

NEWSBRIEFS

San Eli HS open house
San Elizario High School invites parents to the 2014 College and Career Readiness Open House on November 19 starting at 5:30 p.m. There will be breakout sessions on different post-secondary topics as well as free snacks, free books, an immunization clinic, and entertainment. The event is geared for parents with children in PK-12 to help prepare them for college and beyond. San Elizario High School is located at 13981 Socorro Rd. For more information contact (915) 872-3970.

— Cynthia P. Marentes

Unpaid student loans
Outstanding student loan debt is a bane for recent grads, but it is on the rise at an alarming rate among the nation’s senior citizens, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens. The Government Accountability Office reports that student loan debt among seniors has risen by more than 600% since 2005. Older Americans owed \$2.8 billion in unpaid school loans in 2005, last year the amount of debt had increased to more than \$18 billion. Twenty percent of those loans were understandably taken out to pay for their children’s education. But, the bulk of the debt, 80%, is the result of the failure of seniors to pay back the money they borrowed decades ago for their own schooling. Now it is having a negative impact on the retirement plans for many of them, particularly those on fixed incomes, as the government sets out to recoup the funds.

— John Grimaldi

Wanted
A man robs a central El Paso convenience store and detectives from the El Paso Police Department’s Central Regional Command, are asking for the public’s assistance in identifying the suspect, through the Crime Stoppers “Crime of The Week.” On Tuesday evening, October 21st, 2014, a man walked into the “Seven Eleven” store located at 6200 Gateway East. Once inside, the man asked the clerk for a cigar. The man purchased the cigar, and as the clerk was opening the cash register drawer, the man attempted to grab the cash. At the moment the clerk closed the drawer, and the man grabbed the clerk’s hand and pushed it away. The suspect then grabbed the register, and ripped it from the counter. The suspect walked out of the business with the register. The suspect in this case is described as Hispanic male, in his early 20s, with a medium complexion, approximately 5’8” in height, 180 lbs., and is described as clean shaven. He was

See BRIEFS, Page 5

The secret of success is to never let down and never let up.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

THEY ARE THE CHAMPS – Coach Cesar Morales, Miguel Garcia, Alex Fernandez, Daniel Alvarez, Angel Rangel, Ashley Pargas, Erick Arambula, Ulises Cardoza, coach Jorge Maese and Michael Johnson.

San Elizario HS cross-country - best in Texas

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The San Elizario High School varsity cross-country team made history on November 8 when they secured the first ever state team title. The Eagles and their coaches Cesar Morales and Jorge Maese competed at the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Texas State Cross-Country Championships to capture the Conference 4A trophy.

“Somehow we were able to get into their heads and get them to believe in themselves and believe that this was possible,” head coach Cesar Morales responded when asked how they prepared the runners for state competition.

San Elizario High School outscored 44 other teams from across Texas to earn 79 points. Senior Michael Johnson finished in 9th place with a time of 16:27.84 and sophomore Ulises Cardoza came in at 10th place with a time of 16:30.61. In a field of approximately 145, the other runners for the Eagles also clocked in impressive times: sophomore Erick Arambula was 18th at 16:51.28, junior Alex Fernandez was 46th at 17:31.32, senior Angel Rangel was 48th at 17:32.50, senior Daniel Alvarez was 58th at 17:37.49 and sophomore Miguel Garcia was 80th at 17:57.43.

The state competition was held on a Saturday morning at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock, TX. Even though the team would not find out their overall score for another 10 minutes after the last runner had crossed the finished line, their coaches were confident that they would at least have a good chance for a place on the podium.

“We did a lot of statics, ran numbers and from there figured out who were our closest

See SAN ELI, Page 5



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

NATURAL RESOURCE –The Rio Bosque Wetlands Park is the 372-acre City of El Paso acquisition that is managed by the University of Texas at El Paso through its Center for Environmental Resource Management Admission to the park is free. The park is open daily during daylight hours, and visitors can hike or bike on the trails or simply bird watch. Above is one of the entrances to the wetlands park.

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park is coming back to life

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Conditions at Rio Bosque Wetlands are steadily improving as riverside vegetation and wild life habitats take root throughout the park thanks to a partnership between the City of El Paso’s Public Service Board (PSB) and the University of Texas at El Paso’s (UTEP) Center for Environmental Resource Management (CERM).

The partnership is working to bring back the unique, valuable ecosystems once found in this sprawling river valley and is giving individuals the opportunity to step away from

See RIO BOSQUE, Page 3

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

US troops exposed to chemical weapons

The pictures of blistered skin and the photocopies of the medical records make it clear: Service personnel in Iraq were exposed to chemical weapons – nerve agent Sarin or mustard blister gas.

It wasn't just one or two broken and leaking canisters that were uncovered. Photos show dozens, even hundreds, of canisters in multiple caches.

Depending on which version of the story you read, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel either did or didn't recently order medical examinations of those soldiers who'd been exposed to those chemical-warfare agents. He asked that the medical treatment they received be examined.

A Department of Veterans Affairs press release dated 2000 says that a former acting VA secretary had been "helping secure expanded benefits for veterans who were prisoners of war, or who were exposed to Agent Orange, radiation or mustard gas."

A 2005 press release says that the VA "announced a national outreach campaign to locate veterans who were exposed to mustard gas," but goes on to say that "most of these veterans


participated in chemical testing programs during World War II." Nothing about what was being found in Iraq.

Somewhere between 2000 and 2005, troops in Iraq unearthed caches of chemicals – and were injured. As late as 2008, soldiers reported contact with the chemicals. Some were denied decontamination. Some were accused of malingering. A few were given ineffective creams. A few were hustled out for care; most weren't.

Some veterans who handled those canisters still have symptoms that were not taken care of at the time, especially breathing problems. If you were there, make an appointment to be checked out.

To read the whole story, go online to NYTimes.com and search for "Troops to Be Checked for Chemical Exposure in Iraq."

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) 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.



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Publisher
Rick Shrum

Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda



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

By Jason Alderman

Six facts about open enrollment

If you buy your own health insurance, add this important date to your yearend to-do list: November 15.

That's the date open enrollment is available for individual healthcare plans offered through the Healthcare.gov site, your respective health insurance marketplace (<https://www.healthcare.gov/medicaid-chip/eligibility/>) or independent agents in your community.

If you're working for a company that provides your health insurance, chances are your open enrollment period has already begun. The SHOP insurance marketplace, open to small businesses and nonprofits with 50 or fewer full-time employees, also begins taking online applications November 15.

If you buy your own personal or family coverage, don't wait until November 15 to start planning your 2015 coverage decisions – do it now.

Here are six things you should know to get started:

- 1. Timing is tight.** Last year's health insurance enrollment process lasted six months. This year, it's only three – November 15 to February 15. You may be able to enroll outside of those dates if you're facing a major life change like a divorce, birth of a child or marriage; otherwise, that's your window.
- 2. Sticker shock is a possibility.** Obamacare didn't guarantee cheap healthcare coverage; it guaranteed available healthcare coverage. Keep in mind that if you bought health coverage last year, your insurer will automatically re-enroll you on December 15 for new coverage effective January 1. However, that's no guarantee that your monthly premium will stay the same. Some experts are predicting only modest increases (<http://www.cnn.com/102055144#>), but depending on where you live, your premiums might go up or down. And if your 2013 carrier grandfathered your 2014 coverage, those changes may go well beyond price.
- 3. Your doctors and hospitals might change.** Hospitals and physician practices scrutinize the state of the health insurance market very closely. Their

income depends on it. In 2013, some medical practices made news by dropping insurance plans altogether and accepting only cash or credit; others changed the insurance plans they would honor. Something to keep in mind: the best way to confirm that you'll still have access to your favorite doctor and hospital choice is to pick up the phone. Your doctor's website may list the particular insurance plans his or her practice may accept, but don't expect the list to be current. Call your practitioner or their business office to confirm they're sticking with your plan or any you've chosen to use instead. You don't want to be surprised with enormous out-of-network costs later.

4. Planning future health needs is important. If in the next year you're planning to expand your family, undergo elective surgery or other factors that could affect how you'll use the healthcare system, query the plans about specialists, prescriptions and other specific services before you sign up. It could save you thousands in potential out-of-pocket costs.

5. Coverage isn't immediate. Depending on when you enroll during the open enrollment period, your actual coverage may not start until two to six weeks later. Check effective dates of coverage for every plan you're evaluating to make sure the timing addresses your particular needs.

6. You can get help. Personal referrals from friends and fellow professionals to particular plans and agents are always a good way to start your enrollment search. There may also be nonprofit assistance within your community or state to help you evaluate individual plans. On the national level, nonprofit Enroll America runs a nationwide site (<http://www.enrollamerica.org/resources/in-person-assistance/>) with specific tools and resources for help in your search.

Start now to build a good toolbox full of online and personal resources to help you with your 2015 health insurance search.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs

Take the First Step to a Heart-Healthy Life.

Start! Walking. Start! Something.

Heart disease is the number one killer of men and women in America. But did you know that just 30 minutes a day of physical activity can improve your health and decrease your risk of heart disease? An easy way to work physical activity into your regular routine is to start walking. For every single hour of regular, vigorous exercise, you can add two hours to your life expectancy.

It's easy to Start! whether you're by yourself or with friends, family and co-workers. You'll all feel a difference and live longer, heart-healthier lives.

Join the movement.

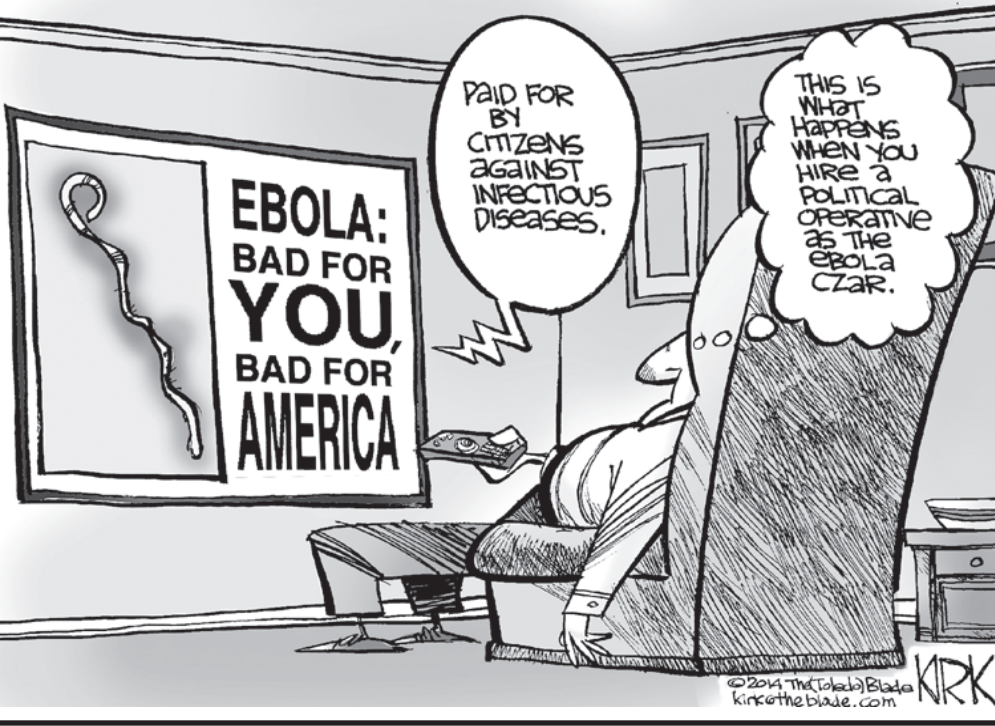
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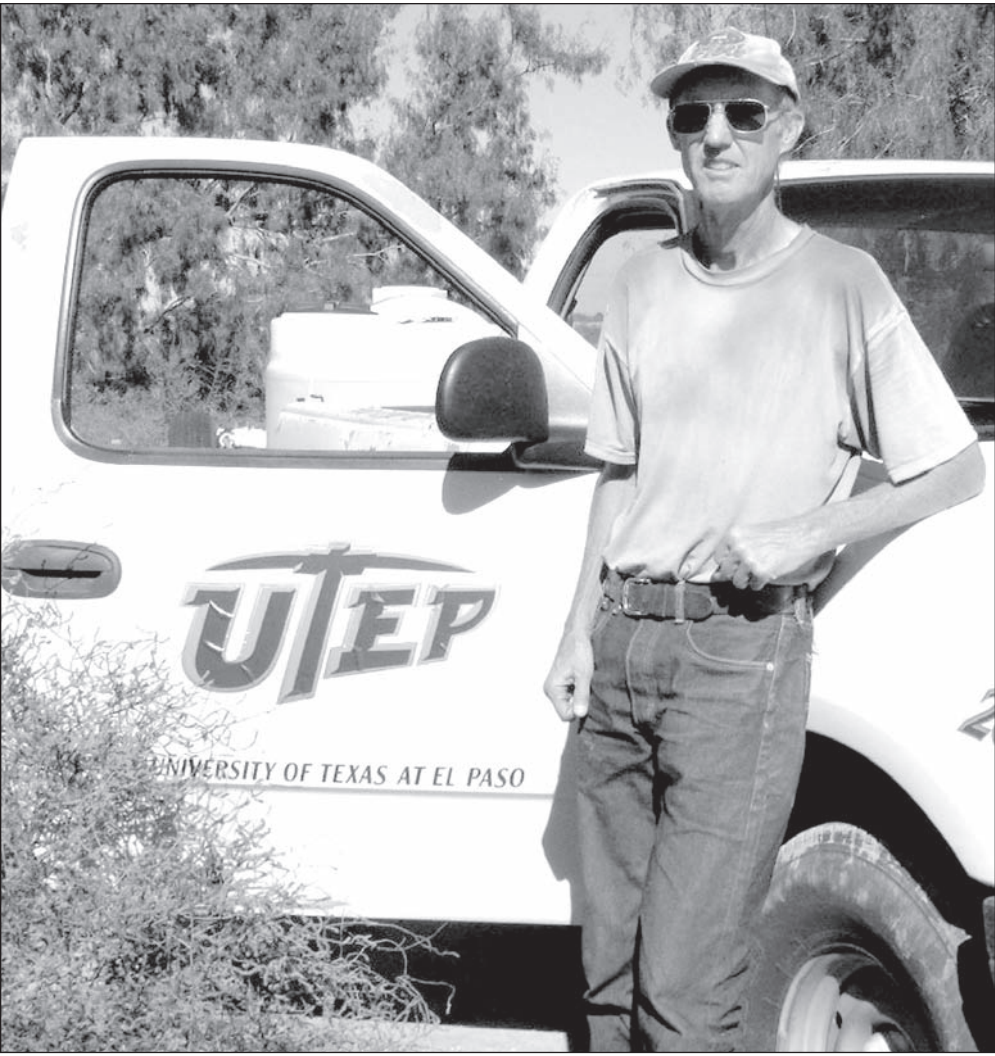
American Heart Association

Learn and Live

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— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

DEDICATED – John Sproul, program coordinator and manager at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, has been with the wetlands project since 1999 as part of UTEP’s Center for Environmental Resource Management staff.

Wetlands and riverside forests once graced the banks of the Rio Grande in the Paso del Norte region

Rio Bosque

From Page 1

their televisions and put down their cellphones to come in contact with nature.

Park personnel regularly offer tours to teach interested visitors about the history of the park, the history of the area, about the plants and the animals that live out there, and about the future plans for the river valley environment.

The Rio Bosque Park is near the Ysleta Port of Entry off Pan American Road right next to the Jonathan W. Rogers Water Treatment Facility and Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant on Southside Road. The wetlands site is a 372-acre city park that UTEP manages through its CERM program.

PSB, using its Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant, has been providing some water relief to Rio Bosque Wetlands Park using an open-ditch channel flow. Recently, however, it gave the go-ahead to proceed with installation of a 36”-diameter pipeline from the treatment plant to the wetlands area. Construction of the pipeline is expected to be complete by the end of December.

According to CERM Park Manager John Sproul, with the new pipeline more water will become available to Rio Bosque during the growing season. He said that water will be distributed more efficiently, especially to the large, shallow basins where opportunities to establish wetland habitat at the park are best. And the additional water will also provide groundwater recharge that can help offset the big seasonal water-table declines the park now experiences, Sproul explained.

Sproul said the best time to visit Rio Bosque is in late fall and early winter when 100 acres of the park are flooded with treated water runoff from the Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant.

“Public use starts to pick up once the weather cools off,” Sproul stated. “We’ll get water from the Bustamante plant, and we’ll have a lot of water in the basins on the west side of the park. When the basins are flooded and the weather turns cold, that’s when thousands of ducks and other water birds move into this area.”

Park visitors can park in three parking areas

walk in to hike or bike on the trails, or simply bird watch. People can also bring horses and ride along the trails.

The park is enclosed by irrigation canals and drains on three sides, and the western boundary of the park lies adjacent to the Rio Grande, which forms the international border between the U.S. and Mexico in this area.

Before the channelization of the Rio Grande in the mid-1930s, a wide bend in the river wound through what is the park today. Most of the park was in Mexico. When the river was channelized, a 277-acre parcel within the old river bend switched from being Mexican territory to U.S. territory.

The U.S. government administered this parcel until 1973. Then, under the Federal Lands to Parks program, it was conveyed to the City of El Paso and became Rio Bosque Park. Three years later, the U.S. government conveyed another 9 acres to the city under the same program. The city later added 86 acres of city land to the park to bring it to its current size of 372 acres.

Today, the landscape continues to change. Slowly in some areas, more rapidly in others, vegetation is reclaiming the cleared areas. As it does, UTEP and its partners are working to guide and shape this recovery to promote native river-valley plant communities and eventually reach their goal of recreating an approximation of the rich mosaic of habitats characteristic of the Rio Grande and its floodplain in pre-settlement days.

To get to the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park from Interstate-10, take the Americas Ave. (Loop 375 South) exit (Exit 34B) and head southwest towards the Zaragoza Bridge. Enter the freeway portion of Loop 375 and take it to the exit (Exit 47) for Alameda/Socorro Road and Pan American Drive. Exit to the frontage road and continue straight ahead, crossing both Alameda and Socorro. At Pan American turn left. After driving approximately 1.1 mile on Pan American, cross a bridge over the Playa Drain. At 1.5 miles, one reaches a second bridge, which crosses the Riverside Canal right before the gated entrance to the Jonathan Rogers and Roberto Bustamante water-treatment plants.

For more information about the park, call Sproul at 747-8663, or send email to jsproul@utep.edu.



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For free information about preventing type 2 diabetes, visit www.YourDiabetesInfo.org or call 1-888-693-NDEP (6337); TTY: 1-866-569-1162.



www.YourDiabetesInfo.org

A message from the National Diabetes Education Program, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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CryptoQuip Answer

If the mentor and student are both fair-haired, I guess that's the blonde leading the blonde.

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San Eli

From Page 1

opponents,” assistant coach Jorge Maese said.

Besides figuring out the math to determine their prospects at a state title, both coaches agreed that it took a tremendous amount of work on the part of the student athletes. The runners were expected to commit to their training, which included practicing at 6:30 a.m., maintaining a junk food free diet, getting a sufficient amount of sleep every night, and monitoring their academic performance. They knew that if they were to keep that level of discipline throughout the season, then there was nothing that could stop them from reaching state.

Superintendent Sylvia Hopp was excited to be able to join the team in Round Rock and to be present to watch them run and receive their medals.

“I was so thankful to be with the boys during this achievement. They represented their community and El Paso area like the champions they are,” Hopp exclaimed.

The boys team was also joined by sophomore Ashley Pargas who was a Class 4A qualifier from the girls team. The Eagles not only set out

to win the state title but also had an opportunity to have fun while in the Austin/Round Rock area. They were able to visit the state capitol and the University of Texas at Austin campus where they had a chance to meet with and talk to Longhorns track star Robert Uhr.

Up next for the newly crowned state champs is to get the runners especially the younger ones to start thinking about college, according to Morales and Maese. The two coaches have always stressed school before athletics.

“First in the classroom and second on the field,” Morales added.

Maese already witnessed those conversations taking place amongst the team as he described how the boys discussed ACT, SAT and GPA scores on the bus ride back to San Elizario.

“The reflection I have from this trip is listening to them (team) engaged and starting the conversation about what is next for them to do so they can go to college,” Maese added.

Back in August, the San Elizario High School cross-country team set out to accomplish one goal when their season began – to make it to state competition as a team. Three months later the runners with the guidance of their coaches have made that goal a reality and are setting their sights on reaching other stars.

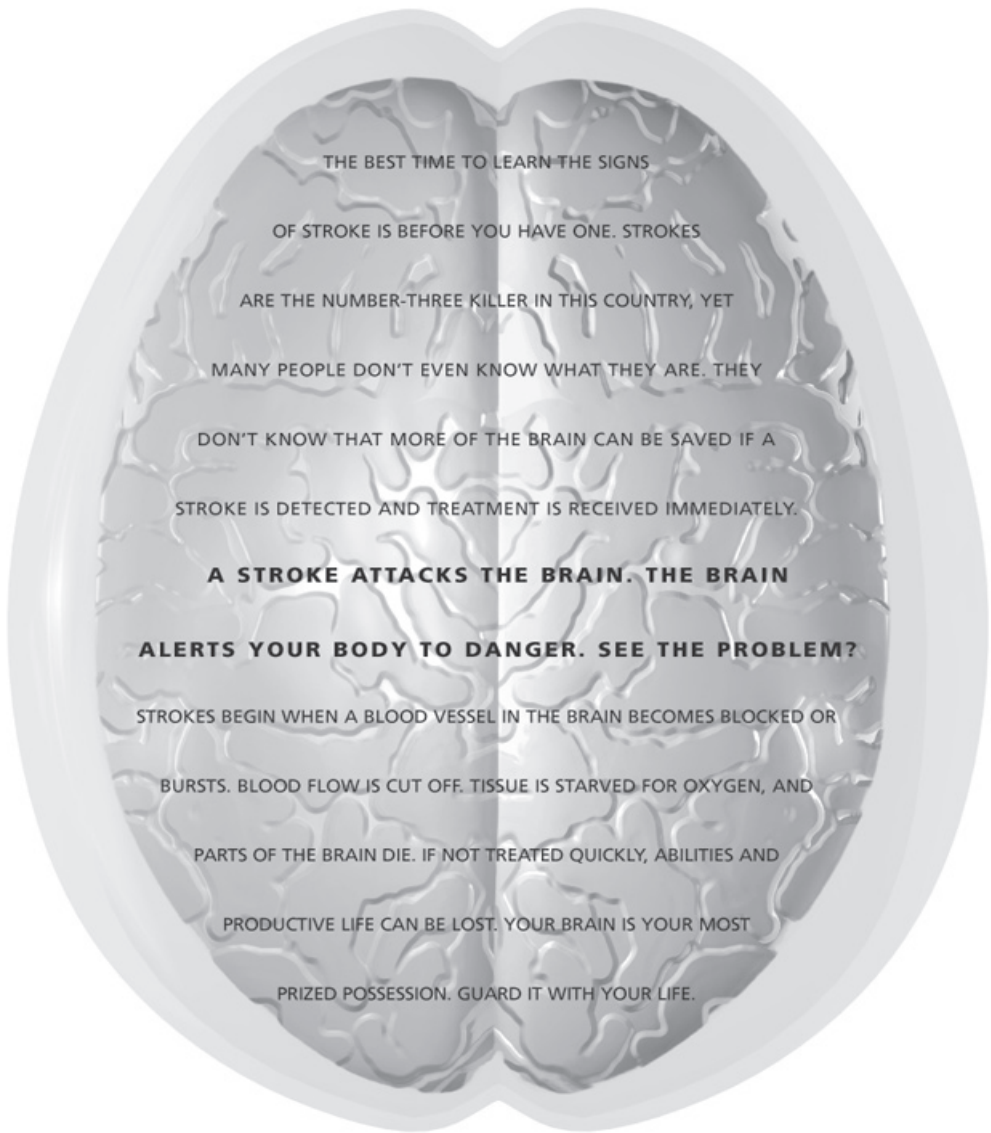
Briefs

From Page 1

wearing a light colored winter jacket, a button up shirt and dark pants. Anyone with any information on the identity of this robber is asked 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.

– Javier Sambrano



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Comix

OUT ON A LIMBBy Gary Kopervas



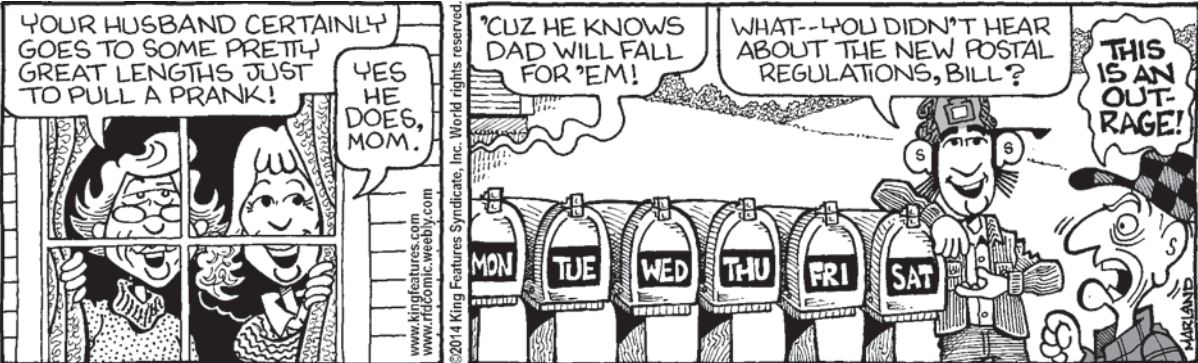
AMBER WAVESBy Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATSBy Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good healthBy Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have been contending with blepharospasm for years. I got some relief from Botox for about four years, but then it stopped working and my doctor moved me to Dysport, which was horrible. It did not relax my symptoms, and it made me constantly very uncomfortable (with a feeling that my eyes were swollen all the time). I stopped the treatments and have been able to cope, until the past six months. I am almost unable to read, look at a computer screen or drive. Do you have any suggestions? I use Ativan to try to relax the stress of the blinking, but even that has lost its effect. I have been discouraged from getting a limited myectomy because of the risks. My ophthalmologist said that a neurologist would be a waste of time. I am desperate for another opinion. – B.B.

Blepharospasm is an uncontrollable muscle spasm around the eyes, often causing blinking and twitching. It ranges from occasional and mild to the much more severe and disabling condition you report.

Treatment with botulinum toxin is effective for most people. Botulinum toxin, directly injected into muscle, weakens or paralyzes it. There are three types of botulinum toxin A currently available in the United States: Botox, Dysport and Xeomin, as well as botulinum toxin B (Myobloc). I suspect your ophthalmologist changed brands because of the concern of antibodies your body may have developed to the Botox.

I would never say that a neurologist would be a waste of time. Blepharospasm is a limited form of dystonia, and neurologists are the experts in dystonia. The neurologist will have an opinion on trying a different form of botulinum toxin, as well as other treatments.

DEARDR.ROACH:I'ma61-year-

old woman who was diagnosed with notalgia paresthetica about five years ago. Several years later, my general practitioner told me to use capsaicin, which helps with the tingling feeling but sometimes my back feels like someone is pinching my spine and the skin tingles, bringing on a very uncomfortable feeling. Can you give me any more information about this skin condition? I am beginning to believe that it is getting worse. – Anon.

Notalgia paresthetica is common, but often not diagnosed, and usually causes an itching under one shoulderblade. It sometimes is associated with curvature of the spine (scoliosis). It isn't curable, and often gets better and worse. Capsaicin, lidocaine patch and other creams usually provide some relief. Botulinum toxin and nerve block occasionally are used for people with more severe symptoms who don't respond.

DEAR DR. ROACH: How often do you advise bathing a 3-month-old baby? The hospital told my granddaughter that you do not have to bathe the baby every day. It's become a concern for a worried grandparent, because she hasn't been bathed in a week. – Anon.

Once a week is fine. Three-month-old babies don't need frequent washings of their whole bodies, and excessive bathing can dry out the skin.

A calm grandparent is a source of much comfort to new parents.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. To view and order health pamphlets, visit www.rbmamall.com, or write to P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.(c) 2014 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

- MARCH OF IDES ACROSS

1 Keanu of "The Matrix"

7 " _ in Calico" (1946 hit)

11 World Cup lover, say

20 Is covetous of

21 Mature nits

22 Greek love goddess

23 It's not too light or too heavy

25 Practices to compete in

26 Put on, as clothes

27 Friend

28 With 50-Down, "No need to shout!"

30 A couple of

31 Big, diverse collection

36 Gets laryngitic

40 Quarterback Manning

41 Stars' cars

43 Parcel (out)

44 Lily-family member with long, narrow leaves

48 Dictatorship

51 Greeting statement in Mac ads

53 Stag's mate

54 Road surface stuff

56 _Detoo

57 Indexing aid

58 Scoop

63 Indira Gandhi's maiden name

64 Low-altitude clouds

66 Roman love god

67 Dog pests

69 PDQ

70 Hit into

74 Verdi heroine

78 West Point freshman

80 Wash up

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96 "To Kill a Mockingbird" father

98 Requiring no proof

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104 Extend apart

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109 1980s David Hasselhoff series

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116 Made angry

118 China's Chou En-_

119 Tote around

121 The Pelican State

125 Tourist office publication

130 They're very unegotistical

131 Suffix with million

132 Start

133 Most drowsy

134 Marvel superheroes

135 Has the wheel

DOWN

1 Senator Harry

2 Provide funds for

3 " _ knew that!"

4 By means of

5 Shocking fish

6 Detroit-to-Memphis dir.

7 Make _ out of (refute)

8 Ben Affleck film flop

9 Dresden cry

10 Etiquette guru

11 Fill up fully

12 _ Book Club

13 One-named flamenco fireball

14 Demier _ (latest thing)

15 Nearly forever

16 Hwys. and blvds.

17 Ides of March date

18 " _ Like Alice" (Peter Finch film)

19 Pianist Peter and a Roman emperor

24 Pollution-control org.

29 Sacred song

32 Actor Johnny

33 Draw out

34 YouTube clip, for short

35 Right-angled pipe bend

37 Author Tan

38 Prioritize again

39 Views rudely

42 Film director

44 Israeli native

45 Mag. staffers

46 Parisian king

47 Go by bicycle

48 "Have a bite"

49 Here-there link

50 See 28-Across

51 " _ living!"

52 Gym pads

55 Intro painting class, maybe

59 Amiable

60 Actor Hirsch

61 Cocktail mixers

62 Roman fountain name

65 Evaluate

68 Ice cream flavor, briefly

71 Playwriting awards

72 Pre-Easter stretch

73 Lemon piece

75 "A House _ a Home"

76 With 106-Down, Pepsi One and Coke Zero

77 Hill makers

79 Armed cavalry soldier

82 "Great" czar

83 "One thing _ time"

84 Acne bit

85 Ides of March cry

87 Carpentry file

88 Ltr. enclosure

89 Rapa _ (Easter Island)

95 Like the x- or y-axis, briefly

97 Fancy vase

99 Actress Sommer

100 Levy on real estate

101 Memo-starting abbr.

102 Erfurt article

104 Economizes

106 See 76-Down

107 "I'm on _" (casino cry)

108 Blot out

110 Harsh light

111 Sanctuary

112 Bolo, e.g.

113 Beethoven's "Für _"

114 More impolite

117 Hang in there

120 Figures out

122 Deep anger

123 Eat dinner

124 Sundial's 3

126 Crater edge

127 _ Alamos

128 _ reaction

129 Sporty truck, for short

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					

MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

Houston 1993: Two women were abducted by a man who made them drive around to look at Christmas lights and eat Twinkies...wonder what he's doing this Christmas...



GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	-		x		16
+		÷		x	
	x		x		18
÷		+		-	
	÷		+		11
1		3		17	

1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: Why is there a five-month waiting period for Social Security disability benefits?

A: Social Security provides only long-term disability, so we can only pay benefits after you have been disabled continuously for a period of five full calendar months. Social Security disability benefits begin with the sixth full month after the date your disability began. You are not entitled to benefits for any month during the waiting period. Learn more at our website: www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Q: I want to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), but I don't know whether I qualify since I own my own home. Can I still get SSI?

A: Yes, it is possible for you to qualify for SSI even if you own your own home. To be eligible for SSI, you cannot own more than \$2,000 in resources for an individual and \$3,000 for a couple. However, we do not count the house you live in as a resource. Of course, if you are disabled, you must file an application and wait for a medical decision on your claim, unless you are over the age of 65. There are other requirements you must meet as well. Learn more by reading *You May Be Able To Get SSI*, available at

www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Q: I lost my Social Security card, but I remember my number. Do I really need a new card?

A: No, probably not – but it is important to know your number. The only time you may need the Social Security card is if your employer asks for it when you get a new job. If you do decide to get a new card or your lost one turns up, don't carry it with you. Keep it with your other important documents. Generally, you are limited to three replacement cards a year and 10 cards during your lifetime. Legal name changes and other exceptions do not count toward these limits. Keep in mind this is a free service. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Q: What are the requirements for receiving disabled widow's benefits?

A: You may be able to get disabled widow(er)'s benefits at age 50 if you meet Social Security's disability requirement. Your disability must have started before age 60 and within seven years of the latest of the following dates: the month the worker died; the last month you were entitled to survivors benefits on the worker's record as a parent caring for a surviving minor child; the month your previous entitlement to disabled

widow(er)'s benefits ended because your disability ended. To learn more, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/dibplan/dqualify9.htm.

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, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was beloved American author Mark Twain who made the following sage observation: "Always do right – this will gratify some and astonish the rest."

• In September of 2007, a law was enacted in China that made it illegal for a living Buddha to reincarnate without permission from the government. So far there's no word on what the punishment for breaking the law might be.

• Pretty much everyone has seen shellac on a piece of furniture or perhaps a guitar – it's used to give wood that rich shine. You might be surprised to learn that shellac is derived from a substance that is excreted by a tiny red insect found almost exclusively in the forests of Thailand. You might be even more surprised to learn that shellac isn't just found on wood; the next time you eat jelly beans or take a bite of a bright-red apple you bought in a grocery store, you can thank the *Kerria lacca* insect for that lovely shine.

• American novelist Edgar Rice Burroughs was the oldest war correspondent of World War II, flying with the 7th Air Force on bombing runs in the Pacific at the age of 66.

• Otters float while they sleep, and in order to keep from floating away from each other while dozing, they hold hands.

• It's been reported that on his deathbed, noted French Enlightenment figure Voltaire was enjoined by a priest to renounce Satan. The philosopher is said to have admonished the priest, saying, "Now, now, my good man. This is no time for making enemies."

Thought for the Day: "Life is to be lived. If you have to support yourself, you had bloody well better find some way that is going to be interesting. And you don't do that by sitting around."

– Katharine Hepburn

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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: R equals F

YR PGU HUZPMV KZN IPBNUZP

KVU FMPG RKYV-GKYVUN, Y

CBUII PGKP'I PGU FSMZNU

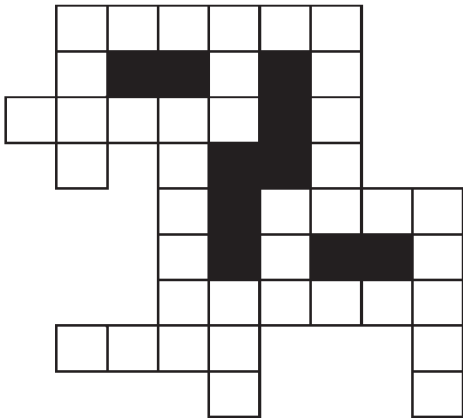
SUKNYZC PGU FSMZNU.

Answer Page 4

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KEL
MURSEE
♥ DENKA
♥ ETME
KATERM
ELD
♥ EKEL
LETTI
NKE
♥ DELDEM
♥ ANREL
ULDE



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.

NEW! 30 Fear Knot puzzles \$3.50 • Six Volumes • Order at rbmamall.com

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