



NEWSBRIEFS

Enchilada dinner

Members of the Fabens Lions Club are hosting an enchilada dinner from 4:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, September 18, at the Lower Valley Little League Field, 16151 North Loop, in Fabens. The \$5 plates include enchiladas, rice, and beans and are available for eat-in or take-out. Beverages will also be available. Profits from the fundraiser will be used for maintenance of the baseball fields and for support of Fabens youth. Lions selling tickets for the event are Chris Spence, Tony Sublasky, Sam Ponzio, Mundo Herrera, Mark Miller, and David Rueda. Tickets will also be available at the event.

— Sam Ponzio, Jr.

SISD Father-Son Conference

The Socorro Independent School District will host its sixth annual districtwide father-son conference from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. September 26 at Socorro High School, 10150 Alameda Ave. All SISD sixth- through 12th-grade boys are invited to attend with their father or a father figure. The event is free and breakfast and lunch will be provided. Organizers ask that those participating bring canned goods, which will be donated to the less fortunate during the Thanksgiving season. The conference goal is to help fathers and sons bond and explore topics such as career choices, college opportunities, and Internet safety, as well as participate together in self-esteem and self-confidence workshops. Participants will have a variety of sessions to select from during the conference. For more information, contact Sergio Jaurrieta at 937-1616 or sjaurr@sisd.net.

— Christina Flores-Jones

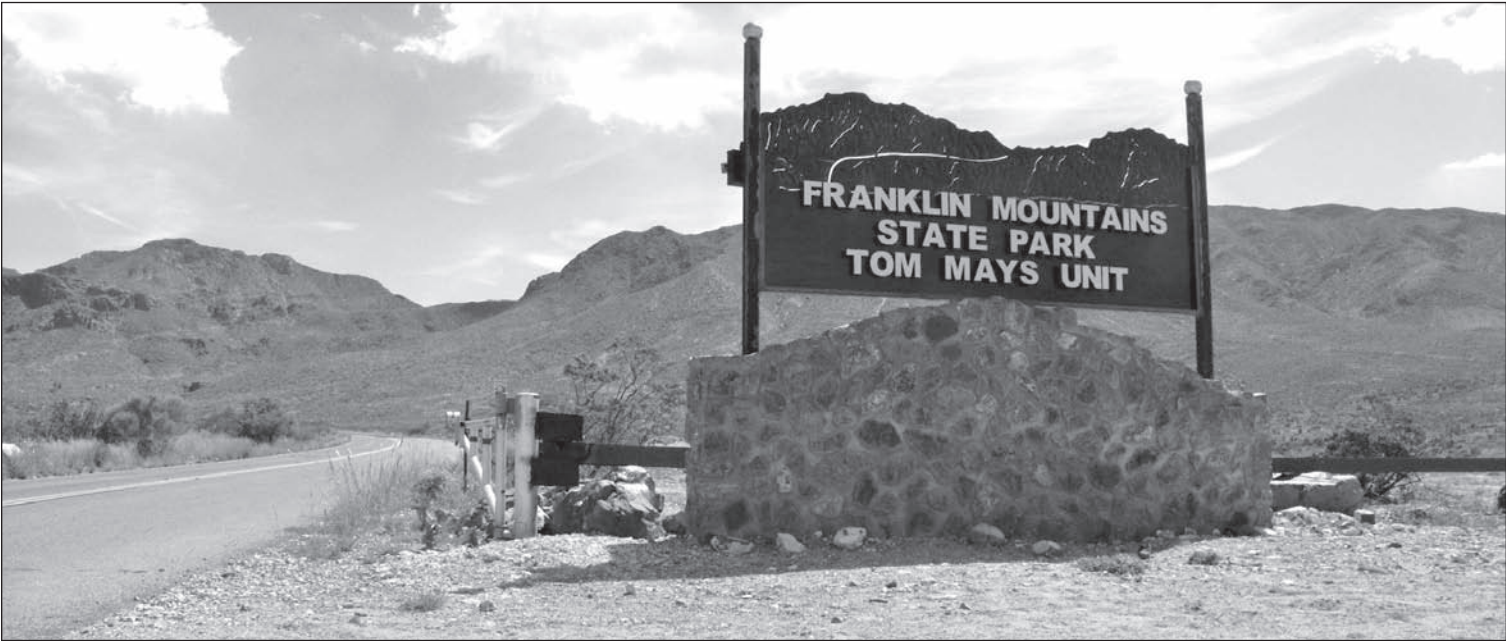
A trip to remember

Several western states have been replacing mileposts that tell you when you’ve reached 420 miles on their highways with signs that say 419.9 miles. Apparently the number 420 is a street name for marijuana and weed enthusiasts have been stealing the signs, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens. Users making their way to and from states that have legalized the sale of marijuana will have to find other souvenirs to remind them of their road trips, says AMAC.

— John Grimaldi

The person that knows everything has a lot to learn.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

PARTY IN THE DESERT – A full slate of local entertainment promises to make the Eleventh Annual Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta a fun day for everyone. The annual celebration is free and open to the public. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, September 19. To get to the fiesta site, visitors must use the Tom Mays Park entrance, above, off of Transmountain Road on the west side of Franklin Mountains State Park.

Fiesta offers variety of outdoor activities

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Tom Mays Park will be teeming with outdoor entertainment when the Eleventh Annual Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta comes alive for an afternoon affair in the foothills of the Franklin Mountains.

The annual celebration, which is free and open to the public, will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, September 19, at the Tom Mays section on Franklin Mountains State Park’s westside, off of

Transmountain Road.

The fiesta will feature animals native to the area, like Jasper the opossum. Short walks along desert trails will be conducted, and brief presentations about the geology of the region’s mountains, plants, and wildlife will be provided.

“Local environmental education groups will be on hand to offer free demonstrations and guided tours; also available will be guest speakers and informational booths designed to introduce the curious to the wonders of our fascinating desert,” stated Dr. Gertrud Konings, a fiesta representative.

“The outdoor venue is meant to celebrate the natural wonders of the Chihuahuan Desert and Franklin Mountains State Park,” Konings said. “Every year the event attracts hundreds of people to the desert mountain park in northwest El Paso,” she added.

The event is sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with the help from volunteers of the Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition (CDEC).

For more information about the Chihuahuan Desert event, contact Franklin Mountains State Park at 566-6441 or visit www.chihuahuandesert.org.

Ramirez recognized for school volunteer work

By Christina Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Socorro Independent School District’s (SISD) parent volunteer, Joe Ramirez, was recently selected as a Hero for Children by the Texas Board of Education.

Ramirez, who volunteers at Eastlake High School, was honored along with 14 others at the September 11 meeting of the State Board of Education in Austin.

“It was a great surprise,” said Ramirez, who has been helping out in schools for more than 12 years. “It was so unexpected.”

The Heroes for Children award program recognizes individuals who volunteer time, effort and support to public schools and students. They are presented annually by the State Board of Education in recognition of outstanding service and dedication, and for providing each Texas student with a meaningful, positive learning experience in school.

This is not Ramirez’s first accolade for service. In April, he was named the district’s 2014-2015 Secondary Volunteer of the Year.

“He is a big advocate for our teachers and our kids,” said Gilbert Martinez, principal at Eastlake. “He is full of ideas and is an outstanding volunteer. He definitely is a motivator, who leads by example.”

Ramirez is the third SISD volunteer to receive state recognition. Community member, Susan Hill, earned the award in 2005 and Flor Gentry from Bill Sybert School was selected in 2007.

“This is a huge recognition,” said Rachel Tarango, the district’s volunteer coordinator. “His name will forever be displayed in a



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

PUTTING TIME IN – Eastlake High School parent volunteer Joe Ramirez holds a plaque recognizing his volunteer service to the school that was presented to him during the 2015 SISD Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. Beside him is Eastlake High School Principal Gilbert Martinez. In the background is SISD Board of Trustees member Tony Ayub.

plaque along with all past recipients at the William B. Travis Building at the State Capitol.”

Finances

By Nathaniel Sillin

10 open enrollment mistakes to avoid

How much time do you spend reviewing your benefits before open enrollment each year? If your answer is “not much,” you’re not alone. A recent survey by insurer Aflac (<http://workforces.aflac.com/about-the-study.php>) says that 90 percent

of Americans choose the same benefits year after year and that 42 percent forego up to \$750 annually by making poor choices.

Rushing through annual benefits updates or making such uninformed decisions in insurance, retirement or other workplace-based benefits are actually part of a bigger story. Open enrollment is just one part of an overall financial plan. Unfortunately, too many employees see it as the only financial planning they have to do all year.

In reality, a safe financial future depends mostly on the savings, investing and spending decisions you make outside the workplace. As many employers are looking to shrink or discontinue the retirement and health benefits they offer, it’s time to take a fresh look at open enrollment.

Here are 10 benefits mistakes you might want to avoid.

Not having an overall financial plan. Your company may offer excellent benefits now. However, the Labor Department reports that average worker tenure at U.S. companies is only 4.6 years, so the biggest open enrollment mistake might be assuming your current benefits assure your financial future. It’s important to work alone or with qualified advisors to determine the right work-based benefits as part of overall spending, savings and investment activities throughout your lifetime.

Making choices at the last minute. Your benefits are important and deserve time for consideration. Put your open enrollment dates on your personal calendar with a reminder a few weeks ahead of time to coordinate with qualified

advisors if you have them.

Forgetting to coordinate with your spouse or partner. Many employers are planning big changes to spouse/partner benefits. While the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) lets parents keep children on their health plans until age 26, more employers are instituting “spousal surcharges” or excluding spousal coverage altogether if they already have access to employer health insurance.

Ignoring your state’s Health Insurance Marketplace. Even if you have employer health insurance, things change. If you lose a job or cannot stay on your spouse or partner’s health plan, it might be worthwhile to familiarize yourself with your state’s ACA-mandated health insurance marketplace ahead of time.

Underestimating how big life events might affect your benefits. Salary changes, marriage, divorce, serious illness or starting a family are big signals to check your benefits, preferably well in advance of open enrollment. Think through every potential situation you might face and ask questions about how those changes might affect your benefit selections.

Passing on flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and health savings accounts (HSAs). FSAs are workplace-based accounts that allow you to set aside money on a pre-tax basis to help you pay for healthcare and dependent care expenses during the calendar year. HSAs, if you qualify, also allow you to set aside pre-tax dollars in a qualified investment or savings account for long-and-short term medical expenses not covered by insurance. They don’t

require you to spend out those funds every year. Your workplace benefits counselor, qualified financial advisor and Internal Revenue Service Publication 969 can assist with eligibility, types of accounts, contribution limits and tax issues associated with these choices.

Leaving retirement selections unchanged. As the Aflac data indicates, many individuals don’t change their investment focus in self-directed retirement plans for years. That’s why reviewing options in advance is essential.

Overlooking wellness options. Many employers pay for exercise, cholesterol screenings, weight loss, smoking cessation, immunizations or related benefits that can make you healthier, save money and possibly lower health premiums.

Bypassing transportation breaks. If you drive or take public or company-sponsored transportation to and from work, you may qualify for specific discounts or tax deductions. IRS Publication 15-B covers these programs and how to use them most effectively.

Forgetting education benefits. If an employer is willing to train you to advance in your career, don’t pass it up. However, get advice on the possibility of tax liability for these benefits. Separately, check out employer-sponsored education grant or scholarship awards for you or your kids – that can be free money.

Bottom line: Open enrollment is just one piece of a well-organized financial puzzle. Make sure your employer provided benefits choices compliment savings, investing and spending decisions you’re making on your own.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa’s financial education programs.

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Crystal ball at the VA

An interesting story played out recently in Philadelphia involving an assistant director, a manager and a psychic.

In the past year, the Department of Veterans Affairs office in Philadelphia has been looked at by the Office of the Inspector General for claims processing inaccuracy, manipulating claim dates, canceling pending claims and more.

The new story: An assistant director threw a party at her home so a subordinate’s wife could do psychic readings for employees. The subordinate was a manager. Each private reading cost \$35, with a minimum of six people.

After the assistant director had another subordinate make all the arrangements, three employees agreed to attend the party. An email (that contained the assistant director’s VA position title) went out to solicit the participation of other employees to reach the six-person minimum. Eight employees ended up going. Rule: An employee can’t use her position to endorse a service for friends.

The Inspector General (c)2015KingFeaturesSynd.,Inc.

got involved and did an investigation.

The assistant director claimed that the attendees were her friends, thereby breaking another rule: Bosses can’t give preferential treatment to subordinates. However, all the subordinates in attendance for a psychic reading complained about how long it was taking, and all left immediately after their reading, not staying to socialize despite the availability of “munchies, wine/beer/vodka.” These were friends?

The VAOIG additionally made a criminal referral to the Department of Justice for the manager’s failure to report his wife’s psychic income on his Office of Government Ethics forms for two years running.

The VAOIG also discovered a number of fun facts, among them that the manager had failed to claim his psychic wife’s income on his tax returns. The VAOIG helpfully reported that failure to the Internal Revenue Service as well as to the Pennsylvania State Department of Revenue.

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Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.


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2015 STAAR scores released

By Alfredo Vasquez

Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Teachers and parents of Texas elementary, middle and high school children may now view on the Internet the latest battery of student performance tests that were administered in the spring.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced recently that it was releasing the 2015 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) tests and making them available for review on the TEA website.

The released tests includes the following STAAR general assessments: grades 3–8 reading; grades 4 and 7 writing; grades 5 and 8 science; grade 8 social studies; Algebra I; English I and English II; biology; and U.S. history. All 2015 STAAR released tests – except for grades 3–8 mathematics – are now posted online.

A partial release of the grades 3-8 mathematics questions (including grades 3-5 Spanish) is also

posted online. A partial release is a subset of test questions that are eligible for the assessment but do not represent the entire test blueprint. According to TEA officials, because the mathematics tests have undergone major revisions, there are not enough approved test questions in reserve to permit the release of full tests this year.

TEA has previously released – in 2013 and 2014 – the first test form administered in the spring for each general STAAR assessment. The next scheduled STAAR release is set for 2016 and then every third year thereafter.

“Released test questions on the TEA webpage do not represent all the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) student expectations eligible for assessment on STAAR,” stated a TEA report.

To review the released 2015 STAAR tests (as well as those from previous years), visit the TEA Student Assessment Division website at [http://tea.texas.gov/Student_Testing_and_Accountability/Testing/State_of_Texas_Assessments_of_Academic_Readiness_\(STAAR\)/STAAR_Released_Test_Questions](http://tea.texas.gov/Student_Testing_and_Accountability/Testing/State_of_Texas_Assessments_of_Academic_Readiness_(STAAR)/STAAR_Released_Test_Questions).



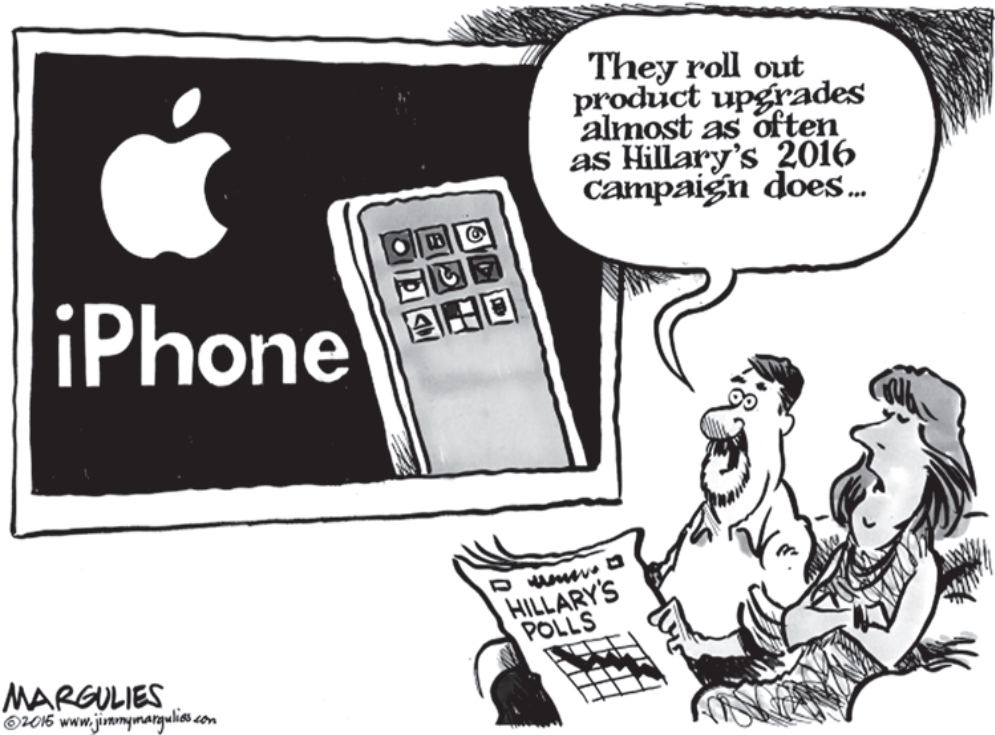
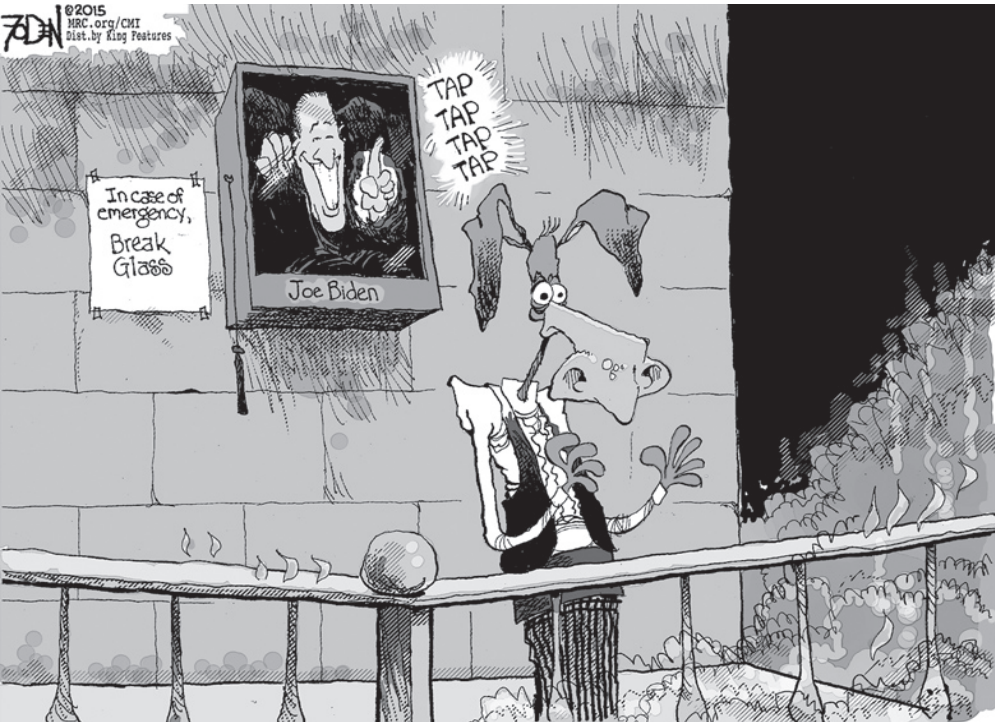
Pioneers in FLIGHT

First drone to vandalize a billboard

First drone to threaten an airliner

First drone to disrupt a U.S. Open tennis match

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Steve Smith, left, with EPCC President William Serrata.

Smith receives national award

Steve Smith – El Paso Community College’s (EPCC) Vice President of Instruction and Workforce Education/Chief Academic Officer – is the recipient of the National Council of Instructional Administrators (NCIA) Chief Academic Officer 2015 Emerging Leader of the Year Award. The NCIA Awards Committee evaluates nominations using the American Association of Community Colleges’ Competencies for Community College Leaders which are: Organizational Strategy; Institutional Finance, Research, Fundraising, and Resource Management; Communication; Collaboration; and Community College Advocacy. Smith was nominated by EPCC Deans Paula Mitchell and Julie Penley.

– Jim Heiney

USDA to hold loan meeting in Anthony

By John Perkins
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The USDA Rural Development El Paso Area Office, which provides service to El Paso County, will be holding a housing information meeting on September 21, 2015 at the Anthony Town Hall Court Room, 401 Wild Cat Drive, Anthony, TX from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to provide information regarding the availability of housing loans and grants to assist residents.

USDA Rural Development’s Rural Housing Direct Home Loan Program offers 100 percent financing with no down payment required for low and lower income individuals or families at a fixed interest rate. These loans are made directly through USDA Rural Development and are offered for a period of 30-38 years. The repayment on the loan may be subsidized by the Federal Government, based on the household income. Direct loans may be made for the purchase of an existing home or new home construction.

The loan amount is determined by repayment ability of the borrower. Loans made under this program are to individuals and families with income that does not exceed 80 percent of the median income level of the county where they live and who would not otherwise qualify for a conventional loan. County Income limits for the programs are posted on the USDA Rural Development Texas website at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/tx> and clicking on “Check Eligibility” on the bottom of

the screen.

Funds are also available through Rural Development’s 504 Home Repair loan and grant program. The program is available to low income recipients to make essential repairs to modernize and repair homes, and to remove health and safety hazards. Most repairs completed under the program are for roof, window and door replacements, as well as electrical, plumbing and air conditioning upgrades as well as other repairs needed to increase the home’s energy efficiency and overall comfort and quality. Renovations to make a home wheelchair or handicap accessible are also considered.

To qualify for the program, applicants must own their home, and fall within Rural Development’s income guidelines, defined as below 50 percent of the area median income and unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere. Homeowners, at least 62 years old, may qualify for a grant. Grant funding, for the purpose of removing health and safety issues in the home, up to \$7,500 is limited and many times repairs will be funded with a combination of loan and grant. One percent loans up to \$20,000 will be on a repayment term of up to 20 years and will require low monthly payments.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a national network of state and local offices. These programs are designed

PUBLIC NOTICE
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* office will close on Friday, Sept. 18, 2015. The office will open again on Monday, Oct. 12, 2015.

USDA

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to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. For information on this and other USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, visit <http://www.rd.usda.gov/tx>.

**Public Notification of Nondiscrimination
in Career and Technology Programs at Fabens ISD**

- 1) Fabens Independent School District offers career and technology education programs in Home Economics, Business Education, Drafting, Graphic Arts, and Automotive Technology. Admission to these programs is based on courses offered, age appropriateness, class space available, and individual graduation plans.
- 2) It is the policy of Fabens Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 3) It is the policy of Fabens Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 4) Fabens Independent School District will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.
- 5) For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator / Section 504 Coordinator: Gilbert Alarcon, 208 N.E. 4th St., (915) 765-2600.

**Notificacion Publica de no Discriminar
en los Programas de Carrera y Tecnologia de Fabens ISD**

- 1) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens ofrece programas programas vocacionales en Carrera y Tecnología en Economía Domestica, Educación de Negocios, y Mecánica. La admisión a estos programas se basa en registrado en la escuela de Fabens y completar los requisitos necesarios.
- 2) Es norma de El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios, o actividades vocacionales, tal como lo requieren el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, que fue enmendada, Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendada.
- 3) Es norma de El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens no discriminar por motivos raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad en sus procedimientos de empleo, tal como requieren el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda, Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975, según enmienda, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.
- 4) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso de la lengua inglés no sea obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas vocacionales y educativos.
- 5) Para más información sobre sus derechos y procedimiento para quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX / Coordinador de la Sección 504: Gilbert Alarcon, 208 N.E. 4th St., (915) 765-2600.

WTCC: 09/17/15

**El Paso County Housing Authority
Public Notice
Section 8 Wait List**

The El Paso County Housing Authority will open its SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM WAIT LIST on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. till 12 noon. All Applicants must apply in person at 650 NE G. Ave., Fabens, TX 79838. No phone calls accepted.

WTCC: 09-17-15

**Fabens Independent School District
Public Notice
of Non-Discrimination**

It is the policy of the Fabens Independent School District to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or any person who has a disability in the admission or access to programs, delivery of services or employment.

The Fabens Independent School District is fully committed to meeting its responsibilities as specified by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; prohibiting sex discrimination, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Inquiries concerning your rights may be referred to Gilbert Alarcon, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, TX 79838. Phone: (915) 765-2600. Fax: (915) 764-3115.

Notificion Publica

Es la norma de conducta de el distrito escolar de Fabens prohibir la discriminación a base de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o deshabilidad en la admisión o el acceso a programas, entrega de servicios o empleo.

El distrito escolar de Fabens esta comprometido a cumplir con las responsabilidades especificadas por el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, como enmendado, el Título IX de la Enmienda de Educación de 1972, como enmendado, que prohíbe la discriminación sexual, la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendado, la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975 como enmendado, y el Acta de Americanos con Deshabilidades.

Para información tocanta a sus derechos comuníquese con Gilbert Alarcon, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, TX 79838. Phone: (915) 765-2600. Fax: (915) 764-3115.

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**CryptoQuip
Answer**

Many cows like to make
vocal sounds overnight.
Would you say they are
lowing in the dark?

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Retirement

From Page 8

your benefits if you currently receive them; and

- Manage your benefits;
- Change your address;

- Start or change your direct deposit;
 - Get a replacement Medicare card; and
 - Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S for tax season.
- Beginning the season of retirement can be exciting

and scary at the same time. At Social Security, we make it easier by providing the tools and information you can use to help you make the best decision for you and then apply for benefits online. And, when you’re done, you’ll have more time to rake up

those pine needles and leaves! Go to www.socialsecurity.gov/retire/apply.html to start that new season in your life today.

For more information on any of the information, visit our website

at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

Fabens Independent School District
SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Fabens Independent School District provides the following educational program/services to identified children with disabilities who reside within the district beginning on the third birthday through age twenty-one.

Instructional Program: including Early Childhood (beginning on the third birthday through age five), 1) Resource (grades K-12) and Self-Contained (grades K-12); 2) Diagnostic Services; 3) Transportation Services; 4) Speech Therapy; 5) Counseling Services; 6)Adaptive Equipment Services; 7) Physical Therapy; 8) Occupational Therapy; 9) School Health Services; and 10) Homebound Services.

Services are provided to identified auditory and visually impaired children who reside within the district from birth through age twenty-one.

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Public Law 105-17, parents and adult students have the right to inspect educational records. District policiy FL provides for record access, confidentiality, and complaint procedures.

If you would like more information or know of a child with disabilities who is not receiving educational services, please contact: Jorge Saenz, Special Education Director, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838, (915) 765-2690.

El Distrito Escolar de Fabens
SERVICIOS DE EDUCACION ESPECIAL

El distrito escolar de Fabens provee los siguientes programas/servicios educacionales a niños que son identificados como desabilitados que viven dentro del distrito comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta los 21 años.

Programa de instrucción: infancia temprana (comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta la edad de cinco años), 1) cuarto de recurso (K-12), y clases contenidas (K-12); 2) servicios diagnósticos; 3) servicios de transportación; 4) terapia de habla; 5) servicios de consejo; 6) servicios de equipaje adaptivo; 7) terapia fisica; 8) terapia ocupacional; 9) servicios de salud escolar; y 10) servicios de clases en el hogar.

Se provee servicios a niños identificados como desabilitados audible y visualmente que viven dentro del distrito desde nacimiento hasta la edad de 21 años.

Conforme al Acto de Derechos y Confidencia Educacionales de Familia de 1974 y Ley publica 105-17, padres y alumnos adultos tienen el derechos de ver los archivos educativos. Poliza FL explica los derechos, la confidencialidad, y el proceso para quejarse.

Si usted desea mas información o sabe de un niño/niña desabilitado que vive en el distrito escolar de Fabens que no esta recibiendo servicios educacionales, favor de comunicarse con: Jorge Saenz, Director de Educación Especial, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838, (915) 765-2690.

Public Notice
Fabens Independent School District
SECTION 504 SERVICES

The Fabens Independent School District provides the following educational services/options to identified disabled students who reside within the district.

- ◆ Child find activities to notify students with disabilities and their parents of the their rights and the district’s obligation to provide a free, appropriate public education.
- ◆ Referrals to Sections 504 when it is believed the students have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities and the students are in need of educational accommodations.
- ◆ Procedural safeguards under Section 504.
- ◆ Evaluations of students to determine eligibility for the Section 504 program.
- ◆ Placement into the Section 504 program, which means the student may receive:
 - ✓ individually planned modifications in the regular classroom,
 - ✓ transportation services to and from school,
 - ✓ health services from the school nurse,
 - ✓ accommodations regarding access to any part of the campus, or
 - ✓ assistance in reading for students with dyslexia in a reading program which meets the state’s standards for a dyslexia reading program.
- ◆ Special education services are available to Section 504 students, if the students qualify for one of the specific disabilities under special education.

If you would like more information or know of a disabled child who is not receiving educational services, please contact Gilbert Alarcon, Section 504 Coordinator, P.O. Box 697/821 NE “G” Avenue, Fabens, TX 79838, (915) 765-2600.

SERVICIOS DE LA SECCION 504

El distrito escolar independiente de Fabens provee los siguientes servicios/ opciones educacionales a los estudiantes con discapacidades identificados que residen dentro del distrito.

- ◆ Actividades para encontrar a niños para notificar a los estudiantes con discapacidades y a sus padres de sus derechos y de las obligaciones del distrito a proporcionar una educación publica que sea gratuita y apropiada.
- ◆ Referimientos a la Sección 504 cuando se cree que el estudiante tiene una discapacidad mental o fisica que limita substancialmente una o mas actividades vitales importantes y los estudiantes necesitan modificaciones en su educación.
- ◆ Derechos legales garantizados bajo Sección 504.
- ◆ Evaluaciones de estudiantes para determinar si califican para el programa de la Sección 504.
- ◆ Colocación dentro del programa de la Sección 504, lo que significa que el estudiante puede recibir:
 - ✓ modificaciones en el salon de educación regular planeadas individualmente,
 - ✓ servicios de transporte para la escuela y para atras,
 - ✓ servicios de salud por la enfermera de la escuela,
 - ✓ cambios que garanticen el acceso a cualquier parte de la escuela,
 - ✓ ayuda en lectura para estudiantes con dislexia en un programa de lectura que cumpla con los requisitos que pide el estado a un programa de lectura de dislexia.
- ◆ Se ofrecen servicios de educación especial a los estudiantes Sección 504, si los estudiantes califican para una de las discapacidades especificas bajo educación especial.

Si usted desea más información o conoce a niños con discapacidades que no estan recibiendo servicios educativos, por favor comuniquese con Gilbert Alarcon, Coordinador de la Sección 504, P.O. Box 697/821 NE “G” Avenue, Fabens, TX 79838, (915) 765-2600.

Miners need to break out of predictable game plan

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Remember those times when you were a little kid and you were so excited to open presents either during the holidays or your birthday?

Do you also remember the times that you were very disappointed to find out that the big box with your name on it was filled with clothes instead of that cool new gadget?

It's a bummer when you expect something to be a certain way – and later find out that it isn't.

Especially when it's something that you've waited a long time for.

But I guess that's just the way life can be sometimes, the more you anticipate something the more you build it up in your head.

Take UTEP football for example – specifically the UTEP football defense.

The Miners were expected to be hammered against Arkansas in their season opener, but there was the hope they'd keep the game respectfully close.

They were hammered.

How in the world can a mid-major team like UTEP ever compete with the likes of an Arkansas, on the road? It's impossible!

But then holy Toledo! To make matters ever worse for the Miners, an ever less mid-major like Toledo goes to Arkansas last week and not only competes with them, Toledo beats them 16-12.

Remember, UTEP was physically man handled by the Razorbacks in a 48-13 loss.

And then there was last week.

The popular opinion was that the Miners and Texas Tech Red Raiders would be involved in a tough game with UTEP having a real chance to pull this one out.

That is what many fans expected going into the game.

But it turned out to be a pair of socks and a tie, instead of that new video game console.

The Miners defense did as good a job of stopping Tech's offense as the Titanic did stopping that leak.

UTEP doesn't have Leo DiCaprio, but it does have tailback Aaron Jones.

Jones ran for nearly 140 yards and scored two touchdowns in the first half

of the Miners 69-20 dismantling in Lubbock.

And just when things couldn't get any worse for the Miners, they got a lot worse. Jones left the game with an ankle injury and never returned. His status for the rest of the season is still to be determined.

And through the first two games of the season it's rather obvious, and sad, that the Miners have only one player who can compete with any program in the country. And now he's hurt.

It was apparent that the Miners would struggle in the passing game this year. The quarterback situation is not the best with neither able to distinguish himself from the other in training camp.

The Miners don't throw the ball downfield at all so the chances of any high-quality wide receiver wanting to play at UTEP is minimal at best.

The one phase of the game thought to be on the rise was the defense, which showed considerable progress last year.

The Miners defense is now allowing 58.5 points and 582 yards per game.

I haven't seen numbers this bad since The Lone Ranger with Johnny Depp.

Out of 127 teams in the United States, the Miners rank 125th in total defense.

After a 2014 that gave all Miner fans hope for the future, the UTEP "defense of season's past" has reared its ugly head.

Of course things will get better with teams like NMSU and Incarnate Word on the schedule over the next two weeks.

But still, it's not the fact that UTEP is still behind other teams in top conferences. What's disheartening is how far behind they are.

UTEP couldn't compete with Arkansas but Toledo beats them. UTEP couldn't compete with Texas Tech but little Sam Houston State gave the Red Raiders a very tough game.

Plus the Miners' offense is about as imaginative as a bowl of vanilla ice cream and as exciting as a bologna sandwich. It would be nice for them to stretch the field just a little bit.

If I know what's coming on almost every play, I've got a feeling the opposing coaches do as well.

Maybe against NMSU next weekend, the Miners will put it all together and unwrap their first victory of the season.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

The Godfather reimagined

When young Vito first tried out for the football team, he was rejected for being too small. Besides, his brothers before him had been seen as a bit too violent, and his father didn't get along with the guy in charge of the league. In fact, the two had

a very public exchange at an awards banquet that led to the family getting blackballed from the community's social circuit.

What Vito lacked in size he made up for in perception. His parents died young and he had since moved to another school

district with his extended family. Embarrassed of his accent, he worked around the edges of the schoolyards a bit. Still, he made a quick reputation for himself as a club boxer, where he raged like a bull, trouncing opponents, and soon he had gained a reputation for being a hardworking guy.

He started a company with a friend that imported an organic energy drink, married a sweet

girl and soon became wealthy enough to move out to the suburbs, where he went on to grow a family. His upward climb continued until his drinks were served in every stadium. He had power and influence.

One day, a quarterback asked for a meeting. He was on the downside of his career and he wanted Vito and his adopted son, Tom, a persistent and principled sports agent (but not a fan of racehorses), to represent him again. This time, he was looking to quarterback out in Los Angeles, where they had not one, but two pro teams in town.

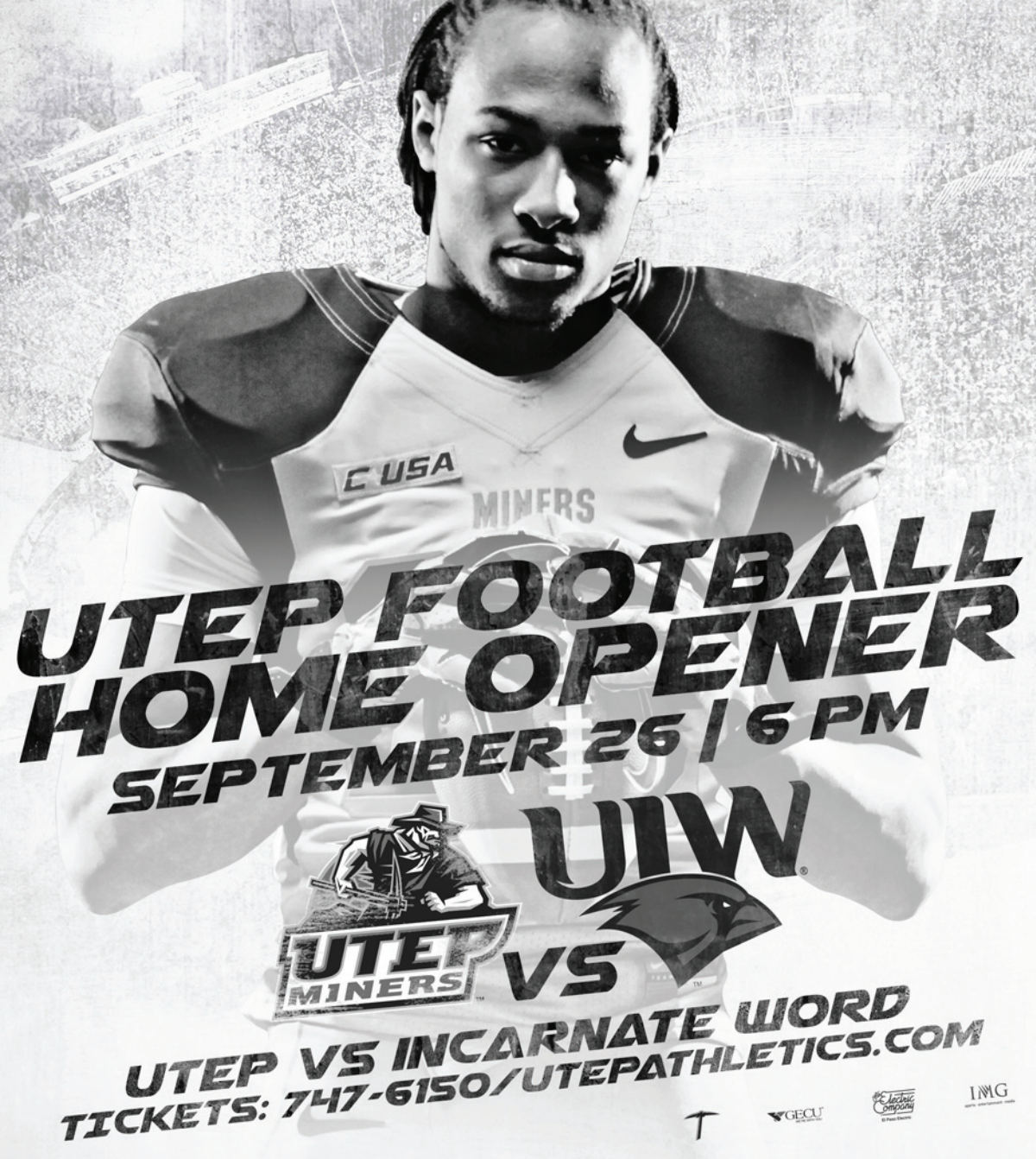
"I'm perfect for the Raiders offense," he said, beginning to sob. "It's the perfect offense for me... long bombs on every single play... but the owner and GM... this one guy... he won't sign me. What can I do?"

To his surprise, Vito jumped up and smacked him.

"You can be a RAM!"

Tom was dispatched to negotiate the very next day. At first, the owner/GM would not take his call. Upon learning of his pedigree, however, he changed his tune and invited him to his palatial estate for dinner. Before

See SPORTS, Page 8



1973
42
Years
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Moore Texas by Roger Moore **A Texas Horned Toad named “Big Jim” was MAILED to 38 cities in 1938.**



GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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×		×		+	
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1 2 3 4 5 6 6 7 9

Answer Page 4 © 2015 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Answer Page 4 ★★★★★ HOO BOY!

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Ease into retirement this fall

September 23 marks the first day of fall. During this season, many people reflect on the gradual passing of time as green leaves turn gold and pine needles blanket lawns. are also slowly changing, and those golden years of retirement are one season closer.

We want you to be as prepared as possible, and making applying for retirement easy is one of Social Security’s top priorities. In fact, applying for retirement benefits has never been easier. You can do it all online. Unlike the leaves that take many weeks to change, you can complete Social Security’s online retirement application in as little as 15 minutes. Better yet, you can apply from the comfort of your home or office. There’s no need to drive to a local Social Security office or wait for an appointment with a Social Security representative. Simply go to www.socialsecurity.gov/retire/apply.html.

Most of the time, after your online application is submitted, you’re done. There are no forms

to sign, and we usually require no additional documentation. Social Security will process your application and contact you if we need further information.

Planning for retirement is much like preparing for colder weather — you want to protect yourself and your loved ones as best you can with the best resources possible.

One important, but easy way to do this is to check your *Social Security Statement* using your secure online *my Social Security* account. Set up your account easily by answering a few questions to prove your identity. After you have an account, you can check your *Statement* anytime, day or night. Your *Social Security Statement* shows your lifetime earnings so you can make sure those records are correct. This way, you’ll know your retirement benefit will be accurate.

In addition, there are some useful things you can do with your personal *my Social Security* account, such as:

- Get an estimate of your future

benefits if you’re still working;

- Print a letter with proof of

See RETIREMENT, Page 5

Sports

From Page 6

dinner, the owner took Tom on a tour of his walk-in closet.

“Tom ... why didn’t you tell me you were sent by Genco Beverages? Anyway, these are my leather jackets... and this one... this one I won’t even wear. It was worn by Henry Winkler when he jumped the shark on “Happy Days.” No... this one stays here.”

He petted the jacket, softly cooing, “Fonzi... Fonzi...”

But dinner did not go so well. The mere mention of Leather Tuscadero sent the owner/GM into a fit.

“He never gets that starting job! And let me tell you another thing, bucko! I ain’t gonna sit on it for anyone! I ain’t no Richie Cunningham!”

Tom wiped his mouth and excused himself as the owner carried on.

The next morning the owner/GM woke up to find his prized leather jacket replaced with a jean jacket. On the back, a red patch was sewn reading “Joanie loves Chachi.” The screams could be heard all the way back to Oakland.

A few weeks later, the Godfather got a bunch of flowers sent to his office. The quarterback had gotten the starting job.

“How’d you do it,” he was asked.

He shrugged.

“I gave him a jacket he couldn’t use.”

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

Health

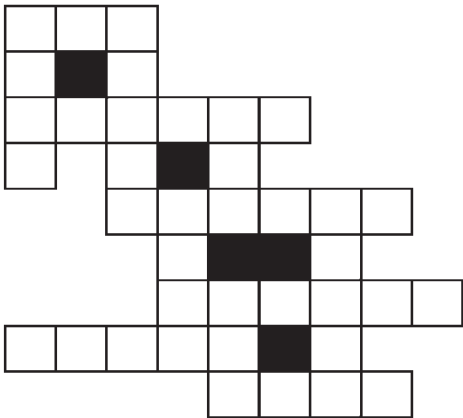
From Page 7

more careful workup. I think a visit with her gastroenterologist would be wise.

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 Good Health, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2015 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.



- ♥ ZAD
- ♥ TATRIS
- GYNIT
- ORBA
- ♥ LIAMAN
- ♥ TMO
- SLOA
- ♥ EBZAR
- ♥ ABT
- ZOGBEA
- LOGIO
- ♥ ETME



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.

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