



## NEWSBRIEFS

### 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

### Risk of tax ID theft

Texas ranks eighth in nation in ID theft complaints. To coincide with Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week, the AARP Fraud Watch Network is launching an education effort to help people protect themselves from tax scams, releasing a new video, a tip sheet and encouraging people to take advantage of AARP’s free tax preparation services. Many taxpayers are putting themselves at greater risk of tax identity theft, according to a recent national study (<http://bit.ly/1yWrOYM>) released by the AARP Fraud Watch Network in conjunction with the education campaign to help prevent scammers from stealing Texans hard-earned money. According to the Federal Trade Commission (<http://1.usa.gov/1ynuOrX>), Texas ranks eighth in ID theft complaints. In this identity theft scheme, scammers electronically file a tax return under someone else’s name to collect their tax refund. All they need is a birthdate and Social Security number, and many taxpayers make their personal information easy pickings by:

- Failing to lock their mailbox. Almost six in ten (59%) Americans do not regularly lock their mailbox, which leaves them open to a criminal stealing bills, tax forms and other documents that contain personal information.

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*There are two reasons why we don’t trust people: one, because we don’t know them; and the other, because we do.*

– Quips & Quotes



– Photo courtesy of Big Bend National Park Service

**AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE** – Even an isolated region as big, rugged and remote as Big Bend National Park, above, is subject to the ecological stresses and strains of modern development when park service managers consider catering “to the whims of concessionaires and public officials” and start thinking more about visitation counts rather than preservation of the park’s natural and cultural resources. Big Bend Park is about 300 miles southeast of El Paso.

## Environmentalists oppose building project at Big Bend National Park

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

Environmentalists from throughout the country are weighing-in on the recent announcement from the National Park Service (NPS) that it plans to build a large facility to house a proposed fossil discovery exhibit at Big Bend National Park (BBNP).

NPS Intermountain Regional Director Sue E. Masica approved this fall a BBNP finding on how building a new Fossil Discovery Exhibit in the Tornillo Flat area of the park would have no significant impact.

As word of the proposed project spreads, however, wilderness and national park advocates are expressing their opinions emphatically; most think it is a bad idea. Opponents of the exhibit facility plans have taken to social media to promote their message against the project by initiating a petition on the [change.org](http://change.org) website, and already supporters of the petition are coming from El Paso, the largest city near the park, and other Texas cities and areas of the country including California, New Mexico, Wisconsin and Oklahoma.

Marshall Carter-Tripp, past director of University of Texas at El Paso’s (UTEP) Centennial Museum said that a smart-phone trail could be constructed for very little, and would have only a tiny portion of the impact that this huge display will have. “No one is impressed by fake fossils anymore! We go to Big Bend to get away

from our over-built world. Please leave Big Bend as it is,” he commented.

Diane Devine, wife of former Park Ranger Bob Devine and a former teacher at San Vicente School at Panther Junction Park Headquarters, stated, “BBNP already

has visitor centers capable of housing displays; current staffing patterns will be stressed to cover additional exhibits, but lack of staffing could create safety issues.

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## San Elizario ISD administrator nominated for state honor

By Cynthia P. Marentes  
Special to the Courier

SAN  
ELIZARIO  
– Michael

Rodriguez, Career and Technology Education Coordinator with the San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD), has been nominated to the Career and Technical Association of Texas – Career and Technology Education Administrator of the Year award competition. Rodriguez will represent Area 11 at the 2015 Texas Career Education Winter Conference to be held in Austin during the first week of February where the winner will be announced.

Career and technology education (CTE) directors from many school districts in Area 11, which includes both El Paso and Hudspeth counties, nominated Rodriguez.

“It is an honor to be nominated by these individuals, some of whom have been in education for almost 30 years, and who feel that what I have done has made an impact and helped them in their contributions to CTE and their students,” Rodriguez said.

In order to be nominated for the Career and Technical Association of Texas



Michael Rodriguez

See RODRIGUEZ, Page 8



Finances

By Jason Alderman

Financial literacy and U.S. teens: Global study offers path for improvement

A first-time global financial literacy study shows that the keys to successful personal finance education are student perseverance and an openness to problem solving.

That’s one of the main findings in the inaugural financial literacy portion of the Program of International Student Assessment (PISA) test (<http://www.oecd.org/pisa/keyfindings/pisa-2012-results-volume-vi.htm>), which evaluated the skills and knowledge of 29,000 15-year-olds in 18 countries and economies in 2012. Final results were released in September, and PISA officials announced that the assessment of financial literacy will be offered as an optional component in 2015 testing.

PISA was launched in 2000 by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which promotes policies that support economic and social well-being around the world.

U.S. students earned an average score of 492 out of a possible 700, which ranks those teens between eighth and twelfth place among all 18 participating countries and economies, according to the PISA study. Other findings from the U.S. results:

- **About one in 10 U.S. students is a top performer – 9.4 percent, compared with 9.7 percent across OECD countries.** The report said this means they can “look ahead to solve financial problems or make the kinds of financial decisions that will be only relevant to them in the future.” It added that top performers “can take into account features of financial documents that are significant but unstated or not immediately evident, such as transaction costs, and can describe the potential outcomes of financial decisions.”
- **More than one in six U.S. students – 17.8 percent, compared with 15.3 percent across OECD countries – do not reach the “baseline level of proficiency in financial literacy.”** The report explained that “at best, these students can recognize the difference between needs and wants, can make simple decisions on everyday spending and can recognize the purpose of everyday financial documents such as an invoice.”
- **About 50 percent of all U.S. 15-year-olds said they had a bank account and were found to perform better than those who did not.** But the report said the performance gap vanished after accounting for socioeconomic status; only 32 percent of students in the lowest quartile of socioeconomic status had accounts, while 70 percent of those in the highest quartile did.

Countries with students who scored better than their U.S. counterparts seem dedicated to a nationwide, mandatory personal finance curriculum, though most programs have not been in place for very long.

The top scorer, Shanghai-China, has a history of placing financial education topics in its national curriculum that dates back to the 1970s, according to the report. It added that beginning in 2009, the Shanghai-China system has introduced “regular training on finance” throughout its “primary and lower secondary schools.”

In the Czech Republic, a working group for the nation’s ministry of finance developed financial literacy standards in 2007, defining lesson content and outcomes for education in topics ranging from “money and household budget management to financial products and consumer rights.”

Furthermore, in Australia, the nation’s education authorities “have endorsed three iterations” of the country’s National Consumer and Financial Literacy Framework since 2005. According to the PISA report, Australia’s framework helps structure consumer and financial education throughout the country’s educational system and the program has worked with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission to create MoneySmart Teaching, a resource portal for K-12 educators.

In America, more teens could improve their financial literacy if states chose to require educators.

See FINANCES, Page 8

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Wheelchair games

The 35th annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games is now taking applications for the world’s largest wheelchair sports event for disabled veterans. The games will be held in Dallas from June 21-26. Registration closes in April.

The games, run jointly by Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Department of Veterans Affairs, are a great way for disabled veterans with amputations, spinal-cord injuries or neurological injuries to live active lives through wheelchair sports. If a veteran is eligible for care from the VA, he or she is eligible to participate.

Register early, because spaces fill quickly. Call your VA therapist, if you have one, or the local chapter representative for Paralyzed Veterans.

If you’re not ready to compete this year, hook up with VA Rehabilitation Programs and Paralyzed Veterans of America in your area to get involved in sports and recreation. They can help guide you on what your next steps might be.

If you don’t know how to get started, contact Dave Tostenrude, NVWG director for the VA, at 202-560-7352 or by email at [David.Tostenrude@va.gov](mailto:David.Tostenrude@va.gov). Or you can contact Tom Brown, Paralyzed Veterans sports consultant, at 817-673-2812 or send email to [tombrown@pva.org](mailto:tombrown@pva.org).

Participating in a sport at the games isn’t the only way you can get involved. Be a volunteer – 3,000 will be needed in a multitude of capacities.

To sign up or get more information, go online to [www.wheelchairgames.org](http://www.wheelchairgames.org) or call one of the contacts above. You’ll find links to local sports clubs and adaptive sports opportunities – such as billiards, bowling, bass fishing, shooting sports and handcycling – through Paralyzed Veterans. Through the VA, you can get involved in winter sports clinics, golden-age games, summer sports clinics and more.

Make the call. It could make a big difference in your life.

*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.*

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– Photo courtesy Clint ISD

**STARTING OUT ON THE RIGHT TRACK** – Mr. and Mrs. Mark Martinez and their new baby girl received a bag of books, a baby tee with “Future Clint ISD Graduate” printed on it and other information about reading to babies. Clint ISD Superintendent Juan I. Martinez presented the family with the teaching tools.

# Clint ISD launches baby reading program for parents

By Laura Cade  
Special to the Courier

Read to your baby every day! This is what the Clint ISD Cradle to College initiative encourages parents in the District to do, to help their child prepare for school and future success.

“Our goal is to assist parents with their child’s education from birth to high school graduation so they will be ready to enter college and succeed,” said Superintendent, Juan I. Martinez.

The initiative promotes early literacy for infants by encouraging parents to read to their infant during this critical developmental stage of the brain. The simple act of enjoying books together every day beginning at birth establishes essential reading skills while building warm relationships.

Fabiola Vasquez, mother to 6-month-old Elias Vasquez, future student at Red Sands

Elementary, was one of eight parents to receive a package the day of the launch in early December. She said the books and information have come in handy and will create a culture of reading in her home.

“I think the program Cradle to College is very special,” said Vasquez. “It shows the district is interested in the education and development of our children even at an early age.”

According to the Children’s Reading Foundation, reading each day not only builds vocabulary, language, and pre-literacy skills, it provides an opportunity to build social and emotional skills that are just as important to school success.

New parents with an infant one year old or younger and who live in the District may receive books appropriate for an infant along with additional information to assist the parent with reading to their baby. To refer a new parent to this program, contact Clint ISD Public Relations at (915) 926-4058.

# Workshops to help families fill out FAFSA

By Paula Diaz  
Special to the Courier

One of the most important applications a high school student can fill out is the FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Throughout February the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, Education Division, will assist with these financial aid workshops in every school district in El Paso County. Trained bilingual volunteers will be available to help as well.

Socorro ISD (SISD) will host FAFSA Nights to help students and parents apply at each high school from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the high school’s computer labs.

The SISD workshop schedule is Feb. 2, Americas High; Feb. 4, Montwood High; Feb. 11, Eastlake High; Feb. 19, Socorro High; and Feb. 26, El Dorado High.

Students or parents in other districts should check their individual high school for dates and times.

Students can also fill out the FAFSA at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). For information, call (800) 433-3243 or (319) 337-5665; visit [StudentAid.gov/resources](http://StudentAid.gov/resources) or [www.elpaso.org](http://www.elpaso.org), go to the Divisions tab and “FAFSA Nights;” or contact your high school counselor.

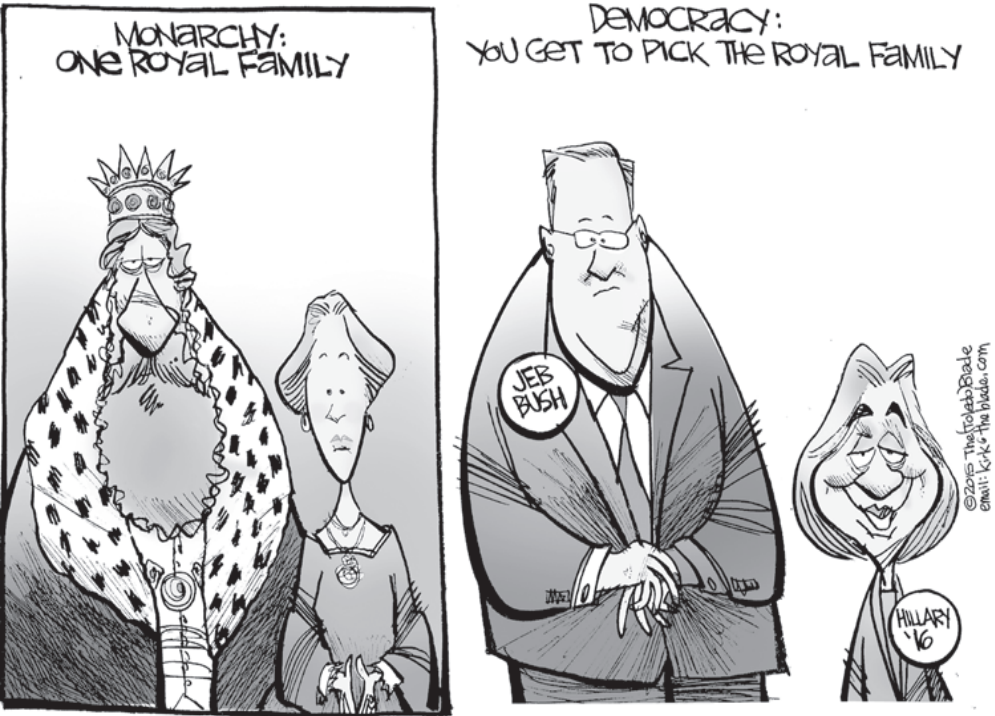
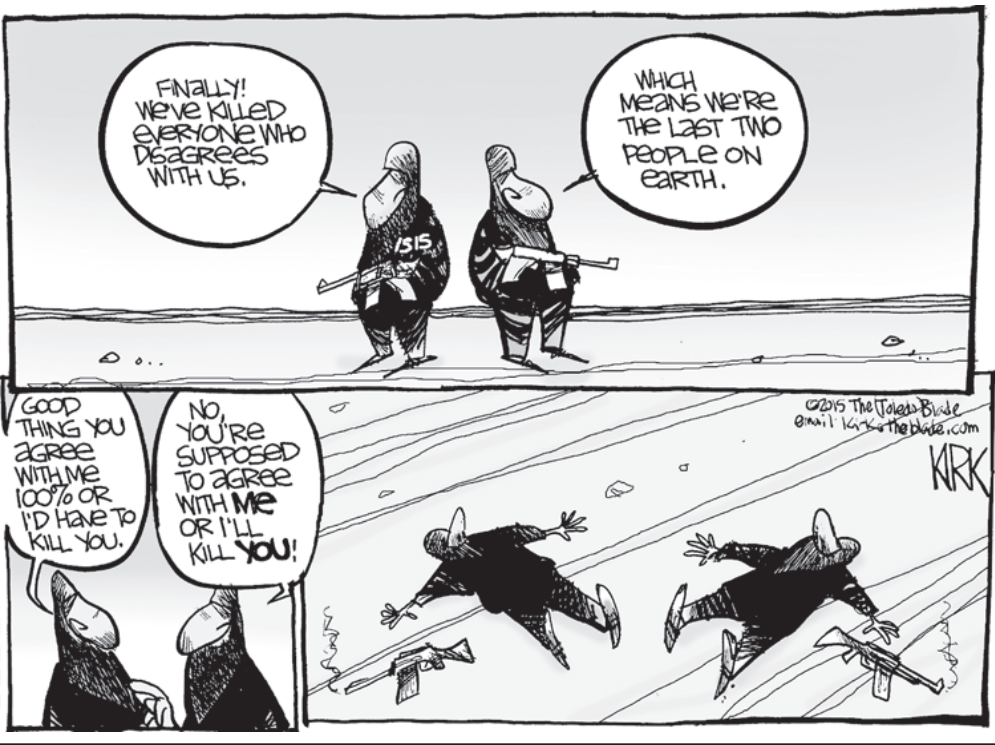
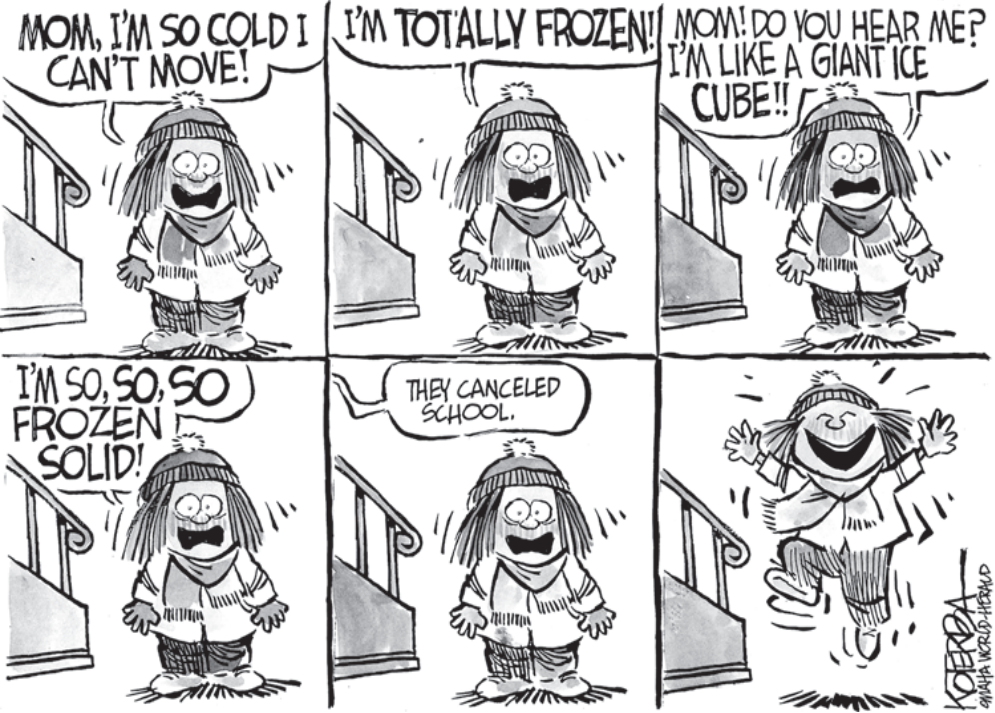
SISD high school counselors have a goal to get 100 percent senior students to Apply Texas. That means students apply once to all Texas public universities and colleges, as well as to participating community and private colleges for free, said Dianna L. Enriquez, SISD’s counselor in Guidance & Counseling Services. The numbers increase every year, but this year SISD wants every senior to take advantage of Apply Texas, she said. Students can apply at [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org).

Team SISD educators encourage all seniors to fill out FAFSA. Don’t let misconceptions about financial aid stop you from applying for the monetary aid you deserve to attend college.

**Five myths about FAFSA**

**Myth: My parents make too much money, so I won’t qualify for aid.**

**Reality: There is no income cut-off to qualify for federal student aid. Many factors besides income – from the size of your family to the age of your older**



parent – are taken into account. Your eligibility is determined by a mathematical formula, not by your parents’ income alone.

**Myth: There isn’t enough financial aid for everyone.**

**Reality: The amount of aid for college students increases almost every year. According to the College Board: More than \$185 billion in financial aid was distributed to undergraduates during the 2012-2013 academic year in the form of aid from all sources, including grants, work-study, loans, and tax credits and deductions.**

**Myth: Only students with good grades get financial help.**

**Reality: While a high grade point average will help a student get into a good school and may help with academic scholarships, most of the federal student aid programs do not take a student’s grades into consideration. Provided a student maintains satisfactory academic progress in his or her program of study, federal student aid will help a student with an average academic record complete**

his or her education.

**Myth: Only minority ethnic groups of students are eligible for financial aid.**

**Reality: The overwhelming bulk of federal, state, institutional, and private aid is not tied to ethnicity. Some private scholarships target deserving students with particular ethnic backgrounds, but most do not take ethnicity into account. FAFSA, the most common financial aid application, doesn’t even ask about your ethnicity.**

**Myth: The form is too hard to fill out.**

**Reality: The FAFSA is easier than ever, especially if you fill it out online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). There are detailed instructions for every question, and the form walks you through step by step, asking only the questions that apply to you. If you need help, you can access real-time, private online chat with a customer service representative. If you’re filling out the paper FAFSA, you can get help from a high school counselor, the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend or our toll-free number: (800) 433-3243. And remember, FAFSA and all these sources of advice are free.**





## Big Bend

From Page 1

Have use statistics justified a need for a new exhibit?”

Mark Kirtley, who has worked as a volunteer at the park for many years, summed up much of the opposition to the exhibit when he said, “I’ve listened to thousands of visitors talk about why they love Big Bend. They often speak of a peace engendered by the wide-open spaces, a quality that the Park Service normally fiercely protects and a quality that buildings impact. Driving the gravel Old Ore Road or even the paved park road from Persimmon Gap to Panther Junction can feel like paradise, but a large exhibit at Fossil Bone, even a lovely one, would somewhat spoil the experience. Doesn’t the Organic Act mandate that we preserve the scenery? And cannot education at a national park occur without compromising its beauty? Visitors do like wayside exhibits, but my impression is that they prefer the intimate and personal feel of the small ones, like the one at Anna Hanford’s grave.”

“Many people who have fought against development project proposals in the park in the past believe that the park’s staff was able to gain support for the project by focusing solely on financial support from the friends group. Unlike environmental groups that are willing to be critical of park management actions, historically most National Park Friends Groups and Cooperating Associations support nearly everything that parks want them to. I saw this first hand when

I worked for two of them over a 14-year period,” stated Rick LoBello, an environmentalist from El Paso.

“You would think that park staff would demonstrate a greater passion for conserving the park by focusing more on protecting park resources and working on plans to reintroduce extirpated species like the gray wolf and desert bighorn. I understand that there are also problems with exotic species like European wild boars and exotic plants species,” LoBello stated.

Opponents of the project contend that there was very little effort by the park to alert the public to the proposal and to seek input from wilderness advocate groups like the Sierra Club. Big Bend Sierra Club member Roger Siglin, a former BBNP ranger who lives in Alpine TX, said that the “building design and size is totally inappropriate for the current location and would be out of place anywhere else in Big Bend NP. My experiences in Big Bend go back to 1966 when I was a ranger there. The existing exhibit is a disgrace and should be removed. I was therefore pleased when I heard the park was planning a new one. But the proposed structure to house exhibits is ugly beyond anything I might have imagined. I have frequently hiked in the hills across Tornillo Creek and this structure will impact the wilderness experience because it will be highly visible for hiking off of the Old Ore Road.”

LoBello said that when he visited the park in the fall he decided to make a YouTube video of the area where the proposed exhibit will be located to help



– Photo courtesy of Big Bend National Park Service

**ROCKING IT – One of the many beautiful sights in Big Bend National Park.**

people better understand the project and what the NPS has planned.

“Unfortunately the park did a very poor job in spreading the word about the new exhibit when an Environmental Assessment (EA) process was announced. What was shown and described in the EA documents did little to help the general public truly understand the big picture of the project,” LoBello claimed.

According the park’s geologist Don Corrick, the project will have a potential footprint of 4,000 square feet. Corrick

stated that the project will be fully funded by donations gathered by the Friends of Big Bend National Park, and that the project will not proceed until the fundraising is complete, so a timeline is not available.

LoBello is urging interested individuals to watch his You Tube video and to voice their concern about protecting the wilderness experience at BBNP by contacting their elected state and federal representatives as well as by signing the petition at [iloveparks.com](http://iloveparks.com).

**Archives: [www.wtxcc.com](http://www.wtxcc.com)**

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# If the Super Bowl is as good as the controversy...

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

It’s finally here. The Super Bowl, the biggest game of the year is upon us and fans all over the world are getting ready. The Seattle Seahawks and the New England Patriots will battle it out this Sunday in Arizona to claim NFL bragging rights for an entire year. Oh yeah, there’s a whole bunch of money at stake too. There’s always a ton of anticipation heading into the contest. How will the players play? How will the coaches coach? Who will be the unsung hero? Who will be the goat? Those questions get answered every year and the results live on for eternity. But the anticipation isn’t always associated with what happens on the field. There are questions concerning what kind of a halftime show Katy Perry will put on. Fans are wondering whether this week’s commercials will compare favorably to Super Bowl commercials of the past. Of course it wouldn’t be a Super

Bowl without a touch of controversy. And this year’s championship game has generated so much controversy that nobody has spent any time talking about New England’s offensive tendencies or Seattle’s relentless defense. All the talk surrounding this Super Bowl, as all of you know, has been famously labeled as “Deflategate.” The question is whether the Patriots deliberately deflated the footballs illegally in their playoff game against the Indianapolis Colts. The answer is a very simple one – of course they did! Because the Patriots won 45-7, many fans are saying that the deflated balls didn’t give the team an advantage. But that’s not the question. The question is whether the Patriots tried to gain a slight advantage by letting a little bit of the air out. And Patriots’ quarterback Tom Brady is on record saying, a few years ago, that he liked his footballs a little more deflated than the norm. With Russian forces on the move again in the Ukraine, with ISIS thugs terrorizing somebody somewhere and with free speech under attack in France – deflating a few footballs may seem pretty trivial.

But remember that this is not the first time Bill Belichick and his Patriots have been caught cheating. Back in 2007, Belichick was caught and admitted to videotaping New York Jets practices to steal signals and familiarize themselves with Jets plays. That was a clear violation of NFL rules and Belichick was fined \$500,000 for the “mistake,” as he called it. If nothing else the Patriots are certainly societal trendsetters. They are the first team in professional sports to have two separate “gate” controversies attributed to them. Those sneaky camera sessions back in 2007 resulted in Spygate. And now we have Deflategate. Of course Belichick and Brady have both denied knowing how in the world 11 of the 12 balls they used were under-inflated, which gives anyone a better grip. They had no clue how all of the Colts’ balls had the proper inflation and theirs didn’t. My father-in-law told me a long time ago that he was born at night – but not last night! But the fun doesn’t end there. When I mentioned earlier that every

Super Bowl brings with it a touch of controversy, I meant it – literally. The other controversy involves Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch and the “touch” is his unusual need to grab his crotch after a touchdown. Lynch is known for being one of the most brutal runners in the history of the league. He’s also known for collecting fines from the league for not meeting his obligations to talk to the media after games. Lynch is also known for being arrested on gun charges, assault, hit and run, theft and driving under the influence. There’s been rumors flying around that the Seahawks organization has grown weary of Lynch’s troublesome antics and will consider trading him after the Super Bowl. It remains to be seen whether Seattle will do that and it also remains to be seen whether Lynch will give another vulgar salute to the fans if he scores. Oh, I almost forgot, there will be a game this Sunday. It turns out that the most important question of all is whether the actual game will come anywhere close to as exciting as all the pregame hype has been.

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

### The crack of the bat

Each year the selections are scrutinized and the parameters are parsed, the voters are vetoed by the viewers at home, and those who make it to the hallowed haven beckon their brethren to the celestial confines known to one and all as the Hall... of Fame, that is, the one in Cooperstown, New York. For baseball fans, discussing the baseball Hall of Fame is the closest thing to nicotine or crack cocaine – we know it leads to addiction, and you are never satisfied, but you still keep going back for more, knowing that punishment

awaits. This year’s HOF inductees – Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez, John Smoltz and Craig Biggio – were all players that I actively stumped for. My remaining six choices – Mike Piazza, Alan Trammell, Curt Schilling, Tim Lincecum, Lee Smith and Don Mattingly – did not fare as well, but it appears that Piazza, Schilling and Lincecum are trending in the right direction and one day will be enshrined. Piazza, the greatest hitting catcher of all-time, which is really saying something when

you consider Johnny Bench, Yogi Berra, Carlton Fisk, Gary Carter, Roy Campanella, Thurman Munson and Rick Cerone all played the game too, will more than likely make the cut next year. Schilling, every bit as dominant as Glavine, Martinez, Maddux and Johnson in his own way, saw a big bump in votes this year, and it appears he will be taking the meandering Bert Blyleven route to Cooperstown. Lincecum will end up in the Hall, if not voted in proper, he will be brought in by the veterans committee. The same fate likely will await Trammell. Jeff Bagwell and first-timer Gary Sheffield did not make the cut, and Bagwell did not show any great movement from last

year’s vote. Both are tarred with the suspicion of PED use. This also is why I left both off my ballot. Piazza, too, has had to dodge this question, but I chose to look the other way. Why? I am a hypocrite, I guess. Maybe it’s because he’s Catholic, or Italian, or because he was clutch. Maybe because he didn’t show signs of ‘roid rage when Roger Clemens threw a baseball at his head and a bat at his feet at the turn of the century. Just spitballin’ here. I wouldn’t give up on Bagwell or Sheffield, particularly if Sheffield can mount an eloquent defense of his offensive marks. That he was a loudmouth and considered to be a clubhouse cancer should have little bearing on his Hall chances. While

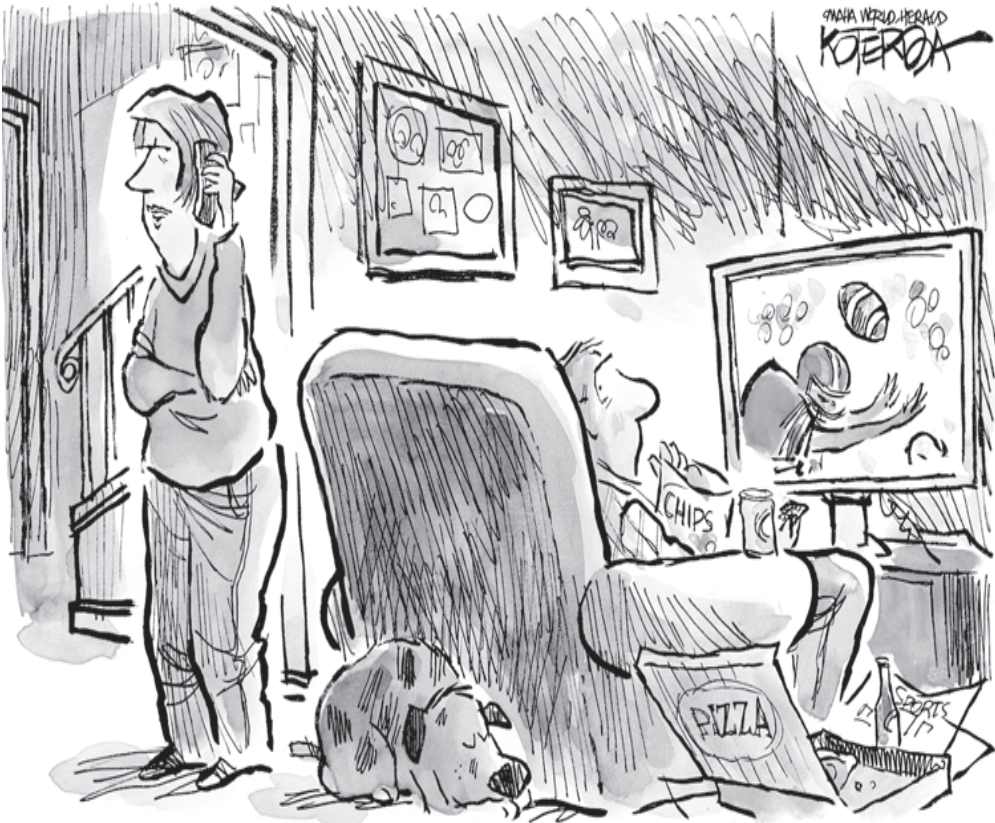
he was outspoken, he was not necessarily a detriment to any team. Selfish? Perhaps. But who cares? He could flat-out hit. Bagwell and Edgar Martinez will benefit by having this class going to bat for them. Johnson and Biggio already have started their campaigns in earnest, and their voices will be considered. The lost cause in all of this is Don Mattingly. After all of these years, all of the statistics, I have to know when to kick the habit. You can’t say I didn’t go to bat for you, Hitman. If there was a Hall of Very, Very Good, though, you’d be my first inductee. Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2015 King Features Synd., Inc.

## SISD Board Trustees approve school bus stop-arm camera system resolution

By Christina Flores-Jones  
Special to the Courier

Socorro ISD Board of Trustees approved a resolution in support of a district-wide camera system on school buses to catch bus stop-arm violators and ensure safer streets in the Team SISD community. The resolution was presented at the Jan. 20 regular Board of Trustees meeting. The board approved the contract for the state-of-the-art camera system and for district staff to move forward in implementing the program district-wide at the December 2014 board meeting. The cameras take images of vehicles that ignore and pass buses with the

stop-arm out. Team SISD tested the bus camera system on 10 of the district’s school buses last spring semester. The cameras will assist the district in fulfilling its top priority of providing a safe and secure environment for all students. A recent national news story reported the Department of Transportation says that 23 million children ride a school bus every day and according to the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Information Services, vehicles pass stopped school buses more than 70,000 times a day, even though passing one with its lights flashing is illegal in all 50 states. SISD transports about 12,000 students daily to and from schools district-wide.



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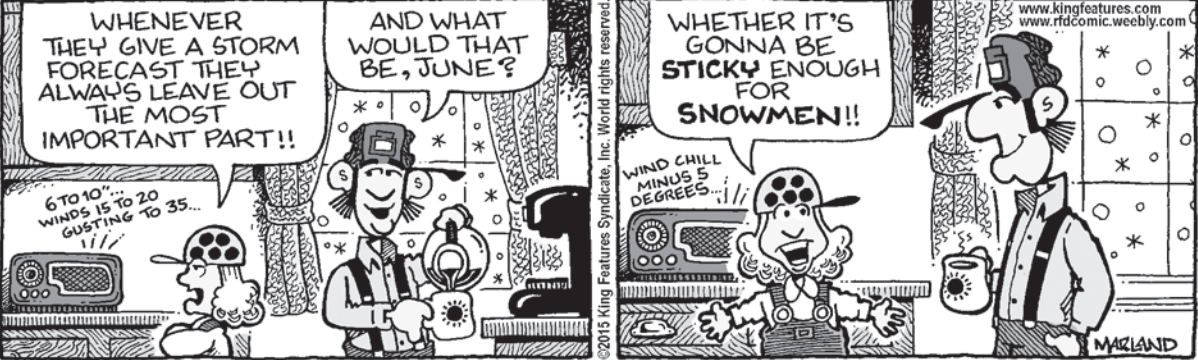
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By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Super Crossword

- SIX FROM THE FAB FOUR

ACROSS

1 Approach intrusively

7 Lamerter's sound

11 Process of going bad

19 Attach with heat, as a patch

20 Heart sections

22 When shows are broadcast

23 Butler or maid

25 Fish also called a largemouth

26 Mop

27 At that point

28 CNN anchor Burnett

30 China's Mao \_-tung

31 1960s reform movement in China

38 "Sid the Science Kid" network

41 Tracker maker, once

42 Convert to the Koran's religion

43 Chevy model

45 Suffix with towel

48 Korean, Thai or Chinese

52 Precipitating heavily

57 Big Apple sch.

58 Off-white

59 March composer
- John Philip \_

60 Cease

61 Lives (in)

63 It lures fish

65 Loss of memory

67 Posed (for)

68 "Stop thinking of me as so naive"

74 " \_ recall..."

75 Headlined

76 Dying words from Caesar

77 Inflicts upon

79 Honshu sash

80 Small piece

83 Ad biz prize

87 Collaborator

88 Person in the third decade of life

91 Frantic scramble

94 Correct copy

95 Hitchcock classic

96 Light blue avenue in Monopoly

100 Neat \_ pin

101 Announcer Hall

102 American flier with scarlet patches

109 Special time

110 Tabula \_

111 Postal letters

112 Get in return

116 Person petting

120 What the last words of 23-, 31-, 52-, 68-, 88- and 102-Across are

124 Unusual

125 1983 Streisand
- film

126 Holy rings

127 Property of a magnet

128 Solar output

129 Fully ready

DOWN

1 Bails out, e.g.

2 Brag loudly

3 Unconscious state

4 Final non-A.D. year

5 "Mayday!"

6 Blast source

7 \_ Picchu (Peruvian site of Incan ruins)

8 Alternative

9 Game venue

10 Zip

11 Mouth liquid

12 Billy Joel hit

13 Planet Mork came from

14 Suffix with social

15 Ad-\_

16 Rare violin

17 Undercoat for painting on wood

18 West German city

21 People who mimic

24 "What's \_ ya?"

29 Brother or aunt: Abbr.

32 Tangelo trademark

33 Tilts one's body toward
- 34 Bank claim

35 Fleur-de-\_

36 Israeli arm

37 Poke fun at

38 Conduit

39 Coll. hotshot

40 Motivate

44 Island near Venezuela

45 College Web site suffix

46 Set-\_ (sharp fights)

47 Old United rival

49 Oklahoma oil city

50 Mosaic work

51 Certain skin bulge

53 "You \_ see this!"

54 \_ Martin (cognac)

55 British queen

56 "Beware the \_ of March!"

61 Coke Zero alternative

62 Witch's blemish

64 Secy., e.g.

65 Moreover

66 Vapor

68 Land in water, in Italy

69 Use, as a tool

70 Sweat of one's \_

71 "Kill \_ killed!"

72 Hold in check

73 Small state ruled by a sovereign

74 Eve's man

78 Actor Max von \_

80 Rocker Barrett
- 81 CBS drama

82 Turn rancid

84 Pet parasites

85 With a sharp picture, for short

86 Hymn start

88 Epithet for Alexander

89 Be a ratfink

90 Alexis I., e.g.

92 Jackie's hubby #2

93 Offense

97 Almost

98 Six-pt. plays

99 Cry like \_

100 Amply skilled

102 Rundown

103 Bards' Muse

104 Singer Hall

105 Oven maker

106 Spiteful

107 Passes idly, as time

108 Dryly funny

113 Slaughter of baseball

114 James with a Pulitzer

115 Discreet call

117 MPG monitor

118 Chaplin's title

119 \_-fi flick

121 Always, poetically

122 Oldies group \_ Na Na

123 "Tonka" star Mineo

Your good health

By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 95 now and take no medications. My primary-care doctor wants me to take aspirin, even just the baby aspirin, twice a week. Some of the supplements I take do have blood-thinning characteristics, and for that reason I am fighting the aspirin recommendation. In general, is it OK to refuse the recommendation of one's doctor? – F.V.

It is your body, and you have every right to make decisions about your treatment. However, you should be very circumspect about overruling your doctor, and you should be doing so for very good reasons. Your doctor has the obligation to tell you why he or she is recommending a treatment and what the downsides are from not taking it. You, on the other hand, are obliged to tell your doctor the truth.

In your case, it sounds like you don't want to take the aspirin because you feel the supplements you are taking have a similar effect to aspirin. Very few supplements, if any, have been studied as well as aspirin has. Aspirin has a clear risk of side effects, especially bleeding, but most evidence shows that it reduces the risk of heart attack more than it increases the risk of bleeding. It also might reduce cancer risk.

The higher the risk of heart disease, the better aspirin is, in terms of risks versus benefits. At 95, your risk for heart attack is higher than a 50-year-old's, and so it would be expected to have more benefit than harm. So while I agree with your doctor to take it, I also respect your decision not to.

Be sure you discuss your supplements with your doctor.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have had stomach pain on my lower left side for several months. Other symptoms include occasional heartburn, bloating and almost

constant burping. My doctor is treating it with metronidazole, clarithromycin and omeprazole. Could these be symptoms of stomach cancer? – D.W.

Abdominal pain, heartburn and belching are nonspecific symptoms that can be associated with many conditions. The most common would be GERD (gastro-esophageal reflux disease), gastritis and stomach ulcer. The combination of medications your doctor is treating you with is for the bacteria H. pylori, which can cause gastritis and ulcers. Eradication of the infection, which is very common, can heal ulcers and relieve symptoms. H. pylori can be diagnosed definitively by a breath test or a stool test, or by biopsy of the stomach. A blood test shows evidence of old infection, but it isn't completely accurate.

Stomach cancer has vague symptoms as well, and requires a high degree of suspicion. Stomach symptoms that don't improve with treatment, or that have worrisome features like weight loss, early satiety (the feeling of being full after eating only a small amount of food) or bleeding should cause the doctor to consider an endoscopy to look at the stomach. New onset of symptoms in someone over 55 also should be considered for endoscopy.

Treatment of H. pylori may reduce future risk of gastric cancer (that's stomach cancer).

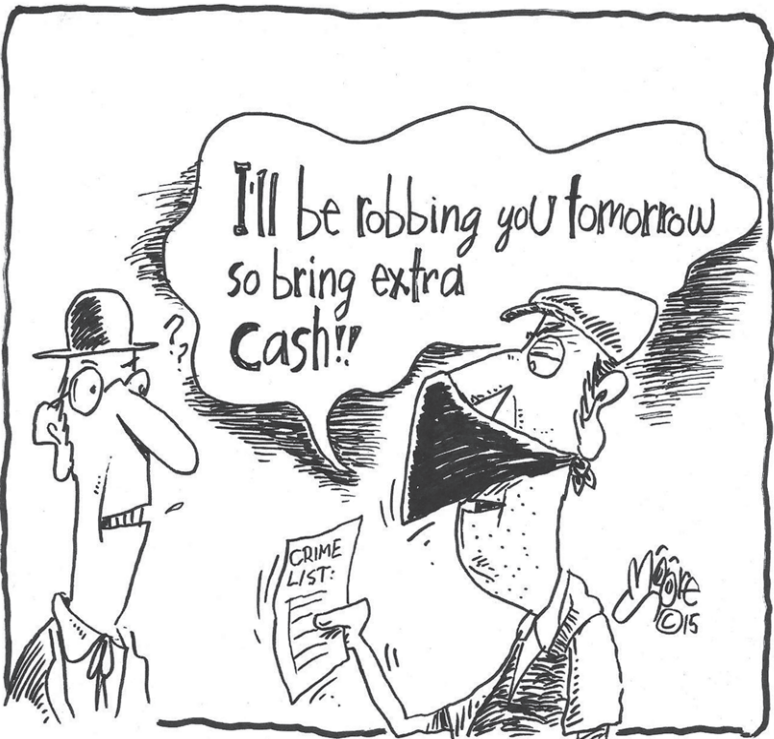
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu). To view and order health pamphlets, visit [www.rbmamall.com](http://www.rbmamall.com), or write to P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. (c) 2015 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.



MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

There is a Texas law that prohibits a crime from being committed without 24 hour's notice by the alleged criminal.



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		7
+		+		-	
	+		-		7
÷		÷		x	
	÷		+		6
1		3		8	

1 2 3 4 4 5 6 7 8

Answer Page 4 © 2015 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

From Page 4

the U.S. Websites typically request personal identifiers and credit card information that could be used for identity theft. These websites are not associated with TWC or any other state workforce agency. In a related incident, one Texas claimant was asked to purchase a credit report and to get a health insurance quote before filing a claim. TWC does not require individuals to purchase anything or pay a fee to file for

unemployment benefits. These websites are selling information and services provided for free by TWC and other state agencies. Individuals having attempted to apply for UI benefits using a third-party website need to contact TWC at 800-939-6631 or 512-463-2236 to submit their claim. Confidential information given to a third-party website could be used for identity theft. An online Identity Theft Information Guide from the Texas Department of Public Safety provides useful tips, if you believe you are a victim of identity theft. TWC administers

UI benefits to workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own and are actively seeking work. To file a claim or to find out more about unemployment benefits go to [www.texasworkforce.org/unemploymentbenefits](http://www.texasworkforce.org/unemploymentbenefits). To avoid becoming a victim of scams, visit the Texas Office of the Attorney General online at [www.oag.state.tx.us/consumer/scams.shtml](http://www.oag.state.tx.us/consumer/scams.shtml) or [www.onguardonline.gov](http://www.onguardonline.gov), managed by the Federal Trade Commission, for more information.

– Lisa Givens

Rodriguez

From Page 1

(CTAT) state award an individual must have demonstrated contributions to the success of CTE through the quality of their work and involvement in the CTE community. Some of Rodriguez’ accomplishments have included setting up distance meetings with outlying school districts; establishing new partnerships to close gaps between business and industry; hosting regional CTE conferences, creating the

district’s first K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Expo; adding a robotics course for all students in 5th and 6th grades; proposing engineering courses for middle and high school students; designing the new STEM building which was part of the district’s bond election; and increasing the number of SEISD students participating in CTE competitions.

Rodriguez has been the CTE Coordinator for SEISD since October 2013. Previously he served as the Region 19 CTE

Specialist from 2011 to 2013 and Tech-Prep Director from 1998-2011. He is a graduate of University of Phoenix and holds an MBA with an emphasis in Business and Technology Management.

The CTE program at SEISD currently offers 10, two-year pathways for students in different industries such as advertising and graphic design, CISCO, automotive technology, building trades, etc.

CTAT is an organization of professionals with the common goal of preparing students for the high-tech, high-skill careers of the 21st century. The purpose of the CTAT Awards is to promote excellence in career and technical education and to spotlight individuals who have made meaningful and long-lasting contributions to CTE.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: M equals P

KU JGL MOMMLJ GIQZV ZIIZV

QLWL JI QLZ SBJWLYY

UOPKBLCCI, QIOCZ S NSWKIPLJLL

NSWWV SPPLJJL?

Answer Page 4

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Finances

From Page 2

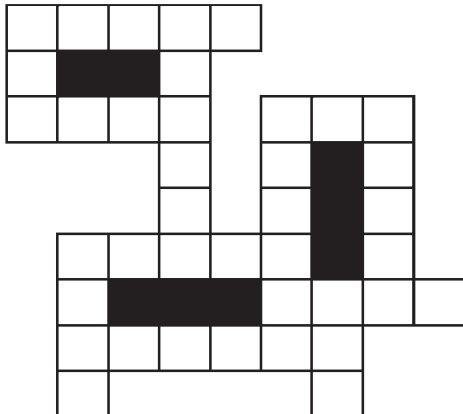
mandatory personal finance training as a requirement for high school graduation. The Council for Economic Education reported that as of 2014, only 17 states required students to take a high school course in personal finance or that personal finance be included in an economics or civics course as a graduation requirement (<http://www.councilforeconed.org/news-information/survey-of-the-states/>). That’s compared to 13 states in 2011. However, only six states (Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Missouri, Michigan and Texas) required testing of that material last year. The Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy reported that only four states (Missouri, Tennessee, Utah and Virginia) require at least a one-semester course devoted to personal finance.

**Bottom line:** The results from the first-ever global high school financial literacy test show that organized and systemwide personal finance training helps students excel at money management.

Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs.



LYP  
♥ CREEPI  
DYLEO  
♥ PRAS  
LATINE  
DIL  
♥ MACL  
URREL  
♥ REA  
♥ REMPI  
♥ CADLE  
RITD



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](http://rbmamall.com)