

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Horizon PO closed

The Horizon City contract postal unit located at National Self Storage on North Kenazo is closed. The unit was open at the location for eight years. Blanca Borja-Aguilar, manager of the storage facility, said the contract with the United States Postal Service (USPS) had expired and that corporate offices for National Self Storage decided not to seek renewal. Customers can still order stamps by calling (800) Stamp24, visiting [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) or going to the Socorro Station at 10550 N. Loop in Socorro. She added she had enjoyed serving her USPS customers and that the storage facility would not be affected by the unit's closure.

— Rick Shrum

### Purple Heart Elementary

The Socorro Independent School District Board of Trustees voted on the name of the district's newest elementary school at the regular school board meeting on Dec. 16. The board voted unanimously on the name Purple Heart Elementary School. The district's 47th school is being built north of Montana near Rich Beem and will accommodate about 900 elementary students in the El Dorado High School feeder area. The \$18 million facility is scheduled to be open for the 2015-2016 school year. Jennifer Parker, formerly the principal of Lujan-Chavez Elementary, will be the principal of Purple Heart Elementary School. The mascot will be heroes and the school colors will be purple and gold.

— Christina Flores-Jones

### End of an era

For the first time in 70 years there was not a single veteran of World War II sitting in the House of Representatives or in the Senate when 114th Congress convened on January 3, 2015. Michigan's John Dingell, who is 88 years old, and 91-year-old Ralph Hall of Texas were the last of the Greatest Generation to serve. Dingell, a Democrat, enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1944 when he turned 18 and rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1955 and holds the distinction of being the longest serving member of

See BRIEFS, Page 8

*Think right, act right; it is what you think and do that makes you who you are.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Acavius Largo

**CLEAR THE FIELD** — A U.S. Department of Homeland Security UH1 Huey helicopter approaches the playground at H.D. Hilley Elementary School. 650 delighted students welcomed the Huey and its crew on December 2, 2014, the school's career day.

## Helicopter gives Hilley students remarkable career day

By Paula Diaz  
*Special to the Courier*

SOCORRO — As the U.S. Department of Homeland Security helicopter made a spectacular landing in H.D. Hilley's playground, 650 students waved scarves and towels at the aircraft's arrival for the school's career day.

"Wow," "awesome" and "yeah" could

be heard as everyone watched the UH1 Huey land and four uniformed men, who work for the federal department's El Paso Air Branch, climb out of the helicopter. The three pilots and one agent spent the morning answering questions and telling children about their work.

"This is definitely a different kind of career day," said Esther Gonzales, Hilley's principal. "We normally bring in the usual professions, but this year everyone wanted

something special. Having someone come in on a helicopter is pretty special. The students are so excited and so are we."

Counselor Clarissa Cortez took on the job of bringing the helicopter and pilots to the school and received everyone's stamp of approval.

"The agency came to survey the field to make sure the helicopter could land,"

See HELICOPTER, PAGE 5



— Photo courtesy Rice University

**Steve H. Murdock, above, is the Allyn R. and Gladys M. Cline Professor of Sociology at Rice University. He previously served as Director of the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Prior to his appointment at Rice, he was the Lutcher Brown Distinguished Chair in Demography and Organization Studies at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and the Director of the Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research.**

## Demographer urges education investment to improve socioeconomic status of Texas

By Alfredo Vasquez  
*Special to the Courier*

With the beginning of a new legislative session in Texas this month, demographer Steve Murdock hopes this will be the year state legislators heed his warnings about Texas' foreboding future.

Murdock, a former state demographer and former director of the U.S. Census Bureau, has collected critical data and his analysis of that data in a new book, "Changing Texas: Implications of Addressing or Ignoring the Texas Challenge", where he predicted that the state faces an uncertain economic future unless it addresses serious education gaps with minority and low-income students.

In his book, Murdock, who currently is the director of the Hobby Center for the Study of Texas at Rice University, warned that although closing the socioeconomic gaps for Texas minority populations will be difficult, it is clear that the state is better off if they become better off.

Murdock asserted that if Texas fails to adequately educate its growing population of minority students, the state will have a less well

educated and a poorer population than it has today. However, if it can successfully educate this population, it could have a younger and more competitive workforce than the nation as a whole, he stated.

According to Murdock's data, Texas school population has exploded over the past decade, with the state adding a million more students since 2000. In that period, the number of low-income students in Texas schools had also grown by more than a million. That means that the entire growth of Texas school population has been in low-income students.

And, research clearly shows that teaching children from low-income families incurs additional challenges to schools and is more expensive. Nonetheless, Texas historically has shown an unwillingness to spend additional money on education.

The growth of the Hispanic population in Texas needs to be addressed through education, economic improvement and job training or the state will become one of the poorest in the nation, Murdock has preached for years to anyone who will listen to him,

See EDUCATION, PAGE 3



Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Operation Gratitude expands reach

Operation Gratitude has branched out. Since 2003, it has sent more than 1.1 million care packages to military personnel overseas in harm’s way. Now, in addition, OpGrat is sending care packages to recruits coming out of boot camp.

You remember boot camp... and what it was like to finally be finished. So far, the non-profit organization has sent nearly 17,000 packages to graduates of Navy and Marine Corps boot camps, and it will bring the Air Force and Army into the fold in 2015.

Each box contains quality gifts and goodies, including snacks, hygiene products, drink mixes, books, CDs, DVDs and players, a “Loved One” medallion, survival bracelet, handmade scarves, hats... and the much-appreciated cards and letters from children and adults all across the U.S.

The goal to send packages to those coming out of boot camp is a worthy one, as it shows our appreciation to each of them and lets them know they’re not alone.

I know the holidays have many of us spread a little thin, but I’m asking you to open your wallets and send some money to Operation Gratitude, which gets no handouts from the government, not even the Post Office. It costs \$15 to send each package. Volunteers recently got an emergency request for 4,000 packages for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island graduating classes. Do the math: That’s a lot of money for postage alone, and the annual goal is to send out 100,000 packages.

For more information or to make a donation online, go to [www.operationgratitude.com](http://www.operationgratitude.com), or call the InfoLine at 1-800-651-8031. Checks can go to Operation Gratitude, P.O. Box 260257, Encino, CA 91426-0257. For merchandise donations, carefully read the online wish list, as mailing addresses are different.

*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](mailto:columnreply2@gmail.com). (c) 2015 King Features Synd., Inc.*

Notice of Public Hearing  
Tornillo Independent School District

Tornillo Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District’s 2013-2014 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR). The meeting will be held at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 in the Tornillo ISD Central Office, 1900 Cobb Ave., Tornillo TX.

The public is invited to attend. For more information, call (915) 765-3000.

WTCC: 01 -08-15

San Elizario Independent School District  
Public Notice of Meeting

San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District’s 2013-2014 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR). The meeting will be held at 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 in the San Elizario ISD Board Room, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas, 79849.

The public is invited to attend. For more information, call (915) 872-3939, x3568.

Junta Pública

*Distrito escolar independiente de San Elizario celebrará una audiencia pública para discutir el informe de rendimiento académico 2013-2014 Texas del distrito (TAPR). La reunión se celebrará a las 4:00 p.m. el miércoles, 14 de enero de 2015 en la sala de juntas de San Elizario ISD, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas, 79849.*

*El público está invitado a asistir. Para obtener más información, llame al (915) 872-3939, x3568.*

WTCC: 01/08/15

Finances By Jason Alderman

Resetting your life for retirement

The phrase “downsizing for retirement” is popular with Baby Boomers, the youngest of whom turned 50 last year.

It sparks a conversation about transition, which may include buying fewer new things, selling, gifting or donating possessions that are no longer needed and relocating to smaller quarters to create a more comfortable and affordable retirement.

If you’ve diligently saved and planned for retirement, most experts say you should do this “final approach” three to five years before your planned retirement date. If your retirement finances aren’t as stable, it’s smarter to start the transition as early as possible while time is on your side.

The Demand Institute, a nonprofit think tank founded by business research giants Nielsen and The Conference Board, reported last October (<http://www.demandinstitute.org>) that if the 2008 crash and its effect on employment, investments and housing prices had not happened, the typical Boomer household would have a net worth roughly 2.5 times what it is today.

This all the more reason for many Americans to review and possibly “reset” their retirement clocks. Here are some suggestions to help you figure out where you are on the pre-retirement spectrum and some changes you might consider:

**Get a retirement checkup.** Spend some time with a financial, tax and/or estate advisor to evaluate your current strategies and set – or reset – a reasonable retirement savings goal and date. Consult friends and family for reliable experts first and for other qualified professionals and check online with your state CPA society, the Association for Financial Counseling Planning and Education or the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards.

**See if moving makes sense.** Great retirement destinations offer more than great weather, inexpensive housing and an affordable tax environment. Consider whether you want to be near family, a thriving arts community or superior health facilities. Where do you start? You’ve probably seen popular lists of retirement communities in leading magazines, and they supply good food for thought. National agencies like the Council for Community and Economic Research (<https://www.c2er.org>) produces an annual cost of living index for over 300 U.S. urban areas.

**Get realistic property valuations.** Even in a rising economy and recovering housing market, many homeowners need a reality check about real estate prices. The same likely goes for other valuables like antiques, jewelry and art. For real estate, get a broker valuation and do online backup checks with property transfer listings over the last year or two in your area. As for valuables, check appropriate markets (from professional dealers to eBay) to sell, gift or donate those items and get tax and/or estate advice before all transactions.

**Clarify your tax picture.** If you make a huge profit on your home, you may owe taxes on the sale. Current IRS rules allow most couples to exclude up to \$500,000 in home sale gains from their taxable income and singles to exclude up to \$250,000. Check with your tax advisor and consult IRS Publication 523 (<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Publication-523>), “Selling-Your-Home-1), “Selling Your Home.” Also, keep local property taxes and city and state taxes in mind if you’re considering an out-of-state move.

**Decide what you plan to do post-retirement.** Retirees may have at least 20 to 30 years of lifespan to fill post-retirement. If you’re hoping to keep working, start a business or transition permanently into travel or leisure activities, these future goals have to align with your current retirement plan.

**Bottom line:** Everyone should set a “final approach” for retirement. That means reviewing your investments, lifestyle goals and the possibility of a post-retirement career so you can adjust your money behavior to match.

Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs.

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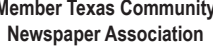
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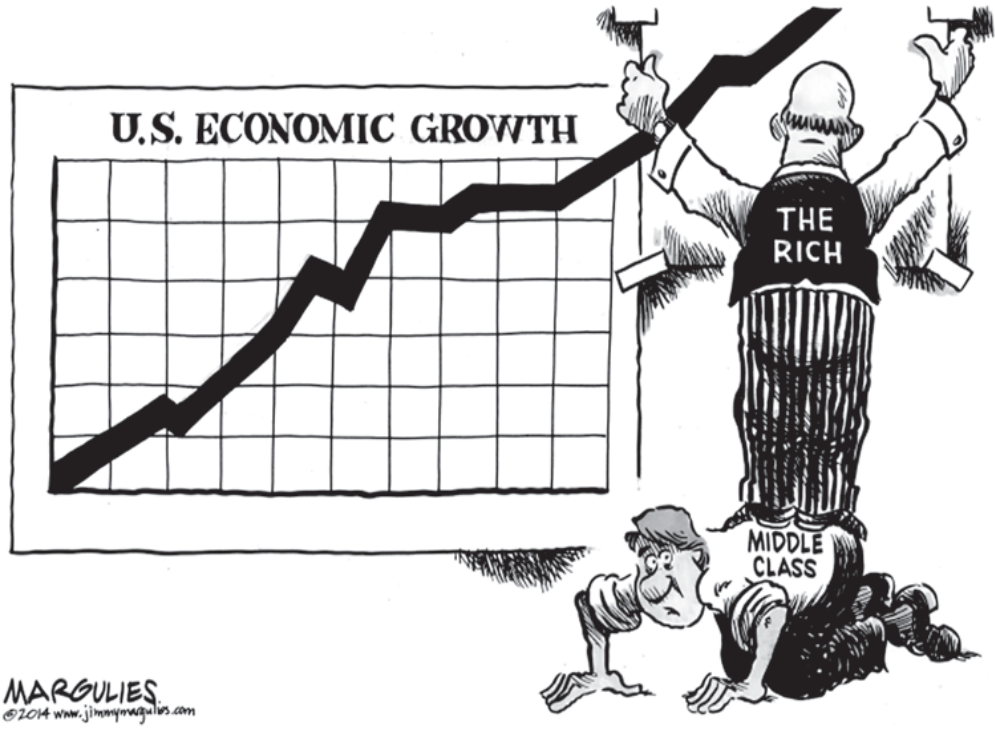
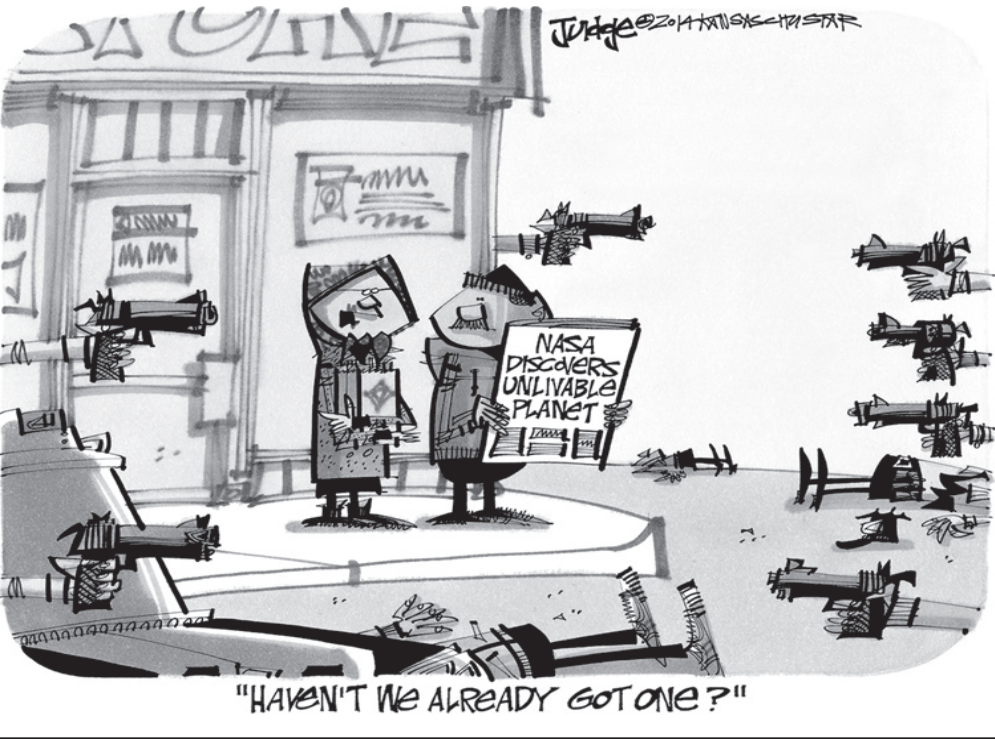


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Education

From Page 1

especially to state leaders in Austin.

“The future is increasingly tied to our minority population, not just in Texas but across the country,” said Murdock in a presentation that he gave during the recent Texas Tribune’s symposium on demographic change held at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP).

“Our reality is that our future is tied to our minority population and how well they do is how well Texas will do and how the United States of America will do. If you want to understand Texas and its future, you need to understand the demographics,” Murdock declared.

According to the census bureau, Hispanics made up 38.3 percent of the Texas population compared with 16.9 percent for the U.S. in 2012. Texas had eight of the 15 fastest-growing U.S. cities in 2012, according to the bureau. El Paso’s population is about 81 percent Hispanic.

Hispanics accounted for two-thirds of Texas’ population growth from 2000 to 2010, according to the bureau. Texas also had the largest population increase for 2010 to 2011.

“We are growing very rapidly in Texas, and in other parts of the country, and it is due to minority populations,” Murdock said. “We will see a continual decrease in the population made up of non-Hispanic whites.”

While the Hispanic population in Texas is getting closer to the number of non-Hispanic, in socioeconomic factors they still trail, Murdock said. The factors include poverty, lack of financial assistance for education and health care, job training and discrimination, Murdock noted.

“Now, what race you are or ethnic group you’re from wouldn’t be important if it weren’t for the fact that for a variety of historical, discriminatory and other factors. These demographic characteristics end up being tied to socioeconomic resources, such as poverty rates,” Murdock claimed.

As Hispanics become the majority in Texas and the U.S., an effort has to be made to fix the issues effecting the population, and it can start this year with the new state legislature, Murdock said.

“The key is education,” Murdock affirmed. “Education since the history of the U.S. has been the big driver of individual and socioeconomic progress. If we don’t address the socioeconomic differences by education, Texas and the U.S. in the long run will be a poor state and poor country,” he concluded.

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VS RICE | JAN. 4 | 2 PM  
VS UTSA | JAN. 17 | 2 PM









— Photo by Acavius Largo

**GATHER AROUND** – Officer Luis Yanez spoke to H.D. Hilley students and answered their questions about the helicopter and its mission.

Helicopter

From Page 1

Cortez said. “Soon as we got the OK, the students would ask us, ‘when are they coming?’ Now they are here and just look at the students. They are so happy.” Each year the helicopter pilots and agent visit about 10 to 13

schools during career day or Red Ribbon week, said Kevin D. Wickstrom, a pilot. “We love talking to the students,” said Wickstrom, as students surrounded him to ask questions. “It’s a great way to show them other professions they normally wouldn’t get to see.” The agents talked about the

age of the helicopter (50 years old and used during the Vietnam War), how many miles it’s flown (18,000, which is exceptional for a helicopter), and why they carry guns (the four are peace officers). One kindergartener loved the presentation and talking to the pilots. “I think watching the helicopter fly in was cool,” said Karina

Carrasco  
elected to  
state HR  
board

By Gustavo Reveles Acosta  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Martha Carrasco, the Executive Director of the Human Resources Division of the Canutillo Independent School District, is the new District VI Representative on the Executive Board of the Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators.

Carrasco will represent school districts in regions 15, 18 and 19, which include El Paso, the Permian Basin and east-central Texas.

The Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators (TASPA) is the premiere organization for human resources professionals in public school districts in the

Sanchez, a 5-year-old at Hilley. “I want to be a pilot when I grow up. It looks like so much fun.” Mission accomplished Homeland Security agents.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Martha Carrasco

state. TASPA is an affiliate of the American Association of School Personnel Administrators. A graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso, Carrasco has been the executive director of Human Resources for Canutillo since 2010. Before that, she served as the first internal auditor for CISD.

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### 2015 Holiday Waste Collection Schedule

The Regular Schedule for LVWD Waste Collections is Tuesday through Friday. There will be no changes to the regular schedule for trash collection on the following holidays:

- Martin Luther King ..... Monday, Jan. 19, 2015
- Presidents Day ..... Monday, Feb. 16, 2015
- Memorial Day.....Monday, May 25, 2015
- Labor Day .....Monday, Sept. 7, 2015

There will be changes to the Waste Collection on the following Holidays:

- 4th of July .....Saturday, July 4, 2015
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday are Regular Schedules

- Veterans Day .....Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015
- Tuesday Pick up will be on Monday, Nov. 9, 2015
- Wednesday Pick up will be on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015
- Thursday, and Friday Pick-ups will be on regular schedule.

- Thanksgiving Day ..... Thursday, Nov. 26, 2015
- Tuesday, Pick-up will be on Monday, Nov. 23, 2015
- Wednesday, Pick-up will be on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2015
- Thursday Pick-Up will be on Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2015
- Friday Pick-Up will be on Regular Schedule.

- New Year’s Day..... Friday, Jan. 1, 2016
- Tuesday Pick-up will be on Monday, Dec. 28, 2015
- Wednesday, Pick-up will be on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015
- Thursday, Pick-up will be on Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2015
- Friday, Pick-up will be on Thursday, Dec. 31, 2015

- TIPS:
- Please have your trash cart out by 6:00 am to avoid missed pick-up;
- Keep lid closed at all times;
- Do not overflow your container;
- Do not place container close to mailbox, underneath or next to a tree, cable, electrical telephone box, or basketball court;
- Use trash bags; and
- Do not place construction debris, rocks, dirt, oil, paint or other bulky items in the container.

Contact numbers: (915) 791-4480 extension 4  
Solid Waste Department

### 2015 Horario de Coleccion de Basura

Los Dias Regulares de Recoleccion de Basura son de Martes a Viernes. No habran cambios a los dias regulares de recoleccion:

- Martin Luther King ..... Lunes, Enero 19, 2015
- Dia Del Presidente ..... Lunes, Febrero 16, 2015
- Dia Monumento Conmemorativo. Lunes, Mayo 25, 2015
- Dia Del Trabajo .....Lunes, Septiembre 7, 2015

Los siguientes dias festivos, tendran cambios en la recoleccion de basura:

- 4th de Julio .....Sabado, Julio 4, 2015
- Martes, Miercoles, Jueves y Viernes No Habran Cambios

- Dia Del Veterano..... Miercoles, Noviembre 11, 2015
- Martes, se recojera el Lunes Noviembre 9, 2015
- Miercoles se recojera el Martes, Noviembre 10, 2015
- Jueves y Viernes No habran Cambios

- Dia de Accion de Gracias.. Jueves, Noviembre 26, 2015
- Martes se recojera el Lunes, Noviembre 23, 2015
- Miercoles se recojera el Martes, Noviembre 24, 2015
- Jueves se recojera el Miercoles, Noviembre 25, 2015
- Viernes sera Dia Regular

- Dia de Ano Nuevo .....Viernes, Enero 1, 2016
- Martes se recojera el Lunes, Diciembre 28, 2015
- Miercoles se recojera el Martes, Diciembre 29, 2015
- Jueves se recojera el Miercoles, Diciembre 30, 2015
- Viernes se recojera el Jueves, Diciembre 31, 2015

- Consejos:
- Sacar el contenedor de basura desde las 6:00 am, para evitar que dejen sin recoleccion;
- Mantenga la tapa cerrada todo el tiempo;
- No sobre cargue el contenedor;
- No coloque el contenedor cerca de una caja de correo, debajo de un arbol, cerca de lineas de telefono, o canchas de baloncesto;
- Use bolsas de basura;
- No pongo material de construccion, piedras, tierra, aceite, pintura, y otros articulos grandes en elm bote; y
- Si tiene mas de un contenedor, coloquelos separados de 3 a 4 pies.

Numero de telefono, si necesita hablar al  
Departamento de Basura – (915) 791-4480

## Their reputations will live beyond their deaths

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

Pressing the restart button ultimately means the shutting down of something else.

We’ve all made it to yet another year and it’ll be exciting to see what 2015 will bring us.

The same is true for the world of sports. What team will win the Super Bowl? Who will win the Master’s Golf Tournament? How about the World Series, the Heisman Trophy, will anyone beat Kentucky, how far will the UTEP basketball team go?

There are tons of questions to be answered. But it’s almost impossible to look forward without taking another peak at the past.

On Sunday, sports fans learned that ESPN’s Stuart Scott had lost his battle with cancer.

Scott, who was widely known for his uttering, “as cool as the other side of the pillow,” provided us sports nuts with many of the stories and memories we’ve enjoyed over the last couple of decades.

Though he was suffering from cancer, Scott’s death was still a shock Sunday morning and it got me to thinking about the other sports stars we lost in 2014. I thought it would be rude to look to 2015 without looking back and saying goodbye.

Among the sports legends and stars we lost was baseball man **Don Zimmer**, probably best known for being the manager of the Boston Red Sox and as the “old guy” Pedro Martinez hurled to the ground in a brawl between the Yankees and Red Sox.

I never saw **Ralph Kiner** play baseball, but I grew up with stories from my dad on the massive home runs he hit.

**Jim Fregosi** was mostly known for being the manager of the California Angels and Philadelphia Phillies but I especially remember him when I was a kid and he was a player for the El Paso Sun Kings.

**Sam Lacey** was a bruising center for NMSU in the late 1960s and led the Aggies to the Final Four in 1970. Ironically, he teamed up with rival Nate Archibald (UTEP) in the NBA with the Kansas City Kings.

Former UTEP coach **Jason Rabedaux** had the unenviable task of being the guy who replaced Haskins.

**Lou Hudson** was a scoring machine with the Atlната Hawks in the 1970s.

Every time you hear about a player receiving “Tommy John” surgery, it was Dr. **Frank Jobe** who invented the procedure.

**Rubin “Hurricane” Carter** was made famous by Bob Dylan in song and by Denzel Washington on the big screen. Carter was a boxing title contender who was falsely imprisoned for murder and spent nearly 20 years in jail.

**Earl Morrall** was the quarterback for the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III. That game is known more for the other quarterback on the field that day – Joe Namath.

**Jack Ramsay** finished his career announcing NBA games on TV and radio, but back in 1977, he coached Bill Walton and the Portland Trailblazers to the NBA title.

**Bob Welch** is best known for his years as a pitcher with the Los Angeles Dodgers. As a 21-year-old rookie he struck out Reggie Jackson with two on and two out in the ninth inning of game two of the 1978 World Series.

Being a Dallas Cowboys fans, I grew up hating the Pittsburgh Steelers because it was that team that kept my ‘Boys from winning a few more Super Bowls. And it was **Chuck Noll** who coached those great teams of the 1970s.

A part of those Cowboys teams in the 1970s was running back **Robert Newhouse**. The “human bowling ball” as many called him, was built low to the ground and was as difficult to bring down as your average bull.

When I was young I spent a lot of my time going to UTEP basketball games and one of the teams I rooted against every year was San Diego State. The Aztecs had one player who always gave the Miners trouble but went on to become famous in a completely different sport.

**Tony Gwynn** also happened to play baseball and went on to be one of the best pure hitters the professional game had ever seen.

There are other sports personalities who left us in 2014, but these are just a few I remember very well.

Though we say hello to 2015, we’ll also have to say goodbye at times during the year.

Hopefully, every goodbye will come with a smile.

### A sporting view By Mark Vasto

## 10 for ’15

It’s that time of year again when the sports world sits back and decries the seemingly arbitrary selection process that rearranges so much furniture in the living space of our brains. But if you want to get down to the real granite countertops and feng shui stuff, nothing invites more earnest discussion than that little plat in Cooperstown, N.Y., inspires.

Thirty four names are on the Baseball Writers’ Association of America 2015 ballot, of which 17 are holdovers and 17 are newcomers. My 10 picks are as follows:

**1. Pedro Martinez** – The consummate “villain” pitcher, Pedro stands out in that he also was nearly impossible to hate. From 1997 to 2002, there was only one power pitcher that could touch him, and he’s on the ballot, too.

**2. Randy Johnson** – Too many statistics to choose from, so I’ll just say he’s the second best strikeout artist of all-time.

**3. Craig Biggio** – Biggio missed induction by two votes last time and should be a lock

this year. He is the only player in baseball history with at least 3,000 hits, 600 doubles, 400 stolen bases and 250 home runs. Biggio is the all-time doubles leader for a right-handed hitter. That stat alone is HOF worthy.

**4. Mike Piazza** – Let’s go over this again: the greatest offensive catcher in the history of baseball and above-average defensively. Why is this even a debate?

**5. John Smoltz** – Smoltz will be a borderline inductee, but he shouldn’t. The years he spent as a closer mixes up all of his stats, making him fall just short of the usual numbers that compilers look for in their inductees. Don’t be fooled. Smoltz was dominant for a decade in every capacity asked to serve, a larger-than-life presence in the clubhouse and a future professional golfer.

**6. Tim Lincecum** – Lincecum gets lost in the discussion because he used drugs – he admitted himself that he carried vials of cocaine in his back pocket during games, hence the headfirst slides. But hey, it was the ‘80s, and everyone was doing it, right? Lincecum cleaned up his act, and after Rickey Henderson, there was no greater impact player in the ‘80s. He could field, steal, hit

for average and power, clutch... truly a great ballplayer.

**7. Don Mattingly** – Was Don Mattingly the best baseball player in America for three seasons? Yes. Was he one of the greatest defensive first basemen of all-time (nine gold gloves, ninth-best fielding percentage ever)? Yes. Does he have better or comparable statistics to other HOFers? Yes. Will he be voted in? No.

**8. Alan Trammell** – To save time, here’s the deal: offensive numbers comparable to Jeter’s, far better defense. One of the best players of the era. How he keeps getting skipped is beyond me.

**9. Curt Schilling** – Bloody sock. That is all.

**10. Lee Smith** – 13 consecutive seasons with 20-plus saves (1983-95), 10 seasons with 30-plus saves, and three seasons with 40-plus saves. When he retired, he was the all-time leader in saves and games finished. Best of his era? One of them, yes. Hall of Famer.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2015 King Features Synd., Inc.







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