewater system for the entire village. Town officials had also lined up a number of agencies to assist property owners, residential and commercial, with funding to connect to the water system, according to official reports.

Now that the new council has given the go-ahead, the town administration is in the process of seating a Tax Accountability Committee to update the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and present a new CIP priority list to be adopted by council, stated Jessica Garza, the city clerk for Vinton.

Meanwhile, the Vinton council authorized staff to submit required documentation to funding agencies including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development Office, BECC, and TWDB.

Assisting Vinton officials to get back on track are Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, the village’s city engineers since 2007, and the agencies themselves who indicated that they would provide technical assistance, Garza said.

“We are looking at December though January to complete the new applications and project updates, April/May for initial response from the funding agencies,” stated Garza. “Award announcements from USDA are expected perhaps in late spring and summer time for official invitations to apply for funding from TWDB. It will take a year to get back to where we were in November of 2011,” she added.

Right now, “It is unknown what the actual cost will be to each resident until the process is completed along with a final design and the funding agencies have indicated the award amounts,” Garza explained. “What we do know is that construction of these projects will improve the general quality of life by encouraging economic development, which will bring more jobs, grocery stores, and other services closer to the community,” she stated.

Archives: www.wtxcc.com



Buckle up every rider for every trip.

State law now requires both adults and children to be buckled up in the front or back seat. A child less than 8 years old, unless taller than 4 feet 9 inches, must ride in a child safety seat. Most children between 4 and 8 years old will need a booster seat to be safe and comply with the law. Fines range from \$25 to \$250, plus court costs. TexasClickItorTicket.com



Click It or Ticket.

Even in the back seat.

Socorro Independent School District					
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance					
Governmental Funds					
For the Year Ended June 30, 2013					
Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 78,974,405	\$ 23,282,657	\$ 290,291	\$ 3,793,159	\$ 106,340,512
5800 State Program Revenues	216,478,451	15,769,736	—	2,115,550	234,363,737
5900 Federal Program Revenues	3,381,807	—	—	38,760,044	42,141,851
5020 Total Revenues	298,834,663	39,052,393	290,291	44,668,753	382,846,100
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	172,813,491	—	1,069,255	13,969,192	187,851,938
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	4,520,315	—	103,578	170,159	4,794,052
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	617,353	—	—	3,439,593	4,056,946
0021 Instructional Leadership	3,784,705	—	—	289,445	4,074,150
0023 School Leadership	20,840,045	—	91,118	—	20,931,163
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	7,961,046	—	—	2,547,124	10,508,170
0032 Social Work Services	1,538,199	—	—	323,937	1,862,136
0033 Health Services	3,426,116	—	13,014	318,072	3,757,202
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	10,213,194	—	—	—	10,213,194
0035 Food Services	—	—	610,168	20,761,022	21,371,190
0036 Extracurricular Activities	8,920,260	—	—	26,536	8,946,796
0041 General Administration	6,791,685	—	—	115,515	6,907,200
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	32,551,192	—	1,750,510	118,599	34,420,301
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	5,501,078	—	34,313	2,483	5,537,874
0053 Data Processing Services	3,968,908	—	160,940	5,161	4,135,009
0061 Community Services	795,406	—	—	1,147,524	1,942,930
Debt Service:					
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	375,141	12,368,182	—	—	12,743,323
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	5,327	21,115,805	—	—	21,121,132
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	—	317,197	1,215,599	—	1,532,796
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	2,190,256	—	108,732,388	233,417	111,156,061
Intergovernmental:					
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	1,281,559	—	—	—	1,281,559
6030 Total Expenditures	288,095,276	33,801,184	113,780,883	43,467,779	479,145,122
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	10,739,387	5,251,209	(113,490,592)	1,200,974	(96,299,022)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	—	17,794,990	129,370,000	—	147,164,990
7912 Sale of Real and Personal Property	51,617	—	—	3,500	55,117
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	—	2,371,049	18,846,960	—	21,218,009
8949 Other (Uses)	—	(19,869,930)	—	—	(19,869,930)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	51,617	296,109	148,216,960	3,500	148,568,186
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	10,791,004	5,547,318	34,726,368	1,204,474	52,269,164
0100 Fund Balance – July 1 (Beginning)	75,074,267	34,566,126	31,436,258	9,630,854	150,707,505
3000 Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$ 85,865,271	\$ 40,113,444	\$ 66,162,626	\$ 10,835,328	\$ 202,976,669

Classified Ads

LEGALS

City of Socorro

PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at **6:00 p.m. at a Regular Council Meeting on December 12, 2013**, at City Hall, 860 Rio Vista, Socorro, Texas. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the following:

1) Ordinance 320, Amendment No. 2, An ordinance of the City of Socorro, establishing procedures and rules for city council meetings and agendas as provided by section 3.08 of the Socorro City Charter, and establishing procedures and rules for conduct of the Socorro City Council and all of the City of Socorro boards and commissions and repealing Ordinance No. 304 amendment no. 1 and Ordinance 280 Amendment No. 1.

2) Ordinance 322, Amendment No. 1 of the City of Socorro, Texas adopting an amended budget FY 2013-2014.

3) Ordinance 324, an Ordinance designating Transportation Reinvestment Zone Number One for the City of Socorro, Texas; establishing a Tax Increment Fund for the zone; and containing other provisions related thereto.

are encouraged to contact the City Clerk (915) 858-2915, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Copies of ordinances are available for review at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., upon request.

Sandra Hernandez
City Clerk

WTCC: 11-82-13

City of Socorro

Adoption of Ordinances

On November 21, 2013 the City of Socorro, Texas adopted the following ordinance(s):

1) Ordinance 295, Amendment No. 6, an Ordinance of the City of Socorro amending the organizational chart for the City of Socorro.

The Ordinance(s) effective date is immediately upon adoption and publication.

Published by order of the City Council of the City of Socorro, Texas

Copies of the ordinance are available for review at the City Administration Building, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas 79927; Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Sandra Hernandez
City Clerk

WTCC: 11-28-13
12-05-13

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FRANK SUM ATRA PILE
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DEVIATE DOTED DON JAMIE
SWELTER SEEDERS SLIER

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CryptoQuip Answer

After my dish of cheesy spuds had become spoiled, someone labeled them “potatoes au rotten.”

Canutillo ISD names new board officers

By Gustavo Reveles
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – The Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) Board of Trustees held its annual reorganization of Board Officers November 19. The Board unanimously selected Rachel Mendoza Quintana as its new President. She takes over for Armando Rodriguez, who served as president for a year.

CISD Trustees select new Board Officers every year in November. They re-elected Leticia “Letty” Gonzalez as Board Vice President and Patsy Mendoza as Board Secretary. This is the second one-year term for both in these

positions.

“I am humbled at the opportunity to serve the Canutillo Independent School District – a district I love dearly – in this new capacity,” Quintana said. “I am so proud of this Board for the work it has done over the last couple of years. I know we have a lot more work to do in providing a high-quality education to the children in our community.”

Quintana is a Canutillo native serving a second four-year term on the CISD Board of Trustees. She previously served as Board Secretary in 2008.

She and her five children attended Canutillo schools. She has more than 30 years of experience working in the administrative and campus offices of the Canutillo school district and the Anthony Independent School District, where she currently works.

Quintana has focused on student and staff needs during her five-year tenure on the CISD Board of Trustees.



– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

OFFICERS SELECTED – From left are board members Patsy Mendoza, Board Secretary; Rachel Quintana, Board President; Letty Gonzalez, Board Vice President.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The West Texas County Courier office is closed for Thanksgiving from November 25 to 29, 2013. The office will open again on Monday, December 2, 2013.

Have safe and joyful Thanksgiving.

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U.S. General Services Administration

San Elizario Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended June 30, 2013				
Data Control Codes	General Fund	ESEA Title I Part A Program	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 2,423,321	\$ –	\$ 187,733	\$ 2,611,054
5800 State Program Revenues	31,625,935	–	941,858	32,567,793
5900 Federal Program Revenues	3,456,327	2,807,258	1,435,860	7,699,445
5020 Total Revenues	37,505,583	2,807,258	2,565,451	42,878,292
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	16,146,886	1,909,784	1,399,166	19,455,836
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	273,904	58,553	9,861	342,318
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	104,710	287,001	250,146	641,857
0021 Instructional Leadership	895,661	93,480	27,302	1,016,443
0023 School Leadership	2,076,499	15,523	58,129	2,150,151
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,089,812	225	17,374	1,107,411
0032 Social Work Services	146,697	68,008	–	214,705
0033 Health Services	400,159	76,403	3,349	479,911
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	1,457,488	–	63,725	1,521,213
0035 Food Services	2,854,038	–	35,089	2,889,127
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	1,054,696	–	–	1,054,696
0041 General Administration	1,317,918	–	–	1,317,918
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	3,829,727	–	666	3,830,393
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	734,238	–	–	734,238
0053 Data Processing Services	781,747	–	–	781,747
0061 Community Services	705	298,281	9,476	308,462
Debt Service:				
0071 Debt Service - Principal on Long Term Debt	1,808,101	–	578,000	2,386,101
0072 Debt Service - Interest on Long Term Debt	445,590	–	70,006	515,596
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	8,462	–	–	8,462
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Aquisition and Construction	22,989	–	–	22,989
Intergovernmental:				
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	28,271	–	–	28,271
6030 Total Expenditures	35,478,298	2,807,258	2,522,289	40,807,845
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	2,027,285	–	43,162	2,070,447
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7913 Capital Leases	152,300	–	–	152,300
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	152,300	–	–	152,300
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	2,179,585	–	43,162	2,222,747
0100 Fund Balance – September 1 (Beginning)	10,659,159	–	227,378	10,886,537
1300 Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	201,365	–	20,902	222,267
3000 Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$ 13,040,109	\$ –	\$ 291,442	\$ 13,331,551

‘America’s Team’ muddles through another season

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I’ve heard many times through the years that the true definition of an insane person is someone who does the same thing over and over, expecting a different result.

Now I don’t know how accurate that is but it sounds logical to me.

That’s why I am now thoroughly convinced that Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones is totally coo-coo.

Jones hired Jason Garrett as his head football coach in the middle of the 2010 season.

In his first full season the Cowboys went 8-8. In his second full season Garrett led the Cowboys to another 8-8 record. This year, the once-mighty Cowboys are 6-5 after squeaking by the New York Giants game last Sunday.

There was a time that mediocrity was not in the Dallas Cowboys’ vocabulary.

But evidently Jones is so happy with his team’s middle-of-the-pack persona that he recently announced that Garrett would return as the team’s boss in 2014 – no matter what.

No matter what? Is this guy insane? Oh

wait – we’ve already established that.

Garrett is probably a really nice guy but he’s no NFL head coach. He’s compiled a 26-24 record and I think he leads the league in charitable contributions.

And by that I mean giving away games that were seemingly in the bag. Is there a worse coach in the league at time-management late in games?

Garrett has quickly developed a reputation among fans and media dudes alike that if there is a dumb decision out there to be had late in the game, he will find it and then he will make it.

I think everyone who knows anything about the Cowboys knows that the real problem with the team starts at the very top.

No, not any deity... but close.

Jerry Jones is like one of those guys who wear a really bad toupee but think they look outstanding when they take a peek in the mirror.

Somewhere in the dark recesses of his mind, Jones believes he is an NFL-caliber general manager.

He’s not. He is, however, a guy who has tons of money and power. And because he

owns the team, he can do the Supreme Court justice thing and declare himself the GM for life.

Of course if Jones had hired another guy to be the team’s general manager, and he had the same results that Jones has compiled over the last several years – he would have been fired by now.

But of course Jones can’t fire himself – that would be insane... oops, sorry.

Anyway, back to Garrett.

Things got so bad last season offensively that the play calling duties were taken away from him and given to offensive coordinator Bill Callahan.

Only problem is that Callahan’s play calling is just as bad as Garrett’s.

On defense, this year’s Cowboys are one of the worst in the history of the league.

New defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin has a great resume as a defensive guru. But at 73, his better days are behind him.

Even Jerry Jones recently acknowledged that maybe he made a mistake by letting former coordinator Rob Ryan go.

You think?

And speaking of Ryan, the one thing he has

that Garrett totally lacks is emotion.

I don’t care if the Cowboys have just committed their third straight illegal procedure penalty, or just fumbled the ball away on the two-yard line, or if one of his players just ran past him totally engulfed in flames, Garrett’s expression never changes.

Get angry, yell at a player, kick some dirt, throw a clipboard to the ground, grab a player by the facemask for attention, hurl your headphones 10 feet in disgust, enhance your conversation with an official by throwing in a profanity or two – show me something coach.

Fire your players up.

All Garrett does is smile and hide half of his face with his clipboard, as if any other coach was really interested in what he’s saying.

“Coach, the other teams have figured you out even when they can’t tell what you’re saying.”

So Jones has given Garrett the dreaded vote of confidence, which doesn’t usually bode well for the guy getting the guarantee.

But I think Jones really means it – who knows, things might be different under Garrett next year.

Coo-coo... coo-coo.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Safe at home

There’s nothing like a big football game to bring out the worst in people.

The Kansas City Chiefs, unbeaten at the time, were heading into Denver to take on Peyton Manning and the Broncos in a pretty important game this season. Were the Chiefs for real? That question would be answered but others would not. They are... but Denver was better by 10 points – Chiefs 17, Broncos 27.

“I hate football... I like baseball,”

I overheard one lady say as her husband tried, in vain, to describe the game’s allure and the differences between the two sports.

But why bother when a fella out of New Jersey named George Carlin already said it best:

Baseball is different from any other sport, very different. In most sports the ball, or object, is put in play by the offensive team; in baseball the defensive team puts the ball in play, and only the defense is allowed to

touch the ball. In fact, in baseball if an offensive player touches the ball intentionally, he’s out; sometimes unintentionally, he’s out.

Also, in football, basketball, soccer, volleyball and all sports played with a ball, you score with the ball; in baseball, the ball prevents you from scoring.

Baseball and football are the two most popular spectator sports in this country, so it seems they ought to be able to tell us something about ourselves and our values. Let’s compare baseball and football:

- Baseball is a 19th-century pastoral game. Football is a 20th-century technological struggle.
- Baseball is played on a diamond,

in a park. The baseball park! Football is played on a gridiron, in a stadium, sometimes called Soldier Field or War Memorial Stadium.

- Baseball begins in the spring, the season of new life. Football begins in the fall, when everything’s dying.
- In football you wear a helmet. In baseball you wear a cap.
- Football is concerned with downs – what down is it? Baseball is concerned with ups – who’s up?
- Football has hitting, spearing, piling on, personal fouls, late hits and unnecessary roughness. Baseball has the sacrifice.
- Football is played in any kind of weather: rain, snow, sleet, hail, fog... In baseball, if it rains, we don’t go out to play.
- Baseball has the 7th-inning stretch. Football has the 2-minute warning.
- Baseball has no time limit: We don’t know when it’s gonna end.

Football is rigidly timed, and it will end even if we’ve got to go to sudden death.

And finally, the objectives of the two games are completely different:

- In football the object is for the quarterback, also known as the field general, to be on target with his aerial assault, riddling the defense by hitting his receivers with deadly accuracy in spite of the blitz, even if he has to use a shotgun. With short bullet passes and long bombs, he marches his troops into enemy territory, balancing this aerial assault with a sustained ground attack that punches holes in the forward wall of the enemy’s defensive line.
- In baseball the object is to go home! And to be safe! – I hope I’ll be safe at home!

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

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BATTLE OF I-10
SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 23
MBB VS NM STATE | 7:05 PM
MILITARY NIGHT & UTEP APPRECIATION NIGHT

WELLS FARGO the fountains Townsquare Media LOCAL 4 NEWS 13

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 07
MBB VS SACRAMENTO STATE | 7:05 PM
DOUBLE HEADER
WBB VS SMU | 4:30PM
TAKE A KID TO THE GAME

GET READY

WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 27
WBB VS NORTHERN COLORADO | 7:05 PM
TAKE A KID TO THE GAME

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 30
WBB VS TEXAS STATE | 7:05 PM
TAKE A KID TO THE GAME
FREE ADMISSION FOR KIDS WITH PURCHASE OF ADULT TICKET

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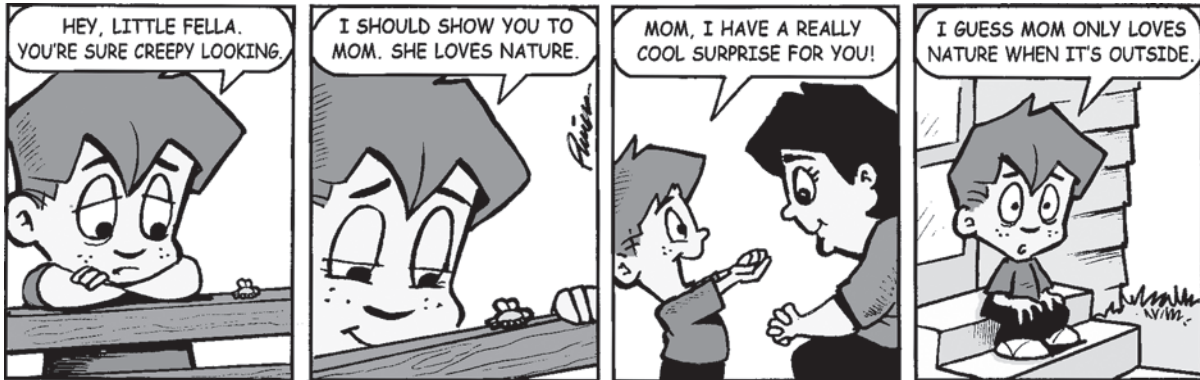
Phone: _____

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



Super Crossword

"ISLE SAY!"	as sins	120 Paradoxes	24 Sounds from	74 Leg bender
ACROSS	62 Bind legally	123 Drawer of	steam irons	75 Chair or pew
1 Wilde who's often	65 Barbecue	needlessly complex	28 Mineo of "Tonka"	79 Chain of hills
quoted	bothrer	machines on an	31 Little kiss	80 Musician Eno
6 Deli meat	66 Russian vodka	island?	33 "I did it!"	81 Fungi in a
13 Versatile furniture	brand, for short	125 Veer	34 Amino acid	supermarket
item	67 Snaky shape	126 Was overly fond	supplement popular	83 Sys _
20 Huge crowd	68 1939 Oscar	of	with bodybuilders	84 Make a case
21 Black piano keys,	winner on an island?	127 Actor Foxx	35 Prefix with fit	against?
informally	73 Assents to	128 Feel weak in the	36 _Croatian	85 Gambit
22 Greed	76 Event for the	heat	37 Affluent outlying	86 Holy Mlle.
23 Winter holiday cry	accused	129 Spring farm	area	89 _ flight (go by
on an island?	77 "Sliver" novelist	machines	38 Peace award	plane)
25 Decuple	Levin	130 More cagey	39 Solving aid	91 Revolving
26 Made haste	78 Not far off		40 Boot-sole	92 Entrée, e.g.
27 Impart gradually	82 Short play or	DOWN	reinforcer	95 Put on a detour
28 Round Table	opera	1 Units of	44 Kind of PC screen	99 Will concern
address	84 Skull caps?	resistance	46 Gym rat's "six-	100 Person swearing
29 Hollywood's West	87 Mucky earth	2 Ivory, e.g.	pack"	101 Lowell or Tan
30 Church recess	88 Top dog on an	3 Mötley _	48 _Reader	103 _wire fence
32 Event for	island?	4 Puma rival	(magazine name)	105 Spoken
socializing with a	90 Using both TV and	5 Minicam button	49 Executes	106 Eats
celebrity on an island?	radio on an island?	abbr.	50 Terminations	107 Replenish
36 Feels in one's	93 " _ free!"	6 Switzerland's	52 "Got it, bro"	108 Still kicking
bones	(hostage's cry)	capital, to the French	53 " _ She Sweet"	109 Spasm
39 Atkins of country	94 Atop, to bards	7 Kimono securers	55 Guitar's kin	110 Lowly types
41 George Bush's	96 Lerner's "My Fair	8 Perplexed	56 " _ pronounce	114 "Smooth
rival in 2000	Lady" collaborator	9 Prompt	you..."	Operator" singer
42 Lead-in for	97 Tank filler	10 Limy vodka	57 Pol Sarah	115 Stereotypical la
skeleton	98 Arctic covering	cocktails	60 Moral system	assistant
43 Viola relative	102 Site for a	11 Author Zora _	63 Test of inner	117 Prefix for "half"
45 Sorrowful	cyberauction	Hurston	courage	118 _ Canal
47 Musical practice	104 " _ we met?"	12 Mule's father	64 Keep an _ the	119 Antiquing aid
piece	106 "My Way" singer	13 Filling fully	ground	121 Baseball's
51 1980s puzzle fad	on an island?	14 Carry to extremes	66 Former HHS chief	Hodges
on an island?	110 Heap	15 Air circulator	Donna	122 Tatami, e.g.
54 "9 to 5" singer on	111 Snakelike fish	16 Dog's sound	69 Bearing	123 Radio spots
an island?	112 Make the effort	17 Tundra or rain	70 Battles it out	124 Radio
58 Engendered	113 More suggestive	forest	71 Mine car	personalities
59 Disaffirms	of an equine	18 Great acclamation	72 Notre _	
61 Not made up for.	116 Ostrich relative	19 "Fiddle _"	73 _ and aahs	

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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Moore Texas by Roger Moore Nov 25,1850:
Texas gave up parts of Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Oklahoma for just 10 million. It was called the Compromise of 1850.



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!

	×		-		23
+		+		+	
	×		+		13
÷		×		÷	
	-		×		4
2		25		8	

1 2 4 5 6 7 7 8 9

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Special day focuses on helping people with disabilities open doors

The United Nations’ International Day of Persons with Disabilities is annually held on December 3 to focus on issues that affect people with disabilities worldwide. This year marks the 21st observance and provides an opportunity to re-commit to helping persons with disabilities break down barriers.

In the United States, Social Security often is the primary source of income for people with disabilities. More than 9 of 10 American workers are covered by Social Security disability insurance, and Social Security provides benefits to young workers and their families if the worker should become disabled.

Social Security has a very strict definition of disability – a person must be unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity due to a physical or mental impairment that has lasted or is expected to last at least one year, or to result in death. We do not provide benefits for partial or temporary disabilities, so Social Security beneficiaries are most in need of support services if contemplating a return to work.

In fact, 40 percent of Social Security Disability Insurance beneficiaries express interest in working and Social Security has a number of programs to help in those return-to-work efforts. Our work incentive programs feature:

- Continued cash benefits for a period of time while a beneficiary works;
- Continued Medicare or Medicaid coverage; and
- Help with education, training, and rehabilitation to start a new line of work.

In addition to these incentives, many beneficiaries are interested in the Ticket to Work program, which can help people with disabilities receive vocational rehabilitation, training, job referrals, and other employment support services free of charge.

Just visit www.socialsecurity.gov/work to learn more. Or read our publications for SSI and Social Security Disability Insurance recipients, *Working While Disabled – How We Can Help and Your Ticket To Work*. These and many other helpful publications are available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was noted German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche who made the following sage observation: “The surest way to corrupt a youth is to instruct him to hold in higher esteem those who think alike than those who think differently.”

• A scorpion can live for an entire year without eating.

• If you lack a belief in ghosts, UFOs, telepathy or other paranormal phenomena, you are in rare company; only 7 percent of Americans share your lack of belief.

• If you traveled along Highway 50 east of Reno, Nev., in recent decades, you may have had the opportunity to see – and perhaps even contribute to – the world’s largest shoe tree. It’s claimed that the cottonwood got its start as a landmark when a quarreling couple, on their wedding night, threw each other’s shoes into the branches. This shoe-tossing (for reasons unclear) became a tradition, and the tree gradually became laden with the odd offerings. Travelers these days, though, miss out on the attraction; in late 2010, vandals cut down the tree. But take heart, seekers of the unusual! Shoe trees can be found in 18 other states, ranging from California to New York.

• During the entire presidency of Bill Clinton, he sent two emails.

• The Bronx Zoo is a well-respected institution these days, but some moments of its history show that it didn’t always deserve such respect. For instance, in 1906, a man named Oto Benga was placed as an exhibit in the monkey house. He was a pygmy from Congo.

• It seems that the Germans have a word for everything. For instance, “waldeinsamkeit” describes the feeling of being alone in the woods.

Thought for the Day: “Until you’ve lost your reputation, you never realize what a burden it was or what freedom really is.”

– Margaret Mitchell

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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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: A equals F

DALCT RO PFVJ WA HJCCVO
VGNPV JDP MCHWRC VGWFQCP,
VWRCWSC QDMCQCP LJCR

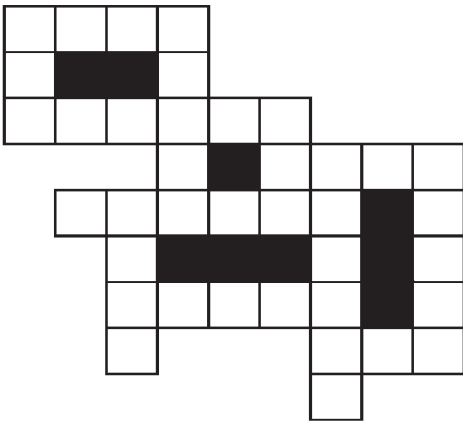
“GWLDLWCV DN TWLLCS.”

Answer Page 4

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- TSA
♥CEIPER
PHESE
♥KWAE
♥LACTER
♥ARP
♥EASP
ARRFI
♥EEW
♥SEAPLE
AKTAR
LEFP



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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