



NEWSBRIEFS

Helping hands

Paint the Village is a program sponsored by Keep Vinton Beautiful to provide assistance to low income and disabled persons paint the exterior of their homes. Join us this Saturday Nov. 22 starting at 9 a.m. at Vinton City Hall (436 E. Vinton Rd.) to help make a difference in someone's life. Please wear closed toe shoes. No shorts or sandals. Call us to register your group or yourself at (915) 886-5104.

— Marina Rameriz

Thanksgiving service

The Clint annual non-denominational Thanksgiving service will be held at Clint First Baptist Church, 200 Main St, Clint, at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014. This service, co-sponsored by Bond Methodist Church, is open to all area residents. Snacks will be served after the service. Donations of canned goods for the less fortunate will be appreciated. 851-3939.

— Erma Nelson

Schools closed

All schools and administrative offices in the Anthony, Canutillo, Clint, Fabens, San Elizario, Socorro and Tornillo Independent School Districts will be closed November 24-28, 2014 for Thanksgiving.

— Rick Shrum

Vendors wanted

The Village of Vinton is calling all food and arts and crafts vendors. Register to sell your delicious food or beautiful arts and crafts during Vinton's 9th Annual Christmas in the Village to be held on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call (915) 886-5104 to register. Space is limited.

— Marina Rameriz

History 'Scapes

El Paso Museum of History announces a new family workshop called History 'Scapes. The family program is scheduled to meet from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., the second Saturday of December (12/13) and January (1/10), at the museum (510 N. Santa Fe Street). The workshop is designed to give families with children an opportunity to interact with exhibits by creating masterpieces that relate to the chosen exhibit. Fees for the workshop are \$5 for child or activity maker with parent or guardian free, \$2 per child with a family membership with parent or guardian free, and a max of \$15 per family. This workshop's focus will be on the museum's current exhibition, *Julius Caesar: Military Genius and Mighty Machines*. Projects will include making

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Some people grow under responsibility, while others only swell.

— Quips & Quotes

San Elizario home destroyed by fire

Community comes together to aid San Elizario ISD bus driver

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

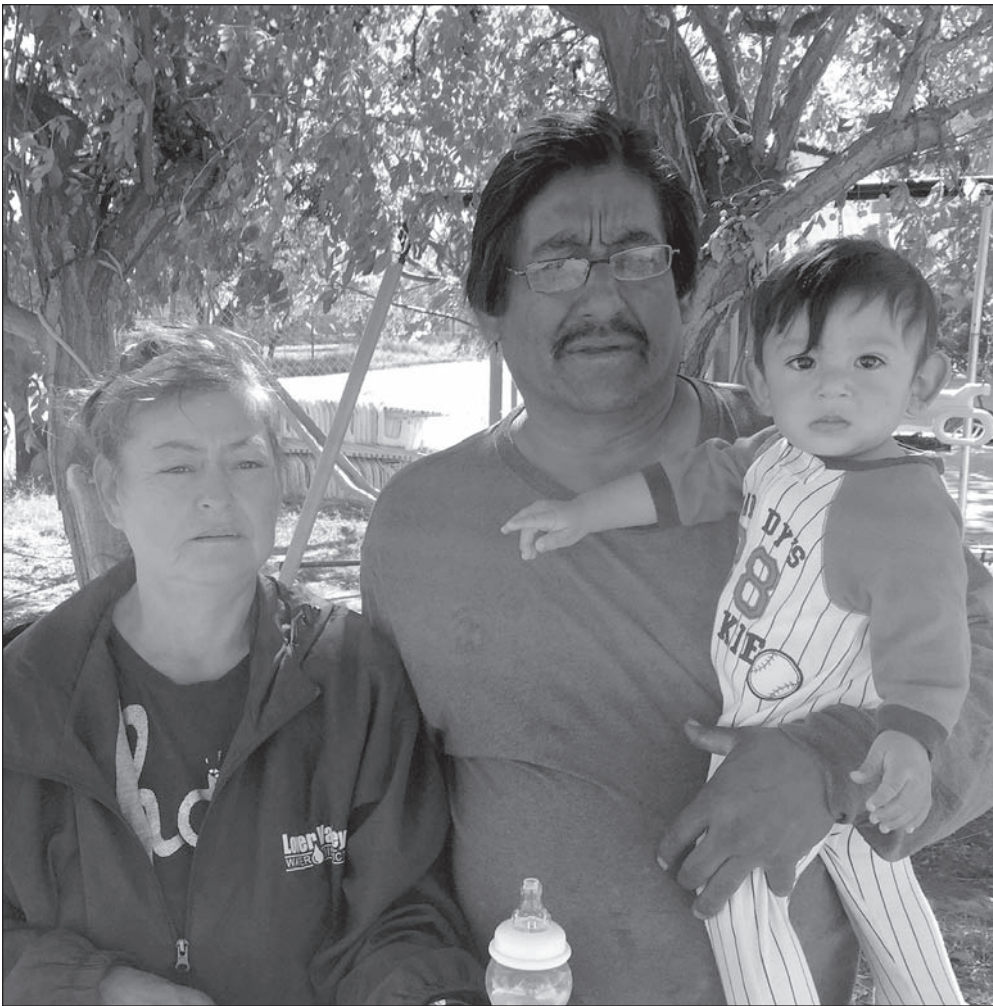
SAN ELIZARIO – For the past 25 years Raul Sanchez had lived in the house on the corner of Campo Bello and Uxmal with his large, extended family. It was a home that he built with his own hands over the years adding to the structure a little bit at a time with the help of relatives and friends. This past Halloween night, a fire consumed the Sanchez family residence leaving behind large piles of charred debris. While most of the family was out trick or treating and unharmed, Raul Sanchez was over 400 miles away when he received the news about the devastating fire.

"I can't describe what I felt. I was numb," Sanchez said.

Sanchez who works as a bus driver for the San Elizario Independent School District was out of town with the tennis team during the fire. The coach for the team asked Sanchez if he wanted to leave right away, they would make arrangements to do so. According to Sanchez, he responded that he wanted to wait and leave in the morning as planned in order to give him time to calm his nerves. Although he was in constant communication with his family up until his arrival back to San Elizario, Sanchez was still overwhelmed with what he saw at the scene where his home once stood.

Nearly three weeks since the incident, Sanchez' main priority is to start building a new house as soon as possible. It is a goal that is made more urgent with 11 family members in total living under the same roof before and more difficult by the fact that the previous residence was uninsured.

However since day one, the San Elizario community and many other organizations have come to the aid of the Sanchez family.



— Photos courtesy San Elizario ISD

IN SHOCK – Rosario and Raul Sanchez with their 10-month-old grandson lonnhy.

They have received clothing, food, and other donations from many groups and individuals. At least two fundraisers have been organized on behalf of the family. Several agencies and companies have volunteered their cleanup, debris removal and waste hauling services and equipment. The family has also set up an account for donations at the First National Bank in Clint, TX. The account is listed under

their daughter's name Blanca Sanchez and the account number is 600109568.

Raul Sanchez stated that he was very grateful for all the help and especially the visits by many people who come every day to check up on the family. Now this steady stream of support may be just the assistance that the Sanchez family needs to hopefully begin rebuilding their new home a little bit at a time.



A BIG MESS – Workers with Mimbela Contractors, Inc. remove debris and rubble.

Finances

By Jason Alderman

What you need to know before reading new Social Security statements

No matter how far away you are from retirement, it's important to understand your Social Security benefits – and there's a particularly good reason to do it now.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is bringing back annual paper benefits statements for the first time in three years. It stopped in 2011 to save money on printing and postage, but Congress and consumer advocates complained that workers needed better access to their data. In September, the agency reversed its decision and announced it's resuming the practice of mailing paper statements to workers in two categories:

- Those who are not receiving benefits and are within three

months of turning 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, and 60. (After age 60, workers will receive a statement every year.)

- Those who still haven't registered for a My Social Security (www.ssa.gov/myaccount/) online account.

Why is this important? First, if you've paid into the Social Security and Medicare system, you should understand the benefits you've earned. Second, as the SSA has been closing field offices and reducing services to the public, despite the fact that Baby Boomers are starting to flood the system. It's a good time to confirm and correct benefits due to the longer wait times on the agency's toll free telephone line and field offices.

Start by waiting for your next paper benefits statement or sign up at My Social Security website to review your current data. Here's a quick overview of what your statement tells you:

- **Introduction and your estimated benefits.** This section covers four categories. The first is your retirement benefits, which are

based on your age when you start drawing them. The calculations are based on three critical ages as examples: 62 (the earliest age you can draw retirement benefits), 67 (the full retirement age for anyone born after 1960) and age 70 (the oldest anyone can start drawing benefits, generally at the highest level if you can wait). The second is disability, which refers to the amount of your monthly disability benefit if you qualify. Third, your family/survivors benefits if a loved one dies. And lastly, your Medicare eligibility and the particular facts to support that conclusion.

- **Your Earnings Record.** This is a summary of your earnings that you need to verify for accuracy. Pull your annual tax returns as far back as you can to confirm this information, and if you work with a tax or financial planning professional, double-check their conclusions if you plan to challenge any errors with the SSA.
- **Some Facts About Social Security.** Provides additional definitions and guidelines to better understand your statement and

includes key contact information.

Most experts will tell you that when it comes to retirement, time is your biggest ally – it gives you the opportunity to invest, save and adjust your plan strategy. Use your statement to do the following:

- **Spot and correct errors.** If you and your tax professional spot disparities in your benefit statement make careful notes, gather your evidence and consult the SSA's contact page (www.ssa.gov/agency/contact/) to start the correction process remotely or in person.
- **Blend Social Security into a broader retirement plan.** Most experts agree Social Security alone won't provide a comfortable retirement. It's never too late to plan.

Bottom Line: Even if you're years away from retirement, make sure you understand your Social Security benefits, and that they're accurate and fit into a broader financial plan for your retirement.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Home loan milestone

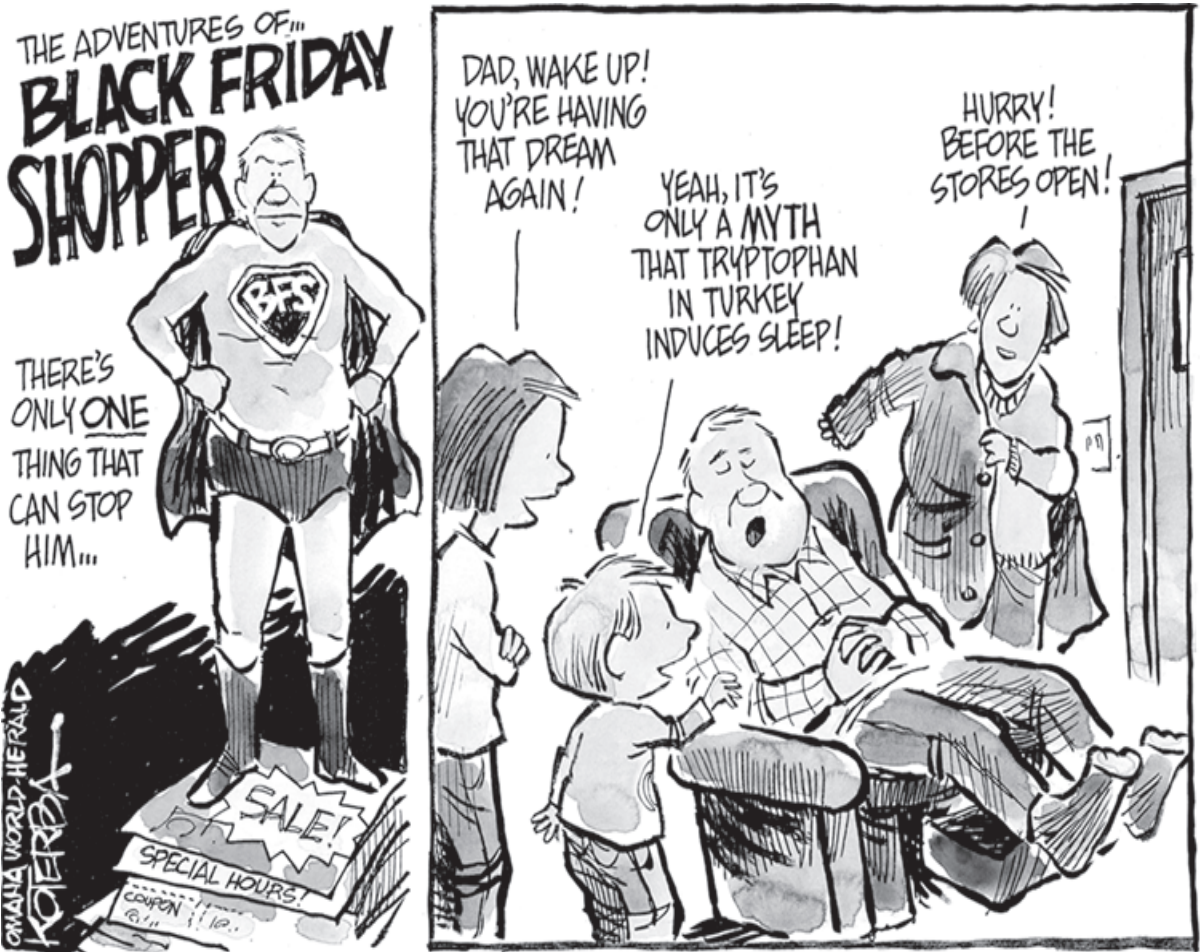
A Department of Veterans Affairs benefits program recently hit a milestone: It guaranteed its 21 millionth home loan for veterans. The program started 70 years ago in 1944 as part of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act (the GI Bill).

In fiscal year 2014 alone, the VA guaranteed over 438,000 home loans, or an average of 35,000 per month. As part of the program, grants were made to more than 1,200 disabled veterans to buy or modify a home to meet their needs.

If you're ready to use your VA eligibility to buy a home, here are a few things you need to know:

- You can get your Certificate of Eligibility at www.ebenefits.va.gov. The program is available for active duty, veterans and surviving spouses.
- You'll work with private lender who accepts VA loans, not the VA. Chances are you won't need a down payment or PMI, which is private mortgage insurance. You'll need to qualify with good credit and enough income. (Send for your credit reports from the big three reporting agencies, and clean up any problems before you apply for a loan.) Before you start shopping, have the lender determine what price range you would qualify for. The interest rate offered is likely to be below conventional rates, and there's no pre-payment penalty if you want to pay off the loan early.
- Go online to www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans to see which documentation you'll need. If you don't have access to a computer to get the Certificate of Eligibility, call 1-800-827-1000, or ask your lender to access the system and get it for you.
- If you currently have a VA loan, the Cash Out Refinance program lets you take cash out of your equity to pay off debts or go to school. The Interest Rate Reduction Refinance Loan, aka the Streamline Refinance Loan, can help you get a lower interest rate.

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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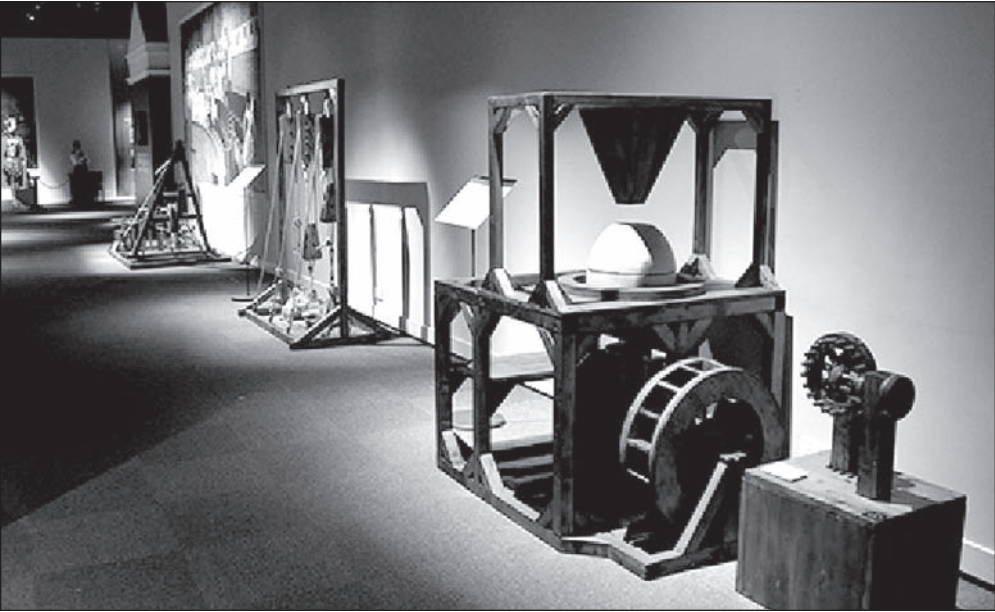
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– Photo courtesy of the El Paso Museum of History

TALKING HISTORY – Dr. Ronald J. Weber’s presentation is in conjunction with the El Paso Museum of History’s current exhibit on Roman history, *Julius Caesar: Military Genius & Mighty Machines*, which is on display through January 10. Shown above are some of the ancient Roman warfare artifacts on display at the museum.

History talk highlights war and politics in Ancient Rome

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Museum of History will host a special lecture by Dr. Ronald J. Weber, titled *War and Politics in Rome: Caesar’s Conquest of Gaul*, from 2 to 3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 22, at the downtown museum (510 N. Santa Fe Street). The event is open and free to the public.

Weber’s presentation is in conjunction with the museum’s current exhibit on Roman history, *Julius Caesar: Military Genius & Mighty Machines*, which is on display through January 10.

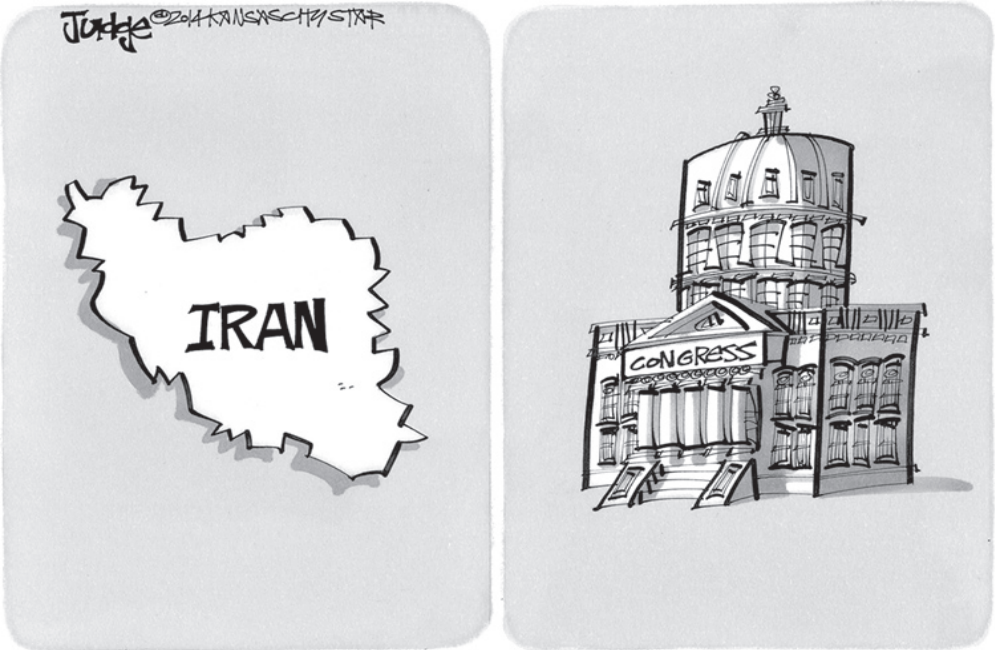
According to Weber, his lecture will begin in the year 58 BCE and will consider how Julius Caesar’s military actions in Gaul changed Roman society and brought down the Roman Republic. “Without the sanction of the Roman Senate, Caesar crossed into Gaul and halted the migration of the Gallic

Helvetii as they approached Italy. He went on to conquer much of what is now France, Belgium and the Netherlands. In the process Caesar revolutionized the place of the army in the political system of Rome,” he stated.

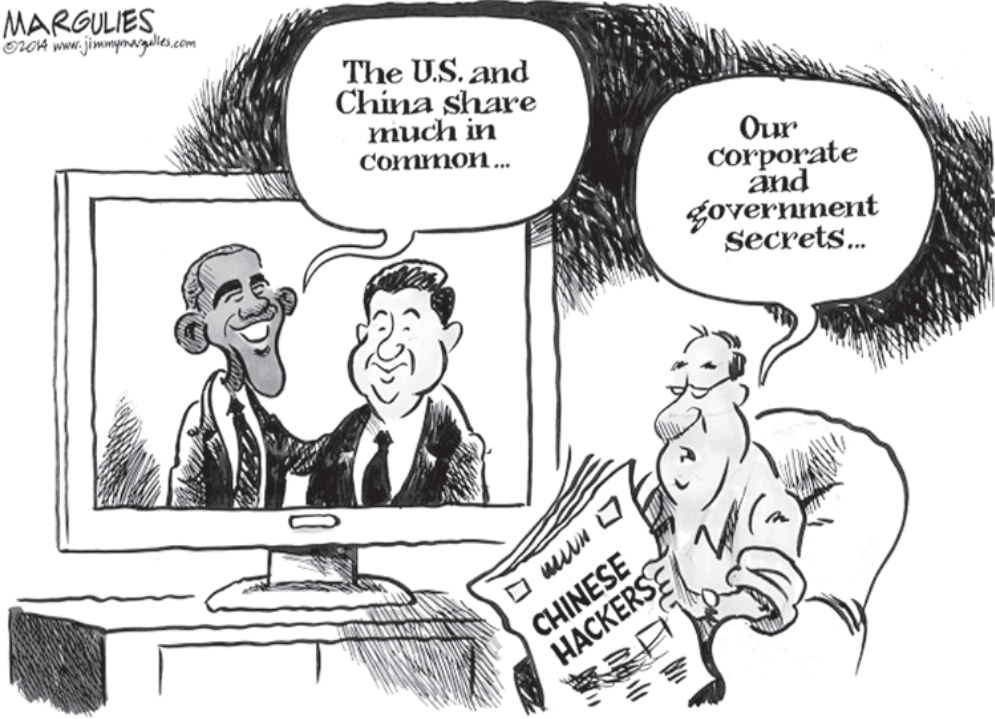
Weber, who is co-director of Monuments of Rome in English Culture (a 2015 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Teachers), currently serves as director of the Humanities Program and the Masters of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies Programs at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP).

Weber stated that he has expanded his teacher and researcher experiences by leading students abroad in comprehensive research projects concerning the city of Rome and its importance as a world intellectual center.

For more information about the upcoming presentation, contact El Paso Museum of History Educator Jaime Knoedler, at (915) 351-3588 or send email to knoedlerjm@elpasotexas.gov



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Applications being accepted for 2015 Governor’s Community Achievement Awards

By Melissa Pecorino
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) is now accepting applications for the 2015 Governor’s Community Achievement Awards (GCAA), one of the most prestigious annual environmental awards programs in Texas. In February 2015, a panel of judges will select 10 communities to share in \$2 million from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The funds are dedicated

to landscaping projects along rights-of-way within the communities. The awards recognize the best grassroots environmental programs in the state and are broken up into 10 different categories based on population size. The winner of the smallest population category is a community with up to 3,000 residents and receives a \$90,000 grant, while the winner of the largest category qualifies for \$310,000 and is a city with more than 180,000 residents. Funds are distributed proportionately to the other eight

communities. Every community in Texas is eligible to apply for GCAA. A program is judged on achievement in seven different areas: community leadership and coordination; education; public awareness; litter prevention and cleanup; illegal dumping enforcement; beautification and property improvement; and solid waste management. KTB will formally recognize these communities during its 48th Annual Conference in Fort Worth from June 15-17, 2015, at the Omni Hotel. Communities interested in

applying may download the 2015 application from the KTB website at <http://www.ktb.org/programs/awards/governors-community-achievement-awards.aspx> or call 1-800-CLEAN-TX to request a copy. Applications are due to KTB on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, by 5:00 pm.

Keep Texas Beautiful is a statewide grassroots environmental and community improvement nonprofit that strives to educate and engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their surrounding environment. KTB and its more than 370 affiliates work with the government, businesses, civic groups and volunteers to ensure that every Texan has the opportunity to make Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation. For more information on programs and events, call 1-800-CLEAN-TX or visit www.ktb.org.

Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation first began working together in the late 1960s, sharing the common goals of making Texas roadways more attractive, increasing safety for motorists and encouraging tourism. Since 1985, KTB has partnered with TxDOT to support the department’s litter prevention and beautification programs, including the Don’t mess with Texas Trash-Off and GCAA. KTB has recognized outstanding communities via the GCAA program, with TxDOT providing the landscape awards, for over 25 years. This year \$2,000,000 will be awarded to Texas communities.

Awards to communities are based on population as follows:

- Category 1 (up to 3,000), \$90,000;
- Category 2 (3,001-5,500), \$110,000;
- Category 3 (5,501-9,000), \$130,000;
- Category 4 (9,001-15,000), \$160,000;
- Category 5 (15,001-25,000), \$180,000;
- Category 6 (25,001-40,000), \$210,000;

See KTB, Page 5

Classified Ads

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Briefs

From Page 1

pottery, building catapults, and creating mosaics. To participate in the program an RSVP is required. Interested individuals should contact Jaime Knoedler, the history museum’s education director, at (915) 351-3588 or send email to knoedlerjm@elpasotexas.gov.
– Alfredo Vasquez

Ornament



Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) encourages Texans to take pride in the beauty and prosperity of our state, and play a vital role in improving their community environment. To raise awareness and funds to support statewide programs that enhance the environment, KTB introduces its 11th edition commemorative holiday ornament. The 24-karat gold-plated ornament showcases the glorious Ruby-throated Hummingbird, fluttering alongside a glowing, red Cedar Sage. Sparkling red and green in the springtime sky as it returns each year to breed in North America, this species of hummingbird is a bejeweled spectacle welcomed in gardens across Texas. Ornament sales help fund numerous local and statewide programs focusing on litter prevention, beautification, and waste reduction, and also reinforce KTB’s mission to educate and engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their community environment. All ten editions in the ornament collection can be purchased for \$19 (+ tax) each; with bulk orders of 25 or more, each ornament is just \$15 (+tax). Ornaments may be purchased online at www.ktb.org, or by calling 1-800-CLEAN-TX.

– Melissa Pecorino

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CryptoQuip Answer

I was suffering with some bad tooth pain, but my dentist finally got to the root of the problem.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was beloved American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson who made the following sage observation: Sometimes a scream is better than a thesis.

• As the holidays and the inevitable family gatherings approach, you might want to prepare yourself to engage in logomachy – a battle fought with words.

• In the African nation of Swaziland, it is illegal for a witch to fly a broomstick at an altitude above 150 meters.

• If you’re like 91 percent of Americans, you sometimes eat breakfast for dinner.

• You may have been unaware of it for the past 11 months, but 2014 has been the International Year of Family Farming, so declared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

• Place-names sometimes enter the English language through roundabout means. Take Arkansas, for instance: That state’s name comes from the word akansa, which is a French pronunciation of an Algonquin name for the Native American Quapaw people. The original word means either “people of the south wind” or “downriver people.”

• You might be surprised to learn that the fax machine was invented in the 19th century. In 1843, a man named Alexander Bain patented Bain’s Telegraph, which was able to transmit an exact copy of lines, letters and shapes to chemically treated paper on the other end of the line.

• In 2013, for the first time, the United States offered a larger market for wine than France.

Thought for the Day: All one’s life as a young woman one is on show, a focus of attention, people notice you. You set yourself up to be noticed and admired. And then, not expecting it, you become middle-aged and anonymous. No one notices you. You achieve a wonderful freedom. It’s a positive thing. You can move about unnoticed and invisible.

– Doris Lessing

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Protect yourself from the flu

By Marshall Dawer M.D.
M.S. F.A.C.P. ABEM
Special to the Courier

Cooler weather, football and falling leaves – the classic signs of Fall are upon us, which means flu season has also arrived.

Influenza – or the flu, as it is commonly known – is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. About 5 percent to 20 percent of U.S. residents get the flu each year, according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

The flu costs the United States more than \$87 billion annually and is responsible for the loss of about 17 million workdays and substantial classroom time each flu season, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Unfortunately, the flu is not just a cause of missed work and school. Every year, thousands of people die from Influenza and its complications, and more than 100 of the victims this past year were children - twenty of them here in Texas.

The best way to protect yourself and reduce your chances of getting the flu is to get a flu vaccine.

According to the CDC, everyone who is at least 6 months of age should get a flu vaccine. Getting vaccinated is especially important for people who have certain medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes or chronic lung disease, and for pregnant women, young children and people 65 and older.

Despite the evidence and recommendations, many people won’t get vaccinated this year – which makes it more likely they will get and transmit the flu. That puts your own personal health and well-being at risk, and it could increase the chances of your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors getting sick, too.

Consider the following:

The flu shot is not expensive.

In most cases, the cost of a flu shot is covered by your health plan, whether you buy health insurance on your own or are covered through your employer, Medicare or Medicaid. More employers are now offering free onsite flu shot clinics at the office. The financial and personal costs and the potential for missed days of work or school from the flu far exceed the cost of the vaccination.

Young, healthy people get the flu,

too.

Influenza does not discriminate against age or health habits. Just because you’re young or don’t typically get sick doesn’t mean you can’t catch the flu. You can catch the flu from someone who has yet to exhibit any signs or symptoms of being sick.

Getting the flu shot vaccine is fast, easy and convenient.

Getting a flu shot takes no more than five minutes. Most neighborhood pharmacies even offer walk-in options, so you don’t need to make an appointment. If you are unemployed or your employer doesn’t offer flu shots, you can go to your primary care doctor or nearby wellness clinic, most retail pharmacies or contracted flu shot providers. To find a list of flu shot providers near you, visit Flu.gov (<http://www.flu.gov/prevention-vaccination/vaccination/index.html>) and enter your zip code.

Take Preventive Measures

In addition to getting vaccinated, please remember to take preventive measures like washing your hands regularly to help reduce the spread of germs. And if you are sick with the flu, stay home to prevent spreading

flu to others.

Flu season runs from October through May with most illnesses occurring just in time for the December holiday season. Now is the time to make your and your family’s health a priority. Get a flu shot. If you do, you’ll likely be able to enjoy the fall and holidays a little more.

KTB

From Page 4

- Category 7 (40,001-65,000), \$250,000;
- Category 8 (65,001-90,000), \$270,000;
- Category 9 (90,001-180,000), \$290,000; and
- Category 10 (180,001+), \$310,000.

GCAA is open to all Texas communities. A program entered for competition may consist of more than one community, but one community may not have more than one GCAA entry. A community is defined as a region or regions with shared or adjoining boundaries whose beautification and litter abatement programs are administered by a common organization.

San Elizario Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended June 30, 2014

Data Control Codes		10 General Fund	ESEA Title I Part A Program	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700	Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 2,340,766	\$ –	\$ 260,287	\$ 2,601,053
5800	State Program Revenues	33,386,721	–	979,196	34,365,917
5900	Federal Program Revenues	3,583,498	2,484,552	1,245,855	7,313,905
5020	Total Revenues	39,310,985	2,484,552	2,485,338	44,280,875
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011	Instruction	16,848,129	1,691,086	1,298,074	19,837,289
0012	Instructional Resources and Media Services	312,512	57,023	6,358	375,893
0013	Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	64,168	271,533	245,654	581,355
0021	Instructional Leadership	838,442	71,042	35,505	944,989
0023	School Leadership	2,073,816	21,033	20,903	2,115,752
0031	Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,059,025	–	9,690	1,068,715
0032	Social Work Services	152,775	20,771	–	173,546
0033	Health Services	417,555	76,553	507	494,615
0034	Student (Pupil) Transportation	1,434,214	–	–	1,434,214
0035	Food Services	2,878,534	–	150,971	3,029,505
0036	Extracurricular Activities	1,055,818	–	102,270	1,158,088
0041	General Administration	1,488,685	–	–	1,488,685
0051	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	4,177,111	–	–	4,177,111
0052	Security and Monitoring Services	701,119	–	–	701,119
0053	Data Processing Services	818,582	–	877	819,459
0061	Community Services	36,912	275,511	36,034	348,457
Debt Service:					
0071	Debt Service - Principal on Long Term Debt	1,683,942	–	594,000	2,277,942
0072	Debt Service - Interest on Long Term Debt	322,080	–	53,447	375,527
0073	Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	5,282	–	–	5,282
Capital Outlay:					
0081	Facilities Aquisition and Construction	215,880	–	–	215,880
Intergovernmental:					
0099	Other Intergovernmental Charges	30,730	–	–	30,730
6030	Total Expenditures	36,615,311	2,484,552	2,554,290	41,654,153
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	2,695,674	–	(68,952)	2,626,722
0100	Fund Balance – September 1 (Beginning)	13,040,109	–	291,443	13,331,552
1300	Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	(185,115)	–	11,699	(173,416)
3000	Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$ 15,550,668	\$ –	\$ 234,190	\$ 15,784,858

FSU, Winston, need to go on record with the Church Lady

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I was sitting in my living room recently on one of those too-cold-to-go-out evenings, switching from channel to channel trying to find something worth wasting an hour on.

There wasn't anything worth watching so I went a little nostalgic and settled on a rerun.

Back in the 1980s one of Saturday Night Live's recurring skits featured Dana Carvey as a holier-than-thou religious fanatic simply known as the Church Lady.

The Church Lady kind of sat in judgment of famous people who failed to live their lives as defined by the strict codes of the bible.

Her 5-minute episodes poked fun at both the famous people and their real-life propensities for falling from grace, and the rigid zealots who couldn't wait to prove their self-affirming superiority over them.

It may sound uncomfortable but it was always carried out in a lightly humorous way without being heavy-handed.

The biggest laugh the Church Lady got every week is when she uttered her famous

catch phrase, "well isn't that special."

Whenever her famous target offered an excuse for their indiscretions she'd also look into the camera and offer these words in a condescending tone, "how convenient."

Her "how convenient" phrase would have worked perfectly last week in the world of college football and the fight for the Final Four playoff rankings.

Nobody knows which four teams will be selected to compete in the NCAA's first-ever national championship football tournament, but it seems as if the same teams have been in the running all year.

Mississippi State, Ohio State, Alabama, Oregon, TCU, Arizona State and Baylor seem to switch back and forth every week.

Oh, I forgot to mention one more team.

The defending national champion Florida State Seminoles have been in the running for the top four spots since the season began.

And leading the way for the Seminoles is the reigning Heisman Trophy winner, quarterback Jameis Winston.

Winston has become famous for two things, his ability to lead his football team to win after win, and his inability to stay out of trouble.

For the last two years, Winston has been doing the Harry Houdini thing – abracadabraing his way out of tight situations, both on and off the field.

Winston's latest misfortune has him appearing in front of a Florida State investigative hearing to determine whether an alleged sexual assault of a female student violated the school's code of conduct.

If found guilty at the hearing Winston could be suspended from the team for a time or even expelled from the school.

But abracadabra – just when things were looking bleak for Winston and the Seminoles – Florida State has decided to delay the proceedings until Dec. 1.

Because of the delay, Florida State officials wouldn't be able to render a decision until January 13, a day after the national championship game is played.

Cue Church Lady: "Howwww convenient."

Now Winston and Florida State can continue their quest for a national championship and the millions that go along with it.

The charade of a hearing will eventually take place and by then it won't matter what the findings are. Winston will be leaving the

school early for the NFL anyway.

And Florida State's sleazy reputation for enabling student athletes to get away with whatever they want will sink a little deeper into the swampy mud.

Since Winston has been enrolled at Florida State he's been handcuffed by school police after a person saw him and a friend carrying a gun. They explained they were shooting at squirrels with a pellet gun and were released. A few hours later Winston and his friends engage in a pellet-BB gunfight and cause \$4,000 damage to their apartment.

Winston poured himself some soda in a cup at a Burger King without paying for it. The clerk offered him some water, he poured the water out and helped himself to more soda.

He stole \$32 of crab legs from a supermarket. He jumped on a table and shouted out sexual-explicit obscenities at the school cafeteria. He's also involved in an autograph-signing scandal for money that's still being investigated.

Where does Winston find any time to practice football?

Through all of this, inexplicably, Winston is still the quarterback at Florida State – now that's what I call, "convenient."

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Rodgers, that

He's cool in the way cool people wish they were cool – think Frank Sinatra to Dean Martin, John Lennon to Bob Dylan, or Jack White to Jimmy Page as non-sporting examples. Just look at him... moving a touch slower than the guys he showed up with. They're running like it's a five-alarm fire, helpless bystanders all around them are screaming their heads off and as if things couldn't get more harrowing,

lions, bears and marauding Vikings are directly in their path and coming their way.

"Relax," he tells everyone as he nonchalantly traipses over to them, patting one of them on the back. He surveys the scene and takes the time to light up a smoke as if he had all the time in the world and today was just a Saturday in the park.

Only it's not a park, it's Lambeau Field. And those aren't bystanders,

they are Packer Backers, just as those aren't mere Lions, Bears and Vikings, they are those who are about to be vanquished. For when he yells "hike!" it resounds in ways that strike fear in the hearts of those who oppose him, for it is a clarion call that precedes their doom.

The once mild-mannered, sleepy-eyed man who looked like a guy you'd strike up a casual conversation with on an airplane has transformed into a quarterback of leviathan-like proportions. The once barren, frozen tundra becomes a raging sea of tumult and despair for those who lie in

his wake. He unfurls bombs, he moves with lightning speed, laying waste to those who oppose him, the scoreboard lighted up brighter than a funeral pyre, the light at the end of the tunnel is the one that mercifully leads them out of the cauldron of misery and to their team bus, which awaits to take them to the Valhalla that is their charter jet home.

All of which is just another way to say that Aaron Rodgers... Yeah, he's a pretty good quarterback.

For those who saw him extend his record a few Sunday nights ago against the Chicago Bears to 13-1 and tie an NFL record by tossing six TD passes in a half, your eyes did not deceive you: Aaron is the best there is right now, and the championship will surely run (pass?) through Lambeau this season. And for all of the talk about Luck, Manning, Rothlisberger, Brady, Rivers... all of the talk about


revolutionary quarterbacks like Kaepernick, Newton, RG III and Wilson... Rodgers seems to dodge that conversation as if he's above it all. He's the guy in the club that left hours ago with the girl while everyone else is settling their tabs after last call under the bright lights of failure, wondering if they should get wings or not.

"I can promise you this is not easy," Rodgers says. "It's tough to execute like that."

Not for some people, apparently. It doesn't matter if you call him cool guy, the best, leviathan (and interestingly enough, he has no real nickname), you can't be wrong when you say anything good about Rodgers as quarterback because Rodgers... Rodgers is that.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL
VS NM STATE
NOV. 22 | 7 PM



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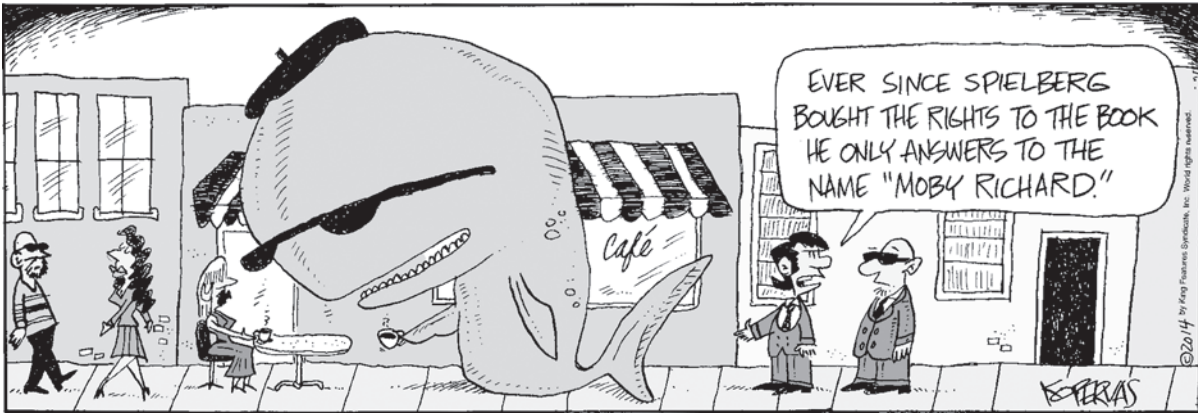
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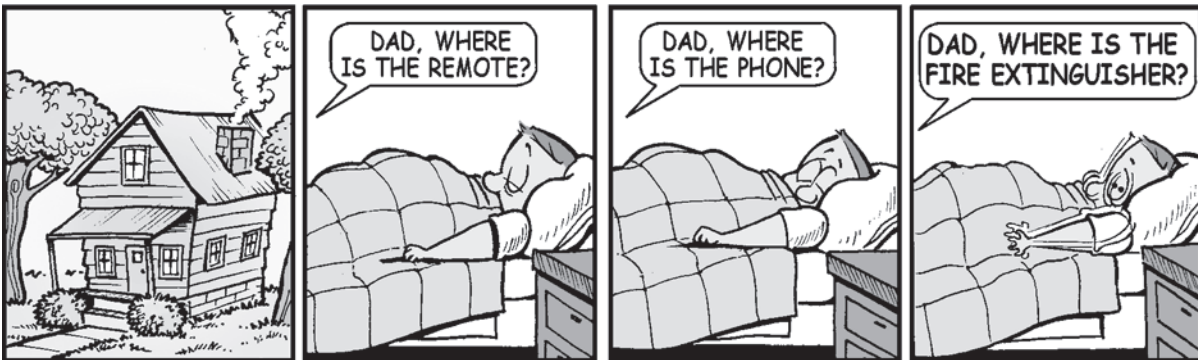
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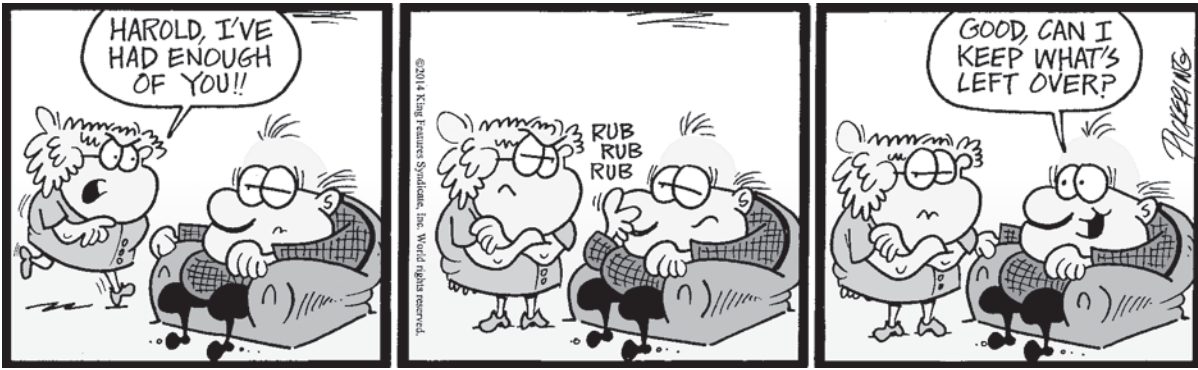
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Your good health By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Medical advice is to reduce sugar consumption. Does this apply to 100 percent fruit juices, fresh fruit, sweetened cereal products or other fruit-sweetened products? – R.B.

a copy by writing: Dr. Roach – No. 402W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

I think it makes sense to limit sugar intake, as most North Americans take in remarkably large quantities of sugar. Recently, while giving a lecture at the medical school, I noticed that the carbonated sodas served contained 45 grams of added sugar per can. That's more than the American Heart Association recommends in a day (no more than 25 grams of added sugar per day for women, 40 grams a day for men)! Be careful of products that claim to be sweetened by fruit juice or fruit sugar; this still counts as added sugar.

I do make an exception for fruits, as the body processes natural sugars from fruit differently. You can try this out at home by eating four medium-size oranges or drinking its equivalent in an 8-ounce (250 ml) glass of orange juice. I think you will find a big difference in how full you feel.

Although reducing sugar is critical for diabetics and is very important for anyone trying to lose weight, even for people with no sugar or weight problems, the evidence is accumulating that eating too much added sugar increases future risk for heart disease and diabetes.

Diabetes has become epidemic in North America. The booklet on it provides insight on its diagnosis and treatment. Readers can order

DEAR DR. ROACH: My wife has wet AMD. Her ophthalmologist gave her some vitamins (to take three times a day). They include 25 mg of zinc oxide. She has read somewhere that women should not take more than 8 mg of zinc a day. These vitamins would total 75 mg daily. Are zinc and zinc oxide the same? Can she take these vitamins? – J.N.

The usual dose of zinc for age-related macular degeneration is 80 mg daily of zinc oxide. Twenty-three percent of zinc oxide is elemental zinc, so this is about 18 mg of elemental zinc. The ophthalmologist is giving a very standard and safe dose for AMD.

The U.S. recommended daily allowance for zinc is 11 mg for men, 8 mg for women. Very high doses of zinc can be dangerous, but this dose is still in the safe zone.

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.

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Super Crossword

IRISH SHUFFLE ACROSS

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Disparage | one who abducts alley |
| 9 | Nassau's nation | prowlers? |
| 16 | Spot's pal | 68 Food-conducting |
| 20 | Old gas giant | plant tissue |
| 21 | Acre native | 70 Author Levin |
| 22 | Mac OS X is | 71 Third note in the A |
| | based on it | major scale |
| 23 | Lucy's hubby | 72 Soreness causes |
| | creates a portrait of an | shaggy ox to lose |
| | Egyptian Nobelist? | focus? |
| 25 | Sitar master | 79 Iowa city |
| | Shankar | 80 Use a rocker |
| 26 | Doesn't split | 81 Fetus holder |
| 27 | First-time Net | 82 Brother of Gretel |
| | surfer | 84 Eugene O'Neill's |
| 28 | Classic cookie | "The _ Cometh" |
| 30 | Enshrouded | 85 Like quilts |
| 31 | Singer Cline | 86 Gravitates |
| | dupes singer Ross? | 90 Additionally |
| 36 | One in a tippy | 93 Salsa can be |
| | boat | found on the platter of |
| 41 | Grin widely | munchies? |
| 42 | Baker's _ | 97 Sonnet writers, |
| 43 | Spaghetti that | say |
| | smells and tastes | 99 "99 Luftballons" |
| | terrible? | band |
| 50 | Aviary abode | 100 Valuables |
| 51 | Company with a | 101 Model Banks opts |
| | spokesduck | not to take Tums? |
| 52 | Big name in | 108 Slap handcuffs on |
| | champagne | 109 Pop's mama |
| 53 | "Faust" playwright | 110 River in Russia |
| 55 | Like a sure-to- | 111 "_ bleu!" (French |
| | succeed proposition | "Holy cow!") |
| 57 | Impart fizz to | 116 Kazan with three |
| 58 | "Drop _ line | Tonys |
| | sometime?" | 118 Observance |

- 61 Slightly
64 Declaration from
one who abducts alley
prowlers?
68 Food-conducting
plant tissue
70 Author Levin
71 Third note in the A
major scale
72 Soreness causes
shaggy ox to lose
focus?
79 Iowa city
80 Use a rocker
81 Fetus holder
82 Brother of Gretel
84 Eugene O'Neill's
"The _ Cometh"
85 Like quilts
86 Gravitates
90 Additionally
93 Salsa can be
found on the platter of
munchies?
97 Sonnet writers,
say
99 "99 Luftballons"
band
100 Valuable
101 Model Banks opts
not to take Tums?
108 Slap handcuffs on
109 Pop's mama
110 River in Russia
111 " _ bleu!" (French
"Holy cow!")
116 Kazan with three
Tons
118 Observance

“shuffled” in this puzzle

- 123 Put a fork in
124 Provider of funds
125 Dog flea, e.g.
126 Match up, as
timepieces
127 Like grasslands
128 Some small
pooches
- DOWN**
- 1 Gin mills
2 Release
3 "Livin' La Vida _"
4 Totally gross
5 Playthings
6 Highest-rated
7 Tropical vine
8 Author T.S.
9 Gradually
10 Talking biblical
beast
11 Wk.'s 168
12 Org. aiding
stranded motorists
13 French red wine
14 Happy as _
15 Locales
16 Dog covering
17 Befuddled
18 Discovers
intuitively
19 It causes rust
20 Thumbs-down
votes
29 Like 1 or 3
31 Nose around
32 Koppel of news
33 Jail sentence

- 34 Mental pictures
35 Skye of film
36 Civil War org.
37 Anti-moonshine
org.
38 Naught
39 Ad infinitum
40 Kitchen utensil
brand
44 Berserk
45 Mozart's " _ Fan
Tutte"
46 Marsh plant
47 Categorize
48 Rend
49 Assails
54 Attention-getting
calls
56 Restricted
57 Give _ on the back
58 What to call a lady
59 French I verb
60 Nile bitters
61 Downloads for
iPhones
62 Asian cuisine
63 Came to rest
65 Vardalos and
Long
66 Bit of a circle
67 Huts in the Swiss
Alps
69 Concern of a PTA:
Abbr.
73 Big hauler
74 Web, to a fly
75 Altercations
76 " _ Leaving Home"
77 Exhibit ennui

- 78 Court star
Kournikova
83 Deer kin
84 Greek vowel
85 Collection of
busts, e.g.
87 "Is" pluralized
88 Turner of a
rebellion
89 Part of MS-DOS:
Abbr.
90 Suitability
91 Allegiance
92 Certain Slav
94 Mermaid site
95 "Maisie" star
Sothern
96 Ill-bred dude
98 Tax form ID
102 DJ Casey
103 Asinine
104 _ visit (dropped
by)
105 Mastery
106 Grouses
107 Near the hip
111 Game with 32
cards
112 Admin. aide
113 Roman 402
114 \$/hour, e.g.
115 Glimpses
117 "20/20" airer
119 Doze (off)
120 One and one
121 Basilica seat
122 _Magnon

Answer Page 4

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MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

Houston 1984 : A thief is sentenced to 35 years in jail for stealing a can of SPAM !



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!

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	+		×		28
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	×		-		21
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Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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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Museum features Native American sky stories

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Native American storyteller Alex Mares and astronomer Francisco Carreto-Parra will once again come together to present the popular El Paso Museum of Archaeology program that interweaves Native American stories of the sun, moon, stars and cosmos with the astronomical knowledge of different cultures and modern science.

The museum will hold the special presentation, titled *Sky Stories III, Ancient and Modern*, from 5 to 9 p.m., Saturday, November 29, at the archaeology museum (4301 Transmountain Road).

The program will include a PowerPoint presentation on the development of astronomical science across many cultures, from 5 to 6 p.m. in the museum’s auditorium. Then, from 6 to 9 p.m. with fading daylight, telescope observation opportunities and American Indian sky storytelling will be presented on the museum’s campgrounds (Participants should bring a flashlight).

George Maloof, archaeology museum director, stated that the lively stories program is suitable for adults and children of elementary school age and above. He noted that advance reservations are required for the indoor portion of the event and limited to sixty participants but that there is no limit for the outdoor portion of the event.

The storytelling is free to museum members and \$2 per person for non-members. For more information, contact the museum director at (915) 755-4332 or send email to maloofo@elpasotexas.gov.

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Be aware of fraud to avoid it

With all of the holiday shopping going on this time of year, both in stores and online, there is no better time to remind you to beware of fraud – you never know where it is lurking.

When it comes to doing business with Social Security online, there is little to worry about – all of our online services are protected by strong Internet security protocols and you should have confidence that they are safe and secure. But, there are other ways identity thieves and criminals can obtain your personal information and cause you significant harm. Here are some tips to help keep that from happening.

If someone contacts you claiming to be from Social Security and asks for your Social Security number, date of birth, or other identifying information, beware. Don’t provide your personal information without first contacting Social Security to verify if Social Security is really trying to contact you. It could be an identity thief phishing for your personal information. Call Social Security’s toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

If you receive a suspicious call, report it by going to <http://oig.ssa.gov/report>. Or call 1-800-269-0271 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. You should provide as much of the following information as you know:

- The alleged suspect(s) and victim(s) names, address(es), phone number(s), date(s) of birth, and Social Security number(s);
- Description of the fraud and the location where the fraud took place;
- When and how the fraud was committed;
- Why the person committed the fraud (if known); and
- Who else has knowledge of the potential violation.

Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in America. If you or anyone you know has been the victim of an identity thief, contact the Federal Trade Commission at www.idtheft.gov, or 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338); TTY 1-866-653-4261.

Another form of fraud that people fall victim to: businesses using misleading advertisements that make it look as though they are from Social Security. These businesses often offer Social Security services for a fee, even though the same services are available directly from Social Security free of charge. By law, such an advertisement must indicate that the company is not affiliated with Social Security.

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: E equals T

O PIC CLSSDZOH B POER CQND

YIF EQQER GIOH, YLE NK

FDHEOCE SOHIJJK BQE EQ ERD

ZQQE QS ERD GZQYJDN.

Answer Page 4

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FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

CONQUER THE WHIRLED

GW I

♥ RHEASO

♥ TROHN

♥ HAWT

WHEEPN

♥ ONT

♥ ARGE

DEPSA

♥ AWR

SOBTIO

GOOTU

NAPW

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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If you receive what you believe is misleading advertising for Social Security services, send the complete mailing, including the envelope, to: Office of the Inspector General, Fraud Hotline, Social Security Administration, P.O. Box 17768, Baltimore, MD 21235. Also, advise your state’s attorney general or consumer affairs office and the Better Business Bureau. If you see or hear what you believe is misleading advertising related to Social Security, you can report it at the address above, by calling 1-800-269-0271 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time, or by visiting <http://oig.ssa.gov/report>.

Protect your investment in Social Security and do your part to report potential fraud. We rely on *you* to let us know when you suspect someone is committing fraud against Social Security.

Reporting fraud is a smart thing to do – and the right thing to do. Visit Social Security’s Office of the Inspector General at <http://oig.ssa.gov>. Learn more about identity theft and misleading advertising by reading our publications on the subjects at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.