



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

CAMPSITE – Local officials of the Yucca Council of the Boy Scouts of America are talking to Texas Transportation Commissioners about leasing 222 acres of old quarry land which includes a small lake in its midst Scout leaders would like to convert the site that lies between Interstate 10 and Paisano Drive (north of Executive Center Boulevard and south of Sunland Park Drive) into one of the largest urban Boys Scout camps in the country.

Boy Scouts consider camp lease in El Paso

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso County may soon be home to one of the largest urban Boy Scouts camps in the United States as the Texas Transportation Commission Chairman Ted Houghton announced recently that the transportation commission has given permission to lease state land in El Paso for use as a Boy Scouts camp.

The transportation commission voted to lease 222 acres between Interstate 10 and Paisano Drive to the Yucca Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The parcel lies north of Executive Center Boulevard and south of Sunland Park Drive.

According to news reports, Roland Tilden, of Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Real Estate Management Division, told commissioners that the scouts and TXDOT still must negotiate the lease, but that it will probably run for 25 years and include an option for another 25.

Plans are to have the transportation

commission lease the land to the Scouts for a nominal amount, and officials said that the state is waiving a requirement that it seek fair-market value for the property for social mitigation purposes.

Houghton stated that using the mostly

old quarry land for campgrounds is a marvelous idea. He said that El Paso-area Boy Scouts currently rent land to camp in the mountains of New Mexico. “Now they’ve got something local,” he added.

The property to be leased had been owned by Mexican concrete producer Cemex. It is part of a 494-acre parcel that was acquired a couple of years ago by TXDOT to build the Loop 375 Border West Expressway.

Financial aid night helps San Eli families get ready for college costs

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Over one hundred San Elizario families have started the process to begin accessing billions of federal student aid available to help pay for their children’s college education. On February 5, San Elizario High School hosted the annual Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Night where students and parents received assistance in completing the federal financial aid application.

FAFSA Nights is a month-long program held during February in high schools throughout El Paso County with the goal of increasing the number of students who



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

MONEY – EPCC representative Elida Rivas helps San Elizario High School senior Julissa Elorza and mom Esperanza Elorza with their online FAFSA submission. Julissa hopes to attend the University of Texas at San Antonio.

*Between two evils, choose neither;
between two goods, choose both.*
— Quips & Quotes

Finances

By Jason Alderman

Starting Roth IRAs for your grandkids

Many grandparents go above and beyond to offer financial help to adult children and grandchildren. If you're seeking to contribute to your grandkids' financial future, one option might involve opening a custodial Roth IRA (<http://www.irs.gov/Retirement-Plans/Roth-IRAs>) on your grandchild's behalf as soon as he or she starts reporting earned income.

While grandparents often find 529 college savings plans advantageous for their personal estate planning as well as supporting their grandchild's educational future, custodial Roth IRAs (<http://www.irs.gov/Retirement-Plans/Roth-IRAs>) may allow for more flexibility depending on the child's future needs. For example, a young adult may use tax-free Roth IRA proceeds to fund education expenses not covered by savings or a down payment on a first home. Roth IRAs may also be a useful and collaborative savings tool for important expenses young adults have, such as continuing education or a down payment on a first home.

Unlike traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs are funded with after-tax dollars. That means the account holder doesn't get a tax break at the time of initial or successive deposits, but the money grows tax-free and can be withdrawn tax-free – a benefit for a grandchild who may need a substantial sum in the years to come. Learn more about Roth IRAs by watching this Khan Academy video. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NF-x9hDZD7Y>)

Here's an example of how much an initial \$2,000 deposit in a Roth custodial IRA can grow. For an account opened at the time the child is 16, the \$2,000 opening deposit

– without any more money added to the account – could be worth roughly \$55,000 at the time the child reaches age 65 assuming a 7 percent expected rate of return.

What if the child needs to make a tax-free withdrawal sooner, such as at age 35, for example? Based on the same earnings calculation as above, he or she would receive a less impressive sum of roughly \$7,200. Of course, it remains a potential solution if there is a severe need for cash.

In 2015, the annual contribution limit for all IRAs is \$5,500. It is possible, though not that easy, for a minor to open a Roth IRA on his or her own, which is why it's good for grandparents – or any qualifying friend or relative – to shop for custodial accounts with low fees and low investment minimums to start. This is compounded annually.

As you evaluate a decision to open a custodial Roth IRA, check with the broker and the account administrator on any institutional or state rules on custodial accounts and what information you'll need to open one. Depending on those rules, there's a chance that grandparents may not be able to open the custodial account directly and you will have to work through their parents or legal guardian to get started.

Also, consider the following: **Make sure you're financially**

secure. The MetLife study notes that many grandparents tend to overextend their financial support when it comes to family members in need. Seek advice from financial, tax and estate professionals on how much you can reasonably afford to give and the best means to do so.

Coordinate with your grandchild's parents or guardian. It is important for family members to remain open about all money issues, particularly in relation to minors. Discuss what provisions the parents have made for the child and whether your idea complements financial strategies already in place. If not, keep talking and discuss other ways you can help.

Consider your grandchild's potential handling of the account. When your grandchildren reach legal age or meet other key requirements of the account, they can take control of the money. Will they be ready? If not, evaluate other investment vehicles that better meet your objectives.

Bottom line: Setting up a custodial Roth IRA may be a good way for grandparents and grandchildren to work on retirement or other financial goals.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

VA's prestige plummets

How we view the Department of Veterans Affairs depends on which survey we read.

Back in 2013, in a poll modeled after the American Customer Satisfaction Index, a majority of veterans approved of their care at the VA. Specifically, veterans rated their care at 84 for inpatient and 82 for outpatient, generally along the lines of civilian hospitals.

Recently though, a general population poll done by think-tank organization Pew Research concluded that the VA is the third most unpopular U.S. government agency. While the ratings for most agencies have stayed generally the same over the years, the favorable opinion ratings for the VA plunged 16 percent in one year.

What happened between the two? Likely it was all the bad news: the disclosure of schedule rigging at VA medical centers for the purpose of increasing bonuses, with the focal point being Phoenix; the resignation of Eric Shinseki, probably the best secretary the VA has ever had; and

allegations that the delays in treatment at Phoenix caused the deaths of 40 veterans.

While it could be said that we're comparing apples and oranges (veterans getting care versus the opinions of the general population), it should be noted that the ACSI veterans survey was not anonymous. Surveyors called veterans at their homes already having their names, phone numbers and addresses as provided by the VA. The Pew survey was dialed randomly.

A more recent survey of employee attitudes at the VA paints the most damaging picture of all. Employees voted the VA as the second-worst place to work out of 19 government agencies. Just one year before, the VA ranked as 13th out of 19.

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) 2015 King Features Synd., Inc.

1973
42
Years
2015

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THURSDAY
FEB. 12
VS CHARLOTTE / 7 PM

SATURDAY
FEB. 14
VS OLD DOMINION / 7 PM

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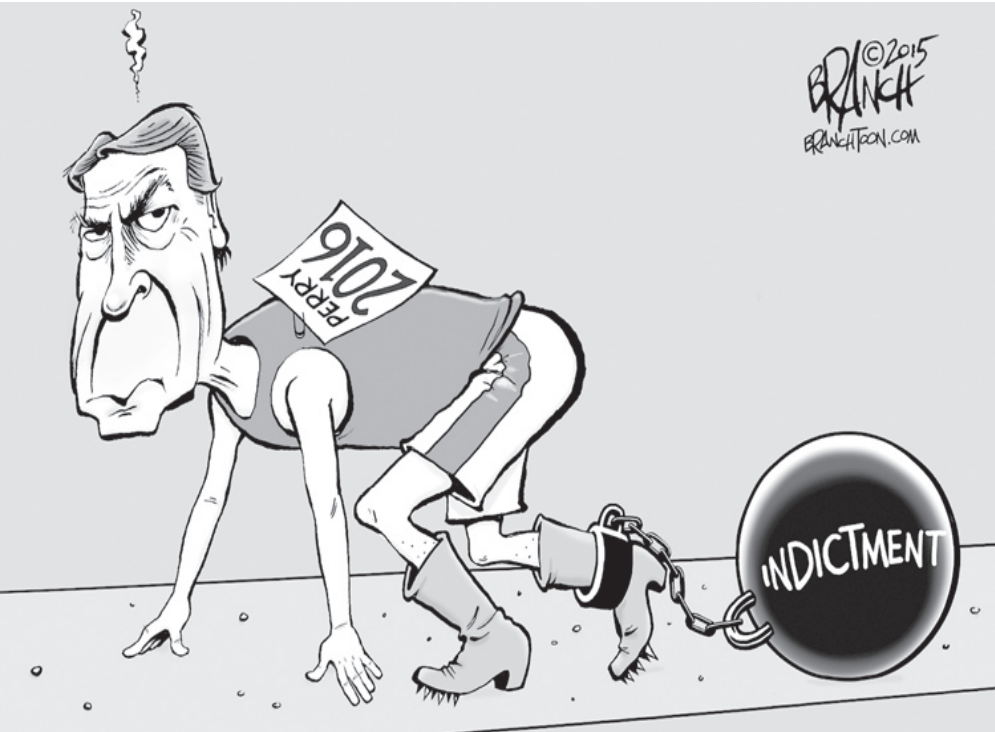
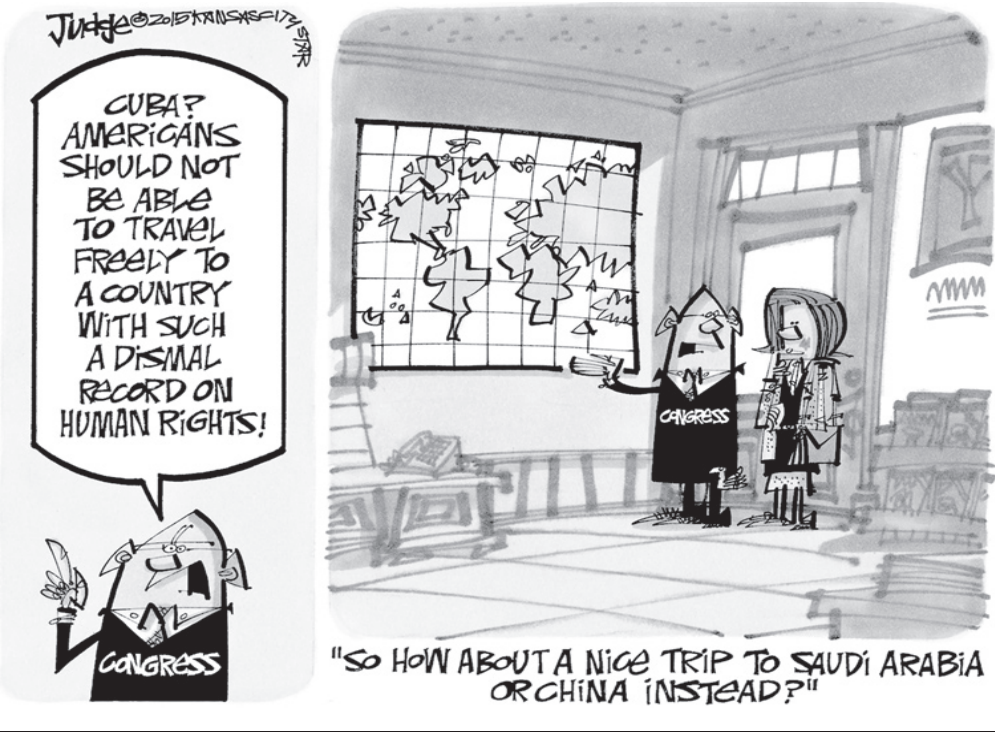
UTEP WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

THURSDAY
FEB. 5
VS FLORIDA ATLANTIC / 7 PM

SATURDAY
FEB. 7
VS FIU / 2 PM



500
ESPN
EL PASO



View from here

By Mac Clemmens

Net neutrality

If you're reading this online, thank net neutrality.

Net neutrality is the principle that all Internet content must be delivered equally. This article shouldn't be transmitted more slowly than another one. Your cat video shouldn't be given priority over a TED Talk. More importantly, your small business' website shouldn't be loaded slower than Amazon's. Put it this way: Net neutrality prevents preferential treatment; it is freedom from interference.

That freedom is crucial to businesses large and small. According to Fast Company, Amazon calculated that just one more second of page loading time could cost \$1.6 billion in sales each year. Amazon could probably handle that loss, but most small businesses probably couldn't, and some might not get off the ground. Imagine if Hulu or Netflix had, in their infancy, been forced to pay high fees or face tortoise-like loading speeds.

So when the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a proposal that would have allowed Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to slow down traffic and charge a fee for higher speeds, small businesses took notice.

My company serves nonprofits – churches, domestic violence groups, educational institutions – groups that cannot afford to pay for faster speeds. Yet without Net Neutrality, commercially-sponsored content would be streamed in no time, while groups like these which are dedicated to helping people could see their speeds slow to a crawl. Our mission is to empower people who do good in the world. This proposal would be devastating to that goal, and the groups we work with.

As many as four million people commented on the proposal, with the vast majority supporting net neutrality and less than 1% opposed. Business groups like the American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC) joined in, helping to make the business case for net neutrality: too many businesses simply can't afford to have their communications slowed.

The FCC should understand that there's a sure-fire way to protect net neutrality: reclassify broadband to fit under Title II of the Telecommunications Act, thereby giving the FCC the power to ensure that consumers be protected.

The reclassification argument has support from none other than President Obama. "For almost a century," he explained, "our law has recognized that companies who connect you to the world have special obligations not to exploit the monopoly they enjoy. It is common sense that the same philosophy should guide any service that is based on the transmission of information—whether a phone call, or a packet of data."

Small businesses need net neutrality – as does the economy as a whole. We can't have a system where established companies with deeper pockets play by a different set of rules. That runs contrary to the American entrepreneurial spirit. That's why net neutrality has strong support on both sides of the political aisle.

ISPs have argued that reclassifying broadband under Title II will harm consumers – that too much regulation would snuff out investment and innovation, and lead to larger bills. It is understandable that the industry would not want additional regulation. But in reality, reclassification would simply legally enforce the status quo. The Internet now is a place where content gets distributed equally, without forcing people to pay for the privilege. That's the way it should stay.

Yes, ISPs would lose a potential revenue stream. But, considering ISPs have already created an artificial scarcity in broadband by locking up a large percentage of metropolitan fiber in agreements with municipalities, that's a poor argument.

ISPs in many parts of the country already benefit from a near-total lack of competition, and our Internet speeds are slower – and cost more – than in many other countries. Letting ISPs interfere with traffic will only make matters worse – the Internet that works best is the one that works with the least interference.

We need an Internet that's open and free to all, and we must ensure that all American businesses can remain competitive, both domestically and globally. Covering broadband under Title II may not be ideal, but it's currently our best hope to ensure the Internet remains a place for innovation.

Clemmens is the Chief Executive Officer of Digital Deployment, a Sacramento-based web development company specializing in content management systems.

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Texas Department of Transportation

INFORMATIVE MEETING

FM 258 (Socorro Rd.) – BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

**From 2.52 Miles west of FM 258 (Socorro Rd.)/SH20 (Alameda Ave.) Intersection
to 2.39 Miles east of FM 258 (Socorro Rd.)/SH 20 (Alameda Ave.) Intersection**

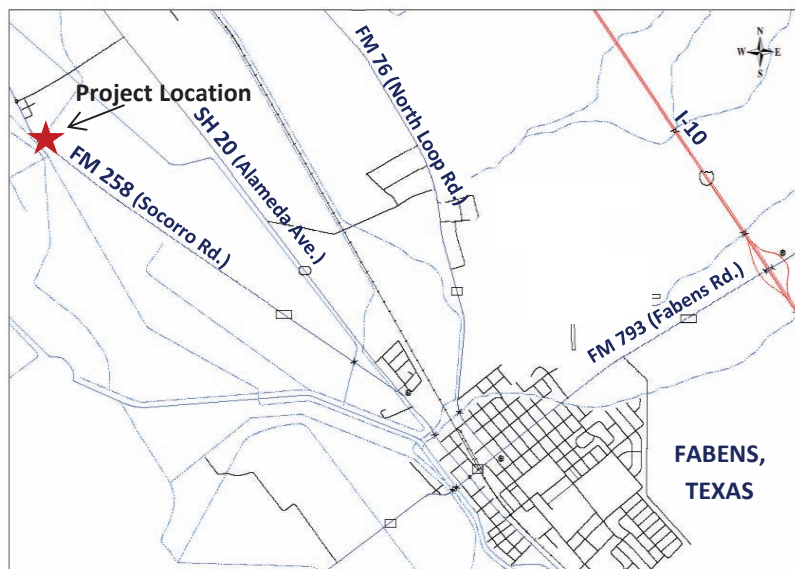
El Paso County, Texas
CSJ: 0002-14-042

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) El Paso District will conduct an Informative Meeting for the proposed improvement to Highway FM 258 (Socorro Rd.) at:

Fabens Middle School – Cafeteria
800 Walker Avenue
Fabens, TX 79838
Thursday, March 5, 2015
5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

This informative meeting will be conducted in an open-house format. Those wishing to attend are encouraged to do so at their convenience between the hours of 5:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. Plans and other displays will be available for review, and project staff will be available to answer any questions regarding the project. All handouts will be presented in English and Spanish. No formal presentation will be given.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the proposed project. The proposed project consists of the replacement of the FM 258 (Socorro Rd.) bridge. All of the proposed work is anticipated to occur within the existing TxDOT right of way and El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 (EPCWID) right of way, and would not result in any commercial or residential displacements.



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

Persons interested in attending the Informative Meeting that have special accommodation or communication needs are encouraged to contact TxDOT El Paso District Public Information Office, Blanca Del Valle, at (915) 790-4200 at least two working days before the meeting. TxDOT will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate special needs as requested.

Written comments from the public regarding this project are encouraged. Comments may be submitted either at the Informative Meeting or within 10 days after the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the following address: **Texas Department of Transportation El Paso District, Attn: FM 258 (Socorro Rd.) Bridge Replacement, 13301 Gateway Boulevard West, El Paso, Texas 79928.** Comments must be postmarked on or before **Monday, March 16, 2015** to be included as part of the public record. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail, please contact Mr. Guillermo Garcia, P.E., TxDOT Project Manager, at (915) 790-4310.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was British Prime Minister Winston Churchill who made the following sage observation: “All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.”

- Though an electric eel is born with the ability to see, by the time it becomes an adult it is blind. This lack of sight is not a hindrance, though; the fish uses electricity to create an image of its surroundings in much the same way that we use radar. The electricity is also how the electric eel kills its prey, producing a 600-volt shock – five times more powerful than a shock from a household outlet.

- For reasons unclear today, in 18th-century England, bumblebees were commonly known as “foggy-toddlers.”

- You might be surprised to learn that in 2011, a man by the name of Ignacio Marc Ispervas was granted a U.S. patent for “apparatus facilitating the building of a snow man/woman.” According to the abstract, “the spherically shaped body and adhesion surface form a building component for facilitating the construction of the snow man/woman.”

- If you're a pickle-maker in Connecticut, you should know that your product cannot legally be considered a pickle unless it bounces when dropped.

- Philadelphia brand cream cheese was originally made in New York.

- According to a recent survey by the National Association of Convenience Stores, 11 percent of adult Americans have at some point in their lives worked at a convenience store or gas station. For 3 percent of adults, that was their first job.

Thought for the Day: "Once you can accept the universe as matter expanding into nothing that is something, wearing stripes with plaid comes easy."

– Albert Einstein

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CryptoQuip Answer

Supposing I do something
that really peeves a
little kid, you might say
it's tot-provoking.

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15		14		17	

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I don't know what it is about NFL players who just can't wait to make the

How about all that talk surrounding deflated footballs in New England? The

With both being free agents, the Cowboys will have to back up a Brink's

Wow, I can't wait to see what happens next year.

But like a shot, Washington sprang to life. Suddenly, Smith

Smith would finish the day with 204 yards (an NFL record) and two touchdowns, and dreams of a big-time career. It was not to

A cautionary tale? Not really, but an interesting one by any measure.

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

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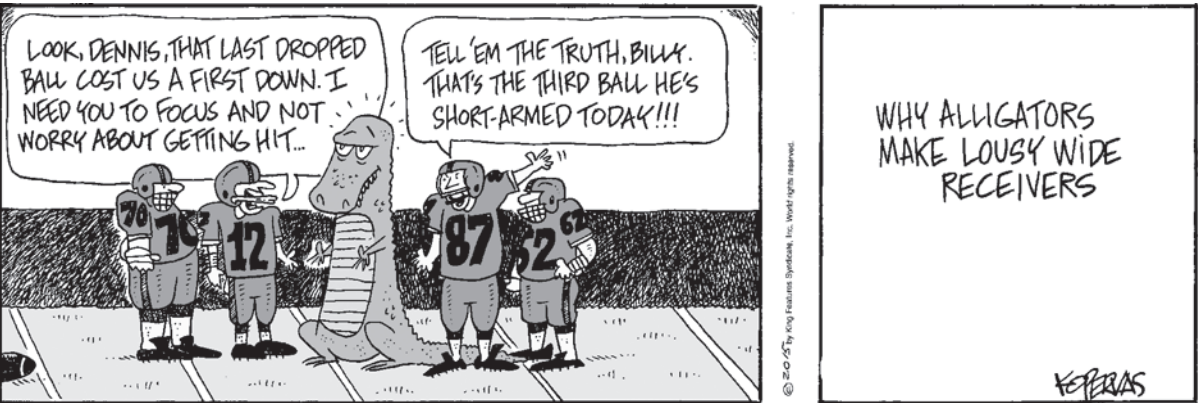
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



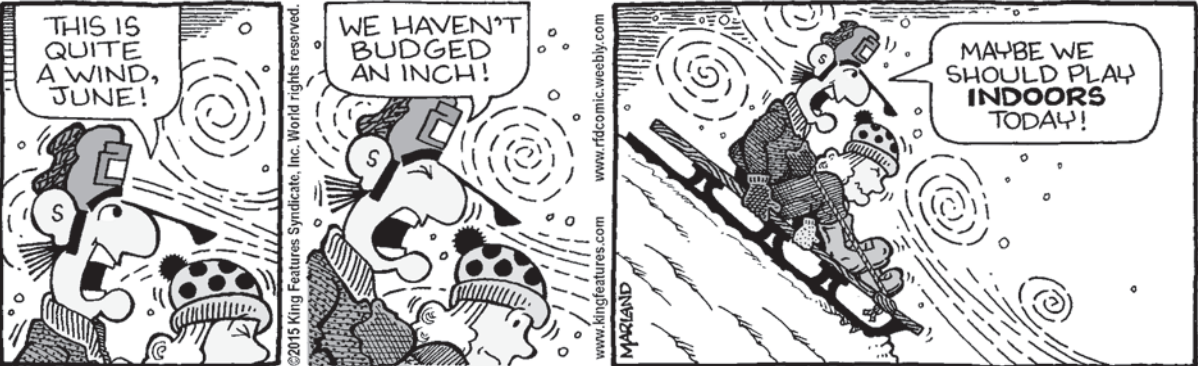
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Your good health

By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I had surgery on my right wrist for carpal tunnel syndrome eight months ago. The numbness in my fingers has not changed. Now I'm faced with the same problem in my left hand. I'm going to forget surgery, seeing as it wasn't successful in my right hand. I decided to go to an acupuncturist for laser treatments. I also had a cortisone shot. Neither of these has helped. Do you know of a solution for my problem? – P.M.

Carpal tunnel syndrome is caused by compression on the median nerve, as it runs down the arm through a “tunnel” of bone and connective tissue deep in the wrist. It may cause pain, numbness and weakness of the wrist and hand. The thumb and middle three fingers are most often affected. In advanced cases, the hand muscles may become atrophied. The sooner the pressure on the nerve is relieved, the more likely there will not be permanent nerve damage.

It sounds to me like the first surgery was not done soon enough to prevent damage. If that’s the case, then surgery on your left hand, done sooner after the onset of symptoms, might prevent the long-term numbness present in your right hand. However, it’s possible that the diagnosis was wrong or that the surgery might not have been effective, even if done promptly.

At least one study of needle acupuncture showed that it is as effective as a cortisone injection. This study excluded people who already had fixed numbness in the fingers, who are less likely to be helped by any treatment. I have not found any evidence that laser treatment is effective.

My advice is to first be sure of the diagnosis. An EMG test is a study of nerve function, which can confirm the diagnosis and may be able to predict how much damage there is and provide guidance on

treatment. If damage is not too severe, other treatments – such as splinting, medication, yoga or ultrasound – may be helpful. If advanced, surgery done quickly still may be your best bet.

DEAR DR. ROACH: There has been much reporting of the effect of not getting enough sun during the winter months. In your professional opinion, can some people get depressed from too much summer? When I lived in the Southwest, all that heat and sun from May to October seemed to really get to me. I wished often for a cloudy day. Is it because I was raised in the depressing North? – J.R.W.

Seasonal affective disorder is a type of major depression with recurrent seasonal onset and remission. Although it usually is described as beginning in late fall and early winter, and going away in spring or summer, some people can have symptoms that begin in spring and go away in fall. People with spring-onset SAD more frequently have insomnia, poor appetite and weight loss.

Light therapy is used only for fall-onset SAD. Both medication and psychotherapy, especially cognitive behavioral therapy, are used for spring-onset SAD.

I don’t know whether being brought up in the North predisposes one to the spring-onset form of SAD. I don’t find the North particularly depressing.

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) 2015 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

- DOING PR WORK ACROSS

1 Maize

5 1980s TV's "Kate & _"

10 Bank acct.

underwriter

14 Resort isle near Naples

19 Cock-_ (mixed dog breed)

20 Pencil end

21 Prehistoric beast, briefly

22 ALF or ET

23 Pool hall champion?

26 Flower calyx part

27 Off _ (sporadically)

28 Small flycatcher

29 Christmas songs

31 Omega preceder

32 Passover crackers

34 Place where pizza dough is flattened?

37 "We _ not amused"

38 Ripken of the diamond

40 Angriness

41 Actress De Carlo

42 Get the shoe mender on the phone?

47 Marine eel

49 Poetic foot

50 Pertaining to the sun

51 Still wrapped

52 In spite of the fact that, for short

55 King Arthur's home

58 Commercial in which all of one's fury is unleashed?

62 Fido's sound

65 Faced

66 Phileas Fogg creator Jules

68 Like a slob's bed

69 Blowtorch the exterior of your launch vehicle?

74 Wind section player

75 Quaint oath

76 Just a _ (somewhat)

77 Hissing snake

78 Ice-skating food fish?

80 Mexican menu items

84 Blast maker

85 "Mammal" has three

86 "Thank you, Henri"

87 Opra part

91 PR concern

94 Farmer's motto?

97 Risen from sleep

100 Seemingly endless time

101 Park oneself

102 Dwelling: Abbr.

103 Tirades about the trials of being a mother?

109 Not switched off

111 Ace

112 Art style

113 Sofa

115 Spanish for "queen"

116 Wax theatrical

118 Actor Moranis playing a garbage sweeper?

121 12-inch stick

122 Small toiletry case

123 Pay the penalty

124 First-aid plant

125 Fencing blades

126 Part of NYPD: Abbr.

127 Tightly wound

128 Give away temporarily

DOWN

1 Squid dish

2 Expanse

3 Sports squad that rarely has home games

4 Vivarin rival

5 Fourth mo.

6 Belt holder

7 Longtime con

8 Split evenly

9 Lucy's TV pal

10 32nd pres.

11 Actress Wiest

12 Disguised, for short

13 Alternatives to Pepsis

14 Tapioca-yielding tree

15 Hoppy drink

16 1972-77 Broadway musical

17 Explanation

18 Queued up

24 Tennyson's " _ Arden"

25 More elusive

30 Astron. distance

33 Little pouch

35 Like the vbs. "eat" and "lie"

36 Tiny dog

39 Get bested by

43 TV network north of the USA

44 Ty-D-_ (bathroom brand)

45 Slo-_ (fuse type)

46 Riga native

47 Brawl

48 Athena's bird

51 Sam once in the Senate

52 Trees yielding wood for ships

53 Mythical hell

54 Dramatist Clifford

56 Collect

57 Conductor Zubin _

58 Cake icer

59 Countryish

60 Cell terminal

61 Yukon maker

62 Cut short

63 Harp on gloatingly

64 Anterior

67 Cut short

70 Suffix with neat or peace

71 " _ tell ya!"

72 Problems for vain

types

73 Tide targets

79 Shin's place

81 Noted coach

Parseghian

82 Bygone AT&T rival

83 Slump

86 Home of Monte Carlo

88 Vehicle ownership certificate

89 Get drunk

90 Trapped

91 34th prez

92 Corporate marriages

93 Avonlea girl

94 Hide _ hair

95 It's nothing

96 Comical Cheri

97 Current unit

98 Pre-race stretch, say

99 "King Ralph" actor Peter

100 Ocular cleansing receptacle

104 One way to mark debits

105 Uninspired

106 Like skim milk

107 Mozart's "Cos fan _"

108 "Danke _"

110 Prenatal

114 Egg layers

117 Golf gadget

119 Model-making set

120 "Annabel _"

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18
19					20						21					22				
23				24							25					26				
27							28					29			30			31		
32						33		34				35					36			
37					38		39			40					41					
42				43				44	45	46				47	48					
49								50				51						52	53	54
					55	56	57				58				59	60	61			
62	63	64			65					66	67				68					
69				70				71	72					73						
74								75						76				77		
78								79				80	81	82			83			
84								85			86						87	88	89	90
					91	92	93				94					95	96			
97	98	99							100						101				102	
103							104	105				106	107	108		109		110		
111																				
116				117				118			119				120					
121								122				123						124		
125								126										128		

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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
See Answer Page 4 ★★ ★ HOO BOY!
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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!

	+		×		18
×		×		×	
	-		+		13
+		-		-	
	÷		×		7
15		14		17	

1 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9
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See Answer Page 4

CryptoQuip


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

Clue: R equals T

YVUUAYCPL C IA YAWFRGCPL
RGSR JFSKKQ UFFTFY S KCRRKF
HCI, QAV WCLGR YSQ CR'Y
RAR-UJATAHCPL.


See Answer Page 4
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